

Homely feel for new Hawthorn House

Construction starts on dementia care project

Alzheimer's Australia WA (AAWA) has celebrated the start of a \$2 million-plus project to build a new centre to care for people with dementia and their families.

At a ceremony on Tuesday 5 February, the Hawthorn House community and invited guests gathered at a semi-rural block off Henry Street in Albany and symbolically broke the ground for the start of construction.

The new Hawthorn House, designed by H and H Architects, will provide two bedrooms, a library, meeting room, three offices, dining room and kitchen, enabling the organisation to care for 50 people and their families.

The development stage of the project gained \$31,000 in Round 2 of the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme towards a \$54,000 feasibility study and business case.

With the assistance of the GSDC, the AAWA then successfully applied to the Royalties for Regions Regional Development Council Action Agenda Funding Scheme and gained a grant of \$992,334 towards the construction project, expected to take 12 months.

AAWA Chief Executive Officer Rhonda Parker said Hawthorn House was the only respite service in Australia that was fully accredited under the Eden principles, which guide person-centred care for community elders.

"Eden is about care, about belonging, having a purpose, about not being lonely," Ms Parker said.

"Hawthorn House has the highest standard of care according to those principles of any respite facility, not just in the State but across the nation."



South West MLC Colin Holt, Hawthorn House community member Jo Dart and Hawthorn House program manager Elizabeth Barnes turned the soil to start construction of the new premises.

Ms Parker said people with dementia wanted to be cared for at home or in a home-like environment.

"For me, Hawthorn House feels like going to grandma's house – as soon as you walk in there it feels like you have had a blanket wrapped around your shoulders," Ms Parker said.

South West MLC Colin Holt congratulated the Hawthorn House team, along with the GSDC and other supporting agencies

"I look forward to celebrating with you and the community, walking through those doors to see you grow and continue to supply the support that's going to be needed not just now but in the future for many people in Albany and the Great Southern," Mr Holt said.

The Hawthorn House project is also supported by Lotterywest, Health Workforce Australia, Home and Community Care and the Jack Family Trust, along with community fundraisers.

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inside this issue:

Audiences applaud festival	2
Governor visits Great Southern	3
Medal set for 2014	3
Food and wine celebration	4
Twertup rises from the ashes	4
New Board members	5
Welcome support for students	5
Meet the GSDC Board	6
Golfers gather	7
Leadership skills enhanced	7
Noongar art promoted	8

Exclusive delights for festival

Regional audiences take their seats

Exclusive events featured in the 2013 Great Southern Festival program as the GSDC-supported event marked its 11th year of bringing Perth International Arts Festival performances to the Great Southern.

Regional residents and visitors had exclusive access to theatre piece *Invisible Atom*, the screening of Western Australian documentary *Yagan*, the Carrolup Cultural tour, *Bringing Bessie Flowers Home* project and the presentation of the Ngallak Koort Boodja canvas as the backdrop for the official *Welcome to Country*.

Other exclusive highlights were the Hot Club Guitar event as the central theme to the Playmakers project and a poignant exhibition of black and white photography by the late Albany photographer Ed Smidt, which drew more than 2000 visitors.

Through the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme, Royalties for Regions funding of \$225,000 over three years backs the Great Southern Festival.

The GSDC helped to establish the festival in 2003 and has supported it since its inception.

This year's program included events in Albany, Denmark, Katanning and Borden.

Katanning, Denmark and Albany welcomed the warm, nostalgic music of Californian Gregory Page in an intimate concert that was perfectly suited to regional venues.

Borden and Katanning enthusiastically received the film *Angels' Share*, the latest Ken Loach comedy in a double-billed event with live performance by Albany-based traditional band Limerick.

Two theatrical masterpieces were presented: the sell-out *History of Everything*, from Belgium's Ontroerend Goed in collaboration with the Sydney Theatre Company, and the brilliant *Invisible Atom* from Canada's 2B Theatre.

Invisible Atom combined a superb melding of language and ideas in a flawless monologue.



Left: Noongar artist Troy Bennell pointed out features of the eight-metre Ngallak Koort Boodja canvas at the Great Southern Festival *welcome to country*.

Below: New Orleans brass and percussion outfit *Soul Rebels* got the crowd dancing at the Vancouver Arts Centre.



Local arts collective MIX Artists created a beautifully themed exhibition titled *Lighthouse*, which explored the use of light in diverse applications from photographs to sculptural installation, drawing the patronage of more than 4500 visitors.

Master guitarists Karin Schaup and Czech born maestro Pavel Steidl delighted audiences with a concert of early guitar

music played on replica 19th century instruments.

Along with a number of other artists including Aria award winner Sally Whitwell, they gave an informative session for local school students.

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Governor visits regional projects

Varied itinerary in Great Southern

Western Australian Governor Malcolm McCusker AC visited the Great Southern in February to meet regional residents and visit significant projects.

Mr McCusker was accompanied by his wife Tonya and Young Australian of the Year Akram Azimi.

The Governor's party started their tour in Albany and visited Mount Barker, Tambellup and Katanning.

Albany's plans for the Anzac centenary commemorations were laid out as Mr McCusker viewed progress on the new Padre White Lookout at the summit of Mount Clarence. The lookout project, supported by \$200,000 of Royalties for Regions funding through the GSDC, is expected to be finished in time for this year's Anzac Day activities.

A visit to the Albany Entertainment Centre and waterfront followed, and the Governor's party then toured the UWA Science Building.

Mr McCusker said he was impressed with the community spirit and initiative revealed in the projects.

In Albany, the Governor also took in the Albany Hospital, Hawthorn House, the Vancouver Arts Centre, Albany Primary



Battling windy conditions, City of Albany Major Projects Manager Anthony McEwan (centre) showed Western Australian Governor Malcolm McCusker and Mrs McCusker the plans for improvements on Mount Clarence ahead of the Anzac centenary commemorations.

School and Mount Lockyer Primary School.

Volunteers at Mount Barker St John Ambulance, featured in the last edition of the *GSDC Bulletin*, were acknowledged by a visit from Mr McCusker.

On the way to Katanning, the Governor's party visited Tambellup Primary School and the Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup.

Katanning hosted the Governor for visits to the regional saleyards project, Katanning Primary School and Lake Ewlyamartup.

The Governor's party walked around Katanning's town centre taking in the mosque and the streetscape revitalisation project.

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GSDC Medal set for 2014

Biennial honour for NRM leaders

A review of the GSDC Medal for Excellence in Natural Resource Management has recommended changing the honour to a biennial award.

The GSDC Medal was awarded annually from 2002 to 2011. It honours the Great Southern's leaders and innovators in natural resource management. Winners received a sterling silver medal and a \$10,000 grant to further their work in natural resource management.

Under the new arrangements, the medal

will be awarded every second year. Due to the timing of the review, the next GSDC Medal will be awarded in 2014.

In the alternate years, an informal lunch event will be held, at which the work of the previous winner will be showcased.

This year's winner's luncheon will be held on 13 August and will feature 2011 GSDC Medal recipient John Moore. Mr Moore will present his work in weed control, including the remote controlled Herbicopter weed spraying unit.

Part of Mr Moore's grant was used for modifications to the Herbicopter including the installation of an on board GPS unit and digital camera.

The August luncheon will also present the work of 2010 winner Geoff Woodall, whose research focuses on native food crops.

Nomination details for the 2014 award will be on the GSDC website later this year.

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Festival tickles the taste buds

Great Southern celebrates food and wine

Food and wine producers across the region combined to celebrate fine regional produce in the 2013 IGA Taste Great Southern festival in February and March.

This year's Taste program encompassed Denmark, Albany, Mount Barker, Ongerup, Narrikup, Kendenup, Porongurup and Katanning, backing the organisers' claim to have the widest geographic spread of any food and wine festival in Western Australia.

Taste is presented by Denmark Tourism and Great Southern Tourism Events, and is supported with \$20,000 of funding through the GSDC, along with backing by Eventscorp.

GSDC Deputy Chairman Kim Barrow launched the festival at Forest Hill winery on Saturday 9 February, and a Perth launch was also held where Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi lauded the program.

Mr Barrow told guests at the Great Southern launch that the Taste festival grew stronger each year and the GSDC was proud to be associated with it.

Guest food celebrities included television's Poh Ling Yeow and Justine Schofield, and Albany's own World Culinary Olympian Tracey Armstrong.

Poh featured at a beach barbecue master class, visited the Porongurup Wine Festival and espoused her food philosophy of focusing on local, fresh and seasonal produce.



GSDC Board Deputy Chairman Kim Barrow, with Denmark Tourism Chief Executive Officer Justine Nagorski, launched the 2013 IGA Taste Great Southern at Forest Hill winery in Denmark in February.

Forest Hill chef Dan Sharp and television's Justine Schofield demonstrated some quick but tempting creations at the Taste launch.



Other main courses on the Taste menu included Herb Faust, Courtney Gibb, Xavier Poupel, Dan Sharp and Kiren Mainwaring.

Festival regulars Russell Blaikie and Don

Hancey added to the depth of culinary expertise and touted the superb quality of Great Southern produce.

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Twertup rises from the ashes

Determined campaign to rebuild

Researchers and visitors in the Fitzgerald River National Park have long made use of the Twertup Field Studies Centre, an isolated home at a former spongolite quarry in the park.

Bushfire destroyed the building in 2008 but the Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park (FRRP) initiated a long

and determined campaign to rebuild the centre.

GSDC support for the project helped to provide building plans, specifications and the steel frame for the new centre.

Years of planning and sourcing funds bore fruit in February when the FRRP held a

busy bee to lay the foundations and erect the framework for the rebuilding project.

The Twertup precinct includes walk trails and interpretive information on the area's natural and cultural heritage.

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Chairman welcomes new Board members

GSDC Board at full strength

New appointments to the Board of Management of the GSDC have brought the body back to full membership.

GSDC Board Chairman Peter Rundle said he was pleased to be working with a full complement of Board members.

“Appointments in September and December last year brought us back to full strength and I welcome the new members,” Mr Rundle said.

“I am pleased to be working with them to further promote the development of the Great Southern.

“I also acknowledge with gratitude the service of Rob Lucas and Len Smith, who ended their terms of Board membership last year,” Mr Rundle said.

New appointees to the GSDC Board are City of Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington, Kojonup Shire President Jane Trethowan,



Departing Board members Rob Lucas (centre left) and Len Smith (centre right) were acknowledged at a GSDC function in December by CEO Bruce Manning (left) and Board Chairman Peter Rundle.

Broomehill-Tambellup Shire President Barry Webster, Katanning businessman Cameron Taylor and Wellstead farmer and community leader Margaret Gorman.

Board incumbent Kevin Forbes AM was

appointed to a second three-year term last year.

The current Board profile is on page 6.

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Support for regional research

University announces scholarship winners

Regional tertiary students received welcome support at a University of Western Australia (UWA) Albany Centre ceremony on Friday 22 March.

Staff and students gathered at the centre to mark the new academic year and for the announcement of scholarships awarded through the UWA Albany Foundation Fund, supported by the GSDC and other regional organisations.



Glen Steven (left) and Dylan Lehmann received the GSDC NRM Sustainability Research Scholarship to support honours study.

Scholarships were awarded for graduate research, undergraduate study in science courses, sustainability, mature age study and high achievement by undergraduates.

Honours students Dylan Lehmann and Glen Steven received GSDC NRM

Sustainability Research Scholarships, providing access to \$2500 each to support their 2014 studies.

The scholarship supports honours-level research in sustainable management of natural resources in the Great Southern.

Both students completed degrees in restoration ecology through the UWA Albany Centre.

Mr Lehmann, from Denmark, will pursue honours through research on invertebrates in revegetated paddocks in the Great Southern, in order to enhance the sustainability of landscape restoration projects.

Mr Steven, from Mount Barker, will undertake honours comparing soil properties and potential for soil reclamation in selected revegetation options in the Great Southern, such as sugar gums, saltland pasture or sandalwood.

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Meet the Board

The Board of Management of the Great Southern Development Commission comprises nine appointed members and the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission.

Three Board appointments are made in each of three categories:

Local government representatives, community representatives and Ministerial appointments.

Board members serve a three-year term and may be appointed to a second term to serve a maximum of six consecutive years.



Peter Rundle (Chairman)

Mr Rundle is a Katanning farmer and businessman with involvements in sporting and educational organisations. Mr Rundle is a member of the Western Australian Regional Development Trust. Mr Rundle's Board term expiry date is 30 June 2014.



Kim Barrow (Deputy Chairman)

Mr Barrow is a former Denmark Shire President and Councillor. His community involvements include sporting clubs, fire brigade, schools and the Denmark Chamber of Commerce. Mr Barrow's Board term expiry date is 30 June 2014.



Kevin Forbes AM

Mr Forbes is a beef farmer and long-time resident of the Mount Barker district. Mr Forbes was elected as a Councillor in 1991 and served as President of the Shire of Plantagenet from 1997 to 2009. Mr Forbes' Board term expiry date is 30 June 2015.



Margaret Gorman

Mrs Gorman is a farmer and part-time teacher from Wellstead. She has a long involvement in community groups in Albany and Wellstead, and played a key role in the development of the Wellstead Community Resource Centre. Mrs Gorman's Board term expiry date is 30 June 2015.



Kerry Stone

Mrs Stone is President of the Shire of Gnowangerup and has a background in farm management. She has served on Shire committees including health and building, finance, industrial relations, and tourism. Mrs Stone's Board term expiry date is 30 June 2013.



Cameron Taylor

Mr Taylor is a Katanning-based partner and director of accounting firm RSM Bird Cameron, for which he manages the Great Southern zone covering Albany, Katanning and Narrogin offices. He has extensive community and sporting involvements. Mr Taylor's Board term expiry date is 30 June 2015.



Jane Trethowan

Cr Trethowan is the President of the Shire of Kojonup, where she farms sheep and grain. She represents the Shire of Kojonup on a range of committees and advisory groups at regional and State levels. Cr Trethowan's Board term expiry date is 30 June 2015.



Barry Webster

Cr Webster is the President of the Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup and farms in Tambellup and Denmark. He has been a Shire Councillor since 1999 and was the inaugural President when the Shires of Broomehill and Tambellup amalgamated in 2008. Cr Webster's Board term expiry date is 30 June 2015.



Dennis Wellington

Mr Wellington is the Mayor of the City of Albany and a business proprietor in Albany. He has experience in tourism and real estate, and has served on the Albany City Council since 2000. Mr Wellington's Board term expiry date is 30 June 2015.



Bruce Manning

Mr Manning is the Chief Executive Officer of the GSDC and is an ex-officio member of the Board. Mr Manning has extensive experience in regional development and he has won several regional development awards.

Katanning swings into golf event

Professionals and amateurs tee off

Professional and amateur golfers joined forces to once again tread the greens of Katanning on 28 February, 14 years after the last pro-am tournament was held at the venue.

The tournament, with a \$10,000 prize pool, was part of the inaugural Great Southern Swing golf event in Katanning and Albany, a result of keen discussions over the past two years between the GSDC, Professional Golfers Association (PGA) of WA and regional golf clubs.

Great Southern Swing teed off in Katanning with 21 professionals and 80 amateurs, and continued in Albany on 2 March with 20 professional players competing for a second prize pool.

The event is set to grow in 2014, with Denmark on track to join the series after green maintenance prevented them from hosting a tournament this year.

The GSDC provided sponsorship and development support for the event.

GSDC Board Chairman Peter Rundle said the tournament was a great opportunity for exposure of the region's golf facilities.

"With such a large field of professional players, amateurs and their supporters in both Katanning and Albany, the event provided a boost to local businesses and



Perth professional Tristan McCallum showed his putting style on his way to a win at Great Southern Swing in Katanning.

showed that regional facilities can match those in the metropolitan area," Mr Rundle said.

"The response to the inaugural event was extremely strong and it is anticipated that Great Southern Swing will grow and cement itself as a regular part of the PGA's annual fixtures."

Tristan McCallum from Perth scooped

the prize money in Katanning with an impressive two under par 70, taking the top prize from Chris Gray, who was the winner of the last Katanning pro-am in 1994 and returned to compete at the event.

In Albany, New Zealander Elliot Boulton's 73 took him to the prize podium ahead of Tim Holmes on 74 and Wayne Smith on 75.

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Training enhances governance

Employers laud course for Indigenous leaders

Corporate governance and planning skills among Indigenous leaders were significantly enhanced last year at a GSDC-initiated program.

Aboriginal representatives from organisations including local government, educational institutions and community groups took part in the three-day program presented by the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Participants explored governance and management issues including the

obligations of directors for the performance and compliance of their organisations.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said follow-up assessments showed that the participants and the employers strongly supported the program.

"Employers said they would nominate other employees for any similar programs in the future," Mr Manning said.

"There was a readiness to advocate for and support high quality training targeted

at the right people. The employers and the participants identified a range of tangible benefits for their workplaces and their communities.

"Delivering quality training to key people builds the capacity of Great Southern organisations and continues the Commission's longstanding support for Indigenous leadership in the region," Mr Manning said.

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Centre promotes Noongar art

Development opportunities for artists

Development opportunities are set to open up for Noongar artists in the Great Southern following the relocation of the Mungart Boodja Art Centre to Albany.

Under the direction of manager Louise Allerton, the centre will offer a program of artist development and raise the profile of Noongar art in the region and beyond.

Mungart Boodja was established by the GSDC in 2004, operating from Katanning to develop and market Noongar art. Following a GSDC-assisted review of the centre in 2011, the Mungart Boodja Board decided to relocate the centre to Albany to develop further growth opportunities.

Ms Allerton said Noongar people are one of the largest groups of Aboriginal people in Australia. Although they are generally under-represented in the art world, some important artists have been collected by institutions such as the National Gallery of Victoria, the Art Gallery of Western Australia and the National Gallery of Australia.

Mungart Boodja presents the work of artists from Albany and elsewhere in



Mungart Boodja manager Louise Allerton with an Edith Penny work entitled Noongar Law and Culture.

the Great Southern, as well as some established Noongar artists who live outside the region.

"The artists are very enthusiastic and are proud that there is a Noongar-owned arts organisation," Ms Allerton said. "They're

willing to support the organisation by being involved in exhibitions.

"In Albany there is an appreciative audience and there are many tourists, so it makes sense to have exhibitions here, as well as exhibiting in the wider art market across the nation."

Before joining Mungart Boodja, Ms Allerton worked for 15 years on an arts project with the Spinifex people from the Great Victoria Desert, whose works were exhibited in Australian cities and in London, the Netherlands, the USA and Austria.

Ms Allerton is planning an artistic exchange between the Spinifex people and Noongar artists, along with a series of workshops and 'pop-up' exhibitions of Mungart Boodja art.

Mungart Boodja is at 222 Chester Pass Road and is open during business hours from Monday to Friday. Mungart Boodja works are also displayed at various venues around Albany.

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