

Weed expert a worthy winner

Award honours three decades of expertise

Veteran campaigner against declared weeds John Moore is the recipient of the 2011 Great Southern Development Commission Medal for Excellence in NRM.

Mr Moore, a senior research officer with the Department of Agriculture and Food, received the award at a gala dinner on Thursday 18 August. His award was the tenth in a series that started in 2002 when Gairdner farmer Ross Williams was honoured for his innovative farming.

To mark the tenth award, the presentation dinner was held for the first time at the Albany Entertainment Centre. The event took centre stage in the auditorium in a natural environment-themed setting created by Albany design outfit Smash Creation.



Minister Robyn McSweeney MLC and 2011 GSDC Medallist John Moore.

Community Services Minister Robyn McSweeney presented Mr Moore with his award and lauded his long-term contributions to natural resource management and his standing in the scientific and agricultural

communities. Mr Moore has been involved in the fight against declared weeds for more than 30 years, most of that time in Albany.

His influence reaches far beyond Albany; weed control practices he developed are used Australia-wide and his work is known internationally.

Mr Moore said the award was an honour, and the \$10,000 grant would enable him to pursue avenues of research that might not find support in conventional programs.

The other finalists were WOW Wilderness proprietor Gary Muir and the late Andrew Marshall, a former catchment group leader from Torbay.

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New grants approved

Regional Grants Scheme funds 16 projects

Royalties for Regions funding of almost \$1 million will support 16 projects in the Great Southern that were recently announced as grant recipients in the third round of the Regional Grants Scheme (RGS).

Great Southern Development Commission Chair Peter Rundle said the Great Southern would receive \$957,000 for the 16 community projects, with a total project value of \$5.1 million.

"Members of the Great Southern Development Commission, who administer the fund, had an incredibly tough job determining this allocation of money," Mr Rundle said.

"I would like to congratulate all successful applicants for their thoroughness in developing and submitting project proposals."

Projects that received Regional Grants Scheme funding for the 2010-2011 financial year include:

- Mount Barker St John Ambulance,

\$65,000 towards a \$444,252 upgrade of the sub-centre facilities

- Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup, \$145,000 towards a \$1.7 million project to build independent living accommodation for seniors

- Borden Pavilion Committee, \$140,000 towards a \$889,970 project providing new and consolidated sports facilities

- Albany Speedway Club, \$49,000 towards a \$107,215 upgrade of the track and pit area

The Great Southern grants were among a total of 128 new projects to receive approval by the nine regional development commissions across Western Australia.

The Regional Development Commission grants total \$7.9 million State-wide and will assist in delivering projects with a total cash value of \$36.7 million.

See page 6 for a full list of RGS round three grant recipients.

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ROYALTIES
FOR REGIONS

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Mr Muir and representatives of Mr Marshall will receive \$1000 grants to further their NRM work.

Mr Marshall had been battling a serious illness and passed away after the short-listing of nominees for the award, and was represented by family members at the presentation dinner.

Guests at the dinner also honoured the memory of the late John Simpson, who died earlier this year. Mr Simpson was chairman of the GSDC from 1994 to

2000 and was a regional leader in natural resource management.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning led a tribute to Mr Simpson, and noted his gifts as a mentor and leader who drew out the best in co-workers.

“John is remembered for his meeting style, his mentoring, and his negotiation skills, particularly when it came to securing funding,” Mr Manning said.

“He had an ability to recognise and encourage skills and talent in the people he worked with, and give them the

confidence to take on projects and achieve outcomes.

“The people who were fortunate enough to work with John will be only too aware of these qualities and it is his leadership in NRM that we particularly wish to acknowledge tonight, on this the tenth anniversary of this GSDC Medal of Excellence in NRM,” Mr Manning said.

Mr Manning presented Mr Simpson’s wife Katherine with a photographic memento.

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Above and right: The GSDC Medal presentation dinner was held on-stage at the Albany Entertainment Centre with entertainment by the Pepperjacks, in a setting arranged by Smash Creation.



Below left: GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning leads a tribute to former GSDC Chairman John Simpson. Below right: Mr Simpson’s wife Katherine (left), daughter Angela and son Chris attended the medal dinner.



Premier adds to surf club funding

Boost for surf club upgrade

Premier Colin Barnett visited Albany in August to inspect two Great Southern projects gaining extra funding through the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

Mr Barnett announced extra Royalties for Regions funding of \$337,226 for the \$1.36 million Albany Surf Life Saving Club upgrade.

The funding adds to an original grant of \$650,000 through the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme for the clubroom extension project, which will include a second storey extension to provide education and training rooms, storage and toilet facilities.

Mr Barnett said surf lifesaving volunteers throughout Western Australia performed an invaluable service to beachgoers.

"The club has a thriving junior membership and with room for extra training and certification courses, it will be great to see more junior lifesavers coming out of the club," the Premier said. "Middleton Beach is immensely popular and the volunteers at the Albany Surf Life Saving Club do a great job."

Mr Barnett also announced the grant of \$897,773 from the Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) to complete the Anzac Peace Park in readiness for the Anzac centenary.



Premier Colin Barnett at the Albany Surf Life Saving Club, where he announced further funding for a project to upgrade the clubhouse.

CLGF grants are part of the Royalties for Regions program and are distributed to country local governments to help build and maintain community infrastructure.

The City of Albany and the Shire of Denmark combined their current CLGF grants to finish the Anzac Peace Park project, an acknowledgement of its regional importance. The funding will enable completion of the final elements of the park, including the Lone Pine Grove, pathways, performance space and lighting installations.

Mr Barnett said it was important that Albany's role as a departure point for soldiers in World War I was recognised.

"There is growing community support and awareness of the Anzac story throughout Albany and this significant site provides a space for this story to be told," Mr Barnett said.

Mr Barnett also inspected construction progress at the Albany Health Campus.

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Commonwealth backs saleyard project

Katanning secures contested funding

Commonwealth funding of \$7 million has helped secure the progress of Katanning's \$25 million project to build new sheep saleyards east of town.

The project gained \$17 million of State Government funding in December 2010 and the latest announcement of success in the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) brings a further \$7.42 million.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said the Shire of Katanning was to be congratulated for the strength of its application to the RDAF.

"Katanning has long wanted to relocate the saleyards away from the existing town centre site, an aim supported by the GSDC," Mr Manning said. "The Shire did well to gain the full amount it requested,

when the funding was hotly contested and only 35 projects were approved out of 550 applications received Australia-wide."

Four applications were approved in Western Australia and the Katanning saleyard was the only one in the south-west of the State.

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Science takes centre stage

Great Southern research in focus

Scientists from the region reported recent research findings to a keen audience at the Great Southern, Great Science conference on Friday 12 August.

Western Australian Chief Scientist Professor Lyn Beazley gave the keynote address at the 120-delegate conference, noting the wide range of research opportunities and challenges facing scientists in the Great Southern, including biodiversity, dieback, climate change and maintaining agricultural productivity.

Great Southern, Great Science is presented by the University of Western Australia's Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management (CENRM) to showcase scientific research related to or based in the region and is supported by the GSDC.

Professor Beazley lavished warm praise on a presentation by Year 9 students from Albany Senior High School (ASHS), reporting on a long-term study of seagrass and shellfish in Princess Royal Harbour.

For the past 11 years, ASHS science teacher Tracy Brothers has guided successive groups of Year 8 to 10 students gathering data about shellfish density, seagrass rehabilitation and the potential of artificial seagrass made of florist's ribbon.

Professor Beazley said the students'



Albany Senior High School science teacher Tracy Brothers (left) and students Isaac Longworth, Conor McCabe, Heidi Burl, Renee Ayres and Melissa Harness with WA Chief Scientist Lyn Beazley.

research carried scientific weight and was unusual because it had taken place over a long period of time, since funding conditions limited many conventional research projects to shorter time spans.

Department of Environment and Conservation scientist Anne Cochrane reported on her work mapping climate conditions in relation to germination rates for various species, providing the potential to predict the impacts of climate change on flora distribution.

Rural Clinical School researcher Craig Sinclair reported on the uptake of advanced health directives among

Great Southern seniors and Department of Agriculture and Food scientist Rob Woodgate spoke on changing practices in relation to mulesing sheep.

Other presentations included treatment of acidic and saline drainage, fire mosaics and biodiversity, breeding blue gums, and the role of farm machinery in compacting soils.

CENRM business manager Randall Jasper said feedback from delegates showed the conference was a success, providing a good range of presentations.

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Publication helps university's ranking

Regional centre contributes to rise

Science from the Great Southern is playing a part in the growing national and international stature of the University of Western Australia (UWA).

World rankings of universities released in August showed UWA rising several places to rank 110th in the highly-regarded Shanghai Jiao Tong ratings. UWA also rated highly in the Good Universities Guide, which named it equal first in Australia on certain key performance measures.

The Shanghai Jiao Tong ratings apply

a formula taking into account the achievement of major awards such as the Nobel Prize, citation rates in various indices and gaining publication of research in the premium scientific journals Nature and Science.

Professor Peter Davies, director of the Albany-based Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management and Professor of Freshwater Ecology, was co-author of a paper published in Nature last year, on global threats to human water security and river biodiversity.

Professor Davies and ten other contributors surveyed the state of the world's rivers and mapped the impacts of pollution, dam building, agricultural runoff, conversion of wetlands and the introduction of exotic species.

Their paper showed that nearly 80 per cent of the world's human population is exposed to high levels of threat to water security and that river-related biodiversity is at risk on a similar scale.

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Katanning scopes SuperTown task

Growth preparation for regional centre

Regional Development and Lands Minister Brendon Grylls MLA announced Katanning's nomination as one of nine regional SuperTowns in July, initiating an integrated planning process in which the GSDC has a key role.

With the Shire of Katanning, the GSDC co-chairs a local project team of key agency

representatives which, over the next six months, will develop a growth plan for the town.

As a first step, the team developed a comprehensive project scoping document, and it has secured planning funds from the \$5.5 million Royalties for Regions program allocation.

The team's next steps include the formation of a local reference group, which will bring the community's vision to the growth implementation plan.

Mr Grylls officially launches the Katanning initiative on Friday 30 September.

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National promotion profile for region

Great South West Edge to gain web presence

Tourism organisations and businesses in the region are urged to monitor the progress of the Great South West Edge as a designated National Landscape.

National Landscapes are a select list of Australia's most significant natural areas, chosen and promoted by Tourism Australia and Parks Australia. Until recently, the Kimberley was the only Western Australian National Landscape but the Great South West Edge was added in March, along with Ningaloo-Shark Bay.

Australia's Great South West Edge stretches from the tuart forests north of Busselton to Cape Arid east of Esperance, taking in the Great Southern coastline and the coastal fringe.

The Great South West Edge will soon be included on the Tourism Australia National Landscapes website at www.australia.com/campaigns/nationallandscapes and will have a profile in national and international marketing campaigns.



Visitors enjoy the view at Sandpatch near Albany, part of the Great South West Edge.

Nomination for the initiative was supported by the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC), neighbouring Development Commissions, Tourism WA, the Department of Environment and Conservation and the tourism industry.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said consultants will be commissioned to prepare a strategy for the development of tourism products and infrastructure to serve 'global experience seekers', travellers who spend more to gain social connection, adventure and personal challenge.

"This strategy will guide communities and enterprises in the Great South West Edge in the development of tourism products to tie in with Tourism Australia's international promotion of Australia's best tourism assets," Mr Manning said. "Tourism organisations and businesses in the Great Southern are encouraged to watch the progress of this initiative.

"It has the potential to enable regional enterprises to match their products and services to the strength of Tourism Australia's promotions in international markets," Mr Manning said.

The GSDC, South West Development Commission, Goldfields Esperance Development Commission and Tourism WA backed the National Landscape recognition with \$65,000 in funding for the strategy project. A brief for the strategy development is due to be released in October.

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New option for festival support

Donors can boost Great Southern Program

Supporters of the Perth International Arts Festival Great Southern Program can show their commitment in a practical way by donating \$500 or more to Southern Lights, a new tax-deductible donation avenue.

The Perth Festival Great Southern Program

has been supported by the GSDC since its inception in 2003 and gained a three-year commitment in 2009-2010 grants.

Southern Lights donors are offered acknowledgement in festival promotional material, invitations to exclusive functions

with opportunities to meet the artistic director, and regular festival news. More information is available by emailing clenyk@perthfestival.com.au or phoning 6488 8626.

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Vice-Chancellor scans education future

Reflections of Albany Centre key supporter

University of Western Australia (UWA) Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Robson AM delivered an educational challenge to staff and supporters of the UWA Albany Centre in September.

Professor Robson visited Albany to deliver a Skywest lecture, during which he outlined the changes he had seen during his time at UWA along with his views on the major educational issues confronting the university as it implements a new course structure and confronts social and technological change.

Professor Robson's reflections were in the context of his impending departure from the role he has filled for the past seven years. He will leave the Vice-Chancellorship at the end of the year.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said Professor Robson is a great advocate for tertiary education in Albany.

"As Deputy Vice-Chancellor and then Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robson was a key supporter of the UWA Albany Centre and helped establish the Centre

of Excellence in Natural Resource Management," Mr Manning said. "He has made a considerable contribution to the advancement of the region and the GSDC is proud to have been a partner in these endeavours."

Professor Robson, an agricultural scientist, was Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost of The University of Western Australia from 1993 and was appointed Vice-Chancellor in 2004.

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REGIONAL GRANTS SCHEME ROUND THREE SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

APPLICANT	PROJECT / ACTIVITY	LOCATION	RGS GRANT	PROJECT VALUE
Albany Equestrian Club	Upgrade of Infrastructure at the Albany Equestrian Centre	Albany	\$14,000	\$42,016
Albany Speedway Club Inc	Track and Pit area upgrade	Albany	\$49,000	\$107,215
Borden Pavilion Committee Inc	Borden Pavilion South Western Sporting Precinct	Gnowangerup	\$140,000	\$889,970
Denmark Tourism Incorporated	Taste Great Southern 2012	All Great Southern local governments	\$25,000	\$166,946
Gillamii Centre	Gillamii Centre Relocation Project	Cranbrook	\$93,000	\$223,687
Kendenup Country Club Inc	Kendenup Country Club	Plantagenet	\$55,000	\$162,484
Narpanup Golf Club Inc	Narpanup Golf Club Re-Roofing Project	Plantagenet	\$4,000	\$13,009
Nyabing Golf Club	Nyabing Golf Club Inc Refurbishment	Kent	\$44,000	\$101,238
Plantagenet Art Council Inc	Mitchell House Community Art Centre Refurbishment	Plantagenet	\$7,000	\$14,204
Plantagenet Village Homes Inc	Plantagenet Village Homes Inc "Collet Barker Court"	Plantagenet	\$65,000	\$262,733
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	Tambellup Independent Living Seniors Accommodation	Broomehill-Tambellup	\$145,000	\$1,732,110
Shire of Denmark	Kwoorabup Community Park Stage 2	Denmark	\$86,000	\$348,500
Shire of Gnowangerup	Gnowangerup Travel Stop	Gnowangerup	\$80,000	\$219,991
St John Ambulance WA Inc Mt Barker Sub Centre	St John Ambulance Mt Barker Upgrade	Plantagenet	\$65,000	\$444,252
Torbay Catchment Group	Completing the Picture - Torbay Rail Trail: Torbay and Elleker Trail Head Improvements	Albany	\$65,000	\$365,736
Woodanilling Sport and Recreation Association Inc	Oval lighting infrastructure additions and safety upgrade to the Woodanilling Recreation Precinct	Woodanilling	\$20,000	\$54,127
16 PROJECTS		TOTALS	\$957,000	\$5,148,218

Wildflower program blooms

Festival unites and expands floral attractions

A month of floral adventures and appreciation kicked off at Ongerup on Friday 16 October with the first event in the Hidden Treasures Great Southern Bloom Festival.

Ongerup's Yongergnow Malleefowl Centre hosted a happy crowd to celebrate the opening of the festival, which takes place from 16 September to 16 October at venues across the eight shires of the Hidden Treasures of the Great Southern: Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kent, Kojonup and Woodanilling.

More than 30 events and activities are on the inaugural Bloom Festival program and Ongerup kicked off the fun with a Pottiest Personality competition, bush tucker tastings and the presentation of prizes in the Capture Your Hidden Treasure photo competition.

Festival celebrity Farmer Shaun, of Farmer Wants a Wife, competed against departing Gnowangerup Chief Executive Officer Aaron Cook and Australia's South West marketing coordinator Zahra Shirazee in the Pottiest Personality competition.

The three contestants had to pot, fertilise and water as many plants as they could in three frantic minutes, fending off friendly skulduggery along the way. Mr Cook won the competition and was duly crowned with a decorated flowerpot.

The Great Southern Bloom Festival is supported by \$80,000 of Tourism WA funding through the GSDC.

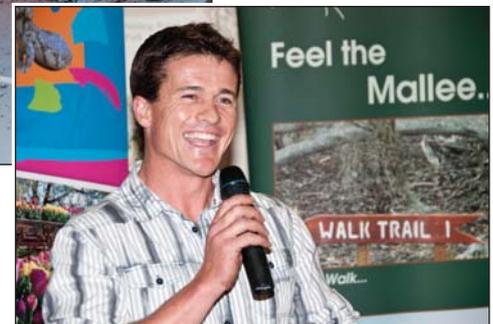
Hidden Treasures chair Di Holly said the festival drew together several existing spring wildflower shows and added a range of new events.

"Bloom Festival offers wildflower walks, open garden displays, two long table lunches and



Left: Zahra Shirazee, Farmer Shaun and Aaron Cook compete to be named Pottiest Personality.

Below: Farmer Shaun (Nyabing local Shaun Fewson) addresses guests at Yongergnow.



even an 'extreme flower arranging' competition at Woodanilling," Mrs Holly said. "There is a competition for an afternoon out with Farmer Shaun and there will be a bush poets' performance at the Pingrup grain silos."

Further offerings at Ongerup include the 34th annual wildflower display at the Ongerup-Needilup Museum, from 19 September to 9 October, and a bush food luncheon at the Yongergnow Malleefowl Centre on 16 October (tickets available from Yongergnow, phone 9828 2325).

Bremer Bay will open its new drive trail on Friday 7 October as part of the Bloom Festival, and garden enthusiasts can learn more about sustainability at presentations in Kojonup and Gnowangerup, and about using plants for fire protection at a session in Kojonup.

Farmer Shaun is joined on the program's celebrity list by My Kitchen Rules personalities Daniela and Stephania, Greenfingers presenter Sue McDougall and renowned botanical artist Katrina Syme.

Great Southern Bloom Festival is also supported by Keep Australia Beautiful WA, which is providing free Outback Clean-up packs through visitor centres and Community Resource Centres.

More information about the festival is available at www.hiddentreasures.com.au.

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Kojonup Tourist Association representatives Roz Barber (left) and Chris Lewis look over the Ongerup-Needilup Museum wildflower display. The display has been presented since 1978, showing 300 to 400 of the 1400 species of wildflowers found within a 40km radius of Ongerup. A register of displayed species has been kept since the inaugural event, providing valuable information for researchers.

Positive view for Asia

Show ambassador gains Great Southern perspective

Acclaimed international wine journalist and educator Poh Tiong will take a positive view of Great Southern produce to markets in Asia following a visit in August.

Mr Poh Tiong was commissioned by the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) as an ambassador for Western Australia in Asian markets.

He was invited to WA as guest international judge at the 2011 Royal Perth Wine Show and visited all of the State's wine regions.

The Great Southern itinerary was arranged in liaison with the GSDC and took in a four-course degustation at Maitraya resort, where regional produce was paired with Forest Hill and Xabregas wines.

Mr Poh Tiong said the State's wine marketers needed to differentiate themselves from the rest of the country and to emphasise that the wines are from Western Australia, not Australia.

"When you market food and to some extent wine in China emphasise food safety, fresh air and purity of produce," he said.



Wine journalist Poh Tiong at Maitraya, part of a showcase for Great Southern wine and produce.

His visit followed the success of the third Great Southern Wine Trail program from 23-28 August, coordinated by the GSDC, which brought wine buyers from Singapore and Philippines to the region.

Buyers Jeffrey Yao and Arjen Blom met with 11 wine producers, visiting individual wineries and vineyards.

"It was a thrill to visit the wineries and sit

down with winemakers while sampling the wines," Mr Yao said.

The buyers also attended two gala events at the Perth Hyatt including the annual Cabernet Sauvignon Tasting: Great Southern versus Margaret River hosted by John Jens and the annual Great Southern Wine Producer Long Table Dinner.

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