

Minister launches Royalties report

Prepare for population growth, Minister urges

Regional Development and Lands Minister Brendon Grylls told breakfast guests in Albany recently that regional communities needed to plan for significant population increases in coming decades.

Mr Grylls was in Albany for a business breakfast presented by the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) and the Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He launched a progress report on the Royalties for Regions program and outlined the Government's approach to regional growth.

He said regional Western Australia could expect an overall population increase of 500,000 people over the next 40 years, in effect doubling the size of every regional town, and said it was essential for local governments to create appropriate planning strategies. Mr Grylls said growth in some centres, such as Albany, would be above the natural trend line and would require even more attention.

He said the Royalties for Regions Progress Report 2009-2010 outlined projects that would build the capacity of the regions.

"This is the blueprint for everything that is happening under Royalties for Regions," Mr Grylls said. "It is an opportunity to look at the length and the breadth of the program."

The Royalties for Regions Progress Report 2009-2010 includes a month-by-month snapshot of significant developments in the program during the financial year, as well as a full list of projects approved for Royalties for Regions funding.

In 2009-2010, \$619 million was allocated to projects in regional areas through the program. The GSDC administers the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme (RGS) as part of the Royalties for Regions program.



Regional Development and Lands Minister Brendon Grylls at the Albany business breakfast.

So far \$10 million has been allocated to Great Southern projects through the RGS and a further \$1 million in funding is pending for the third round of applications.

The third round of the RGS was announced in December and applications closed at 4.30pm on 10 March. Successful applicants will be notified in the middle of the year.

Further Royalties for Regions funding supports the Great Southern Town Centre Enhancement Program (TCEP).

The TCEP is unique to the Great Southern and will enable local authorities to plan and implement improvements to landscaping, roads, paths, gardens, lighting and signs in town centres.

The program offers up to 50 per cent of design costs, to a maximum grant of \$30,000, and/or up to 50 per cent of the cost of on-site works, to a maximum grant of \$150,000.

Applications for the TCEP closed on Friday 4 March and successful projects will be announced towards the middle of the year.

Contact: Bruce Manning ph. 9842 4888



inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Perth festival success..... | 2 |
| Joint effort | 2 |
| Greener golf..... | 3 |
| Wine in translation..... | 3 |
| Sailors laud Albany..... | 4 |
| Story trail potential..... | 4 |
| Photo competition open | 5 |
| Bigger tip shop | 5 |
| Medal's tenth year | 6, 7 |
| Prospects for homeless men..... | 8 |



ROYALTIES
FOR REGIONS

Festival events in demand

Great Southern Program proves popular

This year's Great Southern Program of the Perth International Arts Festival has been hailed as the most successful so far, as audiences lapped up the diverse entertainments of the 2011 program.

Great Southern Program director Rod Vervest said many events sold out, including much of the cinema program.

The Great Southern Program is Western Australia's only regional program of events from the Perth Festival, and is supported by \$225,000 of Royalties for Regions funds over three years.

Borden took part in the program for the first time this year, hosting the high-energy Public Opinion Afro Orchestra and drawing a capacity crowd of 350 to dance the night away at the Borden Pavilion.

Denmark hosted an in-demand rockabilly-blues-burlesque performance by Imelda May at Howard Park winery and Albany presented theatre, dance, classical music, jazz, folk and blues.

May's show was the first of the program events to sell out, and two new tranches of tickets were released later as organisers found ways to expand the available area at the winery.

Weaving, author talks and art-based cultural tours also featured in the program.

Residents from outside the region were invited to visit the Great Southern for the program through State-wide promotions, including a competition coordinated by the GSDC with prizes totalling \$2316.

A couple's prize package, won by Lorna Aylward, included two nights' accommodation at the Beach House at Bayside, tickets to Imelda May, entry to Whale World and a \$150 fuel voucher.

A prize package for a family of four, won by Matthew Pritchard, included two nights at Alcyone Executive Apartment, tickets to The Animals and Children Took to the Streets, entry to Whale World and a \$150 fuel voucher.

Contact: Linsey McFarlane ph. 9842 4888



Local Noongar elders gathered before the huge Ngallak Koort Boodja canvas on stage at the Albany Entertainment Centre for the biggest welcome to Minang country at the opening of the Perth Festival Great Southern Program.

Right: The Public Opinion Afro Orchestra delivered high-energy music at the Borden Pavilion.



Left: An appreciative audience at Oranje Tractor enjoyed music by harmonica legend Joe Filisko (left) and guitarist Eric Noden.

Common understanding

Groups join forces in Ongerup

Ongerup community groups joined forces in February when a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Centre and the Yongergnow - Ongerup Community Resource Centre (CRC).

The CRC (formerly the Ongerup Telecentre) relocated from its previous home in the Town Hall building to Yongergnow Malleefowl Centre in a bid to ensure the sustainability and future viability of both centres.

Both organisations have benefited from their association with the GSDC, and Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning was invited to witness the occasion.

The official signing was witnessed by Wendy Duncan MLC, Parliamentary



Yongergnow-Ongerup CRC President Jan Savage and Yongergnow Malleefowl Centre Chairman Ken Pech signing the MOU with Hon Wendy Duncan MLC as witness.

secretary to the Minister for Regional Development and Lands, who after a short talk proposed a toast to Yongergnow Malleefowl Centre, the CRC and Royalties for Regions.

Contact: Jessica van der Waag Ph. 9821 3211

Greener grass for golfers

Project improves Denmark course

Golf is a good walk spoiled, according to author Mark Twain, but the good walk is being positively enhanced at Denmark Country Club.

Volunteers and contractors are laying out kilometres of pipes to reticulate the shady course on the east side of town, aided by \$142,700 in Royalties for Regions funding through the GSDC.

Club captain Marius Wakka said the \$720,000 irrigation project, also supported by the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Shire of Denmark, involved laying about 18km of pipe, including 3.5km of high capacity 100mm and 200mm pipe to provide water to the fairways and greens.

Mr Wakka said the installation of pipes involved contractors and a team of industrious volunteers from the club, and would be completed this year.



Denmark Country Club captain Marius Wakka and volunteer Bobby Gautrey work on irrigation pipes near the clubhouse.

The club's irrigation project is part of a three-year, \$1.5 million redevelopment plan, which also includes renovating the clubhouse in 2012 and installing grass

greens in 2013, to replace the current oiled sand.

Contact: Duane Schouten ph. 9842 4888

Wine information in translation

Marketing aid for exports to China

Chinese trade buyers have more information at their fingertips about Great Southern wines, thanks to export assistance through the GSDC.

The informational booklet Great Southern Wines, published last year by the GSDC, has been translated into Mandarin to bolster export efforts into China.

Great Southern Wines contains information on wineries in each of the five sub-regions and will be distributed during the Two City Tour, a wine promotion in Shanghai and Beijing in May.

Export adviser Elizabeth Reed recently led three wine buyers through the region, taking in tastings at a range of wineries as well as a selection of Taste Great Southern



Wine buyers Kelvin Lam, from Hong Kong, and Lily Liu, from Shanghai, at the Taste Great Southern launch.

events including the opening at the Albany Entertainment Centre.

An innovative virtual wine tasting project

will soon boost promotions of Great Southern wines.

Produced by the GSDC in partnership with the Great Southern Institute of Technology, the virtual wine tasting is an on-screen presentation of makers' comments on their wines.

Five winemakers comment on their wines – chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, riesling, cabernet sauvignon and shiraz – and their observations are intercut so wine enthusiasts can follow them through a tasting of the five brands in each variety, with food recommendations included. The first virtual wine tastings will take place in Shanghai and Beijing in May.

Contact: Elizabeth Reed ph. 9842 4888

World champions laud Albany

Mirror sailors enjoy South Coast hospitality

Albany became an international sailing venue for a week in January when the Princess Royal Sailing Club hosted the Landcorp World Mirror Championships.

The Great Southern port turned on a wide variety of conditions to test the sailors, who came from Perth, interstate and overseas, including the United Kingdom, Philippines, South Africa and Ireland.

Royalties for Regions funding of \$80,000 through the GSDC helped the club improve critical facilities before the event and deliver a successful program that drew praise from the competitors.

The Royalties for Regions funding provided better ablution facilities, including connection to deep sewerage, and helped provide a race office with improved weather station and communications.

Previous funding through the GSDC helped set up the event, providing a website and marketing plan.

Club manager Lauren Batten said the improvements were a great help and enabled the club to host a well-run event.

Race days kept the club busy coordinating



Project director Anthony Galante (rear left), South West MLC Colin Holt and Albany Mayor Milton Evans congratulate Mirror World Champions Ross Kearney (front left) and Max Odell.

the races and providing meals for hungry hordes coming ashore after hours of sailing.

Australia put up good efforts in the early races but Ireland showed the most consistent sailing to take the championship trophy home, edging out the Philippines and England.

Victorious skipper Ross Kearney, a previous winner of the championship, congratulated the organisers and said it was a pleasure to compete on Princess Royal Harbour. South West MLC Colin Holt presented the championship trophy to Mr Kearney and his crew, Max Odell.

Contact: Christine Grogan ph. 9842 4888

Trail plan for tourism growth

Albany waterways trail could promote enterprise

A 90km trail using stories to link significant sites along Albany's waterways could generate new tourism income in the Great Southern, according to a recent report.

The Kinjarling Trail and Stories Strategic Plan, prepared for the Albany Maritime Foundation and supported by the Great Southern Development Commission and the Department of Indigenous Affairs, outlines a proposed \$5.8 million trail network to create opportunities for innovative tourism products.

The trail, to be developed over five years, would start at the Upper Kalgan bridge, where a Noongar campsite was used for

more than 18,000 years, and follow the Luke Penn walk down the east bank of the Kalgan River, around Oyster Harbour taking in the fish traps and other sites, and on to Albany using existing dual-use paths.

From Albany, the trail would skirt Princess Royal Harbour and take in trails to Quaranup and Point Possession, and past Frenchman Bay out to Bald Head.

The report identifies 14 'story precincts' in the trail network with the potential to become the focus of interpretive content and tourism product development.

Six of the precincts were listed as priorities

for early consideration: Kalgan and King Rivers, Seppings-Yakamia wetlands, Albany Port, Old Albany, Mount Melville, and Quaranup-Frenchman Bay.

Noongar enterprises and other tourism operators would be encouraged to create cultural tours, storytelling and activities associated with sites on the trail.

Contact: Linsey McFarlane ph. 9842 4888

Great Southern in focus

Photographers invited to try for prizes

Photographers can win handsome prizes in this year's GSDC digital photo competition on the theme 'Great Southern Life'.

More than \$1500 is on offer from the GSDC and competition co-sponsors Albany Camera House (ACH) and Albany Gateway, up from \$1100 last year.

The prizes are a mix of cash and vouchers:

- First prize \$400 (GSDC) plus \$149 ACH voucher for framed canvas print
- Second prize \$200 (GSDC) plus \$99 ACH voucher for framed print
- Third prize \$100 (GSDC) plus \$100 ACH print voucher
- Fourth prize \$60 (GSDC) plus \$100 ACH print voucher
- Eight encouragement prizes of \$30 (GSDC)
- Two people's choice prizes of \$50 (Albany Gateway)



Golden Run by Debbie Cristinelli, last year's winning photo in the GSDC Digital Photography Competition.

The competition opened on Friday 25 February and runs until 5pm on Friday 25 March. Entries must be submitted on-line through www.albanygateway.com.au or by visiting Albany Camera House to upload your photos at the counter.

To be eligible, photos must have been taken in the Great Southern region within the past two years and the photographer must ensure that any necessary permission has been obtained to show identifiable people in the photograph.

Judging will take place in April and the winners will be invited to an awards ceremony at the end of April.

Contact: Steve Pontin ph. 9842 4888

Green shed means green goods

Extended tip shop helps save the environment

Denmark residents have even better opportunities to buy clean, green reusable goods at the expanded Denmark Tip Shop.

Royalties for Regions funds through the GSDC provided \$20,000 in a \$63,000 project to build a new shed that more than doubled the size of the storage and display space available for reusable items that have been diverted from the shire's landfill site.

The project was also supported by funding from the Shire of Denmark.

Greenskills worker Duncan Archer said that over about a decade the tip shop had progressed from an open-sided shed with limited storage to its current form of two large sheds, an amenities and education room, and a composting toilet.

"People drive from Albany and Mount Barker to find useful items at the Denmark Tip Shop," Mr Archer said. "Even tourists come here to pick up bargains."

The new shed is 16m by 12m and



Duncan Archer stocks up the new storage shed at the Denmark Tip Shop.

features roller doors on all four sides, so vehicles can drive through to pick up or drop off heavy items.

"Until now we have been storing excess goods outside and a lot of items would

end up water-damaged and useless," Mr Archer said. "This winter, for the first time, we should be able to get everything out of the weather."

Contact: Duane Schouten ph. 9842 4888

Search to start for tenth medallist

Award will honour natural resource manager

This year the GSDC will award the tenth Medal for Excellence in NRM.

One of the region's leading natural resource managers will receive the sterling silver medal and a grant of \$10,000 to advance his or her NRM work.

To mark the approach of the tenth award, the *GSDC Bulletin* looks back on the recipients since the award was established in 2002. Nominations for the 2011 award will open from 28 March to 13 May. Forms will be available at www.gsdc.wa.gov.au.

Contact: Jessica van der Waag ph. 9821 3211

GSDC Medal for Excellence in NRM

2002

Inaugural GSDC Medal winner **Ross Williams** received the award for his

advocacy of best practice natural resource management. Ross has led by example, protecting remnant vegetation and implementing a range of innovative farming

techniques and productive farming systems on his property. The findings of these trials have been shared through active participation on local, regional and State NRM committees. Ross used his award money for an international study tour to examine Biosphere Marketing (in the context of the Fitzgerald Biosphere), waterway filtering and rehabilitation techniques, and methods to improve soil health in agricultural systems. Ross is currently continuing trials to improve on farm soil health, including the use of biological fertilisers.



Ross Williams
Gairdner

to declining productivity in her catchment area, Jean became extremely active in raising community awareness and in seeking funds for on-ground landcare projects. In the course of delivering these activities, Jean has been an active and long-serving member of several key NRM committees at a local and regional level. Since winning the award, Jean has concentrated her efforts on continuing to improve the productivity of the family farm. As a result of leading by example, Jean continues to make a contribution towards NRM.



Jean Webb
Narrikup

2004

Clive Malcolm was the recipient of the third GSDC Medal. Clive earned worldwide recognition for his work as a saltland



Clive Malcolm
Denmark

agronomist for almost 50 years, including working with farmers to develop and trial an innovative niche seeding technique. Clive's local achievements included

the initiation of the Shire of Denmark Greening Plan, undertaken by the Denmark Environment Centre. The project provided a blueprint for land managers planning to protect and conserve the shire's unique biodiversity. Clive was also the inaugural President of the William Bay National Parks Association. Clive Malcolm passed away in 2006.

2005

Keith Bradby received the GSDC Medal in recognition of his long, active involvement in landcare and conservation, and strong advocacy for the recognition of biodiversity as a key issue in natural resource management. Keith has worked with landcare and catchment groups to advocate for and protect ecological values, and



Keith Bradby
Albany

with State Government on landcare policy. Outcomes have included reform in the areas of clearing controls, and the introduction of a range of measures to assist landholders to manage bushland. Since winning the Medal, Keith has continued his work as Director for Gondwana Link, an alliance of local, national and international groups working together to restore ecological connectivity across the south-western Australia biodiversity hotspot.

2003

Jean Webb's work in NRM has been driven by the need to improve productivity on the family beef cattle farm, a commitment to working with the community, and a love of the bush. After witnessing land degradation and the link

GSDC Medal for Excellence in NRM

2006

Louise Duxbury was awarded the GSDC Medal for her role in initiating a wide range of land care projects from integrated farm forestry to river and wetland restoration, organic horticulture and ecotourism. Her teamwork approach has involved skilling others to take up their own projects, facilitation and strategic planning. For Louise, winning the Medal was recognition not only for her work, but for the achievements of the Green Skills team.



Louise Duxbury
Denmark

Louise used her award money for a tour to study a range of sustainability centres and communities around the world. The tour provided useful case studies for a range of projects that Louise has since been involved in across the region. The Centre for Sustainable Living in Denmark is one example of this application.

dryland salinity have assisted and supported many landholders and catchment groups to implement sustainable practices on their own properties. Geoff has recently stepped back from the farm, noting that the next generation are doing a good job of advancing the enterprise by using their new set of skills, knowledge and enthusiasm.

2008

Russel Thomson received the GSDC Medal for his pioneering work in landscape drainage, and for his passion and dedication to understanding recharge landscapes in his region. Russel has worked to raise the profile of NRM through his extensive involvement with government agencies, regional NRM groups, scientists and local government. He was also a major contributor to the creation of the Blackwood Basin Group. In addition to the Medal, Russel also received recognition through winning the National Landcare Program Individual Landcarer Award in 2008. Russel has used his award money to purchase specialised machinery in order to continue trials and the implementation of raised beds in the upper Great Southern.



Russel Thomson
Woodanilling

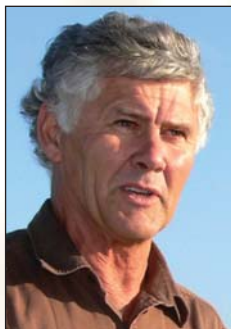
period of uncertainty for the MPG. The award gave Susanne the opportunity to travel and link with other conservation organisations nationally and internationally. This assisted the group to define a new direction, that has led to an expansion nationally, through the formation of a subgroup in South Australia. Since 2009, the MPG has had a number of highlights including three screenings of the *Gnow or Never* film on ABC television, and completion of the companion publication *Malleefowl Believers*.



Susanne Dennings
Ongerup

2007

Geoff Bee was the fifth recipient of the GSDC Medal for his innovative work on the family farm, and for his commitment to sharing the results of research



Geoff Bee
Jerramungup

and trials. Geoff was recognised as one of Australia's leading lucerne growers as a result of his work in Jerramungup. His consistent efforts in controlling

Geoff Woodall's enthusiasm for the production potential of native plants won him the ninth annual GSDC Medal. Geoff conducts research and development through the Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management. He also works as a native plant consultant and runs his own family property. Dr Woodall's work focuses on biodiversity, and native plant industries and food cultivation.



Geoff Woodall
Albany

For Geoff, winning the Medal provided recognition and promotion for some of the work he has been involved with for over ten years. Highlights since winning the award have included a trial of cultivated Ravensthorpe radish at the Bushfood Factory, and publication of an article on biodiverse sandalwood plantations in *CSIRO Ecos Magazine*.

2009

Susanne Dennings won the GSDC Medal for her long-term commitment and dedication to community conservation through the Malleefowl Preservation Group (MPG). Winning the Medal was particularly timely, as it coincided with a

House opens new prospects

Homeless men find a way back

Homeless and jobless men are building new skills to re-enter the workforce and find secure accommodation through Albany's Prospect House.

Community Services Minister Robyn McSweeney officiated at a ceremony in February to mark the opening of Prospect House, which had been in operation for several months beforehand.

Ms McSweeney said there was a significant need for facilities such Prospect House to help men make the transition back into society from periods of homelessness.

She said it had taken a commendable team effort, led by St Vincent de Paul, to set up a facility that lived up to its name, providing new prospects for its residents.

The Prospect House project was developed in response to research supported by the GSDC and the Department of Health, and was a partnership between the GSDC, the Department of Housing, St Vincent de Paul, the Salvation Army and Community First International.



St Vincent de Paul Chief Executive Officer John Bouffler (left) and Community Services Minister Robyn McSweeney at the opening of Prospect House.

Funding of \$15,000 through the GSDC, including Royalties for Regions funds of \$10,000, was part of the initial set-up and running costs for Prospect House to accommodate up to five men.

Accommodation support officer Justine Whatton provides carefully calibrated skills development for the residents, helping directly when appropriate and then standing back to foster growing independence.

St Vincent de Paul Society Albany president Chris Probert said Prospect House had been well accepted in the neighbourhood.

Mr Probert said the service had already achieved some successes with its residents, helping some to reestablish sound work habits and make transitions to employment.

Contact: Alison Carpenter ph. 9842 4888