

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

New heights for surf club

Surf lifesavers have a special place in Australia's sense of identity, and now they have a special place at Middleton Beach.

A \$2 million project to upgrade the Albany Surf Life Saving Club has delivered an impressive refurbishment to the clubrooms that provided new training and meeting areas, better ablutions, information technology facilities and more storage.

The second stage of the two-part upgrade was supported by \$987,266 of Royalties for Regions funding through the Regional Grants Scheme of the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC), along with funding from Lotterywest.

The first stage of the project improved the ground floor of the club and the next stage was the construction of a second storey.

South West MLC Barry House opened the completed project at a function on Saturday 27 July, on behalf of Premier Colin Barnett.

GSDC Board Chairman Peter Rundle said the improvements at the surf club supported an exemplary volunteer organisation.

"Members of the surf club have put in a lot of effort to raise funds and contribute their own labour to make this project happen," Mr Rundle said.

"The GSDC strongly supports partnerships with that sort of group, where members put in their own resources and get cracking with their side of the job.

"Surf lifesavers provide a great service to people who like to get out and enjoy the beach.

"It is fitting that the surf club now has premises that suit the training and other activities that support its positive contribution to the community," Mr Rundle said.

The first stage of the surf club was completed in 2011 and included funding from the Department of Sport and Recreation, the City of Albany, Lotterywest and the Jack Family Trust.

Media contact: Bruce Manning, ph. 9842 4888



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