

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Our Ref: T15:0032

14 December 2011

Attention: News Editor

### **Bus ride to summer fun**

Every summer the coast beckons young people in the Great Southern hinterland but for those too young to drive, visits can be few and far between.

Help is at hand through the Holiday Bus, an initiative of the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC), offering a low-cost lift to the coast to teenagers and accompanied younger children.

Holiday Bus coordinator Karina Taylor said the twice-weekly service to Albany costs \$5 per trip.

“Young people aged 14 to 18 from towns along the Great Southern Highway and on, from Wagin through to Mount Barker and including the Kendenup Westrail stop, can take the Holiday Bus to Albany to enjoy swimming, surfing, skating and other activities,” Ms Taylor said.

“Passengers from outlying towns are welcome to join the service if they can get transport to and from one of the pick-up points along the route.

“Younger teens and primary school-age children can also participate if they are accompanied by a responsible adult.

“In its ten years of operation, the Holiday Bus has helped hundreds of young people from inland parts of the Great Southern to enjoy summer activities in Albany,” Ms Taylor said.

The Holiday Bus service starts on January 3 and runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays until January 26.

Stops in Albany include the city centre, the Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre, the cinema and Middleton Beach.

Cargo bays on the Nichols coach are big enough for BMX bikes, skateboards, body boards and surfboards.

GSDC Chairman and Katanning resident Peter Rundle said the Holiday Bus helped to strengthen regional communities.

“Over the past decade, teenagers from inland towns have shown strong support for the Holiday Bus service,” Mr Manning said.



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“The Holiday Bus adds to the range of stimulating and enjoyable experiences that parents in regional towns can provide for their children.

“Richer experiences build stronger families, and stronger families build better communities,” Mr Rundle said.

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