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GSDC Bulletin

Minister leads forum



Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan and Albany MLA Peter Watson shared the stage for a community forum at the Albany Entertainment Centre recently.

The GSDC recently hosted a ‘Meet the Minister’ forum at the Albany Entertainment Centre’s Kalyenup Studio, where a capacity crowd of 180 attendees had the opportunity to direct questions to Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan and Albany MLA Peter Watson.

Representatives of business and community organisations came from across the region, including from Nyabing, Jerramungup and Kojonup. Ms MacTiernan addressed audience questions including the impact of the tomato-potato psyllid on the region’s potato growers as well as plans for a Wave Energy Centre of Excellence at Albany.

Earlier in the day, the GSDC hosted a meeting where Ms MacTiernan met with University of Western Australia representatives and renewable energy industry stakeholders to discuss options for the Wave Energy Centre of Excellence.

The State Government has committed \$19.5 million to developing the centre and investing in Albany’s future as a renewable energy city.

Bringing together universities and industry is intended to secure Albany’s place as a global hub for renewable energy and put Western Australia at the leading edge of wave energy technology.

GSDC Chair Ross Thornton welcomed the initiative and said Albany was well suited to further develop renewable energy.

“Albany is perfectly situated for a strong focus on wave energy,” Mr Thornton said.

“With significant wind power already being generated at Sandpatch and other major wind power projects in the region, we look forward to the Great Southern becoming an energy exporter to the rest of the grid.”

Great Southern investment opportunities in focus



**Jonathon Bilton and
Ambassador Mark Sawers at
Albany's commercial
shellfish hatchery.**

Investment information and networking opportunities continue to be promoted by the GSDC to maintain and build the region's profile among potential investors.

Recently, the Commission hosted Mark Sawers, Australia's Ambassador to Ethiopia, the Central African Republic, Djibouti and South Sudan. Ambassador Sawers is particularly interested in developing trade and industry investment links between Ethiopia and regional Western Australia. Ethiopia has a population of 100 million and has the fastest growing economy in Africa.

As part of the visit, GSDC and the City of Albany hosted a reception for the Ambassador and Australia's Consul in Çanakkale, Turkey, Dylan Walsh.

Other delegations hosted recently by the GSDC came from China and Japan, including a group accompanying the Governor of Hyogo Prefecture in Japan.

An eight-member Japanese delegation visited Albany in April, and focused closely on investment opportunities in tourism and aquaculture.

Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan travelled from Perth to join GSDC Chair Ross Thornton and the Japanese visitors for a tour taking in aquaculture facilities and some tourism highlights.

The group visited Emu Point where Great Southern Shellfish director Robert Michael highlighted the potential of the aquaculture industry in Albany's protected waters.

The tour also included the shellfish hatchery at Frenchman Bay and the recently upgraded viewing platform at The Gap.

After a luncheon featuring Great Southern produce, the delegation inspected the Albany Entertainment Centre and viewed a presentation by the GSDC, showcasing the region as an investment and tourism destination.

Nyabing Community Hub tender awarded



The Nyabing Community Hub Project Stage Two has now reached final design and a builder has been nominated for the project.

Stage Two involves the construction of a community hub facility which includes a conference room, meeting room, reception area, office, doctor's room, commercial kitchen, licensed bar area, dining, alfresco area and a playground.

An independent evaluation of the tenders nominated Schlager Homes as the preferred tenderer, after a meeting with the Nyabing Progress Committee in May 2017.

Nyabing Progress Association Vice President Fiona Hoblely said the Albany-based firm understood the community element behind the project.

The Nyabing Community Hub is supported by the GSDC through the Regional Grants Scheme, with a total of \$350,000 in grants in two rounds of the scheme.

Capacity crowd applauds musicians

West Australian Music (WAM) launched the CD *Sounds of the Great Southern* at the Albany Town Hall on Saturday 27 May.

Following the official launch, the artists played their music at a concert, which drew a capacity audience who showed great appreciation of the songs.

Sounds of the Great Southern was a GSDC-supported three-week recording session that brought highly regarded sound engineers together with ten of the region's most talented groups and solo performers, giving regional musicians access to top quality sound engineering skills and equipment.

The CD was the Great Southern component of a WAM musical talent development program that is covering the state's nine regions.

The recording is available free from the Vancouver Arts Centre and community resource centres in the region.



All the performers from *Sounds of the Great Southern* gathered on stage after the concert at the Albany Town Hall in May. Photo by Linda Dunjey Photography.



Albany turns CBD into street circuit for vintage and classic cars

Crowds of spectators lined the streets of Albany's CBD over the June long weekend to witness the action of the Albany Classic Motor Event.

The Albany Classic is a two-day event that encompasses a hill climb at Mount Clarence on Saturday and the 1.5km 'round-the-houses' street circuit for vintage and classic cars on Sunday.

This spectacle of historic motorsport, one of only two events of its type in Australia, presents a wide variety of cars from vintage wire wheels, post-vintage and classics as well as open wheel racers and big cube muscle cars.

The event is organised locally by an Albany committee with support from the Vintage Sports Car Club of WA and many local volunteers transform the streets overnight to accommodate this event.

With its festival-like atmosphere, the Albany Classic sees surrounding streets and parks transformed with live entertainment, car displays and markets.

The Albany Classic Motor Event is supported by the GSDC with a \$15,000 grant through its Community Chest Fund.

Denmark celebrates song



Italian group Compagnia Sacco (left) and ethnic Chechen ensemble, Aznash Laaman, from Georgia performing on opening night of Denmark Festival of Voice.

Photo credit: Hazel Blake.

<https://youtu.be/5WPkSwl7060>

Now in its 13th year, the Denmark Festival of Voice has grown to become one of the highlights on the Great Southern events calendar.

The festival brings together a diverse range of local, national and international performers and audiences to Denmark over the June long weekend.

Celebrating the human voice with a special focus on community singing and involvement, the festival boasts more than 80 acts in 18 venues during the four-day program.

International acts this year included performers from Georgia and Italy. Local and national performers also take part in the Festival of Voice, and everyone attending is welcome to sing.

As well as entertaining the large number of attendees who enjoy the performances, the festival also provides professional development for artists and residents through workshops, collaboration and networking.

The Denmark Festival of Voice is a project of Denmark Arts and is supported by the GSDC through its Community Chest Fund, with a \$50,000 grant covering the event in 2017 and 2018.

Giant paper nautilus at Denmark's Ocean Beach

A giant paper nautilus has wrapped itself around the walls of the Denmark Surf Life Saving Club kiosk at Ocean Beach, Denmark, thanks to youth art workshops run by the Albany Youth Support Association.

The association's Drug Aware Open Access Youth Arts Studio delivered a series of workshops recently, culminating in the installation of the kiosk mural.

The project was supported by the GSDC's Community Chest Fund, and follows a previous round of workshops that led to a mural on Denmark's Telstra Exchange building.

During April, Open Access Youth Arts and local artist Glenn Hegedus worked with members of the lifesaving club and the Shire of Denmark with design consultation, building preparation and conducting youth engagement sessions.

About 80 students were involved in the sessions, which included aerosol paint control techniques, further design sessions and application of the mural.

Members of the lifesaving club undertook the massive task of preparing the building surface and undercoating the building.

Albany Youth Services coordinator Aaron Bailey said, "The mural has involved a wide range of community stakeholders, resulting in an amazing intergenerational community development project."

