



Regional
Development
Australia

Edition 2 | March 2014

RDA NETWORK NEWS

Local people developing local solutions to local issues across WA and the NT



An Australian Government Initiative



Regional Development Australia

The RDA Network News is a collaborative initiative between eight of the Regional Development Australia Committee's in Western Australia and Regional Development Australia Northern Territory. For further information on any of the articles published in this newsletter, please note the contact details for the respective Executive Officer on Page 20 (back page).

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 03 |
| Early Childhood Education and Care | 04 |
| Youth | 05 |
| Arts | 06 |
| Digital and Social Media | 07 |
| Skills, Education and Workforce Development | 08 |
| Business and Industry | 09 |
| Partnerships and Planning | 10 |
| Infrastructure | 12 |
| Environment and Sustainability | 14 |
| Agriculture | 15 |
| Tourism | 16 |
| Snapshots | 18 |
| Contact details | 20 |

Front cover: RDA Wheatbelt Guilderton Park

Back cover: Geoscience Australia Map

Opposite: RDA Pilbara Pilbara on the move

Disclaimer: This RDA Network News was prepared by each of the WA/NT Regional Development Australia Committee's and does not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government, its officers, employees or agents. Any representation, statement or opinion expressed or implied is made in good faith and on the basis that the committee, Government, its employees and agents are not liable for any damage or loss whatsoever which may occur as a result of action taken or not taken, as the case may be, in respect of any representation, statement, opinion or advice referred to herein. Professional advice should be obtained before applying the information contained in this document to particular circumstances.



THE RDA NETWORK... COLLABORATION BEYOND BORDERS

Welcome to the second edition of the WA/NT RDA Network News.

Our inaugural edition of the network news showcased such stories as the Digital Knowledge Series facilitated by RDA Perth, the Social Housing Study conducted by RDA Goldfields-Esperance, **RDA Wheatbelt's Youth Initiatives**, the **hearing education program of RDA Kimberley**, the **"Cost of doing Business in the Pilbara"** report by RDA Pilbara, the Regional Development Hub initiative of RDA Mid-West Gascoyne, the **"Employers in Control"** forum hosted by **RDA South-West** and the Digital Switchover Liaison Officer program that was led by RDA Great Southern.

The WA/NT RDA Network News is our way of showcasing the great work that is being done across Western Australia and the Northern Territory. If you have not already seen the first edition we encourage you to contact your local RDA representative (see back page for details) to obtain a copy.

As many of you will be aware, there is currently a review of the national RDA network being undertaken by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development to determine how, or if, the RDA structure aligns with the **Government's vision for regional Australia**. **The Hon Warren Truss, Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development has said that "meaningful engagement with communities is intrinsic to how this Government will operate – and we support a committee-based network of community leaders to help maintain communication links between the local community and the Federal and State Governments."**

We believe that the WA/NT RDA Network is already achieving just this for the Government and if you were not already convinced, after reading these Network News articles you will be reassured by our high level of collaboration and impact.

As always we hope you enjoy our newsletter and we encourage you to contact your local RDA if you would like further information on any of the featured stories.

Collaboratively,
Executive Officers of nine WA/NT RDA Committees

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

State-wide collaboration for Regional Children's Services Plans RDA WA NETWORK

The WA RDA Network is again combining to deliver an important regional project. Following RDA's successful collaborative effort with the Federally funded Digital Switchover Liaison Officer Program, several RDA's independently tendered to deliver the **Regional Children's Services Plan (RCSP)** throughout parts of regional WA.

The purpose of the RCSP is to plan and develop a more strategic, long term approach to supporting sustainable models of community managed education and care services in regional WA. A budget of more than \$3 million was allocated to develop a **Regional Children's Services Plan** in each of the nine Regional Development Commission areas and once completed, the nine **Regional Children's Services Plans** will be used to inform the development of a state-wide RCSP. The Plan is funded by The Regional Community Child Care Development Fund through Royalties for Regions.

Integral to the development of all Plans will be the provision of support to community managed regional education and care service providers to assist them. RDA Wheatbelt, Great Southern and Pilbara will be working with the three other successful organisations in South West, Kimberley, Peel and Mid-West Gascoyne to commence the project.

This planning and implementation work will come through Regional Development Officers (RDO's) recently appointed and working throughout their respective regions. RDA Wheatbelt has appointed Glenice Batchelor, Janelle Price is working in the Great Southern and Terri Sawyer-Waddington is working within the RDA Pilbara region. RDA Wheatbelt



is already off to a flying start, building relationships and utilising an online survey in keeping with their Wheatbelt Digital Action Plan to ascertain local childcare service needs.

The Project is proposed to take two years and to be delivered in two phases – development and implementation. The Plans will be developed in the context of local considerations, with some outcomes expected to be:

- Strengthened and/or improved levels and quality of existing education and care services, including possible expansion of services as required.
- Working towards long term service viability and sustainability.
- Better understanding of and operation within the Australian National Quality Framework (NQF) for Education and Care Services which is now in place across Australia.

To speak to RDA or your regional RDO's or find out more about the project please contact:

Glenice Batchelor, RDA Wheatbelt
glenice.batchelor@rdawheatbelt.com.au

Janelle Price, RDA Great Southern
rdo@rdagreatsouthern.com.au

Terri Sawyer-Waddington, RDA Pilbara
seniorfinanceofficer@rdapilbara.org.au



Permission to SHINE! RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE

RDA Mid West Gascoyne (RDAMWG) has fostered an innovative program that was established at the John Willcock College Geraldton, to address the lack of school attendance in young Indigenous women. The program is set in a purpose built hairdressing salon which allows the girls to gain structured program of learning and hands on experience.

The aim of the Students Hairdressing INcorporating Education (SHINE) Program is to work on improving the confidence and wellbeing of the young women involved in the program. The partnership between RDAMWG, John Willcock College in Geraldton, City of Greater Geraldton, Hillcrest Aged Care Facility and Women's Health Resource Centre - is aimed at improving attendance, health and academic achievement.

The SHINE partnership is making a noticeable difference to the achievement and aspirations of Year 9 teenage girls who were considered 'at risk' of becoming disengaged with education.

The SHINE girls work one day per week in a purpose-built hair salon learning life skills as



well as hair and beauty treatments. They practice what they have learned on the residents of Hillcrest who enjoy being pampered. The City of Greater Geraldton provides the girls with a community-based mobile SHINE workshop which operates from the Council bus and allows the girls to showcase their skills in town.

The Women's Health Resource Centre teaches the girls about their physical and emotional health, well-being and builds confidence in their capacity to make informed decisions in relation to sexuality and health. The girls have benefited academically and personally.

"This is a very dynamic, carefully targeted and obviously successful program which delivers clear benefits to the students, whole school and partners. It's a great model that could be used in other schools to improve engagement, wellbeing and to teach social and work related skills and RDMWG is working with other schools and aims for the program to grow across the region."

Alan Bradley
Executive Officer, RDA Mid West Gascoyne

"The SHINE partnership is making a noticeable difference to the achievements and aspirations of all girls involved and has previously won a WA Aboriginal Education Award for improving Aboriginal attendance in school and in 2012 won the NAB Schools First State/Territory Award (WA)," Mr Bradley explains.

Top: RDA Mid West Gascoyne The SHINE Girls
Bottom left: RDA Mid West Gascoyne The SHINE Salon
(Opposite) Centre right: RDA Great Southern Children at play
(Opposite) Bottom left and top right: RDA Wheatbelt Photo taken for the Wheatbelt Family & Children's Services and Support Directory

Food as theatre RDA GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

RDA Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE) looks forward to welcoming participants from all of **Australia's RDA regions to the Regional Arts Australia National Summit - Australia's most exciting arts event** to be held in Kalgoorlie in October, when arts, culture, creativity and regional food will whet the appetite of artists, arts managers, community developers and strategic thinkers passionate about remote and regional development.

In addition to the extensive art and cultural program a tantalising taste of the history and **culture of WA's Goldfields will come to delicious life** at the Summit as WA Food Ambassador Don Hancey unites with regional producers, community developers and local **hospitality students to 'represent the region on a plate' and showcase the region to more than 700 Australian and international delegates and thousands of visitors.**

Carol Mann Executive Office of RDAGE said that in the lead up to the prestigious national event her office had been working with Summit organisers and the Kalgoorlie based not-for-profit Artgold to support arts activities in the wider Goldfields Esperance region.

"The excitement is mounting and RDA Goldfields-Esperance is keen to provide further support to the regional arts sector in the lead up to the prestigious national event. The inclusion of one of Western Australia's best known chefs and food ambassador for WA, will play an important role in telling the diverse history of the region and of the cultures that make up the unique Kalgoorlie-Boulder-Esperance region – through food."

Hundreds of arts and cultural administrators and volunteers, community developers, industry strategists and the general public will **be able to 'taste the region' at the largest and best connected arts event outside the metropolitan arts sector** when Kalgoorlie-Boulder plays host to this highly anticipated national biennial cultural event. Attendees including RDA participants will sample and savour new ideas to support regional development objectives that enhance capacity - building in regional communities and spark ideas to help them tell their regional stories.

The passionate chef, who said he loves food for its ability to connect people across generations and cultures, expressed his view **that 'food is theatre', with the great thing about food being that everyone plays a part.**

The Regional Arts Australia Summit will take place from Thursday 16 to 19 October 2014 bringing together around seven hundred delegates from around Australia with internal attendance from Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Vietnam, China, the USA, UK and EU. Arts & Edges will showcase arts and cultural practices from around Australia and highlight the unique culture of the Goldfields-Esperance region with thousands of locals also joining into the celebration. For more information on the Summit and enrolments please visit www.raasummit.com.au



Ancient wisdom, modern solutions RDA PILBARA

RDA Pilbara is holding four events introducing Ngahi Bidois to the Pilbara. Workshops include **a Maori Workshop, Men's Workshop and Breakfast, Primary School Students 6's & 7's** going into high school in 2015 and a **NGO Workshop. Ngahiwi o te Ra Bidois is "The Face of New Zealand" and is an International Leadership Speaker** who has presented throughout the world including the New York office of Google. Ngahi is a recipient of the National Professional Speakers Association New Zealand Speaker of the Year, Inspirational Speaker of the Year and Master of Ceremonies of the year Awards.

He also has a Marketing Business degree, a post graduate teaching diploma, a tourism qualification and a Masters in Education with honours. Ngahi has many years of Leadership experience which he brings to his presentations. His presentation is entitled **"Ancient Wisdom, Modern Solutions"** and he will outline wisdom from his Maori culture and others as Modern day solutions for you.

Digital Economy Strategy to cultivate online opportunities RDA SOUTH WEST

RDA South West has partnered the South West Development Commission to complete the South West Digital Economy Strategy. The strategy approach is one that puts the focus on improving uptake and usage of what we have already with a lesser focus on what we cannot control, namely the timing and composition of the NBN roll-out.

The strategy will require a project manager and will be mindful of seeking to enhance the region's telecommunications infrastructure while acknowledging that the national refit of Australia's telecommunications infrastructure will take at least another decade and we expect to be working with a mix of technologies. Future work will look at working constructively with Government in any programs that will complement the NBN initiative and boost Wi-Fi availability in towns.

There will also be work to demystify and encourage the uptake of existing digital services in all areas from telehealth and lifelong learning to business, local government and opportunities in telework and for home-based businesses.

Outcomes of the Digital Survey RDA NETWORK

During the fourth quarter of 2013, the RDA WA network funded a survey to understand how the WA communities viewed and used Information and Communication Technology (ICT). A survey of was undertaken in late 2013. Responses came from all industry sectors and from all parts of WA. Overall, organisations are very well connected, using a wide variety of devices to suit their own business communication choices and customer needs. 65% of respondents use smart phones. 51% of respondents say they supply smart phones or iPads to their staff.

85% of respondents use a desktop computer, 83% a laptop and 53% use an iPad or other tablet device for work purposes. Businesses use multiple devices to suit their business practice. 87% of respondents use their computer mainly in the office, 26% at home and 20% use their computer on site, in the car

or when travelling. A significant percentage of smaller businesses use their main computing device at home, suggesting a real business benefit in delivering fibre optic cable to the home. 99% of respondents are connected to the internet at work. Even if not connected, business owners usually have a strategy to receive and send email messages if necessary, via friends, family or colleagues. 94% of respondents are connected by broadband, mainly DSL.

Only 30% of respondents are happy with their internet connection speed. Which means 70% are not. 99% of connected organisations use one or often a combination of security measures to protect against various attacks.

didyouknow

Uses of the internet:

- 98% email
- 89% research
- 85% banking
- 67% ordering and 66% buying products and services
- 32% EFTPOS
- 31% recruiting staff
- 20% integration of voice and data services (VoIP)

Most respondents (79%) have a website and increasingly web-tools are being used for a variety of business reasons beyond publishing an online brochure. Organisations are now understanding that their website should and can be included in a broader customer relationship strategy that involves CRM, email marketing, and both traditional and social media. Technology adoption takes time. Even though most organisations now rely on the basic tools of the digital revolution – information and communication technologies (ICT), it has taken a long time (20 years) for the majority of businesses and non-profit organisations to become familiar, and then finally comfortable with ICT use.

RDA Perth will be hosting a forum 10 April 2014 titled 'Councils of the Future'. As part of the forum, outcomes of the Digital Survey will be presented to the wider community at that time. A DVD of the presentation will be available for circulation once the forum has been completed.

SKILLS, EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Regional Skilled Migration Scheme RDA GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

Employers in the Goldfields Esperance region can seek assistance from RDA Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE) to fill skilled labour **positions through the Federal Government's** Regional Skilled Migration Scheme. RDAGE through its role as Regional Certifying Body (RCB), will assess the eligibility of applications for the migration scheme, after which, applications will go to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) for approval.

For further information about the Regional Skilled Migration Scheme employers in the Goldfields Esperance region can contact RDAGE via the details on the back page.

Build your workforce seminar RDA KIMBERLEY

The Kimberley Health Industry – Build Your Workforce Seminar aims to connect stakeholders from different areas of the health sector to discuss and workshop the challenges and barriers related to attraction, recruitment, retention and training for people in the Kimberley wanting a career in health.

Stakeholders will include employers and employees, school careers advisors, employment services consultants and training and education providers to develop a plan of action to ensure a future health workforce for the Kimberley region.

The Kimberley Health Industry – Build Your Workforce Seminar will:

- Provide an opportunity to share and celebrate good practice within the region and in rural and remote areas nationally.
- Invite Kimberley students and health professionals who are in the infancy of their career to share their stories so that stakeholders can better understand the motivations and challenges that inform young people in the Kimberley. Include a roundtable discussion to share issues and challenges around workforce planning, whilst looking to design strategic solutions and model good practice. It will culminate in *world café* style sessions where working groups will have the opportunity to plan and implement these solutions.

Topics for conversation will include:

- Recruitment & retention strategies;
- Pathways & training;
- Mentoring & coaching;
- Training delivery methods; and
- Work experience & industry visits.

The Seminar to be held in Broome on Tuesday 29th April 2014 will be facilitated by Cassandra Gandolfo on behalf of The Regional Education, Job, Skills Coordinator – Kimberley region in partnership with Regional Development Australia Kimberley, Wunan Foundation and the University of Notre Dame.



Supporting young mums to engage **with their child's learning**

RDA WHEATBELT

RDA Wheatbelt secured funding through the former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' Parental and Community Engagement (PaCE) program, to deliver the Moora Interagency, Services and Support for Young Aboriginal mums (MISSYA) initiative.

The MISSYA program ran from 22 July through to 22 November 2013 and included a series of creative workshops aimed at supporting young **Aboriginal mums to engage with their child's** learning and education and ultimately improving the educational outcomes for Aboriginal children aged 0-4. The project well exceeded its target of engaging 15 participants as word spread about the great workshops and services/support on offer. The program **coordinator said "at times the building was bulging at the seams with participants and their one or two children actively engaging in the various activities"**.

Feedback from participants indicates that the program was a worthwhile and valuable **exercise. One participant said, "my son is starting to talk good now and knows how to be friendly and play with kids"**. After the success of this initial program, a number of follow on initiatives in other Wheatbelt communities are currently being planned.

New staff appointment RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE

RDA Midwest Gascoyne is forging ahead with the community engagement and **communications component of the region's Economic Development Strategy** with the appointment of a dedicated Regional Development Coordinator.

CEO Alan Bradley, today announced the appointment and commencement of Mrs Marilyn Rulyancich as the new RDC of RDA **Midwest Gascoyne**. **"Mrs Rulyancich, who has extensive experience and a background in the fields of economic development, project management, grant writing, tourism and hospitality has commenced a six month project to roll out key deliverables of the Economic Development Strategy for the Gascoyne regional community", Mr Bradley said.**

Mrs Rulyancich will draw on her experience and network developed during her engagements with Austrade, the Australian Institute of Export, the Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and governments **on all levels to further develop RDA's strategic relationship with private investors, local governments, other public agencies and the community.**

A resident of Busselton/Margaret River in the southwest, Mrs Rulyancich will move to Carnarvon for the duration of the contract. **Mrs Rulyancich said: "I am both excited and delighted to be given the opportunity to experience the Midwest Gascoyne region first hand and to be able to contribute to the future economic development of the region."**

Mrs Rulyancich has been at the centre of the development and implementation of south west regional projects including a **"Regional Tourism Initiative Forum"**, the **"Capes Regional Economic Development Strategy"**, the **"South West Regional Airport Strategy"**, a **"Higher Education Forum"** and has written successful state grant applications for more than \$1.5million for regional events and nearly \$2million for regional projects funded by RDA.

Marilyn has been at the centre of the development of hospitality and tourism since the late seventies with her career cross pollinating with Export, Education, Bilateral

Chambers of Commerce, International Business Marketing and Economic Development. As a former restaurateur, Marilyn is keenly interested in working with RDA to promote the Midwest Gascoyne region locally, nationally and internationally as a place to live, visit or invest.

Over the Horizon Forum 2014 RDA GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

The sixth *Over the Horizon* business and industry forum will be held in Esperance on Thursday 20th March 2014 at the Esperance Bay Yacht Club. This annual event is hosted by the Esperance Chamber of Commerce & Industry in partnership with the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission. Several key stakeholders, including RDA Goldfields Esperance, proudly support and contribute to the event to ensure its success.

The forum incorporates a series of 15 minute presentations from the most influential industries and organisations in Esperance and the south-east sector of the Goldfields Esperance region.

Topics to be covered this year include:

- the future of air travel in Esperance
- the impact of future mining operations on the Esperance economy
- potential import and export opportunities for small business
- the direction the State is taking and resulting implications
- **what's going on in higher education in Esperance**
- what the government is doing to help small business.

The forum, which showcases what is 'over the horizon' is a fantastic opportunity for people to find out what key industries in Esperance are planning and which developments and projects are being progressed. It is aimed at businesses, government departments and the wider population to help them understand what is coming up in the near future.

A tour of the Aurizon facilities will be offered prior to the beginning of the forum. Aurizon is **Australia's largest rail freight operator with almost 150 years of experience.** The *Over the Horizon* forum will run from 10.30 am to 5.00 pm on 20th March at Esperance Bay Yacht Club.

(Opposite) Centre right: RDA Wheatbelt MISSYA Project [Story on Page 081]

PARTNERSHIPS AND PLANNING

Top right: RDA Wheatbelt Handfuls of fun at the MISSYA program in Moora [Story on Page 08]

Business without borders RDA NETWORK

The Chairs and CEO's of eight Regional Development Australia Committees representing an area of half the Australian mainland, met in Darwin this week to inform the White Paper on Northern Australia. The "Northern Australia Alliance" Forum was hosted by the Northern Territory RDA Committee and included the four northern most RDA regions in Queensland as well as the three northernmost RDA regions from WA.

Chair of RDA Pilbara Fiona Whitehartig declared the forum to be "a wonderful opportunity to harness good ideas and find collective solutions to shared challenges".

The Alliance met to identify the barriers and opportunities to the development of Northern Australia, and provide constructive input to the White Paper being developed by the Commonwealth government. In addition to the NT RDA, the RDA Regions included the Kimberly, Pilbara and Mid West Gascoyne from WA, Mackay Whitsunday, Fitzroy and Central West, Townsville and North West and Far North and Torres Strait from Queensland. **Between them, the eight RDA's cover the entire area of the coalition's 2030 Vision for Northern Australia, and the White Paper.**

With Northern WA, NT and Northern Queensland traditionally looking south, the time has come to also start looking east west.

Dr Allan Dale
Chair, RDA Far North Qld and Torres Strait

The region contributes \$96bn to the national total of exports via seaports. With more than 636 million tonnes exported from seaports alone from Northern Australia, the region accounts for 74% of the national total of exports by sea. This alone underlines that Northern Australia is an important and growing part of the nation and is at the forefront of our relations with the dynamic Asian and Pacific region.

Cr Paul Bell, Chair of RDA Fitzroy and Central West Queensland stated "the resource regions

are traditionally price takers but our vision for Northern Australia is to determine price by adding value to our commodities".

Issues discussed included what is required in terms of energy, transport and water to meet the Commonwealth's vision for Northern Australia. In addition it was recognized that red tape reduction and regulatory reform would be needed to assist public investment, and to attract private sector investment. The Northern Australia Alliance recommends that while the challenges are huge in addition to other competing demands across Australia, a number of existing opportunities are mature enablers for growth.

It comes as no surprise how similar the issues are across the NA Regions and by working together we can achieve greater outcomes for our communities.

Leonie Noble
Chair, RDA Mid West Gascoyne

In addition to Mining, Tourism and Primary Production, Northern Australia has much to offer in terms of increasing and viable agriculture, tropical knowledge and health and tertiary expertise. The frontier spirit of Northern Australia also ensures anything the region does, is done with everybody's commitment and energy.

The Northern Alliance of RDA Committees called for a long term united approach to the development of Northern Australia and bipartisan leadership on the issue by all governments. Chair of RDA Townsville and North West Queensland, Paul Woodhouse said "the Alliance looks forward to continuing the collaborative effort and providing the Commonwealth government with the information it needs".



PARTNERSHIPS AND PLANNING

Unprecedented region-wide collaboration for Aged Care RDA WHEATBELT

The Wheatbelt Aged Support & Care Solutions (WASCS) report is a collaborative initiative of RDA Wheatbelt, the Wheatbelt Development Commission, 43 Local Governments (42 **Wheatbelt LG's including 11 from the Central East Aged Care Alliance**), WA Country Health Services and the South West WA Medicare Local. This work was undertaken in response to the identified need for urgent action to be taken to address the many challenges being faced by Wheatbelt communities in meeting aged care and support needs.

The WASCS report will be formally launched in April and takes an overall perspective of the Wheatbelt so that solutions are part of an integrated approach to addressing the needs across the whole of the region.



MOU to enhance health service delivery in the Wheatbelt RDA WHEATBELT

The Wheatbelt Health Memorandum of Understanding (Health MOU) group is a partnership between the Western Australian Country Health Service, Wheatbelt (WACHS, Wheatbelt), Wheatbelt General Practice Network (WGPN), the Avon-Midland, Central



and Great Eastern Country Zones, the Wheatbelt Development Commission and now RDA Wheatbelt. The purpose of the Wheatbelt Health MOU group is to provide a framework for the parties regarding continual communication/engagement, structures and processes that will enhance health service delivery within the WACHS Wheatbelt Region.

RDA Wheatbelt has been a supporter of the group for a number of years and through a recent review of the MOU was afforded the opportunity to become a formal member. RDA Wheatbelt looks forward to working closely with this group toward the goal of improving access to quality health services in the region.

Pilbara Leaders Symposium RDA PILBARA

RDA Pilbara held its annual Pilbara Leaders Symposium in August 2013 and attracted over 100 key representatives from government, resource industries, local businesses and not-for-profit organisations. Attendees were entranced as Ben Roberts-Smith, Victoria Cross **Recipient and Australia's most decorated soldier** drew on real examples from the frontline to provide an insight into leadership **and success that will strengthen their team's** procedures and give them focus to excel.

Held at the Karratha International Hotel, the Symposium included a business breakfast hosted in partnership with the Shire of Roebourne and the IF Foundation, two workshops during the day and an evening dinner event. One of the workshops comprised of Year 10-12 students from Karratha Senior **High School and St Luke's College, providing the Pilbara's future leaders with an** opportunity to ponder ethics and integrity in their everyday life. Ben encouraged the students to stay true to what they believe in so that no matter what decision they make in life, their integrity remains intact. All sessions ended with a lengthy and informative question and answer session.

Top right: RDA Wheatbelt Signing of the Wheatbelt-Health MOU
Centre left: RDA Wheatbelt WASCS Executive Summary

INFRASTRUCTURE

Top: RDA Goldfields Esperance Port Access Corridor
Centre right: RDA Goldfields Esperance RDAGE Board visiting the Port Access Corridor
Bottom right: RDA Pilbara Port Hedland Recreation Centre



Progress of Esperance Port Access Corridor
RDA GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

Road, rail and port infrastructure in the Goldfields-Esperance region came under the spotlight recently, when members of the Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE) committee inspected the progress of the port access corridor project.

The Esperance Port Access Corridor project includes a series of road and rail improvements to improve access into the rapidly expanding Esperance Port. The \$120 million project - \$60 million of which was provided by the Federal Government - will improve the movement of goods and freight into and out of the port as well as making it safer for locals to get around the town.

The project, which is due for completion by mid-2014, includes the recently completed Twilight Beach Road Bridge, the removal of two level crossings, the realignment of Harbour Road, the realignment of rail into the port, and a rail tunnel which is already operational.

Committee members also inspected the Aurizon depot which underwent a \$125 million upgrade to its facilities in 2012. This significant upgrade features state-of-the-art improvements, including a new wagon maintenance facility, new locomotive maintenance facility, the installation of a turntable for locomotives, new and upgraded track, a new warehouse and a new shunting facility.

The Chair of RDAGE, Julia Shadlow-Bath, said that one of the most critical challenges facing the Goldfields Esperance region is to ensure that road, rail and port infrastructure keeps pace with the expanding resources sector. Ms Shadlow-Bath added that quality infrastructure facilities are also essential for the agricultural sector and stressed the necessity for continued long term government investment in these facilities.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Building better cities RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE

City of Greater Geraldton's largest infrastructure project has had an official turning of the sod. Federal Member for Durack, Melissa Price, and City Mayor, Ian Carpenter, turned the first official sod on the City's largest project the Karloo-Wandina (Verita Rd) project last month, against a backdrop of funding stakeholders, City employees, construction crew, and local contractors and suppliers.

"The first stage of the Karloo-Wandina project, the construction of the new Verita Rd between Highbury St, Mt Tarcoola and Doncon St, Wandina, is ahead of schedule and under budget," said Mr Carpenter. "This construction will also facilitate the connection of Ackland St in Mt Tarcoola across to Abraham St, Karloo with a 70m long bridge spanning the Southern Transport Corridor."

The project will ultimately deliver an initial, priority release of 400 affordable housing lots through the WA Department of Housing. **"This is a great collaborative approach to addressing housing affordability," said Ms Price.**

Project construction works started on 23rd September and Stage 1 earthworks have been



completed. This project is jointly funded by Royalties for Regions through the Mid West Development Commission's Mid West Investment Plan, the Building Better Regional Cities Program, Asia Iron subsidiary MGM Pipelines Pty Ltd and City of Greater Geraldton.

The Eastern Breakwater is another project part funded through an Australian Government grant and has been completed, with opening to the public from Saturday, 21st December.

An official opening of the Eastern Breakwater - which will be renamed The Esplanade in recognition of the Esplanade Jetty that was once located in the area in the mid-1800s - was held in the new year.

Mr Carpenter said this year had been one of high achievement for the City in terms of delivering infrastructure to the local community.

"It is a credit to the City staff and local contractors that these three projects have been undertaken with such professionalism and delivered such infrastructure improvement to the City of Greater Geraldton," he said.

RDA Midwest Gascoyne Alan Bradley congratulated the CGG team on their efforts to deliver these important projects for the region.

Top right: RDA Mid West Gascoyne The Esplanade in Geraldton
Centre right: RDA Mid West Gascoyne Flanked by stakeholders, City staff and Councillors and local construction workers and suppliers, Federal Member for Durack, Melissa Price and City Mayor, Ian Carpenter turn the first 'official' sod on the Karloo-Wandina project last month
Bottom left: RDA Mid West Gascoyne Viewing Platform on The Esplanade in Geraldton

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Audit of Renewable Energy Projects RDA GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

RDA Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE) has published an audit of renewable energy projects in the region.

The audit provides a context for renewable energy projects, profiles the current energy supply structure of the region, and documents some of the key challenges faced by renewable energy project development.

The audit also profiles renewable energy projects from across Australia to illustrate future options for the Goldfields Esperance region. These projects have been specifically selected as being most viable to replicate in some way within the Goldfields Esperance region.

The report made four key recommendations:

- Coordination
- Solar PV Project Officer
- Indicators of successful projects, and
- Federal funding opportunities.

The audit recommended that RDAGE contribute to coordination of renewable energy policy and project development in the Goldfields Esperance region.

“Coordination amongst these groups would reduce duplication and promote information sharing that would greatly assist in the development of a successful renewable energy project in the region.”

Extract from *Audit of Renewable Energy Projects in the Goldfields Esperance Region*.

To download a copy of the Audit, visit the RDAGE website - details on back cover.



Bottom left: RDA South West The Capes



Western Australian RDAs have come together with the State NRM Groups together with principal partners RDA (WA), the Department of Agriculture and Food (WA) and Landcare Australia is convening a conference with a difference.

It's already being billed as “quite possibly the best ever NRM conference to be staged in WA” but that's a claim that has some justification. The South West will host the three-day conference in May which will feature a plenary and business networking opener, two full days with concurrent sessions, regional tours and a gala dinner. The conference theme is “The Tipping Point”. This will explore the many elements that contribute to a significant attitudinal change.

Without doubt, the conference is for optimists who seek to work through partnerships to help create a positive future. The conference is for both thinkers and doers — and just about anyone looking to be inspired.

The conference will ask hard questions about our current practices, industries and communities. It will examine the positive practices and how our communities and industries can shift from being part of the problem to part of the solution. The themes will have a strong focus on tipping points in social, ecological and economic systems and describe ways of managing change to make sure we have a future for all the generations to come.

Case studies will describe and enlighten conference participants with big picture **thinking right down to practical “how to” tips** you can take home and implement immediately.

To learn more and reserve your ticket, visit www.nrmconferencewa.com.au

AGRICULTURE



Northern Australia Food and Fibre Supply Chain study
RDA PILBARA

CSIRO and Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) are working together to identify markets for irrigated agriculture products from across northern Australia and to develop efficient value chains to capitalise on existing and future market opportunities.

The work is supported by a consortium of stakeholders, each with an interest in seeing northern Australia reach its potential. These include the Australian, Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australian governments, the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) and Regional Development Australia (RDA) Pilbara.

The study will analyse the long term outlook for relevant agricultural commodities including bulk (large volume) commodities; high value, smaller volume; and emerging products and industries.

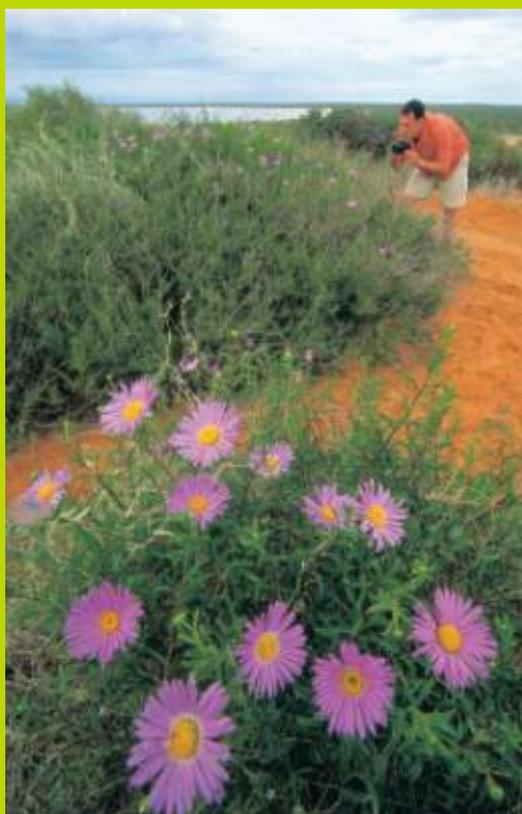
The study will identify market and trade opportunities, risks and options that are likely

to foster longer term growth and the operational and infrastructure elements of the supply chain required to support growth.

The project will also identify strategic investments or practical improvements that can be made across supply chains in different regions across northern Australia, to improve longer term prospects for the north as a whole, based on integrated solutions developed between neighbouring regions.

The results will highlight opportunities to accelerate value-added export-oriented earnings and assist in prioritising regional infrastructure investment.

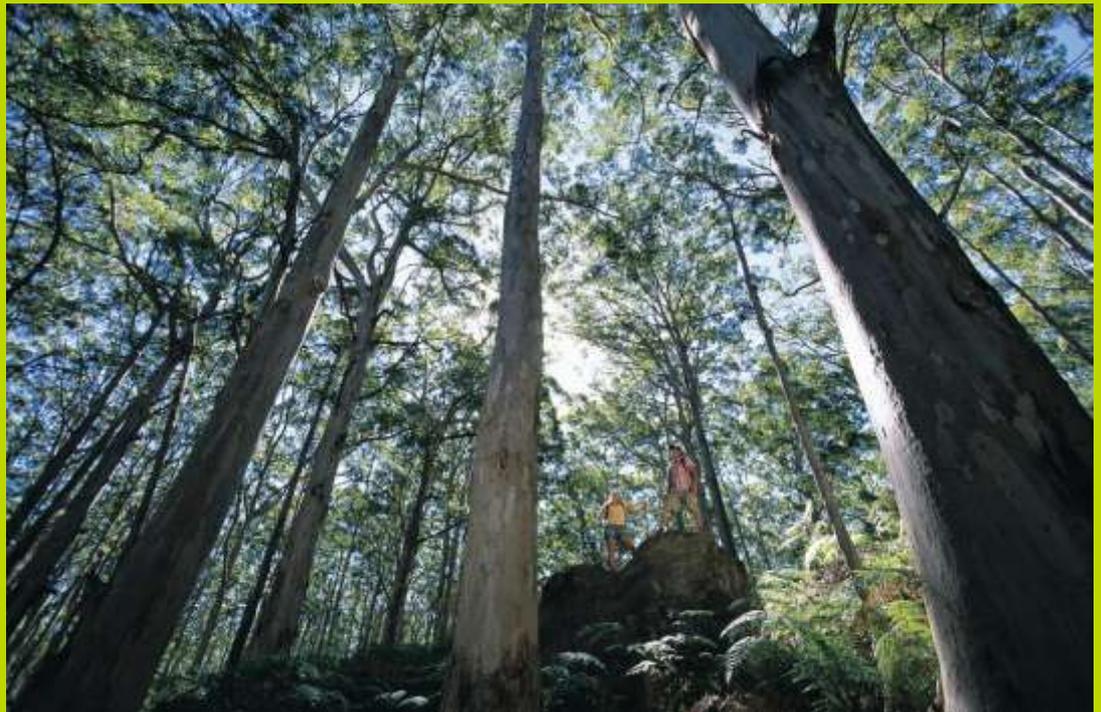
Final report for presentation is on track and is scheduled for May 2014.



Bottom left : RDA Goldfields Esperance Chef's Don Hancey and Peter Manafis [Story on Page 06] (photo — Travis Hay outerboundphotography)
Bottom right : RDA Mid West Gascoyne Murchison Wildflowers (photo— Tourism WA)
Top left : RDA Pilbara Harding Dam

TOURISM

Top: RDA South West Southern Forest
Centre right: RDA Great Southern Simon Lyas, Justine Nagorsky and Peter Rundle with MC Verity James [Story on Page 17]
Bottom right: RDA Great Southern Albany Chef Dan Sharp and Perth Chef Peter Manifes at the TGS launch [Story on Page 17]



Do the Bibbulmun instead of Bali! RDA SOUTH WEST

RDA South West is supporting subregional tourism strategies with a focus on encouraging cooperation between operators throughout the region.

“*Tourism businesses can be very competitive with one another but we wanted them to understand that the real competition is places like Bali – and not their regional neighbours.*”

David Trench
Chairman, RDA South West

Strategies include packaging and using events as triggers to prompt visitation as well as promoting regional food and wine all form part of the plan.

The first sub-region to work on their plan is the Warren-Blackwood which dominated by the magnificent southern forests and offers **delicacies such as truffles, “slow” food and superb cool climate wines.** The sub-region is also criss-crossed by the internationally recognised Munda Biddi Trail and 1,000km Bibbulmun Track which creates economic as well as recreational opportunities.

Mr Trench said: “We expect the Bunbury-Geographe area to be next and we want to see all our sub-regions work together within the framework of the SW Regional Blueprint, **Australia’s South West tourism body and the aims of Tourism WA.**”



Taste Great Southern celebrates 10 years of fine food and wine RDA GREAT SOUTHERN

What do you do with 3,000 blueberries, 2 kilos of olives, 36 punnets of strawberries and 280 yabbies? Have Anna Gare create a 7ft art installation of course!

A handful of selected guests sampled the finest regional produce that the Great Southern has to offer at the official launch and 10th Anniversary celebration of the IGA Taste Great Southern (TGS) festival at the State Theatre Centre on 19th February.

Finding inspiration from a recent extended stay in the region, Anna Gare incorporated some of her new favourite discoveries into her masterpiece.

I wanted to showcase ingredients that wholly reflected the region. I've recently met so many people who recall fond memories of growing up in the region. Anyone who had a dam had yabbies, or spent hours afterschool picking blueberries fresh from the tree.

Anna Gare
Musician, TV personality and celebrity cook

The produce that Gare selected also **“represented the gentle and beautiful climate that is so unique to this part of Western Australia, and a testament to those that nurture, grow and work with their environment with such love and respect.”**

Special guests at the launch included the Hon. Liza Harvey MLA, Minister for Tourism, the Hon. Terry Redman MLA, Minister for Regional Development, The Right Honourable, Perth Lord Mayor, Lisa Scaffidi, Peter Rundle, Chair Great Southern Development Commission, Stephanie Buckland CEO, Tourism WA and Graham Foster, CEO City of Albany.

Simon Lyas, Executive Officer RDA Great Southern and Chairman of Denmark Tourism Inc who manage the event, said the 2014 Taste Great Southern program is the largest yet, with over 55 independent events taking place from February 22 through to March 30.

TGS is the most important event of its kind in the Great Southern region and is expected to attract over 8,000 people. TGS represents a vast geographical area, with each sub-region having its own wine, food and tourism strengths. It is true to say that this makes TGS the most geographically diverse festival in Australia; with the most abundant variety of artisan produce, superb wines and spectacular tourist attractions.

TGS hosts WA's most colourful and high profile food and wine personalities, and in addition to Anna Gare, Dan Sharp, Herb Faust, Don Hancey and Sophie Zalokar, the festival will welcome national celebrity chef in Stephanie Alexander AO and 2013 special guest Poh Ling Yeow will be returning.

TGS not only welcomes visitors in a richly engaging month long festival, but also positively galvanises the visitors and producers from local communities into participating and sharing. The 5 sub regions include: Albany, Denmark, Frankland River, Mount Barker and the Porongorups.



Bottom right: RDA Great Southern Anna Gare and her TGS creation

SNAPSHOTS

- 01: RDA Kimberley Magical sunset in the Kimberley
- 02: RDA Wheatbelt CBH Grain Receival Site in Konodut
- 03: RDA Mid West Gascoyne Robber Crab on Green Christmas Island



- 04: RDA Mid West Gascoyne World Heritage Shark Bay (photo—Tourism WA)
- 05: RDA South West Trout Hatchery in Pemberton
- 06: RDA Mid West Gascoyne Marine octopus
- 07: RDA Wheatbelt Gravity Discovery Centre in Gingin



SNAPSHOTS

08: RDA Mid West Gascoyne picturesque Shark Bay
(photo—Tourism WA)



10



11



09

09: RDA Goldfields Esperance Pond at Peace Park in Kalgoorlie
10: RDA Mid West Gascoyne Midwest Wildflowers (photo—Tourism WA)
11: RDA Mid West Gascoyne Loading iron ore at Geraldton Port
12: RDA Wheatbelt MISSYA Project [Article: Page 08]



12

RDA CONTACTS

RDA KIMBERLEY

Chris Mitchell
www.rdakimberley.com.au
Ph: (08) 9192 2450
Email: eo@rdakimberley.com.au

RDA NORTHERN TERRITORY

Kate Peake
www.rdant.com.au
Ph: (08) 8941 7551
Email: eo@rdant.com.au

RDA PILBARA

Diane Pentz
www.rdapilbara.org.au
Ph: (08) 9144 0651
Email: administration@rdapilbara.org.au

RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE including Indian Ocean Territories

Alan Bradley
www.rdamwg.com.au
Ph: (08) 9964 5757
Email: eo@rdamwg.com.au

RDA PERTH

Colleen Yates
www.rdaperth.com.au
Ph: (08) 9371 5525
Email: eo@rdaperth.com.au

RDA PEEL

John Lambrecht
www.rdapeel.org.au
Ph: (08) 9586 3400
Email: john.lambrecht@rdapeel.org.au

RDA SOUTH WEST

Charles Jenkinson
www.rdasouthwest.com.au
Ph: (08) 9721 1111
Email: Charles.Jenkinson@rdasouthwest.com.au

RDA GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

Carol Mann
www.rdage.com.au
Ph: (08) 9091 6051
Email: eo@rdage.com.au

RDA WHEATBELT

Rebekah Burges
www.rdawheatbelt.com.au
Ph: (08) 9575 1888
Email: rebekah.burges@rdawheatbelt.com.au

RDA GREAT SOUTHERN

Simon Lyas
www.rdagreatsouthern.com.au
Ph: (08) 9842 5800
Email: eo@RDAGreatsouthern.com.au