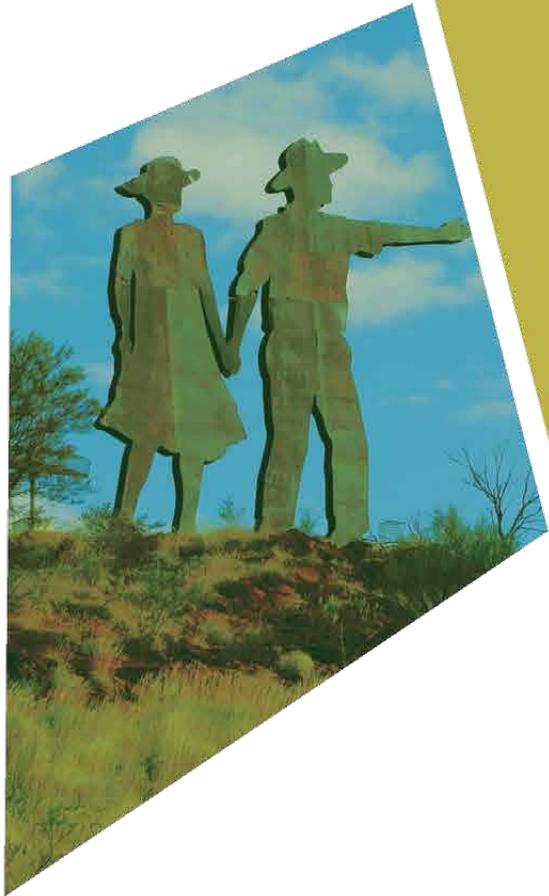




IN YOUR REGION

Edition 13 - 2014



Exmouth Town Centre Transformed

Exmouth turned 50 years old in January this year, making it one of Western Australia's younger regional towns. Nestled between the Exmouth Gulf, Ningaloo Reef and the Cape Range in the Gascoyne region, Exmouth has developed and thrived in modern times.

The much needed town centre revitalisation and foreshore redevelopment was recently completed and officially opened on 11 October 2014.

The \$11.081 million Royalties for Regions funded project (for both Stage 1 and 2) included upgrades to the town beach and undergrounding of power in the central business district.

Shire of Exmouth President Councillor Turk Shales said the project has made the town centre future-proof for the next 50 years and provides for sustainable economic, social and environmental development of Exmouth.

Key project works include:

- Reconstruction of Thew Street
- Road realignments to improve traffic flow
- Increased town parking
- Redevelopment of Federation Park
- An enhanced town beach and marina bridge area.

"We've now got a vibrant commercial centre that is robust enough to grow and accommodate the ever changing dynamics and demands of a modern CBD," Councillor Shales said.

Ray White Real Estate Exmouth's Principal Mark Lucas said the town centre revitalisation had been positive for Exmouth.

"As a business owner in the town centre, there has been a noticeable difference in the number of people that use the area as a place to relax and socialise, whereas previously it was just a place to do your shopping or other business. This is very important to business owners and the local community," Mr Lucas said.

The project has provided places for the local community, visitors and tourists to interact and enjoy.

"Being a tourist town, it is important that we not only try to encourage tourists to come into the town centre, but also ensure they leave with a positive experience that makes them want to come back."

Councillor Shales adds, "These developments are required to achieve the Council's aim to double the population to 5,000 people for Exmouth, in order to become a strong and well serviced town in the region.

"Exmouth will be a dynamic and diverse town to live, with services and amenities that attract and retain a broad range of people wanting to settle permanently."

The revitalisation project complements other Royalties for Regions funded projects in Exmouth such as the water spray park, skate park, recreation centre and Learmonth airport.

DG Message

Welcome to the final edition of the *In Your Region* newsletter for 2014.

I am Ralph Addis, the newly appointed Director General for the Department of Regional Development.

My time here has proven to be a very exciting and challenging experience, especially having to come up to speed with what the department does, and meeting a number of our many stakeholders.

As you may know, I have worked in a number of senior roles across government and regional Western Australia. Most recently, I was the founding Chief Executive Officer of the Wunan Foundation, an Aboriginal development corporation established in the East Kimberley in 1997, and have chaired the Kimberley Development Commission for more than two years. I bring with me expertise, experience and strategic thinking on regional issues.

It is clear the department has made many achievements over the last six years. Moving forward, a central point to building on these successes will be the Regional Investment Blueprints that help align regional investment with broader state strategies and plans.

The State's nine Regional Development Commissions are each developing an investment blueprint for their region,

which will provide a framework for an integrated and comprehensive approach to regional development.

This is an exciting and transitional time, as Royalties for Regions moves into a more strategic phase and I feel privileged to have the opportunity to lead an organisation that has had unprecedented investment in transforming our regions and driving economic growth in Western Australia.

More than anything, it is our partnerships with state and local government, regional development commissions, regional communities, business and industry, community resource centres and a range of non-government organisations, that has enabled the department to bring tangible and real benefits to regional Western Australia.

These alliances help to ensure a strong focus on supporting local decision making for regional expenditure and increase the capacity of local governments.

To our partners, thank you for your continued support and collaboration with the department over the past year.

I look forward to visiting you in the regions in the near future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing Acting Director General Paul Whyte for his valued contribution and the Corporate Executive for assistance



in providing me with expert advice and knowledge during my transition into the position.

In this edition, we continue to highlight innovative new programs and as always, hear from communities that have benefited from the projects implemented.

Best wishes for a happy and safe festive season.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Addis', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ralph Addis
Director General

Establishing Exmouth (cont.)

What's next?

The Exmouth Boat Harbour will receive a major upgrade through \$20 million in Royalties for Regions funding. The upgrade will provide the marine service amenities and infrastructure to support and benefit boat harbour users of Exmouth and Gascoyne region.

The upgrade will better accommodate and service the rapidly-growing supply vessel traffic supporting the resources industry, as well as the growing tourist and recreational vessel traffic.

The harbour has been experiencing a high demand for berthing space for both commercial and recreational vessels.

The extension of the service wharf, and additional fuel and heavy lift facilities will relieve congestion and cater for current demand and anticipated growth.



Kununurra Courthouse officially opened on 26 October 2014.

Local artwork impresses at the new Kununurra Courthouse

Kununurra's new courthouse will provide the community with improved justice services now and well into the future. Officially opened by Premier Colin Barnett on 26 October 2014, the \$41.8 million courthouse has been funded by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

The design of this impressive building was influenced by the East Kimberley community through public consultation, and their involvement is evident in the overall look of the courthouse which reflects the local culture and surrounding landscape. Local artwork is a prominent feature, including a sculpture in the courtyard and paintings from Kununurra-based Waringarri Aboriginal Arts.

Waringarri Aboriginal Arts, Arts and Business Manager Cathy Cummins said more than 20 Aboriginal artists from

Miriwoong country were involved in the Kununurra Courthouse project and their paintings have been digitally reproduced and incorporated into the design of the building.

"The theme 'law and culture' has been reflected in the artwork which will help educate the community and visitors for years to come."

"Being commissioned to provide the artwork for the courthouse means Waringarri Art Centre can continue to employ and support economic independence for local artists and their community," Ms Cummins said.

The new building has been constructed on the existing courthouse site and is co-located with the police station. As well as the courtrooms, the building has mediation and pre-trial conference

facilities and a remote witness room, which ensures vulnerable witnesses and children can testify without being in the courtroom.

Justice services in the Kimberley region are receiving further support through Royalties for Regions which will also provide funding for a courthouse for Fitzroy Crossing.



The local culture and landscape influenced the courthouse design.

Kwolyin campground upgrade attracts happy campers



Ms Beryl Dick unveiling her commissioned painting for the camp ground.

Kwolyin, a quiet and small campground in the Wheatbelt, has been brought to life with the official opening of its upgraded site on 2 September 2014.

Funded by \$250,000 from the State Government's Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund, the main aim of the Kwolyin Campground project was to reduce the pressure of overnight visitors to the nearby Kokerbin Rock Nature Reserve.

While day-stop facilities such as parking, picnic areas and bus access at Kokerbin Rock have been upgraded, campers who wish to stay the night are now encouraged to visit the Kwolyin site, only 10 kilometres to the South West.

Shire of Bruce Rock's Natural Resource Manager, Stephen Fry says there have been numerous on-ground benefits from the Kwolyin Campground project.

"Camping pressure at Kokerbin Rock, where the endangered Black-flanked Wallaby resides, has been alleviated because campers, sometimes 50 on a weekend, now can utilise better facilities close by," Mr Fry said.

Kwolyin boasts a new camping facility, complete with toilets, a camp kitchen, seating areas, picnic facilities, barbecue pits, good water supply and roads. The campsite also has bush walk trails with interpretive signage to view orchids and wildflowers.

The outer ring road has plenty of individual caravan sites while the inner road is set up for group camping.

Tourist features around the site include:

- A photo-stop and picnic area on Gardner Road, under Mt. Caroline, that includes seating, shelter, interpretive signage, parking and a bus turnaround.
- A picnic area at Mt. Stirling that includes seats, tables, interpretive signage, shelter, managed parking area and a granite walk close to the stop.

"Clubs and schools have already learnt of its existence and we have been overwhelmed by the number of people using the facilities," Mr Fry said.

"Local businesses in Shackleton (a town 8 kilometres away) have reported an increase in traffic and turnover, empowering the Shackleton Progress Association to upgrade the old hall to add an historical tourist attraction to the town."

Call in to the Kwolyin Campground this summer for a great camping experience along with an impressive 60 kilometre drive of granite rocks and farmland.



Aboriginal youth leadership program set for expansion

Not-for-profit youth organisation IF Foundation is further developing their RFX Leadership Program for young Aboriginal people through funding of \$100,000 from the State Government's Royalties for Regions Aboriginal Community Critical Response Fund.

The foundation, operating out of Perth and the Pilbara, delivers social and emotional learning programs that empower young people, their families and communities.

The funds have enabled IF Foundation to engage a project manager to create Aboriginal traineeships within the organisation and business opportunities in the Pilbara that will enhance the program.

Expanding on the organisation's Roebourne Girls FX leadership program aimed at making a difference in the lives of young women through education, employment and personal development, the program will respond to social and economic opportunities to improve the wellbeing of young Aboriginal people.

IF Foundation Chief Executive Officer Brendan Parker said the organisation has been successful with inspiring and empowering young aboriginal people for 11 years through the Roebourne Girls FX group and the future is looking brighter for more programs following the recent Royalties for Regions investment.

"Just recently, seven girls across towns in the Pilbara spent a week in New York for New York Fashion Week," Mr Parker said.

"During the week, the girls modelled for fashion designers and spent time sharing stories with students."

"The trip has given the girls a broader perspective and they have learned the people they have met unfortunately do not have the same levels of support they have."

"Some have had suicidal thoughts but since being a part of the program, they have built up their confidence and realised they can be positive role models for other young girls in their home towns."

The IF Foundation looks forward to seeing many more success stories come out of the program following its expansion.

The funding for the expansion of the program was provided through \$10 million Royalties for Regions Aboriginal Community Critical Response Fund administered by the Department of Regional Development. The fund has been established to respond to emerging needs and crises affecting the social and economic wellbeing of Aboriginal people in the regions.

Other projects being delivered under this fund have addressed cyclone damage at Cheeditha Aboriginal Community near Roebourne, coordinated community and economic development in Kalumburu, and provided financial mentoring for Aboriginal people in the East Kimberley.



Roebourne Girls FX group visit Liberation High School, New York, courtesy of IF Foundation. (L to R back row: Duana Councilor, Nicole Manifs, Jessica Newman, Latoya Phillips, Teresa Moore. Front row: Chelsea Derschow, April Leong - Principal, Dana Cabone.)

Great Southern Institute remembers the past at opening of new modern training centre

Great Southern Institute of Technology's new Health Sciences and Community Services block was officially opened 31 October 2014, coinciding with the Institute's 40th anniversary.



Minister Redman and the time capsule.

This \$5.76 million facility, funded by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program, will provide a modern training centre for the Great Southern Region that will deliver courses in nursing, allied health, and community and children's services.

The Institute originally opened on 1 November 1974 as the Albany Technical School with 1,000 students and 30 staff. The contents of a time capsule from 1979 were revealed at the opening of the new facility, in the presence of three special guests whose messages had been included.

A new time capsule containing community members' messages for future citizens was sealed and will not be opened until 2054. Messages included predictions on the progress of technology, education and society, as well as a copy of a photographic book the Institute published to commemorate its first 40 years.

The Institute's Managing Director Lidia Rozlapa said this was a major event in the Institute's history, which would be remembered for years to come.

"The building will provide a stimulating learning environment for current and future students, allowing the Institute to grow and to deliver a wider scope of courses to meet the demands of the community and of industry," Ms Rozlapa said.

"There is a greater demand for training in the Great Southern Region and the new building is an important part of the Institute meeting that demand. Our Institute has played a major role in empowering the people of the Great Southern, and I am proud of our position as the region's largest training provider, with a responsibility for workforce development."

Carnarvon community to benefit from new drug and alcohol centre

A new dual purpose drug and alcohol centre, opened on 10 October 2014, will provide assistance to individuals and families in the Carnarvon community and play an important role in improving health, wellbeing and community safety outcomes.

The Centre, located at the Carnarvon Health Campus, provides counselling assistance by day through the Mid West Community Drug and Alcohol Service and a sobering-up service at night, maximising the use of this new facility. Local service provider, Carnarvon Family Support Services will manage the overnight sobering-up service.

Chief Executive Officer of Carnarvon Family Support Service, Julee Westcott-Nelson said the community's reaction has been very positive.

"Community members have expressed how pleased they are that a local provider won the contract because we are well placed to know the community and understand their needs," Ms Westcott-Nelson said.

The Centre has created local employment for Aboriginal people and many other local residents in Carnarvon. It will also provide ongoing benefits to the community such as reducing harm related to domestic violence and other alcohol related incidents,

relieving pressure on the lock up and providing a safe option for people who turn up at emergency in a crisis situation.

The Centre was largely funded by an allocation of \$4.67 million from the State Government's Royalties for Regions program, with contributions also made by the Drug and Alcohol Office.

Community members, through a community reference group, participated in the planning of the new building, which is a finalist in the Master Builders' Excellence Awards.

Albany's Hawthorn House continues dementia support through new facility

For over 10 years, Hawthorn House, situated on Seymour Street in the Great Southern, has been a place of respite for residents with dementia and their families.

Following the construction of the new Hawthorn House in Albany, residents will now be able to receive ongoing education and carers will have access to respite support services.

The facility is a result of a feasibility study for a housing service provision in the Great Southern region. Like its original, the new Hawthorn House on Henry Street will be a leading community model environment, aimed at meeting the needs of people living with dementia in the Great Southern.

It will support an increase in capacity building in the region, incorporating a steady growth in provision of service

training and contributing to continued growth for such services into the future.

Alzheimer's Australia WA received \$992,000 from the State Government's Royalties for Regions program towards the construction of the new \$2 million facility situated on Henry Street to accommodate Hawthorn House.

Alzheimer's Australia WA's Chief Executive Officer Rhonda Parker said that of the 30,700 Western Australians living with dementia, the majority still live in their homes and in the community.

"Being able to build this establishment enables us to provide a permanent home for dementia-care services in the Great

Southern, ensuring continued service provision in this rapidly growing area of need," Ms Parker said.

"Hawthorn House is more than a best practice model of care – it is a meaningful, real community. This world-class environment will lead the way in dementia care."

The project also received funding from the State Government, Home and Community Care, Alzheimer's Australia, Lotterywest and Jack Family Trust.

Visit www.fightdementia.org.au for more information.



Hawthorn House in Albany.

New fish species now call South West artificial reefs home

State-of-the-art artificial reefs located off Bunbury and Dunsborough reached their first anniversary earlier this year, with recent monitoring surveys showing exciting progress.

Each reef is made up of 30 ten-tonne, three metre high steel-reinforced concrete modules, and both are now showing significant marine growth and providing enticing homes for new fish species.

Monitoring survey results showed more than 40 fish species at the artificial reefs since they were installed, including all three target species of pink snapper, samson fish and silver trevally. The reef modules are now covered with a range of macroalgae, sponges, bryozoans and ascidians. Fewer than 10 fish species were

documented at the predominantly sandy sites before the reefs were deployed.

Local Dunsborough sports shop owner and fisherman Damien Lane said that people are coming into his shop and sharing their photos and success stories.

"I know people who have fished the Dunsborough artificial reef on the opening of the demersal season and caught their quota of dhufish," Mr Lane said.

"The reef wasn't initially designed for dhufies, it was more for the pelagic fish, but it shows that the reef is attracting all sorts of new species."

The trial of the two purpose-built artificial reefs is the first of its kind in Western Australia and monitoring will continue for five years to determine the reefs'

effectiveness. The monitoring surveys will check the reefs' structural integrity and stability, their biological, ecological and socio-economic functions, and document surrounding natural reefs to investigate any impact.

The project received \$1.86 million from the State Government's Royalties for Regions program and \$520,000 from the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund derived from recreational boat fishing licence revenue.



Artificial reefs module.

State of the Regions

The 'WA State of the Regions' series, held by the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) and the Department of Regional Development (DRD), has successfully delivered the first three forums of the ten part series.

Forums have taken place in the South West, Wheatbelt and Peel regions in 2014, with the remaining seven events to be held throughout 2015-2016.

Several influential leaders in Western Australia State Government and essential

services attended each event, exploring the future of industries, services and infrastructure in the regions.

Each forum expressed a strong emphasis on the development and presentation of Regional Investment Blueprints, an initiative supported by DRD focussed on setting out a long-term strategic plan developed by the region for the region.

Department of Regional Development Director General Ralph Addis welcomed delegates to the most recent forum, Future of the Peel Region, and stressed the value of the Regional Investment Blueprints.

"The Blueprints give each of the nine regions an opportunity to prepare and present valuable information outlining regional growth opportunities and investment required to unlock growth," Mr Addis said.

The first event of 2015, Future of the Goldfields, will be held in Kalgoorlie in March 2014.

For more information on the series, visit CEDA regional series website at www.ceda.com.au/events.

Aboriginal short-stay accommodation now available in Derby

Residents from Aboriginal communities surrounding Derby now have more temporary accommodation options following the completion of the new Derby Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation Facility in September this year.

Located on Ashley Street, the short-stay facility can accommodate up to 54 visitors at any one time in hostel-style accommodation. Residents can stay for up to a month and accommodation charges include two meals per day.

The building comprises an administration office, families and single accommodation rooms, a commercial kitchen, recreation facilities, children's playground, barbecue areas and manager's accommodation. Residents are also able to access support services during their stay through two

Aboriginal support workers located at the facility.

The Derby Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation facility was made possible through a unique and well developed inter-agency partnership that offers visitors a suite of services.

The Department of Housing was provided \$11.4 million to design and construct the facility from the State Government's Royalties for Regions program administered by the Department of Regional Development.

While the Department of Housing retains ownership, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support are managing the facility through a service level agreement that was awarded to MercyCare. This was made possible through \$4 million over four years from Royalties for Regions.

The Department of Corrective Services' West Kimberley Regional Prison provides a range of services for the facility.

West Kimberley Regional Prison Assistant Superintendent Chris Christmas said prisoners currently provide meals and undertake laundry services for the facility at the prison. There are plans in place for low security prisoners on community work release to undertake general maintenance around the site including lawn mowing and landscaping.

"This assists with prisoners' rehabilitation by helping them learn and develop practical skills to get job ready, giving them a sense of responsibility and building their confidence," Mr Christmas said.

Derby Short Stay Accommodation is the second facility of its type in Western Australia with the first being located in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The Kalgoorlie-Boulder facility has been operating successfully since January 2013 and is a finalist in the 2014 Premier's Awards.

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