



INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Information Bulletin

Issue No. 3/2014

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5 February 2014

Mr R.S. Tame
Chief Executive Officer
City of Armadale
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Dear Ray

PARKERVILLE FIRE APPEAL

The Lord Mayor, Lisa Scaffidi, has asked me to formally thank the City of Armadale for its most generous \$20,000 donation for the above Appeal.

To date, over \$1.66 million has been collected to assist the unfortunate people of Parkerville, Stoneville and Mount Helena who were affected by the 12 January fire. The willingness of Western Australians to support the fire impacted people is genuinely appreciated.

Having experienced bushfires within the City of Armadale in 2011 you would be familiar with the Fund's processes which ensure an equitable distribution of assistance is made to those affected. Hence the substantial donation from the City of Armadale is particularly appreciated and will be added to the amalgamated Appeal funds to assist those requiring financial aid as a result of the fire earlier this year.

Yours sincerely

Robert Mianich
Honorary Treasurer

ALGA NEWS

7 FEBRUARY 2013

ALGA finalises submission on Emissions Reduction Fund

ALGA is in the process of finalising its submission to the Commonwealth Government in response to the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) Green Paper. This is the primary driver behind the new 'direct action' climate change policy. ALGA attended a stakeholder information session in Canberra this week, where the Government outlined its process going forward as well as its thinking across a number of difficult technical issues, including the transition from the Carbon Farming Initiative.

The Green Paper is the latest step in the development of the Government's ERF. Through the Green Paper, the Government is seeking input on a number of fronts, including program design, monitoring and the creation of safeguards to ensure maximum benefits from the program.

In its submission, ALGA intends to outline a number of issues that were noted in its submission to the Terms of Reference. The primary issue being that local government wants to participate fully in the ERF. This includes involvement in issues of maintaining existing systems that local government is comfortable with, as well as seeking to ensure that local government is not at a disadvantage in the reverse-auction mechanism against private industry.

ALGA welcomes the decision to actively pursue emissions reductions through promoting energy-efficiency practices, including those that were lost through the conclusion of the programs under Low Carbon Communities. Local government was an active participant in those programs.

The Government will be releasing a White Paper with a specific program design proposal in April, leading to legislation to be presented to Parliament in the Budget session starting in May. Information on how to provide a submission on the ERF Green Paper is available [here](#).

2014 National General Assembly - Call for Motions

ALGA is calling for motions for the 2014 National General Assembly (NGA) under this year's theme of 'Getting down to business'.

To assist councils in preparing motions, a discussion paper has been prepared and will be available on the [ALGA website](#) from Monday, 10 February.

Motions should be submitted electronically via the online form on the website by 17 April 2014.

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, motions must reflect the following principles:

1. Fall under the NGA theme
2. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally; and

3. Complement or build on the policy objectives of state and territory associations.

The NGA which will be held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra on 15-18 June. As the major event of the local government calendar, the NGA typically attracts more than 800 mayors, councillors and senior officers from councils across Australia.

The NGA is your opportunity to contribute to the development of national local government policy and receive updates on the top policy issues facing local government.

For further information, contact ALGA on (02) 6122 9400.

ALGA makes submission to Aviation Safety Review

In a submission to the Australian Government's Aviation Safety Regulation Review, ALGA has highlighted issues and challenges facing the regional and remote airports sector.

ALGA's submission focuses primarily on responding to the following two key aspects of the Review's Terms of Reference relevant to local governments:

- the implementation of the current aviation safety regulatory reform programme and the effectiveness of the planning and implementation of regulatory changes, including cost impacts on industry; and
- the structures, effectiveness and processes of all agencies involved in aviation safety.

The overwhelming majority of regional and remote airports are owned and operated by local councils for the communities they serve and ALGA's submission addresses the broad context within which the regional and remote airports operate, in particular the economic and social benefits they provide and the significant external challenges they face.

The submission also examines the complex and unique regulatory environment in which these airports function, which imposes considerable operational challenges.

The economic contribution of Australia's regional and remote airports is estimated at \$329 million, with \$216 million in gross operating surplus and \$113 million in wage payments accumulated from the activity generated from regional and remote airports.

However, regional and remote airports face considerable challenges in maintaining, let alone growing, the service they provide to their local communities. Maintaining and developing the capacity of these airports is expensive. This situation is compounded by the fact that the costs of regulation at these airports are disproportionately greater than for capital city airports – often by a factor of three.

Therefore, there is a serious need to review and address safety, security, environmental control, as well as development planning and control regulations which are not fit for purpose. ALGA looks forward to working with the Commonwealth to address unnecessarily complex and inconsistent regulatory requirements which are not sufficiently sensitive and flexible to the challenging circumstances faced by regional and remote

airports.

President's Column

This week I am writing from Wellington, New Zealand, where I have been meeting with the President and Council of Local Government New Zealand, as part of our involvement in international programs, such as the United Cities and Local Governments and Commonwealth Local Government Forum, to increase the influence of local government and strengthen the capacity to deliver local services in developing countries. My visitation also provided the opportunity to discuss a range of common issues and challenges including emergency management, homelessness, affordable housing and local government reform.

The significant role of local government in New Zealand in responding to natural disasters and managing emergencies was highlighted during the recent Christchurch earthquakes. The Christchurch City Council worked closely with other levels of government and agencies in leading the recovery effort, taking charge in rebuilding Christchurch's damaged roads and underground pipes. This role is only too familiar to councils across Australia, which are well-versed in dealing with crisis situations related to extreme weather and the curse of mother nature. Floods, bushfires and cyclones are part of the Australian way of life but there is much that can be done to further enhance local resilience. Many of the lessons learned during the Christchurch tragedy and preparation and planning in Wellington disasters can be applied back home and I look forward to sharing this knowledge with local government bodies upon my return.

On Tuesday I had the pleasure of meeting with the New Zealand Productivity Commission and New Zealand's Minister for Housing, Dr Nick Smith, during which time we focused on shared experiences in local planning, community infrastructure and productivity growth. These discussions were helpful in gaining a better understanding of how our neighbours across the Tasman are designing regulations for the future to make improvements in the quality of government regulatory practices. This insight is especially relevant in the context of our own work with the Council of Australian Governments, which is currently considering a similar agenda with regard to the refinement of regulatory practices across the three levels of government.

I have also met with New Zealand's Local Government Minister, Paula Bennett, and the National Council of Local Government to discuss common challenges and local government reform proposals. Work is underway in New Zealand to explore options to improve local government performance and strengthen performance monitoring. The results of this work will provide perspective to our own work in this area.

I look forward to sharing insights from these discussions in further detail with our members.

Mayor, Dr Felicity-ann Lewis
ALGA President

ALGA highlights childcare challenges in rural areas

ALGA lodged its submission to the Productivity Commission (PC) review of Childcare and Early Learning this week. The review is examining and identifying future options for childcare and early learning in Australia which supports greater workforce participation for women, are more flexible, affordable and accessible. The PC Issues Paper points out that almost all children in Australia participate in some form of childcare or early learning service before starting school, making childcare an issue which affects almost every family in Australia.

ALGA's submission says that Commonwealth and State government assistance should be carefully targeted at those parents who genuinely need financial support for childcare, and that as a principle, childcare of a nationally acceptable minimum standard should be available to all parents at a reasonable price, with a range of options available to suit parents' needs.

Although local government has no legislated role in childcare, it is involved in implementing state legislation and the extent of involvement by local government varies from state to state due to differences in state requirements and from council to council, depending on the resources and capacity of individual councils. ALGA's submission says that it is vital for all levels of government to work together to deliver the best childcare options for each community, and that utilising local government's knowledge of the community and population projections can assist to inform a timely response to future childcare demand.

While some councils provide council-run childcare centres, the overall number of councils which provide such services has dropped in recent years and in some states councils have almost no involvement in childcare. ALGA's submission emphasised the particular challenges faced by rural and remote councils, which have well-documented problems in attracting and retaining qualified staff, and where market failure necessitates local government intervention and provision of service normally provided by the private sector or other levels of government. In many rural council areas, the council-run childcare centre is the only centre in the area, and rural and remote councils are having great difficulty in recruiting staff with the higher qualifications required under the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education. This raises the need for an appropriate balance between providing much needed childcare, appropriate financial assistance to such councils, and regulatory requirements. ALGA has consistently advocated for greater assistance for rural and remote councils in terms of resources and capacity building. Where a council is required to fill a gap to provide a service on behalf of another level of government, ALGA believes it should be adequately funded by the Commonwealth or State Government to do so.

ALGA's submission to the Productivity Commission is available [here](#).

Local government a key partner in driving economic prosperity

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) has developed a Manifesto for the 2014 State Election.

In launching the document, LGAT President Mayor Barry Easter described it as

providing a blueprint of "the matters that are of importance to Local Government in Tasmania that all political parties should commit to in the interests of Tasmanian voters and their communities."

"The Local Government sector feels strongly that an incoming State Government wishing to drive economic prosperity, must work with communities to get the State back on track. Local Government sees itself as a key partner in this," he said.

The LGAT Manifesto, *Collaborating for Communities*, seeks commitments from an incoming government under a range of key areas including planning, waste management, State/Local Government relations, roads, emergency management and regional development.

"Councils work hard to deliver services and infrastructure to support a better quality of life for local communities," said Mayor Easter.

"The demand for new and increased services to tackle the range of contemporary issues facing communities is felt at all levels of government."

"Tasmanian councils and the LGAT have a strong history of working collaboratively with the State Government to improve the outcomes for the communities that we both serve, and wish to continue that into the future," he said.

LGAT advocates and negotiates on behalf of the Tasmanian Local Government sector. LGAT represents 28 of Tasmania's 29 councils, with around 270 elected members, over 4,000 employees and half a million constituents.

Active over 50s make a splash

The NSW Government has partnered with the Aquatic and Recreation Institute (ARI) to deliver a pilot program that will help people aged 50 and over to stay healthy and active through exercise.

The ARI Active Ageing program is designed to encourage people aged 50 and over to get healthy and active through subsidised aqua fitness and gentle exercises classes run by qualified professionals at 13 pilot sites across the State.

Minister for Ageing, John Ajaka, said the initiative will make fitness programs more accessible, affordable and appealing for people aged 50 and over.

"The classes will provide a social and welcoming atmosphere while focusing on the development of strength and balance to help prevent falls and improve participant's cardiovascular health," Mr Ajaka said.

"The instructors will receive training ensuring they are equipped to work with older adults and within regional communities.

"The classes are tailored to people aged over 50 and aim to be enjoyable as well as improved fitness."

Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, Kevin Humphries, said investment in healthy activities now could lead to savings in health and aged care costs in the future.

"Regular exercise contributes to good physical and mental health - however too many people are not getting the physical activity they need," Mr Humphries said.

For more information on ARI Active Ageing, visit the Aquatic & Recreation Institute [website](#).

Disaster assistance for WA communities

Federal Minister for Justice Michael Keenan, and Western Australia Minister for Emergency Services Joe Francis this week announced that disaster assistance is being made available to 10 WA communities impacted by severe flooding during the period of 16 to 24 January 2014.

Minister Keenan said the assistance was being provided under the jointly-funded Commonwealth-WA Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements to the communities in the Shires of Coolgardie, Cue, Leonora, Meekatharra, Mount Magnet, Murchison, Sandstone, Wiluna, Yalgoo and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

"Individuals and families, farmers and small business owners in these areas that were affected by storms and widespread flooding should seek advice about what assistance is available to help with the recovery process," Mr Keenan said.

The funding will assist local communities with clean-up costs and provide for the restoration or replacement of essential public assets damaged as a result of the flooding.

Minister Francis said that some areas of the Goldfields received about four times their usual rainfall for all of January in the space of just 24 hours.

"The deluge caused widespread damage to roads and other infrastructure as well as homes and business properties, so this assistance will be welcomed by those hardest hit by the flooding," Mr Francis said.

Information about the range of assistance measures available can be found at www.dfes.wa.gov.au or on the Australian Government's Disaster Assist website at www.disasterassist.gov.au

Toolkit decodes reform process

WA Local Government Minister Tony Simpson has launched an online Reform Toolkit, aimed at preparing both practitioners and Elected Members, with tailor-made information, stepping them through the process in the lead-up to July 2015.

The Project, managed by the WA Local Government Association, was jointly developed by three partners including the Department of Local Government and Communities, the Local Government Managers Australia (WA) and WALGA.

Speaking at this week's launch, WALGA President Mayor Troy Pickard said the Local Government Reform Toolkit could be applied to every Local Government's unique situation and adapted to suit their particular needs.

"We moved quickly to put in place support for Local Governments and this comprehensive resource has vast information that leads both practitioners and Elected Members through a staged transition plan," Mayor Pickard said.

"We identified the need to develop a focus on strategic direction specifically for Elected Members and it walks them through the milestones to be achieved during the four stages from review to implementation."

Offering further support, Train the Trainer Sessions would be conducted in February on how best to use the toolkit for a customised reform process plan.

"We are pleased to invite representatives from each Local Government to attend the training and then share this knowledge with their staff to ensure that they gain the most from the toolkit," he said.

Every Local Government will receive copies of the Toolkit Summary, complementary to the online website.

Additionally, copies of the Elected Member Guide will be distributed to all Elected Members.

Mayor Pickard congratulated the team for compiling such an extensive resource in a short timeframe.

"This resource will be widely used by the sector and it will make Local Government reform a more palatable experience for all involved."

To access the toolkit go to www.reformtoolkit.com.au

[Continued strength in non-residential building approvals for December](#)

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Building Approvals show that the number of dwellings approved rose 1.5 per cent in December 2013, in trend terms, and has risen for 24 months.

Dwelling approvals increased in trend terms in December in Queensland (3.8 per cent), South Australia (3.5 per cent), Victoria (2.9 per cent) and Western Australia (0.1 per cent). Dwelling approvals remained essentially unchanged in New South Wales and decreased in Northern Territory (15.8 per cent), Tasmania (3.9 per cent) and the Australian Capital Territory (2.5 per cent) in trend terms.

Approvals for private sector houses in trend terms rose 1.1 per cent in December, rising for the thirteenth consecutive month. Private sector house approvals rose in South Australia (3.3 per cent), Victoria (2.6 per cent) and New South Wales (1.5 per cent) but

fell in Queensland (0.8 per cent) and Western Australia (0.2 per cent) in trend terms.

The value of total building approved rose 3.1 per cent in December, in trend terms, after rising for 23 months. The value of non-residential building rose 4.3 per cent while residential building rose 2.2 per cent in trend terms.

Further information is available in Building Approvals, Australia (cat no. 8731.0) on the ABS [website](#).

Assessing quality standards of children's education and care

Almost 60 per cent of assessed children's education and care services are meeting or exceeding the National Quality Standard (NQS), according to the latest National Quality Framework (NQF) report.

The *NQF Snapshot Q4 2013* released this by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) provides national analysis on children's education and care services assessed and rated against the NQS in Australia.

ACECQA Board Chair Rachel Hunter said almost a third of services had received a quality rating since assessment and rating began in most states in June 2012.

"By 31 December 2013, 4508 services had received a quality rating and nearly 60 per cent of those rated are Meeting or Exceeding National Quality Standard," Ms Hunter said.

"The figures in this *Snapshot* largely mirror the findings in the previous quarter, as services continue to be rated and the National Quality Standard continues to raise the bar on what quality looks like."

Other highlights from the *Snapshot* include:

- 32% of all children's education and care services across Australia have now received a quality rating against the NQS
- 74 645 supervisor certificates have been issued
- an additional two services have been rated Excellent by ACECQA.

The *Snapshot* also includes information about the number of Excellent rated services since applications opened on 1 May 2013.

"As at 31 December 2013 an additional two services received the Excellent rating, the highest rating a service can achieve, bringing the national total to six," Ms Hunter said.

"This highlights the outstanding commitment from services across Australia on improving quality outcomes for children."

The report also provides information and analysis on the progress of assessment and rating, quality ratings of services and waivers held by services.

The *NQF Snapshot Q4 2013* can be downloaded at www.acecqa.gov.au.

Australian Government ICT Awards open for nominations

Nominations for the 2014 Excellence in eGovernment Awards, and the ICT Professional and ICT Young Professional of the Year Award are now open. Details can be found on the [Department of Finance website](#).

Nominations will be accepted for processing until Tuesday, 4 March 2014.

The Awards are a great way of recognising and acknowledging the projects, the ICT teams and individuals. They provide another opportunity to say "Thank you – great job!" and to celebrate success.

For further information please contact the Awards Coordinator at [e-governmentaward@finance.gov.au](mailto:egovernmentaward@finance.gov.au) or phone 02 6215 3060.

CO-OPS launches obesity prevention community awards

Applications are now open for the CO-OPS Obesity Prevention Community awards.

The awards aim to showcase health initiatives that demonstrate excellence and leadership in community-based approaches to the prevention of obesity. The awards provide an opportunity to celebrate success and recognise best practice in obesity prevention.

There are three awards categories available. Nominate your initiative today and receive recognition for your work.

More information at www.co-ops.net.au

LED Seminar Series

Lighting Council Australia - the peak body for Australia's lighting industry-is convening a LED Seminar Series in major capital cities.

Solid state lighting is expected to affect nearly all lighting applications, with many cities in the world moving - or contemplating the move - to LED street lighting.

Seminars will be led by Professor Georges Zissis - a renowned expert on solid state lighting systems - with particular expertise in their applications for road lighting.

The seminars will be useful for lighting industry specialists, utilities, municipalities, town planners, facility managers, architects, engineers and other professionals with an interest in lighting.

Registrations close on 12 February.

To find out more, and to download the registration form, click [here](#).

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ALGA NEWS 14 FEBRUARY 2013

ALGA President discusses Work for Dole

ALGA President Felicity-ann Lewis has met with Assistant Minister for Employment, Luke Hartsuyker to discuss the Australian Government's proposed Work for the Dole program and the possible role of local government.

Minister Hartsuyker said that the Work for the Dole program had been scaled back in recent years and that the current Government was committed to expanding the program to give the unemployed new skills and help them to into full-time employment.

Work-for-the-dole participants could be asked to work on community projects to build walkways, maintain gardens or undertake placements in not-for-profit organisations. However, Minister Hartsuyker reinforced that the Government was still refining the details of the program but that it was expected to be operational in the next financial year.

"We want to make the work-for-the-dole experience as work-like as possible for job seekers. This could include building a boardwalk in a local park; helping to fix a broken water main; planting gardens; or working in the library. These are the sorts of projects that we'll be considering," Minister Hartsuyker said.

ALGA President Felicity-ann Lewis said that councils would require a clear understanding of the requirements of the program and clarification of any expectations of councils to provide support in terms of equipment, training, supervision and general resources. She said that councils would need advanced notice of local projects to be carried out by work-for-the-dole participants so that they could budget accordingly. She also suggested that longer placements would provide councils with a greater return on the time and resources invested in work-for-the-dole participants.

"Generally speaking, many councils would see benefit in giving people experience to make a contribution, gain experience and skills and build morale. But each council has different circumstances and challenges and they would want a clear understanding of the requirements of the program," Mayor Lewis said.

Minister Hartsuyker said that he envisaged work-for-the-dole placements to involve as little 'red tape' as possible for councils and stressed that the Government, not councils, would manage issues relating to work-for-the-dole participants fulfilling the expectations of the program and completing paperwork.

Consultations between ALGA and the Government are expected in the coming weeks as the program details are developed.

Federal Government outlines plans for community infrastructure

In a meeting this week with the Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Jamie Briggs, ALGA President Felicity-ann Lewis raised issues concerning

the need to maintain and extend federal funding under the Roads to Recovery (R2R) program, the Commonwealth's National Commission of Audit and community funding commitments.

For some time, ALGA has been calling on the Government to increase the amount invested in local roads to address a substantial funding gap in community infrastructure. This issue was highlighted in a study commissioned by ALGA in 2010, which identified a shortfall in funding for local roads of \$1.2 annually.

This issue was further reinforced late last year, when ALGA launched the *National State of the Local Road Assets Report 2013*, which is based on data provided by 183 urban councils and 161 rural councils, covering \$98.3 billion in assets under management. The Report found that more than 10 per cent of sealed roads were in poor condition and a large proportion of timber bridges were substandard.

As part of the National Commission of Audit, the Government is considering the activities and expenses of the Commonwealth and the division of responsibilities between local, state and federal governments. All Departments of the Government have been asked to fully cooperate with the Commission and ALGA has provided a submission outlining the shared responsibilities of federal and local governments and the strength and value of the partnership between the two levels of government. A report by the Commission of Audit is expected inform the 2014-15 Budget process.

Minister Briggs said that the Government would be taking a strategic approach to infrastructure investment and maintaining regional roads. He also said that the Government would need to be "hard-headed" about how it funded infrastructure projects.

Late last year, the Government said that it would consider funding projects under previous rounds of the now-defunct Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF). This includes projects which were promised by the Coalition in the election campaign and some urgent projects which were advanced but not formally contracted. Councils with eligible projects are reminded that they must finalise their paperwork for consideration of this funding within six months of the date of offer of funding from the Government.

The RDAF program has been replaced by the National Stronger Regions Fund, which will begin operating in 2015 and focus on areas of low socio-economic status, where unemployment levels are higher than the national average. The details of this new fund are yet to be finalised.

ALGA discusses local infrastructure funding with Opposition

ALGA President Felicity-ann Lewis has met with the Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, to discuss local infrastructure funding.

The Former Minister for Local Government voiced his support for local infrastructure funding, noting the value of direct funding to councils but he also expressed concern that Round 5 projects worth \$150 million under the previous Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) would not proceed under the current Federal Abbott Government.

Mr Albanese acknowledged the strength of the original Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP) (2008-2010) which provided direct funding to councils, with all councils receiving an allocation for infrastructure plus a separate pool for more substantial projects based on an application process.

The RLCIP, established as part of the stimulus package for the global financial crisis, was a response to a recommendation in the 2006 PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) report on the Financial Sustainability of Local Government. ALGA continues to advocate the need for a permanent community infrastructure program as recommended by PwC.

Mr Albanese and Mayor Lewis also discussed the need for increased funding for local roads under the Commonwealth's Roads to Recovery (R2R) program and this week's introduction of a new national truck law to improve safety on community roads.

The Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) came into effect on 10 February to ensure national consistency in heavy vehicle law and regulations. The national law is expected to improve the trucking industry's safety and assist councils in maintaining and preserving local road networks.

An information kit to assist councils in meeting the new responsibilities and arrangements under the HVNL has been distributed to local governments.

President's Column

Every year, councils are invited to enter the Australian Government's National Awards for Local Government to showcase the excellent work they do in designing and delivering services for their local communities. The Awards recognise ingenuity, resourcefulness and self reliance. They also identify and promote councils that are finding new ways of developing tailored solutions to complex and challenging problems.

Most significantly, the Australian Government endorses local government projects that are innovative, deliver better outcomes for communities, and have the potential to be rolled out across the county to make a meaningful difference. In previous years, we have seen some remarkable achievements promoted in this way. From initiatives to reduce future flood damage to creating safer motorcycle routes, our councils are proven experts in engineering solutions to specifically address local issues.

This week, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Warren Truss launched the 2014 Awards. With nominations now open, I can't stress enough the importance of councils putting forward projects that have delivered outcomes for their local communities. The winners of the Awards will be announced at ALGA's National General Assembly of Local Government in June.

There are six categories in the Awards this year and for the first time, there is a Disability Access and Inclusion category, sponsored by the Department of Social Services. As the Local Government Disability Champion, I am actively encouraging all councils to promote their work for improving access to community activity. There are numerous examples of council initiatives that are helping to overcome disability challenges. In one example, the City of Darwin recently launched state of the art access equipment at the Casuarina Swimming Pool, allowing a local resident to swim for the first time in 17

years! These are the very stories and projects that we need to promote across the country. And I know that there are plenty out there...

I should add that a further benefit of the National Disability Access and Inclusion Award is that some of the innovative projects created by councils can be incorporated into future reports back to COAG as examples of real achievements under the National Disability Strategy.

Submissions for the 2014 Awards will be accepted until 21 March. For more information about submission guidelines and categories, please click [here](#). If you are unable to access an online entry form or if you require additional information, email the Awards Team at awards@infrastructure.gov.au

Best of luck!

Mayor, Dr Felicity-ann Lewis
ALGA President

Recognising local government achievements for people with disability

The Assistant Minister for Social Services has welcomed the introduction of a new category of the National Awards for Local Government which recognises councils for innovative work to support people with disability.

"The new Disability Access and Inclusion Award is an opportunity to acknowledge local councils making a difference for people with disability in their community," Senator Fifield said.

Each year the National Awards for Local Government showcase the achievements of councils across the country.

"I am pleased this year we are introducing a new award that recognises local governments for their work with people with disability in their communities."

"Local governments have an important role in supporting the inclusion of people with disability in their communities across a broad range of areas such as transport, community facilities, arts, sport and cultural activities.

"This award is an opportunity to highlight initiatives that make a difference."

Senator Fifield said the new award will promote innovation and best practice across local government.

"I hope this new award sparks competition between local councils on best practice in this area."

Entries for the National Awards for Local Government close on 21 March 2014. National Grand finalists will be presented with their awards at ALGA's National General Assembly

in Canberra in June 2014.

More information about the awards, including assessment criteria, is available at <http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/nalg>.

Community gardens blueprint emerges from Black Saturday

A \$1 million Community Based Gardening Project in some of Victoria's worst 2009 bushfire regions has resulted in a new 90-page Community Gardens Manual that will extend the original project into other regional areas of Victoria.

More than 300 requests have been received for the manual, which includes the bushfire community gardens in Toolangi and Castella, Jindivick, Yinnar, Beechworth and Yackandandah.

Tabitha Barclay, the designer and facilitator of the Toolangi and Castella garden, said that the community garden has linked the geographically isolated hamlets of Toolangi and Castella and has become the living heart of the CJ Dennis Reserve, which was previously just a collection of buildings and hard landscape.

"It has brought many people back to the reserve by creating a pleasurable space for the community to meet, spend time and work together - our common ground. It has empowered the community to take on other projects such as the newly formed Men's Shed," Ms Barclay said.

"The Community Gardens Manual provides practical, invaluable, grass roots information, which is flexible enough to be applied to most communities."

Free copies of the manual can be downloaded from the [Helen Macpherson Smith Trust website](#), or the [Sustainable Gardening Australia website](#).

Culture is big business

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has released its first experimental measures of the economic contribution of cultural and creative activity in Australia.

Cultural and creative activity is estimated to have contributed \$86.0 billion (6.9 per cent) to Australia's Gross Domestic Product in 2008-09.

"This new ABS release shows cultural and creative activity is a significant component of the Australian economy, in addition to playing an important role in the wellbeing and quality of life of the community" said ABS Director of Culture, Recreation and Migrant Statistics, Andrew Middleton.

Volunteer services to arts and heritage organisations are estimated to have been worth a further \$756 million in 2008-09.

The number of persons whose main employment was in a cultural or creative industry or

occupation averaged 972,200 in 2008-09.

There were 164,730 entities actively trading as a business or non-profit institution within the cultural and creative industries at the end of June 2009.

The ABS' estimates were prepared following strong interest in the economic role of these activities, such as highlighted by Australia's National Cultural Policy *Creative Australia*.

Estimates for cultural and creative activities have previously been published in other countries such as Canada, Finland, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Further information can be found in [Australian National Accounts: Cultural and Creative Activity Satellite Accounts](#) (cat. no. 5271.0), available for free download from the ABS [website](#).

Economic benefits from increased Aboriginal employment

Billions of extra dollars will be added to the Australian economy if Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment levels reach those of other Australians by 2031 according to a new [Deloitte Access Economics report](#).

The report, commissioned by Reconciliation Australia, finds that by 2031 the Australian economy (GDP) would be more than 1.15 per cent larger in real terms than would otherwise be the case—a gain of approximately \$24 billion in 2012/13 dollars. It also found that the larger tax base would increase Government revenues across the country by \$7.2 billion and increased affluence amongst Indigenous workers would cause a substantial \$4.7 billion reduction in necessary expenditure.

Reconciliation Australia Co-Chair, Dr Tom Calma, said the report made a strong economic case for current national efforts to improve outcomes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment, health and education.

"This report provides rigorous evidence for sustained investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education and training, and health, both of which are key to improved employment outcomes," said Dr Calma.

"The report estimates that closing the education gap would see an additional 26,000 jobs and that raising Aboriginal and islander health outcomes would see a 9 per cent increase or 13,000 additional jobs."

The report investigates employment outcomes across urban, regional and remote areas and includes an analysis by industry and occupation and factors which disadvantage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander job-seekers in the labour market.

It finds three quarters of the economic benefits would accrue from regional and urban Indigenous populations. NSW, with the largest Aboriginal population, would receive the greatest economic benefit with an estimated increase of \$7.4 billion although the benefits of closing the employment gap in remote populations such as the Northern Territory, the

Kimberly and Cape York would be disproportionately large.

"This finding strongly reinforces arguments by Indigenous leaders and others against a one size fits all approach and for tailored efforts across all regions. It provides evidence to counter the argument that governments should concentrate solely on employment in remote areas," said Dr Calma.

"The report's three case studies-Blacktown in Western Sydney, the Fitzroy region, including Rockhampton and Gladstone, in Queensland, and Alice Springs and the remote southern parts of the Northern Territory-find that industry specific and locally tailored strategies will be required.

"In Western Sydney great opportunities exist for additional Indigenous jobs in financial and professional services and the retail sector while in Alice Springs there is great potential to provide employment to local Aboriginal people in construction, food services and accommodation."

Deloitte Access Economics Partner and report author Dr Ric Simes said analysis highlighted how improving the circumstances of Indigenous Australians was not only a major social challenge, but also a significant issue for Australia being best positioned to maximise its economic fortunes.

Researchers examine spending habits of retirees

Researchers from CSIRO and Monash University in Melbourne are putting the spending habits of retirees under the microscope in an effort to understand the finer details behind how they use and manage their superannuation funds in retirement.

"We're looking to understand what retirees need, how long their super lasts and what investment options and financial products might best suit them throughout their retirement so we can figure out how their super could work smarter," CSIRO Research Leader Alan Dormer said.

"For example, what levels of confidence and security does superannuation provide to retirees, and how does it affect their spending behaviour throughout their retirement? The way you spend your super in retirement makes a big difference to the type of risk you take when selecting your investment options."

"We're looking to understand what retirees need, how long their super lasts and what investment options and financial products might best suit them throughout their retirement so we can figure out how their super could work smarter."

Australia's ageing population and growing pool of A\$1.6 trillion in Superannuation is a national challenge and impacts anyone who has ever worked or employed anyone.

Michael O'Neill, chief executive of over-50s lobby, National Seniors, said he expected the research to debunk some of the super spending myths associated with older Australians.

"We expect claims that baby boomers are spending their super on living the high life, and

then falling onto the pension, will prove unfounded," Mr O'Neill said.

The Melbourne-based researchers will use big data analytics, social science, risk and economic modelling to answer questions such as how superannuation will affect the economy as it grows ever bigger, and how we provide security in retirement for all Australians.

"The super system is maturing and changing and we need to start using an evidence based approach to understand what we need to do now and into the future to re-engineer super to best suit members and inform decision making at an Industry and Government level," Mr Dormer said.

Local stimulus projects set to provide jobs

The Government of South Australia is partnering with the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) to fast track the delivery of over 100 local council projects.

Planning Minister John Rau said the SA Government had confirmed \$7.5 million in funding for the projects, which would be matched with a dollar for dollar commitment by local councils.

"This funding will enable 104 projects across the state to go ahead," Mr Rau said.

"These are smaller scale community infrastructure projects and fast tracking their delivery will help stimulate local economies and benefit communities.

"Over 600 additional jobs will be created through these stimulus projects."

Projects approved for funding are from local government areas right around the state and include playground upgrades or new playgrounds, upgrades to bike and walking tracks and boat ramp upgrades.

"These are things local communities have identified as being a priority in their area," Mr Rau said.

"For example, people in the Campbelltown local government area will see footpath and streetscape improvements along St Bernards Road and an Outback Adventure Park at Anderson Court.

"These projects are all things that improve local residents experience in their community."

LGA Acting President Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg said Council works projects had a great economic impact directly and via local contractors.

"There's a double benefit," Mayor Rosenberg said.

"Bringing projects forward with State funding can make the difference for small businesses struggling as a result of the economy but it also delivers the upgraded facilities to the community earlier."

Rising input costs threaten Australian vegetable growers

Rising input costs are the biggest threat to the future of Australian vegetable growers, according to grower responses released by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES).

80 per cent of vegetable growers have reported that increasing costs of production are the largest threat to their future viability.

"These results come as no surprise to the vegetable industry. Australian vegetable growers have been suffering due to rising input costs, especially electricity prices, for some time," AUSVEG Spokesman, Kurt Hermann said.

In 2012-13, hired labour is estimated to have been the largest production cost, followed by contracts paid, fertiliser, seed, and fuel, oil and grease. Moreover, it is estimated that electricity prices will increase by 13 per cent from 2011-12.

"Many vegetable growers have already implemented and exhausted potential productivity improvements. As such, reducing operating costs, which are generally out of growers' control, is essential to ensuring the future viability of the vegetable industry," Mr Hermann said.

AUSVEG is the leading voice in Australian horticulture, representing 9,000 vegetable and potato growers.

"The ABARES results show that most vegetable growers believe that they are operating as productively as possible. As such, if operating costs continue to increase, this is likely to reduce returns for growers," Mr Hermann said.

"Those vegetable growers that indicated they could improve productivity, noted higher yielding crop varieties as the key to improving their productivity," Mr Hermann said.

"Whilst planting higher yielding crop varieties could lead to productivity improvements, this may not be possible for many growers," Mr Hermann said.

"Apart from rising input costs, more than 50 per cent of vegetable growers identified low prices and increased marketing costs as alternative impediments to future business viability," Mr Hermann said.

2014 LGNSW Water Management Conference - Call for Papers

The annual Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Water Management Conference presents Local Government with a broad range of information, from a Local Government perspective, on water management and issues associated with water supply and sewerage services provided by council owned and operated local water utilities.

The 2014 conference will be co-hosted by LGNSW and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council at the Glasshouse from Monday 25 August to Wednesday 27 August 2014.

Councils and other stakeholders are invited to forward papers and/or suggestions for the conference program. In particular, papers are invited on the main topics planned for the conference:

- Review of institutional arrangement for local water utilities in regional NSW

The conference will continue discussing proposals to reform local water utilities in regional NSW and implications from the recommendations of the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

- Water recycling

The conference will look at trends in, and the ongoing reform of the regulatory framework for water recycling including economic feasibility and direct potable reuse.

- Drinking water quality management

The conference will continue looking at progress and challenges of implementing drinking water quality management frameworks in regional NSW.

Papers/suggestions should include:

- A brief outline of the issue/main focus of your paper/suggestion
- The preferred format for its inclusion in the program (conference paper, presentation, display, workshop topic)
- Possible presenter/s and a brief bio (50 words maximum)
- The type of outcome that could be expected by conference delegates.

Please note that the LGNSW does not accept presentations which are solely commercial in nature.

Papers are due by Friday, 11 April. For further information, visit:

lgnsw.org.au/waterconference

Book your place at the 2014 Australian Tidy Towns Awards

The 2013/14 Australian Tidy Towns Awards program will include a series of activities, celebrations and networking functions over two days. It will take place on 3-4 April 2014 in Victor Harbor, South Australia.

The Tidy Towns program encourages, motivates and celebrates the achievements of rural and regional communities across Australia.

This year our state and territory finalists are:

- Kingston South East, SA
- Mundubbera, QLD
- Nundle, NSW
- Sheffield, TAS
- Titjikala, NT
- Walpole, WA
- Wangaratta, VIC

For the itinerary, booking form, guest accommodation Information and tourist Information, please see the Keep Australia Beautiful [website](#).

Contact stacey@kab.org.au or (02) 8626 9396 for further information.

Universal Design Conference 20-21 August 2014

The Universal Design conference 2014 is sponsored by COTA NSW and the City of Sydney and will be held in Sydney on 20-21 August 2014.

The theme for this first Australian universal design conference is "universal design for inclusive and liveable environments".

The international keynote speakers will be:

- Dr Ger Craddock, the inaugural Chief Officer of the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design, a statutory body established by the Irish Government in 2007.
- Ms Kay Saville-Smith, sociologist and director of the Centre for Research, Evaluation and Social Assessment - CRESA in New Zealand.

For further information, please click [here](#) or contact the convenors with the Australian Network for Universal Housing Design:

David Brant and Margaret Ward
0402540383/0409898498

17 February 2014

Country Local Government Fund Deserves Reinstatement

On the back of reports that Royalties for Regions funds are flowing in quicker than they can be spent, the WA Local Government Association has encouraged the State Government to consider reinstating the Country Local Government Fund in order to help redress the almost \$2 billion backlog in regional infrastructure.

In May 2013, the State Government announced that the Country Local Government Fund would be scaled back to only complete existing projects, following a record allocation of \$94 million in 2011/12.

While Local Government appreciates the financial pressures facing State Government, the Royalties for Regions funding provides an opportunity for significant infrastructure projects to improve facilities and amenities, all of which assist in attracting people to live in regional areas.

WALGA President Mayor Troy Pickard said there was a clear need for the reinstatement of the Country Local Government Fund and now there is evidence that it can be adequately funded through Royalties for Regions funds.

“A review of the Country Local Government Fund found that it had been well managed and provided necessary community infrastructure – this is vital if we are to encourage more people to move to country areas which in turn will redress the population pressure in the metropolitan area.

“The State Government's key objective to support economic growth in the regions can be achieved by investing in Local Government infrastructure, making it more attractive for people to live in country areas.

“Royalty for Regions funds will assist regional areas in creating modern, vibrant communities by delivering housing, infrastructure upgrades, health and education facilities and business development opportunities of a high standard,” Mayor Pickard said.

In the lead-up to the May State Budget, the State Government has an opportunity to reinstate historical funding levels to the Country Local Government Fund through the Royalties for Regions, providing an opportunity to initiate projects that have been put on hold and stimulate regional economic activity.

Ends

FOR COMMENT PLEASE CONTACT

WALGA President: Troy Pickard, Mayor, 0409 209 649

Media liaison: Nicola Holman, Marketing and Media Manager , 0448 896 435

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<p>City Strategy Lilac Divider</p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p>Development Services Yellow Divider</p>	<p>Nil</p>

1.1 EMPLOYEE MOVEMENTS

New Staff:

- ❑ Swim Instructor (casual) – commenced 12/2/14.
- ❑ Museum Officer x 2 (casual) – commences 21/2/14.
- ❑ Personal Assistant – Mayor’s Office – commences 6/3/14.

Staff Leaving:

- ❑ Nil

Other Staff Movements (Internal):

- ❑ Customer Service Officer successful in recruitment to the position of Finance Officer – effective 4/3/14.

Current Recruitment Activity:

- ❑ Asset Accountant – recruitment concluded by appointing an agency temp.
- ❑ Building Surveyor – interviews complete, recruitment progressing.
- ❑ Manager Waste Services – interviews complete, recruitment progressing.
- ❑ Personal Assistant – Mayor’s Office (maternity leave contract) – recruitment complete.
- ❑ Manager Information & Communication Technology – applications closed 23/1/14.
- ❑ Finance Officer – recruitment complete.
- ❑ Leading Hand Road Construction – interviews complete, recruitment progressing.
- ❑ Parks Maintenance Operator (Civic Precinct) – interviews complete, recruitment progressing.
- ❑ Statutory Planning Officer – applications closed 6/2/14, interviews scheduled.
- ❑ Customer Service Team Leader (Leisure Services) – applications closed 13/2/14.
- ❑ Administrative/Lands Officer – applications closed 13/2/14.
- ❑ Plant Operator/Waste Collection Vehicle Operator – applications close 27/2/14.
- ❑ Leisure Services Administration Officer – applications close 27/2/14.

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<p>City Strategy Lilac Divider</p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p>Development Services Yellow Divider</p>	<p>Nil</p>

TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS		
ITEM	REFERRING COMMITTEE	COMMENTS
Council 10 February 2014 Matter for Referral – Cr Busby “That the matter of service requirements at Dale Cottages be referred to the Technical Services Directorate.”	Technical Services	Investigation under way with report to be presented to March Technical Services Committee Meeting.
Council 10 February 2014 Matter for Referral – Cr Shaw “That the matter of the use of the Water Corporation reservoir to irrigate Heron Park and the associated lake be referred to the Technical Services Committee.”	Technical Services	Investigation under way with report to be presented to March Technical Services Committee Meeting.

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE
Works Programme – February 2014 – April 2014



Department	February 2014	March 2014	April 2014
City Projects	<p><u>Capital Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piara Waters Stage 2 – Works continuing. • New office complex – Construction continuing. 	<p><u>Capital Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piara Waters Stage 2 – Works continuing. • New office complex – construction continuing. Ground floor & first floor slab. 	<p><u>Capital Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piara Waters Stage 2 – Works continuing. Completion due May • New office complex – construction continuing. Second & third floor slab.
Civil Works	<p><u>Construction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranford Road – McNeil Road to Tonkin Highway. • Westfield Road Rehabilitation project. • Gilwell Road/Clifton Street Intersection upgrading works. • Challis Road – red asphalt median. • Lowanna Road – red asphalt median. • Nicholson-Rowley Intersection upgrade works. • Streich Avenue / Denny Avenue widening for the spud shed. • Lake Road- Upgrading works. • John Dunn perimeter driveway resurfacing works. • Valentine Road footpath. • Gecko Road footpath. 	<p><u>Construction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranford Road – McNeil Road to Tonkin Highway. • Garland/River Road cul-de-sac. • Seventh Road Upgrading. • Cross Park / Roleystone - streetscaping and carpark works. • Gecko Road Footpath. • Buckingham Road footpath. • Streich Avenue / Denny Avenue widening for the spud shed. • Wungong River - Cyclepath 	<p><u>Construction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranford Road – McNeil Road to Tonkin Highway. • Lang Street – gravel road extension. • Railway Avenue - road upgrading works. • Coleus Way - cul-de-sac. • Herbrides Drive – cul-de-sac. • Clover Approach – cul-de-sac. • Ballanup swale drainage works. • Shaw Place – drainage works. • Aviemore Drive- drainage works. • Streich Avenue / Denny Avenue widening for the spud shed.

Department	February 2014	March 2014	April 2014
	<p><u>Maintenance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine maintenance as per Programme. • Contract road sweeping. • Footpath defects. • Drainage maintenance in various locations. 	<p><u>Maintenance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine maintenance as per Programme. • Contract road sweeping. • Footpath defects. • Drainage maintenance in various locations. • Bridge routine and preventive maintenance. 	<p><u>Maintenance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine maintenance as per Programme. • Contract road sweeping. • Footpath defects. • Drainage maintenance in various locations. • Bridge routine and preventive maintenance.
Design and Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avienmore Drive drainage. • Shaw Place drainage. • Armadale Road lighting. • Blackburn Reserve parking. • Balannup Drain Stage 2. • Buckingham Road LATM. • Roundabout lighting x4. • Reilly Road lighting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piara Drive/Nicholson Road/Riva Entrance - roundabout. • Nicholson Stage 4. • Orlando Street – Cliff Place to River. • Streich Avenue – Armadale Road to Clarence Road. • Chevin Road – Holden Road to Brookton Highway. • Railway Avenue – dual use path (DUP) extension. • Seville Drive – DUP. • Balannup Road lighting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown Crescent – footpath. • Denny Avenue/Streich Avenue – traffic signals. <p><u>Road Surfacing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicholson Road – Armadale Road to Swamp. • Streich Avenue – Foster Road to Ullyott Street. • Champion Drive – Westfield Road to Gillam Drive. • Church Avenue – Seventh Road to Green Avenue. • Wungong Road – Harber Drive to Byron Road.
Parks Design and Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Wide Green Strategy – final report. • Parks draft budget completion. • Parks asset database field collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross park landscape detailed design. • Groundwater Operating Strategy review in consultation with DOW. • Preparation of RFT Sportsturf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precinct A Detailed Design. • All Access Playground - Concept Design. • Urban Forrest Final Report.

Department	February 2014	March 2014	April 2014
	<p>ongoing - data processing and integration into asset database.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armadale Golf Course (AGC)- Course Design Master Plan finalised. Project postponed pending CD EOI Facility Lease. • AGC Maintenance Facility and Kiosk/Clubhouse quotes - Property Services now managing all building upgrade aspects. • AGC irrigation system installation RFQ Design. • Preparation of business case “Bore Meter Telemetry System”. • Minnowarra Dredge Project - Project Plan for JG-Manex. • Preparation of RFT Sportsturf Consultancy. • Groundwater Operating Strategy review in consultation with DOW. • All Access Playground - Concept Design start up. • Kelmscott CBD final design before construction. • Nicholson road tender out. • Ranford road tender out. • NIP projects design. • Landmark Building landscape design. • Cross Park landscape design. 	<p>Consultancy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Dunn front oval redevelopment RFQ irrigation system, lighting and turfing. • Armadale Golf Course project postponed pending CD EOI Facility Lease. • Armadale Golf Course irrigation system installation RFQ Design. • All Access Playground - Concept Design • NIP projects design. • Landmark Building carpark landscape design. • Urban Forrest Final Report. • Preparation of business case “Bore Meter Telemetry System” Botanical Garden Report. • Parks Asset pick up and data migration - POS Strat precincts and new POS. • Parks Operational and Capital Renewal Budget formalisation. • Champion Lakes Bore Licence Transfer applications x3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botanical Garden Report. • Migrant Park interpretative project, concept design. • AGC irrigation system installation RFQ Design. • AGC Construction - drawing development J Lane select greens and tees. • Stormwater Harvesting for POS - irrigation concept. • Parks Asset pick up and data migration-POS Strat precincts and new POS. • Groundwater Operating Strategy review in consultation with DOW. • Preparation of RFT Sportsturf Consultancy.

Department	February 2014	March 2014	April 2014
Parks Subdivisional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various approvals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various approvals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various approvals.
Parks Works	<p><u>Capital/ Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nicholson Road landscaping project postponed due to Water Corporation mainline works. Deferred until 2014 planting season. Armadale Golf Course works scope being reviewed post Property Services costs being realised. POS Precinct B upgrade installations underway. <p><u>Asset Renewal Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oval lighting projects scoping. Initial site audit to establish service capabilities. Renewal of pumps and cabinets - ordered and being constructed prior to install. <p><u>Maintenance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract landscape maintenance. Contract play space maintenance. Scheduled mowing and general maintenance. Irrigation maintenance. Bushland maintenance. Civic Precinct maintenance. New estate maintenance. 	<p><u>Capital/ Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All works commenced. <p><u>Asset Renewal Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power audits - designs underway. Cabinets and pumps completed. Investigation of viable water for new bores. <p><u>Maintenance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract landscape maintenance. Contract play space maintenance. Scheduled mowing and general maintenance. Irrigation maintenance. Bushland maintenance. Civic Precinct maintenance. New estate maintenance. 	<p><u>Capital/Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Precinct B works ongoing. Exploratory drilling for new water. Memorial plaques complete. <p><u>Asset Renewal Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender documentation for lighting works to be finalised. <p><u>Maintenance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract landscape maintenance. Contract play space maintenance. Scheduled mowing and general maintenance. Irrigation maintenance. Bushland maintenance. Civic Precinct maintenance. New estate maintenance.

Department	February 2014	March 2014	April 2014
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citywide streetscape maintenance. • Customer requests. • Barbecue cleaning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citywide streetscape maintenance. • Customer requests. • Barbecue cleaning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citywide streetscape maintenance. • Customer requests. • Barbecue cleaning
Property Management	<p>Capital Works Upgrade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depot Administration - redesign of existing buildings to provide new entry. • Depot toilets refurbishment designs. • Arena - upgrade air conditioning to aerobics area and gymnasium. • Harold King Centre - works to paving area (Child Care). • Reg Williams Pavilion (Minnawarra House) – electrical upgrade to Centre. • Cross Park – electrical upgrade to sports pavilions. • Kelmscott Hall –design and re-roof. • Seville Grove Library – air conditioner replacement. • Armadale Hall – internal upgrades. • Cross Park – electrical upgrade to sports pavilions. <p>Renewal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armadale Bowling Club – numerous works. • Champion Centre – internal refurbishments. • Arena – internal painting. 	<p>Capital Works Upgrade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depot Administration - redesign of existing buildings to provide new entry. • Depot toilets refurbishment construction. • Reg Williams Pavilion (Minnawarra House) – electrical upgrade to Centre. • Cross Park – electrical upgrade to sports pavilions. • Kelmscott Hall –design and re-roof. • Armadale Hall – internal upgrades. • Cross Park – electrical upgrade to sports pavilions. • Alfred Skeet - provision of female change rooms and unisex facility (subject to funding approvals). <p>Renewal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion Centre – internal refurbishments. • Arena – internal painting. • Roleystone Guide Hall – re roofing. • Armadale Tennis Club – floor finishes 	<p>Capital Works Upgrade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depot Administration - redesign of existing buildings to provide new entry. • Depot toilets refurbishment construction. • Reg Williams Pavilion (Minnawarra House) – electrical upgrade to Centre. • Cross Park – electrical upgrade to sports pavilions. • Kelmscott Hall –design and re-roof. • Armadale Hall – internal upgrades. • Alfred Skeet - provision of female change rooms and unisex facility (subject to funding approvals). • Seville Grove Library – install new airconditioning to main library. <p>Renewal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion Centre – internal refurbishments. • Arena – internal painting. • Armadale Bowling Club – external gutter works.

Department	February 2014	March 2014	April 2014
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depot Workshop – fire equipment (hose reel). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to female toilets. • John Dunn Pavilion – pedestrian paving, drainage and access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armadale Bowling Club – removal of asbestos from eaves, replace with hardiflex. • Armadale Bowling Club – painting to fascia and soffits. • Armadale Bowling Club – new airconditioner to office <p><u>New</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armadale Aquatic Centre – personal lift for 25m and 50m pool. • Depot – shade over rear seating. • Depot Archives – redesign storage area for archives.
<p>Subdivisional Development</p>	<p><u>North Forrestdale</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 active areas of civil works. • 4 civil works submissions under review. • 4 water management submissions under review. <p><u>Churchman Brook</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current movement in area of civil works. <p><u>Brookdale</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current movement in area of civil works. 	<p><u>North Forrestdale</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 active areas of civil works. • 3 civil works submissions under review. • 3 water management submissions under review. • 1 major public utility installation. 	<p><u>North Forrestdale</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 active areas of civil works. • 3 civil works submissions under review. • 4 water management submissions under review. • 1 active major public utility installation.

Department	February 2014	March 2014	April 2014
	<p><u>Armadale</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current movement in area of civil works. <p><u>Mt Richon</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>METROPOLITAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AREA WORKS</u></p> <p><u>MRA - Forrestdale Business Park East</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 active areas of civil works. 1 civil works submission under review. <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park West</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 civil works submissions under review. 1 water management submission under review. <p><u>Wungong Urban Water</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 WAPC subdivision submissions under review. 2 civil works submissions under review. 2 water management submissions under review. 3 active areas of civil works. 2 active major public utility 	<p><u>Mt Richon</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>METROPOLITAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AREA WORKS</u></p> <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park East</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 active areas of civil works. 2 civil works submissions under review. 1 water management submission under review. <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park West</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 civil works submissions under review. 1 water management submission under review. <p><u>Wungong Urban Water</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 WAPC subdivision submissions under review. 2 water management submissions under review. 3 civil works submissions under review. 4 active areas of civil works. 2 active major public utility 	<p><u>Mt Richon</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>METROPOLITAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AREA WORKS</u></p> <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park East</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 active areas of civil works. 1 civil works submissions under review. <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park West</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 active areas of civil works. 1 civil works submissions under review. <p><u>Wungong Urban Water</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 WAPC subdivision submissions under review. 2 water management submissions under review. 3 civil works submissions under review. 4 active areas of civil works.

Department	February 2014	March 2014	April 2014
	<p>installations.</p> <p><u>Champion Lakes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 WAPC subdivision submission under review. • 1 water management submission under review. • 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>Lake Road - Champion Glades</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 civil works submission under review. • 1 water management submission under review. <p><u>Lake Road – Precinct B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 civil works submission under review. • 1 water management submission under review. <p><u>Seville Grove</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 civil works submissions under review. • 1 water management submission under review. • 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>Gillam Drive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. 	<p>installations.</p> <p><u>Champion Lakes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 WAPC subdivision submission under review. • 1 water management submission under review. • 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>Lake Road - Champion Glades</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. • 1 water management submission under review. <p><u>Lake Road – Precinct B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. • 1 water management submission under review. <p><u>Seville Grove</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 active areas of civil works. <p><u>Gillam Drive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 active major public utility installations. <p><u>Champion Lakes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 WAPC subdivision submission under review. • 2 active area of civil works. <p><u>Lake Road - Champion Glades</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>Lake Road – Precinct B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>Seville Grove</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 active areas of civil works. <p><u>Gillam Drive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works.

Information Bulletin

Issue No. 3/2014

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COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS – SEPTEMBER 2013		
	DEPT.	ACTION/STATUS
Matter for Referral – Cr C M Wielinga - That the matter of the possibility of a management plan or policy for the method of construction of firebreaks be referred to the Community Services Committee	Ranger and Emergency Services	Maintenance management plan /policy /practice
Council 11 November 2013 Matter for referral – Cr K Busby – Water Park	Community Services	That the matter of the provision of a water playground within one of City Parks be investigated and a report presented to Council at a later date.

COMMUNITY PLANNING:

Jull Street Mall Reactivation

Works for the new lighting and paving are scheduled to begin early March with an anticipated completion time in early June. Landowners and businesses have been advised.

Forrestdale Hub (Alfred and William Skeet Reserves) Master Planning

Public advertising of the three draft concept options has closed. A report and recommendation will be presented to the March Community Services Committee. An application for the female change rooms was made to the Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) in 2013 and it is expected the City will be contacted by DSR in March and advised if the grant was successful.

Bob Blackburn and Gwynne Park Master Planning

A consultant's scope of work for the master planning for these significant community and sporting hubs has been prepared and a call for tender will be released shortly.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

School Holiday Activities

In January 2014 the City partnered with Communicare and was supported by PCYC to coordinate a range of school holiday activities in Memorial Park. With a focus on physical activity, the staff provided traditional games including giant-sized versions of skipping ropes, elastics and quoits, along with water play and crafts. Held for one week, the program attracted over 50 children aged 0 – 12 each day who participated in the activities accompanied by their families. Staff were able to refer many families to relevant services and promote other City of Armadale initiatives.

Stargate Drama Program

The City's Stargate Drama Program has commenced in its fifth year, with both local primary and secondary school students participating in weekly workshops culminating in a final performance. The timeframe of the Program is based on a school semester, with the workshops concluding 1 July 2014. The program will likely run again in the latter half of the year.

Australian Early Development Index

The City in partnership with the Department of Education has developed an Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) interactive information package to present to local Child Care Centres. The AEDI sessions will explain:

- the five developmental domains of the AEDI
- the developmental vulnerability and strengths of local children
- how the data can be used to help inform programs for children aged 0 – 5 to address areas of vulnerability

- how the data links with reporting requirements of the National Quality Framework and the Early Years Learning Framework
- the importance of the early years within early childhood education services, families, schools and the broader community
- how to navigate the AEDI website in order to access local data

The Riverdale Community Child Care Centre will be the first service to receive the information package during February 2014, with plans to conduct the sessions at all Child Care Centres throughout the year.

DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Disability Awareness Training

Disability Awareness Training commenced on the Thursday 6 February 2014 to assist staff with interactions with people with disabilities who access City services. The next training will be held in April 2014.

Disability Advisory Team Meeting

The Disability Advisory Team Meeting was held on Tuesday 18 February 2014.

EAT ACT LIVE (HEALTHY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE)

The first Leadership Development & Nutrition (Certificate I & II) program welcomed 16 participants to its inaugural session on 11 February at the Champion Centre, including previous participants of Eat Act Live programs. Facilitated by Challenger Tafe and partners, Certificate I will continue until June, followed by Certificate II in the second half of the year.

As Eat Act Live begins to wind down 70 people are registered to complete the six remaining physical activity programs, a combination of Healthy Around the House and Bench Warmers. Efforts are now underway to compile evaluation information for the final report to the funding body in March. A series of video diaries are being compiled to share personal stories about how the Eat Act Live program has helped participants to achieve their goals.

IGNITE BASKETBALL

Ignite Basketball relaunch:

The relaunch of the City's Ignite Basketball program took place on 1 February 2014 with weekly sessions to follow. At the following session on 8 February, 40 young people participated and enjoyed educational presentations from Armadale Reptile Centre. Future educational workshops include Robotics from Sci-tech, Career guidance from Extra Edge, Rail Track Safety from the PTA, Sexual Health, Nutrition advice from ACHWA and Cultural awareness from local indigenous leader, Ingrid Cumming.

Sponsorship:

In addition to \$50,000 per year for three years from the Department of Sport and Recreation, Ignite has been successful with gaining sponsorship from Healthway. In return for exclusive naming rights through using the Drug Aware health message, Healthway is providing \$30,000 per year for two years. From this month, the program will be referred to as: 'Drug Aware Ignite Basketball' and will feature a modified logo on websites, social media, merchandise, staff t-shirts and more.

Domestic League:

Ignite has re-entered the Perth Redbacks Saturday morning league that commenced last week. Fielding an under 14's and an under 16's team, they will look to improve upon the semi-finals spot they managed to secure last season. Training continues on Tuesdays from 6-8pm at the Armadale Arena.

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

Reconciliation Australia Award nomination

The City's Champion Centre has been invited to nominate for the Reconciliation Australia Indigenous Governance Awards and will assess the criteria to determine if the City qualifies for the nomination. The Indigenous Governance Awards were created by Reconciliation Australia in partnership with BHP Billiton to identify, celebrate and promote effective Indigenous governance. The Awards are about sharing success from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations around Australia and showcasing how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are driving change on the ground.

Bunning's Workshops

Bunning's Armadale has agreed to participate in a partnership with Indigenous Development to commence activities such as playgroup workshops for children, Champion Centre Ladies Club (a monthly women's maintenance group), stock building projects and a Champion Centre Garden Club.

Aboriginal Fire Fighter and Defence Recruitment

The Department of Fire & Emergency Services will commence Aboriginal Fire Fighter Recruitment Sessions at the Champion Centre on 7 March. Indigenous Development will assist FESA to develop its Aboriginal marketing style guide to recruit potential Aboriginal clients.

The Department of Defence has also approached Indigenous Development for assistance with marketing to and recruitment of Aboriginal youth for two Indigenous programs: Indigenous Pre-Recruitment Course (IPR 6 weeks) and the Defence Indigenous Development Program (DIDP 5 month residential).

Discussions are underway with both partners regarding mentoring for Aboriginal youth in Armadale by Aboriginal men from the Defence Forces, and engaging the Australian War Memorial in recording the personal stories of Aboriginal service men and women in the Armadale area.

Skills for Education and Employment Program

Indigenous Development is negotiating with Polytechnic West to assist with the provision of the Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) Program. The SEE program is a Commonwealth program that provides up to 800 hours of free training undertaken on a part time (10-19 hours/week) or full time (20-25 hours/week) basis and provides basic and advanced literacy and numeracy training.

Champion Centre

Economic Participation

DAQ Contracting, a 100% Indigenous owned and operated business, will have an information session at the Champion Centre on 14 February 2104. DAQ has partnerships with Eastern Guruma, a civil and mining contractor and Pilbara Aboriginal Business owned by the Eastern Guruma people who hold Native Title over some 6,500 square kilometres of country around Tom Price; and with APZ Construction, a leading supplier of concrete structures to the mining and civil sectors. APZ are working closely with DAQ to provide employment and business development opportunities for Traditional Owners within their civil and mining construction division work in the Pilbara.

New Hot Deskers

Partners in Recovery (PIR) are now situated at the Champion Centre every Wednesday. This initiative has been introduced by the Australian Federal Government to address the deeper challenges existing within the mental health system, and provides a genuine collaborative and cooperative approach by service providers. Richmond Fellowship WA is the Lead Agency for the Bentley-Armadale Medicare Local Region PIR Program.

New Programs - Muggin Aboriginal Corporation

Muggin has begun a Mooditj Youth Development Program aimed at mentoring and leadership of Aboriginal Youth. This program was developed as a result of the high rate of suicide and low social and emotional wellbeing for Aboriginal youth in the Armadale area.. There are four Aboriginal Youth Facilitators and 21 Aboriginal children that participate in the program in the second week of programming.

Muggin recently delivered Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid training to a number of participants from the mining, health and education industries; and assisted with the referral of five male youth into Diploma of Aboriginal Studies with Tranby Aboriginal College in Sydney and two female youth in Cert 1 in Leadership and Nutrition held at the Champion Centre.

Indigenous Parenting Services (IPS)

Family History

IPS staff attended a 'Storylines' Train the Trainer session at the State Library of WA to learn how to encourage the community to explore their family histories. "Storylines" is a State Library initiative which enables the community to explore 125 years of Aboriginal history through heritage collections.

IPS staff also attended a family history day at Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation. The Link Up Program is formally known as the Access to Effective Family Tracing and Reunion Services Program. Link UP provides funding to organisations to support

family tracing and reunion services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been separated from their families as a result of the past removal policies and practices of Australian governments.

IPS supported Playgroups

The Champion centre will partner with Save the Children playgroup to take participants (toddlers and their mothers, carers) to the Toddler Festival at SciTech. There will be toddler advice and displays as well as Ngala, Health nurses, Kidsafe, Playgroup WA, Better Beginnings as well as over 120 exhibits.

New Services

- Communicare - SEEDS (children 0-5) & Building New Beginning (children 6-12) Programs will have a presence at the supported playgroups to promote and deliver their counselling services.
- Immunisation Alliance WA – an Aboriginal Immunisation Project commencing with a focus group of Champion Centre parents regarding “How to promote and market immunisation to Aboriginal families”.
- Awesome – commencing a monthly art program Creative Bubs with children 0-5 years

POSITIVE AGEING

Positive Ageing Session

The City hosted its first ‘Positive Ageing Session’ on Wednesday 5 February. Topics presented were ‘The Importance of Exercise’ by City of Armadale and ‘Speak Out About Diabetes’ presented by Diabetes WA. Positive feedback was received by the 29 attendees. The next ‘Positive Ageing Session’ will be on the 5 March at 1.30pm at the Armadale Library. Topics to be discussed are ‘Benefits and Concessions’ and ‘Ageing Well – Living Independently’ by the WA Seniors Card Centre.

Australian Hearing Bus

The City hosted the *Australian Hearing Bus* service at Memorial Park during on 22 January 2014. A total of 17 clients were tested for hearing loss with 13 of these being over 50. Hearing loss was detected in 13 individuals, and 9 of these are eligible for government funded services. From *Australian Hearing’s* point of view the session was very significant and demonstrated that older people in Armadale are keen to use a hearing screening service in Armadale rather than travelling to their permanent hearing centres in either Cannington or Fremantle. *Australian Hearing* reports that their usual number of eligible clients is much lower than 13 detected at a screening event, being an average of 3. The City would like to support the *Australian Hearing Bus* service to hold sessions on a regular basis for community members to access.

Technology Buddies

The City’s Armadale Library will host *Technology Buddies*, a weekly program involving students from Kelmscott Senior High School assisting older people with their technology challenges. The program commences 10 March and concludes 7 April.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Volunteering Management Training

Armadale Volunteer Services in partnership with the City of Gosnells presented "*Key Issues in Volunteer Management*" training on Wednesday 12 February. This training session was aimed at developing the managerial skills of volunteer managers and covered the key principles for effective volunteer management, such as:

- What motivates people to volunteer, to stay or leave your organisation
- Job Descriptions, recruiting, selecting, retaining, rewarding, dismissing volunteers
- Developing a recruitment message to attract the best volunteers
- Attracting and retaining Generations X, Y and Boomers
- Influencing up-wards
- Volunteer Rights and Responsibilities

This session was booked out without promotion and a total of 25 volunteer managers from across the south east corridor attended.

National Volunteer Standards Training

Armadale Volunteer Services in partnership with the City of Gosnells will be presenting National Standards for Volunteer Managers on Tuesday 8 April. This session will aim to improve volunteer manager skills to national best practice in volunteer management and will cover:

- Understanding the importance of the 8 National Standards
- Identifying gaps in the organisation's current practice
- Exploring the impact of inefficient volunteer management and the benefits of implementing the Standards
- Developing strategies for the implementation of the Standards.

Such is the popularity of the Volunteer management training being on offer this training session is also fully booked without promotion.

Step into Volunteering

A "Step into Volunteering" session aimed at potential volunteers in the community who are thinking about volunteering but not sure how to get started and what is involved will be held Thursday 20 March at the Armadale library.

National Volunteer Week event

Planning for National Volunteer Week has commenced. Volunteering Australia has announced this year's theme will be "Powering Communities."

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Armadale Youth Network

The Armadale Youth Network (AYN) recommenced on 31 January 2014. Administered by the City, the Network provides local organisations an opportunity to share information, discuss possible partnerships and share potential solutions to address issues affecting young people. Well attended by both government and non-government agencies, the Network has resulted in partnerships between agencies leading to positive outcomes for young people. One example is when staff from *Springboard Youth and Community Autism Centre* attended an AYN meeting in December 2013 seeking funding and a venue to continue their service. The organisation was able to link in with *Armadale Youth Resources* to secure use of the Bunker Youth Centre twice a week and discussed potential funding opportunities with an officer from the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Creative Art Project

In January 2014, the young people involved in the City's Creative Art Project completed the final mural design to be installed at the Youth Activity Area (YAA). Approved by Council, the participants explored the theme "A for Armadale" to inspire the imagery of the mural, with participants coming up with characters including an Alligator, Alien, Astronaut and Angel. The professional artists collated the participants' concepts to form the final design which will be installed on three non-skatable areas at the YAA in March 2014. The artwork is universally appealing with its colourful and interactive images designed to welcome all community members to the space. It will not only enhance will the appearance of the facility but will represent the participants and all young people living within the City of Armadale, demonstrating the positive contribution they can make to the community. The young people involved in the Creative Art Project have expressed an interest in participating in ongoing community art projects.

School Holiday Programs

During the January school holidays, the City provided 'taster' workshops for young people to sample the activities that will be available during the school term. The activities included Hip Hop dance, Stargate Drama, along with and BMX, Scooter and Skate Boarding workshops at the three City Skate Facilities namely Cross Park, Forrestdale and the Youth Activity Area.

The Cross Park Skate Park workshop was the highlight of the series and was well attended by both Roleystone and Armadale young people, with the first 'taster' workshop attracting 16 participants aged 6 – 17 years. The competition that followed had 25 participants with some young people travelling from suburbs outside of Armadale to attend. The City contracted professional BMX/Scooter/Skate organisation *Freestyle Now* to host a BMX and Scooter event the following week which was attracted 30 participants.

The Youth Programs available in the school term are listed in the Youth Programs Booklet and are available on the Youth Page of the City of Armadale website.

National Youth Week 2014

The City has been successful in securing funding through National Youth Week Grant from the Department of Local Government and Communities. The funding will be used to offer a National Youth Week Expo to three secondary schools within the City of Armadale. The Expos will include interactive presentations from local youth agencies informing students about the services and programs they provide. Each Expo will feature a performance by a professional artist with music students at each school invited to be the opening act.

National Youth Week will take place between Friday 4 April and Sunday 13 April 2014.

Youth Programs Semester 1 2014

The City will offer a range of youth programs during terms 1 and 2 of 2014 comprising the following activities:

- Stargate Drama Program – during weekly workshops at the Armadale District Hall, students will learn about the foundations of the dramatic arts including characterisation, voice production, props and costumes, expressions and improvisation skills. Participants will work towards an end of semester performance for families and friends.
- The Hip Hop program – two weekly classes are available. Boys can focus on developing their Bboy skills in Breakdancing and the girls will learn choreographed routines. Participants will work towards an end of semester performance for families and friends.
- All three Skate Parks within the City will be activated with fortnightly Skate Boarding workshops and BMX/Scooter workshop series in Semester 1, 2014. The Skate Boarding Australia HUB program provides qualified coaches to help beginners with the basics of skate boarding and develop the skills of those who are already riding. Freestyle Now will assist young people with practicing their BMX/Scooter skills and is suitable for all skill levels.

For more information on Youth Programs please visit the Youth page on the City of Armadale website.

LEISURE SERVICES

Department Snapshot

In January 2014 the Leisure Services Department;

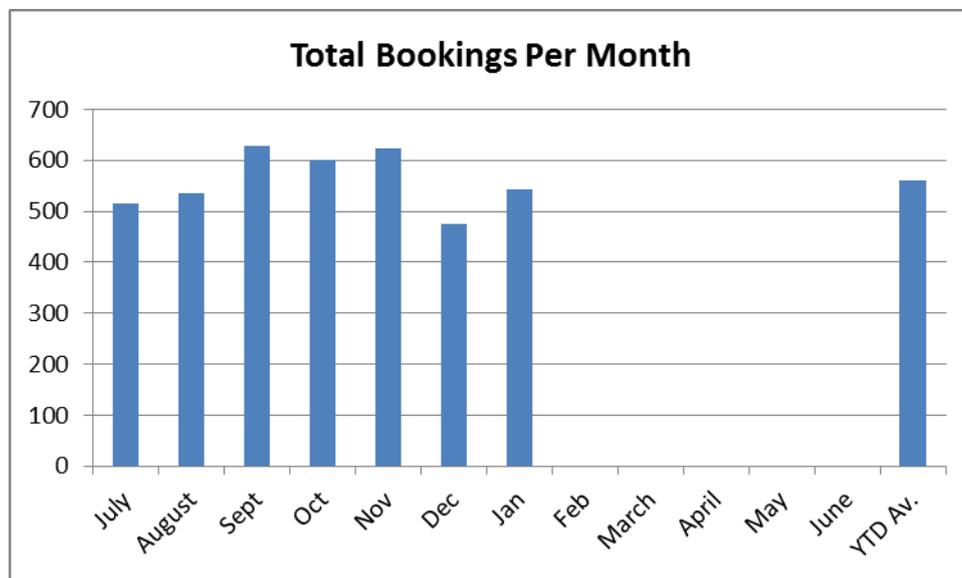
- Provided 67 programs to the community
- Had 42,415 attendances at our facilities
- Had 654 bookings at our facilities

Community Facilities

Bookings

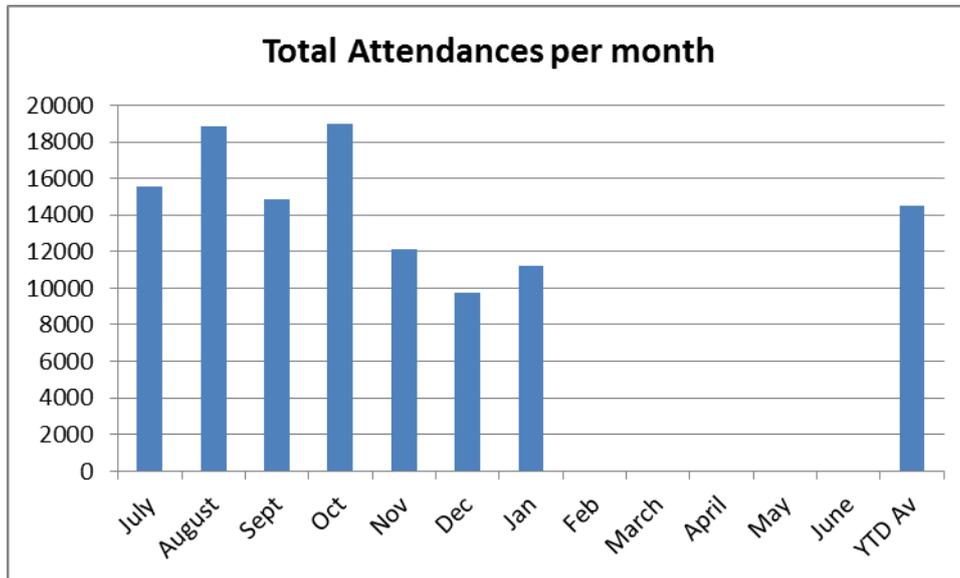
From mid-January the City started receiving seasonal requests for winter sport clubs and the management process of various issues that arise between cross-over of seasonal clubs has commenced. The annual issues arising between John Dunn club users have again been a challenge for officers, however the overcrowding issues appear to have been resolved for this year.

A new Club Development Officer commenced and is currently being trained in the position, in anticipation of the upcoming Kidsport registration period.



Facility Attendance

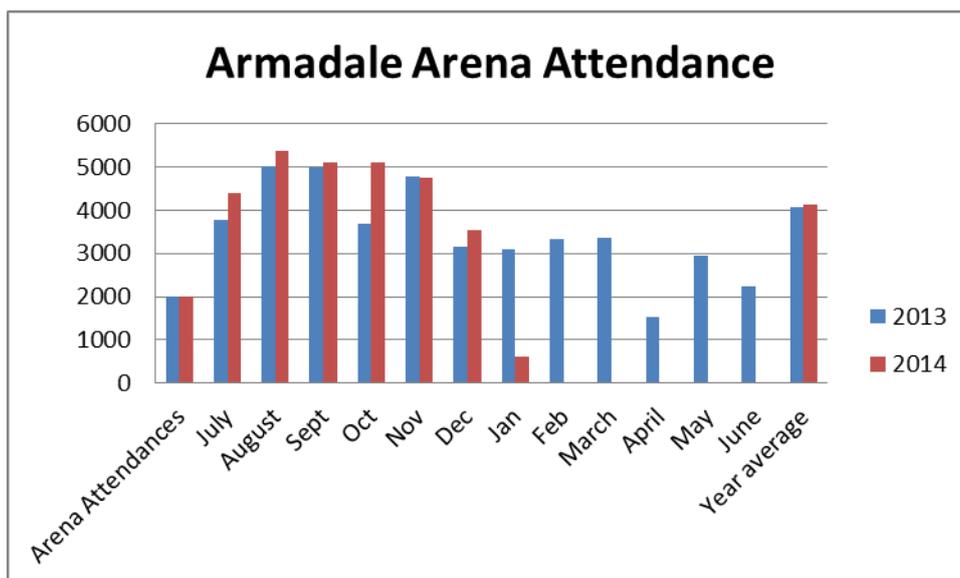
11,243 people attended our facilities in January; these statistics are based on estimates given from hirers when making bookings.



Armadale Arena

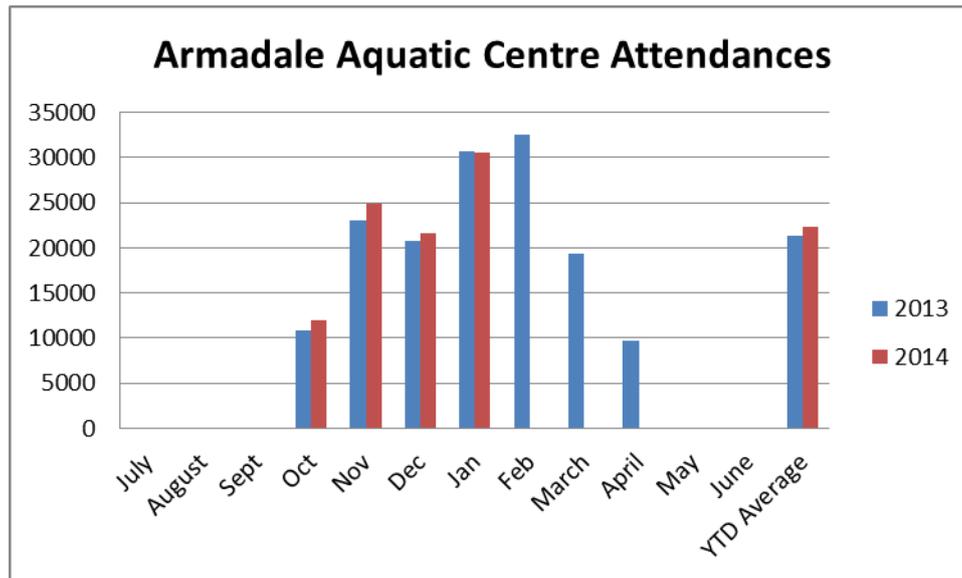
January was a quiet month at the Arena with a shutdown period for court resurfacing. The work was successfully completed and the new surface has been well received by the public with compliments from all users.

February is looking to be a busy month with all programs resuming and regular hirers returning to the centre.



Armada Aquatic Centre

Armada Aquatic Centre had 30,581 visitors in January, 400 less than the same month last year. Vacswim was again busy and Uni Camp for kids was a success. Break-ins have increased this year and extra surveillance after hours has been organised for the warmer months. The break-ins have resulted in additional staffing requirements to clean up and restore the centre to its standard presentation. The swim school holiday program was popular with 132 enrolments and a 75% occupancy rate. February is forecast to be another busy month with numerous bookings not being met due to the demand and limited space.



JANUARY 2014

LIBRARY SERVICES

Statistical Performance Indicators

The Library Department's statistical performance indicators reports for the months of January 2014:

e-Book lending statistics:

On Australia Day, the 200,000th item was borrowed from the State-wide OverDrive collection. More items were borrowed in the 6 months between Aug 2013 and Jan 2014 than for the whole of the previous 12 months since going live. City of Armadale customers have borrowed about 6,500 items – the 7th busiest library system in the state.

Reports on activities and community information sessions held during the month.

22 regular sessions were held. These include: story time, Baby Rhyme Time, Books on Wheels, English conversation classes, reading & writing groups, computer training sessions, games mornings and the Men's Social Group. A total of 692 people participated in these various activities.

30 children, teachers and parents were reached with external visits to schools and other community childcare facilities.

The 'book club with a difference' *Novel Nibbles and Book Bites* has been successfully established at the Armadale Library and has a regular attendance of some 10 people. This is a perfect size for this group, as each attendee is able to share information on the books that they have been reading. A second group will be established if there is sufficient interest, with the option of an evening group is being offered. The success of the group has resulted in its monthly reports and recommended reading being made available as both a hard copy in each library as well as on the Library web site at: http://www.armadale.wa.gov.au/Home/Services_and_Facilities/Libraries/Library_Activities

The January 2014 report is currently available at this location.

“E”xtension Activities (Enrich, Educate, Explore, Escape, Entertain, Evolve)

Reports on activities and community information sessions held during the month:

Report – January 2014 School Holiday Programme

Prepared by – Shirley Reilly, Librarian, Armadale Library

Topic: Pirate Revelry

Presenters: Jolly Jim; Pirateman – Michael Speranza; Shirley Reilly, Jenny Ramshaw, Rita Lennon - Librarians – Armadale, Kelmscott and Seville Grove Libraries; Andy Jones

Dates: Friday 10 January, Friday 17 January, Thursday 23 January, Thursday 30 January 2014

Venue: Armadale, Kelmscott and Seville Grove Libraries; Armadale Aquatic Centre

No. Attending: 153 children; 84 adults

KMS: Jolly Jim Pirate Show – 58 children, 31 adults; ARM: Pirateman - 40 children, 20 adults; Armadale Aquatic Centre - 20 children, 10 adults; SVG: What's the joke? - 35 children, 23 adults

Comments:

Ahoy me hearties! The City Of Armadale Libraries hosted an exciting range of pirate themed activities during the summer holidays.

The Captain Jolly Jim adventure pirate show kicked off the programme with 2 very well attended shows at Kelmscott Library. The children were treated to songs, magic and stories complete with a talking parrot and juggling sea urchins. All enjoyed the mayhem and fun.



Jolly Jim at Kelmscott Library Pirate Bookmark Jenny and Rita at the pool

Armadale Libraries offered our own local summer reading challenge during the holidays and beyond. Pirate genre bookmarks have been handed out at the library and in the community. When the bookmark is finished and returned to the library, children receive a reward. So far 50 bookmarks have been completed and children will be able to keep reading and coming in for their rewards during Term 1. This reading scheme

was organized to make reading fun and complements the Premier’s Summer Reading Challenge.

Story time came to the Armadale Aquatic Centre with the Young People’s Services Librarians from each branch reading pirate stories, singing sea shanties and making craft with 20 children. Fergus the Frog also came over to say hello to everyone. This was a great way to promote the library in the community.

Armadale Library hosted the Pirateman for a session of stories, games and treasure map making. The Pirateman, Michael Speranza and Librarian, Shirley Reilly walked around Armadale Central Shopping Centre and into Memorial Park giving out pirate bookmarks and promoting the library session. This increased attendance at the session and encouraged families to come into the library. Children thoroughly enjoyed making treasure maps complete with a real bottle to roll up their map and put inside.

Interstate author and performer Andy Jones whirled into Seville Grove with his “What’s the Joke?” show as part of a WA tour. He used guitar, drums and other props to help kids understand humour and why jokes are funny. Bellydancing, crazy hair and the hokey pokey all played a part in this hilarious and vibrant session!



**Pirateman at Armadale Library
Andy Jones at Seville Grove Library**

The response to the programme offered was excellent. Pirate and joke books were enthusiastically borrowed after each session. A wonderful selection of activities was enjoyed by a wide age range of children who came to our libraries for an interactive and entertaining experience.

HERITAGE SERVICES

Statistical Performance Indicators

The Heritage Department's statistical performance indicators report for the month of January 2014:

Birtwistle Local Studies Library

(Report prepared by Susan Hall, Historian/Local Studies Librarian)

The following projects and activities have involved the Birtwistle Local Studies Library staff, volunteers or visitors:

Decision Makers of Armadale Oral History Project

During January the contracted oral historians interviewed Pat Hart and Jeff Munn. Once the draft transcripts are checked for typographical errors, they will be sent to the interviewees for reviewing. When these are returned to the Birtwistle Library, corrections will be made and any donated photographs, documents or newspaper articles will be scanned and added to the final transcript.

Armadale-Fremantle railway photograph display and museum display

To commemorate the last train to run on the Armadale-Fremantle railway (February 1964) a display of the few related photographs, held in the collection, are on show in the foyer of the Birtwistle Local Studies Library. The photographs support the information given in two maps that show the route of the railway and give contrasting aerial views of the landscape in 1953 and in 2014.

A similar collection for display was sent to the Seville Grove Library.

Photographic display at the Kelmscott Library

A collection of Roleystone Primary School photos, along with a brief history of the school and its several sites in Roleystone, is on display at the Kelmscott Library.

Oral history project Susan Lally

Contract librarian, Susan Lally commenced working two days per week to develop the oral history collection and to explore ways to make them available to the public.

Cam Clay archival records donated to BLSL

Faye Clay has been donating meeting agendas and minutes, brochures and reports that were in her late husband's archives and relate to the many community organisations that he supported as a committee member.

Family history volunteers

The last week of January saw the resumption of the Birtwistle Local History Library's volunteer assisted family history research sessions and of the first Family History Tree Group meeting for 2014.

History House Museum (Report prepared by Christen Bell, Museum Curator)

Musician in Residence Program

This program is progressing well with eight members of the community involved in developing songs inspired by local history and the museums music collection. Regular workshops are being held and the songs are all progressing well. Two of the participants are local professional musicians who have been donating their time and professionalism to assist the group in writing their songs. David Hyams (musician in residence) will be unavailable in February so the project will recommence in March. A concert, to be held in the History House Museum, is planned for April.

Museums Australia National Conference

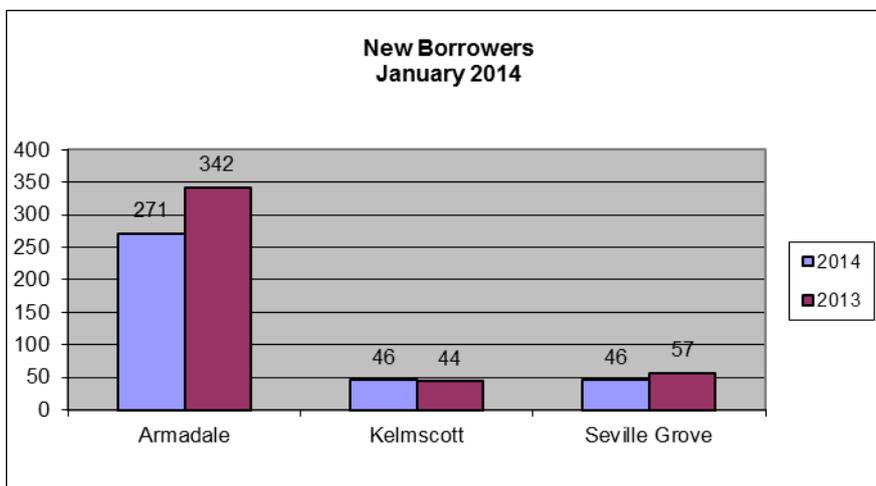
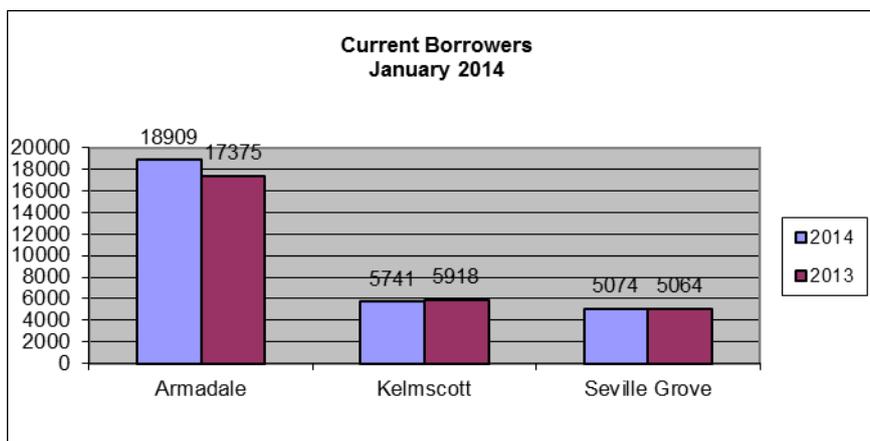
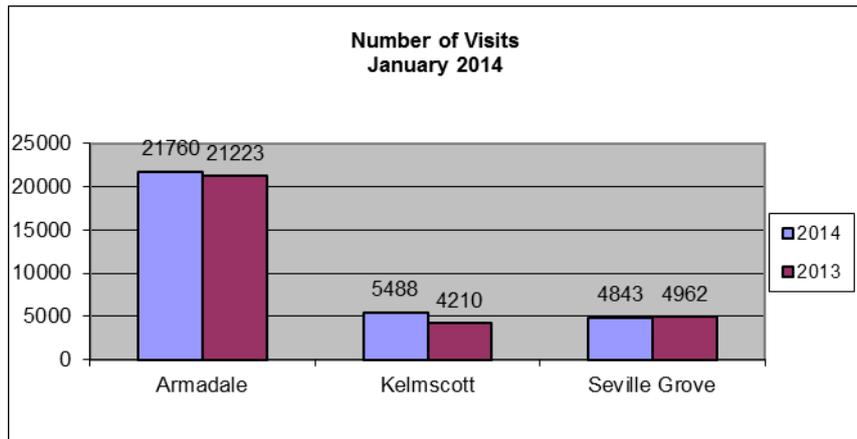
The Museum Curator will attend the Museums Australia National Conference to be held in Launceston in May 2014. The conference theme is “Connecting the Edge: within and beyond the Museum”. The areas of particular relevance to the History House Museum are: sessions on curating difficult subjects, challenges facing the museum sector, exploring museum collections through art, uncovering meaning in collections, linking digital collections with the community, using games as learning tools in a museum and community engagement. A report on the conference will be included in the Museum report following the conference.

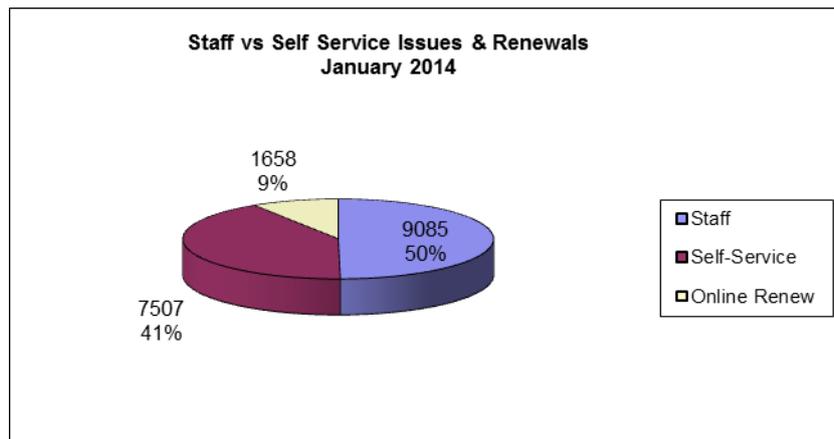
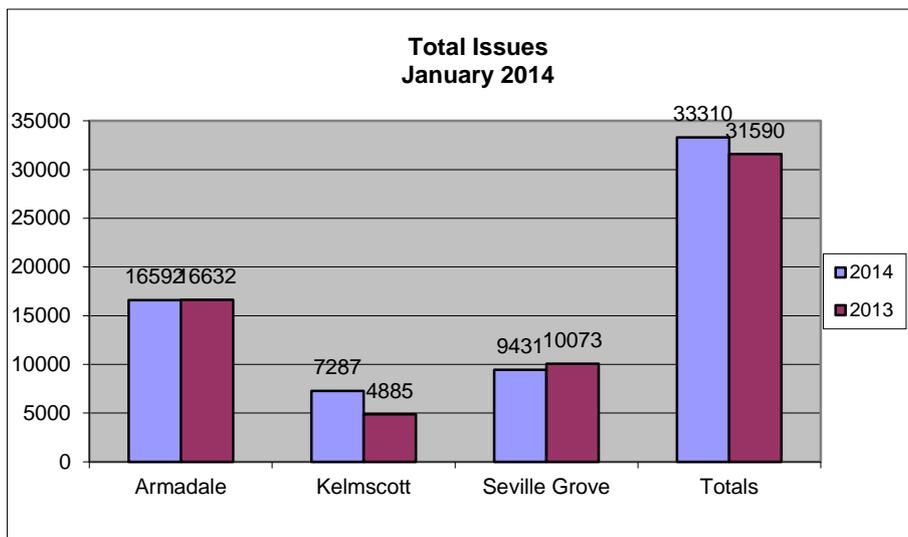
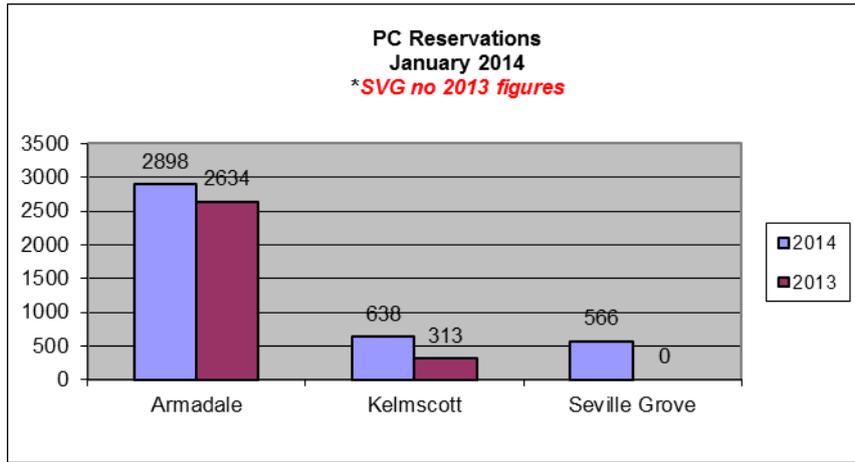
Education Report

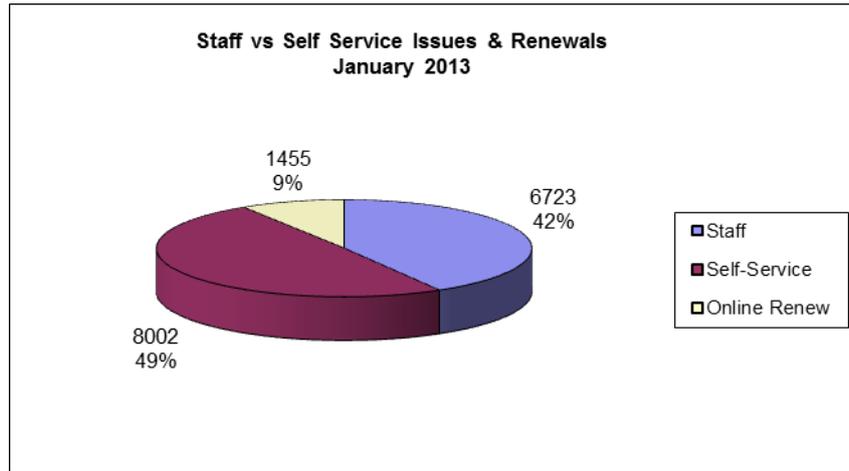
Planning and modifying of the School Programs for 2014 has begun to ensure the activities comply with the National Curriculum. A summary of the programs has been produced and will be sent to teachers as soon as the updated contact list is completed.

The Seniors Guest Speaker Program will commence in February and run every second month through to October. Southside Care is on board for the program and are great supporters of the program.

Planning, research and writing has commenced for this year’s online program “Indigenous Australians” which also has a Museum visit component. The program will include a banner on Yagan, Museum activities such as the Nyoongar Card Game and the story of the Rainbow Serpent.







Birtwistle Local Studies Library				
	Current Month	Year to date		
	Jan 14	Jan 13	Jul 13 – Jan 14	Jul 12-Jan 13
Reference Enquiries	5	2	28	53
Research Enquiries	7	2	68	61
Visitor Attendance	101	25	693	647
Volunteer Hours	36	52	641	168
Digitising Records	12	14	82	140
Oral History				
Letters Sent	5	2	15	11
Interviews Completed	2	3	11	14
Transcripts Completed/ reviewed	4	0	17	12
Volunteer Hours – Transcribing	0	18	132	222
Volunteer Hours - Interviewing	6	10	35	57
Family History Research				
Reference	2	0	34	33
Research	36	1	96	180
Volunteer Hours	13	14	266	214

History House Museum	Current Month	Year to date		
		Jan 13	July 13- June 14	Jul 12 – June 13
	Jan 14			
General Visitors	134	104	1275	720
School Visits	0	0	358	74
School Incursions	0	0	118	56
Holiday Programs	18	50	56	93
Community Programs	0	0	107	0
Seniors Programs	0	0	125	138
Total Visitors	152	154	2039	1081
Volunteer Hours	199	180	1169	1147
Bert Tyler Vintage Machinery Museum	Jan 14	Jan 13	July 13 – June 14	Jul 12 – June 13
Visitors	134	131	1240	1038

RANGER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Animal Control

Dogs

Ranger Services received four hundred and thirty four (434) requests for assistance during the report period. The primary focus of Ranger Services is managing the response to the community for requests for service.

Cats

Ranger Services received seventy three (73) requests for assistance during this report period. The mainstream of request related to feral cats which are unable to be rehomed due to their ferocious and undomesticated behaviour

Court Action

The following information relates to legal action taken by Ranger Services pursuant to the provisions of the Dog Act 1976, these matters were heard and determined in the Armadale Magistrates Court during this report period.

OFFENCE	FINDING OF COURT	PENALTY \$	COSTS \$	TOTAL \$
Dog Attack on Person	Guilty	1,000	146.90	1,146.90
Dog Attack on Person	Guilty	1,100	559.35	1,659.35
Dog Attack on Person	Guilty	2,100	146.90	2,246.90

Vehicles

Parking

Ranger Service attended to one hundred and forty one (141) general enquires relating to the unlawful parking of vehicles during this report period.

Commercial Vehicles (Trucks)

There has been a slight increase, from the corresponding period of 2013/14, in the number of reports received regarding trucks being parked in residential areas for extended periods of time. Rangers will continue to be vigilant in this area of operations.

Parking Control around Schools

Ranger Services will continue to attend at local schools throughout the district, on a regular basis, to ensure the safety of children is maintained. One of the ways of achieving this is by a strict application of the Local Law Relating to Parking; thereby reducing the risk of injury caused by the indiscriminate parking of vehicles, to ensure a safer environment for children on their way to and from school and to decrease traffic congestion surrounding schools during drop off and pick up times.

Notwithstanding it is the responsibility of every driver to ensure that they are aware of, and comply with parking and other traffic requirements in a particular area.

Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas)

Ranger Service attended to ten (10) reports of vehicles (motor cycles) being driven in a prohibited area, during the report period.

Fire Services

Rangers continue a high profile in relation to hazardous blocks and offer advice to land owners with regard to fuel reduction and ongoing maintenance of firebreaks.

Ranger Services attended to two hundred and twenty nine (229) enquires, during this report period, mainly associated with alternative style firebreaks and advice regarding general fire safety.

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades experience the usual amount of calls to bush/scrub fires, during January, however due to the excellent response from members they have been able to deal with those incidents in a timely and effective manner, thereby reducing the potential for a major fire situation.

General

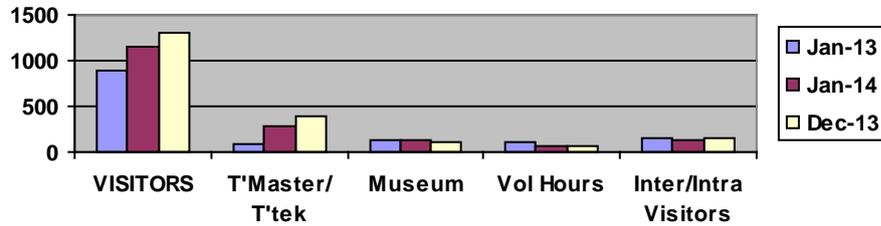
Ranger Services are now actively engaged in the annual firebreak inspections program, this year Rangers have been particularly vigilant in targeting vacant land with long dry grass.

The primary focus of Ranger Services is managing the response to the community for requests for service. This has significantly increased over the last five years commensurate with the population growth and the general requirements for Ranger Services to enforce a number of Acts and Local Laws relating to Local Government operations and jurisdiction.

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Fire-fighters play a significant and vital role in ensuring that the community is a safe place to work, live and play. Whether it is carrying out risk management activities, fire prevention activities, fighting a fire, teaching fire safety education to school children, working with local residents to improve their own personal safety or responding to bushfires, the activities and learning skills required to manage these incidents and activities can be extremely exciting and challenging

Tourism

Armada Visitor Centre



JANUARY 2014

Visitors	Ticketmaster/ Ticketek	TOTAL Visitors Less T/Master & Ticketek	Inter State Visitors	Overseas Visitors	TOTAL O/seas & Interstate VISITORS	Volunteer Hours	Museum
1157	283	874	44	95	139	75	134

DECEMBER 2013

Visitors	Ticketmaster/ Ticketek	TOTAL Visitors Less T/Master & Ticketek	Inter State Visitors	Overseas Visitors	TOTAL O/seas & Interstate VISITORS	Volunteer Hours	Museum
1305	389	916	37	117	154	75	103

VISITOR CENTRE OPENED FOR 197 HOURS

AVERAGE VISITORS PER WEEK: 289

VOLUNTEER HOURS PER WEEK: 19

VISITOR CENTRE - DOLLAR VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY:

Average Visitor Spend – Day Visitor:

\$ 1,561 per day = **\$ 10,925** per week = **\$ 43,700** per month

Based on \$50 per person who came into the Visitor Centre staying one day in our area. This is a conservative figure as current guidelines are based on \$80 per person each day. Figure calculated as - Visitors less Ticketmaster.

Average Spend – Including Accommodation:

\$745 per night = **\$ 5,213** per week = **\$ 20,850** per month

Figure is calculated by Using Inter and Overseas figures only for the month, based on \$150 per person.

TOTAL TOURISM DOLLAR VALUE – JANUARY 2014: \$64,550

Tourism

The Visitor Centre has achieved a 30% increase in visitor numbers in comparison to January 2013. The majority of International visitors came from Germany, United Kingdom and Singapore.

Half yearly statistics indicate that we have increased visitation to the Visitor Centre by 38%. Google Analytics reports an increase of 80% new visitors to our website www.visitarmadale.com.au with the majority from Australia. The most pages viewed were the home page, events page and attractions pages. The Visitor Centre commenced its 2014 membership drive with the prospectus being sent out to prospective and current members.

Tourism Development and Marketing

Curtin FM radio marketing, destination marketing into Jetstar Asia, Perth Airport Runway Magazines, Your Guide to Perth and Fremantle as well as Armadale Grand Cinema advertising is currently underway.

Marketing into the Experience Perth summer campaign in the Western Australian advertising Australia Day celebrations facilitated advertising exposure for Armadale. A new partnership with Scoot Airlines has been established to further assist in the drive to lift the City's tourism profile within Asia.

The 2014 Armadale Visitor Guide is currently being produced with an expected launch in April. This will be the first year that we have produced an A4 booklet instead of the A5 due to an increase in member and business requests for participation within the Guide.

Jull Street Mall

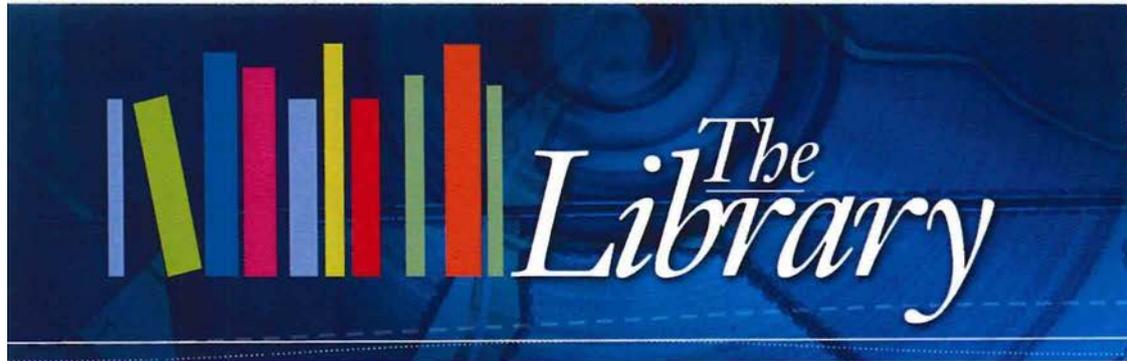
The Jull St Mall Coordinator is currently developing new policies and procedures for the Jull St Mall. Forward planning for the upcoming 2014 activities and events in the Mall has commenced. A program calendar is to be produced for distribution to relevant stakeholders.

Discussions with the Business Armadale Board have facilitated the development of future partnership events throughout 2014 within the Jull Street Mall.

Collated feedback forms from participants of the December Christmas Markets have demonstrated high approval of the levels of communication, set-up, location and customers.

The Directors of Two Feet and a Heartbeat Walking Tours have been engaged to deliver Volunteer Training Seminars for a Historical Walking Tour throughout the CBD of Armadale, commencing at the Visitor Centre and ending at the Jull Street Mall commencing in March 2014.

Information Flyers



**BETTER BEGINNINGS
PARENT WORKSHOP**



Barn Babes



**Friday 28 March
Three half hour sessions
10, 10.30 and 11am
Seville Grove Library**

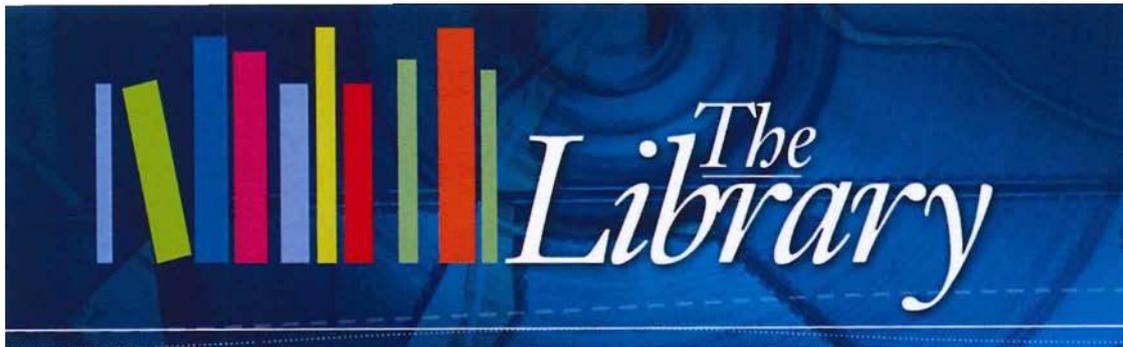
Spend some quality time with your little one and interact with some cute and cuddly animals. You will have the opportunity to come up close to pat, as well as feed some of the smaller animals. There will also be an alpaca, pig and other animals visiting the library.

**Bookings are essential. Please phone 9399 0800.
Space is limited, please leave prams
at home where possible.**



02/2014





Positive Ageing Sessions

Wednesday 5 March
1.30 - 4pm
Armadale Library

Both of these sessions will be presented by a speaker from the WA Seniors Card Centre.



1.30pm - Seniors Matters

This session will provide information about the seniors card, updates, benefits, concessions, rebates, allowances, and how it can be used in conjunction with other government cards.



3.00pm - Ageing well and living independently

This session will cover planning for your later years, challenging yourselves, keeping physically and mentally active, staying connected and keeping informed of your rights and responsibilities.

Refreshments will be provided between sessions.
Bookings are essential. Call 9399 0125.
Armadale Central Shopping Centre, Armadale