



INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUE NO. 5/2013

21 March 2013



Information Bulletin

Issue No. 5/2013

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WA STATE BUDGET MID YEAR REVIEW

WA's very high population growth in recent times has been highlighted as a key challenge for the State Government. In the State Budget's mid-year review, released in December 2012, the population forecast for 2012-13 was revised upwards from 2.3% to 2.8%.

The following table compares some of the forecasts from the mid-year review in December to the forecasts from the State Budget in May:

Table 1 Comparison of May Budget and mid-year review forecasts

Economic indicator	May Budget forecast	December mid-year review forecast
Gross State Product		
2012/13	4.75%	6.0%
2013/14	4.75%	5.0%
Unemployment rate		
2012/13	4.25%	4.25%
2013/14	4.25%	4.5%
Perth CPI		
2012/13	3.5%	3.25%
2013/14	3.25%	3.0%
WA Wage Price Index		
2012/13	4.5%	4.5%
2013/14	4.5%	4.25%
Population		
2012/13	2.3%	2.8%
2013/14	2.3%	2.4%

This upward revision in the population forecasts for future years were probably influenced by the result for 2011-12. In the May Budget the State Government forecast population growth of 2.3% for that year. Instead, the WA population actually grew by 3.0% in 2011-12.

The following graph shows that most of the population increase in 2011-12 was the result of overseas migration. Also noteworthy is the substantial increase in net interstate migration:

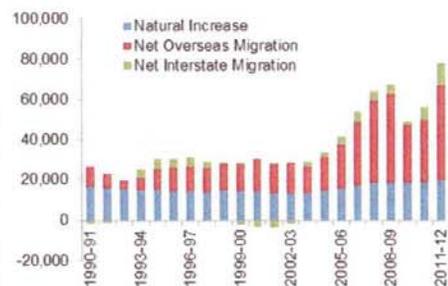


Figure 1 Components of population growth in WA
Source: ABS Cat No 3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2012.

MARCH 2013

The higher than expected population growth has put some pressure on the State Budget. In particular, the Education Department's budget was increased by \$55 million to accommodate an unexpected extra 8,000 students in public schools and the Health Department's budget was increased by \$85 million to meet 'higher than anticipated demand for hospital services'.

The growing population also brings increased demands for Local Government services and infrastructure. The mid-year review has provided some assistance in this area by providing an additional \$67 million for Local Government roads over the period from 2012-13 to 2015-16.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COST INDEX

The Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) increased by 0.3% in the December quarter 2012.

Table 2 Key LGCI figures for the December quarter 2012

Index	Sep qtr 2012 to Dec qtr 2012 (%)	Dec qtr 2011 to Dec qtr 2012 (%)
Wages	0.7	4.3
Road and Bridge Construction	0.0	2.9
Non-residential Building	-0.3	-0.4
Other costs	0.3	2.1
Machinery and Equipment	0.6	3.7
Electricity and street lighting	-0.7	4.3
Local Government Cost Index	0.3	2.9

The LGCI annual rate of increase was 2.9% and has been trending downwards since the June quarter 2012. The decrease in the annual movement was partly due to lower average wage increases in recent quarters. Additionally, Road and Bridge Construction costs also increased at a slower rate in the December quarter 2012:

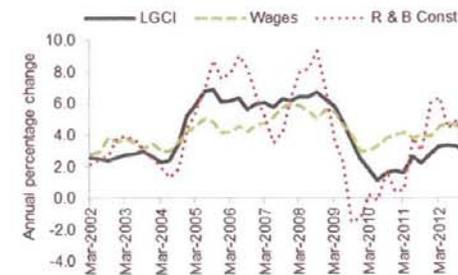


Figure 2 Local Government Cost Index, Wages, and Road and Bridge Construction comparison
Source: WALGA calculations; ABS Cat No 6345.0 Wage Price Index, December 2012; ABS Cat No 6427.0 Producer Price Indexes, December 2012.

The following table provides the forecast increase in the LGCI for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years. The table



also includes forecasts of the component indexes that contribute to the LGCI.

Table 3 LGCI forecasts for 2012-13 and 2013-14

LGCI Component	Forecast Increase for the financial year	
	2012-13	2013-14
Wages and Salaries ¹	4.5	4.2
Road and Bridge Construction ²	3.0	2.4
Non-residential Building ²	3.4	3.8
Consumer Prices ¹	3.2	3.0
Machinery and Equipment ³	2.2	0.7
Electricity and Street Lighting ⁴	5.2	4.6
Local Government Costs	3.6	3.2

Source: 1. Based on WA State Treasury forecasts
2. Based on Australian Construction Industry Forum forecasts
3. WALGA estimated forecast
4. Based on the State Government's projected tariff increases from the 2012/13 Budget

Please note: The forecasts listed above should be used with caution as they are speculative and rely on a number of assumptions about future economic events. A change to any of the underlying assumptions could significantly change the forecast estimates.

WA LABOUR MARKET OUTLOOK

"Difficult to see. Always in motion is the future."
Yoda – The Empire Strikes Back (1980)

The above quote seems appropriate when considering the future of the WA economy. The years since the GFC have been characterised by moderate levels of growth, uncertainty about the world economy's prospects and volatility in consumer and business sentiment.

WA labour market indicators provide further evidence of the uncertain recovery that has taken place since the GFC. The following graph shows that while WA's unemployment rate was a healthy 4.0% in January 2013, it is well above the low of 2.3% in October 2008.



Figure 3 WA and Australian Unemployment Rates (seasonally adjusted)
Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0 Labour Force, Jan 2013.

WA's unemployment rate has also been particularly volatile in the last 12 months: it varied from a low of 3.5% in July 2012 to a high of 4.7% in October 2012. Nonetheless, WA's unemployment rate still remained lower than the rate for Australia during this period.

Job vacancies data provides another perspective on the labour market by acting as a leading indicator, since increases in job vacancies are typically followed by improvements in wages and employment prospects. Figure 4 compares the ABS job vacancy series for WA with the Wage Price Index for the state:

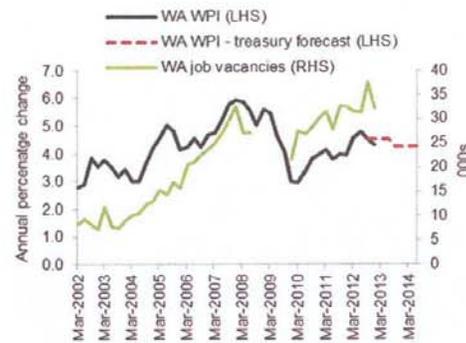


Figure 4 WA Wage Price Index and Job vacancies
Source: ABS Cat No 6345.0 and 6354.0.

The above graph suggests wages growth will remain strong since job vacancies in WA have grown over the past year. Indeed, the WA Treasury are forecasting wages growth of 4.5% in 2012-13 and 4.25% in 2013-14. On the other hand the job vacancy data has been particularly volatile in recent quarters, which adds a degree of uncertainty to any labour market forecasts.

However, one thing that is certain is the disparity between wage costs in WA and the rest of Australia. In November 2012, Average full-time adult ordinary time earnings in WA were \$1590.60 compared to \$1396 for Australia. This is likely to be a contributing factor to the large increase in net interstate migration discussed earlier in the Briefing.

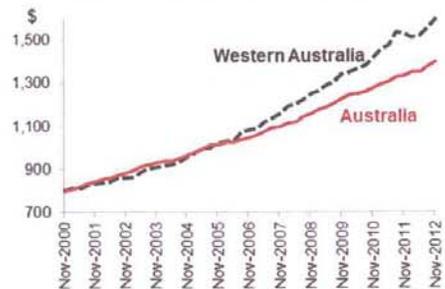


Figure 5 Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings
Source: ABS Cat No. 6302.0 Average Weekly Earnings, November 2012

For further information or to comment please contact Paul Schollum on 9213 2096 or email pschollum@walga.asn.au.

Current and previous editions of **Economic Briefing** are available at www.walga.asn.au/NewsPublications/Publications/EconomicBriefing.aspx



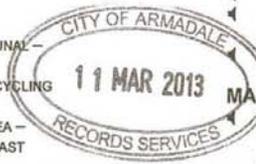
Issue No. 09.13

11 March 2013

Please copy and distribute to interested readers

HEADLINES

- ◀ CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION
- ◀ SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL – ELECTED MEMBER ALLOWANCES
- ◀ NATIONAL TV AND COMPUTER RECYCLING SCHEME – INFO SESSION UPDATE
- ◀ WASTE IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA – VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE BREAKFAST
- ◀ OFFICER TRAINING



- ◀ ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING
- ◀ BRIEFING SESSIONS TO FOCUS ON MINING ENVIRONMENTAL REFORM PROGRAM SUSTAINABLE EVENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
- ◀ UPDATED INVITATION
- ◀ WASTE IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA – VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE BREAKFAST REGISTRATION FORM

ISSUES UPDATE

CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

The final report of the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government has been presented in Canberra. The Committee has recommended in favour of a referendum on Saturday, **14 September**, in conjunction with the federal election.

The Committee's recommendation follows from its major finding, that:

- there is a strong case for recognition;
- lessons from the history of referenda support a 2013 referendum;
- the prospects for success are good, due to existing bipartisan support at the federal level and the readiness of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and Local Governments to campaign in support of change;
- the prospects for success will rely on strong commitment and campaigning by ALGA and its member bodies; and
- the prospects for success will be greatly improved by the support of State Governments.

It now remains for the Government to determine its direction in response to the Committee's report, anticipated by the end of March.

The full report is available at: [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary Business/Committees/House of Representatives Committees?url=jsclg/localgovt/finalreport.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jsclg/localgovt/finalreport.htm)

For further information please contact DCEO Wayne Scheggia on 9213 2024 or email wscheggia@walga.asn.au

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL – ELECTED MEMBER ALLOWANCES

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal has commenced the formal inquiry into prescribing Elected Member fees, allowances and expenses. The Tribunal is aiming to publish a determination report by the end of April 2013 to enable Councils to plan for any increase in fees, expenses and allowances in their 2013/2014 budget. The determinations will come into effect on Monday, **1 July**. The Tribunal is consulting with the Sector

and is prepared to meet with Local Government Elected Members to obtain input into their deliberations. Tribunal members have attended a number of country Zone meetings and are prepared to attend more and will also be looking to hold a number of hearings in the metropolitan area.

The Tribunal has recently advertised for submissions from interested individuals and organisations to lodge submissions to the inquiry by 5:00pm on Friday, **29 March**. WALGA will also be preparing a submission and input from Local Governments or copies of submissions would be welcomed. WALGA would like to encourage Local Governments to provide information to the Tribunal on the extent of the role of an Elected Member and the time taken to carry out the role.

For further information please contact Executive Manager Governance & Strategy Tony Brown on 9213 2051 or email tbrown@walga.asn.au

NATIONAL TV AND COMPUTER RECYCLING SCHEME - INFO SESSION UPDATE

WALGA is hosting an Information Session for Local Government Officers and Elected Members to outline the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme. Highlights include:

- An explanation of what the Scheme is;
- An update on the progress of the Scheme's rollout;
- Presentations from the Scheme's Arrangement and WALGA Preferred Suppliers (DHL and ANZRP);
- Clarification on how to take part in the Scheme; and
- A question and answer session.

Date: Friday, **22 March**

Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Location: Town of Cambridge Administration Centre, 1 Bold Park Dr, Floreat

Parking: Available onsite

Catering: Afternoon tea will be provided

Please confirm your attendance by Wednesday, **20 March**.

For further information or to confirm your attendance please contact Waste Management Support Officer, Ariane Katscherian on 9213 2086 or email akatscherian@walga.asn.au

WASTE IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA – VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE BREAKFAST

At this breakfast session you will hear how the Waste Authority is currently working to facilitate meeting the targets in the Waste Strategy. In addition the WALGA President and Municipal Waste Advisory Council Chair will discuss their visions for governance structures and approaches that will assist the Local Government sector to achieve sustainable waste management solutions and meet the targets set by the Waste Strategy.

The program and registration form are included in this week's mail bag.

Date: Thursday, 28 March

Time: 7:30am – 9:00am

Venue: Hyatt Regency Perth

Cost: \$40.00

For further information please contact Marketing & Events Support Officer, Ulla Wolter on 9213 2043 or email uwolter@walga.asn.au.

OFFICER TRAINING

NEW COURSE - Introduction to Supervision in Local Government

Date: Monday, 25 March – Tuesday, 26 March

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$790.00 (+ GST)

ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING

SATURDAY SERIES - Professionally Speaking

Hurry, places are limited.

Date: Saturday, 16 March

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$450.00 (+ GST)

Strategic Planning

Date: Monday, 18 March

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$395.00 (GST exempt)

Financial Reports and Budgets

Date: Tuesday, 19 March

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$395.00 (GST exempt)

Course flyers and details on regional training can be downloaded at www.workplacesolutions.asn.au. Contact the training team at training@walga.asn.au to secure your place.

BRIEFING SESSIONS TO FOCUS ON MINING ENVIRONMENTAL REFORM PROGRAM

The Department of Mines and Petroleum has opened public consultation on the draft Mining Rehabilitation Fund, and will conduct a series of stakeholder briefing

sessions. The Mining Rehabilitation Fund is a new pooled fund contributed to by Western Australian mining operators. Money in the fund will be available to fund rehabilitation of abandoned mines in the State. The briefing sessions are scheduled as follows:

Location	Date	Time	Venue
Bunbury	18 March	10:30 am	Chamber of Commerce and Industry Building, Alison Lannin Room, 15 Stirling St, Bunbury
Perth	20 March	9:00 am	Mineral House, 100 Plain Street, East Perth
Kalgoorlie	22 March	9:30 am	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Cnr Hunter and Broadwood St, West Kalgoorlie
Karratha	25 March	10:30 am	Frank Butler Community Centre, Hunt Way, Bulgarra
Geraldton	27 March	9:30 am	Best Pepperell Training Centre, 4 Walton Close, Geraldton
Esperance	28 March	9:30 am	Esperance Lotteries House, 3 Forest St, Esperance

Please RSVP by Wednesday, 13 March to reform@dmp.wa.gov.au and include the preferred location, attendee and organisation name, and contact details. To download a consultation document, please visit www.dmp.wa.gov.au. Written comments must be lodged to the Department by Friday, 5 April.

For further information, please contact Environment Policy Officer, Julia Beijeman on 9213 2039 or email jbeijeman@walga.asn.au.

SUSTAINABLE EVENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS – UPDATED INVITATION

GreenShoot Pacific will be holding an Industry Briefing Seminar on the recently released ISO 20121 Sustainable Event Management Systems, on Monday, 25 March. This Briefing Seminar will introduce the new Standard, and how it will affect event activities. Information will also be provided on how to implement the Standard across organisations and events. Sustainable Event Management Training will be provided Tuesday 26 – Wednesday, 27 March. This Training is applicable for those involved in the planning, procurement, production, measurement, reporting and communications of events and venues.

ISO 20121 Industry Briefing Seminar

When: 2:00pm to 4:00pm Monday 25 March

Where: Perth Zoo, 20 Labouchere Road, South Perth,

Cost: \$50 + GST

Two Day Sustainable Event Training

When: 9:00am to 4:00pm, Tuesday, 26 March - Wednesday 27 March

Where: Perth Zoo, 20 Labouchere Road, South Perth,

Cost: \$600 + GST

For more information, contact Training Manager Pru Chapman via email at pru@greenshootpacific.com or Consultant & Auditor Emiko Watanabe at emiko@greenshootpacific.com or please visit www.greenshootpacific.com.



Issue No. 10.13

18 March 2013

Please copy and distribute to interested readers

HEADLINES

- ◀ BUILDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAPACITY IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROJECT
- ◀ WALGA SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED WA INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SYSTEM CHANGES
- ◀ ALGA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- ◀ OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT
- ◀ HR FORUM: METRO LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURAL REFORM – CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR THE HR IMPACT
- ◀ WASTE IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA – VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- ◀ NEW OFFICE AND WORKPLACE SUPPLIES CONTRACT
- ◀ OFFICER TRAINING
- ◀ ONLINE ASSESSMENT – CODE OF PRACTICE FOR VEGETATION CONTROL NEAR POWERLINES

MAILBAG

- ◀ ECONOMIC BRIEFING – MARCH 2013
- ◀ BG&E WATER AND ENVIRONMENT TEAM
- ◀ INFOPAGE: REVIEWED/UPDATED GUIDELINE ON ACCESS TO PREMISES STANDARD

ISSUES UPDATE

BUILDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAPACITY IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The Association has been awarded a Natural Disaster and Resilience Program (NDRP) grant to assist in the identification of how Local Governments have complied with their emergency management legislative obligations and associated policies since the implementation of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, and to assess the implications of differences in mandated roles and management structures of Local Government with respect to their capacity to respond to an emergency. A key outcome of this project is to highlight key concerns for Local Governments, and how the Association can best support the sector in addressing these issues. The Association has developed a background paper, which is the result of a comprehensive consultation program with Local Governments. The background paper provides an introduction to the responsibilities of Local Government in emergency management, including a summary of key policies and legislation that impact on Local Government in Western Australia beyond that which is contained within the *Emergency Management Act 2005*. To access the Building Local Government Capacity in Emergency Management Background Paper and Advocacy Strategy, please visit <http://www.walga.asn.au/MemberResources/PlanningCommunityDevelopment/CurrentEmergingIssues/EmergencyManagement.aspx>

For further information, please contact Senior Community Policy Advisor, Erin Fuery, on 9213 2080 or efuery@walga.asn.au

WALGA SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED WA INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SYSTEM CHANGES

WALGA has provided a submission on the *Labour Relations Legislation Amendment and Repeal Bill 2012* on behalf of member Local Governments. WALGA submitted that the State Government should refer its industrial relations powers with respect to Local Government to the Federal

Government. This reflects the WALGA State Council position to endorse representation to the State Government of the sector's need for clarity regarding the jurisdiction which applies to member Local Governments, including advocating for referral of WA's State industrial relations powers to the Federal Government. WALGA submitted that any new State award(s) that are created out of the award modernisation process mirror the terms of the *Federal Local Government Industry Award 2010* as much as possible, and also advocated for amendments to a number of draft proposals relating to General Orders, Unfair Dismissal, Union Right of Entry and the proposed State Employment Standards.

For further information, please contact Employee Relations Manager, Scott Roffey on 9213 2014 or email sroffey@walga.asn.au

ALGA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This year's NGA will take place at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from 16 - 19 June, under the theme *Foundations for the Future - Twenty13*. The NGA will feature a range of keynote speakers together with business sessions for the consideration of Council motions. To assist Councils in preparing motions, a Discussion Paper has been prepared and is available from; http://alga.asn.au/site/misc/alga/downloads/event/s/2013NGA/Discussion_Paper.pdf. To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers motions must follow the 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.

Motions need to be submitted electronically by Friday, 26 April.

For further information, please contact DCEO, Wayne Scheggia on 9213 2024 or email wscheggia@walga.asn.au

OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT

Workplace Solutions would like to remind Local Governments that we will be undertaking an overseas recruitment campaign in Dublin, Ireland in April this year and are inviting Local Governments to submit Expressions of Interest for suitable candidates by providing position descriptions, benefits offered and any other relevant details of positions for which they may like Workplace Solutions to recruit. We will then interview appropriately qualified and experienced applicants and check employment and good character references prior to offering candidates to Local Governments for consideration. EOI's should be submitted by Friday, **22 March** at the latest to osrecruitment@walga.asn.au. EOI's cost nothing so be sure to register your interest as soon as possible!

For further information, please contact Recruitment Advisor, Eleri Bishop on 9213 2023 or email osrecruitment@walga.asn.au

HR FORUM: METRO LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURAL REFORM – CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR THE HR IMPACT

Human Resources Practitioners are invited to attend a one day forum covering essential Human Resources topics in the event of structural reform affecting Local Government metropolitan Councils. The free forum will cover areas such as redundancy, transfer of business and industrial instruments, resourcing using your workforce plans, and change management. Registrations are essential.

Date: Thursday, 18 April

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: City of Vincent, 244 Vincent St, Leederville

RSVP: Friday, 12 April

For further information or to register, please contact Marketing and Events Support Officer, Ulla Wolter on 9213 2043 or email uwolter@walga.asn.au

WASTE IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA – VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

At this breakfast session you will hear how the Waste Authority is currently working to facilitate the meeting of the targets in the Waste Strategy, as well as hearing the WALGA President and Municipal Waste Advisory Council Chair discuss their visions for governance structures and approaches that will assist the Local Government sector to achieve sustainable waste management solutions and meet the targets set by the Waste Strategy. The program and registration form are available on our website www.walga.asn.au.

Date: Thursday, 28 March

Time: 7:30am – 9:30am

Venue: Hyatt Regency Perth

Cost: \$40.00

For further information please contact Marketing & Events Support Officer, Ulla Wolter on (08) 9213 2043 or email uwolter@walga.asn.au.

NEW OFFICE AND WORKPLACE SUPPLIES CONTRACT

WALGA's Business Solutions is pleased to confirm that the new Office and Workplace Supplies C 046_12 has

finally been awarded. The contract covers the following seven subcategories: Stationery and Consumables, Janitorial & Cleaning Supplies, Paper, Printer Cartridges and Toners, Small Business Machines, Cafeteria and Related Food Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment. Full contract details will be available on the WALGA website and eQuotes (www.vendorpanel.com) week commencing Monday, **18 March**.

Substantial discounts, improved service and value packages have been negotiated on behalf of Local Government and the successful providers are a combination of large and small organisations, as well as both generalist and specialist providers.

The requirement for Furniture was tendered separately with Interior Design and Fit Out Services and that contract is due to be launched within the next three weeks.

For further details please contact Business and Contract Manager, Emma Gillespie on 9213 2016 or email egillespie@walga.asn.au

OFFICER TRAINING

***NEW COURSE* - Introduction to Supervision in Local Government**

Date: Monday, 25 March – Tuesday, 26 March

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$790.00 (+ GST)

Introduction to Local Government

Date: Wednesday, 27 March

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$415.00 (+ GST)

Local Government Act- Introduction

Date: Thursday, 28 March

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$415.00 (+ GST)

Course flyers and details on regional training can be downloaded at www.workplacesolutions.asn.au. Contact the training team at training@walga.asn.au to secure your place.

ONLINE ASSESSMENT - CODE OF PRACTICE FOR VEGETATION CONTROL NEAR POWERLINES

EnergySafety's latest Code of Practice for Vegetation Control Near Powerlines, gazetted on Monday, 18 July 2012 and amended in January 2013, sets the minimum requirements for vegetation control near powerlines (defined in Regulation 316A of the Electricity Regulations 1947). Under the latest Code all vegetation control workers, other than ground workers, must have successfully completed EnergySafety's on-line assessment available via the link <http://eprofilling.com.au/eswa/>. Further information regarding the requirements can be accessed through EnergySafety's website <http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/EnergySafety/>.

For further information please contact Rob Thornton, Principal Engineer Electricity Supply, EnergySafety Division on 9422 5286 or email Rob.Thornton@commerce.wa.gov.au

WALGA ZONE MEETINGS

'Denotes Teleconference

7 April	Kimberley Country Zone
18 April	Central Metro Zone
18 April	North Metro Zone
19 April	Gascoyne Country Zone
19 April	South West Country Zone
19 April	Central Country Zone
22 April	South Metro Zone
22 April	Great Eastern Country Zone
24 April	East Metro Zone
24 April	Peel Country Zone
26 April	South West Country Zone
26 April	Great Southern Country Zone
4-5 June	Kimberley Country Zone
21 June	South West Country Zone
24 June	South Metro Zone
26 June	South East Metro Zone
27 June	Great Eastern Country Zone
27 June	Central Metro Zone
27 June	North Metro Zone
27 June	East Metro Zone
27 June	Gascoyne Country Zone
27 June	Peel Country Zone
28 June	Great Southern Country Zone
28 June	Central Country Zone
5-6 August	Kimberley Country Zone
16 August	South West Country Zone
22 August	Great Eastern Country Zone
23 August	South West Country Zone
23 August	Central Country Zone
26 August	South Metro Zone
28 August	South East Metro Zone
28 August	Gascoyne Country Zone
29 August	Central Metro Zone
29 August	North Metro Zone
29 August	East Metro Zone
29 August	Peel Country Zone
30 August	Great Southern Country Zone
1-2 October	Kimberley Country Zone
15 November	South West Country Zone
22 November	South West Country Zone
25 November	South Metro Zone
25-26 November	Kimberley Country Zone
27 November	South East Metro Zone
28 November	Central Metro Zone
28 November	North Metro Zone
28 November	East Metro Zone
28 November	Peel Zone
28 November	Great Eastern Country Zone
28 November	Gascoyne Country Zone
29 November	Central Country Zone
29 November	Great Southern Country Zone

ALGA NEWS

8 MARCH 2013

Local government ramps up campaign effort as inquiry recommends 2013 referendum

In a win for local government, the parliamentary committee charged with investigating the likelihood of Australians voting 'yes' in a 2013 referendum to recognise local government in the Constitution has recommended that a referendum on the issue be put to voters at this year's federal election.

For more than five years, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has been campaigning for constitutional recognition of local government to ensure that local government bodies are recognised as legitimate recipients of direct federal funding.

"The Joint Select Committee's key finding that a referendum should be held in September vindicates ALGA's long-held position. ALGA has consistently argued that recognition in the Constitution is needed to protect important funding for local projects and provide councils with the certainty that funding for local projects can continue without claims of constitutional invalidity," ALGA President Felicity-ann Lewis said.

"We welcome the Committee's recommendation that the Commonwealth begin all necessary preparatory activities to ensure a successful outcome for a referendum on financial recognition in 2013 and we call on the Federal Government to implement the necessary legislation and provide public funding to support a campaign on the issue of constitutional recognition of local government.

"Much has been done by ALGA to prepare for a referendum announcement by the Australian Government.

"Several elements of our campaign plan require the commitment of considerable financial expenditure and the allocation of resources from our state associations and of course must therefore await a final government decision.

"ALGA and its state associations have committed to provide millions of dollars to campaign for the referendum and it is vital that public funding is also made available.

"Constitutional change can only be achieved through a successful referendum.

"ALGA, with the help of councils across Australia, will be running a campaign to convince Australians to vote 'yes' to constitutional recognition of local government if a referendum proceeds in September."

ALGA is seeking an amendment to Section 96 of the Constitution so that it would read: "Parliament may grant financial assistance to any state or local government body formed by or under a law of a state or territory on such terms and conditions as the Parliament sees fit."

To access the Committee's final report, click [here](#).

ALGA President addresses local government conference in Darwin

ALGA President Felicity-ann Lewis this week attended the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory's conference in Darwin to lead discussions about important issues facing the local government sector and network with council staff and local government stakeholders.

In addressing the conference, Mayor Lewis focused on ALGA's priorities for 2013. Of the most pressing issues for ALGA is constitutional recognition of local government and a potential referendum on the issue at the time of the September 2013 federal election.

Mayor Lewis told the conference that while ALGA has concerns about the time left between now and the federal election on 14 September to complete the steps necessary to put in place the preconditions for a successful referendum that concern should not be taken as any indication that ALGA does not want to campaign for a referendum.

"As I told the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government on 20 February at its hearing in Sydney, ALGA is committed to a referendum on financial recognition of local government in 2013 provided the preconditions for a successful referendum have been met."

The ALGA Board discussed the issue of constitutional recognition at its strategic meeting two weeks ago and passed a resolution to support and campaign for a referendum to amend Section 96 of the Constitution to support direct funding of local government as soon as it is proposed by the Federal Government.

Mayor Lewis also told the conference that ALGA was pursuing the issue of adequate municipal services for indigenous communities.

"In our submission to the forthcoming Federal Budget, ALGA has called for \$400 million to be directed towards supporting and improving municipal services, including housing, and \$1.6 billion to build and maintain vital infrastructure in remote and regional indigenous communities."

Fred Chaney AO confirmed as keynote speaker for National General Assembly

A highlight of this year's National General Assembly will be the address from the Chair of Desert Knowledge Australia and Member for the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians, Fred Chaney AO.

The NGA's keynote speakers will engage, challenge and entertain delegates as they reflect on the theme of *Foundations for the Future - Twenty 13*. Speakers will provide their own observations and interpretations on contemporary Australian communities, including how they see the local government sector positioning itself to best serve communities and ensure strong foundations for the future. Other keynote speakers at this year's NGA include columnist Peter FitzSimons AM and ABC presenter Geraldine Doogue AO.

Fred Chaney was born in Perth in 1941. He practised law in New Guinea and Western Australia, including time in-house with the Hancock-Wright prospecting partnership, and subsequent private practice with emphasis on mining related work until he entered the Senate in 1974.

Fred Chaney was a Senator for Western Australia from 1974 to 1990 and Leader of the Opposition in the Senate from 1983 to 1990. He was Member for Pearce in the House of Representatives from 1990 to 1993. Among his Ministerial appointments were Aboriginal Affairs, Social Security and Minister Assisting the Minister for National Development and Energy.

In 1994 Fred Chaney was appointed as a part-time Member of the National Native Title Tribunal, before becoming a full-time Member in April 1995 and Deputy President from 2000 to 2007. In January 1997, he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia.

The NGA is the premier national event for local government, attracting more than 800 Mayors, Councillors and senior council staff to Canberra for the event. Full details of the program, speakers, social functions and logistics for this year's National General Assembly (NGA) are contained in the registration brochure which can be found on the ALGA website, [here](#).

This year's NGA will be held at the National Convention Centre Canberra from 16-19 June. Register now and access the early bird rate to save \$100. To register online, go to www.alga.asn.au

President's Column

This week, I am writing to you from the Top End, where I have been participating in the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory's annual conference in Darwin. I am delighted to have had the opportunity to meet with local council staff and stakeholders to discuss the many important issues that ALGA is currently working on.

Of the issues that ALGA manages on a day to day basis, the most prominent at this time is constitutional recognition of local government. Yesterday, the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government released its final report. Taking the major finding into consideration, the Committee has recommended that a referendum on the financial recognition of local government be put to Australian voters at the 2013 federal election.

While this is good news for local government, we are concerned about the limited amount of time now available between now and September and we need a response from the Government about whether it supports a referendum in 2013. The Government did not respond to the Committee's interim report released on 24 January and the Government is yet to respond to the committee's final report. We call on the federal government to implement the necessary legislation and provide public funding to support a campaign on the issue of constitutional recognition of local government.

It is important to note that a dissenting report has been issued by the Coalition, which says that the time remaining between now and 14 September 2013 is likely to be insufficient to put in place the necessary mechanics, education campaigns and other measures and

Coalition members are of the opinion that the referendum should only be considered once the pre-conditions identified by the Expert Panel have actually been met.

Several elements of our campaign plan require the commitment of considerable financial expenditure and the allocation of resources from our state associations and of course must therefore await a final government decision.

ALGA's overall success depends on the engagement of state and territory associations - including the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory - and I thank the association and Northern Territory councils for their efforts in supporting ALGA's work.

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis
ALGA President

Australian Greens say quick action needed to secure referendum

With a parliamentary inquiry report recommending a referendum to recognise local government in the constitution at the September election, Australian Greens local government spokesperson and committee member Senator Lee Rhiannon has called on the Australian Government to introduce required legislation soon after parliament resumes next week.

The Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government recommended a referendum at the next election to recognise local councils in the constitution and allow the federal government to directly fund them.

"Two expert committees have now found in favour of a referendum. The Labor government must move quickly to pass legislation between March and July facilitating the referendum and allowing time to build strong community and cross party support," Senator Rhiannon said.

"If the government drags the chain it will rob the campaign of time to educate the community about the importance of constitutional reform to allow the federal government to fund local councils.

"Two High Court cases have created uncertainty around federal grants to local councils.

"This referendum should receive active support from all political parties, state governments and local councils across the nation.

"Referendums are notoriously difficult to pass, with voters approving eight out of 44 proposals to alter the constitution, so it is important campaigning gets going as soon as possible.

"Today's report reveals a big appetite from local councils for reform and strong capacity to campaign. The Gillard government must lead the way in securing this important change.

"The *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* sets out the referendum process. This

includes passing a bill setting out the proposed alteration to the Constitution, establishing 'yes' and 'no' committees of MPs to prepare a case supporting their position and the Government-General issuing writs," Senator Rhiannon said.

Western Sydney transport solution requires more than roads

A national transport taskforce, of which ALGA is a member, has this week called for the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader to explore more solutions to transport problems in Western Sydney during their tour of the area.

The Moving People 2030 Taskforce is made up of representatives from eight national organisations with links to public transport, health, cycling, urban planning and local government.

Taskforce spokesperson Michael Apps, Executive Director of the Bus Industry Confederation said both leaders should look at a range of infrastructure, planning and land use options which integrate walking, cycling, public transport and roads to connect Western Sydney residents to the rest of the city.

"The Taskforce welcomes a commitment from the Australian Government to address congestion on western Sydney roads," Mr Apps said.

"We believe, investment in public transport, walking and cycling options for residents is needed if congestion in the area is to be reduced.

"The Australian Government should work with the NSW government to progress projects like the North West Rail Link, the Parramatta Light Rail proposal and to improve infrastructure for bus services to ensure commuters have choice in transport options.

"Most important of all, to free up capacity for the entire Sydney rail network, Australian Government support will be needed for a second Harbour rail crossing.

"Western Sydney is not alone in facing these transport challenges in outer metropolitan suburbs; they exist across all of our capital cities.

"Research demonstrates the residents of outer metropolitan areas like Western Sydney spend the highest percentage of their household income on transport because they have no access to alternatives such as public transport and are financially vulnerable to the increasing costs of transport."

The Taskforce will be launching a report in Canberra on March 13 next week with the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, to provide a range of recommendations within a transport plan for a productive and active Australia in the year 2030.

Updated guidelines on access to premises for people with disability

The Australian Human Rights Commission engaged a consultant to review the operation of the *Guideline on the access to Premises Standard* after its first year of operation, to identify any parts of the Guideline that could be made clearer and more useful. The review has been completed and the Australian Human Rights Commission has released a number of revised documents in relation to Access to Premises Guidelines.

ALGA President and Disability Champion for Local Government, Felicity-ann Lewis, is encouraging all councils to consider the revised guidelines and look at their projects and programs to see whether changes can be made to increase the accessibility of those programs to people with disability.

"Small changes to the accessibility of outdoor spaces, access to transport and premises have the potential to make a significant difference to the ability of people with disability to fully participate in the community," Mayor Lewis said.

The final update of the *Guideline on the Access to Premises Standard (V2)* is available on the Australian Human Rights Commission website and can be accessed in [MS Word format](#) or [PDF format](#). The update takes into consideration more than 180 comments received from building professionals, advocates, government agencies and associations.

The Australian Human Rights Commission has also released a new *Advisory Note on streetscape, public outdoor areas, fixtures, fittings and furniture* to provide guidance for features in the built environment not covered by the Premises Standards. The advisory note can be accessed [here](#).

An update of *Accessible Events - A Guide for Organisers* first developed in 2006, has also been completed to assist those responsible for organising events such as conferences, festivals, annual meetings, award ceremonies, fundraisers and seminars which are accessible to people with disability.

The Australian Human Rights Commission website contains further resources to assist with providing access for people with disability. To read more, click [here](#).

National Disability Insurance Scheme Rules released

The Australian Government this week released further detail of the rules that will guide how the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) works for people with disability, their families, carers and service providers.

The rules support the National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill, which is currently before the Australian Parliament. The Bill establishes the NDIS, including eligibility criteria and what constitutes reasonable and necessary support, and the NDIS Agency to deliver the scheme.

The rules provide a further level of detail on how the NDIS will work, including how people with disability will be able to access the scheme, and how the Agency will determine what supports are reasonable to meet a person's needs.

They also provide a guide to what kinds of supports will be funded, and what supports are

best delivered by other systems of support, like the health or education systems.

The rules also set out how the NDIS Launch Transition Agency will work with people with disability, their families and carers and how service providers will register with the Agency.

The Government has provided \$1 billion to launch the NDIS from 1 July this year. About 26,000 people with significant and permanent disabilities, their families and carers, will benefit from the first stage of the NDIS.

The five launch sites are the Hunter in NSW, the Barwon area of Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, and the ACT from July 2014.

The Government has been working closely with people with disability, their carers and the disability sector on the design of the NDIS. People with disability, their families and carers will have further opportunity to provide feedback on the rules released this week.

These rules will also be able to be adjusted and updated as needed into the future to reflect the experience we gain through the NDIS launch.

The rules are available at www.ndis.gov.au and will be open for public comment until 23 March 2013.

You can have your say on the rules on the 'Your Say' online forum at <http://yoursay.ndis.gov.au/>.

International Women's Day celebrations recognise women in local government

Today, 8 March, marks International Women's Day: a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. In some places like China, Russia, Vietnam and Bulgaria, International Women's Day is a national holiday.

This week, NSW Local Government Minister Don Page and the NSW Minister for Women Pru Goward praised the previously unsung heroes of local government - women working in non-traditional, male-dominated roles.

Mr Page and Ms Goward were speaking after announcing the winners of the sixth annual Ministers' Awards for Women in Local Government as part of International Women's Day celebrations at Parliament House.

The Awards were established to recognise the outstanding contributions and achievements of women in local government in NSW.

"The Awards seek to raise the profile of women in local government," Mr Page said.

"They are about celebrating the unsung heroes of local government, who through their dedication, make a difference to the local community. It is my hope that through recognising the women of local government who make the greatest difference, we will

inspire other women to work for and lead this vital sector."

"The NSW Government has focussed on getting more women involved in non-traditional trades and local government plays an integral role in ensuring this happens," Ms Goward said.

Mr Page said that for the first time in the history of the awards, they recognised women in non-traditional roles.

Women made up 35 per cent of local government candidates in the September 2012 election, which was a slight increase on the 2008 poll. In last year's poll, women made up 27 per cent of successful candidates (no change since 2008).

The Awards were established in 2008 to recognise the achievements of women in local government and encourage more women to take on leadership roles in local government in NSW. Further details about the Awards and winners are available on the Division of Local Government's website at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au.

Improving gender equality in planning

Women in Australia's Planning profession celebrate International Women's Day with the message that the gender imbalance in the profession is disappearing.

The Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) currently boasts a woman Chief Executive Officer, a woman National President, 5 out of 11 Board Directors, 5 of 9 Executive positions and women Presidents in some of its State/Territory Divisions around Australia.

PIA CEO Kirsty Kelly said while PIA hasn't consciously set out to achieve gender balance, by its nature planning is focused on balance.

"Women are half of the population so it makes sense that we are equally represented in leadership roles," Ms Kelly said.

In 1978 a national survey conducted for PIA showed just 4.3% of the Institute's membership was made up of women at a time when women made up 35.6% of the Australian workforce.

Today, due to the work of influential women in planning and equal opportunity initiatives, the planning profession in Australia is becoming increasingly balanced. In 2002 the proportion had risen to 27% and by 2011/2012 the number of women members of the Institute increased to 35%, a steady growth of 8%.

The story for women in planning is further encouraging when statistics of the younger people in the profession are unveiled.

PIA figures show that in 2002 a total of 46% of first, second and third year graduates were women. That number has jumped to just over 50% for 2012/2013.

First National Children's Commissioner appointed

The Australian Government has announced the appointment of Megan Mitchell as Australia's first National Children's Commissioner. The role of Children's Commissioner is intended as a dedicated advocate for children and young people at a national level. The Prime Minister said, "We want every child to grow up safe, happy and well. The new Commissioner will make sure the needs of children and young people are put front and centre."

Massive hit to Queensland roads

Queensland Transport Minister Scott Emerson says the recent floods have caused more than \$1 billion worth of damage to roads across the state.

Mr Emerson says roads in the North and South Burnett regions in the state's south are hardest hit and will need to be rebuilt to withstand future floods.

He says more federal funding is needed.

"What's happened from these flood events over the last couple of weeks ... our estimate is about \$1.5 billion worth of work that will now need to be done," he said.

"In terms of repairs from the floods, again we will work with the Commonwealth but we understand how important it is to get these roads fixed.

"We understand how important they are to local communities - they are lifelines not just for convenience for people but economic lifelines too."

He says money for repairs two years ago could have been spent differently.

"There was a better way of doing it," he said.

"If you keep doing the things you've done before when you have the weather events we've seen, you have the same results.

"We've said to the Commonwealth, we believe the rules need to be changed.

"We believe that if we're going to repair these roads we want to make them with greater resilience so that we don't have to come back again inevitably ... that we build them to withstand more."

Meanwhile, North Burnett Mayor Don Waugh says a federal disaster funding grant of \$6.6 million is not enough to fix flood-affected infrastructure in the region.

Councillor Waugh says the money will go towards repairing the Ravens Creek Bridge, Dahtlers Bridge and Waratah Bridge, as well as Mundubbera, Monto and Eidsvold water mains.

NSW investigation into land valuation

The chairman of a parliamentary Inquiry into how land is valued in New South Wales says he is shocked at what he has described as failures in the system.

Liberal MP Matt Kean is chairing the inquiry, which held its first public sitting in Broken Hill this week.

The inquiry heard the Broken Hill City Council is being forced to repay nearly \$7 million in overpaid rates after a court found the Valuer-General over-estimated the worth of mining company Perilya's Broken Hill mines by about \$16 million.

Mr Kean says that is just one example of the Valuer-General's failings.

"We've seen shocking examples of the system letting people down people right across this community, whether it be small business, big business, ratepayers, the examples that we've heard about how the system has failed them have been shocking," Mr Kean said.

The Broken Hill City Council says parliament should ensure there is a contract between local councils and the state's Valuer-General.

The council's acting general manager, Kate O'Neill, says the council pays the Valuer-General nearly \$50,000 a year to provide valuations - but there's no contract for that service.

She says that needs to change.

"Valuations is a professional service and you wouldn't contract any other service without an agreement in place in terms of your expected service levels, timeframe quality and your insurance quality if something does go wrong," she said.

Ms O'Neill told the inquiry the Valuer-General should work out how much land is worth annually, rather than every three years.

The Valuer-General is appealing against the Land and Environment Court's decision against it over Perilya's mine land values.

It is due to be heard in the Supreme Court in July.

Call for papers to Local Government Researchers Forum extended

The Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) and the Local Government Association of South Australia invites council representatives to attend the 2013 Local Government Researchers Forum from 6-7 June at the University of Adelaide.

The Local Government Researchers Forum is a biennial forum for local government researchers and practitioners to present current research in the sector and discuss the implications for policy and practice. The format includes streamed sessions, panel

discussions and a concluding debate.

Note: Abstract submission deadline has been extended to the 22nd of March.

For further information contact:

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ALGA News can be read online each week at www.alga.asn.au/news.aspx
Editor: newscomments@alga.asn.au Tel: 02 6122 9434.
Australian Local Government Association - 8 Geils Court, Deakin, ACT, 2600.
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ALGA NEWS

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Federal Government highlights timing issues for referendum

In welcoming the release of the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government's final report this week, which recommends a referendum be held at the time of the September 2013 federal election, Local Government Minister Simon Crean noted the "issue of timing".

The report reinforces the major recommendation of the Committee's preliminary report, released in January, that a referendum on the financial recognition of local government be put to Australian voters at the 2013 federal election.

In a media release issued on Monday, Mr Crean said "the only dissent is whether there is time".

Mr Crean said the Federal Government was committed to achieving constitutional recognition of local government but highlighted that this would still require support from both political parties and all states if it is to be successful. He has set a goal to secure that support in six weeks, which will allow face to face consultations with local government Ministers.

"History shows that we need the bulk of the states on board as well as bipartisanship at a federal level or it will fail," Mr Crean said.

"The task now is to secure that support in six weeks. This requires effort from all parties at all levels of government, including the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and its constituent units.

"I have already written to Premiers and Territory Chief Ministers and will be in discussions with them about the report and their views on supporting constitutional recognition."

While ALGA and state associations of local government have been working with state governments to achieve constitutional recognition of local government, the lack of support from some states is troubling.

Spokespeople for the Victorian Government and the New South Wales Government this week told the media that the states would not support financial recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution. The Tasmanian and Western Australian Governments have also ruled out their support.

Local Government applauds National Cultural Policy released this week

Minister for Arts and Local Government, Simon Crean this week launched *Creative Australia*, a new national cultural policy with sweeping reforms to Australian Government

support for the arts, cultural heritage and creative industries.

In launching *Creative Australia* Minister Crean described it as "a \$325 million vision and strategy to place arts and culture at the centre of modern Australian life".

"*Creative Australia* is about creating excellence, creating jobs, creating prosperity, creating opportunity and creating unique Australian stories - all vital to an outward looking, competitive and confident nation," Minister Crean said.

Local government's support for the arts is given prominence in the policy document. It refers to the coordination of local government cultural activities through the National Local Government Cultural Forum, a partnership between the Australian Local Government Association, Global Cities Research Institute at RMIT University, and the Australia Council, to strengthen coordination and provide a firm base on which the National Arts and Culture Accord can build.

It highlights the more than \$1 billion investment each year in arts and cultural programs as well as the engagement of cultural officers to better facilitate events and improve relationships. Local government's primary responsibility in the past was for libraries and community centres, but like in many other elements, local government is expanding its support to things like travelling art exhibitions, sponsoring theatre and dance productions and promoting local culture and heritage.

"Creative Australia, the first national cultural policy for nearly 20 years, recognises that we must update our strategies because of the major changes sweeping through the cultural sector with digital communication and because more and more Australians are actively participating in cultural activities," Minister Crean said.

"The cultural sector-the arts, cultural heritage and the creative industries-must have the skills, resources, and resilience to play an active role in Australia's future.

"Australia must be a creative nation that spurs innovation, creates jobs for the 21st century and shapes a future of prosperity and shared opportunity.

"One of the five goals of the national cultural policy is to recognise, respect and celebrate the centrality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures to the uniqueness of the Australian identity.

"Through *Creative Australia* we will work to preserve the hundreds of languages used in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and provide support for traditional and contemporary forms of cultural expression."

The focus on celebrating Australia's first peoples highlights the continued need for more work to support those communities in a range of ways. Many of which local government not only supports strongly but provides for, including housing and other social services. The value of cultural awareness and engagement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians cannot be underestimated.

Read the full suite of Pathways for Action and initiatives in Creative Australia:
creativeaustraliaculture.arts.gov.au

National Transport Taskforce calls for federal transport leadership

A Taskforce made up of national organisations, including ALGA, has called on the Federal Government to take a leading role in transport infrastructure, planning and pricing following the release of *the Moving Australia 2030* report this week.

The report and ALGA's involvement, focuses on initiatives for more active transport.

"Australia's capital cities, major cities and regions are developing in a way that is ad hoc, unsustainable and risks our future quality of life and prosperity," Executive Director of the Bus Industry Confederation, Michael Apps said.

"The current Government through Minister Albanese has made a good start by initiating federal government investment in public transport infrastructure, our cities and moving people.

"The Taskforce is commending this report to all major political parties to assist in the development of transport policies and programs in the two decades to 2030."

The report, *Moving Australia 2030: A Transport Plan for a Productive and Active Australia*, developed by the Moving People 2030 Taskforce, was launched by Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Anthony Albanese on Wednesday night.

Some key recommendations of the report are:

- Appointing a dedicated Commonwealth Minister to:
 - integrate land use planning and transport at a national level
 - oversee the implementation of Capital Cities Planning Criteria agreed to by the Council of Australian Governments
 - oversee the delivery of an expanded Liveable Cities program funding and set of projects.
- Reducing congestion in our cities through:
 - staggering school hours
 - increasing the span of operating hours and frequency of public transport services
 - providing flexible work hours for all government employees.
- Developing a set of Moving People Infrastructure criteria to encourage Federal Government investment in walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure.
- Making regulatory changes and providing incentives to encourage car sharing through:
 - amending Compulsory Third Party insurance premiums for car share vehicles to accurately reflect the risk of accidents
 - integrating car share schemes with public transport ticketing
 - replacing conventional parking spaces in new residential developments with car share spaces.
- Developing High Speed Rail along Australia's east coast.
- Developing an Active Travel Strategy which includes walking, cycling and access to public transport.
- Developing a similar scheme to Fringe Benefits Tax for work related public

transport trips.

The report states that to maintain our high standard of living in 2030, Australians will have to make almost a third of all trips by walking, cycling, buses and trains.

The Taskforce Membership is made up of representatives from the Australian Local Government Association, Australasian Railway Association, Bus Industry Confederation, Cycling Promotion Fund, National Heart Foundation, International Association of Public Transport Australia and New Zealand, Planning Institute of Australia, and Tourism and Transport Forum.

To access the *Moving Australia 2030* report, click [here](#).

President's Column

This week's announcement by Local Government Minister Simon Crean that state and bipartisan support is needed for a local government referendum to succeed highlights the importance of inter-governmental relationships. Over the next few weeks, Minister Crean will be holding face to face meetings with Local Government Ministers and negotiating with the states and territories for their support for a 2013 referendum to recognise local government in the Australian Constitution.

Final recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government and findings of the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government reinforced the requirement for the federal government to liaise with states and territories, recognising that their support was one of the preconditions for a successful outcome.

ALGA and our state associations of local government have been in discussions with Premiers and Chief Ministers and we are concerned about the lack of support from some states. Victoria, Western Australia, New South Wales and Tasmania have said that they will not support a 2013 referendum on financial recognition of local government in the Constitution.

Minister Crean's goal to secure support in six weeks has been welcomed by ALGA and we will be working to assist in achieving this task, as we understand that support of states is crucial for the referendum to succeed.

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis
ALGA President

New council for disaster risk management

A new national council is to be established to coordinate the risk management of damaging floods and make recommendations on projects to mitigate floods and other natural disasters.

Announced by Prime Minister Julia Gillard, the National Insurance Affordability Council will also undertake other functions directed at reducing natural disaster insurance

premiums.

Ms Gillard said three priority areas of work had been identified for the Council to commence immediately.

"This includes a \$7 million contribution to building the Roma levy and \$10 million to upgrade flood defences in Ipswich," Ms Gillard said.

"The Government will make available up to \$50 million over two years to any NSW Government proposal for flood mitigation in Western Sydney by raising the Warragamba Dam."

She said despite a series of significant reforms to the flood insurance market, in flood prone areas affordability of flood cover remained a problem.

"Minimising damage from flood and other natural disasters is the only sustainable way to reduce insurance premiums over time," she said.

"Experience in Australia and internationally has shown that mitigation can sustainably reduce insurance premiums."

Housing affordability plan for mining regions

The Queensland Government has released an action plan to address housing affordability in mining regions.

It says current planning systems are too restrictive and councils often do not have funding to provide infrastructure to develop new blocks of land.

Queensland Infrastructure and Planning Minister Jeff Seeney says the plan will address those problems over the next two years with targeted initiatives for communities in the Surat and Bowen basins.

Councils encouraged to support Earth Hour 2013

ALGA President and Mayor of Marion, Felicity-ann Lewis, has become an Earth 2013 Ambassador and is urging councils across the country to support Earth Hour 2013 and play a central role in helping the environment.

Earth Hour will be held on Saturday 23 March, 8.30-9.30pm. But this year, Australians aren't just switching off the lights for an hour, they're making a pledge to switch to renewable energy.

According to Earth Hour organisers, 1.5 million Australian households have already switched to renewable energy.

Mayor Lewis said her community of Marion will be participating in Earth Hour this year, with non-essential lighting in the city's buildings to be switched off.

Communities with the highest number of pledges to switch to renewable energy will win solar power prizes.

For more information, please visit www.earthhour.org.au

Enabling best practice to create healthier communities

The Collaboration of Community-based Obesity Prevention Sites (CO-OPS Collaboration) provides support to community-based obesity prevention initiatives (CBOPI) by promoting best practice, assisting in knowledge translation and exchange amongst practitioners and stakeholders involved in CBOPI, and by establishing evidence quality and evaluation systems to increase the value and impact of CBOPI's and the provision of an ongoing knowledge transfer, support, resources, and dissemination services.

The overall aim of this project is to create a robust national Knowledge Translation and Exchange system which links academic, policy and practice professionals to ensure best practice in the promotion of healthy eating, regular physical activity and healthy weight as key factors to help prevent chronic disease.

The CO-OPS Collaboration was originally funded by the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) for four years from 2007 to 2011. In July 2012, DoHA committed to funding a new and expanded version of the CO-OPS Obesity Prevention Network for three years. This expanded version of CO-OPS is collaboration between Deakin University, the University of Melbourne, the University of Sydney and Flinders University, with the secretariat based in the Who CC at the Deakin Waterfront Campus.

2013 CO-OPS events - save the date!

- needs assessment consultations across all states/territories to enhance our services and support to practitioners (March - April 2013);
- the 2013 CO-OPS National Workshop (free to attend - 2-3 May 2013, Melbourne);
- Obesity Prevention Short Course (31 Apr - 2 May 2013, Melbourne);
- state-focused professional development workshops based on needs identified (2nd half of 2013); and
- a national on-line survey to track our progress.

If you would like more information visit www.co-ops.net.au, contact admin@co-ops.net.au or follow us on twitter @CO_OPS.

New food centre

A new Centre for Carbon, Water and Food has been officially opened at the University of Sydney.

Prime Minister, Julia Gillard said the state-of-the-art teaching and research facility would help Australian agriculture meet the challenges of producing more food of better quality while using less water and putting less carbon into the atmosphere.

"The Centre for Carbon, Water and Food will help tackle some of the country's largest environmental challenges, including those in the Murray-Darling Basin, issues around interaction between agriculture and mining, and the sustainable management of public and private rural land," Ms Gillard said.

"The new Centre will also house an interdisciplinary team of world leading researchers, working to face the challenge of feeding a growing world population, and strengthening Australia's potential as the food bowl of Asia.

"As the *Australia In The Asian Century White Paper* notes, the growth of the Asian middle class - to 3 billion people by 2030 - will provide opportunities for Australian businesses including those in the food technology and production industries."

She said a new milestone in Australian-Chinese collaboration had also been met with the Centre signing agreements with two leading Chinese agricultural research institutions.

"An agreement with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science will result in a Sino-Australia Joint Laboratory for Sustainable Agro-Ecosystems housed at the Centre, with a mirror facility in Beijing," she said.

"The Centre will establish a Sino-Australian Laboratory for Food Security, at the centre and in Nanjing in collaboration with Nanjing Agricultural University."

National Preventive Health Awards

Nominations are now open for the inaugural National Preventive Health Awards.

Managed by the Australian National Preventive Health Agency (ANPHA) the Awards reflect the Agency's commitment to improving health outcomes for all Australians in partnership with the national, state and territory governments and departments and agencies are welcome to nominate.

They showcase current, practical and effective workplace programs that benefit the well-being of employees and encourage leadership in the area of preventive health to promote greater awareness of current health challenges.

Chief Executive of ANPHA, Louise Sylvan said: "We know there are many people and organisations who contribute so much time and energy supporting prevention and better health and well-being around Australia," said Ms Sylvan.

"These Awards allow us to recognise the invaluable effort of those promoting healthy lifestyles to enhance the quality of life for many Australians."

She said four main categories were: the Healthy Workplace Awards; the Prevention in Medicare Locals Awards; the Preventive Health Translational Research Award; and the Excellence in Preventive Health Journalism Award.

Search begins for council de-merger transfer managers

The Queensland Government has advertised for "transfer managers" to oversee the de-amalgamation of the Noosa, Livingstone, Douglas and Mareeba councils.

Four people will be appointed from April to December to help set up the new councils, which are due to start operating on 1 January next year.

The ad calls for applicants with an understanding of local government and senior management experience in comparably sized organisations.

The president of the Douglas Chamber of Commerce says resurrecting the Douglas shire will strengthen the far north Queensland region's brand.

The chamber took a neutral position before Saturday's de-amalgamation poll.

President Phoebe Kitto says there are still financial concerns to address.

However, she says the split will be better for local businesses and tourism operators, who struggled to distinguish themselves from Cairns.

"This is a good opportunity for us to really stand up and talk about what we want, what environmental policies, what planning policies, what brand we're going to have in our own community."

"There have been some rumours that instead of being the Douglas regional council that we'd be the Daintree regional council.

"I think that has got a lot of merit and that is something that I would like to debate, and that we really identify ourselves as a unique brand up here."

NT review of super councils

A proposal has been made to replace the super shire structure of local government in the Northern Territory.

As part of their election campaign, the Country Liberals promised to reconsider the future of the shires, saying they were failing people in the bush.

The proposal involves replacing the eight super shires with regional councils.

He says these councils could be backed by local authorities made up of representatives of one or more communities.

Chief Minister Adam Giles says it too early to say how many councils would be needed but local people would take part in the decision-making process.

"It is up to the consultations to determine where people think their best boundaries are," he said.

"The regional council structure will be smaller than a shire; it will be a new model of

regional governance."

There is also a longer-term proposal to have other stakeholders like miners and cattle producers involved.

Regional councils seek \$4 billion infrastructure boost

A group of regional Victorian councils wants a \$4 billion funding boost to improve infrastructure and key services.

The alliance of ten of Victoria's biggest regional cities says the funding will help keep up with growth and ease pressure on Melbourne in the next 20 years.

The group, which includes Wodonga, Shepparton, Geelong, Bendigo and Ballarat, has released a report predicting the population in their municipalities could increase by up to 288,000 by 2031.

Group chairman Mark Byatt, the mayor of Wodonga, says the extra funding is needed in areas of transport, health, aged care and education.

"It pinpoints what investment needs to be done in those areas to grow and develop regional centres," he said.

"Regional cities become a very real option for the growth strategy but they do require good planning and they will require a long term approach to investment," he said.

SA provides \$2.7m Regional Development Fund

Non-metropolitan Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees in South Australia have successfully secured funding under the South Australian Government's \$2.7 million Regional Development Fund (RDF), which is designed to grow stronger, sustainable and competitive regions.

The RDF allows non-metropolitan RDA committees to access funds to deliver programs that facilitate regional economic development. Each committee developed a program that was tailored to their region's needs and supported the creation of new regional employment and attraction of new investment and/or reinvestment.

The grants announced on 21 February 2013 will contribute to:

- expansion of the vibrant economic and social base in the Yorke and Mid North region
- an economic development program for the Eyre and Western region
- realisation of the benefits of mining in a vibrant Far North region
- strengthening of the food and wine economy in the Barossa, Light and Lower North region
- sustainable growth for food and wine in the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island region
- economic diversification and support to small to medium enterprises for the

Limestone Coast region

- smarter digital regions and a growth in primary industries for the Murray and Mallee region, and

The funds announced will be available from 1 July 2013.

Further information is available at the [Regional Development Fund website](#).

Visit the [My RDA - South Australia website](#) to find out more about RDA committees in South Australia.

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Editor: newscomments@alga.asn.au Tel: 02 6122 9434.
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6 March 2013

Rates Cap Plan Not Good for Communities

Communities would likely lose local services and facilities and get minimal relief from their total tax burden under a plan announced by WA Labor to introduce a system to cap Local Government rates and ultimately align them with the consumer price index.

WA Local Government Association President Mayor Troy Pickard said the plan had a number of critical flaws, not the least of which are the small proportion that Council rates comprise in an individual's total tax bill and that the factors contributing to the calculation of the CPI have little bearing on the costs of providing Council services and facilities.

Mayor Pickard said the proposal by WA Labor Leader Mark McGowan was ill conceived and lacked appropriate economic fundamentals.

"There is so much wrong about this idea. It sounds reasonable in isolation but quickly unravels when you start to work through the implementation and the reality of local community financing," Mayor Pickard said.

"Let's start with what it really means for households to reduce Council rates in terms of their total tax burden. With 83 per cent of tax raised by the Federal Government, 14 per cent by the State and just three per cent by Local Government, the saving is not going to be much.

"On to the principle that the CPI could underpin Council rates. Again this sounds logical but the variables - the basket of consumer goods - that make up the CPI are not what inflates the costs of Council operations. These costs in the main are labour costs and infrastructure costs."

Mayor Pickard said for the past four years WALGA has set a Local Government Cost Index which it recommends be applied to Council rates as a more appropriate measure of the inflation effects on Council costs.

"Certainly if a community is asked to pay rate increases in excess of the Local Government Cost Index then we would expect the relevant Council can provide an adequate explanation, such as funding a one-off major project; under rating in previous years; or to meet an extra ordinary loss of revenue or increased costs as a consequence of decisions by other spheres of Government such as cutting grants or shifting service responsibility," he said.

"But rest assured there is no interest or attraction to any Local Government Elected Member to unduly increase rates and have to answer to an aggrieved community.

"I don't know of a single Councillor out there who takes lightly the decision to set the annual rates bill for the community. Local Government is the pointy end of democracy. Unlike Commonwealth and State MPs, there is no distance between a local Councillor and the community when it comes to setting rates. Nobody is more connected to that decision and its impacts on the community, than your local Councillor.

"Placing contrived interventions like rate capping and CPI based indexation into the rating system will only serve to undermine service delivery, accountability, and ultimately good governance, at the local level."

Mayor Pickard said he was further surprised by Mr McGowan's apparent willingness to embrace the example of the former NSW State Government.

"I've not heard anyone cite the former NSW Government as a best practice example of how to manage the public sector," he said.

"We don't want that example prevailing in WA."

Mayor Pickard said notwithstanding, WALGA and Local Government would hope to be able to work cooperatively and respectfully with whichever administration is elected next weekend and would have gladly advised Mr McGowan of the gaping holes in his rates proposal had comment been sought.

Ends

FOR COMMENT PLEASE CONTACT:

Mayor Troy Pickard, WALGA President 0409 209 649

Kate Murray, Marketing and Media Manager 0448 896 435

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1.1 EMPLOYEE MOVEMENTS

New Staff:

- Casual Netball Umpire – commence 27/2/13.
- Supervisor Streetscapes – commence 3/4/13.

Staff Leaving:

- Irrigation Fitter - resignation effective 22/3/2013.

Other Staff Movements (Internal):

- Nil

Current Recruitment Activity:

- Senior Building Surveyor – position on hold.
- Supervisor Streetscapes – recruitment complete.
- Parks Maintenance Operator (Civic Precinct) – suitable candidate withdrawn from process, no suitable alternative candidates available. Vacancy put on hold.
- Coordinator Asset Management – interviews completed, recruitment progressing.
- Senior Asset Officer – interviews completed, recruitment progressing.
- Asset Officer – interviews completed, recruitment progressing.
- Library Clerk (Part-time) – applications closed 14/3/13.
- Subdivision Engineer – applications close 21/3/13.
- Irrigation Fitter – applications close 4/4/13.
- Leading Hand Parks – applications close 4/4/13.

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TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS		
ITEM	REFERRING COMMITTEE	COMMENTS
Nil		

Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Update for February 2013

Submission from Cr Jeff Munn

The MWAC Update, aims to summarise the main points from the meeting and keep MWAC informed of key issues. If you have any feedback/suggestions on the content of the Update please let me know.

Policy / Programs

Metropolitan Local Government Review Submission: MWAC discussed a draft Submission on the Review's final Report. The Council amended the Draft Submission Recommendations to indicate the State Government needs to establish its waste management credibility by immediately restoring full hypothecation of the Landfill Levy. Several other points were raised in relation to the non-metropolitan impacts of this review and the need for great flexibility for Local Government to deliver services (e.g. through Regional Subsidiaries). The amended Submission will be tabled at the State Council meeting; State Councillors on MWAC were requested to strongly represent MWAC in this discussion.

State Planning Strategy: Comments on the State Planning Strategy were included in the Agenda and agreed. The Forum of Regional Council indicated that they had generated a Report on infrastructure which could also be useful in the development of the Planning Strategy. FORC will present to this Report to the next MWAC meeting.

Waste & Recycle Conference: There was a robust discussion regarding the Conference, issues raised will be presented to the Conference Organising Committee to inform the development of future Conferences. A full list of the issues raised will be circulated to MWAC, members will have the opportunity to provide further input prior to the next MWAC meeting. It was agreed that an independent survey of Local Government Elected Members, not currently attending the Conference, be undertake. A meeting between all the parties to the Conference will occur to discuss the frequency of the event and other issues.

Construction & Demolition (C&D) Recycling – The results of a survey of Local Governments on the use of C&D was presented. To assist in addressing barriers to the use of C&D MWAC will host a workshop with presentations by key players. This will be developed in the next few months and target Local Government Officers and Elected Members.

Cash for Containers: A report on the Campaign was tabled and it was clarified that over 1,500 signatures had been collected and nearly 1,000 emails had been sent to the Environment Minister.

Metropolitan Mayors Meeting: The Metropolitan Mayors met and waste management was discussed. The next Mayors' meeting will provide the MWAC Chair with the opportunity to outline contemporary issues for waste management.

Procedural

Amendment to MWAC Unconfirmed Minutes: MWAC agreed to Amend the Unconfirmed Minutes of the meeting on 19 December to more fully recognise the outcomes of the discussion on the Green Building Council Submission.

Research Paper on Tyres: MWAC endorsed the Tyre Research Paper and requested further information on the burden of proof required under the Environmental Protection Act and the requirements for tyre disposal.

Household Hazardous Waste: Information requested at the previous MWAC meeting was provided, a change of date for Gosnells Temporary Collection Day was noted.

TV's and Computers Information Session – 22 March, venue and exact timing TBA, this will be promoted to both Elected Members and Local Government Officers

Next MWAC meeting: 4pm, Wednesday 24 April 2013, Local Government House, 15 Altona Street.

BLESSING OF THE ROADS – EASTER 2013 CAMPAIGN

The WA Local Government Association's RoadWise programme is once again assisting Local Governments to promote road safety in the lead up to the Easter long weekend (29 March to 1 April, 2013).

The Easter long weekend is known to be one of the busiest times on the road. The Blessing of the Roads campaign reminds road users of their responsibility particularly over this long weekend.

The Blessing of the Roads Program has three aims:

- To raise Community awareness of driving safely over the peak period of Easter.
- To create perception that apprehension is inevitable through promotion of Enforcement Operations by local police in the local area.
- To use high profile local people to support the community awareness and police enforcement activity.

The campaign calls on the community to:

- slow down,
- don't drink and drive,
- wear seatbelts,
- ensure children are properly restrained,
- take breaks to avoid fatigue, and to
- turn off mobile phones to avoid being distracted whilst driving.

In this regard the City of Armadale in conjunction with the City's RoadWise Advisory Committee will be conducting the Blessing of the Roads Service on Saturday 23 March 2013 commencing at 10.00am in Memorial Park.

The event in the past has been supported by local primary school children, this year the invitation has been extended to all local high school student groups.

Officers from the Technical Services Directorate will assist with the coordination of the event.

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COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS – FEBRUARY 2013		
	DEPT.	ACTION/STATUS
That the portion of the Armadale-Fremantle Railway Line remnants from Nicholson Road to Taylor Road is worthy of entry in the MHI at an “A” Management level in its entirety.	Libraries and Heritage Services	D1/6/12 Resolve that the preservation and enhancement of historical items be referred to Community Services Committee for further investigation.
That the matter of a policy in regard to acquisitions, commissioning and funding of public artworks be referred to the Community Services Committee.	Community Planning Infrastructure	C45/11/12 Request the development of a Public Art Policy for consideration. <i>Comment:</i> <i>In preparation of the Policy, an audit is currently being undertaken of the City’s existing public art including those provided by the private sector.</i>
That the matter of an intervention strategy for the Forrestdale Community be referred to the Community Services Committee.	Community Services	A policy/report to Community Services C10/3/13

COMMUNITY PLANNING:

Bakers House

The Baker's House "Opening Event" occurred on Sunday the 10th March, 2013. Around 100 guests and community members gathered to see the new facility followed by a concert by award winning band Stratosfunk. Throughout the afternoon, people enjoyed the refreshments and children's entertainment as well as being able to wander through the facility and ask questions. It was a family friendly event with a positive atmosphere and palpable sense of pride.

Master Planning - Springdale Park, Cross Park, John Dunn Reserve and Rushton Park

The Master Plans for Springdale Park and Cross Park were approved by Council on 11 March 2013. Work is progressing on the detailed design of the Cross Park Skate Park in its location towards Jarrah Road and adjacent to the Roleystone Hall. Community Services is in discussion with the Roleystone Karragullen Cricket Club regarding new cricket nets, the Roleystone Musicians Club regarding events and built facilities and the Society of Creative Anachronism. Further public advertising for John Dunn Reserve and Rushton Park with signs on site is being undertaken for a further four week period, prior to Council consideration.

Shared Use Sites in Piara Waters and Harrisdale

The City has worked with the Department of Education to produce concept plans to guide the development of three community and sporting sites shared with schools in Piara Waters and Harrisdale. The sites include two Primary Schools (yet to be developed) in Piara Waters and the future High School and one Primary School site in Harrisdale. First draft concept plans have been prepared and have been refined by the City officers, representatives of the Department of Education and the consultant team. It is anticipated final concepts will be available mid-March 2013.

Armadale Golf Course Redevelopment

The City has been successful in obtaining \$315,590 from the Department of Sport and Recreation CSRFF 2013/2014 funding round. Community Planning, in liaison with Parks Services in the detailed design and delivery of this project.

Jull Street Revitalisation Project

The Jull St Mall Revitalisation Project report was presented at the 19 February 2013 City Strategy Committee meeting. The mid-year budget review approved \$70,000 for works to be undertaken. Detailed design of the new lighting is underway. Community Development Officers undertook a forum with Police and youth service providers on 13 March 2013 to help identify further ways to reduce anti-social behaviour in the Jull Street Mall.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

ACCESS & INCLUSION

Accessible and Inclusive Businesses

The Disability Advisory Team has formed a working group to assist businesses to become accessible and inclusive. This is an action from the City's 'Disability Access and Inclusion Plan', Outcome eight, Action 8.2.1 Provide advice and support to local businesses to become accessible and inclusive. The group is considering possible strategies and has invited Business Armadale to participate in the process.

Transition from Children's Activities to Adult Activities

Organisations that provide community services for people in Armadale, including the Disability Services Commission – Kelmscott, Therapy Focus, Interworks/Lifeskills and City staff have formed a working group to progress community inclusion of people with a disability aged between 16 and 18 years. Other organisations to be invited to join the initiative include 3leaps Learning, SMP, Rocky Bay, Transpirit, and Neami.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Families Week event

Plans are underway to celebrate National Families week on Monday 20th May 2013 at Evelyn Gribble Community Centre. Discussions have begun with Department for Communities, Best Start Playgroup, Parkerville, Armadale Community and Family Centre, Communicare Communities for Children, Child and Adolescent Community Health, Bunnings and Stockland to hold a morning gathering families together. The event will be an opportunity to connect with families who have children in the immediate area through child focussed activities which support a Nature Play and Sustainable approach.

Stargate Drama Program

The next Stargate Drama program has commenced following a wonderful response from parents and children who were selected by their teachers to be involved. Classes will be held at the Armadale Community and Family Centre for the next 12 weeks with a two week break for the school holidays. The Stargate Drama program is supported by the City as part of the Children and Families program.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The City of Armadale is working with Neighbourhood Watch to launch the Street Meet and Greets in the new areas of Harrisdale and Piara Waters. Neighbourhood Watch will be attending the Stockland Easter Family Fun Day on the 23 March to promote the Street Meet and Greet barbecues. A community Neighbour Day is also

being held on the 7 April in partnership with Satterley. Neighbourhood Watch will be attending with the Activity Trailer and a free sausage sizzle will be provided.

On the 12th March more than 40 people converged on the newly opened Baker's House for the City's first Networking Lunch of the year. Held three times a year at local venues throughout the City, Networking Lunches bring together local organisations to share ideas, discover new topics and mingle over a light lunch. An assortment of organisations and service providers attended the lunch which focussed on future planning and included a demonstration of the online demographic, economic and forecasting tools available from the City's website. Feedback from the event was very positive and planning for follow-up sessions is currently underway. The next networking lunch will be held on Tuesday 30 July.

Community Grants and Annual Contributions

The second round of the City's 2012/13 Community Grants program closed on 4th March 2013 and are currently being assessed. Applications for the 2013/14 Annual Contributions program have also closed and will be recommended to the April Community Services Committee meeting.

IGNITE BASKETBALL

Ignite Basketball is in week 30 of its 40 week operating period. To ensure the continuation of Ignite Basketball for a 3 year period the City of Armadale has submitted an application for the Indigenous Sport and Active Recreation Program through the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport.

The Indigenous Sport and Active Recreation program aims to support community participation in sport and active recreation activities that help to improve the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Australians and contribute to broader social benefits.

Saturday 2 March finals night saw our biggest night yet with 54 young people participate in a hotly contested battle of the leader board. After a gruelling Ignite Fitness challenge participants launched into the finals. Points were awarded for on-court and workshop skills, initiative, good behaviour and sportsmanship.

After an intensive three hours, the Dream Team took out the top spot with second place going to the Black Sharks and the Bulls clinching third. Dean Mead won the award for Best Effort, Josh Nicholls for Leadership and Kevin Ichigoshi was awarded Most Valuable Player. Visit www.facebook.com/ignitebasketball for photos from the event.

What are you doing to make the world a better place?

This simple question was put to the participants following a presentation on some of the high profile negative stories in the media. There was an examination of how they, the youth of Australia, are portrayed in the media. With the understanding that they can choose to affect those around them negatively or positively, participants were given the task of doing at least one act of random kindness throughout the week and documenting it. Participants were encouraged to explore how this act made them feel

and how it made the person they helped feel. This provided them with the opportunity to think about the impact a simple selfless act can make to those around them and make the world a better place.

Referee course

Six participants of Ignite Basketball (both staff and young people) were qualified as referees through an accredited Basketball WA course on Sunday 10 March. The course improved existing referee standards and provided young people the skills to be able to umpire their own games. These courses will ultimately allow young people take complete ownership of Ignite Basketball and run the program independently.

Bibbulmun Track Hike

Marmun Mia-Mia and Ignite Basketball have coordinated an overnight camp on the Bibbulmun Track on Saturday 30 March. This camp is open to young men aged between 12 and 18 and their male relatives (fathers, uncles and grandfathers). The young men will be encouraged to move out from their comfort zones, learn basic bush skills and reconnect with their culture.

Lifeworx Workshops

Since the start of the year Lifeworx has been delivering Team Building workshops at each session covering topics including leadership skills, conflict resolution and backwards career planning. Young people have examined and discussed the roles of leaders and how groups become cohesive units, while being presented with problem solving activities which they must face as a team.

POSITIVE AGEING

Positive Ageing Working Group Meeting

The 'Positive Ageing Working Group' met on 11 March to discuss Age Friendly Parks, the recently released 'Age-Friendly Strategic Planning Framework 2012 – 2017', the 'Positive Ageing Activities Day', the 'Seniors' Recreation Councils' new X-gaming XBOX KINECT, plans for a future information forum and the working group Terms of Reference.

'Seniors' Recreation Council'

The 'Seniors' Recreation Council' is recognised as the peak body for organisations supporting seniors' involvement in sport and recreation. The Seniors' Recreation Council has prioritised initiatives which encourage participation, policy development, community leadership and which promote the potential of the over fifties age group to contribute to the community. In partnership with Local Governments, the Seniors' Recreation Council hosts the program 'Be Active Seniors Activity/Information Days for the over 45's. The 'Seniors' Recreation Council' will host an activity day later this year in partnership with the City with the intention of making this an annual event.

Positive Ageing Activities Day

The City of Armadale, Dale Cottages, and the Seniors' Recreation Council will host an activities day on Wednesday 10 April, 9.00am – 12.30pm at the Greendale Centre.

The Seniors' Recreation Council will present X-gaming XBOX KINECT as an exercise tool. Activities will include Lifeball, exercise programs (Funtastics) and Bench Warmers, Tai Chi, Pole Walking and other fun activities. Self-serve morning tea and a light lunch will be available.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Armadale Volunteer Services continues to see a large increase in volunteering enquiries. The Step into Volunteering session held at the Armadale library on 28 February attracted 22 attendees, a two fold increase on the number of participants who attended the session held in September 2012.

The Armadale Volunteer Services Coordinator has worked in partnership with WACOSS to deliver 'Managing Challenging Behaviours' training at Frye Park, and hosted a Volunteer Management Network meeting for Volunteer Coordinators in the SE Corridor. The Coordinator represents the service on WA's Volunteer Resource Centre Network steering committee.

Planning is now well underway for National Volunteer Week celebrations in May 2013.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Youth Services Forum

The City held a youth services forum on 13 March to encourage collaboration between youth service providers in the area. Services provided an overview of their organisation's activities and made a commitment to work collaboratively to develop a program of activities to engage young people in the Jull Street mall.

National Youth Week 2013

National Youth Week is celebrated from the 5th – 14th of April and this year the theme is 'Be active, be happy, be you'. In partnership with Armadale Youth Resources, Drug ARM and Save the Children the City of Armadale will host a celebration for National Youth week on Sunday the 14th of April between 11.00am – 6.00pm. The event will feature a skate, BMX and Scooter competition at the Youth Activity Area, with fashion, art and service provider stalls plus the Amp it Up youth music concert taking place in Memorial Park.

The City of Armadale received a \$1000 grant from the Department of Communities, National Youth Week grants program to support this event.

Young Women's Leadership Forum

The City of Armadale was approached by a representative of the UN Women Australia Perth Committee (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women) to offer support and for them to run a free forum for young women in Armadale. The forum will take place on Friday the 17th of May at Frye Park Pavilion, during school hours. The UN women committee will provide the facilitators and resources for the forum and will be making contact with Armadale local high school's to seek up to 6 students from each school to attend. The forum will discuss women in leadership roles, workshop and skill sessions and develop leadership capacity and skills.

FEBRUARY 2013

LEISURE SERVICES

ARMADALE ARENA

Programs

Team sports and term programs have re-commenced in line with the school year. The main focus with team sports has been to attract new teams to the competitions after court closures in winter 2012. Term programs average participant occupancy is 70% . Programs include monkey play and children's sport skills. Radkids fitness program for 8 - 12 years was also launched in February. Creche attendances have continued increasing, a direct reflection of the demand on programs and group fitness classes.

Health and Fitness

In February the Arena had 202 members. Member retention programs have commenced in the gym with monthly fitness challenges which are greatly received by participants. The second round of HBF outdoor fitness in Minnowarra Park finished early February, the program attracted an average of 37 participants per session and was well received by residents.

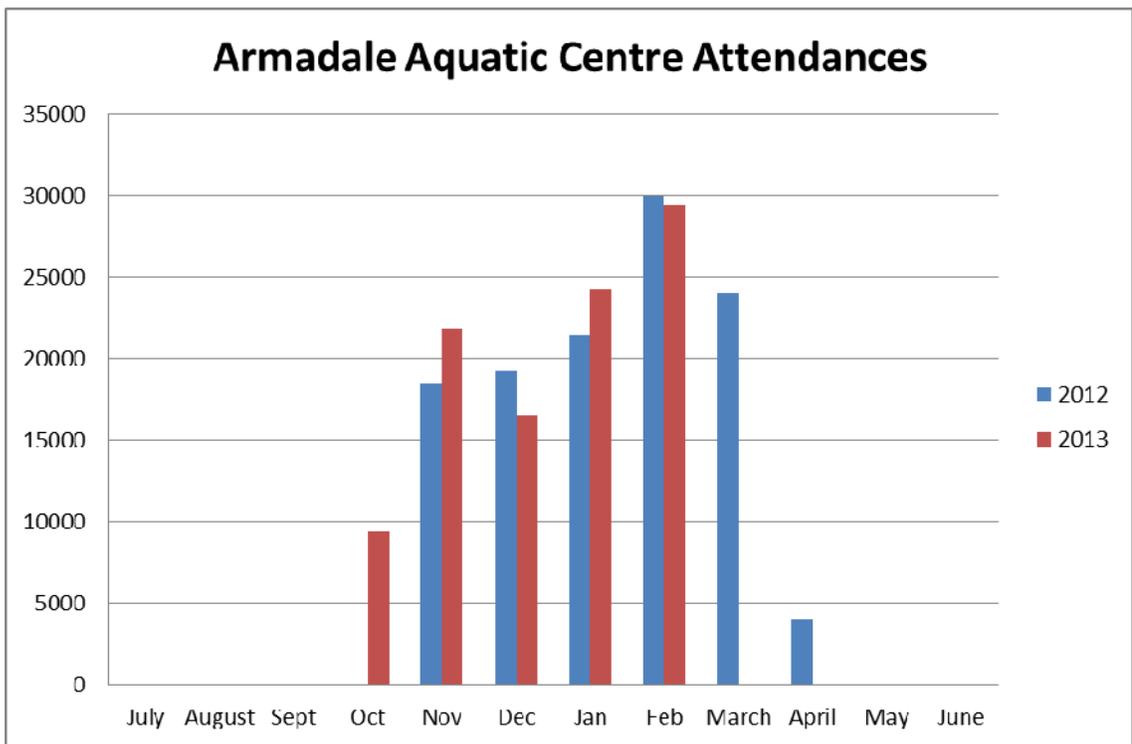
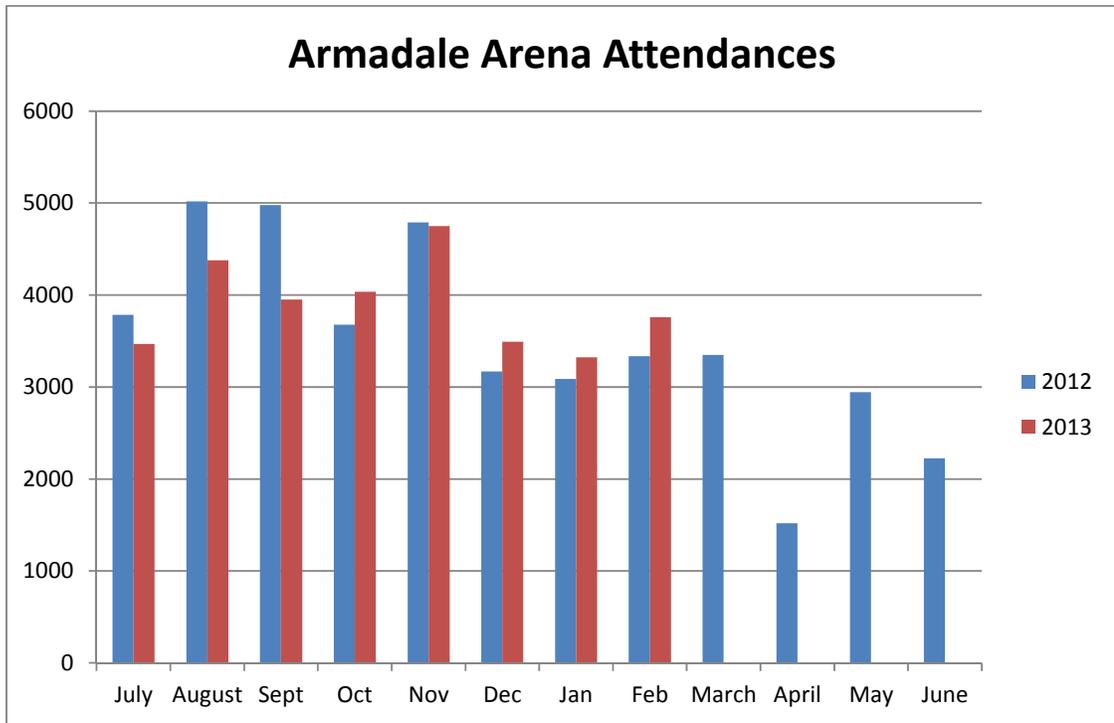
Facility Usage

All regular hirers returned in February 2013 with the centre now hosting 2 dance groups, PCYC programs, roller skating, roller hockey, community physiotherapy programs, social badminton and pilates classes. In addition a new regular hirer has commenced with Hip Hop dance classes.

Combining these programs with regular City of Armadale programs is creating a buzz at the centre which is reflected in the increase in monthly attendances.

ARMADALE AQUATIC CENTRE

The Aquatic Centre attendances increased slightly in January with Vacswim at capacity and the City of Armadale learn to swim program also attracting an increase in enrolments this year. February has again been fully booked with school drops during the week. Aqua Aerobics has been a highlight program this year with a new instructor taking regular and aqua zumba classes.



FEBRUARY 2013

LIBRARY SERVICES

Statistical Performance Indicators

The Library Department's statistical performance indicators report for the month of February 2013:

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

42 regular sessions were held. These include: story time, Baby Rhyme Time, Books on Wheels, World of Words Multicultural Group, reading & writing groups, computer training sessions, games mornings and Men's Social Group. A total of 326 people participated in these various activities.

Only one additional Library and Heritage community engagement session was held in the City's libraries this month.

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

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

“E” (Educate, Explore) Session

Report – General session

Prepared by – *Susan Hall– Historian/ Local Studies Librarian -BLSL - library*

Topic: 100 years of Brookton policing

Date: 6 February 2013

Venue: Armadale Library meeting room

Twenty one people attended the talk by Ellen Parrick on the ‘100 years of Brookton policing’. This was three more than had booked for the late afternoon's presentation.

Ellen gave a brief history of the settlement of the Brookton district and the need for a resident police officer to be appointed to the district.

The police station, built in 1913, was occupied by the first permanent officer and his family in December of that year. One all-purpose room of the building was dedicated to police and court operations, with two separate lock-up cells constructed at the rear of the property. The remainder of the building was dedicated to the officer's residence. The building underwent several structural changes before closing as a police station in the 1980s and then becoming the local history museum.

The audience was enthralled by Ellen's passion for the history of Brookton and its police station. This was furthered when recognition was given to the number of

Information Items from the Community Services Directorate

pioneering families from the City of Armadale, and more recent residents, sharing a history with the Brookton district.

“E” (Enrich, Educate, Explore, Escape, Entertain, Evolve) Session**A new offering from the City’s Library Service:**

The City’s libraries are places where book clubs meet. These are basically independently organised and like all book clubs can only accommodate a finite number of people. Waiting lists tend to be high. The large number of requests received by the library staff from members of the public looking to join a book club or some book sharing group, has been the impetus for a new service to be introduced this month.

With an enticing title of ‘NovelNibbles & BookBites’ these sessions will be held initially twice a month, with one session at Kelmscott and the other at Armadale Library on Tuesday and Thursday mornings respectively. The concept is not to share the same book, rather for participants to discuss with other book lovers what they have read or are reading (in any form, hard copy or digital) and to engender discussion about those titles. As well as ‘nibbles and bites’ about the story that might encourage others to extend their reading interests, ‘nibbles and bites’ of morning tea will make the sessions a pleasure to attend.

If the concept is embraced by the community, additional sessions can be introduced as they will take little staff time to arrange, rather it is the library providing the space for like-minded people to get together and talk reading. A librarian will attend all sessions to assist in ensuring that they are a success for all participants. Afternoon sessions, or evening sessions over wine and cheese, are options for growing what we hope will be a popular addition to the library service’s community engagement sessions.

HERITAGE SERVICES**Statistical Performance Indicators**

The Heritage Department’s statistical performance indicators report for the month of February 2013:

Birtwistle Local Studies Library

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

The following projects and activities have involved the BLSL staff, volunteers or visitors:

The Birtwistle Local Studies Library commenced full activity at the beginning of February when the volunteers returned after their summer break. Planned events for the month included the talk by Ellen Parrick from the Brookton Historical Society and later in the month, the Family Tree Group meeting. Two new volunteers have offered their services to the Birtwistle Library and volunteers continue to interview local identities regarding their association with the district of Armadale. A varied list of visitors to the library and requests from the local history collection has kept staff and volunteers busy during this month.

Research

Volunteer, Vern Pascoe has committed to photographing the progress being made with the replacement of the existing Buckingham Bridge in Kelmscott with a re-aligned and wider bridge.

A team of former Girl Guide leaders are meeting regularly once a month in the Birtwistle Library to piece together the history of the organisation in the districts of Kelmscott and Armadale. The project is in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the organisation in Australia in 2015.

Volunteers

Two new volunteers have joined the Birtwistle Library team. One will have the responsibility of selecting articles of interest from the Comment Newspaper, the Examiner Newspaper, the Roleystone Courier and the Valley Reporter. The other will be involved with re-typing of past memoirs so they will be available as digital copies.

Polo-shirts in royal blue colour have been organized for the Local Studies Library and Museum volunteers, and are now ready for distribution. They have the City's logo and the words "Volunteer" on the left-hand side breast pocket area and "It's your history" on the right-hand sleeve. It is useful for volunteers to be recognized by members of the public.

Donation

Margaret Bettenay has donated her invaluable collection of photographs and albums, reports, memorabilia and books to the Birtwistle Local Studies Library. These were gathered during her time as the honorary curator at the History House Museum and as president of the Armadale-Kelmscott Historical Society.

A list of the donated items has been made and the collection will be gradually sorted, catalogued and filed with relevant documents and items handed onto the History House Museum.

History House Museum

(Report prepared by Christen Bell, Museum Curator)

Volunteers

The museum volunteers have been working hard assisting with collection management as well as other special projects.

These projects have included:

- reconstructing a set of fold out chairs once used at the Armadale Hall,
- and building two plinths, one for the display of the recently donated harpsichord and one for the restored set of chairs from the Armadale Hall.

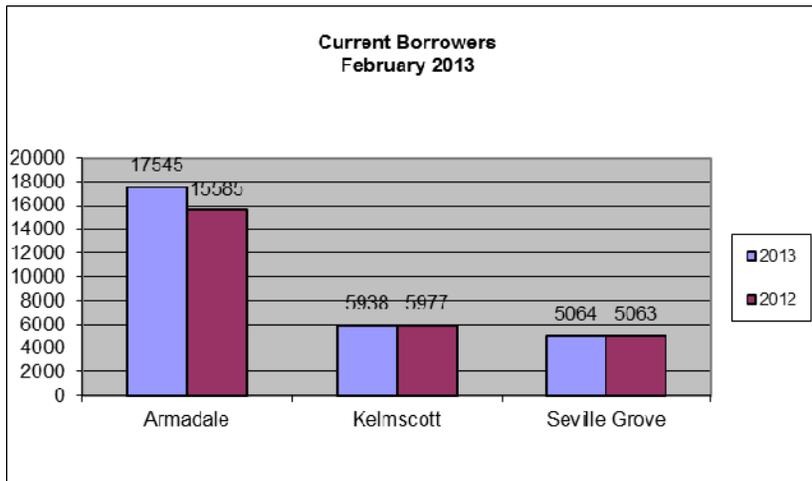
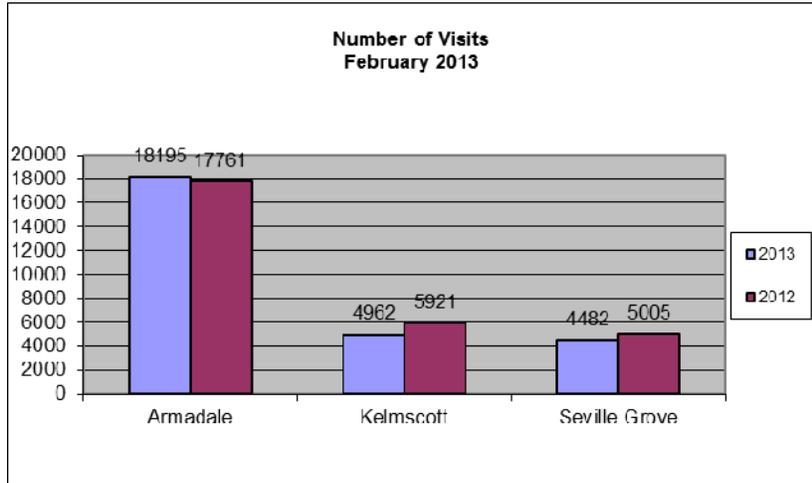
Exhibitions

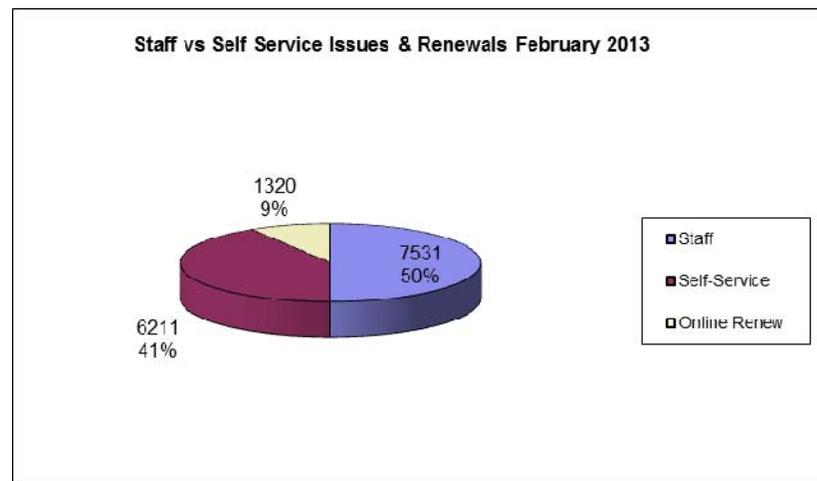
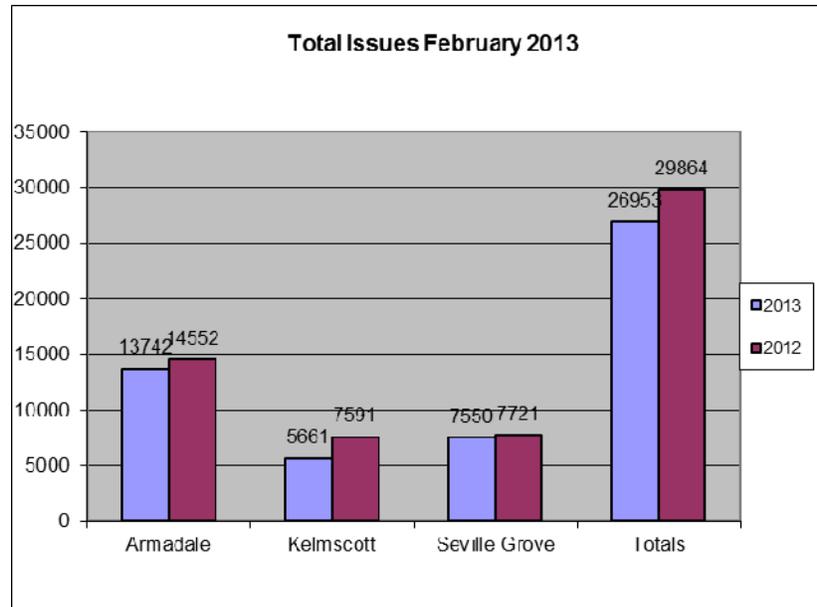
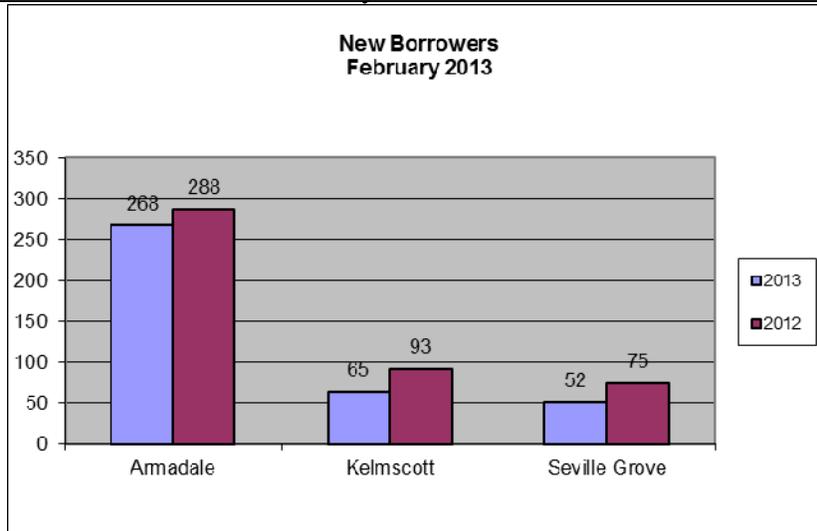
Museum staff are currently researching and preparing the next temporary exhibition at History House. It is titled *Well I'll be Dammed* and tells the story of the "Hills Water Scheme" which saw the construction of the Churchman Brook, Canning and Wungong dams in the City of Armadale district. The exhibition will open in April.

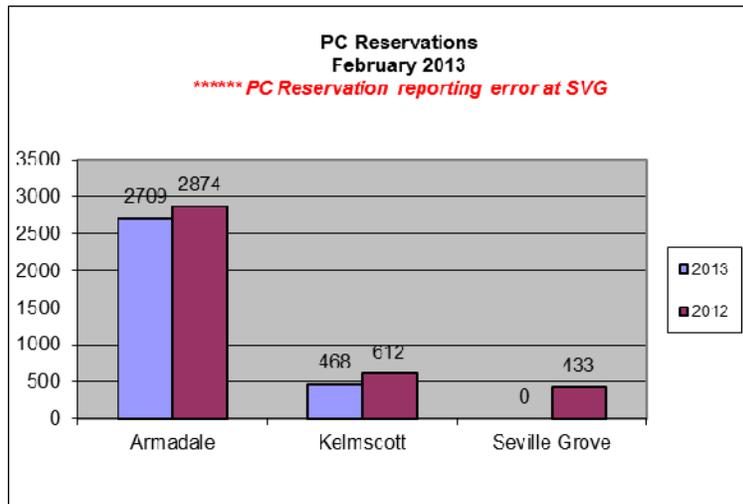
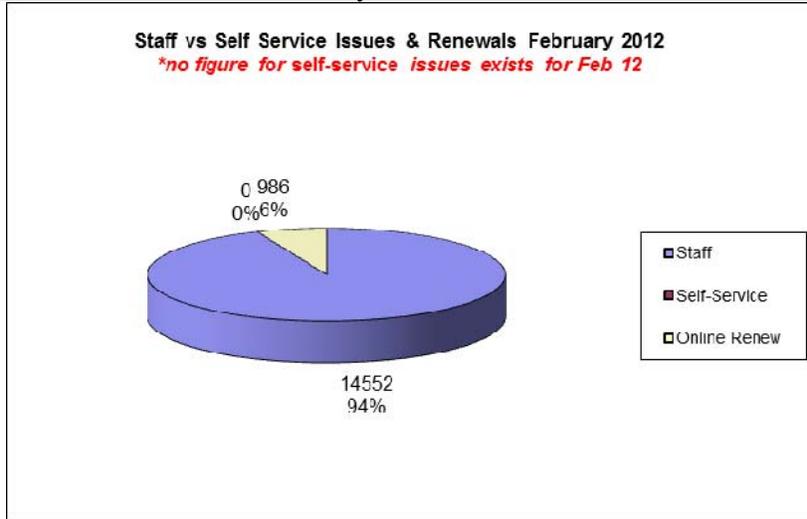
LIBRARIES AND HERITAGE

Statistics:

January







Statistics

February 2013

Birtwistle Local Studies Library				
	Current Month	Year to date		
	Feb 13	Feb 12	Jul 12-Feb 13	Jul 11–Feb 12
Reference Enquiries	5	21	58	81
Research Enquiries	4	18	65	74
Visitor Attendance	93	97	740	800
Volunteer Hours	5	9	173	651
Digitising Records	15	0	155	11
Oral History				
Letters Sent	2	1	13	14
Interviews Completed	2	1	16	14
Transcripts Completed/ reviewed	2	0	14	16
Volunteer Hours – Transcribing	72	2	294	277
Volunteer Hours - Interviewing	6	5	63	51
Family History Research				
Reference	1	4	34	56
Research	30	26	210	298
Volunteer Hours	52	0	266	176

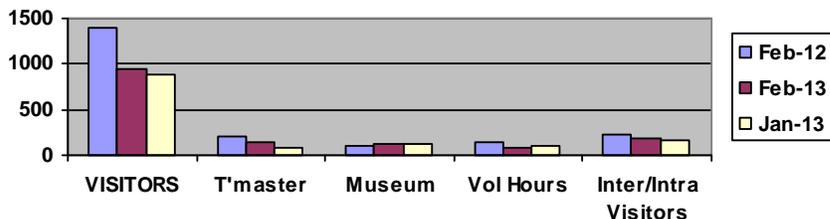
Total visits = 7881

Average Pages per visit = 13

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

MONTH: FEBRUARY 2013

STATISTICS:



FEBRUARY 2013

Visitors	Ticketmaster	TOTAL Visitors Less Ticketmaster	Inter State Visitors	Overseas Visitors	TOTAL O/seas & Interstate VISITORS	Volunteer Hours	Museum
935	137	798	48	135	183	80	125

JANUARY 2013

Visitors	Ticketmaster	TOTAL Visitors Less Ticketmaster	Inter State Visitors	Overseas Visitors	TOTAL O/seas & Interstate VISITORS	Volunteer Hours	Museum
891	90	801	54	101	155	113	131

VISITOR CENTRE OPENED FOR 180 HOURS

AVERAGE VISITORS PER WEEK: 235
VOLUNTEER HOURS PER WEEK: 20

VISITOR CENTRE - DOLLAR VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY:

Average Visitor Spend – Day Visitor:

\$ 1,425 per day = **\$ 9,975** per week = **\$ 39,900** 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:

\$980 per night = **\$ 6,863** per week = **\$ 27,450** per month

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

TOTAL TOURISM DOLLAR VALUE – FEBRUARY 2013:
\$67,350

During the month of February our statistics at the Visitor Centre show overseas arrivals continue to grow strongly with UK, Singapore and Malaysia leading. Our strong destinational marketing campaigns into Jetstar Air Asia inflight magazine are producing solid results.

There is still a strong demand for accommodation with VC members indicating their occupancy rates at 90%

Google analytics shows the Visitor Centre website continuing to grow averaging 1500 views per month with the accommodation pages being the most viewed. This has resulted in an increase in online accommodation bookings through the online reservation system. The main uses of devices are iPad and iPhone. We are extremely appreciative of the City's IT department as they are in the process of developing a mobile app to allow consumers to view our website in a consistent format.

Marketing

Destination marketing continues into Jetstar Air Asia In-flight Magazine and Perth Airport Runway magazine. We are also continuing with cooperative advertising in 'Your guide to Perth and Fremantle'

The new Armadale regional guide 2013-2014 has been printed and distribution has started. With 30,000 copies printed and distribution throughout metropolitan and regional areas over the next twelve months. The Guide has been uploaded onto our website as a download for prospective clients.

The Visitor Centre is coordinating the City's entry in WALGA's annual 2013 Banners in the Terrace Competition. The display will be along the Terrace from 28 July to 10 August. A professional/digital banner will be designed with this year's theme Future Focus.

Armadale Visitor Centre participated in Experience Perth marketing campaign for the Australian Tourism Exchange.

The Visitor Centre continues cooperative marketing with the VCAWA advertising in the Western Australian regional lifestyle magazine.

Staff

The Visitor Centre had a stall at the Business Expo South East Metro, which there were over 30 stall holders, exhibitors and business seminars. Information packs were given out including the new regional guide.

VC Membership

Membership of the Visitor Centre continues to grow with a 'drive' of the new 2013 membership prospectus printed and sent out to prospective members. Several meetings have been conducted with members to discuss and encourage their membership and advertising in the 2013 Armadale Regional Guide. Current membership is sixty two.

Information Items from the Community Services Directorate

We continue to assist our membership enquiries and in the building of positive member relationships including the distribution of our monthly tourism e-newsletter.

EVENTS**Summer Cinema**

The second Summer Cinema event, Happy Feet 2, screened at Rushton Park on 24 February. Pre show entertainment provided by Fairy Ciara and the Eco Fairies. This event concludes the 2013 Summer Cinema series.

The screening was attended by approximately 200 people – largely families and children. The Arts and Events Team would like to recommend that future Summer Cinema sessions occur during school holidays as these times attract more attendance at our Summer Cinemas.

Concerts in the Park

Team staff engaged in planning activities for the Concerts in the Park series outlined below:

- 3 March - Roleystone Musicians Club concert to be held at the old Roleystone Primary School Site. This event will run in conjunction with the Roleystone Twilight Markets. The team is working cooperatively with the market coordinators to ensure positive outcomes for this event.
- 10 March – Stratosfunk concert to be held at Baker’s House in Harrisdale. This event will run in conjunction with the City’s Baker’s House ‘opening’ event.
- 7 April – Armadale City Concert Band concert to be held in Memorial Park. This event concludes the City’s Concerts in the Park series.

Minnawarra Art Award

The team has begun to receive submissions from artists’ expressing interest in the Minnawarra Art Awards.

The team is actively pursuing interested parties for the advertised Curator position.

The team continues to engage in planning and refining activities to ensure a high quality event is provided that enhances the image of the City and it’s standing within the greater arts community.

Minnawarra Festival

The team is in the planning process for the Minnawarra Festival to be held on Sunday, 19 May. This coincides with the closing date for the Minnawarra Art Awards Exhibition. This provides opportunity to cross market both events and build a synergistic relationship between the two events. This will be the first year in some time that both events have married, similar to that in the past, bring back the Arts and Craft focus of our community.

Information Items from the Community Services Directorate

The festival will run concurrent with the City sponsored Grand Fondo event on the Sunday. Fiona Greaves, Manager Leisure Services, is the City's primary liaison for the Grand Fondo event. The team will work cooperatively, through Fiona, with Grand Fondo event organisers to facilitate a relationship that provides successful and positive outcomes for the Minnowarra Festival.

RANGER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

February 2013

ANIMAL CONTROL

Dogs

Ranger Services received four hundred and forty six (446) requests for assistance during the February 2013 report period.

Dog Registration Checks

Rangers will be conducting an extensive dog registration survey throughout the district during the next 2-3 months. A fundamental part of a door knock is to create an awareness of both the Dog Act and the City of Armadale Local Laws Relating to Dogs, identify potential and actual problems and provide advice that may assist in preventing or treating a problem.

The City has 12,691 registered, and an undetermined number of unregistered, dogs. It is generally accepted that dogs registered with a Local Authority form as little as 50% -70% of the total dog population. The reasons why dog owners do not register their dogs include: not being able to afford it, do not want to, cannot see the need to, do not know they had to, they feel that they get nothing for their registration fee, or they have simply not got around to doing it.

Court Action

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

OFFENCE	FINDING OF COURT	PENALTY \$	COSTS \$	TOTAL \$
Dog Attack	Guilty	1,400	2,135.70	3,535.70
Dog Attack	Guilty	1,700	129.35	1,829.35

VEHICLES

Parking

Ranger Service attended to one hundred and fifty (150) general enquiries relating to the unlawful parking of vehicles during this report period.

Commercial Vehicles (Trucks)

There has been a slight decrease in the number of reports received in relation to trucks being parked in residential areas for extended periods; Rangers will continue to be vigilant in this area of operations.

Abandoned Vehicles

The number of abandoned vehicles is steadily increasing, and the cost to the City in the collection and disposal of abandoned vehicles (most of which have no commercial value) is in excess of projected estimates. This is a problem currently being shared by most Metropolitan Local Governments.

Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas)

Ranger Service attended to eight (8) reports of vehicles (motor cycles) being driven in a prohibited area, during the report period.

FIRE SERVICE

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 one hundred (100) enquiries, during this report period, mainly associated with alternative style firebreaks and advice regarding general fire safety.

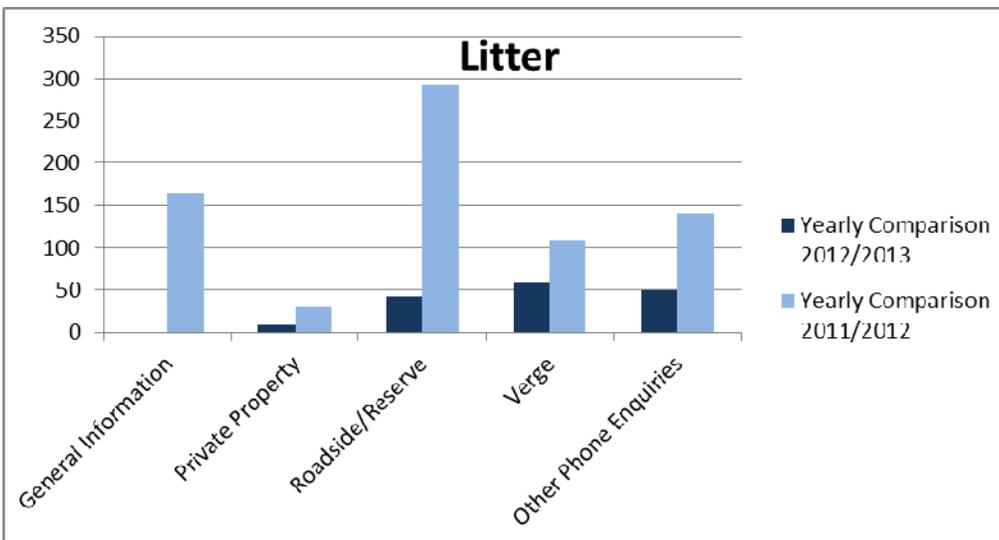
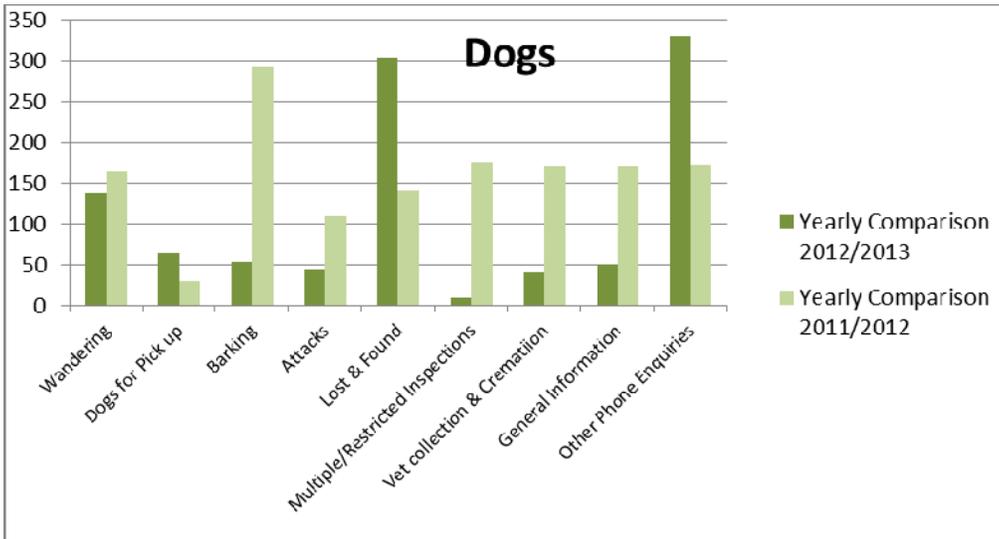
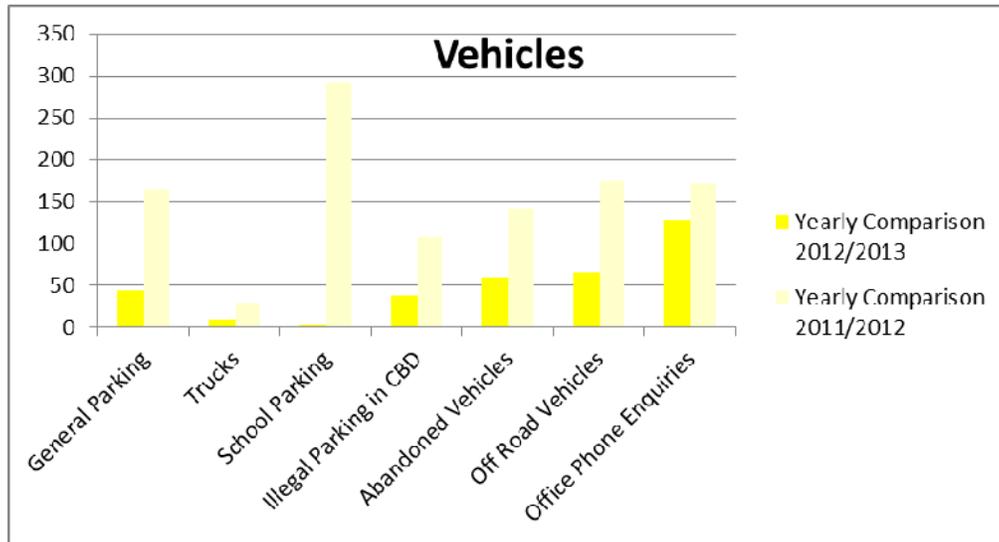
Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades experienced a normal amount of calls to bush/scrub fires during February, however, due to excellent response from members they have been able to deal with those incidents in a timely and effective manner, thereby reducing the potential for a major fire situation.

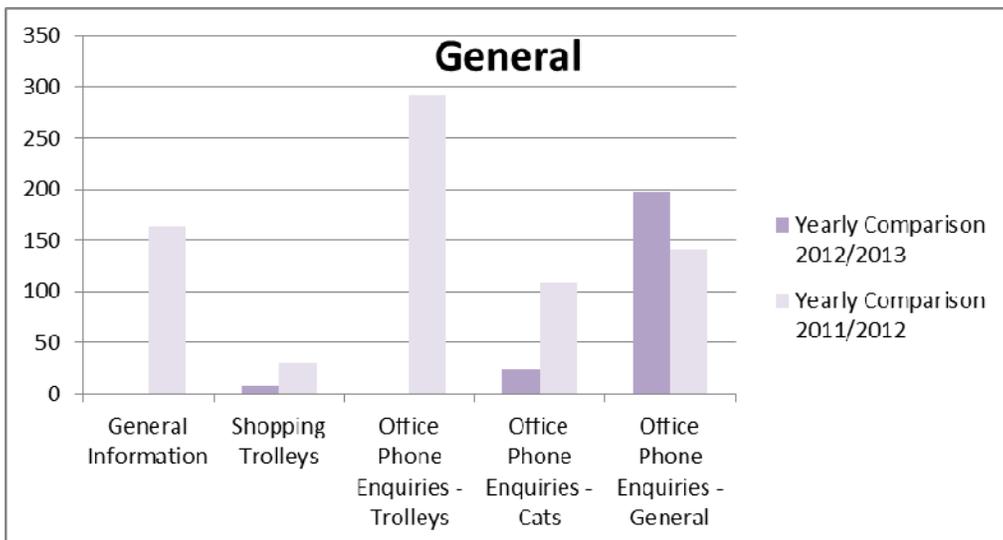
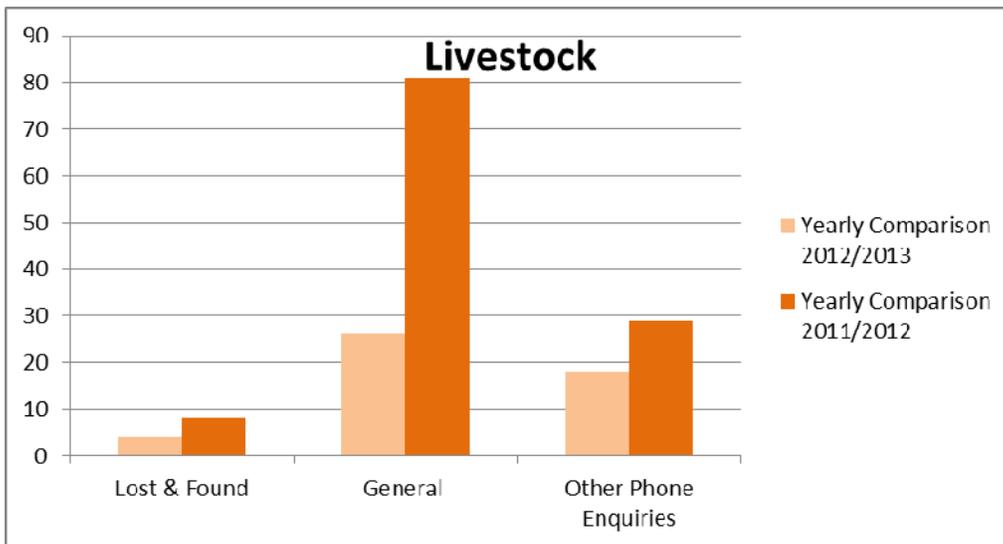
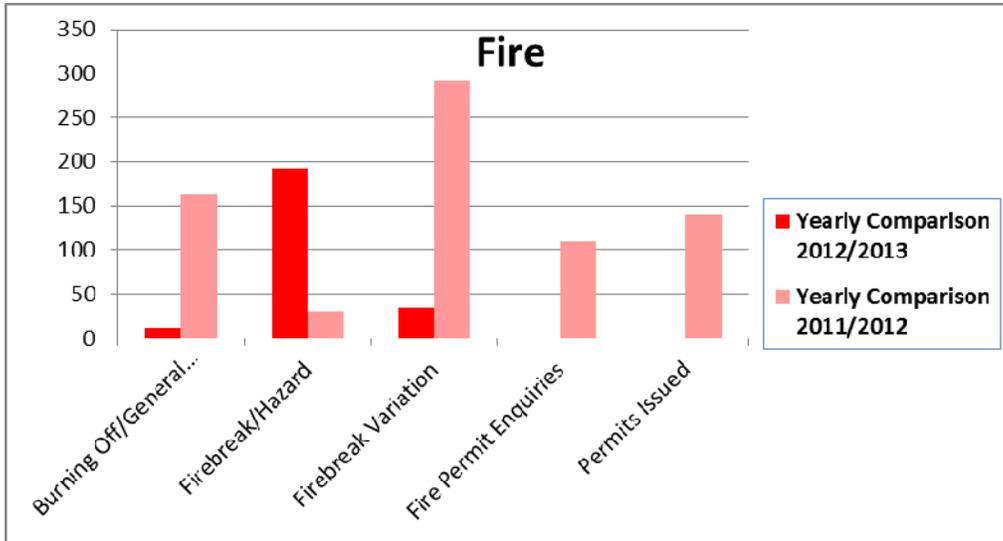
Firebreak Inspections

Ranger Services are now engaged in the annual firebreak inspections program, and have been particularly vigilant in targeting vacant land with long dry grass especially in light of the amount of late rain experienced thereby increasing the fuel growth.

At the time of writing this report, Ranger Service have inspected two thousand nine hundred and fifty eight (2,958) properties throughout the district.

Statistics





MISCELLANEOUS

Cr M S Northcott report from attendance at the 2013 Public Libraries WA Conference

University Club of Western Australia – Friday March 8th 2013 **Theme for the conference – “Public Libraries: So what now?”**

Overall Summary: Cr M S Northcott found this a privilege to attend, meet amazing people and found the presentations very engaging and highlighted many points that we as a Council can use and do to support our Library Services Team and keep Libraries as a Safe part of the Future for the Community. It was a wonderful day and very appreciative. Enjoy reading ☺

RECOMMEND: the Final Page is an interesting read – will enjoy hearing your viewpoint

Would also like to get the final presenter over here to talk to the Elected Members and MANEX, be worthwhile hearing – yes realise \$\$ and yet another workshop, but it was so beneficial and learnt a lot and presenter very engaging.

Attendees 260, mostly librarians and managers with some elected members

Opening Plenary Session

- 1,400 Libraries across Australia
- 40million items available
- 114,000 people accessing them

Common questions asked are: where is there support for library buildings?
How do the Libraries connect with Digital?

Opening Address by Alannah MacTiernan, Mayor for City of Vincent

- Libraries and the future of them, affects everyone in the community and the need to adapt to change and this is a real issue
- Information stored, recorded and used is increasing with the capability in the new age with technology advances and finding creative ways
- Acceptance by Local Governments that libraries were culturally acceptable in the community, and identifying a need for diversity of what is available at a library
- Opportunity it provides to people with a range of knowledge and a sense of quite and order, creating new opportunities
- Libraries slot into a digital age.
- An environment for people to concentrate and do more that is profound and to exchange information from written pages and not just from digital media
- Quality and inclusive of public spaces where people respect and go with a physical surround
- Re-create and rebuild where the transformation and structural needs change and reactions change as it is important for human spirit and strong

Information Items from the Community Services Directorate

society and public realm, quality access and strong support out in the community.

- Diversity use of libraries, from CaLD background, kids, youth, seniors, people with disabilities, students, aboriginal and a diversity of cultural and stereotyped groups. Diverse level of engagement and participation to keep the resources of the libraries
- A future, a right, an opportunity, civilisation where we keep the developments that occur, our language, build on the knowledge before us, keep it growing and keep it in a presence, it is a reference and resource for all in the community.
- Libraries and Literacy go and hand in hand and go beyond what is developed and find a way forward, making information and knowledge accessible and creative the community.
- There is a need for the future of the libraries for the different generations, social economic backgrounds.

Made reference on a number of occasions to Armadale and the Armadale Library, highlighting in particular when there was and is the need to keep a sanctuary for the community where there was petitions for the Armadale Library to be kept and relocated to the Shopping Centre, advocating for yr need of the library and an example that was provided to showcase the different groups of people using the library was when the petition was provided at a motor show where people male and female, bulky, tattooed, Ford and Holden diehards were coming up and signing the petition to keep the library, that they went there and with their children/grandchildren.

Keynote Speaker: "So now what: Thinking about the roles of libraries in a digital age" Steve Coffman - USA

Libraries stand at a crossroads – Roy Tennant – 1995 – USA

Help improve society by facilitating the creation of knowledge in the community – David Lankers

So does that mean just keep on doin' what we've been doin'? – Gary Coleman

- Technology seeding Libraries
- People doing by themselves and not needing assistance
- Stop running from what we know
- Library future is e-books, libraries lending e-books just like old paper books

E-Book Publishers don't want library to have lending, therefore charging the libraries more and even rent charge to lend books. Libraries lending books causing drop in sales of e-books. Publishers are restricting libraries use and access to only a small supply. In the USA e-books average \$7, e-books use of kindle and ipad, Amazon, Google and Apple sales of e-books, kindles, ipad verus the sale of books. Retails Amazon \$1million verus Google 20million

Information Items from the Community Services Directorate

USA building a \$150K e-book library with 50 kindles for loan and a rows and rows of apple computers at desks for access to the e-books/applications etc and only has a few staff members behind a desk for assistance.

USA study shows that children are going outdoors 50% less for environmental and outdoor activities/sports due to the use of technology and digital

30% increase in e-books versus 90% increase in books over the last five years in the US. Study shows that the longer people own the e-readers the less they read as not satisfied with electronic and most people fluctuate between electronic version and paper books.

In Australia in 2011 there were 19,778 books published

More focus on discovery – where do people find new books

1.9% social media – recommended books on Facebook/twitter

6% retail online outlets

21% by friends

26% bookstores

Bridge the gap between retail and online, customer service versus internet, example, use the smart phone to scan the barcode for buying a book, use the scanned code online for e-book or at a bookstore.

- Focus on one thing not just trying to do everything for everyone
- Adapt to change as a resolution
- Don't know when or if there is competition
- Bring a lot to the table, everything we have is here, just got to find it, find a link between the two, paperback versus e-book, written versus typed, encyclopaedia versus Google, books versus technology
- Focus on doing things right, one thing at a time
- Help put books into readers' hands for and with knowledge
- What should a library look like? Less library but large, a portable city?
- All books have a lifecycle but still be accessible even if stored offsite
- Bookstore retailers losing viability
- Libraries are ALLIES of booksellers for Discovery
- Possibility to share space – bookseller and library partnership in one space to explore, a reader borrows and likes a book that is returned to the library and then can go into the bookstore and purchase and can keep it
- Need for re-discovery as Non-Fiction not doing as well as fiction, romance and mystery genres are selling and borrowing more
- Discovery wide range of books, library staff with knowledge and experience versus a bookstore that aren't as confident, learn a lot from each other and from readership
- Library danger with limited resources whereas programming assists and supports the FOCUS of getting books into HANDS, eg, learning the computer technology, storytelling, themed events etc

Morning Concurrent Session

Attended session two – Building the Future Library

Lord Mayor Lisa M Scaffidi and Patrick Kosky – Kerry Hill Architects

- \$54million project for new library and civic area
- Some library and historical artefacts of City of Perth is in Council House, move these over to the new library
- City of Perth had \$134m sitting there for projects and not in investment account when Scaffidi became Mayor in 2007, putting the dollars into the City not an account
- Best Practice in a Library is IMPORTANT
- Researched various other Libraries around the world for design and features
- Changing times are ahead, not just a library, a meeting place as well as a place to a read a book.
- Customer Service is Number One Priority
- More staff will be required then existing = employment opportunity
- Kerry Hills Architects have been given a two stage contract for the library
- Respect heritage fabric and small urban space
- Library between Lands Title Building and St George's Cathedral to expose the heritage buildings with the new library in the middle
- Library with landscaping areas as people will use the wifi on the laptops/ipads

New Library design/ layout

- Function space
- Multi-level use
- Architect design in between heritage
- Extensive shelving layout
- Accessible and wide aisle width
- Various meeting spaces and sizes
- Wifi
- Café
- Memorabilia showcase
- Open Seven days a week
- Public use computers
- Small kitchen/functions
- Exhibition floor area
- Memorabilia Collection of history and relevant pieces to focus on WA
- 6 floors

Ground level/Foyer - café and returns area

Mezzanine level – Meeting rooms

Level 2-3-4 – Collection level of books/ staff areas/ circular reading rooms

Level 3 – History Centre

Level 4 – Function rooms/ Terrace area

Level 5 – Children's floor with external area for storytelling/play with river view

Level 6 – Young adult's collection floor/ group study areas/
lounges/computers/gaming area

A place for children and young adults to create memories and connecting communities

Layout sqm not confirmed
3,600 sqm
1200 sqm collection level

Accessibility - as per access premises standards and consulting with the City of Perth Access Group, will have two lifts, hearing loops and contrast for vision impaired

Envisioned 2015 Completion

Clinton House Presentation CEO Inhouse Group WA

If change is happening on the outside, it is faster on the inside, the end is in sight – Jack Welch

- 16m Smart phone users in Australia
- 1,142,000,000 Global users
- Developing iphone apps for Local Government for parking locations and businesses/tourism, at present City of Perth and City of Fremantle
- Insight allows for what needs changing and addressing problems
- Influence customer behaviours, increase relevance of data usage
- Tracking and monitoring different behaviours by common markers, locations, type of device, patterns of behaviours through data and when companies and businesses opt-in for information to be tracked.
- Opt-in companies, businesses and smart phone apps send usage data and trends but cannot send demographics or personal information. This has been happening for years through the internet cookies browsers.

Does the City of Armadale investigate to create an app for the Libraries with opening hours, calendar of events, programs, genre of books?? Opportunity to do app and then link with in-house for tracking data of library usage and track how many actually come past but not into the library – this would be interesting for Armadale Library in particular.

Afternoon Plenary Session

*Keynote Speaker: “Public Libraries: New opportunities in times of change”
Marshall Breeding – Independent Consultant*

www.librarytechnology.org

- Dynamics of database automation
- World Share Management Service – commonly used Library software
- Library Journal – Marshall published articles on Automation Marketplace

2012 – Libraries agents of change

Information Items from the Community Services Directorate

2011 – New Frontier

2010 – New Models of service, infrastructure, software

- Appropriate Automation Infrastructure centred on transactional support
- Majority Automation efforts support print
- Library users expect engaging social awareness
- Allocate resources
- Have flexible infrastructure
- Collect funds
- Technology to support library interfaces – physical (people), social, community and digital

Reshape Library Collections

- Transition to e-books
- Digital collection – digitalising unique material – library/cultural organisations actively involved in digitalising
- Journal content – electronic
- Media Collection (CD/DVD/Blue-ray) to streaming media
- Heritage print collection will remain indefinitely
- E-books discovery and lending

Fulfilment Activity

- Increase in print circulation
- Increase in reliance self service
- Increase in interlibrary loan activity
- Increase in pressure resource sharing
- Direct consortial borrowing

Additional Public Library roles

- Content fulfilment
- Centre community engagement
- Technology access for underprivileged
- Ready reference for support, in-depth research
- Improve literacy, promote reading
- Facilitate use of technology
- Stimulate creativity

Issues/ Needs

- E-books and generations
- Article databases
- Manage balance of print, digital, electronic
- Workflows
- Emphasis on technology
- Collections are complex
- More diverse library services
- Manage electronic/digital – content harder than managing print

Technology for Public Libraries

- Resources for e-books
- Content stations

Information Items from the Community Services Directorate

- Self services
- Digital signage and exhibitions
- Computers with free wifi
- Multimedia
- Devise lending
- ***Anything to spark collaborative engagement from the community***

Social computer

- Effectively connects users with each other and library content with services and staff
- Social orientation = directly into software
- A service that comprises with library infrastructure
- Avoid jettisoning patrons out of library with web presence
- Interconnect with technology of organisations is important, especially with Local Government councils
- All in this together – can we share the systems??

Time to engage and an opportunity to partner and collaborate to provide leadership in defining expectations. There are assumptions regarding the shape of technology, infrastructure and services.

Afternoon Concurrent Session**Attended session three – Valuing Libraries**

“Public Libraries: Too valuable to lose? Can we do and measure things differently?” – What makes a successful library? Mark Norman - Rockdale City Council NSW

Help each other although it is a struggle – Collaboration is EVERYTHING

Not Collaborating

- Distance to other libraries
- Organisational structures
- Operational – staffing issues (casuals/permanent/lack of)
- Separate finances
- Loss of revenues
- Not been billed as one library service when ordering from suppliers

Promote relationships with library staff and suppliers with effective communication. Empower the staff. Share sources.

Collaborative projects

- Book selection - wide
- Standardising cataloguing and processing specifications for less fee charging
- Talking books – purchase retail editions
- Large print books – collaborate with libraries for interlibrary loans as more books and resources to share and better equipped for “home libraries”

Information Items from the Community Services Directorate

(NSW equivalent for Armadale's Home delivery service and books on wheels program)

- Best and most successful collaborate project is the interlibrary loans
- Combining budgets = saving dollars and more books from suppliers instead of individual orders
- Better knowledge and experience by all working collaboratively
- Promotion of learning across the libraries
- Empowering staff = positive customers/feedback with collections and programs
- Improved leadership between library and suppliers
- Streamlining training and workflows

Session three – Valuing libraries from a panel preceptive – Bookseller/Reader and Writer

Bookseller view: Celia Cole – Millpoint Café Bookshop

- Adapt: seller versus retail chain, book versus e-book/kindle and book versus internet
- Feel the book
- Know your demographic and market
- Make store available and enjoy your customers
- Remember everything you read is in print
- Knowledge and service one way or another is a key
- Have a passion for the success of reading

Readers view: Dr Jane Figgis

We shape our Buildings and our Buildings shape us – Churchill

- 45% of people in Australia have a library card
- Format of the book counts and doesn't – Do I want a book? or Do I want a book on my ipad for work/office/travel and coast factors? Valuable
- Prefer to have hard copy book = satisfaction to see the book there in the bookshelf/see, feel, smell the oldness of a good book
- The things about libraries is that you have to give the book back
- Once someone learnt to write they didn't stop speaking

Power of 10

List 10 reasons and activities to go to a Public Open Space that it attracts people and therefore is warranted. Strangers are happy to be there, it is safe, social aspects of meeting people, talking, social media, interactive displays that are productive. Discovering things you didn't know existed.

Writer and Lecturer view: Liz Byrski

Library is where you are free and no one can tell you what to read – Doris Letting

- Writing is fun and tells a story
- Writers are nosey and opinionated
- Reading and a Library is a pleasure and an opportunity to discover yourself

- The best libraries and best book sellers have the knowledge versus others that have noble uncertainty
- Libraries build readers
- People come into a library, borrow and then return and then go out and buy that book for themselves or someone else if they are captivated by the book.
- Libraries are growing new readers, discovering information and research and gaining knowledge

Libraries are a Treasure

Closing Plenary

Keynote Speaker: “How libraries change the world” Ross Duncan – Sunshine Coast Council – Manager Library and Gallery Services

“We are going to relentlessly chase perfection, knowing full well we will not catch it, because nothing is perfection. But we are going to relentlessly chase it, because in the process, we will catch excellence. I am not remotely interested in just being good” - Vince Lombardi

Translate what libraries do to the CEO/Elected Members and then ultimately to the wider community

NOW = Change through learning and education = THE FUTURE
Libraries are the Most Trusted BRAND

Libraries fit the Council and the Community

What changes are wanted for strategies in the community?
Who is the customer base? It is not just local, it is state and beyond
Libraries are trusted to connect people with information

Quadruple Bottom Line – Sustainability in Four areas

1. The environment
2. Social development
3. Cultural development
4. Economic growth and stability

- Partnerships are key
 - Health and well-being of the community
 - Change behaviours
 - Respect and trust amongst the community
 - No judgements on the libraries
 - Libraries are in touch with the community
-
- E-News as part of the future, not just library based programs, encourage people for expression of interest in workshops on major issues and key areas of relevance

Information Items from the Community Services Directorate

- Increase variety and establish partnerships to run the workshops
- Surveys for what the community want in there library, what their issues are for the community and for Council to find out and address
- Have products from local authors and artists showcased on an online store
- Let librarians be librarians take them from behind the desks

Some challenges faced

- Perceived decrease in relevance of libraries
- Increasing availability of electronic books, and paper books at cheaper prices
- Increasing population and increasing expectations of residents and visitors
- Restricted financial resources

Future Plans

- Increased membership and increased number of visits
- Increased understanding of our community and our customers
- Freeing librarians to be librarians
- Introduction of e-books and e-audio books for loan
- Better technology and more public courses on emerging technologies
- Improved marketing and promotion for libraries
- Improved leadership position at the state level on important issues including mentoring of smaller library services
- Staff attraction and retention strategy

To change the world!

Help our communities to become

- More understanding
- More accepting
- More inclusive
- More prepared for challenges
- More resilient to change
- More enjoyable, welcoming and inclusive for all

How do libraries help Councils?

- Implementation of Council's strategies
- Community Engagement
- Consultation venues
- Community information displays
- Public education
- Surveys and questionnaires

Surveys – what workshops do the community want, a workshop want performance = service and expectation of community and promotion of events

- Limited only by your imagination!

You know you (Library) are making a difference when the CEO and Mayor can rattle of numbers and figures at a meeting!

What business is a Library in?

- Education
- Inclusion
- Awareness
- Information
- “Experiences”
- Connecting people with information

Responsibility of Librarians and their Libraries

- If not now, then when, if not by us, then by whom?
- Lead, innovate, experiment, explore, adapt, overcome, convince, persuade, entice, modify.
- The customers have the answers.....

Summary and talking points to the Council from the presentation

Speak the same lingo as targeted to the specific audience whether it is the Council or the Community

Be welcoming

Have a presence of new books in the library at same time as books go into bookstores/online selling

Spend time on a strategy to utilise social media – Facebook page to advertise new collections/events/services and facilities and e-news editions

Consider the future despite a busy day

Be united in moving forward – Library and Council working together

Talk to the PR/Communications and ultimately the community about the future

Be clearer about what want and need for the future

MINUTES OF OCCASIONAL/ADVISORY COMMITTEES

NOTES

Meeting name: Positive Ageing Working Group
Venue: City of Armadale Committee Room – 7 Orchard Avenue Armadale
Date: Monday 11 March 2013
Time: 10.00am

Notes prepared by: Carolyn Fisher

1.0 Attendance & Apologies

Attendance:	
Cr Ruth Butterfield	Deputy Mayor – City of Armadale & Positive Ageing Working Group Chair Person
Ms Trudi Hodges	CEO- Dale Cottages Inc.
Ms Cheryl Samborski	CEO – Armadale Home Help
Ms Wendy Hill	Seniors Access & Inclusion Officer- City of Armadale
Ms Carolyn Fisher	Community Development Support Officer- City of Armadale
Ms Doreen Southam	Community Representative
Mr Paul Lanternier	Manager Parks- City of Armadale
Mr Albert Chambers	Roleystone Karragullen Seniors Club- President
Ms Caroline Dryland	CEO- Southside Care
Apologies:	
Ms Chris Bloomer	Community Representative

2.0 Minutes

Distributed amongst group members

3.0 Actions from November 2012 meeting

- (i) Community Perceptions Survey- Cr Butterfield and Ms Hill explained that the recent Community Perceptions Survey closely mimicked the survey results received in the Ask Armadale community survey in relation to community values.
- (ii) Department of Housing Gap Analysis- Assistant Area Manager for the Armadale

Office of the Department of Housing has provided information to Ms Hill on the waiting times for pensioners in the Armadale area for community housing, and the Department's Bond Assistance Loan Scheme (a copy of Karen Cross's email is attached at the end of these notes).

While the information provided is useful, Ms Hodges recommended the group approach Tony Simpson MLA, Member for Darling Range and Tony Buti MLA, Member for Armadale to request a gap analysis for the Armadale area.

Action: Cr Butterfield.

- (iii) Invitation to Paul Lanternier- Mr Lanternier is present at today's meeting

4.0 Presentation: Aged Friendly and Accessible Parks- Paul Lanternier

Mr Lanternier of the City's Parks and Gardens Unit advised that two City strategies are currently being drafted, The Public Open Space Strategy and the Toilets Strategy. All City's parks and gardens are currently under revision as part of this process, and accessibility is considered as part of this review.

A Landscape Architect has recently been appointed by the City and a key focus of this role is to consider ease of accessibility in the design process of City parks and recreation areas.

The City is also working on an online mapping system which will allow users to easily find information on City parks and gardens. The interactive tool will include images and detailed information on park features.

5.0 Updates on Home and Community Care Funding: Caroline Dryland

In lieu of today's meeting running over time, Ms Dryland agreed to present at the next Positive Ageing Working Group (PAWG) meeting. Updates on Home and Community Care Funding to be added to April's agenda.

Action: Ms Hill

6.0 Terms of reference

Under the current Terms of Reference, clause 5.0 states that:

"the first meeting of the Group each year, the members of the group shall elect a presiding member from amongst themselves"

Ms Hill recommended that the group Chairperson preside for a period of two years, rather than one year, as it currently states. This change would allow for a greater continuity within the group and an alignment with councillor election terms.

Ms Hodges recommended that a City councillor be elected to the position of Chairperson in every instance and the Terms of Reference be altered to reflect this. With this change group members could no longer be nominated Chairperson for the group.

The majority of group supported Ms Hodges's recommendation.

Action: Ms Hill to put group recommendation to the Community Development Manager.

7.0 Updates from Community Development Officer- Seniors Access and Inclusion

Age Friendly Strategic Planning

The Department of Communities Age Friendly Strategic Framework 2012-2017 outlines how community planning should support Western Australia's ageing population.

27 Local Government Authorities have adopted the Framework; the City of Armadale has not.

Ms Samborski recommended that the City support the Framework and work towards adopting this strategic plan.

Information Items from the Community Services Directorate

Cr Butterfield advised that she will recommend to Council to adopt the Framework. Ms Hill clarified that the Department of Communities funding for Local Government Authorities to adopt this policy closed in 2011.

Games Day

On the 10th April, the City of Armadale, Dale Cottages and Seniors Recreation Council will host an over 45's Activities Day at the Greendale Centre, Armadale. Activities will include Pole Walking, Lifeball, Tai Chi, Bench Warmers and Pool. Seniors Recreation Council will be showcasing their new program Exergaming XBOX KINECT.

Public Transport Forum for seniors

The City, will be hosting two presentations on the 22nd May. The first presentation will be hosted by Transperth will discuss journey planning, ticketing, safety and security and local network. The second presentation will be on 'Exploring the Belief in Ageing' hosted by Lee Lenyk (a naturopath and coach). The workshop will be held at Armadale Library.

8.0 Other agenda items

Ms Hodges questioned how the PAWG is tracking against the City's Positive Ageing Strategy.

Next meeting: 8 April 2013

Meeting closed at 11.15am