



INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Information Bulletin

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ALGA NEWS

7 MARCH 2014

ALGA welcomes Commonwealth commitment to roads

ALGA has welcomed the Government's formal commitment to further investment in the Roads to Recovery (R2R) programme, black spots and local bridges included in the *Land Transport Infrastructure Amendment Bill*, which has been introduced into Federal Parliament.

The Bill maps out the Federal Government's infrastructure policies required to meet its \$35.5 billion commitment to delivering the infrastructure that Australia needs to address the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century.

As well as identifying major projects slated for development, the Bill reflects the Government's commitment to the R2R programme, confirming its future for another five years - beyond the current end date of 30 June 2019 - with \$1.75 billion of funding.

Following the Bill's introduction into Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss said: "Roads to Recovery provides vital funding to local governments for the maintenance of the nation's local road infrastructure."

"Further, the Government has committed \$300 million to the Black Spot Programme addressing road sites that are high risk areas for serious crashes, in addition to our new \$300 million Bridges Renewal programme to restore dilapidated local bridges," Mr Truss said.

The Australian Governments *Roads to Recovery* (R2R) program has become an essential element in local government's ability to maintain and upgrade the local roads network.

While, local roads are owned and maintained by local government, the cost of this maintenance is immense.

In recognition of the growing backlog in local road maintenance, the Federal Government established the Roads to Recovery Program in 2000, which has helped local government begin to address the backlog of local road maintenance, improving safety, transport efficiency and stimulating economic development across the country.

However, results from a national study commissioned by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to examine the condition of community roads and infrastructure reinforce that more than 10 per cent of sealed roads are in poor condition and a large proportion of timber bridges are substandard.

The 2013 National State of the Assets Report represents the findings from analysis of data provided by 344 councils, which manage almost \$100 billion worth of transport assets, including sealed local roads, unsealed local roads, concrete bridges and timber bridges. Key findings suggest that \$8.3 billion in sealed roads are in poor or very poor condition, together with a further \$1.9 billion in unsealed roads and \$1.4 billion in concrete and timber bridges.

ALGA President, Felicity-ann Lewis says the findings reinforce the need for further

investment in local roads and bridges, which are critical to the social and economic development of communities and national prosperity.

"We can't afford to have substandard local roads and bridges. These are the gateways to and from our communities. They provide access to local, regional, state and national services and markets and play a vital role in driving our economy," Mayor Lewis said.

Mayor Lewis says that while councils appreciate assistance provided through the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery program, more needs to be done to address the estimated funding shortfall for local roads of \$1.2 billion annually.

"Local government manages more than 80 per cent of our national road network and we need to ensure that we can afford to maintain local roads to a sufficient standard, otherwise local and national productivity will suffer," Mayor Lewis said.

"The Coalition Government has committed to a Bridges Renewal program to fix some of the problems councils are experiencing with aged infrastructure, such as timber bridges, and we wholeheartedly welcome that initiative."

ALGA President focuses on women in local government

Local communities across the country are this week holding events to mark International Women's Day, which is recognised each year on 8 March.

ALGA President Felicity-ann Lewis is taking part in celebrations which aim to recognise the contributions of women and acknowledge areas requiring further action to ensure women's equality.

"International Women's Day is especially important for local government, a sector which is under-represented by women, both as council members and within senior staffing positions," Mayor Lewis said.

"Nationally, 45 per cent of the local government workforce is women, however only 20 per cent of these women work in a professional position.

"In my home state of South Australia, only 24 per cent of senior managers in councils are women and only four councils out of 68 have a female Chief Executive Officer.

"In order to do more to address the under-representation of women in professional positions, we need to pay attention to research that suggests that many current leadership models are based on male stereotypes. We need to re-consider current measures of leadership capability and look at new methods for promoting gender equity."

Mayor Lewis will be addressing these and other concerns when she delivers the opening keynote address at the 2014 Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) NSW Annual Conference in Broken Hill from 21-22 March.

The theme of the ALGWA Conference is "Embracing Change - Be the Driver, Not the Passenger". It provides an opportunity for people in local government to discuss changes

impacting local government, including amalgamations and possible new planning laws.

During her presentation, entitled "Embracing Change and Gender Equity in Local Government", Mayor Lewis will be drawing on research to discuss some of the barriers that have been identified for women moving into executive positions. She will also be highlighting the challenges that she has experienced as a long-serving Mayor and Councillor and will raise ideas for change to ensure that women can expect to have the right working environment and the right circumstances in which to reach their full potential.

To find out more about the Conference, please click [here](#).

Brendan Nelson to address National General Assembly

As the Centenary of the beginning of the First World War approaches, ALGA is pleased to confirm that the Director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson, will be addressing the National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) on Wednesday, 18 June 2014.

The key presentation will provide an opportunity for Dr Nelson to outline the Memorial's plans for the coming years and reflect on the role of councils in annual commemorations which recognise community members who have served in the armed forces.

It is expected that councils across Australia will be marking, in their own way, the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War on 28 July this year. Communities are also encouraged to mark the centenary of the first ANZAC landings at Gallipoli on 25 April next year.

Dr Nelson's presence at the NGA will be a strong reminder of the importance these events will have in Australia over the coming years and ignite discussion about the development of commemorative events across councils.

Dr Nelson's speech will highlight the crucial role local government plays in citizenship services and the commemoration of Australia's service personnel.

Registration for the NGA is now open and information on registering and submitting motions is available [here](#).

President's Column

Community organisations are again being offered Community Heritage Grants of up to \$15,000 from the Commonwealth Government and I would encourage all councils to consider an application.

The Grants are provided to assist with the preservation of locally owned but nationally significant collections of materials that are publicly accessible. Such collections could include artefacts, letters, diaries, maps, photographs and audio visual material.

Community organisations eligible to apply include local historical societies, regional

museums, public libraries and indigenous and migrant community groups.

In 2013, 78 Grants were awarded, totalling \$425,684. Among the recipients were the Albury City Council's Library Museum, which received \$4740 towards its "Significance Assessment of the Indigenous Collection" project. The Broken Hill City Council received \$4000 for its "Significance Assessment of the Outback Archives Collection" and the City of Greater Geelong Council received \$4000 towards the "Significance Assessment of the Geelong Heritage Centre collection".

The 2014 Community Heritage Grants round opened this week and closes on 2 May 2014.

The National Archives of Australia contributes funding and helps to manage the scheme, which is administered by the National Library of Australia. Grant winners receive practical preservation and archival training from the National Archives when they attend the grant giving ceremony held in Canberra.

For more information, including application guidelines, please visit:
www.nla.gov.au/chg/guidelines

Mayor, Dr Felicity-ann Lewis
ALGA President

Northern Australia White Paper process

The Premiers of Queensland and Western Australia and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory have agreed to join a new Strategic Partnership to inform the development and implementation of Australia's first Northern Australia White Paper.

The Federal Government is delivering on its commitment to put in place the policies and plans to develop Northern Australia's potential with more investment, infrastructure, jobs and services.

The White Paper will set out a clear, well-defined and timely policy platform for promoting the development of Northern Australia.

The Government has stated that it wants to capitalise on Northern Australia's existing strengths and natural advantages in agriculture, cattle and energy as well as to seize opportunities in tourism, education and health services.

The White Paper is expected to provide pathways to harness opportunities which capitalise on the region's strengths, including ways to advance trade, cultural and investment links with the Asia Pacific region, and to provide the best regulatory and economic environment for business.

It will also identify the critical infrastructure needed to support the long-term growth of the region, ways to incentivise public and private planning and investment while tackling impediments to growth.

The Strategic Partnership between the Premiers and the Chief Minister will be supported by an Advisory Group made up of business, community and Indigenous leaders of the

north. This group will meet for the first time in the coming months.

A Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia has also been formed, chaired by Warren Entsch MP. This Committee will commence community consultation next month and report to Parliament in July.

These activities will provide direction for Government support and action aimed at allowing Northern Australia to prosper through investment, infrastructure, jobs and services.

More information can be found at the [White Paper on Developing Northern Australia website](#).

Agricultural Competitiveness Issues Paper

Federal Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce has released for comment an Issues Paper that will underpin the much anticipated Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper.

When released later this year, the White Paper will provide stakeholders with the opportunity to engage with the Federal Government on strategies aimed at promoting economic growth, exports, employment and investment in the Australian agricultural sector. To this end, the Issue Paper seeks comment on the following nine key issues:

- Ensuring food security in Australia and globally;
- Improving farm gate returns;
- Enhancing access to finance;
- Increasing the sector's competitiveness and its value chain;
- Enhancing agriculture's contribution to regional communities;
- Improving the competitiveness of input costs;
- Reducing ineffective regulations;
- Enhancing agricultural exports; and
- Assessing the effectiveness of incentives for investment and job creation.

The Federal Government has identified agriculture, and in particular agricultural exports, as being one of the "five pillars" of its economic growth policy aimed at shifting Australia's reliance on mining exports.

Submissions on the Issues Paper close on 17 April, 2014. It is expected that a Green Paper will be released in the first half of 2014 seeking further submissions.

The White Paper is expected to be released in the last quarter of 2014.

To access the Issues Paper, please click [here](#).

Green Army legislation introduced

Legislation to establish the Green Army has been introduced into Parliament and councils will soon be able to put forward applications for Green Army project proposals.

The Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt, said in the first year, the Green Army would be rolled out with 250 projects and about 2,500 people undertaking on-the-ground environmental activities.

It will grow to become Australia's largest-ever environmental workforce with 15,000 participants by 2018.

Already 150 projects had been committed and these would be delivered in the initial rollout, the Minister said.

He said it was an opportunity for young Australians aged 17-24 to gain training and experience in environmental and heritage conservation fields and to explore careers in conservation management.

Participation will be open to school leavers, gap year students, graduates and job seekers.

Participants will receive a Green Army allowance and will also have the opportunity to undertake training.

Team Supervisors will be paid a wage consistent with the Gardening and Landscaping Services Award.

The Commonwealth will soon be seeking tenders for Service Providers, who will engage the Green Army teams, manage projects and report on progress.

Local councils, community groups and natural resources management organisations will be able to submit Green Army project proposals for consideration. Applications will open shortly.

Green Army projects will include activities such as restoring and protecting habitat, weeding, planting, cleaning up creeks and rivers, and restoring cultural heritage areas.

Projects may be carried out across urban, regional and remote Australia on public land, Indigenous-held lands, or private land where there is a clear community and environmental and heritage benefit.

For more information, click [here](#).

Canberra pips Adelaide for title

Canberra has been ranked Australia's most liveable city but housing affordability remains a concern.

It is the first time the nation's capital has achieved the ranking after being runner-up to Adelaide in the past two years.

The report shows Canberra scored higher than all cities on six of 17 attributes including having a wide range of recreational outdoor environments, a clean, well-maintained and unpolluted city and safe places for people and their property.

Canberra rated just 1.3 points above Adelaide to take out the title.

The report said Canberra's rise to the top was based on further improvement in the areas it had always performed well in such as being safe and clean and having good schools and healthcare.

The only significant decline in 2013 was in having good employment and economic opportunities.

Canberrans still found housing to be an area of concern and rated the ACT government badly in its provision of making housing more affordable, setting a fair level of taxation when people bought or sold properties, and supplying infrastructure to keep up with demand.

About 5390 people from all capital cities and regional centres Newcastle and Wollongong participated in the online survey, rating their city against a set of attributes.

Hobart finished third behind Adelaide and Canberra and Darwin took out the wooden spoon for the third year in a row.

Australian Capital City Lord Mayors advocate for smart growth

The Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM) has released the *Unlocking Smart Growth in Australian Cities* report by Urbis Australia.

CCCLM Chair, Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Robert Doyle, said it makes sense for city planning to focus on locating people close to jobs and using existing infrastructure.

"Our capital cities are home to an increasing majority of Australians, more than two-thirds of us live in one of our capitals and numbers are growing, but stretching city borders to accommodate more people is not the best option," Lord Mayor Doyle said.

"A Smart Growth approach to increase populations in established areas means people living in those communities have easy access to jobs, a range of housing and transport choices and public spaces.

"Building in established parts of a city is cheaper than building new developments on city fringes and therefore reduces the pressure on federal and state governments to provide the required infrastructure."

Lord Mayor Doyle said the decline of employment in conventional industries means capital cities have to take the lead to cultivate our employment industries of the future.

"By making smart investment choices in city infrastructure, we can meet the needs of communities and set in motion significant private sector investment, creating new jobs as traditional employment sectors dwindle," Lord Mayor Doyle said.

"The CCCLM would like to see all levels of government work together on a new approach to development that will ensure the long term prosperity, liveability and

sustainability of Australia's major cities.

"Unlocking Smart Growth in Australian Cities is the first report to explore the Smart Growth concept in an Australian context."

The report presents a number of principles to guide smart growth in Australia including:

- building only on the land we need and making the best use of existing and future infrastructure investments;
- creating connected places that are easy to move to and through;
- supporting resilient and adaptable communities that offer healthy lifestyles choices for current and future residents; and
- offering opportunities for involvement and collaboration between government, communities and the private sector.

Report author and Urbis Director, Michael Barlow, welcomed Australia's capital city Lord Mayors in initiating a conversation about smart growth in Australia.

The Lord Mayors have also asked the federal and state governments to adapt a 'whole of government' approach to their significant investments in Australian cities and create a new infrastructure funding model that aligns investment around cities.

Mobile Service Centre in Southern Qld to help drought-hit farmers

Drought-affected farmers are encouraged to visit the Mobile Service Centre 'Desert Pea' when it is in Southern Queensland next week to test their eligibility for income support by lodging a claim.

Minister for Human Services Senator Marise Payne said the Mobile Service Centre will be travelling to St George, Hebel, Dirranbandi, Bollon and Surat next week to offer farmers assistance with Interim Farm Household Allowance claims.

"Some farming families in Southern Queensland have been experiencing financial hardship, but have not been eligible for income support to help with their daily living expenses," Minister Payne said.

"Both Mobile Service Centres, 'Kangaroo Paw' and 'Desert Pea', will be visiting drought affected areas in northern NSW and Queensland. I encourage farmers to visit the Mobile Service Centre when it is near them to test their eligibility and apply for the Interim Farm Household Allowance.

"The Interim Farm Household Allowance has a higher farm assets test threshold, so households with net farm assets of up to \$2.55 million can apply for financial support.

"It will be paid at a rate equivalent to Newstart Allowance (or Youth Allowance for those under 22 years old) and farmers will have access to other assistance such as a Health Care Card.

"Staff can help farmers to lodge their claim form on board and refer people to other community support organisations for further assistance."

Minister Payne said staff on board the Mobile Service Centre have extensive experience in rural servicing and understand the needs of people living in rural and regional communities.

"The original Mobile Service Centres were known as the 'drought buses' and came into service in 2006 as a drought response measure," Minister Payne said.

"Since 2009 the Mobile Service Centres have travelled over 300,000km to 1400 rural and regional communities across the country and helped over 50,000 people access Centrelink, Medicare, Australian Hearing and Child Support information, payments and services."

For more information on the Interim Farm Household Allowance, visit humanservices.gov.au/rural or call the Farmer Assistance Hotline on 132 316.

To see which drought-affected communities the Mobile Service Centre will be servicing next,

visit humanservices.gov.au/mobileoffice.

Improving support for carers in NSW

Minister for Ageing and Disability Services John Ajaka reminded carers across NSW to have their say on the development of a new five year NSW Carers Strategy before public consultation closes at the end of this week.

"The NSW Government wants your help to develop strategies to support the state's 850,000 carers which is why we are inviting you to take part in a short online survey," Mr Ajaka said.

"The NSW Carers Strategy will underpin the way the government provides support for carers across the state until 2019.

"The survey is quick and easy to complete and allows you to tell us what ideas you think are the most important for supporting carers in each area of their life.

"This is your opportunity to tell us how we can improve services for carers and help tackle issues such as health and wellbeing, financial stress and social exclusion.

"The proposed ideas in the online survey are the result of carers, government and community working together to develop innovative solutions.

"Don't miss your chance to be involved in helping us produce a new plan to support carers."

Carers are family members, friends, housemates or neighbours who provide ongoing

unpaid support to people who need help with everyday aspects of life.

All public feedback will be considered carefully and will be included in the consultation report which will be presented to the Ministerial Carers Summit at the end of this month.

If you would like to have your say visit www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au and provide feedback before Friday 7 March.

Professor Peter Shergold to Chair Aged Care Sector Committee

Professor Peter Shergold AC will chair the Aged Care Sector Committee, tasked with building the foundation for a constructive and lasting partnership between the Australian Government and the aged care sector.

The committee will provide guidance to help the aged care sector adapt to new demands and a greater consumer focus.

Committee members have been drawn from peak bodies representing providers across residential and home care; for-profit and not-for-profit providers; consumer and workforce representatives.

One of its first tasks is to develop the Aged Care Sector Statement of Principles to set out the way in which government and the aged care sector will work together to progress reform.

This statement of principles will reflect the need to bed down reform, ongoing monitoring and how the recommendations of the Productivity Commission's *Caring for Older Australians* report are considered in the five-year review of the reforms in 2016-17.

This committee will provide an important conduit from the sector and other stakeholders to government.

It will provide important advice, including identifying where to start the critical task of cutting red tape in aged care-practical steps that can be taken to reduce administrative burdens and compliance costs.

Members of the Committee have already been involved in consultations to develop a better way to allocate the former Aged Care Workforce Supplement funding in a more flexible and targeted way.

Get involved in Harmony Day

To find out what's happening in local communities on Harmony Day, held each year on 21 March, visit the on-line [National Harmony Day Diary search facility](#). You can also choose to share your own Harmony Day plans with others across Australia.

Councils, schools, community groups and organisations across Australia hold events to

celebrate Harmony Day.

There's almost no limit to the **types of events** that can be held and they don't have to be on 21 March. In fact, any time of year is a good time to celebrate Harmony Day.

Along with Harmony Day on 21 March, other events that promote themes of multicultural harmony and social cohesion are held around Australia. State and territory governments organise annual multicultural awards to recognise the contributions and achievements by diverse Australians in promoting a multicultural Australia.

Geelong Mayor shortlisted for world mayor competition

Geelong Mayor Darryn Lyons has been nominated for the world mayor competition.

He is one of two Australian mayors, along with Sydney's Clover Moore, to make the long list of 50. Councillor Lyons says it is an honour to be recognised.

"It clearly shows that my work in Geelong is having a big impact on the world stage and I really appreciate the recognition," he said.

A short list of the world's top 25 mayors will be announced in June.

Councillor Lyons says since taking office nearly 100 days ago, he has worked hard to lift Geelong's profile.

"At the end of the day it's not all about the publicity, it's about leveraging off that for the future growth of this city and bringing companies in," he said.

Geelong's economy is in transition after a number of announcements of job losses in the city.

Alcoa will wind up its aluminium operations in the city by the end of the year, cutting 800 jobs, 300 Qantas workers will finish up at Avalon Airport at the end of the month, and Ford will stop making cars in the city by 2016.

ALGA NEWS

14 MARCH 2014

Local government encouraged to share views on infrastructure

Councils are invited to provide input to a draft report released this week by the Productivity Commission on public infrastructure which recognises the potential benefits of greater private sector involvement.

The Productivity Commission was asked by the Australian Government to undertake a broad-ranging inquiry into public infrastructure that assesses how infrastructure is currently funded and financed in Australia, including by the Commonwealth, the States and the private sector.

The draft report highlights concerns about the costs of delivering new public infrastructure and the potential for efficiency gains in delivery and use of infrastructure.

The report specifically devotes thought to road user pricing, including the scope for institutional reform and the opportunities for future pricing of new and upgraded roads investment. Significant road pricing and institutional arrangements are proposed to create more direct links to road users and to take advantage of advances in vehicle technology. The report notes that road pricing for heavy vehicles, through the Heavy Vehicle Charging and Investment (HVCI) reforms, is already under COAG consideration.

Among its key findings, the Commission has articulated the need to reform governance and institutional arrangements for public infrastructure to promote better decision-making in project selection, funding, financing and the delivery of infrastructure services. The Commission has suggested that such reforms be a condition of eligibility for Commonwealth funding, including funding to local councils, although the Commission specifically acknowledged that any impost on councils should be commensurate with the level of funding provided and the capacity of individual councils to comply.

The Commission is also seeking evidence on the potential benefits of creating special-purpose agencies in each jurisdiction to conduct infrastructure procurement on behalf of government clients that do not frequently procure infrastructure or where combined purchases across a range of government might lead to savings. The Commission has acknowledged Queensland's Local Government Infrastructure Services (LGIS) as a positive example in this area.

The Commission has requested written feedback on the draft report by 4 April, and will hold public hearings in early April. ALGA is considering the draft report prior to developing a response. A final report will be provided to the Australian Government in late May 2014.

Get in now for early-bird registration for 2014 National General Assembly

Early-bird registration is currently being offered for the 2014 National General Assembly

of Local Government (NGA) to be held from 15-18 June in Canberra, with tickets for the official dinner at the Great Hall of Parliament House expected to sell out quickly.

The 2014 theme of the NGA is "Getting Down to Business" and the aim of this year's event is to ensure that local government is ready and focused on the practical needs of our communities and what councils need to do their jobs well.

As local government prepares for the outcome of the Government's Commission of Audit and the possible responses, it is vital that the sector works together to develop the strongest case for maintaining and building on the support local government receives, as well as highlighting the beneficial role local government plays in the community.

The NGA will hear from a number of political leaders, as well as from keynote speakers who are experts in their field. But most importantly, there will be a number of panel and concurrent sessions which will call on delegates to share their own experiences and knowledge across a number of areas, including infrastructure and finance, dealing with a changing climate and the provision of human services.

Information on registration and the program are available [here](#) and early-bird registration for the 2014 NGA will close on 28 April 2014.

Intra-government agreement delivers \$24.5 million for outback roads

Australia's legendary Outback Way will receive a major boost as part of a \$24.5 million road funding agreement between local, state and federal governments.

The Outback Way runs from Laverton in Western Australia through the Northern Territory to Winton in Queensland, providing vital access to many remote indigenous communities across the centre of Australia.

Deputy Prime Minister and Infrastructure Minister Warren Truss and Queensland Transport and Main Roads Minister Scott Emerson met with local mayors and MPs in Boulia this week to sign off on the package to improve some of Queensland's most remote roads.

"The Australian Government will provide \$11 million to upgrade the Queensland section of the Outback Way to complement the Remote Area Planning and Development Board proposal," Mr Truss said.

"We will work with the Outback Highway Development Council and the Queensland Government to settle the priority works to be undertaken with the funding.

"The funding fulfils a Coalition election promise and is designed to unlock the potential benefits of outback roads to the Queensland and Australian economy, particularly for tourism, mining and freight."

"It's great to see further development on the Queensland end of the Outback Way, which is one of the great tourist drives in Australia," Mr Emerson said.

"These roads are a lifeline for these regional communities and I'm pleased that we've been able to deliver this package so quickly."

The funding arrangement includes \$21 million split between the state and federal governments and \$3.5 million from the seven local councils.

The funding will be spent across the Barcaldine Regional Council, Barcoo Shire Council, Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, Boulia Shire Council, Diamantina Shire Council, Longreach Regional Council and Winton Shire Council was a testament to the willingness of all levels of government to work together.

The condition of outback roads will be a focus of discussion at ALGA's 2014 National Roads and Transport Congress to be held from 12-14 November in Tamworth.

President's Column

During the past week I have been finalising Local Government's 2014 Disability Champion Report for presentation to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). The Report reflects local government initiatives to improve the lives of people with disability and highlights the activities that I have undertaken as part of my role as Disability Champion for Local Government.

An important part of my role as Disability Champion is to raise awareness of the National Disability Strategy and to speak to councils about the importance of identifying and overcoming barriers faced by people with disability. In addition to using speaking engagements in my role as ALGA President and Mayor of Marion to promote inclusive communities, I am encouraging members of our state and territory local government associations to act as disability champions for local government in their own state or territory. I would hope that through the collective efforts of disability champions, we can make practical changes to positively affect the lives of people with disability.

Small changes can have a big impact for people with disability and often it is about reminding councils to be aware of the needs of people with disability in their regular planning and development processes. Improving the lives of Australians with disabilities is an important objective for many councils and the communities they represent. Many councils across the country already have access and inclusion plans and there are some marvellous examples of inclusive council projects and initiatives.

One wonderful example of councils supporting people with disability in their communities is the growing partnership between local government and the Touched by Olivia Foundation. My own council of Marion in South Australia has initiated a Touched by Olivia all-abilities play space, especially designed to allow children to play side by side, regardless of ability.

I look forward to updating COAG on these and other community initiatives when I submit Local Government's 2014 Disability Champion Report in the near future.

Mayor, Dr Felicity-ann Lewis
ALGA President

Local projects vie for funding to commemorate Gallipoli landing

A local project to develop a book to teach primary school children about World War One could be developed after Federal MP Bruce Billson submitted the project for funding.

It is one of five projects that has been selected by Mr Billson and a local committee to help commemorate the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing.

Mr Billson said the Australian Government's Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program encourages communities to develop projects which commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australian servicemen and women in the First World War.

"It's important that as our nation ages we remember where we have come from and what those before us have done to ensure our way of life," Mr Billson said.

"The Abbott Coalition Government has allocated up to \$125,000 per Federal electorate, an increase of \$25,000 on the previous Labor Government's commitment, for local Centenary of the Gallipoli Landing commemorative projects chosen with the assistance of a local selection committee.

"I am pleased a total of five projects totalling \$80,991 were presented to the local selection committee earlier this year and were all endorsed."

The projects nominated include:

- a major community commemorative ceremony involving local ex-service men and women celebrating 100 years since recruits left Frankston for World War
- a book to teach primary school children about the first World War
- the refurbishment and upgrade of the Honour Roll in Mornington's Memorial Park
- information plaques along the proposed Avenue of Honour Rotunda in Mornington Park
- a series of events and remembrance entitled 'Frankston remembers the Centenary of ANZAC.'

Nominations are still open for the remaining funding and the selection committee will consider

proposals received by the closing date of 25 May 2014.

The program is administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and further information is available at <http://www.anzacentenary.gov.au>

Australian Government commissions NBN audit

The Coalition Government has announced that it will conduct a four-month audit into the process by which the previous Labor government conceived of the national broadband network.

Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced the audit, to be run by Swinburne University Chancellor Bill Scales, would cover the period from when the former Government issued a request for proposal for the NBN in April 2008 to the release of the NBN implementation study in May 2010.

Mr Scales was previously employed as a regulatory and corporate executive for Telstra. He has also served as the chairman of the productivity commission, secretary of the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet, and on a number of Government inquiries.

The audit will detail the process Labor undertook to create NBN policy, including the advice it took leading to the establishment of NBN Co, the basis for the majority fibre-to-the-premise model, and the Government's approach towards cost-benefit or independent reviews of the project.

It will also provide recommendations on future actions an Australian Government should take when approaching a project of the scale of the NBN.

Setting the standard for infrastructure project efficiencies

The House Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications will commence a new inquiry investigating ways to improve infrastructure planning and procurement and whether governments are prepared for future challenges they face in delivering major projects.

The inquiry has been established following a referral from Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss.

Committee Chair Jane Prentice said the committee believes the inquiry will make a valuable contribution to the national debate about how best to meet the infrastructure needs of the future.

The terms of reference for the inquiry will focus on the following:

1. Initiatives already operating around Australia at local and state government levels that might lower the cost of planning approvals and reduce timeframes for delivery of projects
2. Whether any initiatives considered by the committee are able or appropriate to be implemented on a broader basis, including at federal level
3. Whether local, state and federal governments are adequately considering the infrastructure challenges that they face and have long-term plans in place to deal with those challenges
4. Whether governments engaging in long-term planning for future infrastructure investment are taking steps to protect the land and corridors that are needed to deliver those infrastructure projects in the future
5. How best to reduce regulatory and other costs that industry faces in competing for

infrastructure projects

6. How Australia can increase or deepen the competitive market for infrastructure provision and funding in Australia

The committee invites interested persons and organisations to make submissions to the inquiry addressing the above terms of reference. Submissions close on Friday 11 April 2013.

Further information on the inquiry, including the full terms of reference and how to prepare a submission can be obtained from the Committee's website at www.apf.gov.au/ic or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 2352.

Federal government announces \$125 million rail investment

The federal government has announced a \$125 million investment to start the rollout of the Advanced Train Management System (ATMS) across the national rail network and the next stage of the Port Botany Rail Line Upgrade. The ATMS comprises upgrades to the trains so that the driver has better access to information and the control centres managing traffic on the rail network.

Deputy prime minister and minister for infrastructure and regional development Warren Truss advised the Australian Rail Track Corporation that \$50 million is available for the ATMS. He said the upgrade "will increase the capacity of existing networks by allowing trains to run closer together, as well as improving safety by allowing greater control over trains by network operators".

The remaining investment aims to get Stage 3 of the Port Botany Rail Line Upgrade started as well as complementing the completed Stage 1 works and current Stage 2 works.

"Stage 3 will continue the upgrade of the Port Botany Rail Line on segments that have substandard track condition, such as poor ballast, replacing the last remaining timber sleepers with concrete, and replacing sections of worn or low weight rail with higher grade steel to increase load capacity," Mr Truss said.

Australian median house price up 5.7% for December quarter

The latest edition of the Bendigo Bank/REIA Real Estate Market Facts Report reveals some interesting trends around Australia that should prove useful for people seeking suitable residential or investment properties across several price points - and it's not just Australia's East Coast capitals that are experiencing growth.

Dennis Bice, Executive Retail, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank said: "The Australian weighted average median house price is now \$598,044 or 5.7% higher compared with the September quarter 2013. This is a 13.1% increase for the year.

"The December quarter was a standout in terms of capital city price growth for

Melbourne, where the median house price increased by 7.3%, to \$643,000.

"This represents a rise of 21.9% for Melbourne compared with the same quarter in 2012. The median price for other dwellings in Melbourne jumped 6.1% compared with the September quarter, to \$505,000 or 11.8% for the year.

Middle Melbourne recorded a 15.7% increase in house prices for the year, with solid growth in the regions. There was also an 11.3% rise in Bendigo, however, Geelong had the biggest increase in the apartment and townhouse market for the quarter, with 15.0% growth.

"Sydney had the highest median house price across the capital cities at \$763,000, an increase of 15.1% over the year when compared to December 2012 or 6.0% for the quarter. Wollongong house prices grew slightly higher than Inner Sydney houses for the December quarter with 5.8% and 5.7% respectively.

"Since December 2012, Queensland has seen growth of 5.7% for houses in Brisbane, while the Sunshine Coast and Townsville recorded quarterly increases of 3.6% and 3.2% respectively. Apartments and townhouses also grew over the quarter by 7.7% in Townsville and 6.3% on the Sunshine Coast.

"In Adelaide, Inner ring houses were up by 7.9% for the quarter and 10.6% for the year. In regional South Australia, Mt Gambier has seen 7.5% growth for the year and 20.9% growth in the 'other dwelling' category, Mr Bice concluded.

Median house prices up:

Sydney 6.0% to \$763,169

Melbourne 7.3% to \$643,000

Brisbane 5.2% to \$465,000

Adelaide 2.5% to \$410,000

Perth 3.9% to \$535,000

Canberra 2.0% to \$520,000

Hobart 5.1% to \$370,000

Darwin 0.8% to \$610,000

2014 Local Government Research Showcase and Forum

The Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) will be hosting its 2014 Research Forum on 30 April 2014 in Melbourne, Victoria. The Forum is being held in partnership with the LGMA National Congress & Business Expo, and will take place the day prior to the start of the Congress.

The purpose of the forum is to:

- Showcase examples of current local government research which relate to pressing policy issues for Australian local government
- Provide opportunities for local government practitioners to present work alongside academic researchers
- Discuss the implications of the research for policy and practice

The Forum program will reflect the Congress theme 'Productive Communities' and will cover a wide range of areas, including measures of progress, productive regions, social enterprises, community cultural development, housing, investment in employee skills and practitioner led research, and many more.

To register, click [here](#).

More than 150 weather records broken last summer

Australia has endured another summer of searing temperatures, with more than 150 weather records broken, a new report shows.

The Climate Council's latest Angry Summer report analyses climate data from across the country for the 2013-2014 summer.

The report says Adelaide experienced 13 days above 40 degrees Celsius, including five days in a row above 42C.

2013-14 summer records included:

- 11 days above 42C in Adelaide
- Driest summer for 45 spots in Qld & 38 in NSW
- Sydney's driest summer in 27 years
- 20 days above 35C in Canberra

The South Australian capital also had its hottest ever February day, reaching 44.7C.

While South Australia was described as the summer's "ground zero", it was also the driest summer on record for 38 spots in New South Wales and 45 in Queensland, while Sydney had its driest summer in 27 years.

Melbourne had its hottest 24-hour period, with an average temperature of 35.5C, and Perth had its hottest-ever night and its second-hottest summer on record.

The Climate Council's Lesley Hughes says the hotter, drier weather conditions are heightening the risks of bushfires.

"Bushfires, if they're started, are able to carry and spread faster, and more seriously and more intensely, the hotter and drier the conditions," she said.

"So if we have really hot days, dry weather that's dried out the fuel - those are the conditions that are conducive to bushfires spreading and causing really serious impacts."

Overseas visitor numbers up

January saw record numbers of overseas visitors to Australia, according to figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

The increase in short-term visitors to Australia over the past year has continued, up 8.7 per cent from last year, and there were nearly 560,000 short-term visitor arrivals to Australia's shores in January 2014, making it the highest January on record.

"The largest growth in short-term visitor arrivals over the past year was from Asia," Denise Carlton, from the ABS, said.

"Arrivals from Malaysia were up by 40 per cent, and from Hong Kong and Singapore by 26 per cent each."

In 2013, the ABS completed a rebuild of the overseas arrivals and departures system and the results are the first from this new methodology.

Further information, including details of the improved methodology and revised time series can be found in [Overseas Arrivals and Departures, January 2014](#) available via the ABS web site at www.abs.gov.au

Sydney's Smart Card wins Smart Infrastructure Award

Transport for New South Wales and the Pearl Consortium have won the 2014 Smart Infrastructure Award for their electronic transport ticketing system, the Opal Card project.

The Award was presented by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss at the 2014 National Infrastructure Awards dinner hosted by Infrastructure Partnerships Australia this week.

"The Opal Card project is a worthy winner, with its smarter technologies contributing to better service outcomes," Mr Truss said.

"The Opal Card project involved the introduction of an electronic transport ticketing system through the Greater Sydney region.

"It involved the design, development, supply, implementation, commissioning, operation and support of the smartcard based ticketing system.

"The system uses GPS technology to calculate the fare when the card is tapped on and off at card readers.

"While the immediate benefits for passengers are reduced fares and less queuing for tickets, there is a greater benefit in the provision of information about patronage, modes and routes for transport network planning."

The smartcard will be used on trains and buses throughout Sydney, the Blue Mountains,

Central Coast, Hunter, Illawarra and Southern Highlands by the end of 2014 and on ferries in 2015.

Mr Truss said the Australian Government sponsored the Smart Infrastructure Project Award through the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development as part of its commitment to delivering sustainable, efficient and safe infrastructure.

"The Australian Government is partnering with state, territory and local government, the research sector and industry to achieve infrastructure outcomes that support efficiency and economic benefits," he said.

Infopest Free Online celebrates first birthday

Peak Queensland production horticulture body, Growcom is offering the public the chance to win two prizes worth \$250 each as part of celebrations for the first birthday of [Infopest Free Online](#) this month.

Chief Executive Officer Alex Livingstone said that Infopest is the comprehensive agricultural and veterinary chemicals database managed and maintained by Growcom as a service to agriculture throughout Australia.

"On 11 March last year, the database was launched free online and to date more than 2100 users have registered to take advantage of the service's convenience, easy searchability and comprehensiveness," Mr Livingstone said.

"A team at Growcom each week updates the registration and minor permit data provided by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). This puts Infopest at the leading edge of agricultural chemicals, minor permit and materials safety data sheet information - and it's all free for users."

To celebrate the first 12 months of service, Growcom is offering new users who register on the [website](#) during the month of March the chance to win a prize of a \$250 BCF gift voucher, redeemable in any BCF store. A second \$250 BCF voucher will be the prize drawn from the pool of those social media users who like Infopest's page on Facebook and comment on the status update about our first birthday.

"To date, agricultural services retailer, Elders, is the company with the largest number of registered users. The Queensland Government is only narrowly in second place with the second most registered individual users within an organisation. The gap is closing with the NSW Government chalking up a close third," he said.

"We ask users to identify with a specific industry category and based on their responses, there are about 10 times more primary producers (crops) than veterinary related users with 46 per cent of Australian users located in Queensland and 23 per cent in New South Wales. We look forward to competition from the other states in the months ahead.

"Most people have happily embraced the Infopest online version to search for agricultural chemicals solutions for pest problems in crops or animals. However, we take on board all comments from users about the Infopest product and look forward to incorporating their suggestions into future enhancements of the system."

ALGA News can be read online each week at www.alga.asn.au/news.aspx
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6 March 2014

WALGA Leadership Returned

The State Council of the WA Local Government Association last night voted to return Joondalup Mayor Troy Pickard as WALGA President.

The election, conducted as part of the March State Council meeting, also returned as Deputy President, the Shire of East Pilbara President Cr Lynne Craigie.

Mayor Pickard said the return of the leadership team for another two-year term came at a critical time for the Local Government sector in WA.

“Councils across the State are bracing for a period of unprecedented change and I believe it is important that they can have confidence in the continuity of their Association leadership,” Mayor Pickard said.

“The Local Government Advisory Board is scheduled to make recommendations to the Minister in July on a proposed structure for Metropolitan Local Government with new Councils to be elected in October 2015.

“Meanwhile the Premier has already repeatedly stated that once metropolitan changes are completed, the reform process will then shift to regional areas.

“In this time of change there is much anxiety among Elected Members and staff so it is critical that the Association is able to present a united and proven leadership team.”

Mayor Pickard said he believed policy forums established by WALGA, for both metropolitan reform implementation and a country forum to define a united position on regional reform, provided an important platform for the sector.

“The next few years will be like no other time in the history of Local Government in this State and there is much the sector can contribute to help ensure all changes are in the best interests of the communities they serve,” he said.

Ends

FOR COMMENT PLEASE CONTACT

WALGA President: Troy Pickard, Mayor, 0409 209 649

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

6 March 2014

Awards Recognise Road Safety Excellence

The 2014 Local Government Road Safety Awards were presented today by the Hon. Liza Harvey MLA, Minister for Police; Tourism; Road Safety; Women's Interests, at the Transport and Roads Forum held at the Crown Perth.

The Awards are a joint initiative between the WA Local Government Association's RoadWise Program and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasian (WA Division).

The Award categories are aligned with *Towards Zero* – WA's Road Safety Strategy 2008-2020, and recognise projects that have provided engineering and/or strategic solutions based on one of the four cornerstones of the safe system approach.

WALGA President Mayor Troy Pickard said road safety is important to the community and Local Governments' have a key role in applying the safe system approach to ensure the *Towards Zero* strategy is being effectively implemented.

This year the Local Government Road Safety Awards recognised six Local Governments and one individual for their efforts in road safety.

The Award Winners are:

Safe Roads and Roadsides Category

- Metro winner: Town of Claremont for the Bay View Terrace Shared Space Upgrade.
- Rural winner: Shire of Irwin for the Walkability Audit.

Safe Speeds Category

- Winner: City of Wanneroo for the Review of Default State Speed Limits within the City of Wanneroo.

Safe Road Use Category

- Winner: City of Swan for the Reggie's Road Rules and Tips project.

Safe Vehicles

- Winner: City of Stirling and City of Swan joint collaboration Vehicle Safety and Child Restraint Checking Station.

Joe North Award

- Rudi Steffens for an outstanding commitment, dedication and contribution to road safety in Wanneroo and the wider community.

Ends

FOR COMMENT PLEASE CONTACT

WALGA President: Troy Pickard, Mayor, 0409 209 649

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

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

1.1 EMPLOYEE MOVEMENTS

New Staff:

- ❑ Swim Instructor (casual) – commenced 10/3/14.
- ❑ Trainee Environmental Health Officer (casual) – commenced 12/3/14.
- ❑ Administrative/Lands Officer – commences 31/3/14.
- ❑ Community Landcare Officer (AGLG) – commences 7/4/14.
- ❑ Manager Waste Services – commences 9/4/14.

Staff Leaving:

- ❑ Club Development Officer – resignation effective 5/3/14.
- ❑ Manager Property Services – retirement effective 26/11/14.

Other Staff Movements (Internal):

- ❑ Contract Statutory Planning Officer successful in recruitment to permanent Statutory Planning Officer position – effective 19/3/14.
- ❑ A/Assistant Aquatic Centre Coordinator successful in recruitment to permanent Customer Service Team Leader (Leisure Services) position – effective 24/3/14.

Current Recruitment Activity:

- ❑ Building Surveyor – recruitment cancelled.
- ❑ Manager Waste Services – recruitment complete.
- ❑ Manager Information & Communication Technology – interviews complete, recruitment progressing.
- ❑ Parks Maintenance Operator (Civic Precinct) – interviews complete, candidate did not accept offer. Position offered to past employee who is returning from UK in May of this year. Recruitment complete.
- ❑ Statutory Planning Officer – recruitment complete.
- ❑ Customer Service Team Leader (Leisure Services) – recruitment complete.
- ❑ Administrative/Lands Officer – recruitment complete.
- ❑ Plant Operator/Waste Collection Vehicle Operator – interviews scheduled 20/3/14.
- ❑ Leisure Services Administration Officer – interviews scheduled 19/3/14.
- ❑ Customer Service Officer – applications closed 6/3/14.

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

TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS		
ITEM	REFERRING COMMITTEE	COMMENTS
Council 10 February 2014 Matter for Referral – Cr Busby “That the matter of service requirements at Dale Cottages be referred to the Technical Services Directorate.”	Technical Services	Investigation complete. Outcomes communicated to Ward Councillors on 6 March 2014.
Technical Services Committee March 5 2014 Matter for Referral – Cr Northcott “That Council refer the Councillor’s item in regard to a progress report on the Accessible Playgrounds Project to the Technical Services Directorate for appropriate action.”	Technical Services	Investigation under way with report to be presented to April Technical Services Committee Meeting.

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE
Works Programme – March 2014 – May 2014



Department	March 2014	April 2014	May 2014
City Projects	<u>Capital Works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piara Waters Stage 2 – Works continuing. New office complex – construction continuing. Ground floor & first floor slab. 	<u>Capital Works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piara Waters Stage 2 – Works continuing. Completion due May New office complex – construction continuing. Second & third floor slab. 	<u>Capital Works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piara Waters Stage 2 – Completion due May New office complex – construction continuing. Plant level concrete, roof framing.
Civil Works	<u>Construction</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranford Road – McNeil Road to Tonkin Highway. Garland/River Road cul-de-sac. Seventh Road Upgrading. Cross Park / Roleystone - streetscaping and carpark works. Gecko Road Footpath. Buckingham Road footpath. Streich Avenue / Denny Avenue widening for the spud shed. Wungong River - Cyclepath <u>Maintenance:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine maintenance as per Programme. Contract road sweeping. Footpath defects. Drainage maintenance in various 	<u>Construction</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranford Road – McNeil Road to Tonkin Highway. Coleus Way - cul-de-sac. Herbrides Drive – cul-de-sac. Clover Approach – cul-de-sac. Ballanup swale drainage works. Shaw Place – drainage works. Aviemore Drive- drainage works. Streich Avenue / Denny Avenue widening for the spud shed. <u>Maintenance:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine maintenance as per Programme. Contract road sweeping. Footpath defects. Drainage maintenance in various 	<u>Construction</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranford Road – McNeil Road to Tonkin Highway. Railway Avenue - road upgrading works. Ballanup swale drainage works. Karragullen Hall - car park construction works. Clifton Hill Primary school – carp park construction works. Seventh Road - upgrade. <u>Maintenance:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine maintenance as per Programme. Contract road sweeping. Footpath defects. Drainage maintenance in various

Department	March 2014	April 2014	May 2014
	locations. • Bridge routine and preventive maintenance.	locations. • Bridge routine and preventive maintenance.	locations. • Bridge routine and preventive maintenance
Design and Engineering	• Nicholson Stage 4 (Various). • Piara Drive/Nicholson Road/Riva Entrance - roundabout. • Neighbourhood Improvement Programme. • Railway Avenue – improvement. • Balannup Road - lighting. • Keane Road – Skeet to Anstey. • Coleus Way - cul-de-sac. • Herbrides Drive – cul-de-sac. • Clover Approach – cul-de-sac. • Shaw Place – drainage works. • Aviemore Drive- drainage works.	• Denny Avenue/Streich Avenue – traffic signals. <u>Road Surfacing</u> • Nicholson Road – Armadale Road to Swamp. • Streich Avenue – Foster Road to Ullyott Street. • Champion Drive – Westfield Road to Gillam Drive. • Church Avenue – Seventh Road to Green Avenue. • Wungong Road – Harber Drive to Byron Road.	• MRRG Projects (Reconstruct). • Chevin Road – Holden Road to Brookton Highway. • Hopkinson Road – Rowley to Rowley East. • MRRG Projects (Rehabilitation). • Camillo Road – Westfield to Third. • Orlando Street – Clifton to River. • Stric Avenueh – Netley to Clarence. • Blackspot (LATM Treatments). • Henderson Drive. • Westfield Road.
Parks Design and Documentation	• Cross park landscape detailed design. • Groundwater Operating Strategy review in consultation with Department of Water. • Preparation of request for tender - Sportsturf Consultancy. • John Dunn front oval redevelopment - request for quote - irrigation system, lighting and turf. • Armadale Golf Course project postponed pending community development expression of interest - facility lease. • Armadale Golf Course irrigation system installation – request for quote	• Precinct A – detailed design. • All Access Playground - concept design. • Urban Forrest – final report. • Botanical Garden Report. • Migrant Park interpretative project, concept design. • Armadale Golf Course - irrigation system installation - request for quote design. • Armadale Golf Course - construction - drawing development - “J Lane” select greens and tees. • Stormwater Harvesting for POS - irrigation concept.	• Armadale Golf Course - irrigation system installation - request for quote design. • John Dunn Oval -turf and irrigation specification - request for tender. • Armadale Golf Course - construction drawing development - “J Lane” select greens and tees. • Parks asset pick up and data migration- POS Strategy precincts and new POS. • Groundwater Operating Strategy review in consultation with Department of Water. • Department of Water - Water Abstraction Report 2013-2014.

Department	March 2014	April 2014	May 2014
	design. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Access Playground - concept design • Neighbourhood Improvement Projects design. • Landmark Building carpark landscape design. • Urban Forrest – final report. • Preparation of business case “Bore Meter Telemetry System” Botanical Garden Report. • Parks Asset pick up and data migration - POS Strategy - precincts and new POS. • Parks Operational and Capital Renewal Budget formalisation. • Champion Lakes - bore licence transfer applications x3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks asset pick up and data migration- POS Strategy precincts and new POS. • Groundwater Operating Strategy - review in consultation with Department of Water. • Preparation of request for tender - Sportsturf Consultancy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frye Park drainage specification and request for tender. • All Access Playground - Concept Design. • POS Strategy A - Detailed Design
Parks Subdivisional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various approvals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various approvals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various approvals.
Parks Works	<u>Capital/ Works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All works commenced. <u>Asset Renewal Works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power audits - designs underway. 	<u>Capital/Works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precinct B works ongoing. • Exploratory drilling for new water. • Memorial plaques complete. <u>Asset Renewal Works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender documentation for lighting 	<u>Capital/Works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precinct B works completed. • Continuation of Exploratory drilling for new water at Cross and Gwynne Parks. <u>Asset Renewal Works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender documentation for lighting

Department	March 2014	April 2014	May 2014
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinets and pumps completed. • Investigation of viable water for new bores. <p><u>Maintenance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract landscape maintenance. • Contract play space maintenance. • Scheduled mowing and general maintenance. • Irrigation maintenance. • Bushland maintenance. • Civic Precinct maintenance. • New estate maintenance. • Citywide streetscape maintenance. • Customer requests. • Barbecue cleaning. 	<p>works to be finalised.</p> <p><u>Maintenance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract landscape maintenance. • Contract play space maintenance. • Scheduled mowing and general maintenance. • Irrigation maintenance. • Bushland maintenance. • Civic Precinct maintenance. • New estate maintenance. • Citywide streetscape maintenance. • Customer requests. • Barbecue cleaning 	<p>works to be finalised.</p> <p><u>Maintenance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract landscape maintenance. • Contract play space maintenance. • Scheduled mowing and general maintenance. • Irrigation maintenance. • Bushland maintenance. • Civic Precinct maintenance. • New estate maintenance. • Citywide streetscape maintenance. • Customer requests. • Barbecue cleaning.
<p>Property Management</p>	<p>Capital Works</p> <p><u>Upgrade:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depot Administration - redesign of existing buildings to provide new entry. • Depot toilets refurbishment construction. • Reg Williams Pavilion (Minnawarra House) – electrical upgrade to Centre. • Cross Park – electrical upgrade to sports pavilions. • Kelmscott Hall –design and re-roof. • Armadale Hall – internal upgrades. • Cross Park – electrical upgrade to sports pavilions. 	<p>Capital Works</p> <p><u>Upgrade:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depot Administration - redesign of existing buildings to provide new entry. • Depot toilets refurbishment construction. • Reg Williams Pavilion (Minnawarra House) – electrical upgrade to Centre. • Cross Park – electrical upgrade to sports pavilions. • Kelmscott Hall –design and re-roof. • Armadale Hall – internal upgrades. • Alfred Skeet - provision of female change rooms and unisex facility 	<p>Capital Works</p> <p><u>Upgrade:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depot Administration - redesign of existing buildings to provide new entry. • Depot toilets refurbishment construction. • Reg Williams Pavilion (Minnawarra House) – electrical upgrade to Centre. • Cross Park – electrical upgrade to sports pavilions. • Kelmscott Hall –design and re-roof. • Armadale Hall – internal upgrades. • Harold King Child Care paving • Alfred Skeet - provision of female

Department	March 2014	April 2014	May 2014
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alfred Skeet - provision of female change rooms and unisex facility (subject to funding approvals). <p><u>Renewal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion Centre – internal refurbishments. • Arena – internal painting. • Roleystone Guide Hall – re roofing. • Armadale Tennis Club – floor finishes to female toilets. • John Dunn Pavilion – pedestrian paving, drainage and access. 	<p>(subject to funding approvals).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seville Grove Library – install new airconditioning to main library. <p><u>Renewal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion Centre – internal refurbishments. • Arena – internal painting. • Armadale Bowling Club – external gutter works. • Armadale Bowling Club – removal of asbestos from eaves, replace with hardiflex. • Armadale Bowling Club – painting to fascia and soffits. • Armadale Bowling Club – new airconditioner to office. <p><u>New</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armadale Aquatic Centre – personal lift for 25m and 50m pool. • Depot Archives – redesign storage area for archives. 	<p>change rooms and unisex facility (subject to funding approvals).</p> <p><u>Renewal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armadale Bowling Club – external gutter works. • Armadale Bowling Club – removal of asbestos from eaves, replace with hardiflex. • Armadale Bowling Club – painting to fascia and soffits. <p><u>New</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depot Archives – redesign storage area for archives. • Harold King - security fencing. • John Dunn Pavilion – paving and drainage to under-croft area. • John Dunn Concrete floor for COA Storage unit.
Subdivisional Development	<p><u>North Forrestdale</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 active areas of civil works. • 3 civil works submissions under review. • 3 water management submissions 	<p><u>North Forrestdale</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 active areas of civil works. • 3 civil works submissions under review. • 4 water management submissions 	<p><u>North Forrestdale</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 active areas of civil works. • 3 civil works submissions under review. • 4 water management submissions

Department	March 2014	April 2014	May 2014
	<p>under review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 major public utility installation. <p><u>Mt Richon</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>METROPOLITAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AREA WORKS</u></p> <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park East</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 active areas of civil works. 2 civil works submissions under review. 1 water management submission under review. <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park West</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 civil works submissions under review. 1 water management submission under review. <p><u>Wungong Urban Water</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 WAPC subdivision submissions under review. 2 water management submissions under review. 3 civil works submissions under 	<p>under review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active major public utility installation. <p><u>Mt Richon</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>METROPOLITAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AREA WORKS</u></p> <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park East</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 active areas of civil works. 1 civil works submissions under review. <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park West</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 active areas of civil works. 1 civil works submissions under review. <p><u>Wungong Urban Water</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 WAPC subdivision submissions under review. 2 water management submissions under review. 	<p>under review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active major public utility installation. <p><u>Mt Richon</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>METROPOLITAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AREA WORKS</u></p> <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park East</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 active areas of civil works. 1 civil works submissions under review. <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park West</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 active areas of civil works. 1 civil works submissions under review. <p><u>Wungong Urban Water</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 WAPC subdivision submissions under review. 2 water management submissions under review.

Department	March 2014	April 2014	May 2014
	<p>review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 active areas of civil works. 2 active major public utility installations. <p><u>Champion Lakes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 WAPC subdivision submission under review. 1 water management submission under review. 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>Lake Road - Champion Glades</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active area of civil works. 1 water management submission under review. <p><u>Lake Road – Precinct B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active area of civil works. 1 water management submission under review. <p><u>Seville Grove</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 active areas of civil works. <p><u>Gillam Drive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active area of civil works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 civil works submissions under review. 4 active areas of civil works. 2 active major public utility installations. <p><u>Champion Lakes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 WAPC subdivision submission under review. 2 active area of civil works. <p><u>Lake Road - Champion Glades</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>Lake Road – Precinct B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>Seville Grove</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 active areas of civil works. <p><u>Gillam Drive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active area of civil works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 civil works submissions under review. 4 active areas of civil works. 2 active major public utility installations. <p><u>Champion Lakes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 WAPC subdivision submission under review. 2 active area of civil works. <p><u>Lake Road - Champion Glades</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>Lake Road – Precinct B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>Seville Grove</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 active areas of civil works. <p><u>Gillam Drive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 active area of civil works.

Blessing of the Roads Easter Road Safety Campaign 2014 City of Armadale RoadWise Advisory Committee

The City of Armadale RoadWise Advisory Committee will be conducting the Blessing of the Roads at Memorial Park, Armadale at 10:30AM on Sunday, 6 April 2014.

This year's Blessing of the Roads event will have special significance as it will, for the first time, be held in conjunction with the City's Minnawarra Arts and Crafts Festival.

The Blessing of the Roads Campaign is a community-based initiative which allows communities to directly contribute to raising awareness about the importance of road safety leading into the Easter holiday period.

The Campaign urges people to take care on the roads over the Easter long weekend period and deliver the Road Safety message to friends, family and colleagues to help reduce road trauma.

Bushcare and Environmental Working Group

Annual Report

November 2012 – October 2013



Bushcare and Environmental
Advisory Committee



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1. Introduction and overview

In September 1999 the Bushcare and Environmental Working Group (hereafter referred to as 'BEWG') was formally established under the *Local Government Act 1995* and charged with six key objectives.

At Council's 24 August 2009 meeting it was endorsed that:

That the Bushcare and Environmental Advisory Committee (currently the Bushcare and Environmental Working Group) be retained for its current purpose, but without the formality imposed under the Local Government Act. That the change be effective as from the Local Government Elections in October 2009, with the group becoming known as the Bushcare and Environmental Working Group.

The objectives and purpose of the group remain the same and the group continues to work towards their key objectives. These are highlighted in Section 2.2 of this report.

This annual report helps the group fulfil its object to serve as a link between Council and community groups. This report covers activities conducted by the Group from November 2012 to October 2013, and has been structured to report against each of the Group's objectives.

The Group considers it useful to include short annual reports from community conservation groups in the annual report to illustrate to Council and each of the other groups, the amount of good work being undertaken by community volunteers.

The annual reports provided by community conservation groups demonstrate the enormous amount of effort into improving the natural environment in the City of Armadale. In total 196 volunteers from 12 community groups reported in excess of 5465 volunteer hours in the period November 2012 to October 2013. Adding in the volunteer contributions of corporate groups and schools assisting the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group in revegetation activities, 1874 volunteers contributed in excess of 7,611 volunteer hours in the City of Armadale.

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2. Report on Group activities October 2012 – October 2013

2.1 Administrative and general matters

2.1.1 Membership

The following individuals were members of BEWG during the 2012/13 period.

Member	Deputy Member	Affiliations
Cr Wielinga	Cr Nixon	Armadale City Council Delegates
Mrs Pat Hart	N/A	Chair
Mrs Gwen Watson	N/A	Armadale City Rivercare
Mr Kim Fletcher	Pam Lee	Armadale Settlers Common Management Group
Mr Cam Clay	Ken Downsborough	Deputy Chair/Bedforddale Volunteer Fire Brigade
Mr Adrian Choules	N/A	Friends of Goolamrup
Mr David James	Dr Rod Giblet	Friends of Forrestdale
Mr Ian Colquhoun	Diane Horgan	Roleybushcare
Ms Beth Laurie	N/A	Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group

2.1.2 Meeting Agenda

Six BEWG meetings were held between November 2012 and October 2013. Agenda items discussed at each of these meetings are highlighted below. Information on additional agenda items is detailed in subsequent sections of this annual report.

MONTH	AGENDA ITEM	DETAILS
February	Bushcare Supervisor and Bush Crew	Introduction of Bushcare Supervisor Bush Crew to BEWG members.
	Draft BEWG Annual Report and annual meeting calendar	Consider Draft Annual Report and meeting calendar.
	BEWG Awareness Walks	Plan BEWG Awareness Walks for the year.
	Minnawarra Festival	Commence planning, decide on a theme
	Plenary Session 1	Consider session topics.
April	Cotton Bush Local Law	Cotton Bush Local Law is advertised for public comment.
	Plenary Session	Quenda Survey plenary session with Dr Geoff Barrett from Department of Parks and Wildlife.

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	Keane Road Strategic Link	The Public Environmental Report for the Keane Road Strategic Link EPBC Act assessment is released for public comment.
June	Armadale Settlers Common Working Group Soiree	A soiree hosted by the ASCWG was held on 11 May 2013 at the Field Study Centre. All environmental volunteer groups within the City were invited to the event.
	Birdlife funding for Bob Blackburn Reserve	Birdlife Australia provides \$8,000 in funding for upgrades to Bob Blackburn Reserve as part of a project to rehabilitate Carnaby's Cockatoo habitat.
August	Guest speaker	Bryce Wells from Birdlife Australia presents on the topic, "Birds in the City of Armadale".
	Firebreak construction guidelines	Discussion on the need for guidelines for the construction of firebreaks in bushland reserves.
October	Bungendore Park Walk and Weed	A community weeding day is held at Bungendore Park, hosted by the Bungendore Park Working Group in Conjunction with the City of Armadale.
	BEWG Grants	BEWG grants announced.
December	Cam Clay	The BEWG observe a minutes silence to mark the passing of BEWG Deputy Chair Cam Clay.
	Election of BEWG Deputy Chair	Kim Fletcher is elected as Deputy Chair of the BEWG.
	Volunteer Thankyou Breakfast	The BEWG Volunteer Thankyou Breakfast is held at the Armadale Settlers Common Field Study Centre.
	New Council delegate for BEWG	Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ruth Butterfield is appointed as the new Council representative for the BEWG.
	Keane Road Strategic Link	The Keane Road Strategic Link Public Environmental Report for the Environmental Protection Authority assessment is released for public comment.
	Urban Forest Strategy	The Draft Urban Forest Strategy is endorsed by Council and released for public comment.
	WA Landcare Network	The WA Landcare Network is established to represent on-ground community groups.

2.1.3 Funding

In the 2012/13 financial year \$42,526 in funding was requested by the City's environmental groups. \$20,000 was allocated to friends groups through the annual BEAC grants budget.

Funding provided in 2012/13 to City environmental groups included:

- \$3,571 towards administration, website costs, insurance, licences, and rental expenses of Roleybushcare;

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- \$5,000 towards revegetation for the Friends of Bob Blackburn Reserve; and;
- \$11,505 towards administration, revegetation, publicity and pamphlets, and survey expenses of the Bungendore Park Working Group.

2.2 Achievement of BEWG objectives as per the groups terms of reference.

BEWG's objectives are discussed below.

2.2.1 To provide the primary formal link between Council and community groups or individuals concerned with protection and rehabilitation of the natural environment.

In the 2012/2013 reporting period, BEWG advertised its role to the community primarily through newspaper advertising (community events) and display material at community events and in libraries.

Six of the City's friends groups are directly represented on BEWG. Meetings were utilised as a forum for;

- Friends Groups to bring various site-specific environmental issues to Council's attention and to advice of upcoming volunteer events or work days.
- The City of Armadale to provide a topical on current environmental projects and works.
- The City of Armadale to pass on information on such matters as training opportunities, new policy or legislation and documents available for public comment.
- Other organisations to provide briefs to the community about projects of interest.

The City's Reserve Custodians were invited to BEWG meetings throughout the year. Several Custodians attended meetings regularly and provided valuable updates on their reserves. The Bushcare Supervisor attended meetings and gave an update of on-ground activities including information on Hazard Reduction Burns.

2.2.2 To facilitate communication between community groups and individuals concerned with protection and rehabilitation of the natural environment.

In December 2013, BEWG in conjunction with the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group hosted an end of year celebration at Armadale Settlers Common Field Study Centre. The event included an informal breakfast for all environmental volunteers. This was a thank-you event to recognise their valuable contributions towards bushland conservation throughout the year and to celebrate the year's achievements. This event was attended by approximately 50 people from the various City environmental groups along with City of Armadale staff, the Deputy Mayor, Cr Ruth Butterfield and Cr Carol Frost. Cr. Butterfield thanked volunteers for the work they had undertaken throughout the year.

BEWG hosted two awareness walks in 2013. These included a tour of Harrisdale Swamp (part of Jandakot Regional Park) and a walk through Lloyd Hughes Park. These walks provided an opportunity for environmental volunteers to share experiences in regards to their particular reserves. As part of the City of Armadale Spring Walks series, the City in conjunction with Armadale Settlers Common Working Group, hosted a Night Stalk through Armadale Settlers Common West as well as a day walk through the Reserve. The Bungendore Park Working Group also hosted a walk through the Reserve as part of the Springtime Walk Series.

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As part of the national 'Bushcares Major Day Out' a 'Walk and Weed' was held at Bungendore Park. The event was hosted by the Bungendore Park Working Group and the City of Armadale. A walk through the Park was followed by the hand weeding of Cotton Bush. The event was concluded with a pancake lunch provided by the Armadale Kelmscott Lions Club.

2.2.3 To advise Council on this group's opinion and attitude on environmental issues in the City of Armadale.

BEWG discussed and provided advice to Council on fire break construction in bushland reserves and the surveillance of illegal access in reserves. The Group also discussed various Town Planning Scheme amendments and considered issues relating to the increasing problem of rubbish dumping in Crown Reserves, State Forest and Council Reserves.

2.2.4 To assist Council in creating and reviewing policies.

The Group discussed the requirement to establish a policy or guidelines for the construction of fire breaks within bushland reserves.

2.2.5 To assist in developing, implementing and reviewing strategic conservation strategies.

The Lloyd Hughes Park Bushland Management Plan was endorsed by Council on the 7th October after an 8 week public consultation period earlier in the year. BEWG members were encouraged to comment on the plan for this important bushland reserve during the public comment period. The Keane Road Strategic Link Public Environmental Report was released for public comment in April as part of the Federal Government assessment process. It was also released for public comment in December in accordance with State Legislation under the Environmental Protection Act. The Group encouraged members to make a submission on the proposal during both consultation periods.

2.2.6 To foster and facilitate care and concern for the natural environment, development of "Friends" groups and actions by individuals that protect or rehabilitate the natural environment.

In 2012 members of BEWG formed the Friends of Bob Blackburn Reserve. Historically it has proved challenging to foster community involvement in the Reserve. Bob Blackburn is one of several small reserves containing Forrestfield Complex vegetation. This is considered a Threatened Ecological Community and has great conservation value. The Friends of Bob Blackburn Reserve successfully applied for a \$5,000 BEWG Grant to revegetate small degraded pockets of the reserve.

The first plenary session in April 2013 saw Dr Geoff Barrett from the Department of Parks and Wildlife discuss the findings of the 2012 Quenda Survey. The session was attended by approximately 30 residents from the City and surrounding areas and was held at Bakers

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House in Harrisdale. The session was very informative and very appropriate for BEWG's plenary meeting.

In August, Bryce Wells from Birdlife Australia was a guest speaker at the BEWG meeting. Bryce presented on "Birds in the City of Armadale". Friends Groups and Reserve Custodians were invited to the meeting which proved interesting and informative presentation.

Media releases and articles in City Views were produced detailing the accomplishments and environmental initiatives in the City.

3. Reports from Community Conservation Groups

3.1 Registered Friends Groups

The following groups are listed on the City directory of Environmental Friends Groups and appear in the BEWG Bushcare Directory:

- Armadale City Rivercare Group
- Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group
- Armadale Settlers Common Working Group
- Brookdale Residents Association
- Bungendore Park Working Group
- Churchmans Bushland Association
- Cooliaberra Reserve Bushland Group
- Friends of Armadale Shale Quarry (currently inactive)
- Friends of Bob Blackburn
- Friends of Canning Mills Reserve (currently inactive)
- Friends of Forrestdale
- Friends of Goolamrup
- Friends of Hall Rd Bridle Trail
- Friends of Lloyd Hughes Reserve (currently inactive)
- Friends of Martin Street Reserve (currently inactive)
- Friends of Neerigen Brook (currently inactive)
- Friends of Roley Pools
- Friends of Westfield Heron Reserve (currently inactive)
- Friends of Wright Brook
- Hillandale Bushcare (currently inactive)
- Palomino Reserve Catchment Group
- Roleybushcare
- Wildflower Society of WA (inc.) – Armadale Branch

3.2 Reports from volunteer groups

3.2.1 Friends of Wright

"Wright Brook is looking after the area subjected to a controlled burn two years ago. Burnt shrubs, which did not regrow, were removed this year and this makes the area look cleaner."

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There was amazing regrowth following the burn and new seedlings emerged – even of plants which were not previously noted in the area, perhaps the seeds lying dormant in the soil awaiting a fire to germinate.

In early winter we had a community planting day when there were approximately 1,000 seedlings planted in an area of Wright Brook adjacent to the original target area. This new area was previously infested with Watsonia weed, which proved difficult to treat, but eventually was eradicated.

Regular weed control has been welcome and has given our new plantings more chance of survival. There have been many flowers evident this season as previous seedlings are maturing.

Eventually the brook began to flow this winter and late rains, I hope, will keep it damp for several more weeks.”

3.2.2 Armadale Settlers Common Working Group

“The ASCMG held or was involved in a wide variety of activities over the 2012/2013 year. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at the Field Study Centre (FSC), starting at 7 pm.

Busy Bees -

- *Tree and shrub planting at a variety of sites including the central area in front of the FSC.*
- *PC Dieback treatment: around the loop from Observation Circle (a committee busy bee), and in a dieback free area along Cannes Road with APS students and parents. Both areas are/will be logged with GPS co-ordinates for the council records.*
- *Organizing for the removal of dangerous asbestos close to the Field Study Centre - professionally removed under the supervision of the council health department.*
- *Clearing out unused equipment, cleaning and tidying the Field Study Centre - including the removal of those nefarious extra bins!!! At last!! We acknowledge the able assistance of Les Judd in the removal of many of the unwanted items from the centre as well as sourcing lockable cabinets. ASCMG is very grateful to the City of Armadale for the comfortable chairs and fabulous new carpet which make the centre a much more comfortable and pleasant venue.*

Investigating a record of the history of the Common -

Kim Fletcher, a member of the Group, is meeting with relatives of the family who used to reside in the cottage known as 'Bluegums'. This was in the area of the FSC and remains of their gardens and buildings can still be seen. This will be an ongoing project to record the history.

Ferals –

Due to local feedback, we have been endeavouring to get council assistance for removal of feral pigs and foxes. This is a common problem in many local reserves and needs co-ordination by the Armadale authorities.

Purchases/donations –

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We received a BEWG Grant for a fridge and information pamphlets which are being designed to publicize what the Common has to offer. The pamphlets are still in the design process but at this stage are looking fabulous.

Bunnings kindly donated a gas bottle, 2 x thermos and barbecue tools. We acknowledge the help of Keith and Helen Wildsmith for this wonderful result!

In conjunction with the Armadale Wildflower Society, we purchased an urn and 2 portable heaters as the FSC is very cold during winter.

Spring Walks –

Our Day Walk was held on 14 September and the Night Stalk on the 5 October with approximately 35 people attending. We received positive feedback following both walks. 41 people were booked for the Night Stalk, but due to inclement weather the number were much reduced. This is the second year that this has happened - we will be looking at this for 2014. Our fabulous leaders, Kim Fletcher and Michael Moltoni, conducted an 'adventurous' for all over the 2 hours and were assisted by many committee members. The walks included the new trail from the new Yongah View lookout area through a delightful sea of wildflowers. Helen and Keith Wildsmith volunteered to cook up a delicious sausage sizzle.

Collaborations with a variety of local groups and developing networks –

The ASCMG is working towards building relationships with a range of local groups to enhance the education about and use of the Common.

Wildflower Society -

We are in the process of discussions with the Wildflower Society re working together on some projects. The Wildflower Society has been working hard on the native plant garden at the FSC.

City of Armadale -

We were delighted that Cockatubes were installed in the Eastern section by the Environmental Department from the City of Armadale.

Armadale Primary School continued its involvement with ASCMG:

Weed eradication on regular bush walks (year 6 students)

Making 15 bat boxes (still to be installed at a busy bee)

School night stalks (approximately 80 children and parents over 2 nights)

Dieback treatment (as mentioned above). Many committee members and Christine B. from the City of Armadale joined the APS students for a time to see what the dieback day involved.

ASC also 'hosted' a Bush Blitz! A full day of ecological and biological activities with 55 year 6 students from APS and 15 teachers and parents, organised by Pauline Edgumbe (Year 6 teacher) and Mady Colquhoun (Science Specialist). Activities included botanical studies, geology observations, fauna recording, tree and shrub planting near the FSC and 'walking the creek'. Feedback from both students and parents was enthusiastic and many were visiting the FSC for the first time. The FSC was used as the base for the day.

Soiree – a social event held at the Field Study Centre in May for local environment groups for to encourage contact and networking between the groups. Approximately 20 people attended with Ian Colquhoun acting as an excellent MC. It was also a great chance to introduce the new bush crew (the Bushkateers), of Dan Walker and his team, to a variety of

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local group representatives. It was agreed that such an event would be worthwhile repeating. Preparation for the event was the spur to 'tidy' up the centre and many attendees commented on the great facility.

It has been a busy and productive year – we look forward to more exciting activities in the coming year!”

3.2.3 FRIENDS OF FORRESTDALE BEAC ANNUAL REPORT 2013

“The Friends continue to concentrate on trying to ensure that adequate resources are made available for implementation of the Management Plan for Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve. Vandalism is still a persistent problem that requires regular repairs and maintenance, especially fences. These functions are carried out by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW) with assistance from members of the Friends of Forrestdale.

The main interpretation signs at Forrestdale Lake vandalised in April 2012 were finally reinstalled.

A few swans have been breeding at the Lake again this year. A cygnet rescue may be necessary again over Christmas/New Year.

Earlier this year the City of Armadale (CoA) released for public comment the EPBC for the proposal to extend Keane Road through the Anstey Keane damplands, Bush Forever site 342, part of Jandakot Regional Park. Submissions closed in late April. Over 50 were received, the bulk of which oppose the road. CoA is currently preparing its response to the submissions. The Commonwealth will have 40 days to respond to the CoA report on these submissions. Enviroworks have advised that they 'would expect that the City's assessment report on the submissions and report to the Commonwealth could be completed by the end of the first quarter 2014.'

The state PER has still not been released. The PER was initially due for release in February 2010 and again during 2011, 2012 and 2013. The Friends in conjunction with nearby residents and other conservation groups are strenuously resisting this proposal as it will have devastating consequences for kangaroos, bandicoots and the numerous other wildlife species that live there and for the viability of the unique flora of the area. Land tenure, off-road vehicle use and rubbish dumping are continual and ongoing problems. In conjunction with DPAW and the City of Armadale, the Friends are trying to get these issues addressed through the Anstey-Keane Management Group of which we are a member.

The group continues to undertake an array of on-ground works, including weeding, mowing, fence maintenance, provision of information brochures, rubbish clean up and tree planting.”

3.2.4 Friends of Goolamrup

“The efforts of the City of Armadale, the South East Regional Centre of Urban Landcare, and a small band of local volunteers have combined to take Goolamrup Reserve further along the path of a rehabilitated and well maintained urban bushland.

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Goolamrup's varied history as a scout camping ground, a local dump for garden rubbish, and a long ago ford over the Canning-river for wagons heading to the agricultural lands in the York/Brookton area had greatly degraded the site. It is now beginning to take its place as a worthwhile community asset.

*Although the Kelmscott/Roleystone fire of February, 2011 devastated the reserve the subsequent regrowth of *Acacia Pulchella* (Prickly Moses) has been outstanding. Each springtime the reserve is a mass of yellow. Of course, *Pulchella* is not the only wildflower to be found now, but the protection that this plant provides has encouraged many small bird species to reinhabit the area.*

The two organizations already mentioned and the tireless volunteers are to be congratulated on the way this reserve has survived."

3.3 Groups that report separately

The Bungendore Park Working Group and the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group prepare annual reports that are communicated directly to Council. These reports are not included in this report.

4. Summary of volunteer contributions of environmental volunteers

4.1 Volunteer hours

For the 2012/2013 reporting period, 196 volunteers reported approximately 5,465 volunteer hours from across 12 community environmental groups. In addition to this contribution, the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group further coordinated 1,678 volunteers from corporate and school groups to undertake 2,146 hours of environmental projects on City of Armadale lands. This results in a total volunteer contribution in the City of Armadale in excess of 7,611 hours.

Many of the volunteer hours were contributed undertaking activities such as planting seedlings and weed control. In 2012/2013, the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group planted over 46,404 seedlings in the City of Armadale.

This recorded volunteer contribution to the conservation and improvement of the environment in 2012/2013 equates to a value in excess of \$228,330 per annum in-kind contribution into the City (based on the national volunteering Australia rate of \$30:00/hr calculation).

4.2 Funds Attracted

The following table lists some of the external grant funds received by community conservation groups in the 2012/2013 reporting period.

GROUP	GRANT	FUNDS	PURPOSE
Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group	Riverbank – 3 sites	\$23,300	Revegetation and weed control.

BUSHCARE AND ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP
Annual Report to October 2013

GROUP	GRANT	FUNDS	PURPOSE
Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group	SALP – 5 sites	\$20,314	Revegetation and weed control.
Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group	Palomino Dampland Wungong River	\$48,600	Earth works, revegetation, ethnographic survey, weed control.
Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group	CFOC Community Capacity Grant	\$18,480	Community education.
Bungendore Park Working Group	SALP Grant	\$6,760	Dieback treatment, weed control & revegetation.
Bungendore Park Management Group	State NRM Program	\$18,000	Dieback and weed control.
Bungendore Park Management Group	DEC Community Grant – Regional Parks	\$3,650	On-ground works.
Bungendore Park Management Group	City of Armadale BEWG Grant	\$11,505	Various on-ground works, education & administration costs.
Friends of Bob Blackburn Reserve	City of Armadale BEWG Grant	\$5,000	Revegetation.
Roleybushcare	City of Armadale BEWG Grant	\$3,521	Various administrative costs.
TOTAL		\$159,130	

5. Conclusion

The City of Armadale is fortunate to have the strong support of dedicated environmental volunteers. One of the City's most prominent and long-standing volunteers, Cam Clay, sadly passed away on the 12th of November 2013. Cam was an active volunteer in the City for many years and was a member of several groups including; the Chair of the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group; the Deputy Chair of the Bushcare and Environmental Working Group; and: the Bedforddale Volunteer Fire Brigade. Cam worked closely with the City's Environmental Services Department and will be missed by all.

The City of Armadale would like to thank all volunteers for the valuable contribution they have made to the conservation of the City's bushland reserves throughout the year.

Information Bulletin

Issue No. 5/2014

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

COMMUNITY PLANNING:

Jull Street Mall Revitalisation

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

Forrestdale Hub (Alfred and William Skeet Reserves) Master Planning

The master plan for the Forrestdale Hub was considered at the March Community Services Committee outlining the community consultation results and preferred master plan options. A consolidated master plan was approved. Following the approval the Forrestdale community and stakeholders will be advised of the outcomes. An application for the female change rooms was made to the Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) in 2013 and the City has been advised by the DSR that the grant has been successful.

Bob Blackburn and Gwynne Park Master Planning

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

Matthew Stott Reserve Artwork

Through the Public Open Space Strategy, funds have been allocated for the revitalisation of Matthew Stott Reserve. As part of this upgrade, there has been a commitment to a public art element involving a mural on the existing hit-up wall. A series of design workshops are being organised with the same artists and group of young people involved in the City's Youth Creative Art program. This group will then paint the wall mural in the coming months. This continuity of experience and opportunity for these young people will provide much benefit.

Armadale Golf Course

A memorandum advising of the current status of the upgrade project has been provided to Councillors following community enquiries. The golf course upgrade project update will be presented to Council through the April Community Services Committee.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Australian Early Development Index

The City was invited by the Department of Education to make a presentation to a group of Local Area Champions of the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI), to explain how AEDI data has been used to inform the City's Children and Families strategy and the proposed AEDI sessions for Educators in Child Care Centres.

Local Area Champions represent metropolitan, country and rural and remote delegates whose role is to raise the profile of the AEDI in their communities. The Department of Education's AEDI Coordinator intends to promote the City's model of

coordinating AEDI sessions in Child Care Centres for use in other communities in WA.

DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Disability Advisory Team Meeting

The Disability Advisory Team met on 18 February and discussed the aims of their respective organisations in 2014. For further details please refer to the meeting notes.

EAT ACT LIVE (HEALTHY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE)

The last of the Eat Act Live physical activity and healthy eating programs have commenced and efforts to compile the final report on the Healthy Communities Initiative are underway.

The Healthy Communities Coordinator is working with an evaluation consultant to analyse program results for inclusion in the final report to the funding body. Early indications are that Eat Act Live has had a notable impact on the lives of program participants who have reported initiating changes in their lifestyle habits to improve their health.

More than 200 people have participated in the final term of Eat Act Live. Some participants have continued to exercise with other members of their groups beyond the completion of programs which increases the likelihood of changes being sustained.

IGNITE BASKETBALL

The City has recently been successful in securing \$25,000 from the WA Police's Strategic Crime Prevention Division (Crime Prevention Fund) for the Ignite Basketball Program. The Department for Child Protection and Family Support has also committed \$20,000 per year for three years for the program. This is in addition to the \$150,000 over three years from the Department of Sport and Recreation and \$60,000 over two years from Healthway.

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA)

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) is an integral partner within the Government's Indigenous Economic Development Strategy, which seeks to close the gap between Indigenous Australians and other Australians' standard of living. The aim of this strategy is to increase the wellbeing of Indigenous Australians by supporting greater economic participation and self-reliance.

IBA has two main components:

Housing aiming to contribute to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous home ownership rates, and make buying a home a realistic choice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and families, and

Business Development and Assistance Program, assisting eligible Indigenous Australians to establish, acquire and grow viable small to medium businesses, by providing, or facilitating access to, business support services and business finance.

Both the State Manager and the Network Manager based in Canberra attended the Champion Centre for a tour of the facility and to discuss the possibility of hosting information sessions about home and business ownership at the Champion Centre.

NAIDOC Week 2014

NAIDOC Week is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements. It's a time to acknowledge our Indigenous artists, scholars, sportspeople, elders, community members and more.

This year the National NAIDOC theme is *Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond*. The theme was selected by the National NAIDOC Committee to honour all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have fought in defence of our country.

Indigenous Development has commenced planning for the City of Armadale event to be held at the Champion Centre with 20 service providers already confirmed for the day. This year's celebration will be held on the Tuesday 8th July.

Aboriginal Fire Fighter Recruitment

The Department of Fire & Emergency Services completed their first Aboriginal Fire Fighter Recruitment Session at the Champion Centre on 7 March. The session was well attended by both young Aboriginal participants and service providers to promote future sessions.

Australian Defence Force

Indigenous Development will engage a group of Aboriginal service men and women from the Armadale area to determine if they would be interested in recording their personal stories. Discussions are also underway with the Australian War Memorial to enable researchers to fly to Armadale to commence recording if the group are willing.

The Australian War Memorial is also keen to assist with displays for NAIDOC.

Champion Centre

Polytechnic

The Champion Centre is in discussion with Polytechnic Aboriginal Student Support to engage Aboriginal participants in short courses at the Champion Centre. The young women's program will include grooming and deportment, pre-employment and photography courses.

Second Bite Program

The Champion Centre commenced their new collaboration with the Second Bite Program. This will enable the Centre to value add to existing nutrition courses, assist with feeding afterschool programs and enable catering for our supported playgroups.

SecondBite is committed to making a positive difference to people by identifying sources of nutritious surplus fresh food and providing it to people in need. It is funded to ensure that vulnerable Australians have improved access to fresh nutritious rescued food.

Weight Watchers

Weight Watchers meets at the Champion Centre, a meeting is held every Wednesday at 6pm.

Indigenous Parenting Service (IPS)

Harmony Day Event

Harmony Week is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world.

Harmony Day is being celebrated at the Champion Centre on Wednesday 26th March 11.30am to 2.30pm. Various local schools will attend and participate in cultural activities arranged by Mr Dennis Simmons and Mr Derek Nannup.

Boys Program

A partnership formed by WA Police, Department of Education and facilitated by the Champion Centre has continued to develop an Aboriginal young boys program consisting of a core group of 10 children from the surrounding primary schools (Grovelands, Challis & Westfield) aged between 10-12 years. The boys consistently had behavioural issues and with the development of this partnership with the AEIO's the boys were able to participate in different activities such as bush walking, puppetry and didgeridoo making. These activities engaged the children and allowed the services providers to see a marked improvement in behaviour outside their usual school norm.

The feedback from respective schools has allowed the partners to advise the Department of Education that these types of activities are unusual but effective and they are still in negotiation to develop another young boys program that may possibly engage both boys from primary and high school.

AIEO PD Day

The IPS will host an Aboriginal & Islander Education Officer (AIEO) Professional Development session to engage all AIEO workers within the South Metro Area.

POSITIVE AGEING

Positive Ageing Session

The City hosted a Positive Ageing Session on Wednesday 5 March. Topics presented were '*Benefits and Concessions*' and '*Ageing Well – Living Independently*' by the WA Seniors Card Centre. The session was attended by 35 people, with a number of community members on a wait list. In response to the Session, the City received an email from a community member as follows:

‘Thanks for running a really great programme. We have found out information that is pertinent to us that we were not aware of. It is unfortunate that more people cannot attend as the room at the library is so small. Once again thanks for caring for the older people who also pay rates’.

Library Management is investigating options to increase the space available to accommodate more people at the popular positive ageing sessions.

The next Positive Ageing Session will be on Wednesday 2 April at 1.30pm at the Armadale Library. Topics to be discussed are ‘*Become Stroke Safe*’ by the National Stroke Foundation and ‘*Services for Carers*’ by Carers WA.

Australian Hearing Bus

The City will host the *Australian Hearing Bus* service at Memorial Park during on 17 March at 9.30am – 3.30pm. Appointments will be made for 15 minutes per person. At the previous session, a total of 17 clients were tested for hearing loss with 13 of these being over 50. Hearing loss was detected in 13 individuals, and 9 of these are eligible for government funded services.

Technology Buddies

Technology Buddies recommenced on Monday 10 March at the Armadale Library. This weekly program comprises students from Kelmscott Senior High School assisting older people with their technology items including cameras, ipads and smart phones. The program concludes 7 April.

Positive Ageing Working Group

A Positive Ageing Working Group Meeting was held on 3 March. The guest speaker was Louise Hanson, the General Manager of Southern Districts Support Association who provided an update on the organisation. For further information please refer to the meeting notes.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Armadale Volunteer Services recently completed its half yearly reporting to the Department for Local Government and Communities. Preparation of this report allowed for reflection on the achievements of 2013 which included:

- 884 enquiries were received from potential volunteers
- four training/information sessions were held for volunteers in the community and 48 people attended these sessions
- four training/information sessions were held for volunteer managers and 61 people attended these sessions
- two major recognition/thank you events were also held last year

So far this year Armadale Volunteer Services received 148 enquiries from potential volunteers during January and February.

Step into Volunteering

A "Step into Volunteering" session aimed at potential volunteers in the community who are thinking about volunteering but not sure how to get started will be held on Thursday 20 March at the Armadale library from 6-7pm. This session will be held in partnership with Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group whom will be guest presenters.

National Volunteer Week event

Planning for National Volunteer Week has commenced. Armadale Volunteer Services is hoping to engage two local high schools to provide both the catering and entertainment for this year's event. The event will be held at the Armadale District Hall on Wednesday 14 May commencing at 2pm.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

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

- **Stargate Drama Program** – this 12 week program based at the Armadale District Hall has attracted a diverse group of young people with 13 participants attending regularly. The participants explore a range of exercises to develop their confidence, characterisation, improvisation and performance.
- **The Hip Hop program** – participation in this program has been increasing since the introduction of separate classes for boys and girls, with twice-weekly classes offered. Boys can focus on developing their Bboy skills in Breakdancing and the girls will learn choreographed routines. Participants will work towards an end of semester performance for families and friends. Una Genuino is one of the Instructors and also the director of Perth Dance Crew who recently won a bronze medal at the *2013 World Supremacy Battlegrounds Dance Competition* in Sydney.
- **The skate park programs** continue to operate on a fortnightly basis offering riders assistance with learning new tricks or picking up the basics;
 - Forrestdale Skate Park has taken some time to pick up attendance with several riders now taking advantage of the Freestyle Now workshops
 - The Youth Activity Area (YAA) has become a popular spot for the BMX riders to meet and practice, with a group of 10 regularly attending the workshop sessions. As a result of being involved in the workshops and competitions at the YAA, local rider John Manning has been picked up by Freestyle Now as a reserve rider for their squad.
 - Cross Park continues to be busy with the Freestyle Now BMX/Scooter workshops and the Skateboarding Australia sessions being equally busy. A registration day is currently being planned to allow participants to get their parents to sign off permission for their child to be involved in workshops and competitions.

Creative Art Project

The Creative Art Project has reached the final phase with participants completing the first stage of art work installation at the YAA during the first two weeks of March. The first installation included the backsides of two tacos, featuring the 'A for Armadale' character design and the 'A team' design. The participants were very

excited to paint their designs and were confident painting directly onto the skate park after developing and practicing their skills during the 12 week program. During the installation community members visited the Youth Activity Area to view the artworks and ask the group questions about the process. The overall responses from community members were positive and indicated support for the project.

The second stage of the installation will take place during the first weekend of April and will feature the 'Armadale' title piece, thus concluding the Creative Art Project. The young people who participated in the project will be invited to assist with a mural on Matthew Stott Park hitting wall in early April.

National Youth Week 2014

National Youth Week will take place between Friday 4 of April – Sunday 13 April. The City was successful in gaining funding from the Department of Local Government and Communities to host National Youth Week Expo events in three local secondary schools. The Expo events will feature interactive presentations from local service providers, a DJ, and activities showcasing Ignite Basketball, the Hip Hop dance program and Skate Park programs. A live performance from a local youth band will conclude each event.

LEISURE SERVICES

DEPARTMENT SNAPSHOT

In February 2014 the Leisure Services Department;

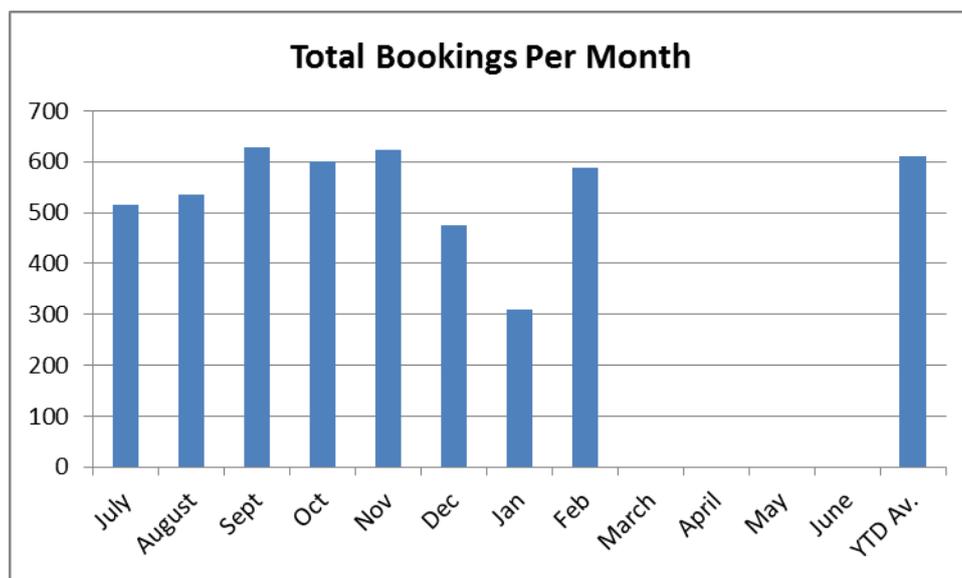
- Provided 83 programs to the community
- Had 46,148 attendances to our facilities
- Had 774 bookings at our facilities

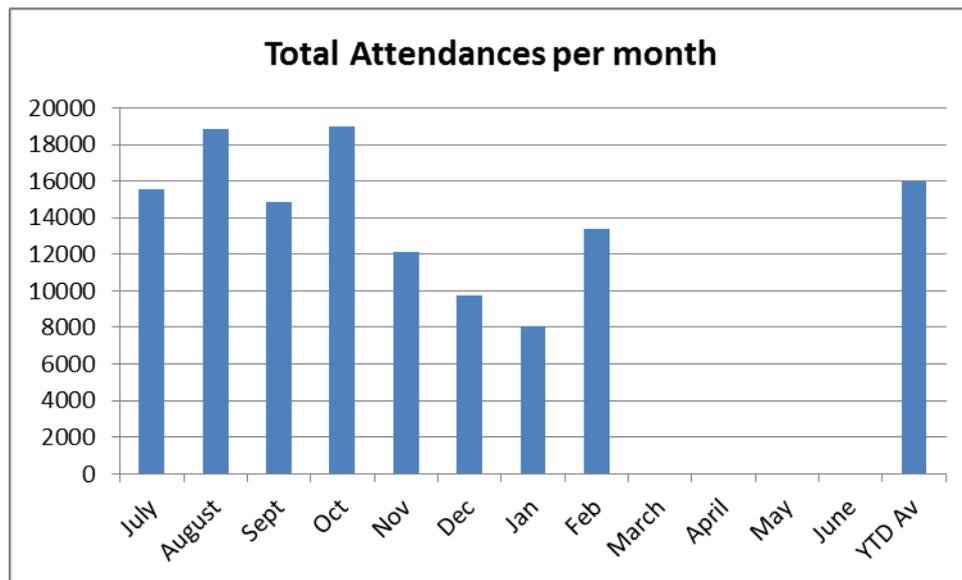
COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Bookings

589 bookings were held in February at our Community Facilities, this includes 96 bookings for the month at Bakers House and over 50 at Armadale Hall, Champion Centre, Frye Park and Kelmscott Hall. The high patronage at Bakers House has provided numerous challenges with scheduling cleaning, general maintenance and waste management. It will be interesting to see the trend with Bakers House bookings once the Piara Waters Pavilion is complete.

Winter season Kidsport processing has been busy in February with 2 registration days held at Armadale Library and the Club Development Officer attending Armadale Junior Football Club registration day to process vouchers. 280 vouchers were processed in February.





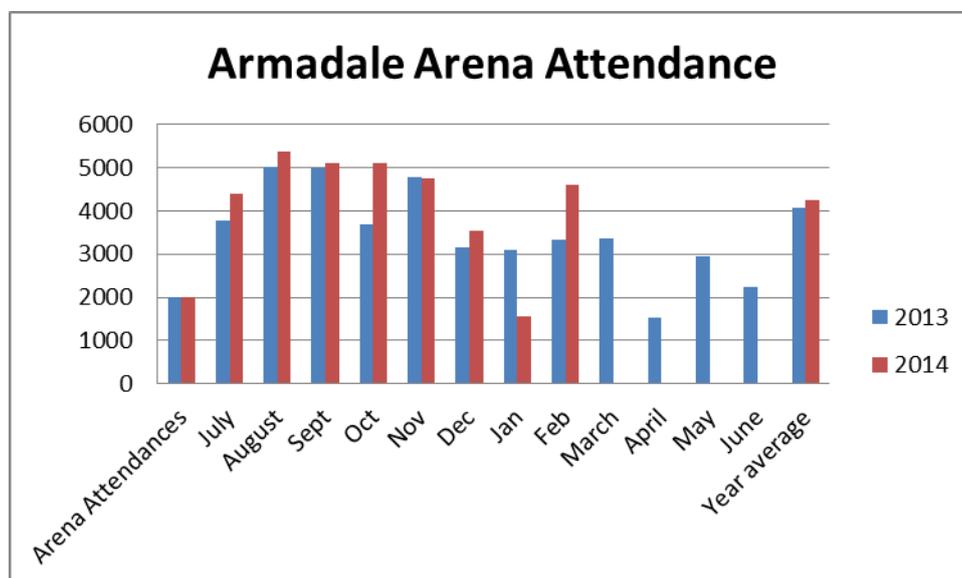
FACILITY ATTENDANCE

13,415 people attended our facilities in February; these statistics are based on estimates given from hirers when making bookings.

ARMADALE ARENA

February was a busy month at the Arena with children’s programs resuming and the launch of a new group fitness timetable. The new classes have proven to be extremely popular with some participants having to be turned away. The newly launched ‘Factor F’ classes are extremely popular and new equipment would be needed to enable increased attendances.

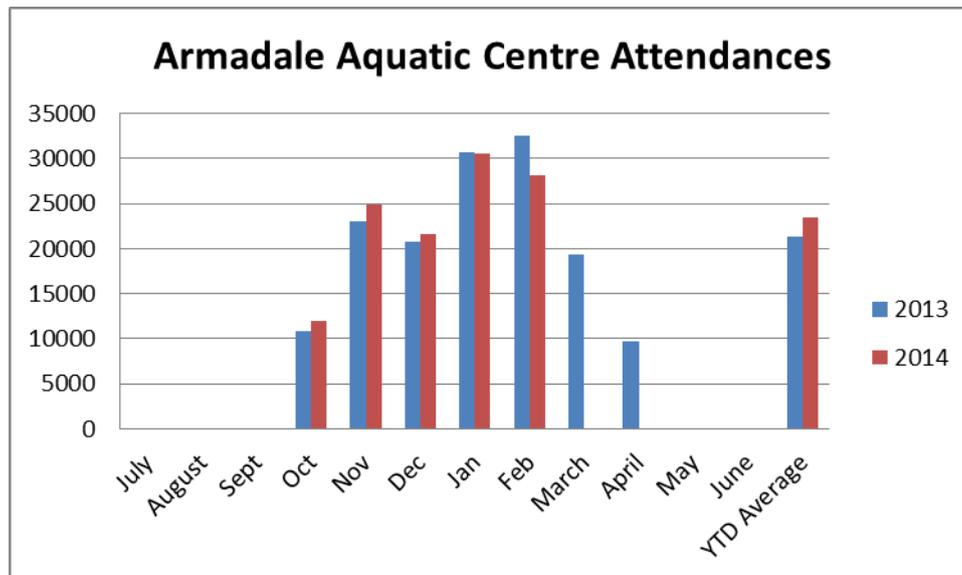
Customer requests for Saturday morning and evening crèche have been received; staff are currently reviewing current levels of service delivery to consider options for reducing some existing services so these requests can be met with no additional budget requests.



ARMADALE AQUATIC CENTRE

February attendances decreased significantly in comparison to last season with only 28,142 visitors. This has been identified as short falls in school participation and adult entrie. This may be related to the start of school term or a later carnival season which optimistically will result in attendances increasing in March. Overall attendance averages are 2000 per month higher than last year.

The Armadale Aquatic Centre once again hosted the ‘Virtual Rottnest Channel Swim’ with 12 teams entering from Armadale Masters Swimming Club, Armadale Kelmscott Swimming Club, City of Armadale staff and Armadale Aquatic Centre Lifeguards. This year the event reach capacity and all money raised on the day goes to the Royal Flying Doctors Service.



The Armadale Aquatic Centre will close for the winter on Friday 11 April 2014.

FEBRUARY 2014

LIBRARY SERVICES

Statistical Performance Indicators

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

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

33 regular sessions were held. These include: story time, Baby Rhyme Time, Books on Wheels, English conversation classes, reading & writing groups, computer training sessions, games mornings and the Men's Social Group. A total of 445 people participated in these various activities.

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

The Australian Hearing Clinic operated from the Seville Grove Library on Monday 3 February.

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

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

Report: Community Engagement Session
Prepared by: Jan Pedroli – Librarian Community Engagement

Topic:	Train Talk – Rail Transport at Armadale
Presenter:	Jeff Austin of “Rail Heritage WA”
Date:	19 February 2014
Time:	6.00 – 7.00pm
Venue:	Armadale Library Reading Room
No. Attending:	59

Comments:

Over 60 people booked their seats for this session and nearly every one of them was present well before 6.00pm. It was just wonderful to see so many people interested in rail transport as it was – and is – in the Armadale area.

Quite a number of people brought in books written by the speaker, Jeff Austin of Rail Heritage WA, to be signed by the author. It very soon became clear that Jeff Austin is more than a name in WA Railways circles. He is a celebrity!

Unfortunately the photographs displayed on the main screen were hard to see due to the light in the Reading Lounge where the session had to be held due to the numbers of people wishing to attend. (This is an ongoing problem that the Library Service is aware of and will address.) Questions and comments kept coming all night long and there were only 2 occasions that Jeff didn't provide an instant and accurate answer. The couple of times Jeff wasn't totally sure there were people in the audience who could provide instant answers!

One benefit of this particular session was the large number of men who discovered the library, as many of them are not regular library users. This is certainly one of the positives of the community engagement sessions that bring a diverse group of people to the library.

With the number of people wishing to ask questions of Jeff Austin it was hard to wrap up the session and in the end there was no option but to jump in and say “Thank you so much, Jeff Austin!”. Many people attending spent most of the next hour socialising, getting books signed by Jeff and asking more questions of him.

This was a very successful session and the option of inviting Jeff Austin for another presentation would be well worth pursuing.

Report: Community Engagement Session
Prepared by: Jan Pedroli – Librarian Community Engagement

Topic:	Positive Ageing Sessions
Presenter:	‘Wendy’ – Diabetes WA Joanne – The Arena
Date:	5 February 2014
Time:	1.30 – 4.00pm
Venue:	Armadale Library Meeting Room
No. Attending:	24

Comments:

Positive Ageing Sessions at the Armadale Library are presented jointly with the City’s Community Development Department.

Joanne, who has been in the fitness industry for over 40 years and works at the Armadale Arena, gave a very enthusiastic and encouraging talk about the absolute need of older persons to either stay or become physically active. She made clear to her audience that activity, both mental and physical, is a matter of “use it or lose it”. In short, her presentation came down to: it doesn’t matter where you’re at, you can always begin to improve. Baby-steps for starters and slowly improve over time. Useful advice offered was: if you wish to avoid the very common routine of 3 months of exercise, 3 months break etc., make sure to commit to do your exercise with a group of people rather than by yourself. Being expected by fellow travellers makes the exercise routine a social one and creates a bit of pressure to maintain that routine.

Wendy, of Diabetes WA, made every one present aware, if they weren’t already, of how widespread diabetes is in the community and what can be done to either control or prevent it from occurring. Wendy’s talk was a great follow up after the session about fitness and activity. She, like Joanne, emphasised how important lifestyle is and what people can do to help themselves. This talk was highly interactive as many people took the opportunity to discuss their own or family member’s experiences with the disease. A large number of attendees either had personal or close experience with diabetes.

As is common with the positive ageing sessions people attending are most appreciative of the opportunity to listen to and being able to talk about issues close to their hearts and with direct influence on their lives and experiences.

Staffing

The City's Resource's Librarian Kirstie Nicholson was invited to attend the annual Regional Library Meeting for libraries in the Mid-West Region that was held in Geraldton on Monday 24 February 2014 to again make her extremely well received presentation prepared following her success in winning the inaugural Kay Poustie Foundation study scholarship.

HERITAGE SERVICES

Statistical Performance Indicators

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

Birtwistle Local Studies Library

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

BLSL Volunteers

Most of the volunteers who assist with the development of the Birtwistle Local Studies history collection resumed their duties at the beginning of February. The focus of their work is on the re-typing, photocopying and binding of documents and memoirs donated to the Library.

Heritage Festival 2014 venue

Plans for the two City of Armadale Heritage Festival 2014 events were consolidated with a visit to the St Mary in the Valley Anglican Church, Kelmscott, and meeting with the minister, Rev Ben van der Klip. The Church will be used as the venue for the performance of *A long way from Devon* being written by Hugh Carder, and the talk by historians and authors Jennie & Bevan Carter, *Kelmscott – the town that never was*. The church hall will be used for refreshments after the performances.

Armadale's heritage guided walking tour

Two of the BLSL volunteers have been accepted as trainees in the planned walking guided tours of the Jull Street precinct. Stories and anecdotes from the BLSL oral history collection have been offered as background information to the content of the tour scripts.

Local History Practitioners' Group meeting

This meeting was held at the History Centre, City of Perth Library on 13 February. Issues worth considering for the BLSL collection: re-formatting selected oral history recordings and transcripts to be borrowed from the City's libraries (as is popular at the Town of Cambridge library) and selecting sound bites from the oral history recordings, with accompanying photographs, and up-loading them to the website of History Pin.

Decision Makers of Armadale Oral History Project –

During February former Mayor Linton Reynolds and Councillor Jeff Munn were interviewed by the contract historians. The transcripts are being checked for typing errors and some detail is being included to clarify projects, people and events for the benefit of future readers and researchers using the recordings and transcripts.

Oral histories

The programme of oral history that focusses on the local business of the Armadale district was continued with an interview with Jull Street pharmacist Geoff Atkinson

A new focus of interviews will be to approach new councillors to get the views on matters such as what they expect in their new role of representing their local community; what are their aspirations; what do they perceive as the difficulties and why did they decided to nominate as a councillor.

Councillor Carole Frost, Lake Ward, has consented to be the first in the anticipated series of interviews. A follow-up interview will be held at about twelve months into each new councillor's term of office.

Donations

The following digitised photographs and a postcard has been offered to the BLSL collection:

- Selected photographs from the CoA Mayor's Office from the late 1990s and early 2000s featuring the public events and activities attended by Mayor, Roger Stubbs
- Images of the Champion Family, from Bedfordale, have come from the from Pickering Brook Historical Society's collection
- A postcard of the Armadale's Railway hotel, circa 1920s by a woman whose parents stayed in the hotel in that era.

History House Museum

Museum Officers

The appointment of two casual museum officers, both with a strong interest and some associated qualification in the profession, will enhance the professionalism of the museum during weekends and public holidays when they will be in attendance. This ensures that a paid staff member will be in attendance at all times that the Museum is open to the public removing the onus on volunteers to open and close the Museum and take responsibility for what is a valuable and professionally managed collection.

Museum Visitors

History House has received visits from members of the Canning Vale Probis Club and the Southern Districts Support Association. Each group was given a tour around the museum and the Minnowarra Historic Precinct.

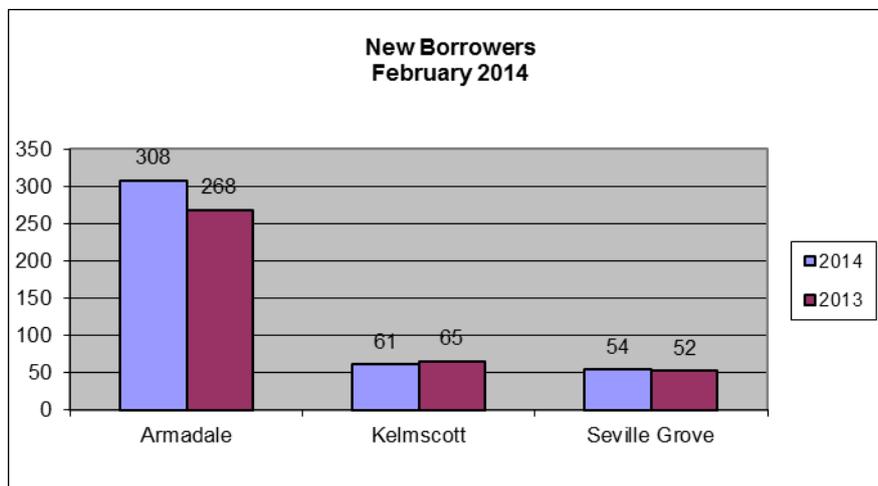
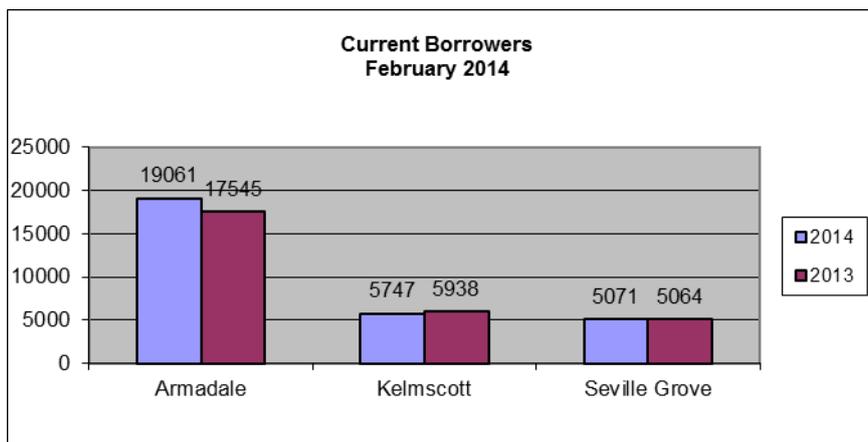
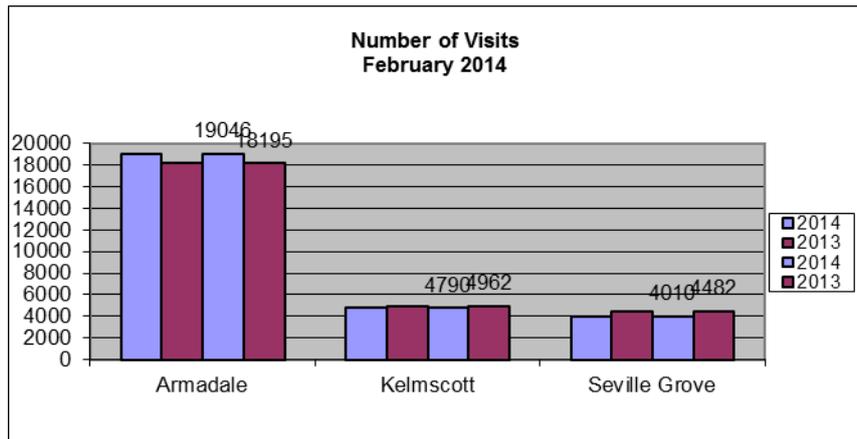
Museum Donations

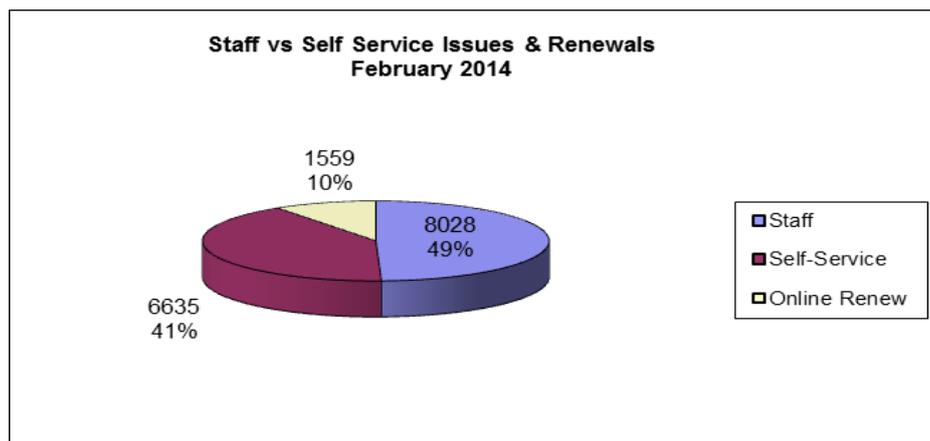
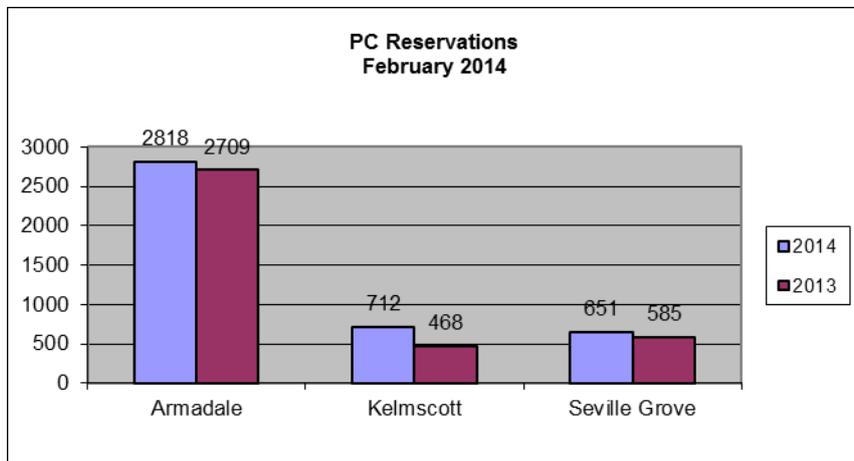
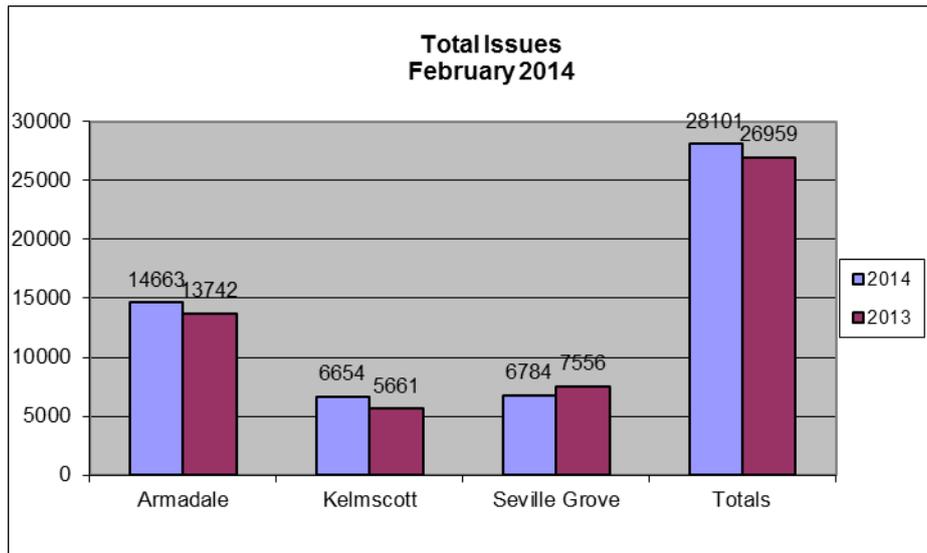
Over the last two months Fay Clay has donated a number of items relating to the community work her husband Cam Clay undertook in the City of Armadale. This includes his Bedfordale volunteer fire fighting uniform as well as shirts and badges from his involvement with the Armadale APEX club, Armadale & Gosnells Landcare Group and BEAC. Fay also donated items relating to her time with the local Girl Guide troop and working at the Armadale Library. These items provide a truly important insight into the community work that many residents of the City undertake on a daily basis.

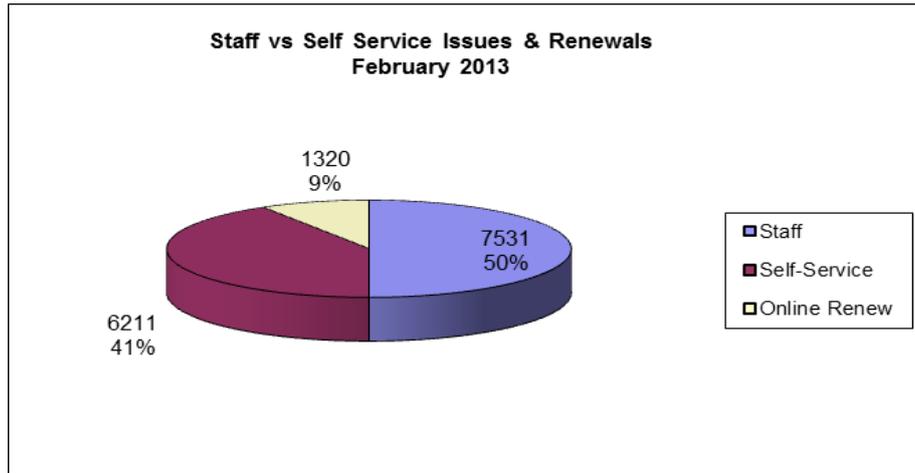
History House Museum was also tasked with sorting through a number of gifts to the City of Armadale and entering them into the collection. Two of the items were unidentified but research by museum volunteers and the curator were able to identify them as plaques gifted to the Armadale Kelmscott Roads Board by the officers and crew of HMS London and HMS Penn during World War II who visited the region while on shore leave.

Education Report

- School education programs are now compliant with the National Curriculum and to date two schools have booked in for March.
- The “Love and Marriage” exhibition scheduled for May is complete and ready to send to the designer.







Library Services – Statistics – Birtwistle -2014 - February

Birtwistle Local Studies Library				
	Current Month	Year to date		
	Feb 14	Feb 13	Jul 13 - Feb 14	Jul 12- Feb 13
Reference Enquiries	5	2	33	58
Research Enquiries	3	2	71	65
Visitor Attendance	135	25	828	740
Volunteer Hours	40	52	681	173
Digitising Records	18	14	100	155
Oral History				
Letters Sent	4	2	19	13
Interviews Completed	3	3	14	16
Transcripts Completed/ reviewed	3	0	20	14
Volunteer Hours – Transcribing	12	18	144	294
Volunteer Hours - Interviewing	4	10	39	63
Family History Research				
Reference	3	1	37	34
Research	61	30	157	210
Volunteer Hours	60	52	326	266

Month: February Year: 2014

History House Museum	Current Month	Year to date		
		Feb 14	Feb 13	July 13- June 14
General Visitors	188	65	1463	785
School Visits	0	0	358	74
School Incursions	0	0	118	56
Holiday Programs	0	0	56	93
Community Programs	0	0	107	0
Seniors Programs	0	0	125	138
Total Visitors	188	81	2227	1146
Volunteer Hours	172	153	1341	1150
Bert Tyler Vintage Machinery Museum	Feb 14	Feb 13	July 13 – June 14	Jul 12 – June 13
Visitors	117	125	1357	1163

RANGER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Animal Control

Dogs

Ranger Services received four hundred and sixteen (416) requests for assistance during the February 2014 report period.

Cats

Ranger Services received fifty (50) requests for assistance during this report period. The mainstream of requests related to feral cats which are unable to be rehomed due to their ferocious and undomesticated behaviour

Domestic Animal Registration Checks

Rangers will be conducting an extensive dog and cat registration survey throughout the district during the next 2-3 months. A fundamental part of a door knock is to create an awareness of the Dog Act, Cat 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.

Livestock (Cattle)

Ranger Services attended to twenty three (23) reports of cattle on public roads during this report period.

Current tasks and activities performed by Ranger Services.

- *Impounding straying or wandering animals.*
- *Issuing relevant infringement notices, cautions, or warnings as appropriate.*
- *Follow up complaints.*
- *Ensuring all correspondence in relation to animal control is carried out.*
- *Collection of evidence and prosecutions of offenders and court appearances.*
- *Arranging for destruction of animals when necessary*
- *Property inspections for dog and cat registrations.*
- *Dangerous Dog Declaration investigation.*
- *Pound Cleaning and maintenance.*

Legal Action

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

OFFENCE	FINDING OF COURT	PENALTY \$	COSTS \$	TOTAL \$
Dog Attack on Animal	Guilty	600	146.90	746.90
Dog Attack on Animal	Guilty	1,100	146.90	1,246.90
Dog Attack on Animal	Guilty	3,100	146.90	3,246.90
Dog Attack on Animal	Guilty	2,100	146.90	2,246.90

Vehicles

Parking

Ranger Services attended two hundred and seventy four(274) general enquiries relating to the unlawful parking of vehicles during this report period.

The Current tasks and activities being performed by the Rangers

- *School parking patrols*
- *Issuing of parking infringement notices, cautions and warnings as appropriate.*
- *Investigation of complaints.*
- *Investigate and report damage caused by illegal parking (reserves etc.)*

Commercial Vehicles (Trucks)

There has been a slight increase 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 continues to be of concern, and the cost to the City in the collection and disposal of abandoned vehicles (most of which have no commercial value) is increasing. This is a problem currently being shared by most Metropolitan Local Governments.

Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas)

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

Litter

Ranger Services continue to receive complaints, from concerned members of the community, regarding the amount of household rubbish being deposited onto reserves and road verges throughout the district.

During this report period Ranger Services attended to thirty nine (39) requests for assistance regarding the illegal dumping or rubbish.

Keeping roadsides, reserves and other areas litter free is a major focus of the City of Armadale and Rangers are ever vigilant in identifying and apprehending litter offenders.

Current tasks and activities performed

- *Investigate complaints relating to dumping of rubbish.*
- *Issue infringement notices, cautions or warnings and take court action where appropriate.*

Firebreak Inspections

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

Ranger Services attended to two hundred and five (205) enquiries, during this report period, mainly associated with alternative style firebreaks and advice regarding general fire safety.

At the time of writing this report, Ranger Services has inspected four thousand and forty seven (4,047) properties throughout the district.

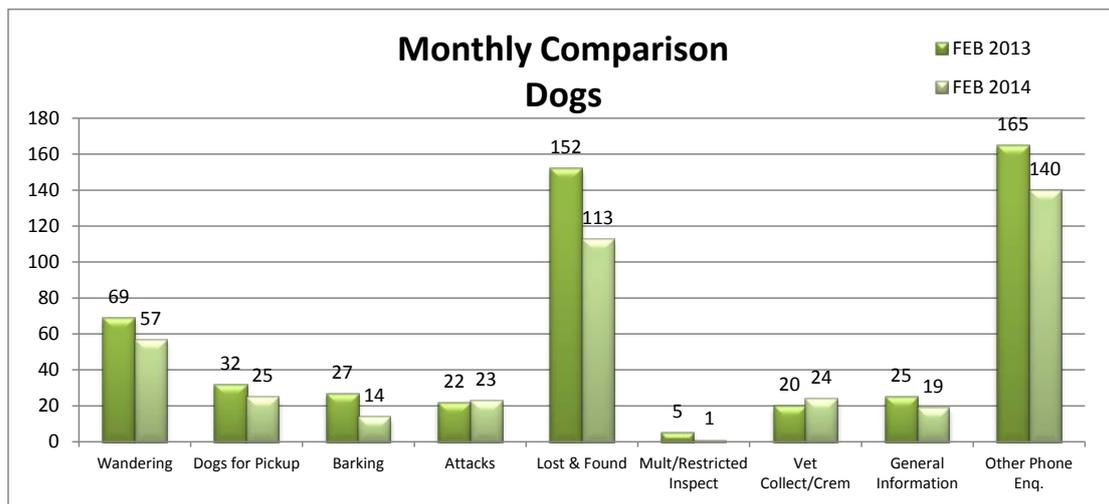
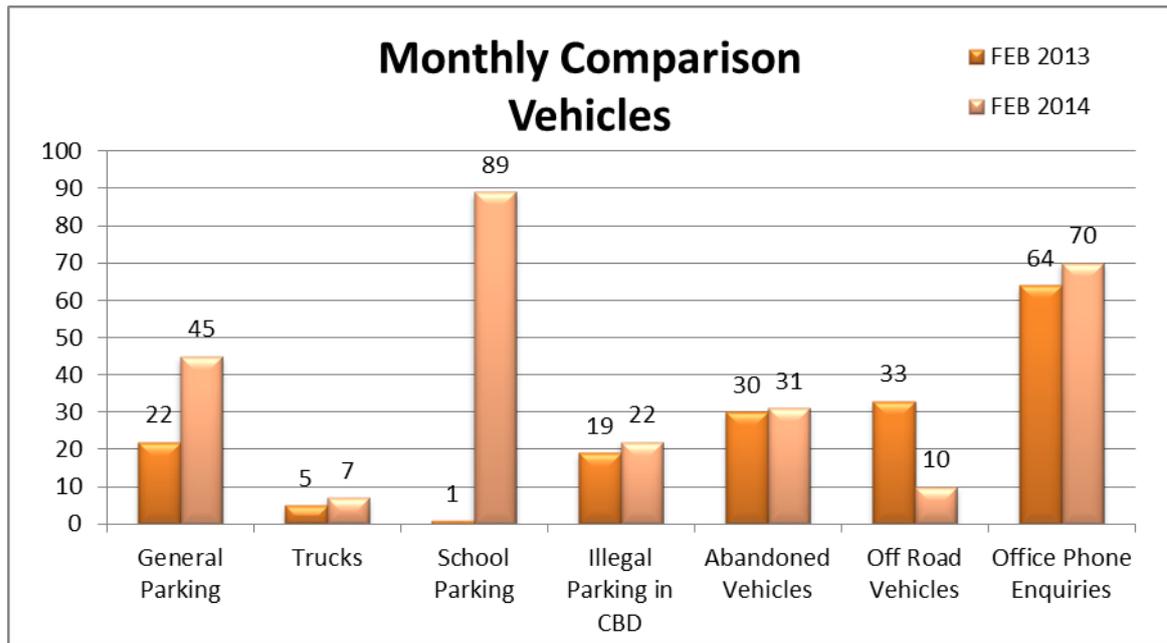
Current tasks and activities performed

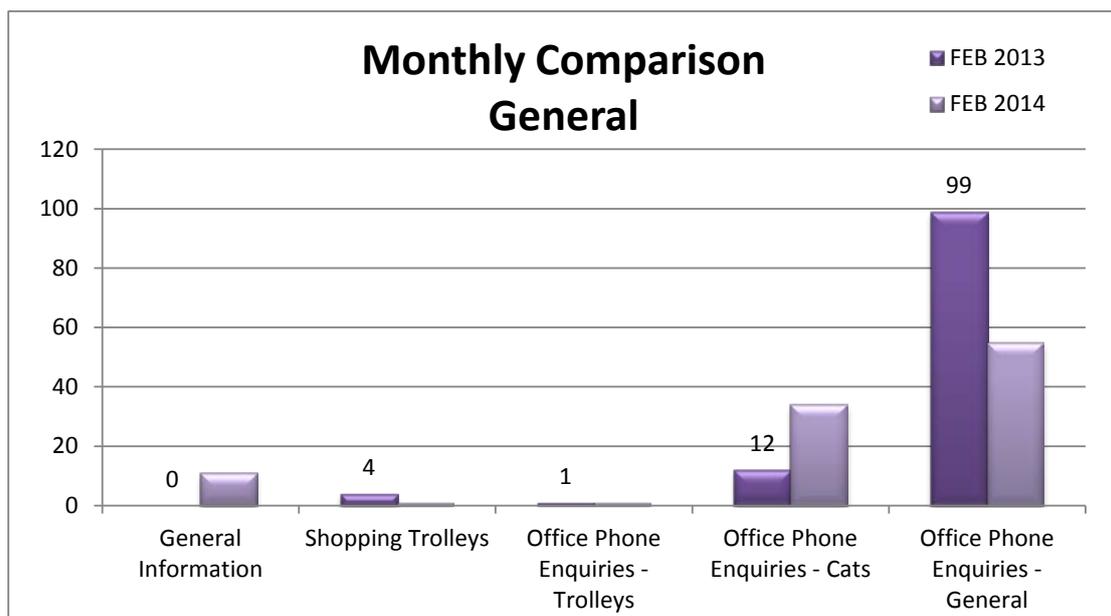
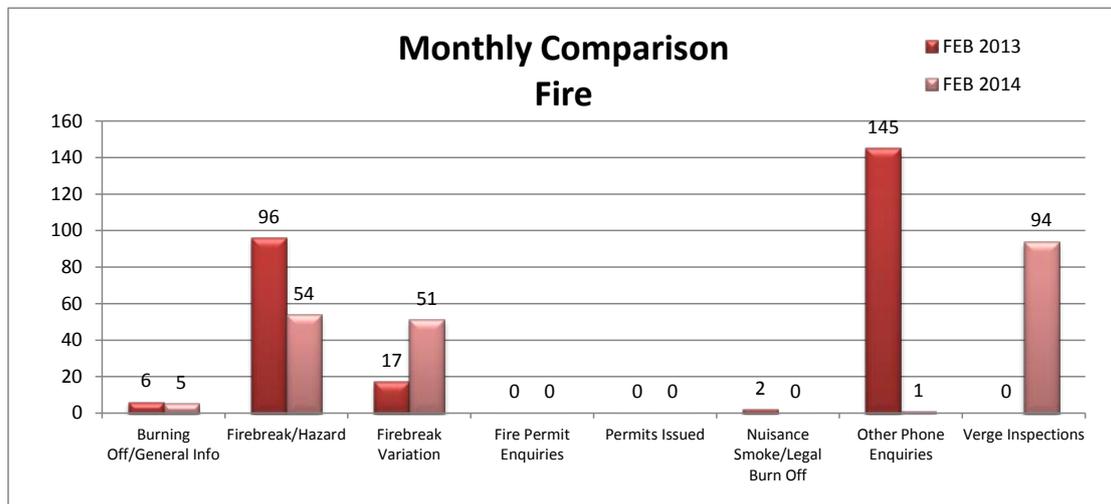
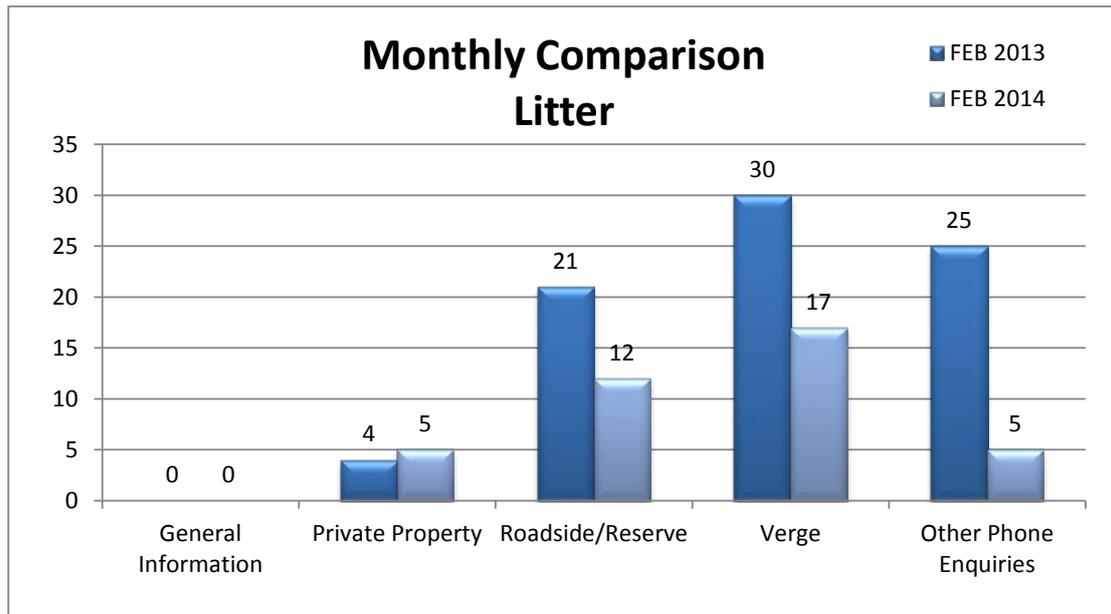
- *Investigate complaints.*
- *Carry out firebreak inspections.*
- *Arrange and oversee Contractors*
- *Compile reports.*
- *Issue Infringement notices/cautions where appropriate.*
- *Institute legal action.*
- *Attend court as witness*
- *Support fire services as required*

General

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades experienced a normal amount of calls to bush/scrub/tree 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.

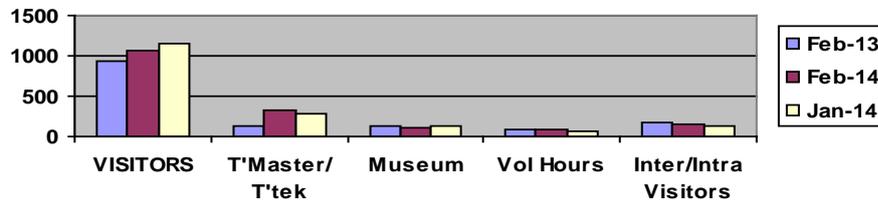
Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Fire-fighters play a significant and vital role in ensuring that the community is a safe place to work, live and play. Whether it is carrying out risk management activities, fire prevention activities, fighting a fire, teaching fire safety education to school children, working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





TOURISM

**Armadale Visitor Centre
 STATISTICS:**



FEBRUARY 2014

Visitors	Ticketmaster/ Ticketek	TOTAL Visitors Less T/Master & Ticketek	Inter State Visitors	Overseas Visitors	TOTAL O/seas & Interstate VISITORS	Volunteer Hours	Museum
1073	335	738	41	120	161	77	117

AVERAGE VISITORS PER WEEK: 268
VOLUNTEER HOURS PER WEEK: 19

VISITOR CENTRE - DOLLAR VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY:

Average Visitor Spend – Day Visitor:

\$1,318 per day = **\$ 9,225** per week = **\$ 36,900** 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:

\$863 per night = **\$ 6,038** per week = **\$ 24,150** 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 2014:
\$61,050

Statistics at the Visitor Centre show overseas arrivals continue to grow strongly with UK, Germany and Singapore and Malaysia leading.

Strong destination marketing campaigns into Jetstar Air Asia inflight magazine are producing solid results.

The Visitor Centre will be running a new bookable tour called Next Stop Armadale to include a Heritage Walk through the CBD run by volunteers. Tours are expected to commence in June 2014

The new look 2014 Regional Guide will be printed and distributed to all visitor centres within our State and will be available from the Armadale Visitor Centre next month.

EVENTS

Summer Cinema

During January The City of Armadale held two free summer cinema screenings at Rushton Park in Kelmscott. Epic was screened on Friday 10 January and Despicable Me Two on Friday 17 January. These well-loved family movies ensured that this very popular free family event was very well attended on both nights.

There were approximately 500 – 600 attendees at the commencement of the movie.

Event staff received very positive feedback regarding the choice of movie and the event in general. During February the Events Team has received feedback requesting that there be more events of this kind at Rushton Park.

Concerts in the Park

Planning is in progress for the Concerts in the Park series outlined below:

- 2 March - Roleystone Musicians Club concert to be held at Cross Park. This event will run in conjunction with the Roleystone Twilight Markets. Supported by the City, the event will be held on the Labour Day long Weekend. Last year's event proved to be very successful and it is anticipated that this year's event will prove to be equally so.
- 9 March – Armadale City Concert Band concert to be held in Memorial Park. This event concludes the City's Concerts in the Park series.

Minnawarra Festival

Planning is in process for the Minnawarra Festival to be held on Sunday, 6 April 2014. Following the success of last year's Minnawarra Festival, the City will once again celebrate the 'Heart' or 'Spirit' of the City of Armadale and the diversity of its culture, people and place.

The park will appear vibrant and engaging with marquees with roofs in the City colours of red, blue and green provided for all vendors; food as well as art and craft 10 metre verandas in front of all will provide shade or protection in case of inclement weather. Three shade structures will be erected around the park, and sitting places created for people to eat and to take in the music.

Program components include:

- Interactive children's world
- International Food Stalls
- Art & Craft Market
- Themed Chai Tent
- International Music
- Interactive Arts Precinct

The date coincides with the second Sunday of the Minnawarra Art Awards Exhibition. Following last year's successful Public Open Day, held at the exhibition, a Perth Tram will once again link the festival to the District Hall. This provides opportunity to cross market both events and build a synergistic relationship between the two events.

Minnawarra Art Award

The Minnawarra Art Awards will be held in the Armadale District Hall. The opening and awards night will be held on Friday the 28 March and open to the public from Saturday 29 March 2014 to Sunday the 13 April 2014 from 11am to 4pm daily.

This year 61 Artists have entered and 97 artworks have been entered in to the exhibition, of these, 21 are 3D artworks.

Statistical information shows that entries are being received from artists from the following geographic demographic:

- Majority - Perth's Central Metropolitan region (e.g. Subiaco, Cottesloe, Fremantle & Willetton)
- South East Metropolitan – majority entered Artists come from the City of Armadale.
- The North East & North West Metropolitan regions are similarly targeted
- Less reached area is the South West Metropolitan.

Outside of Perth's Metropolitan regions includes towns and suburbs of the Peel, South West and Great Southern Regions including: Albany, Bunbury, Capel, Mandurah, Nannup (Margaret River), Northcliffe (Manjimup) and Toodyay.

Once again the awards will be supported by the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority and Stockland. The Armadale Society of Artists have agreed to supply volunteers to maintain the daily upkeep of the exhibition

The Curator and Judges this year include:

- Natalie Hewlett – Curator - Art Management
- Mark Stuart – Judge - Murdoch University
- Janis Nedela – Judge - Gallery East

Jull Street Mall

The Jull St Mall Coordinator continued work on the Armadale Walk Trail in conjunction with Two Feet and a Heartbeat. Eight volunteers were selected through an interview process to commence training for the walk in early March. The walks will be marketed with the appropriate name of 'Next Stop – Armadale'.

MINUTES OF OCCASIONAL/ADVISORY COMMITTEES

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory
Group**

NOTES

**for the meeting held on Tuesday 4 February 2014 commencing at
12.30 pm
at the Champion Centre, Champion Drive, Seville Grove**

Chair: Jodie Clarke

Notes taken by: Norelle John

1. Business of meeting:

(i) Attendance-

Name	Organisation	Title
Victoria Rafferty	Torres Strait Island Elder	Torres Strait Island Elder
Amanda Poglits	Department of Child Protection	Aboriginal Practice Leader
Cr. Guenter Best	City of Armadale	City Councillor
Maxine Nicholson - Turner	South Metropolitan Health	Aboriginal Health Project Officer
Madge Hill	Aboriginal Elder	Aboriginal Elder
Karen Cross	Department of Housing	Area Manager
Vicki Davis	Department of Housing	Aboriginal Client Services Officer
Gloria & Gary Bennell	Aboriginal Elders	Aboriginal Elder
Lyall Garlett	South Metro Education Region	Coordinator Aboriginal Education
Dennis Kickett	Armadale Health Services	
Renee Edwards	Department of Child Protection	Aboriginal Practice Leaders
Christine Parry	Armadale Health Services	Aboriginal Health Officer
Emma Spencer-Percy	Partners in Recovery	
Jodie Clarke	City of Armadale	Indigenous Development Coordinator
Kelly-Anne Charles	City of Armadale	Manager Community Development
Norelle John	City of Armadale	Community Development Support Officer

(ii) Apologies:

Name	Organisation	Title
Keith Lethbridge	Department of Aboriginal Affairs	Community Support
Cheryl Metcalfe	ABOR- Anglicare WA	Manager ABOR
Lexie Trancollino	Department of Human Services	Indigenous Specialist Officer

(iii) Minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes of the ATSIAG meeting held 1 October 2013 were confirmed by the group.

(iv) Business Arising from Minutes

- *Several service providers are already providing some services for Aboriginal children at Gwynne Park Primary School. Jodie Clarke to facilitate meeting between herself and key partners. Action: Jodie Clarke*

Jodie advised ATSIAG that the school had undergone a change in Principal and she would follow up with Gwynne Park Primary School to organise a meeting.

- *Request for South Metro Health to provide a presentation at a future ATSIAG presentation. Action: Jodie Clarke*

Jodie advised ATSIAG that Maxine Nicholson - Turner from SMH would be attending the meeting today as the presentation could be discussed towards the end of the meeting.

- *Request for South Metro Health and WA Police to provide representatives for ATSIAG. Action: Jodie Clarke*

Jodie advised ATSIAG that Maxine Nicholson - Turner from SMH is attending the meeting and Woody Humes and Jeremy Garlett had been transferred to the Cannington Precinct and will be invited to the next meeting.

2. Updates:

(i) Revised Draft Terms of Reference (TOR)

Members were asked to provide feedback on the draft TOR which was distributed prior to the meeting. Discussion demonstrated support for the revised TOR and identified amendments to include:

- Protocols to encourage acknowledgement of country prior to every meeting.
- Focus on improving communication with the community as an objective of ATSIAG.
- Reference to Community Elders and Representatives within Membership 4.0.
- Agreement to trial holding meetings bi-monthly from February 2014 with elders, community members and workers meeting in between.

Further discussion of the proposal to hold bi-monthly meetings identified support for community meetings on the month that ATSIAG did not meet. The group identified

that such meetings would provide an opportunity for Elders, community members and workers to meet informally to discuss issues and possible solutions to problems affecting local Aboriginal people. The intention is that community Elders or representatives would report back to ATSIAG on the main issues and potential solutions identified at the community meetings.

Jodie Clarke offered the Champion Centre as a venue for these meetings which would need to be coordinated by local Elders and/or community members and workers.

Any further feedback should be forwarded to Jodie by 14th February.

(ii) Significant Dates

A handout listing Aboriginal significant dates for 2014 was provided to members.

(iii) Round Table updates

- Councillor Guenter Best suggested that the Cecil Andrews Choir should be invited to participate in NAIDOC in 2014.
Action: Jodie Clarke
- Availability and contact persons for the Marman Mia Mia community bus were discussed. Trevor Clifton and Kevin Giles to be invited to the next ATSIAG meeting.
Action: Jodie Clarke
- Christine Perry discussed the idea of having a youth representative from local high schools come and discuss what is going on with youth in local high schools and how we can assist them in different way.
Action: Jodie Clarke
- Focus on employment and workforce development. The group discussed ways to support more employment for Aboriginal people including having more people employed by the City of Armadale. Ideas included representation of local people on interview panels to advise on appointments; and assistance to access education, training, apprenticeship, traineeships and workforce development programs.

Jodie and Kelly-Anne advised that the City's Indigenous Development area is beginning to focus more on building partnerships to overcome barriers to employment, and will seek ATSIAGs involvement in the coming months to identify possible strategies.

3. Meeting closed at 1.35pm

- 4. Next Meeting: Tuesday 1 April 2014 at 12.30pm**
Tuesday 3 June 2014 at 12.30pm
Tuesday 5 August 2014 at 12.30pm
Tuesday 7 October at 12.30pm
Tuesday 2 December at 12.30pm

POSITIVE AGEING WORKING GROUP NOTES

Date: Monday 10 March 2014

Time: 10.00am

Chair: Ruth Butterfield

Venue: City of Armadale Garden Room – 7 Orchard Avenue Armadale

Notes prepared by: Norelle John

1.0 Attendance & Apologies

Attendance:	
Cr Ruth Butterfield	Deputy Mayor – City of Armadale & Positive Ageing Working Group Chair Person
Rebekah Milnes	Community Development Co-ordinator- City of Armadale
Ms Wendy Hill	Seniors Access & Inclusion Officer- City of Armadale/ Chairperson
Ms Norelle John	Community Development Support Officer- City of Armadale
Ms Chris Bloomer	Community Representative
Mr Albert McNamara	Community Representative
Ms Doreen Southam	Community Representative
Ms Louise Hansen	Southern Districts Support Service
Ms Caroline Dryland	CEO- Southside Care
Ms Trudi Hodges	CEO- Dale Cottages
Apologies:	
Ms Cheryl Samboorski	CEO – Armadale Home Help
Ms Lorraine Kirwan	Local Area Manager – Disability Services Commission

2.0 Minutes

Distributed to members.

3.0 Actions from previous meeting

None.

4.0 ‘What is Happening at Southern Districts Support Association’- Louise Hanson

Southern Districts Support Association (SDSA) is a not-for-profit organisation that provides services to people affected by frailty, disability or mental health issues living within Perth's south-east corridor. The aim being to assist people to continue to remain living in their own homes with dignity and respect.

In 1996 Home and Community Care (HACC) became partners to the project. Funding from HACC cover the major expenses, with a modest fee per client covering some of their running costs. The fees are based on the yearly income and the majority of the costs have been greatly subsidised to help the people who need it the most. Southern Districts have 400 clients needing assistance. Recently, Southern Districts received Growth Funding to further develop existing program and to develop new ones.

On 20th February the SDSA was accredited to be an approved provider in Community Care.

5.0 HACC Updates

None

6.0 Nursing Homes/ Independent Living Updates

- The Federal Government reform program is being rolled out
- The Federal Government has advised that the new round of allocations will be made available in May this year
- There is pressure on smaller groups as many large corporations are moving into the sector
- Many of the pending changes as yet have details to be confirmed
- There remains an emphasis on community care over residential care

7.0 Updates from Community Development Officer (Seniors Access and Inclusion)

- Ms Hill acknowledged Ms Trudi Hodges for all her hard work and participation within the community. Ms Hodges will be leaving Dale Cottages as CEO on the 2 May 2014. Ms Hodges asked the following to be recorded:

‘Dale Cottages Inc has been a vocal, enthusiastic and active participant in every committee and forum related to Seniors within the City since the employment of the City’s very first Community Development Officer in 1994’.

- The upcoming activities and events for Positive Ageing are
 - March 17 - Australian Hearing- looking to becoming permanent
 - April 2 - Become Stroke Safe
 - April 30 - Seniors Recreation Council Activity Day
 - May 2 - Beyond Blue
 - May 8 - Craft Workshop- Armadale Library- starting monthlyMs Hodges asked if the group could have a yearly Activities /Events Plan for the year.
- Ms Hill is looking into a hoarders program to address the issues within the community and work closely with the, City staff, Department of Housing, Southside Care.
- Ms Hill discussed the formation of the Age Friendly Network. Below is background and future direction of the group.

‘The Department of Local Government and Communities led the formation of the AFC WA Network Working Group comprising Departmental representatives WA Local Government Association (WALGA), Council on the Ageing WA (COTA) and the City of Melville.

Through the guidance of the Working Group, the AFC Network is being designed to:

- Form linkages between local governments and other stakeholders engaged in age-friendly community planning.
- Encourage and support the uptake of Age-Friendly Communities planning methodology as the preferred tool for consultation with seniors as part of the local government planning process in new local government areas

To determine the next steps to establish a web based network, COTA will conduct a survey of local governments and report back to the Working Group by the end of April.'

Ms Hill read correspondence to the group from Ken Marston, Chief Executive of COTA about network meetings.

- Ms Hill discussed information received about the Australian Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities. Below is further information.

'Following the first Australian Age-friendly Cities and Communities Conference hosted by the ACT Government and held in Canberra in October last year, an Australian Network of Ageing-friendly Cities and Communities was established. Its objectives are to create an online forum for the efficient and effective exchange of information on age-friendly initiatives; create an inventory of policy and good practice; develop a policy and research agenda; foster consistent language and protocols; map international initiatives and research to the Australian context; and involve researchers. All local governments (and relevant community organisation) are invited to join the Group and start sharing their local initiatives.'

- Ms Hill discussed dementia friendly cities, which has originated in the UK, and has shown great success. Alzheimers Australia WA are hosting launch of Dementia-Friendly Community Project in WA and workshop. The Positive Ageing Working Group can attend.

8.0 Other agenda items from the team

- Ms Hodges discussed the idea of having an evaluation of the Positive Ageing Strategy, and when was it likely to happen as the information is not up to date.
- The group also discussed the idea of having Caroline Stroud talk about Greendale Centre again, as the information in the report was good generic information that could be used to do a presentation for a group or the city in some way.

The group also wanted to know if the Greendale Centre received the funding that was discussed at the last meeting. Ms Hill, Ms Milnes and Ms Hodges explained that there have been some issues that have become apparent with some of the amenities shared between the Greendale Centre and Dale Cottages. This has delayed the process.

- Interest was expressed in having a guest speaker to present to the group. The group is encouraged to forward suggestions for presenters to Ms Hill.

9.0 Any other business

There was no other business.

Meeting closed at 11:25am

Next meeting: 5 May 2014

CITY OF ARMADALE

DISABILITY ADVISORY TEAM MEETING NOTES

Tuesday 18th February 2014, 9.30am

Bi-Monthly Meeting, held at the City of Armadale Committee Room, 7 Orchard Avenue Armadale

Chair: Cr Melissa Northcott

1.0 Attendance & Apologies

Attendance

Name	Title	Organisation
Cr Melissa Northcott	City of Armadale Councillor and DAT Chairperson	City of Armadale
Wendy Hill	Community Development Officer - Seniors, Access and Inclusion	City of Armadale
Norelle John	Community Development Support Officer/Note Taker	City of Armadale
Pat Hart	Community Representative	
Lorraine Kirwan	Local Area Manager, Manages Services South	Disability Services Commission
Ron Fisher	Community Representative	
Lynne Darby	Community Representative	

Apologies

Name	Title	Organisation
Sheila-Anne Macleod	Area Manager Kelmscott	Disability Services Commission
John Glassford	Manager Property Services	City of Armadale
Sheila Parker	Community Representative	
Felicity Lockyer		Hogs Breath
Gail Nesci	Principle Occupational Therapist	Armadale Health Services

2.0 Minutes

Confirmed by Cr Melissa Northcott

3.0 Actions from December minutes

None

4.0 Guest Speaker - None

5.0 Round Table - Aims for 2014

Disability Services Commission- Lorraine Kirwan

As requested Lorraine provided a brief overview of the recently announced changes regarding the Disability Services Commission's Accommodation Services, as follows.

- In the future approximately 60 per cent of people who currently receive accommodation services from the Commission will receive these services from a non-government accommodation provider.
- Everyone who currently lives in a Commission accommodation service will continue to receive accommodation support services.
- People living in Commission accommodation, their families and/or key stakeholders will choose which non-government provider will manage their accommodation service/s in the future.
- People may choose to stay with their current housemates in the same house or move with them to another, or choose an individual option – in each case they will receive their future services from a non-government provider.

Lowanna Way, Armadale is part of the first transition group. There is no set timeline for when Lowanna Way is transitioned to a non-government accommodation provider as it will take the time it takes.

Community Member- Lynne Darby

Lynne is in the process of organising with the City of Cockburn and the RSPCA, a dog walking program in Cockburn for people with disabilities.

Community Member- Ron Fisher

Ron has noticed that there are many safety hazards around the Jull Street area that could affect vision impaired people dramatically including business signs placed in the middle of pathways making it difficult with people with walking canes. There are pillars near ANZ bank on Jull Street that are a hazard, but as they are in the structure of the building they may not be able to be altered. Ron suggests putting something around the poles like tactile paving.

Action: Wendy to follow through with internal staff.

Some streets have tactile paving and some do not, whether this can be looked into. The Challis train station has a pathway that isn't straight which is quite confusing and will cause problems to visionally impaired people.

Action: Cr Melissa will look into this and see if she can get assistance in any way.

Community Member- Pat Hart

Pat works and represents the ageing population in the City of Armadale. Pat expressed there needs to be more access and inclusion for the Bingo Group at Armadale Hall within this community, as there are a very large number within the community.

City of Armadale Councillor and DAT Chairperson- Cr Melissa Northcott

Melissa has been focusing and organising getting ramps for prams and wheelchairs around the area, getting kerbing organised within different parts of the community and being more involved in the Disability Awareness training.

6.0 Updates on DAT Projects

- *Accessible Businesses*
 - The first meeting will be held after DAT meeting. This meeting will ascertain direction of the project
- *Promotion of DAT*
 - We require new members and will work with communications to organize advertising for this.
- *Accessible Path of Travel*
 - To be discussed next meeting
- *Disability Awareness Week*
 - To be discussed next meeting

7.0 Updates from Community Development Officer (Senior Access and Inclusion):

- The aquatic hoist has arrived at the Aquatic Centre; all staff will be trained appropriately by Unicare and policies and procedures will be implemented.
- Wendy is in discussions with the Armadale Arena to introduce a gym program for people with disabilities. There were some great results from the pilot program in 2013, where four people lost a large amount of weight and continued to access other exercise programs and visit the gym.
- Roleystone Men's Shed members are working with young people and local youth workers to help them make their own skate boards. Following a successful pilot of the program in 2013 plans to continue the program in 2014 will be discussed at the Community Board meeting tonight. Wendy will speak with the Bianca Zanetti,

CDO – Youth about possible connections with other youth skate park programs.

- Wendy discussed plans for a professional photo shoot for new promotional materials, including a preference to involve a diverse range of people and disabilities for the photo shoot. Wendy will also discuss with Wendy Stanley, Volunteering Services Coordinator about teaming up for this photo shoot as it will benefit promotion of both areas.

8.0 Other agenda items

None

9.0 Other business

None

Meeting closed at 10.40am

Next Meeting – 1 April 2014