



INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUE NO. 7/2013

18 April 2013

Information Bulletin

Issue No. 7/2013

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Local Government News



Issue No. 13.13

8 April 2013

Please copy and distribute to interested readers

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- ◀ CENSUS 2016 – SUBMISSION PERIOD ENDS IN MAY
- ◀ HR FORUM: METRO LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURAL REFORM – CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR THE HR IMPACT
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- ◀ MWAC INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUES UPDATE

CENSUS 2016 – SUBMISSION PERIOD ENDS IN MAY

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is currently considering which topics it will include in the 2016 Census. The ABS has indicated that a number of topics from the 2011 Census will be reviewed and possibly excluded for the 2016 Census. Several possible new topics have also been identified.

The ABS has invited feedback on the potential 2016 Census content and submissions are due by Friday, 31 May. Information on the submission process and the topics being considered by the ABS can be found here: http://abs.gov.au/auststats/abs@.nsf/lookup/2007_0main+features12016

If your Local Government is contemplating making a submission, please contact Paul Schollum at our office to discuss any common themes for possible inclusion in WALGA's submission to the ABS.

For further information please contact Policy Manager – Economics, Paul Schollum on 9213 2096 or email pschollum@walga.asn.au

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

Human Resources Practitioners are invited to attend a one day forum covering essential Human Resources topics in the event of structural reform affecting Local Government metropolitan Councils. The free forum will cover areas such as redundancy, transfer of business and industrial instruments, resourcing using your workforce plans, and change management. Registrations are essential. The flyer is available at http://walgatraining.com.au/pluginfile.php/345/mod_resource/content/2/asd/Template%20File/index.html

Date: Thursday, 18 April

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: City of Vincent, 244 Vincent St, Leederville

RSVP: Friday, 12 April

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

REVIEW OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES ACTS – COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has extended the comment period on the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*, the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998* to the end of April 2013. The Association is still accepting comments from Local Governments who are interested in contributing to the WALGA submission. Please send through comments to Senior Community Policy Advisor, Erin Furey at efurey@walga.asn.au by close of business Friday, 19 April.

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

MWAC INFO BULLETIN OUT NOW

The March edition of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council Information Bulletin is now available. This edition includes:

- Waste & Recycle Conference Call for Papers;
- Waste Authority communications update;
- WALGA complaints trial with the Australian Packaging Covenant's complaint tool;
- DEC reports on waste and recycling activity data;
- New Minister for the Environment; and
- Northern Territory container deposit system update.

The bulletin is available via www.wastenet.net.au.

For further information, please contact Manager Waste and Recycling, Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or email rbrown@walga.asn.au

OFFICER TRAINING

Preparing Agenda and Minutes

Preparing Agendas and Minutes in Local Government outlines the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to organise meetings, make arrangements, liaise with participants and develop and distribute meeting-related documentation. This course applies to individuals employed in a range of work environments who organise a variety of meetings.

Date: Monday, 15 April

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$415 (+ GST)

Effective Letter and Report Writing

Effective Letter and Reporting Writing in Local Government outlines the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to plan documents, draft tests, prepare final text and produce documents of some complexity. The course applies to individuals who work in a range of business environments and are skilled in the creation of reports, information and general promotion documents that are more complex than basic correspondence, memos or forms and that require review and analysis of a range of information sources.

Date: Tuesday, 16 April

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$415 (+ GST)

Enterprise Agreements Development and Negotiation

Enterprise Agreements has been designed to provide understanding, advice and guidelines on developing and negotiating an enterprise agreement with measurable benefit to the Local Government, within the conditions of the *Fair Work Act 2009*.

Date: Wednesday, 17 April

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$415 (+ GST)

ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING

Meeting Procedures and Debating – **SATURDAY SERIES**

Meeting Procedures and Debating is specifically designed for both experienced and newly Elected Members who wish to enhance their meeting skills. Concentrating on knowledge of meeting procedures and high level debating techniques, this course is a practical tool kit for those who attend Council and committee meetings as members or presiding members.

Date: Saturday, 20 April

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$395 (+ GST)

Course flyers can be downloaded at <http://walgatraining.com.au/>. Contact the training team at training@walga.asn.au to secure your place.

WATER BREAKFAST INVITATION

The Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce (WA) is hosting a Water Management Breakfast, on Thursday,

9 May. Mr Allan Jackson, Rio Tinto General Manager Climate Change, Water & Environment, will introduce a visiting delegation of five leading Israeli companies that are world leaders in clean water technology and water recycling.

Each company will be briefly presenting their innovative capabilities on water management and related successes and opportunities in their fields. The companies presenting have been confronted with extremely limited natural resources due to their location and terrain and have had to develop innovative water technologies and waste water treatment techniques. The presentations are designed to assist Western Australia's constant search for better water technologies. WALGA Business Development Manager, Andrew Blitz is coordinating a Local Government table at this event.

For further information please contact Business Development Manager Andrew Blitz on 9213 2046 or email ablitz@walga.asn.au

REVIEW OF THE PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP (OIL) ACT 2000

The Federal Government has engaged Professor Neil Byron and Aither to undertake a review of the *Product Stewardship (Oil) Act 2000*. This Act establishes the Product Stewardship for Oil scheme, which has been less than successful in Western Australia. A consultation paper had been developed and is available from www.aither.com.au/pso-act-review/, with the closing date for submissions Tuesday, 30 April. A stakeholder consultation meeting will be held in Perth Thursday, 11 April from 1:30pm – 5:00pm, at Australia Place, Cnr William St and St Georges Terrace. This meeting will be followed by individual stakeholder meetings. If you wish to book a private meeting please contact Peter Walsh at DSEWPaC on 02 6274 2266 or email peter.walsh@environment.gov.au.

WALGA will be developing a Submission on behalf of the sector. If you would like to contribute to this Submission, please forward your comments to Heather Squire, Waste Management Policy Coordinator at hsquire@walga.asn.au by Monday, 15 April.

INFORMATION SESSION: YOUR DATA IS NOT WASTED

The Department of Environment and Conservation is holding an information session on waste data, titled *Your data is not wasted* from 2–4pm, Thursday, 11 April at the WA Ecology Centre, Bold Park, Perry Lakes Drive, Floreat. This information session is designed to present the most recent information on waste and recycling activity in Western Australia, from the data submitted by over 200 individual Local Governments and businesses during 2012.

The information session is an opportunity to find out how much waste Western Australians are producing, where that waste is coming from and how much of it is recycled. Presentations will also address some of the challenges in collecting, managing and reporting waste and recycling data.

For more information, please contact Julie Wyland at DEC on 6467 5310 or email Julie.Wyland@dec.wa.gov.

Local Government News



CITY OF ARMADALE
15 APR 2013
RECORDS SERVICES

Issue No. 14.13

15 April 2013

Please copy and distribute to interested readers

HEADLINES

- ◀ COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT GRANTS NOW OPEN
- ◀ REMINDER - HR FORUM: METRO LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURAL REFORM – CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR THE HR IMPACT
- ◀ NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR WA COSTAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE 2013
- ◀ UPCOMING TRAINING ON MYRTLE RUST RECOGNITION, REPORT AND MANAGEMENT
- ◀ NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2013 WA LANDCARE AWARDS
- ◀ OFFICER TRAINING
- ◀ ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING

- ◀ REGIONAL ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING
- ◀ TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES
- ◀ SAVE THE DATE 2014 ROADS AND TRANSPORT FORUM
- ◀ CONNECTING SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM – APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN
- ◀ RECYCLE UNWANTED COMPUTER EQUIPMENT
- ◀ MAILBAG
- ◀ INFOPAGE: MYRTLE RUST – A NEW THREAT TO WA
- ◀ INFOPAGE: AUSTRALIA EARLY DEVELOPMENT INDEX (AEDI) RESULTS
- ◀ INFOPAGE: FERTILISER PARTNERSHIP URBAN USERS WORKING GROUP – MEETING UPDATE

ISSUES UPDATE

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT GRANTS NOW OPEN

Community Environment Grants of between \$5000 and \$50,000 are now available from the Australian Government to community groups working to achieve an environment that is healthier, better protected, well managed and resilient. Applications will close at midnight AEST, Wednesday, 8 May. Community Environment Grants will assist community based organisations to contribute to three strategic objectives, under the Sustainable Environment Stream of Caring for our Country:

- Maintenance of ecosystem services, including ecological and cultural values, now and into the future;
- Protection of our conservation estate; and
- Enhanced capacity of Indigenous communities to conserve and protect natural resources.

More information regarding Community Environment Grants is available at the Caring for our Country website: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/environment/ceg/index.html>.

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

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

The free forum will cover areas such as redundancy, transfer of business and industrial instruments, resourcing using your workforce plans, and change management. Registrations are essential. The flyer is available at http://walgatraining.com.au/pluginfile.php/345/mod_resource/content/2/asd/Template%20File/index.html

Date: Thursday, 18 April

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: City of Vincent, 244 Vincent St, Leederville

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

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR WA COASTAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE 2013

Nominations are now open for the WA Coastal Awards for Excellence until 5:00pm on Friday, 3 May. Nominate individuals, groups or projects that demonstrate success and outstanding commitment to working towards sustainable planning and/or management of WA's coastal and marine environments. There are six award categories to enter and for further information about each category please visit www.planning.wa.gov.au/649.asp.

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

UPCOMING TRAINING ON MYRTLE RUST RECOGNITION, REPORTING AND MANAGEMENT

Local Governments are invited to attend a one-day course about myrtle rust recognition, reporting, risk assessment and management options. The course will be held at various WA locations from Monday, 20 May – Friday, 24 May. Myrtle rust has not yet arrived to WA but is a threat to WA's unique biodiversity. Myrtle rust is a fungal disease that affects the myrtle family (Myrtaceae). It arrived in eastern Australia in 2010, and has already infected over 200 native species in the myrtle family (Myrtaceae) including paperbarks, lillypillys, tea-trees, peppermint, and some eucalypts. The myrtle family is dominant in many Australian ecosystems, and is important

in forestry, commercial and home horticulture, and the bush food and medicine industry. To register for the course, please visit <http://anpc.asn.au/courses.html> by 5:00pm, Monday, 13 May.

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

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2013 WA LANDCARE AWARDS

Nominations are now open for the WA Landcare Awards until Sunday, 30 June. The awards honour the invaluable work being undertaken by the Landcare community, with the winners from all State and Territory Awards going forward as finalists to the prestigious National Landcare Awards in 2014. There are nine national categories, covering a range of environmental projects and themes. Further information is available at the Landcare Australia website <http://www.landcareonline.com.au/2013-state-territory-landcare-awards/wa>.

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

OFFICER TRAINING

Introduction to Local Government **New Course**

Date: Wednesday 1 May

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$415.00 (+ GST)

Customer Service and Complaint Handling

Date: Friday, 3 May

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$415.00 (+ GST)

ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING

Change Management

Date: Monday, 22 April

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$395 (no GST)

Policy Development –

Date: Tuesday, 23 April

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$395 (no GST)

REGIONAL ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING

Financial Reports and Budgets - Ravensthorpe

Held at: The Shire of Ravensthorpe (provided by the Shire of Jerramungup)

Date: Friday, 10 May

Contact: Charmaine or Jenny, (08) 9835 1022

Course flyers can be downloaded at <http://walgatraining.com.au/> Contact the training team at training@walga.asn.au to secure your place.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Through the WALGA Road Building Preferred Supplier Contract a project has been initiated to develop reference and resource materials, including model

specification documentation to support Local Government Traffic Management Contracting. The draft material is currently available for review and consultation by Local Government officers.

For further information, please contact Business Development Manager, Andrew Blitz on 9213 2046 or email ablitz@walga.asn.au

SAVE THE DATE: 2014 WA TRANSPORT AND ROADS FORUM

Following the success of last year's event, the WA Transport and Roads Forum will once again be held at Crown Perth in Burswood, on Thursday, 6 March 2014. This Forum has been instrumental in providing a platform for sector experts and decision makers to share information and knowledge, and so we look forward to another informative and insightful opportunity. Join us on the banks of the Swan River in March 2014. The program and registration details will be available later this year so please keep an eye out in LG News. This is a free event for all Local Government staff and their sector partners.

For further information in the meantime, please contact Rhonda Chapman or Marissa Macdonald on 9213 2059.

CONNECTING SCHOOLS GRANT PROGRAM – APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

As part of the draft WA Bicycle Network Plan 2012-21, the Department of Transport has launched the Connecting Schools Grant Program with up to \$100,000 available in funding for 2013/2014. The aim of the program is to improve bicycle access and end of trip facilities for local schools. The grants are provided on a 50:50 matched funding basis. Local Governments are encouraged to apply in partnership with schools by Friday, 24 May. Further information and the application form is available from the website <http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/activetransport/25722.asp>

For further information please contact Ashley McCormick, A/Cycling Infrastructure Project Leader, Department of Transport 6551 6163 or email Ashley.McCormick@transport.wa.gov.au

RECYCLE UNWANTED COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

The City of Perth Lions Club is seeking unwanted computer equipment. The Lions Club operates a Computer Refurbishment Project through TADWA (Technical Assistance for People with Disabilities) where a small group of retired professional people give freely of their time and expertise to collect, clean, refresh and distribute used computer equipment to provide a supply of low cost computers to Seniors, Pensioners, Students and the disadvantaged. Lions provide an assurance that all equipment is completely "cleaned" with new software loaded as part of the refurbishment process. Any donated equipment which cannot be re-used is broken down into component parts or for recycling.

For further information on computer disposal please contact Computer Project Chairman, City of Perth (Host) Lions Club, Murray Fletcher on 9258 3891, 0414 746 957 or email smfnbridge33@yahoo.com

WALGA ZONE MEETINGS

'Denotes Teleconference

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

ALGA NEWS

5 APRIL 2013

ALGA Board settles campaign arrangements for referendum

Following a meeting last week of the ALGA Board to discuss plans for a national campaign on constitutional recognition of local government ahead of a possible September 2013 referendum, the Board has agreed on the detail of a multi-million dollar, integrated campaign to support a 'yes' vote in a referendum to recognise local government in the Australian Constitution.

ALGA is now waiting for advice from Prime Minister Julia Gillard and confirmation that the Government will proceed with a referendum at the time of the September federal election.

ALGA has written to Ms Gillard to reinforce the need for the Australian Government to provide certainty about the timing of a referendum if the sector is to ensure that a 2013 campaign has the greatest chance of success.

ALGA has long maintained that financial recognition of local government in the Constitution is the only way to protect direct federal funding for community services and infrastructure. This view was shared by an independent expert panel appointed in 2011 by the federal government to examine options for recognition of local government and the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government, which recommended in March that a referendum be held at the time of the federal election.

The referendum would propose an amendment to Section 96 of the Australian Constitution to allow the Commonwealth to directly fund local government.

Contingent on confirmation of a 2013 referendum from the Government, the ALGA Board has agreed to engage a Campaign Director, who would be responsible for selecting and managing all external agencies and leading the campaign headquarters team.

Councils urged to submit Notices of Motions for National General Assembly

Debate at this year's National General Assembly (NGA) is set to cover pivotal issues facing local government, with many councils from around Australia already submitting Notices of Motions to ALGA for consideration at the Assembly in two months time.

Motions submitted to ALGA relate to important and topical issues such as infrastructure funding, natural disaster mitigation arrangements, intergovernmental financing and environmental protection issues.

Broad council involvement in the NGA is vital to help ALGA to drive improved outcomes for local government at the national level. It is important that every council is represented in NGA debates and able to shape the policy ideas and initiatives being

debated and agreed at the NGA.

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

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

The 2013 NGA will be held at the National Convention Centre Canberra from 16-19 June. To register your attendance, submit a motion or access a program, click [here](#).

Research reinforces need for more federal funding for bridges

Following media reports this week regarding the high number of bridges in New South Wales in critically poor condition, ALGA is again highlighting the need for increased and permanent funding for local roads and bridges under the national Roads to Recovery (R2R) program, or a targeted program for bridges, to close a recognised funding gap of \$1.2 billion.

An investigation by the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the Sydney University of Technology has found that up to 650 NSW bridges under council responsibility are in critically poor condition, with many on the verge of collapse.

A national report commissioned last year by ALGA to measure the standard of community roads and infrastructure estimates that 12 per cent of local government transport assets Australia-wide are in poor or very poor condition.

The *National State of the Assets Report 2012* was commissioned to assess how local infrastructure is faring, whether community needs are being met and if current levels of expenditure are adequate. The Report builds on research commissioned by ALGA in 2010 which indicated that current levels of expenditure would need to increase by an average of \$1.2 billion per year to avoid deterioration of the local road network. In 2006, the results of a study undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers found that the potential aggregate backlog for all 560 Australian local councils was approximately \$14.6 billion, with an annual sustainable funding gap of \$1.1 billion.

In the latest study to inform the National Assets Report, 55 councils contributed data about the quality, functionality and capacity of roads and bridges infrastructure. Key findings of the Report suggest that the current state of sealed roads presents the greatest challenge to councils, with more than \$2 billion in value being regarded as poor or very

poor in respect to quality and capacity. The poor standard of many council bridges was also highlighted.

The Report demonstrates the continued need for federal programs such as R2R, which provide councils with additional funding each year to maintain local roads. After strong advocacy from local government, the Commonwealth last year announced that it would extend the program from 2014 to 2019.

While councils appreciate the assistance through R2R, more needs to be done address an estimated funding shortfall for local roads of \$1.2 billion annually. Local roads make up more than 80 per cent of the nation's road system and are maintained by councils.

Without adequate support, councils will struggle to maintain local roads to the standards necessary to ensure transport safety.

President's Column

During last week's ALGA Board meeting, members discussed local government's core priorities and the specific actions and commitments required from the Australian Government to support councils in meeting community needs. These discussions have informed ALGA's election document, which is being finalised for release at the National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) in June.

While constitutional recognition of local government remains a top priority for ALGA, there are many other issues that we continue to advocate strongly for. Among them is a more equitable system of Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs), which is essential for local governments across the country.

ALGA acknowledges that the Commonwealth is undertaking a review of the FAGs system and welcomes the progress already taken. However, the terms of reference and structure of the review are disappointingly narrow, and vague, and ALGA seeks a commitment that issues related to sustainability and equity will be addressed. ALGA argues that the FAGs pool should be increased in line with growth in the economy, demand for local services and rising costs. As well as address increasing demands on local government, often due to cost shifting on to councils by other levels of government, this step would restore the funding level to what it was in the mid-1990s. In 1995-96, FAGs constituted one per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue. By 2010-11, this had dropped to 0.72 per cent.

This continuing and deepening decline of FAGs as a proportion of total Commonwealth taxation revenue means that local and regional communities are paying the price. This price is evidenced in underperforming council infrastructure, less well-maintained roads, neglected sports facilities and deteriorating community infrastructure, and cuts to important community services.

Without equitable funding for local government, communities will suffer. This message will be highlighted in our election document, which we will be presenting to all political parties and independents in the lead up to the 2013 federal election in an effort to gain a better deal for councils and the communities they represent.

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis

ALGA President

A national approach to asbestos management

The Office of Asbestos Safety has this week released a discussion draft of the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management, which ALGA and state associations of local government will be responding to.

The development of a National Strategic Plan was a key recommendation of the Asbestos Management Review.

The Government established the Office of Asbestos Safety in August 2012 to commence work with jurisdictions and stakeholders to start the development of a national strategic plan by 1 July 2013.

The Office is currently conducting national forums with stakeholders interested in asbestos awareness, management and eradication. Feedback is invited from all members of the community on the discussion draft of the [National Strategic Plan](#).

The plan will pave the way for the first coordinated and consistent national approach to handling asbestos beyond the workplace.

ACCC grants interim authorisation to councils

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has granted interim authorisation to Wollongong City Council and Shellharbour City Council to enable them to request and evaluate tenders for the collection of waste and the processing of recyclables.

"Interim authorisation will allow the two councils to commence the tender and tender evaluation process.

This will ensure that the tender process will be completed in time for the new contracts to be implemented by 30 June 2014," ACCC Deputy Chair Dr Michael Schaper said.

"During this time, the existing contracts will remain in place until their expiry in June 2014. This will maintain stability in the markets for collection of waste and for processing of recycling material."

The ACCC has previously authorised similar conduct for other groups of councils in New South Wales.

Interim authorisation commences immediately and will remain in place until the date that the ACCC's final determination comes into effect or is revoked.

The granting of interim authorisation in no way binds the ACCC in its consideration of the substantive application for authorisation.

Authorisation provides statutory protection from court action for conduct that might

otherwise raise concerns under the competition provisions of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010. Broadly, the ACCC may grant an authorisation when it is satisfied that the public benefit from the conduct outweighs any public detriment.

The ACCC has sought submissions from interested parties on Councils' substantive application for authorisation.

Further information, including a copy of the interim authorisation and how to make a submission, is available from www.accc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister

Filling the research gap to help farmers

Farmers will benefit from 31 new research projects looking at how farm practices can be adapted to reduce carbon emissions and earn them a second income stream by generating and selling carbon credits.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Joe Ludwig, said 31 projects would share in \$30 million under the Gillard Government's \$201 million Filling the Research Gap Program, which funds the research that will assist in developing methodologies that can be applied by farmers and landholders to reduce emissions.

A report released by the Climate Commission this week reinforced the need to act on climate change, finding climate change is already increasing the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events which pose significant risks to agriculture and the environment.

Minister Ludwig said the Filling the Research Gap Program aimed to provide data to assist in developing methodologies that help farmers and landholders participate in the Carbon Farming Initiative to reduce emissions, improve their farm sustainability and diversify their farm income.

"These projects will build our knowledge about how farmers and landholders can play their part in reducing carbon emissions and act to fight climate change and the risks it poses for agriculture," Minister Ludwig said.

"It is research projects like these that underpin the agriculture sector's ability to take up the opportunities presented by the Carbon Farming Initiative.

"Some of Australia's best research organisations have been successful in this round, including research and development corporations, universities and private industry.

"By supporting and investing in these research projects we are helping to develop new technology and land management practices and reinforce Australia's reputation as a world leader in sustainable farming."

Minister Ludwig announced the recipients during a visit to the Queensland University of Technology, which will receive \$1,816,708 for three projects.

Filling the Research Gap is an ongoing program with initial funding of \$201 million allocated over six years to 2016-17. For more information about the Filling the Research Gap Program and successful grant recipients visit www.daff.gov.au/ftrg

Boost to Wollongong's city heart

Major construction works commenced this month on the \$14.9 million redevelopment of Crown Street Mall in the heart of Wollongong's business district.

Jointly funded by [Wollongong City Council](#) and the Australian Government's [Regional Development Australia Fund](#), it is the first redevelopment of the mall for 30 years.

An estimated 11 million people visit the mall each year, with numbers expected to increase in coming years as commercial and retail activity grows.

The revitalised streetscape will include new street pavers, tree plantings, street furniture, lighting and public art. Underground water tanks will also be installed to capture run-off and irrigate trees.

For more information visit the [Crown Street Mall Reburishment](#) website.

Changes to federal environment laws that aim to protect

Changes to federal environment laws that aim to protect water resources from coal-seam gas and coal mining activities have passed the House of Representatives.

Independent Lyne MP Rob Oakeshott said the amendment to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act would make coal seam gas (CSG) and large coal mining developments which "have, or are likely to have, a significant impact on a water resource" a new matter of national environmental significance.

The legislation, should it pass through the Senate, will not affect stage one of AGL's coal seam gas project in Gloucester, however, it will apply to stages two to five.

"I'm bitterly disappointed NSW and the Commonwealth failed to reach an agreement on CSG protocols before the first stage of the AGL project was approved," Mr Oakeshott said.

"It may have spared Gloucester and the Manning a lot of anguish.

"However, I am optimistic this piece of legislation will do what NSW has refused to do and that is stop CSG projects if the science shows it will have a significant impact on water resources."

Mr Oakeshott thanked the Gloucester community in particular for their strong advocacy on behalf of the entire valley.

Volunteer Grants funding opens

Community organisations have the opportunity to apply for funding of up to \$5,000

through Australian Government Volunteer Grants.

The Grants can be used to buy much needed equipment or to assist volunteers with fuel costs, training courses and compulsory background checks.

Applications for Volunteer Grants 2013 are open online until April 24 5pm AEST.

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

Multicultural youth sport grant round opens

Multicultural youth from across the country can look forward to new sporting opportunities with the third round of the Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership Program now open.

Minister for Sport and Multicultural Affairs Kate Lundy explained the Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership Program provides grants to organisations of between \$5,000 and \$50,000 to help youth from new and emerging communities and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to participate in sport within their local communities.

"Sport is an important part of Australian culture, and as a Government we want to help local sporting organisations better connect with new and emerging communities," Senator Lundy said.

"Through this program we are helping refugees and new migrants to better understand Australian culture through sport."

Senator Lundy this week joined members of the Sunshine Heights Cricket Club in Melbourne to see how the Club is using the Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership funding they received last year to help deliver their 'We Don't Like Cricket - We Love it!' program.

"The 'We Don't Like Cricket - We Love it!' program provides great opportunities for local refugee children to participate in weekly cricketing activities in a safe and supporting environment," Senator Lundy said.

"Sport is a fabulous driver for building participation and inclusion for young Australians from diverse backgrounds - and this is so very clear here in Sunshine."

"The Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership will continue to play an important role in helping these young people to participate in their local communities through sport."

Applications are now open for the next round of Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership program. Applications close on 2 May 2013 and successful applicants will be announced in July 2013.

For more information about the grants, visit ausport.gov.au

National Youth Week 5-14 April

National Youth Week (NYW) is the largest celebration of young people in Australia, with thousands of young people aged 12-25 from across Australia getting involved in NYW each year.

NYW is celebrated from 5-14 April and communities are encouraged to get involved and celebrate Australia's young people.

If you have questions about National Youth Week,
email nationalyouthweek@deewr.gov.au or phone 1300 363 079.

Australian kids doing better in key development indicators

Australian five-year olds are developing better than they were three years ago and have improved in four of the five key development indicators, according to the latest round of data from the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI).

Minister for Early Childhood Peter Garrett said the 2012 data, released this week, showed a decrease of 1.6 per cent in the number of children who were developmentally vulnerable in one or more areas compared to the results from the first AEDI in 2009.

Releasing the results during a community event in Blacktown, Mr Garrett said the data showed that Australian children were showing development improvements in social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills, and communication and general knowledge skills. Results in physical health and well-being have remained steady.

Data was collected in May 2012 on nearly 290,000 children, representing 96.5 per cent of children in their first year of formal full-time school.

"The results showed that since the first round of data was collected, the work that communities and governments have been doing to better support children and families has been paying off," Mr Garrett said.

"Research shows that investing time, effort and resources in children's early years, when their brains are developing rapidly, benefits them and the whole community.

"Australia is the only country in the world that collects this level of information about health, well-being and development of our children before they enter school.

Communities have been able to use this data to develop new programs for children and their families, and deliver extra, targeted help to children at risk.

Key findings from the 2012 AEDI data include:

- The number of children who are developmentally vulnerable in one or more areas has fallen since 2009, to 22 per cent - a 1.6 per cent improvement.
- In four of the five areas, Australian children are doing better than they were in 2009 - that is, there are fewer children who are developmentally vulnerable in each of these four areas.

- Indigenous children are showing significant signs of progress. In 2012, 43.2 per cent of children were developmentally vulnerable, down from 47.4 per cent in 2009. While this figure is still far too high, it is a strong improvement in just three years.
- Qld and the Northern Territory showed the most improvement. In QLD, there has been a decrease in the number of developmentally vulnerable children of 3.4 per cent, and in the NT, of 3.2 per cent.
- The greatest level of national improvement was in the language and cognitive development domain with 6.8 per cent of children reported as developmentally vulnerable in 2012, compared to 8.9 per cent in 2009.

To view the 2012 AEDI data visit: www.aedi.org.au

Religious affiliation emerging as theme in 2016 Census consultation

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has this week provided an update on the 2016 Census of Population and Housing public consultation process and outlined the key themes emerging from the submissions received so far.

Since the consultation period began in early November 2012, Australians have been having their say on the proposed content and procedures for the 2016 Census. As of 22 March, 43 submissions have been received, with the religious affiliation topic attracting the highest number of submissions (13).

The submissions received to date support the retention of this topic in the upcoming Census however the majority have requested that the question be modified to better capture information about people with no religion.

Topics such as ancestry, Australian citizenship, long term health conditions and mode of travel to educational institution have also attracted a number of submissions.

In addition, 44 submissions relating to the 2011 Census are also being considered as part of this process.

The public consultation process is due to close on Friday, 31 May 2013.

The public will have their final opportunity to attend a public consultation at 2pm, on Friday, 12 April 2013. The ABS has organised a webinar in Canberra with interested parties who are interstate being able to view the presentation live online.

For more information on the topic consultation update, how to attend the webinar or to make a submission, visit www.abs.gov.au/census

ALGA NEWS

12 APRIL 2013

ALGA strongly opposes tied Financial Assistance Grants

ALGA has strongly opposed any suggestion that Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) be tied as a result of the current review of the system being undertaken by the Commonwealth Grants Commission.

In a public hearing before the Commission, held in Canberra on Wednesday and attended by councils, state local government grants commissions and other interested parties, ALGA strongly rejected any suggestion that FAGs be tied to specific Commonwealth program goals. ALGA told the Commission that the Grants were untied in the hands of councils and used to address local priorities. It argued that any move to tie them would disadvantage communities and could introduce additional, unnecessary and costly layers of bureaucracy and accountability.

ALGA also expressed its disappointment at the narrow terms of reference for the review which preclude consideration of increasing FAGs and changing the indexation arrangements. ALGA continues to argue that the amount of the grants pool needs to be increased to restore the relative importance of the Grants to their 1996 level, when they contributed 10 per cent of council revenue. The figure has since fallen to about seven per cent and ALGA wants the indexation arrangements changed to reflect the real cost increases councils bear.

ALGA foreshadowed to the Commission that it will be arguing for a broader review of local government funding as part of its 2013 election policy, given that the last substantial national review of local government funding was undertaken in 1986.

The Commission is expected to hold a second hearing in Adelaide next week, with the final report from the Commission due to be given to the Government by December 2013.

Councils need increased Natural Disaster Mitigation Funding

A Senate Inquiry into preparedness for extreme weather events has been told that councils need additional funding for natural disaster mitigation.

In an appearance before the Senate Environment and Communications Committee in Canberra on 11 April, ALGA highlighted the need for an increase in the federal government's funding for natural disaster mitigation to ensure that local communities are better prepared in the face of more severe and frequent weather events.

The current mitigation funding provided by the Commonwealth is part of the National Partnership on Disaster Resilience, which totals about \$26 million per year. ALGA has argued that the funding devoted to mitigation is not sufficient to meet the needs of local communities. To reduce the burden on councils, ALGA is calling for an increase in funding for mitigation to \$200 million over four years with a change to the funding partnership to a 2:2:1 ratio between the Commonwealth, State and local government, as

opposed to the current ratio of 1:1:1.

ALGA also emphasised the need for changes to the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) to allow councils to use day labour in recovery operations, given the difficulties councils in rural areas face in accessing contract labour, and to improve the “betterment” criteria which make it easier for damaged and destroyed infrastructure to be replaced by stronger more resilient assets.

Finally, ALGA highlighted the need for councils to have access to more detailed information about the likelihood local impacts of extreme weather events to help improve community preparedness and resilience.

Catherine King invited to address ALGA Regional Forum

ALGA has invited the Minister for Regional Services, Local Communities and Territories, Catherine King, to address this year's Regional Cooperation and Development Forum on Sunday 16 June in Canberra.

Catherine King was first elected to Federal Parliament in 2001 to represent the electorate of Ballarat. Ms King was appointed Parliamentary Secretary in the portfolios of Health and Ageing and Infrastructure and Transport before being recently being elevated to the roles of Minister for Regional Services, Local Communities and Territories and Minister for Road Safety.

Ms King has declared her strong commitment to equality of access for all Australians to vital services such as health care and education; quality care and amenities for older people and high standard, affordable childcare. She has also emphasised her passion for the development of regional Australia, including the provision of services and infrastructure, the creation and retention of job opportunities and the delivery of training for local people.

This year's Forum will build on the work commenced by National Economics in 2012 on rethinking regional development. This new way of thinking incorporates the latest Census data and examines the implications of climate change and natural disasters

The Forum will continue to allow the sharing of ideas and opportunities through a mix of academic and practitioner insights. The Forum will also hear the latest positions from Commonwealth politicians and senior officials and the Regional Australia Institute.

ALGA is calling for applications for inclusion in the Regional Forum's inaugural poster display. The display is aimed at showcasing the regional development initiatives local government authorities are currently undertaking. Posters will be displayed in the Ballroom at the National Convention Centre, the venue for the Regional Forum. The Posters will then be moved to be displayed throughout the National General Assembly (also in the National Convention Centre) until Wednesday 19 June.

The Forum is held as the curtain raiser to the National General Assembly, which is held from 16-19 June in Canberra. Registration for the Regional Forum is \$395 or \$195 if you are also attending the National General Assembly or displaying a poster. For more information, please click [here](#) or call (02) 6122 9400.

President's Column

This week I am writing to you from Tokyo, Japan, where I am spending time with the Mayor of Kokubunji and the President of Tokyo Keizai University to recognise the City of Marion's 20th anniversary as sister city to Kokubunji City.

Marion's sister city relationship with Kokubunji is one of 109 between Japan and Australia, with the first Australia-Japan Sister City affiliation formed between Lismore, New South Wales, and Yamato-Takada, Nara Prefecture, in 1963. Sister city relationships play an important role by way of grassroots exchange between our two countries and Marion has certainly enjoyed a rich history of cultural and educational exchanges involving our local schools and community groups.

This affiliation also provides further opportunity for strengthening strategic partnerships with Asia. The importance of such partnerships was highlighted this week by Prime Minister Julia Gillard's trip to China, which resulted in an agreement for annual leadership talks with the new Chinese Premier, Li Keqiang.

Media reported that the annual leaders' talks will involve regular ministerial discussions on the economy and regional affairs. Prime Minister Gillard and Premier Li Keqiang have also signed a number of other agreements, including the establishment of an expert group to drive cooperation on carbon trading, a new round of defence talks and a partnership to work together on aid and development in the Asia Pacific.

The significance of this partnership is that it means Australia does not have to compete with other nations to be involved in discussions: it already has an open line of communication with China. Similarly, the sister city relationships offer cities like Marion enormous opportunity to enter business discussions, promote tourism, inbound education and provide a platform from which we can address global issues. As well as acting as a gateway to new markets and trade alliances, it helps to break down cultural barriers. It promotes diversity and encourages openness, tolerance and mutual understanding, all of which enrich our communities and those of our international partners.

I encourage all councils to consider international partnerships such as the sister city program and hope that other cities can enjoy the same benefits that Marion has realised by being part of a relationship with Japan. This is a mechanism through which local government can make a direct contribution to Australia's engagement with Asia.

**Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis
ALGA President**

Final High Speed Rail Study released

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Anthony Albanese, this week released the second and final report into High Speed Rail (HSR) to connect the nation's East Coast capital cities.

The comprehensive report reveals that the 1748km HSR network would link Brisbane,

Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne and include 12 regional stations at a cost \$114 billion. While construction would begin in 2027, the network would not be fully operational until 2058. The Sydney to Canberra link would be completed first, by 2035, followed by the Canberra to Melbourne link, by 2040.

The economic return of the project is estimated at 0.8 per cent and the study assumes that there will not be a second airport built in Sydney.

"This landmark study fulfils a key 2010 election commitment, and reflects our vision and determination to move Australia and its economy towards a low carbon, high productivity and even more prosperous future," Minister Albanese said.

Minister Albanese has established a group of transport ministers from relevant states and territories to consider the issue further and an advisory group has been formed to advise the Ministers. Local Government will be represented on the advisory group by Jenny Dowell, Mayor of Lismore and President of the Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils. The group's membership also includes Former Deputy Prime Minister, Tim Fischer.

The report is open to public comment until 30 June. To access the full report and feedback forms, click [here](#).

Peak emergency services body says climate change requires strategic planning

The peak body for emergency services has admitted that extreme climate conditions will require emergency services to be better prepared.

The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) has released a statement supporting the [Climate Commission's *Extreme Weather* report](#) acknowledging the scientific assessment that climate change was increasing the frequency and severity of extreme weather.

AFAC said emergency services would need to "plan strategically to identify how they would cope with the projected increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather".

It recommended that although increasing interstate support and staffing would be important, emergency services may be unable to respond to many major, concurrent incidents across Australia and New Zealand.

"If a larger number of more intense extreme weather events are experienced in the future, people must understand that fire and emergency services cannot insulate communities from their impact," the Council's statement said.

Spokesperson for AFAC, Paul Considine said the Council was already aware of the challenges of climate change.

"However this report sharpens the eye," Mr Considine said, "illustrating the importance of preparedness in the short to medium term for increasingly frequent and severe extreme

weather.

"Planning, resourcing and community engagement are going to be important for the future."

Chief Commissioner of the Climate Commission, Professor Tim Flannery said climate change was making many extreme events worse in terms of their impacts on people, property, communities and the environment.

Population boom in mining towns

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has this week unveiled new analysis about towns of the mining boom using data from the 2011 Census.

The latest Australian Social Trends report has shown that Karratha, Roxby Downs, Newman and Middlemount are among the mining towns that have experienced the fastest population growth since the last Census.

ABS Director of Social and Progress Reporting Jane Griffin-Warwicke said "These high growth mining towns tend to have a lot of people on higher incomes, but they work long hours."

"These residents also sometimes pay quite high rents - for example the median rent for a separate house in Karratha rented from a private landlord was \$1300 a week.

"Unlike the rest of Australia, where females outnumber males, high growth mining towns have more males. For example, more than two-thirds of people staying in Middlemount on Census Night were male.

"The majority of people in fast growing mining towns are in their prime working years between 25 and 54," she said.

The analysis also found that these towns tend not to have many older people with only 1 per cent of people in Roxby Downs on Census Night aged 65 or older.

All AST articles are available in full online at www.abs.gov.au/socialtrends

Applications sought for Digital Enterprise program

Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, has called for applications for the fourth round of the Digital Enterprise program.

Applications are being sought from organisations that will deliver services to Gosford (NSW), the Gold Coast (Qld), and Wollongong (NSW). These are the three largest communities where NBN construction has commenced that are yet to receive funding for the Digital Enterprise program.

The Digital Enterprise program offers free expert training for local businesses and not-for-profit organisations to adapt to the online world and gain a better understanding of the

many opportunities provided through the National Broadband Network (NBN). The selected organisations will be awarded grants worth up to \$280,000.

"It's so important that small businesses get online and start thinking about how they can make the NBN work for them," Senator Conroy said.

"We are already seeing how the Digital Enterprise program is helping small businesses take full advantage of the benefits that come from embracing the digital economy.

"For example, *WorkForce Blueprint* in Willunga, South Australia, has used the program's training to improve their online business strategy. Now their entire business, including email, documents and finance software lives in the cloud, meaning their employees can work from anywhere, anytime that suits.

"I urge local organisations from Gosford, the Gold Coast, and Wollongong, to apply for funding to deliver this important program.

The Digital Enterprise program is currently operating in 44 communities around Australia. These communities are some of the first in the country to access the benefits of the NBN.

The closing date for round four applications is 2.00pm Monday 29 April 2013. Digital Enterprise Round Four Program Guidelines are available at: www.dbcde.gov.au/digitalenterprise

Public consultation scheduled for disability transport standards

The Department of Infrastructure and Transport will be conducting public consultation sessions in each state and territory to look at how well the public transport sector meets the needs of travellers with disabilities.

The first public consultation session will be conducted in Canberra on 23 April with sessions continuing around Australia throughout May, June and July.

Organisations and individuals can register their intention to attend any of the sessions by emailing the Disabilities Transport Access Secretariat at DisabilitiesTransportAccessSecretariat@infrastructure.gov.au or by mail to GPO Box 594, Canberra, ACT 2601.

The Sydney public consultation sessions for the 2012 review of the Transport Standards will be held on two dates at two locations:

1 May 2013

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Level 9 Tower B - Centennial Plaza
280 Elizabeth Street
Surry Hills

9 May 2013

Penrith City Council
Civic Centre
601 High Street, Penrith

For more information on the review please visit
www.infrastructure.gov.au/transport/disabilities/review/2012.aspx

Final GST tax invoice ruling published

Goods and Services Tax Ruling **GSTR 2013/1**: tax invoices, was published on 27 March 2013 and applies retrospectively from 1 July 2010. The Commissioner has also made ten legislative instruments (LIs) that waive the requirement to hold a tax invoice before attributing an input tax credit in particular circumstances.

GSTR 2013/1 replaces GSTR 2012/D3 and sets out the minimum information requirements for a tax invoice and also explains when a document is in the approved form for a tax invoice.

The following LIs detail certain circumstances in which a recipient may be relieved from the obligation to hold a tax invoice in order to attribute an input tax credit:

- [Acquisitions under an Agency Relationship](#)
- [Acquisitions from or Acquisitions by a Beneficiary of a Bare Trust](#)
- [Acquisitions by Recipients Using Electronic Purchasing Systems](#)
- [Acquisitions Where Total Consideration Not Known](#)
- [Offer Documents and Renewal Notices](#)
- [Acquisitions from or Acquisitions by a Partnership](#)
- [Acquisitions from Property Managers](#)
- [Creditable Acquisitions of Taxi Travel](#)
- [Creditable Acquisition by a Lessee or Sub-Lessee Following a Sale of a Reversion in Commercial Premises](#)
- [Acquisition of a Motor Vehicle Under a Full or Split Full Novated Lease Arrangement](#)

A full list of all related LIs can be found at appendix 2 of the [ruling](#).

If businesses complied with the previous requirements for a tax invoice, they will continue to satisfy the new requirements. This means that businesses should not have to change their software or accounting systems to comply with the new ruling and instruments.

ATA releases 2013-15 strategic plan

The Australian Trucking Association will continue to focus on increasing the industry's safety, professionalism and viability under its 2013-2015 strategic plan, released this week.

The Chairman of the ATA, David Simon, released the plan at the ATA's annual

general meeting.

Mr Simon said the actions set out in plan aimed to increase the industry's safety, with work on the Heavy Vehicle National Law, best practice standards through TruckSafe and a focus on the Road Ahead to communicate the ATA's message of sharing the road safely.

"The plan also aims to promote the highest level of professionalism across the industry, with the National Trucking Industry Awards rewarding excellence and best practice," Mr Simon said.

"It sets out how the ATA will work to improve the industry's viability, with strong advocacy for a fair and effective road charging and investment system and a commitment to campaign against the Australian Government's plan to extend the carbon tax to trucking from 1 July 2014."

In his report to members, Mr Simon said the campaign against the carbon tax would need to be a priority for 2013.

"This year, we will also need to focus on lobbying the state and territory governments to sign up to the Heavy Vehicle National Law with as few changes as possible, which will deliver safety benefits and reduce the compliance burden on operators over time," Mr Simon said.

"I think we should recognise the state governments have been very proactive in this area, and that there are expected to be very few variations in the way the laws are implemented between states.

"The ATA will also need to work to protect the industry's fuel tax credits from unwarranted erosion or attempts to abolish them completely, and press for a road funding and charging system that is fair and that supports continued improvements in the industry's productivity and safety."

In his report, Mr Simon said the ATA had helped deliver significant achievements for the industry in 2012, including the Heavy Vehicle National Law and National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, \$140 million for truck rest areas and productivity improvements in the federal budget, and the new Co-operative Research Centre for Alertness, Safety and Productivity.

He said the ATA had also released two new technical advisory procedures, covering electronic braking and side underrun protection.

Youth homelessness concerns raised

Youth Homelessness Matters Day was recognised this week on 10 April, with Greens housing spokesperson and Senator for Western Australia, Scott Ludlam, announcing that youth homelessness was "a growing national tragedy that demands extraordinary measures".

"With almost 18,000 children under the age of 12 homeless in Australia, new ideas and new funding to tackle homelessness must be on the table for the Federal election,"

Greens Senator Scott Ludlam said.

"Last year at least 17,845 children under the age of 12 were homeless - a rise of more than 3,000 from the 2006 figure. More than a quarter of all homeless Australians are under the age of 18. 60 per cent of homeless people are under 35. These young people deserve a roof over their heads and hope for the future."

"In November ABS figures showed a 17 per cent increase in the number of homeless people in Australia in five years. The rate of homelessness increased by eight per cent, and the total number by an shocking 17 per cent, between 2006 and 2011. There are now more than 100,000 people homeless in this country, with more than 44,000 of them under the age of 25.

"We need to see a commitment to at least doubling funding for homelessness services and accommodation in the new National Affordable Housing Agreement; we need to see policies that encourage the use of vacant properties for low-cost housing, instead of policies that encourage speculation; and we need to see all levels of government engage directly with the homelessness sector."

So ... do you think your local council is a Good Egg?

Have you made - or are you considering - the switch to using cage-free eggs for your events and catering?

Would you like your existing and potential customers to know about your efforts to improve animal welfare, and benefit from positive media coverage, publicity support and marketing collateral?

Help build your relationships and promote the good work you're doing by nominating your business or your clients for a **Good Egg Award**, presented by RSPCA Australia in partnership with Compassion in World Farming.

As Australia's most trusted and well known animal welfare organisation, the RSPCA enjoys exceptional brand recognition in the public arena. Working with the RSPCA allows organisations to benefit from this, along with highlighting their own corporate social responsibility activities.

Nominations have officially closed, but the RSPCA is seeking additional candidates for the Public Procurement category, for which no entries have been received!

Using the RSPCA's online form, entry is free and should only take a few minutes.

Awards will be announced in late May, with participants to be invited to an exciting award ceremony and media event.

Enter now for your chance to receive a 2013 Good Egg Award or Commendation.

Visit www.rspca.org.au/good-egg to find out more and enter today; or contact Jane Speechley on 02 6282 8300, 0439 462 079, jspeechley@rspca.org.au.

Last chance to register chemical before the run begins

There's just under two weeks left to register for ChemClear's state-wide collection run in Queensland commencing in June.

ChemClear has had a great start to this year's collection with more than 42.5 tonnes of chemical already logged by farmers, rural businesses, golf courses and other agricultural chemical users across 32 local government areas.

ChemClear is an industry stewardship program which collects and safely disposes of eligible agvet chemical products from 99 participating manufacturers.

These chemicals are collected free of charge thanks to a small levy applied to eligible products by the manufacturers and passed onto the consumer at the point of sale.

The program also collects non-participating manufacturers' products, unlabelled, unknown, severely out of date and mixed chemicals under a per litre charge.

ChemClear's National Program Manager Lisa Nixon said that chemical users may be cleaning up from the floods earlier this year and should not miss this opportunity to register before the closing date.

"In sheds and storage facilities across the country, there are containers and bottles of chemical that property owners have no further use for, are damaged, inherited, or, have simply forgotten about," she said.

"Our program collects and disposes of these chemicals safely and environmentally, so, I encourage all property owners to check their sheds and register these chemicals for safe disposal. We have already received over 199 registrations across both eligible chemical classifications with 17 tonne of Group 1 products being logged under the free collection service".

The 2013 collection will be ChemClear's fifth in the state, with the last five runs retrieving over 112 tonnes of obsolete chemical for disposal.

To register for this collection or for further information, call 1800 008 182 or visit:
www.chemclear.com.au.

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Nil

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Lilac Divider

Nil

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Yellow Divider

1.1 EMPLOYEE MOVEMENTS

New Staff:

- Contract Community River Restoration Officer – commence 15/4/13.

Staff Leaving:

- Leading Hand Parks – resignation effective 5/4/13.
- Backhoe Operator – resignation effective 5/7/13.

Other Staff Movements (Internal):

- Asset Engineer successful in recruitment to Senior Asset Engineer (position originally titled as Senior Asset Officer) – effective 3/4/13.
- Asset Management Officer successful in recruitment to Coordinator Asset Management – effective 3/4/13.
- Library Clerk (part-time 3.5hrs per week), successful in recruitment to Library Clerk (part-time 19 hours per week) – effective 17/4/13.

Current Recruitment Activity:

- Senior Building Surveyor – position on hold.
- Parks Maintenance Operator (Civic Precinct) – suitable candidate withdrawn from process, no suitable alternative candidates available. Vacancy put on hold.
- Coordinator Asset Management – recruitment complete.
- Senior Asset Officer – recruitment complete.
- Asset Officer – interviews completed, recruitment progressing.
- Library Clerk (Part-time) – recruitment complete.
- Subdivision Engineer – interviews scheduled.
- Irrigation Fitter – interviews scheduled.
- Leading Hand Parks – interviews scheduled.
- Management Accountant – applications closed 11/4/13.
- Administration Assistant (Building) – applications closed 11/4/13.
- Mechanical Technician – to be advertised 20/4/13.
- Backhoe Operator – to be advertised 20/4/13.

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Positive Ageing Working Group – Notes of 11 March 2013	C-25

Nil

City Strategy

Lilac Divider

Nil

Development Services

Yellow Divider

TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS		
ITEM	REFERRING COMMITTEE	COMMENTS
Resolution T/18/4/13 – Accessible Playground “That Council Request Officers investigate and report back to Committee the matter of provision of a fully accessible playground within the City of Armadale by November 2013.”	Technical Services	Investigation under way with report to be presented to November Technical Services Committee Meeting.

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE Works Programme – March 2013 – May 2013		CITY OF Armadale	
Department	March 2013	April 2013	May 2013
Civil Works	<p><u>Construction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicholson Road – between Harrisdale Drive and Road I. • Nicholson Road – between Road I and Piara Drive. • Abbey Road/Armadale Road realignment. • Ranford Road – Lake Road to Alex Wood Drive. • Townley Street - re-surface and Local Area Traffic Management (LATM). • Bedford Hill Road – Local Area Traffic Management (LATM). • Banyard Road - drainage upgrade. • Forrest Road – re-surface between Commerce and Green Avenue. • Cobham Way – footpath. • Tyres Rd – footpath. • Ranford Road – cycle path between Lake Road and McNeill Road. • Lowanna Way – Drainage. • Fourth Road / Commerce Avenue (ban U-turns). • Orchard Avenue / Jull Street roundabout. • Howe Street – re-surface. • Springfield Road – re-surface. • Convine Road – re-surface. • Simons Drive – re-surface. 	<p><u>Construction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicholson Road – between Harrisdale Drive and Road I. • Nicholson Road – between Road I and Piara Drive. • Abbey Road/Armadale Road realignment. • Ranford Road – Lake Road to Alex Wood Drive. • Townley Street - resurface and Local Area Traffic Management (LATM). • Forrest Road – resurface between Commerce and Green Avenue. • Ranford Road – cycle path between Lake Road and McNeill Road. • Challis Road – LATM. • Lowanna Way – LATM. • Armadale Road – cycle path completion. • Rowley Road – upgrade. • Church Avenue/William Street roundabout upgrade. • Streich Avenue railway crossing intersection – channelisation works. • Brooks Road – pedestrian crossing. • Jannali Way – footpath. 	<p><u>Construction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicholson Road – between Harrisdale Drive and Road I. • Nicholson Road – between Road I and Piara Drive. • Ranford Road – Lake Road to Alex Wood Drive. • Townley Street - resurface and Local Area Traffic Management (LATM). • Ranford Road – cycle path between Lake Road and McNeill Road. • Commerce Avenue/Third Road – hardstand and footpath fronting RSL. • Rowley Road – upgrade. • Reilly Road – extension to Balannup Road. • Streich Avenue railway crossing intersection – channelisation works. • Gillam Drive/Brun's Street roundabout installation. • Cobham Way footpath. • Nash Street footpath.

Department	March 2013	April 2013		May 2013
		Maintenance:	Maintenance:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine maintenance as per Programme. • Contract road sweeping. • Footpath defects. • Drainage maintenance in various locations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine maintenance as per Programme. • Contract road sweeping. • Footpath defects. • Drainage maintenance in various locations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine maintenance as per Programme. • Contract road sweeping. • Footpath defects. • Drainage maintenance in various locations. 	
Development	<u>North Forrestdale</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 active areas of civil works. • 6 civil works submissions under review. • 2 water management submissions under review. • 4 landscaping submissions under review. <u>Churchman Brook</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. • 1 civil works submission under review. <u>Brookdale</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 area of civil works. 	<u>North Forrestdale</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 active areas of civil works. • 5 civil works submissions under review. • 3 water management submissions under review. • 6 landscaping submissions under review. <u>Churchman Brook</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. • 1 civil works submission under review. <u>Brookdale</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 area of civil works. 	<u>North Forrestdale</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 active areas of civil works. • 6 civil works submissions under review. • 2 water management submissions under review. • 4 landscaping submissions under review. <u>Churchman Brook</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. • 1 civil works submission under review. <u>Brookdale</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 area of civil works. 	<u>North Forrestdale</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 active areas of civil works. • 6 civil works submissions under review. • 2 water management submissions under review. • 4 landscaping submissions under review. <u>Churchman Brook</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. • 1 civil works submission under review. <u>Brookdale</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 area of civil works.
	<u>Armadale</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 WAPC subdivision submission under review. <u>Mt Nasura</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 WAPC subdivision submission under review. 	<u>Armadale</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 WAPC subdivision submission under review. <u>Mt Nasura</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 WAPC subdivision submission under review. 	<u>Armadale</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 civil works submission under review. <u>Mt Nasura</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 WAPC subdivision submission under review. 	<u>Armadale</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 civil works submission under review. <u>Mt Nasura</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 WAPC subdivision submission under review.
	METROPOLITAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY <u>MRA - Forrestdale Business Park East</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 civil works submission under review. • 2 active areas of civil works. 	METROPOLITAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY <u>MRA - Forrestdale Business Park East</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 civil works submission under review. • 2 active areas of civil works. 	METROPOLITAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY <u>MRA - Forrestdale Business Park East</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 civil works submission under review. • 2 active areas of civil works. 	METROPOLITAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY <u>MRA - Forrestdale Business Park East</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 civil works submission under review. • 2 active areas of civil works.

Department	March 2013	April 2013	May 2013
	<u>MRA - Forrestdale Business Park West</u> • Ongoing – awaiting further submissions.	<u>MRA - Forrestdale Business Park West</u> • Ongoing – awaiting further submissions.	<u>MRA - Forrestdale Business Park West</u> • Ongoing – awaiting further submissions.
<u>MRA - Wungong Urban Water</u>	<u>MRA - Wungong Urban Water</u> • 1 WAPC subdivision submission under review. • 2 active areas of civil works. • 2 civil works submissions under review. • 2 landscaping submissions under review. • 1 active major public utility installation.	<u>MRA - Wungong Urban Water</u> • 2 WAPC subdivision submission under review. • 2 active areas of civil works. • 3 civil works submissions under review. • 1 landscaping submission under review. • 1 active major public utility installation.	<u>MRA - Wungong Urban Water</u> • 2 WAPC subdivision submission under review. • 2 active areas of civil works. • 3 civil works submissions under review. • 2 landscaping submissions under review. • 1 active major public utility installation.
<u>MRA - Champion Lakes</u>	<u>MRA - Champion Lakes</u> • 1 WAPC subdivision submission under review. • 1 active area of civil works. • 1 landscaping submission under review.	<u>MRA - Champion Lakes</u> • 1 WAPC subdivision submission under review. • 1 active area of civil works. • 1 landscaping submission under review.	<u>MRA - Champion Lakes</u> • 1 WAPC subdivision submission under review. • 1 active area of civil works. • 1 landscaping submission under review.
<u>MRA - Lake Road - Champion Glades</u>	<u>MRA - Lake Road - Champion Glades</u> • 1 water management submission under review.	<u>MRA - Lake Road - Champion Glades</u> • 1 water management submission under review.	<u>MRA - Lake Road - Champion Glades</u> • 1 water management submission under review.
<u>MRA - Seville Grove</u>	<u>MRA - Seville Grove</u> • 1 civil works submission under review • 1 water management submission under review.	<u>MRA - Seville Grove</u> • 1 civil works submission under review • 1 water management submission under review.	<u>MRA - Seville Grove</u> • 1 civil works submission under review • 1 water management submission under review.
<u>MRA - Gillam Drive</u>	<u>MRA - Gillam Drive</u> • No current movement in area of civil works.	<u>MRA - Gillam Drive</u> • No current movement in area of civil works.	<u>MRA - Gillam Drive</u> • No current movement in area of civil works.
Design and Engineering	Design and Engineering • Issue - New Speed Zoning – Nicholson. • Issue - New Speed Zoning – Rowley. • Finalise - Nicholson Rd - Stage 4. • Finalise - Ballanup Drain - Reilly to Skeet. • Collate and Review - City of Armadale Standard Construction Drawings.	Design and Engineering • Issue – Rowley Road MRRG Project. • Issue – Soldiers Road MRRG Project. • Issue – Rowley/Nicholson Road Intersection. • Issue – Forrest/Railway Intersection • Review Nicholson Road Stage 4. • Finalise – Fourth Road Upgrade.	Design and Engineering • Issue – Fourth Road Upgrade. • Prepare Hopkinson Road Transfer Station Access. • Review Nicholson Road Stage 4. • Prepare Lang Street (2013/2014 Project).

Department	March 2013	April 2013	May 2013
Parks Works	<p><u>Capital/Asset Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fletcher Park - commencement of Stage 1 upgrade works - complete and open to the Club. Scoping Stage 2 works - meeting with Wallangarra Pony Club to follow. Armadale Gateway landscaping – NE quadrant - clearing works completed by MRWA, traffic management plan prepared and quoting works to commence March 2013. Asphalt perimeter safety buffer and earthworks to start Stage 1. Soil moisture monitoring system review underway due to alternative products now available. Memorial Park - Anzac Ribbons project completed with Artist returning to modify structure bracing - complete. Reg Williams Reserve Precinct C - POS Strategy upgrade works in progress. Don Simmonds Reserve Precinct C - POS Strategy upgrade work in progress. Harber Drive/Chiltern Reserve Precinct C - POS Strategy upgrade. Creyk Park Precinct G - POS Strategy upgrade mostly completed. Playground soft fall installation and shade sail complete, and some environmental works to be completed. 	<p><u>Capital/ Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fletcher Park - commencement of Stage 1 upgrade works - complete and open to the Club. Scoping Stage 2 works - meeting with Wallangarra Pony Club to follow. Armadale Gateway landscaping – NE quadrant - complete. Kelmscott CBD landscaping redevelopment – planting this winter. Soil moisture monitoring system review underway due to alternative products now available. POS STRATEGY Precinct C Bronzewing Reserve pathway and playground complete. Hydrozoning and mulching to be completed. Precinct C Horrie Hill Reserve. Pathways complete. Precinct C Reg Williams Reserve. Half pipe painting scheduled then all complete. Precinct C Rotary Park. Turfing to be completed and repair fountain. Precinct C Don Simmonds Reserve upgrade work in progress. Precinct C Harber Drive/Chiltern Reserve reticulation and pathways complete trees to be installed. POS STRATEGY Precinct G Creyk Park upgrade complete. Precinct G Sanctuary Lake Reserve lighting to be installed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue – Gillam-Brun's Roundabout Blackspot. Prepare Road Resurfacing Projects (2013/2014). Submit MRRG Grant Applications Capital/ Works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fletcher Park - commencement of Stage 1 upgrade works - complete and open to the Club. Scoping Stage 2 works - meeting with Wallangarra Pony Club to follow. Armadale Gateway landscaping – NE quadrant complete. Kelmscott CBD landscaping redevelopment – planting this winter. Soil moisture monitoring system review underway due to alternative products now available. POS STRATEGY Precinct C Bronzewing Reserve. Hydrozoning and mulching to be completed. Precinct C Reg Williams Reserve. Half pipe painting scheduled then all complete. Precinct C Don Simmonds Reserve upgrade work in progress. Precinct C Harber Drive/Chiltern Reserve reticulation and pathways complete trees to be installed. Precinct C Rotary Park. Turfing to be completed and repair fountain. POS Strategy Precinct G Sanctuary Lake Reserve lighting to be installed. Memorial Plaques – various locations. Plaques ordered. Tree Planting – various locations. Trees ordered winter planting.

Department	March 2013	April 2013	May 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanctuary Lake Reserve Precinct G - POS Strategy upgrade - lighting design complete - awaiting power upgrade quote. • Damerham Reserve Precinct G POS Strategy upgrade. • Apex Park Precinct G POS Strategy upgrade - work in progress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precinct G Damerham Reserve complete. • Precinct G Apex Park complete. • Precinct G Murray Court complete. • Memorial Plaques – various locations. Plaques ordered. • Municipal Signage – various locations. Complete. Tree Planting – various locations. Trees ordered winter planting • Bob Blackburn Reserve – new bore and headworks installed. Wiring to be completed. 	<p><u>Asset Renewal Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob Blackburn Reserve – new bore and headworks installed. Wiring to be completed. • Minnawarra Park – replacement seats to be installed. • William Skeet Reserve – replacement skate facilities ordered. <p><u>Maintenance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract play space maintenance. • Scheduled mowing. • Irrigation maintenance. • Bushland maintenance.

Department	March 2013	April 2013	May 2013
Parks Subdivisional Development		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Precinct maintenance. • New estate maintenance. • Citywide streetscape maintenance. • Customer requests. • Barbecue cleaning • New Haven Stage 8. • Heron Park Stage 10B. • Heron Park Stage 3 and 5 CCW. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Precinct maintenance. • New estate maintenance. • Citywide streetscape maintenance. • Customer requests. • Barbecue cleaning • New Haven Stage 8. • Heron Park Stage 10B. • Heron Park Stage 3 and 5 CCW.
Parks Design and Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developer Guidelines documentation development underway- draft for review February 2013. • Review of Auspec Landscaping Standards underway for integration into Developer Guidelines. • GUMS water source and area of use audit and mapping - Ongoing. • Parks Asset Database completion of asset data collection and integration - to be finalised ASAP. • Review of Standard Specification Bore, Headworks and Electrical Cabinet Installation underway. • Review of COA. Standard Specification Turf Installation -Underway. • Citywide Sting Nematode Monitoring Program to be formalised. • Draft report Gerald Russell Park Memorial Upgrade underway. Concept design to be finalised • Preparation of Citywide and precinct POS plans underway with GIS. Plans for North Forrestdale, central Armadale/Kelmscott, Wungong and Hills to inc coding system for SARS, Colloquial names, area, PC and HO dates, Parks hierarchy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowanna Way median landscaping, Townley Street median landscaping. Tender renewal of Ten/15/12 Landscape Maintenance of Heron Park Estate. • Tender renewal of Ten/16/12 Citywide Weed Management and General Turf Insect Control Services. • Vandalism report 2012/2013. • Contract Maintenance Schedule. • Subdivision Estate Schedule. • Report on Waste Collection Parks. • POS Strategy Precinct G expenditure. • Lighting Audit Active Reserves. • Piara Waters Streetscape Plan. • Developer Guidelines documentation development underway- draft for review May 2013. • DCS Nicholson Road landscape design and documentation. • DCS Warton Road landscape design and documentation. • Precinct A POS strategy draft concepts underway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New tender Landscape Maintenance of Various Reserves. • New tender Landscape Maintenance of Champion Lakes Beach, Interpretative Centre and Residential Estate. • New tender Landscape Maintenance of PAW's and Townscape Amenity Service Specified Area E. • Vandalism report 2012/2013. • Contract Maintenance Schedule. • Subdivision Estate Schedule. • Report on Waste Collection Parks. • Report on Vertu Estate irrigation of residential verges. • Contract Maintenance Schedule. • Subdivision Estate Schedule. • Report on Waste Collection Parks. • POS Strategy Precinct G expenditure. • Lighting Audit Active Reserves. • Piara Waters Streetscape Plan. • Developer Guidelines documentation development underway- draft for review May 2013. • DCS Nicholson Road landscape design and documentation. • DCS Warton Road landscape design and documentation. • Precinct A POS strategy draft concepts underway. • DCS Nicholson Road Stage 1 landscape design and documentation issued for tender. • DCS Warton Road Stage 1 landscape design and documentation issued for tender.

Department	March 2013	April 2013	May 2013
Property Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranford Road landscape design and documentation (Tonkin Highway-Armadale Road) review when available from working group. DCS Nicholson Road landscape design and documentation. DCS Wariton Road landscape design and documentation. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Precinct A POS strategy draft concepts finalised. City wide green strategy start up.
Capital Works	Capital Works	Capital Works	Capital Works
	<u>Upgrade:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depot Workshop - switchboard (ongoing). Removal of fencing (SES) and re positioning. Removal of tree's and stumps. Levelling of site and fill sand. Westfield Child Health - Installation of additional parking bays (ongoing). Administration - Repave to West entry of building (completed). Armadale Aquatic Centre - Front foyer redesign, new carpets, ceilings, lighting and painting. Administration - Repave to West entry of building (ongoing). Armadale Aquatic Centre - Front foyer redesign, new carpets, ceilings, lighting and painting. Armadale Hall - Upgrade universal access to side of building. John Dunn Hall - Construction of new undercroft storage unit. John Dunn Hall – Construction of new undercroft storage unit. 	<u>Upgrade:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depot Workshop – Main switchboard and electrical supply (ongoing). Westfield Child Health - Installation of additional parking bays (completed). Administration - Repave to West entry of building (completed). Armadale Aquatic Centre - Front foyer redesign, new carpets, ceilings, lighting and painting. Administration - Upgrade universal access to side of building. John Dunn Hall – Construction of new undercroft storage unit. 	<u>Upgrade:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depot Workshop – Main switchboard and electrical supply (ongoing). Westfield Child Health - Installation of additional parking bays (completed). Administration - Repave to West entry of building (completed). Armadale Aquatic Centre - Front foyer redesign, new carpets, ceilings, lighting and painting. Administration - Upgrade universal access to side of building. John Dunn Hall – Construction of new undercroft storage unit.
		<u>Renewal:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration toilets renewal, upstairs staff and lower ground - male and female (ongoing). Administration - Signage to exterior of building (ongoing). Settlers Common – Renewal of carpets to Field Study Centre. 	<u>Renewal:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration toilets renewal, upstairs male and female. Completion expected end of May. Ground floor and Visitors toilet completed. Administration - Signage to exterior of building (ongoing).

Department	March 2013	April 2013	May 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harold King: Painting to front entry and exterior of building. • Willow Heights: Replace defective decking to veranda. • Administration: Supply and install new generator (ongoing). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlers Common – Renewal of carpets to Field Study Centre (completed). • Harold King: Painting to front entry and exterior of building. • Willow Heights: Replace defective decking to veranda. • Administration: Supply and install new generator (ongoing). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlers Common – Renewal of carpets to Field Study Centre (completed). • Harold King: Painting to front entry and exterior of building. • Willow Heights: Replace defective decking to veranda. • Administration: Supply and install new generator (ongoing).
City Projects	<u>Capital Works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piara Waters Stage 1. • Piara Waters Stage 2 (Contract Stage). • Civic Precinct Accommodation. • Abbey Road Redevelopment. 	<u>Capital Works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piara Waters Stage 1 continuing. • Piara Waters Stage 2 (Contract Stage). • New Office complex - tender stage. 	<u>Capital Works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piara Waters Stage 1. • Piara Waters Stage 2 construction commencement. • New office complex – tender stage.

Armadale CBD Safety and Security

Councillors will be aware of some anti-social behaviour that occurs in the Jull Street Mall, particularly late in the evening after the closure of business.

To this end Technical Service Officers have worked with the WA Police on two occasions by monitoring CCTV cameras in order to allow for a rapid response by Police Officers who were operating undercover in the area.

The first exercise took place on Wednesday, 3 April 2013, as part of Operation Eraser 6 which targets graffiti. Technical Services Officers along with a Police Officer from the Graffiti Task Force monitored the Armadale CBD until 9:15pm. Up to this time there was very little activity in the CBD, however there were 33 persons arrested and charged for criminal offences (graffiti) and other offences across the South East Metropolitan District; eight being charged (including juveniles) from Armadale.

The second exercise took place on Thursday, 11 April 2013, with Technical Services Officers assisting Officers from the Armadale Police until 9:15pm. In this instance, the emphasis targeted (but was not limited to) anti social behaviour in the CBD. Although there was a lot of activity and pedestrian traffic through the Mall, the only significant incident of note was an assault upon two youths in Memorial Park. Information received indicated that three youths were arrested and charged over the incident.

Further exercises with both the Graffiti Task Force and the Armadale Police are planned in the coming months.

Information Bulletin

Issue No. 7/2013

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Nil

City Strategy

Lilac Divider

Nil

Development Services

Yellow Divider

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS – MARCH 2013		
	DEPT.	ACTION/STATUS
That the matter of a policy in regard to acquisitions, commissioning and funding of public artworks be referred to the Community Services Committee.	Community Planning Infrastructure	C45/11/12 Request the development of a Public Art Policy for consideration. <i>Comment:</i> <i>In preparation of the Policy, an audit is currently being undertaken of the City's existing public art including those provided by the private sector.</i>

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

ACCESS & INCLUSION

Telling Tales, Stories in Clay Grant

Pending approval of funding from Catalyst Community Arts Fund, ‘Telling Tales, Stories in Clay’ is an eight week program for socially isolated people with a disability and members of the community to work with a professional ceramic artist and storyteller to explore their connection with local history and inspire the creation of pottery artwork. Following the workshops and storytelling sessions, the artworks will be exhibited for two weeks which includes Disability Awareness Week in December 2013.

Splash Aquatic Pool and Spa Lift (Pool Hoist) Grant

A grant application has been lodged with Variety, the Children’s Charity to purchase a pool hoist for the City’s Aquatic Centre. The provision of a hoist at the Aquatic Centre will improve access for people with a disability to the pool and enable further programs to be developed.

Disability Advisory Team Meeting

The Disability Advisory Team consulted with the Manager of Civil Works at the meeting on 2 April to identify how a network of priority routes (including rest points with seating, tactile paving as required and accessible paths and kerbs) can be developed to ensure a continuous accessible path of travel

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Young Parents Forum

A Young Parents Forum hosted by Communicare on Tuesday 9th April explored the availability and gaps in services for young parents, in particular pregnant young women who disengage from, or at risk of disengaging from education. Notable presentations included a study by Communicare Communities for Children and Curtin University which examined the Armadale area, and Balga Teen Centre’s successful program. Key findings of the forum included the need for services for young people/parents to be specific to them and not as part of a broader program. Public transport accessibility is also a critical factor in the success of any program for young people.

Families Week 15 – 21st May

‘Growing Together’ is a Families Week event at the Evelyn Gribble Community Centre which will engage local families in planting activities to beautify the children’s play area and encourage nature play. Regular users of the centre have been involved in planning for the day and are looking forward to the centre grounds being beautified. The event is supported by funding from the Department for Communities and the City’s Parks and Reserves team.

As Minnawarra Festival will be held during Families Week this year, families will also be able to join in earthworm and pot planting activities at the festival.

Information Items from the Community Services DirectorateStargate Drama

Stargate Drama program is continuing with all children very keen to attend and motivated to participate. After the two week school holiday break, the children will begin to prepare the performance acts.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Neighbourhood Watch attended two community events in the new areas of Harrisdale and Piara Waters to launch the Street Meet and Greet concept and to provide home security information to new residents. The Stockland Easter Family Fun Day was held on Saturday 23 March, with lots of children's activities available – even the Easter Bunny made an appearance! Neighbourhood Watch handed out over 100 home security information packs to families and provided information on Neighbourhood Watch and Street Meet and Greets.

On Sunday 7 April, Neighbourhood Watch in partnership with Satterley hosted a Neighbour Day community barbecue. Two participants from Ignite Basketball gave Neighbourhood Watch a helping hand by cooking the free sausage sizzle. The event was well attended with over 30 people enjoying the barbecue and safety information on offer from Neighbourhood Watch.

Eat Act Live

Eat, Act, Live will be facilitating an 8 week nutrition workshop for the Yorgalicious (Aboriginal Women's group) at the Champion Centre commencing in May. On completion of the nutrition workshop, participants will be invited to join a health and fitness program.

Ignite Basketball

Ignite basketball is entering week 33 of 40 and is currently averaging 43 young people each Saturday night.

In addition to qualifying 13 community coaches, 7 young people have recently attended and passed an 'Introduction to Basketball Refereeing' course run by basketball WA. All of the group are now actively part of the session in a staff capacity. Our third and final coaching course is scheduled for later this month and is currently full.

Bibbulmun Track hike

Several of our Ignite participants completed an overnight bush hike with Marmum Mia Mia over the Easter weekend. The group walked 12 kms and worked as a team to complete the challenging track.

Ignite on Heritage FM

Ignite Coordinator Jamie Barr was interviewed on locally based radio station Heritage FM on 13th April to promote the program and its positive impacts on youth in Armadale.

Information Items from the Community Services Directorate**INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT**

The Champion Centre continues to host a broad range of activities, programs and services including among others:

Indigenous Driver Training Program

Assists Aboriginal and Torres Islander people to obtain a learners permit. This program has operated from the Champion Centre since 2008 and has participants from all over the state predominately metro and south west regions. Aboriginal Police Liaison officers conduct this very popular program every Thursday at the centre from 10:30am – 2:30pm with a light lunch provided.

Outcare Live Works

This program is now accommodated at the Champion Centre. The participants of this program (males aged 17-22yrs with a connection to the justice system) are currently undergoing training to obtain their Certificate 2 in Construction. These young men and their families are able to engage with their support workers based at the centre and are often linked to other programs at the centre in various areas of support and referrals.

Waabiny Mia (Indigenous Children's Program / Play Group)

Held every Tuesday at the Champion Centre from 10:00am – 2:00pm and is aimed at kids 0-8yrs and their families. Parents have the opportunity to learn about community resources, Aboriginal culture and more, while the kids participate in fun learn through play activities.

Waabiny Mia (Family History Program)

Participants will be able to develop their family story to develop their cultural identity and their place in the wider Aboriginal community. This program will coincide with the Indigenous Children's Program / Play Group and is to be held every Tuesday afternoon.

Yorgalicious Program

Women's gatherings, the centre provides a place for women of all ages to yarn and participate in organised activities such as arts and crafts, health & wellbeing and many more fun filled activities. This program is held every Wednesday at the centre from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Medicare local (formerly Canning Division) – (Moorditj Koorlingah's) Kids in the Kitchen

This program is aimed at young Aboriginal children in the last few years of primary school. Students are picked up from school and transported to our centre where they learn to cook nutritious healthy meals to take home and share with family. The program operates every Monday from 3:30pm – 6:30pm. This program is offered to different schools each term.

Save the Children (One Step Closer Program) is designed to provide local at risk Aboriginal children and young people with safe spaces to congregate, engage in positive activities, and access support and referrals with the assistance of qualified youth workers. This program runs every Friday evening from 6:00pm.

Yorgum Aboriginal Counselling Service conducts accredited Mental Health First Aid training for Aboriginal people of all ages. Yorgum recently held this (2 day) training

Information Items from the Community Services Directorate

for 6 local Aboriginal women and are now working together with centre staff to hold a further two training sessions for men and women.

Upcoming events include:

Families' week celebrations – Family History day - Champion Centre 17th May

A collaboration between Waabiny Mia, Department of Indigenous Affairs, State Library of WA, State Records Office and Birtwistle will provide families with assistance to develop their family story through the Family History Day activities at the Champion Centre. People can learn how to access family history records to develop their family story, participate in information and art workshops and enjoy a lunch.

POSITIVE AGEING

Positive Ageing Activities Day

The City of Armadale, Dale Cottages, and Seniors Recreation Council hosted an activities day on Wednesday 10 April, from 9.00am - 12.30pm at the Greendale Centre. The Seniors Recreation Council presented their new Energising XBOX KINECT and pole walking. Other activities included exercise programs, the City's Bench Warmers, Lifeball and Tai Chi. About 65 people attended the day with feedback indicating an interest in ongoing participation in some activities.

Positive Ageing Working Group Meeting

Impending changes to Home and Community Care funded services were discussed by the Positive Ageing Working Group at the meeting on 8 April.

Positive Ageing Activities Day

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VOLUNTEER SERVICES

For the first quarter of 2013 Armadale Volunteer Services has received enquiries from 229 people; this is a 55% increase up from 126 people in the same reporting period last year.

Volunteer Coordinators registered with Armadale Volunteer Services have been invited to a training session on May 8 at the Champion Centre. Dr Megan Paull, will present 'Managing the Older Volunteer' to the group.

This year's National Volunteer Week celebrations coincide with the Minnawarra Art Award and subsequently the volunteer event will be a VIP viewing of the Art Award on Thursday 16 May. Volunteers will also be invited to attend a training session on Friday 17 May at the Champion Centre. The training session will be 'Self Care for the Volunteer'. This session will focus on providing volunteers with tools to prevent compassion fatigue.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

National Youth Week

In partnership with Armadale Youth Resources and Drug ARM the City hosted a National Youth Week Celebration event on Sunday the 14th of April. The event featured a skate/BMX and Scooter competition at the Youth Activity Area, while in Memorial Park the market stalls were popular and the bands and musicians thrilled the appreciative crowd. Cultural Infusion also offered free Hip Hop workshops which proved to be popular.

Forrestdale Skate Park Redevelopment

A follow up consultation session was held with the young people at the Forrestdale Hall on Wednesday the 3rd of April. Eight young people attended and were excited about the new equipment to be installed in the park, however they were still vocal about their request for a half pipe which if approved would comprise phase two of the project. The group were willing to support a launch event to open the skate park and assist with running ongoing workshops and activities to activate the Forrestdale area.

Armadale Youth Network

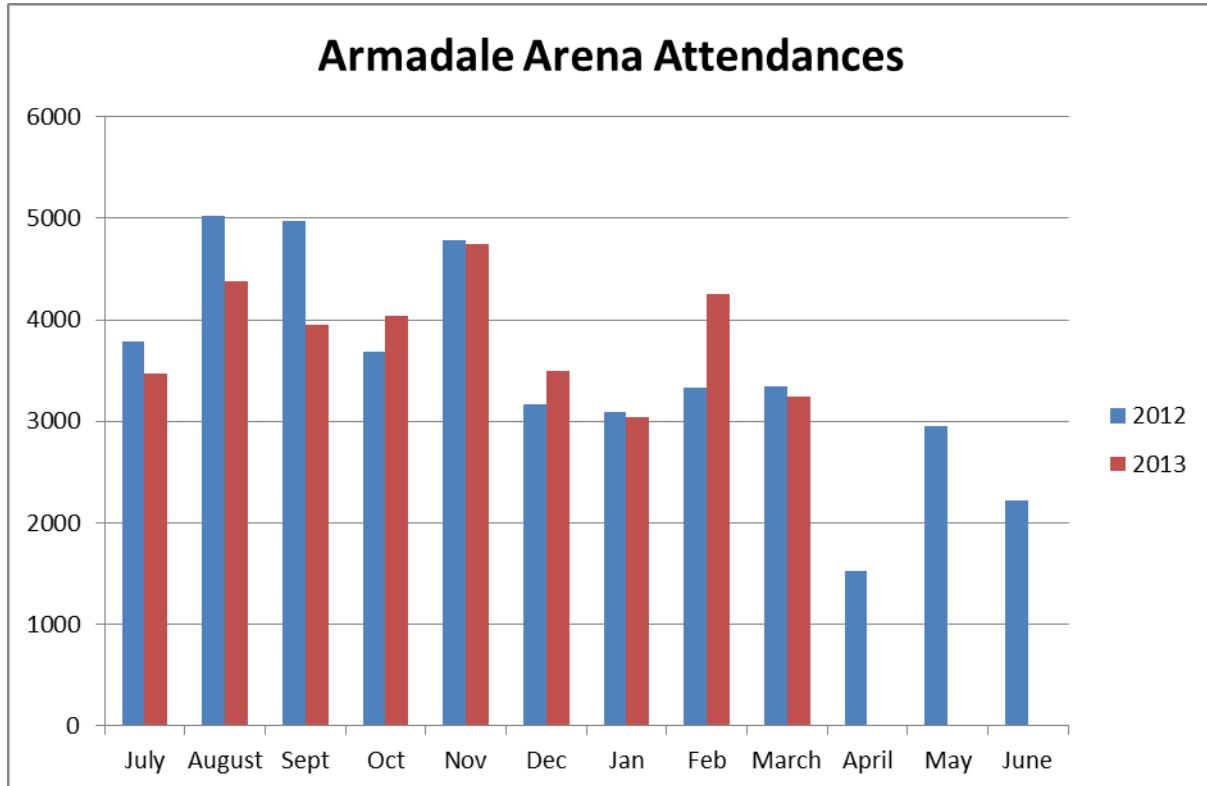
The Armadale Youth Network will be launched in May, replacing SERYIA (South East Region Youth Inter Agency) to provide a network which is specifically Armadale focused. The Network will be open to all agencies who are working with young people in the City of Armadale area providing an opportunity to network, share knowledge and develop partnerships. The City's Youth Officer will oversee the coordination of bi-monthly meetings.

MARCH 2013

LEISURE SERVICES

Armadale Arena

March monthly statistics were slightly under in comparison to 2012, this is assumed to be the result of a 4 day shutdown over Easter, also the cancellation of evening bookings and sport twice due to roof leaks during heavy rain.

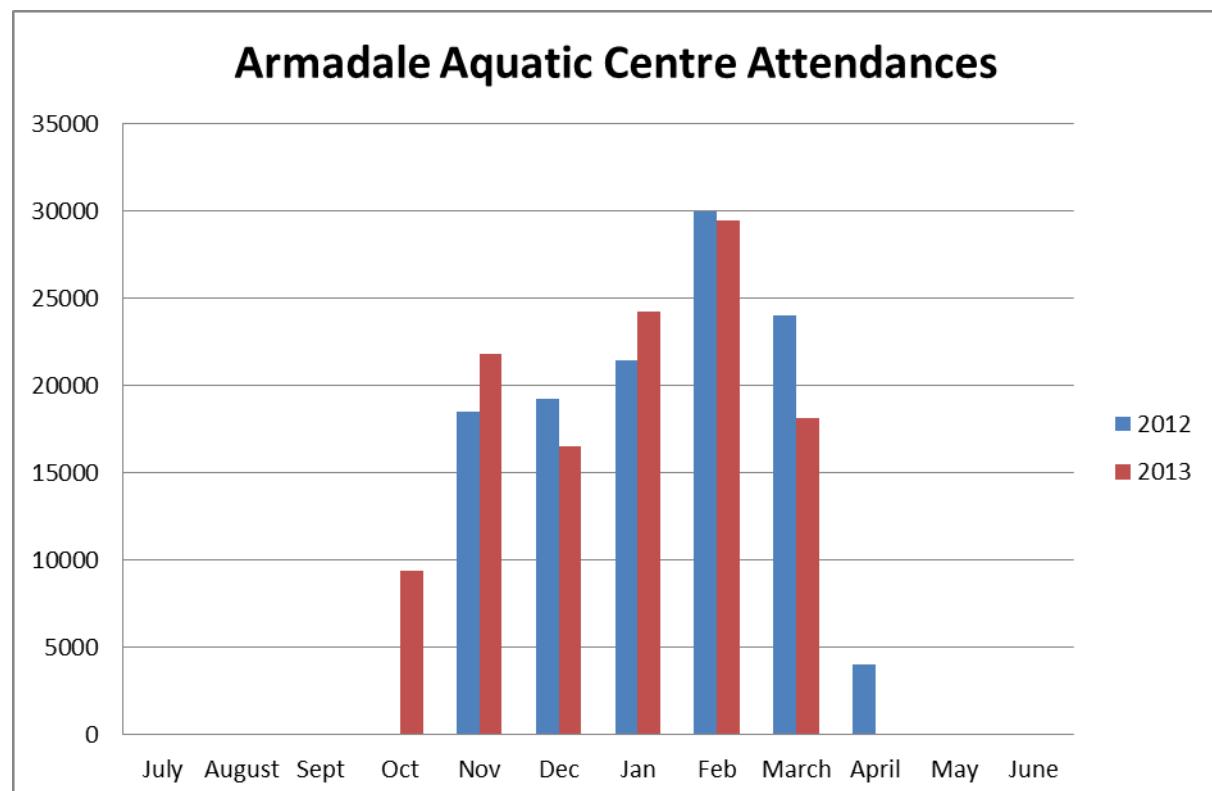


Outdoor Fitness

For the second year the City of Armadale has hosted free outdoor fitness sessions for residents in Harrisdale. These classes provide an opportunity for the City of Armadale to create a presence in the new developments. Armadale Arena, in conjunction with Satterley, hosted 3 fitness sessions at the Jim and Alma Baker Park. The free classes were well received by residents with a total of 78 participants. The classes showcased a variety of programs held at the Armadale Arena and had a great community spirit with residents welcoming the opportunity to meet neighbours and enjoy a free coffee and fruit after the class.

Armadale Aquatic Centre

The Aquatic Centre attendances decreased slightly in March which can only be identified as the couple of rainy days impacting on attendances. Overall the centre has had 2000 more attendances than 2012. The centre is closing on Friday 19 April for winter, with work to repair pool tiles and upgrade the front reception scheduled to commence immediately.



Club Development

12 sport club representatives attended the winter club briefing session, where officers presented new information and opportunities for sport clubs. This is the second seasonal briefing and feedback from clubs involved indicates that the sessions are beneficial.

The Club Development Officer and East Fremantle Football District Manager have commenced work with Forrestdale Junior Football Club to work on rebuilding

FEBRUARY 2013

LIBRARY SERVICES

Statistical Performance Indicators

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

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

42 regular sessions were held. These include: story time, Baby Rhyme Time, Books on Wheels, reading & writing groups, computer training sessions, games mornings and Men's Social Group. A total of 331 people participated in these various activities. Additionally, 200 people were reached with external visits to schools and other community facilities.

Story time sessions continue to be extremely well attended at the libraries, with 174 children attending the 11 sessions offered. The Ripper Readers program encourages Year 1 children to become library members and in March four school visits enabled 178 children to have an introduction to the library service and provided incentives for membership. The Better Beginning Parent Workshop: Sleep, that was presented by NGALA at the Armadale Library proved to be a very popular topic and had the highest number of attendances at any of these sessions with 23 adults and 14 babies in attendance.

Computer Training courses remain extremely popular with 92 attendances over the 16 sessions offered. As previously advised these sessions are run over six weeks with two types of training, "The Blank Slate" for absolute beginners and "Know a little, not a lot" for those who have some basic knowledge but want to improve on their skills. There are currently 52 people on the waiting list to attend sessions. A maximum of 8 people can be accommodated in the IT Training Room at the one time, one per PC. These courses support the City's Positive Aging Strategy. An intergenerational training offering, that will enable seniors to bring their own digital devices to the libraries for assistance by local high school students is currently being explored collectively by the Community Development Officer – Seniors, Access & Inclusion and the Librarian – Community Engagement.

HERITAGE SERVICES

Statistical Performance Indicators

The Heritage Department's statistical performance indicators report for the month of March 2013:

Birtwistle Local Studies Library

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

Projects

Information Items from the Community Services Directorate

Recordings of the 2011 bushfires: The oral history transcripts and photographs that record the memories of twelve people and their experiences of the February 2011 bushfires, is being developed into a professional in-house publication by volunteer Helen Tromans. Once the graphics are completed, the booklets will be sent to each of the Kelmscott people who were interviewed within a month of the fires. A copy of the final edition will be kept in the Birtwistle library collection.

WA Heritage Festival 18 April to 18 May: Promotion in the City of Armadale began during March for the performance, on Wednesday 8 May, by Simon James retelling the tale of the *Murder at the Narrogin Inn*. This performance will take place at Ye Old Narrogin Inne, Armadale. [Note: the current owners of the hotel have called it Ye Old Narrogin Inne. It was originally the Narrogin Inn.]

Oral histories

During March, the Birtwistle volunteer oral history interviewer, Lynn Knox, conducted an interview with Hugh and Gail McCormick regarding the history of the Gladalan Nursery. This business was established on Armadale Road by Alan and Gladys Brown in the mid-1940s and became a significant supplier of seedlings to retailers and nurseries throughout the State. Hugh had worked at the nursery for 44 years. The City of Armadale's Intra-map aerial photographs of the plant nursery, from 1963 through to 2003, were used in the interview and proved to be a good prompt to detail the layout and facilities of the property.

Volunteer Lesley Choules, has held a pre-interview conversation with Dorothy Croft in anticipation of a recorded interview taking place during April. Dorothy had been an organist for the St Mary's in the Valley Anglican Church in Kelmscott and knows a great deal about the organ's history and its current restoration.

Former City of Armadale Councillor, Pat Hart, has borrowed recording equipment from the Birtwistle Library to record the stories and memories of the Roleystone and Kelmscott people regarding how the Canning River was used in the past. The recordings will be included in the Birtwistle collection at the completion of the project to document the river's history since settlement began in the district in 1830.

Major Research Project

Dr Deb Rosser, State Based Historian for the *Find and Connect* project, is researching information about any children's homes that were once in the district, or stories from people who may have lived in these, during the era of children being in 'out-of-home' care. She showed particular interest in Darjeeling Guesthouse, which was briefly used as a Sister Kate refuge for mainly Aboriginal children during World War 2.

City of Armadale greeting cards

The City's collections of greeting cards that feature ten photographs from the BLSL historic photo collection are now ready with envelopes. They have been well received at the Visitor Centre with a suggestion to include a short history of the subjects depicted in each.

History House Museum

(Report prepared by Christen Bell, Museum Curator)

Musician in Residence Grant Application

History House Museum has applied for funding through the Department of Culture and the Arts Connect: Funding for Community Collections grant program. HHM has applied for funding to assist in the engagement of a musician in residence to work with the museum's music collection and the local community to create an original piece of music, inspired by the music collection. Interested members of the community will then be invited to perform the piece at a concert using some of the instruments at History House Museum.

If HHM is successful in its grant application then the project will start in September 2013 and coincide with an exhibition at the museum that will explore the history of performance within the COA.

Telling Tales Grant Application

History House Museum, Wendy Hill CDO – Seniors Access and Inclusion, in partnership with Southside Care, have submitted a CANWA grant application for a proposed project for the socially isolated disabled people within the City of Armadale.

The project called “Telling Tales: Stories in Clay” involves the presentation of stories from cultures represented within the City of Armadale to inspire the creation of art works. A professional ceramic artist will then conduct workshops to teach the skills needed to produce these pieces. At the conclusion of the project there will be an exhibition of the artworks at Armadale Library.

If successful the project will run over September to November with the exhibition coinciding with Disabilities Awareness Week in December.

Museums Australia Museum and Galleries National Awards

History House Museum has entered its new permanent exhibition into the Museum and Galleries National Awards. The exhibition was entered as it is an innovative exhibition that is engaging and represents a high standard of design and curatorial professionalism.

Local Government Curators Meeting

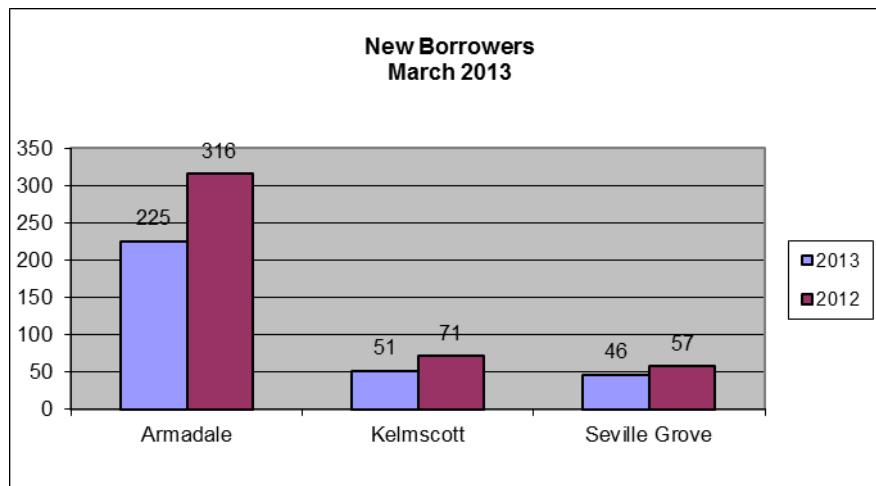
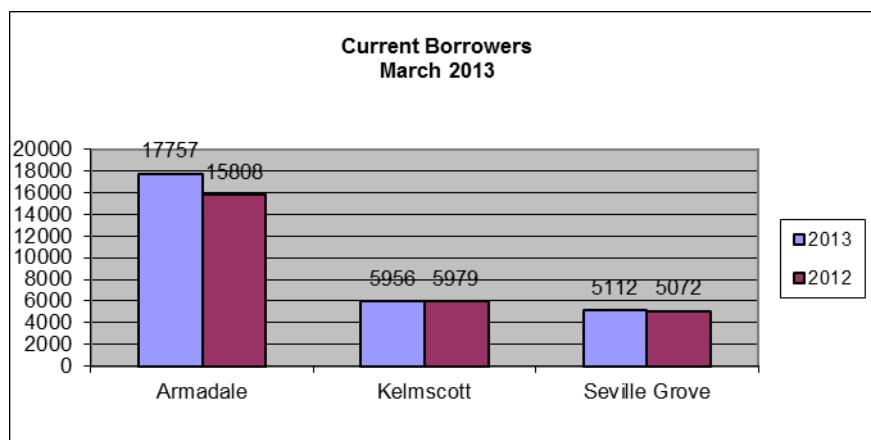
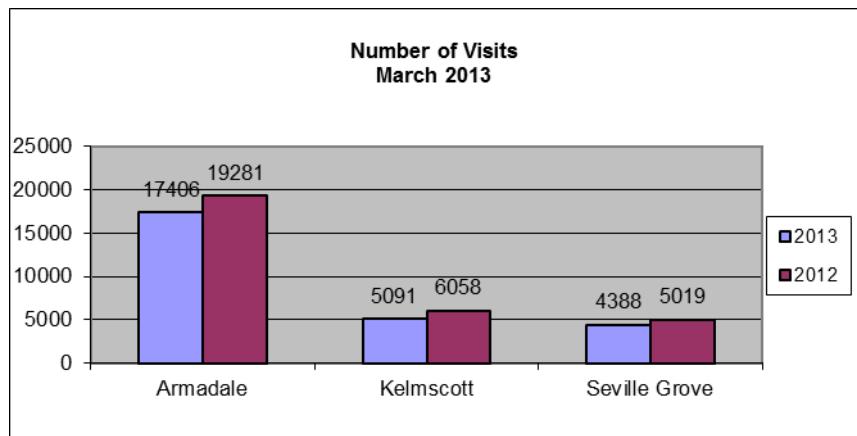
On March 6 History House hosted a meeting of local government museum curators. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues relating to museums in a local government environment and to provide advice and support to fellow colleagues. The meeting was also an opportunity for the visiting curators to view the new permanent exhibition at History House.

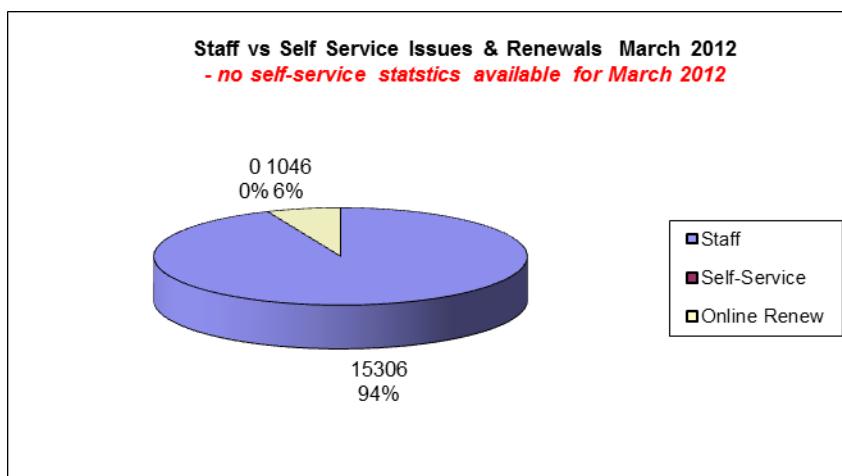
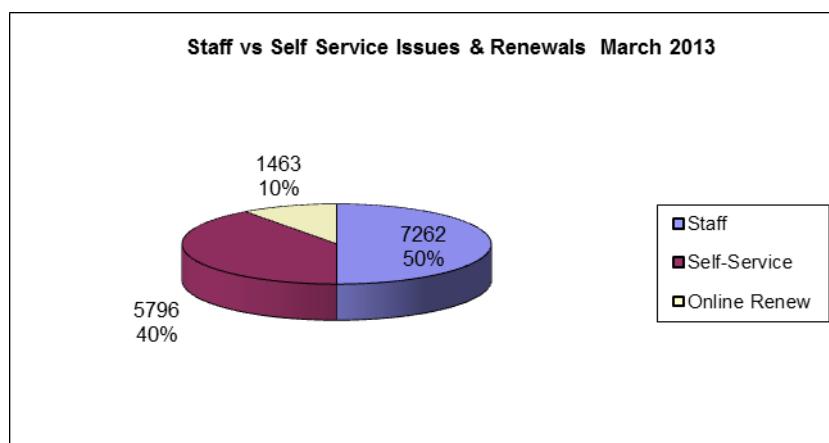
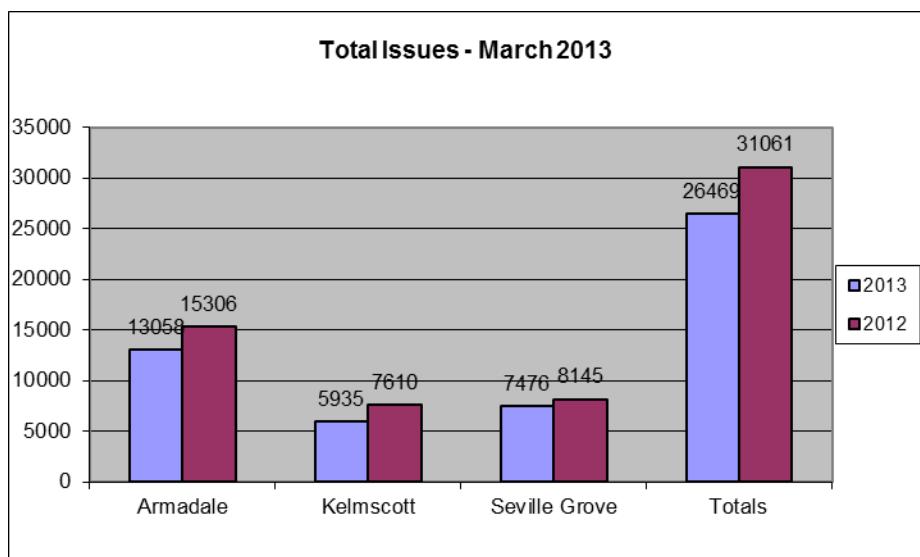
Transfer of De-accessioned Item to the City of Perth

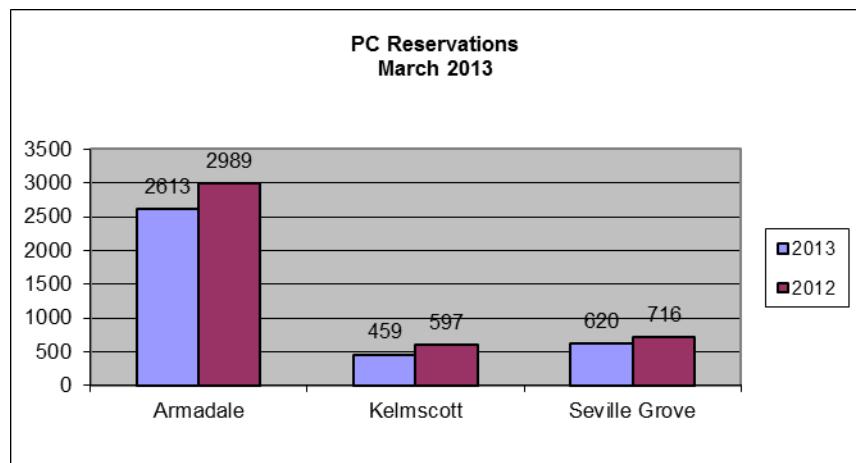
An ink drawing by Perth artist Harold Vike was de-accessioned from the History House collection and transferred to the City of Perth on 13 March 2013. The artwork was of a street scene in Perth and was of a far greater significance to Perth City than the City of Armadale.

Statistics:

March



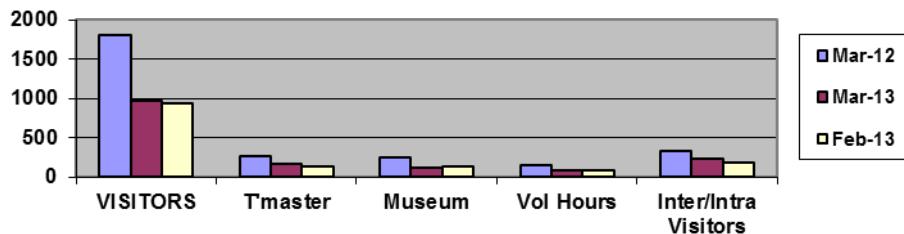




Birtwistle Local Studies Library				
	Current Month	Year to date		
	Mar 13	Mar 12	Jul 12-Mar 13	Jul 1–Mar 12
Reference Enquiries	4	8	62	89
Research Enquiries	12	4	77	78
Visitor Attendance	81	125	821	925
Volunteer Hours	12	34	185	685
Digitising Records	12	24	167	36
Oral History				
Letters Sent	2	3	15	17
Interviews Completed	1	0	17	14
Transcripts Completed/ reviewed	1	3	15	19
Volunteer Hours – Transcribing	38	52	332	329
Volunteer Hours - Interviewing	6	0	69	51
Family History Research				
Reference	2	4	36	60
Research	34	46	244	344
Volunteer Hours	44	44	310	220

MONTH: MARCH 2013

STATISTICS:



MARCH 2013

Visitors	Ticketmaster	TOTAL Visitors Less <i>Ticketmaster</i>	Inter State Visitors	Overseas Visitors	TOTAL O/seas & Interstate VISITORS	Volunteer Hours	Museum
961	159	802	89	147	236	74	123

FEBRUARY 2013

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

VISITOR CENTRE OPENED FOR 183 HOURS

AVERAGE VISITORS PER WEEK: 240
VOLUNTEER HOURS PER WEEK: 19

VISITOR CENTRE - DOLLAR VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY:

Average Visitor Spend – Day Visitor:

\$ 1,432 per day = \$ 10,025 per week = \$ 40,100 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:

\$1,264 per night = \$ 8,850 per week = \$ 35,400 per month

During the month of March the Visitor Centre recorded a 70% increase in Interstate Visitors and 10% in international visitors.

Web site visits are still nominated by the Asian market with Singapore and Malaysia remaining strong followed by UK. Increasing visits with over 1700 hits this month resulting in online bookings and email enquiries.

We continue to update the website regularly with new images and up to date information on what's on, Events and things to do in the area.

Marketing

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

Armadale Visitor Centre participated in Experience Perth winter digital campaign and has a presence in Australian Tourism Exchange DVD

Communications

The Tourism Coordinator was invited to be a part of the judging of the best presented stall at the Araluen’s Fremantle Chilli Festival.

Attendances at :

- Australian Tourism Export Council “China Ready” workshops.
- Attended the Small Business Centre Customer Relationship Management in the cloud workshop at the Armadale Library.
- Forum Advocating Cultural & Eco Tourism held a social media workshop at the Department of Environment and Conservation in Kensington.
- Attended the launch of the display village at Sienna Wood handing out information packs.
- Business Armadale held a business showcase at Pioneer Village School attended by the Visitor Centre Coordinator.

VC Membership

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

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

RANGER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

March 2013

ANIMAL CONTROL

Dogs

Ranger Services received four hundred and sixty nine (469) requests for assistance during this report period

The number of individual incidents is comparative to the corresponding period of March 2012, this is also reflected in the 2011/12 progressive figures.

Current tasks and activities performed by Ranger Services.

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

Livestock

During this report period Ranger Services attended to twenty five (25) requests for assistance in dealing with stock wandering, this figure indicates a slight increase in the number of reported incident of stock wandering from the corresponding period 2012.

Court Action

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

OFFENCE	FINDING OF COURT	PENALTY \$	COSTS \$	TOTAL \$
Dog Attack	Guilty	5,300	929.35	6,229.35
Dog Attack	Guilty	1,600	1,400	3,000

VEHICLES

Parking

Ranger Service attended to one hundred and seventy three (173) incidents relating to the unlawful parking of vehicles during this report period.

In order to facilitate the safe effective flow and control of traffic, and to monitor parking in and around schools, it is the responsibility of Ranger Services to maintain and administer the provisions of Local Laws Relating to Parking Facilities.

One of the ways of achieving this is by a strict application of parking local laws thereby reducing the risk of injury caused by the indiscriminate parking of vehicles, and to ensure the smooth flow of traffic is maintained.

There are fourteen (14) schools within the district of the City of Armadale. Rangers conduct regular patrols around the schools and enforce the provisions of the parking local laws, in addition to this there is the ever increasing vehicular activity within the CBD.

The Current tasks and activities being performed by the Rangers

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

Abandoned Vehicles

The number of abandoned vehicles reported to Ranger Services continues to be of concern, with twenty nine (29) being recorded during this report period.

Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas)

Ranger Service attended to fifteen (15) reports of vehicles (motor cycles) being driven in areas that are prohibited, during the report period.

Ranger Services currently provide a service to the community in respect to reports of off-road vehicles being driven or used in certain areas, particularly where it is identified that life and or property are at risk. Notwithstanding the City of Armadale do not have a local law relating to the control of off-road vehicles, such matters are dealt with pursuant to the “*Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978*” (ORV Act)

Current tasks and activities performed

- *Act on complaints.*
- *Work in liaison with Police Service.*
- *Apprehension of offenders.*
- *Correspondence relating thereto.*
- *Issuing of cautions, warnings, or infringement notices.*

FIRE SERVICE

There were ninety nine (99) enquires relating to fire incidents during the March report period, these matters were principally related to concerns regarding firebreaks and information relation to general fire safety.

Current tasks and activities performed

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

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 three (33) 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.*

Annual Firebreak Inspection Program

Several months prior to the beginning of the fire season Ranger Services evaluate areas throughout the City for the purpose of identifying and formulating a firebreak inspection strategy for that particular year. Rangers also issue Notices, in accordance with the provisions of the Bush Fires Act, to landowners where it is identified that a potential fire hazard is developing and requires additional work prior to the firebreak period.

The costs of installation of firebreaks are borne by all landowners, which is reasonable given that the landowners (or land managers) are responsible for fire management on their property. It is relevant to note that annually, Local Government and State Government agencies direct significant resources toward community level fire management. This shared approach ensures that the risk to the community in terms of fire management is minimized and enables the formation of effective partnerships and working relationships for fire response, education and advice.

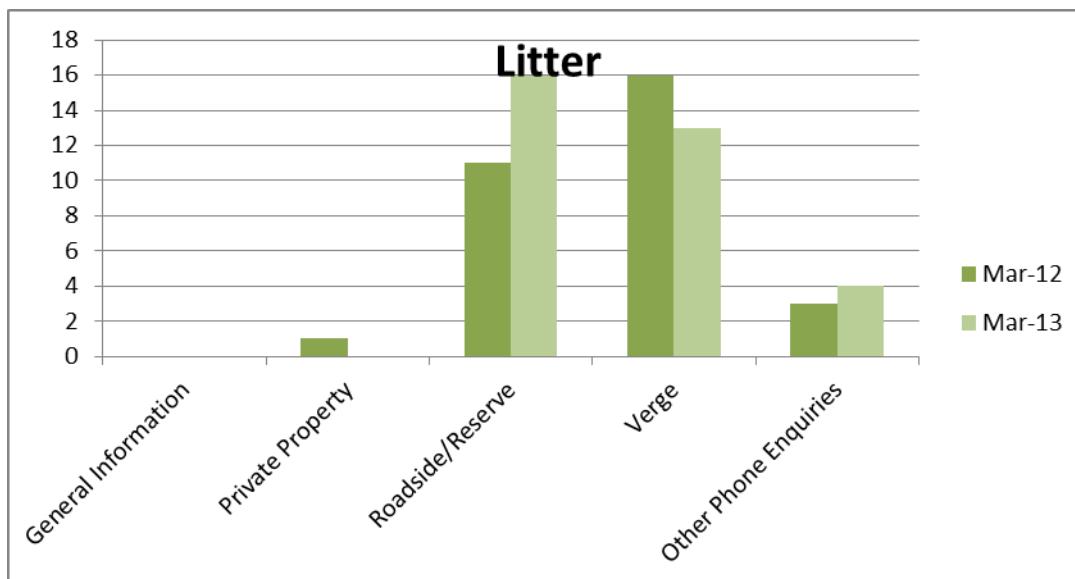
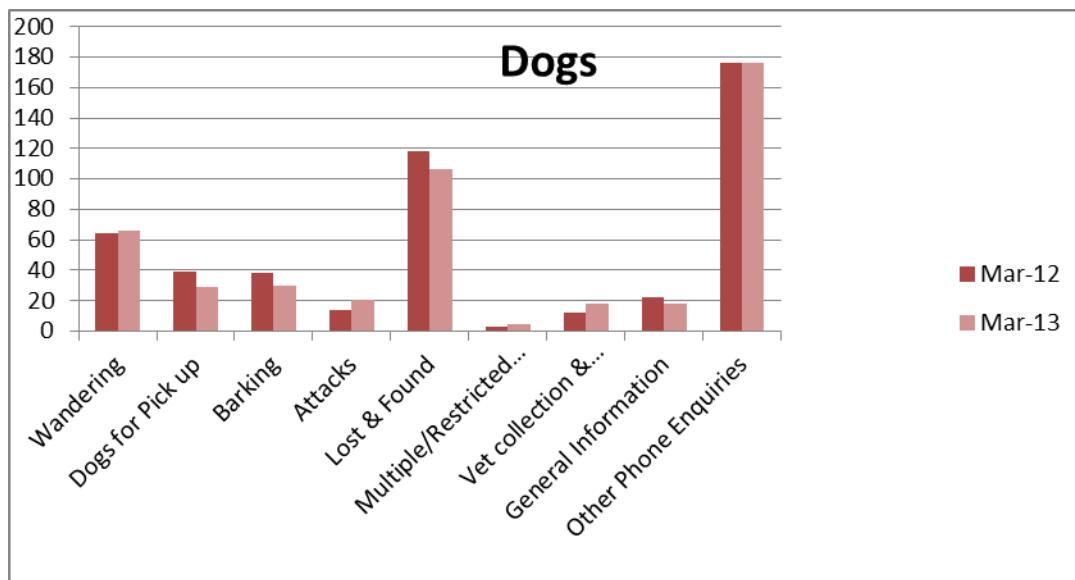
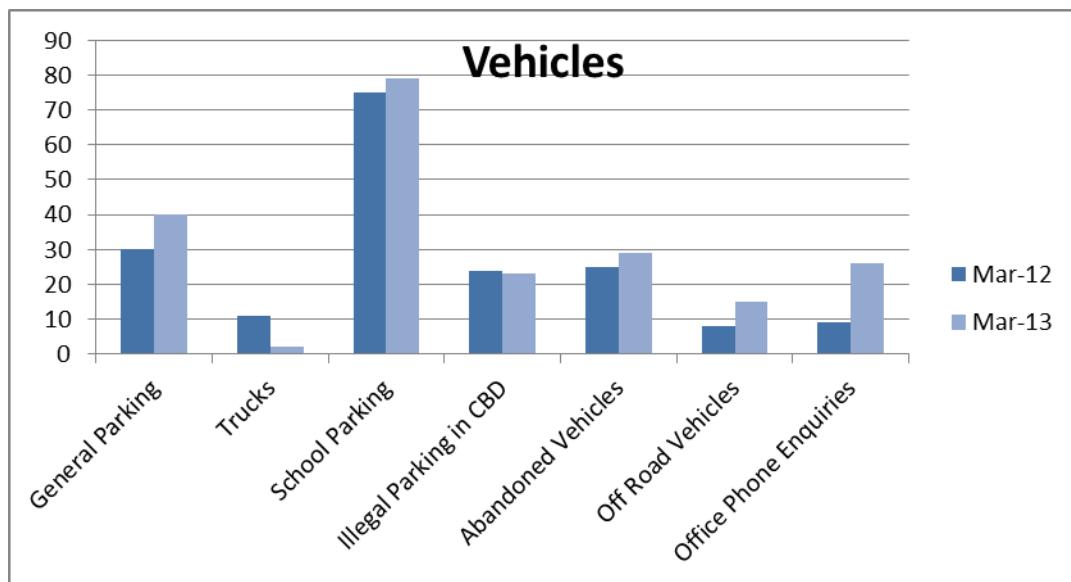
Information Items from the Community Services Directorate

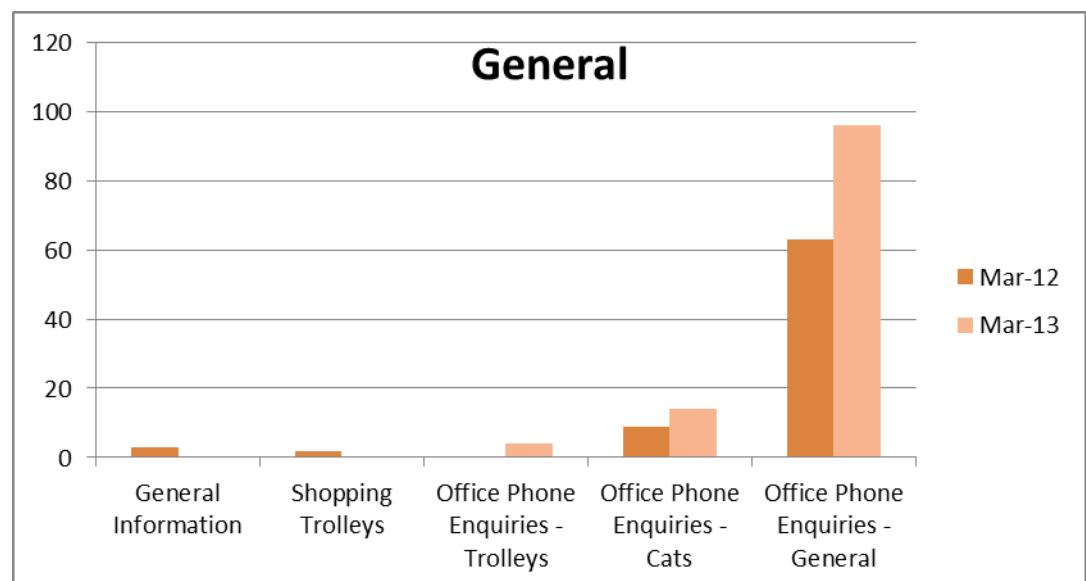
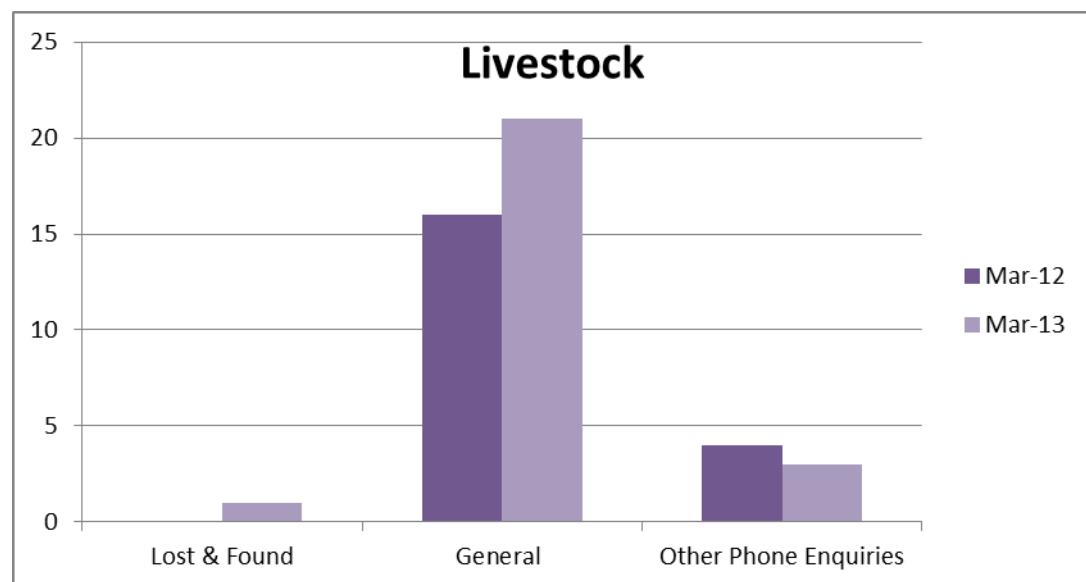
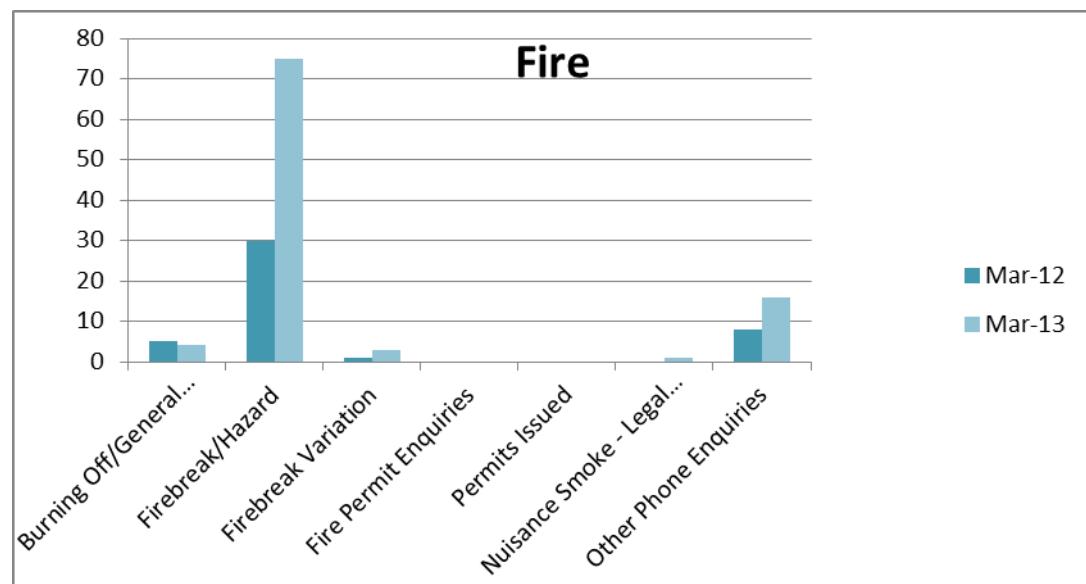
In the City of Armadale, some interesting statistics have arisen as a result of compliance activities as indicated below:

Inspections were undertaken between December 1 2012 and March 14 2013 to determine compliance with fire regulations;

- In total, 3032 or 25% of rated properties were inspected.
- 144 Reserves were inspected
- 341 Section 33 Bush Fires Act orders issued
- 102 infringements issued.

Statistics





MISCELLANEOUS

MINUTES OF OCCASIONAL/ADVISORY COMMITTEES

NOTES

Meeting name: Positive Ageing Working Group

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

Date: Monday 11 March 2013

Time: 10.00am

Notes prepared by: Carolyn Fisher

1.0 Attendance & Apologies

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

2.0 Minutes

Distributed amongst group members

3.0 Actions from November 2012 meeting

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

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

Information Items from the Community Services Directorate

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

Action: Cr Butterfield.

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

4.0 Presentation: Aged Friendly and Accessible Parks- Paul Lanternier

Mr Lanternier of the City's Parks and Gardens Department advised that two City strategies are currently being drafted, The Public Open Space Strategy and the Toilets Strategy.

All City's parks and gardens are currently under revision as part of this process, and accessibility is considered as part of this review.

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

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

5.0 Updates on Home and Community Care Funding: Caroline Dryland

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

Action: Ms Hill**6.0 Terms of reference**

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

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

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

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

The majority of group supported Ms Hodges's recommendation.

Action: Ms Hill to put group recommendation to the Community Development Manager.**7.0 Updates from Community Development Officer- Seniors Access and Inclusion****Age Friendly Strategic Planning**

Information Items from the Community Services Directorate

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

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

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

Cr Butterfield advised that she will recommend to Council to adopt the Framework.

Ms Hill clarified that the Department of Communities funding for Local Government Authorities to adopt this policy closed in 2011.

Games Day

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

Public Transport Forum for seniors

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

The presentations will be held at Armadale Library.

8.0 Other agenda items

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

Next meeting: 8 April 2013

Meeting closed at 11.15am