



INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUE NO. 9/2014

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Information Bulletin

Issue No. 9/2014

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Local Government Economic Briefing



May 2014 – State Budget Edition

STATE BUDGET 2014-15

Treasurer Mike Nahan described the new State Budget as 'the right budget for its time'. However, from a Local Government point of view it seems the 'right' budget has produced some very wrong outcomes:

- Only \$17m in direct funding for Metropolitan Local Government Reform.
- A 37% increase in streetlight tariffs in 2015-16.
- An increase to the landfill levy but no increase in the proportion of hypothecation for levy revenue.

There were few positives in this budget, though some of the funding that was cut from Local Government roads and the Country Local Government Fund in the previous year has been reinstated.

Metropolitan Local Government Reform

The Budget allocates about \$17 million over the next three years to Metropolitan Local Government Reform. This is much less than the amount recommended by WALGA in its 2014-15 State Budget Submission – the Association suggested between \$65 million and \$100 million would be needed.

While the State Government referred to a total package of \$60 million, there is only \$15 million in 'direct grant assistance to local governments impacted by the reforms'. The remaining \$45 million is in the form of low interest loans.

The \$15 million of direct payments is allocated from 2014-15 to 2016-17. Over the same period an additional \$2.2 million will be provided as 'loan interest subsidies'.

LGs left in dark on Streetlighting

The following table shows the 2014-15 Budget's projected increases in streetlighting and other tariffs (the bracketed figures show the projected streetlighting tariff increases from the 2013-14 State Budget):

	2014-15 %	2015-16 %	2016-17 %	2017-18 %
Small business (L1/L2)	4.5	7.0	7.0	7.0
Medium business (L3/L4)	10.0	0.4	8.3	3.7
Medium business (R3 – contestable)	10.0	10.2	9.2	3.7
Street lighting (Z)	5.0 (3.5)	36.8 (3.8)	8.2 (3.7)	3.0

As the above table demonstrates, the 36.8% streetlighting tariff increase for 2015-16 is an unwelcome surprise for the sector. The State Budget papers state that streetlighting tariffs and all contestable tariffs are 'assumed to be at cost reflectivity in 2015-16'. It may be reasonable to raise contestable tariffs to cover costs, since these customers may have other options for their electricity. However, streetlighting tariffs are non-contestable, which means the 2015-16 increase appears to be exploiting a captive market made up of WA Local Governments.

Landfill Levy Increase Wasted

From 1 January 2015, the landfill levy is increasing from \$28 to \$55 per tonne of putrescible waste and from \$8 to \$40 per tonne of inert waste.

The proportion of levy revenue hypothecated to the Waste Authority for waste management activities has remained at 25%. The Association has continually advocated for an increase in the level of hypothecation so that landfill levy revenue can help fund the development of alternative waste treatment options and lessen the state's reliance on landfill.

While the Waste Authority will receive increased funding due to the increased levy, a greater level of hypothecation would have secured an even better result. If recycling and other waste management activities are not developed sufficiently the increased levy may simply result in higher waste fees for households, since there will be few viable alternatives to disposal at a landfill.

Even the State Government's own Budget forecasts suggest the landfill levy increase, in its current form, will not be very effective. WA's recycling rate is only projected to increase from 47% in 2013-14 to 49% in 2014-15, even though landfill levy revenue will increase by 39% over the same period.

Local Government Economic Briefing

Royalties for Regions

Last year's State Budget projected Royalties for Regions (RFR) expenditure of \$1.23 billion for 2014-15, \$1.21 billion for 2015-16 and \$1.03 billion for 2016-17. However, this year's budget has capped expenditure at \$1 billion for each of those years (and all subsequent financial years). Any RFR funds above this cap will now contribute to the State Government's consolidated revenue.

The original intent of RFR was for the program to receive 25% of the State's mining royalties. The new expenditure cap means that the RFR proportion of mining royalties will decline from 25% in 2012-13 to as low as 12.4% in 2016-17. While the 'excess' RFR funds are now helping to maintain the State Government's razor thin surplus, this is unlikely to be of much consolation to communities in regional WA.

WA Households Hammered

Each year the State Budget features a section presenting the impact of its fees and charges on the 'standard representative household'. The representative household is assumed to have two adults and two children. The Budget also makes a number of assumptions about this household's usage of private vehicles, public transport, insurance services and utilities.

The Budget estimates that the representative household's expenditure on State Government fees and charges has increased by \$324 per year – an increase of 6.6% compared to 2013-14. This includes a 24.7% increase in vehicle registration charges and above-CPI increases for electricity, water and public transport charges.

Additionally, WA families are likely to be hit by austerity measures to be announced in the Federal Budget on May 13. This could include: increased fuel taxes, income tax increases for higher income earners, and cuts to benefits and programs for lower and middle income households.

Unfortunately, Local Governments may have little choice but to add to this financial burden. The current Budget shifts a number of costs from the State Government and on to WA Councils, i.e., Local Government reform expenditure, the increased landfill levy and increased utilities tariffs (earlier cuts to road funding will also be a factor). Significant increases in rates and waste charges may be the inevitable result for many communities.

Country Local Government Fund

On a slightly more positive note, it appears the Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) has 'clawed back' some of the losses made in the 2013-14 State Budget. The following table compares the CLGF line item on 'Regional groupings and individuals' for the current and previous budgets (there is a \$26m gain over the period 2013-14 to 2014-15):

	2013-14 (\$m)	2014-15 (\$m)	Total
Regional groupings and individuals (current budget)	40	50	90
Regional groupings and individuals (last year's budget)	29	35	64
Difference	11	15	26

State funding for Local Government roads

The State Budget also seems to show that the cuts made to road funding in December last year are somewhat smaller than first thought. The initial announcement in December 2013 indicated that \$70 million would be cut from State funding for Local Government roads. However, comparing the 2014-15 Budget with the 2013-14 Budget suggests that the funding cut is \$56 million:

	2013-14 (\$m)	2014-15 (\$m)	2015-16 (\$m)	Total (\$m)
LG road funding(current budget)	167.4	176.3	177.4	521.1
LG road funding (last year's budget)	193.7	186.7	196.7	577.1
Difference	-26.3	-10.4	-19.3	-56

WA Economic Outlook

The following table shows Treasury's forecasts for a number of key economic variables. Labour market conditions have worsened in recent times and this is reflected in the revision of the Wage Price Index forecast:

Economic indicator	2013-14 Budget Forecast	2014-15 Budget Forecast
Gross State Product (WA)		
2013/14	3.25%	3.75%
2014/15	2.5%	2.75%
Consumer Price Index (Perth)		
2013/14	2.5%	3.0%
2014/15	2.5%	2.75%
Wage Price Index (WA)		
2013/14	3.75%	3.25%
2014/15	3.75%	3.25%

For further information or to comment please contact Paul Schollum on 9243 2096 or email pschollum@walga.asn.au.



2014-15 State Budget Western Australia

World class services in the world's best place to live

Economy

Responding to changing economic circumstances

The Government is responding to changing economic circumstances by introducing a range of targeted revenue and savings measures while still **building on its achievements in infrastructure and service delivery** over the past five years.

The **\$175million surplus** comes at a time when State revenue is under stress from falling commodity prices, particularly for iron ore and a stubbornly high Australian dollar.

The strong growth in the State's economy over the past 10 years would now return to more moderate rates, following a peak in business investment.

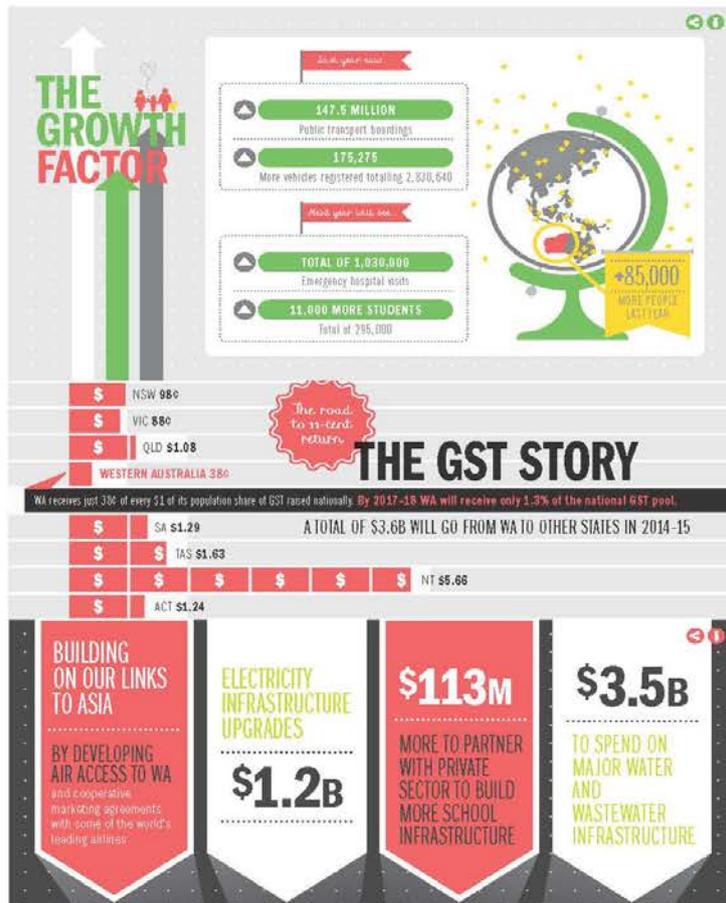
At the same time as Western Australia's taxation revenue is softening, the State's **GST grant has fallen to 37.6 per cent of its population share**, down from 44.6 per cent in 2013-14.

There is no doubt the GST model is broken when our State is on a trajectory towards **just 11 per cent return on its population share**. If we received our full population share, WA would get an extra \$3.6billion in 2014-15.

The State's reliance on volatile commodity prices was highlighted by falls in the iron price from highs of about \$190 a tonne at its peak in 2011, to about \$105 a tonne today.

Key revenue and savings measures in this Budget will deliver an **estimated \$2billion in lower net debt by 2017-18**, on top of \$8.6billion in savings implemented over the last year.

To learn more about the 2014-15 State Budget, visit www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au



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BUILDING ON OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

2014-15 State Budget Western Australia

World class services in the world's best place to live

Education

Supporting our children and parents

Making sure our children receive a world class education is one of the most important jobs for the State Government.

For the next financial year we will employ an **extra 550 teachers by the end of 2015 with a \$188million funding boost** to ensure Western Australian schools keep pace with strong student enrolments.

This budget contains **\$1.16billion to upgrade existing schools and build 19 new ones**, including three high schools, through to the end of 2018.

Next year's **4.3 per cent growth in the education budget** means that since 2008, the Liberal-led State Government has **increased education spending by \$1.3billion or 40.1 per cent.**

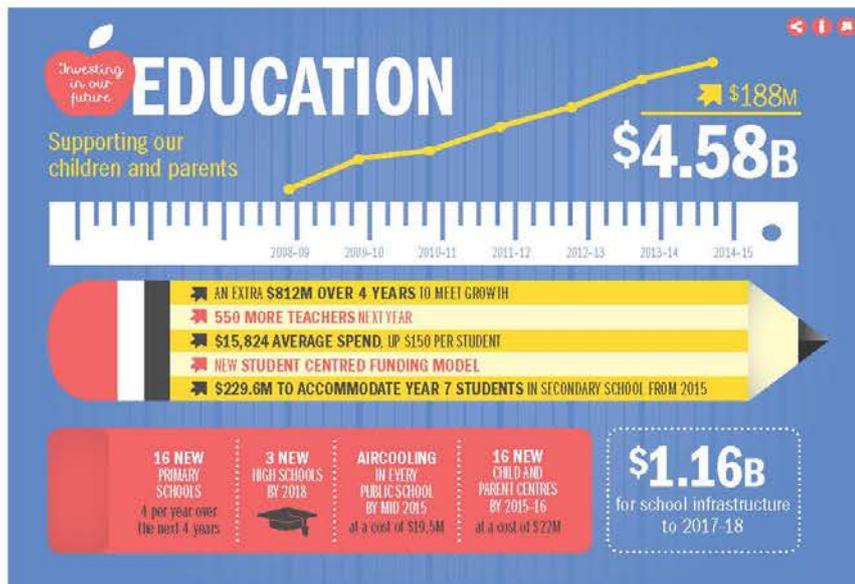
Over the Budget period, education funding will increase by a total of \$812million meaning that next year's education budget will be \$4.58billion.

Western Australia has the best resourced schools and the highest paid teachers in the country and this funding boost will maintain that ranking, while at the same time introduce a new funding model that will more effectively deliver education outcomes.

We will be introducing a new **student-centred funding model in 2015**, which will allocate funding according to individual student needs, rather than by school type or programs.

A further \$10million has been allocated in 2015 to help selected secondary schools transition to the new funding model.

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2014-15 State Budget Western Australia

World class services in the world's best place to live

Health

Delivering the best care

Western Australians expect to receive a world class health system. That's what this budget continues to deliver.

For the first time the budget contains \$8 billion for health spending, an increase of \$446.7 million.

Western Australia is a growing state and the Government has delivered on its promise to fully fund the Department of Health's growth pressures.

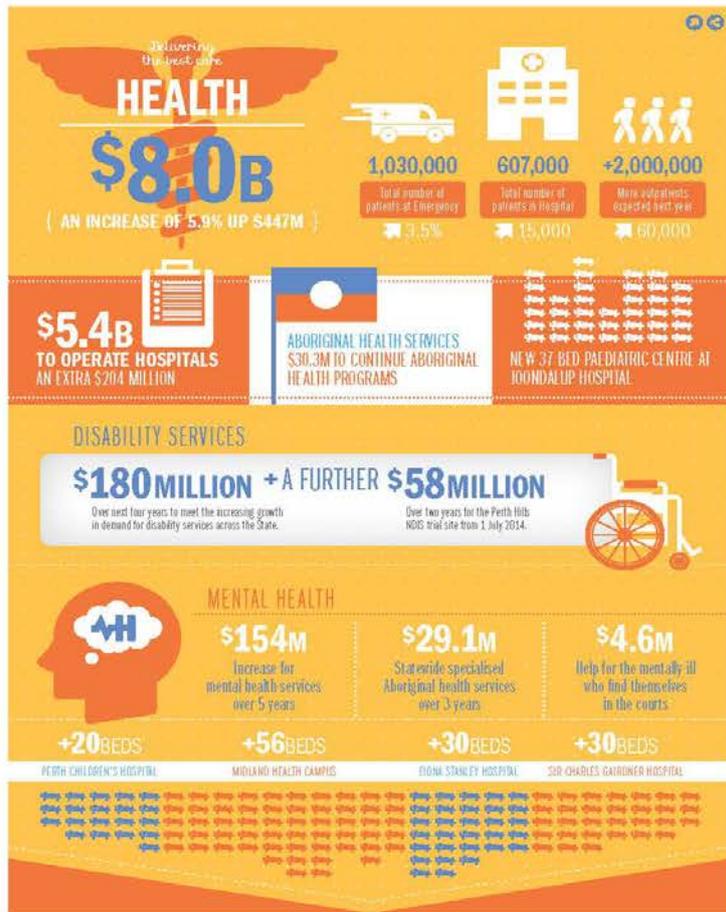
Fiona Stanley Hospital and State Rehabilitation Service are due to become operational in 2014-15 and this year's budget contains funding to **make sure when they open they deliver the best possible service.**

With more than two million outpatient visits expected and more than one million emergency hospital visits, the health system is under continued pressure to deliver high quality services as efficiently as possible. Hospital operating funding will rise by 5.7 per cent to \$5.417 billion in 2014-15 and by another 5.6 per cent to \$5.718 billion the year after.

The Budget also **provides an extra 136 mental health hospital beds,** widens disability services to 1,135 people and their families, and funds improved handling of Triple 0 emergency calls.

The Government's **support for the most vulnerable young people in our community** has been complemented by **funding increases to mental health** (\$154 million over five years) and **disability services** (\$180 million over the next four years).

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2014-15 State Budget
Western Australia

World class services in the world's best place to live

Infrastructure

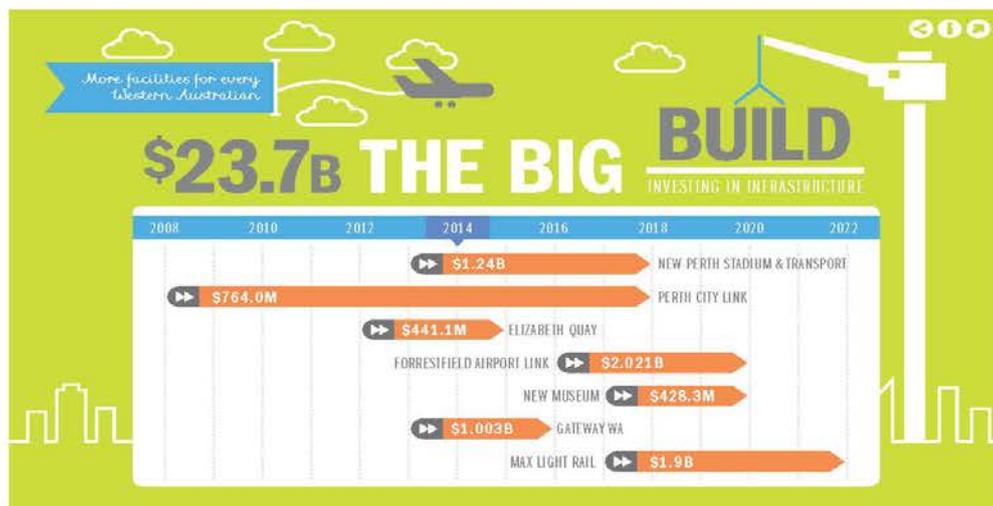
The big build - investing in infrastructure

Thousands of people are still moving to WA from the other side of the country and from overseas, to be part of this remarkable place during a unique time in our history.

That's why the Liberal-led State Government is continuing to transform WA with a **\$23.7 billion infrastructure program over the next four years. This will deliver 19 new schools, new hospitals, new fire stations, 123 buses, 66 new rail cars and road networks.**

Building on the \$40.34 billion in capital works delivered by the State Government since 2008,

- Children's education is a big priority with **19 new schools** - three high schools and 16 primary schools - to be built by 2017-18.
- \$229.6 million will be spent on building projects to accommodate year 7 students at the State's high schools and \$22 million on **16 new Child and Parent centres**. All up, new schools and upgrades to existing structures will cost \$1.16 billion to 2017-18.
- In the health sector, the Government is delivering the most advanced hospital care with **Fiona Stanley Hospital due to open in Perth's southern suburbs later this year** and the new **Perth Children's Hospital at the Queen Elizabeth II complex in Nedlands next year**. This means that between 2008 and 2018, the Government will build or upgrade 13 hospitals throughout WA.
- The Government will continue to support and protect the community, delivering **new fire stations in West Perth and Albany** at a combined cost of around \$30 million and police stations in Cockburn and Ballajura, also for \$30 million.



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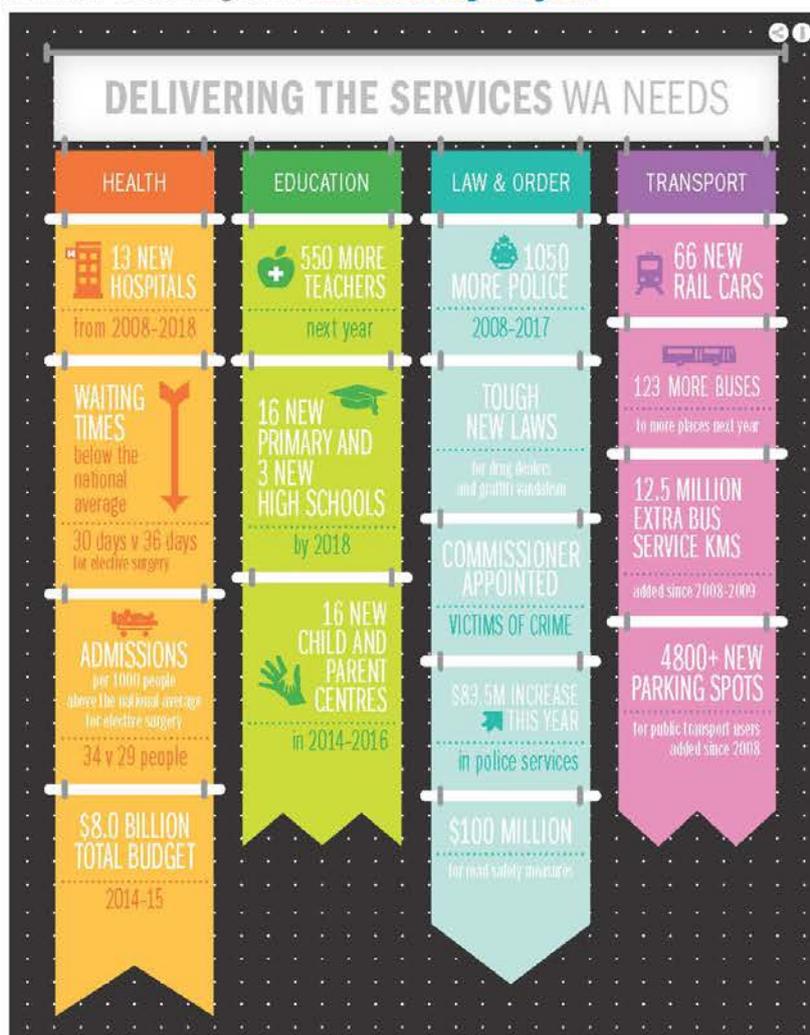
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- In transport, WA's economy will be the major winner from the **Gateway WA project around the Perth Airport and the freight and industrial hubs of Kewdale and Forrestdale**. About \$296million of a \$1billion budget for the project will be spent in 2014-15.
- As well as \$883million in road projects, (including the NorthLink WA - Swan Valley section), the Government has committed **\$1.9billion over the next four years to public transport services and infrastructure**.
- The Government has invested \$244million to buy 66 new B-Series rail cars, representing a **28 per cent increase in the size of Transperth's railcar fleet**, from 234 to 300 railcars. The first three trains have arrived in WA and the rest will arrive progressively to late 2016.
- For bus passengers, the good news is that the Government will add **another 123 buses to the Transperth fleet** this year.
- Residents will see Perth transformed during 2014-15 with projects under way at the **new Perth Stadium** and railway station (\$1.24billion), **Perth City Link** (\$764million), **Elizabeth Quay** (\$441.1million) and the **new WA Museum** (\$428.3million) - all contributing to a more vibrant city better able to attract and retain skilled workers and their families from elsewhere in Australia and overseas.

To learn more about the 2014-15 State Budget, visit www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au



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BUILDING ON OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

2014-15 State Budget Western Australia

World class services in the world's best place to live

Law and Order

Protecting you and your community

Western Australians deserve to feel safe in their homes and in their communities.

WA Police's budget will increase by more than 45 per cent, or \$419.7million, since 2008-09.

The Government is building on its achievements in law and order by committing \$25.4million to replace a **critical response communications system for the WA Police service**.

The new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system will enable our police officers to **respond to 000 calls and crime incidents quickly** and deliver a greater level of protection to our community.

In its first term, the Liberal-led State Government has spent a **record \$272million on police facilities and equipment**, including the new \$93million Perth Police Complex,

\$142million for radio networks, \$20million for a crime-fighting helicopter and about 50 high-tech police cars.

The Government will employ **550 more police officers** in this term of Government so there are more frontline police officers.

To make our streets safer we have included \$1.3m towards the State's CCTV Strategy.

To make sure regional areas receive the same level of policing that Perth expects, this budget contains \$7.5m in regional incentives over the next 3 years.

The budget also provides funding for WA Police to be armed with **state-of-the-art covert cameras to help fight the scourge of hoon driving**.

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BUILDING ON OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

2014-15 State Budget Western Australia

World class services in the world's best place to live

Regional WA

Living big in the big State

The Liberal-led State Government is determined to **strengthen and support regional development** by improving the services and infrastructure available to communities.

The State Government will inject **\$1 billion in 2014-15 into agriculture, regional revitalisation, health, community services, education, sport, transport and tourism** through the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

Strengthening the Government's commitment to regional areas through a \$1 billion a year commitment for the next four years means that funds will be directed to **essential community services and boost major infrastructure and development projects**.

The State Government's Royalties for Regions program will support projects such as Pilbara Cities, the Mid West Investment Plan and revitalisation projects for the Gascoyne, West Kimberley and Goldfields-Esperance.

The \$1 billion in funding will capitalise on opportunities for long-term growth that exist in regional Western Australia by fostering economic development.

The development of regional WA is good for the entire State and the nation. This year's budget will mean equity for country people and it also **unlocks the economic potential of regional WA, creating wealth for everyone**, and takes pressure off Perth's roads, housing and hospitals.

In five years of unprecedented investment, the State Government's Royalties for Regions has seen **more than 3,500 projects and initiatives delivered** in regional Western Australia.

To learn more about the 2014-15 State Budget, visit www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au



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BUILDING ON OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

2014-15 State Budget Western Australia

World class services in the world's best place to live

Transport

Getting you from A to B

To be a world class city we need a world class transport system. This is one of the key focuses of the government and this budget delivers significant funding to make this happen.

The State Government's budget contains \$883million in road projects and **\$1.9billion over the next four years to public transport services and infrastructure.**

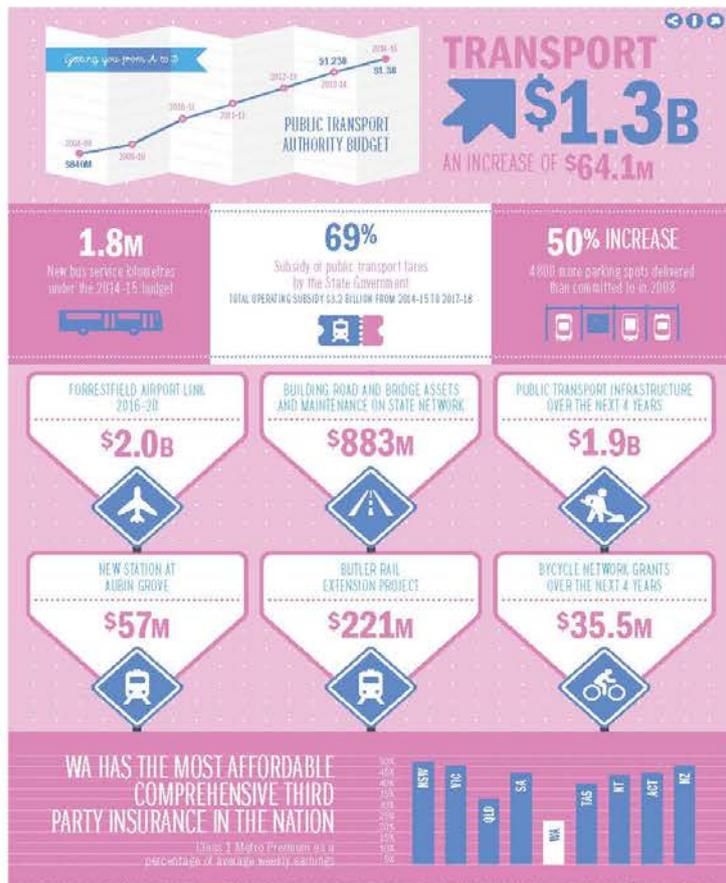
Projects include:

- **Edgewater Station upgrade** and 1,000 bay multi-storey Park 'n Ride (\$47million)
- **\$360million Perth City Link** rail project scheduled for completion in 2014
- **\$209million Perth Busport** (\$141million over four years). Under way and due for completion in 2016
- **\$221million Butler rail extension** due for completion late 2014
- **\$57million Aubin Grove Station** (\$50million over four years)
- **\$2billion Forrestfield-Airport Link** (\$683million over four years).

The Government has invested \$244million to buy **66 new B-Series rail cars**, representing a **28 per cent increase in the size of Transperth's railcar fleet**, from 234 to 300 railcars. The first three trains have arrived in WA and the rest will arrive progressively to late 2016.

For bus passengers, the good news is that the Government will add **another 123 buses to the Transperth fleet this year.**

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ALGA NEWS

9 MAY 2014

Role to play in Federation White Paper

ALGA's President Felicity-ann Lewis joined the Prime Minister and State and Territory leaders at the 37th Council of Australian Governments meeting in Canberra on Friday 2 May.

COAG considered the draft Terms of Reference for the Commonwealth's White Paper on the Reform of the Federation and draft themes for the White Paper on Taxation Reform, both to be completed by the end of 2015.

ALGA has been included as a member of the steering committee, chaired by the Commonwealth and involving all States and Territories that will be established to oversee the development of the Federation White Paper.

This is an important opportunity for ALGA to be engaged in the development of the Federation White Paper, which all governments committed to working closely and collaboratively on.

Also on the COAG agenda, the signing of a new agreement on asset recycling, improving outcomes for Indigenous Australians, the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the Paid Parental Leave Scheme, intercountry adoption of children and reducing red tape.

The Communique issued at the conclusion of the COAG meeting can be found [here](#).

Local government needs to be heard

With less than six weeks to go until the 2014 National General Assembly of Local Government, it is shaping up to be a must-attend event.

The assembly will provide councils with an opportunity to let the Federal Government know how important the current funding arrangements between the commonwealth and local government are, and that they need to be preserved and formalised.

With the handing down of the Commission of Audit report last week and its recommendations that the Commonwealth transfer to the States its funding responsibilities for local government, including the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) program and the Roads to Recovery (R2R) program, councils need to send a clear message to government.

Councils need financial certainty from the Commonwealth to ensure they can continue to play a vital role in their local communities in the provision of facilities and services.

Local government will also know the outcome of the Federal Budget next week and what its impact will be on local communities..

The stronger the presence of councils from across Australia in the room, the better the

opportunity for local government to influence future policy and political outcomes.

To ensure you at this important event, register now,.

The regular registration rate ends at the end of May. Accommodation and social events (including the Parliament House dinner) are rapidly filling up with strong interest in this year's event.

For those attending, you can look forward to a busy program, with a record number of motions received for consideration during the Assembly.

Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development and Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss will speak at the NGA, and The Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Local Government, Julie Collins has also confirmed her attendance.

To register online click [here](#).

Geographic Labour Mobility report released

The Productivity Commission sent their final report to Government on 22 April 2014 and publicly released the Geographic Labour Mobility report on 6 May 2014.

The principal objective of the study was to examine patterns of mobility, impediments and enablers, and their effect on the ability to meet Australia's continually changing workforce and employment needs.

Among the key findings was that geographic labour mobility is helping the economy adjust to major structural change. Generally people are moving to areas with better employment and income prospects, and employers are using a range of sources to attract employees with the required skills.

In addition to permanent relocation, alternate forms of mobility are offering considerable flexibility in the labour market. The increased use of fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) practices and temporary immigration have been critical to meeting peaks in labour demand in many parts of the country.

The study contributes to understanding of why people move. Commissioner Alison McClelland said: "For individuals, life events and family circumstances appear to be the most important factors in decisions whether to relocate for work. Factors related to housing, employment, local infrastructure and a person's level of education also play a prominent role."

From a local government perspective, many of the Commission's findings and recommendations are welcomed. In particular the acknowledgment that the quality and availability of economic and social infrastructure — such as education facilities, health services, communications services and transport - also influence where people live and work. This was one of the key arguments made by ALGA in both its submission and roundtable conversations

Equally important was the finding that labour mobility can contribute to efficiency and

community wellbeing, but that this does not necessarily mean that more geographic labour mobility is always desirable — there can be negative impacts. 'Very high rates of mobility can lead to costly levels of staff turnover and entail economic and social costs for individuals and their families, as well as for the broader community. This is particularly the case for those regional communities experiencing pressures of FIFO and drive-in/drive out workforces'. The recommendation supporting the need for improved access to administrative data is a logical one in trying to better understand the true impacts of geographic labour mobility in Australia.

President's Column

Getting the three levels of government in Australia working together to achieve the best outcomes for the community has always been a challenge, but recent developments have certainly highlighted some of the issues that we are all grappling with.

First came the release of the Commission of Audit report on 1 May with its recommendations that the Commonwealth end its engagement with local government and trust to the good offices of the states and territories to provide sufficient resources to local councils to meet local community needs. As I remarked last week, this is a direction fraught with risk for all councils, but particularly those in regional Australia which are more dependent on Commonwealth funding.

The following day the COAG meeting included a focus on big ticket infrastructure issues and White Paper exercises on the Federation and Taxation. The State and Territory governments signed a new asset recycling agreement with the Commonwealth which will provide incentive payments to governments to privatise state assets and reinvest proceeds into new infrastructure.

The asset recycling agreement is an important initiative for the state, territory and commonwealth government but it is important that they remember the vital role our local roads play in our transport network, and they continue to need investment. Our local roads provide essential linkages to and from major infrastructure assets and our major logistics chains are only as strong as their weakest links – unfortunately all too often these are the local links. All three levels of government need to work together to achieve the best outcomes in infrastructure investment and Federal funding of local roads remains an essential contributor to national productivity.

The need for local government to be engaged in the Federation White Paper was an issue I was happy to raise in COAG and I am pleased that the Commonwealth-State Steering Committee established to oversee the development of the Federation White Paper explicitly includes ALGA membership.

Finally, the Williams Case, which revolves around the extent of the Commonwealth's powers to engage directly in state and local issues, returned to the High Court on 6 May as hearings began on Ron Williams' latest challenge to the constitutional validity of the Commonwealth's school chaplaincy program - and potentially many other funding programs. The Court is not expected to release its decision on the case until the end of the year but all levels of government, ourselves included, will be watching carefully to determine the implications of the case.

ALGA's view is that a partnership between all levels of Government is necessary to deliver the best outcome for local communities and we will strive to protect and enhance that partnership through all of the intergovernmental forums in which we participate.

Mayor, Dr Felicity-ann Lewis
ALGA President

Childcare professional development fund guidelines released

The guidelines for the Long Day Care Professional Development Program were released by 5 May by the Assistant Minister for Education, Sussan Ley. The program was first announced in December last year when the Government signalled that it intended to redirect unallocated funding from the Early Years Quality Fund to a new professional development programme. It described the LDCPDP as the single biggest investment ever in professional development for child care and early learning educators in long day care (LDC) services.

The LDCPDP will fund Long Day Care services to assist their educators to meet the qualification requirements under the National Quality Framework (NQF) and to improve practice to ensure quality outcomes for children. A key focus will be quality and equity. The program is designed to have sufficient flexibility to meet educator needs, as well as targeting known workforce shortages such as early childhood teachers and long day care educators in rural and remote areas.

The program will allow services to identify their specific professional development needs in order to support the NQF, adhere to the National Quality Standard and deliver the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) or approved learning framework. Services will be able to use the funding to meet their training and skills development needs and will have the flexibility to do so in-line with the circumstances of their service.

Funding of approximately \$200 million, over three years, will be available for the LDCPDP, allocated in the following way:

- a base amount per full time equivalent educator (up to \$170 million)
- plus a loading for each early childhood teacher (up to \$15 million)
- plus a loading for geographic isolation (up to \$15 million).

A Fact Sheet explaining the Programme is available [here](#) and the full funding guidelines are [here](#). Applications will open on 19 May 2014 and close at 5pm (AEST) on 13 June 2014. The online application will be available on the MyChild [website](#).

Finalists announced in National Awards for Local Government

It's no secret to ALGA News readers that local governments play a vital role connecting with local communities and delivering important targeted services to their regions. To recognise and reward councils from across Australia for their hard work and exceptional

performance, the Australian Government is proud to present the [National Awards for Local Government](#).

Each year, Awards categories are nominated and sponsored by Australian Government departments - this means that categories are always closely aligned with latest national priorities.

Awards categories in 2014 were selected to showcase projects that promote participation and active community engagement. Categories are diverse in subject. The Awards celebrate: arts; disability access and inclusion; multiculturalism; promoting Indigenous recognition; and improving productivity and regional development.

In 2014, the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development received entries against six awards categories. These entries showcased a wide range of projects tailored to support diverse communities and deliver direct benefits to local regions. All entrants deserve congratulations for their achievements and strong commitment to engagement and active participation.

The Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss will announce the overall winner of the 2014 National Award for Excellence in Local Government at the National General Assembly dinner in Canberra on 17 June.

The 2014 category finalists are:

Arts Animates-excellence in community engagement and participation

- Holroyd City Council, NSW - Hay Holroyd "Make a Choice" Young person's video project
- Clarence Valley Council, NSW - PLUNGE: Insider's guide to arts and cultural events

Disability Access and Inclusion

- Hume City Council, VIC - School Holiday Program for Indigenous Children with a Disability
- Melton City Council, VIC - Disability Action Plan 2013-2017 and Launch

Improve Productivity and Regional Development

- Townsville City Council, QLD - Townsville Planning and Development Reform Program
- Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, WA - Bridgetown Public Library Infrastructure Development Project

Multicultural Australia - Strength in Diversity

- Greater Dandenong City Council, VIC - "Racism. Get Up. Speak Out." Campaign
- City of Belmont, WA - New Arrivals Library Support Project

Promoting Indigenous Recognition

- Clarence Valley Council, NSW - The Three Mobs One River Aboriginal Learning

Kit

- City of Salisbury, SA - 'Together Woven' Kaurna Heritage Marker

Youth Employment

- Melton City Council, VIC - Building Melton Together Employment Initiative
- Latrobe City Council, VIC - Steps to the Future Indigenous Employment Program

Share your story: A safer future for children

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse is investigating how institutions like schools, churches, sports clubs and government organisations have responded to allegations and instances of child sexual abuse.

In its first 15 months of operation, the Royal Commission has travelled to every state and territory of Australia including many regional areas, to hear from more than 1,500 people in private sessions. The Royal Commission's call centre has received over 11,000 phone calls from the public and held 11 public hearings.

Royal Commission CEO Janette Dines said the regional visits provided an opportunity to share information about the work of the Royal Commission, and for survivors of child sexual abuse while in the care of an institution to share their story.

“We are committed to giving regional and remote communities a voice in this process. It is important these stories inform the Australian community about the experiences of children who had suffered sexual abuse while in the care of an institution, as well as help us make institutions safer for children in the future, Ms Dines said

If you were sexually abused as a child while in the care of an institution in Australia you can share your story with the Royal Commission. It doesn't matter how long ago the abuse occurred, every person's story is important.

The first step is to let the Royal Commission know that you are interested in sharing your story.

Call: 1800 099 340 between the hours of 8am and 8pm from Monday to Friday

Email: Send an email to contact@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au

Write: GPO Box 5283, Sydney, NSW 2001.

Discussing child sexual abuse can be difficult. The Royal Commission can refer survivors of child sexual abuse to counsellors or special support groups.

For more information about the work of the Royal Commission and support services available visit www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au or call 1800 099 340.

Heart Foundation presents healthy design tool to the world

A free online tool developed by the National Heart Foundation of Australia to help town planners build heart healthy cities was featured at the World Cardiology Congress in Melbourne on Tuesday 6 May.

The unique Healthy Active by Design Guideline which builds on international best practice to help town planners at a grassroots level is part of the Heart Foundation's work to get more Australians more active.

"Globally, there is strong evidence on the link between health and the places where we live," the Heart Foundation's active living spokesperson Trevor Shilton said. "With overweight and obesity on the rise, it's essential we provide environments that prevent and reduce the effects of these and other conditions which lead to chronic diseases including heart disease, diabetes and some cancers."

The Guideline represents a 21st Century approach to healthy urban design and includes practical checklists, case studies, high-quality examples of projects from around the world and links to evidence.

"We have the evidence - what's needed now is to translate that evidence into tools such as Healthy Active by Design," Mr Shilton said.

Research had shown:

- public transport users took 30% more steps than drivers¹
- People who lived in neighbourhoods with sidewalks were 47% more likely to meet physical activity guidelines²
- Traffic calming measures reduced pedestrian injuries by 15%³
- People who lived in walkable communities were two times as likely to get enough physical activity⁴
- 70.5% of cycle path users in Bogota, Colombia met physical activity guidelines⁵
- Youths in neighbourhoods with seven recreation facilities were 26% more likely to be active five times a week than those without facilities⁶
- People who lived near trails were 50% more likely to meet PA Guidelines⁷

"There are many examples from around the world, including Bangkok, New York and Bogota which show that planning for new areas or changing existing structures doesn't have to be complicated or costly, but it does make a difference to community health and happiness," Mr Shilton said.

"Health experts are calling for urgent government action to ensure the built environment allows and encourages daily physical activity, thus improving health and well-being."

The Guideline is available [here](#).

Waste management worth \$10.4 billion

Waste management services in Australia were a \$10.4 billion industry in 2010-11, according to a new publication released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on 1

May.

"The supply of waste management services was up by nearly \$1 billion on the previous year, and there was also an increase in the sales of recyclable or recoverable waste." said Mark Lound from the ABS.

"The value of sales of waste went from \$4.6 billion in 2009-10 to \$5.4 billion in 2010-11.

"Household expenditure on waste management services - which is mostly municipal rates - rose slightly; households spent \$1.9 billion on waste management, up by nine percent from 2009-10.

"The total amount of waste generated in Australia was just over 53 million tonnes, down from 54 million tonnes in 2009-10.

"The construction industry and households were the main waste creators, each producing just over 14 million tonnes. Waste produced by the construction industry decreased by 1.6 million tonnes or 10 percent from 2009-10.

"In 2010-11, a total of 31 million tonnes of waste was recovered, and 22 million tonnes sent to landfill. This is a fall of 14 percent in the amount of waste going to landfill from the previous year.

"Masonry remains the most recovered type of waste material, accounting for just over a third of all recovered waste," said Mr Lound.

Waste Account, Australia aligns with the United Nations System of Environmental Accounts that became an international standard in 2012.

Further information can be found in [Waste Account, Australia](#) (cat. no. 4602.0.55.006) available for free download from the ABS website.

ACELG Research Forum held in Melbourne

The Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) successfully hosted its 2014 Research Forum in Melbourne. Some 60 local government, association, consultants and researchers attended the day event to share and discuss contemporary local government related research.

The Research Forum covered a wide range of policy interests, including measures of progress, productive regions, social enterprises, community cultural development, housing, investment in employee skills and practitioner led research on issues such as amalgamations and food regulation.

These research forums have been held around the country on an annual basis and have been designed to :

- Showcase examples of current local government research which relate to pressing policy issues for Australian local government
- Provide opportunities for local government practitioners to present work alongside

- academic researchers ; and
- Discuss the implications of the research for policy and practice.

The Forum was held in partnership with the LGMA National Congress & Business Expo.

To View the program and presentation information [here](#).

Climate Adaption Workshop in Sydney

Registrations are open for a free, interactive workshop in Sydney on Wednesday 14 May about climate risk assessment and planning in local government.

Hosted by the City of Canada Bay (NSW), the workshop will draw on material from *Climate Adaptation Manual for Local Government: Embedding Resilience to Climate Change*, a new resource from the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) to be launched next week by the City of Canada Bay Mayor, Angelo Tsirekas.

The session will guide participants through the Manual and enable participants to experiment in applying a number of 'How To' steps to their local council circumstances. Staff of the City of Canada Bay Council will outline the approach taken in enabling change and increasing climate resilience in its local government area.

There is no cost to attend. Workshop attendees are also welcome to attend the launch at 11am. To register, please email andrew.dimitriadis@canadabay.nsw.gov.au or call 02 9911 6555.

Sharing road safety tips to save lives

Cutting the number of road fatalities and injury rates by sharing proven road safety tips is the aim of a new program launched on by the National Transport Commission on 5 May.

CEO of the NTC Paul Retter said major employers like Coca-Cola Amatil, BHP Billiton, Telstra, Uniting Care Queensland, Hanson, Holden, Shell and Origin Energy, had already signed up to the National Road Safety Partnership Program with more major companies expected to join shortly.

"There is no point keeping any road safety successes secret," Mr Retter said.

"This program gives employers a library of best practice road safety programs that have been proven to work. Other organisations can simply find an idea that could work in their workplace and start implementing it.

"If organisations find something that works they should actively share it around - even to their competitors.

"Instead of governments bringing in more red tape to keep employees safe this program gets the same outcomes just by sharing success stories."

Mr Retter said because almost half the new vehicles sold in Australia were purchased by

fleets this program had the potential to cut road toll across Australia and reduce road congestion at the same time.

"Following the success of seatbelts and speed cameras, road safety experts are now looking for the next big thing to reduce our road toll," Mr Retter said.

"Experts predict that road crashes will kill or injure 170,000 Australians over the next five years and work-related road crashes account for almost half of all Australian workplace deaths.

"If businesses share ways of keeping their employees safe on the road there is no doubt they can have a significant impact on our road toll."

Steering Committee member Mark Stephens from Uniting Care Queensland said the program would help other businesses recognise that road safety initiatives more than pay their way while at the same time creating a culture of road safety through the workforce and into the community.

"This program will help businesses keep their employees and fleets safe, productive and sustainable, especially by reducing the costs of injuries and compensation," Mr Stephens said.

Mr Retter encouraged interested organisations to find out more about how to keep their employees safe from road crashes at www.nrspp.org.au

ALGA is a founding member of the National Road Safety Partnership Program Steering Committee.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population may exceed 900,000 by 2026

Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is projected to increase by over a third to reach between 907,800 and 945,600 people by 2026, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

These projection figures are based on a series of assumptions which incorporate recent trends in fertility, paternity, mortality and internal migration within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

Denise Carlton, Director of Demography at the ABS said, "Our medium projection series, which is based on recently observed population trends, shows the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population growing by 2.2 per cent per year to reach around 925,000 people by 2026.

"This compares with a projected annual growth rate of 1.6 per cent for the total Australian population over the same period.

"Faster growth in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is the result of assumed higher than average levels of fertility, and improvements in life expectancy," Ms Carlton added. "The median age of this population is projected to increase from 22 years

in 2011 to 25 years in 2026," said Ms Carlton.

Like the total population, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is ageing. The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–14 years is projected to decline from 36 per cent of the population in 2011 to between 31 per cent and 33 per cent in 2026, while the proportion of persons aged 65 years and over is projected to increase from 3 per cent to between 6 per cent and 7 per cent.

"The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations in all states and territories are projected to continue to grow, although at varying rates," said Ms Carlton.

"New South Wales is projected to continue to be the state with the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in 2026, with between 277,200 and 289,800 people. This is followed by Queensland (between 266,800 and 278,000 people) and Western Australia (between 117,400 and 121,800).

"The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in remote and very remote areas combined is projected to grow relatively slowly, between 0.7 per cent and 1 per cent per year, to reach between 159,000 and 165,100 people in 2026," said Ms Carlton.

Over the same period, the population is projected to grow by 2.3 per cent to 2.6 per cent per year in major cities to reach between 328,500 and 342,500 people and by 2.4 per cent to 2.7 per cent per year in inner and outer regional Areas combined to reach between 420,200 and 438,00 people.

Further details are available in [Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026 \(cat. no. 3238.0\)](#).

Around the councils....

A brief look at what's making news at councils around the nation.

Tech savvy

Wyong Shire Council has launched a mobile phone friendly website to help residents provide feedback to council .

Wyong Council said it believes it is the first council offer an integrated service - that when you send through the request from your mobile phone it goes straight into council's system and generates an action straight away.

Visit the website www.wyong.nsw.gov.au from your mobile phone.

Innovation funds

The Renmark Paringa Council will establish an 'innovation fund', to support events, projects and other opportunities that come up at short notice.

The council will allocate \$20,000 a year for the fund, over a two-year trial period.

Support for suicide prevention action plan

Another three south-east South Australian councils are set to give their support to a suicide prevention action plan.

Mount Gambier City Council was the first to become involved late last year.

Flood disaster study

The Northern Grampians Shire says a university study into its flood disaster three years ago will become an important tool for emergency response and recovery in the future.

A University of Ballarat study looked at the damage to residents and businesses, to provide recommendations for future emergency management.

The council hopes the recommendations will also help minimise social, economic and environmental effects.

Natural disaster review welcomed

Wagga Wagga's Mayor has welcomed a Productivity Commission review into natural disaster funding arrangements, praising its focus on mitigation measures.

The federal government is expected to call for submissions on the investigation over the coming weeks, which will examine the scope of Commonwealth and state expenditure on natural disasters.

LGAQ to join Mackay in appealing Supreme Court rating decision

The Mackay Regional Council, with the support of the Local Government Association of Queensland and its legal advisors, King & Company, will appeal the Supreme Court judgment that determined that the council's decision to impose differential rates on non-owner occupied residential property was invalid.

LGAQ chief executive Greg Hallam said the decision not only jeopardised the differential general rating capabilities of the Mackay Regional Council, but had far reaching implications for many other Queensland councils.

Outdoor dining fees reviewed

Randwick City Council has undertaken a major review of their outdoor dining fees for cafés and restaurants across the city resulting in some areas being reduced by almost half in a bid to encourage footpath dining in less popular areas.

At its meeting on Tuesday 29 April 2014 Council resolved to introduce a more equitable pricing structure from 1 July 2014 based on an independent valuation.

Fees for footpath dining outside major town centres are now considerably cheaper.

Former Dalwallinu councillor honoured for WA-record service

Former Dalwallinu councillor Bill Dinnie was recognised at a celebratory dinner recently

for his remarkable achievement in notching up a WA-record 48-and-a-half years as a councillor.

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ALGA NEWS

16 MAY 2014

Mixed fortunes with FAGs frozen, roads and bridges funded

Tuesday night's Federal Budget decision to freeze the indexation of Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) was certainly unexpected. 1997-98 is the last time FAGs were not fully indexed and that was a single year in which FAGs were partially indexed.

The freezing of FAGs at \$2.28 billion per annum until 2017-18 will see the value of the grants decline each year as CPI and population growth continue to increase.

Councils already struggling to keep pace with increasing financial pressures will be hit hard by this decision.

On a more positive note, ALGA welcomed the Federal Government's decision to confirm its commitment to Roads to Recovery (R2R) funding at \$350m per annum. The Budget has flagged an additional \$350 million to be provided in R2R funding in 2015-16 from the Asset Recycling program once established.

A new \$300m program for the renewal of bridges, to be spread over five years, will also begin in 2014-15. But there is disappointment for South Australian councils which have lost their Supplementary funding for local roads, valued last year at almost \$18 million.

The new Bridges Renewal program is a positive move supported by ALGA and councils across the country and we look forward to the release of detailed guidelines for the program in the near future.

Other items of interest for local government include the announcement of \$525 million over the next four years for the introduction of the Green Army, the first round of funding for the Safer Streets Program will commence in 2014-15 and \$100 million has been included for the Mobile Phone Black Spots Program.

To read ALGA's Federal Budget analysis click [here](#).

Stronger Regions and Bushfire Mitigation programs confirmed

Regional and local communities across Australia will benefit from the Government's \$1.3 billion dollar commitment to community projects that improve their infrastructure, economy and quality of life.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss said the Budget confirmed the Coalition's pre-election promise of \$1 billion to a new National Stronger Regions Fund.

The funding, \$200 million a year from July 2015, will support priority projects which

create jobs and support economic growth in regional Australia.

Mr Truss said from mid next year, the fund will enable councils and community groups to apply for grants between \$20,000 and \$10 million, to meet up to half the cost of suitable community building projects.

The future of Regional Development Australia Committees has not been resolved but the Budget does continue RDA funding and we will have to wait for a Government announcement on the shape of any new regional development structures.

The Government also announced \$15 million has been set aside for a National Bushfire Mitigation Program in 2014-15.

The program is a targeted initiative to reduce the impact of bushfires and build a more disaster resilient Australia.

The National Bushfire Mitigation Program will see the Commonwealth partner with States and Territories to build upon their existing fire management practices and implement strategies to address risks. This programme will better equip communities to be able to prevent and, if needed, withstand the effects of bushfires.

Natural Disasters PC Issues Paper released and submissions sought

Initial submissions to the Productivity Commission inquiry into Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements are due on Friday 6 June.

The Productive Commission released an [issues paper](#) on 9 May 2014. The issues paper is intended to assist individuals and organisations in preparing a submission to the Commission. It covers a range of issues on which the Commission seeks information and feedback.

The Commission released the [terms of reference](#) for the inquiry at the end of April 2014. The terms of reference include the sustainability of current funding arrangements, how well risks are being mitigated including through the use of insurance, land use planning issues and infrastructure and asset management practices. The terms of reference specifically require consultation with local government.

Opportunity for further comment will be sought upon release of the draft report in September 2014.

The Commission has scheduled public hearings in October and November this year and expect to hand their final report to government in December 2014.

President's Column

The decision to freeze indexation of Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) for local government in Tuesday night's Federal Budget for the next three years will result in

councils, and our communities, facing some tough decisions.

With the grant funds set to stay at \$2.28 billion per annum until 2017-18 the value of these grants will decline each year, as they no longer rise in line with CPI and population increases. The loss of indexation will result in a total of \$925 million lost in FAGs over the next four years.

FAGs are essential in allowing local communities to provide a reasonable level of service and infrastructure to local residents. The grants are used to maintain a range of infrastructure from local roads and bridges to parks, swimming pool and community halls. Decisions will have to be made at a local level about how these funds are used moving forward, and it is clear that some services will suffer.

As councils plan ahead and assess their priority areas, the impact of the funding freeze will come into play. Councils and the local community will be left to question what services can be provided and to what level. The ability of councils to meet community needs will fall because many councils will simply not be able to make up the funding shortfall from other sources.

The National General Assembly is just weeks away and it will provide councils with an important forum to raise these concerns with the Federal Government. If you haven't registered already, there is still time to do so.

Local government needs a strong voice on this issue and to ensure your council and community is part of this debate [register](#) for the NGA now.

Mayor, Dr Felicity-ann Lewis
ALGA President

Emissions Reduction Fund exposure draft legislation released for comment

The Australian Government has released [exposure draft legislation](#) for the implementation of the Emissions Reduction Fund for public comment.

The Emissions Reduction Fund is the centrepiece of the Direct Action Plan to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by five per cent below 2000 levels by 2020.

The *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Amendment Bill 2014* will extend the coverage of the Carbon Farming Initiative to enable crediting of emissions reductions across the economy.

It will also provide for the Clean Energy Regulator to conduct auctions and purchase emissions reductions.

The Fund will be administered by the Clean Energy Regulator and will commence following the repeal of the carbon tax.

The Government is calling for public submissions on the draft Emissions Reduction Fund

legislation. The consultation period will be open until 23 May 2014.

Submissions should be sent to emissions-reduction-submissions@environment.gov.au.

For more information please click [here](#) or call 1800 852 974.

Comments invited on disability standards draft report

A draft review on the *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002* was released 9 May. The government is seeking public comment on the draft standards by 14 July 2014.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss said the standards, which operate under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*, are an important piece of legislation for public transport operators and providers to ensure the removal of discrimination against people with disability.

The 170 page draft report makes 7 recommendations:

- That the Federal, State and Territory governments :
 - establish a national framework for reporting on compliance with the Transport Standards by 30 June 2016.
 - begin a process for updating and modernising the Transport Standards - with this work to be undertaken in close consultation with local government, industry and the disability sector. A technical committee should be established for this review, with amendments to the Standards requiring identification of impact on governments, providers and operators.
 - develop accessibility guidelines for a "whole-of-journey" approach to public transport planning by December 2015, to enable people to fully use public transport systems, rather than have "islands of accessibility".
- That the Federal Government, in consultation with State and Territory governments:
 - develop and implement a national motorised mobility aids labelling scheme (begun by the Austroads Registration and Licensing Taskforce in November 2012).
 - develop consistent national compliance milestones and response times for wheelchair accessible taxis by June 2016.
- Improvement of the complaints process.
- The Department to review the Disability Access Facilitation Plan initiative by June 2015.

To access the draft report and provide feedback visit infrastructure.gov.au/transportstandards.

Round 5 of National Rental Affordability Scheme not proceeding

The Abbott Government will not proceed with the final round of the National Rental Affordability Scheme.

Incentives already allocated through the scheme will continue to be paid for up to 10 years, as long as eligibility requirements are met and homes in the construction pipeline are built in the agreed locations according to agreed timeframes.

The scheme will be reviewed to address ongoing issues and ensure remaining incentives meet the scheme's original aim.

In consultation with states, territories, investors, developers and the housing sector, the Government has committed to look at how the scheme can best meet its objectives, stamp out trading of incentives, target Australians most in need, and reduce red tape and ambiguity.

The Government is investing up to \$115 million into the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness, to be matched by the states and territories, enabling hundreds of critical homelessness services to continue.

Medicare locals to be replaced by primary health networks in line with the Horvath Review

The Government's review of Medicare Locals, conducted by Professor John Horvath, was released on 12 May. The Review recognised the need for an localised organisation which can integrate the care of patients across the health system and work collaboratively with health professionals. It finds "There is a genuine need for an organisation to be charged with improving patient outcomes through working collaboratively with health professionals and services to integrate and facilitate a seamless patient experience."

The report's 10 recommendations include: changing the name of Medicare Locals to Primary Care Organisations (PHOs); reducing the number of Medicare Locals to improve efficiency and obtain economics of scale; better alignment of Medicare Locals with Local Hospital Networks; and for the Commonwealth to cease its funding of the peak body, the Australian Medicare Local Alliance. It is further recommended that Primary Care Organisations only provide services where there is demonstrable market failure, significant economies of scale or absence of services.

Professor Horvath also found the name Medicare Locals was inappropriate and confusing and that there was a lack of clarity about the specific functions of Medicare Locals, saying "This lack of clear purpose has perpetuated a sense of confusion and relevance with service sectors, governments and the community." The full report is available [here](#).

A day after the Horvath report was presented, the Government announced in the 2014 Budget that it "will move to establish Primary Health Networks (PHNs) from 1 July 2015, in line with the recommendations of the Review of Medicare Locals. There will be fewer, but larger, PHNs in the new network that will replace Medicare Locals. PHNs will be clinically-focused and responsible for improving patient outcomes in their geographical area by ensuring that services across the primary, community and specialist

sectors align and work together in patients' interests."

"The Government will also explore innovative models of primary health care funding and delivery, including partnerships with private insurers, as part of its commitment to rebuild primary care."

The Coalition initially pledged to not shut any of the Medicare Local facilities.

In other Budget measures, the Coalition will introduce a Medicare co-payment of \$7 for each visit to the doctor and a \$5 increase in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme co-payment. The PBS safety net will also be increased to \$1597.80 from January 2015. The savings generated from these measures will be channelled into the soon-to-be-created Medical Research Future Fund.

Refugee Week

Next month councils around the country are encouraged to participate in Australia's peak annual activity to raise awareness about the issues affecting refugees and celebrate the positive contributions made by refugees to local communities. [Refugee Week](#) is always held the week which includes 20 June ([World Refugee Day](#)). This year, Refugee Week will be held from Sunday 15 June to Saturday 21 June. The theme is "Restoring Hope". Read more about the theme [here](#).

Resilience of buildings to extreme weather events

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) has released a Discussion Paper to inform and seek feedback from stakeholders on the resilience of new buildings to extreme weather events. The feedback will help inform the ABCB on strategic advice it provides to governments in identifying future areas to focus its activities.

New buildings are currently designed and constructed in accordance with the National Construction Code (NCC) to withstand climate related hazards such as cyclones and extreme winds, intense rain, bushfire, snow and flood, as appropriate to their location. However, over the past few years extreme weather events have resulted in devastating winds, floods and bushfires in many parts of Australia, which have led to the destruction and damage of a number of buildings. It is appropriate to take stock and seek stakeholders' views on whether new buildings are sufficiently resilient to natural disasters associated with extreme weather events.

The ABCB undertakes a constant review of the NCC, particularly after major hazard events and via research, to investigate whether adequate levels of safety and health are maintained for the community. The Discussion Paper is part of this review process.

The NCC does not, however, cover hail, storm tide, or have specific requirements relating to heat stress. It is therefore appropriate for the ABCB to seek feedback and consider whether these other hazards can be addressed in the NCC. However, any change to the Code would need to satisfy stringent impact assessment requirements and be subject to further public consideration.

The Discussion Paper can be downloaded from www.abcb.gov.au. Closing date for submissions is 1 July 2014

Volunteer Week turns 25

This week is National Volunteer Week, an event celebrating its 25th birthday.

Volunteering Australia CEO Brett Williamson said it is time to challenge the long held assumptions of what constitutes volunteering in Australia in 2014.

'It is a landmark year so we are taking landmark action. We are kicking off a national review to update our definition of volunteering.'

In 1996 Volunteering Australia identified a set of principles to describe volunteering. These principles still underpin volunteering policy for not for profits, business and government.

'25 years ago volunteers expected to commit long-term and work in traditional organisations. Now volunteering opportunities have exploded with options like corporate volunteering, micro and episodic volunteering to meet the myriad of needs and opportunities now out there'

'The 1996 definition has not really kept pace with emerging trends of how over 6.1 million Australians are volunteering their time today with over 600 000 not for profit organisations.'

'The definition of volunteering is a critical reference for the volunteering sector. It has a bearing on decision making by governments, volunteer resource centres and volunteer involving organisations. Not only does it enhance workforce planning, it underpins the integrity of volunteering and volunteers, ensuring a common understanding of what volunteering is. Much rests on it.'

'It will also influence how companies manage employee volunteering programs, how organisations manager insurance needs for volunteers, how we measure volunteering and how we implement best practice standards across the sector.'

The review is expected to completed by December 2014.

Volunteers contribute \$200 billion to the Australian economy annually.

For some volunteering fast facts click [here](#).

Soccer goalpost safety warning as season kicks off

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has issued a timely about the deadly dangers of moveable soccer goalposts as children's soccer season kicks off around the country.

"Deaths and injuries associated with moveable soccer goals are caused by blunt force

injuries and trauma to the head, neck, chest and limbs when the goalposts fall over," ACCC Deputy Chair Delia Rickard said.

"If you're a parent, teacher, coach, referee or volunteer involved in kids' soccer, there are simple steps you can take to help keep kids safe around moveable soccer goalposts - before, during and after games.

"Identify the type of goalposts on the field - if they're freestanding and not the lightweight plastic kind, you're dealing with potentially dangerous goals that need to be anchored and checked properly before use and then stored away safely immediately afterwards.

"Incidents can happen during normal game play or from inappropriate use of goalposts outside the game so ensure that nobody swings on the goalposts or plays on them at any time," Ms Rickard said.

The ACCC, in partnership with Football Federation Australia, released the 'Anchor, Check, Respect' YouTube video in 2012. The video features Melbourne Victory player Adrian Leijer.

A step-by-step guide and the video demonstrating how to anchor, check and respect soccer goals are also available [here](#).

Report analyses how Australian towns have evolved

The report, *The Evolution of Australian Towns* is an historical, economic analysis of change in Australian settlement patterns over a century. Towns have been subject to significant economic, social and technological changes since 1911. This report, prepared by the Commonwealth's Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics, examines how Australia's town settlement patterns reacted to that change and examines the underlying factors and processes involved. It examines the interacting effects of geography, history, goods and services markets, industry, amenity and investment. The analysis reveals the important roles of competition, existing infrastructure, improved technology, longer life expectancy and increased wealth.

The Report can be accessed [here](#).

Regional capitals crucial to nation's future

Regional Capitals (RCA) Australia has released the findings of a new report into the characteristics and contributions of the nation's regional capitals.

The report revealed that in 2012 Australia's regional capitals jointly generated \$210 billion or more than 15 per cent of national economic activity.

The report also identified that regional capitals will be home to an additional one million people in 2026, growing at a rate that is faster than the national average.

RCA Chair and City of Wagga Wagga Mayor, Cr Rod Kendall said the report was a ground breaking initiative, highlighting for the first time the significant economic impact

of Australia's regional capitals.

Spread over 50 local government areas, regional capitals provide a central point to access essential infrastructure, services, employment and education for local residents as well as those in surrounding towns.

Regional capitals are particularly crucial to supporting regional areas through service and employment opportunities. The report shows that regional capitals have a labour force of approximately two million with this set to grow by almost 500,000 in the next 15 years. Many of these jobs are in the service sectors such as health and education.

Cr Kendall said that the regional capitals building approvals were worth \$11.7 billion or 15.7% of the value of all building approvals in Australia with the majority of these being residential dwellings.

"Adding to the appeal of living in a regional capital is affordable property prices which tend to be significantly lower in our cities, up to 60% less than the national average," Cr Kendall said "Regional capitals are growing, and growing quickly," said Cr Kendall.

"Regional Capitals clearly present a more liveable opportunity, offering more affordable land and dwellings, unique cultural and historical heritage, and lower congestion, pollution and traffic stressors," he said.

Despite their contribution nationally, the potential productivity of regional capitals is being affected by a number of key social and economic disadvantages. Variables such as lower incomes, education levels and unemployment are factors that constrain investment attraction.

RCA believes that with a fairer share of the nation's resources and a more ambitious commitment to regional growth at all levels of Government, regional capitals can contribute to a more productive and prosperous Australia.

"The release of this report is a key step in promoting the role that our regional capitals are playing, and highlighting the support they need to continue to increase the productivity of our nation," Cr Kendall said.

"RCA has been actively briefing our federal representatives, including Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss and Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development The Hon. Jamie Briggs on the importance of investing in the regions," he said

To read the full report click [here](#)

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

1.1 EMPLOYEE MOVEMENTS

New Staff:

- Nil.

Staff Leaving:

- Plant Operator/Waste Collection Vehicle Operator – resignation effective 16/5/14.

Other Staff Movements (Internal):

- Nil

Current Recruitment Activity:

- Liaison & Compliance Officer (Planning) – interviews complete, recruitment progressing.
- Workshop Assistant – interviews complete, recruitment progressing.
- Community Emergency Services Coordinator - interviews complete, recruitment progressing.
- Records Officer (Archives & Projects) – interviews complete, recruitment progressing.
- Club Development Officer – interviews complete, recruitment progressing.
- Community Landcare Coordinator (AGLG) – interviews scheduled 22/5/14.
- Manager Property Services – applications closed 13/5/14.
- Building Surveyor – applications close 29/5/14.

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TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS		
ITEM	REFERRING COMMITTEE	COMMENTS
Technical Services Committee April 7 2014 Matter for Referral – Cr Frost “That Council refer the Councillor’s Item in regard to the maintenance of corner verges to the Technical Services Directorate for appropriate action.”	Technical Services	Investigation under way with report to be presented to June 2014 Technical Services Committee Meeting.
Ordinary Council Meeting May 12 2014 Matter for Referral – Cr Nixon “That the matter of all carparks having a minimum percentage of shade designed into the proposal be referred to the Technical Services Committee.”	Technical Services	Referred to Development Services.
Ordinary Council Meeting May 12 2014 Matter for Referral – Cr Butterfield “That the matter of sealing the unsealed portion of Roberts Road, Kelmscott be referred to the Technical Services Committee.”	Technical Services	Investigation underway.

<p>TECHNICAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE Works Programme – May 2014 – July 2014</p>	
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Department	May 2014	June 2014	July 2014
City Projects	<p><u>Capital Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piara Waters Stage 2 – Completion due May. New office complex – construction continuing. Plant level concrete, roof framing. 	<p><u>Capital Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New office complex – construction continuing. Roof construction, external façade commencement. Commence design stage for Harrisdale (East) Shared Use Site. Commence fit-out design documentation for Kelmscott Library. 	<p><u>Capital Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New office complex – construction continuing. External façade commencement. Continue design stage for Harrisdale (East) Shared Use Site. Continue fit-out design documentation for Kelmscott Library.
Civil Works	<p><u>Construction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranford Road – McNeil Road to Tonkin Highway. Streich Avenue / Denny Avenue - widening for the Spud Shed. Seventh Road – upgrading works. Lowanna Way - median asphalt works. Road and earth works at the City’s recycling facility in Hopkinson Road. Aviemore Drive - drainage works. Burtonia Park - drainage works. Observation Circle - drainage works. Shaw Place - drainage works. Erade Drive – cap parking bay. Lang Road - road and earth works. Urana Road – new footpath. 	<p><u>Construction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranford Road – McNeil Road to Tonkin Highway. Coleus Way - cul-de-sac. Hebrides Drive – cul-de-sac. Clover Approach – cul-de-sac. Buckingham Road - traffic treatments. Aviemore Drive - drainage works. Observation Circle - drainage works. Spud Shed - road works and cross overs. Lang Road - road and earth works. Taronga Drive – reseal, kerbing and path. Jarra Road – traffic calming, kerbing, footpath. 	<p><u>Construction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be confirmed.

Department	May 2014	June 2014	July 2014
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicholson Road / Rowley Road - intersection - upgrade. • Wungong River / Riverside Lane – cycle path. <p><u>Maintenance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine maintenance as per Programme. • Contract road sweeping. • Footpath defects. • Drainage maintenance in various locations. • Bridge routine maintenance. 	<p><u>Maintenance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine maintenance as per Programme. • Contract road sweeping. • Footpath defects. • Drainage maintenance in various locations. • Bridge routine maintenance. 	<p><u>Maintenance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine maintenance as per Programme. • Contract road sweeping. • Footpath defects. • Drainage maintenance in various locations. • Bridge routine maintenance. • Visual Inspections.
Design and Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRRG Projects. • Chevin Road – Holden Road to Brookton Highway. • Hopkinson Road – Rowley to Rowley East. • Camillo Road – Westfield to Third. • Orlando Street – Clifton to River. • Streich Avenue – Netley to Clarence. • Blackspot (LATM Treatments). • Henderson Drive. • Westfield Road. • Railway Avenue – road improvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culs-de-sac: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lori Road. - Baccello Way. - Claunelle Road. • PBN – Cycleways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ranford Road, Wright to Warton. - Railway Avenue, Armadale to Sherwood Station. - Various Federal Blackspot Projects. • Skeet Oval – parking area. • River Rod – LATM. • Clifton Hills Primary School – parking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balannup Road – improvement. • Nicholson Road – Stage 4. • Challis Road – rehabilitation. • Nicholson Road South – road upgrade. • Chevin Road – rehabilitation. • Hopkinson Road – reconstruction. • Fourth Road – upgrade.
Parks Design and Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armadale Golf Course - irrigation system installation - request for quote design. • John Dunn Oval -turf and irrigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armadale Golf Course - irrigation system installation – request for tender design. • John Dunn Oval turf and irrigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armadale Golf Course - construction - drawing development - “J Lane” select greens and tees. • Parks asset pick up and data migration.

Department	May 2014	June 2014	July 2014
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specification - request for tender. • Armadale Golf Course - construction drawing development - "J Lane" select greens and tees. • Parks asset pick up and data migration - POS Strategy precincts and new POS. • Groundwater Operating Strategy - review in consultation with Department of Water. • Department of Water - Water Abstraction Report 2013-2014. • Frye Park drainage specification and request for tender. • All Access Playground - Concept Design. • POS Strategy A - detailed design. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specification – request for quote. • Armadale Golf Course - construction - drawing development - "J Lane" select greens and tees. • Parks asset pick up and data migration - POS Strategy precincts and new POS. • Groundwater Operating Strategy - review in consultation with Department of Water. • Department of Water - Water Abstraction Report 2013-2014. • Frye Park drainage specification and request for tender. • All Access Playground - concept design. • POS Strategy A - detailed design. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POS Strategy - precincts and new POS. • Groundwater Operating Strategy - review in consultation with Department of Water. • Department of Water - Water Abstraction Report 2013-2014. • All Access Playground - Concept design. • Sting Nematode Monitoring Program. • Waterwise Council Program Development.
Parks Subdivisional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various approvals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various approvals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various approvals.
Parks Works	<p><u>Capital/Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precinct B works completed. • Continuation of exploratory drilling for new water at Cross and Gwynne Parks. 	<p><u>Capital/Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precinct B works complete. • Exploratory drilling for new water ongoing. • Landscaping works on Kelmscott CBD to continue. • Landscaping – Jarrah road, Roleystone. 	<p><u>Capital/Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precinct B works complete. • Exploratory drilling for new water - ongoing. • Landscaping works on Kelmscott CBD to continue. • Memorial plaques complete. • Landscaping – Jarrah road, Roleystone.

Department	May 2014	June 2014	July 2014
	<p><u>Asset Renewal Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender documentation for lighting works to be finalised. <p><u>Maintenance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract landscape maintenance. Contract play space maintenance. Scheduled mowing and general maintenance. Irrigation maintenance. Bushland maintenance. Civic Precinct maintenance. New estate maintenance. Citywide streetscape maintenance. Customer requests. Barbecue cleaning. 	<p><u>Asset Renewal Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender documentation for lighting works to be finalised. Upgrade Bob Blackburn water tank <p><u>Maintenance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract landscape maintenance. Contract play space maintenance. Scheduled mowing and general maintenance. Irrigation maintenance. Bushland maintenance. Civic Precinct maintenance. New estate maintenance. Citywide streetscape maintenance. Customer requests. Barbecue cleaning. Street tree maintenance. Prepare tender report to renew contract. No extension to TEN/23/11. Parks operations review. 	<p><u>Asset Renewal Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenders to be awarded for lighting works. Upgrade Bob Blackburn water tank complete. New lights installed at Gwynne Park BBQ area. Borrello park complete. <p><u>Maintenance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract landscape maintenance. Contract play space maintenance. Scheduled mowing and general maintenance. Irrigation maintenance. Bushland maintenance. Civic Precinct maintenance. New estate maintenance. Contract streetscape maintenance. Customer requests. Barbecue cleaning. Street tree maintenance. Prepare tender, award new contract. No extension to TEN/23/11. Parks operations review.
<p>Property Management</p>	<p>Capital Works Upgrade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depot Administration - redesign of existing buildings to provide new entry. Depot toilets refurbishment 	<p>Capital Works Upgrade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depot Administration (pricing phase). Depot amenities refurbishment construction project (works phase). Reg Williams Pavilion (Minnawarra 	<p>Capital Works Upgrade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depot Administration - Complete pricing to establish costs of building upgrade and carry out approval process.

Department	May 2014	June 2014	July 2014
	<p>construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reg Williams Pavilion (Minnawarra House) – electrical upgrade to Centre. • Cross Park – electrical upgrade to sports pavilions. • Kelmscott Hall – design and re-roof. • Armadale Hall – internal upgrades. • Alfred Skeet - provision of female change rooms and unisex facility (subject to funding approvals). • Harold King Child Care - paving. <p><u>Renewal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armadale Bowling Club – external gutter works. • Armadale Bowling Club – removal of eave asbestos, replace with hardiflex. • Armadale Bowling Club – painting to fascia and soffits. <p><u>New</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depot Archives – redesign storage area for archives. • Harold King - security fencing. • John Dunn Pavilion – paving and drainage to undercroft area. • John Dunn - concrete floor for City of Armadale storage unit. 	<p>House) – electrical upgrade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross Park electrical upgrade to sports pavilions. • Alfred Skeet - provision of female change rooms and unisex facility (subject to funding approvals). <p><u>Renewal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Dunn Pavilion – paving and drainage to undercroft area. <p><u>New</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depot Archives – redesign storage area for archives. • Administration Building first floor kitchen upgrade design. • Alfred Skeet - provision of female change rooms and unisex facility (subject to funding approvals). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depot Amenities - refurbishment construction project (works phase). • Cross Park - electrical upgrade to sports pavilions continuing - awaiting Western Power approvals. • Alfred Skeet - provision of female change rooms and unisex facility (subject to funding approvals) - approval of tender and planning permission. • Investigation of options following Lions Park Toilet Survey. <p><u>Renewal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Springdale Park - upgrade of site main switchboard. • Arena Roof – investigation of replacement options. <p><u>New</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depot Buildings - fire systems compliance works. • Administration Building - first floor kitchen upgrade – replacement works. • Arena Roof – design phase.

Department	May 2014	June 2014	July 2014
			<p><u>Maintenance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical compliance servicing - multiple buildings. • Air Conditioning Servicing – multiple buildings. • Fire Services Testing – multiple facilities.
<p>Subdivisional Development</p>	<p><u>North Forrestdale</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 active areas of civil works. • 3 civil works submissions under review. • 4 water management submissions under review. • 1 active major public utility installation. <p><u>Mt Richon</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>METROPOLITAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AREA WORKS</u></p> <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park East</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 active areas of civil works. • 1 civil works submissions under review. <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park West</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 active areas of civil works. • 1 civil works submissions under review. 	<p><u>North Forrestdale</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 active areas of civil works. • 5 civil works submissions under review. • 4 water management submissions under review. • 1 active major public utility installation. <p><u>METROPOLITAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AREA WORKS</u></p> <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park East</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park West</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 active areas of civil works. • 1 civil works submission under review. 	<p><u>North Forrestdale</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 active areas of civil works. • 5 civil works submissions under review. • 4 water management submissions under review. • 1 active major public utility installation. <p><u>METROPOLITAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AREA WORKS</u></p> <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park East</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>Forrestdale Business Park West</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 active areas of civil works. • 1 civil works submission under review.

Department	May 2014	June 2014	July 2014
	<p><u>Wungong Urban Water</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 WAPC subdivision submissions under review. • 2 water management submissions under review. • 3 civil works submissions under review. • 4 active areas of civil works. • 2 active major public utility installations. <p><u>Champion Lakes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 WAPC subdivision submission under review. • 2 active area of civil works. <p><u>Lake Road - Champion Glades</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>Lake Road – Precinct B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>Seville Grove</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 active areas of civil works. <p><u>Gillam Drive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. 	<p><u>Wungong Urban Water</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 WAPC subdivision submissions under review. • 2 water management submissions under review. • 5 civil works submissions under review. • 4 active areas of civil works. • 2 active major public utility installations. <p><u>Champion Lakes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 WAPC subdivision submission under review. • 3 active area of civil works. <p><u>Lake Road - Champion Glades</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 active areas of civil works. <p><u>Lake Road – Precinct B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 WAPC subdivision submission under review. • 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>Seville Grove</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 active areas of civil works. <p><u>Gillam Drive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works. 	<p><u>Wungong Urban Water</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 WAPC subdivision submissions under review. • 2 water management submissions under review. • 4 civil works submissions under review. • 4 active areas of civil works. • 2 active major public utility installations. <p><u>Champion Lakes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 WAPC subdivision submissions under review. • 2 active areas of civil works. <p><u>Lake Road - Champion Glades</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active areas of civil works. <p><u>Lake Road – Precinct B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 WAPC subdivision submission under review. • 1 active area of civil works. <p><u>Seville Grove</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 active area of civil works.

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<p>Development Services Yellow Divider</p>	<p>Nil</p>

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS – SEPTEMBER 2013		
	DEPT.	ACTION/STATUS
Matter for Referral – Cr C M Wielinga - That the matter of the possibility of a management plan or policy for the method of construction of firebreaks be referred to the Community Services Committee	Ranger and Emergency Services	Maintenance management plan /policy /practice
Council 11 November 2013 Matter for referral – Cr K Busby – Water Park	Community Services	That the matter of the provision of a water playground within one of City Parks be investigated and a report presented to Council at a later date.
Council 12 May 2014 - That the matter of Rangers’ operating hours be referred to the Community Services Committee.	Community Services	Awaiting response from Cr Weilinga

COMMUNITY PLANNING:

Harrisdale East Shared Use site

Work is progressing with Department of Education on detailed design and shared use agreements for the community and sporting facilities to be located across the new high school site; the new primary school site and the adjacent Public Open Space. It is expected these facilities will open as planned at the beginning of the 2017 school year.

Armadale District Hall Upgrade

Concept planning for the Armadale District Hall upgrade is progressing, with a Councillor workshop planned for June 2014 for discussion and input with officers and the consultant architect.

Jull Street Mall Revitalisation

Works for the new lighting have begun under Technical Services supervision. Following these works, installation of new paving can occur. Installation of free wifi has experienced delays due to a variety of factors such as securing a location for equipment and service provider delays. Work has been undertaken to overcome these delays and free wifi will be available by 30th May 2014.

Armadale Golf Course

The golf course upgrade project update was presented to Council through the April Community Services Committee meeting. Expressions of Interest for a future lease agreement are about to be released (current lease expires in December 2014) with the outcomes reported back to council in August 2014.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Children & Families

Armadale Early Years Network

On April 29 the Armadale Early Years Network (AEYN) celebrated its 10 year anniversary. The City has supported the AEYN since its commencement in 2004 through officer representation and providing permanent use of the Seville Grove Library meeting room. The key messages to come out of this event included the wealth of knowledge and expertise that exists in Armadale; that the positive outcomes of programs which have taken place in the Armadale area are a result of partnerships formed through the network; and the value of having the network as a reference point for the design and delivery of programs.

WACOSS Conference and Presentation

The City co-presented with Communicare at the WA Council of Social Services (WACOSS) Conference on May 6 on the value and efficacy of working in partnership with other organisations in the area of children and families. The officer discussed the City's capacity to develop and maintain partnerships and drew on examples where the City has partnered with other organisations to achieve sustainable outcomes including the Australian Early Development Index initiative and the Armadale Early Years Network. The discussion also focused on the role the City takes in collaborations with other organisations and the City's intention to continue to cultivate these partnerships.

Disability, Access and Inclusion.

Disability Advisory Team Meeting

The Disability Advisory Team will next meet on the 3 June to discuss standing agenda items.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan Process Report

Under the Disability Services Act 1993 (amended 2004), the Minister for Disability Services is required to table a report in Parliament each year on the progress of Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs) In Western Australia. As a result the City is required to complete a 'Progress Report' on its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan each year. The next Progress Report is due to be lodged with the Disability Services Commission on the 9 July.

Ignite Basketball

Ignite Basketball Showcase

A special Drug Aware Ignite Basketball showcase was held on Saturday 10 May. It was attended by the Hon Terry Waldron, Minister for Sport and Recreation; Racing and Gaming, Ron Alexander, Director General for the Department of Sport and Recreation, Emma White, Director General for Child Protection and Family Support, Debra Zanella, CEO of Hope Community Services, Juan Larranaga, State Manager of Save the Children Australia, Councillors and staff. The guests were given a tour of the program including initial set up, workshops, coaching and tournaments. The young people presented the

Minister with a signed and framed Ignite Basketball Jersey. Since the visit, the Minister spoke about the program in Parliament and praised the City of Armadale for its efforts.

Indigenous Development

NAIDOC Update:

Planning for NAIDOC 2014 continues with performers booked, a draft program developed and Master of Ceremonies appointed. MC Dennis Simmonds is a well-known Aboriginal icon within the community and a celebrity on NITV. Stall holder registrations are still coming in and planning is underway to cater for up to 50 services on the day.

Champion Centre

The WA Health Aboriginal Leadership Group (ALG) will hold its meeting on 22 May at the Champion Centre. Delegates from this group are working to ensure the provision of quality, safe and culturally secured services for Aboriginal children including infants, adolescence and their families. The group is considering holding future meetings at the centre.

Celebrating Reconciliation Week on 27 May, invitations have been distributed for the Leadership, Nutrition & Development program Luncheon and Book Launch, with approximated 80 people expected to attend.

Donna Keeley (Sexual Health Educator) from Fremantle Hospital has begun working from the centre on a weekly basis to help increase awareness of issues / resources pertaining to sexual health.

Indigenous Parenting Service (IPS)

Play in the Park playgroup (coordinated by Armadale Community Family Centre) are back at the centre to hold their play group on a Tuesday morning throughout the winter season.

HESS (Home Energy Saver Scheme) staff member visited the centre this week to provide Save the Children play group mums, grand mums and carer's information and resources on how to save energy with their appliances within the home. They also learnt how to read their energy bill, home meters and learnt general safety skills and the like. The School Boys program will start back up next week with assistance from IPS to coordinate and prepare lunch on a fortnightly basis.

IPS staff are also busy preparing for NAIDOC – Children's Hub & Senior's hub. They have met with other service providers in these fields to gain further assistance with each hub.

Positive Ageing

Positive Ageing Session

The City hosted a special one hour 'Positive Ageing Session' on Wednesday 8 May. Topics included 'Understanding Depression and Anxiety' by Beyond Blue, and 'How to

Side Step Depression and Anxiety’ by Armadale Health Services and NEAMI. A representative from AnglicareWA spoke about their new program ‘Mental Health Respite: Carer Support’. Sixty people attended the session.

The next ‘Positive Ageing Session’ will be on Wednesday 4 June at 1.30pm at the Armadale Library. Topics will include ‘Your Driving Future’ by RAC of WA and ‘A fitting farewell’ by Leanne O’Dea Funeral Directors.

The City will also host an evening ‘Positive Ageing Session’ on Wednesday 11 June at 5.30pm at the Armadale Library. The topic will be ‘Travelling Wisely’ by Kings Tours and Travel.

LiveLighter Seniors Activity/Information Day

The City supported the Seniors’ Recreation Council of WA to host a ‘LiveLighter Seniors Activity/Information Day’ at the Armadale Arena on Wednesday 30 April.

The day featured recreational activities and provided information about services available for older people. Activities included carpet bowls, mini golf, X box Kinect, seated hockey, quoits, and pole walking. The day was enjoyed by all with 175 people in attendance.

Positive Ageing -Let’s Get Crafty

A new program, ‘Positive Ageing – Let’s Get Crafty’ commenced in the Armadale Library on Thursday 15 May and thereafter on every second Thursday of each month. Local craft groups, community centres and local craft businesses have the opportunity to provide instructors for the ‘come and try’ sessions. Instructors will be able to promote their craft with participants having the opportunity to join craft groups in the local community.

‘The Art of Card Making’ was the first ‘come and try’ activity offered on Thursday 15th May. All materials required to make 3 cards was supplied on the day for a cost of \$8.00. The session was full with 12 people on the wait list. The next ‘Positive Ageing: Let’s Get Crafty’ Session will be on Thursday 12 June at the Armadale Library featuring Watercolour Painting. Paints and paper will be supplied at a cost of \$7.00.

Volunteer Services

National Volunteer Week

Armadale Volunteer Services hosted a whole of community event at the Armadale District Hall on Wednesday 14 May from 2.30pm – 4pm. Volunteers living and/or volunteering in the City of Armadale were invited to attend. Catering for this event was provided by Armadale Senior High School Home Economic Students and James Flynn provided the entertainment. Approximately 75 people attended the event which received positive feedback from regular attendees to the City’s National Volunteer Week functions. Volunteers were presented with a tulip bulb, kindly donated by Araluen Botanic Park, and invited to attend the mass plantings of tulip bulbs at Araluen Botanic Park at the end of May and early June.

Carrying on from the tulip theme a tulip tribute to volunteers has been planted on the corner of Armadale Road and Church Avenue by the City of Armadale’s Parks and Reserves staff. This tribute is a mass display of red tulips planted in the shape of the red volunteering “v” surrounded by white alyssum.



Self-Care for the Volunteer

Armadale Volunteer Services will host a Self-Care for the Volunteer training workshop at the Armadale library on Thursday 29 May. This workshop will allow participants to identify attitudes that limit their attention to self-care. The workshop offers tools to help prevent compassion fatigue and will also allow participants to learn to recognise and counteract underlying causes of stress, be more effective as a helper and take care of themselves in ways that enable them to sustain a healthy balance between giving and receiving. This session is fully booked with 20 participants registering their interest to attend.

Youth Engagement

Matthew Stott Hitting Wall Art Project

The Matthew Stott Hitting Wall Project commenced in May 2014. This project involves nine young people (including former participants from the Creative Art Project) developing a mural for the Matthew Stott Hitting Wall as part of reserve upgrades. To date, four design workshops have been held, with installation of the final mural scheduled for mid-June 2014.

Armadale Youth Network

The Armadale Youth Network (AYN) continues to meet bi-monthly with a focus on providing youth and community agencies the opportunity to network, share information and discuss current issues impacting their work with young people in Armadale. The AYN has recently linked agencies to free seminars and workshops relevant to their work with young people and also promoted various events and programs.

Collaboration with local high schools continues to improve with the City utilizing contacts via the AYN to support events held in local schools. These include the Transition Day being hosted by Armadale Senior High School for Year 6/7 students and the Health Expo held at Roleystone Community College.

YAA Smoking Prevention Project – KICK IT AT THE YAA

The KICK IT @ THE YAA project used the popularity of scooter, BMX, skate boarding and contemporary urban art as an engagement tool to educate young people at the Youth Activity Area (YAA) on the impacts of smoking and the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. The Public Health Advocacy Institute of WA has used two designs from the No

Smoking sign design workshops on their website as an example of how the funding can be utilized under the Local Government Tobacco Control grants Scheme.



LEISURE SERVICES

DEPARTMENT SNAPSHOT

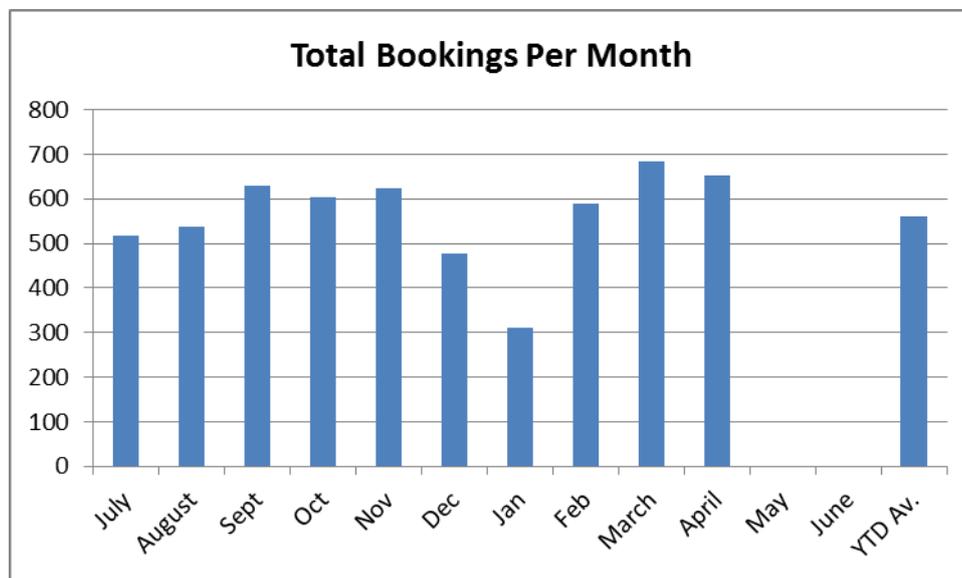
In April 2014 the Leisure Services Department;

- Provided 151 programs to the community
- Had 45,599 attendances to our facilities (which includes Community Facilities, Armadale Arena and Armadale Aquatic Centre)
- Had 762 bookings at our facilities (which includes Community Facilities, Armadale Arena and Armadale Aquatic Centre)

Community Facilities

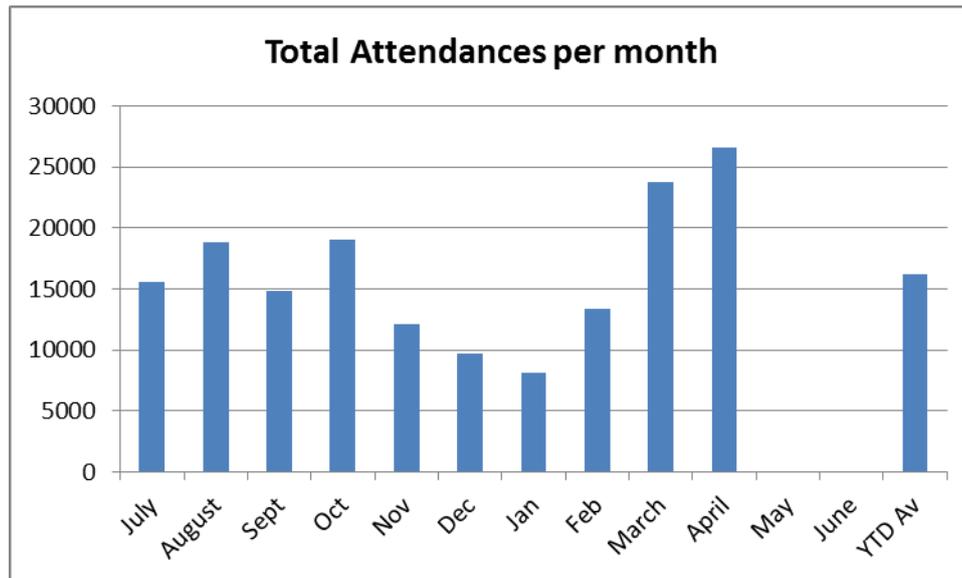
Bookings

652 bookings were held in April at our Community Facilities, and a monthly average of 561. Champion Centre was closed for a week for floor resurfacing and hirers either cancelled or relocated for the week. Officers are promotion Creyk Park, Bedforddale Hall and Springdale Hall use; these venues had our lowest booking rate for the month.



Facility Attendance

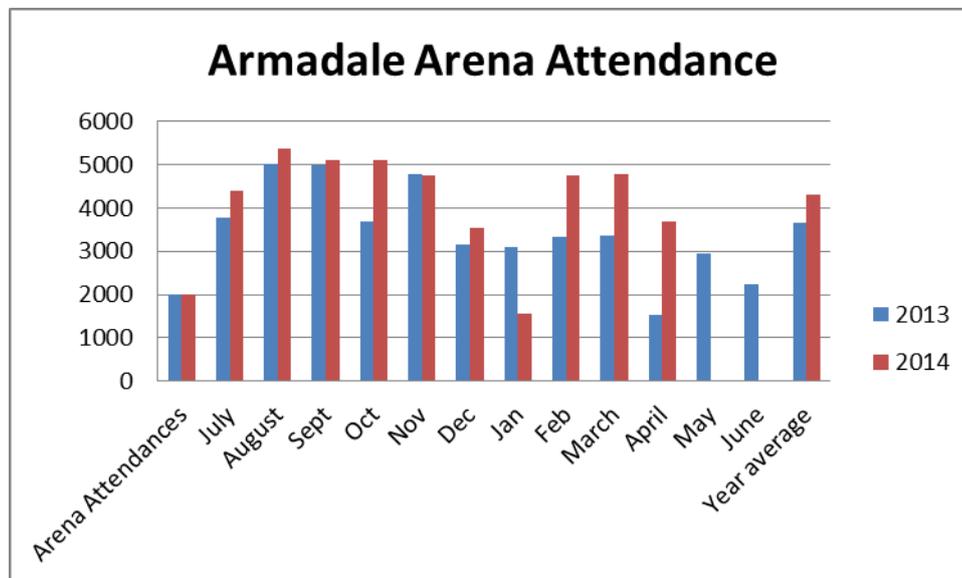
26, 570 people attended our community facilities in April; these statistics are based on estimates given from hirers when making bookings.



Armada Arena

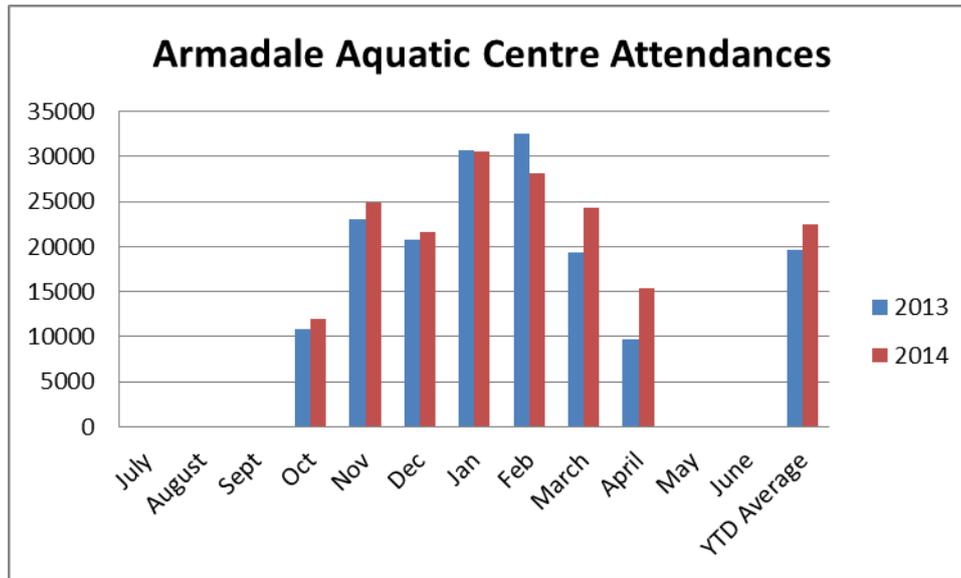
The Winter Active in Armadale guide was distributed to 7,000 households. The booklet has already had a good return with people using the free vouchers to access the centre. The Arena opened restricted hours for the first time over Easter, which proved successful and was well received by members.

Team sport summer grand finals were held early April and new prizes were introduced along with medals and bottles. The Arena team are now looking for different prizes following feedback from teams.



Armada Aquatic Centre

The Aquatic Centre closed on 14 April, ending a record season at the facility. In April 15,353 people visited, , bringing a total attendance for the season to 156,993. Revenue also significantly increased with an income of \$676,553 which was over \$100,000 more than the budgeted amount. With the increased attendance and revenue the total expenditure also increased exponentially and is under review in the budget process for next financial year.



APRIL 2014

LIBRARY SERVICES

Statistical Performance Indicators

The Library Department's statistical performance indicators report for the month of April 2014:

Providing libraries for leisure, pleasure and inspiration and life-long learning

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

37 regular sessions were held. These include: story time, Baby Rhyme Time, School Holiday programs, Books on Wheels, English conversation classes, reading & writing groups, computer training sessions, games mornings and the Men's Social Group. A total of 665 people participated in these various activities.

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

Three special sessions were held with a total of 226 attending.

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

–

Topic:	3D printing service and workshop(s)
Presenter:	Jeff Walker
Venue:	Armadale Library

April 2014 saw the launch of Armadale Library's 3D printing service, along with fortnightly 3D printing workshops for the public. The first month of both endeavours has been successful. Below is a brief summary of the progress of each service:

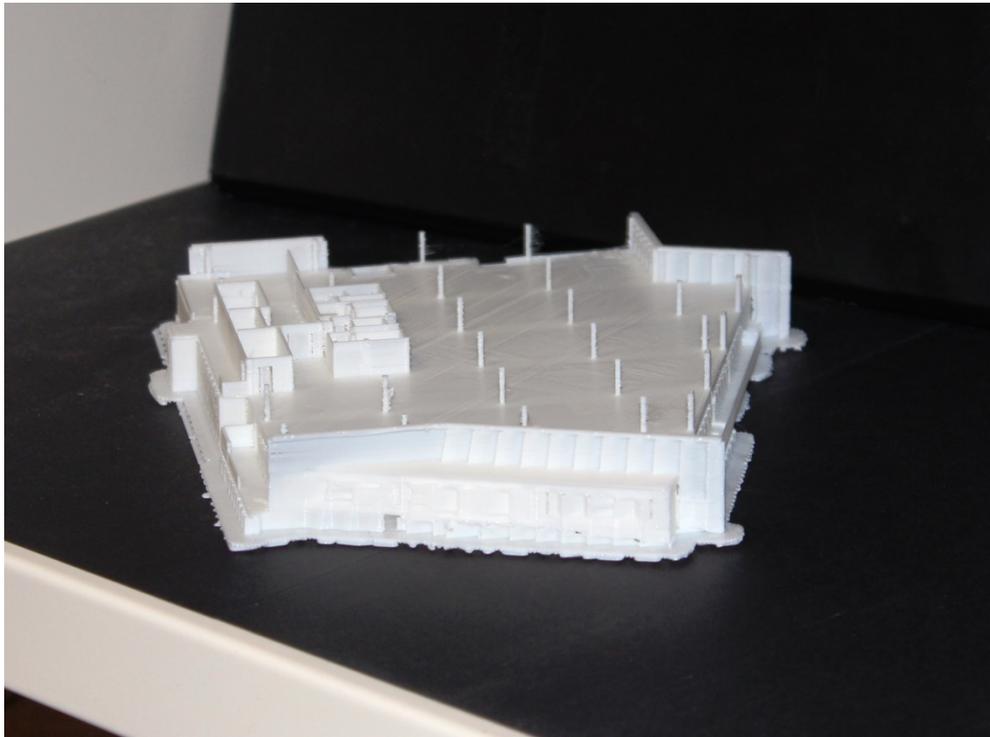
3D Printing Workshops – run fortnightly on Saturday afternoons on an ongoing basis, every workshop is fully booked until August 2014 with a waiting list in reserve. Each workshop runs for one hour, is free and takes place in the Armadale Library training room. There are eight places available for each workshop. Attendees have been very pleased with the opportunity to see and use the printer, plus learn to source and manipulate designs using the MakerWare software. Notes are also provided. The demographics of attendees have been wide-ranging, pleasantly defying the expectation

that this topic would be mostly of interest to young males. Another pleasing aspect is the attendance of small family groups, couples and friends sharing this new interest.

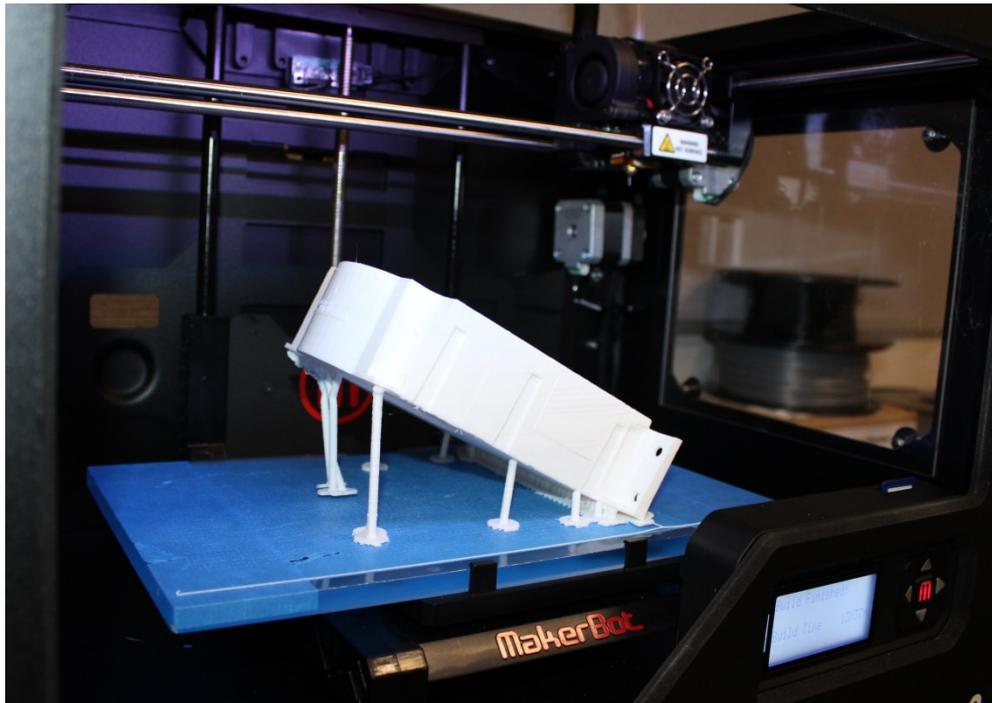
3D Printing Service – in the opening month of April 2014, the Library was engaged for three outside printing projects, bringing total revenues for April to \$177.00. These were large builds with some models taking 20 hours to print.

In addition to this were one in-house print for History House, plus a print of the new Landmark building for City Projects. Currently in the first week of May the Library has three builds queued for revenues in excess of \$140.00, on pace to exceed April's figure by a significant margin. Interestingly, the use of this service since its launch on April 1 has been exclusively by businesses and design students, with hobbyists yet to emerge.

In conclusion, the popularity of the 3D printing workshops has been remarkable and shows that this technology is of great interest to the public. There are very few places in Western Australia that offer the ability to see a 3D printer in use and learn more about it. It is superb to see the City of Armadale at the cutting edge and moreso to see the public's delight at finding out it is available for them locally.



Ground floor of the Landmark Building



High voltage attenuator unit facsimile

Topic: Mystery at the Manor
Presenter: Scitech - CSIRO

Date: 10th April 2014
Time: 6.00 - 7.00 pm
Venue: Armadale Library Meeting Room

No. Attending: 20 children, 5 adults

A “crime lab” session offered by the Library Service designed to appeal to the hard to reach young adult members of the community proved to be a major success. The session, presented by Scitech, was based on an actual past crime and developed by forensic scientists from the University of Western Australia.

Scitech’s staff gave the 20 participants details of the mild true crime – where it occurred, what happened, and who the suspects were. The mission was to discover who was responsible and the motives behind the act.

The 20 children aged between 10 – 15 worked their way around the various testing stations set up in the Armadale Library meeting room examining the evidence collected from the scene against actual, or simplified, techniques used by forensic scientists; DNA profiling, soil testing, and handwriting and pen ink analysis were just some of the tests the children performed. The presenters discussed criminal motives and explained the validity and usefulness of particular evidence and techniques used.

Positive responses were received from both the participants and parents voicing support for more different and unusual events held in the early evening. The Library Service will

pursue other opportunities to provide informative fun sessions that will appeal to this age group.

Topic: April Animalia

Presenters: Scitech; Westoz Wildlife; Animal Ark

Dates: Wednesday 16 April, Tuesday 22 April , Thursday 24 April

Venue: Kelmscott, Armadale and Seville Grove Libraries

No. Attending: 128 children; 76 adults

KMS: Scitech – Horton hatches the egg – 26 children; 18 adults; ARM: Westoz Wildlife - 60 children, 32 adults; SVG: Animal Ark - 42 children, 26 adults

The April School Holiday Programme saw an exciting parade of animals visiting our libraries to interact with the children as well as an egg themed session to tie in with Easter.

The very popular Scitech presented ‘Horton Hatches the egg’ at Kelmscott Library commencing with a reading of the classic Dr. Seuss book. Then the children worked in pairs with a set of materials including foil, newspaper, straws, string and other bits and pieces to create ‘egg landers’ where they engineered and built a nest to keep a falling egg from cracking. Dr. Seuss and science books were on display for loan.



Westoz Wildlife brought a fantastic array of Australian animals for children and parents to learn about. Beth and Laura spoke about their koala, dingo and snakes and educated everyone about these beautiful wildlife creatures. It was a totally wild entertaining and educational encounter and everyone had the opportunity to pet the animals and have their photo taken with them.



Seville Grove Library hosted two unique hands-on sessions with tame and friendly reptiles, amphibians and mini-beasts brought along by David Manning from Animal Ark. Children and parents were given the opportunity to get up close and personal with more photo opportunities along with educational awareness about life cycles and ecosystems.



Books about all of these creatures were displayed and enthusiastically borrowed at each of the sessions. A great selection of activities was enjoyed by the children who came to our libraries for an interactive and educational experience.

HERITAGE SERVICES

Statistical Performance Indicators

The Heritage Department's statistical performance indicators report for the month of April 2014.

Birtwistle Local Studies Library

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

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

Heritage Festival 2014: *A long way from Devon*

The first performance by City of Armadale library staff of the theatrical readings of the script created by CoA Planning Officer, Hugh Carder, based on the life of Thomas Buckingham Jnr was such a success that a second presentation was organised for Wednesday 7 May. Between 90 -100 people attended the 30 April readings and over 80 people booked for the second performance.

Armadale's heritage guided walking tour research

A greater interest in the BLSL collection of local history has resulted from the requirement by the two organisers of *Two Feet and a Heartbeat* to have the trainee guides research the history and any anecdotal information about the Jull Street heritage precinct using the resources of the BLSL.

Armadale District Historians

Two of the members of the Armadale Historians Society, Margaret Bettenay & Jeff Green, met briefly in the BLSL recently and a decision was made to make a list of questions in readiness for a recorded interview about what is remembered of collecting items for History House Museum and Ivor Birtwistle's role in this.

Decision Makers of Armadale Oral History Project

The interviewing of former City of Armadale former mayors and councillors continued during April. A favoured location for the interviews has become the BLSL because of the distractions that often occur at the homes of the interviewees or because the councillors no longer live in the local area and travel from the southern regions to be interviewed.

An unanticipated difficulty in coordinating the meeting of interviewers and interviewees (extended holidays and other project) resulted in a request to extend the acquittal period for the Lotterywest grant. This application was successful and acquittal is expected to be by 25 July 2014.

Family Tree Group Meetings

Volunteer Carol Reynolds has introduced a practical application exercise to the end of the month family history meetings held in the Armadale Library's computer training room. The focus is on using free websites that will make family history researchers as independent as possible from the databases requiring annual subscriptions.

History House Museum

(Report prepared by Christen Bell, Museum Curator)

Museum Exhibitions

Love and Marriage

This temporary exhibition will open at the end of May and will run through to September. It will explore the museum's collection of wedding related objects and how weddings have changed over time.

Bert Tyler Vintage Machinery Museum

The curator has met with Creative Spaces who are doing the design work for the exhibition. An initial concept plan has been developed which will be used to guide the rest of the museum's redesign.

Commemoration of World War One

Funding for the three planned WWI exhibitions through the Federal ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program has been applied for. This funding will assist in the development, design, production as well as the design and production of associated education programs. Successful applicants should be notified by July 2013.

Research into the 2015 exhibition on life in Armadale during WWI is continuing.

Museum Programs

Musician in Residence Program

The group are in the process of finalising their song arrangements for the performance on 3 May. The performance will include songs by the community members as well as local professional musicians Kim Bettenay, Cathie Travers, Chris Horgan and a song by David Hyams. Friends and family of the performers only will be invited to the concert at the request of the amateur performers.

Museum Donations

John and Lyn Visser

The museum has received a donation of a bench saw, timber planer, grinder and a bench used and constructed by Richard Wilson who used to own a cabinetry business on Seventh Road in the 1950s and 60s. Mr Wilson was a former WWII prisoner of war, a strong supporter of the local RSL and was involved in establishing Dale Cottage. These new items complement existing items in the collection, the home made bingo machine used at the RSL and a business sign for Mr Wilson.

Museum Education Report

School Visits

This month students from the Educational Support Unit at Armadale Senior high School visited the museum where they were given a guided tour by the Education Officer.

Seniors Lecture Program

The first of the seniors lecture program for 2014 was held at Southside Care on April 2nd. The speaker was Mrs Beverley Guimelli from the Pickering Brook Heritage Group.

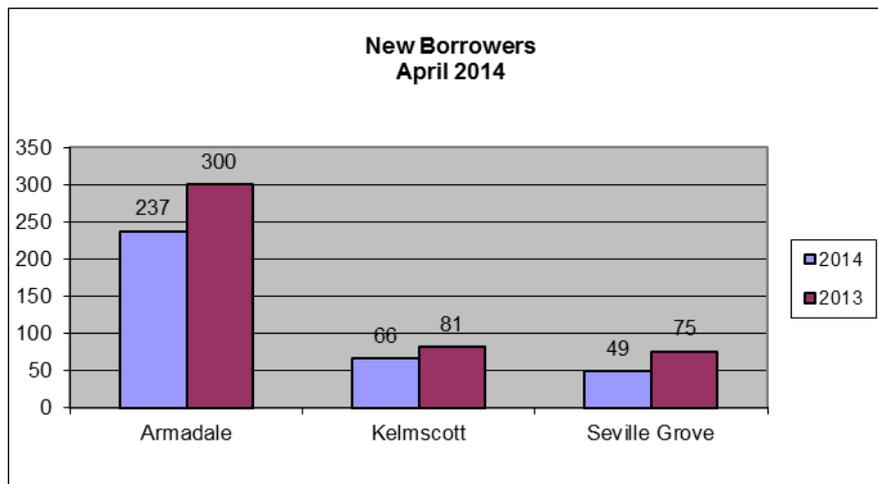
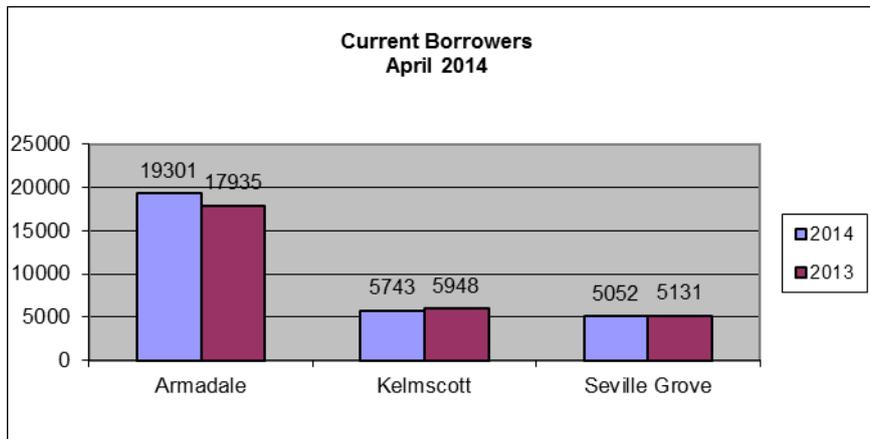
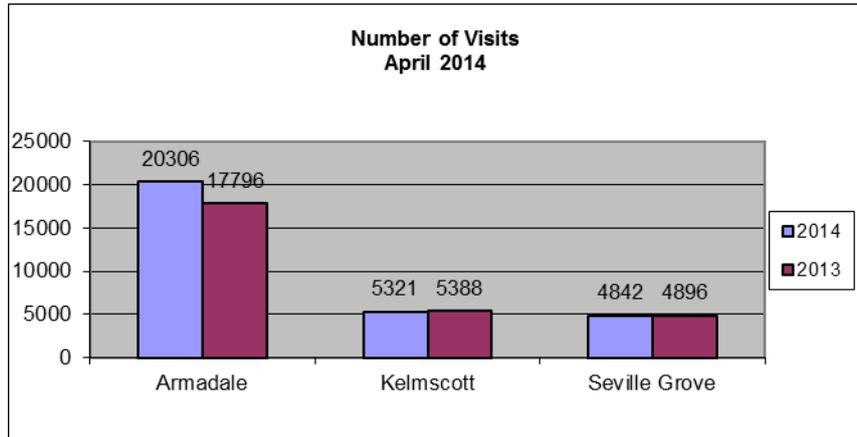
HERITAGE SERVICES

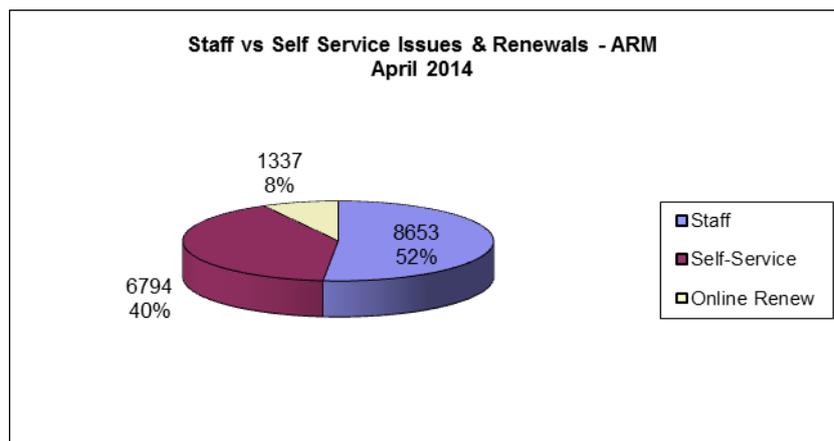
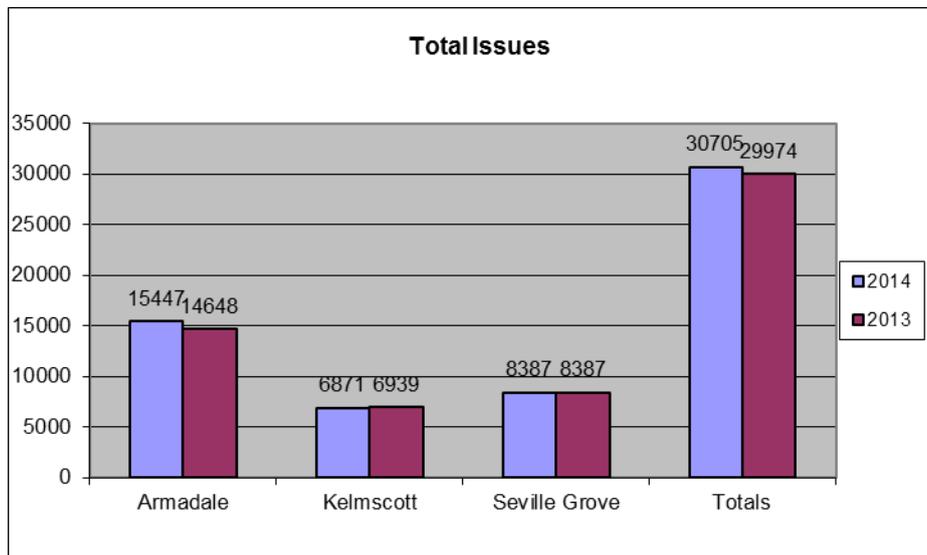
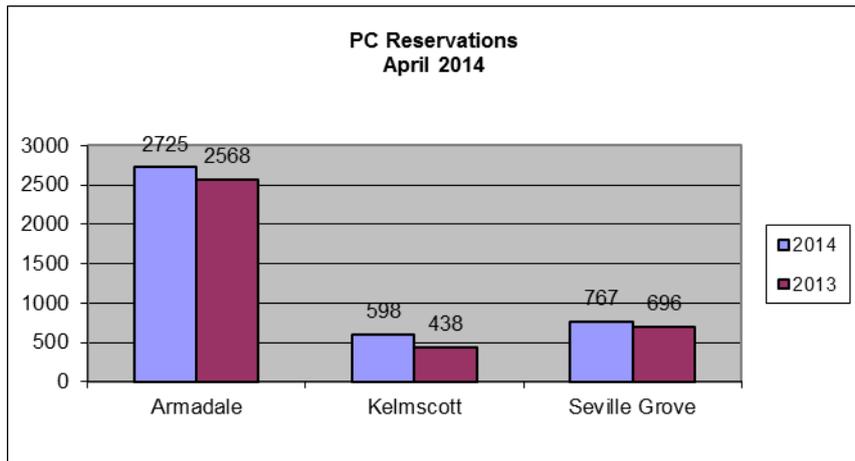
Statistical Performance Indicators

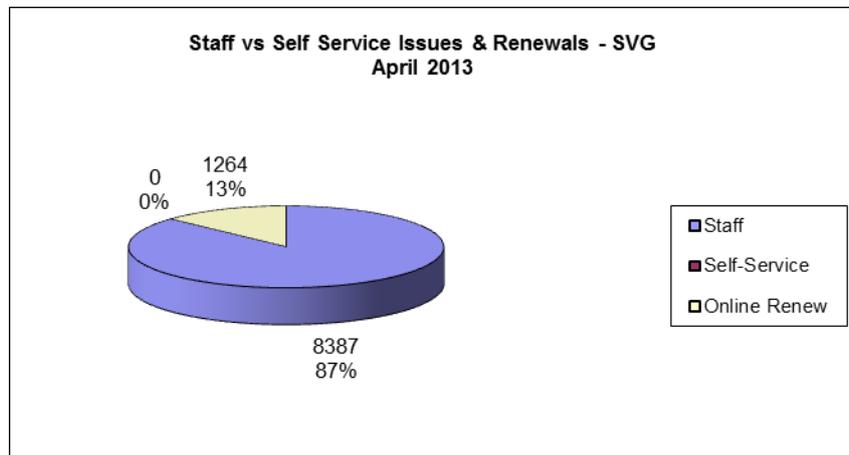
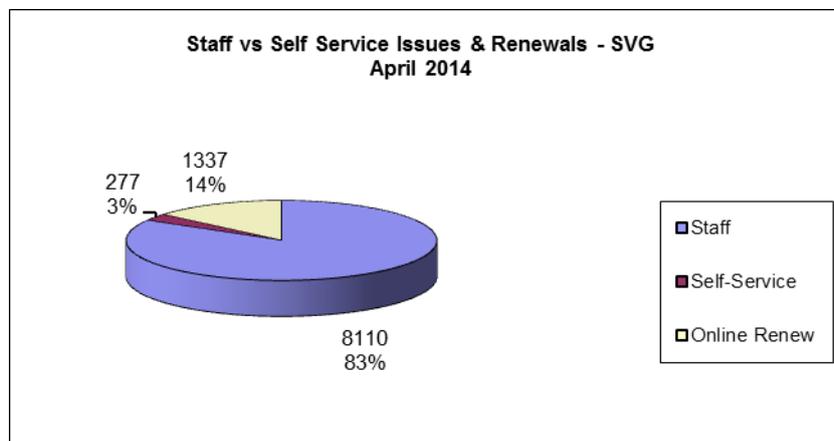
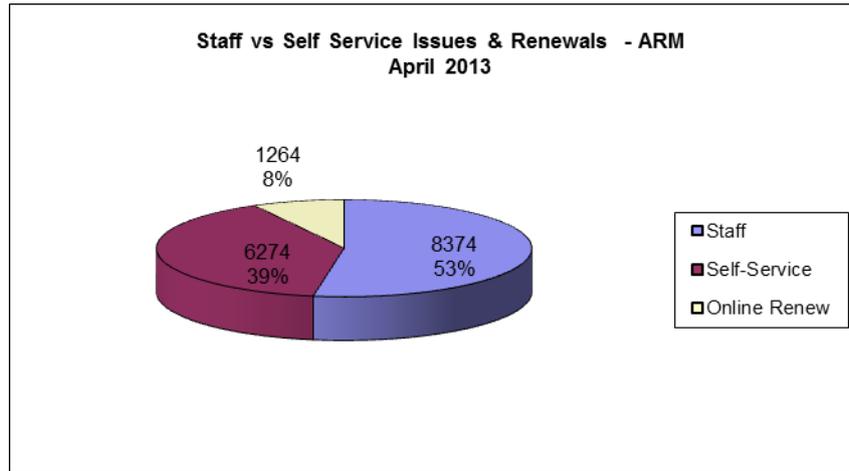
History House Museum and Birtwistle Local Studies

Birtwistle Local Studies Library				
	Current Month	Year to date		
	April 14	April 13	Jul 13 – April 14	Jul 12 - April 13
Reference Enquiries	4	9	40	71
Research Enquiries	24	2	101	79
Visitor Attendance	139	104	1096	925
Volunteer Hours	118	88	842	789
Digitising Records	12	12	130	179
Oral History				
Letters Sent	6	1	30	16
Interviews Completed	2	1	19	18
Transcripts Completed/ reviewed	3	3	25	18
Volunteer Hours – Transcribing	21	27	180	359
Volunteer Hours - Interviewing	15	6	70	75
Family History Research				
Reference	2	2	42	38
Research	66	45	282	289
Volunteer Hours	56	40	448	350

History House Museum	Current Month	Year to date		
		April 13	July 13- June 14	Jul 12 – June 13
	April 14			
General Visitors	297	164	1857	1030
School Visits	14	26	465	100
School Incursions	0	0	118	56
Holiday Programs	13	38	69	131
Community Programs	0	19	107	19
Seniors Programs	17	16	142	154
Total Visitors	341	263	2758	1490
Volunteer Hours	222	130	1778	1410
Bert Tyler Vintage Machinery Museum	April 14	April 13	July 13 – June 14	Jul 12 – June 13
Visitors	149	135	1654	1421







RANGER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Animal Control

Dogs

Ranger Services received four hundred and twenty five (425) requests for assistance during this report period. Whilst the individual areas of dog control vary from the corresponding period April 2013, the overall number of requests for assistance is marginally less than April 2012/2013.

Cats

Ranger Services received ninety (90) requests for assistance during this report period. The mainstream of request related to feral cats which are unable to be rehomed due to their ferocious and undomesticated behaviour.

Livestock

During this report period Ranger Services attended to twenty three (23) enquiries for assistance in dealing with stock wandering on the road.

Vehicles

Parking

Ranger Services received one hundred and sixty seven) requests for assistance, and issued ninety six (96) infringement notices in regard to various offences relating to the parking of vehicles during this report period.

The number of Infringements issued, in the vicinity of schools still remains relatively low and this is attributed to the ongoing Ranger Services attendance at local schools throughout the district, on a regular basis, to ensure the safety of children is maintained.

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

Commercial Vehicles (Trucks)

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

Abandoned Vehicles

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

Commercial Vehicles (Trucks)

The number of reports received in relation to trucks being parked in residential areas for extended periods still remains relatively low; Rangers will continue to be vigilant in this area of operations.

Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas)

Ranger Service attended to twenty (20) reports of vehicles (motor cycles) being driven in areas that are prohibited, during this report period.

Fire Services

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

Ranger Services received one hundred and forty nine (149) requests for assistance during the report period.

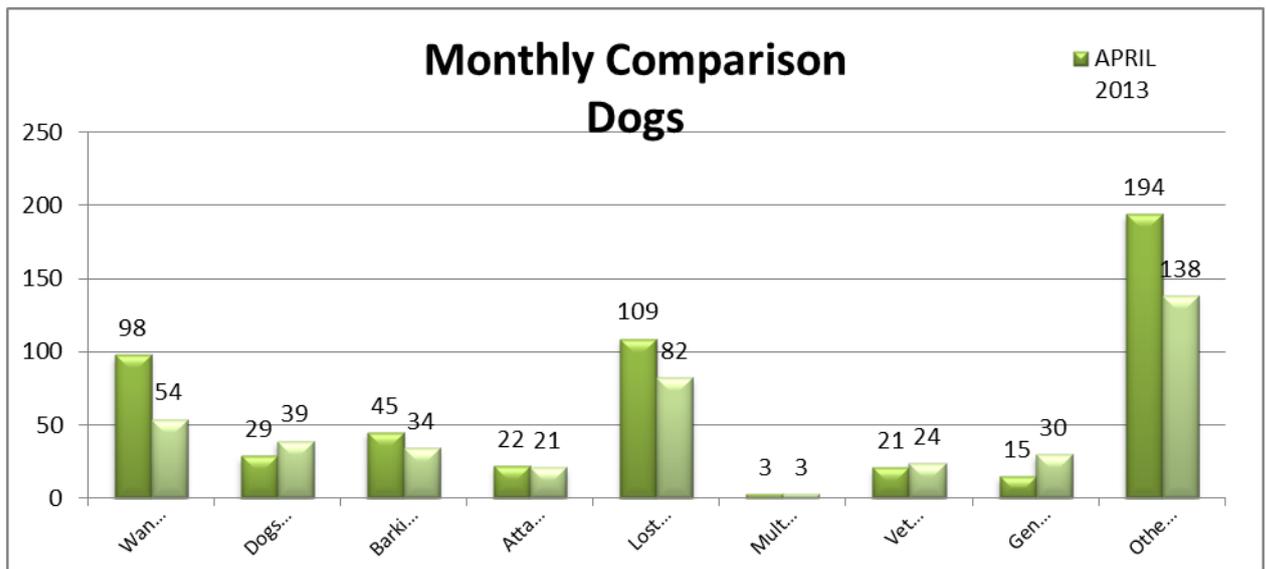
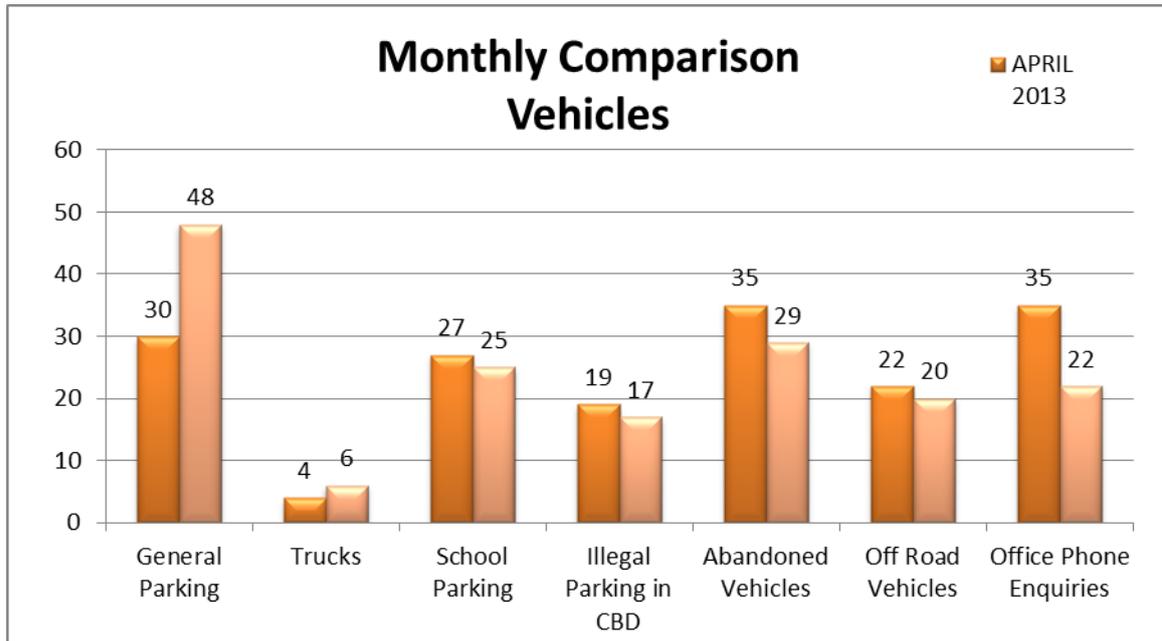
General

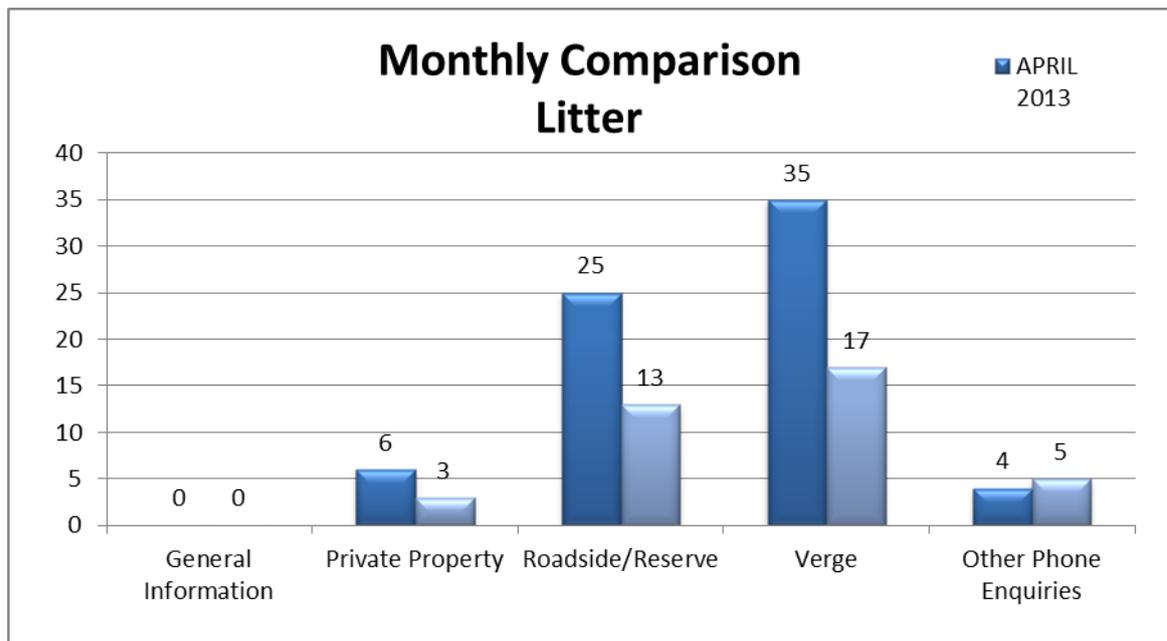
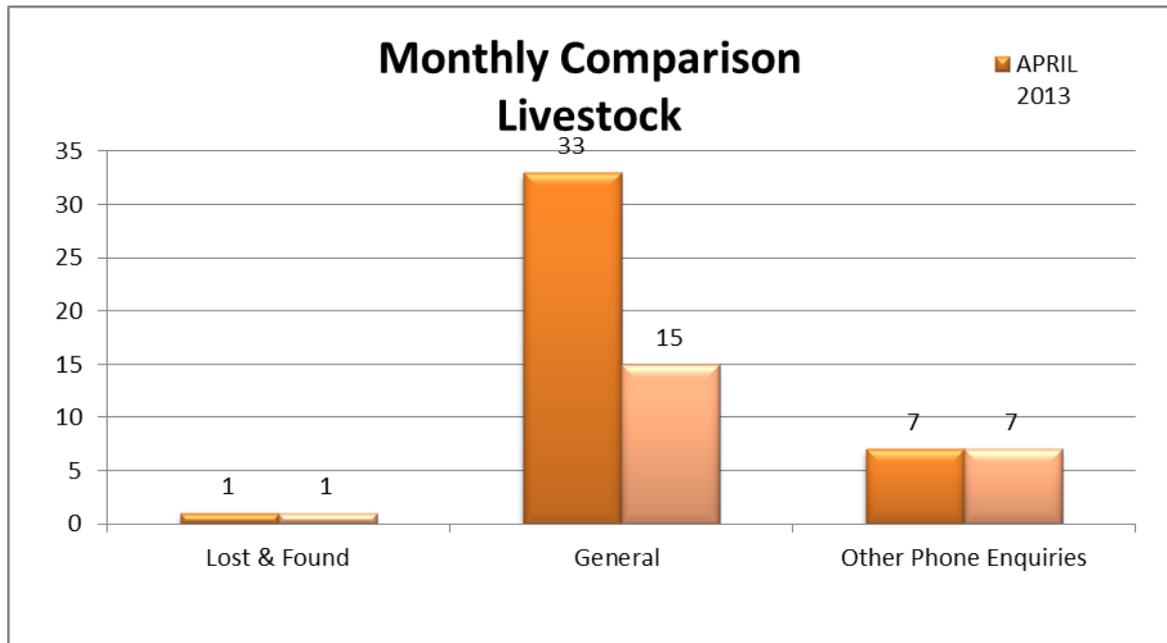
Dog Registration Checks

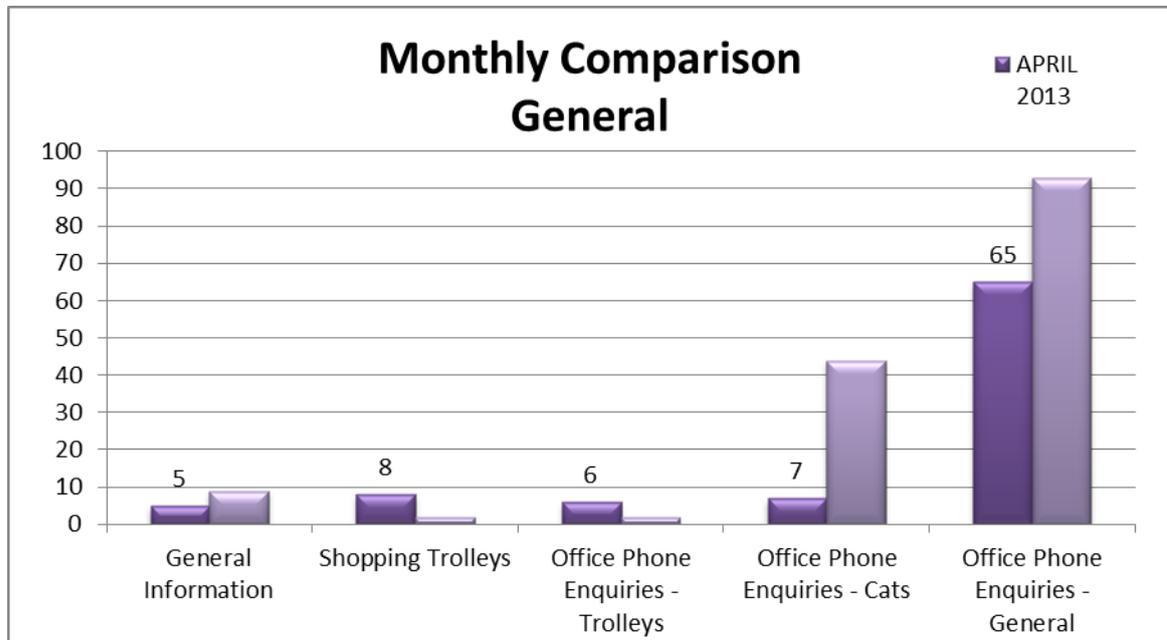
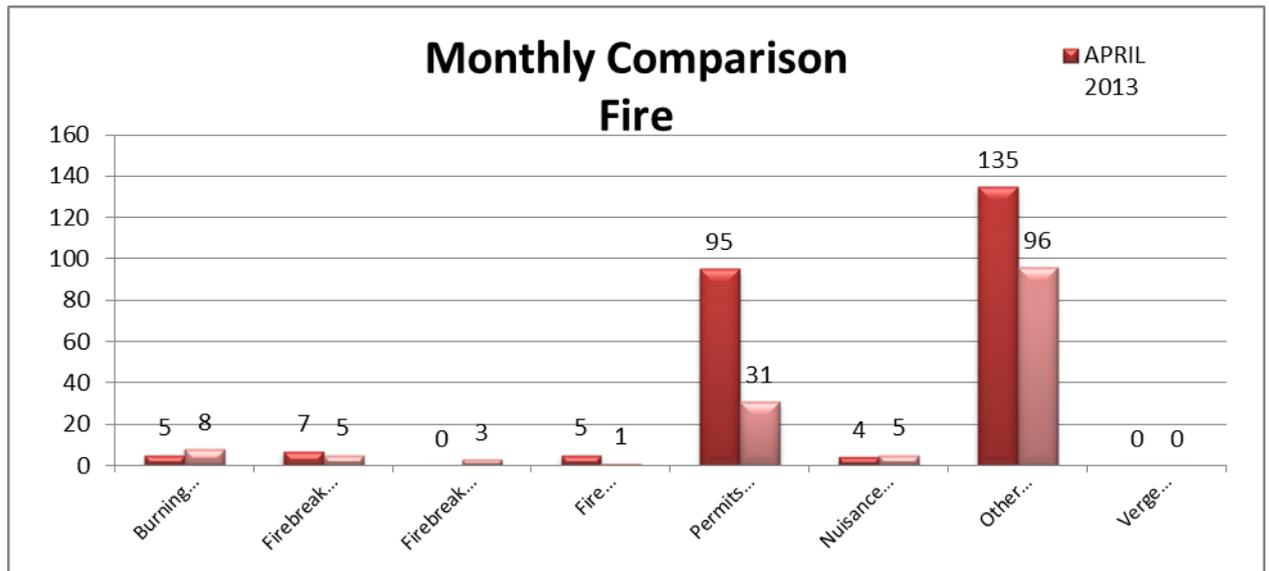
Rangers will be conducting an extensive dog registration survey throughout the district during the next 2-3 months.

A fundamental part of the door knock is to create an awareness of both the Dog Act and the City of Armadale Local Laws Relating to Dogs, identify potential and actual problems and provide advice that may assist in preventing or treating a problem.

STATISTICS:

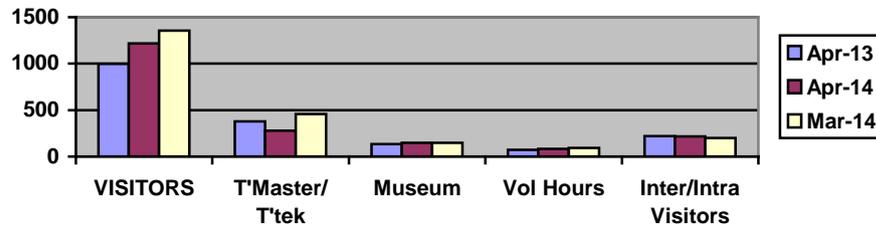






TOURISM

**Armadale Visitor Centre
 STATISTICS:**



April 2014

Visitors	Ticketmaster/ Ticketek	TOTAL Visitors Less T/Master & Ticketek	Inter State Visitors	Overseas Visitors	TOTAL O/seas & Interstate VISITORS	Volunteer Hours	Museum
1218	280	938	81	137	218	82	149

March 2014

Visitors	Ticketmaster/ Ticketek	TOTAL Visitors Less T/Master & Ticketek	Inter State Visitors	Overseas Visitors	TOTAL O/seas & Interstate VISITORS	Volunteer Hours	Museum
1357	457	900	72	127	199	92	148

VISITOR CENTRE OPENED FOR 180 HOURS

AVERAGE VISITORS PER WEEK: 305
VOLUNTEER HOURS PER WEEK: 21

VISITOR CENTRE - DOLLAR VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY:

Average Visitor Spend – Day Visitor:

\$1,675 per day = **\$ 11,725** per week = **\$ 46,900** per month

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

Average Spend – Including Accommodation:

\$1,168 per night = **\$ 8,175** per week = **\$ 32,700** per month

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

TOTAL TOURISM DOLLAR VALUE – APRIL 2014: \$79,600

Visitor Centre Report

During the Easter holidays our statistics showed an increase from last year of 22% more visitors to the centre with an increase of Interstate and overseas visitors compared to the previous month.

Overseas visitors to the Visitor Centre are growing strongly, this month United Kingdom, Germany and France visitation increases.

The Centre closed on Good Friday and Anzac Day over the Easter Break, however remained open all other days throughout April.

Minnawarra Festival

The Minnawarra Festival was held on Sunday April 6, 2014 with approximately 6,000 people attending. The goal and desired outcome of the Minnawarra Festival was 'to celebrate the heart of the City of Armadale with its diversity of culture, people and place'.

The venue's layout for all vendors was 3m x 3m marquees with roofs in the City colours of red, blue and green. There were 10m verandas in front of all stalls to provide shade and protection in case of inclement weather. Sitting places were created for people to eat and enjoy the music and relaxed atmosphere.

International Food Market

A vast array of multi-cultural foods were available at the International Food Market; providing a range of food such as Indian, Thai, Turkish, Moroccan, Texas BBQ and traditional Australian.

Art Market

Ten stalls formed the Art Market from the following local arts and craft vendors providing a range of such products as artworks, ceramics, planters, cacti/bonsai, doorstops, soft toys, bags, aprons, jewellery, metal garden ornaments, and handmade artefacts from Peru, handmade soya candles, lanterns and oil burners.

Red Tent/Village Café

The Red Tent/Village Café was again a highlight of the Minnawarra Festival. A 10m x 10m marquee themed in Moroccan style with lounges, chairs and coffee tables set up to sell coffee, chai, cakes and slices. The Tent/Café offered a comfortable space where people could take time out and relax.



International Music

Over the two stages that were set up this year, there were eight acts representing a broad range of genres and cultures. These acts performed up to 3 x 30 minute sets.

On Stage 1 (Food Court) was Trio Allegra, Sesalvan Band, Les Trios Amies, and David Hyams.

On Stage 2 (Artist Precinct) was Zhukuta, Katherine John Band, Dave Johnson Trio and Rumba Y Café. The genre of these acts were Mediterranean/gypsy, South American, Classical, Irish, African, cabaret, folk and Cuban.

The location of the stages was carefully planned so as not to have a crossover of music. The public enthusiastically enjoyed the music on the day with a grandfather dancing with his toddler grandchild at one stage, and at another stage a conga line started!

Artist Precinct

There were four activities within the Precinct this year. They are as follows:

- Mosaics – Mosaics Association
- Painting – Armadale Society of Artists
- Natural dying (indigo) – Trudi Pollard
- Clay sculpture – Dale Glenny

These activities were an opportunity for patrons to try their hand proving very popular on the day, with many clay sculptures being carried home by their proud creators.



Children's World

The Children's World was themed for a range of more organic craft activities rather than the standard rides, face painting and sideshow alley. Family members could engage in creating items that were then taken home to be proudly displayed.

The 5 activities were:

- Clay creatures – Focus on natural materials. Children interacted with clay and numerous collected things from nature, such as seed pods, grass tree stems and seeds to create their own seed pod creatures.
- Sustainable bags – Focused on hand sewing. Using reuse/recycled fabrics, children hand sewed their own unique bags.
- Recycled jewellery – Focuses on nature vs. industry. Using both natural and manmade materials, children made their own personalised jewellery.
- Beautiful garlands – Focuses on weaving. Children wove fabrics into the strands of peppermint tree branches to make beautiful head garlands.
- Silver tape maze – Focuses on play. This wasn't something that could be taken home but more of a fun activity to partake in on the day. Situated using solid tree trunks as framework, children created a web of sparkling tape, this play space grew over the day into a marvellous web that children could crawl and climb through.



●
Minnawarra Art Award

To create a Minnawarra Festival element within the Minnawarra Art Awards being held at the Armadale District Hall, Armadale Harpist Anthony Maydwell performed two (2) one hour sessions at noon and 2pm on the day. Perth Tram Services were engaged to transfer patrons of the Festival on Minnawarra Park to the Art Awards at the District Hall.

The Heart Project

Children choose three petal colours to decorate with glitter, coloured pencils and stickers. Each tulip had their creator's name on it and was then attached to the Heart ever so proudly. Many children decided they also wanted to make a second tulip that they could keep and take home with them. It is estimated that up to 500 children and adults created a tulip.



City of Armadale Council Marquee

The Council marquee had many visitors throughout the day taking the opportunity to learn more about the City of Armadale and to talk to Councillors. The marquee featured plants and a mini garden at the entrance making it very welcoming.

Natures Wonderland

A photographic display of nature's wonders was displayed within a marquee called Natures Wonderland with assistance from the City's Environment Department, the Bushcare & Environmental Working Group (BEWG) and Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group (AGLG). They organised their members to come together and collate images of Armadale's natural environment for display and purchase at the

Minnawarra Festival. It was seen as a popular attraction on the day, noting strong attendance.

An email received after the festival stated “The feedback we got back from those that visited the marquee on the day was very positive, 70 people participated in the photographic competition to suggest “what the birds were saying to each other”.

Marketing

The following advertising opportunities were engaged:

Examiner Newspaper

- ½ page vertical ad (colour) in the 20 March Edition
- ½ page vertical ad (colour) in the 27 March Edition
- City of Armadale Website

Minnawarra Art Awards 2014

The Minnawarra Art Awards was held at the Armadale District Hall from 28 March to the 13 April 2014. The awards included two non-acquisitive cash awards from the City of Armadale, an acquisitive award from the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority (MRA) and a commission award provided by Stockland for a 3D artwork. This year’s event involved an opening and corporate night with entertainment supplied by Katherine John as well as a harpist recital on Sunday 6 April to coincide with the Minnawarra Festival. The event was supported by the Armadale Society of Artist who provided daily volunteers to supervise the event.



City of Armadales Gerry Gauntlett Award
Winner Eva Fernandez's "Anonymous
Sculpture #1"

Curator of the 2013 Awards, Natalie Hewlett was invited to curate the 2014 Art Awards. Natalie also engaged Mark Stewart from Murdoch University and Janis Nedela from Gallery East to judge the high calibre of artists invited to exhibit. The panel selected 63 artists to be invited to display their artwork in this year’s exhibition. Each artist was invited to exhibit up to two original artworks produced within the past twelve months.

The City presents its premier non-acquisitive prize the “Gerry Gauntlett Art Award” of \$5,000 to the artist whose work, in the opinion of the judges, stands out from all others. The City also offers a non-acquisitive prize of \$1,000 to be presented for Best Artwork valued under \$1,000, awarded to the work that in the opinion of the judges stands out from all the others as an outstanding expression of the artist’s medium.

3.2 Sponsored awards

The Minnawarra Art Awards recognise and appreciate the ongoing sponsorship of the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority (MRA) and Stocklands.

In consultation with the curator and judges, the MRA awards a \$5,000 acquisitive prize while Stocklands provide a commission prize of \$5,000 to the artist who’s three dimensional works is judged the best of its category.

This year we sincerely appreciate and acknowledge that the MRA sponsored not only a \$5,000 acquisitive prize for the Minnowarra Art Awards it also provided a \$5,000 sponsorship for the Minnowarra Festival.

3.3 Winners

- Gerry Gauntlett Art Award – Non Acquisitive
 - Eva Fernandez piece ‘Anonymous Sculpture #1’.
 - Judges’ comments, “Wonderful and whimsical work that captures objects of the past that would normally be discarded. The asymmetrically balanced work is used by the great use of directional forces and compositional flow”
- Best Artwork valued under \$1,000 – Non Acquisitive
 - Lesley Barrett’s piece “Chipalars”.
- Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority Award – Acquisitive
 - Jean and June Pastore piece “Fractured Sunset”.
 - Judges’ comments, “The use of discarded clothes pegs are a great use of material. The work plays on the viewer’s optical senses, both with the choices of colour and shadow play”.
- Stocklands Commission Prize – Commission
 - Andrew Kay’s piece “Colour Drop”.

4. Attendance and Events

Following recommendations made in previous Event and Curator’s reports a decision was made to extend the duration of the Art Awards. Feedback from the previous year suggested that audience interest and attendance would increase after the Minnowarra Festival bringing an increase in overall attendance.

Extending the duration of the Minnowarra Art Awards Exhibition in 2014 proved to be successful and the expected outcomes outlined above where met. The event received a significant increase in attendees as compared to last year and experienced an increased attendance average after the Minnowarra Festival on Sunday 6 April.

The event was supported by daily volunteers of the Armadale Society of Artists and performances by harpist Anthony Maydwell to coincide with the Minnowarra Festival. Perth Tram Services were engaged for the day to transfer patrons of the Minnowarra Festival on Minnowarra Park to the Minnowarra Art Awards at the Armadale District Hall The daily attendance noted 170 people visiting the Art Awards on the Sunday, with many audience surveys commenting ‘loved the harp performance’.

4.1 Attendance

The Corporate event received very positive feedback both from artists and attendees. This event continues to be a success with the majority of all artwork sales made on the night. The Guest speaker at this year’s event was Judge and Gallery Director Jánis, R. Nédela.

It is highly recommended that this event continue in 2015.

- **Public Attendance**

The Art Awards was opened for 16 days (11 days more than 2013) and received the total attendance of 481 patrons. Of the 177 surveys received the majority of patrons come from the City of Armadale and greater South East

Metropolitan region. We did received patrons that reside interstate (Victoria) and two international visitors.

5. Curator Comments

“The 2014 Minnowarra Art Awards was accomplished with the enthusiasm of the City of Armadale’s staff and the creativity of local and national artists. I set out to reveal the amazing array of talent that comes from over 60 talented artists in the beautiful historic setting of the Armadale District Hall in the City of Armadale. The artists on display are invited to submit up to two artworks made from any medium, encouraging artists to explore their imagination and stretch their technical skills. It is with many thanks to the artists for the variety and exceptional quality of artworks that have been submitted this year. I would also like to thank Judges, Mark Stewart and Jánis Nédela for their expertise and enthusiasm whilst judging for the Awards.

I would like to extend my thanks to the City of Armadale and especially to the dedicated staff who helped during the project of staging this exhibition. It has been a real pleasure to work with the Major Arts & Events team. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions and thank the sponsors Stockland and the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority, as without them it would not be possible. Their ongoing commitment to the City of Armadale and in particular the Minnowarra Art Awards has ensured that the awards are regarded as one of the most significant in the State”

6. Judges

Mark Stewart of Murdoch University and Janis Nedela of Gallery East were this year’s judges. They worked in consultation with the Mayor and representatives of the MRA and Stockland.

7. Artworks Sold

Ten artworks were sold:

- 4 artworks sold at the Opening Night.
- 5 artworks sold at the Corporate Night (including the City’s purchased artwork).
- 1 artwork sold from a walk in.
- A total of \$2,962.50 in commissions received.

8. Prizes

A tradition for the City of Armadale’s art exhibition, the City of Armadale staff and visiting public were invited to enter the “People’s/Staff Choice Awards” to vote for their favourite artwork in the exhibition.

8.1 People’s Choice Awards Winner

This year, with 328 entries, the public’s favourite artwork was “Asleep” by artist Judy Rogers and the winning public member was 11 year old Caitlyn Elliot of Armadale.

8.2 Staff Choice Awards Winner

20 entries were received from staff. Their favourite artwork was “Colour Drop” by artist Andrew Kay (who also won the Stockland commission award) and the winning staff member was Kai Lothian of Public Relations.

9. Marketing

The following advertising opportunities were engaged:

Examiner Newspaper

- ½ page vertical ad (colour) in the 20 March Edition
- ½ page vertical ad (colour) in the 27 March Edition
- Roleystone Courier
 - ½ page vertical ad (colour) in their March Edition
- City of Armadale Website

11. Survey Results

During the event, the ASA volunteers handed out an Audience Survey to all participants willing to complete the form. The Audience Survey was produced to measure both the participant and the event including, who are they, where are they from, how did they hear about the event, how satisfied were they with the event, what other events in the COA do they attend etc. The results are as follows:

- 177 people completed an Event Survey
- 35% of participants heard about the Art Awards through Word of Mouth, 28 % read about the Art Awards in the Newspaper and 18% said they saw the Art Awards Banner/signage.
- 97% of participants enjoyed the Art Awards, while 2 people said they were displeased.
- 78% of participants were “very satisfied” with the presentation of the artwork.
- 58% of participants were “very satisfied” with the duration of the exhibition while 40% of participants were “satisfied” with the duration.
- 96% of participants were “satisfied to very satisfied” with the overall experience.
- 54% of attendees were 55 years or older
- 30% of attendees were between the ages of 40 and 54.
- 15% of attendees were 39 years or younger.
- 51% of attendees have attended the Minnowarra Art Award exhibition before with 33% of attendees visiting the exhibition between 1 and 5 times.
- 60% of attendees live within the City of Armadale
- 84% of attendees travelled by Car to the exhibition.

Up Coming Events – Outside the Frame

The Outside the Frame Art Award is the next event on the Major Arts and Events Calendar. This year it will be held on 20-24 August, 11am to 4pm daily with the Opening and Awards Night on Tuesday 19 August, 2014.

Jull Street Mall Activation Report

The Jull St Mall Coordinator continued work on the Armadale Walk Trail in conjunction with Two Feet and a Heartbeat. Monthly training meetings are continuing with people who have volunteered to be tour guides.

Regular monthly update meetings have commenced with the Project Manager for the Jull St Mall Revitalisation. Site Walks of the Mall are undertaken every fortnight and information gathered is communicated to tenants and stakeholders.

The Leasing Agent for a JSM premise has been providing information as to the possibility of a short term lease within the premises for a Pop Up activity. Security concerns by tenants continue to be a focus, with meetings held to discuss options and strategies.