

INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUE NO. 9/2015

21 May 2015

Information Bulletin

Issue No. 9/2015



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ALGA NEWS

8 MAY 2015

Government Promises consultation on any changes to natural disaster funding

The Australian Government has promised to consult on changes to natural disaster funding as part of its initial response to the release of the Productivity Commission's final report on Natural Disaster Funding arrangements.

In releasing the report on 1 May, Justice Minister, the Hon Michael Keenan, said the Government's view is that the current natural disaster funding arrangements in Australia are flawed and that it is critical to seek ways of enhancing the system to ensure Australia is more resilient in the future.

The Productivity Commission Report and an earlier Australian National Audit Office report have both been critical of the current funding system with the Productivity Commission arguing that governments nationally focus too much on recovery at the expense of directing resources towards better-preparing for future disasters, and the ANAO criticising the lack of oversight and accountability for recovery funding under successive Commonwealth governments and highlighting systemic issues with state and local government claims for ineligible expenditure.

The Justice Minister reinforced that the Australian Government will always have a role in supporting states affected by natural disasters - and that they will always stand ready to assist communities in need. However both the findings of these two independent bodies make it clear that change is needed. In saying this, however, the Minister has emphasised that the Australian Government is not proposing any radical reductions in the funding support it provides to the states.

The Minister has written to jurisdictions foreshadowing consultations on the best way to address the findings of the two reports. The Australian Government has indicated it will provide a full response to the Productivity Commission's final report following these consultations.

The Productivity Commission report can be accessed [here](#)

Regional Cooperation and Development Forum - Benefits of local and regional infrastructure investment

This year's Regional Cooperation and Development Forum will be held on Sunday 14 June in Canberra and will include the launch of the 2015-16 State of the Regions Report. The Forum is an opportunity for Mayors, Councillors, Regional Development Australia committee members and other key decision and policy makers to gather together to share knowledge and experience to strengthen the ability of Australia's regions to compete in the global economy.

This year's Forum and report will examine the critical role played by our regional infrastructure assets and models the productivity benefits from strategic investment in a

range of asset classes. Delivering this year's keynote address will be Dr Paul Collits. Dr Collits has had a long and varied career in regional economic development, having worked at senior levels for the NSW Department of State and Regional Development, University of Sunshine Coast and most recently as the Economic Development Advisor at Gosford City Council.

This year's Forum also features a session run by senior officials from the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, focussing on how to maximise grant outcomes, including feedback from the first round of applications for the Stronger Regions Fund and Bridges Renewal Programs. An afternoon panel discussion will examine the role of Regional Cities in regional economic development. The Chair of Economic Development Australia, Mr Mark Holdsworth will present on the diverse work of EDA with a focus on local government.

This year's State of the Regions Report will include regional estimates and analysis of the economic costs and opportunities associated with addressing Australia's underperforming infrastructure. The report will also update economic modelling for the regions and discuss the latest implications for Australia's regions after the mining boom and a lower Australian dollar exchange rate.

More information on how to register to attend the Regional Forum can be found [here](#)

Continued strength in dwelling approvals for March 2015

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Building Approvals show that the number of dwellings approved rose 1.8 per cent in March 2015, in trend terms, and has risen for ten months. This continued strength was driven by increases in new flats, units or apartments in residential buildings.

The value of total buildings approved rose 0.9 per cent in March and has risen for nine months. The value of residential buildings rose 2.5 per cent while non-residential buildings fell 2.8 per cent in trend terms.

The number of dwelling approvals increased in March in New South Wales (4.4 per cent), Tasmania (3.3 per cent), Queensland (3.0 per cent) and Victoria (1.2 per cent) but decreased in Northern Territory (14.6 per cent), Australian Capital Territory (3.8 per cent), Western Australia (1.9 per cent) and South Australia (1.7 per cent) in trend terms.

In trend terms, approvals for private sector houses rose 0.2 per cent in March. Private sector houses rose in New South Wales (1.8 per cent) and Victoria (1.1 per cent) but fell in South Australia (1.3 per cent), Western Australia (1.3 per cent) and Queensland (0.9 per cent).

Further information is available [here](#).

President's Column

The Government will deliver its second Budget next week against the backdrop of a soft Australian economy and an uncertain political environment. The Prime Minister has

foreshadowed a budget which will be "dull", "boring" and "frugal", with a focus on restoring trust with families. This suggests a relatively low-key budget with few surprises and no major initiatives beyond what has already been signalled for families. It now appears unlikely that the Budget will contain any new initiatives in the area of local infrastructure, an unfortunate outcome and a missed opportunity for the Federal Government. Indeed, now is the time in the economic cycle when we need to invest in infrastructure which will drive future productivity improvements and growth at both the national and local levels.

The major initiatives ALGA is seeking in this Budget include an end to the freezing of the Financial Assistance Grants, which will end up taking hundreds of millions of dollars out of local communities, the establishment of a new Community Infrastructure Program to provide \$300 million per annum over the next four years for local infrastructure and a new \$100 million annual program focused on strategic regional roads which will enhance regional productivity by improving access for freight vehicles and connectivity between local roads and preferred state and national freight routes. These initiatives lay the groundwork for future prosperity and if they are not addressed in this Budget they will form the core of ALGA's advocacy in the lead up to the 2016 Election.

The good news for councils in the Federal Budget will be delivery on the Government's commitments to double Roads to Recovery in the next financial year and also increase Roads Safety Blackspots funding from \$60 million to \$100 million in 2015-16 and 2016-17. In addition, I hope the Government will also respond positively to our joint advocacy with the Australian Airports Association and the Royal Flying Doctor Service to ensure the continuation of funding for regional and remote aerodromes under the Regional Aviation Access Programme. These aerodromes play an important commercial and social role that needs to be recognised and supported through the continuation of the Programme.

Regards

Mayor Troy Pickard
ALGA President

Development of a national safety and compliance action plan

More than 30 decision-makers from Australia's road transport agencies, police services and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) gathered in Brisbane last week to set national priorities for heavy vehicle road safety to benefit all road users.

With 95% of Australia's road freight vehicles now governed by one Heavy Vehicle National Law it is timely to develop a national approach to heavy vehicle compliance and road safety. The recent National Compliance and Enforcement Operations Forum is the first step towards developing a national approach to heavy vehicle safety and compliance with law enforcement agencies now able to share information across agencies and across borders to better target enforcement operations.

For more information visit the NHVR's website [here](#).

Supportive housing to address homelessness

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) this week released its final report into supportive housing to address homelessness.

Initially originating in the field of mental health and disability, supportive housing has come to represent an important component in contemporary efforts to end homelessness in Australia.

Key findings of the Report include:

- Support as an intervention to enable disadvantaged people to become independent from support services (ultimately) can be seen as a form of empowerment and normalisation.
- Consistent with formal intentions and the assertions of professionals delivering supportive housing services, tenants both desire socialising and activities-based communities in supportive housing and experience supportive housing as the positive communities they desire.
- The security and stability afforded to tenants because of the long-term nature of the housing provided was central to their progression to a state where they could think about subsequent life improvements.

The full report can be found [here](#)

Government announces childcare arrangements in lead up to May Budget

The Commonwealth Government has announced that next week's budget will allocate \$840 million nationally for two more years of the universal access program which guarantees all four-year-olds up to 15 hours a week at preschool.

In 2013, the Council of Australian Governments agreed to 15 hours universal accesses to kindergarten/preschool for children in the year before they start school. The Commonwealth funds five hours and the State Governments fund 10 hours under the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Childhood Education. However, the Commonwealth's funding under the NPA is due to expire at the end of 2015. States and territories have been calling for the program to be continued, with education ministers saying in March a commitment to ongoing funding was urgent. The latest extension by the Commonwealth is only for two years because responsibility for preschool is under review as part of the development of a White Paper on the Reform of Federation.

Last week the Commonwealth also announced that it would establish a \$246 million two year pilot program to extend support to home care services provided by nannies. The two year pilot will determine whether a more sustainable program can be affordably put in place for in home care nanny services.

New Report shows urgent need for Urban Policy

A new report by Per Capita highlights the challenges faced by people in our metropolitan cities and the urgent need for a national urban policy.

The report 'Paradise Lost? The race to maintain Australian living standards' finds that Australians are commuting an extra 56 unpaid hours per year compared to 2002. The report concludes that: 'To continue to lift labour productivity, we must lift our investment in hard infrastructure like transport and broadband, as well as soft infrastructure like skills and education.'

To maintain liveability and to unlock our metropolitan cities' productive potential, our cities need coordination and investment at a national level in urban rail, roads and fibre to the premises broadband.

The full report can be accessed [here](#).

A boost for local infrastructure in the Victorian State Budget but road funding for councils unsure

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) has welcomed the State Government's significant investment in local infrastructure in its 2015 Budget but voiced concern about how funding for regional and rural roads will be allocated.

MAV President, Cr Bill McArthur said the \$100 million over four years for sports infrastructure and \$50 million for interface councils to maintain vital assets was very good news, and that while there seems to be significant State investment for repairing roads and improving road safety infrastructure it's unsure how much of this, if any, will be allocated to local councils.

Other budget highlights include \$1 million to review the Local Government Act; the previously announced \$5.2 million in funding for roadside weed and pest management over the next two years; \$4.2-\$4.6 billion investment in public transport and \$81 million to assist with the prevention of violence against women.

New funding for NT Councils

The Northern Territory Government has brought down its 2015-16 Budget, which includes a range of new funds for the local government sector. Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) President Damien Ryan was keen to receive the news.

"There is an infrastructure spend across all council areas, particularly strategic roads with an emphasis on providing access and flood immunity. This is very beneficial to municipal, regional and remote areas," Mayor Ryan said.

The budget includes tens of millions of dollars for new and improved transport infrastructure. and also has millions of dollars in provisions for local government.

Launch of new Framework to embed privacy culture

This week is Privacy Awareness Week, and to mark the occasion the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) has launched a new privacy management framework to assist public and private sector organisations to meet their ongoing compliance obligations and embed a culture that respects privacy.

The privacy management framework provides practical guidance on how to establish and implement a privacy management plan, including a four step approach that will help organisations protect privacy and improve their processes.

For more information see www.privacyawarenessweek.org and to access the framework click [here](#).

Bathurst200 - Celebrating a Bicentenary in 2015

On May 7 Bathurst, Australia's first inland European settlement, celebrated its bicentenary. As Australia's oldest inland city a year-long celebration is planned with a calendar full of events and activities for people of all ages and interests including outdoor art installations, fashion exhibitions, colonial fair and a spectacular night Illumination and street festival on Saturday 9 May.

The bicentenary is a European milestone and in 2015, Bathurst is re-telling this shared history with the Wiradjuri people. A possum skin cloak healing workshop is being held by Bathurst Regional Art Gallery in October 2014 in conjunction with the Wiradjuri Elders and is symbolic of the new history that will be created from 2015.

For more information click [here](#).

A Challenge to All Australian Primary Schools and Councils

The 16th annual National Walk Safely to School Day will be held on Friday 22 May 2015.

National Walk Safely to School Day is a community initiative supported by the Pedestrian Council of Australia which seeks to raise awareness of the health, road safety, transport and environmental benefits that regular walking can provide for the long term health of our children.

The day aims to promote the health benefits of walking and create regular walking habits, assist children to develop vital road crossing skills, ensure children up to the age of 10 years hold an adult's hand when crossing roads, and to reduce car dependency and traffic congestion.

The Pedestrian Council is seeking to engage councils in the initiative. To find out how

your council can be involved click [here](#).

Help Celebrate Landcare's Local Leaders

Nominations are now open for the 2015 State and Territory Landcare Awards. The Awards have been running for 25 years and celebrate the many achievements of Landcare across a number of diverse areas, including sustainable farming, Coastcare, Junior Landcare, Indigenous land management, and more. Entries in most states close on 31 May, except for Victoria where they close 21 June, Tasmania where they close on 30 June and the Northern Territory where they close on 28 August.

More information is available [here](#).

Roads Safety Conference and Awards

Australasia's two road safety conferences, the Australasian College of Road Safety (ACRS) Conference, and the Australasian Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference (RSRPE) have merged this year to create the premier Australasian Road Safety Conference (ARSC2015) to be held on the Gold Coast from 14-16 October. The conference is expected to attract over 400 delegates working in the wide range of portfolios and industries who contribute to improving road safety outcomes.

Entries are open for the 2015 3M-ACRS Diamond Road Safety Award. The award calls for any road safety practitioner from the public or private sector to submit highly innovative, cost-effective road safety initiatives/programmes which they have recently developed that stand out from the standard, everyday practice and deliver significant improvements in road safety for the community. The winner will receive a trip to the USA to attend the 46th ATSSA Annual Convention & Traffic Expo in 2016 to be held in Virginia, USA.

More information can be obtained from the Australasian College of Road Safety [here](#).

ALGA NEWS

15 MAY 2015

Roads to Recovery and Black Spots funding to double for next two years

Recognising the important role local government plays in managing and maintaining our local roads network, the Budget this week showed the Government maintaining its commitment to double Roads to Recovery (R2R) in 2015-16 and provided further Black Spots funding for the next two years...

Financial Assistance Grants to Local Government

In the 2015-16 financial year, the Australian Government will allocate \$2,289 billion in Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) for local government services to the community. The freeze on indexation announced in the 2014-15 Budget remains in place, the impact of this freeze was estimated last year to be \$925 million in lost FAGs in the four years to 2017-18...

Applications for round two of Stronger Regions opens today

The National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF) will provide funding of \$1 billion over 5 years to fund priority infrastructure in regional communities. Grants of between \$20,000 and \$10 million are available to local government and incorporated not-for-profit organisations. Round two opens today and will close on 31 July 2015. Grant funding must be matched in cash on at least a dollar for dollar basis...

President's Column

There was some good news and some disappointment in this week's Budget for local government. The Government met its commitment to double the funding for the Roads to Recovery programme and provide additional Black Spots funding in 2015-16 but this was offset by the continuing freeze on the indexation of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs)...

Briefs

[A successful advocacy partnership](#)

[Drought assistance for regional communities and farmers](#)

[\\$100m to protect against national emergencies](#)

[New \\$100 million Northern Australia Beef Roads Fund](#)

[Australia's first street sweeping recycling plant unveiled](#)

[National Volunteer Week 2015 launched in Canberra](#)

[Audit assesses northern Australia's infrastructure](#)

[Celebrating brilliant business women in government](#)

[New CEO for Regional Australia Institute](#)

[Neighbour Day Save the Date - 27 March 2017](#)

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ALGA News Editor: newscomments@alga.asn.au Tel: 02 6122 9400.
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12 May 2015

Graffiti Act to Better Reflect Cost to Community

A new Act dedicated to graffiti as a stand-alone offence will better reflect the significant impacts and costs it has on individuals, Councils, agencies and the WA community.

The Graffiti Vandalism Enforcement Act will allow Police to deal with graffiti as a stand-alone offence under dedicated legislation rather than under existing criminal and property damage laws.

The WA Local Government Association today welcomed the proposed legislation which will increase police powers, improve provision for clean-up orders and introduce greater fines and punishment for serial offenders.

“The cost of graffiti removal is a significant impost upon Local Government and the broader community and although many of our initiatives are having a positive impact, the current legislation is not robust enough in dealing with offenders,” Mayor Pickard said.

“Local Governments have been advocating for some time to have greater penalties and powers in dealing with graffiti, and we welcome this Act as it will provide much greater scope to address the problem.”

Mayor Pickard said a recent survey of nine metropolitan Local Governments revealed an annual bill of up to \$1.5m for removal of graffiti across just those Councils.

“This is a significant amount of money that Councils could otherwise be spending on delivering services to the community,” he said.

Mayor Pickard said Local Government contributed to strategies to combat graffiti through the multi-agency State Graffiti Taskforce and looked forward to working with the Taskforce on ways to support implementation of the new Act once passed.

“This Act will better reflect the serious nature of graffiti as a crime, with fines and punishment more in line with the impact graffiti offences have on us all”.

Ends

16 May 2015

Council Calls Heeded in State Budget

Against the backdrop of severe cost cutting measures by the State Government, the relatively sedate impact of the State Budget on Local Governments validates the sector's ongoing advocacy for a fairer deal.

The WA Local Government Association believes Local Governments have been spared some of the more serious consequences of the State's grim economic position.

WALGA President Mayor Troy Pickard said that while the State Budget delivered some challenges to the sector, Local Governments would not be affected to the extent that other industries were.

"Compared to last year's State Budget, Local Governments can be reassured that there will be nowhere near the harsh impacts of previous years," Mayor Pickard said.

"There are a number of measures that reflect the sector's strong advocacy for a reprieve from cost imposts that are ultimately borne by the community through increased rates or reduced services."

"The sector welcomes the acknowledgement by the State Government of the substantial financial burden of maintaining street lights, one of the biggest bills to Local Governments.

"The street lighting tariff increase of 7.5 per cent is far more reasonable than the 36.8 per cent foreshadowed in last year's State Budget," Mayor Pickard said.

The State Budget includes plans to increase utility costs to households by between six and 11 per cent.

"The proposed increases in State utility charges provides clear validation for Local Governments needing to implement rate adjustments to absorb additional costs," Mayor Pickard said.

"Indeed, in the main any Council rate increases are likely to be at or below the lower end of this scale."

The Association cautioned the State Government against considering rate exemptions in the sale of assets.

"Local Governments will still need to provide essential infrastructure and resources to support newly privatised assets," Mayor Pickard said.

"In addition, the sector will be seeking reassurance from the State Government that the cap on pensioner rebates for Council rates at \$550 from 2016 will not result in any cost shifting to Local Governments.

"Local Governments should not be expected to subsidise any resulting shortfall."

Ends

19 May 2015

WA Local Government National Excellence in Planning

Local Government excellence in planning across the areas of biodiversity, emergency management and community engagement has been nationally recognised at the 2015 Planning Institute of Australia Awards.

The WA Local Government Association's Local Biodiversity Program took out the Hard Won Victory category at the awards on Wednesday, 13 May.

Judges acknowledged the Program as an excellent example of sustained effort in the face of a lack of existing resources and supporting frameworks.

WALGA President, Mayor Troy Pickard said the award recognised the Association's ongoing efforts in working with the sector in biodiversity conservation.

"The Association's Local Biodiversity Program helps Local Governments make balanced and informed decisions by using their statutory provisions for conserving and managing local biodiversity," Mayor Pickard said.

"The program has created a consistent and comprehensive approach to local biodiversity conservation, with 19 Local Governments across south west Australia and 12 metropolitan Local Governments actively involved in the program."

WA Local Governments to also receive awards include:

- **City of Kwinana** - Promotion of Planning Award for its *Margaret Feilman Planning and Heritage Retrospective*, with the judges acknowledging how the retrospective provides a template for how Australian jurisdictions can use their own history, culture and individual characters to expose the benefits of planning to the general community.
- **City of Vincent** in partnership with the Beaufort Street Network - Great Place Award for *Beaufort Street*. This community-led project has galvanised local residents and the business community behind an initiative to create a socially and economically vibrant neighbourhood.
- **City of Swan** – Best Planning Idea's Large Project Award for its *Strategic Bushfire Risk Analysis Program* with the judges noting the ground-breaking mapping tool which provides a proactive measure to guide development assessment, strategic land use planning and emergency management within bushfire risk areas.

Mayor Pickard congratulated all of the WA Local Government winners and those that received commendations.

"These national awards recognise excellence and showcase leading practice across a range of planning disciplines and sectors," he said.

"It is outstanding to see national recognition of the WA Local Government sector and its strong commitment to planning excellence for the development of our communities."

The annual Awards for Planning Excellence celebrate the contribution planners and planning make to society through enhancements of the physical environment that create social and economic benefit.

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1.1 EMPLOYEE MOVEMENTS

New Staff:

- ❑ Community Development Support Officer – commencement date 18/05/2015.
- ❑ Casual Gym Instructor / Personal Trainer – commences 20/05/2015.

Staff Leaving:

- ❑ NIL

Other Staff Movements (Internal):

- ❑ Casual Statutory Planning Officer, successful in recruitment process to permanent Statutory Planning Officer position effective 13/05/2015.

Current Recruitment Activity:

- ❑ Rates Officer – recruitment progressing.
- ❑ Construction Engineer – recruitment progressing.
- ❑ Drafting Officer – recruitment progressing.
- ❑ Parks Supervisor Streetscapes – recruitment progressing.
- ❑ Major Events & Arts Coordinator – applications close 28/05/2015.
- ❑ Senior Administration Officer - applications close 21/05/2015.
- ❑ Special Projects Officer POS – applications close 21/05/2015.
- ❑ Technical Officer – applications close 21/05/2015.

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TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS

ITEM	REFERRING COMMITTEE	COMMENTS
<p>Ordinary Council Meeting 9 March 2015. Matter for Referral – Cr Butterfield. <i>"That the matter of current traffic statistics for vehicles travelling through Kelmscott be referred to the Technical Services Committee"</i></p>	<p>Technical Services</p>	<p>Investigation under way with report to be presented to June Technical Services Committee Meeting.</p>
<p>Ordinary Council Meeting 13 April 2015. Matter for Referral – Cr Shaw. <i>"That the matter of designated public litter collection point be referred to the Technical Services Committee."</i></p>	<p>Technical Services</p>	<p>Investigation under way with report to be presented to July Technical Services Committee Meeting.</p>
<p>Ordinary Council Meeting 13 April 2015. Matter for Referral – Cr Wielinga. <i>"That Council refers the Councillor's item in regard to the Playground Strategy to the relevant Directorate for action and/or report to the appropriate Committee".</i></p>	<p>Technical Services</p>	<p>Investigation under way with report to be presented to July Technical Services Committee Meeting.</p>

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COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLANNING:

Wungong Regional Recreation Reserve Concept planning

A planning consultancy has been identified for this project and will be appointed once funding arrangements with the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority have been confirmed.

Armadale District Hall upgrade

Architects have been commissioned to prepare three costed concept plan for the District Hall for a report to Council in June. Timing of detailed planning and works will depend on the Council's decision and availability of other venues to temporarily accommodate the current user groups.

Armadale Golf Course

A report went to Council in May with a range of options for consideration ranging from returning the site to a more natural setting through to leasing the site to an external facility management group for 10 years.

Roleystone Men's Shed and Community Garden update.

The combined Roleystone Men's Shed and Community Garden group have agreed on a concept plan that will form the basis of a report to council in June. Following this the group will apply for a Lotterywest grant for planning and construction of the area.

Masterplanning of Bob Blackburn Reserve and Gwynne Park.

The consultation with stakeholders, community and user groups is currently being undertaken by TPG Town Planning and CCS Strategic. The next phase will involve the development of concept plans that will then be reviewed with the stakeholders and councillors. This project is due for completion in October 2015.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

DISABILITY ADVISORY TEAM

The City's Disability Advisory Team (DAT) meets on the first Tuesday of every second month. The team comprises community members, local service providers, a City Councillor and officers.

The next meeting will be held in June.

ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Music in the Mall

The Music in the Mall Friday lunchtime performance series in the Jull Street Mall ran from 6 February to 24 April 2015. The three month program involved 28 local and culturally diverse musicians performing 11 shows to an audience of approximately 600 people.

Hawkers Market

A range of Asian themed performances were programmed for the outdoor Armadale Hawk's Market event in Memorial Park on 17 April 2015. This included the eight-piece Chinese Miracle Band ensemble, the Peacock Indonesian Dance Troupe and

young local Muslim duo of Ozi Hishmeh and Ija Andhy, which were all well received by the community.

Minnawarra Festival

At the 2015 Minnawarra Festival, local cultural groups were engaged to perform on two stages at either end of the Minnawarra Park/Church Avenue festival site. The participating groups included the Sri Lankan Cultural Society WA (recently relocated to Baker's House in Harrisdale), the Roleystone Musician's Club, the Roleystone Acoustic Klatch group, Classic Sounds Orchestra, and several local music bands. The main stage MC role was also filled by a popular young Armadale musician and local music industry worker. In total, 70 local artists were employed to perform at the Minnawarra Festival in 2015.

Minnawarra Artist Professional Development Workshops

To accompany the Minnawarra Art Awards exhibition, the City has presented a professional development Arts Marketing Workshop for visual artists with Arts Consultant, media personality and Minnawarra Arts Awards judge, Paula Silbert. Held at the Armadale District Hall's Lesser Hall, seven local artists participated in the two-day workshop aimed to develop career planning capacity and self-marketing skills for coordinating independent visual art exhibitions.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Families Week

The City has partnered with the Armadale Community Family Centre (ACFC) to provide a First Aid Information Session. This has been organised in response to requests from families accessing the ACFC. This session will take place on 21 May from 11am-1pm.

Protective Behaviours

The City has approached Protective Behaviours organisation Safe4Kids and Parkerville Children and Youth Care to provide Protective Behaviours training at nine schools. The training will also be delivered at two community workshops during Child Protection Week held 7-11 September 2015. One of these workshops will be held at the Champion Centre and the other will be held at the Piara Waters Pavilion.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The City has been working closely with the Kelmscott Policing Team to trial a digital radio project, called the SCAN Network, in the Kelmscott CBD area. The SCAN Network will provide businesses the mechanism to give Police real time updates on any anti-social behaviour that is occurring in the area. When offenders decamp via public transport, the Police will have the opportunity to track the offenders through the use of the SCAN network.

Although this program is in its early stages, the pilot has already yielded positive results with support received from local businesses and the Police District Office.

DRUG AWARE IGNITE BASKETBALL

Training Course

During April, Drug Aware Ignite Basketball hosted a comprehensive training course for Ignite coaching staff. The training aimed to develop skills around youth work teaching, group control, rapport building and conflict resolution.

Perth Wildcats

The Perth Wildcats attended four Ignite sessions during May and June, with positive feedback from the 40 young people in attendance.

Leeuwin Ocean Adventure

15 year old Ignite participant Justin Indich will be next young person granted a scholarship for the Leeuwin Ocean Adventure leaving on 13 June.

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

The City has been notified that it is one of only 19 organisations in the state that have been granted funding for community gardens. The Minister for Local Government and Communities, Mr Tony Simpson advised the City that \$20,000 has been awarded to the Champion Centre to develop a Kitchen Garden. The City of Armadale, through the Champions Kitchen Garden project, will design and construct a culturally appropriate garden to include the traditional use of fruit trees, vines, vegetables and herbs as well as create bush tucker and bush medicine to educate Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families. Costs will fund the design and structure of the garden and a launch of the finished product. The aim of the project is to create a sense of neighbourhood and provide a safe, recreational green space to relax and promote gardening skills while contributing to the indigenous development commitment of recycling, environmental sustainability and cultural practices in an urban setting.

POSITIVE AGEING

Café Lia Lunch Program

Through the Positive Ageing portfolio, the City is supporting a trial of the Café Lia lunch program for 16 weeks, through contributing to the cost of the food required. The program is held at the Kelmscott Church of Christ, it is aimed at older people who are socially isolated, living in poverty, homeless or at risk of homelessness and offers a safe environment and a nutritious meal in a setting that fosters community connectedness. To date there has been a positive response to the weekly Tuesday lunches, with an average of 33 older people attending. Some of the attendees have volunteered to help with the preparation of the meals and others have been linked with needed services they were not aware of.

A bus service will commence to allow older people who fit the criteria to attend the lunches who are unable to transport themselves.

Technology Buddies

The City's Technology Buddies program offers a weekly opportunity during the school term for the older person to partner with a student to learn how to use their technology items including cameras, ipads and smart phones. The program is now operating in tandem with the City's other library-based computer program.

Dale Christian College will be incorporating both programs into its curriculum commencing in Term Two 2015. Technology Buddies will be expanding to operate at Kelmscott Library in partnership with Kelmscott Senior High School students.

Technology Buddies operates at the Armadale Library with Dale Christian College and at Kelmscott Library with Kelmscott Senior High School. Both programs are at capacity.

Positive Ageing Sessions

The City's Positive Ageing Sessions are held on the first Wednesday of every month (excluding January) at the Armadale Library. Occasionally evening sessions are held.

A Positive Ageing Session was held 6 May 2015 at the Armadale Library. Topics discussed were 'The Age Pension and Your Choices' and 'Understanding Aged Care Costs'. Sixty people attended and all provided positive feedback on the sessions.

Upcoming session

The next Positive Ageing Session will be held on the 3 June at the Armadale Library at 1.30pm. The topic to be discussed is 'Elder Abuse'.

An evening Positive Ageing Session will be held on the 25 June at the Armadale Library at 5.30pm. The topic to be discussed is 'Turning Teens'.

Positive Ageing Come and Try- Let's Get Crafty Sessions

Positive Ageing Come and Try – Let's Get Crafty Sessions are held every second month in 2015 at 10.00am at the Armadale Library. A Let's Get Crafty Session was held on the 9 April at the Armadale Library on 'Origami Made Easy'.

Upcoming Session

The next Positive Ageing Come and Try – Let's Get Crafty Session will be held on the 11 June at the Armadale Library on 'Beaded Jewellery for Beginners'.

LiveLighter Seniors/Information Day

The Seniors Recreation Council of WA supported by the City of Armadale hosted a 'LiveLighter Seniors Activity/Information Day' at the Champion Centre on Wednesday 29 April.

The day featured recreational activities and provided information about services available for older people. Activities include carpet bowls, mini golf, X box Kinect, seated hockey, quoits, and pole walking. Morning tea was provided. Sixty Eight people attended.

YOUTH

Youth Partnership Project (YPP)

The City is a key partner of the south-east corridor focused YPP which over a two-year project aims to:

- Improve efficiency and effectiveness of existing services – *working smarter not harder*
- Improve our collective understanding of what works – *through both hearing from young people and from robust evaluation*

- Improve the sustainability of the impact we aim to make – *creating an established and replicable model*

To progress those aims, the YPP 'Youth Voices Speak Out for Change' Youth Summit was held on 15 April during National Youth Week. Over 100 young people participated in 16 specialised workshops to provide guidance for future decisions for young people. The entire event was facilitated by members of the Youth Leadership Roundtable, who advise the YPP Executive on systemic and policy matters pertaining to young people. The City assisted with this event through administration and management staff support prior to and on the day.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Armadale Youth Collaborative Action Network (CAN)

The City and Save the Children Australia continues to coordinate and facilitate the bi-monthly Armadale Youth CAN as the Armadale operational component of the Youth Partnership Project (YPP). This is a local coordination planning group that comprises local youth service providers. On 29 April the City will be assisting with a one-day workshop with youth and community organisations held to identify issues and resolutions for young people. The recommendations will be consolidated into an overarching Youth Strategy for the review of the YPP Youth Roundtable and Exec Committee.

This workshop will be heavily informed by the recommendations from the YPP Youth Summit held on 15 April which comprised a gathering of 100 young people from all over Perth who took part in specialised workshops to provide guidance for future decisions for young people. The City contributed to this significant event through administration and management staff support prior to and on the day.

ARMADALE VOLUNTEER SERVICES

National Volunteer Week

Two key documents in relation to volunteering were released during National Volunteer Week:

- At a State level VolunteeringWA in partnership with Armadale Volunteer Services and other key partners released "The Economic, Social and Cultural Value of Volunteering to Western Australia."
http://volunteeringwa.org.au/assets/downloads/vwa_report%20book_web.pdf

Key findings in this document include:

- The Socio-economic and cultural value of volunteering in WA in 2014 is conservatively estimated to be \$39 billion .
- Four out of five Western Australians volunteered in 2014 donating as total of 315 million hours of their time.
- Treated as a sector in its own right, volunteering is WA's largest industry by employment.
- At a National level the new Standards for Volunteer Involvement were also released during National Volunteer Week. The new Standards incorporate significant changes to the original standards in order to reflect best practice in volunteer management in Australia's current work environment.
<http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/policy-and-best-practise/national-standards-and-supporting-material/>

The Standards provide a sound framework for supporting the volunteer sector in Australia. The Standards are much easier to follow and are adaptable to different organisation types and different forms of volunteering which reflect the diversity of this growing sector.

Direct benefits of the Standards to organisations:

They provide good practice guidance and benchmarks to help organisations attract, manage and retain volunteers, and Help manage risk and safety in their work with volunteers.

Direct benefits of the Standards to volunteers:

They help improve the volunteer experience.

Volunteer tribute garden

The team from Parks and Reserves have also replanted the volunteer tribute garden in time for National Volunteer Week. The garden is looking beautiful with a mass display of petunias. The garden can be found at one of the main entries to the City at the intersection of Armadale Road and Church Avenue.



Monday 11 May – Armadale Volunteer Services commenced a “Do you need volunteers campaign?” This campaign is aimed at volunteering involving organisations across the City of Armadale that engage volunteers but are not currently registered with Armadale Volunteer Services. Not-for-profit groups were invited to register with Armadale Volunteer Services to have free access to volunteer promotions and training opportunities.

Wednesday 13 May - Armadale Volunteer Services celebrated National Volunteer Week with an event at the Kelmscott Hall on Wednesday 13 May. All volunteers living and/or volunteering in the City of Armadale were invited to attend this event. Katherine John provided the entertainment at this event while catering was supplied by the students from Armadale Senior High School. A caricature artist was also available for volunteers to have their caricature done. Guest speakers were from Radio Lollipop. Over 70 people attended this event.

Thursday 14 May - Armadale Volunteer Services in partnership with Peel Volunteer Resource Centre and the Shire of Serpentine/ Jarrahdale hosted a Step into Volunteering session at the Byford Recreation Centre. Shelley Taylor-Smith was a keynote speaker at this event.

A week long display was also held in Armadale Library promoting volunteering to the community.

Step into Volunteering

A "Step into Volunteering" session aimed at potential volunteers in the community who are thinking about volunteering but not sure how to get started will be held on Thursday 4 June at the Armadale library.

Promoting good culture in your organisation and developing anti-bullying policies

Armadale Volunteer Services in partnership with the City of Gosnells e-Volunteer Hub is thrilled to present Promoting good culture in your organisation and developing anti-bullying policies workshop. Facilitated by Megan Paul from Murdoch University, this workshop will explore the issues surrounding bullying, creating a culture of dignity and respect for all, and developing an anti-bullying policies. This workshop will be held on Wednesday 3 June at the Maddington Community Centre.

RECREATION SERVICES

DEPARTMENT SNAPSHOT

In April 2015 the Recreation Services Department;

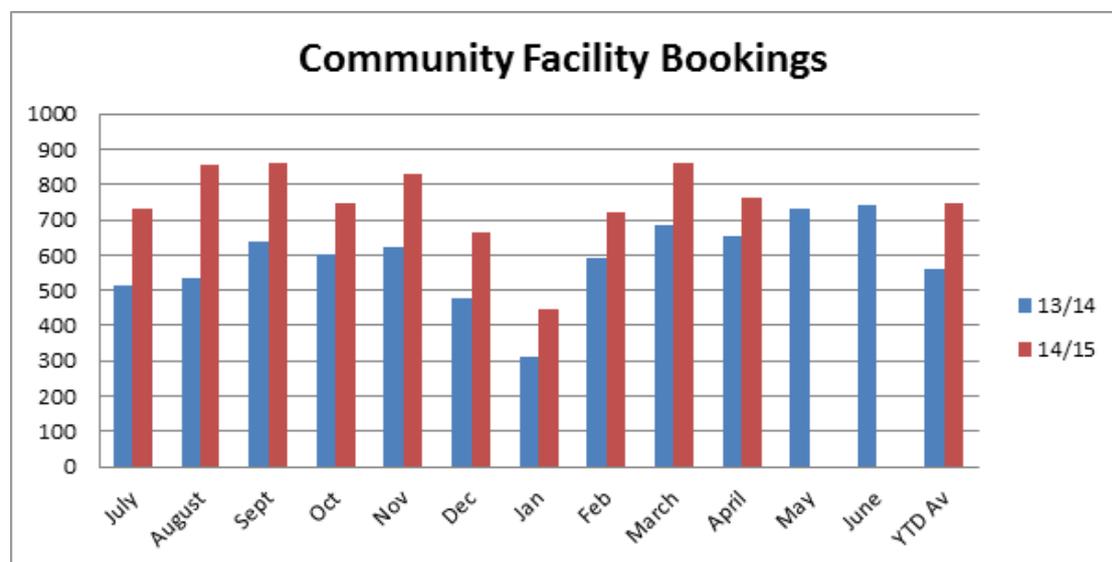
- Provided 52 programs or activities to community programs
- Had 38,141 attendances to our facilities
- Had 1394 bookings at our facilities and reserves
-

Community Facilities and Reserves

Bookings

Bookings remain static with 760 bookings for facilities in April and 603 reserve bookings. The winter season has now commenced the new committees have being inducted and the annual challenge of ensuring that all clubs requirements have being met for the season

Piara Waters Pavilion and Bakers House continue to maintain over 100 bookings per month; both facilities are at capacity during peak times and extremely popular on weekends with casual functions.



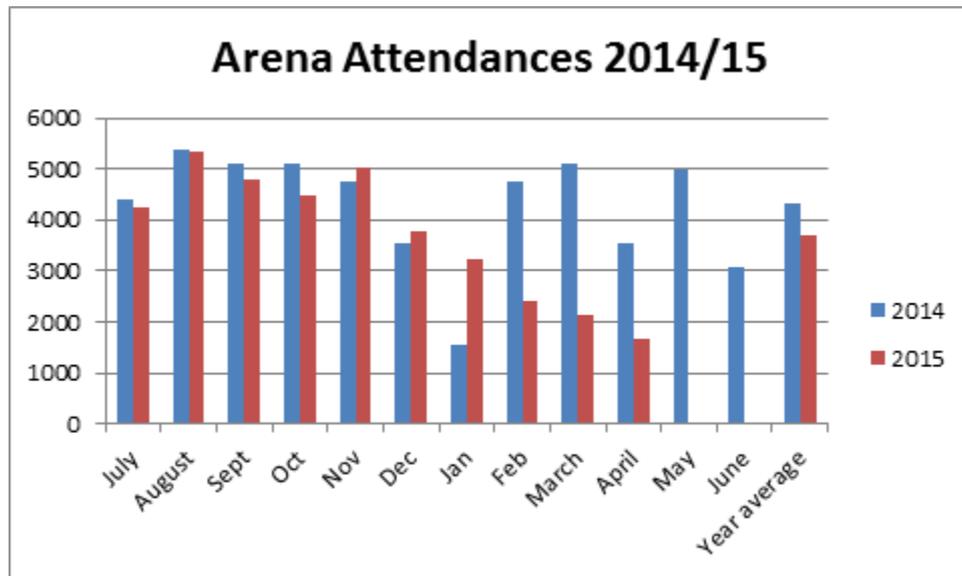
Club Development

The winter clubs briefing had a high response rate. The clubs were proactive in their questioning and gave feedback that the session was worthwhile and engaging. KidSport continued to grow from 2014 to 2015 with 153 applicants in April 2015, compared to 108 last April. This increase has seen clubs to continue to grow with team numbers now putting a strain on available reserve space.

Armadale Arena

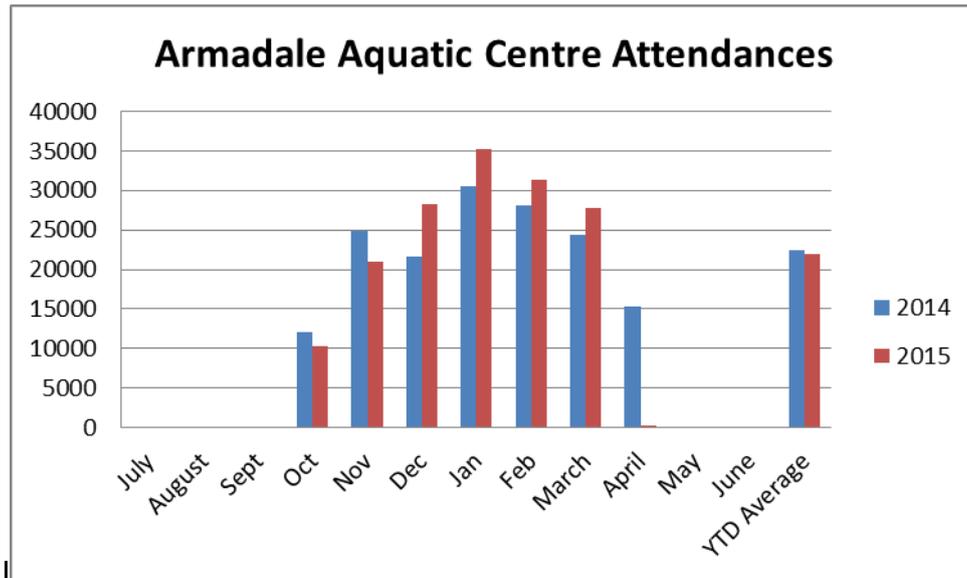
The Arena roof replacement project is continuing on track and the reception upgrade commenced on 27 April, including the kiosk and foyer to create a more welcoming environment. In line with the City of Armadale Health and Wellbeing Plan, vending machines have now been removed and once the reception upgrades have been completed the Arena will commence stocking small quantities of healthy snack options.

The Centre remains quiet due to the court closure and Officers are looking forward to recommencing all programs and bookings.



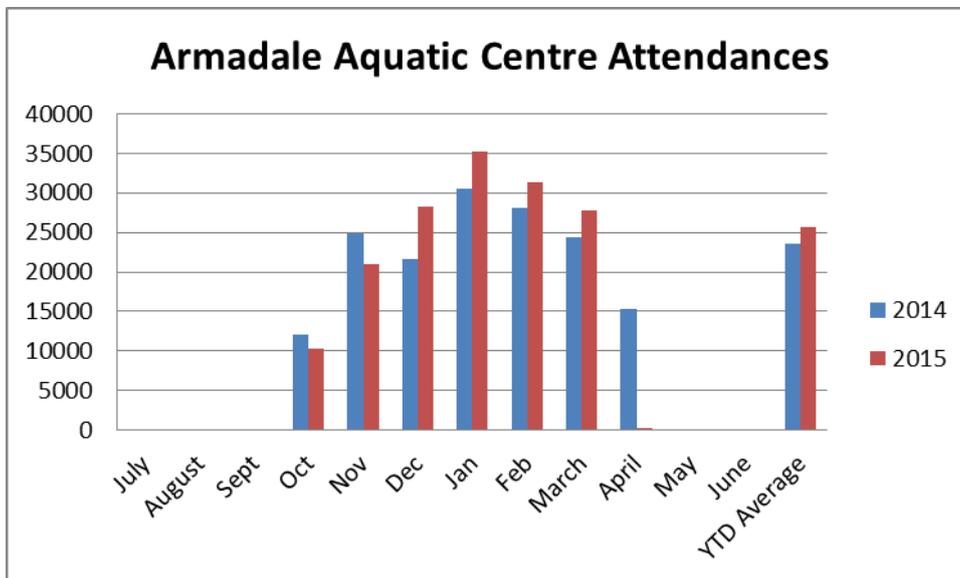
Armadale Aquatic Centre

The centre closed on Thursday 2 April this year, consistent with the end of the school term. This is approximately 2 weeks early then last year and subsequently final attendance figures are reflective with a 2000 overall decrease in attendance for the year. Trials in previous years have to stay open for part of term 2 have been unsuccessful with school groups and school holiday trials following term 1 have had extremely low attendance and demonstrating no need to extend the season.



ARMADALE AQUATIC CENTRE

Armadale Aquatic Centre attendances continued at capacity throughout March. The bookings cease past the April school holidays due to the possibility of inclement weather. Numbers remain fairly consistent from 2014, with no additional space available to accommodate any additional bookings this season.



APRIL 2015

LIBRARY SERVICES

STATISTICAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Library Department's statistical performance indicators report for the month of April 2015.

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

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

32 regular sessions were held. In any month these could include: story time, Baby Rhyme Time, school holiday programs, English conversation classes, reading & writing groups, computer training sessions, 3D printing workshops, games mornings and the Men's Social Group. A total of 387 people participated in these various activities.

Reports on sessions of interest:

Topic: Car maintenance and repair
Presenter: Mr Car Man (Paul Rutley)

Date: 23 April 2015
Time: 6.30-7.30pm
Venue: Armadale Library Reading Lounge
No. Attending: 13

"Mr Car Man" (Paul Rutley) presented at the Armadale Library to answer any queries relating to automobile maintenance and repair. Paul is a former mechanic who became tired of the mechanical industry and now works as a long haul truck driver. His years of experience in the field gave him the knowledge to write a 'dummies' style book to help the average person handle basic repairs and to avoid unnecessary, costly trips to the grease monkey. Paul was accompanied by his wife, Julie, who proved to be a helpful guide in answering queries and encouraging the audience to participate.

"Mr Car Man" handled all questions effortlessly and was able to elaborate with helpful, additional information and sometimes personal stories from his time in the trade. The number of questions asked and the information that was provided filled the allocated time with ease. The hour session concluded with refreshments and additional conversation between the audience, Paul and Julie. A weekend session held at another branch should attract additional attendees and both "Mr and Mrs Car Man" have expressed interest in returning.

Topic: Roll up – Roll up! April School Holiday Activities

Presenters: Michael Alvares, Kite Kinetics, Hardey McMurrick, Isobell from Disco Cantito, Shirley Reilly, Rita Lennon, Jenny Ramshaw

Dates: Wednesday 8 April, Thursday 9 April, Friday 10 April, Tuesday 14 April, Wednesday 15 April, Thursday 16 April, Friday 17 April

Venues: Armadale, Kelmscott and Seville Grove Libraries

No. Attending: 257 children; 155 adults

SVG: Let's fly a kite: 50 children, 28 adults ; ARM: Harmonica Man: 70 children, 48 adults ; Lego Circus: ARM: 29 children, 18 adults ; Lego Circus: SVG: 28 children, 13 adults ; ARM: Make your own juggling balls: 33 children, 16 adults ; KMS: Clowning around with craft: 30 children, 20 adults ; ARM: Pyjama story time: 17 children, 12 adults

The holiday activities got off to a flying start at Seville Grove Library with a "Let's Fly a Kite" workshop run by Michael Alvares from Kite Kinetics. Michael did a show and tell explaining about various types of kites and how they were decorated using motifs from around the world. He then demonstrated how to fly some of his magnificent kites. The children were each given a kite making kit to assemble and decorate with a clown or circus theme, and then went to the oval to test fly the kites. The Mayor, Cr. Henry Zelones, the guest judge, awarded prizes for the most creative efforts. Comments from parents afterwards indicated the session had surpassed their expectations.

Harmonica Man visited Armadale Library with his mime, music, juggling and magic show. The 70 children and 48 adults attending were entranced with his tricks and antics.

At the Lego Circus sessions children were challenged to use their imagination and they created very unique circus animals. Working as teams they put it all together and built absolutely amazing circuses. They were very proud of the finished product and it was great to see the adults get involved too.

Children had the opportunity to make their own juggling balls with Isobell from Disco Cantito. She demonstrated the art of juggling and all of the children had a go and were able to take their juggling balls home for more practicing.

Children, parents and carers were eager to clown around with craft at Kelmscott Library. There was an assortment of craft supplies to choose from; to jazz up a plane, decorate a flower, beautify a very plain flower, or personalise a door and there were four balloon templates the children decorated, now displayed in the junior area.

Families came to Armadale Library for a fun evening of circus and clown stories as well as songs and craft with Rita and Shirley. Children came dressed in their pyjamas. Paper bag clowns were made with some great results.

The "Roll up – Roll up" April school holiday activities were lots of fun and families came to the library for entertainment, education and wonderful experiences. Books on clowns, circuses and magic were on display for borrowing at each event.

Staff Development Days and associated library closures.

Following the successful Public Libraries WA Conference and its excellent speakers, the audio and power-point presentations were made available to attendees. This has provided an ideal opportunity to engage all of the library staff members in some team development sessions that will take place in June.

To achieve this and enable all 38 staff members to attend sessions conducted over two days, it will be necessary to close the Kelmscott Library on Thursday 18 June and the Seville Grove Library on Friday 19 June.

The sessions will be held off site and facilitated and will focus on the opportunities that anticipated changes in State Library Service operations will have on the staff. These changes will allow greater interaction with library users as a result of reduced work room process.

The last time the libraries were closed for any staff development was in 2010, prior to the relocation of the Armadale Library. With the relocation of the Kelmscott Library taking place in 2015, plus a change in the Library Management System software, it is considered timely to again bring the team together, particularly as a number of the staff work part time hours and do not have very much interaction with the full time staff members.

HERITAGE SERVICES

Statistical Performance Indicators

The Heritage Department's statistical performance indicators report for the month of April 2015

Birtwistle Local Studies Library

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

Picture Armadale

During the past month a new-look banner, with the latest corporate ribbon, has been added to top of the website. New features have included a collection list, suggested search topics and a tab linking to the History House Museum and Council websites. Modifications have also been made to the search results' list.

The BLSL volunteers have expanded the online photograph resource by 45 images.

Oral histories

Two keen members of the Civic Pride Action Group have accepted an invitation to be interviewed about their voluntary work that keeps them busy cleaning graffiti from structures in the district.

Claude Marsh book

Linton Reynolds, author of the book *A guest of the Kaiser*: visited the BLSL to discuss the distribution of the books to the members of State and Federal Government, military historian Neville Browning, the SLWA, the Australian War Memorial, the WA Army Museum, local libraries and families which donated information and photographs to the publication. It is intended to have a celebratory formal launch of the book.

Research enquiries

- History of a location in Brookdale that might have a bearing on a frequent ghostly visitor to a family home.
- Researcher re local Aboriginal sites
- Matron Florence Grono and the land she owned in Churchman Brook
- Query regarding the history of a property on Urch Road, Roleystone
- Background information about the John Dunn reserve
- Local history subject heading list requested by David Johansen
- The office of heritage architect, John Taylor,, seeking information about Ivor Birtwistle's renowned architect father, James.

Research into the government records for Armadale, Bedforddale, Forrestdale, Kelmscott and Roleystone primary schools

Research into the history of the original Narrogin Brook / Bedforddale School in preparation for a Historic Site plaque, has revealed that the details held in the BLSL collection are primarily based on here-say and memories. In order to verify the dates and people, a research historian has been engaged to interrogate the government records in the State Records Office. To make the most of the opportunity, the research project has been extended to the other district schools that were established in the late 1800s or early 1900s.

Family Tree Group meeting

The April meeting, attended by 10 people, was divided into two sessions. Linton Reynolds conducted a workshop on the finding and use of maps when researching family history. Kerry Westlake facilitated the third in a series of writing workshops that inspired confidence and easily achieved goals when writing family stories.

History House Museum

Museum Exhibitions

On the Home Front: Life in the City of Armadale during World War One

This exhibition was opened on April 24 by Cr Henry Zelones, Mayor of the City of Armadale. Guests included Dr Tony Buti MLA, Tony Simpson MLA, a representative of Don Randall MP, Cr Kerry Busby, COA museum and BLSL volunteers and representatives from the Western Australian Museum, City of Gosnells and the Mundaring and Hills Historical Society.

Bert Tyler Vintage Machinery Museum

A meeting was held with Creative Spaces and work on constructing the new display furniture and exhibition panels will begin this month with installation planned for June.

Museum Programs

Minnawarra Historic Precinct Open Day

The open day will take place on Sunday May 17 and will involve a series of events from speakers organised by Birtwistle Local Studies Library in the Congregational Church, through to conservation demonstrations, back room tours and live music in the museum.

Museum Collection

Donations

Fay Clay donated a scarf worn by her daughter when a member of the Armadale Ranger Guides in the 1980s. The Ranger Guides were the next level up from Girl Guides for girls in their late teens to early 20s.

Craig Wales donated a spoon, fork and iron trivet that he found on the property. The three items were once part of the collection on display at the Kelmscott Museum of WA History on Gillwell Avenue in Kelmscott.

Allison Wholagan has kindly donated her Girl Guides Uniform to the museum. Alison wore the uniform in the 1950s when she was a member of the Armadale Girl Guides. The donation includes a dress, leather belt, tie, scarf and a shoulder bag.

Museum Education Report

Kelmscott John Calvin Primary School Year 6 class visited the Museum and were the first to participate in the program for our new exhibition On the Home Front: Life in the City of Armadale during World War One.

The Education Officer delivered the “School’s In” to Year 1 and Year 2 classes at St John Bosco Catholic School to the and the Local Anzacs program to Years 1-6 at Westfield Park Primary School over 2 days

The ‘Museum in a Box’ boxes of Domestic Life 1 and What’s in the Kitchen were loaned to Westfield Park Primary School and the Kelmscott Home School Group.

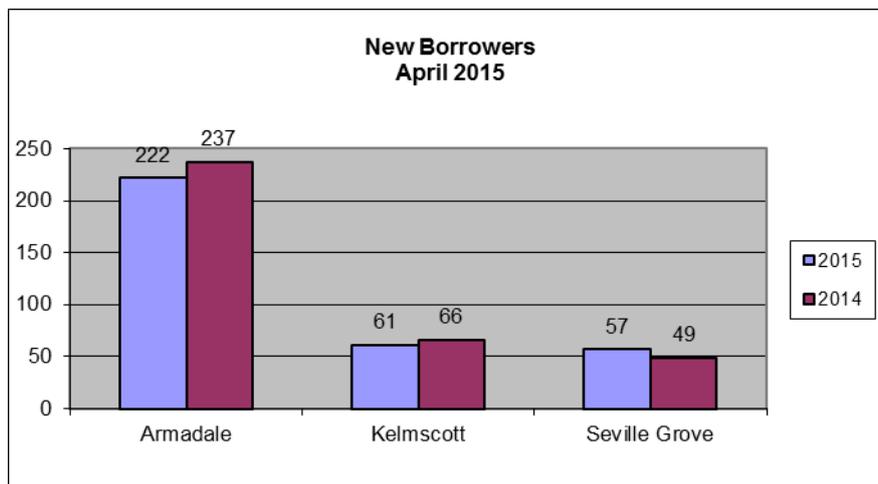
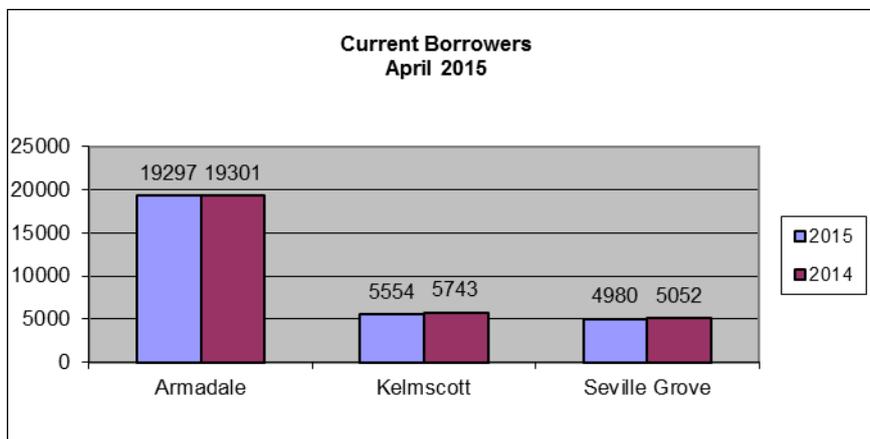
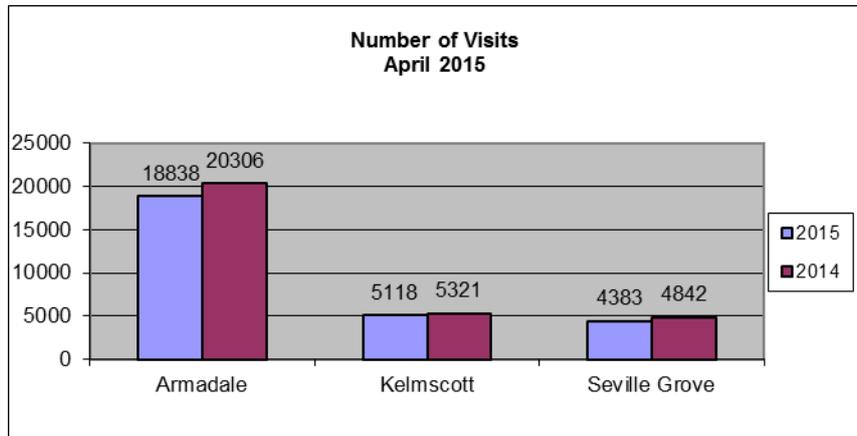
School Holiday Program

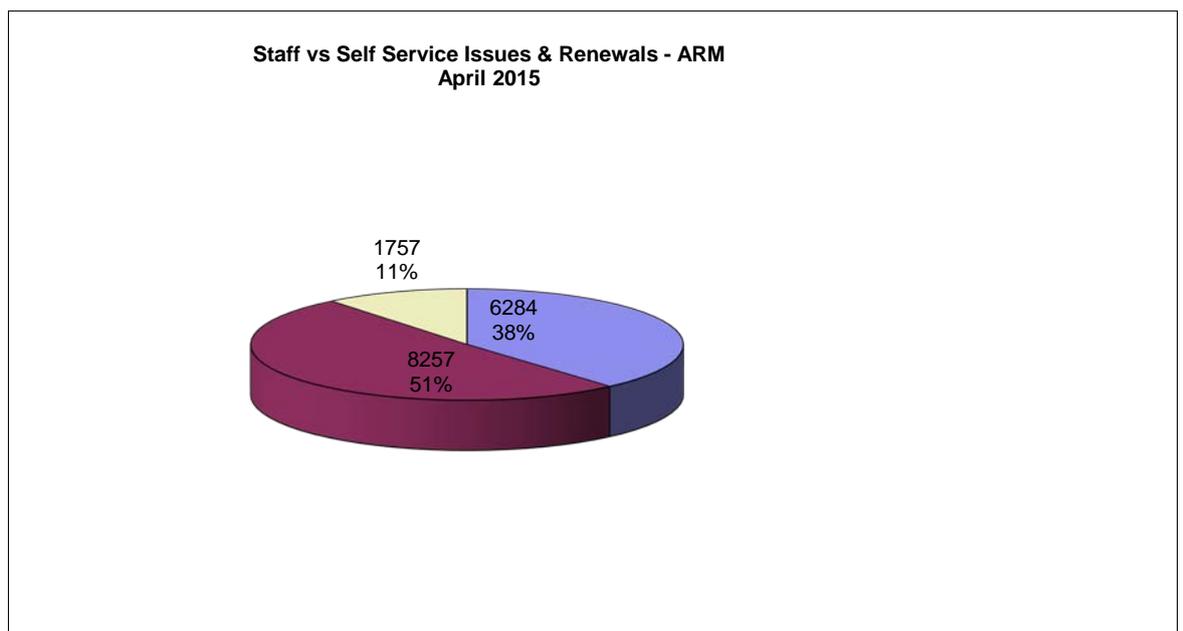
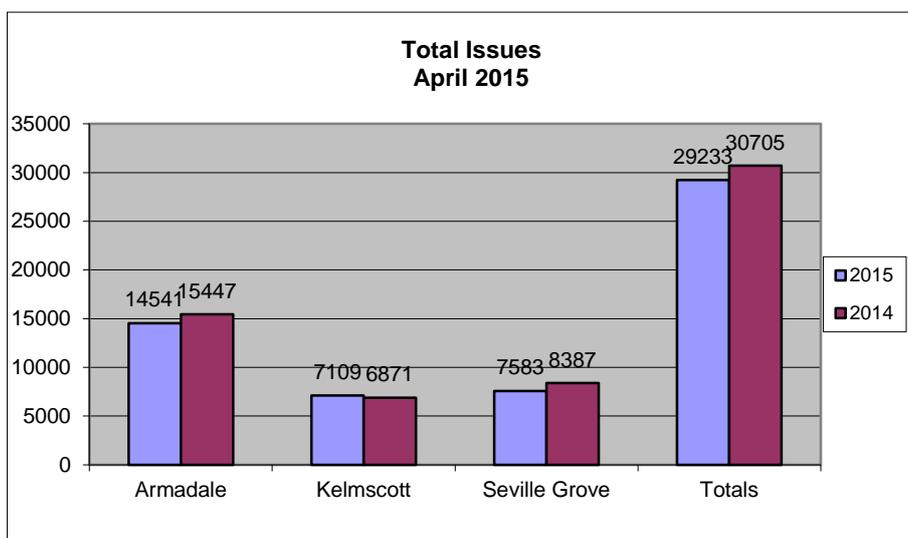
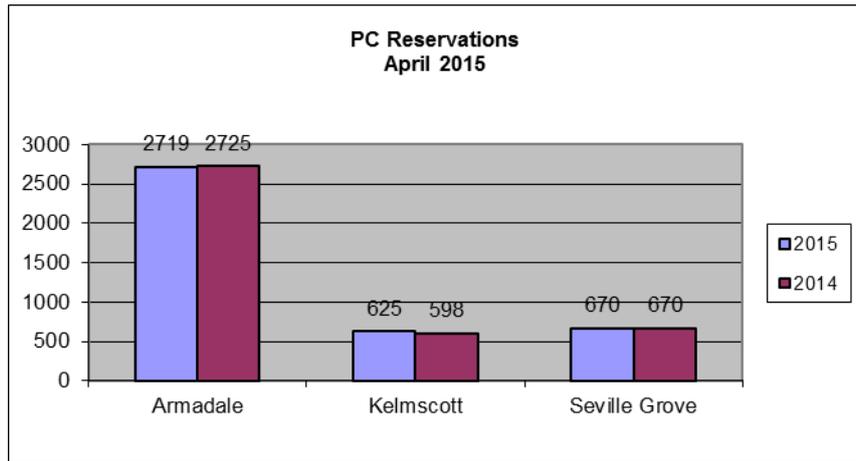
The new format for the holiday programs is proving to be a major success for the Museum with some 90 participants over the two weeks. Themed “Autumn Falls @ the Museum” activities included: Museum Trail and Object Artistry with two craft sessions on the World War One theme – Hot Air Balloons and Trench Periscopes – which attracted 57 participants

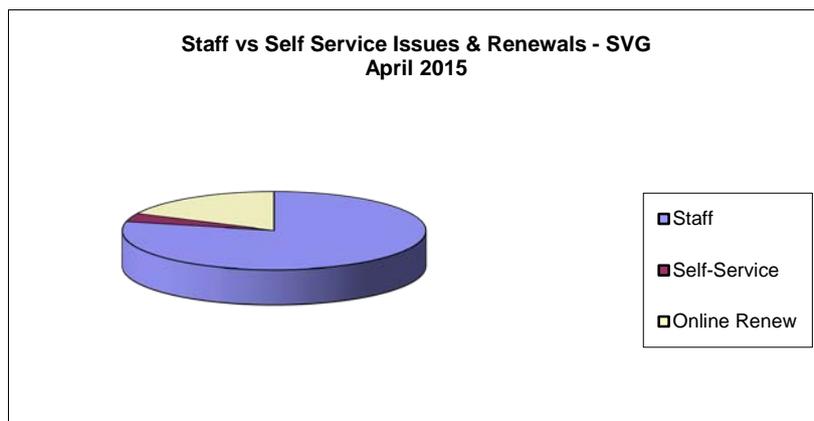
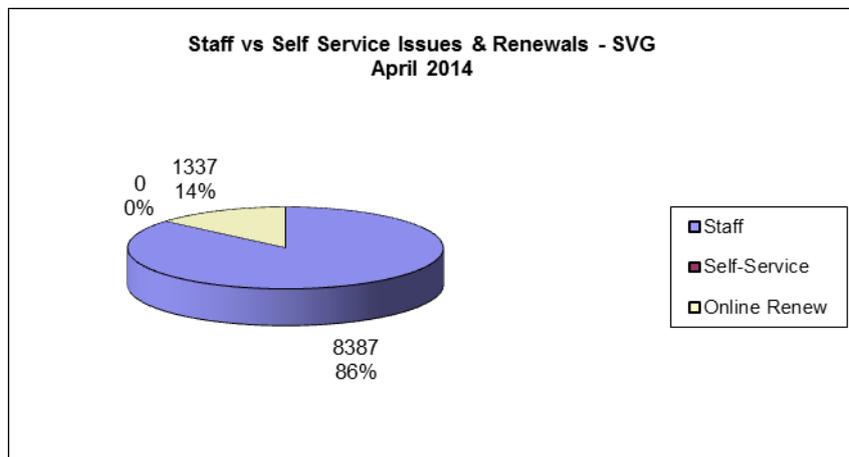
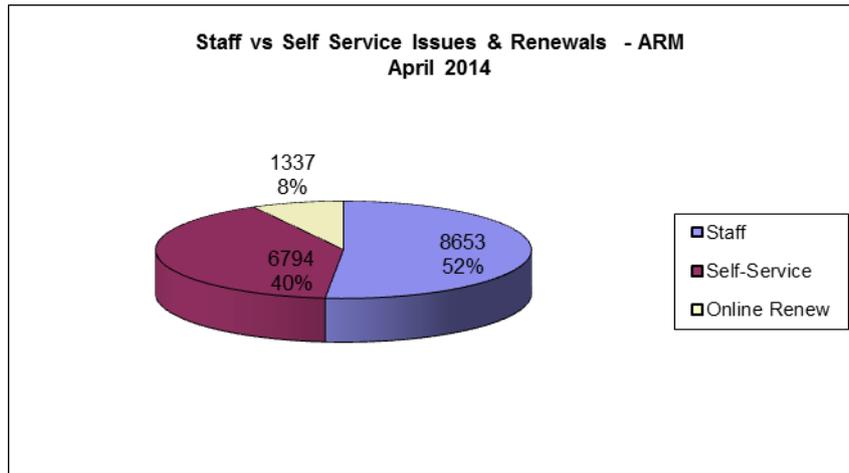
General

The Armadale Police Rangers visited the Museum for a special Anzac program to help them better understand the meaning of Anzac and to further appreciate their role in the Anzac service.

STATISTICS







HERITAGE SERVICES

STATISTICAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Heritage Department's statistical performance indicators report for the month of March 2015.

BIRTWISTLE LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARY

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

Oral histories

Skilled interviewers and transcribers are temporarily in short supply and so an experiment has been trialled to have informal interviews recorded and timed-logs written instead of verbatim transcripts.

Two new hand-held Q2 sound / video recorders have been purchased. These will be used by the volunteers who are somewhat intimidated by the more sophisticated Marantz recording equipment. The earlier model Q3 recorders have been made available to the Champion Centre to record the stories of the local Aboriginal elders.

Picture Armadale

A planned extension to the digital offerings by the BLSL has come with the purchase of video editing software, Adobe Premier Elements. Jeffery Green has given the BLSL 50 DVDs of the video recordings from the 1980s onwards. Excerpts from these will be selected and added to the Picture Armadale collection.

Steady progress is being made with adding new photos to the Picture Armadale collection. A second volunteer is being trained to add images and details to the online photograph collection.

An enhancement to the Picture Armadale database home page comes with the addition of an image slider where labelled images change every 2-3 seconds highlighting the variety of photographs that can be viewed by researchers.

Conflict & Compassion: An Anzac Tribute 250 Sunsets

The City's Local Studies Library has worked with local author Linda Bettenay and is supporting an event to be held as part of the 2015 National Trust Heritage Festival. The program for the evening of 15 May at the Roleystone Theatre, has been finalised. The performances will include: World War 1 songs sung by children from the Armadale Primary School and by noted singers from the district; there will be readings telling of the thoughts of two young men who have survived 250 sunsets at Gallipoli and a performance from Linda Bettenay's book *Secrets Mothers Keep*. Early bookings have been made possible by the Theatre staff.

Research enquiries

- Local history resources survey by a university student assignment
- The origins of the names of Urch and Peet Roads
- The history of a property on Urch Road (for new property owners)
- The history of the Kelmscott Shanty Town Museum (for new property owners)
- Glen Eagle and other ruins along Albany Highway past the Old Narrogin Inn.

Guest speaker Stephen O'Brien, Local Studies Librarian for the City of Gosnells

Family Tree Group Members were treated to a talk by Stephen O'Brien about the Kenwick Pioneer Cemetery. The burials there have a shared history with the early settlers of the Armadale district. 21 people attended this presentation. This talk was recorded for future reference.

HISTORY HOUSE MUSEUM

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

On the Home Front: Life in the City of Armadale during World War One

This exhibition is currently with the designers and will be installed in late April. The opening for this exhibition will occur on Friday 24 April and invitations have been sent out.

MUSEUM PROGRAMS

Comedian in Residence

The City of Armadale has submitted a request for \$20,540 to the Department of Culture and the Arts through the Connect Community Collections Grant Scheme. The grant will assist in funding the engagement of comedian Peter Rowsthorn to create and deliver a series of four museum tours that focus on the collection and local stories. Peter will also be doing a workshop focussing on how to do a public performance. The grant will also be used to cover the costs of engaging a film crew to record and produce a film of one of the performances. This film will be used as a record of the event and to promote the activities of the museum.

Minnawarra Historic Precinct Open Day

The open day will be held on Sunday May 17 and will include a number of activities in the museum, a series of speakers in the Minnawarra Chapel organised by the Birtwistle Local Studies Library, and a performance using some of the instruments in the museum by local band Jarrah Celtic. The key purpose of this day is to promote the heritage services of the City of Armadale to the public.

MUSEUM COLLECTION

There were two donations in March.

The first is a copy of the New Testament and Psalms given to Claude Marsh by the Armadale Congregational Church on April 11 1916. The book was a gift given to Claude and several other local men who had enlisted during World War One. The event where they were all presented with their New Testaments was recorded in the June/July edition of The Drill of the Foothills, a local newsletter published by the Congregational Community. The item was donated by Claude's daughter Alison Wholagan.

Mr Craig Wales donated a spoon, fork and iron trivet which he found on a property he has recently purchased. The items were part of the collection owned by Mr and Mrs Hin-Loopen who started the Kelmscott Museum of Western Australian History and Historical Shanty Town, located on Gilwell Avenue in Kelmscott.

This month the grandchildren and great grandchildren of Charles Duncan visited the museum to view his blacksmithing tools. The tools had been donated to the museum in 1993 by Charles's youngest son Alan. Charles was

a blacksmith in Armadale from the mid-1920s through to the late 1930s. His family left behind a collection of information of Charles, his family as well as a couple of family photographs. This information has greatly increased our understanding of Charles and his family.

MUSEUM EDUCATION REPORT

School Visits

Southern Hills Christian College made its annual visit to the Museum to learn about Local Government and our local Anzacs. Councillor Ruth Butterfield, Deputy Mayor, addressed the Year 6 class about how local government operates in Armadale.

Willandra Primary School Year 1s visited the Museum to learn what school was like in the early 1900s and the games the children played then.

School Incursion Program

The Education Officer visited both Pioneer Village School and Westfield Park Primary School to deliver the Old Time Games Incursion program. The children love playing the games.

MiaB

MiaB (Museum in a Box) has again been very popular this month with 4 boxes going out to schools.

MUSEUM MANAGEMENT

Conservation Workshop

On 19 March the curator attended a workshop on how to record and interpret climate data, object conservation reports and statements of significance to develop action plans and prepare budget priority lists relating to caring for collections. The day also included a tour of the Western Australian Museum collection storage facilities and tips on good collection management practices. The workshop and tour were very educational and have helped to identify a couple of new management practices that can be implemented at History House to improve the care of the collection as well as developing strategic planning on how best to use the museum's budget in relation to the conservation of significant items in the collection.

ANZAC Centenary Local Grant Program

The Australian Government through the Department of Veterans' Affairs' ANZAC Centenary Local Grant Program has awarded the City of Armadale \$27,930 to assist in the delivery of three exhibitions at History House between 2015 and 2018. The three exhibitions include 'On the Home Front: Life in the City of Armadale during World War One' (2015), the cartoons of Ben Strange relating to World War One and its aftermath (1917) and 'Returning Home' the stories of the men and women who returned home following the end of World War One (2018).

STATISTICS

BIRTWISTLE – STATISTICS – MARCH 2015

Birtwistle Local Studies Library				
	Current Month	Year to date		
	APR 15	APR 14	July 14 - Apr 15	July 13 - Apr 14
Reference Enquiries	15	4	64	40
Research Enquiries	11	24	94	101
Visitor Attendance total	126	139	892	1096
Volunteer Hours total	143	118	1293	842
Digitising Records	39	12	331	130
Oral History				
Letters Sent	3	6	23	30
Interviews Completed	1	2	15	19
Transcripts Completed/ reviewed	2	3	18	25
Volunteer Hours – Transcribing	28	21	222	180
Volunteer Hours - Interviewing	0	15	40	70
Family History Research				
Reference	4	2	96	42
Research	45	66	315	282
Volunteer Hours	39	56	404	448

HISTORY HOUSE MUSEUM – MARCH 2015

History House Museum	Current Month	Year to date		
		April 14	July 14- June 15	Jul 13 – June 14
	April 15	April 14	July 14- June 15	Jul 13 – June 14
General Visitors	205	297	1529	1857
School Visits	66	14	377	465
School Incursions	171	0	746	118
Holiday Programs	55	13	164	69
Community Programs	30	0	172	107
Seniors Programs	0	17	54	142
Total Visitors	527	341	3042	2758
Volunteer Hours	157	222	1435	1778
Bert Tyler Vintage Machinery Museum	April 15	April 14	July 14 – June 15	Jul 13 – June 14
Visitors	170	149	1705	1654

APRIL YEAR: 2015

RANGER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

ANIMAL CONTROL

Dogs

Ranger Services received eight hundred and thirteen (813) requests for assistance during this report period. Whilst the individual areas of dog control do not vary significantly from the corresponding period April 2014, the overall number of requests for assistance shows an increase of 18% in this area of operations.

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.

CATS

Ranger Services received one hundred (100) 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 thirteen (13) enquiries for assistance in dealing with stock wandering on the road.

Vehicles

PARKING

Ranger Services received one hundred and forty nine (149) requests for assistance, and issued one hundred and nine (109) 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.

ABANDONED VEHICLES

The number of abandoned vehicles dealt with by Ranger Services continues to be of constant with thirty (30) 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 three (23) reports of vehicles (motor cycles) being driven in areas that are prohibited, during this report period.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY 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.

A draft copy of the City of Armadale Criteria for the WAPC “Bushfire Management Guideline Appendices” were developed and distributed to staff from the Planning, Building, Environment and Ranger and Emergency Services Departments to provide feedback.

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the acceptable standards set out by the City of Armadale in complying with the requirements of the Western Australian Planning Commission’s (WAPC) “Planning for Bushfire Risk Management Guidelines Appendices”, specifically in the development of a Bushfire Management Plans (BMP).

More work and discussions were held with the Planning and Building Departments in preparation for the release of the State Bushfire Prone mapping. Information and links will be made available on the City’s website to assist the local community to understand the implications and standards to be met.

Variable message boards were positioned in Roleystone/Kelmscott and Bedfordale advising the public of the Restricted Burning Period and the need to obtain permits. On the 18 April Community Emergency Services Coordinator (CESC) attended a joint Bushfire Ready and Neighbourhood Watch community meeting at the Roleystone Fire Station. This meeting was run by the local coordinators for Bushfire Ready and Neighbourhood Watch to promote various safety messages in the community.

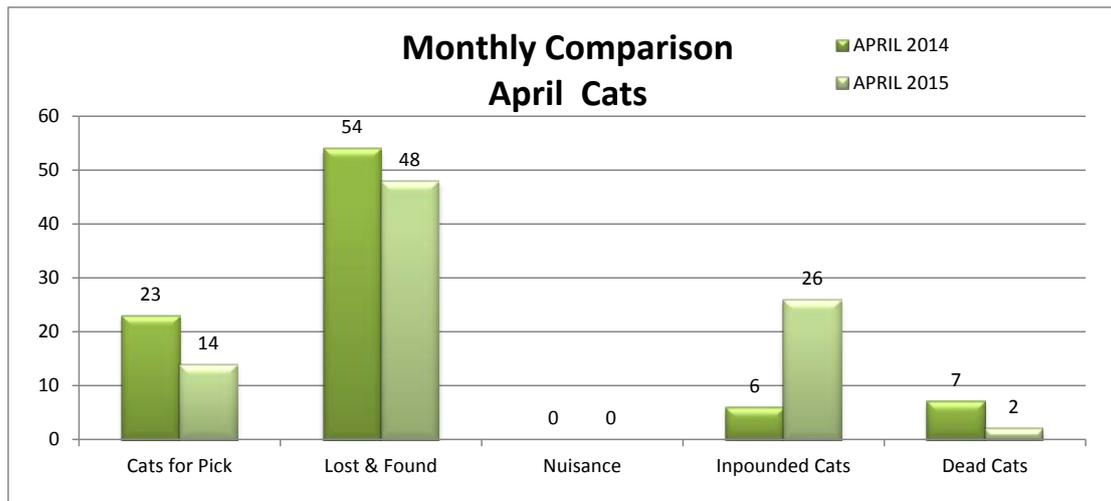
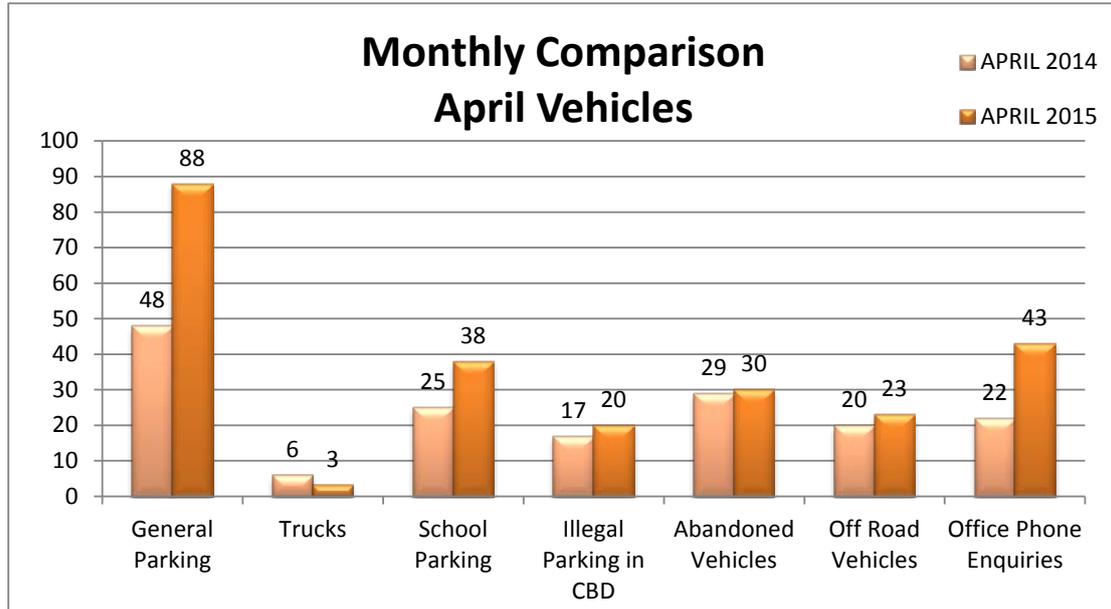
Following on from the Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) application, lodged by the City in March 2015, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services has given a verbal confirmation that the Bushfire Brigade LGGS budget will receive a \$20,000 increase and the SES a \$4,500 increase in 2015/16 with additional funding

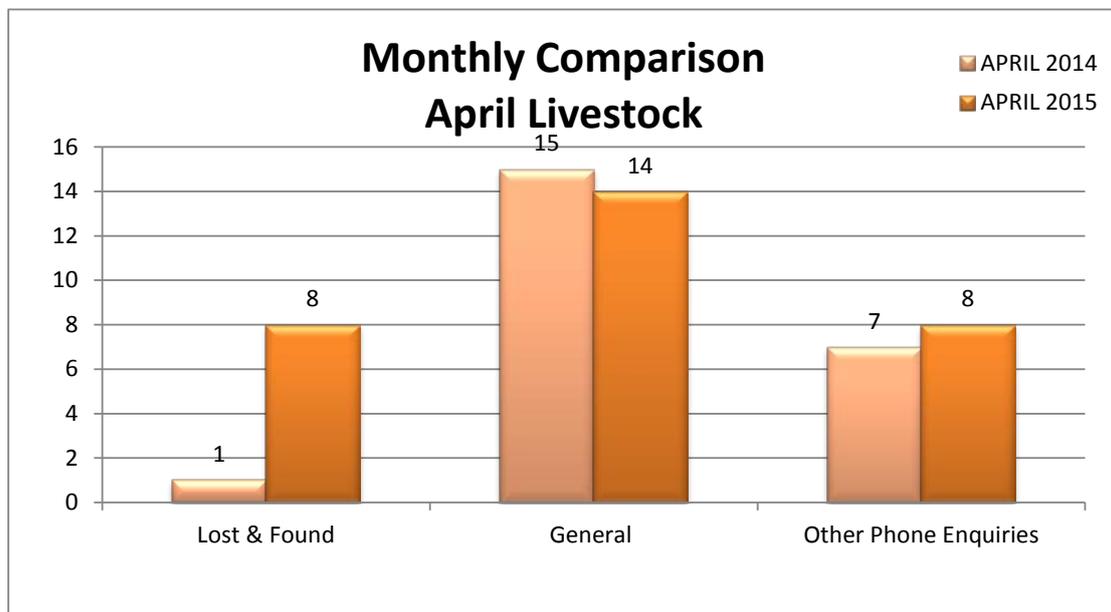
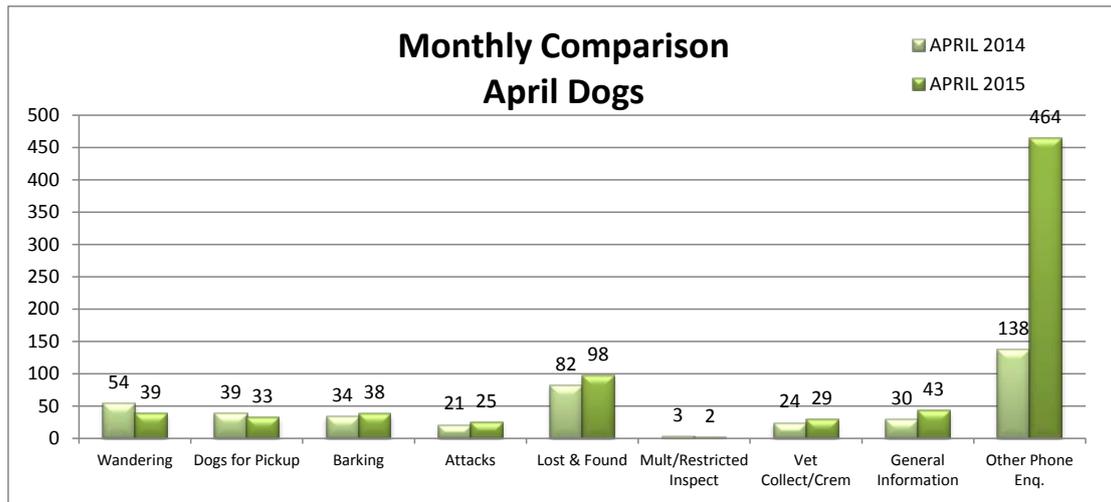
for maintenance on the Bedforddale 3.4 fire appliance and breathing respirators for volunteer fire fighters totalling over \$50,000.

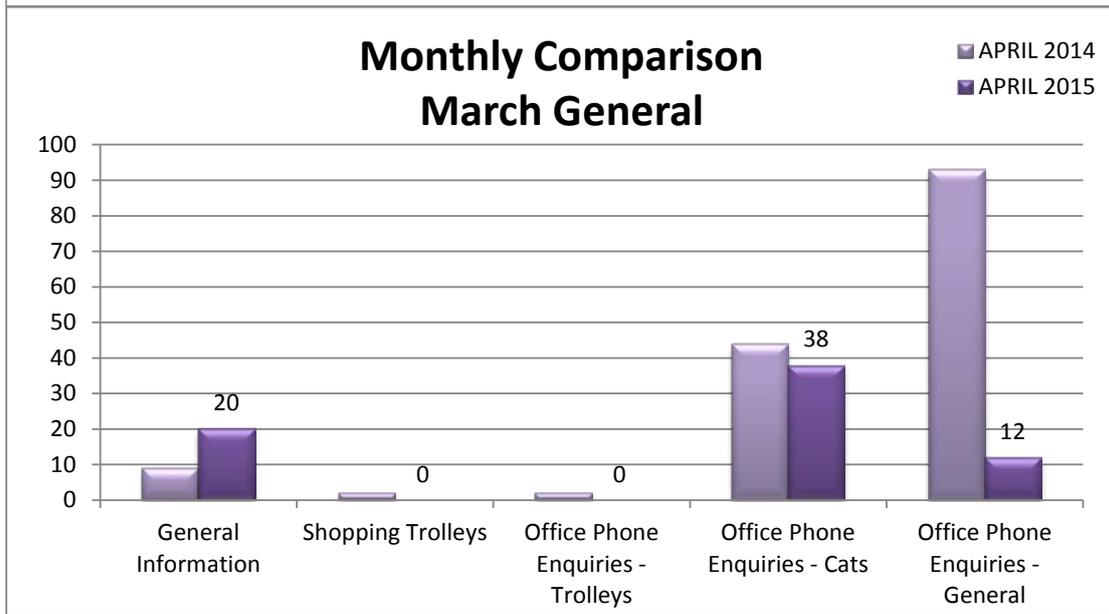
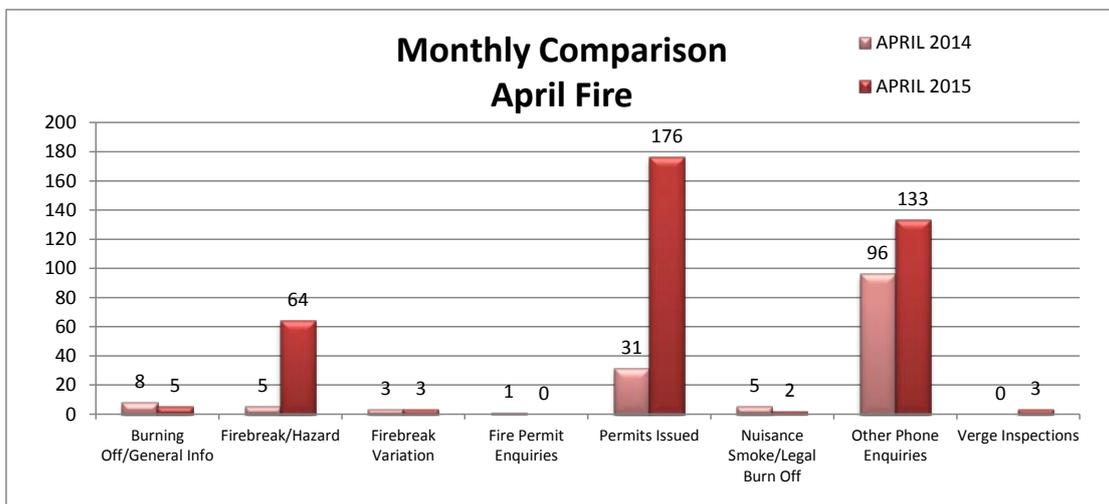
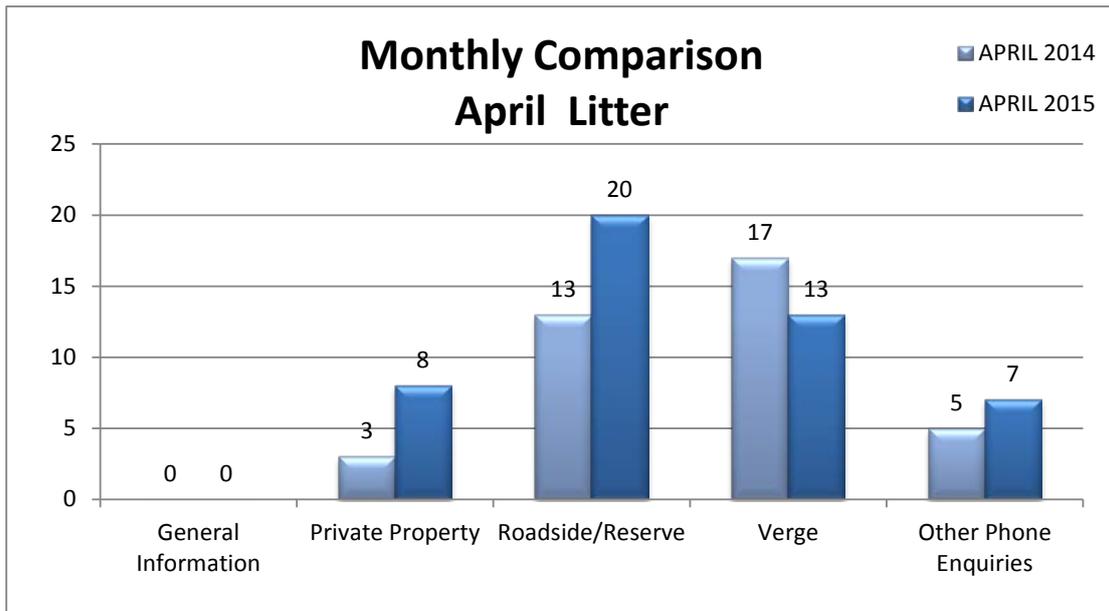
A significant amount of time was devoted to developing the City of Armadale Risk to Resource Assessment for 2015 to 2018 which includes the following recommendations;

- Application of State Bushfire prone mapping and related State Planning Policy 3.7 “Planning for Bushfire Risk Management”
- Review of the City of Armadale Fire Break Notice
- Current fire appliances to be replaced with Bushfire Urban Dual Cab 3.4 (4WD) appliances or their equivalent
- Inclusion of a Bulk Water Tanker as part of the City of Armadale Bushfire Brigade fleet.
- Bedforddale Volunteer firefighters to undertake the DFES structural firefighting course.
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STATISTICS





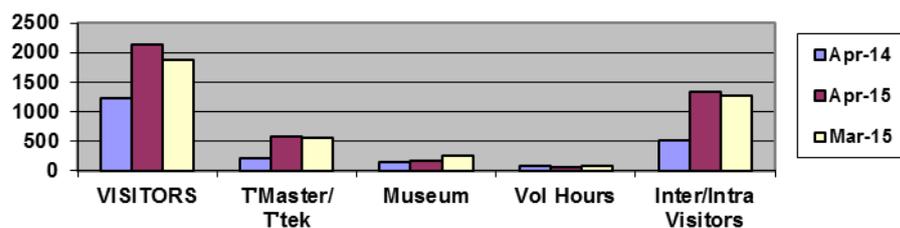


TOURISM AND EVENTS

VISITOR CENTRE

The Centre had a busy month attending the Australian Dragon boat championships at Champion Lakes for five days providing information packs and selling local product. The school holidays also brought in many visitors looking for activities in the area. Our top three international were from United Kingdom, Germany and France.

Statistics



APRIL 2015

INTRA-STATE VISITORS	INTER-STATE VISITORS	OVERSEAS VISITORS	TICKETMASTER/TICKETEK	MUSEUM VISITORS	TOTAL VISITORS	VOLUNTEER HOURS
1253	82	69	567	170	2141	58

MARCH 2015

INTRA-STATE VISITORS	INTER-STATE VISITORS	OVERSEAS VISITORS	TICKETMASTER/TICKETEK	MUSEUM VISITORS	TOTAL VISITORS	VOLUNTEER HOURS
892	77	98	549	249	1865	68

Destination Marketing

The City has continued an ongoing destination marketing program of the Armadale region including:

- Scoop Publishing
- Your guide to Perth and Fremantle (airport distribution);
- Jetstar Asia magazine;
- Experience Perth travel shows;
- Scoot magazine;
- Curtin FM radio;
- Examiner Newspapers;
- Inspire Magazine;
- 2015 Chinese Planner; and
- Experience Perth 2015 planner

MAJOR ARTS AND EVENTS

The major events team have delivered the Armadale Hawkers Market, Minnowarra Festival and Minnowarra Art Awards during this period.

Armadale Hawkers Market

The City trialled its first hawkers style market in Memorial Park on Friday 17 April 5pm-9pm. The Hawkers Market had a multicultural theme and offered more than 10 international food stalls, a variety of produce stalls, live performances and selection of children's entertainment.

The attendance of the event was excellent with up to 1,500 people attending on the night. The City has received extensive positive feedback regarding this event on Facebook, some of the comments are as follows:

"I'm so proud of the direction Armadale is going. So much is happening and more is being offered to us as a community. Love being part of this! Go #armadale" Bella Hair & Day Spa

Minnawarra Festival

The events team developed the Minnowarra Festival as a trial of what the Festival could be in the future. The event included arts, craft and produce market stalls, a multicultural food court, creative workshops, youth and children's areas with focused activities, two stages featuring live local acts, the Minnowarra Art Awards and an exploratory maze for all ages to explore.

Council will have the opportunity to provide comment on the various aspects trialled at the Minnowarra Festival at the Committee Meeting held on 2 June 2015.

Minnawarra Art Awards

The Minnowarra Art Awards have once again been a great success. Arts consultant Paula Silbert and St John of God Healthcare Art Collection Curator Connie Petrillo judged this year's exhibition which was curated by Kristy Gough. This year there were 103 exhibiting works, by 65 artists, 15 of whom live locally.

The winners of the awards included:

- Highly Commended Award (\$1000) – Lorraine Sutherland for 'Kensington Op Shop'
- Inaugural Local Artist Award (\$1000) – Jill Smith for 'Fold Girls 3D'
- Gerry Gauntlett Award (\$5000) – Mark Tweedie for 'Lost My Way'
- MRA Acquisitive Award (\$5000) – Leesa Padget for 'Habbittatted'
- Stockland 3D Commission Award (\$5000) – Daniel Fisher for 'My Friend Bongo'

This year we also displayed some of the great photos taken during #TheDale competition for the public to enjoy.

Both Stockland and Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority continued their sponsorship of the event.