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IN YOUR REGION

Edition 21 - December 2016

Dirk Hartog voyage of discovery,
photo courtesy of Shire of Shark Bay
Credit: Apertunity



Pundara Guntharri cultural dancers,
photo courtesy of Shire of Shark Bay
Credit: Elise Hassey
Full story on page 4

Ahoy there young sailor!

Twenty-five young people from the Goldfields-Esperance region are set to experience the Leeuwin Youth Explorer Voyage thanks to \$45,900 from the State Government's Royalties for Regions Community Chest Fund.

Focused on adventure, learning and friendship (and a lot of fun!), the week-long voyage aims to challenge and inspire young people to realise their personal potential and make a positive contribution to the wider community.

Trainees will get the opportunity to be part of all ship operations aboard the STS Leeuwin II. They will be involved in activities from steering the ship and setting and furling the sails, to climbing the masts and standing watch while sailing through the night.

Trainees will also take part in handover day on the last day of the voyage, charting the ship's course and issuing their own commands to sail the ship to its final anchorage.

Schools will nominate a voyage before the end of Semester 4 and will set sail along WA's coastline early next year.

The program is managed by the Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation, an award-winning not-for-profit organisation that provides experiential learning and leadership development programs aimed at young people aged 14 to 25.

Trainees on board the STS Leeuwin II,
photo courtesy of Leeuwin Ocean Adventure
Foundation



DG Message

Welcome to the final edition of the In Your Region newsletter for 2016.

It has been another productive year in regional development with the continued delivery of great economic and social development outcomes across our State's nine regions.

The Department of Regional Development in partnership with the nine Regional Development Commissions continues to work across government, community and industry to drive new growth and investment in our regions.

In October the Portfolio launched the Royalties for Regions (RfR) Investment Map which displays information about Royalties for Regions projects throughout the State. Powered by Landgate, the online mapping application allows Western Australians to see the Royalties for Regions projects happening in their area.

I would like to thank our partner agencies as well as our industry and community stakeholders for their support throughout the year and I look forward to continued engagement in 2017.

I hope you enjoy this snapshot of the exciting projects transforming regional Western Australia and I encourage you to visit our website to find out more.

On behalf of everyone in the Regional Development Portfolio, I wish our readers a very happy and safe festive season.



Ralph Addis
Director General

There are big things happening in regional WA

The launch of an online mapping application has given Western Australians the opportunity to see the scale of regional investment across the State.

The RfR Investment Map, powered by Landgate, uses cutting edge technology to display information about Royalties for Regions projects across more than 4,700 locations.

Department of Regional Development Director General Ralph Addis said the online map provided a unique opportunity for regional communities to see, in context, the planned or completed projects in their area.

"Investment in projects such as infrastructure, health, communications and tourism contributes to creating vibrant regions with strong economies where people want to live, work and raise their children," Mr Addis said.

To see what's happening in regional Western Australia, visit the RfR Investment Map at:
rfrmap.drd.wa.gov.au



Ballinyoo Bridge opening

On Saturday 10 September 2016, more than 150 local Murchison residents gathered to celebrate the opening of an essential infrastructure project that has greatly improved access to the town of Murchison.

The Ballinyoo Bridge, located 125 kilometres north of Mullewa and 75 kilometres south of the Murchison settlement, crosses the Murchison River at Ballinyoo Springs, providing an important connection point for the Murchison and Gascoyne communities.

Shire of Murchison Chief Executive Officer Diane Daniels said the opening event was a fitting celebration for the replacement bridge.

"The original bridge was built in 1929 using local materials and exemplified early pre-cast concrete construction," Ms Daniels said.

"[The former bridge] served us well for many years but, unfortunately, the original crossing did not provide year-round surety of access. During times of flooding the Murchison River became impassable, isolating parts of the district for months.

"A span of the original bridge has been re-located just north-east of the river and is being developed into a rest site for locals and tourists alike."

While the original crossing holds a special place in the hearts of locals, the new bridge is a major advance in providing all-weather access for the community, industry, service providers and emergency services as well as access to the Murchison Radio Observatory.

Ms Daniels said the new bridge would provide increased tourism and visitor opportunities to the region and connect major service centres.



Aerial view of the new Ballinyoo Bridge, photo courtesy of Shire of Murchison. Credit: Nick Covelli



Shire of Murchison President Mark Halleen and Mr Vincent Catania MLA open the Ballinyoo Bridge, photo courtesy of Shire of Murchison. Credit: Nick Covelli

"I am excited to see how the replacement Ballinyoo Bridge will strengthen and grow the inland region," she said.

The \$5.5 million bridge was made possible thanks to Royalties for Regions investments totalling \$4.27 million through the Country Local Government Fund and Mid West Investment Plan.

Denham celebrates Dirk Hartog

Dutch explorer Dirk Hartog made the first recorded discovery of Australia by a European when he landed at Shark Bay aboard the Eendracht on 25 October 1616.

Marking a significant event in WA's maritime history, the Shire of Shark Bay celebrated the 400th anniversary of Hartog's landing with a festival held in Denham from 21 to 25 October 2016.

Executive Manager for Community Development at the Shire of Shark Bay, Linda Butterly, said the 'Dirk Hartog-Voyage of Discovery: Shark Bay 1616' festival delivered no shortage of crowd-pleasing moments.

"While there were many highlights over the five-day festival, the real stand-outs were the community concert, Pyrophone Juggernaut, and the 1616 Golden Age Ball," Ms Butterly said.

"These events drew crowds and are still being talked about around town. The Golden Age Ball brought 17th Century costumes to life and had onlookers taking photos of the beautiful gowns and historical outfits," she said.

"[The shire] is also very proud of the Welcome to Country performed at the festival's opening ceremony. The Pundara Guntharri cultural dance was an especially important part of the ceremony and will leave a lasting impression on our community."

The festival was made possible thanks to Royalties for Regions grants totalling \$499,367 and \$71,254 awarded in the 14-15 and 15-16 rounds of the Gascoyne Regional Grants Scheme (RGS) and Gascoyne Community Chest Fund (CCF) respectively.

The shire, together with the State Government, also undertook a number of initiatives to improve infrastructure in Denham in anticipation of the 400th anniversary commemorations.

One of these initiatives was the redevelopment of the Denham foreshore which was transformed with a new adventure playground and shade shelters made out of timber from the old Denham jetty.

Perforated aluminium was also used to create representations of the area and its local identities. Other projects included the installation of interpretive hubs, a 20-metre extension of the area's commercial jetty and the installation of landscaped parking areas.

To further complement the upgraded foreshore, Denham's recreational jetty was also replaced in 2015 thanks to a \$2.2 million investment from the Royalties for Regions Gascoyne Revitalisation Fund.

A further \$820,000 investment from the Royalties for Regions Regional Community Services Fund enabled commemorative activities including an ocean journey on replica Dutch ship the Duyfken, as well as the establishment of new tourist attractions at historic sites in the area.

To learn more about the voyage of Dirk Hartog and the rich history of Shark Bay, visit www.sharkbay1616.com.au

Dirk Hartog festival opening ceremony, photo courtesy of Shire of Shark Bay. Credit: Apertunity





Above: Regional Development Minister Terry Redman at the festival's closing ceremony, photo courtesy of Shire of Shark Bay. Credit: Elise Hassey

Below: Dancers perform a traditional Welcome to Country at the festival's opening ceremony, photo courtesy of Shire of Shark Bay. Credit: Elise Hassey



AWESOME festival brings arts to regions

The AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things hit the road in 2016, bringing unique arts experiences to families and schools in Bunbury and Merredin from 16 to 24 October.

The inaugural AWESOME Festival Roadshow delivered a variety of art-based activities over nine days, including performances of *The Bookbinder*; an enchanting one-man theatre show by New Zealand's Trick of the Light Theatre Company.

The tour also featured the State Library's Better Beginnings 'Books-to-Go' program and comic book workshops run by James Foley and Campbell Whyte.

Mr Foley, a highly sought after children's author and illustrator, visited the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre in the State's South West to teach children aged 6 to 12 techniques in illustrating comic books.

"We started off with some basic cartooning and figure drawing skills," Mr Foley said.

"We tried drawing our own characters and placing them in recognisable settings, and we looked at how to make our speech bubbles as readable as possible. The kids then applied those skills to their own comics."

Mr Foley said it was important to teach children about the arts and let them explore their creativity.

"If you teach kids how to illustrate and write, you're not just giving them a chance to have fun, you're also giving them an opportunity to use their imagination, problem solve, and practise courage, determination and resilience.

"[You're teaching them] to learn how to make mistakes and try again. These are important skills that can be applied to all aspects of life," he said.

Mr Foley said he hoped his workshop was not only educational but inspiring to bright young minds.

"I hope the kids discovered some new drawing and writing skills that will help them have fun making their own comics," he said.

"I hope they see that there are possibilities of careers in the arts, and that creative play should be an integral part of our lives."

AWESOME Arts Australia Ltd Chief Executive Officer Jenny Simpson said that overall, the 2016 roadshow had proven a great success.

"The AWESOME Festival Roadshow provided regional communities the opportunity to access high-quality arts experiences for younger audiences," Ms Simpson said.

"We have been delighted by the responses received from both communities."

The 2016 AWESOME Festival Roadshow was made possible thanks to a \$26,639 grant from the Royalties for Regions Regional and Remote Touring Fund, administered by the Department of Culture and the Arts.

Bright young things share ideas with James Foley, photo courtesy of AWESOME Arts Australia Ltd



WA is worth sharing!

Clean, fresh air, blue skies and sunshine. These are the images that often come to mind when picturing Western Australia. Now captured in an innovative brand, WA is proudly being showcased across the globe as a reliable source of premium and safe agrifood products.

The Western Australia Worth Sharing brand campaign is an integral component of the State Government's \$350 million Seizing the Opportunity Agriculture initiative and is being led by the Department of State Development.

Launched by Premier Colin Barnett at Perth City Farm on 14 October 2016, the \$8.1 million campaign is part of an initiative aimed at capturing overseas export markets and capitalising on Asia's emerging demand for produce.

The unifying brand is designed to increase awareness of the State and

**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA
WORTH
SHARING**



provide local exporters with the tools required to market their products overseas.

The campaign encompasses a distinctive logo featuring WA and a website where people from overseas can learn about and connect with companies exporting local produce. The campaign is based around the idea of sharing, with WA companies and their individual stories at its heart.

More than 25 companies have already signed up for free use of the new logo, pictured above, which will be introduced to the key markets of growth hubs Singapore, Shanghai, Tokyo and Jakarta via an international advertising campaign. Export partners will be able to use the brand and incorporate it into their international marketing plans.

Visit www.waworthsharing.com.au and see how you can get involved!

Ray Ryder rocks out on country tour

Country rock singer Ray Ryder has kicked-off his national tour in regional WA, opening at the Narrogin Spring Festival on 29 October 2016 before travelling through the Wheatbelt, South West, Peel and Goldfields-Esperance regions.

Ryder is an experienced singer, songwriter, musician and entertainer who has shared the stage with some of the music industry's biggest stars including Sting, Chris Isaak, John Farnham, Shirley Bassey and more.

Ryder said he looked forward to bringing his free concert to communities across the State.

"I am really thrilled to be taking my new songs on the road with my band creating a fun, energy-filled showcase of original music for people of all ages," Ryder said.

"The shows will give audiences a fantastic opportunity to connect with a group of musicians who really love what they do, as well as give the local community a chance to participate in a free music workshop."

Ryder's WA tour runs from October 2016 through to February 2017 and is made possible thanks to the Regional and Remote Touring Fund, which is delivered by the Department of Culture and the Arts as part of the \$24 million Royalties for Regions Creative Regions program.

Visit www.rayryder.com.au for more information.



State's regional achievers honoured

Eleven individuals and organisations from across regional Western Australia were honoured at the 15th annual Regional Achievement and Community Awards on Friday 28 October 2016.

Proudly supported by the Department of Regional Development, the awards play an important role in applauding those individuals, businesses and community groups that have made an outstanding contribution to the social, economic, commercial or environmental prosperity of their region.

The presentation gala dinner, held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, saw 500 guests from across the State gather to celebrate this year's winners.

Patron of the awards, Regional Development Minister Terry Redman, said the event commended the excellent work being done in a variety of fields across regional Western Australia.

"The awards recognise locally driven projects and activities that help ensure regional communities continue to thrive and develop," Mr Redman said.

"It is important to acknowledge those who inspire us with their leadership and dedication, and celebrate the contribution they make to our regional communities."

A total of 315 individuals and organisations were nominated for an award in 2016. Of those nominated, eleven category winners were selected by a panel of judges comprising category experts, sponsor representatives and community leaders.

The eleven category award winners for 2016 were:

- Community TAB Community Service Award – Andre Foulon of Manjimup
- Prime Super Employer Excellence in Aged Care Award – Wattle Hill Care of Bunbury
- Insurance Commission of Western Australia Regional Safety Award – RoadWise Committee of Kimberley
- Curtin University Teaching Excellence Award – Jade Warrington of Withers
- Worldwide Printing Solutions Sports Award – Chelsea Randall of Newman
- Prime Super Community Group of the Year Award – Earbus Foundation of Western Australia
- Indago Solutions Agricultural Innovation Award – Advance Packing and Marketing Services Ltd Pty, Fresh Produce Alliance of Manjimup
- Rinehart Development of Northern Regional WA Award – Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Horizon Power Leadership and Innovation Award – Andrew Outhwaite of Geraldton
- LandCorp Sustainability Award – Wheatbelt Integrity Group of Newdegate
- RAC Volunteering Award – Robert Reekie of Busselton

2016 award winners with Department of Regional Development Director General Ralph Addis, photo courtesy of Awards Australia





Overall winners Wayne and Jennie Franceschi of FPA accept their prize from Department of Regional Development Director General Ralph Addis, photo courtesy of Awards Australia

Advance Packing and Marketing Services Pty Ltd – Fresh Produce Alliance (FPA) was announced as the Department of Regional Development Overall State Winner.

FPA won recognition for its use of innovative technology to convert waste produce into naturally healthy, delicious products that are marketable both domestically and internationally.

“I congratulate FPA on their work in the South West, which is making a valuable contribution to the sustainability of our regions and WA’s agrifood sector,” Mr Redman said.

Department of Regional Development Director General Ralph Addis presented the prestigious award.

“Congratulations to Fresh Produce Alliance on their significant achievement. It’s great to see so many innovative initiatives at work in our regions,” Mr Addis said.

Category winners each received a trophy and a \$2,000 prize from the Commonwealth Bank.

For more information about the Regional Achievement and Community Awards and this year’s winners, please visit www.awardsaustralia.com

In Your Region is going digital!

The Department of Regional Development (DRD) values its stakeholders’ ongoing support and readership of the In Your Region newsletter.

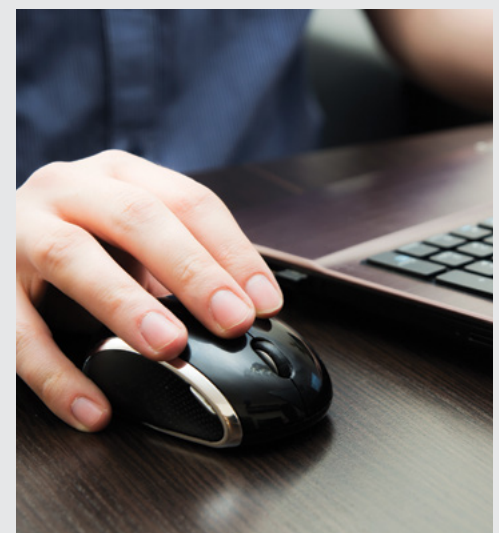
In an effort to reduce its environmental footprint and at the same time provide readers with more convenient access to each edition, DRD is taking steps towards making email its primary means of newsletter distribution.

The December 2016 newsletter will be the final edition of In Your Region posted to subscribers.

As of March 2017, DRD will send subscribers a link to the latest edition of In Your Region via email. Should you wish to subscribe via email, please contact communications@drd.wa.gov.au

If you are already an email subscriber and wish to keep your subscription, no action is required.

DRD looks forward to bringing you more updates on the exciting Royalties for Regions projects benefiting regional communities across the State.



Sowing the seeds of success

When it comes to tropical agriculture in Western Australia, Kalyn Fletcher knows her stuff.

Kalyn, a seed producer from Kununurra, won the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation's (RIRDC) WA Rural Women's Award in March 2016, and was later announced as the national RIRDC Rural Women's Award runner-up on 14 September 2016.

The annual Rural Women's Award identifies and supports emerging female leaders who have the desire, commitment and leadership potential to make a greater contribution to primary industries and rural communities. Every year, one winner is named from each Australian state and territory, with a national winner then selected from the finalists. Each state and territory winner is awarded a \$10,000 bursary towards a nominated industry project of their choice.

In 2016 Kalyn was recognised for her commitment to Western Australia's tropical agriculture sector and her passion for empowering others in the industry. Her proposed project, 'Tropical agriculture – discover, promote, support', encompasses a study tour to Brazil's Cerrado region to learn from its experienced and extensive tropical agriculture industry.

Kalyn said she intended to share her insights from the study with industry stakeholders to support the growth and success of the tropical agriculture industry in northern Western Australia.

"Applying for this bursary was not about the awards or achievements, it was about supporting and promoting agriculture in Western Australia and



WA RIRDC Rural Women's Award winner and national runner-up Kalyn Fletcher, photo courtesy of RIRDC

particularly women in this industry," Kalyn said.

Having grown up on her family's farm in the East Kimberley's Ord Irrigation Area, Kalyn developed an aptitude for agriculture early in life. She went on to complete a Bachelor in Agriculture Science and a Bachelor in Agribusiness before working at grain origination business AWB Ltd in Goondiwindi, Queensland. Kalyn and her husband eventually moved back to Kununurra where they have raised their three young boys for the past 10 years.

Kalyn and her husband manage two family businesses; wholesale seed production company RB Dessert Seed Co. and the Hoochery Distillery, an international award-winning rum and liqueur producer.

Kalyn works closely with industry on new crop development, producing seed and conducting research trials for emerging crop species. One of her many achievements is the implementation of a sorghum breeding program that focuses on the production of forage sorghum varieties suited to tropical conditions.

Kalyn believes that tropical agriculture – which encompasses all agricultural production in the tropics including beef, horticulture and grain production – will play an ever increasing role in Australia's agricultural future.

"Tropical agriculture is the future for Australian agriculture. It will be the catalyst to develop northern Australia and boost employment and investment in remote and rural communities," she said.

Kalyn praised the Rural Women's Award program for its recognition of women in industry and rural communities, and its promotion of their accomplishments and future endeavours.

"I have been amazed by the amount of knowledge sharing that has already been created since the awards in March this year," Kalyn said.

"The award ceremony was a wonderful celebration of the contributions made by women in rural and remote communities and also primary industries.



Kalyn Fletcher and fellow WA finalists at the WA RIRDC Rural Women's Awards in March 2016, photo courtesy of RIRDC

"I encourage all rural, remote and regional women with a concept and a passion to progress it, to nominate [for the program]."

In Western Australia, the RIRDC Rural Women's Award is coordinated by the Department of Regional Development.

Nominations for the 2017 RIRDC Rural Women's Award are now closed. For more information, visit www.rirdc.gov.au/rural-women's-award

New bus for aged care residents

Residents at the Juniper aged care facility in Katanning will soon enjoy the benefits of day-trips and opportunities for more lifestyle choices.

The 26-bed facility will soon receive an accessible transport bus thanks to a \$150,000 grant from the Southern Inland Health Initiative made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

Twelve organisations received the one-off grants that will assist older people living in regional areas to remain independent, involved and contributing members in their community.

Juniper's Chief Executive Vaughan Harding said the additional support from Royalties for Regions to purchase the new bus was warmly received by the organisation.

"The need for a disability-friendly service is becoming increasingly pressing as our residents age and face greater challenges with mobility and participating in a full life," he said.

"With this, residents will also have better access to specialist services and medical appointments."

Juniper will procure the vehicle, have it modified with a hoist and purchase five new 'crash proof' wheelchairs.

"We plan to accept delivery of a new Toyota Coaster bus and have it outfitted so we are ready to provide the new service in early 2017," Mr Harding said.



Summer lovin' in the Peel

Three Summers, the new ensemble romantic comedy written and directed by multi-award winning creative talent Ben Elton, is the first production to be supported by the \$16 million Western Australian Regional Film Fund.

Elton is a writer, director, comedian and actor whose work has been enjoyed by millions of people around the globe for more than 30 years. His screenwriting credits include the iconic television comedies *The Young Ones*, *Blackadder* and *Mr Bean*. Elton has also penned fifteen best-selling novels including *Stark*, *Popcorn* and *Dead Famous*. *Three Summers* is his second feature film after *Maybe Baby* (2000).

Set to be the first feature film shot entirely in Western Australia's scenic

Peel region, the story of *Three Summers* is inspired by the State's popular Fairbridge Festival. Shot in Fairbridge, the film's timeline covers three consecutive years at a fictional festival, comically named 'Westival'.

Quirky and comedic, *Three Summers* centres on a love story between two young musicians played by Australian *Home and Away* star Rebecca Breeds, and Irish actor Robert Sheehan, best known for the cult UK sci-fi television series *Misfits*.

While it fuses romance and music, the film also explores more serious themes of racism and immigration in Australia.

Over the filming period, more than 100 cast and crew were joined by close to 1,000 enthusiastic local extras on location at Fairbridge.

The film is being produced by Australian companies Taylor Media and Invisible Republic with support from Screenwest thanks to Royalties for Regions, Screen Australia, Transmission Films and Arclight Films.

Producer Michael Wrenn, of Invisible Republic, said the production team were excited to collaborate on the film.

"We are delighted to bring together such an amazing cast for Ben Elton's first Australian feature, *Three Summers*," Wrenn said.

"It is a testament not only to [Elton's] talent and script, but also to the respect we all share for his political spirit, genuine sense of community and his comedic work.

"The support from the heritage town of Pinjarra, Fairbridge Village and the Noongar people in the Peel region has been both amazing and humbling," he added.

Filmed and produced in collaboration with local organisations in the region, the movie conveys a strong sense of place and community both on and off the screen.

Three Summers wrapped filming on 15 October 2016 and is expected to be released nationally in cinemas in mid to late 2017.

Ian Booth, Paul Fitzpatrick, Ben Elton and Regional Development Minister Terry Redman visit the set of *Three Summers*, photo courtesy of Screenwest



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