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## In Your Region June 2015

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# IN YOUR REGION

Edition 15 - 2015



## Monkey Mia locals and visitors make the most of new jetty

Monkey Mia in Shark Bay has a new jetty thanks to a \$2.2 million Royalties for Regions investment through the Gascoyne Revitalisation Plan.

Situated in the spectacular Shark Bay World Heritage Area, the jetty's viewing platform is proving popular with visitors to the world renowned Monkey Mia Dolphin Experience, as well as being used for commercial, recreational and tourism boating.

Shire of Shark Bay Chief Executive Officer, Mr Paul Anderson said the original timber jetty was built in 1962 and was in dire need of replacement.

"This new steel and concrete structure, which is wider and longer, improves usability and provides a safer environment for vehicles and pedestrians. The design of the jetty, while reducing long term maintenance, will also provide a better experience for both commercial operators

and the many tourists who visit the region," Mr Anderson said.

Monkey Mia is the only place in Australia where dolphins visit daily, rather than seasonally and guests staying at the Monkey Mia Resort have direct access to the beachfront and jetty.

Monkey Mia Resort General Manager, Mr Martin Grenside said feedback on the jetty from guests staying at the resort has been fantastic.

"The old jetty was getting to be a bit of a safety issue due to damage that had occurred a few years ago as well as the age of the jetty," Mr Grenside said.

"The new jetty is wider and also incorporates a dedicated area for viewing of the dolphin feed, which has made the experience of viewing the dolphin interaction easy and allows viewing by guests who may struggle getting down to the water's edge due to mobility reasons."

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*"There are over five tour operators that use the jetty for boarding of passengers and this new jetty has given security to these operators into the future."*

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The Monkey Mia Jetty is one of a number of Gascoyne Revitalisation Plan projects which will rejuvenate the Shark Bay area in time for the commemorative celebrations marking the 400th anniversary of Dirk Hartog's landing being planned for October 2016.





## DG Message

The State Government remains committed to building a stronger economy and a better quality of life in regional WA, for the benefit of all Western Australians.

Our effort and investment is increasingly targeted towards growing regional economies, creating jobs and building the capability of our people.

As announced in the 2015-16 State Budget, the State Government will invest \$4 billion over the next four years to build the economic strength and social fabric of the regions through Royalties for Regions initiatives in health, community services, education, sport and recreation, Aboriginal initiatives, agriculture and tourism.

Royalties for Regions will continue to support major development programs such as the State-wide Regional Blueprint

Initiative, Growing Our South, Pilbara Cities and revitalisation plans for West and East Kimberley, Goldfields-Esperance, Mid West and Gascoyne.

There are also some exciting new projects in the 2015-16 State Budget, including a new Parks and Wildlife Headquarters in Bunbury that will provide regional employment and tourism opportunities; a new Primary Health and Aged Care Facility in Laverton; a boost to the social housing initiative to provide dwellings in regional areas for priority waitlist clients and a regional tourism marketing campaign.

I encourage you to visit our website to find out more information about the State Budget, new initiatives and other projects happening in your region.



Ralph Addis  
Director General

## Albany's new hospice to reduce waitlist

Albany will soon have a new hospice that is co-located with the Albany Health Campus.



Photo courtesy of Albany Hospice.  
L-R: Architect Ian Howard, Hospice Manager Michelle McClure, Minister Terry Redman and Dean Wauters from Wauters Enterprises.

The \$4.788 million project, made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program, enables the construction of a new eight-bed facility.

The new 1200m<sup>2</sup> building has been designed on passive-solar principles, maximising on natural lighting and ventilation to reduce ongoing running costs and maintenance.

In 2014, there were a number of community patients who had to be on the waitlist due to the high occupancy rates.

Interim Chairman of the Albany Community Hospice Kate Clarke said the new hospice will double the number of existing beds to cater for a projected significant increase in the aging population of the Great Southern region over the next decade.

Increasing the number of beds at the hospice will provide access for additional

patients to be cared for, reducing the high dependency on local carers and lessen the need to travel to Perth to access palliative care.

"It is in keeping with our status as the only community-run and owned hospice in WA that we have employed local businesses H&H Architects and Wauters Enterprises to build our new hospice," Ms Clarke said.

"As a not-for-profit, we continue to seek ongoing funding from the community for the hospice's day-to-day operations and I am positive the community will continue to support us."

The current four-bed facility will be utilised by the Albany Health Campus to accommodate on-call doctors and student placements.

The new single storey hospice is expected to be completed in December 2015 with an opening in March 2016.

## Bigger, better airport for Busselton

Passengers at Busselton Airport can now experience greater security and comfort thanks to the \$1.44 million terminal expansion project.

The project has been a collaborative effort made possible by \$516,300 from the State Government's Regional Airport Development Scheme program, partly funded through Royalties for Regions, as well as \$500,000 from the Australian Government's Federal Community Development Grant Scheme, with the City of Busselton contributing the remaining funds.

Passengers flying in and out of the region can enjoy improved facilities including a new check-in area, new security screening point, a new café and a refurbished 90 seat departure lounge – all adding to improved comfort and efficiency at the airport.

City of Busselton Chief Executive Officer, Mike Archer said the expansion project is part of the Busselton Regional Airport Master Plan which will guide the development of the airport for the next 30 years and provide a reference point for

more detailed studies relating to design, land use, infrastructure and environmental planning.

"The expansion allows the airport to accommodate jet aircraft with around 160 passengers. This will facilitate growth in fly-in-fly-out charters and the possible future arrival of aircraft from interstate destinations such as Sydney and Melbourne directly into Busselton," Mr Archer said.

*The project, which commenced in July 2014 and was completed in December 2014, has increased the airport's efficiency and operational capacity, improving transport and accessibility to Busselton. The whole South West region will benefit from this expansion which will provide greater opportunities for industry, tourism and economic development.*



Busselton Airport Expansion Image of terminal building, photo courtesy of Busselton Airport.

## Solar lights at Gibb River Station support RFDS

The Gibb River Station airstrip in the Kimberley has recently received essential solar lighting for its runway, which will ensure safer and more reliable emergency medical landings for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

A \$78,000 grant was awarded to Ngallagunda Aboriginal Community by the Regional Airports Development Scheme partly funded through the State Government's Royalties for Regions Program for the purchase and installation of the lighting.

With more than 24 emergency evacuations in the past five years, which is particularly important in the wet season when many roads are cut-off, the lifesaving new

lights will aid in medical evacuations for the Gibb River community, including the Ngallagunda Aboriginal Community and tourists travelling along the remote Gibb River Road each year.

The Department of Transport delivered the project ahead of the wet season, with vital assistance from the Ngallagunda Aboriginal Community and the community nurse at Gibb River Station.





Marrugeku Inc - *Cut the Sky* production, photo courtesy of Jon Green.

## Culture and arts in regional WA

The State Government's Royalties for Regions program, in partnership with the Department of Culture and Arts, is increasing opportunities for regional Western Australians to participate, access and engage with unique arts and culture experiences.

Providing regional residents with the access to arts and culture increases the amenity of regional towns, enriching communities and improving the quality of life.

### Performing Arts tours visit the regions

Regional communities now have opportunities to see more touring arts performances, thanks to Royalties for Regions investment of \$1 million until 2017.

The Performing Arts Regional Touring Boost program aims to increase the number and diversity of professional small to medium circus, comedy, dance, music, theatre and multi-arts shows touring regional communities in Western Australia.

It enables regional communities to experience an increased variety of live performances that meet the artistic preferences of the region.

The first and second funding rounds have concluded, with successful recipients listed below. They will tour regional Western Australia from 1 July 2015 and 1 January 2016 respectively. The third round is currently being assessed.

Grants are awarded twice a year, until 2017.

### Successful recipients from the first round

#### Marrugeku Inc

Marrugeku will tour their latest production of *Cut the Sky - Five Songs for the Future* that explores the impact of climate change from an Indigenous point of view through dance, video art and song.

#### Gina Williams

Contemporary musicians Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse are now touring *Kalyakoorl, Ngalak Warangka* (Forever, we sing), sung almost entirely in Noongar language.

#### Performing Lines Limited (WA)

Performing Lines will tour *The Skeletal System's Great White*, an intimate, human love story about growing up and making choices. It won the 2013 Performing Arts WA Award for best new play.

## Regional residents get opportunity to view metro theatrical performance

Residents in more than 100 regional Community Resource Centres, towns and remote Aboriginal communities recently had the opportunity to see a telecast of the *Black Diggers* theatre performance as part of the Anzac Centenary commemorations.

*Black Diggers* tells of the hundreds of dispossessed Aboriginal soldiers who heard the call to arms and stepped up to fight for Australia on the battlefields of Europe.



*Black Diggers* performance, photo courtesy of Branco Gaica

The performance draws from interviews with the families of these soldiers, as well as from conversations with veterans, historians and academics.

The performance was recorded at the State Theatre Centre of WA so that it could be

exclusively telecast through Westlink for regional audiences on Friday 24 April.

The telecast was made possible by a \$50,000 investment from the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

### Successful recipients from the second round

#### Theatre Kimberley Inc

*Staircase to the Moon* - a musical provides opportunities for up to 20 local young people to work with professional performers. The community engagement strategies include two-day workshops in musical theatre, puppetry and three dimensional articulated sculptures for young people over eight years.

#### Side Pony Productions

*The Confidence Man*, an interactive audio performance, invites audiences to participate with headsets and masks playing characters similar to the action in an interactive game.

#### Tura New Music

Tura New Music's *Reflection* will visit remote Aboriginal communities in Beagle Bay, Djarindjin, Lombadina, and One Arm

Point, delivering 11 school workshops, pre and post show activities with local artists and free community concerts.

Country Arts WA Chief Executive Officer Jessica Machin was delighted with the diversity and quality of work being supported to tour and engage with regional Western Australia.

"It is especially pleasing to see regional producers being supported to tour their work and also to see the depth of engagement with the community from the metro based producers," Ms Machin said.

*"It all contributes to creating vibrant and dynamic regional communities, and ensuring that arts and culture is woven into the fabric of life in every regional community."*

The Performing Arts Regional Touring Boost program is part of the State Government's

Regional Arts and Cultural Action Plan, which aims to increase creativity and access to the arts in regional areas across Western Australia. It is administered by the Department of Culture and Arts.



Culture and arts in regional WA, photo courtesy of Jarrod Seng. L-R: Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse - *Kalyakoorl, Ngalak Warangka*.





Carnarvon Police and Justice Complex, photos courtesy of Anton Blume.

## New complex combines Carnarvon's court and police services

There has been strong support from the Carnarvon community for the construction of the new Police and Justice Complex, located on the former Gascoyne Trader's site.

The \$52.5 million Complex, part of the Department of Attorney General's regional capital infrastructure program, was partially funded by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program, which invested \$9.5 million, through the Gascoyne Revitalisation Plan.

The development of the Carnarvon Police and Justice Complex has relied on extensive consultation and collaboration with the community through a Community Reference Group, Aboriginal Community Groups as well as local residents. Comprehensive community and stakeholder engagement has ensured the design is tailored to the needs of the region.

Officially opened on 14 April 2015, the state-of-the-art facility is an impressive, modern-looking complex which houses numerous works of art including a 12-metre long, cast glass mural in the courthouse entry along with two glass panels either side of the Police Station entry. The glass pieces are the result of a collaboration between the

Jilinbirri Weavers from Carnarvon and Sydney artist Warren Langley

Toni Roe from the Jilinbirri Weavers said the inspiration behind the artwork is a strong connection to country.

"In 2012, Warren Langley and the Jilinbirri Weavers went on field trips, photographing raw materials and woven objects to create unique drawings and patterns. Warren transformed the drawings into the final glass artwork, interspersing weaving patterns with text taken from local oral histories," Ms Roe said.

The buildings within the complex provide a new police station, community justice service centre, magistrate's and jury courtrooms, facilities for mediation and pre-trial conferences and a separate space to ensure vulnerable witnesses and children can testify without being in the courtroom.

*This new complex, which has been operational since 20 April 2015, is designed to enhance more efficient delivery of services for the community, incorporating the latest technologies as well as combining police and justice services at one accessible location.*



Minister Terry Redman and Emily Sutherland with daughter Poppy at Perenjori Early Childhood Centre opening.

## Perenjori plans for future through early childcare centre

Families in Perenjori and surrounding areas now have access to a range of early childhood, parent and family support services following the construction of a \$1.8 million early childhood centre.

The State Government's Royalties for Regions program helped establish the Perenjori Early Childhood Centre with \$1.1 million investment into the Shire of Perenjori through the Mid West Investment Plan and Country Local Government Fund.

Officially opened by Regional Development Minister Terry Redman in April, the centre houses a child care facility, health and education rooms and flexible community spaces for community training programs, playgroup, toy library and culturally appropriate early childhood development services.

Local resident and mother of two Emily Sutherland said that the new centre means that she can continue working with

confidence that her young daughter is in affordable quality care close to home.

"Previously, there were no childcare options and we relied on nannies which were quite costly or travelled the 60km round trip to Morawa when childcare was available," Mrs Sutherland said.

"The Centre has also provided a place for the Perenjori playgroup that was previously meeting at the old RSL building which was not suitable for young children."

"Seeing a project such as this being delivered reinforces community spirit. It makes you proud to be involved in a community that has such good vision."

Shire President Chris King said the project was identified as a priority to help support the town's economy and make it a much more appealing and attractive place for residents and families considering a move to the area.

"Traditionally, the majority of men in the Shire are farmers and many women are

skilled workers but out of employment because of their caring responsibilities," Mr King said.

*"We expect this centre will have a huge impact on the capacity and economic wellbeing of the town with a range services from new businesses about to be offered."*

"The Centre is not just about childcare – child health services such as a child health nurse, an occupational therapist and youth support are also now available to the community."

Mr King said the Centre is also looking into expanding on their early childhood health service offering such as adding ante-natal care and renting space to complementary services

"Access to health professionals in a country town is a huge asset to the community. It saves parents on travel and frees up services in neighbouring towns," Mr King said.





## A new era for agricultural communities

Western Australia's agricultural communities are set to be boosted through the Water for Food program, a \$40 million initiative made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

The four-year Water for Food program aims to identify water and land resources, as well as irrigation technologies that can enable Western Australia's fresh food and animal protein production to increase its contribution to regional economies by at least 50 per cent by 2025 and twofold by 2050.

Stage One comprises of four projects with an investment of \$15.5 million to develop new irrigation areas, identify pathways to an alternative tenure and attract third party investment in the West Kimberley.

Stage Two, with an investment of \$24.5 million, builds on Stage One and comprises seven new projects located in the Gascoyne, South West, Great Southern, Mid West/Wheatbelt and Kimberley regions. It was launched in February 2015.

Vegetables WA Chief Executive Officer John Shannon said the vegetable industry in Western Australia makes a huge contribution to the State.

*"The industry is poised for significant further growth, if our growers have access to the land and water they need," said Mr Shannon.*

"That's why Water for Food projects are so important for building the future. As a State, we can certainly prosper over this long-term investment in agriculture."

The projects announced at the launch are:

### **Southern Forests – water futures**

- To identify new water supply options, as well as underpin water security, improving current water use efficiency in significant horticultural areas in the southern half of WA.

### **Myalup – Wellington**

- To investigate and confirm water supply options to support the expansion of the Myalup and Collie River irrigation districts, exploring downstream salinity options for greater use of the Wellington Dam.

## Fresh new look for Jurien Bay

Jurien Bay houses the Shire of Dandaragan's largest \$8.6 million infrastructure project – the Jurien Bay Civic Building and Visitor Centre.

The Jurien Bay Civic Building and Visitor Centre is made possible through an investment of \$8.4 million from the State Government's Royalties for Regions SuperTowns program and contributions from the Shire of Dandaragan and Lotterywest.

The centre offers a Community Resource Centre, public library, Information Technology Communications Centre, office space, arts and culture studio, exhibition space, parks, gardens and even an outdoor cinema.

Department of Regional Development's Senior Project Officer Peter Rampellini attended the opening on 1 May 2015 saying the centre provides a place for the

community to engage in educational, business and recreational activities.

"Jurien Bay was selected in 2011 as one of Western Australia's nine SuperTowns for its ideal location, economic potential and capacity to reduce pressure on metropolitan Perth," Mr Rampellini said.

"The community identified tourism as one of their key growth areas when developing the Jurien Bay Growth Plan."

*"The project has improved the appeal, vitality and viability of the town centre while providing the town with a functional and contemporary visitor and civic precinct."*

The second major stage of works to be completed will be the development of the upgrade sewerage in-fill program, made possible through the SuperTowns program

and Growing Our South - Southern Investment Initiative.

In July 2011, Royalties for Regions invested \$85.5 million to establish the SuperTown program to assist nine Western Australian towns to plan and prepare for a projected doubling of the State's population by 2056. The other eight SuperTowns are Boddington, Collie, Esperance, Katanning, Manjimup, Margaret River, Morawa and Northam.



### **Midlands – groundwater and land assessment**

- To undertake detailed groundwater investigation to determine the quantity and quality of water available, as well as identify suitable land to support growth in the Midlands area between Gingin and Dongara.

### **Middle Gascoyne – water investigations**

- To open up new opportunities for horticulture, the grow-on beef industry and investigate alluvial aquifers between Rocky Pool and the Kennedy Ranges.

### **La Grange – water investigations**

- To investigate the reliability and availability of water from the Canning Basin.

### **Bonaparte Plains – Kimberley expansion**

- To develop up to 30,000 hectares of irrigated agriculture in the East Kimberley.

### **Water Information Conversion**

- To capture priority irrigation areas for private sector investors and growers.

The Midlands and Southern Forests projects were launched in April 2015, formally establishing the Midlands project Community Reference Group and the Southern Forests Water Futures Advisory Group respectively. The groups include representatives from Regional Development Commissions, State and Local government authorities, industry bodies and most importantly, local growers, for input into the development and implementation of the projects.

"It was great to see so much support for these projects at their launches," said Mr Shannon.

*"There were large numbers of individual growers present who realise the potential for these projects to build their own businesses."*

The Water for Food program will see the creation of sustainable employment opportunities and the development of training and career pathways for a strengthened regional economy in Western Australia.

Water for Food is part of the wider \$300 million Seizing the Opportunity Agriculture initiative that is aimed at increasing economic growth and employment in regional WA's agricultural sector.



# South Hedland's youth get empowered

South Hedland youth will soon get access to a brand new Youth Centre on Lawson Street that will provide education and support services to those in need.

The \$11 million redevelopment project has been made possible with \$2 million from the State Government's Royalties for Regions Pilbara Cities Education Partnership, \$8 million from BHP Billion Iron Ore and \$1 million from Lotterywest.

The Youth Centre is managed by the Youth Involvement Council (YIC), the primary youth organisation in Hedland that delivers programs to assist young people in building improved educational and life pathways.

Originally established as a drop-in centre for young people, it now develops and implements targeted programs to support youth who are disengaged or facing hardship.

YIC Chief Executive Officer Vicki-Tree Stephens said the new centre will serve as the organisation's headquarters, significantly improving its capacity to establish new youth programs.

"Planning and design for this new project has been underway for more than 18 months and we are very excited to see the completed project," Ms Stephens said.

Construction works have commenced and when complete, the Youth Centre will offer the following, in an attempt to increase youth participation.

- an education centre
- a workshop
- a multi-purpose indoor facility
- a space dedicated to 5-10 year-olds
- an outdoor classroom
- a social enterprise centre

Pilbara Development Commission Acting Chief Executive Officer Terry Hill acknowledged YIC as being critical to the

improvement of social issues within the Hedland community.

"Unprecedented population growth in Port Hedland has led to an increased demand for youth services and educational programs," Mr Hill said.

"The redeveloped centre will provide YIC with the opportunity to further expand the capacity of its programs with new dedicated spaces and modern purpose-built amenities."

*"Continuing to improve Aboriginal participation and youth engagement will be critical to achieving the Pilbara Cities vision to build attractive, inclusive and sustainable communities."*

The \$50 million Royalties for Regions Pilbara Cities Education Partnership is administered by the Pilbara Development Commission (PDC) on behalf of the Department of Regional Development.



Photo courtesy of South Hedland Youth Involvement Council. L-R: Trish Barron (Pilbara Development Commission), Gloria Jacob (YIC Chair), Richard O'Connell (BHP), Vicki-Tree Stephens (YIC CEO) and Chris Cottier (BHP).

# Briefing sessions helping regional businesses grow

Small to medium sized regional businesses are reaping the benefits of having access to information on available assistance programs through a series of business development information briefings.

The briefings, delivered by the Department of Commerce, include information on the successful Industry Facilitation and Support Program which, along with the briefing sessions, are elements of the Regional Buy Local Initiative - Stage 2, made possible by a \$480,000 Royalties for Regions investment.

The Industry Facilitation and Support Program assists businesses to build capacity, increase their competitiveness and succeed as suppliers to market. The regional business development information briefings support this goal by working with small and medium regional businesses on doing business with government and the resource sector, creating a greater understanding of how to be competitive and win contracts.

Since 2012, the briefings have been held in Katanning, Pinjarra, Carnarvon, Broome, Karratha, Northam, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Esperance, Albany, Collie, Manjimup, Mandurah, and Bunbury.

*Mel Dowling, President Katanning Regional Business Association, who spoke at the Katanning briefing on 26 February 2015, said that we're all busy as business owners and sometimes you don't realise changes are being made within other businesses, so we're not aware of the services that are in our local town.*

"These [briefings] have been central in educating all of us but also to develop those strong networks that are really important," Ms Dowling added.

The final briefings will be held in Port Hedland on 16 June and Newman on 23 June, in conjunction with BHP Billiton. Guest speakers at the sessions will include representatives from the Departments of Commerce and Finance, the Australian Government Department of Industry and

Science, Export Finance and Insurance Corporation and the Small Business Centre East Pilbara.

For video recordings of the briefings, presenter slides and other useful material, visit <http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au>.



One of a series of business development information briefings.



# Morawa's town centre revitalisation revealed

Morawa's town centre has been transformed through a \$5.53 million investment made by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program through the Mid West Investment Plan and SuperTowns.



Morawa Town Centre Revitalisation.  
L-R: Alan Eagan, Gavin Treasure (CEO MWDC), Minister Terry Redman, Karen Chappel (Shire President), Murray Criddle (Chairman MWDC), Cr Dean Carslake and Jim Molloy.

Officially opened by Regional Development Minister Terry Redman in April, the project has made Morawa into a more attractive place for business investment, tourists and visitors.

The completion of the first two stages of the five stage revitalisation plan included main street improvements, upgraded power and wastewater services, realignment of the main freight road, improvement of the eastern side of the rail corridor, quality landscaping and an improved pedestrian network.

Local hardware and rural store owner Shirley Katona said that the new town centre has created a much more inviting and up-market main street.

*"The transformation has been amazing! Previously the main street was looking tired and outdated but now I look out to the new road and centre and it looks great," Ms Katona said.*

"It's created a much more inviting and upmarket town space and gives a fresh new visual outlook on the town improving the whole of Morawa as you drive in."



The new civic square provides the town with an attractive family friendly central focal point for the community and civic events. It features artistic elements made from local stone, terraced seating, shady trees, amphitheatre for live performances and space for the town's regular pop-up markets.

Morawa is one of Western Australia's nine SuperTowns receiving investment from Royalties for Regions for its potential population and economic expansion and diversification. The other eight SuperTowns are Collie, Boddington, Esperance, Jurien Bay, Katanning, Manjimup, Margaret River and Northam.

# York Cup back on track after almost five years

Thoroughbred racing in York was brought to a stop for the first time in more than a century, after facilities at the picturesque 172-year-old York racecourse were devastated by a storm in January 2011.

Thanks to a \$1.23 million investment from the State Government's Racing Infrastructure Grants Program, jointly funded by the Royalties for Regions program and the Department of Racing and Gaming, York saw its famous racecourse being rebuilt and renovated.

The racecourse was officially re-opened on Monday 6 April 2015 and showcased a remodelled and revamped turf track, new trotting track and modern infrastructure that could host a variety of events.

York Racing Inc named its races that day in honour of all those who had been a great assistance to the club throughout the long rebuilding process, with the eight race card re-named as the '2015 Royalties for Regions York Cup'. Horses were paraded in saddlecloths bearing new club colours signifying a new era of racing in York.

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