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## In Your Region March 2015

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# IN YOUR REGION

Edition 14 - 2015



## Family farmers in Kimberley set to benefit from latest Ord land release

Two Kimberley farming businesses have secured parcels of land in the Packsaddle area, south of Kununurra. The two parcels, totalling 430 hectares, are the latest land releases through the Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project made possible by the Royalties for Regions program.

Family run farming business Gray Australia is one of the preferred proponents for 360 hectares. Second generation farmers Matt and Melanie Gray, of Gray Australia, have been operating their horticultural and broad acre flood irrigated farm since taking over Ceres Farm in 2011. Matt Gray said this parcel of land would double the size

of their current farm. "It is opportunistic that land has become available next door and it is a good fit," Mr Gray said. "It is quite a large parcel of land so we will trial different crops in the varying soil types to see what the best fit is."

Local mango farmers JH & CS Engelke are the preferred proponent for the 70 hectare second land parcel which they intend to use to increase their mango farming operation and allow for the production and distribution of out-of-season fruit to the southern markets.

Department of Regional Development, Executive Director Economic Development and Diversification Andrew Mann said

negotiations are currently underway with both proponents relating to the terms included in their conditional purchase leases. Once met, they will be eligible to obtain freehold title of the land.

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*"The \$515 million Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project is the single largest agricultural expansion in the region for over 40 years creating a new economic growth centre for Northern Australia," Mr Mann said.*

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Future land releases through the Ord-East Kimberley Expansion project are planned for the coming months. ■

## DG Message

Having lived and worked in regional WA for many years, I know first-hand the incredible positive impact that can be made through the strong leadership, commitment and dedication of individuals and organisations.

In November, I had the pleasure of recognising and celebrating those making a difference in regional WA at the Regional Achievement and Community Awards. Congratulations to all the winners and particularly the overall State Winner, Tom Price based aboriginal business, Ashoil.

In 2014, Royalties for Regions invested in more than 300 projects to deliver better infrastructure and services, invest in regional people, and grow opportunity in our regions.

Together with the Regional Development Commissions, the department



continues to develop new strategic investment opportunities with our partners in the community, business and across government. Regional Investment Blueprints are progressively being finalised across our regions and will be central to guiding our effort and investment.

The current CEDA WA State of the Regions series provides a fantastic opportunity

to engage in discussion on the future of our regions. The series runs through until 2016 with the next event Future of the Kimberley taking place on 29 May 2015 in Broome.

This edition highlights just a handful of the fantastic initiatives that are helping to unlock the potential of our regions.

I hope you enjoy this snapshot of what is happening in your region, and I encourage you to visit our website and find out more.

Thank you.

**Ralph Addis**  
Director General

## South West residents to receive quality health care closer to home

The new Busselton Health Campus (BHC) will provide valuable support to smaller regional medical facilities, particularly in Margaret River and Augusta.

It will be one of South West's major integrated district hospitals as it will see all clinical services in Busselton centralised to one site.

### The new BHC includes:

- An expanded emergency department
- Greater ward and day surgery facilities
- Modern operating theatres and birthing suites
- Dental services
- Improved renal dialysis services

Other services include a community mental health centre, community aged care, ongoing care and rehabilitation following discharge from hospital,

child development, child health and immunisation, and a range of allied health services such as podiatry, speech pathology, occupational therapy, social work, dietetics and physiotherapy.

The State Government's Royalties for Regions program has contributed \$40.5 million to the \$120.4 million BHC construction project and a further \$10.7 million for Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

### Contemporary design

Health service staff and the local community have had a say in developing BHC's contemporary design – to maximise the unique features of local environment.

Hassell's lead architect Jeff Menkens said hospital architecture and designs have transformed over the years with vibrant colours and eye catching materials now being used both internally and externally.

"We have worked hard to provide a warm and inviting environment, balancing the use of artificial and natural light at the Busselton Health Campus," he said.

*"The calming interior design includes materials and colours that have been matched to the external landscape using soft whites, blues, greens and greys to signify the beach, sea and peppermint trees."*

Generous windows have been used throughout BHC, including panoramic features in all patient bedrooms.

*Continued next page*



Photo courtesy of WA Country Health Service

BHC is the third WA hospital to install similar technology after Albany Health Campus in 2013 and Fiona Stanley Hospital last year.

### **Real Time Location Service**

Patient and staff safety at BHC will be enhanced with the Real Time Location Service, a wireless system that uses transmitters and mobile devices to protect people and equipment.

The system's mobile duress component allows staff to send out an alert for help at the touch of a button. The system can pinpoint the exact location of any incident and send the necessary assistance.

Vulnerable patients such as those suffering from dementia will also have more freedom thanks to a special bracelet which sends out a wireless signal.

Patients considered 'at-risk' will also be thoroughly protected if they get too close to an exit, as the system will sound an alarm at the nurses' station.

### **New system to improve patient information in the South West**

A new web-based Patient Administration System (WebPAS) has replaced the ageing database system at BHC, Margaret River and Augusta Hospitals.

The system will improve the collection and access of patient information and has the ability to share information with multiple sites across Western Australia, providing up-to-date patient records.

### **Hugs and kisses ensure safety for new mums**

The Hugs Infant Protection system will provide an additional layer of security and peace of mind to new parents.

A small 'Kisses' tag will be placed on the mother with a 'Hugs' band placed around her baby's ankle, immediately following birth. Staff are alerted through the band if there has been a mismatch between mother and baby or if a baby is removed from the maternity unit. ■

## *South West residents to receive quality health care closer to home (cont.)*

### **Local boy becomes Busselton's first Senior Medical Practitioner**

Dr Stephen Arthur, BHC's recently appointed first Senior Medical Practitioner, has a strong connection to the community that he now serves.

Leaving his Busselton hometown to study medicine, it seems almost fitting that Dr Arthur has been appointed to strengthen inpatient care in the new BHC.

Dr Arthur said the increasing requirement for health services has led to the inevitable need for on-site medical staffing.

"There was no Busselton Rural Clinical School in my time and I am delighted that we can now work closely with the school to support doctors and health professionals to work in rural areas," said Dr Arthur.

*"We are also creating career pathways for local school students who may want to explore a career in one of the health professions."*

His priorities for his new role are around developing comprehensive communication systems and continuing the high level of clinical care that was provided under the GP-based model.

### **State-of-the art ICT**

The \$10.7 million investment will go towards a range of new systems to provide in-house entertainment, added security and upgrade the patient administration database.

### **Patient Entertainment System**

Patients at BHC will be among the first in WA to experience 21st century technology in their wards.

Available in all in-patient rooms, new Patient Entertainment Systems will be available through high-tech touch-screen equipment. This new technology will allow patients to access television, radio and internet and double as a clinical computer displaying patient health and hospital information.



## Helpdesk for WA's sheep traceability

Western Australia's sheep farmers and industry have added support to trace livestock through a three-year pilot of a National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) helpdesk managed by the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA).

NLIS is an electronic database that records movement of all sheep across Australia and requires sheep producers and industry stakeholders such as agents, abattoirs and saleyards to register and record sheep movements.

The helpdesk has been funded \$250,000 over three years by the State Government's Royalties for Regions as part of the \$20 million Boosting Biosecurity Defences program, through the Seizing the Opportunity Agriculture initiative.

DAFWA sheep NLIS helpdesk manager Peter Gray said that sheep traceability

benefits producers and sheep industry stakeholders.

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*"It allows industry and government to quickly track disease to its origin in the unlikely event of an outbreak boosting food safety and consumer confidence," Dr Gray said.*

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"Helpdesk services include registering for an account, uploading sheep movement, providing advice on identification requirements or advice on any other sheep identification or movement related issues."



NLIS helpdesk officers Jacquie Pearson (left) and Leigh Sonnemann show WAFarmers President Dale Park (seated) the database.

For more information, visit [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au) or call the DAFWA sheep NLIS helpdesk on 9363 4150 or email [sheep.nlis@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:sheep.nlis@agric.wa.gov.au). ■

## Equipment grants awarded to regional sporting clubs

Over 160 regional sporting clubs in Western Australia have received a \$500 grant to spend on increasing or upgrading shared sporting equipment.

The grants were made possible with \$1 million from the State Government's Royalties for Regions program and were distributed through the Community Sporting Club Equipment Subsidy Scheme administered by the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Hedland AFL Masters, also known as the Flatback Turtles, President Dave Muller said that the recently established football club has received an enormous amount of interest from the community and the grant had helped them get established. "We have been able to purchase the fundamental basics such as footballs, goal post protectors and guernseys and contribute towards a purpose-built trailer to transport training gear, barbeque, esky, fridges and lighting," Mr Muller said.



Hedland AFL Masters

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*"This grant gives the club an opportunity to promote healthy lifestyles to all ages and establishes a football club that contributes back to the community."*

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The Esperance Bay Yacht Club also benefitted from the grant. Treasurer David Rigney said it assisted the club to provide safety equipment for junior sailors to get started and potentially increase the club's membership numbers. "The grant has

gone towards maintenance of the club's lifejackets for juniors to use while they establish their love for sailing," Mr Rigney said. "We have also upgraded radios and replaced a motor on our rescue boats that join the junior fleets in training."

For more information or to apply for the Community Sporting Club Equipment Subsidy Scheme, visit [www.dsr.wa.gov.au](http://www.dsr.wa.gov.au). ■

# Culture and arts a new focus for the South West



Photo courtesy of Jason Barnett Photography.

Enriching opportunities to experience cultural and artistic excellence have become available in WA's South West region with the recent expansion of the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre (BREC).

The State Government's Royalties for Regions program, the City of Bunbury and the Wellington group of Shires have jointly funded the \$12.5 million upgrade.

Although traditionally an industrial and port city, Bunbury is well on its way to becoming a lifestyle and tourism destination of choice.

BREC has been in operation since 1990, however only now has it reached its full potential as a state of the art facility, offering extensive flow on benefits to the broader community and the regional economy.

In addition to the existing 810-seat theatre, the centre now also boasts

a new 242-seat theatre called 'The Cube', three function rooms, a new box office and Sky Bar with water views, administration facilities and improved access for visitors with disabilities.

BREC General Manager Joel McGuinness said the Centre has received great support from the community, and usage of the facility has already exceeded the projected outcome.

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*"We've been overwhelmed by the positive response from all sectors of the community, with bookings from all throughout the South West," Mr McGuinness said.*

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"It is so rewarding to see local theatre and performing groups using the facility, as well as international and national events."

Recent acts have included Leo Sayer, electric pop duo Sun City, country music stars Melinda Schneider and Beccy Cole, and many more from a great variety of genres.

With a smaller theatre and new conference facilities supported by a catering kitchen and large bar and foyer, BREC has broadened its customer base and services to include weddings, corporate functions and smaller performances.

Increased flexibility of the Centre will attract investment, events and a broader audience, as well as stimulate cultural activity and raise Bunbury's profile with key cultural players. The BREC Presents program for 2015 includes West Australian Ballet, Bell Shakespeare, Oz Opera and many more.

With a fully functioning and flexible entertainment centre, Bunbury is now in an ample position to connect its assets to create a sustainable, thriving cultural and entertainment sector in the City. ■



# Aged Care in the Wheatbelt

As demand for aged care services is expected to grow in line with Wheatbelt's ageing demographic, it is important that existing capacity is maintained and improved.

The State Government's Royalties for Regions program has helped the Wheatbelt upgrade two of its major aged care facilities in recent times – the Moora Frail Aged Facility and the Dryandra Residential and Community Care centre.

These upgrades now offer the aged in the region an improved opportunity to be independent and to continue to live in their community of choice, supporting the development of age-friendly communities in regional Western Australia.

Ageing populations also present skill development and career opportunities in the health care and social service sectors, ensuring sustainability of service delivery into the future.

## Frail aged lodge in Moora extended

The Moora Frail Aged Lodge has been extended to include six additional ensuite bedrooms to accommodate two respite and four low-care beds, one staffroom, one laundry and an activity room.

Prior to the extension, the facility often had no availability of beds and aged seniors from the area would need to be sent to Perth for care.

Moora Frail Aged Lodge Committee Member Graham Joyce said the community has been very supportive of this project and are pleased it has finally been completed.

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*"We have come a long way since the inaugural meeting of the Committee in 1985, with the first six-room building being officially opened in 1989," Mr Joyce said.*

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"To keep our elderly in this environment has been our main goal and we are very fortunate to have the Lodge added to our aged care precinct set up here."

## Kellerberin's aged-care facility refurbished

The Dryandra Residential and Community Care facility in Kellerberin has recently been refurbished to meet the needs of the growing aged community.

Made possible by \$5.475 million from Royalties for Regions funding, and with contributions from the Department of Health, the Shire of Kellerberin and Lotterywest, the project was undertaken in two stages.

Stage 1 saw the construction of a new kitchen, laundry, store room, cleaner's room, meeting room and a new larger medication/treatment room. Stage 2 was focused on creating 21 additional beds and a dementia-specific wing, including minor upgrades to the existing building.

Chairman of the Board of Dryandra and Shire of Kellerberrin's Chief Executive Officer Raymond Griffiths said the refurbishment has addressed the increased requirements for specialist dementia care services in the region.

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*"The project provides the opportunity for members within the region to stay in the region and to be close to their families without the hassle of travel to Perth," Mr Griffiths said.*

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"The facility now has the capacity to provide many secondary health services to the residents, increasing the number of professional and trained jobs available within the facility." ■



Moora Frail Aged Lodge Committee Members.



Augusta Boat Harbour.

## South West communities welcome the opening of Augusta Boat Harbour

The historic Flinders Bay in Augusta, where Captain Matthew Flinders commenced mapping the Australian coastline in 1801, is now home to the world class Augusta Boat Harbour. Communities in the region have welcomed the addition which has been more than 10 years in the making with the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River forming a planning committee in 2003. Works on the new harbour, made possible by \$34.6 million funding through the Royalties for Regions program, commenced in 2011 with the facility being officially opened in November 2014.

Offering 2.8 hectares of sheltered water the harbour provides a safe haven for vessels navigating the coastline between Cape Leeuwin and Cape Naturaliste and promotes sustainable growth for the region's commercial, recreational and tourism boating sectors.

Shire President of Augusta Margaret River Mike Smart said the harbour represents an additional drawcard to what is already an outstanding tourism destination. "It provides safe boating access for one of the best whale watching destinations in Australia, as well as supporting

recreational boating, a commercial fishery and the offshore abalone aquaculture farm," Mr Smart said.

All Sea Charters business owner Paul Szczypior, who operates whale watching tours from Augusta between June and September, said he and his passengers will benefit from the new facility. "Tourists will be able to walk on and off board directly from the harbour saving time and making transfers easier and safer," Mr Szczypior said.

The harbour includes a four lane boat launching facility with floating finger jetties, a 50 metre wharf, 40 boat pens,

navigation aids, car and trailer parking, four fully serviced land development lots, an amenities building and pavilion as well as services, security, lighting, paths and landscaping. The new harbour also serves as a regional base for sea search and rescue operations.

Augusta Margaret River Tourism Chief Executive Officer Pip Close believes the landmark development will provide a tourism boost to the Augusta area and the wider Margaret River Region.

"Augusta is a stunning township on the banks of the thriving Blackwood River, boasting spectacular natural and historical attractions - including the historic Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse," Ms Close said. "We are delighted to celebrate its successful completion."

The South West region attracts the most visitors outside of Perth and the addition of this world class facility will continue to provide a unique destination for tourists while supporting the local economy and ensuring the region remains a desirable place to live, work and play. ■



# Festival of food, wine and beer: Margaret River Gourmet Escape secured until 2017

Following on from another enormously successful event in 2014, the State Government has announced the Margaret River Gourmet Escape will continue to receive Royalties for Regions funding through Tourism WA's Regional Events Scheme until at least 2017.

The State Government's investment aims to attract visitors putting the region on the international map as a world-class food and wine tourism destination. The annual three-day extravaganza, first held in 2012, takes place in our stunning coastline and magnificent landscapes celebrating Western Australia's fresh produce, gourmet delicacies and world-class wines.

Ticket sales in 2014 were more than double that of the inaugural event with the Gourmet Village at Leeuwin Estate Winery attracting 13,629 visitors who enjoyed sampling gourmet food and wine offerings from 170 exhibitors. 8,288 people attended 20 satellite events set in picturesque and unique settings throughout the region which included long lunches, beach barbecues, feasts in the forests and collaboration dinners at wineries.

A regular exhibitor at Margaret River Gourmet Escape, Eagle Bay Brewing Co. this time teamed up with Perth restaurant El Público to host the Long Table Fiesta satellite event. In a collaborative effort between local brewer Nick d'Espeissis and El Público's head chef Sam Ward, the well-received event, which sold out in just 30 minutes, featured a four course Mexican, sharing style meal matched to handcrafted Eagle Bay Brewing Co. beers and a selection of artisanal mescal. Eagle Bay Brewing Co.'s Nick d'Espeissis said when approached by Gourmet Escape to hold an event at the brewery, he saw an



Photo courtesy of Elements of Margaret River.

opportunity to team up with a WA based chef to craft a one-off single batch brew specifically for the event.

*"I met up with Sam to discuss ideas for the beer, taking into account the style of food, the ingredients for the menu and the season and the 'Agave Ale' was what we came up with."*

Only 1,000 litres of the Agave Ale, which was launched at the Long Table Fiesta, were brewed and the beer was a feature at their exhibit in the Gourmet Village. Afterwards, both Eagle Bay Brewing Co. and El Público had what remained available on tap. "At our pop-up stall at the Gourmet Village it was our most popular beer attracting a beer lovers crowd who previously associated Gourmet Escape as mostly just a wine and food event," Nick said.

Margaret River Gourmet Escape Event Director, Naomi Wilson said, "each year we aim to up the ante and deliver a truly unique and exceptional program of events which have evolved, as well as the creation of new ideas to ensure we are properly representing the region and all

it has to offer to international, interstate and local audiences".

The 2014 event did not disappoint punters hoping to rub shoulders with the stars with an acclaimed line-up of international and local chefs, including Michelin greats Heston Blumenthal (The Fat Duck, UK), Clare Smyth (Chef Patron of Restaurant Gordon Ramsay, UK), Sat Bains (Restaurant Sat Bains with Rooms, UK) and Massimo Bottura (Osteria Francescana, Italy). Non-culinary celebrity sightings included Layne Beachley, Kirk Pengilly, Adam Garcia and Simon Le Bon.

"What makes Margaret River Gourmet Escape different from any other food and wine festival on the planet is not only the ability to showcase the region's offerings in breathtaking, remarkable locations but also the genuine enthusiasm from the participating chefs and food and wine experts which is integral in promoting the Margaret River Wine Region to a local and global market," said Ms Wilson.

The next Margaret River Gourmet Escape will take place from 20 – 22 November 2015 and promises to be bigger and better than ever. ■

Level 2, 140 William Street, PERTH WA 6000 | Postal Address : PO Box 1143, WEST PERTH WA 6872  
Telephone : +61 8 6552 1800 | Free call : 1800 049 155 (Country Only) | Facsimile : +61 8 6552 1850

Email : [info@drd.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@drd.wa.gov.au) | Website : [www.drd.wa.gov.au](http://www.drd.wa.gov.au)