

Western Councillor



ISSUE 125 | MAY/JUN 2023



AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

The wholesome project
which bridged generations
in a Wheatbelt town – and
even saved a life

P12-14

INSIDE

P6

From fringe city to metro
marvel: City of Joondalup
marks 25th anniversary

P24

Heritage projects give
new life to cherished
community buildings

P26

The electric equipment
helping Local Government
tackle carbon emissions

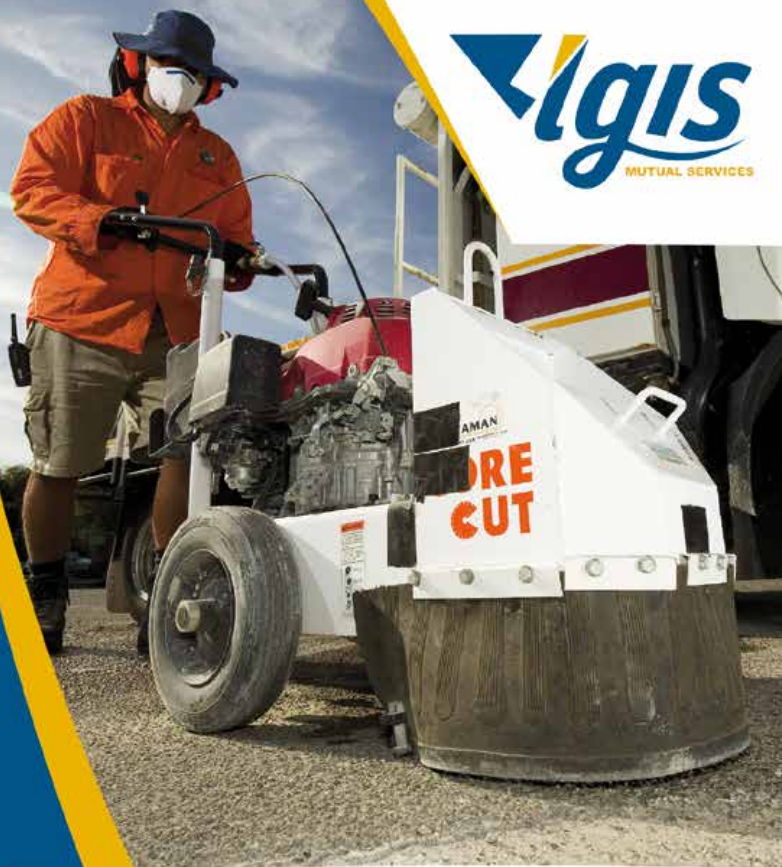
Local governments working together.

At LGIS, protecting our local government members is what we do.

We make sure our members have the right cover to suit their needs. If disaster strikes, our local government specialists help get them, and their community, back on their feet as soon as possible.

It's our members who make Western Australia such a great place to live – their roads get us around, we meet in their libraries and recreation centres, they manage our waste, and provide connection for the elderly. Every day they provide the countless services and support which makes us a community.

We believe that's worth protecting.



To find out how you can get the most out of your LGIS membership, visit lgiswa.com.au or call 9483 8888.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Peer Support Team

A practical way to provide mediation and conciliation support to Local Governments in Western Australia.

The Peer Support Team is an initiative between the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) and Local Government Professionals WA.

The team was formed to provide conciliation, negotiation and mediation support to Local Governments that identified issues of relationship conflict between Councillors, or between Councillors and senior staff.

The key objective is to assist Local Governments resolve these issues

of conflict and reduce the need for formal investigations or enquiries.

The team will meet with the affected Councillors and staff individually, as well as in a group setting, allowing all parties to freely express their views in a neutral environment. The team will then assist the Local Government to develop outcomes and a path forward that is suitable for all involved.

So, to head off possible conflict or for the best resolution in situations where it already exists, call Nick Sloan or Candy Choo on the numbers below.

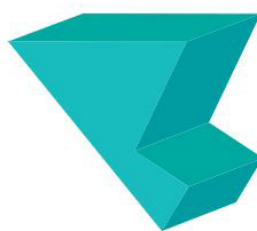
LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
PEER SUPPORT
TEAM HOTLINE
NUMBERS

Nick Sloan
CEO
WALGA
Tel 9213 2025

Candy Choo
CEO
LG Professionals WA
Tel 9271 1136



WALGA



Local Futures

WALGA Local Government Convention 2023

Registrations are now open

17 – 19 September 2023



Contents

ISSUE 125 | MAY/JUN 2023

- 04 State & Federal Budgets
- 05 From the President
- 06 Joondalup: 25th Anniversary
- 08 LGIS Editorial
- 09 Auspire
- 10 Economic Update
- 12 Pingelly: Age is Just a Number
- 15 Local Lens
- 24 New Life for Old Bones
- 26 Kwinana Technology Day
- 27 Training Update
- 28 Cockburn Waste
- 29 Gascoyne Waste
- 30 May State Council Resolutions
- 31 Synergy Advertorial

Welcome to Issue 125 of Western Councillor

COVER: Age is just a number: the wholesome project which bridged generations in a Wheatbelt town, and even saved a life



ALBANY



BROOME



KARRATHA

BUDGET

KEY LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEASURES IN 2023 BUDGETS

STATE BUDGET

\$3.75 million has been allocated to deliver a grant program over 2023-24 and 2024-25 to increase tree canopy cover and improve biodiversity within Western Australia's urban centres.

An additional \$15 million has been added to the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund, which will be spent over 2023-24 and 2024-25, bringing the Fund to \$20 million for these two years respectively.

The Budget papers confirm the State Government's ongoing funding commitment to the State Road Funds to Local Government to assist Councils with the management of the local road network.

Spending on regional health and mental health initiatives will increase by \$342 million, including the continuation of the Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service and additional investment in WA Health's regional workforce.

An additional \$12 million is allocated for the Regional Development Assistance Program over 2023-24 to 2026-27 for residential, industrial, commercial and tourism-related land and infrastructure projects.

\$3.6 million has been allocated in 2023-24 to assist with mid-tier transport planning.

An additional \$61.6 million is provided over the forward estimates period to address demand for Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH). This includes \$40.9 million to acquire new dwellings and purchase land for future construction and \$19.7 million to refurbish 133 existing GROH properties. \$1.1 million will also be spent on a comprehensive review and reform of the GROH program.

\$11.3 million is provided over 2022-23 to 2024-25 (jointly funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments) for infrastructure projects that will increase the State's organic waste processing capacity.

\$24.4 million is provided over 2022-23 to 2026-27 to implement initiatives approved as part of Planning Reform Phase Two. This includes the centralised assessment of Development Contributions Plans, implementing Development Assessment Panel Reforms and the establishment of a permanent determination pathway for State and regionally significant developments.

FEDERAL BUDGET

- \$2.4 billion for the Roads to Recovery Program between 2022-23 and 2026-27. WA will receive \$360.6 million of this funding.
- \$600.7m for Black Spot Projects over five years, \$67.1m of which will flow to WA.
- New \$211.7m, three-year Thriving Suburbs Program for community infrastructure.
- New \$159.7m, four-year Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program for urban communities.
- No increase to \$3.1bn Financial Assistance Grants, \$376.9m of which will flow to WA.
- Extension of Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program.
- \$10m National Waste Education campaign
- \$200m Disaster Ready fund continued alongside new Flood Warning Infrastructure Network.
- \$10.1 million over two years from 2023-24 to scope the capability needs to modernise Australia's emergency service communications.

- \$83.2 million over four years for a new Net Zero Authority, which will work with State and Local Governments, workers, regional communities and First Nations people to facilitate economic development and diversification in the transition to a clean energy economy.



It's disappointing that another Federal Budget has passed without the Government delivering on their pre-election promise of 'fair increases' to (Financial Assistance) Grants.

ALGA PRESIDENT CR LINDA SCOTT



President
Cr Karen Chappel

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I often hear the phrase “young people are the leaders of tomorrow”.

It is true, and their aspirations need to be fostered, but their ideas are also leading to positive change today.

This was driven home for me at the 7 News Western Australian Young Achiever Awards hosted in May, where a group of exceptional young West Australians were commended for their community leadership.

There are so many young people out there doing really great things.

Among them was young Morawa police officer Cohen Taylor, who won the Indigenous community leadership award to add to his Mr NAIDOC title in 2022.

Cohen has already proven himself a respected role model for other young people in the community, putting his hand up to visit schools, organise sporting events, run youth emergency services programs and facilitate blue light events to ensure our young people remain active and valued in town.

There are fortunately people like Cohen who lead by example to make their community sing, living in every part of Western Australia.

They are also the kind of people we should continue do everything we can to encourage to run for Council or work in Local Government.

Our sector has long been a major employer of young people.

For many, a job in Local Government is an opportunity to give back to the community they grew up in.

For others it is a chance to experience somewhere completely new, or to cut their teeth in the diverse range of jobs on offer in the sector.

We are also seeing more young people than ever put their hands up for, get elected, and be chosen to lead Councils across the State.

Look at Councils such as Mandurah, Bunbury and Capel – all major operations led admirably by Mayors and Presidents aged 35 or under.

And look at Youth Councils run by Local Governments across the State which give aspiring community leaders the opportunity to understand how community representation works from the Elected Members, executives and staff they may one day work alongside.

It is crucial this work to encourage young voices on Council and in the office continues, as they bring fresh perspective which can improve life in our communities – not just for the next generation, but for everyone today too.

Our young people aren't just the leaders of tomorrow, they are leaders today.



For many young people, a job in Local Government is an opportunity to give back to the community they grew up in.



HOW A BUSH OUTPOST BECAME ONE OF PERTH'S MOST POPULAR CITIES

1998.

It's the year the Adelaide Crows won their second consecutive AFL premiership, Aussie rockers Powderfinger released their album *Internationalist*, setting them on the path to global stardom. Mobile phones were the size of house bricks, The Wiggles' first self-titled TV series aired on Channel 7 and the likes of *Good Will Hunting* and *The Wedding Singer* were playing at movie theatres.

It was also a big year for the northern corridor of Perth as the City of Joondalup became a city in its own right on 1 July 1998.*

The Joondalup story, in fact, began more than four decades earlier in 1955 with the *Plan for the Metropolitan Region – Perth and Fremantle, Western Australia* also known as the *Stephenson-Hepburn Report*.

In the late 1970s the Joondalup Centre Act was proclaimed and the Joondalup Development Corporation (JDC) established.

The JDC's task was a complex and ambitious one: deliver on the vision set out by Sir Charles Court for a satellite city on the shores of Lake Joondalup that would become the civic, cultural and economic capital of Perth's northern corridor. Five members were appointed to the JDC on 25 February 1977.

At that time, aside from the then City of Wanneroo administration building (1979) and Wanneroo Hospital (1980), Joondalup was all but bushland.

Joondalup as we now know it began to develop in earnest through the 1980s and early '90s.

This coincided with the Mitchell Freeway – construction of stage five began in December 1984, stages five and six officially opened on 6 August 1986 – and Joondalup train line extensions (December 1992) closed the distance between Perth CBD and the northern suburbs.

Among many other big moments, the 1988-1994 period saw the opening of the West Australian College of Advanced Education (Edith Cowan University, 1987), Lakeside Joondalup Shopping City (opened 2 November 1994), Joondalup Police Station and Courthouse (1992,93) and Arena Joondalup (Stage one opened 25 April 1994).

Away from the city centre, residential growth grew significantly across the suburbs. More and more people were attracted by the lifestyle opportunities and headed north to build homes on big blocks and raise families.

Hillarys Boat Harbour, completed prior to the America's Cup, on 15 November 1987, would soon become one of WA's most popular tourist attractions.

Joint Commissioners oversaw the City of Joondalup in its first 18 months and the city's first council was established in 1999 with John Bombak the inaugural Mayor of Joondalup.

Under the banner *Creating the Future*, the council had its first formal sitting on 12 December 1999.

Fast forward 25 years, and what is Joondalup now?

Joondalup is recognised on the international stage for its liveability and healthy lifestyle opportunities and for being home to an engaged and connected community.

The Joondalup City Centre is the heartbeat of the northern corridor of Perth with 13,000 businesses delivering more than \$6.9bn in economic activity.

The Joondalup Activity Centre Plan has an objective to grow employment in the Joondalup City Centre to 45,000 jobs by 2050 – and current jobs growth indicates the city is on track to achieve that target.

There have been many highlights for Joondalup and its community over the 25 years, too many to mention, but two of the more notable achievements include:

- Joondalup named as the most liveable city (with a population of 150,000-400,000) at the 2011 United Nations-backed Livcom Awards.
- Construction commencing on Ocean Reef Marina. For over a decade the city, backed by overwhelming support from its community, invested the significant financial and human resources required to progress this transformational project to a shovel-ready stage.

There have also been many people who have contributed to Joondalup's success, again too many to mention. However,

Honorary Freeman Margaret Cockman, Bill Marwick, Nick Trandos and Brian Cooper must be acknowledged.

"Everything good about the Australian way of life can be found in this stretch of paradise known as Joondalup," City Mayor Albert Jacob said.

"Home to stunning natural assets, including 17km of world-class coastline and beautiful lakes and wetlands, Joondalup's liveability is second to none.

"We have flourished into a successful, highly liveable and vibrant civic and cultural destination that is home to a diverse range of successful businesses and professional services.

"Our city values the contribution of its past and present Indigenous people and is committed to reconciliation outcomes. We are a destination city, a bold, creative, prosperous city that continues to make its mark on the global stage.

"It's been a successful journey so far, but there are still many chapters to be written in the Joondalup story."

Here's to the next 25 years and beyond.

**On 1 July 1998 the City of Wanneroo was formally abolished and the City of Joondalup and Shire of Wanneroo were established. Wanneroo would become a city again in 1999.*



WHY WON'T LGIS PAY THE CLAIM? I'M BEING QUESTIONED BY RATEPAYERS

By James Sheridan, CEO, LGIS



It's a familiar scenario for many Councillors – it might be on your social media page or when you're at the local bakery grabbing morning tea, and a community member wants to talk about the outcome of their claim. For many it's difficult to understand how far a Local Government's duty of care extends and what is considered reasonable to meet that duty.

UNDERSTANDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LIABILITY

LGIS considers every claim on its merits; claims are denied when

the member is not legally liable. It's important to remember that a Local Government is NOT the same as an individual or business when it comes to liability.

Common law places the onus of proving negligence on the claimant who has allegedly suffered a loss.

In general the *Civil Liability Act 2002 (WA)* states that a person (or Local Government) is not liable for harm caused by that person's fault in failing to take precautions against a risk of harm unless:

- a) the risk was foreseeable (that is, it is a risk of which the Local Government knew or ought to have known);
- b) the risk was not insignificant; and
- c) in the circumstances, a reasonable Local Government in the same position would have taken those precautions.

The question then becomes 'What are reasonable precautions against a risk of harm?', and the following is considered:

- a) the probability that the harm would occur if care were not taken;
- b) the likely seriousness of the harm;
- c) the burden of taking precautions to avoid the risk of harm; and
- d) the social utility of the activity that creates the risk of harm.

In addition to the above Local Governments are specifically recognised within the *Civil Liability Act* and receive additional protections, not ordinarily available to the general public or commercial organisations.

For LGIS members the question is 'What would a reasonable Local Government, with similar information and resources, do in this situation?' Consideration of resources may include financial capacity, workforce size and area of responsibility – such as how many thousands of trees are in their jurisdiction.

Consider a common claim, where a tree branch has fallen and caused damage to the claimant's property. The question will be asked 'given due consideration to resources and information, has the Local Government taken reasonable steps or precautions to meet their duty of care?'

It's also important to remember that although something has occurred it cannot be assumed that the Local Government is automatically responsible. In this instance it should be noted that a tree branch may sporadically fail without any external indication or forewarning. In this regard it's unlikely that the failure is due to lack of maintenance or that the Local Government could have taken reasonable steps to prevent the failure.

CONTAINING AND REDUCING CLAIMS – IT'S BETTER FOR YOUR BOTTOM LINE

LGIS carefully assesses every claim on its merits, accepting only those where there is liability. This is important for two reasons, the first is to avoid setting a precedent and the second is to contain the total number of claims for the sector. The sector's claims performance is one of four factors that influence member contributions – the other three are (re)insurance prices, information provided by members, and overall performance of the Scheme.

Unfortunately the sector's claims experience this past year was hit by unforeseeable events, but there were also avoidable claims (particularly in motor) and significant deterioration in workers' compensation claims.

To complicate the situation the commercial insurance market continues to harden. Although LGIS insulates members against broader market volatility, it does have an impact on (re)insurance and claims costs.

We're committed to members' sustainable, long term protection and in 2023/24 contributions have been revisited to ensure that pooled funds reflect the sector's changing claims performance.

If you have any questions on claims management or membership renewal please contact me on 0409 185 420 or talk to your LGIS account manager. Our dedicated team is also available to present to your entire council and address any questions.

WA AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR CALLS FOR CHANGED APPROACH TO DYING

Palliative Care Research Professor at UWA and Perron Institute Samar Aoun is encouraging communities and their Local Governments, to adopt a compassionate communities approach so they are better prepared to support people who are caring, dying, or grieving.

Research shows that only 5 per cent of a dying person's time is spent with a health professional, while the other 95 per cent is spent with friends, families, colleagues, pets – their community. Sometimes alone.

Upskilling communities to support people at this time is necessary to build social connectedness and reduce isolation.

Ms Aoun, who was named 2023 WA Australian of the Year for her work in palliative care, chairs the South West Compassionate Communities Network and has researched this approach with the WA Country Health Service.

In a pilot program, 20 volunteers were trained to become Compassionate Communities Connectors, to help connect 43 families with people in their local communities.

The families' social networks grew so that they had people helping with activities such as mowing the lawn, taking them to appointments and simply chatting over a cuppa.

In addition, there were savings to the health system in terms of reduced hospital admissions and length of stay.

Following the trial, Ms Aoun has worked with community groups and the Local Government in Bunbury, where she has lived since moving to Australia 30 years ago, to develop a Compassionate City Charter.

The Charter guides and encourages individual consumers, service providers, businesses, schools, community groups and clubs, to work together to create a more compassionate Bunbury.

A Bunbury, that is resilient, responsive and understands the need for community support to get through difficult times.

All LGAs are encouraged to develop a compassionate charter and leverage off the work done so far.

For the Compassionate Connectors Program to be rolled out, communities need to be prepared and the charter can aid in this.

Ms Aoun is motivated by her own experience when she was grieving for her father, which she has said went unacknowledged by her former colleagues, simply because people do not know what to say or do in these circumstances.

"We need to bear in mind that social isolation or loneliness is going to be the biggest killer for our aging population, and we're all going that way if we don't start thinking in a more socially connected way," she said.



"Death, dying, grief and loss belong to the community – they are not medical events, but social events.

"We need to encourage those who are experiencing these events to ask for help. In this way they are up-skilling the community to help them and benefiting others in the same situation.

"It's about building the capacity of the community to help each other – Local Governments have an important role in achieving this."

WHO INSPIRES YOU, WA?

Nominations are now open to find the 2024 WA Australian of the Year. Could it be someone you know? Nominate now at www.australianoftheyear.org.au.



ECONOMIC UPDATE

EMPLOYEE COSTS ON THE RISE AS ECONOMIC PRESSURES ENDURE

By WALGA Economist, Daniel Thomson

Local Governments have endured a challenging period, with costs rising at a rapid rate, primarily due to skyrocketing construction costs in response to global supply chain pressures and COVID-19 induced stimulus.

As these factors start to unwind, growth in Local Government costs will begin a path back towards the long-term average.

However, the real costs faced by Local Governments will stabilise at a new high and are not expected to return to pre-pandemic levels.

After years of subdued wages growth, employee costs are now on the rise.

This is particularly relevant for Local Governments, given employee costs represent about one third of the sector's overall cost base.

In WA, the Wage Price Index grew by 1.06 per cent in the March quarter, and 4.1 per cent compared to one year earlier. This was the highest rate of growth in annual terms since December 2012.

Wage increases have been led by private industry, with the private sector WPI in WA growing by 0.85 per cent in the past quarter, and 4.4 per cent over the year – the strongest increase in annual terms since September 2012.

However, the public sector has started to catch up, with the public sector WPI jumping by 2.1 per cent in the past quarter and 3.1 per cent over the year.

WA wage growth is being driven by employers' response to high inflation and cost of living increases and the State's persistent tight labour market.

WA Treasury has recently commented that the labour market has been operating at capacity throughout 2022.

This has been characterised by low unemployment (with the State's unemployment rate below 4 per cent for the past year), high rates of labour force participation, record numbers of people in work and historically high job vacancies (reaching a peak of 66,500 in March 2022).

Despite early indications of softening labour market conditions, wage pressures are expected to persist in the coming year.

WA Treasury estimates in the State Budget show the Wage Price Index is expected to grow by 4 per cent in 2023-14, before starting to ease from 2024-25, as labour demand eases in line with the more subdued economic conditions and higher levels of overseas migration add to the pool of available workers.

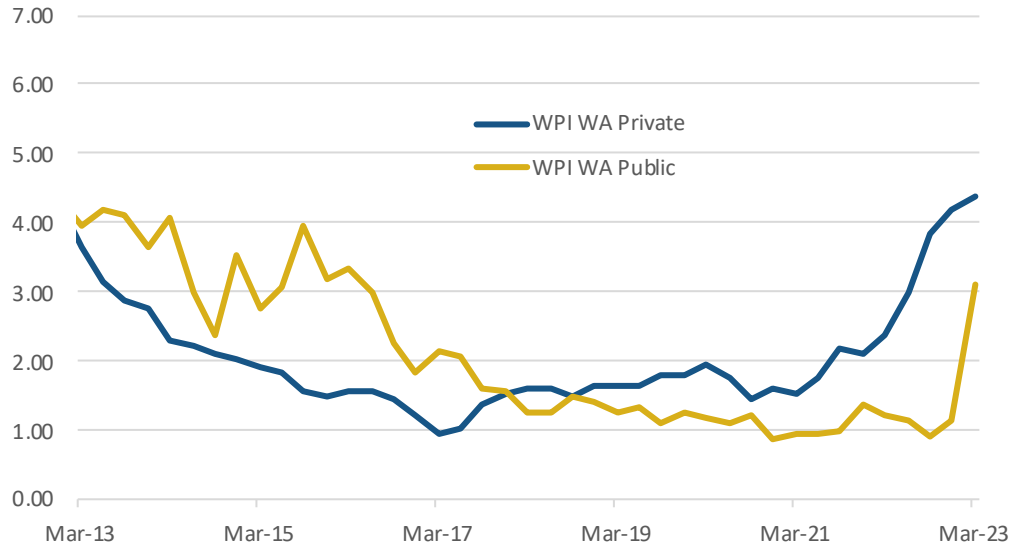
Indeed, the population of WA is growing at the fastest rate in a decade off the back of high overseas migration figures and a return to positive net interstate migration in response to the State's high number of job vacancies.

Although this can be good for this economy, population growth also can create challenges for local communities – particularly in terms of infrastructure, housing and service provision – if not appropriately planned for.

Balancing these factors will be a considerable public policy challenge in the coming months and years.

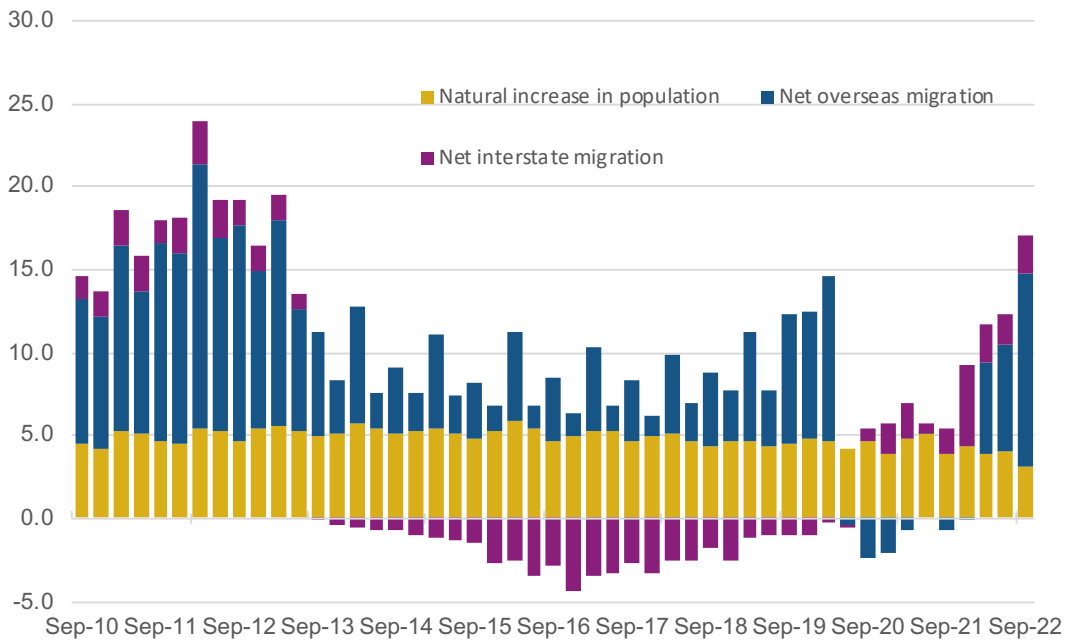
For further analysis visit the economics page under Policy & Advocacy on WALGA's website.

WAGE PRICE INDEX PRIVATE VS PUBLIC, WA, ANNUAL % CHANGE



SOURCE: ABS; WALGA

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE, WA, 000s



SOURCE: ABS; WALGA



JOY OF LIFE SPARKED BY BIGGIES' SMALLS

When Pingelly stalwart Peter Narducci got an email asking if he wanted to go back to school this year, he didn't give it a second thought.

For more than seven decades Mr Narducci has lived and breathed Pingelly and, through the Shire's Age is Just a Number program, he saw an opportunity to share his life with the region's kids.

The program, inspired by the ABC's Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds, saw 10 seniors and a class of 20 school children come together for a term to hang out and learn from each other.

Highlighting the importance of the program, Shire of Pingelly Community Development Officer Ellen Cook said it had even saved one of the elderly participants' lives.

"The program has given them a reason to push on, a feeling of self-worth," she said.

"Studies have shown that seniors who interact with children on a regular basis tend to live happier and healthier lives whilst also adding extra years onto their life.

"Many of our seniors in Pingelly have either no grandchildren or their grandchildren live further away (Perth), this program allowed them to learn firsthand exactly what 5- and

6-year-olds are like, and how unique and amazing they can be, whilst also changing their own mental and physical health without realising it.

"For the children and parents, this program allowed them to experience empathy and happiness with the seniors, for the kids to understand how different it was for the seniors compared to how it is now.

"Both Biggies and Smalls have made a friendship like no other, a safe friend in the community."

Pingelly Primary School pre-primary and year one teacher Erin Richardson said the students immediately embraced their biggies.

"It was pretty cute – when they came in on the Mondays the kids' eyes would lock on their biggie and they couldn't wait to get off the mat and give their biggies a hug," she said.

"Some of these kids don't have elderly people in their lives. (This gives them) the conversations, the communication, different perspectives.

"Some of the biggies now... sit on the outer of a community they have been active in for many years, so this is bringing them back into it and giving them a new sense of worth."

While the first run of the program has wrapped up, the interactions have carried on.

Many of the biggies now volunteer at the school in ways such as helping build a vegetable garden, or holding reading classes, and a pen pal system has been established to help the school kids with their language skills.

Plans to establish a permanent community garden for the two groups to share are also in the works.

This year's program was funded through a \$5,000 grant from Holyoake. With the program proving such a success, the Shire of Pingelly has decided to fund it for a further three years.

Shire CEO Andrew Dover said programs like this helped build community cohesion.

"It is a fantastic initiative... that has been very well received by the community, so well received in fact the shire has extended it past the life of the grant for the next three years," he said.

"There has been a lot of demand by some of the older people in town now this has run that they want to be involved in the next year."

Ms Cook said the program could be worthwhile for other Local Governments to replicate.

"It doesn't have to be big or flash, it is all about the communication and relationships," she said.

"Start with a small budget and work from there.

"Get any local schools or day-cares on board too, they are a great asset to the program."

WHAT THE BIGGIES SAID

Peter Narducci is a born-and-bred Pingelly man who has worn just about every hat in town over the past seven decades.

For him, Age is Just a Number was a chance to share his vast experience with – and love of – home with the next generation.

Mr Narducci said the weekly sessions had been an hour-and-a-half of "absolute bliss".

"Those kids, I have known their parents since they were little tackers – they use to come into our shop to get videos and lollies," he said.

"If they had this program three times a year I would go back three times without hesitation.

"I came home and said to my wife that has been the best eight to 10 weeks of my life, just because sharing and connecting – you felt as you walked up to school this is going to be a great hour then you walk home and feel twice as happy."

Mr Narducci found a strong personal connection with his little – Harvey – whose great grandfather attended the Narduccis' wedding.

Pingelly resident of 21 years Jeanette Jeffrey held one of the town's most important jobs as a local publican.

Now semi-retired, Ms Jeffrey said Age is Just a Number was the first time in three decades she had the time to take part in a community program.

"This was just perfect for me - not having to put up with adults as much, the children give you so much joy," she said.

"The teacher was wonderful and the group of children she had were inspiring and polite, there was no misbehaviour.

"We went to the park one day which was wonderful, and of course Emma started climbing trees and I had to get her down.

"They make you go into tight places too – they don't realise you are a biggie and can only do so much – they push you."

Ms Jeffrey said the program had built trust between participants and families, with parents now feeling safer talking to the biggies about their children.



PINGELLY: AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

WHAT THE LITTLES SAID

Eva Cook, 6, Emma Eva, 5, and Sean Dover, 6, were among the class taking part in Age is Just a Number.

The trio said they liked making liquid biscuits (biscuits with icing), doing a treasure hunt and drawing self-portraits with their biggies.

All three are still talking with the biggies as pen pals, and Sean was even lucky enough to get two packets of chocolate eggs for Easter from his biggie. He said he was sad when the program ended but had already written to his biggie.

They all said they want to see their biggies again.



MAY/JUN LOCAL LENS

The following pictures celebrate the achievements of Local Government in Western Australia. Any WA Local Government that has held an event or function and wants to have it featured in Western Councillor is encouraged to contact the [WALGA Communications Team](mailto:communications@walga.asn.au) via email: communications@walga.asn.au



CLAREMONT

The Town of Claremont's inaugural Celebrate the Foreshore event was held on 21 May. The event showcased the natural beauty of the foreshore with a focus on sustainability and environmental education. There was plenty to do, including amazing sand sculpture building. It was wonderful to see the place awash with smiling faces on a sunny autumn morning. Celebrate the Foreshore was supported by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Plastic Free Riverpark program to eliminate single-use plastic packaging at the event.



DENMARK

The Shire of Denmark has partnered with the local soccer club, chamber of commerce and Tourism WA to create a video campaign to invite the Danish Women's Football team to visit us while they're in Western Australia for the FIFA Women's World Cup this July and August.

Picture: Denmark Chamber of Commerce CEO John Gates, Lowana Winter, Member for Warren Blackwood Jane Kelsbie, Lumeah Masih and Denmark Shire President Ceinwen Gearon.

MURRAY

The Shire of Murray has supported the development of a giant mural on its Coolup Community Hall. Measuring 16 metres long and five metres high, the black and white aerosol mural depicts local ANZAC stories and was painted by self-taught artist Shakey. The giant installation was commissioned by the Coolup Progress Association as part of its ANZAC Memorial Revitalisation Project.



MELVILLE

The City of Melville unveiled its new 150pax facility at the Kardinya Lesser Hall, which will be a long-term home to the Melville Branch of the Woodturners Association of Western Australia. The facility opened on 27 April with Noongar Elder Neville Collard providing a smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country, and the Melville Branch of the Woodturners Association of WA providing woodturning demonstrations. Guests included Member for Tangney Sam Lim, Member for Bateman Kim Giddens and City of Melville Elected Members and staff.



BROOMEHILL-TAMBELLUP

The Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup, in partnership with the City of Albany and Rio Tinto, was pleased to welcome 1999 World Kickboxing Champion Chris Collard to Tambellup in March. Chris is a Noongar man who had a difficult upbringing, however through perseverance, has forged a successful life through sport. Chris worked through goal setting activities with a group of our young people, and a documentary of his journey, Aboriginal Warrior was screened. Chris then conducted a boxing workshop with the enthusiastic participants.

SUBIACO

The City of Subiaco's FOGO roll-out is now complete. The roll-out included free community information sessions, an info stall at Subi Farmers Market, a video series featuring the Mayor and other City staff, and drop-in sessions with the City's Waste Education Officer at Subiaco Library.

Picture: City of Subiaco Waste Education Officer Viviana Lopez Torres with a FOGO kitchen caddy.



KULIN

The Freebairn Recreation Centre hosted the AFL Southwest Masters Wheatbelt Safari, with football teams attending from Perth, the South West, Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Albany. The spirit of the carnival was for everyone to get involved and enjoy the fellowship. The event also created an opportunity for Kulin District High School to raise money for their upcoming Canberra Camp.





DALWALLINU

Shire staff and volunteers served breakfast to more than 150 people who attended the Anzac Day Service. The service was conducted by Rod Donnes. This year the Fire Brigade marched before the service began and then stood to attention behind the cenotaph for the entire service. The Lions Club were in attendance dispensing very welcome hot beverages and juices.

COCKBURN

The City of Cockburn's trade collaboration with Indonesia has earned a commendation in the 2023 National Growth Areas Alliance Excellence and Innovation Awards, recognising the City's focus to foster trade connections between Cockburn and Indonesian blue economy, shipbuilding, maritime, education, training, health and medical sectors. In March a trade delegation visited Jakarta and Surabaya, where 12 Cockburn-based business delegates connected with leaders to promote bilateral trade. Several participating local businesses reporting a high likelihood of starting a commercial partnership with Indonesian counterparts.



WANNEROO

The City was excited to host FIFA Secretary General Samba Diouf Samoura at Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex in May. The Danish international squad has selected Kingsway as their team base camp and training site for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. Floodlighting at the Complex's main soccer pitch has been upgraded to meet professional match standards, which will benefit local sporting groups for years to come. The \$2.7 million project was funded by the State Government's WA Recovery Plan and a \$126,030 contribution from the City of Wanneroo.

KARRATHA

Red Earth Arts Festival was hosted by the City of Karratha in partnership with Rio Tinto from 4 - 7 May bringing artists from all over Australia together to share ocean-inspired dance, theatre, music, and workshops. Juluwarlu Art Group presented Nyujunggamu – When the World Was Soft, a captivating performance by Yindjibarndi artists and Australian performers. A variety of performances were presented, beginning with a magical outdoor performance by Gogi Dance Collective that took place on the Dampier Foreshore, and continuing to the Cossack Theatre for WA Youth Theatre Company's performance, Seven Sisters.



BROOME

Shire of Broome Health, Emergency and Ranger officers, Stephen Kipgurgat, Alywn Mikelat, Adam Wells and Prue Vaughan view the partial solar eclipse at Broome's Town Beach on 20 April. The Shire handed out free eclipse viewing glasses at the eclipse event, which was attended by hundreds of people, mostly families taking advantage of the perfect weather conditions.



ROCKINGHAM

The City of Rockingham opened its newest major infrastructure project, the Baldvis Sports Complex. Former Premier Mark McGowan, Baldvis MLA Reece Whitby and local sporting clubs joined Mayor Deb Hamblin at the official opening event. The project included construction of a new Main Pavilion, change rooms, maintenance shed, eight hectares of playing space with floodlighting, three separate car parks and the Baldvis Indoor Sports Complex. The City now turns its focus to construction of the Baldvis Outdoor Recreation Space, Southern Pavilion and outdoor hardcourts.

PLANTAGENET

The Shire of Plantagenet and Better Beginnings literacy program is creating four picture books that reflect the diverse local community as part of the Reading for Generations project. The stories include Noongar community histories and folk tales from local Hazara families. Mount Barker Community College art students are illustrating the picture books which should be published and available at the Mount Barker Public Library by August 2023.

Picture: Mount Barker Community College Year 5 art students Ada Sheppard and Maddison Johnston illustrate one of the picture books.



ALBANY

Albany welcomed back traditional Anzac Day commemorations this year following three years of public health restrictions. Albany's RSL sub-branch with support from the City of Albany delivered the Dawn and Commemorative Services, which included the traditional Gunfire Breakfast and Troop March. Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington said the Anzacs held a special place in Albany's heart and it was great that the services were unrestricted for the first time since 2019.



SWAN

As the Stock Road extension in Bullsbrook nears completion, the City of Swan held a small gathering to acknowledge the hard work by staff and contractors on the \$71 million project. This project has delivered a 4.3km-long two-lane, single carriageway road connecting Great Northern and Tonkin highways, a road bridge over the Ellen Brook, an upgrade to the intersection of Stock Road and Great Northern Highway, and the construction of five new T-intersections along Stock Road. This extension will reduce travel times for commuters, divert trucks out of the Bullsbrook town site and unlocks nearby land for future industrial and commercial development. The road will open in June.

Picture: City of Swan Mayor David Lucas, Project Manager John Drake, CEO Stephen Cain.



PERTH

City of Perth staff and community members planting trees along Birdiya Drive as part of the City's Tree Month activities. Across May, the City of Perth held four community planting days and sustainable workshops to provide residents, city works and staff opportunities to connect with nature and expand our tree canopy.

WONGAN-BALLIDU

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu held the Drive to Stay Alive Community Jive fun day at the Visitors Centre for National Road Safety Week. Using a Road Safety Commission grant, a bench has been made and installed opposite the Wongan Hills Visitors Centre to encourage drivers to stop on their journey and to not drive tired. The bench symbolises National Road Safety Week, with yellow ribbons welded by the local Men's Shed to commemorate lives lost on roads within the Shire through vehicle accidents.



GERALDTON

More than 11,000 people have visited Geraldton in what has been one of the Mid West's biggest cruise ship seasons to date. 11 visits to Geraldton were made by seven cruise ships in the 2022-23 season injecting more than \$3.3 million into the local economy. The cruise ship calendar and associated activities are a joint collaboration with the City of Greater Geraldton and Mid West Ports Authority, with local community organisation Euphorium contracted to coordinate various welcome events. Tourism in the Mid West continues to soar with Geraldton recently claiming silver in the 2023 7 News Top Tourism Town Awards.



VINCENT

Local kids have been enjoying a new playground at North Perth's Haynes Street Reserve. As part of the City of Vincent's Haynes Street Reserve Development Plan, lot 31 Sydney Street has been transformed into public open space. The all-ages playground features a log scramble, cubby with a slide and a rope climb, basket swing, tight ropes, stilt steppers and limestone boulders.

Credit: Scott Slawinski/Base Imagery



BAYSWATER

Green thumbs and gardening novices alike turned out to the City of Bayswater's Plants to Residents launch in May. The annual initiative, run in partnership with Environment House, offers residents 10 native plants for \$5. By participating, residents help enhance biodiversity and increase tree canopy in by adding native shrubs, groundcovers and trees to their gardens. More than 2,000 plants were sold out in record time at the launch event, with tickets then made available online or in person from Environment House for the remaining 8,000 plants. The initiative is co-funded by Water Corporation.



STIRLING

The Aussies 2023 was a national sporting event involving 5,000 members from 314 Australia-wide Surf Clubs coming together to compete in more than 480 beach and ocean events across nine days. They were held in Scarborough and Trigg between Saturday 25 March and Sunday 2 April.

CARNAMAH

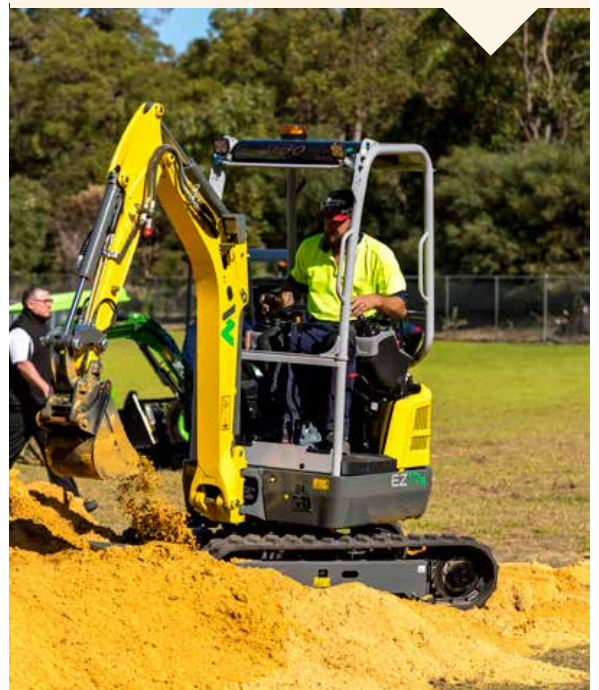
In 2021 an anonymous donation started a commemorative wall project, with the aim of enabling residents and those closely associated with Carnamah to have a dedicated place to leave their stamp and display their family history. The Carnamah Heritage Park, located in the heart of the town, features 18 steel plinths on which stainless steel plaques displaying family history can be mounted. The next stage will involve a garden, background panels, benches, signage and solar lighting. The Friends of the Heritage Park have now handed over the Park to the Shire of Carnamah and completion is expected by late July.



KWINANA

More than 150 people gathered in Kwinana to view electric plant equipment as Local Governments turn their focus on reducing carbon emissions. Eighteen Local Governments were represented on the day, keen to learn more about the battery electric options now on the market.

Read more about this on Page 25



ARMADALE

The City was proud to host the annual Minnawarra Art Awards for the 26th year in the Armadale District Hall. The exhibition showcases some of Western Australia's best artists, a number of whom we are proud to say are local to the Armadale district. The Awards were the centrepiece of the Armadale Arts Festival, which offered a diverse public program including live music, arts and craft, literature and culture – ensuring everyone was able to revel in the creative feast on offer during May, with many free and low-cost options available. The Minnawarra Art Awards provides an opportunity for the community to see artworks by some of the most accomplished artists from around the State, along with an opportunity for artists to showcase their talents and sell their work.

Picture: Paul Trinidad's Kepalla III. Credit: 7 to 1 Photography



WAROONA

Paddlers from around Western Australia recently joined the local community for the inaugural Waroona Paddling Festival. Outrigging clubs spanning from Hillarys to Busselton held an open training session so locals could come-and-try outriggering, while the Southside Cook Island Dance Troupe entertained the crowds with a traditional dance performance.



SOUTH PERTH

Since the City of South Perth installed a 12m osprey nesting structure at Bodkin Park in Salter Point, osprey have already been spotted making themselves at home. These protected birds of prey, which often return to same nest each year, have limited nesting sites in Perth due to dwindling habitat, particularly tall trees. This man-made solution came about after months of design and planning to create the unique bowl-shaped nest, with perching arms that provide safe places to eat their catch and watch over their young. This riverside location was chosen for its access to food, with osprey surviving mainly on a diet of fish. The nesting pole is a key initiative of the City's Clontarf Waterford Salter Point Foreshore Masterplan.



CAMBRIDGE

It was a picture-perfect day when the Town of Cambridge recognised local World War II heroine Minnie Hodgson by naming a neighbourhood park in her honour. Minnie Hodgson Park in West Leederville is now a lasting tribute to the registered nurse who gave her life during World War II. Minnie was stationed in Singapore with the 13th Australian General Hospital to treat wounded soldiers. Tragically, Minnie was killed by opposing forces aged 33 after evacuating Singapore with patients, military personnel and civilians in 1942. With Minnie's relatives in attendance at the recent ceremony, Mayor Keri Shannon and Deputy Mayor Cr Kate Barlow both shared their admiration for Minnie's selfless dedication and regarded it an honour for the Town to dedicate the park to her memory.

GOSNELLS

This year's City of Gosnells Community Art Exhibition and Awards attracted a record 236 entries. This is the 31st year the City has run a community art exhibition, with \$10,000 in prizes shared across 10 categories, including the new Aboriginal Artist Award. Perth artist Tatiana Amaral took out the Overall Acquisitive Award and a \$5,000 prize for her mixed-media artwork Dark Gold, which will now become a valued part of the City's public art collection. The City's Public Art Committee, comprising Deputy Mayor Adam Hort and Councillors Emma Zhang and Dave Griffiths, said the entries submitted were diverse, vibrant and excellent quality.



HARVEY

The Destination Harvey Region team is showing off fantastic local produce and hospitality with a new food and beverage brochure. The short guide highlights some of the community's favourite cafes, restaurants, wineries and breweries. The Taste of The Harvey Region Food & Beverage Sampler brochure is the latest tourism initiative to connect visitors with the food bowl of Australia's South West. Shire of Harvey President Cr Paul Gillett said he was excited to get the brochure into the hands of visitors.

FREMANTLE

In May the City of Fremantle unveiled the new Booyeembara Park Mountain Bike Trails. The project features two 400m trails to cater for intermediate and experienced riders, along with a pump track for beginners. The heart of the project lies with the Friends of Booyeembara Park, residents and local mountain bike groups who all played a big role in bringing it to life. The project was made possible through a \$300,000 contribution from State Government Member for Fremantle Simone McGurk, \$800,000 from Lotterywest and \$300,000 from the City of Fremantle. In addition to formalising the unofficial tracks making it safer for the community, the trails have provided an important contribution to the rehabilitation and revegetation of the eastern edge of the park.



MANDURAH

As part of National Volunteer Week, City of Mandurah officers visited more than 30 sporting clubs to say thank you in person to all the wonderful volunteers who do amazing work for the local sporting community. Among the clubs and volunteers visited were Mandurah Croquet Club, Kim and Gloria from the Mandurah Mustangs Football Club, and the hardworking volunteers at Mandurah City Football Club, including Melanie Loreto, the director of female football, who works hard on ensure female participation and development.

DANDARAGAN

Shire of Dandaragan President, Leslee Holmes, Cr Maddi McDonald, Cervantes Primary School students and members of the community hosted a community walk and BBQ in town to celebrate the completion of the Cervantes dual use path. The 3m wide, 700m long coastal path connects Ronsard Park and Thirsty Point Reserve. The path has been jointly funded by the Department of Transport and the Shire through a Western Australian Bicycle Network grant.



GINGIN

The Shire of Gingin celebrated the contribution people aged 10 to 25 bring to the community during Youth Week with events that had something for everyone. These included special youth-focused activities during the Lancelin Arts Festival which involved painting an interactive mural with artist Phil Doncon of Paint Storm, a Youth Fun Day in Guilderton with a focus on mental health support, Barefoot Bowls for older youth in Gingin, and an End of Season Pool Party at the Gingin Aquatic Centre. The Shire also provided opportunities for young people to have their say via a Youth Survey, whose feedback will now inform the Shire's new Youth Strategic Plan 2023–2028.



MUNDARING

A new three-metre wide, 2.2km shared path connecting the Chidlow Townsite to Lake Leschenaultia was opened in early June. Shire of Mundaring officials, Member for Swan Hills Jessica Shaw MLA, and others gathered at the Lake to announce the \$1.8m project's completion. Made possible with funding from the State Government's Western Australian Bicycle Network Grant, it is hoped the path will boost tourism and provide residents with more leisure options.

WESTONIA

On 22 April Wessy on the Green returned after two years. The crowd came from far and wide to see what Westonia has to offer. 460 people came through the gates and enjoyed a day full of activities such as a car demo, local stalls, arcade games, bouncy castles, face painting and reptile handling, all while six bands were playing. The Westonia Bowling Club ensured everyone stayed hydrated and food vans, Westonia Tavern and Westonia Co-op kept everyone well fed. The night ended with a fantastic fireworks show by Westcoast Fireworks.



TOODYAY

Gnulla Karnany Waangkiny (Our Truth Telling) – a landmark partnership project between the Shire of Toodyay and Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation – won the Indigenous Project Award at the 2023 Australian Museums and Galleries Association Awards in May. This award recognises a project or program developed specifically for Indigenous communities and/or by Indigenous people, and Shire Museum Curator and Cultural Heritage Officer Margie Eberle had the honour of receiving it in person. Launched in September 2022, Gnulla Karnany Waangkiny consists of displays at Newcastle Gaol Museum and Connor's Mill highlighting Noongar heritage relevant to the region.



NEW LIFE FOR OLD BONES

The plight and promise of Western Australia's built heritage is a well-documented issue – windows into the past many in the public desperately want to preserve, but ones which can soak up plenty of resources in the process.

Led by Local Government, these two late-1800s landmarks are getting a spruce up with an aim to write new chapters on the pages of two beloved local buildings; protecting their heritage while opening them up for the public to admire once more.

EXCHANGE HOTEL, PINJARRA

The Exchange Hotel sat proudly in the heart of Pinjarra for 135 years before being shuttered in 2008.

First operated as a pub in 1871 when ex-Queen's Hotel owner James Summer Greenacre purchased the lots from Dr Bedingfeld, legend has it the name was born from the exchange of licences between the two businessmen.

Four years after its closure the Shire of Murray acquired the site in 2012 and undertook conservation works to ensure its survival but sitting on such a prominent site – adjacent to Pinjarra's main street, town square and popular suspension bridge – meant hiding the eyesore it had become was fruitless.

A commercial proponent was found by the Shire, but COVID-19 put paid to any progress. This led to a rethink from the Shire to seek an outcome which would benefit the community.

In late 2020, \$2.3m was secured for a redevelopment through the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund and British hospitality stars Karl and Janine Bullers came on board in 2021 to operate the new premise.

The Bullers bring with them extensive heritage hospitality experience, including running and owning the National Hotel and the Old Court House in Fremantle.

They have wasted no time getting to know their new patrons, hosting a meet & greet and bar, which raised more than \$3800 for the Pinjarra Women's Centre.

WA firm Devlyn Construction was awarded the \$6.73m construction contract in early 2023 and expects to have the facility ready for the public in autumn next year.

More than just an exercise in preserving history, the revamp of the Exchange Hotel is expected to create 67 full time jobs, attract 38,000 new visitors to the region each year, and pump some \$58m into the local economy over five years.

And in a nod to the past, a historic photography competition is encouraging the public to submit their old images on the much-loved local landmark to be included in the internal design.

With operators secured, plans released and the community onboard, work has now begun to write the next chapter in the Exchange Hotel's history.



RAILWAY STATION, BRIDGETOWN

Designed by legendary WA engineer C.Y. O'Connor and opened in 1898, Bridgetown's heritage-listed weatherboard and iron railway station remains a largely original structure.

The Station operated from 1898 to 1988 and was the largest on the Donnybrook-Bridgetown Railway line, which ceased service in 2005. Today it is one of two surviving stations on the line.

Planning for conservation of the building began in 1999 and State Heritage listing was obtained in 2001. By 2014 the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes had its eyes set on relocating the Visitors Centre and Jigsaw Gallery to the Station.

Initially the community was opposed to the Visitor Centre's move, resulting in progress stalling, but community sentiment has changed in the past decade and there is now a keen desire to see the Station opened up once more with the Centre inside.

In 2021 the Shire engaged a Heritage Architect to scope the new and subsequently engaged a local building contractor in November 2021.

Works included timber cladding and brick chimney repairs, reinstating original columns and verandah detailing, repairing of timber joinery, and placing of a new galvanised roof.

Due for completion by the end of June, the project will ensure this rare window into the role railways played in the Blackwood region's economic development remains standing for locals and visitors.

The Station won't sit as an empty window into the past either, with the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes revealing its visitor centre was aiming to move in by November this year.

Use of the Station as a visitor centre serves two key purposes – giving the centre a far more prominent site in town and enabling public access to the heritage building.

The Station falls within the wider Bridgetown Railway State Precinct which comprises railway lines, a passenger platform, the station building, goods shed, a five-tonne crane, and loading gauge dating as far back as the 1890s.

Renovation of the building has played a significant part in demonstrating the suitability of the building to accommodate a visitor centre, and the inclusion of exhibition space is seen to add value to the visitor centre operations.

With ample nearby parking and the popularity of the RV-friendly parking in the railway car park, the new location is expected to be easier for tourists to access.





KWINANA TECH DAY HIGHLIGHTS ELECTRIFYING POTENTIAL

The City of Kwinana hosted a Technology Day showcasing electric plant equipment to interested Local Governments as the City works to reduce emissions.

More than 150 people gathered at the event in Kwinana keen to learn more about the battery electric options now on the market.

City Mayor Carol Adams said 18 Local Governments were represented on the day.

“The event was well-received, and we hope it will influence the way operations are carried out in other local government areas,” she said.

The event came as the City awaits delivery of its first fully electric commercial grade zero-turn mower and one year after the City switched 12 of its top energy-using sites to renewable energy sourced from a WA wind farms as part of a WA Local Government Association agreement.

Kwinana’s Depot meanwhile has been modified with charging units for top up charges that may be required on overcast days.

Mayor Adams said the landscaping team working in the City’s centre only ran battery electric tools, and the truck had dual battery, solar panels, and inverters making the team self-sufficient and quiet.

“Surrounding Local Governments have enquired about the latest trucks and experiences with this kind of set up,” she said.

“In the past year, staff have found the availability of battery electric plant has also increased, with products entering the Australian market that are now comparable to the commonly-used diesel or two-stroke equivalent.

“We will receive our first electric vehicle for our Environment and Waste Team by the end of this year, and two-stroke equipment is increasingly being replaced with battery powered equipment as applications allow.”

The City aims to buy one new electric mower each year, has adopted a hybrid vehicle policy for senior staff, and has two e-bikes for staff use.

WALGA TRAINING COMMITTED TO MEMBER-CENTRIC QUALITY SERVICES

As a registered training organisation, WALGA provides up-to-date, relevant, tailored training solutions for Councils, Elected Members and Local Government Officers by offering professional development, industry updates and best practice for Local Government.

The Training team have been busy developing new courses and updating existing course content ensure they continue to offer relevant, up to date and engaging training.

Through flexible delivery methods, supported by contemporary and functional learning systems and eLearning platforms, WALGA Training continue to expand participation and aim to break down barriers that may restrict access to training and development for regional and remote communities.

FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING AT WALGA

Enjoy a day away from your desk and learn in a structured interactive environment, networking with others, all under the guidance of a Local Government subject specialist trainer who will facilitate the training and encourage dialogue and best practices for Local Government in Western Australia.

FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING AT YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IN-HOUSE TRAINING)

Similar to the training delivered at WALGA, a specialist trainer will come to your Local Government. This option is excellent if you want to contextualise the training to your region, discuss local challenges or simply to cut down travel time.

You can also invite neighbouring Councils to share the training cost. Contact WALGA Training directly for a quote.

If the learner resources require contextualising, an additional fee may be incurred.

VIRTUAL CLASSROOM VIA ZOOM

This methodology is also an excellent option for regional Councils. This is ideal if you are time poor or you just can't come to Perth to attend face-to-face training.

eLEARNING

WALGA has developed a range of courses available as interactive eLearning courses. Most of these courses are available on our eLearning subscription or as a single course. Elected Members and Officers have the freedom to learn at their own convenience and at a pace that is right for them. This is especially convenient for regional participants who can find it challenging getting to and from classroom training venues.

WHERE CAN I FIND COURSE DATES?

Upcoming course dates are listed on the WALGA Training website www.walga.asn.au/training. The 2023-2024 Elected Member and Officer calendars are also available to download.

CONTACT WALGA TRAINING

To find out more on our range of courses, visit walga.asn.au/training. Our approachable team is here to help with your booking requests, In-house or eLearning quotes. You can contact the team via training@walga.asn.au or on 9213 2088.





COCKBURN SLIMS WASTE LINE AT FLAGSHIP FAMILY EVENT

You would think 26,000+ people would create a mountain of waste during the City of Cockburn's Coogee Live festival, but less than 150kg of rubbish was disposed of in landfill after the flagship family event.

About 580kg of recyclable and compostable waste and 32,000+ food containers and cutlery were diverted from landfill thanks to the cooperation of festivalgoers, food vendors and the City's Waste Education and Events teams.

The event recruited 20 food truck and bar vendors across 18 trading hours which used reusable dishware and cutlery supplied by Go2Cups, or compostable containers.

With the help of waste champions at six waste sorting stations, festivalgoers were able to divert their waste into separate bins for reusable dishes and cutlery for washing, and other items for composting, donation, recycling or general waste.

The stations replaced 80 rubbish and recycling bins usually found along a 1.5km stretch of coast for the festival.

Patrons used more than 32,000 reusable dishes and cutlery, filling 52x120-litre bins and 16 five-litre buckets for washing and reuse across the two days.

Free water stations also helped reduce the purchase of drinks in single-use plastic, enabling people to refill their own reusable bottles.

The City partnered with St Patrick's Community Support Centre which collected Containers for Change bins.

The proceeds of 2,098 recyclable containers went towards specialist support services for people facing homelessness.

WRITE Solutions collected about 400kg of compostable containers and food waste, filling 15x240-litre bins with raw material for transformation into compost products.

"This means we're on the right track and that the community is receptive to methods that help them reuse, recover and recycle, and reduce the unnecessary disposal of items in landfill," Ms Cassou said.

City of Cockburn Head of Library and Cultural Services Brittany Cover said Coogee Live was carbon neutral.

"This means carbon emissions released as a result of the event, from things like patron travel, food consumption and onsite generators, were offset by the City investing in planting mixed native trees and shrubs throughout the state," Ms Cover said.

Mayor Logan Howlett said the City was one of the first Local Governments in WA to use Go2Cups reusable dishware at its events.

"The City began partnering with Go2Cups in 2018 when we made

the courageous decision to remove disposable coffee cups from all its events, saving an estimated 10,000 coffee cups from landfill to date," Mayor Howlett said.

"Our community should be proud of its ability to adapt to change and embrace more sustainable practises in their everyday lives."

The City WasteWise Events Policy adheres to the WA Plan for Plastics and the WA Waste Authority's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030.

FAST FACTS

26,000+ attendees

32,000+
reusable dishes and cutlery used

2,098
recyclable containers donated

400kg
of compostable material collected

Under 150kg
of rubbish sent to landfill

WASTE SUMMIT HEADS TO WORLD HERITAGE COAST

The Shire of Shark Bay was proud to host the 2023 WALGA Gascoyne Waste & Environment Summit, on Thursday 11 and Friday 12 May.

This event attracted more than 30 delegates to our region to discuss Waste Management and Environmental issues.

Attendees included high profile speakers Hon. Darren West MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment, Sheila McHale, Chair, and Tim Cusack, CEO, Containers for Change and Tim Youé, Member Waste Authority.

Participants had the opportunity to workshop local waste management issues and opportunities with colleagues from the region.

It brought together Local Government, State Government, businesses and stakeholders to build relationships, share knowledge, improve service delivery and explore

social opportunities and environmental outcomes for the Gascoyne Region.

Some of the key themes that were raised included the interconnected nature of the environment and waste challenges in the region, the opportunity for innovation, the need to listen to and respect country and the importance of collaboration and sharing information across the region.

For the tour on Friday 12 May, the delegates visited the UNESCO world heritage site at Shell Beach well as the popular Shark Bay Recycling Centre and Landfill.

This event was made possible by the support from WALGA, the Shire of Shark Bay, Gascoyne Development Commission, Waste Authority and Containers for Change.



MAY WALGA STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

BEST PRACTICE GOVERNANCE REVIEW – FEEDBACK ON GOVERNANCE MODEL

That:

1. This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received.
2. Two sets of constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council at the July 2023 meeting to be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting, that:
 - a. Give effect to the revised Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report; and
 - b. Refine the current constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES' CHILD SAFE AWARENESS POLICY TEMPLATE

That State Council:

1. Supports the draft Child Safe Awareness Policy Template being provided to Local Governments to assist with their implementation of Recommendation 6.12 of the Royal Commission (Child Safety Officers in Local Government); and;
2. Notes the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' commitment to providing ongoing support and resourcing assistance to Local Governments to assist with implementation of the draft Child Safe Awareness Policy Template and other relevant actions relating to child safeguarding, through the Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit.

ABANDONED SHOPPING TROLLEYS ADVOCACY POSITION

That State Council endorse the following position on Abandoned Shopping Trolleys:

The Local Government Sector advocates for State Government to consult with the Sector and prioritise legislative reforms that require retailers to contain shopping trolleys within shopping centre property boundaries, inclusive of enforcement and modified penalty mechanisms that are a realistic economic imperative for retailers to comply with containment requirements.

SPEED MANAGEMENT REFORM ADVOCACY POSITION

That the Speed Management Advocacy Position as follows, be endorsed:

1. That WALGA supports Local Governments wishing to manage travel speeds, including speed limit changes, as a means of achieving the many health, social and environmental benefits for communities.
2. That Main Roads WA (MRWA) retain the overarching authority for speed limit setting/zoning.
3. That Main Roads WA speed zoning policies and processes be reformed so that Local Governments are more influential in the determination of speed limit decreases or increases for local roads.
 - a. This will include applications that are deemed to be approved when the application:
 - i. is based on assessments by competent Local Government practitioners,
 - ii. contains evidence-based identification of the benefits,
 - iii. contains preliminary designs for infrastructure safety upgrades associated with applications to increase speed limits, and
 - iv. includes an engagement strategy for managing community and stakeholder expectations.
 - b. Allows for Main Roads WA to decline an application, within a mutually agreed timeframe, on the basis that it:
 - i. does not meet the above criteria, and
 - ii. provides specific evidence for declining the application.
4. That WALGA seeks to work with Main Roads WA and other stakeholders, to develop a speed management guide for Local Governments.

STATE ROAD FUNDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT 2023/24 TO 2027/28

That the State Roads Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 – 2027/28 be endorsed.

WHY ELECTRICITY PRICES ARE CHANGING – AND WHAT YOUR LGA CAN DO

As part of the WA Government's annual budget process, prices for regulated residential and business electricity tariffs will change, effective from 1 July 2023. Synergy is working with our customers, including local government authorities, to help them understand the impact of these price changes.

Regulated electricity tariffs are reviewed and set by the State Government each year. As Synergy Account Manager Bec Elshaw explains, "Regulated electricity tariffs are set by the State Government and are reviewed annually to reflect the costs to generate and transport electricity and keeping the electricity system secure and reliable."

"At Synergy, we do our best to put our customers at the centre of what we do and our focus is on providing affordable and sustainable energy. At the same time, we want to help our customers understand what's behind these price increases and how these fit in with the bigger picture across WA's energy industry."

THE COST OF EXPANDING RENEWABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Synergy's coal-fired generation is set to be phased out across the South West Interconnected System (SWIS) over the next five to seven years. When this happens, it is estimated Synergy's carbon emissions will be reduced by 80% by 2030, compared to 2021 levels.

"Removing our coal-fired generation from the SWIS is a major step towards helping to achieve the State Government target of net zero emissions by 2050," said Ms Elshaw. "As this happens, we're planning for a significant increase in the demand for renewable energy supplied through the SWIS."

The WA Government has completed a SWIS Demand Assessment which indicates that the system's transmission infrastructure needs to be expanded.

"The WA State Government explored initial modelling which suggests that if 7.2 gigawatts of new industrial loads were to be connected to the SWIS by 2042, the system may need up to five times more energy than we have available in 2022. Supplying this amount of electricity, largely generated from renewable energy sources, would involve almost 10 times the amount of generation capacity of the SWIS currently."

"With the expansion of transmission infrastructure and increased demand for electricity, Synergy hopes to have the opportunity to access a range of renewable energy generation resources in the system, particularly in areas where the network is currently at full capacity."

SUPPORTING CUSTOMERS THROUGH PRICE CHANGES

"At Synergy, we'll continue to work hard to help our customers understand and better manage their energy costs – and

we acknowledge the financial stresses felt by many of our customers because of the rising cost of living. As we all transition to a more sustainable energy future, Synergy is here to help our customers better understand and take more control of their energy use with a range of information and energy-saving tips, concessions, and support services."

Synergy is working with LGAs and customers across WA to understand and better manage their electricity use. Visit synergy.net.au/pricechanges to learn more about the 2023 price changes and the range of support services available for Synergy customers.

Local council regulated electricity tariffs are changing.

The State Government has announced changes to the regulated electricity tariffs, effective from **1 July 2023**. These changes are part of an annual review that considers the cost of generating and transporting electricity, as well as the costs associated with maintaining the safety, security and sustainability of the electricity network.

At Synergy, we do our best to minimise the costs we can control, and we're always working on ways to supply cleaner and more sustainable energy for our customers.

We're here to help you manage these changes.

There are several ways Synergy can help you manage your electricity costs. From providing energy saving tips that could help you improve your energy efficiency to flexible payment options, we're here to support you.

To find out more about the 2023 price changes and the range of support services available to you, visit synergy.net.au/pricechanges



State Council

President Cr Karen Chappel JP	President/Northern Country Zone
Cr Paul Kelly	Deputy President/Central Metropolitan Zone
Cr Ken Seymour.....	Avon-Midland Country Zone
President Cr Phil Blight	Central Country Zone
Cr Helen Sadler	Central Metropolitan Zone
Cr Catherine Ehrhardt	East Metropolitan Zone
Cr John Daw	East Metropolitan Zone
President Cr Cheryl Cowell.....	Gascoyne Country Zone
President Cr Laurene Bonza	Goldfields Esperance Country Zone
President Cr Stephen Strange	Great Eastern Country Zone
President Cr Chris Pavlovich.....	Great Southern Country Zone
Cr Chris Mitchell JP.....	Kimberley Country Zone
Cr Les Price	Murchison Country Zone
Cr Frank Cvitan JP	North Metropolitan Zone
Cr Russ Fishwick JP	North Metropolitan Zone
Cr David Lagan	North Metropolitan Zone
President Cr Michelle Rich.....	Peel Country Zone
Mayor Peter Long	Pilbara Country Zone
Mayor Patrick Hall	South East Metropolitan Zone
Mayor Ruth Butterfield	South East Metropolitan Zone
Mayor Carol Adams OAM	South Metropolitan Zone
Mayor Logan Howlett JP	South Metropolitan Zone
Cr Doug Thompson	South Metropolitan Zone
President Cr Tony Dean	South West Country Zone
Ex-officio:	
Ms Annie Riordan.....	LG Professionals
Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas.....	The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor, City of Perth