

# Western Councillor



ISSUE 127 | SEP/OCT 2023

## SOMEONE LIKE STEVE

Meet Steve Elson, the Shire of Jerramungup's Senior Environmental Officer – "It's not just a road verge"

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Is this WA's longest serving Councillor?



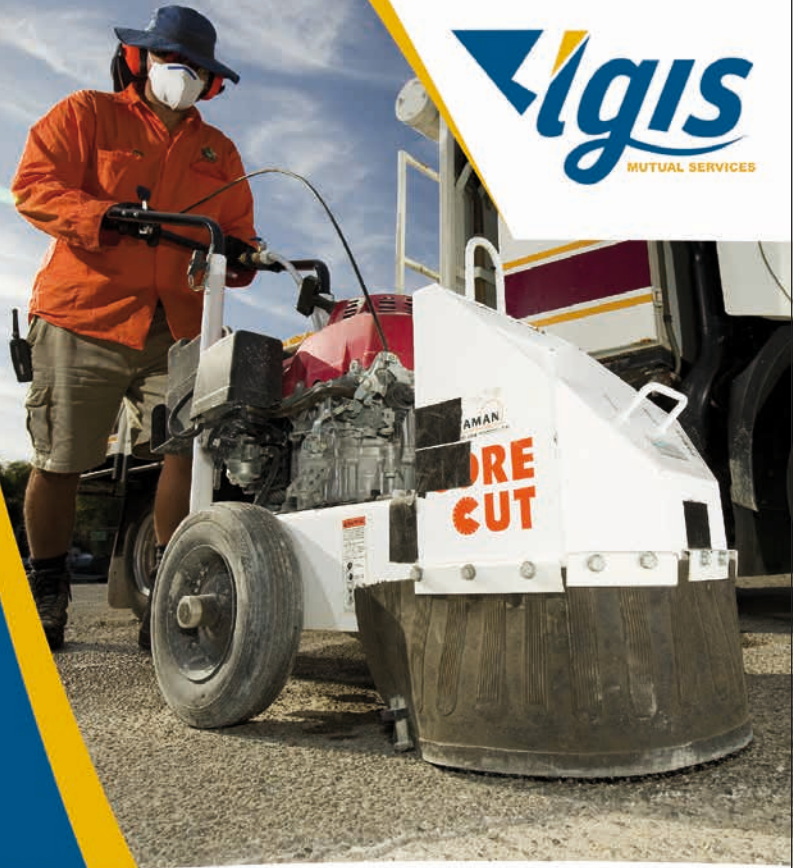
# Local governments working together.

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 [lgisw.com.au](http://lgisw.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 to 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

## UPSKILL WITH WALGA TRAINING

As a Registered Training Organisation (RTO Code 51992), WALGA offers comprehensive training solutions for Councils, Elected Members and Local Government officers.

Our approachable team is here to help you with booking requests, on-site training, eLearning quotes, and to answer any questions you might have about your effective learning journey.



WALGA - Your Essential Resource for Elected Member and Officer Training

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**COVER:** Steve Elson and Gordon Capelli – Shire of Jerramungup

Cover Photo:  
Sarah Coles, WALGA Environmental Policy Officer

**Welcome to Issue 127** of Western Councillor

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BROOME



MEEKATHARRA



SUBIACO



Minister for Local Government  
**Hon. David Michael MLA**

## FROM THE MINISTER

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With 2023 continuing to fly by, it was great to see so many Local Governments taking part in this year's well-attended WALGA Convention.

As well as the wide range of Convention sessions and events, I was particularly pleased to see so many deserving people from across the sector being recognised for their service with awards from the Association this year.

It was fitting that President Stephen Strange's long and dedicated service to the Shire of Bruce Rock was recognised with WALGA Life Membership. President Strange's unwavering commitment to providing for the community through the most challenging times of the pandemic is a testament to his unique leadership qualities.

Similarly, Mayor Rhys Williams' receipt of the Troy Pickard Young Achievers Award appropriately recognises his contribution to the City of Mandurah.

It was also great to see other elected members and many officers from across the State recognised for their service to Local Government. As anyone who has served on Council knows, the work of everyone involved in Local Government is critical to seeing results for our communities. The dedication of Local Government staff was also appropriately recognised with five deserving winners of the Local Government Distinguished Officers Award included in this year's honours list.

Many long-serving Elected Members retired and passed on the baton to the next representatives to serve their community in the lead up to the October Local Government elections. While there are too many to list, I would particularly like to recognise the remarkable public service of President Bill Mulrone of the Shire of Pingelly, President Moira Girando of the Shire of Coorow, President Ian Mickel of the Shire of Esperance, Mayor Carol Adams of the City of Kwinana, and Mayor Emma Cole of the City of Vincent.

At the same time, many candidates – both experienced and new – have been busy vying to represent their communities. It has been great to see so many nominations this year (around 1,000 across WA). It has also been humbling to see many reforms being put into effect for the October poll, following so much preparation by so many dedicated people over the long lead-up to these landmark elections.

As we enter the last quarter of 2023, the delivery of other important reforms is also continuing. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries is working to support Local Governments implement the changes, including through regular webinars, guidance material, and communications. I will also continue to engage with the Association on all key areas of reform.

In the coming months, the participation of new Elected Members will present many opportunities for review and reflection on how Local Governments can best serve their communities.

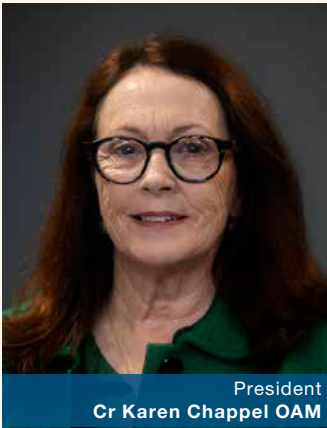
Every Elected Member would recall their experience of being newly voted on to Council. I hope that those reflections can serve to guide current Elected Members in considering how the new ideas and perspectives that might be brought to Council could inform and strengthen the future work of your Local Government.

While the Local Government election is now behind us, in September, I was proud to stand alongside WALGA President Karen Chappel to launch a targeted advertising campaign aimed at lifting the current low level of voter participation. This is extremely important to ensure that successful candidates are more representative of the communities they serve.

The campaign had a particular focus on Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse groups as well as young people, the LGBTIQ+ community and people living with disabilities.

At the time of writing this piece for Western Councillor, I was pleased to hear that early feedback on the campaign showed strong engagement. Statistics from the Election can be found in this edition of Western Councillor.

**Hon. David Michael MLA**  
Minister for Ports; Local Government; Road Safety;  
Minister assisting the Minister for Transport



President  
Cr Karen Chappel OAM



The agreement... will ensure that we can deliver a safe and quality local road network for all Western Australians.”

## FROM THE WALGA PRESIDENT

**On behalf of WALGA, I would like to thank and acknowledge the contribution of all Elected Members.**

I'm not prone to looking backwards but I would like to briefly reflect on the importance and indeed success of the 2023 WALGA Convention. The Convention is an important event for our sector. It provides an opportunity to promote collaboration, share new ideas and challenge our thinking.

The Convention is also a critical advocacy tool, assisting the sector in advancing our strategic priorities with both State and Federal Parliamentarians.

I was delighted that both the Premier and Deputy Premier attended this year's event and the new Minister for Local Government, the Hon. David Michael MLA generously participated in a range of forums over the course of the Convention. You will find further details about this year's event later in this edition of Western Councillor.

A highlight was signing the new \$1.4 billion State Roads Funds to Local Agreement, the sixth iteration of this agreement, with the Premier and Minister for Transport.

As we move toward the end of the calendar year, I know many of our Members start to put their minds towards the high threat season.

I recently had the opportunity to attend the 2023-2024 National Preparedness Bushfire Summit hosted by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in Canberra. The summit provided a sobering outlook, with the seasonal bushfire outlook highlighting the extreme risks of natural events for many parts of our State.

Of course, bushfire is not the only natural hazard Local Governments prepare for. The expected climatic conditions for this season present coastal flooding, cyclones, extreme heat and heatwaves, drought and even dust risks for the communities we represent.

I was encouraged by the messaging from Brendan Moon, Coordinator General at NEMA, who continues to advocate for a joined-up approach to managing and responding to natural events.

In order to capitalise on the timing and importance of this messaging, I was pleased that WALGA was recently able to facilitate a virtual briefing from NEMA.

This session highlighted Disaster Recovery Arrangement funding requirements and challenges for Councils, the partnership work between the Commonwealth and the State in distributing disaster funding to affected Councils, and an update from the Bureau of Meteorology on the outlook under an El Niño and Indian Ocean Dipole scenario for the upcoming High Risk Weather Season.

I encourage you to scan the QR code below to access the important webinar.

Finally, on behalf of WALGA, I would like to thank and acknowledge the contribution of all Elected Members who have not returned to Councils after the recent Local Government Elections. Your efforts and contribution to your communities are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**Cr Karen Chappel OAM**  
WALGA President



**Scan the  
QR code to  
access the  
NEMA webinar**

# ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE TOP THE RISK LIST FOR COUNCILLORS



CEO, LGIS  
James Sheridan

LGIS was pleased to see so many delegates at the 2023 WALGA Local Government Convention. This year's stand featured an activation on key Local Government risks, asking delegates to select two from a list of ten.

Sustainability and resilience were on the minds of many delegates with the top three selected risks being assets and infrastructure, climate change and financial sustainability.

Delegates chose from a list of ten risk areas, based on the JLT Public Sector Risk report – financial sustainability, cyber security, assets and infrastructure, business continuity, disaster and catastrophe, climate change, statutory and regulatory requirements, human resources management, waste management and ineffective governance.

The ten areas are developed from an annual survey of Local Government CEOs from around Australia and is a valuable tool for councils and risk committees to consider their Local Government's strategic risks.

The top three risks for WA delegates are all interconnected and this was particularly evident in our discussions as councillors deliberated on the two risks they would select.

## ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Delegates from across the state voiced their concern about their Local Government's ability to maintain their assets and infrastructure. Unsurprisingly those from regional and rural areas, with responsibility for considerable assets and limited resources felt most under pressure. Asset and infrastructure resilience was also a concern, with many noting the increased prevalence and intensity of natural disasters – particularly bushfires and floods.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Coming into summer and another bushfire season the impacts of climate change were on many delegates' minds. Across the

country and around the world we're seeing an acceleration in the rate and intensity of natural disasters – with communities having less time in-between each to recover, rebuild, prepare and respond. Delegates considered the roles of various National and State authorities alongside funding available to invest in proactive resilience measures rather than responding to individual events.

## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

A continuing challenge for the sector, it wasn't a surprise to see financial sustainability in the top three. The ability to raise funds, financial constraints to invest in the future, and managing community expectations was a common theme. At various points during the Convention it was noted by speakers and delegates alike how good the sector is at 'filling' the gaps left by State and Federal government. No one knows their community needs better than Local Government but this creates ongoing tension between funds available and the investment required.

For more information on the risks to consider for your Local Government read the 2022 JLT Public Sector Risk Report, available on the LGIS website.

## LGIS ANNUAL REPORT

The 2022-23 LGIS Annual Report was endorsed by the Board of Directors at their October meeting. For 2022-23 the Scheme has reported a small surplus, a pleasing result following last year's deficit. The companion reports 'A Year in Review' and 'Annual Financial Report' are available to all members on the LGIS website.

**If you have any questions on your Scheme's performance in 2022-23 or the services we provide please contact me on 0409 185 420. Our dedicated team is also available to present to your entire council and address any questions.**



Across the country and around the world we're seeing an acceleration in the rate and intensity of natural disasters...



# 2023 WALGA LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONVENTION WRAP UP

## CELEBRATING LOCAL FUTURES

WALGA's annual Local Government Convention this year brought together over 500 Elected Members and Local Government staff from across Western Australia to discuss and examine important issues and trends facing the sector, now and in the future.

WA Premier Hon. Roger Cook MLA officially opened the Convention and spoke of the strong partnerships between the State and Local Governments, while WALGA State President Karen Chappel reiterated where Councils would continue to support State policy and initiatives.

Cr Rhys Williams, the Mayor of the City of Mandurah was awarded the Troy Pickard Young Achievers Awards, while Cr Stephen Strange from the Shire of Bruce Rock accepted a Life Membership Award from WALGA.

For the first time, this year's WALGA Convention featured an outdoor Supplier Showcase as part of the supporting program, sponsored by Synergy.

The Exhibition Showcase, sponsored by Civic Legal and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries featured 120 Suppliers and Exhibitors from the commercial sector.

Alongside the Convention, WALGA hosted various supporting events and networking opportunities.

This included the Mayors and Presidents Forum, Welcome Drinks and Local Government Awards, Heads of Agencies Breakfast, the WALGA Annual General Meeting, Gala Cocktail Function and Convention Breakfast with keynote speaker Michelle Payne.

WALGA President Karen Chappel said WALGA was proud to deliver a well-rounded event to delegates and key stakeholders for another year.

"Local Government is not just the third tier of government as I often hear it described. It is "a" tier of government that works in partnership with State and Federal Government to deliver services and support communities," said Cr Chappel.

The WALGA Local Government Convention was sponsored by LGIS, Civic Legal, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and [GovernmentFrameworks.com](http://GovernmentFrameworks.com)

**Pictured:** The sights and colour of the Convention



# LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT



**Pictured:** Gihan Perera

The theme for this year's WALGA Local Government Convention 2023 was Local Futures, a phrase that was the bedrock of discussion over three days in September.

Local Government staff and Councillors know how important it is to bring the local community along with them when charting a path forward and enacting and driving change for the benefit of those local communities – this is the essence of Local Futures.

This was reflected in keynote speeches by Gihan Perera, Dominic Thurbon and Ruth Callaghan.

Futurist Gihan Perera discussed some of the key topics Local Government leaders should be considering and shared his insights on how to prepare for the future in a fast-changing world.

He focused on how Australia, and particularly WA, is well-placed to take advantage of the change in global economic power, in a post pandemic world.

He also stressed the need to engage and re-engage with our communities, to focus on solving our customers' problems, and the potential for AI to assist in almost every area of work and life.

Dominic Thurbon presented delegates with the information that the world we live in is now exponential, and thus, we have a community that is more diverse than it has ever been before.

As he pointed out, "Companies and organisations don't change; people do," and the people who can ask those questions, and not just assume, are the ones who will drive the organisational change that's needed to thrive in the future.

Thurbon believes the key to successful planning is the ability to make "quality assumptions about the present."

**Pictured:** Dominic Thurbon



## PRESIDENT CR STEPHEN STRANGE AWARDED WALGA LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Life Membership to WALGA is awarded in recognition of long and outstanding service to the Local Government sector and the Association.

Our recipient for this year – Councillor Stephen Strange – has dedicated over half his life to elected service and demonstrates all the attributes that make an effective community leader.

First elected to Council in 1989, he has served for a remarkable 29 years as President of the Shire of Bruce Rock – the longest serving President for the Shire.

A passionate and active member of the community, he has spearheaded many exciting and innovative community projects such as:

- the redevelopment of the Bruce Rock Recreation Centre
- the construction of both Acacia House and the Bruce Rock Medical Centre
- the upgrades to the Bruce Rock Aquatic Centre
- the development of the Bruce Rock Amphitheatre and Remembrance Park, and
- the construction of factory units in the town

Stephen's tenacity and commitment is probably best illustrated by his tireless work to establish a temporary grocery store in the Town Hall after the Bruce Rock grocery store was destroyed by fire.

Stephen is a current State Councillor, and he has previously served as Chair of the

WALGA Infrastructure Policy Team and Freight Policy Forum, as well as a member of the CEO Performance Review Committee.

He has exceptional connections and relationships across the Local Government sector and regularly mentors new Shire Presidents. He is always available for public speaking engagements and media enquiries, promoting the interests of regional Western Australia and strengthening the Local Government sector.

Stephen is a highly respected leader, dedicated community representative and worthy recipient of the WALGA Life Membership Award.





**Pictured:** Ruth Callaghan

Ruth Callaghan delivered a workshop that provided immediate insights and actionable steps, encouraging Local Governments to work together to begin to embed generative AI in their operations, with appropriate guardrails, protocols, and training with a sound reminder that the AI we know today is the worst version we will ever use.

Callaghan shed some light on Generative AI and how it presents a whole new set of challenges for Local Government, whilst providing a new world of opportunities; highlighted by the writing of a grant submission in under 15 minutes!

Each speaker highlighted how by embracing change, Local Governments can work together to embrace and grow with the future.

To learn more about each of these speakers and view their presentations, visit [lgc23.walga.asn.au](http://lgc23.walga.asn.au)

## AN INSPIRING MORNING WITH MICHELLE PAYNE



**Pictured:** Michelle Payne

Michelle Payne is one of Australia's most sought-after media and racing personalities who became a national icon when she captured the hearts of a nation after winning the 2015 Melbourne Cup on the 100-to-1 priced Prince of Penzance. The first and only female to win the event, Michelle's triumph catapulted her into stardom where she is now a highly successful trainer, jockey, and author.

In 2019, Michelle's inspiring story made its way to the big screen as the major motion picture "Ride Like A Girl". It was the highest-grossing Australian film that year. In 2021 her victory was voted by the public as the most significant Sport Australia Hall of Fame moment from a shortlist of 20 outstanding sporting moments over the past 60 years, and in 2022 was awarded the Order of Australia medal (OAM) for services to horse racing.

The convention breakfast became the backdrop for an 'In Conversation' with Di Darmody where Payne highlighted the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of her incredible journey.

Di Darmody's research and skilful questioning made the session a mesmerising experience for those in the room.

Hearing Payne's story in her own words and the power of overcoming the odds to succeed brought many in attendance to tears.

Michelle was gracious enough to also take the time for attendees to have their photo taken with her after the breakfast, highlighting her kindness and humility.

The breakfast was a great way to commence a full day of the Convention, reminding those in attendance the importance of perseverance, a positive outlook, resilience, and ambition.



**Cr Stephen Strange with WALGA President Cr Karen Chappel**

## WALGA LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONVENTION 2023

### LGA50220 DIPLOMA OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT – 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

The Diploma looks to empower Elected Members by offering a wide range of topics such as financial reports and budgets, dealing with conflict, community leadership and advocacy, strategic decision making, policy development, asset management and understanding land use and local planning schemes.

WALGA Training is proud to continue to support the sector by offering the prestigious Jacqui Dodd Scholarship to four successful recipients to undertake the Diploma. The Scholarship is named

in honour of former long-serving WALGA Training Services Manager, Jacqueline Dodd.

Congratulations to our 2023 Scholarship recipients, who were announced at this year's WALGA Convention:

- Cr Joanne Cicchini, Shire of Mundaring
- Cr Rebecca Coghlan, City of Nedlands
- Cr Darlene Allston, Shire of Exmouth
- Cr Alana Sullivan, Shire of Ashburton

The Diploma will enable Elected Members to increase their competency in order

to be a strong leader for their local community and to confidently contribute to informed decision making.

To see how you can further serve your community, learn how to enrol and for more information, visit the WALGA website.



**Pictured:** WALGA President Cr Karen Chappel with Cr Joanne Cicchini; Cr Rebecca Coghlan; Cr Darlene Allston; Cr Alana Sullivan

### CITY OF MANDURAH MAYOR RHYS WILLIAMS WINS TROY PICKARD YOUNG ACHIEVERS AWARD

Mandurah Mayor Rhys Williams was awarded the Troy Pickard Young Achievers Award at the WALGA Local Government Convention 2023.

Named in honour of former Local Government President Troy Pickard for his dedication, leadership and work ethic, the award encourages and celebrates young people doing great things in the Local Government sector.

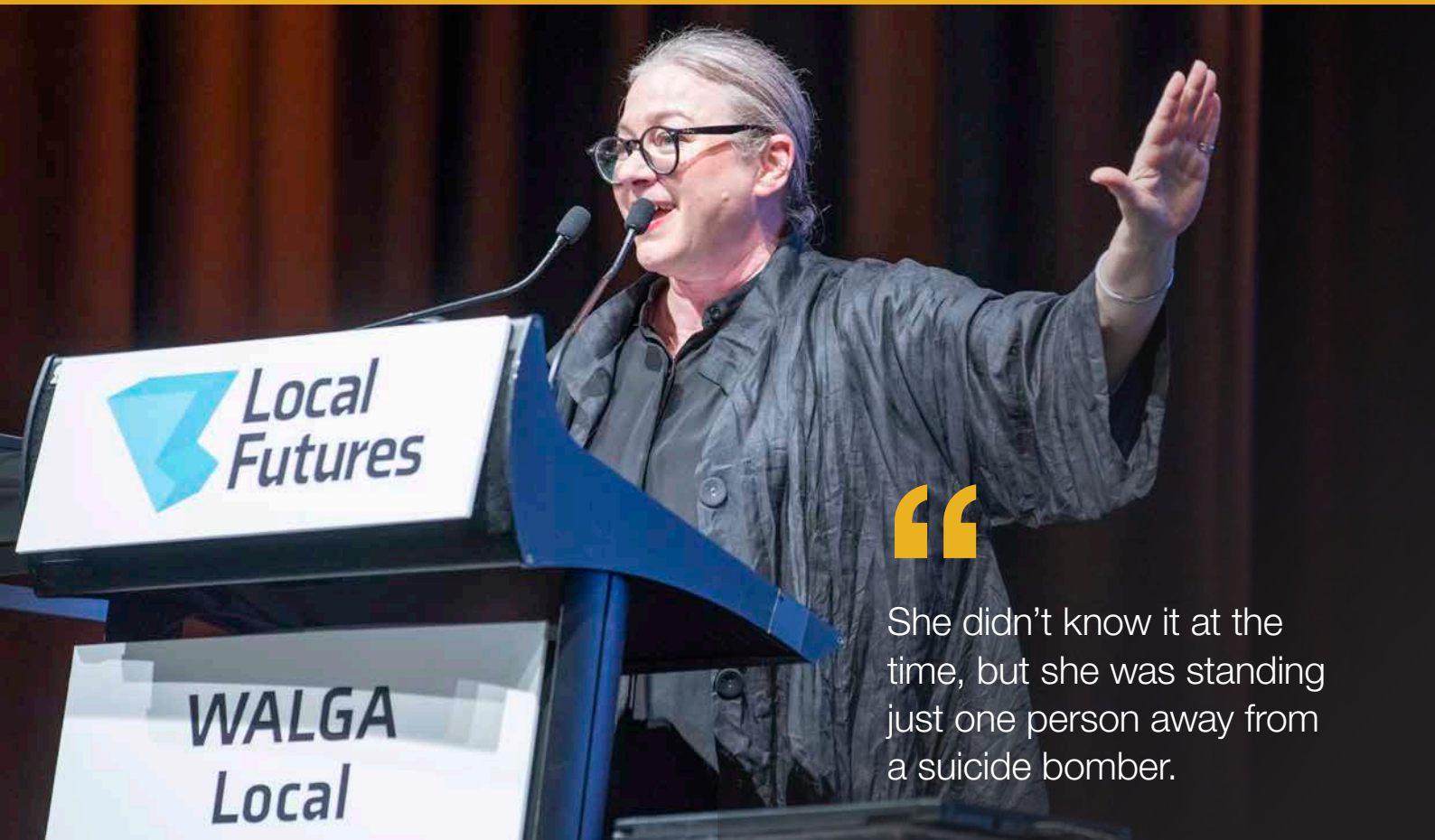
Cr Williams said, "I feel very humbled by this recognition, and grateful to WALGA for the honour."

"Troy Pickard was an outstanding leader in Local Government here in WA, and his service has inspired the contribution of many to the Local Government sector, including my own."

In its second year, the Award recognises notable contributions and commitment to Local Government and demonstrated potential for professional success by Elected Members or employees in the sector who are aged 35 or under.



**Pictured:** WALGA President Karen Chappel with City of Mandurah Mayor Rhys Williams



She didn't know it at the time, but she was standing just one person away from a suicide bomber.

**Pictured:** Gill Hicks

## CLOSING ADDRESS REMINDS US OF THE POWER OF CONNECTION

“What we have in common, is far greater than what divides us will ever be.”

On July 7, 2005, Gill Hicks was on a Piccadilly Line Underground train between Kings Cross and Russell Square stations in London. She didn't know it at the time, but she was standing just one person away from a suicide bomber.

She describes the moment that changed her life forever as ‘like a breath’. She said she watched what seemed like a film of key moments in her life flash before her eyes and thought she must be dead. But she wanted to come back. So, she punched her hand through what felt like thick tar.

Another hand grabbed it.

Hicks was the last living victim rescued. Her injuries were so severe, doctors couldn't work out if she was a man or a woman. She was admitted to hospital as “One unknown estimated female”. She'd already flatlined in the ambulance. On top of all her other injuries, both her legs were amputated below the knee.

So, it was hard to believe the bright, vibrant woman, standing on stage in a pair of Dr Martens to close the 2023 Convention, was the same woman who'd lived through such unimaginable horror.

But it was.

Hicks' story is one of forgiveness, inspiration, and compassion.

She spoke about the lessons she learned as she recovered, like being pushed over by her physio while she was getting used to walking with prosthetics – not so she'd know how to fall, but so she'd have the confidence to get back up again.

She spoke about looking at life through a difference lens and seeing opportunities in the face of adversity – like the time she asked the doctors if they could make her new legs longer than her old ones. She now stands a full 8 inches taller.

And she spoke about the importance of our jobs. How what we do makes a difference. That we might not always get thanked for it, but what we do, matters to people.

Most of all, she spoke about the power of humanity and emphasised that what we have in common is far greater than what divides us. She said we're all in this life together, and we need to look at our own attributes to create a future that works for us all.

Dr Hicks was a brilliant speaker, using her voice and message to great effect, retelling a traumatic story that continues to define and illuminate an evolving approach to corporate and personal life.

Gill embraced and addressed the Convention theme of “Local Futures” by reminding all in attendance that our collective humanity will always prevail, and to take the time to acknowledge the person – a fitting end to the 2023 Convention.

# SEP/OCT LOCAL LENS

The following pictures celebrate the achievements of Local Government in Western Australia. Local Governments are encouraged to submit notable events, initiatives and achievements to be featured in Western Councillor by contacting [communications@walga.asn.au](mailto:communications@walga.asn.au)



## ASHBURTON

The Shire of Ashburton recently hosted their Welcome to Town events in Tom Price, Paraburdoo, Pannawonica and Onslow. Held twice a year, this sought after event is popular amongst community members and a testament to our shared commitment of inclusivity and support for newcomers, as well as locals, fostering a sense of belonging for all. Welcome to Town is a chance for interaction and to build on new and existing relationships, learn about sports groups, meet people from different businesses, have some fun, watch live entertainment and meet the friendly faces in town.

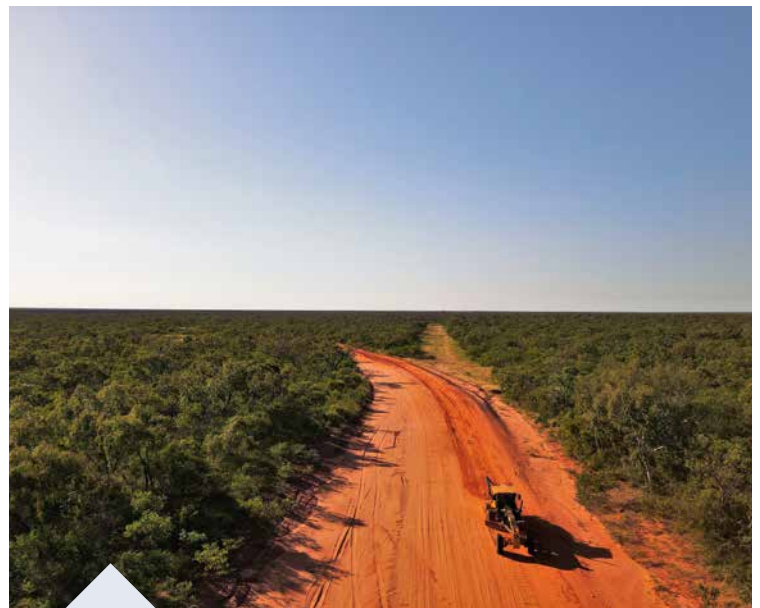
Photo credit: L.E's Photography

## BAYSWATER

Bayswater families can enjoy a brand-new nature-inspired playspace at Lower Hillcrest Reserve, following a \$60,000 upgrade as part of the City's Play Space Strategy. Thanks to community feedback, the reserve now features a playground, picnic area and native trees, offering an improved area for families to play, relax and picnic.

The existing equipment was replaced with a brand-new playground consisting of a swing set, monkey bars, a climbing frame, ninja steppers, a tunnel and several balancing structures.

In addition to the new play equipment, native trees were planted to enhance biodiversity and provide added shade to the area.



## BROOME

With plenty of unsealed roads around the Shire of Broome, the construction crew has been all over the place to make sure they were maintained and graded for the dry season. The Shire's graders worked their way 60km north of Broome up to James Price Point and 188km up the Cape to Kinney/Rumbul Bay Roads and more than 350km south to Port Smith and Eighty Mile Beach. Recent unseasonal rains mean they may have to do some of it all over again.

Photo credit: Luke Anderson

## CANNING

The City of Canning has launched its first ever Customer Experience Plan, aimed at delivering an exceptional customer experience for all. The Plan was informed by extensive engagement with the community and staff as well as data from 2.5 million touchpoints. The Plan explains how the City will work to deliver and improve a customer's experience when they access the City's services and interact with staff. It also includes an extensive Action Plan on how this will be achieved over the next two years. The Plan can be viewed at [canning.wa.gov.au/cxp](http://canning.wa.gov.au/cxp)



## CARNARVON

The Shire of Carnarvon is thrilled to announce the success of Women's Health Week 2023. This event was aimed to promote women's well-being and healthy lifestyles.

In collaboration with local partners, the Shire delivered a series of activities each morning from 5.30am along the Fascine. This program encompassed a diverse range of activities designed to empower women to prioritise their physical and mental health that included workouts, yoga sessions, nutritious food, and mindfulness activities.

The Shire looks forward to building upon this success in the future and expanding its offerings to cater to the diverse wellness needs of its community.

## CLAREMONT

The Town of Claremont Parks and Environment team were hard at work throughout Winter keeping the streetscapes looking green by planting over 210 saplings across the Town ready for the spring weather.

The team have been planting to replace trees which failed to thrive due to disease or old age, along with plantings in new locations to enhance the Town's streetscapes.

Twenty-two different species were used across a mix of native, exotic, evergreen, and deciduous saplings with the aim of helping improve the Town's biodiversity.



## COCKBURN

The City of Cockburn has taken another step in its ongoing support of local business in the region, becoming the first Local Government in WA to co-invest in world-class digital connectivity for its thriving business community. The City has provided nearly \$80,000 to co-invest in the establishment of a NBN Co Business Fibre Zone in Cockburn Central. It will benefit more than 1,200 businesses in Cockburn Central and sections of the neighbouring suburbs of Success, South Lake, Jandakot and Yangebup.

The project was announced by Federal Minister for Communications Hon. Michelle Rowlands MP at the Cockburn Health and Community facility on 4 July.

Picture: Brand MHR Josh Wilson, Federal Minister for Communications Michelle Rowland, City of Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett and Melville-Cockburn Chamber of Commerce President Gary Hitch.

## COOLGARDIE

Kambalda Primary School recently received funding from the Shire of Coolgardie through their Community Assistance Fund to purchase and install new basketball hoops for the school. The school made great use of the hoops this Father's Day by holding a Father's Day breakfast and a 'Shoot The Hoops' competition.

The Shire of Coolgardie's Community Assistance Fund (CAF), is aimed at not-for-profit community groups/organisations or outstanding individuals seeking small amounts of funding for specific events and projects that align with the Shire's aspirations.

**Picture:** Cr Sheryl Botting, students from Kambalda Primary School, Mrs Michelle Rumsey (teacher)



## COTTESLOE

The Town of Cottesloe held a special citizenship ceremony at the Cottesloe Civic Centre on Friday, 15 September, welcoming 21 residents who made their pledge to become an Australian Citizen. The Town was honoured to have Dr David Honey MLA, State Member for Cottesloe and Kate Chaney MP, Federal Member for Curtin come along to help welcome new citizens.

## GINGIN

In July, Shire of Gingin career firefighter Evan Lawrence and volunteer firefighters Nikki Woods, James Morton and Tom Kusters joined the Australian firefighting contingent to assist with recent wildfire containment efforts in Canada. They undertook approximately five weeks of arduous firefighting with rosters of 2 weeks on – 2 days off, helping to get hotspots under control and relieve exhausted local firefighters. The Australian contingent formed part of a larger international contingent of firefighters from Europe, Africa, New Zealand, and Central & South America. We are incredibly proud of Evan, Nikki, James and Tom, and very relieved to have our local firefighters back home, safe and sound.

**Picture:** Shire of Gingin firefighters at Perth airport [L-R]: Tom Kusters (Captain, Lancelin Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service); James Morton (Captain & Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer, Gingin West Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade); Nikki Woods (Captain, Gingin Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service); and Evan Lawrence (Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator, Shires of Gingin, Dandaragan & Victoria Plains)



## GOSNELLS

The City of Gosnells unveiled two new pedestrian bridges and an accessible 'Changing Places' toilet block at picturesque Mary Carroll Park as the first phase of a \$3 million upgrade.

The next phases of the project will include an all-abilities playground, path network, Aboriginal-themed 'Welcome to Country' area and additional picnic areas with shade shelters.

The City asked residents which facilities they would like at the heritage-listed bird sanctuary and park, with new bridges and an accessible toilet high on the list of priorities.

The City secured \$1 million in Lotterywest funding for the project in 2021.

**Picture:** Councillor Glenn Dewhurst, Mayor Teresa Lynes, Deputy Mayor Adam Hort, friends of Mary Carroll Wetlands co-founder Unice Robinson, Councillor Peter Abetz, Councillor David Goode and Lotterywest Senior Grants Development Officer Wayde McLean cross the new bridge over the wetland at Mary Carroll Park



## GERALDTON

Select students from local high schools will spend nine weeks learning valuable skills as part of the City of Greater Geraldton Passport 2 Employment program. The program sees a group of Year 11 and 12 students participating in specifically designed sessions to prepare them for entering the workforce. The program is offered to students who have been identified as benefitting from extra education and support as they prepare to graduate from high school. The nine-week program includes site visits to venues throughout the City, as well as a series of engaging workshops designed to improve confidence.

## HARVEY

The Shire of Harvey is turning recycled goods into trees. The Richardson Road Tip Shop – Tree Planting Program will see proceeds from the Tip Shop donated to Carbon Positive Australia. Shire of Harvey Acting CEO Rick Lotznicker said this will revegetate approximately three hectares of land in WA, as well as further offset the Shire’s corporate carbon dioxide emissions by about 407 tonnes. “This partnership will advance our conservation goals, while contributing to big picture sustainability efforts in WA,” Mr Lotznicker said. “Through the Richardson Road Tip Shop – Tree Planting Program we hope a greater number of items will be re-used or re-purposed and diverted from landfill.”

**Pictured (L-R):** Waste Services Supervisor Dave Prunster, Coordinator Waste and Sustainability Harry Henson, Manager Waste and Safety Services Haydn Jones at Richardson Road Waste Management Facility



## JOONDALUP

The dates are locked in for the 2023 Tyrepower Joondalup Festival of Motoring. Thousands of people are expected to attend this high-octane celebration of all things automotive when it returns to the Joondalup City Centre for a second year from Friday 24 November to Sunday 26 November. One of the feature events is the Joondalup City Sprint where 150 cars will take on a 2.2km street course, in a time-trial format. The latest event information is available at [www.jfom.com.au](http://www.jfom.com.au) and through the JFOM social media channels.

**Pictured:** Tyrepower WA General Manager Dale Klompmaker, Mayor Albert Jacob and Tyrepower WA Chairman Paul Bevis

## KWINANA

The City of Kwinana picked up three awards in a matter of days, with the Kwinana Recquatic recognised nationally as an Employer of Choice; the City’s promotion of healthy lifestyles also praised nationally; and the Wellard 7 Day Makeover celebrated with an inaugural award. The Kwinana Recquatic won the National Employer of Choice at the AUSactive National Awards, while the City of Kwinana Healthy Lifestyle Program won the Healthy Council Award of Year and the Western Australian People’s Choice Medium Sized Business award. The Kwinana Recquatic were also a National Finalist in the Leisure Centre of the Year Awards.

**Pictured:** Kwinana Recquatic Manager Michael Hayes, Place Leader Alyce Brewis, Healthy and Active Lifestyle Project Officer Nikita Bhavsar, and Recquatic Business Development Specialist Adam Davies





## MEEKATHARRA

Meekatharra hosted the Variety Bash in August 2023 as part of its epic 5,500 km tour from Bathurst to the Batavia Coast. The iconic Variety Bash event has been raising money for kids in need for decades and is Australia's longest running charity motoring event. More than 200 vehicles stayed for two days in Meekatharra with a welcoming evening BBQ hosted by the Meekatharra Volunteer Fire Brigade and breakfast by the Meekatharra District High School on the Meekatharra town oval.

## MURRAY

The Shire of Murray has been awarded the national award for Excellence in Economic Development Through Partnerships & Collaboration, at the 2023 National Economic Development Conference (NEDC) held in Karratha, for establishing the Food Innovation Precinct Western Australia (FIPWA). The launch of the FIPWA earlier this year is a game changer for the Peel region that will further enhance the agri-food sector through value addition economically, while also growing the much-needed human capital. This is the second year the Shire has been a national finalist in this category that recognises strategies where economic development outcomes are the leading factors and basis influencing the approach adopted. (See feature article on FIPWA on page 26)



## PLANTAGENET

Bike Hike Plantagenet was launched during WA Bike Month to encourage residents and visitors to explore some of the local spots. As well as Kendenup Skate Park and the Bike Repair Station at Wilson Park, the recently opened O'Neill Trail was on the list. A multi-use trail connecting Mount Barker and Porongorup, O'Neill Trail was jointly funded by the Shire of Plantagenet and the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. Catering to cyclists, hikers and horse riders, the trail was named in honour of the O'Neill family, who were pioneers in the Plantagenet area.

**Pictured:** Jessica Baines at Wilson Park's Bike Repair Station in Mount Barker.

## ROCKINGHAM

The City of Rockingham's biggest ever capital works project, the Baldivis Sports Complex (BSC), won the WA Football Commission's (WAFC) 2023 Football Facility of the Year Award in September. The WAFC selected the BSC as the winning entrant in a competitive field thanks to the facility and the venue meeting key WAFC Strategic Facility Targets of accessibility, sustainability, and delivering new and inclusive facilities that meet demand in growth areas. The project will now be nominated as the WA finalist for the national 2024 AFL Ken Gannon Community Facility Awards. These awards recognise best practice facility development across Australia.



## SOUTH PERTH

Winners of the City of South Perth's South Perth Young Writers Award were announced at a presentation on 14 September at South Perth Community Hall. Open to students from Year 1 to 12, who live or attend school in the City, the award attracted 113 entries this year, showing a high standard of talent and creativity. Shortlisted entrants attended a workshop with a local author to develop their writing skills and refine their stories before moving to the finalist round. The annual award aims to inspire young people to express their ideas through writing. Entries are judged by a panel of educators, writers, and children's literature enthusiasts.

**Pictured:** City of South Perth Mayor Greg Milner at the Young Writers Awards





## SUBIACO

The City of Subiaco has helped make a new mural at Rosalie Primary School possible to create a more vibrant, welcoming and inspiring school entrance. The mural was partially funded by a City Community Development Grant, and was painted by about 200 students and overseen by artist Mel McVee, who created the artwork.

**Pictured:** Mayor David McMullen, Artist Mel McVee, Rosalie Primary School Principal Michelle Nash and Rosalie Primary students in front of the finished mural.

## VICTORIA PLAINS

For the month of September, the Shire of Victoria Plains was part of the Self Driven Goomalling to Yerecoin Art Trail, partnering with neighbouring Shires to work together on a project. This was a great opportunity for local artists to have the chance to showcase their talents. Art on display ranged from crochet items, to hand drawn artwork, to resin art. It was wonderful to see the talents of many locals. The people that wanted to participate in the Art Trail could start in the town of Goomalling (Shire of Goomalling) and work their way to Bolgart, Calingiri, and finish up in Yerecoin, all within the Shire of Victoria Plains.



## WANNEROO

The City of Wanneroo's Adopt a Bushland program helps local schools learn to care for the environment, discover local wildlife and help preserve the bushland for future generations.

Students at Roseworth Primary School (pictured) have their own pocket of bushland to care for after adopting Montrose Park in Girrawheen.

As part of the program, they carry out plantings and revegetation, remove litter, take part in Noongar learning and go on guided walks led by the City's Trees and Conservation team.

The program is part of the City's focus on conservation and ensuring minimal impact to our bushlands, wetlands, and coastlines.



## VINCENT

The Mt Hawthorn Hawkers Market made a lively return to Axford Park after a three-year pause.

Hundreds of foodies attended the first markets of the 2023-24 season on 29 September.

There were food stalls serving up sweet and savoury dishes from across the globe, plus live music from busker Ari Davis and a Free Kids Zone with face painting and a colouring competition.

The markets, which are proudly supported by the City of Vincent, are held every Friday night, 4.30 – 8.30pm until 26 April.

**Pictured:** Families attending the Mt Hawthorn Hawkers Market



# WA GETS A SECOND ARTIFICIAL SURF REEF – IN ALBANY

Go left.

Designed for beginner and intermediate surfers, from young ones on their first foamies to junior competitors, the City of Albany’s Artificial Surf Reef will soon see locals and visitors going left, in the heart of the coastal city.

Set to join the artificial reef off Cables built in 1999, the Southern Ocean Surf Reef is set to attract keen surfers and tourists to the State’s south coast and will give Albany an accessible surfing site close to town.

To be constructed from local quarried rock, the reef will improve the seabed conditions and resulting wave breaking character to create a more consistent quality, surfable wave for a range of target surfer groups from beginner to intermediate abilities.

There are surf breaks in the region, but the closest is about a half-hour drive from Albany and not accessible by public transport.

Further, City of Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington said the surf breaks around Albany are not suitable for novice surfers.

“The Southern Ocean Surf Reef is an innovative and exciting project which will put Albany on the map as a premier surfing destination for tourists,” he said.

## 1

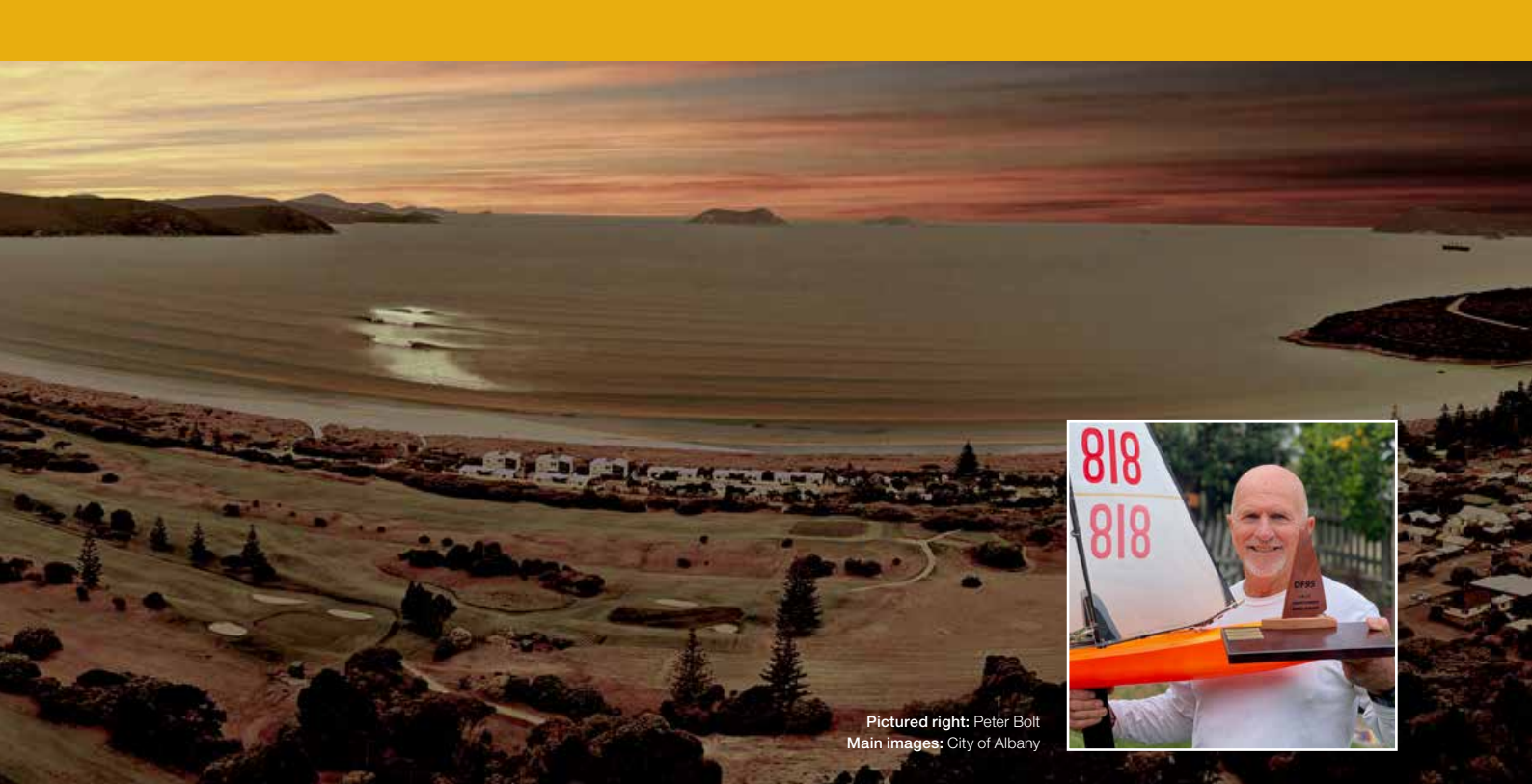
### THE VISION

“The creation of a consistent, surfable wave, which maximises available swell conditions and is central to Albany, driving benefits in tourism, economic development and retention of Albany’s younger age demographic.”

## 2

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- **Deliver a recreational project that contributes to Albany’s liveability and reputation as one of WA’s key tourism destinations, helping to create a more liveable regional city, attracting and retaining a younger generation.**
- Deliver improved recreational and surfing amenity through the creation of a consistent surfable wave targeted at beginner to intermediate abilities;
- Create a quality wave appropriate for holding events creating an opportunity for Albany to be recognised as a surfing town
- Create an opportunity for Albany to be recognised as a surfing town attracting high quality events
- Enhance marine ecology in and around the reef structure especially for snorkelling and diving based activities during periods when the wind and wave conditions are less than ideal for surfing
- Maintain Middleton Beach’s unique landscape character, whilst enhancing lifestyle, tourism and recreational opportunities to benefit the community
- Work in partnership with key stakeholders throughout the project, taking a collaborative approach to design, planning, implementation and management decisions



Pictured right: Peter Bolt  
Main images: City of Albany

## “ When the swell comes into King George Sound, it will produce a good left-hander.

“We expect it to be a popular attraction for locals and visitors alike, as it will provide the opportunity for a diverse array of groups to embrace the outdoors and improve their surfing skills in a safe and consistent wave break.”

Now 68, local surfing legend Peter Bolt has been an absolute warrior on this Surf Reef, campaigning and scrapping for over two decades.

“I am absolutely stoked about this funding, it has been a long road.

“I reckon I will fully believe it’s happening when I see the first rocks go in the water,” he laughs.

When asked if he thinks the reef will produce a wave, Mr Bolt is unequivocal.

“Yep. When the swell comes into King George Sound, it will produce a good left-hander. No more close outs, like what happens now.”

“And I reckon the ones who will get the most benefit out of the reef haven’t been born yet.”

### 3

#### THE BREAK

Providing a ‘left-hander’ surfing wave, situated 150m north of the ‘Surfers Beach’ and approximately 145m offshore. The reef measures 165m long and varies in width up to 100m. At its shallowest point, the crest of the reef will be 1m below average water level to maximise wave breaking whilst also ensuring adequate user safety.

It will feature a kinked crest toward the landward end of the structure to maintain the peel angles of breaking waves in the target range for beginner and intermediate surfers. Small wave heights are amplified along the length of the structure crest to provide surfable waves in marginal conditions and increase the number of waves breaking per minute.

An engineered design of the reef has been extensively modelled, both numerically and through physical reconstruction of the bathymetry of the seabed, to ensure all risks were considered and adequately addressed. The design provides surfing rides of up to 100m during average conditions with surfable waves expected for 41 per cent of the year.

### 4

#### CURRENT STATUS

Funds have now been secured through the Australian & State Governments with contributions from The City of Albany & Albany Boardriders for the construction of the surf reef.

# IS THIS WA'S LONGEST SERVING COUNCILLOR?



**Picture:** Lang Coppin (Image: *The West Australian*)

One of the longest serving Councillors in Western Australia, possibly Australia, is stepping down from the Shire of East Pilbara, having first been elected in 1977.

Langtree Eric Christopher 'Lang' Coppin has been forthright, at times blunt, probably outspoken, but a powerful and committed advocate for agriculture in the world's biggest (by area) municipality.

As a pilot, prospector and cattleman, lobbying for agriculture and road access in the Shire of East Pilbara will be Lang's legacy.

"I think why I hung in there for so many years is because I was the only person representing the agricultural side of things and the land because I was in the top part of the Shire area and was pretty strong on the condition of the roads."

"I wanted to represent the agricultural side; the industry has been overshadowed by mining, but it is a big industry that still employs a lot of people.

His family started at Yarrie Station in the 1880s, and the Coppin family continue the station dynasty.

His time as a remote station cattleman and pilot shaped his long-term consistent attitude to road access. Lang planned and oversaw road projects, grabbed funding, graded roads, and fought hard for access.

"The grading of the of station road accesses is so important because they don't just service stations, they help mines, tourism, all those sorts of things."

The improvement of the road network in the massive Shire has been one of the big changes Lang has witnessed in his time as a Councillor.

"There's always something big happening with roads, we've created some big roads.

Roads are the backbone and the economy of the area."

One of his favourite projects was the Marble Bar to Alice Springs Road.

"I remember I was flying the Cessna over the graders; I would throw out toilet paper from the plane with handwritten notes to the boys letting them know 'Go left, 300m to the left there's good gravel!'"

Given the distances between Council, the station, and business meetings Lang would often fly fixed-wing or by helicopter to Shire meetings.

"We used to fly quite regularly to meetings, I'd say about 50% of the time. The plane would get me in Marble Bar, then go to

Pardoo and Telfer – there would've been about four of us that'd get there to Council by plane."

When Lang started hearing stories in the early 2010s that tourists and travellers were taking their own food to Marble Bar and not staying, he stepped up.

"We watched people drive in and drive out, there was nothing there, so we bought the roadhouse, the shop, the post office, and the caravan park. It put a fair old dent in the chequebook.

"It meant I spent a lot more time in the town than I planned, but in the end it was good for the joint."

When quizzed about what he brought to the East Pilbara Council Lang was emphatic:

"Always the finances, I always kept an eye on budgets, and they had a good track record with me.

"I am pretty pleased that we never had a commission, never had an inquiry, never went bankrupt and we were progressing all the time."

At the age of 73, Lang Coppin will not go gently into the night, more than slightly rankled after being impacted by ward changes and electoral reforms.

Is Lang Coppin the longest serving Councillor ever?

"There's a fair chance that I could be, but I haven't been able to prove it.

"Somewhere I read an article about someone else that had done a long stint, so it would have to be a photo finish."

And Lang's advice to the new breed of professional Local Government staff?

"Get those nice shiny cars out of the Council car park, get some dirt on them. Go and have a look at what's going on."



Well, it's gotta be Telfer, doesn't it? Where else do you find gold on the surface like that... Big gold nuggets?"

Lang Coppin, on being asked if he knew where Lasseter's Reef, the mythical mountain of gold, might be

# REEL IT IN

The river clean up project is going from strength to strength, and is being expanded to coastal locations across the state.

It was in 2012 when wildlife officers spotted 3-year old river dolphin calf Gizmo entangled in fishing line and other river debris, and in a fair bit of strife. While the efforts of officers from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and the WA Water Police eventually cut Gizmo free, the *Reel it in* project was born. *Reel it in* has partnered up with 14 riverfront Local Governments since 2013, with 74 dedicated fishing line bins at popular jetties, fishing platforms, traffic bridges and along the Swan and Canning foreshores.

The campaign has been unbelievably successful, removing a staggering 190km of fishing line, 22,000 hooks & sinkers, 15,000 bait bags, and thousands of items of general rubbish from Perth waterways.

With Councils providing some funding, and local communities providing volunteers, Parks and Wildlife Service has expanded the *Reel it in* campaign to help reduce the impact of discarded fishing line and tackle on dolphins, water birds and other animals.

Jason Menzies, the Community and Volunteers Manager at DBCA, says it has been a whole of community effort.

“We do have partnerships with Recfishwest, OzFish, Native Animal Rescue, WA Seabird Rescue, Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Marine and the Wildcare Helpline program, but we really appreciate the Councils supporting us.

“*Reel it in* directly improves the health of our waterways and ocean environments and we are already seeing great results.”

Sue Harper has been a committed volunteer since 2013, she says the bins and signs not only make it convenient for users to dispose of their waste, but also help to raise awareness of our river wildlife and health.

“I’ve seen firsthand the devastating effects of fishing line entanglements on our dolphins and birdlife – sadly, in some instances leading to death or severe injury – all so preventable!

“Whilst I’m on the jetty, it’s always great to chat with people about their observations on the river and exchange useful information.



**Pictured:** Gizmo the dolphin entangled in fishing line, 2012



**Pictured L-R:** Volunteers Sue Harper and Jackie Kayser

“Engaging the support of a local coffee van business to provide a rubbish collection point also adds traction to the community awareness of the river.”

*Reel it in* is now actively expanding to tackle fishing waste at popular coastal fishing locations, with bins installed in Broome, Shark Bay, Geraldton, Lancelin, Two Rocks, Mindarie, Hillarys, Rockingham, Mandurah, Bunbury, Busselton and Albany. As well as at the North and South moles, Rottnest Island, Shoalwater Marine Park and Cockburn Sound.

To find out more about the *Reel it in* program, visit [riverguardians.com](http://riverguardians.com).

## THE 10 MOST POPULAR ‘REEL IT IN’ BINS

In alphabetical order

**Applecross Jetty**

**Canning Bridge**

**Como Jetty**

**Garratt Rd Bridge**

**Heirisson Island (Causeway)**

**Mt Henry Bridge Jetty**

**Narrows Bridge**

**Point Walter Jetty**

**Riverton Drive**

**Tranby House**



*‘Reel it in’ bins are made of 100% recycled materials*

All images supplied by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



# THE TRIAL OF THE TRACKLESS TRAM

As Western Councillor goes to print, the City of Stirling Trackless Tram is being trialled at a newly-created bitumen carpark outside the Council.

The bold plan to create a 7km trackless tram journey from Scarborough Beach to Glendalough train station started as an idea, attracted some Federal money for a business plan, became a trip to China to the trackless tram shop, a China to Fremantle oceanic voyage, a truck trip to the Stirling Administration Centre and the creation of a new bitumenised testing area.

## THE TRIAL

The Mayor of the City of Stirling Mark Irwin explains the trial is an Australian first.

“We received a sum of \$2 million from the Urban Congestion Fund for the Trackless Tram Business Case and we are using \$135k of that for this trial testing.

“We can’t test the tram on Scarborough Beach Road obviously, so we have built a bitumen area where we can test things like the magnetic guidance system, the load on the bitumen, battery performance, turning capability and the like.

“The trial will also see how the users like and use it.”



Image: City of Stirling

## THE TRAM

The 30m tram was built in Shanghai, China. It arrived at the City on 23 September after a 7,000 km boat trip and a trip up West Coast Highway from Fremantle on the back of a truck.

It is described as a form of mid-tier, sustainable, eco-friendly transport, aiming for net zero emissions when operating.

It will use a magnetic guidance system along the proposed route, the planning of which is integrated with the Herdsman Glendalough Project, Stirling City Centre Project, Scarborough Beach Road West Project and the Scarborough Redevelopment Area project.

Professor of Sustainability at Curtin University Peter Newman has been advocating for this transport technology since the 1970s, and believes most Councils will love it.

“The proposed trackless tram is an attractive, cheap transport option that does what buses can’t. No other technology is as smart, as significant and as important for our transport future. It will get us out of our cars.

“We will be the only other city in the world outside China using this.

“This is a game-changer, this is the equivalent of going from a landline to a smart phone.”

The testing will be undertaken with partners from Curtin University, ITSG, CRRC and Shanghai Electric.

“We have seen interest from Melbourne and Sydney on the trial and the technology already,” said Cr Irwin.

“You will see the engineers and our user groups putting the tram through its paces outside our building over the coming months.”

The City of Stirling is holding a Symposium – Net Zero Transit, on Tuesday, 21 November for interested groups and individuals. Tickets are available via EventBrite.

## PROFILE



**Pictured:** Jodie Sandilands

### WHAT MORE CAN YOU SAY ABOUT JODIE SANDILANDS?

We have been trying to think of the word or phrase that describes Jodie, our WALGA Customer Service Officer. So far we've come up with front-desk guru, heart-and-soul, gem, shopfront, utility player, first-picked-every-week, one-off, lynchpin, pillar...

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#### WHAT WAS YOUR JOURNEY TO WALGA?

I came from retail, for about maybe 20 years, and I just sort of defaulted into my parent's business – they had a Clark Rubber store.

I did a little bit of everything: admin, warehouse, customer service and sales, so then it just progressed that I worked more and more.

“Now my kids are older, I was wanting to get back into full time admin work that was customer service-driven, and this was a perfect fit.

---

#### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT WORKING IN THE ASSOCIATION?

Working here has been amazing because you do learn so much about things in the Local Government space that I would never have really thought was part of the role of Local Government or Council.

Your ears prick up a little bit more when things happen in your Council, when you hear it on the news or radio, that sort of thing. You're learning all the time, which I love.

---

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR ROLE?

Learning about the different areas of the association, building my knowledge, and being in a role that allowed me to work with and get to know everybody in the association which is great.

By assisting each of the service areas I get to know a little bit about everything!

---

#### WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENTS DURING YOUR TIME AT WALGA SO FAR?

Knowing that people feel comfortable coming and seeing me if they have any questions or if they need help.

I am also really proud of how I've been able to upskill myself. Getting back into admin was a bit scary and I felt like a bit of a dinosaur, because programs change very quickly! Over the last 12 months I've become more and more comfortable with programs. Once you get shown something and you do it quite a lot it's fine, so it's been great to build that confidence.

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#### HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN SO ORGANISED?

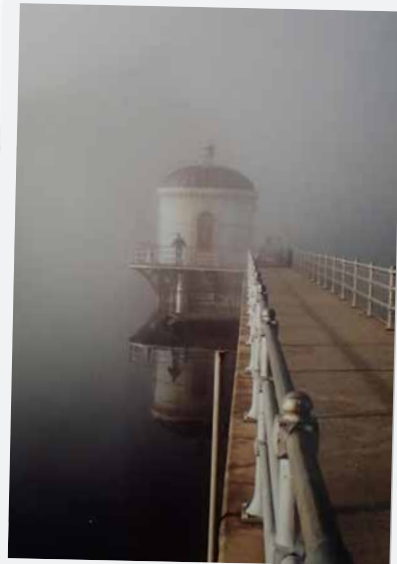
I've always loved a process and having everything labelled and sorted – I think I'm just that way inclined!

---

Have a think about how you would describe Jodie. Maybe next time you come to the WALGA building, make sure to send a smile Jodie's way and thank her. She will love it.

*Queen-of-all-trades, mainstay, dab-hand...*

## LOCAL HISTORY



**COMPETITION WINNERS (L-R):** Forestry workers in the Shire of Mundaring in the 1940s, kneeling next to a Forestry Department motorcycle (image courtesy Michael Thompson); A misty morning at Mundaring Weir, 1996 (courtesy Richard Nieuwhof); kids and a vintage car at the Mundaring Rotary Club's Small Farm Field Day, 1980 (courtesy Jan Pitman)

# DYNAMIC PARTNERSHIP ENRICHING THE HISTORY OF MUNDARING

With a historical tapestry that weaves large scale events, community triumph, and natural disasters against the distinctive backdrop of the Perth Hills, the Shire of Mundaring is dedicated to preserving the past.

Mundaring is blessed with not only natural beauty but an amazing local history.

Shire of Mundaring Libraries and Mundaring Hills Historical Society (MHHS) are proud to have partnered to deliver events and projects that preserve the rich history of the Shire.

The collaboration, which started in 2015, has blossomed into a series of events and initiatives aimed at engaging the local community and preserving the area's unique history.

Over the years, MHHS and Shire of Mundaring Libraries have co-hosted talks on various local history themes such as forestry settlements, Chidlow Army Camps, and eastern regions railways, along with displays hosted by MHHS in the libraries to commemorate Remembrance Day and Anzac Day.

The libraries have often re-gifted historical photographs and books they have been given for the MHHS archival and community accessibility.

Shire President James Martin said with a key focus on community engagement, this partnership has been highly successful.

"There is a keen interest in local history within the community, and with a strong library membership, jointly hosted

events have enjoyed strong support and attendance," he said.

The Shire's Libraries can also harness the Shire's Community Engagement, IT and Communications Departments to support the delivery and promotion of programs and events.

The Shire's Libraries sees its role in the Galleries, Museums and Libraries (GLAM) sector as closely aligned with local history knowledge and resources for local communities.

Cr Martin said one of the most prominent joint projects for this duo has been an annual photographic competition which started in 2020.

"Initially conceived by the MHHS as a way to connect residents with local history during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Shire's Libraries enthusiastically joined this initiative," he said.

"The competition was a way for the Shire's Libraries to strengthen ties with MHHS and expand the local history collection."

The original competition, known as 'Snapped', aimed to enrich the MHHS Local History Collection and provide an avenue for residents to engage and share their historical and family photographs. It also created an opportunity to initiate a digital image collection.

MHHS curator Dr Jan Baldwin said the efforts help to preserve invaluable photographs, which would otherwise risk being lost and allows both organisations to share resources and expertise.

This year, the competition has evolved into 'Relics, Wrecks and Renos', inviting participants to capture the essence of historical buildings and structures within the shire. The winning photographs from the competition will be on show at the Boya Library in December and January, offering residents a chance to engage with the Shire's history.

A quiz to identify the buildings and a visitor's vote for the best photograph will further involve the community.

Dr Baldwin said the partnership between MHHS and Shire of Mundaring Libraries has been a great way to preserve the heritage of the area.

"Together we enrich the community's understanding of its history, one photograph at a time. This successful collaboration will ensure there is a lasting legacy for generations to come."

Visit the Shire of Mundaring website for further information about this competition.



# SOMEONE LIKE STEVE



If you are in the Shire of Jerramungup and see a road crew truck drive around a termite mound, it is the work of Mr Steve Elson.

Steve Elson, Senior Environmental Officer, and Gordon Capelli, Manager of Works, from the Shire of Jerramungup, presented a case study about road reserve management techniques, when WALGA recently hosted a Roadside Vegetation Management workshop in Manjimup. Fifty people across 10 Local and four State Government departments attended.

“We needed to get everybody on board about reducing the clearing of habitats,” Mr Elson says.

Mr Elson has been the Shire of Jerramungup’s ecologist for 14 years, and during this time has had a tangible impact on the culture of roadside vegetation management.

“It’s not just a road verge, it has echoed out,” Mr Elson explains.

“The crew refrain from any clearing and opt for low impact. The crew create habitat through measures such as placing materials such as hollow logs in places where species like eagles will use them.”

Jerramungup manages over 2,600 km of road reserves, comprising some of the most significant ecosystems in the Great Southern.

Steve Elson has a strong focus on education. In 2018, the works crew completed their training in Certificate II Conservation and Land Management, leading to an understanding on working in environmentally sensitive areas, on how critical road reserves are in maintaining biodiversity.

Prior to starting his new role as Manager of Works, Gordon Capelli was on the trucks for 16 years. Mr Capelli has seen a massive culture shift in the works crew which he credits to Mr Elson.

“Where we were 17 years ago to where we are now is unbelievable. Steve’s passion for the environment; all the shires should have someone like Steve,” he says.

Thanks to Mr Elson the guys in the grader trucks are citizen scientists. They drive around termite mounds because they know they are important habitat for birds and lizards. They take photographs of mallee fowls, boobook owls, and text Mr Elson when they see an echidna. One of the works crew, Jaime Turner, recently identified a new population of Queen of Sheba orchids, one of the rarest plants on earth!

The Shire of Jerramungup plans on making their ecologically skilled works crew business as usual; all new works crew will be trained in Certificate II Conservation and Land Management, with Mr Elson believing that “other Shires can do the same thing.”

**Pictured:** WALGA’s Roadside Vegetation Management workshop hosted in Manjimup





Image: Shire of Murray

“ The Food Innovation Precinct is ‘a game changer for the Peel region’

## MURRAY’S FOOD INNOVATION PRECINCT RECOGNISED AT NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The Food Innovation Precinct WA (FIPWA) is a state-of-the-art facility fostering industry innovation to drive business growth, develop new products and exports, and transform Western Australia’s food and beverage manufacturing industry.

The Shire of Murray was awarded the national award for Excellence in Economic Development Through Partnerships & Collaboration, at the 2023 National Economic Development Conference (NEDC) held in Karratha, for establishing the FIPWA.

Shire CEO Dean Unsworth was thrilled to accept the award at the conference, which was aptly themed Evolution of Value – The Future of Economies.

“The launch of the FIPWA earlier this year is a game changer for the Peel region that will further enhance the agri-food sector through value addition economically, while also growing the much-needed human capital.”

The first of its kind in Western Australia, the \$21.75M Precinct (partly funded by the Australian Government’s Regional Growth Fund and the State Government and DevelopmentWA) is an agrifood knowledge and enterprise hub designed to tackle challenges in the Peel region including a growing population, high levels of unemployment, reliance on traditional industry sectors, and the poor state of food and beverage product development.

As part of the intergenerational economic transformation program, Transform Peel, FIPWA is set to be a strategic gateway to achieving agri-food innovation for the State adopting a smart specialisation and place-based ecosystem starting in the Peel region.

With an ecosystem focus, the targeted outcomes include an increase in employment results, product development and export opportunities.

Shire of Murray President, Councillor David Bolt, was thrilled at the award achievement and said it justifies the hard work applied by many partners and supporters.

“I am proud of our Council for the innovation that it applies in many areas. By looking outside of the normal Local Government box, we are taking a strategic approach to progress our goal of industry diversification and are driving long term economic opportunities for our Shire,” Cr Unsworth said.

“Embracing newer forms of agriculture combined with the opportunity to drive innovative product development for export markets powered by an industrial scale solar micro-grid will drive future economic growth.”

The award recognised the Shire of Murray’s ability to work with partners from areas of academia, Federal and State Governments, domestic and international businesses to enable strong partnerships and a growing ecosystem which generates numerous vertically integrated opportunities.

# JOONDALUP FESTIVAL THE BEST IN THE NATION



**Above:** ZAP Circus (Image: Jason Matz)

**Inset:** City of Joondalup Manager Leisure and Cultural Services, Mike Smith, Communications and Content Creator, Sabrina Woodward and Events Officer (Operations), Derryn Pavatich

## Joondalup Festival 2023 has been named Best Cultural, Arts or Music Event at the Australian Event Awards and Symposium.

This year's festival, which attracted more than a quarter of a million visitors to event sites across the City, beat a world-class field of finalists: Vivid Sydney (NSW), Adelaide Fringe (SA), Carmen on Cockatoo Island (NSW) and National Multicultural Festival (ACT).

The City received this prestigious national award in Sydney on Wednesday 13 September.

Joondalup Mayor Albert Jacob said this significant national award was fitting recognition for the City, which had taken the festival to new heights in 2023.

"What a great way to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a City," he said.

"This success of Joondalup Festival 2023 was the result of a strong collaborative effort from many teams across the City who came together as one to deliver the best festival in the event's storied history.

"The standard has been set. I can't wait to see what's in store for 2024."

More artists, more events, a broader range of performances saw more people at more places across the City than ever before.

The undoubted highlight was Boola Djarat Wardan – a laser, light and water show spectacular – which ran at Hillarys Boat Harbour and was enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people from across the State.

Meaning 'many lights across the sea', this seven-minute sensory spectacle was an amalgamation of digital laser light technology, water haze and geysers, with an enveloping soundscape that was brought together by the ancient art of Indigenous storytelling.

This display was one of several events in the festival lineup that celebrated culture and country.

Meeukang Warangka Ba Kenniny (pictured below), meaning 'dancing and singing in the moonlight', opened the festival at Neil Hawkins Park, while Celebrate Yellagonga Day offered the community a day of family activities.

More than 50 other entertainment shows, community days and special events were held throughout the program, bringing together the contributions of more than 300 local and interstate artists and creatives.



Image: ShotByThom



## SAM'S SPARES LEADS THE WAY AT WASTESORTED AWARDS

19-year-old City of Canning resident Sam Thomas was recently awarded the 'Waste Champion of the Year Award' for his business 'Sam's Spares'.

Sam, who is autistic and has Tourette's syndrome, saves unwanted e-waste from landfill, and repairs and rebuilds electronics for distribution to a network of not-for-profits, charities, community organisations and schools.

The annual WasteSorted Awards were held in September, aimed at recognising outstanding achievements and efforts working towards a low waste and circular economy future for Western Australia.

This year, there were 37 finalists across 10 categories, from individuals, businesses, government, schools, community organisations and not for profits.

"I can't thank the City of Canning enough for their support in the early days of my organisation, I look forward to continuing our relationship and providing a new lease on life for obsolete technology," says Sam.

"I have the awesome job of being able to do what I love every day – combining my passion with service. I am motivated to work even harder to create positive change in our community."

City of Canning Mayor Patrick Hall said he was pleased to see the reuse of e-waste within the community.

Canning has been in partnership with Sam's Spares since July 2022 and provides a collection point for the business at the City's Ranford Road Resource Recovery and Waste Transfer Station in Canning Vale.

Since then, the City has diverted 11% of the e-waste collected from the Waste Transfer Station and in the City's recycling hubs to reuse via Sam's Spares.



**Above:** WasteSorted Award recipients

**Right:** City of Canning Mayor Patrick Hall with Sam Thomas



I have the awesome job of being able to do what I love every day...

“It’s great to see community members, like Sam, leading the way in creating a more sustainable future by giving these items a second life,” Mayor Hall said.

Other award recipients on the night included the City of Fremantle, Shire of Northam, City of Canning, and the highly commended Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council, and Town of East Fremantle.

The City of Fremantle won the Metropolitan Local Government Award for the Fremantle Recycling Centre, which includes a household hazardous waste facility, reuse shop and Containers for Change refund point.

The small site showcases the range of waste services that a Local Government can provide in one location and how to make it easy and convenient for the community to reuse and recover material.

Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council were also highly commended, in the Metropolitan Local Government category.

The Non-Metropolitan Local Government category winner was the Shire of Northam, for their regional waste management sites which service many communities across the wheatbelt and effectively recycles as much of the material collected as possible.

The City of Canning took home the Community Engagement Award, for their engagement with culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities. This engagement has included the City’s Cultural Ambassadors Program, which empowers Ambassadors to become waste champions in their community and is a key link between CaLD residents and the City’s Waste Team. The Town of East Fremantle was also highly commended in this category.

Congratulations to all recognised for their contributions towards a low waste and circular economy future for Western Australia.

And congratulations to Sam.

**MERREDIN  
SILOS  
DON'T  
HAVE  
A SAY.  
YOU DO.**

**VOTE IN  
YOUR LOCAL  
COUNCIL  
ELECTIONS**

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS WRAP AND HIGHLIGHTS

The 2023 Local Government Elections closed for in-person voting on Saturday, 21 October, with final counting concluding Friday, 27 October.

There were 1,090 candidates for 564 vacancies (941 for 458 in 2021), with 60.2% of candidates male, 39.54% female, 0.18% non-binary and 0.09% were unspecified.

The official voting presentation was described by the WA Electoral Commission (WAEC) as 31.6% of eligible voters, a slight increase from 2021 of 1.6% (30.2%).

In postal voting this year, 497,357 were returned out of 1,724,404 sent, representing 28.84%.

The WAEC conducted elections for 124 of the 139 local governments in Western Australia.

The top regional voter turnouts were at Victoria Plains (62.24%), Kondinin (61.42), Wyalkatchem (60.63), Ravensthorpe (59.90) and Woodanilling (58.75), while the top five metropolitan Councils were the City of Perth (34.51%), South Perth (34.48), Mosman Park (33.89), Chittering (32.74) and Melville (31.81). (Source: WAEC)

WALGA was in a partnership with the WAEC and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries that promoted candidate nominations and voter engagement through paid and earned media, advertising and social media placement.

As of 27 October, searches on WALGA and the Local Government elections revealed 252 separate press, TV and radio articles, since 1 September.

# WALGA STATE COUNCIL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 2023

## REGIONAL MEETING, HOSTED BY THE GREAT SOUTHERN COUNTRY ZONE IN KATANNING

*Information supplied by WALGA Manager of Association Governance Kathy Roberston*

### LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (LEMA) ADVOCACY POSITION

That WALGA endorse the following position on Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA):

1. The State Government should fund the implementation of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).
2. A reformed LEMA system should:
  - a) Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;
  - b) Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;
  - c) Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance materials that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;
  - d) Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;
  - e) Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;
  - f) Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and
  - g) Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.

### ADVOCACY POSITION ON ROAD WORKS DURING TOTAL FIRE BAN

That WALGA endorse the following principles in relation to the exemptions and conditions under which road works may be undertaken during a Total Fire Ban:

1. Road Activity Tiers: That there be a tiered risk approach for road work activities and associated controls, based on the proposed activities and fire danger forecast.
2. Local Government operations: That any controls specified in regulations to provide effective risk mitigation and response be able to be implemented within the works crew deployed for the task.
3. Reduce Red Tape: That the processes where repeated notification to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) for the same task at the same location is required be streamlined.



West Island, Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands



Wellington Dam Mural, Shire of Collie



Three Bays Walk, Shire of Coorow



Pink Lake, Shire of Cranbrook



Yardie Creek, Shire of Exmouth



Wheat Harvest, Shire of Kulin



Lake Ballard, Shire of Menzies



Nature's Window, Shire of Northampton



Optus Stadium, Town of Victoria Park



The Granites, Shire of Mount Magnet



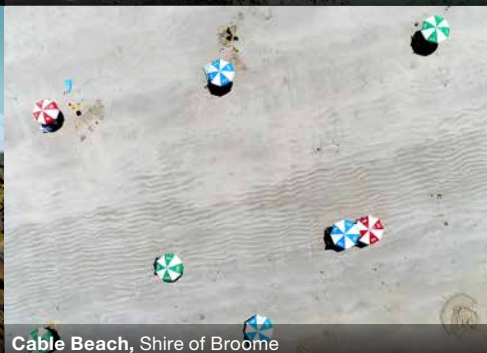
Stromatolites, Shire of Shark Bay



Sunset, Shire of Yalgoo



Lake Koorkoordine, Shire of Yilgarn



Cable Beach, Shire of Broome



Pinnacles, Shire of Dandaragan

## Visitors to the WALGA building are able to enjoy large-scale wall images from around our Towns, Cities and Shires.

Photos by Jeff Henderson, Content Producer, WALGA



WALGA  
ONE70 LV1, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville WA 6007  
T (08) 9213 2000 | F (08) 9213 2077  
www.walga.asn.au

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