



Regional Development *Australia*

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE



ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

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Chairperson Report

For Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE), 2015-2016 really was a year of continuing with the key priorities that support the progress of partnerships that would bring together all levels of government, not-for-profits and lead agencies to enhance the growth and development of this vast region.

Significantly, I am proud to say that RDAGE collaborated to put our money and resources where our mouth is to support a number of signature activities, forums and community events which provided a unique voice for the arts, culture, women's issues and innovative thinking.

Building on the *2014 Regional Arts Australia & Edges Summit*, it was an absolute highlight to launch the *Goldfields-Esperance Arts and Culture Framework (2015-2020)*. This Country Arts WA project created an unprecedented focus in the region on the arts and it is hoped that this framework will be used as an ongoing planning resource for individuals and organisations to develop projects and successfully apply for arts funding in the future.

In this context RDAGE supported the production of *Silent Volumes* a contemporary dance project and the ground-breaking *Sounds of the Goldfields* CD. Both projects were incredibly progressive events that showcased not only the breadth of talent but harnessed the Indigenous culture and landscape of the Goldfields-Esperance Region.

And on the innovation front, the *Kalgoorlie Futures Forum* in May, with keynote speaker Bernard Salt provided the entire community with a number of thought provoking proposals for leaders, community groups and businesses to reconsider the town's future as a city of 60,000 people.

By bringing together futurists, demographers and planning experts, the *Futures Forum* aimed to inform the *City's Growth Plan* and challenge the thinking around what was required to make a desirable 'desert change' destination for education, job seekers, as a hub for innovation and retirees. It was all great food for thought.

Of course, mining and the associated businesses and infrastructure underpin the region's economy. RDAGE is a proud ongoing supporter of this crucial industry and, as such, sponsors Esperance's *Over the Horizon*, Kalgoorlie's *What's Down the Track* as well as the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Annual Award events in both cities.

2015-2016 has been a year of 'shift' on many fronts in our local, state and federal landscapes. Within the context of a global economy I believe that the RDAGE Committee and organisation is

capturing the momentum of the changes and strategically positioning our region in the best possible way for the 2016-2017 year.

I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their support and look forward to a strong and productive year ahead.

Julia Shadlow-Bath
Chairperson

Executive Officer Report

RDA Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE) has enjoyed a number of key achievements in the past year, addressing the regional priority outcomes identified from the Goldfields Regional Investment Blueprint. The proactive work undertaken by RDAGE has supported the social and economic development of the region.

To address the regional priority outcome of: Enabling Stronger Regions Fund, RDAGE:

- Developed and circulated a funding manual to assist project proponents in applying for National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF).
- Conducted twenty meetings with project proponents applying to Rounds Two and Three of NSRF.
- Provided expert assistance to project-ready applicants to Rounds Two and Three of NSRF.

To address the regional priority outcome of: Digital Business and Innovation, RDAGE:

- Sponsored the *Connecting Regionally* prizes for cultural heritage preservation at *2015 GovHack*.
- Sponsored the *Over the Horizon Forum* to support business planning and development (Esperance).
- Delivered the *Using Social Media in Your Business* workshop in partnership with Esperance Business Local.
- Developed and sponsored of the *Kalgoorlie-Boulder Futures Forum* attended by 300 participants, in partnership with other key regional agencies.
- Sponsored the *2016 Goldfields Business and Employee Awards* (Kalgoorlie-Boulder) and the *Business Excellence Awards* (Esperance).

To address the regional priority outcome of: Supporting Aboriginal Engagement, RDAGE:

- Assisted with planning and facilitation of the two-day *Working in Partnership* workshop attended by 57 participants, in partnership with the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

To address the regional priority outcome of: Arts and Culture Development, RDAGE:

- Partnered with Country Arts WA to produce the *Goldfields-Esperance Arts and Culture Framework 2015-2020*.
- Supported Ausdance WA's Future Landings program dance production *Silent Volumes*.
- Provided the local funding component in support of West Australian Music's (WAM) *Sounds of the Goldfields* program.

To address the regional priority outcome of: Community Capacity Building, RDAGE:

- Conducted the *Simple Steps to Project Planning* workshop in Kalgoorlie-Boulder attended by 30 participants.
- Conducted the *Getting Ready for Grants* workshop in Esperance attended by 27 participants.
- Conducted the *Community Building* workshop, facilitated by Asset Based Community Development expert, Jim Diers, attended by 28 participants in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and over 20 in Esperance.
- Contributed funding toward RDA Great Southern's bid to host the *2016 SEGRA Conference*.

Other Achievements

- RDAGE made a submission to the Regional Telecommunications Review.
- A new Business Plan for 2016-17 was developed.
- RDAGE was represented on the *Growing Kalgoorlie-Boulder Governance Group (GPP)* and participated in the many workshops and consultations.
- Was the primary sponsor for the *Kalgoorlie Women's Leadership Forum*, organised by the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KBCCI).

Arrangements with Third Parties

RDAGE continues to act as the Regional Certifying Body (RCB) for the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) for the whole of the Goldfields-Esperance region. Undertaking this role addresses the regional priority outcome of: Welcome Migrants.

RDA Goldfields Esperance certified twenty-seven (27) RSMS applications in 2015-2016. The administration fee for certification is \$440 (inc. GST), giving RDAGE an income of \$11,880.00 for the 2015-2016 financial year.

Please note, this report has been compiled from Executive Officer reports from throughout the year.

Overview of Regional Development Australia

Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance is part of the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Network. RDAGE is a locally managed organization funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

The aims of the RDA network are to bring together all levels of government to enhance the growth and development of regional Australia and to provide a strategic framework for economic growth in each region.

RDA Chairs and members volunteer their time and energy and have a personal commitment to working in partnership with all levels of government for the benefit of their local and regional communities.

The RDA network is responsible for achieving five key Outcomes:

Outcome 1: Regional Plan

A current three to five year Regional Plan that focuses on the economic development of the Goldfields Esperance region. The plan must take into account any relevant Commonwealth, state, territory and local government plans.

Outcome 2: Critical issues

Advice to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development on critical issues affecting the Goldfields-Esperance region.

Outcome 3: Priority activities

Advice to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development on priority activities that will drive regional economic development, on future economic opportunities and on the Goldfields-Esperance region's comparative advantages, based on consultation and engagement with community leaders.

Outcome 4: Project proposals

Assistance to local community stakeholders in order for them to develop project proposals; and referral of stakeholders to appropriate public and/or private funding sources - including the \$1 billion National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF).

Outcome 5: Promote Australian Government Programs

Increased awareness of Australian Government programs in the Goldfields-Esperance region.

RDA Goldfields Esperance

Committee & Staff

The members of the RDA Goldfields Esperance Committee represent different regional areas and key stakeholder groups and include representatives from local government, partnership bodies, business and industry.

During 2015-2016, the RDA Goldfields Esperance Committee comprised:

Position on RDAGE Board	Name	Location	Term Expires
Chairperson	Julia Shadlow-Bath	Kalgoorlie	31 December 2017
Deputy Chairperson	Holly Phillips	Kalgoorlie	31 December 2017
Treasurer	Victoria (Tori) Castledine	Esperance	31 May 2017
Secretary	Darren Forster	Kalgoorlie	31 May 2017
Committee member	Patrick Hill	Laverton	28 February 2018
Committee member	Shayne Flanagan	Esperance	31 May 2018
Deputy Chairperson	David Nicholson	Kalgoorlie	Resigned 24 August 2015
Committee member	Leslie-Ann Conway	Kalgoorlie	Resigned 24 August 2015
Committee member	Peta Jurgens	Kalgoorlie	Resigned 18 February 2016
Committee member	Ian Goldfinch	Ravensthorpe	Resigned 28 February 2016
Committee member	Benjamin Fox	Kalgoorlie	Resigned 23 May 2016

In 2015-2016 the RDA Goldfields Esperance staff comprised:

Position Held	Name	Start Date	Full/Part Time
Executive Officer Manages the organisation and services the RDAGE committee.	Carol Mann	19/07/10 - current	Full Time
Finance Officer Provides administrative and financial support	Carla Dillon	08/02/11 - current	Part Time

Training and Development

Board Meetings

Date	Topic	Guest Speaker/Consultants	Location
4 September 2015	General Meeting	Elaine Labuschagne, Manager Economics & Heritage Services, Shire of Leonora & Shayne Flanagan, CEO, GEDC	Leonora
9 October 2015	Annual General Meeting, Special Meeting & General Meeting	Janice Kendall, GEDC	Kalgoorlie
4 December 2015	General Meeting	Ross Beckett, Chairperson, Country Arts WA & Barb Howard, Manager Focus Regional Initiative, Country Arts WA	Esperance
19 February 2016	General Meeting	Shayne Flanagan, CEO, GEDC	Kalgoorlie
8 April 2016	General Meeting & Special Meeting		Kalgoorlie
23 May 2016	General Meeting	Kate Mills & Regan Brewer, Puzzle Consulting	Kalgoorlie

Workshop and Consultations

Using Social Media in Your Business

Esperance

The workshop was aimed at anyone who wanted an understanding of the basics of social media, as well as those lacking in the skills and confidence to actively join the online conversation.

Project Planning & Getting Ready for Grants

Kalgoorlie-Boulder & Esperance

This workshop was tailored to organisations planning an event or community program, wanting to improve its facilities, or seeking grant funding for a future project.

Community Building

Kalgoorlie-Boulder

This training workshop provided an exclusive learning experience that brought participants to the most current thinking and resources from the emerging field of Asset Based, Community Driven philosophies and methodologies.

Goldfields-Esperance Working in Partnership

Kalgoorlie

This workshop encouraged effective partnership between the local Aboriginal communities and local industries.

Date	Topic	Presenter	Location	Participants
10/12/15	Using Social Media in Your Business	Sarah Hinton	Esperance	16
16/03/16	Project Planning	Jodie Mortadza	Kalgoorlie	30
07/04/16	Getting Ready for Grants Workshop	Jodie Mortadza	Esperance	24
20/05/16	Community Building	Jim Diers	Kalgoorlie	26
26/05/16	Goldfields-Esperance Working in Partnership		Kalgoorlie	53

Publicity and Promotions

Newsletters

The RDAGE publishes a quarterly newsletter which is sent via an email database to:

- RDAGE Committee members
- Not-for-profit organisations
- Heads of Agency representatives
- Community Resource Centres
- Local Government Authorities
- Other regional stakeholders

Newspaper Articles & Publicity

RDAGE had several newspaper articles published in the Kalgoorlie Miner and Esperance Express in the 2015-2016 financial year.