



Regional
Development
Australia

Edition 5 | September 2015

RDA NETWORK NEWS

Local people developing local solutions to local issues across WA and the NT



An Australian Government Initiative



Regional Development Australia

The RDA Network News is a collaborative initiative between nine of the Regional Development Australia Committee’s in Western Australia and Regional Development Australia Northern Territory. For further information on any of the articles published in this newsletter, please note the contact details for the respective Executive Officer on Page 24 (back page).

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Front cover: RDA Kimberley Purnululu National Park
Back cover: Geoscience Australia Map

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THE RDA NETWORK... COLLABORATION BEYOND BORDERS

As highlighted by our friends and colleagues from RDA Mid-West Gascoyne in the Network News of April this year it is important that we share our experiences across the State.

With this in mind, and given that I have been given the mandate by WA to be the representative on Minister Truss's RDA Reference group, it is appropriate to give a short summary of what occurred when the group met for the first time in the Ministers Office following the recent conference and get -together in Canberra attended by RDA representatives from across Australia.

Whilst I don't suppose to tell you what you gleaned from the presentations , one thing that came out of the day was the uncertainty about the future of RDAs and the role they have to play into the future - particularly in the assessment and prioritisation of funding applications.

In the after conference meeting with the Minister, which was attended by not only the Minister but also several senior staffers, there was strong comment from the participants and I took out of it some points as listed below:

- The Minister strongly supports RDAs in the format they are in- on the premise that they are the vehicle in which to convey the Governments position on Economic Development.
- He could not give any guarantees beyond next year's funding, indicating "that as strong as his support was that any program was subject to both Cabinet and Treasury support."
- He did make the comment that "RDAs should make themselves as indispensable as possible to the Government to strengthen their position."
- With regard to an approach he would not confirm that he would make it mandatory that all NSRF applications come through the relevant RDA office but, he did make the comment that letters of support could be couched in various ways which may indicate a level of prioritisation and understanding of projects.
- He made comment on the RDA Northern Alliance and suggested that the group had significant input into the Northern Australia White Paper and that RDAs in regional areas should work together where possible.
- When pressed as to the exact role of the Reference group he indicated that it was to be an advisory group having an input into the Governments Regional Economic policies and into the future of RDAs, their structures and the differences in the various models that exist in different states and territories.
- The next meeting is to be in April but there is strong lobbying going on by members to meet sooner than that given the budget cycles.

Executive Officer, Chris Mitchell is in Africa on a research project! Upon his return, I propose asking him to liaise with his fellow EOs to provide a snapshot of each RDA in WA, with a brief comment of staffing levels, budgets and other work and projects carried out. This will be useful in discussions with the Department and the Minister.



In the Kimberley we are working closely with the Kimberley Development Commission and the Local Governments and not surprisingly the strategic plans of the RDA, the Local Governments and the Blueprint from the Commission are very similar and closely aligned.

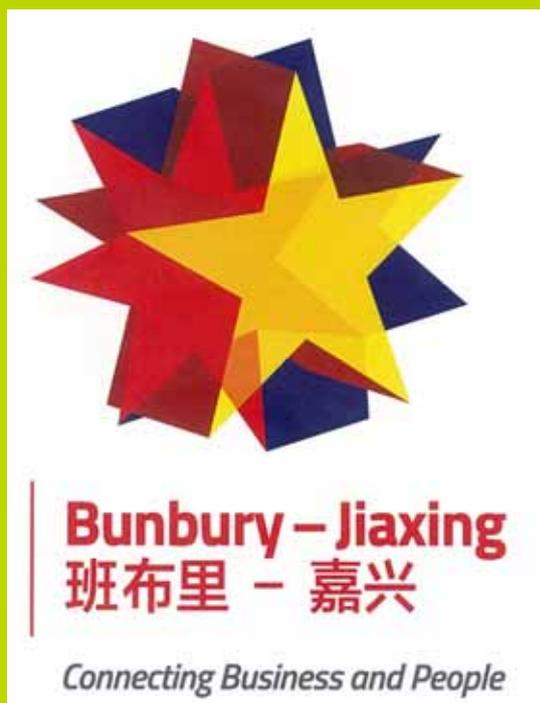
Graeme Campbell
Chair RDA Kimberley

Bridges into China RDA SOUTH WEST

The South West's promise of growing stronger trade and cultural links with our leading trading partner have never looked so good. RDASW serves as an executive member of the Bunbury-Jiaxing Business Office which is undergoing a revitalisation process with new look, polished branding, website in two languages and improved industry links.

The Bunbury-Jiaxing office has also been buoyed by ChAFTA – the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement and has touched base with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade WA Director who spoke at the South West Focus Conference, an event that promoted the SW Blueprint. Further links with DFAT and an agreement to make the business office's Executive Officer available to Small Business Centre clients as well as CCI members will enable the office to reach its potential.

On a related theme, RDASW has supported a new Australia-China Film-Makers event at CinéfestOz 2015 which is offering the richest film prize in Australia. That event, in Busselton and other South West locations, will feature familiarisations, contacts and discussions with Chinese industry leaders to promote investment in the region and possibly the introduction of Chinese films to a programme that is traditionally Australian and French only.



The move is an initiative of ScreenWest and is also supported by ScreenSW which is a Creative Corner member with a goal of facilitating film-making in the region. Oh and did we tell you that Avatar lead, Sam Worthington made the surf movie, Drift, in Margaret River a couple of years ago ... and now Graham Silvey's award-winning book, Jasper Jones will be made into a film to be shot in the region.

In the meantime, RDASW has organised translators for the Australia-China Film-Makers event, among them teachers who have been battling to instil a modicum of Mandarin into a few RDA heads. It is planned to attend the China trade mission in November and make contact with the equivalent Chinese regional developers.

Zài jiàn.

The China connections with RDA activities are all around us. All we have to do is join all the dots.

Charles Jenkinson
Executive Officer, RDA South West

Australian China Business Council (ACBC) Pilbara Committee RDA PILBARA

RDA Pilbara has taken a lead role in reinvigorating the ACBC Pilbara Committee. ACBC WA and the Pilbara Committee will work collaboratively to recognise the importance of relationship building between China and the Pilbara region to leverage commercial relationships in order to further social and economic development and investment in the Pilbara.

It is intended that this Committee will inform and promote the North West Investment Portfolio. Western Australia's relationship with China has been thriving on a trade and investment relationship built upon the export of minerals, energy, agricultural goods and education services and Chinese investment in the Western Australian resources sector. RDA Pilbara is taking a lead role in facilitating a visit from the Chinese Consulate General who will be visiting the Pilbara region in early September 2015.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Top left and centre: RDA South West Busselton Regional Airport is set for a boost to A330 capacity and daily flights from the Melbourne and Sydney.



announcement that the WA Government would fund airside infrastructure which is essentially a 2540m runway capable of accommodating Airbus A320s. The next step is to lever this money to secure Commonwealth funding for the extras and landside infrastructure.

From the outside it all seems simple enough: develop a business case from a good idea, secure the investment and build it. The reality is that the story behind major capital investment is many years in the making. There is a mountain of work to be done from noise studies, land studies, geological, water and power, to fully networked planning, community, specialist consultancies, forecasts and then other studies to validate claims. The resources and commitment required for major projects are considerable.

So what did RDA SW do? While being engaged at various levels throughout, there were two critical touch points. The first and most important was arguing a case so that the



The South West takes off RDA SOUTH WEST

RDA offices integrate themselves at many levels and so it is that RDA South West has been involved in a variety of projects from a \$70m piece of regional flagship infrastructure to looking at non-potable urban water needs.

Whatever the level, it must also be acknowledged that even game-changing projects are hard to get off the ground. The “big stuff” takes a lot of time.

Engagement in the Busselton Regional Airport project recently culminated in an

airport expansion was designated just one of two “flagship” projects in the Western Australian Planning Commission’s SW Infrastructure Framework. The second was pushing for and funding a re-costing of the airside infrastructure which came in under budget and enabled some later staged work to be done much earlier to deliver overall savings.

The next landmark infrastructure will be another huge jobs generator in the form of waterfront developments in Bunbury. In the meantime a more modest investment has been contributing partner funding to establish a South West Science Council and if there’s no science then there’s no matter.

Top right: RDA Pilbara Ashburton River (Photo: Elizabeth Brennan)

North West Investment Portfolio RDA PILBARA

RDA Pilbara is leading the development of the North West Investment Portfolio. This project has come about through the intention to review the 2012 Pilbara Plan and Investment Prospectus. The opportunity to incorporate the Kimberley and the Mid-West Gascoyne has extended the scope of the document. RDA Kimberley, Pilbara Development Commission, RDA Mid-West Gascoyne, Mid-West Development Commission, Pilbara Regional Council and Australia China Business Council Western Australia will all partner in this North West project.

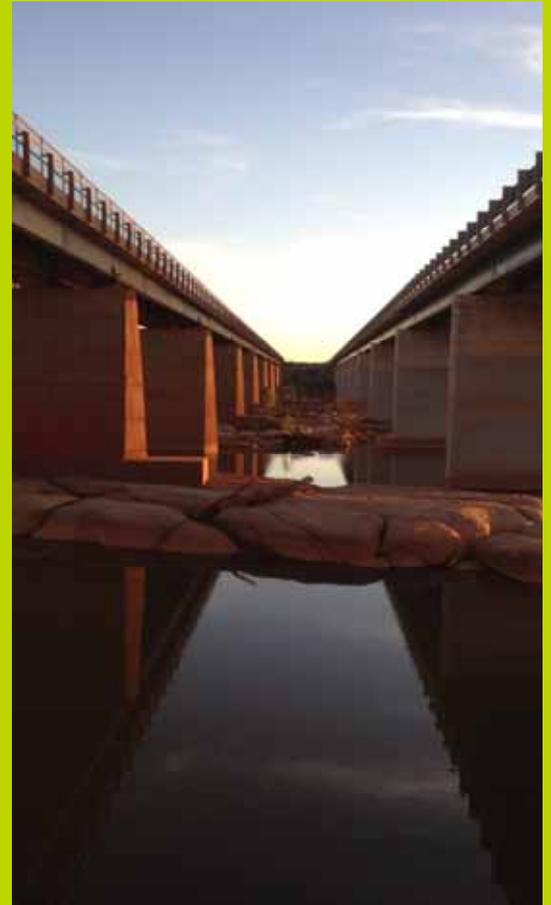
The project has two objectives:

1. To undertake a review and update of the Infrastructure studies and draw upon regional development plans in order to identify major future infrastructural and utility projects that are essential to the development of the three regions.
2. To undertake an in-depth identification, scoping and profiling of key private sector-led project opportunities across major productive sectors that have the potential to attract new investment and economic diversification into the three regions.

The overall aim is to produce a unique document that can be used to inform and attract investment from key stakeholders in the public and private sectors from across Australia and potentially overseas. These would include institutional investors such as Superannuation Funds, venture capital and private equity investors. Such investments would aim to be both strategic in importance and enhance economic diversification.

Comparative Analysis on Insurance and Banking Conditions in the Pilbara RDA PILBARA

RDA Pilbara has completed an independent study that was undertaken to analyse trends in banking and insurance services in the Pilbara with comparisons to be made with other regional centres in Australia, including the impact of negative developments on both households and businesses.



The aim of the study is to:

- Gain an understanding of how insurance organisations and banks offer and price their products.
- Assess the likely impact of any differential pricing on businesses and communities in the Pilbara.
- Compare banking and insurance services in the Pilbara with other selected regional towns in Australia and with Perth.

The final document will be available on the RDA Pilbara website soon. For more information please contact the RDA Pilbara office on 9144 0651.



Tertiary level training for community-based indigenous knowledge RDA KIMBERLEY

The official launch of Cultural and Natural Resource Management Report was held on 24th August 2015, Broome.

The Nulungu Research Institute (Nulungu) was established in August 2008 and operates across three campuses of the University of Notre Dame Australia in Broome, Fremantle and Sydney. Nulungu encourages the pursuit of excellence in research, primarily through the valuing of community-based Indigenous knowledge focusing on three core research themes; Country (land, saltwater, freshwater, and desert), Health and Wellbeing and Education.

Working alongside Nulungu Research Institute, RDA Kimberley played an integral part in the development of the Cultural and Natural Resource Management (CNRM) report, providing \$25k in funding and ongoing advice and direction to the project managers.

The CNRM is a cross-sectoral discipline which integrates human cultural knowledge, values

and relationships with the natural environment in the management of natural resources. It incorporates and integrates cultural studies, heritage studies, environmental science, planning, geography and ecology. It is closely aligned with the academic disciplines of geography, human ecology, sustainable development and environmental science. It has grown as a field which incorporates Indigenous Knowledge of country specifically where Indigenous peoples, knowledge and values are integrated with and enhance Western scientific knowledge.

The project commenced in 2014 with extensive stakeholder engagement through Indigenous groups, Kimberley Training Institute, James Cook University in Queensland and Charles Darwin University in Northern Territory. The final Cultural and Natural Resource Management (CNRM) report was completed late June 2015.

The CNRM qualification will offer opportunities for Indigenous and non-indigenous people to access tertiary level industry relevant training in the north of Australia. There is potential to roll out the qualification Australia wide.



PARTNERSHIPS AND PLANNING

Rural diversification planning for the peri-urban region of Perth RDA PERTH

Perth has experienced unprecedented population growth since 2001 which has created challenges for state and local governments in the areas of housing, planning, service delivery and infrastructure. Large areas which have been Perth's traditional food locations have disappeared under housing developments in places such as Wanneroo, Spearwood, parts of the Swan Valley and Armadale. Areas are still under constant threat of redevelopment for industry and housing. This had led to rampant speculation of existing property owners being able to cash in on their acreage with subdivision applications.

Even with a number of peri-urban agricultural businesses reducing their participation in the large commodity markets, there is a desire at the local government level to retain areas of agricultural interest for direct marketing and tourism activities

Perth is part of a Strategic Environmental Assessment that is currently evaluating the impact of future development proposed under a number of state land use planning documents in regards to matters of national environmental significance listed under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Early indicators are showing that tracts of rural land once banked for future urban development through subdivision may not be the best use for those sites. This has now been highlighted as part of the Department of Planning's recent *Perth and Peel @3.5 Million*.

Food security is a major issue for Western Australia due, amongst other things, to the following:

- The State's exports are primarily cereals, pulses/oilseeds, and meat and animal products. Western Australia currently imports approximately 70% of its fresh fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables. A larger proportion of imported fresh fruit and vegetables is in the hands of two major suppliers and the supply chain is an extended one.
- It is calculated that up to 10% of the State's population currently experiences food insecurity, particularly to the north of the State and increasingly in the Perth metropolitan region.
- Production is largely based on the low input and land intensive model, and it will be increasingly difficult to sustain the levels of production using this model.

In order to create Perth as a sustainable city it is essential that a substantial amount of agricultural production is retained within the region to ensure future food security. The Department of Agriculture and Food has estimated that with Perth approaching

2 million, an additional 630ha dedicated to horticultural production within close proximity to the CBD with the necessary buffer zones, transport links and hydrology would need to be secured for future food security. The bulk of Perth's local food comes now primarily from the South West, Gascoyne and Kimberley regions which are between 100 and 2,000kms away.

Stage 1 of the Rural Diversification Planning Project for the Perth region focused on intensive consultation across the outer metropolitan regions that still participated in agricultural protection. Key to the discussions were:

- Identification of existing industry food clusters.
- Desirable strategic outcomes at both the local and state levels.
- Common issues and threats across peri-urban agriculture.
- Supply chains within the food sector covering internal metropolitan relationships and external state level relationships.
- Present a rare, regional, collective perspective.
- Raise awareness.
- Provide insight to common issues affecting areas under threat.
- Provide recommendations on ways forward;
- Convince people about the importance of the subject.
- Link with other emerging, related initiatives.

Key recommendations from the report are:

1. The Western Australian Planning Commission needs to establish agri-precincts in the land-use planning system and policies to provide certainty and support for them. These should be located throughout peri-urban Perth.
2. There must be innovation in provision of infrastructure to address the economic development issues and opportunities facing peri-urban Perth.
3. Agriculture needs to better embrace changes to in land use that enhance and grow opportunities for high value low volume commodity production.

Stage 2

RDA Perth entered into a third party agreement with Curtin University's Institute of Agri-food Security to develop scenario planning for the Perth Metropolitan peri-urban regions utilising innovative modelling software. To facilitate this process, the City of Swan was selected as the case study. Stage 2 is nearly completed with the City of Swan being modelled with a 500 metre x 500 metre GPS metrics articulating at a very detailed level the resource base in terms of water, land use, industry, population, biodiversity and other data sets through access to Landgate's WA Land Information System (WALIS). This is developing a sophisticated mapping tool for the peri-urban areas to support local government in development planning and decision-making on development, including food production and research.

PARTNERSHIPS AND PLANNING



Re-centring for indigenous development

RDA GREAT SOUTHERN

Over the past two years RDA Great Southern has worked closely in partnerships with the Katanning Aboriginal Corporation's Directors and the Shire of Katanning, alongside the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and Regional Development Australia Great Southern to re-establish the Katanning Aboriginal Corporation.

Some of those works are now coming to fruition. The Corporation was successful in gaining \$14,000 in funding to renovate the front office area of the Katanning Noongar Centre from the Great Southern Development Commission Community Chest fund through Royalties for Regions.

It has taken us years of work and a lot of effort to get back in a position to deliver services and support our community. We've negotiated along the way and look forward to fixing the main hall in the Centre. We've proven how capable we are, and we have some strong partners who share our vision. We want to invite our community to come and join in the work and embrace and celebrate this really positive change. We want the Centre to belong to all our families and youth, and for them to feel a part of something.

Kathleen Farmer
Chair, Katanning Noongar Centre

The Partners again combined in November 2014 and were successful in a Grant under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy Children and Schooling Program in receiving funding to deliver a school engagement program in Katanning. The Program is called All Ways 5 Days. It has been co-designed and developed along with two Katanning Primary schools, and it will focus on the K-5 year groups.

RDA and its partners are now participating in an IAS round table in Katanning, as an incubator study under Prime Minister and Cabinet which is piloting working in partnership across all funded organisations in the town. This is the only study of its kind in Western Australia; the practice and success of the study is being monitored closely by Prime Minister and Cabinet and reported 'up the line' to Canberra. RDA Great Southern is pleased to be a part of this group, as well as delighted by the positive responsive to its partnership approach to community development sector support.

This work occurring over the past twelve months evolved through findings under the Great Southern Children's Services Plan, where it was discovered that the capacity of our region's Aboriginal Corporations was a major service gap in the region. Meetings of the partners and meetings hosted by Prime Minister and Cabinet are now being held in the renovated offices at The Noongar Centre. Everyone in attendance scrambled toward the temporary heaters, noting the need for improved heating and cooling! There is still work to be done, but the journey so far has been rewarding.

Top: RDA Great Southern Corporation Chair, Kathleen Farmer, at the Katanning Noongar Centre

PARTNERSHIPS AND PLANNING

Launch of Arts and Culture Framework RDA GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

Following the successful national Regional Arts Australia Summit held in Kalgoorlie in October 2014, RDA Goldfields Esperance partnered with Country Arts WA to develop a framework for arts and culture for the Goldfields Esperance region.

RDA Goldfields Esperance and Country Arts WA facilitated a collective visioning process with communities and stakeholders across the region to produce a long-term vision for the arts and culture sector. Information for the framework was gathered through: an online survey, one on one interviews with key stakeholders, small group meetings, and two one-day forums held in Kalgoorlie and Esperance. After this extensive community consultation process had taken place across the region the Goldfields-Esperance Arts & Culture Framework 2015-2020 was produced. The framework is a planning document for arts and culture organisations and local government and is a valuable resource for regional organisations seeking arts project funding.

RDA Goldfields Esperance was very pleased to launch the framework in Kalgoorlie-Boulder on Wednesday 5 August and in Esperance on Thursday 6 August. Having a regional Arts and Culture Framework marks the first step in the process of developing the productivity and sustainability of the arts and culture sector in the Goldfields Esperance region.

A copy of the Framework can be found at: <http://www.rdage.com.au/publications---newsletter/publications/>

10 Year Community Plan for NGO Sector

RDA PILBARA

RDA Pilbara and the Pilbara Development Commission are working in partnership to support the Non-Government Organisations (NGO) sector deliver high level, equitable social and human services to meet the demand of a rapidly growing population in the Pilbara. In 2012 RDA Pilbara and the Pilbara Development Commission engaged a consultant to develop the Non-Government Organisations (NGO) Map and Gap Analysis Report to provide an accurate and evidenced based assessment of the position of the NGO sector across the Pilbara and identify how it could be supported

accordingly. One of the key recommendations of the Report was the development of a strategic framework to inform and guide a coordinated approach to the delivery of NGO services and facilities across the Pilbara as a critical requirement for planning for the increased demand in services and to support a sustainable future for the sector in the region.

RDA Pilbara has been successful in gaining funding through LotteryWest and with the funding from the Pilbara Development Commission the project will be completed by the end of March 2016.

Regional Telecommunications Review RDA GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

A Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (RTIRC) is established every 3 years by the Australian Government to conduct reviews into telecommunications services in regional and remote parts of Australia.

In 2015, the Independent Review Committee will consider the adequacy of telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia and whether people in these areas have equitable access to telecommunications services that are currently available in one or more parts of urban Australia. The Committee will also consider the impact of infrastructure and service improvements, including what will be delivered by the rollout of the National Broadband Network (NBN) and the Mobile Black Spot Program. RDA Goldfields Esperance's submission to the Regional Telecommunications Review found that:

- People in the region feel disadvantaged because of a lack of access to a quality connection to the internet.
- People specifically noted issues to do with service, reliability, connection, price and data limits.
- The more remote the community, the more pronounced the level of disadvantage was felt.
- Levels of disadvantage were expressed by businesses, farmers, miners, individuals, as well as whole communities.

To view the RDA Goldfields Esperance submission to the 2015 Regional Telecommunications Review, go to: <http://www.rtirc.gov.au/submissions/>

PARTNERSHIPS AND

PLANNING



South West Focus RDA SOUTH WEST

A partnership between the South West Development Commission, RDA South West and South West Chambers of Commerce and Industry produced the South West Focus Conference.

The event was attended by about 250 delegates who saw WA Regional Development Minister Terry Redman officially launch the SW Blueprint. The document, a joint effort between SWDC and RDA-SW, was at the centre of the whole two-day conference which featured more than 50 speakers and panellists. The Minister shared the stage with keynote speaker and economist Michael Pascoe who said that financial good times had left a generation of business managers with no real concept of genuine economic pain and with unrealistic expectations of double digit returns on investment. He said that we need to readjust our thinking to truly global markets and accept that there is nothing wrong with modest returns.

Delegates also heard from Telstra's chief technology officer, Hugh Bradlow, a leading future tech speaker Gihan Perera, Infrastructure Australia's Nicole Lockwood and TripAdvisor marketing executive Jessica Quinlan.

"We need to learn and accept that modest ROI is good, sustainable business."

Michael Pascoe
Finance and Economics Commentator

Overall, the take away messages were consistent: we will experience unprecedented change and nothing will ever be the same whether you are a baby boomer or a baby. They key to staying ahead is to be flexible and responsive.



The second day of the conference saw RDA-SW host a special regional development and grants workshop with Economic Development Australia chairman, Jay Hardison, grants experts and government assessors while other sessions focused on tourism and agribusiness.

Top right: RDA South West Blueprint architects and Q&A panellists (from left) RDA South West's Duncan Anderson, the South West Development Commission's Stuart Hicks with his CEO, Don Punch and Executive Officer Charles Jenkinson.

Under new management WIBB shines like a diamond

RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE

The Women Inspiring Better Business (WIBB) Breakfast was held on 27th August and

WIBB is alive and well and the next breakfast will be held on Thursday, August 27 at the Broadwater Hotel and Resorts, (formerly L'Attitude 28) on Chapman Road.

This is the second Women Inspiring Better Business (WIBB) Breakfast under the new umbrella of Regional Development Australia Mid West and Gascoyne (RDAMWG), and local business women can hear Gaby Brax talk about innovation.

Ms Brax is a lawyer and former business partner in the local success story of 'Hit Nits for 6', natural head lice treatment products. RDAMWG has taken up the baton to keep the popular networking group going after the Small Business Centre Mid West closed this year. RDAMWG Regional Development Coordinator and avid networker, Barbara Thompson, has taken on the management of the event until its future is self-determined. WIBB was the brainchild of Liz Kelly in 2010 when she worked at the Small Business Centre Mid West, and the breakfast has grown from a small group to a must-attend event, often selling out.

The first WIBB breakfast got off to a fantastic start on 30th July, when more than 70 Geraldton business women, and special guest Federal Member for Durack, Melissa Price, gathered at the Spalding Park Golf Club to hear guest speaker and TV star, Karina Day from the



popular House Rules renovation show, give a frank and amusing account of her journey through the experience.

Karina shared how, motivated by financial debt and a huge mortgage, she was prepared to get out of her comfort zone and suffer the heartache of leaving her children for six months to take part in the reality TV show.

"I was prepared to do it if it meant getting my home renovated - and the mortgage paid off to boot!" she said.

She told the audience, who already guessed as much, that the way the contestants were portrayed was not necessarily as they were in real life - and we all know how Geraldton was presented to the nation - as the wild west!

Melissa Price paid tribute to the event organiser, Ms Thompson and congratulated her as a champion.

There is a lot of innovation in Geraldton; I talk about it all the time in Parliament.

Melissa Price
Federal Member for Durack

A new initiative for WIBB is sponsorship, and Ms Price announced the group's first ever sponsor, top tier, Diamond \$5000 from Lara Sadowski of Geraldton Property Group. Ms Thompson said WIBB was grateful to Ms Sadowski for her generous sponsorship. "This is a testament to Lara's commitment and belief in us as an organisation," she said. "She is an amazing woman who has had an amazing journey of her own."

Ms Sadowski said she was pleased to be the first Diamond sponsor.

"I'm passionate about WIBB, and I like to be the first and I like to be the best!" she said. WIBB certainly thinks she's the best! Visit the WIBB Facebook page to keep up to date with news: www.facebook.com/WomenInspiringBetterBusiness

INFRASTRUCTURE



Land Council building the future RDA KIMBERLEY

On August 4th the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) celebrated the official opening of its new office complex in Broome, cementing the strong and permanent future of Kimberley Aboriginal people.

RDA Kimberley proudly provided \$4.9 million in funds for the new building through the Regional Australia Development Fund. Additional funding was sourced from the Department of Regional Development (WA) – Royalties for Regions, Indigenous Land Corporation, Lotterywest, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet - \$0.58m and Kimberley Land Council member funds.

The \$15 million state of the art building brings all of the organisation’s Broome operations under the one roof and includes office and storage space for up to 120 staff. Other features include adaptable conference facilities, meeting rooms and a specially designed archive and storage space to protect the KLC’s historical documents and library resources.

It also boasts strong environmental design elements including solar power arrays, small lighting zones to limit energy consumption and



sustainable building materials. It is the first building outside of Perth to achieve best practice environmental standards after being awarded the 4 Star Green Star rating by the Green Building Council of Australia.

The new infrastructure aims to assist Indigenous peoples by way of;

- Develop training and skill enhancement programs.
- Improve education opportunities.
- Improve literacy and numeracy.
- Improve health and housing.
- Improve regional planning and development of infrastructure.
- Development of economic and employment opportunities.
- Better and more coordinated service position.
- Development of Indigenous leadership.
- Development of Indigenous opportunity.

The Kimberley Land Council was formed in 1978 by Kimberley Aboriginal people as a political land rights organisation. Today, they have grown to become the peak Indigenous body in the Kimberley region working with Aboriginal people to secure native title recognition, conduct conservation and land management activities and develop cultural business enterprises.

The Kimberley Land Council was set-up for the benefit of all Kimberley Aboriginal people and works with about 25 native title groups to get native title recognition, conduct conservation and land management activities, create cultural business enterprises and improve socioeconomic circumstances.

The KLC are one of the biggest employers in the Kimberley, employing about 130 staff across the divisions of native title, legal, land and sea management, corporate services and finance. The KLC have offices in Broome, Kununurra and Derby as well as smaller satellite stations in remote communities that act as a base for the Kimberley Ranger Network teams.

Centre left: RDA Kimberley The official opening of the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) building by Melissa Price MP representing the Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss
Top: RDA Kimberley Traditional dancers at the official opening of the new KLC Building, Broome
Bottom left: RDA Kimberley The new Kimberley Land Council building

New signs of and for spectacular pathways to the outback

RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE

At a business breakfast in the historic town of Cue earlier in the year, RDA Mid West and Gascoyne Regional Development Officer, Barbara Thompson, advised Shire of Cue business operators to consider leveraging off other events to raise their profile and boost business. They took her advice and a very successful Cue Tourism Sundowner was held on the eve of Cue Parliament in May. It was also a good opportunity for businesses from Mt Magnet and Yalgoo to network with local government representatives in town for Cue Parliament.

The highlight of the tourism sundowner – hosted by RDAMWG in conjunction with Cue Community Resource Centre and local businesses – was the presentation of a large cheque to the Chair of Gascoyne Murchison Tourism Inc., Frances Jones.

WA Liberal Senator Dean Smith proudly presented \$20,000 on behalf of RDAMWG for signage upgrades and renewal on the Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways, a popular tourist trail. Preliminary findings in the RDAMWG Recreational Vehicle Survey, to be released later this year, identified the need for the signage upgrade.

“RDAMWG recognised the signage upgrade as a major priority in the region and provided the \$20,000 funding towards the project,” said RDAMWG Executive Officer, Alan Bradley. “We

were pleased Senator Smith was available to do the honours of presenting it.”

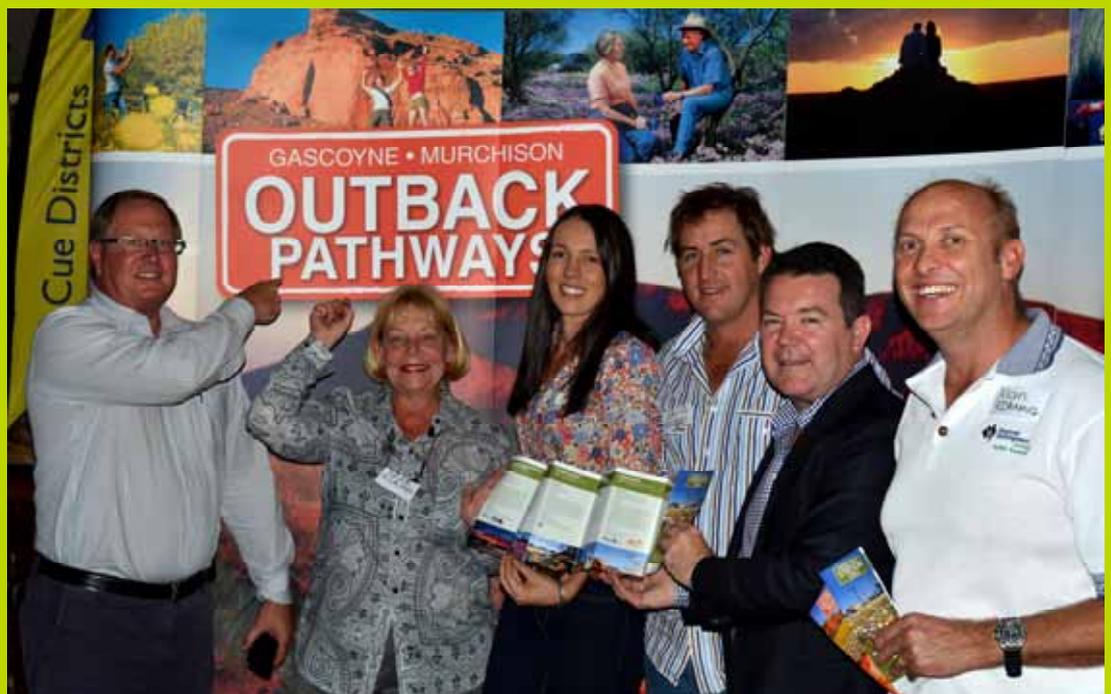
The Cue Tourism Sundowner attracted tour operators and local Shire representatives to hear from Ms Jones - who owns Wooleen Station and is a Station Stays operator - about what was happening in their region. Ms Jones, working in collaboration with Golden Outback’s CEO, Jac Eerbeek and the Mid West Development Commission’s Brendin Flanigan, identified the need to upgrade – and in some cases replace – signage promoting the Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways.

The popular Miners Pathway, Wool Wagon Pathway and Kingsford Smith Mail Run that make up the Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways, offer unique self-drive trails in some of WA’s most spectacular landscape, steeped in history about its rugged past. However, much of the signage has deteriorated over time because of bushfires or severe weather conditions.

Ms Thompson said good signage is essential. “When tourists are travelling in regional areas away from services or contact, it is critical to have good, clear signage in place,” she said.

“The new upgraded signage will ensure these unique pathways are travelled and enjoyed and not bypassed any longer.

“RDA is proud and pleased to be able to support this project,” said Mr Bradley.



Sheedy paints Geraldton red & black RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE

Network Anonymous Group (NAG), an initiative of Regional Development Australia Mid West Gascoyne (RDAMWG), kicked some big goals with its first event, bringing famous Essendon stalwart Kevin Sheedy, and his wife Geraldine, to Geraldton for a week to showcase what the region has to offer.

They visited last month and Sheedy was impressed. He liked the things that have caused controversy in the fair city, like the 'Rubiks Cube' toilets: "they are a smart idea". And the Eighth St Sporting Complex: "it's very good, I've not seen something like this anywhere else."

RDAMWG Regional Development Coordinator, Barbara Thompson, said Network Anonymous Group is a unique promotional and marketing model, supported by sponsors to bring a celebrity or high profile person to Geraldton with the expectation they will in return, spruik the City's attractions.

"The expectation is that they will have a great time, return home and tell everyone how great Geraldton is," she said.

Tickets for the motivational breakfast sold out and more than 170 people attended to hear how Sheedy had challenged the norm in football, thinking outside the goal square to raise money and advance young footballers.



Sheedy met Mid West Ports CEO, Peter Klein, and was fascinated by and raved about his tour of the port. He toured the Geraldton Fishermen's Cooperative and flew over the Abrolhos Islands; tried to give the inside of St Francis Xavier Cathedral a new paint job in Essendon colours (much to the horror of Bishop Justin Bianchini); and played handball with the Bishop at the top of the cathedral.

He also visited HMAS Sydney II Memorial, visited a pearl gallery and took a trip to Kalbarri and appeared at six functions, including a breakfast, to motivate and inspire the locals. Sheedy also attended a local footy training session.

At the breakfast he gave his ideas on how Geraldton could promote itself better, one of the suggestions was to invest in more tourism development around shipwrecks. Sheedy said Geraldton's strength is in its people. "The people are so friendly," he said.

He said he would look at setting up packages for Essendon fans to visit Geraldton: "Geraldton has a great opportunity to attract Eastern States visitors."

NAG is looking for its next high profile personality to give Geraldton another free kick.

Centre: RDA Mid West Gascoyne Bishop Justin Bianchini and AFL legend, Kevin Sheedy, pictured in St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Geraldton

Making music to address industry challenges

RDA PEEL

Research for the Peel Regional Arts and Culture Strategy begun in 2014 with a desktop analysis of existing strategies which saw the realisation that the music industry was consistently absent. In response to this RDA Peel gathered a number of local musicians over a couple of beers to discuss the state of the music industry in the Peel Region.

Discussion focused on positive aspects, areas requiring improvement, challenges and their possible solutions, and most importantly the needs of the local industry. RDA Peel were

pleased to discover the Region has a family friendly attitude towards music events and that the prominent local booking agent, Bleeding Ear Music, is a strong promoter of local amateur musicians, helping many young artists break into the local scene. Dave Feenstra, owner of Bleeding Ear Music, commented that more could be done to attract young people into the music industry and support them through their schooling years in an effort to maintain young talent in the region.

Interestingly, discussions around the needs and required improvements focused on the issues around local venues. Musicians spoke of a lack of respect for their original pieces as well as a lack of respect in terms of the value of music at venues and events. They explained how local venues, particularly pubs and restaurants, were only interested in musicians covering popular songs as background music and very little interest was shown in allowing musicians to showcase their original work or hosting events focused on music. Comments were also made regarding the lack of local content at major regional events, reinforcing the lack of respect venues and curators hold for local musicians.

As the strategy was being written, work began simultaneously to improve the condition of venue space within the Peel Region. RDA Peel have organised and seen through the installation of a small stage within Make Place in Mandurah's CBD to provide an alternative performance space for musicians and other performance-based artists. The RDA Peel – Make Place Stage is designed to be highly accessible for artists and provide an intimate and flexible space that encourages the development of local talent. Since its installation in June 2015 the stage has already inspired many musicians, public speakers and theatre-enthusiasts and we look forward to supporting these diverse aspirations.

RDA Peel has also partnered with local musicians and businesses to develop:

- Song Writing Workshops to assist local musicians produce original compositions
- The "Musical Fruit" Expo which will showcase local musicians and their original works during December 2015
- The "Fruit of the Peel" compilation CD showcasing original music from across the region and presented using local artwork.



Bottom left: RDA Peel Supporting The Peel's Music Industry



Future Landings comes to Kalgoorlie RDA GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

Ausdance WA has commissioned a community dance production called Silent Volumes, as part of their Future Landings program. Kalgoorlie-Boulder has embraced the challenge of winning over unlikely dance participants to form the cast of this large-scale dance production.

Ausdance WA producer Jo Smith believes that the ability of regionally-based artists to produce and deliver creative and skilled contemporary performances in their communities is often overlooked and hampered by lack of time, money and skills support. Jo said that the Future Landings project and the Kalgoorlie-Boulder production of Silent Volumes will aim to remove these

constraints and give regional dance artists the opportunity to work in their profession.

Silent Volumes will be choreographed by local dancer, choreographer and producer - Pare Randall. Pare has extensive experience in community dance projects and has performed in the 2012 Strut-a-thon Dance Marathon in Perth, was artist in resident at Fiji's Vou Dance Company, and is also a research artist for the online dance initiative Virtual Dust.

Pare will work with local people in a series of developmental workshops to weave together sound, dance and art into a final performance. Pare says the only qualification for being part of the production is enthusiasm and a preparedness to be taken outside your comfort zone. She believes that dance is an exciting basis for community-building which can tell relevant stories to audiences from urban to rural settings.

Kalgoorlie-Boulder will stage Silent Volumes in late Spring this year. The production, will involve about 20 local people, who will either perform or be involved in the production of the final full length dance show.

RDA Goldfields Esperance has been delighted to offer in-kind support to the Future Landings Project through the provision of an office for Owen Hinton, the Project Coordinator and Production Manager.



Bottom: RDA Goldfields Esperance Pare Randall dancing up a storm in the Goldfields
Top left: RDA Goldfields Esperance Weaving a rainbow serpent (photo credit: Regional Arts Australia)

ARTS AND CULTURE

Top: RDA South West Creative Corner Chair, Noah Shilkin and RDA-South West Chair Duncan Anderson shake on the deal that sees RDA-SW underwrite creative industries development. Bottom right (story opposite): RDA Pilbara Launch of the RCSP for the Pilbara



Getting creative RDA SOUTH WEST

RDA-SW has backed the region's creative industries sector with seed funding for a Creative Hub which has hit the ground running.

Acting as a focal point for film, music, digital media and software development, WA's 'Creative Corner' builds on existing strengths and is integrated into key activities such as the Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association merger, CinéfestOz, China trade and professional marketing services.

In the latest move, the Creative Corner has launched an innovation space and worked with the SW institute of Technology which is starting creative short courses at the Margaret River Education Campus in a move that will support the development of the sector. The Creative Corner will use the campus space as its HQ and is inviting community and businesses to collaborate and work within the space. The space will be set up as an incubator/innovation space, a shared office space, maker studio, as well as sound/music recording and production studios.

Developing a collaborative network in the South West is one of the the Creative Corner's goals, which includes working with other spaces such as Maker & Co (Bunbury), Mixtape

Creative (Margaret River), The Competition (Dunsborough) and others on the drawing board.

This comes in the wake of Bunbury-based Vue Group's collaborative success at Cannes. Chinese film-maker Jia Zhangke's drama, Mountains May Depart was given a standing ovation of more than 15 minutes and made the cut as one of the top three films. It was a proud moment as Vue Group were involved and about 20 minutes was shot in Bunbury. RDA-SW chairman Duncan Anderson said: "The region's Creative industries are worth about \$350m per year and involve brilliant people.

"We want to see the South west become the go-to region for this work. We need to connect everyone and fill in the gaps. The people here are exceptional and the potential is huge."



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

Connecting the dots for Childcare in the Wheatbelt

RDA WHEATBELT

It's official! All of the Regional Children's Services Plans across the state have now been completed for each of the Regional Development Commission areas and are available on regional websites.

Regional Development Officers are now working on the implementation phase and will travel to Perth in September to workshop their learnings and help inform the State plan. The Wheatbelt plan was launched at RDA's Early Childhood Education and Care Forum held in York on May 8th. Local MP the Hon Mia Davies MLA officiated on behalf of the Honourable Minister Tony Simpson, Local Government; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; Youth. The Forum combined the launch with a workshop on service models. Guest speaker Ros Cornish, CEO of Lady Gowrie Tasmania and National President of Early Childhood Australia presented and proved helpful in considering models that can support small Wheatbelt services in the future.

In June, RDA Wheatbelt collaborated with the long-term national fundraising radio campaign "Give me 5 for Kids" because the Wheatbelt doesn't just grow great food crops but also great kids. How does this happen? This year RDA Wheatbelt collaborated with local stations by sharing some key messages throughout the month. The important message is that local communities understand that Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC- Childcare) is much more than babysitting these days. The sector supports economic development and is a great career option that once qualified, allows professionals to work across Australia.

Guests were interviewed from across the region and state and included discussions on latest research findings from the Telethon Institute and Curtin University. Practical messages were shared about school readiness and who, how and what makes a local service into an award winning one. The CEOs of Playgroup WA and Nature Play WA explained why playing is important children's work! You can hear the inspiring 4 minute interviews, read about the ECEC Forum and download the Wheatbelt Regional Children's Services Plan from the RDA Website.

It's also been the season for amazing conferences with Great Southern hosting a very successful "Building Capacity – Growing our children together" over two days in July 20th in Albany supported by RDA Great Southern. In August, Early Years professionals also travelled from across the state to attend Child Australia's WA One Voyage. Presentations and papers for both are available electronically.

Final Implementation reports for the RCSP are due for submission on October 31st 2015.

Pilbara Regional Children's Services Plan Launch

RDA PILBARA

Fiona White-Hartig, Chair and Diane Pentz, CEO of RDA Pilbara successfully launched the Pilbara Regional Children's Services Plan (RCSP) and Implementation Plan during the month of July, 2015.

The first launch took place in Karratha, 17th July 2015 and was well attended by approximately 35 local organisations. Some of these organisations included local Early Years educators and providers such as Act Belong Commit, City of Karratha, IF Foundation, LINK, Ngala, Pilbara Institute and Rio Tinto representatives.

The second launch took place in Port Hedland on Tuesday, 21st July 2015. The launch was highlighted by the attendance of Minister Tony Simpson, Minister for Local Government; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering, and Youth who spoke of his endorsement of support for implementation of this important Plan across the Pilbara. The event was attended by local Early Years educators and providers from South and Port Hedland, such as Town of Port Hedland, Port Hedland Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation, Indigenous Affairs Group from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Child Australia, EPIC, World Vision, and YMCA WA.

Implementation of the various strategies of the Pilbara Regional Children's Services Plan has now commenced, and will be concluded by the end of April 2016.



Broadband for the Bush RDA NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Fourth Broadband for the Bush Forum was held over two days in Darwin on the 15th and 16th of July at the Charles Darwin waterfront campus. This year's Forum, *Unlocking the (Digital) Potential of the Bush*, emphasised collaboration and innovation and the potential of communications to enable economic and social development.

More than 150 delegates, including influential decision makers and community end-users, technical experts and representatives from senior Industry, Australian Government, NBN Co and academic institutions, explored practical solutions that promote digital inclusion using both fixed and mobile technologies, as well as better and innovative infrastructure in the bush.



The Forum called for:

- Further extensions to mobile coverage in remote areas through black-spot remediation programs.
- Investigation of alternate last-mile delivery options, including community Wi-Fi.
- Investigation of excising essential services such as education, healthcare and government services from data limits.
- More targeted programs are needed to build confidence and awareness of relevant digital content.
- Acceleration of the uptake of Tele-Health and Tele-Care as mainstream practice.

A more detailed Communique from the Forum will be available on the Broadband for the Bush website soon
www.broadbandforthebush.com.au



iSeed funding plants seeds of digital learning and innovation RDA WHEATBELT

The need for digital learning and development in the Wheatbelt was further reinforced with the outstanding response to the recent iSeed Funding. RDA Wheatbelt in conjunction with Heartlands WA offered 10 x \$500 grants to financially support workshops, events or projects that helps plant seeds of digital learning and innovation in Wheatbelt communities.

Almost double the amount of applications as grants available were received and the Wheatbelt Digital Action Plan Implementation Committee had a difficult task to select the ten most worthy applicants.

Four of the ten digital workshops, events or projects have already been hosted in communities across the Wheatbelt with the balance being planned for the remainder of the year.

#HackTheOutback RDA NETWORK

GovHack is a Government-sponsored marathon 46-hour event where many public bodies across Australia open up their data sets for teams to 'hack' and make better or more useful data-sets. The point of GovHack is to help turn the wealth of information held by government departments into applications of genuine use to the public, researchers or industry. This year's GovHack Perth event was launched by Minister Bill Marmion MLA and welcomed a record number of 130 participants. GovHack Perth offered 32 local prizes from 17 sponsors for a total prize pool of \$35,000.

Five of the nine WA RDA Networks collaborated to sponsor two 'connecting regionally prizes' in conjunction with sponsoring regionally-themed canapés at the Friday night launch. Whilst the WA RDA collaborative were unable to form a sponsored team, many of the WA entries featured regional data and have regional applicability.

As a significant sponsor and financial contributor to the event, the WA RDA collaborative were invited to form part of the judging panel at the awards ceremony on the Sunday evening. RDA Wheatbelt Project Officer, Elizabeth Brennan, and RDA Goldfields Esperance Committee Member, Ben Fox, attended the whole event with Ben representing the WA RDA collaborative on the judging panel together with four other judges. Ben brought a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the judging panel, assisted in the development of a judging matrix and stepped in at the last minute to act as Master of Ceremonies.

The RDA Connecting Regionally prize winner was the ValYou team, which developed an application analysing how land values change when what people value changes. The runner-up was the #oncountry team, which developed a digital storytelling platform that enables both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal audiences to link data sets and stories about art, history, music and heritage based on their location. Links to the RDA Connecting Regionally winning and runner-up hacks can be found at: hackerspace.govhack.org/content/valyou hackerspace.govhack.org/content/oncountry



Digital Trends for Small Business RDA GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

According to a report by a national marketing services company, only 27 percent of small-medium business enterprises in WA are taking advantage of social media. Regional WA has a slightly higher uptake with 31 percent of businesses using one of the social media platforms.

In order to improve local business knowledge and to provide direction on how to use the various platforms available, RDA Goldfields Esperance conducted the *Digital Trends for Small Business* workshop in Kalgoorlie on Thursday 18th June. The workshop provided advice and information to small and medium businesses about the ever-changing digital marketplace and gave small business owners an opportunity to gain ideas on how to maximise profits and run their business more effectively using new technologies.

Three local experts provided the crowded room of participants with information about new business management technology, product and service branding, and how to have an effective online presence. Each of the workshop participants took home information about:

- the pro's and con's of cloud computing, self managed websites and basic eCommerce
- how to ensure a strong brand and branding consistency, and
- how to develop an effective online presence and how to analyse the effectiveness of social network marketing strategies.

Following this well-attended workshop, seven businesses made enquiries about putting their records, files and data on the cloud, and three other businesses sought further information about eCommerce software to improve their financial processing and record keeping.

Top right: RDA Goldfields Esperance Digital Trends for Small Business workshop

REGIONAL SNAPSHOTS

06: RDA Kimberley Ship docked in Broome

07: RDA Northern Territory Flying over Uluru (Photo: Elizabeth Brennan)

01: RDA Goldfields Esperance Digital Trends for Small Business (Story page 2)

02: RDA Mid West Gascoyne Red-tailed Black Cockatoo at Rainbow Jungle, Kalbarri (Photo: Elizabeth Brennan)

03: RDA Wheatbelt National Ballooning Championships in Northam (Photo: Elizabeth Brennan)

04: RDA Mid West Gascoyne Dawn on the Abrolhos Islands

05: Mid West Gascoyne Red Bluff Lookout at Kalbarri (Photo: Elizabeth Brennan)



DEVELOPING NORTHERN AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE



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