

peel

PROGRESSIVE | PROSPEROUS | DYNAMIC

Feature focus:
**Food & Agriculture;
the people, the product
and the opportunities for
the region**

**Living in the Peel,
what makes
it so unique?**

**Peel Workforce
Development Plan 2015-18**
responding to the changing
labour environment

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Cover image courtesy of Steve Brooks.



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Cr Donald Pember

Ms Maree Gooch

Prof Andrew Taggart

Mr John Erren

Peel Development Commission is a statutory authority established in 1993 by the Western Australian State Government under the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*. The Commission is one of nine regional development commissions across the State, each governed by the same legislation.

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WELCOME

Chairman's welcome

Welcome to the first edition of *Peel* magazine.

As we have prepared for this inaugural edition, the Peel Development Commission continues to balance everyday challenges with the delivery of a significant amount of progress in our drive to be recognised as a progressive, prosperous and dynamic region.

The Peel is on the brink of exciting change. Over the next three decades, it will welcome a dramatic wave of people attracted by our abundant resources, picturesque environment and enviable lifestyle.

Technological innovation and design, economic diversity and a highly skilled and flexible workforce will be critical drivers of the Peel's success. These will deliver valuable resources to attract business and industry, and improved benefits and services across the community.

Traditional agriculture will continue to develop but greater attention will be paid to intensive, sustainable food production using innovative new technologies and evidence based research. This will cement the Peel as an active supplier of both produce and intellectual property to local, national and international markets.



We want to be recognised as a **progressive, prosperous and dynamic** region.

These ambitions will be enabled by investment and driven by far-sighted and innovative approaches to public infrastructure, particularly breakthrough energy generation and water supply schemes. This will ensure continuity of supply while reducing pressure on the Peel's world-class natural assets. The Peel Peri-urban Strategic Economic and Environmental Initiative (PSEEI) is just one of the Peel legacy projects that are underway (see page 5 for further detail).

We also call for a dramatic uplift in education and training to ensure the people of the Peel can capitalise on the opportunities and prosperity that growth can bring. In an area challenged by higher-than-average unemployment and significant pockets of social disadvantage, this approach promises to deliver inter-generational benefits, lifting family aspirations and capacity, and improving the ability of workers to flex and grow to suit changing industry and economic demand.

Paul Fitzpatrick

Chairman
Peel Development Commission



> Did you know?

The Peel Development Commission's website hosts a great amount of content and publications regarding the Commission, its activities and the wider region.

Visit www.peel.wa.gov.au





For the Peel it's worth noting the changes in the services environment, in particular, services gaining access to key sectors of the Chinese market.

The service sector is worth over \$7.5 billion and the agreement with China is one of the best with any country.

Specifically, it includes new or vastly improved access to markets for sectors such as Australian banks, insurers, securities and futures companies, law firms, professional education services, financial services, education, health, aged care, manufacturing, construction and telecommunications.

For many of these new sectors Australia has secured a Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) clause. This means that if any other Free Trade Agreement with any other country that agrees to improved conditions above Australia, then Australia automatically gains access to those new conditions. This includes areas such as education, tourism, construction, engineering and environmental services.

For investors, improvements have been made in both countries. Changes to the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) screening thresholds here in Australia will continue to see increasing Chinese investment. Current investment sits at \$65 billion and an increasing number of Australian businesses will be opening and developing within China as barriers to trade and regulations continue to see industries like banking and wealth management seeing considerable growth.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information on ChAFTA we would encourage you to visit the Austrade website on www.austrade.gov.au or at the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website www.dfat.gov.au/fta/chافتا

WORDS Adam Denniss, Peel Development Commission

IMAGE Jeff Atkinson

In early June of 2015 Australia and China announced the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA).

In a long awaited commitment to the increasing partnership between the two countries, this means that over 65% of Australia's global trade is now covered by Free Trade Agreements.

China is Australia's largest trading partner buying almost a third of all of the country's exports valued at close to \$108 billion and is our top overseas market for agriculture, resources and services. Combined with China's increased investment of almost \$65 billion in 2014, the partnership is an important one for both countries and central to the future prosperity of both.

What's in it for the Peel?

The headline grabber from the agreement has to be that over 85% of goods and services exported into China will enter duty free when the ChAFTA comes into force at the end of this year. Within five years it will rise to 95%.

Some significant industry wins have occurred that producers and manufacturers in the Peel should be aware of:

- **Dairy:** up to 20% of the tariff eliminated within 4-11 years
- **Beef:** up to 25% of the tariff eliminated over 9 years
- **Wine:** up to 20% of the tariff eliminated over 4 years

With China buying more Australian agricultural produce than any other country in a market worth \$9 billion, these are significant tariff reductions that should allow the countries' producers to be more competitive with countries like New Zealand, Canada and the United States. In addition, there are either elimination of all tariffs or rapid reduction on barley, sorghum, seafood, sheep meat, pork and a variety of horticultural products.

In addition to the agriculture sector, significant reduction in tariffs from the resources, energy and manufacturing industries come into force. Combined, these industries are worth over \$90 billion and by the time the full agreement is in place over the next 4 years, 99.9% of Australian exports from these industries will enjoy duty free entry into China.

Peel Peri-urban Strategic Economic and Environmental Initiative

underway

WORDS Peel Development Commission

The Government of Western Australia has identified a number of strategically vital programs in order to meet the present-day challenges facing the state, and to plan for its future growth.

The outcomes of these programs will endeavour to:

- Support the diversification of the State's economy away from an overreliance on cyclical commodity exports;
- Support the improvement of the State's competitiveness through increases in productivity and local value-add activities;
- Improve the State's future fiscal sustainability by more efficiently utilising existing resources (including infrastructure and waste products);
- Improve the performance of Perth and Peel's urban systems to ensure that significant population growth can be supported whilst maintaining a high standard of living; and
- Improve the natural capital of critical State natural assets.

The Importance of the Peel legacy projects

The Peel region has an immensely important role to play in supporting and achieving each of these outcomes, with the Peel Development Commission identifying a collective of major transformational projects that will not only drastically reshape the economic landscape of the region but also seek to increase its significance and appeal for future corporate sector investors.

In this regard the Peel region is pursuing a major initiative known as the Peel Peri-Urban Strategic Economic and Environmental Initiative (PSEEI) which with the aid of the WA Government and funding through this year's Royalties for Regions program, will continue to develop and ensure the Peel region is counted amongst the most progressive and prosperous in the country.

The PSEEI, in conjunction with other initiatives outlined in the Peel Regional Investment Blueprint; a guiding document describing how the region will grow from now until 2050, will focus on broadening and diversifying the commercial and business sectors of the region and increasing economic expansion, market base and international competitiveness of the Peel's agribusiness, while at the same time ensuring the protection of its majestic and unique natural environment.

The first stage of the PSEEI is formed through the combination of three individual, yet interrelated projects, each with its own distinct vision for the future (see Figure 1).

The three projects are:

PROJECT ONE: Peel Business Park Nambelup

The vision for the Peel Business Park Nambelup is to provide development-ready land to meet the service industrial needs of the nearby resident population and for development of an agglomeration of strategic industries associated with the Peel Food Zone, existing agricultural land uses nearby, and other strategic industries for which a comparative advantage exists or emerges.

PROJECT TWO: Peel Water Initiative

The vision of the Peel Integrated Water Initiative (PIWI) is to collect and treat waste-water and stormwater from the Peel Business Park Nambelup and other sources such as drains for use for industrial and agricultural purposes, facilitating improved economic, social and environmental outcomes for the Nambelup sub-catchment.

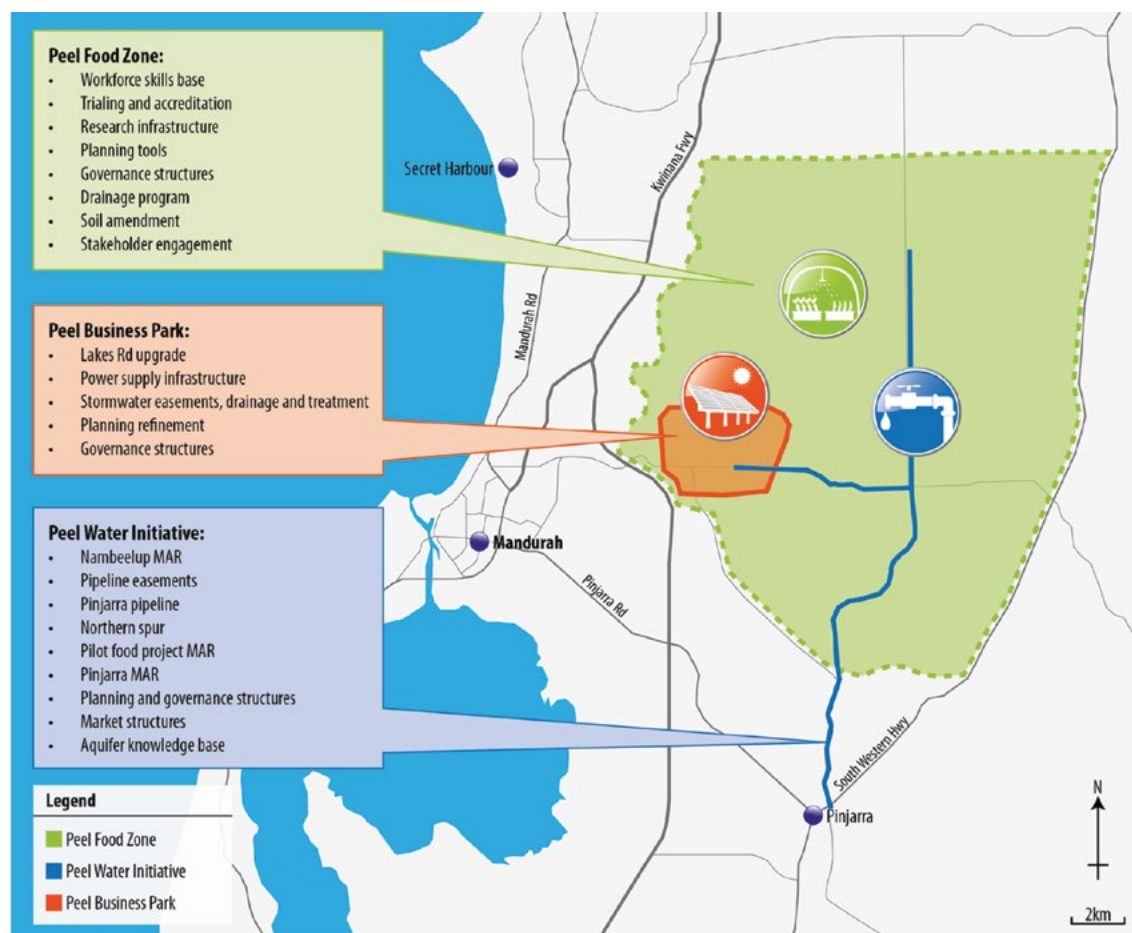


Figure 1 PSEEL projects map
 Source: Pracsys 2015

PROJECT THREE: Peel Food Zone

The vision for the Peel Food Zone is to form an integral component of transformative change in the Peel region through more efficiently and effectively using the natural assets of the land for intensive food production, for domestic and export purposes, and facilitating the development of associated industries nearby in the Peel Business Park Nambelup.

This project has the potential to develop a world-class research hub and food production zone and play a significant role in supporting the State's strategic objectives.

The Peel Food Zone will be suitable for investment in high-value food production, and development of innovative energy and environmental solutions. In addition, there is opportunity to produce value-added food products at the nearby PBP, boosting productivity of the Peel region and supporting the development of export-oriented industries that meet market needs over the next century.

Stage 1 of PSEEL will serve as a catalyst for the transformation of the Peel region as a whole, but especially in the industrial and food-related sector, as well as enhancing the region's strategic significance with regard to its overall economic output, productivity, employment and exports.

With financial input from both government and private sector, both foreign and domestic, the PSEEL will assist in meeting the strategic imperatives necessary to ensure the continued development and success of Western Australia by:

- Supporting the diversification of the State's economy away from an overreliance on cyclical commodity exports through driving and supporting genuine

export-oriented (strategic) activity development across a range of targeted industries in the Peel region, which would not naturally occur otherwise.

- Supporting the improvement of the State's competitiveness through increases in productivity and local value-add activities by developing a genuine competitive advantage in a range of targeted industries and providing suitable land proximate to industry supply chains and skilled labour, a reliable source of water for the PFZ and by more efficiently and effectively using rural land within the Nambeelup locality for more intensive agricultural production.
- Improving the State's future fiscal sustainability by more efficiently utilising existing resources (including infrastructure and waste products), by developing land currently used for low-intensity rural uses for high-intensity industrial uses, and through providing supply of waste and alternative water for a district-wide integrated water scheme, and the potential for additional waste product recycling such as for biogas production.
- Improving the performance of Perth and Peel's urban systems to ensure that significant population growth can be supported whilst maintaining a high standard of living through providing a regionally significant quantity of new strategic (not population-driven) jobs in the Peel region.
- Improving the natural capital of critical State natural assets through improving the water quality of runoff from the Nambeelup sub-catchment into the Peel estuary.

Moving forward

Going into the future the following key steps are envisaged for the PSEEI to be successful:

Phase 1: Project ignition

- Prepare the business cases to finance the technical studies, detailed design and capital for infrastructure. This is currently being undertaken.
- Undertake necessary technical studies.
- Undertake detailed design and costing of key infrastructure.

Phase 2: Develop key infrastructure


- Develop key infrastructure required for the land to be 'development ready' and ensure anchor tenants can be accommodated at an early stage.

Phase 3: Develop catalytic projects

- Assist and support the development of catalytic projects required to ensure strong, secure strategic industry development within PSEEI.

Phase 4: Support on-going transformational change

- Provide a suitable governance structure and support from key government agencies and private sector to ensure on-going transformational change in the Region is supported.

The PSEEI projects represent a significant opportunity for the State of Western Australia to invest in a catalytic program for change that aligns strongly with its strategic aspirations. As with all initiatives of this type, there are significant uncertainties that will need to be managed for the full potential of the bundle of projects to be realised. 

MORE INFORMATION

This article was compiled from a report prepared for the Peel Development Commission by Pracsys.

To download the summary paper in full visit www.peel.wa.gov.au or call (08) 9535 0000.

The Vision

"The Peri-urban Strategic Economic and Environmental Initiative will catalyse multi-sector investment in strategic industrial and food-related industries. These investments will enhance the region's overall economic output, productivity, employment and exports whilst improving the overall natural capital base of the Peel Harvey catchment. Comprising of a business park, food zone and innovative water solutions, this strategy presents the highest value opportunity to transform the Peel and create an environment conducive to living, working and investing in 21st century Western Australia."

Strategic Opportunity

The peri-urban hinterland of south west Western Australia represents a largely untapped resource for the State to develop a long-term comparative advantage built on sustainable 21st century industry. This stretch of land, from Mundijong to Nannup, has been traditionally home to an extensive range of rural agricultural and resource-related industries and activities however significant investment now needs to occur to realise the potential of this land, and its adjacent communities in a manner that enhances the natural capital of the Peel and South-West regions.

Peel Development Commission

Staff



Norman Baker
Acting Chief Executive Officer

With over 20 years of management & leadership experience, Norman brings to the Peel Development Commission a breadth of knowledge, having worked in both the public and private sector, including four years abroad in the United Arab Emirates. During this time, Norman has utilised his leadership, strategic planning and managerial skills to consistently increase revenues, reduce costs, and drive customer satisfaction.



Adam Dennis
Director – Economic & Regional Development

Adam is currently Director Economic and Regional Development, a role which includes identifying the necessary infrastructure and labour market requirements,

to support industry and business in order to develop and broaden the economic base of the Peel region.

Prior to this, Adam has had an impressive career, including Trade Commissioner to the Pacific; numerous boards, business councils and committees as Trustee, Member, and Deputy CEO; State Manager (Perth, WA), National Manager of the Australian Trade Commission and long sitting manager and joint owner of company Diving Ventures Pty Ltd.



Sue Leonard
Director – Industry, Skills & Regional Capability

Sue is the Director Industry, Skills and Regional Capability and joined the Commission in March 2014 after spending 11 years in the education and training sector. Sue has spent the majority of her 31 years in WA in regional communities of the Pilbara, Kimberley, Mid West/Gascoyne and South West.

Sue commenced her career as a Teacher Linguist and was fortunate to spend the first 17 years either working

in or with Aboriginal communities. Sue is enjoying working with Peel communities to unlock investment opportunities that will grow the economy and create jobs.



David Arkwright
Principal Officer – Economic & Regional Development

David has 40 years of experience in planning and development, across a variety of economic sectors in south and Southern Africa, and Australia.

David has worked extensively with governments, business and communities in the development of social, environmental and economic programs and projects. David has also worked directly with many of the worlds' multi-lateral development agencies in the delivery of development.



Kelvin Barr
Principal Officer – Economic & Regional Development

Kelvin has a strong and varied background in regional development, public administration, organisational and financial management and grants management at the Government and non-government level. He commenced with the Commission in August 2014. His regional development experience was augmented through long term work as Deputy Director of the Kimberley Development Commission.



Victor Smith
Manager of Corporate Services

Victor is the Manager Corporate Services for the Commission. He is a qualified accountant and joined the Commission in March 2015 after working in a similar

capacity at the Shire of Nannup. Prior to coming to Australia in 2011, Victor worked in the UK as a Chief Financial Officer in the local government sector.



Kristie Tonkin
Principal Officer – Industry, Skills & Regional Capability

Kristie has recently joined the Peel Development Commission in the role of Principal Consultant Industry, Skills and Regional Capability. She is excited to bring her skills in strategic planning, quality management, governance and community development to a role which will bring benefits to her local community into the future.



Simone Hutton
Grants Officer

Having occupied a number of positions within the Peel Development Commission, Simone is the current grants and projects officer, working closely with Kelvin in the administering of funding for a range of projects across the Peel

region. In addition to this she has previously owned and operated her own local photography business.



Louise Hodges
Executive Officer

Louise joined the Commission in January 2015 as Executive Officer to the CEO and Chairman. She has a strong administrative background, previously working at the Department of Health for 7 years as well as various private companies, including the legal industry and Janet Holmes a Court's group of companies, Heytesbury Pty Ltd.



Kathleen Butler
Finance & Administration Officer

Kathleen, Finance & Administration Officer, a position shared with Larissa Stacy and works closely with Vic Smith, Manager Corporate Services. Kathleen has over twenty years of administrative experience working in private, local government and the health industry and has worked in both the UK and New Zealand.



Larissa Stacy
Finance & Administration Officer

Larissa Stacy, Finance & Administration Officer of the Peel Development Commission job shares with Kathleen Butler and works closely with Vic Smith, Manager Corporate Services.



Robert Keenan
Research & Administration Officer

Robert is the current research and administration officer for the Peel Development Commission, a position he has occupied since joining the organisation in June 2013. In addition to his duties with the Commission, Robert also holds a sessional academic position with Curtin University.



Maureen Barr
Administration Officer

Recently joining the Commission, Maureen brings many years of experience having worked in State and Commonwealth Government Agencies since 1975. Maureen and her family recently moved back to Perth to settle in the Peel region after 25 years living in Broome.



Shaniatwain Cooyou

Shania has been with the commission since March 2014 on a School Based Traineeship until the completion of her Year 12 studies in 2015. Shania undertakes a variety of activities for the Commission including customer service, events and procurement.

Upon completion of her Traineeship she will be awarded a Certificate II in Government and hopes to continue her service in the Government following this.

Staff Profile **Q&A**

WORDS & IMAGES Kelvin Barr & Simone Hutton

All work environments have a team of staff working tirelessly to bring projects and outcomes to life. In this issue, the Peel Development Commission introduces two staff members that play an integral part in the organisation.



Introducing Kelvin Barr, Principal Officer, Economic and Regional Development

Q Tell us a bit about your role at the Peel Development Commission

My role at the Commission is wide and varied, however one of the major activities over the last 6 months has been within the grants area, which includes the Community Chest Fund and the Regional Grants Scheme. Coupled with this work is activity around major project funding from Concept Development, Business Case Development and submission of those documents to major funding opportunities that exist through the Royalties for Regions' Southern Investment Initiative and Blueprint Initiative Scheme. These grant related and project development activities are intense and important work as the results will have an impact upon the Peel region's economy and community outcomes.

Q What brought you to the Peel region for work?

After living and working in Broome for the last 25 years, my relocation to the south was always going to result in living in the Peel, and in particular Mandurah. My parents live here as do a number of friends. The lifestyle is great with the proximity to the ocean, rivers and estuary, regional towns, which I am gradually visiting, shopping and entertainment. We are just a train ride or short drive, by Kimberley standards, to Perth city and the metro area. At the end of the day or visit, we can leave that behind, including the traffic and hassles, and return to our home and lifestyle.

Q How do you like to spend your spare time?

Besides doing the regular 'around the house' type activities such as gardening, projects and maintenance, I am a self-confessed golf tragic. I really enjoy my once a week foray at the Mandurah Country Club into the frustrating yet rewarding area of belting that little white ball around on the fairway or regularly visiting those bunkers or getting back to nature with the trees — chasing a good score while meeting fellow tragics. Spending time with family and friends is also a very high priority on my 'relaxation agenda' which I take the opportunity to follow up on as much as possible between work and other commitments.

Q In your opinion, what makes the Peel region so unique?

The Peel is growing so quickly that opportunities exist everywhere to expand the economy to provide jobs, financial stability and sustainability. At the same time, the maintenance of environmental values and retaining that small town and region feel will keep our region in the 'unique category'.

The other unique things that I've noticed in the Peel is the vastly different landscape. Rivers, lakes, estuaries, ocean, mountain ranges, coastal plains, environmental hotspots, Ramsar wetlands to reference just a few. Then there's the range of quality services from health to education and the variation in industry from mining to tourism to construction to agriculture to retail.

Q What is your favourite Peel discovery?

Discovering there are so many things to do and enjoy in this small region. From skippering a houseboat with a group of friends across the estuary and up the Murray river and enjoying the scenery and wildlife, to walking or bike riding around the estuary and along ocean pathways, to sitting in a café on Mandurah Terrace or going to events in local towns. I have discovered fantastic sunsets, great weather and a friendly environment.



Introducing Simone Hutton, Grants Officer

Q Tell us a bit about your role at the Peel Development Commission

My primary role with the Peel Development Commission is the administering of funds through the government's Royalties for Regions grant scheme. In this role I am required to assess the viability of project applications that have been submitted for potential financial assistance.

Some of the projects that we get applications for are very community focused and it's great to be a part of that. Previously, I have held various positions within the Commission where I have done administration, secretarial and financial duties.

Q What brought you to the Peel region for work?

My husband and I both met and married in Sydney NSW. We came to visit friends with our two boys and decided to move here, build a house and return to Sydney with a nice deposit for a home. We came here in 2002 and still reside in Mandurah and have had a little girl since moving here and have no intentions of moving in the near future.

Q What do you enjoy most about working in the Peel region?

I enjoy working in the Peel region as I am a local resident, and I am passionate about being involved in and able to contribute to the development of my local community.

Q How did you decide on the career of...?

I have been with the Peel Development Commission for 2 years now and have had many roles with the organisation. I feel that it is the ability to develop and grow within the Commission and develop my career that has kept me here.

Q How do you like to spend your spare time?


I spend most of the weekend at sporting events for my kids and my husband. They enjoy cricket, AFL, body boarding and netball.

Q In your opinion, what makes the Peel region so unique?

To me, the uniqueness of the Peel region is in the diversity of the region itself and the ability to live in a place that encompasses all that it has to offer, so close to Perth. Also, I think that the beaches here are some of the best in Australia.

Q What is your favourite Peel discovery?

Millbrook Winery. It's this magnificent vista located in the northern part of the Peel region, in the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale.

The winery itself is tucked away deep in the Jarrahdale hinterland, but as soon as you emerge from the road, you're greeted by this pristine, rustic building situated amongst the vineyards. 

2014-15 Peel Regional Grants Scheme Grants Announced

Regional Development Minister, the Hon Terry Redman MLA announced that 10 projects across the Peel will benefit from the 2014-15 round of the State Government's Regional Grants Scheme. The Scheme is a key component of the Royalties for Regions program which is providing funding of \$1 million towards a broad range of projects in the Peel.

Peel Regional Grant Scheme Successful Applications

Organisation	Amount (Exc. GST)	Project
Mandurah Enterprise Centre Management Committee	\$30,000	Cloud based video conferencing facilities
Lions Club of Waroona	\$49,500	Restoration of Shed for Animal Nursery
Curtin University of Technology	\$52,500	Peel Health Campus – Inter professional clinical school facility Feasibility Study
South Halls Head Primary School	\$65,000	Supplementary Irrigation Water Supply
Shire of Waroona	\$80,000	Upgrade Waroona Town Hall
Fairbridge WA Inc.	\$143,100	Redevelopment of Fairbridge High Ropes Recreation Facility
Shire of Boddington	\$100,000	Boddington Visitors Centre
St Vincent de Paul Society WA Inc.	\$140,000	Mandurah Community Services Centre
Forest Heritage Centre	\$149,900	Forest Heritage Centre Upgrade
City of Mandurah	\$190,000	Yarburgurt Public Art Project
	\$1,000,000	

Peel Development Commission

Board of Management

The Board sets the strategic direction of the Commission which is aligned with the needs of community and business. The Board meets every two months in various locations throughout the Peel region and membership comprises of a CEO and nine regional representatives who are appointed by the Minister for Regional Development.



Mr Paul Fitzpatrick (Chairman)

Mr Fitzpatrick is a descendant of the early settlers of the Peel region. He is a graduate of the UWA Advanced School of Management Program and the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He co-founded the international award winning 'smart house' technology, the Smart Company of Australia in 1993. In 2001 Mr Fitzpatrick was elected to the Waroona Shire Council,

serving 2 of his 7 years as Shire President. During this period he developed 'lifestyle olive farms'. He is currently a member of the Peel Planning Committee and is President of the Mandurah Country Club.

See page 13 for this edition's Q&A section with Mr Fitzpatrick.



Dr Sue Fyfe (Deputy Chair)

Dr Fyfe is Adjunct Professor of Health Sciences at Curtin University. She has lived in Dwellingup since 1995 and has been an active member of the community. She is Chair of the Forest Heritage Centre and a member of Dwellingup Community Compact. Professionally she has an extensive background as a teaching and research academic in health with significant senior leadership roles.



Dr Peter Hick

Dr Hick is a semi-retired CSIRO Environmental Geoscientist who specialised in remote sensing and biophysical research for terrestrial and aquatic environments with detailed knowledge of the processes and environmental effects of mining and agriculture.

His PhD was awarded in marine physics and he has also been a Director of a bio-medical research company since 2000 and has been a member of the Rottnest Island Board since 2011. He has over 150 publications including books and international journals. With his wife Raelene he has lived part time in the Peel region since 1976 and moved here permanently in 2002.



Ms Maree Gooch

Ms Gooch specialises as a business development consultant and facilitator. She has extensive experience in small business including tourism and hospitality, government and primary production as a hands-on farmer for more than 25 years. She has extensive experience in strategy, planning and policy development at an executive level of many industry sectors and all levels of government.

Ms Gooch has more than 26 years of experience, working at executive levels in private business, public sector administration and policy development. Her particular strengths at a board level are in strategy, governance, market analysis, marketing and business development, specialising in agriculture, food, regional and community development.



Mr John Erren

Mr Erren has lived in Byford since 2006 and is an active member of his community holding numerous community and governance positions including Councillor with the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, President of the Byford and Districts Country Club and Chair of the Board of Mundijong Primary School. Mr Erren's business career has entailed various positions as CEO and upper management over a range of industries. Together with his partner he runs two small businesses and devotes significant time to his community.

Cr Christine Germain

Cr Germain is currently the Shire President of the Shire of Waroona. Christine has been a Justice of the Peace since 1983, has strong links with the equine industry in the region and has had various roles throughout the community.



Mr David Napoli

Mr Napoli offers a broad exposure to a range of industries and government. He left CSIRO to join Alcoa in 1980 as part of the team

developing the Wagerup Refinery and Willowdale mine where he worked until joining the Executive of Challenge Bank. He has been a member of a number of committees and has a strong connection with the region since arriving in WA and owning a farm in Dwellingup.



Cr Donald Pember

Cr Pember is currently a Councillor with the City of Mandurah with a career in banking, health and aged care services. He has worked in many rural and regional centres throughout Western Australian in a range of occupations and different skills bases.



Prof Andrew Taggart

Professor Taggart is currently Acting Vice Chancellor at Murdoch University. In his substantive role as Pro Vice Chancellor he is responsible for engagement, (partnerships, collaborations, co-investment) with the wider Murdoch community including local and state governments and all levels of business and industry. 

Q & A Paul Fitzpatrick

Q How long has your family been in the Peel region, and how did they come to settle here?

I am a descendent of the early settlers of the Peel region. My grandfather immigrated to Western Australia from Ireland in the early 1890's and settled in the Waroona area, initially as a potato farmer before moving into the dairy farming industry. He saw the high agriculture potential that an area like Waroona could offer, in terms of its adaptability to various crops and products that could be produced.

Q What has been your most memorable board/corporate moment and why?

I have been fortunate enough throughout my career in both the public and private sectors to be a part of many successful initiatives and achievements. One of my most memorable recollections was when I attended an event in Hanover, Germany to present the 'smart house' technology which I co-founded in 1993. I was exhibiting from a relatively small exhibition booth while Microsoft was launching Windows 94 at the same event from one of the larger pavilions. That moment I always remember with fondness and it brings a smile to my face.

Q What important lessons from the corporate sector still shape your leadership approach today?

I believe it's important to constantly be aware of your surroundings, as well as who your target audience is; whether it be the government or the corporate sector. This is especially important in my current position as Chairman of the Peel Development Commission, as it is essential to have an understanding of the role of government, and how the private sector fits into that role. Also, the need to diversify and be adaptable to change, in order to achieve the best possible outcomes in any situation.

Q In your opinion, what makes the Peel region unique?

Our uniqueness comes from the vast array of options and activities that the region offers, as well as our ability to deliver on our promises. The Peel region is logistically positioned to ensure a 24 hour turnaround from paddock to plate into the Asian market. This allows the Peel region to be recognised for the freshness of its products, and our plans for the region will only seek to enhance this reputation. 

Peel producers in the spotlight: **Melaleuka Stud**

WORDS & IMAGES Roger Stubbs,
Melaleuka Stud

An innovative breeding program at Melaleuka Stud in Nambeelup, supported by high level genetic research, promises to produce quality beef that is healthier to eat.

Melaleuka Stud has chosen to breed from Akuashi cattle (Red Waygu) due to their ability to produce highly marbled meat when grass fed, and their ability to tolerate sub-tropical conditions.

An added advantage of the Akuashi is their potential to produce meat with fat that melts below human body temperature.

Low melting point fat increases the palatability (or taste) of meat, and, unlike the high melting point fat found in many European breeds of cattle, it does not contribute to the formation of harmful levels of cholesterol.

Melaleuka Stud's elite herd of Akuashi is expanding through artificial insemination, embryo transfer and recipient dams.

The aim is to breed cattle that produce quality meat with low melting point fat, without the need to spend extended periods of time in an expensive feed lot. Meticulous records are kept and the tightly controlled breeding program is monitored by DNA sampling and by testing the melting point of fat.

The owner of Melaleuka Stud, Professor Roger Dawkins, a clinical immunologist, recognises the health benefits that will flow from increasing the supply of beef and other meats, with low melting point fat.



There is a huge potential to reduce harmful levels of cholesterol and save the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme many millions of dollars through a reduced need to prescribe those with high levels of cholesterol, costly statins.

An extension of the breeding program will also examine the potential for Akuashi genetics to improve the quality of beef produced in Northern Australia.

Much of the beef produced by the Santa Gertrudis and Brahmin breeds used in Northern Australia, because of their ability to tolerate tropical conditions, is of low quality.

Akuashi cattle can tolerate tropical conditions so have the potential, through a cross breeding program, to make significant improvements to the quality of beef produced in Northern Australia.

The breeding program undertaken at Melaleuka is used by the research team at the CY O'Connor Erade Village Foundation in Canning Vale which has a DNA testing facility and has developed an improved and cost effective method of measuring fat melting points. The Foundation's research into breeding for low melting point fat, has now achieved international recognition.

Following a successful presentation at the recent Beef Week in Rockhampton, the Foundation's director of research has been invited by the American Waygu Association to present at its annual conference in Texas.

Given that the focus of its research is now in the Peel region, the CY O'Connor Erade Village Foundation plans to relocate its research facility to a suitable location, with tangible public support.



ABOVE: Professor Dawkins and cattle technician Jose Valenzuela. Accurate record keeping is essential.

RIGHT: Inspecting embryos for transfer.

Professor Dawkins strongly believes that if agricultural production is to continue in the Peel region, it must be supported by innovation and high levels of research.

Australia continues to be relatively free of the animal diseases that cause many problems overseas. It is well placed to be an increased source of quality genetics, therefore significant value may be added to agricultural products and create possible competition opportunities with countries which have low production costs.

Agricultural production in the **Peel region** has potential to be competitive in the global marketplace.



MORE INFORMATION

For further information contact Roger Stubbs, Melaleuka Stud via email: rstubbs@ozemail.com.au

Peel producers in the spotlight: **GD Pork Pty Ltd**



WORDS & IMAGES Torben Soerensen,
GD Pork Pty Ltd

Pork production is often looked at as the smelly unpopular cousin in the agricultural family. The fact is that like any other industry it has developed into a highly specialised, efficient and modern production industry.

GD Pork was established in 2007 by three Danish farmers following the purchase of an existing pig farm in the Peel region. Over time, the farm has been modernised to a point where it is now recognised as the most efficient and well run pig farm in Australia.

Denmark is the world leader in efficient pig production and is producing 30 million pigs annually in a country that's smaller than Tasmania. In comparison, only 4.5 million pigs are produced in Australia annually. That expertise has been our starting point in WA, it has also been important to adapt this expertise to the local conditions.

Intensive pork production is a closed loop system. All the nutrients in the pig waste can be contained, recovered and utilised for fertiliser where needed. It is a well suited system in the Peel region where we have to be mindful of nutrients going into the rivers and estuary.

The smelly part is also a thing of the past. The newest technology allows us to harvest the methane from the pig waste and use it for electricity generation. Not only does it reduce the smell by 90%, it also produces green electricity and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. As a greenhouse gas methane is 72 times worse for the environment than CO₂.

GD Pork currently produces approximately 6% of WA output with plans to more than double the production in the near future.

BELOW: Managing Director Torben Soerensen among some of the pregnant sows at the farm.





ABOVE: GD Pork staff captured at the company 2014 Christmas function.

Fifteen full time, highly skilled and highly regarded employees currently make up our labour force. The Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) data has shown that for every person directly employed in the industry, at least another two are employed in supporting industries.

Australian pork production is a long way from being able to compete on price with the low cost producers from the US and Brazil, however, because of Australia's unique climate and geography we can maintain a high level of biosecurity.

That in turns allows us to produce some of the healthiest pork in the world. This is the opportunity we have in the Asian markets. In China, up to 700 million pigs are being produced and consumed every year – and the consumption rate is growing. At the same time quality conscious consumers in Asia are looking abroad for food with high security and traceability.

A small share of the high value market in Asia for Australian quality pork will have a huge impact on Australian production.

To continue to grow and supply these new markets, we need highly skilled labour and access to export infrastructure. The Peel region is ideal to support this. The region provides a good place to live for the labour force and is placed close to major ports and transport routes.

The pork industry requires a supportive framework in order to grow. This is where WA still has challenges. The red tape in the form of overly cumbersome government administration and lack of understanding of a fast moving industry is a burden that needs to be addressed at all levels.

We need to look to the future to ensure a sustainable agricultural sector in the **Peel region**.

However, it is very encouraging to see the Peel Development Commission actively putting economic and sustainable development of the agriculture sector at the forefront of the future for the Peel region.

There is huge potential in growing intensive closed loop agriculture in this area, provided we face the challenges and look to the future.



MORE INFORMATION

For further information contact Torben Soerensen, Managing Director GD Pork mobile: 0438 940 045.



ABOVE: The fresh produce team at Gilbert's Fresh Mandurah.

BELOW: Murray, Tom and Dean Collins from Collins Bros Orchard, grading Gilbert's fruit.

Fresh regional produce store driven by passion

WORDS Robert Keenan, Peel Development Commission and Melissa Worthington, corkandcheese

IMAGES Rachel Klumpp, Gilbert's Fresh

Last year, Gilbert's Fresh Markets officially opened its third store in Western Australia, located in the Peel region in Mandurah. Since opening, the store has delighted customers with its wide range of fresh, locally sourced produce.

Of the produce currently stocked by Gilbert's in its Mandurah store, approximately 20% is sourced from within the Peel region itself. However, store manager Stephen Spalding has stated that if able to, Gilbert's would procure 100% of its stock from within the region.

The Mandurah store was opened with the intention of "providing the local community with the freshest and healthiest produce available."

This is a sentiment that has been one of the hallmarks of the Gilbert's business model since the first store was opened in Hilton in 2005. The original conception for the company began over 30 years ago when two men on opposite sides of the country had a shared vision of providing the people of Australia with the freshest fruit and vegetables they could find.



In modern society, agriculture, as much as any other industry is facing some major challenges and it will continue to face them into the future.

Listing what he views as the biggest issues to be addressed if the agricultural sector is to continue and thrive in the decades to come, Stephen commented, "The biggest threat to the industry comes from youth and a lack of experience with new growers, as well as the ever-increasing costs of production and produce," before going on to say that, "in order to overcome these challenges, both within the Peel region and the State in general, the government must provide concessions for growers."

Research has determined that in order to combat the lack of experience in educational pathways, direct 'on the job' experience must become common practice.

Local
Providing the local community an opportunity to display and sell their own wares in store.



For the foreseeable future, Gilbert's Fresh Markets has some clearly defined goals, including the need to adapt and evolve as the agriculture industry changes.

Perhaps most importantly, it is Gilbert's goal of ensuring it provides the residents of the Peel region with the best possible produce, priding itself that all the produce is chemical-free, fresh daily and affordable.

Gilbert's Cottage Kitchen

Demonstrating its commitment to local and artisan producers, Gibert's Fresh Markets have created a section in store – the Gilbert's Cottage Kitchen – to provide people in the local community who make their own home made food products an opportunity to display and sell their own wares in the store.

Rachel Klumpp, Gilbert's Cottage Kitchen Co-Ordinator lends a hand to anyone wanting to take their product from the kitchen bench to the Gilbert shop shelf, assisting with labels, health regulations and even sourcing the fresh produce if needed, making the process extremely easy.



TOP: The buying team of 7 for Gilbert's. **ABOVE:** Lauren East from Black Butt broccoli in Manjimup.

Rachel, a mum of two and a passionate cook was an extremely successful sales agent at the Canning Vale Fruit and Veg Markets for four years selling apples and stone fruit in a very much male dominated arena. She joined Gilbert's Fresh Markets four years ago as a fruit purchaser, and has now taken on the role of Co-Ordinator of the Cottage Kitchen.



Lana and Doug Lockyer, owners of Gran and Pops' jams, pickles and marmalades are an example of local residents looking to have their products displayed in Gilbert's Cottage Kitchen.

Using recipes passed down from Lana's parents, they have created a successful home business selling their products at markets and swap meets.

Lana said the positive feedback they received for their products made the hard work worthwhile. "it's great... customers say it's like what their grandma used to make. They are excited to see it because they haven't had it for so long, with our lemon butter an all-time favourite."

Doug commented "Mandurah does not really have a place where people can get home made produce every day of the week. Gilbert's fills that void."

MORE INFORMATION

For further information phone 9581 7612, email mandurah@gilbertsfresh.com.au, or visit www.gilbertsfresh.com.au

Why Shop at Gilbert's?

Freshness, flavour and value are three great reasons to shop at Gilbert's Fresh.

Late last year Gilbert's Fresh Markets opened its store in Mandurah, adding to the company's original store at Willetton and another at Midland.

Gilbert's Fresh Markets began in 2007 and owes much of its success to its owners and their like-minded obsession with freshness.

To guarantee this freshness, the Gilbert's team works with WA's premier growers, who pack their produce into Gilbert's crates, which are then delivered daily to their stores.

To reduce handling costs, the crates are then displayed on the Gilbert's specially designed retail shelves.

This allows Gilbert's Fresh Markets to offer their customers the very best produce WA has to offer at extremely good value.

With the freshest fruit and veg, highest quality local meat selections, fresh salads, breads, flowers, gourmet cheeses, nibblies and nuts, and not forgetting the Gilbert's Cottage Kitchen, the Gilbert's philosophy of freshness, flavour and value is evident across all areas of their stores.



Victor Thompson

Well-known local Chef Victor Thompson has joined the team at Gilbert's Fresh Market to demonstrate his culinary skills using regional produce when available.

Victor's own condiment range Victor's Gourmet Delights is his creation following 17 years of perfecting jams, relishes, chutneys and sauces. Victor's Gourmet Delights is now an award winning range, taking out over 120 awards across a number of Royal and Agriculture shows over the past five years.

Pop down and see the delights Victor has created using a combination of Ryan's Meat and the fresh produce available from Gilbert's Fresh Mandurah and treat your taste buds!

Social Collaboration in Action

– Collective Impact in the Peel region

WORDS & IMAGE Dorothy Lucks

Collective impact is an approach for social change on complex issues that has been gaining momentum around the world.

'Collective impact' was a term first coined through the Stanford Social Innovation Review (Winter 2011). It acknowledges that complex problems cannot be solved by any organisation acting alone. 'Wicked' problems have multiple and deep-seated causes that require collective problem solving, joint decision-making and coordinated action towards real solutions. Learning on collective impact approaches identifies that there are five key conditions for collective impact to work:

1. A common agenda,
2. Mutually reinforcing activities,
3. Continuous communication,
4. Shared measurement of results; and
5. Backbone support through a neutral leader or lead organisation.

An ongoing issue that has been facing the Peel region for a number of years has been affordable housing and even homelessness. Shortage in supply of affordable housing in the region, and in particular crisis and transitional housing was a key issue identified in the draft Regional Investment Blueprint. When individuals and families do not have stable housing, access to employment, education and services becomes a major challenge.

A collective impact-type approach has been actively occurring in the Peel region.

A range of agencies and service providers are finding an increasing demand for affordable housing and a growing number of people experiencing housing stress.

The Peel Homelessness Network and the Peel Homelessness Steering Group have been working together to identify priority requirements for the local population. The Peel Community Development Group (PCDG) is acting as a lead agency facilitating a collective impact approach.

***BELOW:** Attendees at the March Roundtable Discussion on Secure and Affordable Housing in the Peel region.*

Stakeholders including the City of Mandurah, the Commission, a number of local service providers in the social sector, as well as State peak bodies including the WA Council of Social Services (WACOSS) and Shelter WA have been cooperating towards addressing the issues.

The collaboration to date has involved a process to identify needs through a study managed by the City of Mandurah and PCDG, conducted by Adjunct Professor Sue Fyfe. Ideas and information have been sought from key regional stakeholders, in particular social services providers. This culminated in a Roundtable Discussion on Affordable and Secure Housing in the Peel region, which was held in Mandurah on the 6 March 2015.

The discussion was a great example of a collective impact-type approach in action – attendees focussed on the big picture and potential solutions rather than being overwhelmed by problems. This resulted in unanimous agreement on developing a proposal for transitional housing with the two identified priorities being families with children and single young people.

It was agreed that additional infrastructure should be developed to support families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Specific criteria were also agreed upon to assess the suitability of possible housing models. Based on these criteria the development of a funding application is currently in progress which will seek to bring this vision to reality. The collaborative approach will continue with stakeholders into the development and implementation of new solutions for affordable housing and homelessness.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information email:
pcdadmin@peel.wa.gov.au



A region in profile: **Dwellingup**

It's the communities and sub communities within a region that make it a wonderful place to call home. In this edition, Dwellingup resident Anne Sinclair talks about what makes her town unique, and how this uniqueness is a creation of the people who live there.



In July this year **\$2.5 million** from the Royalties for Regions program was committed to build seven dwellings in our community.



WORDS & IMAGES Anne Sinclair

ABOVE: Stallholders and locals enjoying the monthly Dwellingup markets, held every third Sunday of the month.

BELOW: The Dwellingup Primary School is the home of the annual Dwellingup Pumpkin Festival.

On Easter Saturday this year over 3,000 people visited the Dwellingup Pumpkin Festival held at the Dwellingup Primary School.

Dwellingup has a small school with 70 students and a town of approximately 400 people so to have 3,000 people come to an event in our town is quite an achievement.

The Dwellingup Pumpkin Festival is planned, organised and conducted exclusively by volunteers – parents and community members, with the school Principal and staff working in their own time.

The Department of Parks and Wildlife estimate that between 250,000 and 300,000 people visit Dwellingup every year.

Like many small communities, Dwellingup has a strong core of volunteers who are involved in numerous projects to progress our town and provide better facilities for residents and visitors.

The Dwellingup Community Compact raised \$90,000 to develop and erect a 'state of the art' playground in the centre of our town. Willing volunteers lobbied funding bodies and local business for financial support, while one volunteer sourced the best playground equipment we could purchase for the funds raised.

About six years ago, the Dwellingup Community recognised that older members of our community, if they wished to 'downsize' their living arrangements, had to move as far away as Perth or Mandurah. This dislocated families and often left grandparents isolated from their families and friends.





For many people it meant them leaving their birthplace. They no longer could walk to the local shops, the post office or see their grandchildren on a daily basis.

A working group was formed which was later incorporated into the Dwellingup Community Village (DCV). All members of the DCV are volunteers and they have worked tirelessly to obtain funds to re-furbish the Old Nursing Post and create a busy community centre for the town.

Royalties for Regions provided over \$300,000 to allow us to undertake the refurbishment. The Centre is located on the site of the old Dwellingup Hospital, the Doctor's Residence and the Nurses Quarters. The refurbished centre provides facilities for meetings, a doctor's surgery, therapy rooms, an art and craft room and a library. There is also a small kitchen and some lovely outdoor areas.

The ongoing maintenance and care for this facility is undertaken by volunteers who clean the building, organise any maintenance and manage all the bookings for the use of the facility. This all costs money, and these willing and enthusiastic volunteers organise regular cake stalls to keep a trickle of funds coming into the bank account.

The Committee also seeks funding and support from other agencies, with Alcoa a strong supporter of the DCV.

The Section 95 Team from Karnet Prison also provides invaluable support by maintaining the grounds and undertaking any small maintenance tasks. There is now a funding application which was also prepared by volunteers with wonderful support from the Peel Development Commission, to obtain funds to build Seniors Housing in our town adjacent to the Community Centre.

The town, again through a group of volunteers is pursuing a concept of 'Where Trails Meet' for Dwellingup.

Dwellingup is the only town where the Mundi Biddi cycle track and the Bibbulmun Walking Trail meet. Daily, walkers and cyclists are passing through our town. In terms of trails, Dwellingup also offers wonderful walks, white water rafting and canoeing as well as a ride on the Hotham Valley trains.

Dwellingup is also home to a Horse and Carriage organisation which hold regular events in town. The Dwellingup 100 (a major mountain bike event that attracts over 1,000 entries) is run in Dwellingup every year.

The people of Dwellingup are proud of their town, its services and its events. The role of volunteers in all of these achievements is immeasurable.

The Dwellingup Township is nestled in the Jarrah Forest. The forest is a haven for birds and wildlife such as kangaroos, wallabies, quolls, brush tail possums and other forest dwelling animals. During springtime the surrounding bush is sprinkled with beautiful wildflowers. The picturesque Murray River is close to town, and provides other attractions including planned campsites with facilities, as well as access to the river.



Dwellingup is also served by some wonderful eating places and accommodation options ranging from back packer style rooms through to 5 star facilities.

The town site has also raised funds to sponsor a website which is visited by about half a million people a year – DwellingupWA.com

MORE INFORMATION

For further information visit
www.dwellingupWA.com

Rest

Options ranging from back packer style rooms through to **5 star facilities.**

Our region. Our People.

WORDS Melissa Worthington,
corkandcheese

IMAGES SupaFresh

The diversity of people who call the Peel region home is vast. In this issue, we have a chat to fourth generation vegetable grower, Honours graduate, PhD student and father Troy Cukrov to learn more about his day-to-day life managing a business in the Peel.

Salad. You either love it or hate it but have you ever thought about where your salad leaves come from?

Chances are when you purchase a meal including gourmet lettuce or baby leaf from a cafe or restaurant, it's been freshly picked from the earth at one of WA's largest family owned and operated company's based in Baldivis and Oakford, Trodan Produce (WA) Pty Ltd incorporating SupaFresh.



Troy Cukrov is a fourth generation vegetable grower who manages the company with his father Danny Cukrov.

Troy's early days were spent in the old Spearwood market gardens, before heading to university to complete his Honours degree in Horticulture Science, prior to commencing his PhD (looking at sclerotinia management in lettuce crops); before turning his attention back to manage the business full time.

Bringing a new level of technical expertise to the operation, it could be said Troy's technical knowhow coupled with Danny's 40 years plus of growing experience has resulted in a company that's regarded as one of Western Australia's best vegetable growers.

Not that you would hear this from Troy directly, when I asked him what's the best advice he's ever received, Troy replied "always go at 150% if you want to be successful. And always be humble."

ABOVE: SupaFresh produce is found at most supermarkets and selected restaurants across the State.

This humble approach and drive to succeed has seen Troy recently return from a business trip overseas, where he observed practices and technology he can see integrated into the business moving forward.

"The trip reminded me to never close the door to innovation, be ever vigilant on farm practices and deliver a quality product and the market will always embrace the product."

The volume and scale of production is vast, with 50-60 tonnes per week of salads at peak production, and product ending up at most restaurants in Perth.

Troy commented "we do every Grill'd store, every Dome, most Crown restaurants, Coles, Woolworths, and we export to Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong and Singapore every week."



Seeing consumers looking for “ever increasing quality, food safety, and consistency in the product we deliver, along with a great acceptance of new and innovative products (like baby Kale)... and a willingness to try anything new” in the produce they grow, I asked Troy what he’s observing in terms of (customer) preferences and trends and how has this shaped the business direction.

“We’ve witnessed a massive increase in consumer preference for prepared salads at both food service and retail levels. Volumes are ever increasing by virtue of greater demand within the marketplace. We deliver a high end, consistent product, so consumers recognise our brand and align themselves with our business.

We are also observing an increasing acceptance of the SupaFresh brand in export markets, based on our quality and consistency, coupled with an appreciation of Australian food standards. A greater acceptance by customers of new and innovative products with an ever increasing wow factor makes for exciting times.”

When asked about observations in new markets or those that have potential in the longer term, Troy reiterated they are heavily supplied into all WA markets, but would like to consolidate that business and grow with their domestic customers.

“There are great opportunities with export and we are looking into new opportunities in Bali, Jakarta and Mauritius. The falling Australian Dollar makes us an attractive option into most Asian markets, and they already associate Australian product with quality, consistency and food safety... so these markets will develop further.”

This is good news for the agricultural sector in the Peel moving forward. Troy believes “there are great opportunities if everyone works together to create a strategic benchmark for the standard of agriculture in the area. We need to develop a set of guidelines that are environmentally responsible, sustainable and economic if agriculture is to be successful in the region.”

Married with two girls aged 10 and 12, any downtime Troy has is precious, “I’d like to travel more and spend more time on the boat, but I never seem to have enough time for either. I still enjoy what I do.”

MORE INFORMATION

For further information visit www.supafresh.com.au or email Troy on troy@supafresh.com.au

Did you know?

SupaFresh are growers, washers, packers and exporters of baby leaf, ready to eat salads for the food service (restaurant) sector.

Where does all the produce go?

Troy and Danny grow 50–60 tonnes per week of salads at peak production.

“Product ends up in most restaurants in Perth. We do every Grill’d store, every Dome, most Crown restaurants, Coles, Woolworths, and we export to Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong and Singapore every week.”

Troy Cukrov





Peel Workforce Development Plan

2015-18

WORDS Kristie Tonkin, Peel Development Commission

The *Peel Workforce Development Plan 2015-18* is being prepared by the Peel Workforce Development Alliance in collaboration with the Department of Training and Workforce Development and the Peel Development Commission. The plan is being developed in response to the changing labour environment in the Peel region.

The overall aim of the plan is to identify the current and future skills and workforce development needs and develop strategies to ensure they can be addressed.

The plan particularly focuses on best case and best practice examples and strategies in relation to youth workforce development.

The plan sits within the context of the State Government's workforce planning framework, *Skilling WA – A workforce development plan for Western Australia* and the *Peel Regional Investment Blueprint*.

In aligning with these documents, the plan involves a number of core considerations:

- An assessment of the region's economic and demographic profile,
- An examination of existing capacity and capability of the workforce,
- An assessment of the factors affecting the supply of labour; and
- Extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

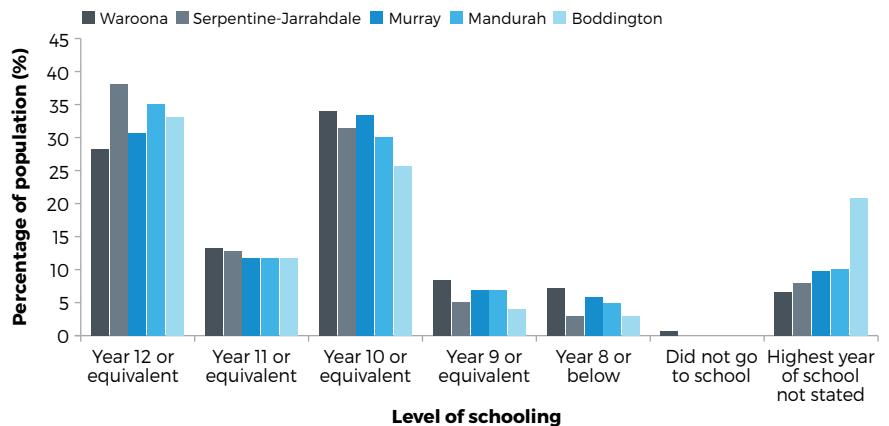


Figure 1 Highest average level of schooling of Peel by region 2011

Source: ABS 2012

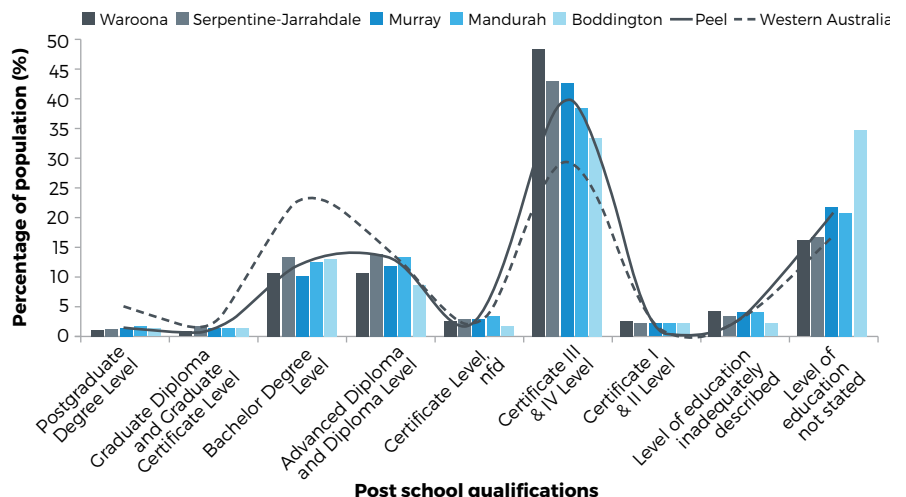


Figure 2 Highest post-school qualification of Peel, by region 2011

Source: ABS 2012

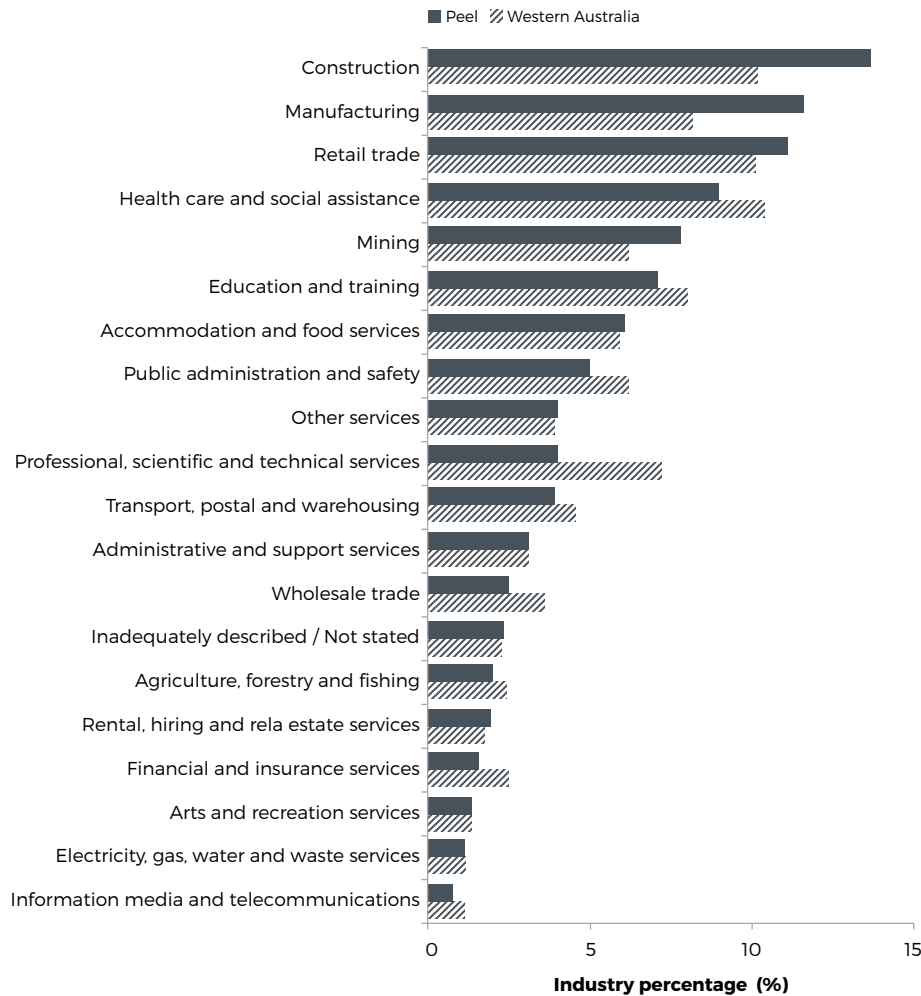


Figure 3 Labour force by industry
Source: ABS 2012

A key component of the Peel workforce development plan 2015–18 will be the development of a series of targeted priority actions.

The priority actions will provide practical solutions to a number of complex workforce development challenges for the Peel region. Extensive stakeholder consultations have taken place to help shape and validate these priority actions.

It is anticipated that the plan will be published in mid-2015.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information contact Peel Development Commission on **9535 0000** or peel@peel.wa.gov.au

Peel Regional Leaders Forum (Inc)

WORDS | John Lynch, Peel Regional Leaders Forum

The Peel Regional Leaders Forum (PRLF) is an incorporated body which was formed in 2011.

It comprises the Mayor/Presidents and CEOs of the five Peel councils, Mandurah, Murray, Boddington, Serpentine/Jarrahdale and Waroona, as well as the Chair and CEOs of the Peel Development Commission, the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, Regional Development Australia Peel and the Peel Community Development Group.

In broad terms its role is to facilitate the economic development, ecological integrity and social well being of the Peel region.

In this regard, a Peel Regional Strategic Priorities Plan, comprising some 60 priority projects, has been developed. These form the basis of approaches to State and Federal Governments for funding assistance.

The PRLF is supported by a part time Executive Officer, John Lynch, who is a former senior State public servant.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information please contact John Lynch on **9537 6195** or email jelynych@outlook.com or **0422 916 500**.

Innovation in training

WORDS Kristie Tonkin, Peel Development Commission

IMAGES Fairbridge WA Inc



If you are a resident of the Peel region you may have visited Fairbridge Village located on the South West Highway just north of Pinjarra for a camp, conference, wedding or festival.

You may not have realised that Fairbridge WA Inc is also a registered training organisation providing innovative opportunities for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young people to engage in training conducted in real work place environments with linkages to employment and further training opportunities.

Programs for youth at risk

Courses in Certificate II in Construction and Certificate II and III in Conservation and Land Management are on offer for youth at risk through the Department of Training and Workforce Development funded participation program. Training is conducted on site at Fairbridge Village through a range of facilities such as training rooms, workshops, computer room and nursery.

All training is undertaken in a simulated work environment with students provided with industry standard uniforms and personal protective equipment. Behaviour standards are explained and agreed to during student induction. Trainers, and students undertaking Certificate II in Construction, work with the Fairbridge maintenance management team to undertake live works projects on Village buildings which contribute to the programs that Fairbridge runs for the community.

Certificate II and III Conservation and Land Management students are involved in a variety of projects around the Village as well as outside projects including growing of seedlings for the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW).

Students are supported to undertake training through a range of wrap around services including:

- Daily bus pick up from Halls Head, central Mandurah and Pinjarra;
- Breakfast club;
- Mentors;
- Life development program which runs alongside the industry training;
- Language, literacy and numeracy tutors;
- Cultural events;
- Accommodation options;
- Counselling services; and
- White Card.

Throughout the 14 to 18 week course students are encouraged to consider their future employment or educational pathways.

In addition to assistance provided with resume preparation and interview skills, trainers utilise their networks to link completing students to employment providers, apprentice support, and local employers seeking staff.

To celebrate the achievements of students a graduation ceremony is held involving staff, industry partners, students and their families. Parents often remark on the positive change experienced by young people undertaking the program and their pride in being able to attend a graduation ceremony.

Outcomes for students are tracked three months after completion of their course with successful outcomes including returning to secondary education, undertaking further training, gaining an apprenticeship or employment. An example of a successful outcome is a recently graduating female student who completed the Certificate II in Construction and gained a bricklaying apprenticeship with a local employer.

Fairbridge Bindjareb Project

The Fairbridge Bindjareb Project commenced in 2010 and is aimed at providing Aboriginal men currently engaged in the criminal justice system with training and employment in the mining industry. The program is conducted in partnership with Bis Industries and Department of Corrective Services and engages Aboriginal men in Karnet Prison who have achieved a minimum security rating.

The aims of the project are to not only provide accredited training that will result in an employment outcome but also to address barriers to participant success through provision of life skills training and access to wrap around support provided by appropriately skilled mentors.



The first week of the sixteen week program is called 'culture week' and focusses on re-connecting participants with their culture through a range of traditional activities facilitated by a cultural mentor. These activities allow participants to reflect on their past, develop goals for their future and to establish relationships within the group and with trainers which facilitates positive interactions throughout the program. This week ends with an opening ceremony that includes traditional fire lighting to formally welcome participants.

The program then moves into training in the Certificate II Surface Extraction Operations delivered in a simulated mine site work environment with practical training in equipment and an introduction to mine site operations. Two equipment simulators are utilised during this program which have been donated by WesTrac.

Mentors are a consistent feature of the program to provide advice and support to participants. The participants undertake a life development program where they learn how to manage their physical, nutritional and financial wellbeing, how to effectively relate with others, understand the discipline required to be fit for work, and how to balance work and family responsibilities. This is an essential component to the success of the program and enables participants to transition successfully from the justice system back into society.

Bis Industries guarantee employment outcomes for participants who successfully complete the program.

Students who are not successful are provided with ongoing mentor support and assistance in seeking employment or undertaking further training.

This innovative program achieved recognition in 2014 through winning the WA Training Initiative Award in the Western Australian Training Awards and has been nominated and won other awards. In addition to Bis Industries the program gains corporate support from Caltex, WesTrac and Worksense.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the programs offered by Fairbridge, or to offer your support contact Brett Hawthorn, phone: **9531 1177** or visit www.fairbridge.asn.au



Health and Community Services Training Centre

WORDS Kristie Tonkin, Peel Development Commission

IMAGE Department of Regional Development

Challenger Institute of Technology recently held a formal launch of the \$6 million state-of-the-art Peel Health and Community Services Training Centre.

The launch was attended by Training and Workforce Development Minister Liza Harvey and Challenger Institute of Technology Acting CEO Terry Durrant and provided opportunity for the community to tour the facility.


The two-storey centre was funded by Royalties for Regions under the Skills Training Initiative and delivers training in nursing, aged care, children's services and education.

The new training centre can accommodate **170 students.**



It contains purpose-built, simulated training areas encompassing the latest industry-standard technology. These include a hospital ward for aged care, sterilisation and patient transfer areas, and a childcare facility complete with playground and nursery.

The Centre can accommodate up to 170 students and will offer training across a range of courses including Certificate III, IV and Diploma of Community Service Work, Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care, Certificate III and IV in Aged Care, Certificate III and IV in Education Support and Certificate III in Health Service Assistance.

The Health and Community Training Centre now allows Challenger Institute to increase its offering of cross-sectoral pathway programs in conjunction with its partners Murdoch University and John Tonkin College, allowing an increased participation from college students. 

MORE INFORMATION

For further information, visit www.challenger.wa.edu.au



Government committed to local Peel job seekers

The announcement of the commitment to establish a new workforce development Centre in the Peel is exciting news for many Peel residents.

The Peel Development Commission has been working with the Department of Training and Workforce Development since mid-2014 to develop this concept into a business case for joint funding through the Department of Training and Workforce Development and Royalties for Regions.


The continued efforts of Peel Development Commission staff to monitor and follow up this important initiative with key stakeholders has brought this service to fruition for Peel residents.

The Peel workforce development centre presents a fantastic opportunity to fill a key gap in service provision providing accessible, local services to support individuals of any age to make education, training and occupational choices and to manage their careers.

It will complement existing employment and training support services in the region and work closely with local providers to deliver facilitated referrals and a seamless service for their clients.

These services will be free to clients, and are expected to include:

- providing access to comprehensive and integrated training, occupational and labour market information;
- providing career guidance and assistance to develop a career action plan;
- conducting school based career development activities;
- providing career development resources, e.g. online tools;
- conducting employability workshops;
- providing facilitated referrals; and
- providing career development support services.

The Centre is also a pivotal element to support the goals of the Peel Workforce Development Plan. 

MORE INFORMATION

Go to www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Barnett/2015/07/New-Peel-centre-to-support-local-job-seekers.aspx to read a copy of the media release.

Peel Unearthed: focusing on the Food and Agriculture sector

WORDS Robert Keenan, Peel Development Commission

IMAGES Steve Brooks



ABOVE: George Walley performed *Welcome to Country* as part of the morning's welcome to guests.

On 31st March, representatives from Commonwealth, State and Local Governments, as well as private sector and community groups gathered at the picturesque Millbrook Winery for a morning of informative and engaging discussions around the important role of the food and agriculture industry in the Peel region.

The morning began with a unique *Welcome to Country*, conducted by local Peel Aboriginal elder George Walley which included a performance on the didgeridoo as part of the ceremony.

Guests were then invited upstairs where they were greeted by the magnificent vista of the surrounding fields and vineyards, and tables laden with an assortment of local produce.

As the guests settled into their seats, Peel Development Commission Chairman, Mr Paul Fitzpatrick, addressed the audience, welcoming them to the breakfast and spoke of his personal and his family's experiences in the Peel region's agriculture industry; having been active members of the community for over a century.

BELOW: Over 100 stakeholders from across the community attended the event in March.



Over 100
stakeholders
attended the
informative event in
March.



ABOVE: *Guests enjoyed a selection of regional produce for a light breakfast and enjoyed both the speaker presentations and networking opportunity's provided.*


Mr Fitzpatrick then invited the first of the morning's three speakers, the Hon. Terry Redman MLA to the podium where he discussed Western Australia's development across multiple areas addressing in particular food and agriculture sectors. He also discussed the strategic advantages that Western Australia, and particularly regional Western Australia, possessed in the near future, in relation to the ability of the State to meet both domestic and international demand for food security.

As guests and speakers enjoyed the fine assortment of food on offer, it was the turn of the Commission's Chief Executive Officer, Mellisa Teede, to inform the audience of the great importance of the agriculture sector in the Peel region. Ms Teede also expanded on opportunities available to both current Peel residents and potential investors, interested in the areas of agribusiness and sustainable supplies of water and energy.

Mellisa closed her presentation by highlighting the need for strong career and education pathways that would help guide the younger residents of the Peel into employment in the region.

The event's final speaker, Mr Peter Fogarty, engaged with the audience capturing their imagination and showcasing how food and agriculture had evolved in the Peel region, and the necessity for this trend to continue. While listing the numerous advantages the Peel offered, specifically showcasing our strong and direct links to Asia, Mr Fogarty also spoke of the limitations of Western Australia as a whole, warning that overcommitting ourselves to foreign customers would ultimately be detrimental to the local population.

The morning was brought to a close by Mr Fitzpatrick, who thanked Minister Redman, Mr Fogarty and Ms Teede, on behalf of the Commission and audience, for their informative presentations.

In the weeks that followed, feedback and responses from those who attended the event was positive, with many commenting on the ability of the speakers to discuss one of the most important aspects of life in the Peel region. 

MORE INFORMATION

The next *Peel Unearthed* event is scheduled for later this year, with details to come in the coming months. Should you wish to register your interest in attending, please contact the Commission on (08) 9535 0000, or alternatively send your details to events@peel.wa.gov.au



Destination in focus: Millbrook Winery and Restaurant, Jarrahdale



WORDS & IMAGES | Millbrook Winery

Millbrook Winery is a boutique winery and restaurant situated in the historic town of Jarrahdale in Western Australia, 45 minutes south-east of Perth.

The winery is located at picturesque Chestnut Farm nestled among virgin jarrah forests, with stunning vistas of the rolling landscape.

Owners Peter and Lee Fogarty planted the first vines on the property in 1996 and in 2001 a superb architecturally designed winery, including a tasting room and restaurant, was completed.

Millbrook focuses on the Rhône varieties of Shiraz and Viognier with the property experiencing similar topography and climatic conditions to the Rhône Valley in France.

Millbrook's award-winning wines are produced from the best quality fruit sourced from its own vineyards, as well as selected producers in Western Australia's premium wine regions. Very limited quantities are made each year to ensure that the wines produced by Millbrook are flavour intense, well structured and will gain complexity with age.

The wines are labelled under the Barking Owl, Millbrook Regional, Millbrook Estate and Millbrook Limited Release ranges.

The Gold Plate winning Millbrook Winery restaurant offers a unique 'from the property' menu to complement its wines. The menu changes with the seasons, to utilise over 100 varieties of heirloom vegetables grown and handpicked daily from our one acre garden. Stone fruit, citrus, figs, apples, herbs, free-range eggs, olives and honey are also sourced from the estate.

Head Chef, Guy Jeffreys, provides a modern Australian menu in the restaurant, or picnic baskets to enjoy by the lake in spring and summer.

The restaurant is superbly located on the second level of the winery and features a high timber ceiling, Blackbutt floor and glass bi-folding doors, which open onto a Jarrah deck with spectacular views of the vineyard and Serpentine National Park.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information visit www.millbrookwinery.com.au or phone: (08) 9525 5796.





Recipes

Turn to **page 42** to see a selection of Head Chef Guy Jeffreys favourite seasonal dishes.

> Did you know?

The air conditioned restaurant can accommodate up to **120** guests seated or **180** for a stand up function and is ideal for corporate events.

The tranquility and beauty of Millbrook Winery also make it the perfect venue for a wedding ceremony and reception. Garden ceremonies can also be arranged on our beautiful grounds (when held in conjunction with a wedding reception) which incorporate sparkling lakes and tree-lined walkways.

The tasting room is open **Wednesday to Sunday from 10am to 5pm** as is the award-winning restaurant where **bookings are essential.**





Peel region key part of the bigger picture



WORDS & IMAGES Department of Regional Development

The State Government recently launched its Bigger Picture Regions information campaign to provide West Australians with detailed information about Government investment in regional WA.

The Peel region is one of the State's fastest growing regions and the State Government has invested over \$100 million in Royalties for Regions funding to strengthen and support the region by improving services and infrastructure available to Peel communities.

Despite this unprecedented investment in infrastructure and services since the formation of the State Government's Royalties for Regions program research showed people wanted to know more about the investment.

Research commissioned by the Department of Regional Development showed that despite the significant investment, 86 per cent of people surveyed were not aware of the extent of the Government's investment and their desire for more information was high.

Regional Development Minister the Hon. Terry Redman MLA said the State Government has a duty to ensure regional communities know how their money is being spent.

“People want to know they’re part of a plan and the Bigger Picture Regions campaign is our chance to tell them that we have a plan for regional WA,” Mr Redman said.

Bigger Picture Regions

The Bigger Picture Regions campaign – via television, print, online and a new website – will demonstrate how Government investment has impacted the lives of people living in regional WA and provide details on how to get more information. It uses the stories of real local people and their real experiences.

The YAHOO Over 55s Bushwalking Group shared their story from the Peel region for the campaign. The Bushwalking Group use the new facilities at Martins Tank Campground in Yalgorup National Park when they go hiking at Lake Preston.

Preston Suijendorp, member of the Yahoo Bushwalking Group, said members were very impressed with the improvements to the facilities at Martins Tank campground that have been provided under the Royalties for Regions program.

ABOVE: New facilities at Martins Tank campground.

“The Group has used the campground as a base for bushwalks in the area in the past, and the improvements will make this a pleasant and more comfortable base in the future,” said Mr Suijendorp.

“The YAHOO Over 55s Bushwalking Club were pleased to be involved in the photo shoot. It has been very interesting being part of the campaign.”

The \$1.3 million funded upgrades to the Martins Tank campground include new facilities such as toilets, BBQs, campfires and kitchens.



Upgrade

\$1.3 million

funded new facilities
such as toilets, BBQs,
campfires and
kitchens.



MARKETING & TOURISM

Peel – other key initiatives

More than \$3.1 million of Royalties for Regions funding will also be invested into sustainable social and economic development projects in the Peel region through the Growing Our South initiative.

The Growing Our South initiative seeks to create greater economic opportunities and enhance the services provided to communities across the southern regions.

The first two priority projects for the Peel region are the construction of an indoor multipurpose sporting facility in Boddington and the relocation of the Byford and Districts Country Club.

Further to the Growing Our South initiative, the Peel Development Commission will also be able to access Royalties for Regions funding across five years to implement economic, social and community development projects from its Regional Investment Blueprint.

The Blueprint describes the vision for Peel as a *progressive, prosperous and dynamic region*. The Peel Blueprint provides a roadmap to achieve this vision and has a strong focus on economic development.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on initiatives in the Peel region and other economic development projects across the State visit www.biggerpicture.com/regions



WE'VE INVESTED IN A \$1.3 MILLION UPGRADE OF THE YALGORUP CAMPGROUNDS.

The Yahoo Bushwalking Group use the campgrounds as a base if they go for a hike at Lake Preston. Now there's toilets, BBQs, campfires and a kitchen for everybody to use.

The Bushwalkers like to get out into nature and keep fit and socially active while they do it. They might all be over 55 but they're still full of energy, just like Alana's special homemade trail bars.

To find Alana's recipe and get a taste of other projects in your region, visit biggerpicturewa.com/regions

Supported by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.



DOUGLAS



Food Tourism...

its time has come





Inside the Food Centre

Watch our producers making half the food we sell

The Dairy	The Butchery	Jams & Pickles	The Kitchen	The Bakery	Ice Cream	Coffee Roasting
						
See how cheese is made using milk from our own cows and watch our dairymen hand making real butter.	Watch John and his team of traditional butchers preparing our estate reared meat and making sausages by hand.	Watch our award winning team making traditional preserves using local ingredients. (closed on weekends)	Watch our chefs at work making pork pies, desserts and ready meals for you to take home.	See the techniques used by our bakers to make bread and cakes. You might even pick up a few tips.	Miles makes a wide variety of traditional dairy ice cream and seasonal desserts including cheesecake and panna cotta using milk from our own cows.	See how green coffee beans from all over the world are roasted, blended and ground by us for the freshest coffee possible.

WORDS & IMAGES | John Stanley

John and Linda Stanley are the authors of the book *Food Tourism*. John is a consultant and speaker and has presented within the Peel on a number of occasions. In his article below, John talks about the opportunities for the Peel region as a food tourism destination within Western Australia.

Tourism is part of the life blood of the Peel region and food tourism is the fastest growth sector in the tourist market. This is not a local trend, this is a global trend.

According to research, tourists who have not visited Australia place France at the top of their food destinations (60%) followed by Italy (57%), Spain, Germany, Japan and then just 26% believe Australia is a food destination. Compare that number with tourists who have been to Australia, France remains number one, but Australia rises to number two, with 60% of visitors enjoying our country as a food destination.

Most of those tourists that come to Western Australia travel to Perth and then take the road south, stopping in or passing through the Peel region. Operators in the region therefore have a readymade target market; the key is providing the right experience for the traveller.

Food tourism covers many aspects, it is more than restaurant experiences, it includes accommodation, farms, farmers markets, retail food outlets, food related festivals and a host of other activities.

Travelling around the world tourists are now exposed to *food trails* or *culinary trails*. These are planned journeys where a tourist can visit a number of activities during a day, or spend a number of days within a region.



The Peel region is ideally situated to develop food trails.

There are key elements to building a trail, these are:

• Having a unique product

Uniqueness can come in a number of different forms, it could be a product, such as truffles from Manjimup; a specific season, such as cherry season in the south west; the way a grower or producer adds value, such as making puree and ice cream from sweet chestnuts; a unique variety; such as heritage pigs or cattle; or even the production technique used to grow or raise the product.

• Having a unique place

Regions are now developing food regions that are unique. Esperance is building a brand around its abundance of sea food and the Southern Forests region has developed a unique regional brand over the last two years.

• Having unique people

People with passion make a difference. These include chefs and especially farmers and those serving the consumer. We need to make farmers the hero in the supply chain and make sure that those employed to engage with the customer actually engage. Alas, one of the common criticisms is the quality of service provided to the traveller.



• Having the vision and passion to make it work

Development of the food tourism sector is the same as the development of any project. Those with vision and passion will make it work and a group of entrepreneurs from the sector can make a huge difference to success.

What is the next step?

In no way am I suggesting that we rush into food trails, it is a logical process that needs to be developed. The Peel needs a register of the players in the food industry who would be interested in developing food tourism. Then a food trail can be developed and I would introduce a Food Passport similar to the concept used in the Peel a few years ago.

The next stage is to develop a consistent brand strategy for the food trail, with participants, to ensure the consumer has a wonderful experience in the Peel region.

The Peel has some wonderful opportunities. Now is the time to make a difference.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information visit www.johnstanley.com.au or contact John via email: john@johnstanley.com.au





Millbrook Winery Restaurant

Millbrook Winery Restaurant is unique, offering guests a menu with produce sourced direct from the property to complement its award-winning wines.

Head Chef Guy Jeffreys is renowned for his seasonal menus, utilising over 100 varieties of heirloom vegetables grown and handpicked daily from the winery's one acre garden.

Here is a selection of recipes from Guy using seasonal produce so you can create the perfect dish that is sure to impress.



Did you know?

Stone fruit, citrus, figs, apples, herbs, free-range eggs, olives and honey are also sourced from the Millbrook Winery estate.

Recipes



WORDS | Guy Jeffreys, Millbrook Winery

IMAGES | Sarah Thomas

Roasted and raw carrot and radish, local cheese, pomegranate

To make this dish a bit more exciting, we use heirloom carrots and radishes for their amazing taste and colours. If you don't grow your own, you could find some at your local farmers market, or just use regular ones, it'll still be tasty. This dish serves 4 as an entrée.

Ingredients

- 3 carrots, cut into chunks
- 1 carrot, finely sliced
- 4 radishes, cut in ½
- 1 radish, finely sliced
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- ½ teaspoon cumin seeds, ground
- ½ teaspoon coriander seeds, ground
- Mint leaves
- Juice from 1 pomegranate
- 100g matured cheese, sliced

Method

Preheat your oven to 190°C. Toss together radish and carrot chunks in olive oil, salt, pepper, ground cumin and coriander, and then roast until just soft.

When ready, place in a bowl and mix with finely sliced radish and carrot, mint leaves and a few tablespoons of pomegranate juice.

To Serve

Plate up layering with the cheese, making sure everyone gets a bit of this and, a bit of that. Finish with some more pomegranate juice and olive oil.

BELOW: Carrots and radish are in abundance and at their very best come spring.





Broccoli, chilli and anchovy pasta

If you don't feel like pasta, this broccoli sauce is great with polenta, barbecued beef, fish or on its own with some crusty bread. Broccoli is at its seasonal best in winter, this dish serves 4 people as an entrée.

Ingredients

1 large head of broccoli, chopped into large chunks
4 anchovies
1 hot chilli, sliced finely
2 garlic cloves, sliced finely
Olive oil
Salt and pepper
250g pasta
Parmesan

Method

Put a large pot of salted water on the stove and bring to the boil.

Into another large saucepan place anchovies, chilli, garlic and a good splash of olive oil. Gently sauté, then add 2 cups of water and bring to the boil. Throw in broccoli, season, turn the heat down, and simmer for about 10 minutes or until quite soft.

While this is happening, cook the pasta in the above mentioned boiling water until al dente, strain and add pasta to the broccoli sauce. Grate in some parmesan and add a good splash of olive oil and toss it all together. When ready you should have a nice sauce consistency. If it's too wet, boil for another minute or so, or if too dry, add a ladle of pasta water.

To Serve

Serve immediately with more gratings of parmesan and splashes of olive oil.



Borlotti beans create wonderful autumn dishes, perfect as cooler nights set in.

Braised beans with crackle and sage oil

Ingredients

400g fresh borlotti beans, podded (if using dried soak 250g overnight in water, then drain)
4 tomatoes, halved
Handful of sage leaves
4 garlic cloves
Extra virgin olive oil (EVOO)
100g thinly sliced pancetta
Juice of half a lemon
Salt and pepper

Method

Preheat your oven to 160°C. In a casserole dish place borlotti beans, tomatoes, 3 of the garlic cloves and ¼ of the sage. Add cold water to just cover the beans, and then pour in enough EVOO so that it forms a thin film on top.

Cover with tin foil and make a small hole in the middle for the steam to escape and place in the oven for 50 minutes, or until beans are soft but still holding their shape (if you're using dried beans it will take longer).

When your beans are ready take out the tomatoes and garlic. Discard the skin from the tomatoes and crush up with the garlic, then stir back into the beans with a generous amount of salt and pepper. Let them rest on the bench to allow the beans to suck up any remaining juice.

To make the sage oil, smash up the rest of the sage and garlic with a pinch of salt using a mortar and pestle. Stir in the lemon juice and a good lug of EVOO.

Turn up your oven to 220°C and roast the pancetta until crisp.

To Serve

Place pancetta over the beans, spoon over the sage oil and serve with crusty bread. 🌿



PEEL Development Commission



**AGRICULTURE
& FOOD
INNOVATION**

PEEL Development Commission



**STRONG &
RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES**

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**THRIVING
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Peel Development Commission

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