



# COURT HOUSE

detailing how, when our community groups work together, the benefits to the

Strong

re

region expand

# Regional developments;

long-term vision and collaborative commitments start to take shape for the Peel

people:

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service to community recognised and honoured

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Cover: The opening of the old Court House, Pinjarra. See page 16 of this edition for more details. Image: Josh Cowling



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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 established and operating under the same legislation.

PEEL Development Commission



Chain's Ulalco



We know that supporting our people to develop new capability and nurturing them to create strong and resilient communities is vital for Peel to realise the vision of being a progressive, prosperous and dynamic region with a culture of care.

Thankfully in Peel, we have no shortage of capable people and the communities within our region are some of the strongest and most resilient I've come across. This edition of the Peel magazine highlights and celebrates some of the stories behind these people and their communities.

The diverse, strong and resilient communities within the Peel region are a big part of what makes this place so special and when our community groups network and collaborate on projects and services, the benefits to the region are magnified. Often our community groups are minimally funded and rely heavily on the contributions of volunteers. Often their achievements are not widely known. Nonetheless, their contribution is crucial to the fabric and wellbeing of the region. I'm pleased some of these groups and their work highlighted in this edition.

The Peel Health Hub is an invaluable asset to region in addressing the health issues that face our region's youth. It's so important to not only provide these services within our community, but to offer a coordinated response increases the impact they have. It's encouraging to see so many of our community organisations linking not only community members with organisations and services, but also facilitating networking and relationshipbuilding between organisations.

A terrific example demonstrating both extraordinarily capable people and a strong and supportive community, was the Opera at the Mill early this year. A most remarkable evening under the stars at the Jarrahdale Heritage Mill. It was an enormous pleasure and privilege to attend this fantastic event and I want to congratulate The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, their Councillors and staff. on the way it was presented. The atmosphere was just sensational and everyone I spoke to, whether they were from Perth or from the South, were so thrilled to be there.

The happenings at the Shire of Murray is in focus in this issue. With the Bushfire Centre of Excellence, the Dwellingup National Trails Centre project, the Peel Business Park and heavy haulage deviation, our region is forging ahead and the work being done will strengthen our communities. It's exciting to see so many milestones and achievements being realised toward a long term vision of the Peel region. Likewise, the recent Regional **Economic Development Grants** announcement acknowledging and supporting the growth of 7 Peel businesses is indicative of the capability and opportunity that exists within the region.

The provision of education and training is key to developing a highly skilled workforce with the capability and capacity to respond to workforce requirements of the future. It is therefore wonderful to see the education options offered by South Metro TAFE in response to the anticipated future needs of our workforce. The creation of support services and infrastructure ensures the community's ability to participate in the future development of the Peel.

**Communities** within our region are some of the strongest and most resilient.

#### Finally, I'd like to extend a very warm congratulations to two of the region's most upstanding women on their appointment as Members of the Order of Australia in the 2019 Day Honours List.

On behalf of the PDC Board & Commission, I congratulate both Emeritus Professor Jo Barker AM and Elizabeth Butson AM. They have been recognised for their many years of being outstanding and valuable service. They are inspirational Australians, both of whose work within their communities have been truly admirable.

I hope you enjoy this edition's celebration of Peel's capable people and strong and resilient communities as much as I have.

Paddi Creevey OAM Chair, Peel Development Commission

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# CEO's Management Report



As the Peel region's population continues to grow, we know more than ever the importance of a clear vision, careful planning and the strategic application of resources through a collaborative approach.

There's been some significant project milestones achieved and excellent government funding investment in the region recently. Many of these projects and funding recipients represent long term initiatives that have been in motion for many years before the announcements were made possible.

The Shire of Murray's recent securement of \$21.75 million Federal funding for the Peel Business Park will go towards the common-use facilities in the Agri-innovation Precinct, essentially activating the first stage of the Business Park. This is a really significant milestone within the greater vision of the Transform Peel project and would not have been possible without the cooperation, ongoing commitment (\$45 million of State funding), planning, research and strategic actions at every stage.

Investment is critical to the success and momentum of the Peel Business Park Stage 1 release and the Shire of Murray have been instrumental in this regard with their offer of a three-year rate holiday as well as waiving local government fees. This has directly contributed to solid Stage 1 land sales leading to the award of contracts for primary civil works, which is resulting in more jobs for the region.



Two contracts, totalling \$7.3 million for the Peel Business Park Stage 1 earthworks, and installation of trunk infrastructure and power works, was awarded to Peel based business, Wormall Civil. The Commission and LandCorp worked together closely to apply the Western Australian Industry Participation Strategy to the procurement process and encourage the participation of local businesses in contracting opportunities.

The creation of more jobs in the region will also result from the Tonkin Highway transformation. The Tonkin Highway extension from Thomas Road to South Western Highway in Mundijong will reduce traffic congestion, increase accessibility in this area, improve access to the West Mundijong industrial estate and create regional jobs during the construction phase. The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale have invested time and resources toward achieving this vision and the Commission acknowledges and congratulates the State and Federal government for making this significant project a reality.

Peel's RED Grant recipients is another example of the Commission's ability to work with industry and drive real economic opportunity. Seven organisations were recognised and awarded funding for their contribution to improving the tourism experience, diversifying local agriculture and expanding industry in the region. Our local economy must to keep pace with Alannah MacTiernan, Minister for Regional Development, and Robyn Clarke, Member for Murray Wellington, congratulate Dane and Bruno Capogreco on Capogreco Farms' RED Grant funding.

our rapid population growth ensure our industries and local enterprises are supported and matched with opportunities, including government grants and funding, to boost their growth.

#### A bright and prosperous future for the Peel depends on diversifying our local economy and creating more jobs.

This is not something that happens instantaneously — it takes a long term vision and a collaborative commitment over time. Facilitating and activating those partnerships and opportunities across all sectors of government, industry and community is at the heart of the Commission's role in the Peel and key to achieving the brightest and most prosperous future for the region. The twin themes of Capable People and Strong and Resilient Communities in this edition highlight the collaborative achievements and possibilities that are shaping our region.

#### **Andrew Ward**

Chief Executive Officer Peel Development Commission



# The Regional Economic Development Grants

WORDS & IMAGES | Peel Development Commission

The Regional Economic Development Grants (RED Grants) program is a State Government initiative that invests in community driven projects to stimulate economic growth and development in regional Western Australia.

The grants support individual projects that promote sustainable jobs, partnerships, productivity, skills and capability, as well as stimulate new investment and industry diversification. The objectives of the RED Grants Program include:

- Sustainable jobs growth;
- Increasing productivity;
- Expanding or diversifying industry;
- Developing skills or capabilities; and
- Attracting new investment in the region.

The Peel Development Commission recently welcomed the announcement of seven successful Peel grant recipients in the first round of the program for 2018–19.

This round has supported the export driven industries of agriculture, manufacturing and tourism to accelerate local economic growth and business opportunities. Peel has a strong focus on tourism growth and with State Government support, we have a huge opportunity to build business capability and product development to attract international markets.

This investment by State Government will also help stimulate strong cocontribution from industry, increase export competitiveness and the use of innovative technologies as key to leveraging business opportunities, all resulting in Peel economic growth and job creation.

RED Grants provide the opportunity to focus on community-led projects which will boost the regional economy, create jobs and add vibrancy to towns and by investing in a variety of regional initiatives, the State Government is helping to grow Western Australia's regional areas into thriving and sustainable communities.





# Regional Economic Development Grants



#### Capogreco

#### Cold Storage & Distribution Facility: **\$210,000**

Capogreco Farms is an entirely family owned and operated business, located in Hamel.

Established in 1988, Capogreco Farms is proud of supplying the freshest quality to customers, locally, nationally and internationally, direct from harvest. In fact, even international customers can receive fruit within just 24 hours from harvest. Capogreco plan to extend their current cooling systems to create a facility which can be used not only by themselves, but other businesses in regional Western Australia. Building this facility will allow the produce they export to be cooled to its most optimal temperature to maximise its shelf life while maintaining this temperature throughout the receiving and dispatch process.

#### **Forest Discovery Centre Inc**

Jarrah Forest Lodge Preservation and Facility Upgrade: **\$135,000** 

The historic Jarrah Forest Lodge (JFL) is part of the timber industry heritage of Dwellingup, established in 1952 to house forestry cadets during their training. JFL provides affordable, value for money accommodation for groups and individual visitors to Dwellingup.

The preservation and facility upgrade of JFL will greatly improve current facilities, increase income and sustainability of this self-funded, not-for-profit organisation, enabling it to continue to support Dwellingup's growing popularity as a tourism destination.





#### Mandurah Boat and Bike Hire

#### Tour Vessels: **\$144,550**

Mandurah Boat and Bike Hire has been operating in Mandurah for over 15 years, offering dinghies, pontoon boats and luxury Sun Tracker boats for rent with no skippers ticket required. They also hire bikes, stand up paddle board and Kayaks.

Mandurah Boat and Bike Hire will custom build two multi-purpose, tour vessels to secure overseas tour operators providing them with greater timing flexibility and immersive on-water touring experiences.

The purpose-built vessels will attract large national and overseas tour group operators to the region allowing for more tailored interactive experiences.



#### **Mandurah Cruises**

#### New Boat enabling North Asian Tourism Growth in Mandurah: **\$100,000**

In 2017, Mandurah Cruises launched its seafood tourism product: the Wild Seafood Experience showcasing Mandurah's lobster fishing credentials to tourists with this hands-on, yet high quality 'sea to plate' lobster catching and banquet tour.

Growth on this product has been outstanding with demand now at the point that another boat is required to relieve current capacity constraints and continue to capture growth opportunities.





#### Smartstream Technology Pty Ltd

#### Relocation of Smartstream Technology from Kewdale to Cardup: **\$50,000**

Smartstream Technology is a wholly Australian owned and operated company specialising in the provision of civil engineering infrastructure solutions.

Relocating the plastic manufacturing from Kewdale to Cardup will see Smartstream Technology operating as a well established, well managed and successful local Peel region business, contributing to the long-term economic growth of the Peel region.

#### **ManukaLife Pty Ltd**

#### Manuka Oil Plant Breeding and Trial Project: **\$120,450**

ManukaLife is a Western Australian company that develops high-grade Manuka products for the medical, pharmaceutical, cosmetic and nutraceutical industries. These products are created based on science, research and a unique positioning in the bio-secure region of WA.

Through the development of trials and associated technologies, ManukaLife aims to prove the economic viability of commercialisation of a WA Broad Acre Manuka Essential Oil production system compatible to local farming conditions and practices.

#### **Cays Engineering**

## Paint Yard Development: **\$95,000**

Founded in 1956, Cays Engineering is one of the leading steel fabricators in Western Australia. A highly motivated, skilled and stable workforce has provided a platform for the company to grow, offering a diversified range of quality services and products. Building a paint yard will further diversify services provided by the company and enable work to be completed inhouse improving quality control and productivity. Trade Assistants can also be upskilled as painters and blasters providing training, skills and employment opportunities that encourage people to stay and work in their local regional community.



#### **MORE INFORMATION**

For further information contact the Peel Development Commission (08) 9535 4140 or peel@peel.wa.gov.au



# Industrial Lands Authority LAUCURP

Peel Business Park

# Local focus achieves results

WORDS | Tahila Jones, Peel Development Commission IMAGES | Peel Development Commission

#### There is no better time than the present for Peel businesses to connect to procurement opportunities in the region.

A dedicated regional focus on the development of local procurement strategies is enabling greater local business participation and employment opportunities for Peel communities.

A localised approach to procurement initiatives by State and Local Governments and community sectors is producing results and creating opportunities.

Across Western Australia new legislation dedicated to maximising the participation of local businesses in state government supply opportunities is now underway. The *Western Australian Jobs Act 2017*  and the Western Australian Industry Participation Strategy (WAIPS) came into effect on the 1 October 2018. This legislation aims to provide local businesses with access to and win State Government supply contracts.

In the region alone, over \$9.3 million<sup>1</sup> worth of State Government contracts have been awarded to Peel businesses and the community sector representing an economic value of \$17 million<sup>2</sup> to the Peel economy.

Through the implementation of the WA Industry Link, a team of dedicated Local Content Advisers was established in each region. Local Content Advisers aim to ensure local businesses are informed, connected and supported to access State Government procurement opportunities across regional Western Australia.

Local governments across Peel are also demonstrating significant leadership in utilising their purchasing

- 1 Tenders WA www.tenders.wa.gov.au; www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/ McGowan/2019/03/Hundreds-of-jobs-to-becreated-as-work-starts-at-Peel-Business-Park.aspx
- 2 Remplan Economy



Peel based business, Wormall Civil, were awarded two contracts to complete the first major civil works for the Peel Business Park.

power to support the local economy. Through improved measures to Buy Local and Purchasing Policies the Shire of Murray and the City of Mandurah are committed to supporting local businesses and job growth in the region.

An important component of this local focus is the development of capable and competitive local businesses. Through a partnership with the Peel Chamber of Commerce and Industry the Peel Local Content Adviser delivered workshops across the region to create greater awareness of the opportunities and support businesses to connect with Peel based works or supply opportunities.

The results to date, showcased by a series of local case studies, provide evidence that local procurement strategies create opportunities and produce positive outcomes for the region.

**MORE INFORMATION** 

Visit www.peel.wa.gov.au

# City of Mandurah's purchasing power supports local jobs

The City of Mandurah (CoM) has demonstrated leadership implementing an Australianfirst purchasing initiative to create jobs and expand the local economy through a \$10 million cleaning services contract.

CoM invited tenders for the provision of cleaning services for office buildings, recreation centres, community facilities and halls. Tender criteria included a 20 per cent weighting on how tenderers would utilise Commonwealth Employment Services to ensure local employment opportunities are maximised. The criteria developed by the CoM and the Mandurah Employment Facilitator demonstrates a significant commitment to maximising local employment opportunities for job seekers across Peel. Committed to supporting local businesses and

In addition, the tender was evaluated under the CoM's Buy Local Policy. Under this new policy price preferences increased considerably for businesses in both Mandurah and across the region. The City's commitment to supporting local businesses to develop and grow creates opportunities for increased employment and results in favourable effects for the regions communities.

A Mandurah based business, Indigenous Managed Services, were awarded as one of the preferred suppliers out of a highly competitive tender process. The City of Mandurah and Mandurah Employment Facilitator will continue to monitor employment outcomes associated with this contract and look forward to showcasing results in the future.

# Procurement approach supports local

In late 2018 LandCorp commenced the procurement process for the \$7 million trunk power infrastructure and earthworks for Stage 1 of the Peel Business Park, located in Nambeelup.

LandCorp approached this process with a strong, long term focus on engaging Peel businesses and the community over the life of the project. The works contracts were the first in the region to be awarded under the State Government's new Western Australian Industry Participation Strategy (WAIPS) which aims to provide local businesses with access to and win State Government supply contracts.

LandCorp worked in collaboration with the Peel Local Content Adviser to apply the WAIPS to the procurement process including the application of Participation Plan requiring prospective suppliers to outline their commitments to

local content and local jobs.

The procurement strategy had a key focus on including Peel based sub-contracting arrangements, supply opportunities, local employment, Aboriginal employment and procurement outcomes.

As part of the localised procurement approach, a Peel Business Park Business Register was advertised across the region to provide local businesses the opportunity to register their details. This Business Register was included as part of the tender documents to assist the prospective suppliers in meeting the local content requirements in the participation plans, which were assigned a 20% weighted selection criteria for assessment. This innovative and leading approach demonstrates LandCorp's leadership and commitment to the region.

The first two contracts for the Peel Business Park were awarded to Peel based business, Wormall Civil, who employ over 65 people from the region and have also been actively using Peel based sub-contractors for the works.

## Local subcontractors benefit from regional project

Peel Youth Medical Service (PYMS) new \$9.2 million Peel Health Hub was officially opened in December 2018. The state-of-the-art facility provides coordinated health services with a focus on young people in the region.

The project, managed by GP down south, a Peel based not-for-profit, was highly focused on ensuring local businesses benefited from the construction of this facility. The design and construct were managed by Alita Constructions a Perth based builder with extensive building experience and specialised qualifications to ensure projects are delivered to a high standard.

GP down south and Alita Constructions recognised the importance of local economic participation in the project and the positive flow-on effects in benefiting the local community. Integral to this localised approach was the engagement of capable and competitive Peel based sub-contractors to work on this challenging project.

Peel based BWC Civil and Earthmoving were engaged as a sub-contractor to complete the drainage and carpark construction works. Established in early 2000, BWC employs 10 staff of which eight are local people and focuses on the civil contracting sector.

BWC's involvement in this project created the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and expertise to address the drainage challenges with this site. By working with an experienced builder such as Alita, BWC gained experience in the community/ commercial building sector, formed a solid relationship with stakeholders and built a reputation as a local business who delivers.



# Peel tourismis open for business and committed

George Walley, of Mandjoogoordap Dreaming, explaining the history and cultural significance of the Thrombolites (Woggaal's Noorook).





DREAMING

WORDS | Andrea Kelly, Peel Development Commission IMAGES | Peel Development Commission

The Peel Development Commission (PDC) is one of nine regional development commissions across Western Australia facilitating regional coordination, proposing growth initiations, and providing strategic advice and recommendations, to support a thriving industry with a highly skilled workforce and strong, resilient communities. This role also includes identifying barriers and constraints to the Peel tourism industry.

In early 2018, the Commission Board identified a need for investment into the tourism industry, particularly with facilitating the growth of accommodation and product development. To help guide this growth, a *Tourism Investment Framework* (Framework) was required, focusing on the following key areas:

- local government approvals and zoning
- investment attraction and investor finance
- barriers and constraints associated with product development and tourism growth.

The Framework was developed from a series of workshops with key stakeholders in the region, linking with the goals outlined in the *Peel Regional Investment Blueprint* (PDC 2015) and the *Peel Tourism Economic Development Infrastructure Strategy* (PDC 2016).

The intent of developing the Framework is to provide a robust structure that



tourism and hospitality infrastructure investors, Peel local governments and Western Australian State government agencies can use to inform analysis and decision making around tourism investment opportunities.

#### The Framework helps us to collaboratively achieve tourism excellence in the Peel attracting both visitors and investors to the region.

Promoting Peel as an international destination and increasing our product are key to achieving regional industry excellence so having the opportunity to wow a delegation of international tourism academics and industry notables from Canada, China, Germany, Italy and Monaco was a great occasion. The guests were invited to the region by the Commission and Mandurah and Peel Tourism Organisation (MAPTO) following Curtin University's Tourism Research Cluster 2019 Symposium.

Paddi Creevey, Commission's Board Chair said, "The Commission was honoured to welcome these important guests to the region to increase exposure of the amazing tourism offerings here in Peel, in alignment with a priority of the Commission to develop tourism excellence across Peel." Their itinerary included aquatic, adventure, cultural and wildlife experiences.

The international guests enjoyed Mandurah Cruises' Wild Seafood Experience, noting its uniqueness, and were stunned by Mandurah's waterways and range of water experiences on offer. Local wildlife cooperated during the visit, with dolphins and seabirds in abundance.

The itinerary included aquatic, cultural and wildlife experiences. Also of particular interest was the Peel's indigenous culture, with Noongar elder, George Walley, of Mandjoogoordap Dreaming, explaining the history and cultural significance of the

Thrombolites (Woggaal's Noorook) topped off with playing the didgeridoo.

Dr Michael Volgger from Curtin University said, "It was a spectacular day and the international visitors were definitely impressed by what Mandurah has on offer. It was a world-class fusion of nature-based experiences and cultural insights into Aboriginal Australia as well as







gorgeous food; we could argue it was a combination of some of the peak experiences Western Australia has on offer. We think the opportunity to catch their own crayfish and eat them fresh on board really stood out, in particular with Asian markets."

The visit sparked some useful discussion on the strengths and challenges of regional tourism and gave the guests the opportunity to offer their expert perspectives on the tourism potential of Mandurah and Peel.

Curtin University's Tourism Research Cluster 'From Under-Tourism to Just-Right-Tourism' Symposium which was co-chaired by Professor Christof Pforr and Dr Michael Volgger, held on 20 February brought together global and national tourism expertise to stimulate debate and exchange between academia, industry and government. It was attended by approximately 100 industry representatives and important local stakeholders. The Symposium presented Chinese and European experiences on overcrowded attraction points, which highlighted WA's prospect to capitalise on how open spaces and reduced crowds contribute to a different tourist experience. The Commission's **Principal Business Development** Officer, Wendy Muir, said, "The broad range of speakers brought diverse

insights from around the globe, providing invaluable acumen into how WA can optimise its tourism offerings to different global markets".

MAPTO's Nadine Heinen said "The visit by the international tourism experts has already reaped benefits. It was invaluable to see their reactions to the region first hand and to be able to have frank discussions about what works and what can be improved on.

Not only do these people have vast experience and knowledge of the tourism industry, they are international visitors in their own right and to see them enjoying our unique experiences, culture and wildlife was very satisfying.

I know they will return to their countries as ambassadors for Mandurah and the Peel and I thank Curtin University and the Commission for the opportunity."

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

For more information contact The Peel Development Commission.

# Conference evokes interest in Ag best practice

WORDS & IMAGES | Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development

Staff from Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (DPIRD) Agribusiness, Food and Trade (AFT) team, and the Peel Development Commission, represented Western Australia at the inaugural evokeAG conference in Melbourne in late February.

Held over two days, evokeAG provided a platform for the agriculture and food sector to exchange information and share best practices on how technology can and will shape the future.

The event also showcased agtech, research and investment opportunities to more than 1100 farmers, entrepreneurs, investors, government representatives and corporate bodies from 21 countries. As a strategic evokeAC partner, DPIRD hosted an exhibition booth that proved popular with visitors and was an effective means of communicating our messages.

The opportunity to meet potential investors and key industry partners was also invaluable.

A masterclass entitled 'Innovating down the cost curve at Bungulla Farms', presented by DPIRD Economist Brad Plunkett and grain grower and Bungulla Farms Director Brad Jones, was fully subscribed.

#### The Commission's Economic and Regional Development Principal Officer Janine Hatch represented regional WA and provided valuable information on opportunities and investing in the Peel region.

The department supported a delegation of six WA investor-ready agtech businesses to attend the conference, and worked with them to make investor and industry connections. The delegation included SWAN Systems, Mapizy, Livestock Pricing, Laconik, ManukaLife and Kimberley Wild Gubinge.



Peter May, DPIRD; Tim Hyde, Swan Systems; Mehdi Ravanbakhsh, Mapizy; Darren Hughes, Laconik; Susan Hall, DPIRD; Terry Burnage, DPIRD; Rob Kelly, Livestock Pricing; Janine Hatch, Peel Development Commission; and Ivor Gaylard, Swan Systems.





TOP: The DPIRD exhibition booth provided a popular networking space.

ABOVE: Bungulla Director Brad Jones and DPIRD Senior Economist Brad Plunkett presented a masterclass.

AFT A/General Manager Susan Hall said sponsoring the conference helped raise awareness of DPIRD's investment offer and promoted the department on the national stage to a domestic and international audience.

"It demonstrated DPIRD is serious about supporting agtech and promoting investment opportunities in WA," she said.

"Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, knowledge and skills to helping tell the "Why WA?" story to an international and highly engaged audience."

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

More information is available on DPIRD's webpage and the evokeAG website.



Over 800 people enjoyed a stunning evening of opera.

# **Des cases brings Jarrahdale Heritage Mill to life**

WORDS | Alana Fortune, Peel Development Commission IMACES | Stu McKay Photography and Dwellingup Pumpkin Festival

PEEL Development Commission

SOCIAL FEATURE

The opera returned to the historic timber town of Jarrahdale in March this year with the spectacular Opera at the Mill.

The talented quartet comprising Antoinette Halloran, Rosario La Spina, Argentine-Australian baritone José Carbó and Serbian-born Milijana Nikolic, serenaded patrons staging some of the biggest opera numbers including 'The Barber of Seville', 'Rossini' and 'The Phantom of the Opera', surrounded by forest at the Jarrahdale Heritage Mill.

Peel Development Commission Chair, Paddi Creevey joined more than 800 people for a stunning evening of opera under the stars, hosted by the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.



"What a most remarkable evening I had recently attending the Opera at the Mill event under the stars at the Jarrahdale Heritage Mill. It was an enormous pleasure and privilege to attend this fantastic event and I wanted to congratulate The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, their Councillors, and staff, on the way it was presented," Ms Paddi Creevey said.

"The Jarrahdale Heritage Mill is symbolic of our history and the night was an amazing showcase of how we can celebrate our history through events like this," Shire President Cr Michelle Rich said.

With nearly 200,000 people visiting the Shire annually to enjoy its numerous natural attractions, Cr Rich said the Shire would continue to work with stakeholders to support tourism growth within the region. The Commission is thrilled with the success of the event and very happy to have been able to contribute sponsorship support.

The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale acknowledges Aigle Royal Developments, Byford & Districts Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank, LWP Byford Syndicate, Wormall Civil, National Trust of Western Australia, The Minderoo Foundation, MZI Resources, Peel Development Commission, PERMApole, Alita Constructions, Byford Print, Luxury Loos WA, Hyatt Regency Perth, Harvey Beef, Tattarang Springs Distilling Co, Cleanaway, Jarrahdale Tavern, Prestige Catering and Event Hire, Mega Vision and Focus Promotions for their ongoing generosity to support Opera at the Mill.

#### PROGRESSIVE | PROSPEROUS | DYNAMIC

# the quartet ...

One of Australia's most accomplished and best-loved sopranos, **Antoinette Halloran** performs regularly with all the major Australasian opera companies and symphony orchestras and appears frequently on national television and radio. Antoinette has appeared in many productions ranging from opera to musical theatre and cabaret.

Her 2015 debut album received five-star reviews and topped the classical and classical crossover ARIA charts for several months.

Rosario La Spina made his Opera Australia debut in 2005 and his American debut in 2007, after which he also performed in Canada, Taiwan, New Zealand, and Japan.

His 2010 Universal duo release 'Always You' shot to the top of the classical charts in Australia.

Serbian-born Milijana Nikolic, who performed with La Spina in Opera Australia's Aida, made her operatic debut in the Belgrade National Theatre and has gone on to perform in New York, Spain, Japan, the United States, Bergamo, Sardinia, Hong Kong, and Korea.

The final performer, Argentine-Australian baritone **José Carbó** is one of the most exciting operatic artists of his generation.

Carbó has performed in the leading houses of the world including Teatro alla Scala, Teatro Real Madrid, Los Angeles Opera, Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Seattle Opera and Opera Australia.

#### Did you know?

The town of Jarrahdale has a long history with the opera after The Opera Bouffe Company paid two visits in 1885 before returning in January 1886.

Now, more than 120 years later, four impressive opera singers performed some of the biggest opera numbers surrounded by forest at the Jarrahdale Heritage Mill.

# **Dwellingup** *Pumpk*in Festival

The Dwellingup Pumpkin Festival is a favourite on West Australian's calendars.

The Dwellingup Primary School P&C fundraiser has been running for more than 22 years having started with a few blokes standing around a BBQ boasting about the size of their pumpkins in 1996.

Over 13,000 people were in attendance at this year's festival, where they enjoyed free entertainment for the entire family including a reptile show, face painters, pony rides, bouncy castle, petting zoo and laser tag. Other entertainment included a bucking bull ride, camel rides, buskers and other music entertainment.

The festival hosted over 100 stalls and 10 food trucks showcasing a diverse range of businesses and local produce from the Peel.

The main event of the festival is the pumpkin competition with the pumpkin king being crowned for having the heaviest pumpkin. The heaviest Pumpkin was grown by a gentleman from Perth – David Penfold, with the weight totalling 268.6kgs.

Over 60 seed packs are circulated to schools around the state in the lead up, encouraging students to enter their very own giant pumpkins in the competitions yielding promising results, with over ten schools having successfully grown giant pumpkins.

The winner of the under 16s for 2019 was Kobe Cocivera who grew a Pumpkin that was 206kgs. Kobe's pumpkin was also the third equal heaviest over all.

The winners	for 2019
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1st	David Penfold
2nd	Lou Vergonne
3rd Equal	Judy Giemellie and Kobe Cocivera



The winning pumpkin and grower from 2018, which was a state record and was not in the 2019 competition, but still holds the top record.

Over the last four years the festival has experienced exceptional growth with an increase of around 2,000 people attending each year and raising \$70,000 from the previous four festivals with each festival taking over eight months to plan.

This festival is an ever-growing achievement for the Dwellingup Primary P&C Association led by President Warren Haugh, and is the main fundraiser for the group coordinated by very small team of parents from the Dwellingup Primary School.

The main aim of the festival organisers is to provide an affordable, enjoyable day out for the entire family, which is why they host a number of rides and attractions for a gold coin donation.

"It's about the family coming up here and having a really good day out, it's affordable and it's fun," Warren Haugh said.

Approximately 55 students attend Dwellingup Primary School with the festival delivered by volunteers throughout the community and not-for-profits organisations assisting on the day, with the P&C donating a portion of funds raised back towards the organisations following the event. Eight not-for-profits hosted stalls at the event, each fundraising and raising awareness for their groups.

Dwellingup Primary School and P&C thanks everyone who comes along and supports the iconic event each year. Keep an eye out in your local papers for 2020 Dwellingup Pumpkin Festival dates.

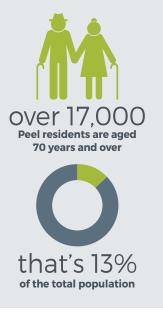
#### **MORE INFORMATION**

Dwellingup Primary School P&C President, Warren Haugh – wazzahaugh@gmail.com



WORDS | Kristie Tonkin, Peel Development Commission IMACES | Peel Development Commission

With over 17,000 Peel residents aged 70 years and over representing 13% of total population, the community recognises the importance of enhancing capability to support the expanding ageing population in our region<sup>1</sup>. These figures are projected to increase to over 22,000 residents aged over 70 and 4,500 over 85 by 2026<sup>1</sup>.



1 Ageing in the Bush Report, 2016

Residents are serviced by a mix of large for profit and smaller not for profit providers offering in-home and residential aged care services across the care continuum.

This is complemented by a range of retirement living options and Local Governments with a commitment to age friendly communities and provision of services such as mobile libraries, walking groups and dedicated seniors' facilities.

#### However, options for service are varied amongst the Peel local government areas and in many locations services are failing to keep pace with the rapidly growing ageing population creating significant shortfalls in care.

The Peel Development Commission, and Regional Development Australia Peel, have been working with regional residential aged care providers over several years to assist with access to State and Federal Government funds for infrastructure growth.

Two successes to date include:

• Quambie Park in Waroona have secured **\$1.8m** in State Government funding and **\$1.6m** of Federal funding for the development of nine purposebuilt accommodation units and a community hub. This development will engage aged people who require high levels of support but do not yet require residential aged care to live independently with an appropriate level of care. • Bedingfeld Park in Pinjarra have secured **\$2m** in State Government funding and **\$3.5m** in Federal funding to build a 25bed dementia specific unit as an addition to the existing 45 bed Bedingfeld Park Lodge.

Demand for aged care services is set to increase in the Peel with the growing over 70 and over 85 population. Aged care consumers are diverse in age, cultural backgrounds, support structures and often have complex health needs, managing multiple chronic conditions. This complexity will increase into the future with people living longer and often entering the in-home or residential care system later in life with increasingly high care needs.

The aged care industry is a major contributor to the Peel economy and collaboration between industry players as well as with Government representatives, is regarded as a key success factor for the future industry growth in the Peel. Care for our older residents is supported not only by residential and in-home providers, but also by adjacent industries of primary, allied and critical health provided by a number of Government agencies, not for profits and private enterprise.

The Peel Development Commission, Regional Development Australia Peel and the Peel Employment Facilitator have been working together to begin to understand the challenges and opportunities for sector growth in the Peel. An industry forum held in September 2018 demonstrated that representatives from the aged care sector including in-home and residential providers, retirement living and local government in the region have a desire to work together to establish Peel as a centre of excellence in regional ageing.

The industry forum identified three key areas of opportunity both for the short and longer term which can be progressed through a local network:

## 1. Communication and community education –

lack of knowledge of the aged care system amongst health care professionals, local government staff and the general community can have a significant impact on the ageing population's ability to access services.

- 2. Working with, within and to improve the 'system' – stakeholders are committed to seeking local solutions to system issues including better use of existing resources and an advocacy voice for local issues.
- 3. A skilled and diverse workforce Increasing complexity of needs in the aged care industry will require staff with a diverse range of skills





into the future. An ageing care workforce and increasing demand for services requires the industry to actively recruit and develop the workforce for the future today.

Since the forum a number of industry networking events have been held

Working

together

with regional residential aged

care providers.

and the initiative partners have been meeting with a variety of stakeholders to better understand the challenges and opportunities presenting the industry.

The next steps of this initiative include:

• Continued networking opportunities for industry representatives to build trust and identify opportunities for collaboration

- An analysis of the economic value of the industry to the Peel economy
- A focus on the care workforce at the Peel Educators Forum in May 2019 to provide local educators with an understanding of the diverse range of career options in the industry
- Review of what we have learnt to date through consultations and identification of key leverage points that can contribute to sector growth.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

For further information please contact Peel Development Commission on (08) 9535 4140 or peel@peel.wa.gov.au



#### Murdoch University cultivating excellence in aged care nurses

Murdoch University is offering post-graduate education for nurses working in aged care. Available at the Mandurah and Perth campuses, the program aims to cultivate skilled, compassionate aged care nurses who are clinical leaders in the complex care of older people.

The series of six 1-day seminars, developed in consultation with industry and the Peel community, is tailored to the new Aged Care Quality Standards and flexible to suit employed nurses. Seminars provide current perspectives on critical issues in aged care, focusing on evidence-based nursing practice in: Leadership and Management; Recognising and Responding to Clinical Deterioration; Using a Palliative Approach; End of life Care; Dementia Care; and Safety and Quality.

Using an interactive approach, these seminars connect clinical, registered, and enrolled nurses working across aged care settings who learn together from university educators and practice specialists. Clinical skills are practiced in Murdoch University's state of the art simulation suites, and participants take away a toolbox of practice resources.

The seminars can be taken individually or as a package. Feedback has been positive, emphasising the relevance to practice. Nurses' comments include "The presenters were very welcoming and took the time to discuss any questions asked...Learnt valuable information, able to put into practice straight away", and "I will be attending all seminars, very useful to my role".

Murdoch University will continue these seminars throughout 2019 with a view to developing further tertiary-level courses for nurses working in this vital healthcare sector.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

For further information, please contact Associate Professor Susan Slatyer at susan.slatyer@murdoch.edu.au



# Jo Barker & Liz Butson appointed... Members of the Order of Australia





Jo Barker AM

Liz Butson AM

In recognition of significant contributions to the field of occupational therapy and service to the Western Australian community through the Girl Guides, Jo Barker AM and Liz Butson AM were appointed Members of the Order of Australia in the 2019 Australia Day Honours list.

Although their careers and individual contributions are quite different, Emeritus Professor Jo Barker and Liz Butson have both been active and generous in their engagement with their communities and believe that being involved in groups, organisations and activities is important to build leadership skills, develop a sense of place and belonging, and to build an understanding of self purpose through participation and giving back.

#### Jo Barker

Jo Barker's long and celebrated career in occupational therapy began when she was just 17 years old when, after her father's suggestion that occupational therapy would be a better fit for her personally than physiotherapy, she fell in love with helping people regain their independence. That love saw her working clinically in NZ and Australia before being appointed Head of Occupational Therapy at Curtin University. She was the first occupational therapist in Australia to complete a PhD, the first female board member and Chair of Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital and the first Australian President of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists.

Throughout her career, Emeritus Professor Barker pursued her belief and contributed significantly to the recognition of occupational therapy as an area of great importance in the health disciplines – a theme that continued beyond her professional career and into her contributions to community organisations. Professor Barker was Chair of the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre for 10 years, raising its profile and establishing the centre as a cultural hub for the region. She also Chaired the board at John Tonkin College and was an advocate for Alzheimer's WA raising

funds along with her husband for the establishment of a sensory garden at Ella's house in Mandurah. Most recently she became Chair of the Board of Coolibah care residential home in Mandurah.

#### Developing a dementia friendly community in Mandurah is what has really captured Professor Barker's love and interest of late.

"A dementia friendly community is one where the wider community such as local councils, shop owners, schools and community groups are provided with information and training to assist them understand and recognise dementia so that those with dementia, remain included, accepted and a vital part of the community," said Emeritus Professor Barker.

Some of the libraries in Mandurah are making changes to help people with Alzheimer's and Farmer Jack's shopping centre are improving signage for the same purpose.



A wonderful community project – Emeritus Professor Jo Barker is pictured here (centre) with Rhonda Parker, CEO Alzheimer's WA, Jenny Rogers, Deputy Chair Alzheimer's WA, Ian Ilsley, Chair Halls Head Bendigo Bank, Kieran McCabe, Head of House, and students from Mandurah Catholic College.



Mandurah Catholic College students with CEO and Deputy Chair of Alzheimer's WA.

Professor Barker says it's also about helping people with dementia become more involved and welcomed in the community to keep them active and engaged for as long as possible.

Our population is ageing so it's becoming more important for the public to become increasingly aware of the implications and challenges that ageing poses for the whole community. Professor Barker is working with Murdoch University to develop a program for registered nurses to upgrade their skills in aged care. They also hope to develop options for people with lower education levels who want to work in aged care, the ability to achieve aged care certification. Professor Barker believes that Mandurah is well-placed to develop care facilities, education and training, and a dementia friendly community to become a centre of excellence in aged care.

Professor Barker said that engaging the community, including young people, is at the core of the community taking ownership of an issue and making a real difference. Exposure to activities like sport, volunteering, youth council, getting involved and learning to give back to the community as early as possible helps kids to build leadership skills, communicate in different ways with different people and learn about different issues the community is facing.

Recently, students from Mandurah Catholic College, with the help of Bendigo Bank, designed, built and installed a bench for the garden at Ella's House. The project was funded by Bendigo Bank with about 20 students contributing to its construction and installation. Ella's House is a day care centre for people with Alzheimer's and the garden was established with fundraising through Alzheimer's WA. The bench commemorates Professor Barker's late husband, David Waddell.

#### When asked about her appointment as a Member to the Order of Australia, Professor Barker said it was a great honour and that she was very grateful to her sponsor.

"Personally I don't like public acclaim — I much prefer to do things! I have had a very fortunate life and have always enjoyed giving back, so I found myself feeling a little bit strange about being rewarded for things I always enjoyed, but it is a huge honour of course."

#### **Liz Butson**

That feeling was echoed by Liz Butson AM, whose community contributions through the Girl Guides were also recognised by her own appointment to the Order of Australia. Mrs Butson's long association with the Guides began in 1958, working up to the senior section and later becoming a leader. She has been active with the Guides ever since, holding the position of State Commissioner for five and a half years and is currently on the Awards Committee for Western Australia.

Girl Guides Australia empowers girls and young women to grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members. The Australian Guide Program helps girls to learn life-skills and leadership while having fun, making friends and enjoying the outdoors. Everything that Girl Guides do is related to the four Guide elements; Self – challenging yourself; People – Making friends, sharing, caring and understanding others; Practical – Learning skills that will help you through life; Physical – Being active, healthy and strong.

Mrs Butson believes that it's important for girls to be given the opportunity to learn amongst and be guided by other females, and to also be given opportunities where their interests and skills can be extended by international connections and events. President elect of the WA branch of Soroptomists International and former Mandurah President, Mrs Butson says there are obvious similarities between the Guides for girls and Soroptomists for women, and that the

Soroptomists are committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.

Young people

today are our

leaders of

tomorrow.

"Having watched Girl Guides on the world stage for a number of years, a lot of the groups in developing countries have been able to make physical changes — things that you can actually see. In Australia, the results of this kind of work is less about results you can actually see, but more about changing attitudes. Unfortunately, some of the hardest things to sell are those that are not tangible, such as the development of someone's character, resilience and ability to contribute."

Mrs Butson believes that giving girls the opportunity to fail in a safe and nurturing environment also gives them a great opportunity to learn learn what they're capable of, learn how to make informed decisions and learn how to recover, to get back up on their feet is an example of the non-tangible benefits of guiding.

#### PEEL Development Commission



Young people today are our leaders of tomorrow so the Guides uses a program and activities selected by the girls themselves to challenge themselves and learn whatever they're interested in, in a way that challenges.

The element of service is very important to the Guides, and something personified by Mrs Butson's ongoing service to Cirl Guides Australia, Soroptomists International and her community in general.

As the Guides State Commissioner for five and a half years, Mrs Butson lead the organisation, the management team within Western Australia and also represented the State on the Australian Board. She says that although the Guides don't necessarily teach girls to strive for leadership roles, many of the girls do become active in their communities in leading roles due to the skills, confidence and awareness that the Guides helps to equip them with.

#### In talking about the evolution of the Guides over the years, Mrs Butson said that the opportunities that are available to girls these days far outweigh the opportunities that were available to her as a young person.

With the advances in technology and the internet, communications and connections with people around the world are much more accessible and instantaneous, so it's much easier for girls to find opportunities to participate in and to understand issues and challenges affecting different communities around the globe.



When asked about recognition of her work and contribution to the community through the Guides and Soroptomists by her appointment as Member of the Order of Australia, Mrs Butson, like Professor Barker, showed her humility and genuine love for what she does by saying that while awards and recognition were never her motivation, it was a great honour.

"You don't set out to have that as your end result. You set out because you enjoy doing it, you want to do it and



you feel you can make a difference, so you just continue to do it, but I do feel that there are other people in this world that deserve to have these awards as well."

In response to her experience and genuine belief that there are many deserving people who should also be recognised, Mrs Butson, in her capacity as Chair of the Guides Awards Committee of Western Australia has begun to develop application processes for nominating more women from that organisation for Australian Honours.

"It's the sense of satisfaction and achievement, and also the opportunities to experience places and meet people that you wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to do – they are the reasons I do it, it's my hobby." Mrs Butson says of the years of service and the countless hours of contribution, which she also points out is why she doesn't have time for much else, including knitting and sewing!

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

To view the official list of recipients in the Australia Day 2019 honours list visit: www. gg.gov.au/australia-day-2019-honours-list

# Mandurah supports entrepreneurs through Startup Huddle

WORDS | Tomás Harmon IMAGES | Veronika Sajova Photography

The Global Entrepreneurship Network is excited to announce the opening of Startup Huddle in Mandurah, to help local entrepreneurs hone their pitch skills and discover solutions to the challenges they face.

Startup Huddle is a program designed to educate, engage and connect entrepreneurs. As an experiential learning opportunity, the Startup Huddle format is consistent in each location: on a given morning, one or two early-stage startup founders give a sixminute presentation of their companies to a diverse audience of peers, mentors, educators and advisers. Each presentation is followed by a 20-minute question and answer session.

Veronica Smith, Startup Huddle Mandurah organiser, said this program in particular is critical for the development of the region. Outside of Perth, Smith said entrepreneurs struggle to connect with each other. This is why the Startup Huddle program has proven an effective solution to build connections and bond the ecosystem. Already, more than 60 entrepreneurs have participated in five Startup Huddle Mandurah events. Smith said more people are expected to attend future huddles in 2019.

#### "Our goal will be to engage, inspire and provide support to a community of local startups and entrepreneurs, becoming recognised as a leading program in our region," said Smith.

The culture surrounding Startup Huddle is that of a supportive, neutral space, welcoming entrepreneurs to be open and honest about their businesses and the challenges they face. Each event is organised by local entrepreneurs and community builders who volunteer their time to secure a venue, vet and select presenters and publicise the event.

As opposed to a traditional "pitch" environment, Startup Huddle was not created to be critical of entrepreneurs, but rather for the presenters to learn from shared experiences and find ways to support one another as a community.





Smith said a strong community will be necessary as the region begins to develop over the next 30 years. Near Mandurah, the Peel Business Park is currently under construction, which is expected to become a hub for innovation and light industry in Western Australia. Population projections for the region show more than 400,000 people living in the region by 2050. And the Australian Government has identified the region as eligible for an Entrepreneurship Facilitator who will help build the startup ecosystem. All of these changes will require a strong regional economy, and Smith believes entrepreneurs are the critical component to developing that economy.

"Peel needs to build an economy that incorporates many industries, adopts an innovative approach to business, and has a highly skilled and high performing workforce," said Smith. "A thriving, prosperous entrepreneurial ecosystem in Peel will support economic growth and provide opportunities for employment."

Startup Huddle is an educational experience for both the audience and the presenters. Presenters are given resources and support to prepare for their presentation and surveyed after their presentation to see what they've learned.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

For more information visit: www.genglobal.org/startup-huddleaustralia/mandurah-supportsentrepreneurs-through-startup-huddle



# Shire of Murray Murray is on the move

WORDS | Shire of Murray IMACES | Shire of Murray and Josh Cowling



PERTH METROPOLITAI



The Shire of Murray is on the move having celebrated several exciting announcements recently, paving the way for a prosperous 2019 and beyond.

The district's long-term sustainability and economic well-being have been bolstered with funding secured for several major projects as well as works advancing on key Shire deliverables.

#### **Bushfire Centre of Excellence**

In a monumental March announcement, Murray was named the host locality for the Bushfire Centre of Excellence for Western Australia. A Nambeelup site has been secured for the Centre, just north of Pinjarra, chosen for its close proximity to major transport links, accommodation options and expansive rural space. The building design is expected to be finalised within the coming months, and is planned to include areas for exercising incident management teams and incident control centre personnel.

The establishment of the Centre will not only deliver significant economic benefit for the Murray district, but will also provide firefighters from around the state access to a transformative, world-class facility offering innovation, research and training in bushfire management from the country's leading authorities.

#### Peel Business Park Agri-Innovation Precinct

In an investment game changer for new jobs in Murray, the Shire secured \$21.75 million through the Commonwealth Government's Regional Growth Fund toward the construction of a world class Agri-Innovation Precinct within Transform Peel's Peel Business Park in Nambeelup.

#### The \$21.75 million will see to the construction of commonuse infrastructure including research facilities, cold storage, warehousing, packaging and distribution and incubator space.

These common-use facilities are set to stimulate the development of the wider Agri-Innovation Precinct, to incorporate high technology food production, value-added processing and university-led research and development, to de-risk investment and encourage significant local and international buy-in.

The Precinct will be a catalyst for the conditioning of the next generation into a highly skilled workforce to satisfy job requirements and is of momentous benefit to Murray businesses and ratepayers.

The common-use facilities within the Precinct will be a Shire of Murray owned asset that will help secure long-term sustainability for the district



and through strategic linkages and improved access to export markets, local business will have new platforms on which to expand and grow.

Agreements are in-place with Fund Singapore and Murdoch University, with discussions underway and set to intensify, with several other smart businesses.

Approximately 83 direct and indirect jobs will be created through the construction of the common-use facilities, with the creation of a further 83 operational jobs.

#### This project will also be an important catalyst for the anticipated long-term outcome of 33,000 jobs for the wider Transform Peel initiative.

The creation of new jobs is critical for addressing unemployment rates and the resultant employment needs of the anticipated population growth for Murray and the Peel region, and the Peel Agri-Innovation Precinct is a significant step towards building a strong and resilient local and regional economy.

Over the next six months, the Shire will finalise planning for the commonuse facilities, to prepare for the start of construction in early 2020.

#### Dwellingup National Trails Centre Project

Dwellingup is on its way to becoming a key Western Australian trails town with the first two deliverables of its National Trails Centre project, officially open.

In April, hundreds flocked to the site of Dwellingup's new Pump Track and Skate Park, to celebrate the opening of the amenities and be among the first to test out the town's new offerings.

While both amenities encourage increased participation in and uptake

of the disciplines, the Pump Track especially offers a fit-for-purpose warm up facility for competitive and non-competitive bike trail users and supports mountain biking and trails events held in Dwellingup.

The Shire has worked closely with community representatives in the delivery of this significant project, and the opening of the amenities was a festive celebration for this exciting milestone.

The Skate Park and Pump Track project was supported by the State Government through the Local Projects Local Jobs Fund and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries as well as Lotterywest and Alcoa.



Dwellingup

is set to become a key

WA trails destination.





Other key deliverables of the wider National Trails Centre project include the expansion of the current Visitor Centre as well as landscaping and upgraded parking and pathways.

The wider project is further aligned with trails infrastructure development projects.

#### **Dwellingup Adventure Trails**

Alongside the Dwellingup National Trails Centre project, the soon-to-be trails town has enjoyed significant investment in its trail offering.

In January 2019, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Parks and Wildlife Service opened three new downhill mountain bike trails in Dwellingup, catering for beginner, intermediate and advanced riders, the first of over 25km planned for the Murray Valley Mountain Bike Trail Network.





In March 2019, the Shire successfully secured \$3.4 million through the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund to develop the Dwellingup Adventure Trails. This funding along with \$5 million from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions will see the delivery of at least 32km of quality mountain bike trails, realignment of the Munda Biddi Trail, Island Pool canoe access points along the Murray River, upgrades to the Captain Fawcett 4WD track, sealing of 28km of Lane Poole Reserve roadway, a pop up café and hire facilities at Baden Powell Reserve and an 80m suspension bridge from the Reserve to the Murray South mountain bike circuit, as well as marketing, branding and promotion of the town.



#### **Pinjarra Heavy Haulage Deviation**

Pinjarra is the economic hub of the Shire of Murray and a growing regional town centre with a mix of commercial, retail, community and tourist activities that service an extensive local and regional catchment.

#### The Deviation will work to improve the safety, amenity and economic potential of the town centre, with the road's capacity forecast to exceed by 2023.

In a 2017 referendum, coordinated as part of the 2017 Local Government Election, 84% of respondents voted yes, in support of the Pinjarra Heavy Haulage Deviation.

The referendum's response empowered Council to actively advocate for the Deviation through regular engagement with the State Government, relevant Ministers and Local Members.

Initial concept designs and cost estimates are complete, enabling the project to be progressed and funding aligned to the various components. Funding has been secured from both the Federal and State Governments.

The Pinjarra Heavy Haulage Deviation will eventually be implemented in a staged approach, with future stages dependent on population growth and road capacity considerations. The Murray district is growing and changing. Realising the importance of acting strategically, the Shire is working with clear intent to take advantage of the many opportunities growth brings. Through major projects and deliverables, the Shire continues to strive to create great places for its people and a diverse and prosperous economy, whilst maintaining the district's much-loved attributes that will continue to make Murray a unique and wonderful place to live, work, play and invest.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

For further major project information visit http://murray.wa.gov.au/major-projects.

#### Did you know?

The Shire of Murray is also highly regarded for horse racing?

Racing first began in 1891 at the historic Pinjarra Race Club which is situated at Pinjarra Park racecourse. The RaceClub host many race meetings at the race course throughout the year, with the most popular being the Pinjarra Cup and the Pinjarra Classic.



# Peel Bright Minds: Inspiring a curious community

WORDS | Charlie Jones, Peel Bright Minds

Since forming in early 2018, Peel Bright Minds has been making strides in inspiring a curious community and a culture of lifelong learning in the areas of Entrepreneurship, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics ('ESTEAM').

With the support of the Commission and other regional partners, Peel Bright Minds aims to foster a culture of lifelong learning in ESTEAM among people of all ages and backgrounds in the region, ensuring that we are prepared to thrive in the future world and workforce.

In 2018–19 the City of Mandurah, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, Shire of Murray, Shire of Boddington and Shire of Waroona have each committed to support Peel Bright Minds over a three-year period, demonstrating their priority to prepare the community for the future of work, and recognising Peel Bright Minds' early achievements.

#### Event highlights so far

Ranging from live, explosive science shows to speed networking afternoon teas for high school girls, Peel Bright Minds has been providing diverse ESTEAM engagement opportunities around the region.

In May 2018, 150 people packed out Mandurah's Fishtrap Theatre to hear a Q&A from internationally renowned science communicator Dr Chris Smith of 'The Naked Scientists' in collaboration with Murdoch University.

Peel Bright Minds has also engaged with hundreds of Peel community members around ESTEAM and the future of work with engaging stalls at local festivals in all areas of Peel. These have included the Boddington Rodeo, a series of Youth Festivals in 2019, Mandurah's Children's Festival and Stretch Arts Festival, SJ Community Fair and Pinjarra Festival — just to name a few. Look out for the team at upcoming community events.

#### Recognising ESTEAM Achievements

The region has some incredible people working tirelessly to inspire and build the capability of others in ESTEAM. Some of these were recognised in the inaugural ESTEAM Awards with educators, citizen scientists, science communicators, artists and young entrepreneurs among those recognised.

> Peel Bright Minds is bringing the ESTEAM Awards back bigger, better and brighter in 2019, culminating in a gala ceremony in June 2019.

#### Innovation in Action Tour with C-Wise and EarthWhile Australia

During March 2019, Peel Bright Minds partnered with local businesses C-Wise and EarthWhile Australia to present an Industry Insights Tour. Participants had the opportunity to experience a site tour of C-Wise, learn about soil food webs, look through microscopes with EarthWhile Australia and meet professionals passionate about their work in ESTEAM-related careers. Peel Bright Minds are hopeful of securing funds to make these Innovation in Action Tours an ongoing series.

#### Winners at GovHack 2018

Peel Bright Minds was part of a team who were awarded several prizes in the 2018 GovHack open data innovation competition. GovHack is an open data hackathon, which brings together developers, artists and entrepreneurs to share ideas and create innovative ways to utilise open government data for various challenges.

Members of co-working and innovation hub 'Make Place', Charlie Jones (Peel Bright Minds), Esther Anderson (Technology Design & Marketing), Oliver Bazzani (The Makers) and local web developer Sean Jenkinson (Identita) formed team 'HackaPeel' and created a functioning web-based app in just 46 hours.

Their interactive online tool 'seeCHANGE' aims to encourage people living in urban areas to consider relocating to a regional centre by highlighting the possible lifestyle, business and economic advantages.

Personalised to a user's specific circumstances and interests, the tool allows users to select what is important to them when choosing a place to live and recommends regional cities or towns that align most with their preferences.







Top: Peel Bright Minds volunteers. Above: Team HackaPeel.

seeCHANCE rose to the top over 240 entries nationally, taking first place in the National 'Work Life Made Easy' and State 'Lifestyle Living' challenges plus a high commendation for 'Most Innovative Project'.

The team are working to progress their idea further and pursue seed funding. Make Place plan to host a GovHack node again on the 6th-8th September 2019 and will be looking for mentors, participants and sponsors.

#### **Inspiring volunteers**

Peel Bright Minds is supported by a volunteer Steering Committee along with a growing, diverse volunteers' group. Volunteers include high school students, people working in or retired from ESTEAM professions – all sharing the vision of the importance of curiosity and lifelong learning.

The team meets monthly to share and develop their skills and assists with facilitating events, writing blog articles and much more! To read some of their brilliant blogs, visit www.peelbrightminds.com. au/blog-posts

#### **The New Work Order**

Program Coordinator Charlie Jones recently had the opportunity to visit Melbourne to attend a workshop by the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) on putting into action the recommendations from their 'New Work Order' research.

The FYA's research series outlines the key trends in the future of work such as the rise of automation, artificial intelligence and flexible modes of working.

Key lessons from the workshop related to accelerators that were identified as critical in helping young people transition into meaningful full-time employment. These included education in enterprise skills (e.g. digital literacy, teamwork, communication, presentation skills, creativity, etc.); 5,000 hours of relevant entry-level paid employment; and an optimistic mindset.

Key aspects of an optimistic mindset include viewing skills as a currency for success (as opposed to qualifications alone); striving to build a lifetime of careers rather than hoping for the career of a lifetime; considering clusters of industries, rather than specific industries alone (which are more vulnerable to change).

A practical tool presented at the workshop was an 'enterprise skills passport'. This can be used to help young people track and communicate the enterprise skills they're developing and demonstrating in all aspects of their life.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

Contact info@peelbrightminds.com.au visit the website to join the monthly e-mailing list, or like and follow Peel Bright Minds on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or LinkedIn.

# A collaborative effort

A ioint initiative of Peel stakeholders. Peel Bright Minds' founding sponsors were Regional Development Australia Peel, Inspiring Australia, Peel **Development Commission, and** Peel Harvey Catchment Council. Alcoa Pinjarra Alumina Refinery have partnered with Peel **Bright Minds, providing funds** to purchase branded materials in 2018, and supporting the **ESTEAM Awards, Champion** Teachers' Network and Volunteers Program in 2019. In 2018-19. The Makers and the five Local Government Authorities in Peel have joined as key partners of Peel Bright Minds.

# ith opportunities



WORDS | Peel-Harvey Catchment Council IMACES | Mark Jackson and Steve Anderson

The Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) is partnering with Murdoch University and John Tonkin College in an exciting new project to start an aquaculture program to grow black bream for release into the Murray River.

Over the past month, a room at the college's Tindale Campus has been transformed into an aquaculture laboratory. Under the supervision of teachers Barbara Sing and Kim Davies, students from John Tonkin College's specialist "Surf Science" program have started building a food web, by growing algae which will be used as food to grow microscopic aquatic animals called rotifers, which will in turn be used as diet for black bream during their early life stages.

In May, between 50 and 100 adult Black Bream will be collected from the Peel-Harvey Estuary by Murdoch University scientists to be used for brood stock. The brood stock will then be conditioned for three months before being induced to spawn. The John Tonkin College students will care for the resultant bream larvae and grow them on a diet of rotifers for a month or so to a length of a few millimetres before swapping their diet to brine shrimp, which they will also grow at the college. At the end of the school year, a sample of the now approximately 50 mm long bream will be checked to ensure they are disease free before release of approximately 5000 juvenile black bream into the

The project partners (from left): Murdoch University researchers Jesse Newton and Dr Alan Cottingham; PHCC's Dr Steve Fisher, Jo Garvey and Jesse Rowley (PHCC); John Tonkin College students Troy Wood, Stuart Wood and Desigar Kanth and their teacher Barbara Sing.

Murray River. The process will be repeated in 2020 by retaining a core of the 2019 students but introducing a new group of students to the aquaculture program involving six classes of up to 110 students each year.

So why is the State funding enhancing the stocks of black bream through aquaculture? Black bream are native to Western Australian estuaries including the Peel-Harvey and are a very popular species for recreational fishers. For example, anglers from around Australia tested their skills against our local black bream during the Hobie Kayak Australian Bream Fishing Championships held on the Peel-Harvey Estuary in 2017.

Bream are also an important part of the Peel-Harvey Estuary ecosystem. Unlike blue swimmer crabs that migrate in and out from the estuary,



black bream complete their life cycle in the estuary in which they were born.

Black bream born in the Peel-Harvey Estuary system, including the Murray River, are entirely dependent on the estuary to provide suitable habitat including water quality and food throughout their life cycle from birth to death.

They are therefore exposed throughout their lives to environmental threats and because their stocks are only replenished from within the estuary, events such as fish kills can decimate the stock. This project aims to enhance the stocks of black bream by protecting the fish from these threats in their early life stages through the aquaculture program.

The aquaculture program is overseen by Drs Alan Cottingham and Ben Roennfeldt, researchers at the Centre for Sustainable Aquatic Ecosystems at Murdoch University, contracted by the PHCC to assist with the project. Dr Cottingham says that "The current stock enhancement project is playing a vital role in sustaining black bream in the Peel-Harvey Estuary, which hosts the second most important recreational black bream fishery in the state. Initiatives, such as these, are becoming increasingly important as climate change and other humaninduced impacts have deleterious effects on these systems".

Research by Dr Cottingham and his colleagues at Murdoch University has shown that the recruitment, or the survival of black bream from spawning to a juvenile fish, has been unsuccessful in the Murray River in the last decade with the exception of 2010. The reasons for this poor recruitment are unclear, but possible causes include unsuitable water quality during spawning or loss of adult females capable of breeding (brood stock) from recurring fish kills over the past decade or so. John Tonkin College Surf Science Students (from left) Troy Wood, Stuart Wood and Desigar Kanth setting up equipment to grow algae as fish food.

Dr Cottingham says "The implications are that adult black bream in the Murray River are more likely to have been born before 2010 than after and that fish killed in events since then are not being replaced with juveniles. A catastrophic fish kill could see the loss of the species from the Murray River for years."

#### Dr Cottingham assessed the bream recruitment using a simple but clever technique to determine the age structure of the black bream stocks.

Throughout their lives, most species of finfish, including black bream. accumulate deposits of calcium carbonate called otoliths **Black bream** in their heads. Each vear. complete their life a new layer of calcium cycle in the estuary. carbonate is laid down on the outside surface of these small stone-like structures. Careful removal and examination of the otoliths under a microscope reveals these layers as a pattern of rings from which the age of the fish can be determined, similar to counting the rings in a tree trunk. The otoliths are therefore like time capsules, storing information about the life history of the fish.

Just before release into the Murray River, the aquacultured black bream will be treated with a dye that binds to the calcium carbonate of the otolith leaving an indelible purple stain.

After release into the estuary, this stain will be retained as a signature at the core of the otolith as the fish ages, identifying black bream aquacultured by the students from John Tonkin College and differentiating them from the wild stock. PHCC's Science Advisor Dr Steve Fisher says, "This project is funded to 2020 as part of a State Government Election 'Recreational Fishing for the Future' commitment, and supported by the State government's Royalties for Regions program to improve the health of the Peel-Harvey Estuary. We hope to extend the aquaculture program beyond 2020 and to also engage with recreational fishers as citizen scientists to help us monitor the survival rate of the aquacultured bream. Fishers would provide us with the skeletons and heads of adult bream they take from the estuary, in particular the Murray River, for students and researchers to examine to establish the age of the fish and whether or not it came from the aquaculture program. Community members are distraught when fish kills occur, especially residents around the estuarine parts of the Murray River and Serpentine Rivers. Involving the community in the aquaculture and citizen science monitoring program recognises and acts on their concern."

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council's Chair Cr Caroline Knight adds, "One of the most exciting aspects of this project is working with John Tonkin College students who are our future scientists and leaders. Not only are they learning new skills and discipline in aquaculture, they are also getting hands on experience in the biology of black

bream and the challenges the species face to survive in our changing environment. This project will raise their awareness of the fragility of the health of the Peel-Harvey estuary, in particular the lower reaches of the Murray river, and the importance of good stewardship of the estuary and catchment in the long term protection of our natural environment".

The Stock Enhancement of Black Bream in the Murray River is a component of the Peel-Harvey Estuary Grants made possible by the by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

For further information contact the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council on (08) 6369 8800 or www.peel-harvey.org.au

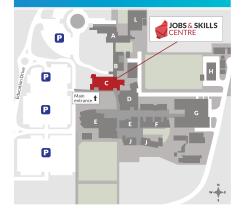


# Connecting training and industry in the Teel

WORDS & IMAGES | South Metropolitan TAFE

#### About SM TAFE Mandurah

- Strategically important regional campus to service the Peel region
- Multi-industry campus offering with strong focus on pre-apprenticeship and pathway qualifications
- Co-located with John Tonkin College and Murdoch University
- Home to a Jobs and Skills Centre



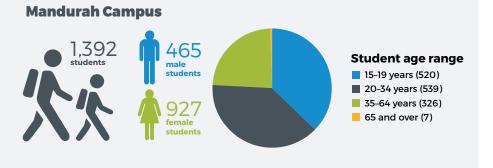
South Metropolitan TAFE (SM TAFE) is tailoring its training to meet the current needs of the Peel community and industry.

SM TAFE provides training for students of all ages, while offering specialised training for Aboriginal and culturally diverse groups at its Mandurah campus.

#### Peel's population is growing rapidly yet unemployment remains an issue. SM TAFE has responded by adapting training and employment pathways for Peel job seekers.

An example of this is SM TAFE's pre-apprenticeship programs where students do work placement in priority Peel industries to connect them with employers, shorten the term of a subsequent apprenticeship and potentially lead to offers of employment.

SM TAFE is also helping mature-aged students build their confidence in a variety of online and computer-based resources. The college also delivers a range of access and bridging training





programs specifically designed to help mature aged students transition into work and study.

English courses are offered to assist people from culturally diverse backgrounds to transition into further study and employment. There are also bilingual classes to support people with low literacy and numeracy levels.

During October 2018, the Peel Jobs and Skills Centre (JSC) opened at SM TAFE's Mandurah campus in partnership with Bridging the Gap and SMYL Community Services.

The Peel JSC provides free professional and practical advice on training and employment opportunities, career advice, apprenticeship and traineeship information, and specialist services for Aboriginal jobseekers.

Manager of the Peel JSC Melinda Blagaich said the aim is to meet the region's unique local needs, with a particular focus on addressing the area's high youth unemployment rate, working closely with school leavers, youth at risk, sole parents, employers and industry.

"The key to working in Peel is collaborating with all service providers and being aware of what is happening to identify any gaps, and form strong







working relationships with key stakeholders to identify where we can add value," she said.

"We currently partner with the Peel Development Commission to collaborate with regional Aboriginal employers, inviting them to be on an employer register for the Peel Business Park."

The JSC also provides support services to employers and businesses to assist with recruitment, advertising, workforce development, training solutions and resources and advice on Aboriginal recruitment and retention.

"We have connected with the Peel jobactive network to increase Aboriginal engagement and employment, and training for young and mature-age clients. "Job seekers benefit from our resume and interview workshops and our oneon-one resume and job application sessions we run at locations across the region."

The Peel JSC has established partnerships with the Peel regional shires to offer outreach services at their Community Resource Centres and at the GP Down South HUB in Pinjarra, as a way for the JSC to connect with the community and provide them with free support and services.

"These partnerships have resulted in many jobseekers re-engaging and obtaining sustainable training and employment outcomes." Through the continual growth of training and employment services, community partnerships and industry collaboration, SM TAFE continues to adapt to meet the needs of the Peel community.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

Peel Jobs and Skills Centre call 13 64 64 or visit www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au

South Metropolitan TAFE call 1800 001 001 or visit www.southmetrotafe.wa.edu.au





# Making Daces Detter,



The transformation of Pinjarra's old Court House is an apt example of the Shire's commitment to its place-based approach, focusing on community led initiatives, to grow and activate the district's towns. The Court House, now a contemporary space for creatives, small business owners and entrepreneurs to co-work, co-create and co-innovate; came to fruition through the collaborative efforts of the Shire and local place making group, Pinjarra Connect.

The decision to transform The Court House in this contemporary direction was inspired by Pinjarra Connect's submission in response to an expression of interest process, initiated to activate the centrally located amenity.

Jarra Infusion Owner and Pinjarra Connect volunteer, Nicole Willis, said the group wanted their submission to reflect Pinjarra's creative community.

"Our vision was to create a space for makers to develop and share their creative practice, which wouldn't have been achievable without the incredible support received from the Shire," Ms Willis said.





The Court House's resultant transformation is indicative of the global trend towards unique and flexible working arrangements and provides opportunities for the community to hire hot desks, a meeting room, workshop space and a makers in residence space.

Shire of Murray Chief Executive Officer, Dean Unsworth, said individuals have an increasing desire for greater involvement in determining the future of their towns with the expectation of community changing.

"The pace that local governments often work together with the bureaucratic environment can be difficult for the community, businesses and investors to navigate. Community members gather to celebrate the official opening of The Court House in Pinjarra.

"The Shire has established a dedicated Place Management team to work with place making groups and other key stakeholders in order to deliver community led projects and initiatives, adapting to this changing environment and reducing red tape to support community-led initiatives," Mr Unsworth said.

Under the guidance of Executive Manager of Place, Leanne McGuirk, the Place Management team will work to ensure collaborative partnerships are established with key stakeholders and local groups, to empower the growth of their towns and activate town centres through community-driven events and initiatives.

"Murray's people-centred approach has already resulted in some great outcomes and is positively changing peoples' perception of our towns.

"Working more collaboratively has significantly strengthened the relationship between the Shire and community, with a real sense of local people working together to bring about positive change. It's wonderful to be a part of," Mrs McGuirk said. In the coming months, 'place plans' will be developed for Murray's key localities, developed in conjunction with the community. These placebased strategic documents will be town-specific, with intent to guide the direction of funding and resources in order to continue developing each respective towns' distinct identity.

The team will also continue to work with place-making groups Pinjarra Connect, Dwellingup Creative and others, to activate and revitalise

The transformation reflects a global trend towards unique and flexible working environments.

the Shire's town centres, as well as the small business community and tourism sector, to ensure the district's towns have a reputation of being quality places to visit, live, work and shop.

The transformation will be no small feat, including developing Dwellingup into a nationally significant trails town, however the outcome will demonstrate what can be achieved when a local government recognises, values and commits to community led initiatives to grow and activate its towns.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

For further information on the Shire's place-based approach, please contact the Place Management team on (08) 9531 7777. For further information on The Court House visit www.thecourthousepinjarra.com.



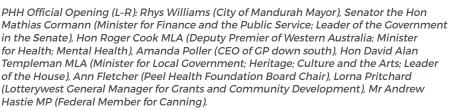
# Peel Health Hubydate

WORDS | Eleanor Britton, GP Down South IMAGES | Mandurah Mail and GP Down South

Around three years ago GP down south developed a vision for the Peel Health Hub to provide a coordinated response to the health issues impacting our young people including mental health, suicide, drugs and alcohol. Recent tragic youth suicides and increasingly higher incidences of mental health presentations at Peel Youth Medical Service drove the realisation that young people needed a safe place where they didn't have to tell their story multiple times in order to receive help.

Early intervention and prevention avoid escalation of health issues, and addressing the health needs of our youth underpins their ability to engage with education, training and employment and enhances their







The GP supported, integrated model of care offers a range of services.

ability to contribute to our community both now and in the future.

The Peel Health Hub was born from this need as a one stop shop for the health needs of young people in the Peel. Involving a GP supported, integrated model of care, it offers a range of services including mental health, drug and alcohol services, family violence and sexual assault support, homeless services, specialist services, vocational services and family support services.

It was through strong community backing and bi-partisan support from all three levels of government that full capital funding was achieved, and the vision has now become a reality.

Funding through the Australian Government Building Our Future Fund, The Government of Western Australia Department of Health, Lotterywest, Peel Health Foundation, the City of Mandurah and community donations enabled construction to commence in 2017. Peel Development Commission provided funding for the Business Case through the Growing our South Administration fund.



The \$9.2 million Peel Health Hub was officially opened on Wednesday 12th December 2018.

The state-of-the-art facility took more than three years of planning and consultation from a variety of stakeholders to ensure the building supported the model of care by ensuring a welcoming and friendly presence as well as a seamless flow for clients and staff throughout the facility. The unique and innovative Model of Care was developed and supported through a series of collaborative workshops during 2017 with key not for profit health providers in the region. The Peel Health Hub Development Group consisting of key co-locators in the building was formed to oversee the building development and design to ensure it supported the Model of Care and to importantly ensure that the Model of Care was agreed to and adopted by all prospective co-locators within the Peel Health Hub. MOUs between all co-locators within the Peel Health Hub were signed as a commitment to integration and collaboration and to support the Model of Care.

GP down south is proud to have led the development of the vision and construction of this purpose-built regional facility for youth in Peel.



The Peel Health Hub currently hosts Peel Youth Medical Service, headspace Mandurah, Youth Focus, Palmerston Association, Allambee Counselling, Richmond Wellbeing and Jobs South West. The Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) will join the Peel Health Hub commencing services on 8th July 2019.

Since the official opening in December 2018 all services have reported growth in client numbers and presentations with Peel Youth Medical Service reporting a doubling of presentations in the last 5 months.

One stop shop The Peel Health Hub for the health needs opened its doors of young people in the to the public on Peel region. Wednesday 17th April 2019 for an open day with an estimated 600 to 700 people attending. The success of the open day is testament to the successful integration and collaboration of all the providers within the Hub. The open day also demonstrated the level of community support and interest in the Peel Health Hub as many young people, families and community members attended joining in the free activities and taking the opportunity to learn more about the Hub.

As we move to the future the success of the Peel Health Hub will be the success of the Model of Care and all co-locating organisations are committed to working on, reviewing and supporting this model through regular meetings, communication and evaluation. Importantly, the Peel Health Hub is not just a building but a model of care that embraces collaboration, integration and digital health for the benefit of young people, adults and their families. All co-locators in the facility agree to work within this model of care which will provide care-coordination, a client centred, no-wrong door policy with GP supported care. The Peel Health Hub will lead to systemic change in the delivery of complex care for young people and will lead to improvements in health and

wellbeing outcomes for youth, adults and families in the Peel region.

The Peel Health Hub is a 'One Stop Shop' for health needs for the youth of the community. For the youth who seek support and treatment their goal is to lead a normal life in a meaningful way, part of which is to be engaged in employment or education. However for many of them, mental health concerns, drug and alcohol issues and other health concerns are fundamental barriers to their

participation. It is vital therefore, that our youth have ongoing access to holistic and integrated health services and are supported on their journey to wellness.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

For more information visit: www.gpdownsouth.com.au/peel-healthhub





# Regional Service Networks - building a strong and active community

**WORDS** | Kristie Tonkin, Peel Development Commission

The Peel community is well serviced by government and notfor-profits who provide high quality events, activities, and services to enable all members of our community to be strong, resilient and able to actively participate in the community.

What you may not know is that these providers regularly meet to network and develop collaborative projects to ensure high quality service provision that meets the diverse needs of the communities in which they operate.

The networks are led by services who understand the value in creating opportunities for building relationships and an understanding of each other's role in the service ecosystem in order to effectively care for their clients.

The following provides an overview of some of the networks currently operating in the Peel.

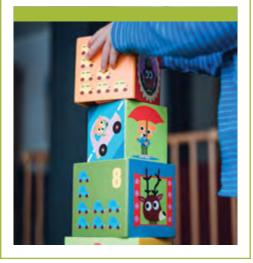
### Peel Early Years Network

A voluntary, community group comprising of stakeholders from health, parenting programs, education, childcare centres, family day cares and local government. The group encourages collaboration to achieve increased awareness and education on the importance of a child's first few years of life.

The vision of Peel Early Years Group is to 'value and support children in their early years' and in achieving this vision the group's mission is to:

#### 'To actively increase awareness of the importance of the health and well being in a child's early years'.

The network worked collaboratively to develop the ME@3 Pop-Up Playgroups and Passport – a pilot project that aims to provide information and play sessions that empower parents to provide developmental activities for their three year old.





### PeelConnect Incorporated

PeelConnect aims to connect with others in the region tackling issues of homelessness, mental health, drugs and alcohol.

Through the following programs and projects, they strive to support others to overcome disadvantage and realise their full potential:

- Celebrating Community
  Connection annual dinner to
  acknowledge the existing work in
  our community;
- **Night Carers** visit the homeless at night for a chat, hot drink and care pack;
- Sewing for the Homeless participants make reusable shopping bags, benefitting from skills enhancement and social connection;
- MACS providing mentoring for our disadvantaged, and counselling by donation for those struggling to source the support needed due to cost or wait times; and
- Engaging with other agencies to improve availability of accommodation.

PeelConnect, through community engagement, collaboration with agencies and sharing an understanding of the 'lived' experience with clients, work toward an inclusive and compassionate community.

peelconnect@gmail.com



#### Peel Says No to Violence

An active alliance aimed at raising awareness, understanding and community action against family violence in the region.

The Alliance is led by a core group of organisations who have found that working together on a focused initiative has not only benefited the community but also built trust, understanding and collaboration amongst services. Alliance members include organisations and individuals who pledge to undertake an activity to raise awareness. Members come together regularly to celebrate their successes and workshop future initiatives.

peelsaysno@gmail.com

### Peel Homelessness and Street Present Group

Shared Group Aim determined in 2018:

"Creating a collaborative overarching framework for the group to add communication and resource delivery, with a clear focus on the client."

The group have assumed the role of working to collaborate and assist homeless people who are unable to find a regular roof over their heads;

- especially youth who may be intermittently homeless
- street present people
- negative behaviours especially in the city centre

Brings together services and stakeholders focused on caring for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the Peel region to discuss and develop collaborative approaches.

In March 2019 the group reached a consensus to work towards a working group model with a key aim in 2019



to undertake a Registry Week to gain an improved understanding of the rough sleeping homeless cohort in the region. Please see the image above for the working group model that the Peel Homelessness and Street Present Network will be progressing with.

Cheryl-Lynn.Magro@mandurah.wa.gov.au



#### Pinjarra Connect

Pinjarra Connect is a place-making group working towards activating the Pinjarra Town Centre by creating a street environment where innovative ideas and projects bring the community together, inspire others and contribute to a vibrant, diverse and unique Pinjarra experience. A critical ingredient to creating this environment is unlocking the creative skills, talents and interests within the local community epitomised by its Music on the Murray event in 2018, which saw John Butler return to Pinjarra to deliver a free concert for the community. Pinjarra Connect in collaboration with the Shire of Murray and numerous other members of the community rallied together to deliver a successful event and a unique experience bringing art and culture to a regional town.



# Waroona Interagency Group

The Waroona Interagency Group is a forum for agencies who deliver community services to share knowledge and work collectively to address issues generally around community safety and wellbeing. The forum provides the opportunity for members to network and access collegial support.

#### **Objectives**:

- To share information on the needs of the community in the shire
- To keep up-to-date with changes within community agencies and how this will impact on service delivery in the Shire
- To provide information to policy and decision makers as an informed collective with a view to influencing policies impacting on community agencies in the Shire
- To provide opportunities to improve the quality, effectiveness



and range of services delivered to the local community through broad networking

• To build the capacity of community agencies to meet the needs of the Waroona community

The Shire of Waroona maintains a group database and distributes relevant information, arranges presentations for each meeting and prompts valuable discussions. Waroona Interagency Group has arranged capacity building workshops, facilitated RoadWise campaign support, assisted in developing a Drug Action Team, and advocated for regional services — a number of event, activities and initiatives held not only in Waroona (such as Waroona Youth Fest, NAIDOC Week, Waroona Agricultural Show, Women's Health Expo, Youth Mental Health Program to name a few), but the greater Peel region would not be as effective and efficient without the support of the Waroona Interagency Group. Membership has grown to over 70 representatives from more than 50 stakeholders including local governments, government agencies, health service providers, community support organisations and not-for-profits.

Contact: cdo@waroona.wa.gov.au

# Tocial, Help, action and Resources for the Environment.

#### S.H.A.R.E in the Shed

The PHCC have been supporting community to "Work Together for a Healthy Environment" for nearly 20 years. A key role is to inform, educate and inspire and, amongst many other activities and events, the PHCC holds four "S.H.A.R.E. in the Shed" events a year, for community.

S.H.A.R.E. stands for Social, Help, Action and Resources for the Environment. There are four guest speakers with 15 minutes each, followed by a Q&A panel and then a light supper. The supper provides an opportunity to meet the speakers, delve deeper into questions, network and mingle. See peelharvey.org.au for events and activities including upcoming S.H.A.R.E. events.



These are just a few examples of the many networks that exist in the Peel region – many more are out there with varied focus from business networking, innovation creation and place activation. If you have a passion for connecting with others, there are plenty of opportunities – seek them out and get involved!

# A slice of Kiwi in the Peel foodbowl

WORDS & IMAGES | Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

A recent trip across the Tasman has provided Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (DPIRD) Agribusiness, Food and Trade team invaluable insight to help plan and develop the Peel Agri-Innovation Precinct.

Principal Business Development Manager Terry Burnage joined Shire of Murray CEO Dean Unsworth, Manager Investment Attraction David Arkwright, and Murdoch University Pro-Vice Chancellor of Agriculture Peter Davies, to explore and learn from the New Zealand Food Innovation Network.

DPIRD has been supporting the Peel Development Commission and Shire to formulate a strategy for investment and operation of the Agri-innovation Precinct that will be located at Peel Business Park.

Almost \$22 million has been allocated from the Commonwealth Government's Regional Growth fund to build the precinct.

Terry said successful innovation parks were more than bricks and

mortar and relied upon synergies and infrastructure.

"The New Zealand Food Innovation Network is an accessible, national network of science and technology resources created to support the growth and development of food and beverage business of all sizes," Terry said.

#### "Through this network, the Kiwis have been successful in building new export-competitive businesses and creating new jobs in regional areas."

The Western Australian delegation visited the Waikato Innovation Park in Hamilton and the Auckland foodbowl – two of the six hubs that comprise the network.



Left to right: Peter Davies, Dean Unsworth CEO Shire of Murray, Stuart Gordon CEO Waikato Innovation Park, David Arkwright Manager Investment Attraction Shire of Murray, Terry Burnage, outside the entrance to the Waikato Innovation Park.



"By gaining an understanding on the success of these two entities, we identified the Peel region could fast track its pathways to design and build appropriate infrastructure and systems to support agrifood businesses to grow and prosper," Terry said.

"We were provided with in-depth insights about the development and operation of the Waikato facility, which now hosts 60 businesses that collectively export about \$600 million of products and services per year.

"Overall, the visit was very informative and the excellent relationships built with our Kiwi hosts provide us with the ability to tap into this valuable experience for the Peel Agri-Innovation Precinct."



# Staff profiles **Q&A**

**WORDS** | Alana Fortune and Tahleshja Waller

IMAGES | Peel Development Commission

Every workplace has a team of staff working tirelessly to bring projects, strategies and outcomes to life. In this issue, the Commission welcomes two new team members.

**Introducing** Alana Fortune, Project Support Officer



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

My role within the Commission is Project Support Officer which implies exactly how is sounds, I assist Officers on upcoming activities, projects and coordinate internal procedures. In my role I coordinate events for the Commission, manage a school based trainee, conduct policy reviews, share information across various media in consultation with the Communications Officer and update the websites through the internal and public webpage. This is not my only responsibilities within the Commission and this is why I truly enjoy working for a small government agency, the fact that I get to work across a variety of areas.

### What brought you to the Peel region for work?

I have lived in the Peel since I was seven years old (with a two year stint in Perth) and was commuting from Mandurah to Perth for the last eight years for work. Something has always brought me back here, so working in the area that I have lived for most of my life has always been a hope of mine and working within a department that works toward building the prosperity of the region is a great opportunity.

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

The commitment and passion people have for making this region a great place to live and a thriving community.

It really is amazing to work for, and with people that have so much pride and passion in the work that they do for a common objective, to further this region.

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

A government career was actually never on my mind when I was younger having worked mostly in the retail and the restaurant sectors. I started by applying through an aptitude test online and was successful at interview to work in the Public Sector Commission Office as a receptionist. The rest is as they say history, working in a number of fields from events management, communications and data analysis. Something I am passionate about is learning new things and the best way I learn is by doing them, I am still unsure of what field I enjoy most but know that working within government I can gain further insight and skills to maybe one day figure it out (hopefully).

## Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?

I see myself in a position where I am still trying to further my community and working in an area that I am passionate about.

#### What is your favourite Peel discovery?

The Dwellingup Pumpkin Festival. This event is something that I have only recently heard about and am planning to attend. They had 12,000 visitors from all over the state in attendance at last year's festival and an astounding \$70,000 raised in the last four years. It is finding out something like this event, even though I have lived in the Peel most of my life, is something that I find incredible about this community and what can be achieved though working together.

### How do you like to spend your spare time?

My spare time consists of family, friends, walking my dog, Netflix and planning my next travel adventure. I enjoy going to concerts, events and mostly love to travel which does not help my wallet out. I have travelled to Bali, France, Rome, Berlin, Munich, Vietnam, Cambodia and many more. For my next adventure I've set my sight on Japan.

#### **Introducing** Tahleshja Waller, Trainee



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

My role at the Peel Development Commission is a trainee, so I'm completing certificates for the workplace for further job interests.

#### What interested you about completing your work based traineeship with the Peel Development Commission?

The thing that interests me in completing my work based traineeship is being able to have the opportunity for a young indigenous girl, learning about greeting, using workplace technology and working in a workplace.

#### What do you enjoy most about working in the Peel Development Commission?

The thing I most enjoy about working in the Peel Development Commission

are the workplace staff. They make me feel welcome and apart of the team and I also enjoy having the opportunity to work within the Peel region.

#### How did you decide to go down the path of completing a certificate through the school based trainee option?

I decided to go down the path of completing a certificate through a school based traineeship because this is the easiest way to go down the track of working in an office or with a client community. It is definitely a big opportunity for me.

#### Where do you see yourself in five years' time?

In five years' time I see myself travelling with friends or a partner.

#### How do you like to spend your spare time?

I enjoy spending my spare time watching movies, or playing netball.

### In your opinion, what makes the Peel region a great place to live?

It's a welcoming, small community and I have lived here for many years.

### What is your favourite thing to do in the Peel Region?

My favourite thing to do in the Peel region is to play sport. This region is the most supportive town to play sport in that they are open to everyone.



#### **New Board members**

New MAPTO Board Members with Mandurah Mayor and fellow Board member, Rhys Williams, and MAPTO Chair Pat Strahan (Graeme Skeggs not pictured).

L-R: Myrianthe Riddy, Ryan Mossny, Pat Strahan, Mark Abercromby, Rhys Williams and Michelle Sidebottom.

# New Board members boost MAPTO's strength

Five new faces have joined the Board of Mandurah and Peel Tourism Organisation (MAPTO) bringing with them a wealth of tourism knowledge and experience, and of course, a passion for the region.

Myrianthe Riddy, Graeme Skeggs, Mark Abercromby, Ryan Mossny and Michelle Sidebottom are highly capable professionals with dozens of years of accumulated tourism knowledge between them, and are perfectly placed to accelerate MAPTO's work in increasing tourism visitation and expenditure for the Peel.

Tourism plays such a vital role in the region's economic development, the creation of jobs, training and skills cultivation, as well as reinforcing the diversity and vibrancy of the Peel. Growth and investment in this sector are key to addressing some of the challenges our region faces, as well as realising the many opportunities and potential for strong growth that also characterise the region. MAPTO's role in delivering tourism marketing and providing a professional level of destination development is critical to achieving this. The strength of the Board heightens MAPTO's ability to work across these two key areas, in collaboration with their stakeholders, to open important opportunities targeting sustainable and strategically planned tourism growth.

MAPTO Chair, Pat Strahan, welcomed the new appointees, saying they were the perfect complement to the skills of existing members.

"All five are currently working in the tourism industry and are strongly invested in it," Ms Strahan said.

"Their knowledge, expertise and passion will be invaluable in setting the strategic direction for the future of tourism in the region."

MAPTO A/CEO Anita Kane said she looked forward to working with the new Board members. "These appointments will be hugely beneficial to Mandurah, especially when it comes to the new Board member's knowledge and expertise around product and destination development."

#### The new Board members join Pat Strahan (Chair), Rhys Williams, Adam Denniss and Mark Newman on the MAPTO Board from April.

Tourism is a growing industry in the Peel presenting opportunities through infrastructure investment, product diversification and the creation of adventures that attract visitors and entice them to stay longer. Recognising the importance of tourism throughout Mandurah and the Peel Region. MAPTO is focused on delivering a well-managed and accessible program of tourism marketing, and on providing a professional level of destination development, including the development of key infrastructure assets, destination planning and advice on effective policy outcomes.

PEEL Development Commission

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# Jarra Infusion



WORDS | Melissa Worthington, Cork and Cheese

Locals are in the know and visitors to Pinjarra are discovering this quaint Jarra Infusion café located on George Street in the heart of the Pinjarra Township.

Stepping inside the doors and through the historic building, regular customers head to the alfresco seating area at the rear which spills onto the banks of the Murray River.

Owner Nicole Willis has positioned the café as "a place that brings community together", with ingredients locally sourced and freshly created on premises with a mix of modern and traditional favourites passed down from generations. With four charming seating areas to choose from and a BYO license, the café also offers a range of artisan workshops for adults and children, a community space for fundraising, live music weekends and sells locally crafted gifts/ art and locally made foods such as pickles, jams, honey, blended tea, coffee and herbs. Nicole has shared just one of her delightfully fragrant dishes, ideal for the cooler days ahead.

#### Jarra Infusion 28 George St, Pinjarra WA 6208 Phone (08) 9518 7225 www.jarrainfusion.com

#### "Our outdoor garden area is dog friendly with river views."

Nicole Willis, Jarra Infusion



Veyan sweet potato and chick peacury

Served on a bed of tri-coloured quinoa, topped with homemade thyme infused cashew cream

#### **SERVES 8**

Sweet potato and chick pea curry

#### Ingredients

- ½ cup tomato paste
- 750 sweet potato cut in 1cm cubes
- 2 tins organic coconut cream
- · 6 medium diced tomatoes
- 1200g chick peas soaked over night
- 6 teaspoons Moroccan spices
- 4 teaspoons curry powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoon olive oil
- tri-coloured quinoa

#### (organic ingredients preferable)

#### Method

- Add olive oil to a large cooking pot and heat. Add sweet potato and slightly brown then stir in chick peas, adding coconut cream, tomato paste, diced tomato and all seasonings.
- 2. Thoroughly stir until all combined, and then simmer until sweet potato is tender but not mushy.
- 3. Combine 2 cups of organic tri coloured quinoa with 4 cups

water in a microwave safe bowl and cook for 10 minutes on high. Alternatively, simmer over low heat on cook top until quinoa is tender.

#### Thyme infused cashew cream Ingredients

- 2½ cups raw cashews
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- · 2 drops thyme oil
- 3 cloves garlic
- ¼ cup nutritional yeast
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Water from soaked cashews
- Salt
- · Pepper

#### Method

- Soak cashews in hot water for 2 hours, then strain nuts from water (keep water for later).
- In a food processor or blender, add cashews, lemon juice, thyme oil, garlic, nutritional yeast, 1 cup of cashew water and olive oil, whilst blitzing, slowly add the kept cashew water, requiring between ½ and 1½ cups achieving a smooth consistency. Season to taste.

# Road upgrades to pave the way for growth at Peel Business Park

Peel Business Park in Nambeelup, Western Australia's new home of agri-innovation and industry has received strong interest since LandCorp's Industrial Lands Authority released Stage 1 in October 2018.

The majority of lots released are now under offer or under contract from both agribusinesses and industrial companies wanting to relocate within the Peel region or start new businesses at the park. Only three lots now remain available for purchase in Stage 1 with LandCorp taking expressions of interest for Stage 2.

Construction commencing for Peel Business Park is an important milestone for the Transform Peel project partners who include LandCorp, Peel Development Commission, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Shire of Murray and the City of Mandurah.

Through Transform Peel \$45.2 million Royalties for Regions funding is delivering the essential trunk infrastructure works.

#### These works are expected to create around 300 local construction jobs, with a further 160 permanent operational workforce jobs once LandCorp's first stage development area is fully operational.

The scope of the trunk infrastructure includes an 8km extension of power, 5km extension of water, sewer and telecommunications, 3.5km of road upgrades and 2.5km of gas infrastructure extension. This will result in fully serviced lots in Stage 1 and create the foundation for the seed development of Peel Business Park.

In addition to infrastructure works currently underway, upgrading the surrounding roads is essential to support the growth that Peel Business



Park will bring to the Nambeelup Industrial area. LandCorp will be commencing road upgrades later this year, undertaken in two phases:

In August 2019 Phase One works are expected to commence and be completed in early 2020. Works will include:

- Realigning and constructing a new carriageway on Lakes Road from the Gull Road and Patterson Road intersection back to Stage 1 of Peel Business Park;
- The installation of a single lane roundabout at the Lakes Road, Gull Road and Patterson Road intersection; and
- An upgrade of a new single carriageway on Gull Road from Lakes Road to Readheads Road.

Following completion of the Phase One works, in mid 2020 the following Phase two works are planned to commence:

- Construction of one carriageway of Lakes Road from the western boundary of Stage 1 Peel Business Park to Osprey Road;
- Construction of a single lane roundabout at Lakes Road and Osprey Road; and
- Construction of a single lane roundabout at Lakes Road at Peel Business Park.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

If you would like to keep up to date on the progress of works for Peel Business Park, please register to stay informed at: www.landcorp.com.au/peelbusinesspark where quarterly project updates are provided.

To register your interest in future Stage 2 lots, please contact Phil Melville on 0488 203 088 or Warick Irving on 0413 863 335 from CBRE to discuss your requirements.

# Construction works begin at Peel Business Park

Peel Business Park in Nambeelup, the first phase of Transform Peel, has been progressing well with strong support from Government and Industry.

Hon. Ben Wyatt MLA, Minister for Lands has recently announced that Peel-based business Wormall Civil has successfully secured two contracts totalling \$7.3million. Wormall Civil will complete the first major civil works, including earthworks, for the Stage 1 land development and installation of trunk infrastructure power works.

With trunk infrastructure works now underway, the park is on track to become the new home of agri-innovation and industry in Western Australia, and a catalyst for delivering Transform Peel's objectives by creating major economic opportunities for the region.

#### PEEL BUSINESS REGISTER

LandCorp worked in collaboration with the Peel Local Content Adviser to apply the Western Australian Industry Participation Strategy to the procurement process including the application of Participation Plans requiring prospective suppliers to outline their commitments to local content and local jobs. As part of the localised procurement approach a Peel Business Park Business Register was advertised across the region, providing the opportunity for Peel businesses to register their interest.

#### **AGRI-INNOVATION FUNDING**

The Shire of Murray has successfully secured \$21.75million through the Federal Government's Regional Growth Fund toward the construction of the worldclass Agri-Innovation Precinct, fending off 300 applicants nation-wide to secure one of 16 successful applications.

The funding will see to the construction of common-use infrastructure including research facilities, cold storage, warehousing, packaging and distribution, and incubator space.

#### **INVESTING IN THE FUTURE**

Backed by 30 years of planning, Peel Business Park is beginning to realise its potential for reshaping the State's economy – aiming to create 33,000 new jobs in the Peel region by 2050.

This long-term vision is now coming to life and being translated into development opportunity, with five of the first 11 lots released in Stage 1 currently under offer and plans underway to release more lots to satisfy growing demand.

Incentivising enterprises in the Peel Business Park is critical at this stage and is strongly supported by the Shire of Murray's offer for the first five investors purchasing land in Stage 1 to receive a three-year rate holiday. Additionally, these investors will also have local government development and building application fees waived.

### What are people saying about Peel Business Park?

The conversation has begun – find out what key stakeholders have to say online at **landcorp.com.au/peelbusinesspark** 

Transform



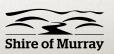


# The answer for agri-innovation

Peel Business Park's five innovatively-designed and sustainably-built precincts will cater for the agri-innovation, renewable energy, general industrial, light industrial and service commercial businesses of tomorrow.

Register your interest: Agribusiness – Phil Melville 0488 203 088 Industrial – Warick Irving 0413 863 335 Iandcorp.com.au/peelbusinesspark







LANDCORP

Industrial Lands Authority.