

The International Awards for Liveable Communities 2011

*St Francis Xavier
Primary School
Isabelle Perks
Year 6P*



A smart, sustainable city where community matters
A city of global significance



Greater Geraldton is a vibrant regional city situated on the Indian Ocean coast in the minerals rich Mid-West region of Western Australia.

INDEX

Introducing the City of Greater Geraldton	3 - 4
1. Enhancement of the Natural and Built Landscapes	5 - 6
2. Arts, Culture and Heritage	7 - 8
3. Environmental Practices	9 - 10
4. Community Participation and Empowerment	11 - 14
5. Healthy Lifestyle	15 - 18
6. Strategic Planning	19 - 22

This report has been compiled by Andrea Selvey, Director Creative Communities.

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Postal Address

Cathedral Avenue or PO Box 101

Geraldton WA 6531

Phone: (08) 9956 6600

Fax: (08) 9956 6674

E-mail: council@cgg.wa.gov.au

Web: www.cgg.wa.gov.au

The cover of this report was an entry from a recent 2029 and Beyond Project 'Geraldton FEELS right to me because...'



Printed on recycled paper



The Greenough River Mouth. An ideal place for families to enjoy fishing, kayaking, kite surfing, walk trails and endless breathtaking views.



Beacon Island - One of the 122 Houtman Abrolhos Islands located 60kms West of Geraldton.

Introducing the City of Greater Geraldton

Greater Geraldton is a vibrant regional city situated on the Indian Ocean coast in the minerals rich Mid-West region of Western Australia. The City offers its people a strong sense of community, quality education and health services, diverse opportunities for employment and enterprise, cultural experiences and a relaxed, family-friendly lifestyle - all in a pristine coastal environment.

The City is framed by the Chapman Valley to the North, the meandering Greenough River to the South, the Moresby Ranges to the East, and the stunning Houtman Abrolhos Islands off the Western coast. The area enjoys a sunny mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters.

The City's population of 38,000 is growing rapidly and is predicted to reach 100,000 people within the next 20 years. The current population is relatively youthful with a high proportion of young children and working age adults who are working in a diverse range of occupations.

The City's low unemployment rate has continued to fall steadily over the past five years and is currently less than 5%. Seventy-five percent of households are made up of families with dependent children.

"While endowed with many natural assets, the City has faced and will continue to face, many challenges in providing its citizens with a liveable community. The way these challenges have been met and overcome, along with plans to ensure ongoing liveability in an increasingly vulnerable world, is what sets Geraldton apart as a liveable community."

*Ian Carpenter
Mayor
City of Greater Geraldton*



The key strengths of the City as seen by its citizens are its commitment to environmental sustainability, parks, gardens, open spaces, arts, culture, library, sports and recreational facilities and the support provided to community groups.

Occupations within the Community 2006

The City is governed by the Mayor and 11 Councillors who are responsible for governance, policy, local laws and financial appropriation. The Council is assisted by its Chief Executive Officer and over 300 staff. The City owns over \$A300 million in assets with an annual budget over \$A87 million.

The City is being transformed. While the traditional high value fishing and agricultural industries are in decline, the expansion of the mining and resource sector and high tech projects such as world class radio astronomy facilities and digital broadband network are attracting billions of dollars of investment. These will lead to significant changes in the regional economy and demography. At the same time the City is facing significant challenges associated with climate change and the threats this poses to the natural and human environment.

These global and regional trends will impact in some way on the City's viability. The future sustainability of the City is a priority for the people of Greater Geraldton and is crucial for the Region's continued prosperity. The innovative *2029 and Beyond* Project is the centrepiece strategy for the City's transformation. *2029 and Beyond* has been designed to fulfil the citizens' vision for a smart, sustainable city where a sense of community matters for current and future generations.

Occupations within the Community 2006





The Geraldton Foreshore is a magnificent community playground framed by the Indian Ocean. More than 8000 people gathered there for Australia Day 2011 celebrations.



Enhancement of the Natural and Built Landscapes

Greater Geraldton has a naturally beautiful environment with pristine beaches, meandering rivers, picturesque islands and coastal ranges. The City's beaches have become a global destination for windsurfers, kitesurfers and other aquatic sport lovers. Directly off the coast lies the magnificent Houtman Abrolhos Islands, scene of the famous 1629 Batavia mutiny and home to one of nature's most spectacular marine areas with unique biodiversity. With these natural gifts in mind, the City is committed to enhance the natural environment by protecting areas of high biological diversity, ensuring environmentally responsive development, encouraging citizens to act as stewards of the environment and reducing vulnerability and risk from climate change.

The City has partnered with the Western Australian (WA) Government to produce the Geraldton Regional Flora and Vegetation Survey which has mapped and described vegetation types occurring in the Geraldton region to ensure that the environmental impact of future development in the Geraldton region is minimised.

The Greenough River Nature Walk Trail was created to provide visitors and residents with access to view the beautiful Greenough River whilst protecting environmentally sensitive areas. The trail meanders through three plant associations - Coastal Health, Melaleuca/Acacia thicket and wetlands with rushes, sedges and samphires, offering a diverse experience of the area's natural heritage. Introduced plants are also present and competing with endemic vegetation.

The most aggressive species are the Boxthorn and Carnation Weed. The City has implemented a program of identifying and eradicating pioneer populations over a three year period.

The City of Greater Geraldton has a significant length of coastline which is impacted by natural erosion and accretion. The City, the Geraldton Port Authority, the Department of Transport and the Northern Agricultural Catchment Council have worked in partnership to produce a coastal processes study which provides the City with a sound, scientific basis for shared decision making on coastal management.

The people of Greater Geraldton have transformed the way they think and feel about the City's Foreshore at Champion Bay and how it is used. After a decade of planning and development, the Foreshore project has turned a once industrial aspect into a magnificent community playground framed by the Indian Ocean and enjoyed by local families and tourists. In 2010, for the first time, Australia Day celebrations were held along the length of the Foreshore and the day was a resounding success, attracting more than 5,000 people. The success was repeated in 2011 with an estimated 8,000 gathering to celebrate.



Four National Tree Planting events took place in conjunction with local community groups. More than 5000 trees were planted at four locations by more than 100 community members.



Enhancement of the Natural and Built Landscapes

The area is being affected by climate change with research showing it will become hotter and drier and that seas will rise, increasing the risk of coastal inundation and extreme storm events. The City has worked with regional counterparts to plan for these negative impacts and protect the natural and built environment.

Projections used for the Region's Climate Change Risk Assessment

Climate Change	Specific Climate Variable	Current Conditions	Projections for 2030	Projections for 2070
Increased Temperatures	Average temperature	19.8°C	+1.4°C (21.2°C)	+ 6.4°C (26.2°C)
	Days over 35°C per year*	38 days	+ 6 days (44 days)	+ 26 days (64 days)
Reduced Rainfall	Average rainfall*	449 mm	-9.5% (406mm)	-43.7% (252.8mm)
	Annual dry days (days with <1mm rainfall)*	278 days	+ 2.9 days (280.9 days)	+ 13.4 days (291.4 days)
Sea Level Rise	Sea level rise^		+ 0.2 metres	+ 0.7 metres
	Extreme sea level events (storm surge)	Factor of four increase in frequency for every 0.10 metre of mean sea level rise		

*CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research, 2009

^ Department of Climate Change, 2009

The Climate Change Adaptation Plan includes using drought tolerant plant species in the City's parks, gardens and bushland revegetation; long term planning for locations most vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surges; ensuring priority is given to protecting existing vegetation and green corridors and implementing a community education program on measures to protect local flora and fauna.

An exciting new initiative is the Million Trees project which will result in a million trees planted in the Greater Geraldton area by 2013 to improve biodiversity, land conservation, 'green infrastructure', carbon sequestration and aesthetic values. The project has emerged as a community aspiration from the World Cafes held as part of the 2029 and Beyond project. While the City is leading the initiative, it is based around community ownership and conservation education. A volunteer-driven Community Nursery will propagate local species for the Million Trees project.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Greater Geraldton supports a proud Indigenous history and a culture that has been in existence for at least 40,000 years. The traditional owners of the land consist of several language groups, collectively known as the Yamaji people. The City is only the second Local Government in WA to have developed and endorsed a Reconciliation Action Plan which encourages goodwill, mutual respect and recognition of the effects of non-Indigenous settlement on Australia's first peoples. Out of respect for and pride in the community's Indigenous heritage, the Aboriginal flag is flown along side the Australian and WA flags. "Welcome to Yamaji Country" signs are erected at all major sites and entries into the City. The local community and visitors are able to learn about the ancient Indigenous culture through cultural trails, Wajarri language classes, dreamtime storytelling and 'bush tucker' experiences.

Greater Geraldton is also well known for its rich and fascinating maritime heritage, which began with European contact. Not all of these contacts were successful and the coast is littered with numerous shipwrecks, the most famous being the 'Batavia' in 1629. More permanent and planned settlement was developed on the back of pastoral and mining opportunities which were sought out in the mid-1800s. The settlement at Greenough River was established in 1839, followed by the townsite of Geraldton in 1849.

The Central Greenough Historical Settlement is one of Australia's best preserved nineteenth century towns.

A significant cultural monument is the HMAS Sydney II Memorial built to commemorate the 645 Australian sailors who were lost during a World War II battle with a German warship off the coast of Geraldton. This beautifully designed memorial which attracts many international tourists is a testament to community commitment and action. It was funded and built by local businesses through the Rotary Club, and gifted to the community.

The City also offers a rich tapestry of more contemporary cultural experiences. World class cities include the WA Museum Geraldton, Regional Art Gallery, Regional Library, Queens Park Theatre and the Yamaji Arts Centre. A number of festivals, markets and regional agricultural shows are featured in the annual program of community events which exemplify the creative aspects of City life.



The HMAS Sydney II Memorial is the first memorial to be recognised as a memorial of national significance outside the Australian capital city of Canberra.



The Greenough Pioneer Museum is part of the Central Greenough Historical Settlement.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Many Indigenous Australians preserve their connection with their country through expressive art forms, reflecting the radiant colours and culture that have been conveyed through lifetimes. In 2010, the Greater Geraldton Regional Library hosted the annual Good Heart Mid West Aboriginal Art Exhibition by proudly displaying some of the finest work from contemporary and traditional Mid West Indigenous artists.

The Big Sky Readers and Writers Festival has been a feature event for the past six years and continues to grow in popularity within the region and beyond. The Festival attracted over 350 participants including 100 young students in 2010. Popular events include the Big Sky 4 Youth, Book Launch Lunch, Bush Poets Breakfast, Poetry Live, the Writers Forum and the Q&A panel on contemporary issues.

The Festival recently added educational workshops facilitated by partnering universities to inspire the community to participate in artistic, cultural, entrepreneurial, intellectual and sustainable pursuits. The first annual Big Sky Big Ideas Festival took place in 2010 to provide further inspiration, education and community development. Community members were able to participate in the Big Ideas Summit, the 2029 Hypothetical and numerous educational events and exhibitions during the

Big Ideas Community Day.

The Randolph Stow Young Writers Awards were introduced to the Mid West Region in 1989 with the Greater Geraldton Regional Library having a major organising role. The Awards have continued to gain considerable prestige within the region and in 2010 over 650 entries were submitted and more than 45 awards were presented in 10 categories of poetry and prose across various age groups.



Greater Geraldton supports a proud Indigenous history and culture that has been in existence for at least 40,000 years.





Council has approved the expansion of the current windfarm to 188 turbines and a new 50 turbine windfarm.



A Permaculture Gardening Workshop - Big Ideas 2010

Environmental Practices

The City's environmental practices are guided by a sustainability policy framework, designed not only to assist with decision-making but also build a shared understanding of sustainability within the community.

The framework ensures that the City's environmental practices reflect strong principles including:

- A precautionary approach by ensuring that land developers are responsible for proving that the development contributes to sustainability;
- Enhancing rather than degrading environmental systems and services to avoid over-extraction, pollution or physical degradation;
- Increasing investment in infrastructure and buildings that are long-term assets, adaptable for multiple uses, and valued by the community;
- Encouraging the community to act as stewards for the environment, locally and globally.

Going Carbon Neutral

The people of Greater Geraldton have expressed a strong desire to live in a carbon neutral city. The City has proactively encouraged and supported a number of renewable energy projects. Council has approved the expansion of the current windfarm to 188 turbines and a new 50 turbine windfarm. The City is now considering a 40 megawatt solar power facility.

In 2010, the City began real time metering of key facilities including the administration office, theatre, library and art gallery to determine benchmarks for energy and efficiency and identify opportunities for reduction in consumption. It has used this initiative to promote energy efficiency behaviours in both the workplace and home. The City has installed photovoltaic cells for its Family Day Care Centre to educate users and reduce energy costs by 70% per year. It intends to purchase more systems of similar size for all its main facilities. A number of energy audits have been completed and this information is being used to implement efficient technologies to reduce consumption costs.

The City's Building Department has partnered with the Geraldton / Northwest branch of the Master Builders Association (MBA) to form the Build It Better Committee. The Committee has a number of key projects underway. The 'Build It Better' Retrofit project is renovating homes or charitable buildings to increase their energy efficiency, reduce water use and showcase the products and services of local organisations. The City and the MBA have also been co-hosting a number of forums that assist homebuyers and the wider community to make positive sustainability choices.



Dual pathways allow community members to safely travel from one end of the City to the other.



National Water Week at Geraldton Primary School.

Environmental Practices

The City has partnered with the Durack Institute of Technology to deliver the innovative Living Smart program to the community to build knowledge and skills in sustainable living practices. The seven week behaviour change program engages with households on a personal level and encourages them to reduce their energy and water use, waste disposal and car-based transport. The City has hosted renewable energy product demonstrations and energy efficiency presentations for the community, organised climate change forums associated with the Climate Change Adaptation Plan and sponsored the popular Coastal Conversations series. The City has promoted software tools to industry groups for managing carbon emissions through land use planning and strategic planning and policies.

Sustainable Transport

The City is committed to improving modes of transport that reduce car dependence. The City has an active program for constructing dual use pathways for cyclists and pedestrians and to date 81 kms have been completed. A safe and fully connected network of on-road cycle lanes is also being constructed. An Active Travel Officer has been appointed to work closely with the WA Government to deliver behavioural change programs within the community and schools to increase walking, cycling and public transport use.

Water Security

In Greater Geraldton almost all drinking (potable) water comes from deep aquifers outside the City boundary whereas non-potable irrigation water is abstracted directly from the local superficial aquifer. The superficial aquifer is becoming increasingly saline due to reduced rainfall, high evaporation rates, increased demand, and proximity to the coast.

The City's Water Conservation Plan has been acknowledged by the WA Government as the best plan in Western Australia.

The City is identifying and implementing water supply measures such as aquifer recharge to meet the demands of a growing population and urban footprint. New stormwater retention systems have been used at Wandina and Sunset Beach and in the coming year the City will install two large scale water sensitive urban design systems.

A major partnership with the Cooperative Bulk Handling (CBH) company has resulted in rainwater harvesting from the roofs of the huge CBH grain storage sheds. The rainwater is directed into a large infiltration basin, in which exists a network of very low flow production bores to intercept the water. These bores supply approximately 50% of the irrigation water needs of the Geraldton Foreshore, which is a major social, cultural and tourism area.

In 2010, the City collaborated with the State Government, to run school-based educational activities during National Water Week to promote the understanding of water issues in Greater Geraldton and to encourage schools to sign up to participate in the Water Corporation Waterwise Schools program. A total of 130 students from kindergarten to Year 3 participated in activities and students were each given a bucket containing water efficiency tools (shower timers etc.) and information to share what they had learned with their families.

Community Participation and Empowerment

The City is leading a long-term innovative strategy called *2029 and Beyond* which aims to implement participative governance as the usual way for the City to plan and take actions for a sustainable future. Participative governance involves ordinary citizens, government, industry and the non-government sector working together. Not only is there a high degree of participation, but the way people participate is also very important. Citizens have diverse opportunities to take part in serious, in-depth, mutually respectful discussion, exploring and explaining their reasons for the positions they take and cooperating to arrive at decisions that reflect a coherent voice. Importantly, everyday people including those who don't usually participate in civic decision-making, are playing an integral role in policy development and decision-making.

The *2029 and Beyond* initiative has made special efforts to involve disadvantaged and marginalised groups in the deliberative process. For example, recruiting and training "champions" to work with local Indigenous and non-English speaking citizens; having an Indigenous representative on the Alliance Governance Group and developing innovative ways to use social media to help disadvantaged groups to access information on the internet.

2029 and Beyond is supported by volunteer Community Champions trained in deliberative techniques who organise and facilitate opportunities for public discussion, such as the World Cafés, where citizens get together to talk about issues concerning the future of the region. To date, the World Cafés have attracted almost 400 participants.

The Project is guided by the Alliance Governance Group made up of randomly selected members of the community, major companies, not-for-profit organisations and representatives from all levels of government. Strong alliances have also formed with the media, in particular the widely read local newspaper, the Geraldton Guardian, to foster informed dialogue and involvement. The City has partnered with the Curtin University Sustainability Institute which provides the project with internationally renowned experts in deliberative democracy and sustainability to design and facilitate the *2029 and Beyond* Project. This partnership was successful in achieving a prestigious, three year, Australian research grant to help fund the initiatives and generate knowledge on developing a deliberative community around complex issues, in this instance, sustainability.



Geraldton Senior College Teacher Simon Keemink and seven of his students have recently trained as Community Champions.



Community members attended the *2029 and Beyond* official Project Launch - 4 March 2010

Community Participation and Empowerment

The City has also sought the views of the community through a survey of randomly selected residents. Over 550 residents responded to the survey and this was followed by a deliberative forum involving 65 survey participants to explore the issues in more depth. The directions for the future that have arisen from these deliberative processes have been shared with the whole community.



To seek the views of the community, the 2029 and Beyond Project team launched the Community Directions and Key Themes 2010 document at the Geraldton Foreshore.



Our Community Directions



Our Size:
Governance
Environment
 We support opportunities for new residents to join and grow our community over a large fly-in fly-out workforce.

Leadership and Participation:
Governance
 We support a more trusting relationship between community, Local Government and other decision makers, where decision making is collaborative and transparent, and community input is directly linked to action.



Becoming Carbon Neutral:
Environment
Economic
 We support addressing the tension between the economy and environment through whole of community understanding and action to reduce our carbon footprint.



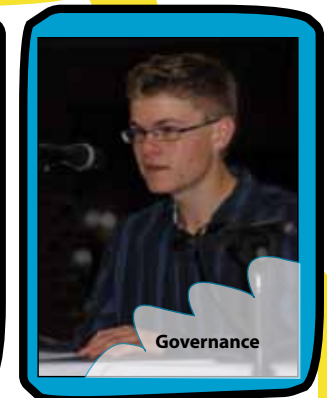
Our Heritage:
Cultural
 We support the recognition and celebration of Yamatji language and culture through facilities for education and cultural expression.

Our Environment:
Environment
 We support Geraldton moving from an environmentally conscious community to an environmentally active community that encourages and enables low impact living, and sustainable urban development that protects our precious beaches and other natural assets.



Our Youth:
Social
 We support offering young people more opportunities for education, recreation and participation so young people will choose to stay in our region.

Our Security:
Social
 We support a community in which all groups get along and feel safe.



Lifelong Learning:
Social
Cultural
 We support a wider variety of educational opportunities in Geraldton.

Our City Home:
Social
Economic
Environment
 We support equity and choice in affordable and alternative transport and housing options that will help to sustain our lifestyle.

A key component of the project has been to find innovative ways to foster and support digital deliberative democracy to complement the face-to-face deliberation. CivicEvolution, is an innovative online platform that allows members of the community, encouraged through the local newspaper and outreach, to post good ideas, and then to work online with interested others to develop their proposals. The proposals provide a unique opportunity for ordinary citizens to inspire action. The Alliance Governance Group has committed to review every proposal that the community develops through CivicEvolution, which reflect the basic rules of respect and legality.

Community Participation and Empowerment

The 2029 and Beyond Website <http://www.2029andbeyond.com.au> was launched in December 2010 and includes an Energy Saving Challenge.

2029 Initiative	No. of Participants
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Alliance Governance Group	17
Community Champions	37
Deliberative World Cafés	395
Deliberative Forum	65
Community Survey	554
Big Ideas Summit	60
Community Foreshore Event	60
CivicEvolution	197
CivicEvolution Live	60
Information to the whole community through local newspapers and radio	Up to 30,000

Print Screen Shot - 2029 and Beyond website



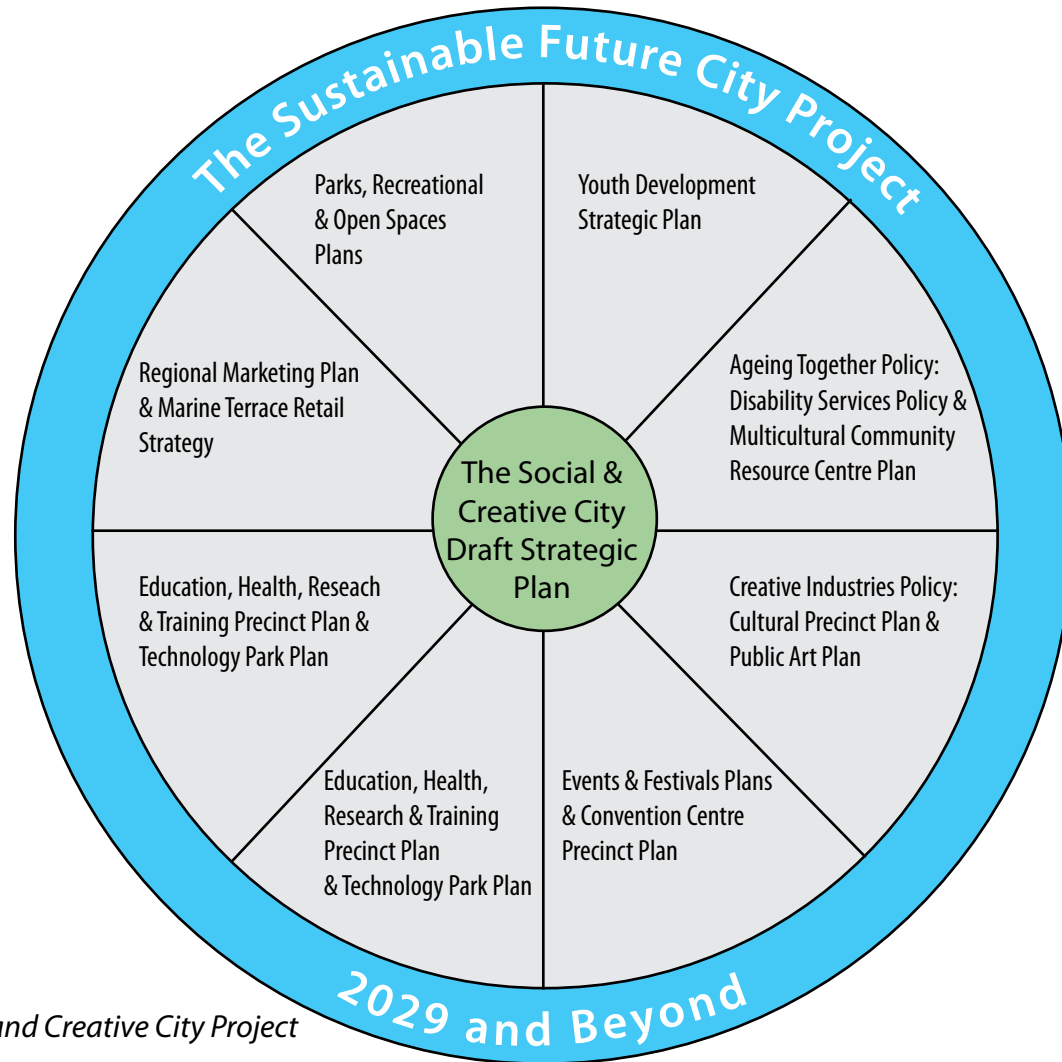
A Sustainable Garden Practices Tour attracted many participants - Big Ideas 2010



Urban Design and Place Making Community Workshop - Big Ideas 2010

Community Participation and Empowerment

Another community focussed initiative is the Social and Creative City Project to identify the City's creative assets and challenges, define goals and establish recommendations to enhance and invigorate Greater Geraldton's social and creative fabric.



The 12-month process involved more than 500 people participating in the various planning activities to achieve the goal for Greater Geraldton to become a "City for Arts" and a regional recreational and cultural hub.



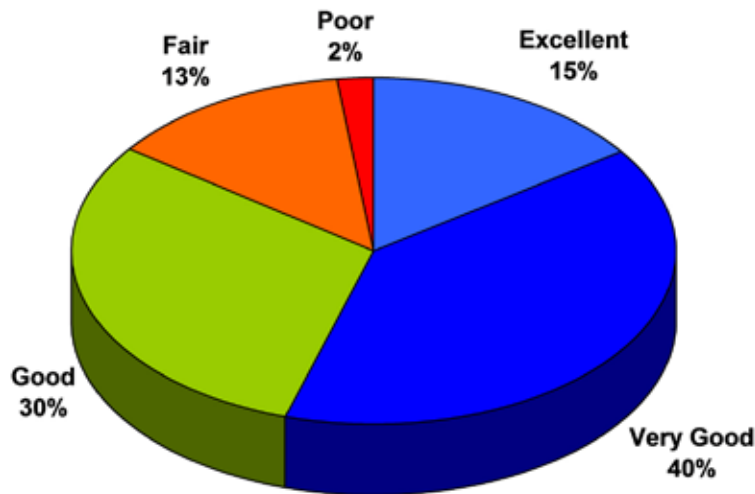
Community members take advantage of the free fitness equipment and summer swimming pontoons installed along the Geraldton Foreshore.



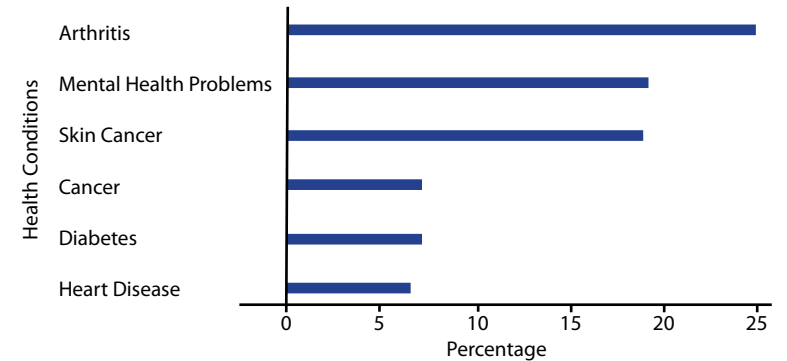
Healthy Lifestyle

In 2010 a survey of people in the community aged 16 and over showed that 85% considered themselves to have good, very good or excellent health. Twenty-two percent reported that their health was better than in 2009, with most (69%) saying their health was the same as the previous year. The three most common health conditions within the community are arthritis, skin cancers and mental health problems. Mental health problems are more prevalent in younger age groups (16-44 years) than the other two conditions, which are associated with people aged over 65 years.

Self Reported Health Status 2010



Most Prevalent Health Conditions 2010



Greater Geraldton is fortunate to be only one of two regional centres in Western Australia that has both public and private hospitals, providing access to a broad range of specialist health services. The Geraldton Regional Health Campus (redeveloped in 2005 at a cost of \$50 million) is a 66-bed public hospital and St John of God Hospital is a 60-bed hospital established in 1935. There are over 50 General Practice doctors who work within the City and the equivalent of 25 health practitioners who provide mental health services.

In Western Australia, the Indigenous community experience poor health due to factors such as alcoholism, smoking, overcrowded housing and low levels of physical activity. Indigenous people live 14 years less, on average than non-Indigenous people. The City employs an Indigenous Field Support Officer and Trainee Environmental Health workers to work with Indigenous communities throughout the region to enhance their health and wellbeing and increase life expectancy.



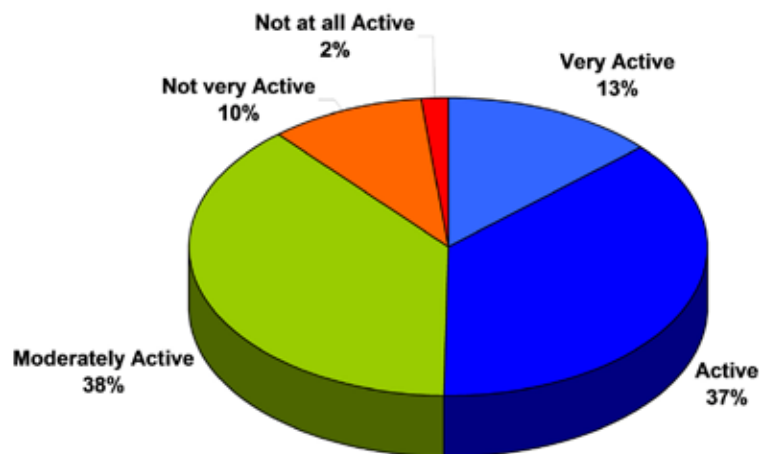
More than 105 seniors participate in Seniors Gentle Gym every week at the Queen Elizabeth II Seniors and Community Centre



A senior revels in art classes at the Queen Elizabeth II Seniors and Community Centre

Healthy Lifestyle

Self Reported Level of Physical Activity 2010



ActiveSmart

The City of Greater Geraldton is now partnering with the State Government to deliver ActiveSmart, a world-first community based physical activity program. ActiveSmart is modelled on the Living Smart behaviour change program that uses tailored information, resources and personal contact to motivate and encourage households to participate in physical activity. The City has a wide range of quality sport and recreation facilities available to the community. Over 10,000 households in the City will receive an invitation to participate in the ActiveSmart program.

Senior Citizens

The City's QEII Seniors and Community Centre promotes active, healthy ageing and quality of life for seniors in the Midwest. The well-equipped and modern Centre has a full-time Seniors Coordinator and includes a broadband kiosk, seniors' lounge and library, seniors' gym, the University of the Third Age and a weekly program of arts, sports and cultural activities to cater for all interests.

Seniors' Week is celebrated each year with a special program of activities to thank all seniors for their dedication and contribution to the community. In 2010 for example, seniors were invited to participate in over 16 special events including a Quiz Afternoon, Have a Go Bowls, a Seniors BBQ & Concert and the Mayor's Mystery Bus Tour and Morning Tea.

Young People

There are 7,000 young people (20% of the population) aged between 12 and 25 years who live and work in Greater Geraldton. Within the next ten years the number of young people is expected to more than double.

The City has a Youth Development & Outreach Officer to work with the youth in the City and the surrounding region. The Youth 'n' Motion Mobile Youth Centre provides youth with a broader range of services including a café, internet facilities, outdoor cinema and a professional sound system. The Centre enables the City to provide youth services and allows other community agencies to work with young people including at risk youth.

Healthy Lifestyle

Young People (cont.)

Since 2002, the City has engaged more than 3,500 young people in consultations, workshops and surveys about their future. According to the 2009 Youth 'n' Motion Youth Survey, which was completed by 1615 young people, almost 60% of respondents could not see themselves living, studying and/or working permanently in Greater Geraldton. The number one reason given was "lack of opportunity", with particular attention given to a lack of decent jobs, limited educational prospects, not enough facilities and a lack of resources. The City is working hard to make the necessary changes to retain its young people. The City of Greater Geraldton Youth Strategic Plan 2010-2015 is the key policy document guiding Council decision-making, on the issues affecting young people. Key initiatives include establishing a dedicated Youth Services Team and a Youth Resource Centre within the City and creating a virtual communications hub for young people in the region.

Midnight Basketball

The Midnight Basketball program is a community run program overseen by a steering committee of local volunteers. The program is primarily aimed at youth-at-risk aged between 12 to 18 years of age, from any cultural or socioeconomic background. Midnight Basketball provides a unique opportunity for young people to meet and socialise in a safe and fun environment. The program is constructed around the motto, "No Workshop No Jumpshot" with all participants required to take part in a life skills workshop, addressing issues such as money sense, self-esteem, goal setting and drugs and alcohol abuse before they can compete in the competition. Two successful eight week tournaments were conducted in 2010 and over 112 youth participated.



June 2011 Midnight Basketball Grand Final winners.



Children enjoy 2011 Australia Day activities at local parks.



Community support has been crucial to the success of the GUC and reflects the community's determination to have a university presence in the area.



The Separation Point Marine Precinct is a world-class marine education, training and industry research centre.

Healthy Lifestyle

Education

The City of Greater Geraldton is in an enviable position of providing a range of education services including university and post secondary courses, government and private senior secondary colleges, high schools and primary schools and kindergartens.

The Geraldton University Centre (GUC) is a unique initiative which has brought three universities to the region after locals discovered that the Mid West had rated 281st out of 290 Australian regions in providing community access to university education. In 1999, the City partnered with the local technical college, schools and industry who all worked tirelessly to establish the GUC. Since then the GUC has had 147 graduates most of whom have stayed in the area as much-needed nurses and teachers. There are 200 listed 'friends of the GUC' who provide philanthropic support.

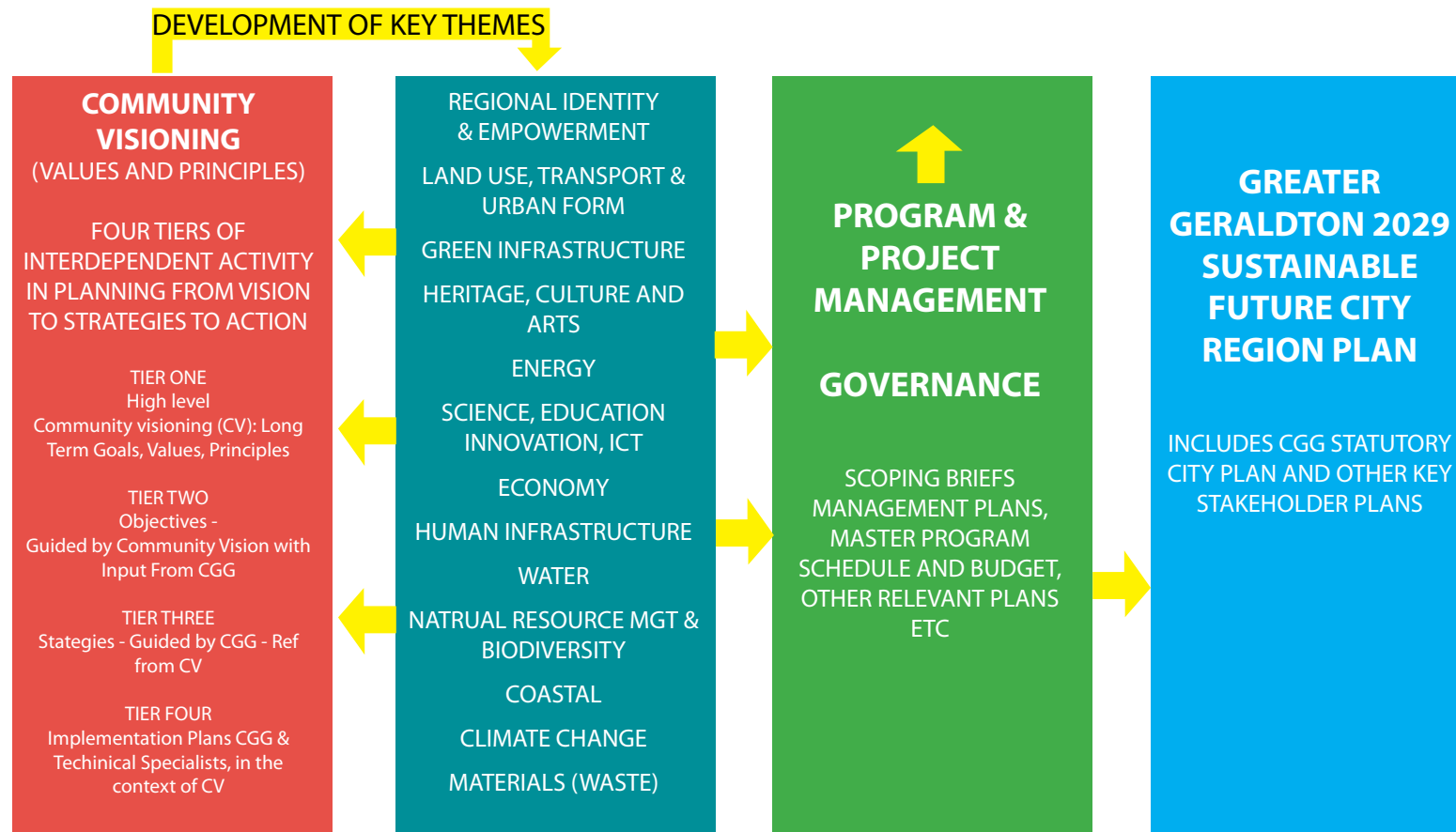
The Durack Institute of Technology in Geraldton is providing pathway courses to the GUC. A locally delivered engineering degree is now being considered in partnership with industry and other research bodies to meet the demands of high tech opportunities that may arise from the Square Kilometre Array radio telescope proposal.

Strategic Planning

Planning for a Sustainable Future

The City of Greater Geraldton believes that creating a culturally strong, sustainable and resilient future for the community requires that individuals, organisations and the City have a shared, compelling and clear image of what the community is and what it wants to become. Within the *2029 and Beyond* Project, the Greater Geraldton 2029 Sustainable Future City Region Plan will develop from a Community Visioning Process coupled with planning best practice.

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE CITY REGION PROCESS



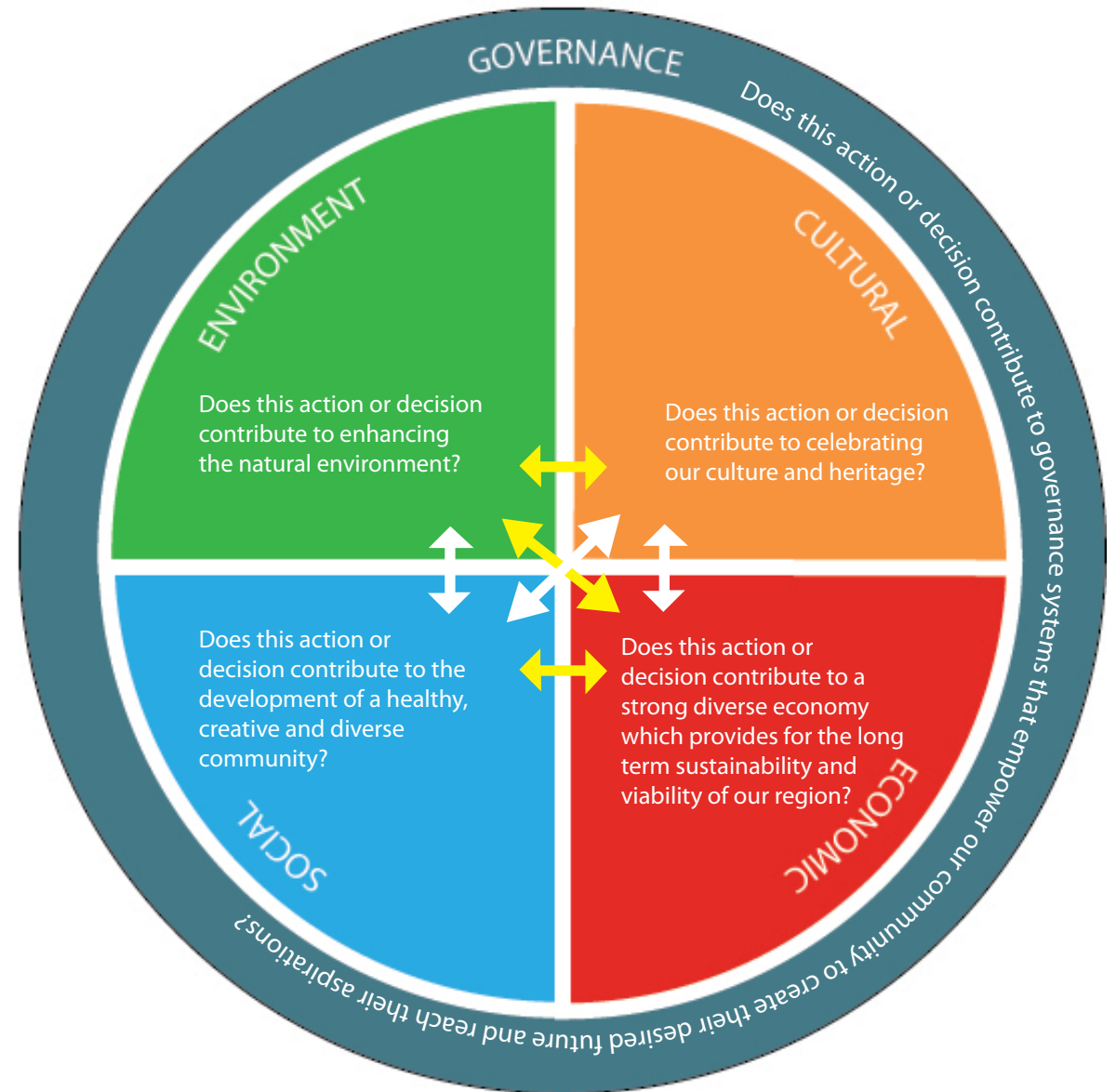
Strategic Planning

Planning for a Sustainable Future (cont.)

The community visioning process will lead and be integrated into significant statutory planning activity. The key planning instruments that will flow from this process are the Greater Geraldton Region Plan, the Greater Geraldton Region Structure Plan, the Local Planning Strategy and the Town Planning Scheme.

In August 2011, the City will be running an Enquiry-by-Design process which aims to give the community ownership of the City's key design principles and will flow through to the Community Action Plan, the Local Planning Strategy and the City's Regional Plans. Participants for the Enquiry-by-Design will comprise, in equal share, representatives from stakeholder groups (such as community organisations, government and business), self nominated individuals who have applied to participate and a random selection of residents.

The overall futures planning framework is guided by four overarching goals and fifteen theme areas that integrate environmental, social, cultural, governance and economic dimensions of sustainability.



Strategic Planning

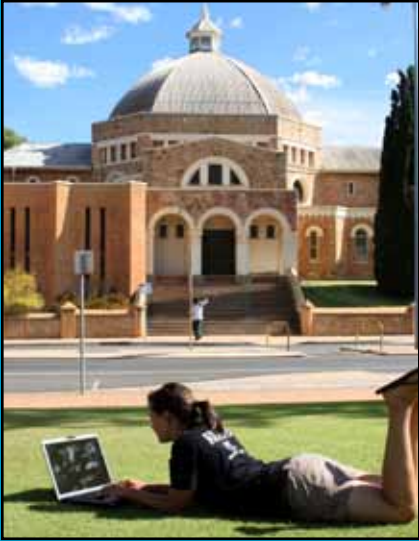
Planning for a Sustainable Future (cont.)

As a result of the *2029 and Beyond* initiative, the City is now moving the transformation process along much faster than it thought possible. The information gathered during community deliberations is already providing a resource to enable governments to make decisions that include the informed, considered views of the community. It is also providing a resource for industry, business and community organisations to develop more responsive strategies.

Specifically, the results of the public deliberation process so far have provided the City with data that clearly shows that citizens want the City to pursue carbon neutrality and innovation and to do this as soon as possible.

This has enabled the City to rigorously and immediately pursue opportunities such as:

- Becoming a leading candidate for the National Energy Efficiency Initiative as a Smart Grid-enabled Sustainable City;
- The development of a major port at Oakajee as a significant logistics hub servicing national scale trade connections to the neighbouring economies in the Indian Ocean rim;
- Developing a technology portal which would be linked via the planned 72-fibre optic National Broadband Network cable to Western Australia's supercomputing centre known as iVEC.



The City of Greater Geraldton is acting now to ensure ongoing liveability in an increasingly vulnerable world.



Strategic Planning

Five year Planning

To complement the long term vision and plan, the City has produced a five year plan to guide the annual program of work. The development of the Plan for the Future 2009-2014 has involved consultation with the community, elected Members, council employees and government agencies.

While not a strategic or statutory land-use planning document, the Plan does, however, provide strong guidance for the Town Planning Scheme, local planning strategies and other policy instruments.

The Council provides a regular report to the community to inform citizens on the actions that have taken place in response to specific concerns raised by the community in surveys and consultations. For example, in 2010 the City published its responses to community concerns raised in 2008 relating to its four main service delivery functions. Examples are listed in the table below:

Direct Actions by the Council in Response to Community Concerns

Community Concern	Council Response
Sustainable Land Use	Developed Towards Sustainability Residential Development Policy Now hold regular Development Industry Forums including guest speakers with topics on sustainability initiatives
Cycle tracks for kids to ride to school	Incorporated in Bike Plan and incorporated criteria for cycle paths into development applications City now employs an Active Travel Planner who promotes different modes of transport, educates schools and promotes the TravelSmart program
Security	Implemented CCTV in Foreshore, CBD and West End Incorporated Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) into all activities
Holistic approach Balance economic development with social and environmental	Sustainable Future City Region Project, utilising the City's new Sustainability Framework, takes a holistic approach across five areas for decision making: social, environmental, economic, culture and governance
Promote a welcome feeling	Developed a New Residents Information Pack Welcome to Yamaji Country signage at key city locations Redevelopment/ improvements at the Visitor Centre Redeveloped Rest Centre on Foreshore offering information and facilities
Cultural awareness and inclusivity; coordinate cultural groups	Hosted Country Arts state conference with 150 participants City now employs an officer to focus on heritage and culture projects City has an Indigenous Community Development officer Improved marketing of Community Grants Program with over \$600,000 distributed to projects since 2007 Three local groups were incorporated – Mensed Geraldton, Mid West Multicultural Association and Mid West African Association
Research on identifying damage relating to historic water use	Developed Water Conservation Plan for parks – have now increased irrigation efficiency, designed parks to use less water. Conducted Waterwise Council training for over 30 staff. Appointed a Water Champion on the Council

Celebrating our Achievements

The community working together to create a liveable community.

News

news@geraldtonnewspapers.com.au



A vision by and for the community
of Greater Geraldton City Region

- 2029 and Beyond is an initiative of the City of Geraldton-Greenough and is supported through a media partnership with Geraldton Newspapers.
- It has been operating for more than 12 months now and has a series of activities and achievements attached to it.
- Once a month we will bring you a snapshot of these to show how much is being achieved as well as comments from people involved.
- To find out more about the 2029 and Beyond project and how you can play an active role, go to www.2029andbeyond.com.au



As both a member of the community and a member of the Geraldton Rotary Club, it was very satisfying to be able, on behalf of the community of Geraldton and beyond, to play an important role in bringing closure to the **HMAS Sydney II Memorial**. The Rotary Club of Geraldton will gift the completed final element to the City of Geraldton-Greenough, who will be custodians of the Memorial on behalf of the community and all stakeholders. **DON ROLSTON**



I really enjoy using the **new gazebos** because we can take the kids there and they can safely play close by while we enjoy a picnic. The location is great near the sea with good amenities. **CHLOE OPALINSKI**



I thought **One Step Ahead** were great at the **Australia Day concert**. They had heaps of energy and were very entertaining. They played songs that are everyone's old favourites and that definitely got you up and moving. **PHIL DOOCON**
Absolutely fantastic. How great was it to see so many people gathered around singing along and even up dancing. Would love to see them at the Sunshine Festival Finale, that way the crowd will stay. **KAREN NOBLE**

4 —The Geraldton Guardian, Friday, June 3, 2021



Found the **Harmony Day celebrations** culturally captivating and marked with pomp and colour. Happy to be part of it all. **TOMI MAAMA, MIDWEST AFRICAN ASSOCIATION**
The Harmony Day celebrations were filled with colour and peace, loved the variety of cultural exhibits. **HARI, THE INDIAN COMMUNITY**



Congratulations **Mid West Art Awards** on an outstanding event that involved a cross range of artists from the community. Firstly, it was fantastic that there were so many sponsors, outstanding effort. And the awesome number of entries. I think, it was mentioned there were more than 300 works entered. There were fabulous artworks from a range of groups, using different mediums. While I support the idea of increasing the "genre pool", what pleased me most was that some sponsors requested their prize be for "Mid West artists only". Youth participation was very pleasing too, and of course, the "Yanaji artists keep improving with every exhibition. Well done to James Davies and his staff for co-ordinating such a mammoth task, and making it appear seamless. I look forward to the next MW Art Awards! **PRISCILLA CLAYTON, ASKAP REGIONAL MANAGER** What a wonderful event! My congratulations to all who organised it. A tremendous evening. I was particularly pleased to see some of the many local artists represented and prizes awarded to those in the Geraldton-Greenough and Mid West. Well done City of Geraldton-Greenough and all of you at the art gallery. **ROSS UPCHURCH, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD WA**



For me, the take away message from the **Civic Evolution Live Forum** was the passion and commitment so many people had for their projects. This, coupled with other people's willingness to listen and contribute to the discussions and plans, was what made the process so enjoyable and rewarding. **CR NEL MCILWAIN, DEPUTY MAYOR**
It gave people the opportunity to hear some of the wonderful ideas from the Civic Evolution. Hopefully these community members' ideas will come to fruition down the track. There are so many great suggestions. **GLENDA BLYTH, COMMUNITY CHAMPION**



I was so pleased that I was able to attend the **book launch** as it was so informative! Corinne has a terrific knowledge of resources and presented the evening with concise and interesting instructions to follow, and made it clear that there is a huge array of sites available for the young and older members of the public, at the click of a button. Sites were presented that can assist with those struggling with reading, assignments, research or even those who are looking for a "good read". There are many sources available at the library and we are so lucky that it is at our fingertips, and free. **ANONYMOUS**

I enjoyed Ken Spillman's **visiting author session** at the new library. He was entertaining for both children and adults. It was great to hear him, as the author, reading extracts from his books aloud. I particularly enjoyed hearing a little of his personal history, how his published writing career had started in his early twenties with historical non-fiction. This visit to the library was a very enjoyable adventure. I shared it with a friend during the school holidays, as we are both teachers. This was another example of the wide range of activities that are available in Geraldton. It is a pleasure to live in the country and still be able to attend the types of events that are on offer in Perth. I feel like I have the best of both worlds! **LORRAINE CHAPMAN, TEACHER, CHAPMAN VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL**



The interest shown in the **Youth Community Forum** highlighted the importance the community places on supporting our young people. **JENNY ALLEN**

I love history and I love learning about people's lives, you never know about their humble beginnings. It makes me proud to be part of this wonderful community. We are so lucky to have the **oral history mornings**, the stories are about the human spirit. **DOREEN ALLEN**

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