

2012-2013



Annual Report



City of
Greater Geraldton
a vibrant future



WELCOME

The capital of the Mid West, Greater Geraldton is 424km north of Perth and has a population of 39,368. A progressive and sustainable region Geraldton overlooks the Indian Ocean. Perched on a spectacular coastline to the west, rolling hills and breakaway ranges to the east, the Chapman and Greenough Rivers frame this unique city to the north and south.

The superb positioning and Mediterranean climate make Geraldton a truly perfect place to visit and live.

The Greater Geraldton area boasts a strong and diverse economy based on agriculture, fishing, mining and tourism industries. Situated an hour's drive inland from Geraldton; Mullewa sits in the heart of the wildflower region of Western Australia. It is a rapidly growing local authority; rich in indigenous and pioneering history.

World renowned for an extensive host of water sports, Geraldton lends itself to some of the most spectacular kite surfing, windsurfing, fishing and diving conditions.





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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

In last year's report I referred to the difficulties we were encountering in ensuring adequate funds could be made available to provision for the maintenance and replacement of our City assets which are currently valued at some \$590 million. Our city is like the rest of local governments in Western Australia in that we are asset rich and cash poor because of the way in which we have been required to account for assets in the past. Fortunately we began the journey to address this problem ahead of most and have made some progress toward this vexing problem.

Unfortunately we found ourselves in a position where, with the new Integrated Planning and Reporting standards, we were pushed further backwards in terms of addressing this serious financial issue. Whilst this has caused some pain to ratepayers, it is imperative this shortfall is addressed to prevent our assets falling into a state of "urban decay". This has been an important priority for the Council and despite it being one which is difficult and controversial to address, I am pleased our Council has not shirked its responsibility to address the issue in a timely way.

Draft Sporting Futures

Our Council has continued to be involved in reconciliation issues and supporting our wonderful multi-cultural community. We were finally able to complete the Draft Sporting Futures Report which now identifies the aspirational requirements of the sporting community for the next 20 years or so. These requirements are, as yet, unfunded but now we have identified them, we are in a position to be able to prioritise them and work on ways to achieve a suitable outcome over time. This will be a difficult issue to deal with but one we must address to ensure our community's requirements are met.

2029 & Beyond

One of the aims of the 2029 Future Sustainable City project is to plant more trees in our area. We have an aspirational goal of planting one million trees. Our staff have developed plans to achieve this and we are now making good progress towards our aim.

NBN/Digital Hub

With the advent of the NBN fibre optic cable arriving in Geraldton and with the reticulation to households beginning, the City recognised we are in a position of great advantage compared with many other local governments.



Eadon Clarke Master Plan



Geraldton Digital Hub

We were able to obtain grant funding from the Federal Government to set up our Digital Hub and Enterprise Centre to ensure private citizens and businesses alike can be trained to understand the advantages which the Digital Economy will bring. I continually challenge people to take up this opportunity because I believe it is a great way to diversify our economy away from our traditional primary industries and to improve educational and employment opportunities for our youth.

Big Sky Readers & Writers Festival

Our Big Sky Readers and Writers Festival was, once again, a resounding success. To be able to attract someone such as Ms Judy Nunn to our festival certainly demonstrates the state and national credence our festival has developed over the years. My thanks go to our Andrea Selvey and fantastic library staff for their continued contribution to Big Sky.

Anniversaries

This year saw the Geraldton City Band celebrate its 50th year of operation. I had the honour of attending a celebration to commemorate this milestone and meet with many of the Band's past members. What a great group and what a great function and what great music!

Speaking of anniversaries I also attended a function to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the finding of the wreck of the "Batavia".

Thank you to all of our Directors, Councillors and particularly our Deputy Mayor Neil McIlwaine. I very much appreciate the support you have given the City and myself.

Ian Carpenter

Mayor of Greater Geraldton



Wreck of the Batavia



Replica of the Batavia

DID YOU KNOW...

The City spent \$10.5M on renewing existing assets in 2012/13 to sustain existing services.

This function attracted many of the doyens of marine history and marine archaeology in Western Australia. The maritime history of our region is something which I believe we can better utilise as a tourism drawcard and we are working on ways to improve this.

CEO

In April this year our CEO Tony Brun completed his 5 year contract with the City and Tony elected to accept a great position at the Perth Airport as their Director of Integrated Planning. I enjoyed working with Tony and over our 5 years together we developed a great rapport. My special thanks go to Tony for the great work he did in assisting the Council to become more strategic in its outlook. Tony excelled in the way in which he was able to plan, describe and plot a course to achieve great outcomes for the future of our great City. I wish Tony, his wife Lyn and their children our best wishes for their future in Perth.

CEO'S MESSAGE

I accepted the position of Chief Executive Officer at the City of Greater Geraldton for two primary reasons. Firstly, because I wanted to work in a role that brought me closer to the community to allow me to make a greater contribution in the community I serve and, secondly, because the City of Greater Geraldton is considered a benchmark regional Council with significant challenges ahead.

Over the last few years the City of Greater Geraldton has met some significant challenges such as the amalgamation of the City of Geraldton with the Shire of Greenough and then the Shire of Mullewa and the delivery of milestone projects such as the Foreshore Redevelopment Project.

During the 2012/13 year these challenges continued and included the commencement of the Karloo-Wandina (also known as the Verita Road project), the Original Railway Building renovation and refurbishment, and the Eastern Breakwater. These projects will improve the liveability and vibrancy of our city as a regional capital.

While it is always exciting to be involved in the delivery of new capital works projects, what excites me most about being the new CEO of the City of Greater Geraldton is working with the Council, community and staff, to finalise the development of the Council's strategic vision and direction.

Now, for the very first time in our community's history, we have key strategic plans to enable our city to grow and prosper while retaining our unique culture and heritage. The 2012/13 year saw the completion of the City's first Strategic Community Plan, Workforce Plan, Asset Management Strategy, Long Term Financial Plan, and Corporate Business Plan. Next year will provide similar challenges as we take the strategic direction set by the Council and community and work towards delivering their expected outcomes.

My experiences so far as the new CEO of the City of Greater Geraldton have filled me with the utmost confidence for the future of our City. This is mainly due to the professionalism, dedication and commitment demonstrated by the staff within our organisation. Having only taken up the position of CEO since April 2013, I cannot accept any accolades for the achievements highlighted in this year's Annual Report. I am however, immensely proud to be working with the Mayor, Councillors, and staff who have positioned this Council and our community for continued growth and prosperity.

Ken Diehm

Chief Executive Officer



VISION & MISSION

City-Region Vision

A creative city-region which has a prosperous, diverse and sustainable community within an attractive Western Australian setting

Our Mission

A leading organisation that works in partnership with the community, industry and government to plan and provide quality services and infrastructure in a sustainable environment



ELECTED MEMBERS

Cr Ron Ashplant

Chapman Ward
2 Year Term
Exp 2013



Committees:

- WALGA Municipal Waste Advisory Council
- Forum of Regional Councils: Waste Management
- Greater Geraldton Futures Governance Alliance
- HMAS Sydney II Memorial Advisory Committee

Cr Ian Carpenter

Mayor
4 Year Term
Exp 2015



Committees:

- WA Museum Geraldton Advisory Committee
- WALGA Northern Zone WA Local Government Association
- Board of Management Mid West Development Commission
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- WA Regional Capitals Alliance Committee
- CEO Recruitment Committee
- HMAS Sydney II Memorial Advisory Committee

Cr Robert Ramage

Champion Bay Ward
2 Year Term
Exp 2013



Committees:

- City of Greater Geraldton Audit Committee
- CCG/Geraldton Port Authority Liaison Committee

Cr Nino Messina

Mullewa Ward
2 Year Term
Exp 2013



Committees:

- Mid West Regional Road Group
- Northern Barrier Fence Committee
- Mullewa Community Trust
- Greater Geraldton Community Grants Committee
- Greater Geraldton Australia Day Committee

Cr Neil Bennett

Port Ward
2 Year Term
Exp 2013



Committees:

- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Regional Art Gallery Management Committee
- Public Art Advisory Committee
- QEII Seniors & Community Centre Advisory Committee
- Greater Geraldton Community Grants Committee

Cr Chris Gabelish

Willcock Ward
2 Year Term
Exp 2013



Committees:

- Greater Geraldton Reconciliation Committee
- Greater Geraldton Community Grants Committee
- CCG/Geraldton Port Authority Advisory Committee
- Sister City Economic & Cultural Development Advisory Committee
- CEO Recruitment Committee

Cr Shane Van Styn

Tarcoola Ward
2 Year Term
Exp 2013



Committees:

- City of Greater Geraldton Audit Committee
- Greater Geraldton Crime Prevention Committee
- CEO Recruitment Committee

Cr Neil McIlwaine

Deputy Mayor
Tarcoola Ward
4 Year Term
Exp 2015



Committees:

- Regional Art Gallery Management Committee
- Greater Geraldton Futures Governance Alliance

Cr Graeme Bylund

Willcock Ward
4 Year Term
Exp 2015
Resigned in 2012



Committees:

- Greater Geraldton Australia Day Committee

Cr Richard deTrafford

Willcock Ward
4 Year Term
Exp 2015



Replaced Cr Bylund

Cr Robert Hall

Port Ward
4 Year Term
Exp 2015



Committees:

- Greater Geraldton Roadwise Committee
- Greater Geraldton Australia Day Committee
- QEII Seniors & Community Centre Advisory Committee
- Geraldton-Greenough Local Emergency Management Advisory Committee

Cr Ilse Middleton

Hills Ward
2 Year Term
Exp 2013



Committees:

- Bush Fire Advisory Committee
- Forum of Regional Councils: Waste Management
- QEII Seniors & Community Centre Advisory Committee

Cr Peter Fiorenza

Champion Bay Ward
4 Year Term
Exp 2015



Committees:

- Geraldton Greenough Sunshine Festival Inc.
- Greater Geraldton Reconciliation Committee
- Public Arts Advisory Committee
- City of Greater Geraldton Australia Day Committee

Cr Tarleah Thomas

Mullewa Ward
4 Year Term
Exp 2015



Committees:

- Wildflower Country Tourism Committee
- Mullewa Resource Centre & Tourist Committee
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Greater Geraldton Roadwise Committee
- Greater Geraldton Crime Prevention Committee
- CEO Recruitment Committee

Cr Jerry Clune

Hills Ward
4 Year Term
Exp 2015



Committees:

- Bush Fire Advisory Committee
- Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee

Cr Des Brick

Chapman Ward
4 Year Term
Exp 2015



Committees:

- Greater Geraldton Reconciliation Committee
- Greater Geraldton Crime Prevention Committee

COUNCILLOR MEETING ATTENDANCE

Councillor	Appointed	Term Expires	Ward	Council meetings attended *	Agenda Forums attended **	Concept Forums attended ***
Mayor Ian Carpenter	2011	2015	n/a	9	6	9
Dep. Mayor Neil McIlwaine	2011	2015	Tarcoola	10	9	11
Cr Shane Van Styn	2011	2013	Tarcoola	10	8	5
Cr Ron Ashplant	2011	2013	Chapman	10	9	9
Cr Desmond Brick	2011	2015	Chapman	11	10	12
Cr Graeme Bylund	2011	2012	Willcock	1	1	1
Cr Chris Gabelish	2011	2013	Willcock	9	9	6
Cr Bob Hall	2011	2015	Port	10	8	6
Cr Neil Bennett	2011	2013	Port	11	11	11
Cr Jerry Clune	2011	2015	Hills	11	11	12
Cr Isle Middleton	2011	2013	Hills	7	11	10
Cr Tarleah Thomas	2011	2015	Mullewa	11	11	10
Cr Nino Messina	2011	2013	Mullewa	11	10	11
Cr Peter Fiorenza	2011	2015	Champion Bay	9	10	11
Cr Bob Ramage	2011	2013	Champion Bay	9	7	6
Cr Richard DeTrafford	2012	2015	Willcock	7	7	7

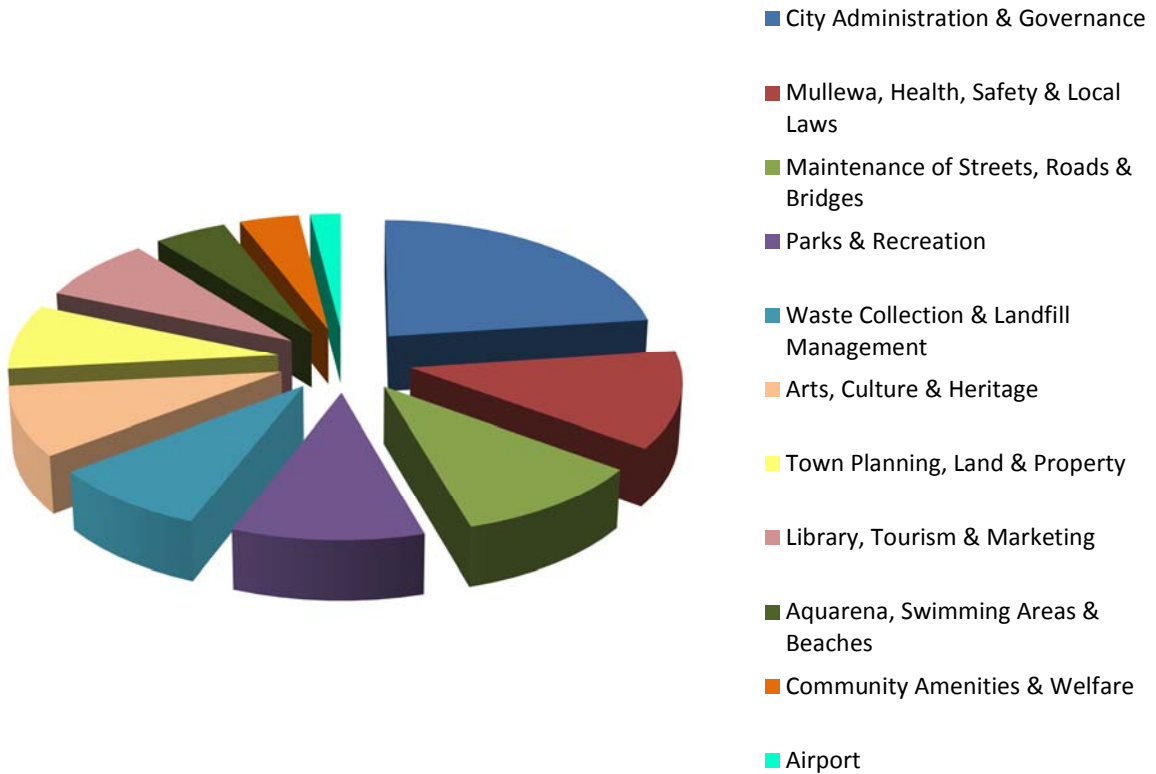
* Between 01 July 2012 and 30 June 2013, **11** ordinary council meetings, **6** Special Meetings, **1** annual electors meeting and **1** special meeting of electors meeting were held.

** **11** Agenda Forum meetings were held between 01 July 2012 and 30 June 2013.

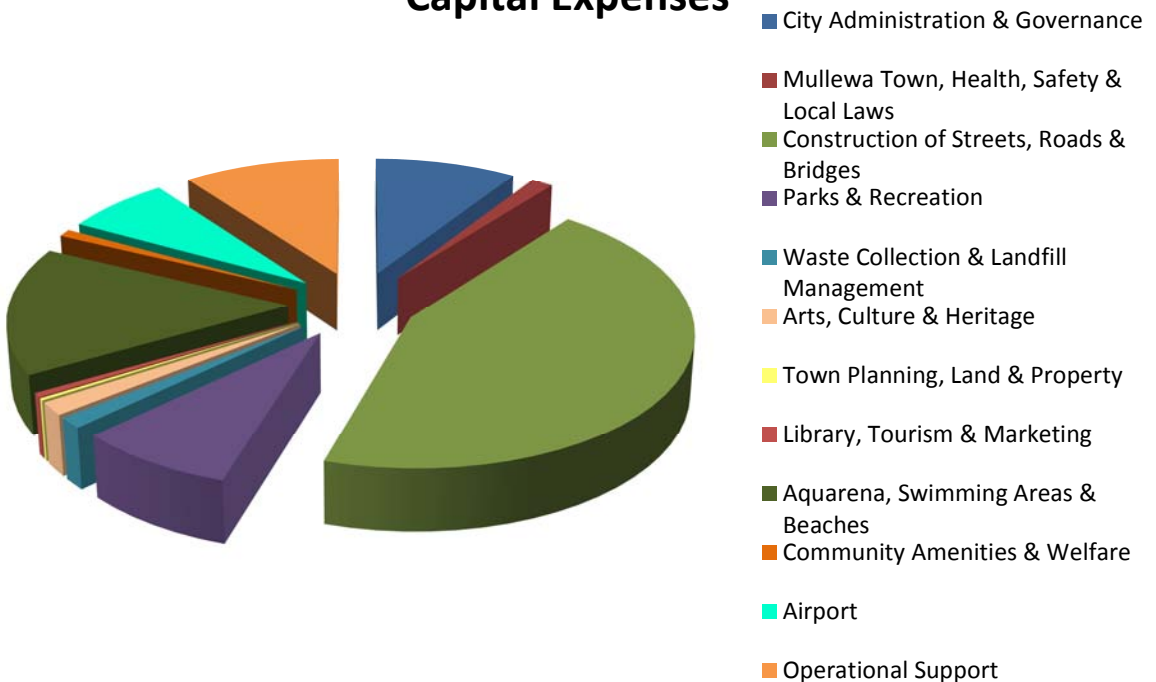
*****11** Concept Forums were held between 01 July 2012 and 30 June 2013,

FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE

Operating Expenditure (Without Depreciation)



Capital Expenses



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The City operations and administration is overseen by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with his duties and responsibilities outlined by the Council, the Local Government Act 1995 and through other statutory legislation.



Chief Executive Officer

Ken Diehm



Creative Communities Director: Andrea Selvey

- Responsible for Community Development, Community Law and Safety, Marketing, Geraldton Regional Library, Queen Elizabeth II Seniors and Community Centre, Queens Park Theatre, the Geraldton Visitor Centre and Bright Stars Family Day Care.



Sustainable Communities Director: Phil Melling

- Responsible for Town Planning, Building Surveying and Environmental Health and Sustainability.



Community Infrastructure Director: Neil Arbuthnot

- Responsible for City Infrastructure Planning, Development and Design, Major Projects, Fleet and Support Services, Parks and Works Operations, Aquarena and Waste Management.



Finance and Treasury Director: Bob Davis

- Responsible for the Geraldton Airport, Land and Property Services, Financial Services and Treasury.



Organisational Performance Director: Cheryl Wood

- Responsible for, Information Services, Organisational Development and Human Resources, Economic Development, Governance and Risk and Customer Services.

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

The City of Greater Geraldton Strategic Community Plan, in compliance with s5.56 of the Local Government Act, was adopted by Council in June 2013; following amendments to the Local Government Act local governments must develop and implement integrated strategic long term plans.

The Department of Local Government has issued a guideline to all councils, demonstrating a prescribed integrated planning framework to be implemented within a set timeline. In order to maintain this timeline, the City developed an interim strategic community plan until the official Strategic Community Plan was produced.

The City has five key goals which it uses to drive planning and decision making processes:



Culture



Environment



Social



Economy

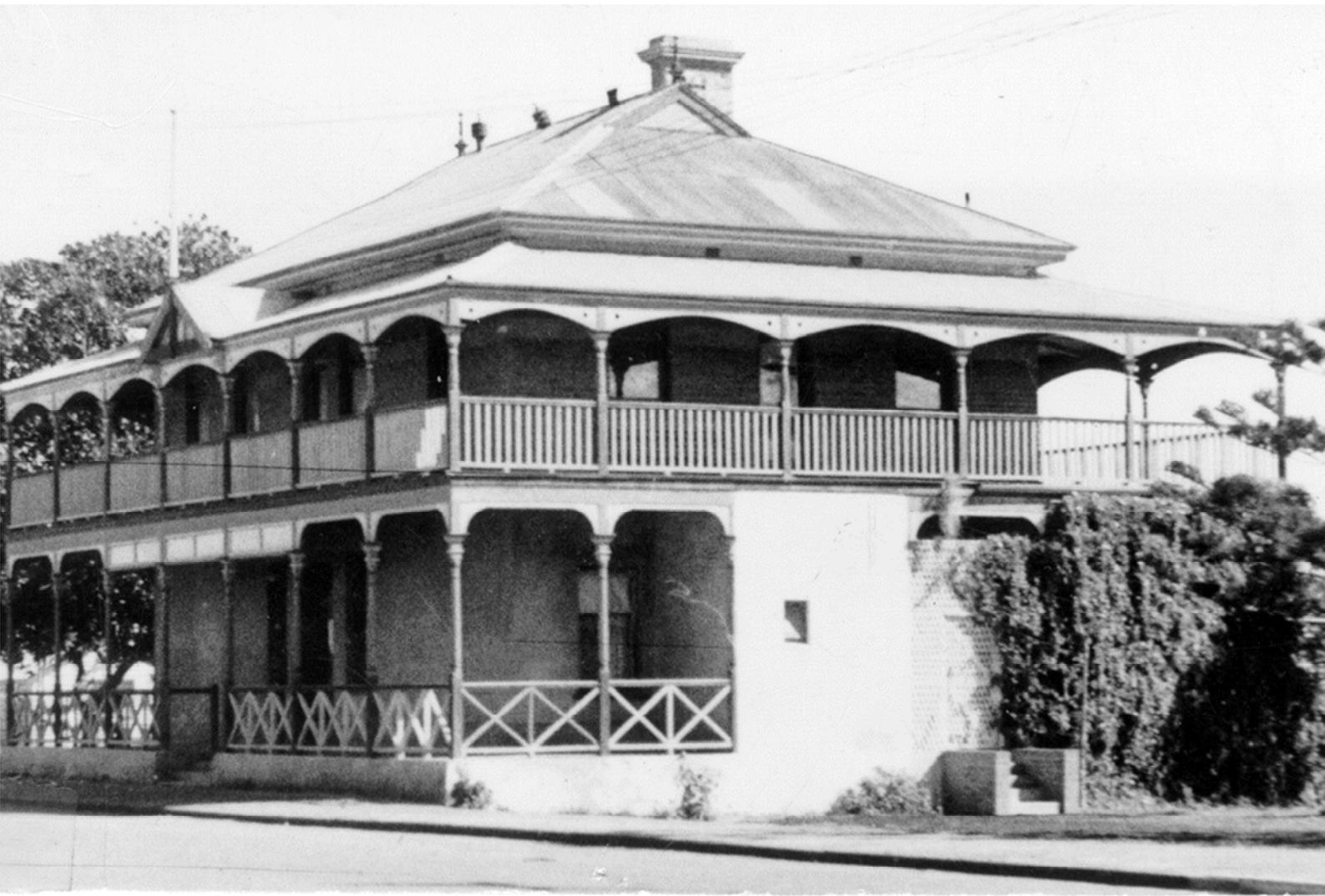


Governance

The Strategic Community Plan has been developed through extensive community, councillor and staff consultation to ensure a clear direction is mapped out which will lead to improved services and outcomes for the residents of the City of Greater Geraldton. It also aims to ensure the Council can continue to provide appropriate leadership in a challenging and changing environment.

Culture





Culture

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Our Heritage

In June 2012, the City's Heritage Portfolio was reassigned to the City Librarian, creating the new title, Manager Libraries and Heritage. This move capitalized on the strong synergies and links that already existed between the provision of Local Studies services by the Geraldton Regional Library and broader City heritage matters. The City sought to gather local community feedback and determine future heritage planning needs by engaging the National Trust (WA) to compile a Heritage Strategy for the City. Council also continues to receive advice and recommendations on heritage matters from the Heritage Advisory Committee.

Key projects undertaken by the Heritage Services Team in 2012/13 included coordination of the annual CGG Heritage Awards, Heritage Week Activities, the launch of the latest booklet in the Mid West Heritage Series (Mining in the Mid West) by the City of Greater Geraldton CEO, HMAS *Sydney II* Conservation and Provenance work, monthly Oral History mornings, successful digitization of Oral History collection, provision of Interpretative Signage research and design, including the Ellendale Pool and Flores Road projects, plus ongoing reference and historical research assistance for the general public.

has enabled the City to restore and preserve these iconic buildings for the whole community to enjoy.

Multiculturalism

The City demonstrated significant commitment to Reconciliation in Greater Geraldton by presenting an extensive program for Reconciliation Week 2013. The program consisted of 13 highly publicised and well attended events held in Geraldton and Mullewa, including several screenings of the Mabo documentary with commentary from representatives from the Mabo family who were very special guests of the City. The City's promotion and efforts in Reconciliation Week 2013 have been recognised with the City being named a finalist in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs Regional Achievement Awards in Indigenous Service.

The City provided significant support and partnered in seven high profile events for the NAIDOC Week 2013 celebrations.

During the past year the City has implemented an Indigenous School Based Traineeship Program. The City currently has two indigenous school based trainees.

The City has also met and exceeded its expectations under the City's Reconciliation Action Plan.



Harmony Day

Funding received from the Royalties for Regions program saw the re-roofing and restoration of the Mullewa Town Hall and Masonic Lodge. This vital funding



Mullewa Town Hall



Ellendale Pool Signage Launch



Queens Park Theatre



Harmony Day

The Arts

Queens Park Theatre

In 2012-13 the Queens Park Theatre presented 88 ticketed events and issued 31,054 tickets. This represents a 9% increase in issued tickets relative to 2011-12, 15% relative to 2010-11, and 36% relative to 2009-10.

Included in those 88 events were performances by artists and organisations of national significance, including: Akmal; Australian Chamber Orchestra; Australian Voices; Bangarra Dance Company; Carl Barron; Delltones; Melbourne International Comedy Festival; Peter Combe; and Russian Ballet Theatre. Also included were numerous concerts and film screenings in the Queens Park Amphitheatre as part of the Moonlite Cinema Series and Sunset Music Series, and comedy performances in the lower foyer as part of the new Comedy Emporium series.

The Mullewa Town Hall has also been linked to the Queen's Park Theatre in

Geraldton via fibre optic cabling. This connectivity allows shows and events held in the Geraldton theatre to be broadcast in the Mullewa town hall for the community.

Geraldton Regional Art Gallery

In 2012-13 the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery in partnership with the Art Gallery of WA presented a number of significant local, State and National exhibitions, including: "A Case of Déjà Vu" works by Thomas Hoareau; "A Near Distance 2: Highlights from 30 Years of Janis' Nedela's Art Practice"; "Jeff Mincham: Ceramics"; and "Tinker Tailor Solider Sailor - 100 Years, 100 Women, 100 Stories, 100 Brooches". In addition, the Gallery presented the

third annual Mid West Art Prize, which attracted a record number of submissions (351 in total) and offered \$45,000 in non-acquisitive awards.

A number of significant contemporary works were purchased for the City Art Collection including award-winning works from the 2013 Mid West Art Prize. Also, 11 paintings by renowned WA artist George Duerden (1926-1986) were donated to the City Collection by the Art Gallery of WA.

In 2012-13 the Gallery also commenced its renewal project, including the replacement of its roof and air conditioner at a cost of \$1.1M. This project will continue through 2013-14 and beyond.



City's Largest Citizenship Ceremony

Culture

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Ilgarijiri Aboriginal Art



CEO & Mayor get digi with it

Community Art

In 2012-13 the City implemented three new community art programs based on the Creative Community Plan: (1) the Central Greenough Artist in Residence Program in partnership with the National Trust of Australia (WA); (2) The CGG Artist Opportunities Program; and (3) the CGG Marine Terrace Performance Program. These programs provide opportunities for local and touring artists to contribute to the creative enrichment of our community.

The Central Greenough Artist in Residence Program presented six artist residencies (by Anne Walton, Cecelia Cmielewski, Jessica Ipkendanz, Jo Dutton, Dr Nigel Helyer and Dr Thomas Heflin). The CGG Artist Opportunities Program supported six local artists whose projects are commencing in 2013-14. The CGG Marine Terrace Performance Program presented 64 performances by local emerging performers.

Public Art

In 2012-13 the Ilgarijiri public artwork was completed in partnership with Yamaji



New Public Toilets

Art. These colourful 'emu eggs' on the Geraldton Foreshore evolved from the interpretation of two paintings – The Emu in the Sky by Margaret Whitehurst (Wajarri) and The Seven Sisters and the Hunter by Barbara Merritt (Badimaya), selected for their aesthetic, cultural and historical merits.

Education

Big Sky Readers and Writers Festival

Big Sky Readers and Writers Festival: Reading Between the Lines, was held in Geraldton from Friday 14 September to Sunday 16 September 2012.

The eighth festival involved seventeen guests, over 1300 attendees, staff and volunteers.

Well known children's writer Melina Marchetta, travel writer Stephen Scourfield, actress and writer Judy Nunn, artist Philippa Nikulinsky and Chef Theo Kalogeracos were some of the guests who provided audiences with fascinating insights into their chosen craft.

Big Sky 4 Youth saw writers travelling to Mullewa as well as Dongara to present to school children.

The program provided opportunities for attendees to participate in workshops, cooking demonstrations, social events, readings and discussions.

Author Visits

Funding received from the State Library Foundation enabled the Library to hold a lunch time session featuring West Australian writer Alan Carter and local identities who read excerpts from their favourite books.



Yamaji Boys from John Willcock College

Other guests who attracted large audiences throughout the year included Dr Sophie Sepalika, Jo Dutton, Jen Banyard and Hetty Verolme.

As part of the Library's role in the regions, visits by authors Phil Kettle, Mark Greenwood, Ron Elliott and Clare Stace were organised. Communities in Morawa, Jurien, Dandaragan, Dongara, Mingenew, Chapman

Valley and Northampton all benefitted from these visits.

Finding My Place

Students in Year 10 at Geraldton Senior College and in a class separate from the mainstream were invited to participate in Finding My Place, a program aimed at challenging and motivating students to strengthen their

life skills and prepare them for entry into the workforce. Each student in the class was enrolled at TAFE in Certificate 1 in Business Studies and was engaged in work experience one day a week at a chosen place of employment.

A diverse list of workshops reflecting the aims of the program was offered to the students over a ten week period.



Authors of the 2013 Big Sky Writers Festival

Environment





Environment

Environ

P22

Revegetation-Rehabilitation-Preservation

- Support to Community Nursery propagating over 23,000 local provenance seedlings up from 17,000 in 2012, 9,500 in 2009 and 12,000 in 2010. New site established to propagate 30,000 seedlings and capacity to propagate up to 200,000 seedlings per annum.
- Implementation of Chapman River Wildlife Corridor regeneration and trails projects.
- One Million Trees project – aims to plant 1 million trees by 2015.

The City undertook a dune rehabilitation and coastal access management at Greys Beach, realigning and fencing the beach access point and planting native coastal vegetation in degraded area. The project received support from the Federal Government in the form of a community action grant.

The City supported a dune rehabilitation project at Back Beach, involving local schools, and led by Durack Institute of Technology. Weed management and control, planting and interpretive signage

were all undertaken improving the biodiversity and aesthetic of the Back Beach precinct and received support from

the Federal Government in the form of a coastwest grant.

The City also conducted a review of a Greenough river sand mining proposal to stabilise Medallion's Beach and completed gully erosion mitigation works on the Chapman River near Spalding Park.

Reduce-Reuse-Recycle

The Meru Landfill facilities received 21,674 tonnes of waste to landfill at cell 2 in 2012/13. The City successfully diverted a total of 30,850 tonnes of waste away from landfill to be reused for other purposes.

Cell 3 construction is set to be completed and get commissioned in February 2014. The new class III Cell is set to serve the Greater Geraldton community for an estimated 7-year lifespan dependant on economic changes and the growing population of the area.

Erosion Protection



LivingSmart Facilitators



Community Garden



Sustainability

In 2012/13 the City was the recipient of a Biodiversity Milestone Award in recognition of our progress in the local diversity conservation planning process.

In August 2012, and in partnership with NACC, the City held a week long expo in synergy with National Science Week. This expo engaged the community in the brilliance of our regional science and sustainable activities. It also allowed businesses to showcase sustainable products and to recognise and award innovations in sustainability.

Ongoing Activities

- The City has been successful in obtaining Commonwealth Funding to increase energy efficiency at the Aquarena. This involves the following energy efficient upgrades:
 - Installation of a Geothermal heat pump system;
 - Installation of variable speed drives and timers for pool pumps;
 - Installation of two pool blankets; and
 - Installation of low flow devices.

- Implementing strategies for reducing Energy, Water, and Waste
- Implementing Climate Change Adaptation actions and awareness and understanding
- Partnering community groups and agencies to support coastal and biodiversity programs
- Corporate Environmental Sustainability Strategy – setting and reviewing action targets
- Community and corporate tree planting; part of the 2029 and Beyond program with an aspirational goal of planting one million trees
- Renewable and Energy Efficiency projects – to install energy generation systems on City owned assets and improve energy efficiency in facilities.

Coastal Management

Popular surf precincts at Flat Rocks and Back Beach received new signage to inform beach users of potential hazards, amenities and presence of surf life-saving services.

The City and local community group – Drummond Cove Progress

DID YOU KNOW...

In 2012/13 the City approved:
Nearly 1300 Building Permits valued at around \$180M;
and over 450 Planning Applications valued at \$90M.

Association won a WA Clean Beaches award for the Cove to Point dune protection project at Drummond Cove. This involved consolidating dune access tracks and stabilisation works. The project received support from the Federal Government in the form of a coastwest grant.



Planting for the Future

Social







Australia Day Main Stage



Aquarena BIFF



Aquarena Pirates Pool Party

Recreation and Sport

Australia Day

The Wind on Water Festival (Australia Day) attracted more than 15,000 attendees, and presented twelve hours of continuous celebration that included fireworks and performances by nationally-significant bands. Family activities included: beach games; cricket games; circus and craft workshops; kite surfing; multicultural presentations; sailing; and a sand sculpture competition.

Aquarena

The Geraldton Aquarena increased its customer base to 185,000 which saw the Centre perform well in aquatic and swim school areas of operation. The performance was a 12% increase in attendance levels at the facility.

The facility also held community events such as a family fun day which attracted over 2,000 customers, the Centre also held two Swim in Movie Nights with over 300 in attendance to both screenings; a Disco Night and a Pirates of the Caribbean themed pool party which were also successful and well attended.

The Mullewa Swimming Pool is a pivotal community facility at Mullewa. During the summer months when the temperature frequents the mid-40s, the pool is increasingly attended. During 2012/13 period, the Mullewa Swimming Pool received an upgrade to the change-room facilities, and shade sails over playground equipment. The pool is open from October to March, and recorded almost 4,100 attendances during this time.

The Mullewa Recreation Centre has also benefited from funding with the upgrade of the kitchen and replaced flooring has enabled the community to continue to use the Centre, now and into the future.

Club Sport Development Officer

The position has continued to provide key and ongoing support to 142 active organisations spanning a range of more than 40 sport and recreational past times, catering for children and adults of all ages throughout the region.



Australia Day 2013 Citizenship Ceremony

Kidsport

In 2012/13 \$56,310 in Kidsport funding was provided to 478 applicants which equates to over \$90,000 since the program began in May 2012.

Sporting Achievement Grants program

Since the facilitated launch of the Greater Geraldton Sporting Achievement Grants program, in partnership with the Mid West Sports Federation in May 2013, 14 athletes have received funding totalling \$4,200 with an expectation of many more to follow.

Events and Ground Bookings

In 2012-13 the City's Events team delivered and supported a broad range of events, including ANZAC Day, HMAS Sydney II Memorial, NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week, and the Wind on Water Festival (Australia Day). In addition, the City's Community Grants Program funded community events including GFEST, the Mullewa Rodeo, and the Sunshine Festival.



Derna Park Development

Grounds Booking

In 2012-13 the Grounds Bookings office recorded, administered and approved 338 sporting ground, event and function bookings.

Youth

The City facilitated and supported; Youth Week, Australia Day – The Last Resort, What's Your Beef?, NAIDOC Sports Day, Youth Fun Fair, Careers Expo, Community Safety Day, Midnight Basketball and the Mullewa Street Festival.

The City also launched the Youth App via the Everything Geraldton site, which is gaining considerable uptake. This alternative media is now being assessed as a potential mechanism for engaging youth in community decision making.

Community Development

The Community Development team have had some key results including;

- The development and endorsement of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and policy framework
- Support and assistance of 10 incorporated Progress Associations, which cater for the needs of their immediate community
- Multicultural Association support and activities
- Data base of community group listings now available on the website
- Disability tree planting days
- Youth-n-motion collaboration and partnership. In June and July alone the Youth N Motion Bus attracted over 315 attendances
- Midnight Basketball Program this year had over 115 participants, 92% Aboriginal, 32 volunteers assist to run the program
- Hosted Community Development Network Forum with external partners.
- Wandina Picnic in the Park.



Australia Day Fireworks

Community Engagement

Community engagement has made significant inroads in embedding community engagement practices throughout the organisation as well as creating and providing opportunities for people to create linkages within their own community and be involved in the decision making processes of the City and Council.

Key successes for the Community Engagement Team during the past year include;

- Living in a Digital Geraldton community surveys
- IBM Smarter Cities Challenge Community TRUSTees panel
- Rangeway, Utakarra and Karloo Precinct Planning Community Workshops
- Sunset Beach Precinct Planning Community Workshops
- Participatory Budgeting community projects directly related to precinct planning
- Community Charter launch
- 'Geraldton Feel' launch
- Million Trees project
- Goodness Festival including the Sustainability and Innovation Awards
- WATER is Everything Summit - Launch of the partnership with the CRC Water Sensitive Cities program including stakeholder and community engagement workshops
- Community Strategic Plan



Story Time at the Library

- Strategic planning workshops for community groups and progress associations
- Stakeholder briefings and community engagement major projects including; West End Revitalisation and Verita Road Project.

Libraries and Heritage

Geraldton Regional Library had solid attendances with all their sessions seeing an increase in 2012/13, with an average of 32 children at story-time, 42 babies at rhyme-time and 45 adults at Oral History mornings. School orientation sessions have been very popular, with 187 year eight students from John Willcock College visiting the library over a period of two weeks.

E-Services

Print management software and computer booking software were introduced in March 2013 to allow patrons to make reservations and utilise computers with internet access, as well as, print and photocopy without approaching the counter.

The library is also taking part in the eSmart Libraries pilot program which encourages communities to be smart, safe and responsible online. eSmart Libraries provides a free and comprehensive solution to help the library integrate cyber safety in its policy agreements, staff development, organisational culture, training and day to day operations.



Jet ski on Australia Day at the Foreshore

The collection of downloadable E-Books and talking books continues to grow, with the added benefit of members having access to a state-wide collection introduced by the State Library of Western Australia late in 2012.

Mullewa Events

The City hosted and supported a variety of community events including Australia Day activity at the Mullewa Swimming Pool, Family Fun Day in March, ANZAC Day service, NAIDOC week celebrations, and a Community Street Festival. The City also supported several signature events within the community during this time, including the Mullewa Wildflower Show, Mullewa Agricultural Show and the Mullewa Muster and Rodeo.

The Mullewa District Office - Community Development team in conjunction with the Mullewa Arts Development Group brought a national spotlight on Mullewa with the 'thousand Midwest Flowers' jewellery project. This project saw two of the world's most renowned polymer clay artists come to Mullewa to develop local skills

in this medium. The project concluded with master classes open to paying participants which saw people come from as far afield as Canberra and Victoria for the opportunity to work with the international artist, Donna Kato.

The Mullewa Caravan Park during the 2012/13 period, received over 1300 visitors that stayed one or more nights.

Youth Centre

The Mullewa Youth Centre was open for 49 weeks during 2012/13 (Tues-Sat) and recorded almost 2,500 individual attendances in this time. The Youth Centre receives funding from the Department of Child Protection to provide a facility for recreation, sport and life skills development and outreach activities for primary and secondary school aged children.



Shearing Competition - Mullewa Agriculture Show

Community Emergency Services

Initiatives and operations that were finalised and/or operational in 2012/13:

- As a result of successful grant applications and risk analysis four additional Fire Appliances are in the process of delivery to the City of Greater Geraldton Bushfire Brigades
- Fire Hydrant Inspections and maintenance program has identified poorly maintained fire hydrants
- Four areas of High Fire risk (bushland fuels) were burnt in rural-urban interface areas
- A Bushfire Ready group has been established
- Approximately 130 callouts undertaken by Volunteer Bushfire Fighters



LOOK OUT – Dale Brown at the Mullewa Rodeo



Leigh Hobbs at the Big Sky Writers Festival



Geraldton Regional Library



Play Group facilities

Upgrading of the Western Australian Emergency Radio Network radio systems at Brigades and Fire Control Officer Bases, and all fire appliances throughout the CGG

- Oversaw placement of additional water tanks for firefighting in strategic locations
- Provided experienced bushfire volunteers to remote area firefighting operations in Carnarvon and Meekatharra for multiple day deployments
- No accidents or injury incurred in the previous 12 months of firefighting.
- CGG Bushfire Brigades were finalists in the 2012 Murray Lang Bushfire Service of Western Australia Award

Family and Children

Children's Book Week

Held in August 2012; visiting writer Meg McKinlay attended schools in Geraldton where she inspired students to read widely as well as to create their own stories. Local writer Glyn Parry used humour to encourage his audience in Mullewa to appreciate stories and the process of writing.

Randolph Stow Young Writers Awards

The 23rd annual Randolph Stow Young Writers Awards were held in August 2012. The presentation night was hosted by Geraldton Grammar. Over 550 entries were received from students throughout the Mid West, including home schooled. More than 40 awards were presented across 10 categories of poetry and prose.

Children's Week October 2012

The theme for Children's Week was "A Caring World Shares". BSFDC organised an inaugural art competition and display in the foyer of the QPT during Children's Week 22-28 October 2012. Submissions of artworks from other local education and care services were also included and parents and the general community were able to view the display.

Bright Stars Family Day Care

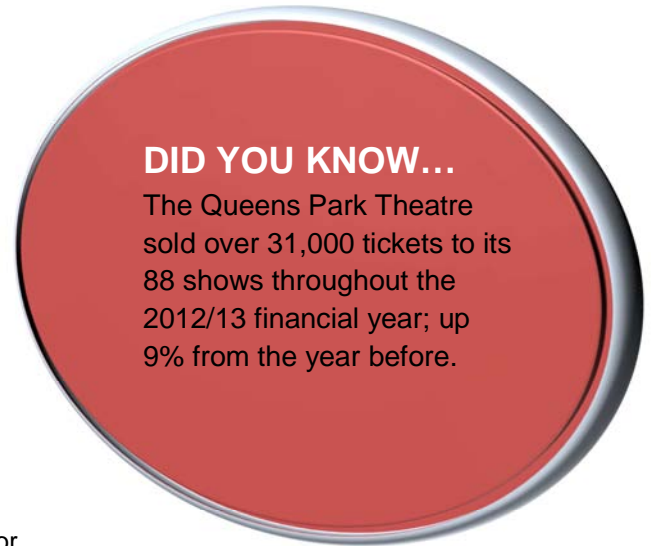
The City of Greater Geraldton has carried out some renovations to the BSFDC premises in Paringa Street, Mount Tarcoola. The playroom looks very inviting with the new vinyl and more "natural products" provided in this play space.

The kitchen had some major renovations with new storage and benches installed along with a new oven and floor coverings. This was most welcome by the Girl Guides and the two family playgroups that share this facility with BSFDC.

The outside "wet area" had a new surface applied to make it more suitable for the children. A very consultative process was held to assist with plans to give the outdoor playground a make-over to provide more natural play spaces for children. Many of the children, families and community groups who use the premises have assisted in developing these plans. It is anticipated that most of the improvements will be completed by the end of 2013.



Geraldton Seniors Activity Group



DID YOU KNOW...

The Queens Park Theatre sold over 31,000 tickets to its 88 shows throughout the 2012/13 financial year; up 9% from the year before.

Under the National Quality Framework the Commonwealth introduced a new National Child Care system for all child care services across Australia. In August 2012 the Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012 came into effect in Western Australia. A new role of Approved Provider for the BSFDC service was taken on by the City of Greater Geraldton. BSFDC became the Service Provider.

As the Service Provider, BSFDC Staff took on a new role, in relation to the Educators, and is now responsible for

- Engaging and Registering Family Day Care Educators to the Service
- Conducting assessments of Educators premises or venues
- Assessing if an Educator and Educator Assistant is a "Fit and Proper" person to offer

education and care for children

- Monitoring and support to Educators.

In Venue Care

In Venue Care is registered child care offered in a building other than a home. BSFDC Services oversees more In Venue Care than any other service in the state.

This financial year the City of Greater Geraldton provided three venues in Geraldton to operate Family Day Care to assist the BSFDC to expand its service to meet the child care demand in the community. A Pilot Indigenous Family Day Care service is operating from one of these buildings providing a quality child care service to a number of families. It is planned to provide further Indigenous Family Day Care services from these In Venue Care facilities in Geraldton in the future.

Seniors

Queen Elizabeth II Centre

The QEII Seniors & Community Centre promotes healthy active ageing with an average attendance of 2500 seniors per month participating in the 31 programs on offer.

In addition special events have been hosted at 2013 Bendigo Bank Seniors Week; Stay on Your Feet event, Heart moves exercise program, Independent Living Van visit and a Seniors Card Information Session.

In 2012-13 the Queen Elizabeth II Seniors & Community Centre hosted upward of 50 community events in addition to its regular program of seniors' activities

GO GERO - Healthy Eating Van



Food Safety Stars Winner - Coles



GO GERO - Heart Moves Session



Environmental Health

Environmental Health is a function of public health that facilitates and sustains health and wellbeing at the local and regional level. Environmental Health Officers provide surveillance on the following activities.

Body Art & Appearances, Sale of Food, Health Hazard Management, Planning Healthy Communities, Water, and other regulated activities.

Significant Achievements:

- Food bank Regional Partnership Award
- Food safety stars program continues to grow (129 businesses with five stars an increase from 22% to 28% of the total businesses assessed)
- The 'I'm Alert' food safety training program for relevant stall holders had 740 participants; an increase from 336 participants in 2012. This program provides online food safety training to food handlers within the community
- Building Fire Safety Training.
- The City employs an Indigenous Environmental Health Worker trained to provide equity of service to indigenous members of the community. The Indigenous Environmental Health Worker program addresses issues concerning water, sewerage and rubbish disposal in collaboration with relevant agency services and householder levels. The City has and

continues to work closely with several Aboriginal organisations to build their capacity to partner with the City to deliver these services. Via an existing Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation in relation to resource sharing and partnership arrangements, significant progress has been achieved towards improving access to environmental health services for indigenous Australians in remote communities in the Mid West, Gascoyne and Murchison areas.

- The Go GERO project in 2012-13 has continued to see successful outcomes for group programs, especially in relation to its Heartmove Classes and Community Gardens which have each had outstanding achievements over this period.

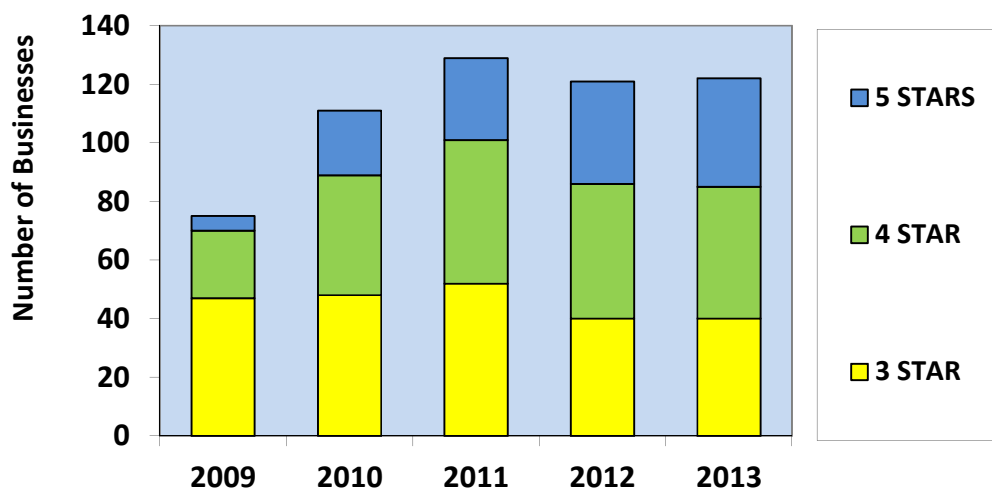
Heartmove Classes have grown to see an average of 22 participants per class with feedback indicating that both the physical and social rewards are the driving incentives to keep participants attending.

The Community Gardens project has gone from strength to strength with the implementation of the Fraser St Park Garden and the continued success of the Fitzgerald St Garden and Greenough Pioneer Museum Garden both which were recognised by being award winning gardens.

Health Compliance Statistics

Statutory Compliance Activity Monitored	Inspections 2013	Inspections 2012
Food Businesses	490	511
Caravan Parks	4	8
Hairdressing and Beauty Establishments	29	34
Lodging Houses and Accommodation	16	24
Offensive Trades and Fish Processing	1	4
Pest Control Operators	3	1
Pet Meat Processors	0	2
Community and Commercial Public Buildings and Entertainment Venues	64	72
Skin Penetration / Tattooists	17	17
Soil Labelling	1	3
Abattoir Animal Carcass Inspections	15650	15642
Health related complaint investigations	303	260
TOTAL	16,578	16,578

Geraldton Business Food Safety Star Ratings



Economy





Economy

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Busy Airport Apron

Lifestyle and Vibrancy

Economic Development

The City of Greater Geraldton recognizes the right mix of economic policies, strategies and leadership is paramount to Geraldton's economic transformation – from being a small regional city dedicated primarily to harvesting the land and the ocean, into a truly diverse, exciting and interesting city supported by a variety of economic and community activities. Accordingly, this year's Economic Report highlights several key policies, strategies and programs endorsed by the Council to strengthen the city's economic fundamentals, advancing towards the knowledge-based economy by 2029 and beyond.

Eastern Breakwater Precinct

The objective of the Eastern Breakwater Precinct project is to integrate an otherwise isolated semi-industrial and brown-field site into a vibrant precinct – allowing the CGG to further enhance and extend the iconic Geraldton foreshore. The project will add value to this underutilised precinct; increase connectivity to other amenity precincts; reduce pressure on existing amenities; and raise the profile for Geraldton and the Mid West.

Navy Chopper during training exercise



All civil works have been completed with structural steelwork for lookout and shade shelters fabricated and contracts for all remaining works have been awarded. It is anticipated for the project to be completed in December 2014.

Transportation

Geraldton Airport

Following deregulation of Geraldton Airport by the State Government for intrastate regular public transport (RPT) during 2011, the 2012/2013 passenger and aircraft movements reflect a full 12 month period since the deregulation. During this period approximately 132,000 passenger movements passed through the Geraldton Airport. This represented a slight decrease of around 3% compared to 2011/2012.

Through the Regional Airports Development Scheme / Royalties for Regions, a grant of \$350,000 together with matched funds from the City facilitated the construction of a new general aviation apron.

Airport Master Plan



Part of the construction included modification to taxiway bravo to permit easier access to the new general aviation apron for smaller aircraft thereby retaining the main RPT apron for larger aircraft.

Construction of the new long and short term car parks commenced immediately after the completion of the new general aviation apron. It is anticipated the long term and short term paid parking project will be fully operational by the end of 2013.

During 2013 Air services Australia surrendered and transferred the title of the existing services building and land lease to the City. The building was partially occupied by the Midwest Aero Club and successful negotiations with the Club secured a portion of land within the Airport for the Club's new premises.

Verita Road (Karoo-Wandina Affordable Housing Project)

A significant transformation in the development of Geraldton

is taking place through the provision of infrastructure in the form of substantially improved road networks and connectivity linking our largest suburban areas (Tarcoola Beach, Mount Tarcoola and Wandina) directly with the principal employment centre of Webberton. The development of Verita Road will also substantially improve road safety and traffic efficiency in the southern suburbs of Geraldton by removing significant through traffic from existing residential areas.

This project will also provide infrastructure required for the development of affordable land and housing packages in Karloo and Wandina by the Department of Housing and the CGG, with the aim to accommodate part of the forecast population growth of Geraldton and mitigate against social and economic issues associated with a lack of appropriate stock of affordable housing.

DID YOU KNOW...

In 2012/13 the City spent the following on our Roads:

- Maintenance - \$3,398,000
- Renewal - \$3,692,000
- Upgrade - \$7,889,000
- Expansion - \$1,627,000

Greater Geraldton City Vibrancy Policy and Strategy

Adopted during the Ordinary Meeting of Council in May 2013, the Greater Geraldton City Vibrancy Policy and Strategy provides a framework for the City to raise the City Centre vibrancy level with a strong branding and healthy image for further growth in the long run. In developing this Strategy, the City together with the appointed project consultant, Place Match completed a literature review of relevant studies and strategies,



Hon. Murray Criddle, Minister Brendon Grylls, Shane Van Styn and Mayor Ian Carpenter at funding launch for Verita Road



Eastern Breakwater Lookout Tower Development

Economy

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conducted site tours of the study area and met with key stakeholders, Councillors and community influencers to gain further insight into opportunities and barriers for implementation of vibrancy initiatives.

Greater Geraldton Future Governance Alliance

Greater Geraldton and the Mid West region have not simply been drifting into a digital future. The City and region have displayed and must continue to display concerted leadership, continuous communication with the community, an appropriate commitment of resources and effective management and monitoring of the various strategies. As a direct recommendation from the IBM Smarter City Report and the Digital First Strategy, a Committee of Council being the 'Greater Geraldton Futures Governance Alliance' is planned to be formed in July 2013. Through the formation of the said Digital Leadership Alliance, the City and region will be able to actively monitor and manage the implementation of the City's Digital Strategy, Geraldton City Vibrancy Strategy and IBM Smarter City report in a transparent, economical and effective manner.

Employment

Greater Geraldton Economic Development Strategy 2013-2023

The Greater Geraldton Economic Development Strategy (EDS) 2013-2023 was developed in line with the City of

Greater Geraldton's Vision of "2029 and Beyond". This Strategy highlights the significance of and the need to direct efforts towards developing new and emerging industries that produce higher value-added industrial outputs and services in order to maintain and grow Geraldton's economy over the next ten years. Concurrently, the implementation of this Strategy will also ensure that the strengths of existing industry and businesses are maintained and that Geraldton continues to be recognised as a "Global - Regional City" for business development, environmental sustainability and active lifestyles.

Economic Development Newsletter

The Economic Development newsletter is prepared by the City to present the latest economic trends, statistics, business related news as well as the upcoming events and networking opportunities in Geraldton. Published on a twice-yearly basis, this information is intended for the local, as well as the international businesses and communities with economic interests in the City of Greater Geraldton, Western Australia.

The Digital Hub and Digital Enterprise Program

The Digital Hub and Digital Enterprise programs are two initiatives jointly established by the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy and the City of Greater Geraldton. Both programs are aimed at

Senator Conroy at the Geraldton Digital Hub



Place Road/Flores Road Intersection



providing local residents, businesses, and not-for-profit organisations with free training in digital literacy skills to help them to actively participate in an NBN-enabled digital economy. These initiatives will also demonstrate the opportunities presented by the NBN and how households and enterprises may take advantage of these opportunities by connecting with it. Both initiatives provide group training seminars as well as one-to-one training sessions on how to use high-speed broadband applications enabled by the NBN and to learn the skills required to participate in the digital economy.

Research and Technology

The IBM Smarter City Report

The City of Greater Geraldton in Western Australia was one of 33 cities worldwide selected to receive a Smarter Cities® Challenge grant, value \$400,000 USD, from IBM in 2012 as part of IBM's citizenship efforts to build a Smarter Planet™ to become more instrumented, interconnected and

intelligent. In August 2012, a team of six national and international IBM experts visited Geraldton for three weeks to study, prepare and deliver the IBM Smarter City Report for the City of Greater Geraldton. This report outlines key principles and recommendations to facilitate the development and sustainability of a Smart City initiative for the benefit of Geraldton's economy and community through smart application of information technologies and digital media.

Greater Geraldton Digital First Policy and Strategy

The City has also developed the Digital First Strategy for the City of Greater Geraldton and the Mid West Region in partnership with the Midwest Development Commission and Regional Development Australia (RDA) Midwest Gascoyne. A large part of this strategy is synthesised from work previously undertaken by the City and the recently completed IBM Smarter Cities Challenge Report. Essentially the Digital First Strategy is intended to provide a strategic direction and recommendations for the City and the community to plan and build better

futures, taking advantage of the opportunities of digital technologies and broadband services.

Development Applications

A total of 456 planning applications were processed last year with a combined estimated value in excess of \$90 Million. A total of 1,296 building permits (inclusive of 414 dwellings) were processed during the financial year with a combined estimated value in excess of \$180 Million.

The City worked in close collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Food on the identification of high quality agricultural land in the Geraldton planning region, which was completed in April 2013.

Online Building Permits

The online lodgement process underwent continuous development throughout the year with the help of select local builders. The online system is now live for the entire development industry and this process has benefited the high volume project builder.

Governance





Governance

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Community Engagement

Animal Control

A key component of the Ranger function is attention to animals and specifically in Geraldton dogs take up a great part of this time. City Rangers have approached this matter with due diligence and made a conscious effort to attend wandering dogs and complaints concerning animals in a transparent and accountable manner with consideration of legislation and community safety.

In 2012/13 an average of nearly 89 dogs per month were impounded, which is a high number considering the City's population. It is important that the community recognises this point and works a little harder to secure their dogs to their properties and control them while in public places. The City again recognises the support it receives from Geraldton Dog Rescue who play a great role in the community in rehoming many of the City impounded dogs.

A significant result in this area is the attention to and reduction of roaming dogs in the Mullewa town site. A consistent approach to Mullewa and targeted operations has resulted in fewer dogs on the street and positive feedback from the community.

Local Laws

The Local Laws Rangers have increased attention to the Natural Areas of Greater Geraldton and have worked well in conjunction with the Environmental Health and Sustainability Team to achieve results. A targeted operation with Geraldton Police was captured by local media and raised the significance of the approach toward community safety and protecting our natural areas.

Consultation with user groups continued as did the studies on our coastline and natural areas toward the finalisation of the Local Government Property Local Law. This Local Law will be delivered by this team in the 2013/14 financial year.

The Local Laws Rangers have paid a considerable amount of time and attention to illegal dumping and camping and have educated and taken action against many who have not complied with the relevant legislation. This team has worked closely with other departments toward the development of Natural Area Advisory Groups and raised the profile of Rangers and the City by being present at community events and tree planting activities.

Crime Prevention and Parking

The Crime Prevention and Parking team has made an impact since its inception earlier in 2013. With a higher level of attention to the key outcomes the team has made significant progress with many positive results. A new approach of a dedicated parking officer has allowed for a greater flow of traffic and parking opportunities for the visitors to and people of Geraldton. The Parking Officer has made a conscious attempt to visit business and interact with their concerns about parking and any matter regarding the City. The community is reminded to make sure they read parking signs, ensure they have correct change and pay for parking and watch the times specified for specific bays around the City.

Geraldton Dog Rescue





City of Greater Geraldton Customer Service Counter

Planning and Policy

Freedom of Information

The City of Greater Geraldton complies with the Freedom of Information Act 1992. The Manager Governance and Risk is the City's Freedom of Information Coordinator. Any formal application for information that is not already freely available at the City may be made through the Freedom of Information Coordinator. Between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013, the City received nine Freedom of Information requests.

Complaints

The City of Greater Geraldton, in accordance with s 5.120 'Complaints Officer' of the Local Government Act 1995, does not have a designated Complaints Officer and the Chief Executive Officer fulfils this role in terms of subsection (2).

As required in accordance with s 5.121 'Register of certain complaints of minor breaches' of the Act, the City maintains an electronic register

(Customer Service Database) at its Information Service Desk. The City reports no complaints as defined under s 5.110(6) (b) or (c) of the Act for the period ending 30 June 2013.

Integrated Strategic Planning

In accordance with the Department of Local Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting Advisory Standard and Local Government Act, the City adopted a plan for the future on 25th June 2013. The City's plan for the future comprises of two key documents:

1. City of Greater Geraldton Strategic Community Plan 2013-2023. This plan was developed to deliver clear direction for the region, our community and business sectors in planning for Greater Geraldton's vibrant future.
2. City of Greater Geraldton Corporate Business Plan 2013-2017. This is a four year plan that prioritises City's strategies and actions towards achieving the community's vision set out in the Strategic Community Plan.

Integrated planning provides the City with an in-depth understanding of its capacity to resource not only current projects but those planned for the future. The City's Asset Management Plan, Workforce Plan and Long Term Financial Plan ensure the management of assets and resources enabling current and forecasted future needs to be met and planned for and adequate funding resourced to support the City's progress towards achieving the community's vision.

Workforce Plan

The City of Greater Geraldton Workforce Plan 2013-17 was developed and adopted to:

- Identify adequate workforce resources to implement the Corporate Business Plan
- Conduct a thorough analysis of workforce data and identify current trends
- Identify what the City's future workforce profile will look like if no action is taken to address negative workforce trends

- Implement strategies to address and overcome identified negative workforce trends
- Monitor and review the implemented strategies to ensure they address these negative workforce trends.

The Workforce Plan will assist the City in the development of a strategic and sustainable approach to attracting, retaining and developing an engaged workforce that is committed to demonstrating the organisation's values and principles.

Long Term Financial Plan

The LTFFP endorsed by Council June 2013 is a 10 year rolling plan that informs the Corporate Business Plan to activate Strategic Community Plan priorities. From these planning processes, Annual Budgets that are aligned with strategic objectives will be developed.

The LTFFP indicates long term financial sustainability based on fiscally responsible principles and allows early identification of financial issues and their long term impacts, shows the linkages between specific plans and strategies, and enhances the transparency and accountability of the Council to the community.

The LTFFP provides for a smoothed transition to financial sustainability and achievement of Key Financial Sustainability ratios and benchmarks within a nine to 10 year timeframe.

Asset Management Strategy

The City of Greater Geraldton's Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy 2013 was adopted by Council June 2013. This strategy is an "Informing Strategy" that is linked to the City's Corporate Business Plan.

The strategy explores the City's current asset management system, ensures asset integration with the Community Strategic Plan, outlines the city's asset base, addresses City policy implications, performs a "gap analysis", explores population growth and asset demand and models future asset renewal expenditure in order to meet sustainability ratios and benchmarks.

In the short to medium term the future focus of the City will be in the areas of asset condition assessment and refinement of assets levels of service.

Record Keeping Plan

The City of Greater Geraldton submitted its Record Keeping Plan on 7 March 2012 as required under the State Records Act 2000. The plan will be reviewed on 7 March 2017.

As part of the induction process, new councillors and staff are made aware of the legislation and their responsibilities towards compliance.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP)

The City of Greater Geraldton Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and Policy were endorsed by Council at its Ordinary Meeting on May 28.

The Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan has been developed from community surveys, deliberative consultations and workshops and is underpinned with best practice principles.

Once community feedback has been taken into account, and the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan has been adopted, the City aims to implement and review the plan annually over a five-year period.

This ongoing review is a measure to strive to meet the needs of the City's growing population and respond to the needs of people living with a disability in the community.

The Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan outlines the City's strategies and action plans to:

- Provide equitable access to the City's facilities and services
- Build capacity
- Support and respond to the current and future identified needs.

Land and Property Developments

In 2012-13 the City received WA Planning Commission (WAPC) approval for the subdivision at Olive Street and continued the project management of extensive detailed site investigations and environmental works at the site. The City is expecting works to commence at the subdivision mid 2014 following all approval, clearances and tendering processes.

Stage 1 of the Airport Technology Park will be completed early January

2014 that will see upgraded essential utilities and power upgrades combined with the new internal roads constructed with the new portion of Avro Drive and Anson Link connecting Deepdale Road and Gordon Garratt Drive.

Key anchor tenants in Durack Institute of Technology and Geraldton Data Centre are expected to commence building constructions in early 2014.

The department implemented successful maintenance programs to a number of City leased buildings that ensured the buildings received essential maintenance and improvements to facilities. Building assets such as the Pioneer Museum, Allendale Pre Primary, Eighth Street Sporting Complex, the former Whitfield Street Family Day Care Centre, both now an annex of Bright Stars) and Mullewa residential properties.



Chinese Delegation with City Councillors

Advocacy and Partnership

Relations with China

In March 2013, the City's delegation visited China and formally entered a Sister City Relationship Agreement with the Zhanjiang City in Guangdong Province.

The City also formed a Strategic Partnership with Zhoushan City in Zhejiang Province. The signing of the Letter of Intent between Zhoushan and the City of Greater Geraldton was formalised as part of the 25th anniversary celebrations between WA and Zhejiang Province. The Governor of Zhejiang, Dr Baolong Xia and our State Premier Mr Colin Barnett witnessed the signing in September 2012.

In addition to focus on economic development and trade aspects, the City puts particular emphasis on also developing strong, long term people-to-people relationships, keen to establish cultural exchange, as the basis for sustained, diversified economic and social connections.

To broaden and strengthen China ties, the City joined the Australia China Business Council (ACBC) in 2012.

In the education sector, the Geraldton Grammar School has commenced teaching Mandarin in 2012. Also, establishing a Sister School relationship with a Chinese school is under progress, in order to enable direct connection between students and teachers. In addition, a Letter of Intent was signed between the Durack Institute of Technology and the Guangdong Ocean University, to enable student exchange and joint research.

Madam Wang, Chinese Consulate General in Perth, Duncan Calder, Chairman of Australia China Business Council (ACBC) in Western Australia, and Vice President of ACBC, visited Geraldton in December 2012. Geraldton has been singled out by Mr Calder, to be the Centre of Excellence for Mandarin teaching for school and community. He has also held up the City of Greater Geraldton's International Relationships model as one which leads the way across Australia and a model that other Local Governments should adopt in pursuing positive relationships with China.

The City sponsored the launch luncheon "Dine with the Giants", to support the Sino-Australia Basketball Challenge Series in June 2013. In doing so, the City would be provided with future opportunities for sponsorship rights to support the bid to bring the "National Basketball- China/Australia 2013-16 Series" to Geraldton.

As part of cooperation in the convention sector, Mr Wang Zhongbing, the Mayor of Zhanjiang led a delegation (with 16 people in total) to Geraldton and delivered a presentation to the Mid West Economic Summit on 30 July.

To facilitate sports and youth exchange, the City is also lending support to the Geraldton Amateur Basketball Association to organise a basketball tour of China in 2014.

2012/2013 FINANCIAL REPORT