



Regional Development *Australia*

MIDWEST GASCOYNE

3rd Quarter 2018 Highlights Report for RDA Midwest Gascoyne

National RDA Forum

Minister John McVeigh hosted the forum, said the event was a great opportunity for RDA committees to connect and share ideas on how to bring innovation and economic investment to regional Australia. Representatives from the National network of 52 RDA committees were in attendance and the Minister reinforced the role was to work with all levels of government, as well as business, industry and the community, to strengthen local economies across the country. RDAs are local champions who have an active role in helping our regions harness their competitive advantage, seize on economic opportunities, drive investment and create jobs.

The forum was an opportunity to bring these regional leaders together with experts, academics and government to discuss issues, share knowledge and build important collaborative networks to ensure our regions continue to thrive. Dr McVeigh provided several addresses to the audience and highlighted the theme of the forum – collaborating and networking to grow regional economies;

the importance of regional partnerships to continue the growth of these strong and diverse regional communities.

“The Coalition Government is committed to the ongoing success and productivity of Australia’s regions,” Dr McVeigh said.

There were around 170 attendees across the two days, with representation from RDA Chairs, Deputy Chairs, Executive Officers and Directors of Regional Development. A number of staff from other Australian Government and state and territory agencies also attended.

The Forum was attended by RDAMWG Chair Yvonne Messina and Director of Regional Development Alan Bradley.

Workshops were held prior to the Forum. These had a focus on capacity building and collaborating on common themes of interest for RDAs. The workshops focused on: Facilitating Trade and Investment; Population, Migration and Settlement Challenges; Evidence-based Policy Advice; and Building Effective Regional Partnerships.

You can see the presentations [here](#)

Gascoyne Business Awards

On August 17 the Gascoyne Business Awards were held in Shark Bay. RDAMWG is a major sponsor and contributor towards the awards. This is the third year they have been held and they are growing in popularity and standing.

Business Excellence promoted in the Gascoyne Regional Business Awards 2018



The Gascoyne Regional Business Awards are a sought after accolade of achievement. These regional business awards recognise the courage, commitment, drive and determination it takes to run a business. Participating gives finalists and winners a highly visible endorsement of their success.

For the past 3 years, the Awards have been a hub for the Gascoyne's remarkable small and medium-sized businesses to gather, explore their dreams, celebrate their achievements and to become 'that' business.

These businesses have inspired us all with their resilience, courage, incredible commitment, and their ability to find new solutions and ways of working in regional and remote areas.

Coral Coast Helicopter Services earned the Judges Choice Award for the second year, and Portside Engineering and Crane Services the Outstanding Achievement Award for 2018 at a gala event hosted by Flame Events at Monkey Mia Resort in Denham, Shark Bay on Saturday 18 September 2018. A newly created category for 2018 was a Community Spirit Award to recognise the region's respected volunteers and was awarded to Wende and Noel Smith for their tireless efforts with Australian Coast Radio Monitors Denham.

“At Portside Engineering and Crane Services we are absolutely ecstatic, we never thought for one second we would win this type of award, so this is absolutely fantastic for us, our staff and the Gascoyne region”, said Marcus Whitehall-Holla, owner Portside Engineering and Crane Services. “It is also a recognition that we are putting the hard yards in and from a customer point of view, we are out there to help them out”, he said. Winners recognise the advantage that winning an award can have and Carnarvon Dance instructor and Creative Industries Award winner Liz Newton was well-placed to comment as a previous year’s winner in two categories that “since the awards we have noticed massive growth (in business)”.

Event organisers stated that this year’s winners should feel incredibly proud to be named as the region’s leading businesses for 2018, and we wish them every success as they continue to represent the Gascoyne region. The 2018 Gascoyne

Regional Business Awards had:

- 111 Nominations and Applications with entrants from all four shires in the Gascoyne region;
- 78 Finalists
- 15 Runners up; and
- 17 Winners
- 73 people attended the Gala Night at RAC Monkey Mia Shark Bay

The Board and staff of Regional Development Australia Midwest Gascoyne (RDAMWG) would like to congratulate the businesses that participated in the Gascoyne Regional Business Awards for 2018.

Your determination and innovation serve as inspirations to the small business industry and regional community organisations as a whole and is a fantastic gratification for the people behind successful small businesses.

Most business owners are stretched to do the essentials, let alone enter small business awards. But putting yourself forward for recognition through an award can produce a variety of gains, from refreshing your outlook to creating free marketing for your business.

A business award can be a powerful way of differentiating your business from your competitors and gives a competitive edge to help relationships with customers and suppliers. Just by entering a small business award can be similar to a bench marking exercise. It can help you identify areas you need to develop and expose you to better ways of doing things.

Congratulations to all.

Some comments from attending businesses:

A brief email to say thank you to you and RDA for supporting another top class Regional Business Awards. The thank you is also extended to Marilyn for her superb coordination/management. The event itself was a great success and Marilyn and Barbara did you and RDA proud.

Please pass our thanks onto your Board for their continued support. Small business is so important to our regions and the recognition given to an event *like this by RDA hasn't gone unnoticed.*

To Marilyn

From the depth of our hearts we thank you for your efforts done to assist all off the recipients.

Our dreams are supported by membership fees of our group, and modest income from hand making rope mats and baskets from old recycled cray rope, generously given by a few fishermen. We have created a Circle of Care along our remote dangerous coast from Carnarvon to Geraldton, and international ship tracking . with safety and response service back to all souls at sea with several like minded contacts along the coast

Marilyn you inspire us both and we hope you have a wonderful time away and safe return to loved ones and us all and we treasure your efforts and meeting you

Thank You and we hope to continue to bring great pride to these awards

Cruise Conference

RDA Midwest Gascoyne recently participated in the Australian Cruise Association annual conference for 2018 hosted in Broome.

The ACA President Jill Abel announced it was the 'best conference ever', so congratulations to Cruise Broome, Shire of Broome and Tourism WA on a great event with great outcomes especially for WA.

Congratulations must go to our Geraldton local Cruise Ship Co-Ordinator Joanne Brown on her work for the Geraldton/Midwest region and WA. Jo was acknowledged and congratulated as a leader in her field by fellow peers and indeed all the 'big players' from the cruise industry who were all in attendance.

It was great to see local business operator Hayley Morris from Skeetas and Captain Leon Strydom the Harbour Master from Mid West Ports in attendance to represent the region along with 120 other delegates. Geraldton is a key and growing location for the Cruise industry in WA.

Geraldton was named one of three finalists for the prestigious title of Destination of the Year in the 2018 Seatrade Cruise Awards. The 12th annual awards recognise success stories in the cruise industry from ports, innovative shore excursions and outstanding service to the industry. Geraldton was up against Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Eidfjord, Norway, in the Destination of the Year category, which is awarded to a region, tourism body or association that has worked hard to promote cruise-tourism over the past 12 months. The Award was taken by Dubai.

This Conference saw the largest representation of VIPs on record along with the top executives from the worlds biggest cruise ship including Carnival Corporation, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Norwegian Cruise Line, Cruise Maritime Voyages.

This offered a great opportunity for WA to discuss the development of the cruise sector in WA the opportunities and the challenges.

It was noted that infrastructure and access in our regional ports such as Broome and Geraldton is crucial for the whole of our state because of it strong

appeal to visitors.

There has been a notable increase in the number of cruise ships visits in the coming years with a high increase by 2020.

With an increase in the smaller expedition ships visiting it was highlighted these passengers tend to often spend an extra couple of days therefore the effect on the economy from small expedition ships is very beneficial.

The importance of working collectively has been recognised and will pay dividends with this rapidly increasing tourism sector.



Transformational infrastructure projects set to grow our regions

Transformational infrastructure projects set to grow our regions announced by Minister McCormack.

A range of transformational regional infrastructure projects are a step closer to becoming a reality with applicants asked to submit full business cases for approval under the Australian Government's highly anticipated \$272.2 million Regional Growth Fund.

Read the media release from Minister McCormack [here](#)

See the project list [here](#)

Unfortunately the Midwest Gascoyne has not been successful in attracting a winning project to the region.

Young Innovator Competition



The Young Innovator Competition 2018 is underway with Geraldton school kids getting their entries ready. Entries close November 5 2018.

The theme being Ocean and Water Ways Health, some entrants have already been talking about some quality ideas.

Hosted by Regional Development Australia - Mid West Gascoyne with the support of the US Embassy Perth and local sponsors, the Geraldton Young Innovators Competition seeks to foster a culture of innovation in Geraldton and encourage young people to pursue careers in Science Technology Engineering and Math fields.

The 2018 competition is again open for students in years 5-10 studying in Geraldton with finalists pitching their idea to a panel of West Tech Fest professional innovators and the Perth US Embassy officials for the opportunity to win big cash prizes. 2018 may also see some international schools participating in the competition with an overall winner's prize judged from the

winners of all categories from each country.

Thanks to our sponsors



Regional Tourism and Jobs the big winner in new BBRF funding round

Regional tourism and local jobs are front and centre of the latest round of the Building Better Regions Fund, with regional Australia set to share in \$200 million for local infrastructure and community-building projects.

Deputy Prime Minister, Nationals' Leader and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said Round 3,

applications for which open today, continue the Liberal and Nationals' Government's commitment to unlocking economic potential in the regions.

“We are building strong and resilient communities, as well as helping create local jobs, by investing in projects across Australia which drive our regional economies,” Minister McCormack said.

“We have had fantastic outcomes over the first two funding rounds of the Building Better Regions Fund and I expect Round 3 to deliver more of the same with up to \$45 million earmarked to increase tourism and—importantly—create even more local jobs.

read more from the Minister here

http://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/mccormack/releases/2018/september/mm172_2018.aspx

For Round 3, \$200 million is available, with up to \$45 million of this funding earmarked to support tourism related infrastructure projects.

There are two streams of funding available under the program:

- Infrastructure Projects Stream
- Community Investments Stream

All the details and guidelines are available here

<https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/building-better-regions-fund>

CLOSING

17.00 AEDT on 15 November 2018
