



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH WEST  
AREA CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE INC



# Overview



ACCs - the Australian Government's Regional  
Development Network

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2005

## Bridgetown men to get new 'mateship' centre

**B**ridgetown men are to get a Men in Sheds Centre, thanks to a collaborative project between Bridgetown Returned Services League, Silver Chain WA, the Department of Veterans Affairs and funding from the Regional Partnerships Programme.

Bridgetown RSL has been awarded \$27,500 in Regional Partnerships funding to assist in the equipment costs of the new shed, which is expected to attract more than 130 retired men in the area to meet in a "mateship" context.

The men will be able to develop existing skills or learn new ones from experienced tradesmen, particularly wood-working skills. At the same time there will be educational classes, such as cooking, and, importantly, health awareness programmes.

The RSL committee that has been working on the project for the past 18 months believes that retired men,



**Bridgetown men welcome the Regional Partnerships funding for their new Men in Sheds project.**

although physically healthy, are at risk of social isolation which can lead to depression and preventable illnesses. Many have left their workplace and their workmates, lost their sense of purpose and may no longer be the breadwinner in the home.

Retirees moving to Bridgetown may feel more isolated because of a rural environment.

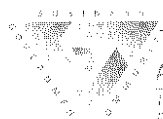
The project, estimated to cost just over \$171,000, will provide a dual purpose-designed Venue. Firstly, to encourage

men to use the shed as a place to meet socially and participate in community projects and secondly, where they can have access to health care services. Research has found that men are less likely to engage in preventative health screens.

The shed will be co-located with Silver Chain's new Blackwood House Community Centre and is close to the Geegelup retirement village and the hospital.



Australian Government  
Department of Transport and  
Regional Services



ACCs  
The Australian Government's  
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## \$2.9 million in Regional Partnerships funding for the region

Twenty South West projects worth more than \$9.8 million have received funding totalling more than \$2.975 million through the Australian Government's Regional Partnerships Programme since the programme's inception in 2003.

The South West Area Consultative Committee has been working across the region to ensure that all communities are aware of the programme and working to submit applications.

The projects funded to date are:

- ◆ Silver Chain Nursing Association, \$165,000 for the Walpole Community and Health Centre.
- ◆ Rotary District 9460, \$77,000 for the Rotary Foodbank South West.
- ◆ Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, \$67,111, for the Blackwood River Park Precinct.
- ◆ JLV Industries, \$268,400, for the Harvey Conveyor Belt Manufacturing Project.
- ◆ E.G.Green and Sons, \$237,435, for the Karnet Prison Vocational Integration Programme.
- ◆ St Mary's Community Care, \$65,300, for the Nurture Works Project.
- ◆ West Coast Electro Fishing, \$99,000, for the Redfin Perch – Pond to Plate project.
- ◆ City of Bunbury, \$117,700, for the City Vision Strategy.
- ◆ Augusta-Margaret River Tourism Association,

\$253,000, for the Augusta Lighthouse Precinct Development.

- ◆ Lake Jasper Certified Seed Potatoes, \$192,500, for expansion of export of seed potatoes.
- ◆ Royal Lifesaving Society of Australia, \$258,500, for expansion of the Warren-Blackwood Call Centre.
- ◆ Shire of Nannup, \$81,840, for the Blackwood River Foreshore Park Development.
- ◆ Shire of Dardanup, \$106,502 (sponsor) for the Profiting from Harvest Highway group.
- ◆ Shire of Manjimup, \$385,000, for the Community Facility - Climate Protection Enhancement.
- ◆ Augusta Community Development Association, \$123,904, for the Augusta Regional Hydrotherapy Centre.
- ◆ In-Town Lunch Centre, \$71,500, for the Commercial Kitchen Fit-Out.
- ◆ Bannister Downs Dairy Co., for on-farm milk processing and marketing, \$178,200.
- ◆ Drover's Rest Enterprises, for frozen organic fruit and vegetable purees, \$154,000.
- ◆ Greenbushes Eco Cultural Discovery Centre, for the Timber Module visitor attraction, \$24,400.
- ◆ Bridgetown RSL, for the Men in Sheds project, \$27,500.

Regional Partnerships invests in worthwhile projects in the South West Region. For more information on how to access the Regional Partnerships Programme for your project contact the South West ACC on (08) 9791 4552 or visit [www.swaccwa.org.au](http://www.swaccwa.org.au).



## Regional Partnerships funding for Greenbushes attraction

*The Greenbushes Eco Cultural Discovery Centre will complete another attraction at the centre, thanks to funding from the Australian Government's Regional Partnerships Programme.*

The centre has been awarded \$24,400 in funding to implement the Timber Module visitor attraction, with the funds going towards materials and construction of a timber display, and production of a video and audio accompaniments to the display.

The Greenbushes Discovery Centre has been under development for about eight years and aims to interpret the district's natural and built environment, including the mining and timber industries, which have been major components of the area's history.

The centre is in a heritage building in the main street of town and is open to the public as a tourist attraction. Ultimate plans are for five modules each with its own interpretive theme. To date, two modules have been developed – the Land Dome with flora and fauna of the area, and links to walk trails and the Bibbulmun Track; and the recently-opened Discovery Decline, a mock

underground mine tunnel.

The new Timber Module will provide a unique interactive display to promote the varied and sustainable uses of the forest and plantation timber resources in the Bridgetown-Greenbushes area. Announcing the funding, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Services, the Hon John Cobb, congratulated the Greenbushes community for working together to access Regional Partnerships funding.

"I would particularly like to thank the South West Area Consultative Committee for helping to bring this project to fruition," he said.



**Greenbushes Discovery Centre president Pat Scallan (left, rear) and guide Debbie Walsh explain one of the displays to visiting school children.**



## JLV Industries project nears fruition

JLV Industries, a long-established WA firm that designs, manufactures and refurbishes conveyor belt systems for the mining industry in Australia and overseas, is nearing completion of an expansion project at its Harvey site.

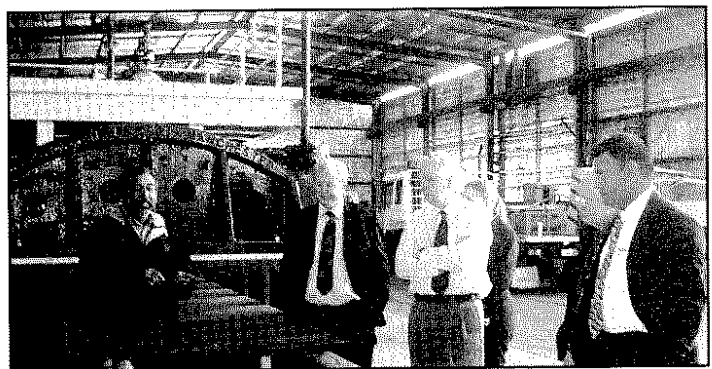
The \$700,000 project won funding of \$268,400 from the Australian Government's Regional Partnerships Programme last year.

Their conveyor belts are used to carry ore from mine sites to processors, storage or distribution points.

JLV is one of only two firms in the world producing cable-hauled conveyor belts, the other being in Norway. Worsley Alumina, near Collie, is a major domestic customer, operating the longest such system

– at 51 kilometres - in the world.

When completed, the project will see the manufacturing of their conveyor belts and idle rollers expanded and consolidated at the Harvey site, resulting in 35 direct and more than 100 indirect jobs in the area.



JLV Industries' George Thomas (left) briefs South West ACC Board members and DOTARS staff on the manufacturing of cable-hauled belts for the mining industry during a recent site visit to their Harvey manufacturing plant by the South West ACC Board.

## ACC Board briefed on innovative training programme

An acknowledged leader in training and employment in the meat industry, E. G. Green and Sons, at Harvey, has developed a unique new programme to help deal with an urgent need in employing and retaining skilled workers, especially boners and slaughterers.

Greens is offering offering inmates at the Karnet Prison the opportunity of high-level training in meat processing, and employment once they complete their prison sentences. Karnet is a low-security prison and many inmates are there for relatively minor offences, and the programme is in partnership with the WA Ministry of Justice.

To support their programme, funding of \$237,435 was awarded from the Australian Government's Regional Partnerships Programme for Greens to provide

training to Certificate 3 in Meat Processing for 15 inmates over a 12 month period. Once the initial 12-month start-up period is completed Greens expect to continue to draw participants (and future employees) from Karnet Prison.

The firm believes their project will have two outcomes: A pool of qualified job-ready candidates who will be offered employment at Greens at the completion of their training, and qualified for other meat processing plants around Australia; and, a social benefit in assisting prison inmates to re-establish in the community and reduce re-offending rates.

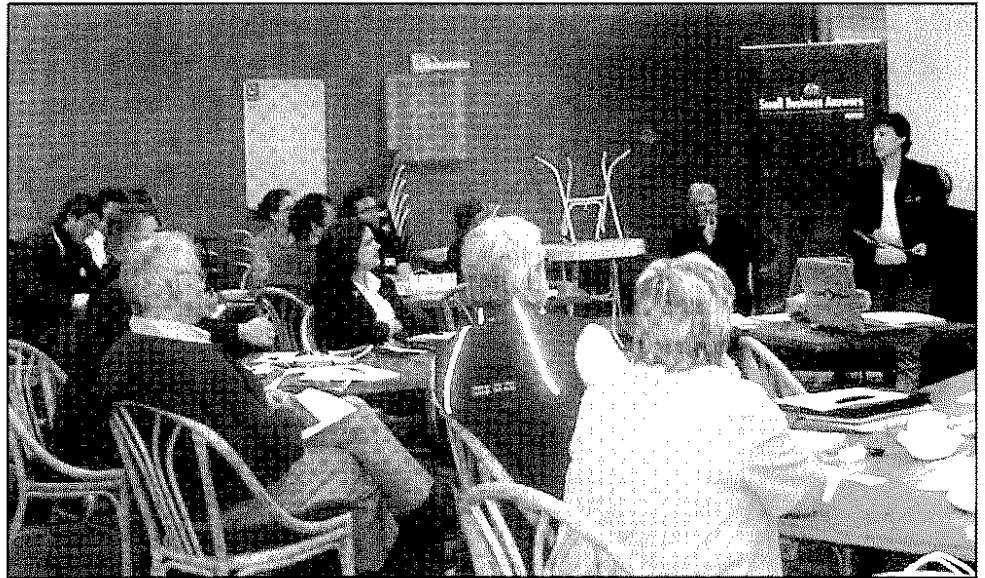
South West ACC Board members were briefed on the project during a recent site visit.





## Workshops held for tourism funding programme

The South West Area Consultative Committee, together with AusIndustry and Tourism Western Australia, held two information workshops on the Australian Tourism Development Programme. The half-day workshops, in Bridgetown and Busselton, were designed to assist possible applicants for this highly-competitive Australian Government funding programme. Participants were made aware of the programme's objectives, funding criteria and eligibility requirements. The 2005 round of ATDP closed in June. Pictured are some of the workshop participants at both venues.



## Streamlined Regional Partnerships process for under-\$25,000 grants

A streamlined application process has been introduced for applicants seeking Regional Partnerships funding of \$25,000 or less (GST exclusive).

There is now a shortened form and a simpler assessment process for these smaller grants.

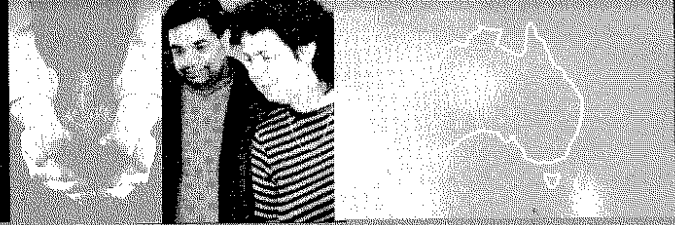
To apply for Regional Partnerships funding of less than \$25,000 you can either: Download a "Smart form" in Word format from the Regional Partnerships website, complete it and send it to the South West ACC. It will be loaded into the TRAX system (DOTARS grant

management system) for you and will allow you to track the progress of your project;

Or, if you are unable to apply electronically, there is an application form that you can complete as a hard copy for submission.

Applications in excess of \$25,000 will continue to be considered under the current guidelines.

For more information, call the South West Area Consultative Committee in Bunbury on 9791 4552.



## Frozen organic fruit to hit Australian markets, more jobs for Bridgetown

Bridgetown grower of certified organic strawberries, other berries and vegetables, Drover's Rest Enterprises, will expand to launch a range of frozen organic fruit and vegetable purees on to the Australian and – later – export markets thanks to funding of \$154,000 from the Australian Government's Regional Partnerships Programme.

The company will construct a processing plant on its property east of Bridgetown, which will be the only dedicated organic fruit and vegetable processing facility in Western Australia.

Fruit and vegetables grown on the property are currently sold Australia-wide, mainly in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth, through supermarkets and organic foods shops. The new venture will see some fruit processed and frozen in retail packs aimed at children, health-conscious families, office workers and the food service sector.

With minimal processing, no additives, the high nutritional value of organic foods and long shelf life, the new products are expected to have export potential in the rapidly expanding global organic foods sector.



Drover's Rest principal Errol Seymour (right) with contractor Ross Smith spreading organic compost in readiness for the coming season's strawberry crop.

The Regional Partnerships project is expected to lead to 19 new jobs in the Bridgetown area, as well as encouraging other growers to become certified organic growers and supply to Drover's Rest Enterprises.

Twenty projects in the South West have received funding totalling \$2.975 million from the Australian Government under the Regional Partnerships Programme since the programme's inception in July, 2003.

The South West ACC is the conduit to the funding. For more information on how to access the Regional Partnerships Programme for your project contact the South West ACC on (08) 9791 4552 or visit [www.swaccwa.org.au](http://www.swaccwa.org.au) or [www.regionalpartnerships.gov.au](http://www.regionalpartnerships.gov.au).



## South West ACC Board visits Regional Partnerships projects in Augusta

The South West Area Consultative Committee's Board of Management visited Augusta recently and took the opportunity to be briefed on the progress of two Regional Partnerships Programme projects in the town.

The Augusta Community Development Association received \$123,904 towards the development of the Augusta Regional Hydrotherapy Centre, while the Augusta-Margaret River Tourism Association received \$253,000 in Regional Partnerships funding to enable work to begin on turning the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse precinct into a major visitor attraction for Augusta.

Work is now under way on both projects, providing a stimulus to the town's social and economic infrastructure.

Completion of the hydrotherapy pool project, in conjunction with the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, will realize a decade-long dream for the Augusta community, providing a health and wellness facility for the town's largely retirement aged population.

The Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse project includes restoration of the first of the three lighthouse keepers cottages as a visitor centre and café; upgrading of the lighthouse; production of an interpretive plan for the precinct and construction of boardwalks, walk trails and interpretive signage.

It is expected to increase the attractiveness of the precinct for visitors, encouraging more to visit, to stay longer and spend more.

Pictured at the lighthouse keeper's cottage to be restored are (from left) Trevor McGowan (AMRTA), South West ACC Board members Anne Donaldson, Barbara Dunnet and Tanya Heaslip, South West ACC chairman Paul Vukelic, Pauline McLeod (AMRTA general manager) and Brendon Evans (AMRTA).





## Seminars and networking to aid home-based businesses

Home-based business owners in the South West are the target of a new Australian Government initiative to help them improve their skills and grow their businesses.

A major seminar and a series of networking opportunities will be arranged by the South West Area Consultative Committee and its Small Business Field Officer.

The seminar is expected to be held in Busselton in late October, with the networking opportunities following through to June, 2006.

Details of the seminar are still to be arranged, however, it is expected to include expert speakers demystifying issues such as business planning, marketing, taxation, risk management, intellectual property and the importance of networking.

The initiative is aimed at:

- ◆ improving the skills and knowledge of established and new home-based business operators to run and grow a home-based business;
- ◆ increasing awareness about the Australian Government's programmes and initiatives available to help the sector;
- ◆ improving communication to the Australian Government about home-based business issues; and
- ◆ fostering the growth of small businesses by improving the capacity of established and new home-based businesses to access information and advice on small business issues, such as programmes and services offered by the Australian Government.

Further information for home-based businesses is available from the Small Business Field Officer, Colleen Browne, on (08) 9791 4552 or 0407 083 992, or go to [www.smallbusiness.gov.au](http://www.smallbusiness.gov.au).

### Who to contact at the South West Area Consultative Committee

The South West Area Consultative Committee is part of the National Network of Area Consultative Committees funded by the Australian Government.

The ACCs provide a conduit between their communities and the Government, working with not-for-profit organisations, Australian and State Government agencies, local governments, business groups and individual businesses, promoting and facilitating access to a wide range of Australian Government programmes and services that support regional economic development and sustainable employment.

In particular, we promote and facilitate applications to the Regional Partnerships Programme, the Australian Government's flagship programme for assisting regions to develop.

The South West Area Consultative Committee covers the South West Region of Western Australia. Our office is in Bunbury.

For more information, please talk to one of our staff members:

Executive Officer, Graham Hodgson (mobile 0418 617 798).

Project Officer, Jan Pedersen (mobile (0438 914 306).

Small Business Answers Officer, Colleen Browne (mobile 0407 083 992).

Office Manager, Wendy Hardy, (08) 9791 4552

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