

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER



North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils
Dowerin | Koorda | Mt Marshall | Mukinbudin | Nungarin | Trayning | Wyalkatchem

The North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils is a voluntary organisation of seven local governments, established for over 25yrs. The purpose of NEWROC is to **work together for successful communities**. NEWROC achieves this through **regional collaboration to champion opportunities for the communities**.

New NEWROC Chair and CEO

At the first NEWROC Council meeting since the local government elections, Cr Melanie Brown and CEO Leanne Parola from the Shire of Trayning were endorsed as the new Chair and CEO of NEWROC. Thank you to Cr Gary Shadbolt and CEO Dirk Sellenger from the Shire of Mukinbudin for holding the roles for the past 2yrs.

NEWROC welcomes Cr Owen Garner, Shire of Wyalkatchem President and new Dowerin CEO David Singe to the group.



Community Wealth Building


Members of the NEWROC have partnered with local community and business leaders to participate in a Place Based Capital Program with Ethical Fields. The program is being run across Australia and focuses on community wealth building as a means of local economic development.

The NEWROC place based capital group met for the first time face to face on Tuesday 31 October in Bencubbin. Members of the NEWROC Economic Development sub committee were also in attendance.



Over the coming months we will be sharing information on what we have learnt. So what are the basics of place based capital also known as community wealth building.....

The wealth created from the local economy, stays local and is reinvested locally.



Place Based Capital Program

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING AIMS TO:

- ECONOMICALLY EMPOWER LOCAL PEOPLE & PLACES
- CREATE, RETAIN AND CAPTURE LOCAL WEALTH
- INCREASE LOCAL AND BROAD OWNERSHIP
- MAKE FINANCIAL POWER WORK FOR LOCAL PLACES
- CREATE REGENERATIVE ECONOMIES, INDUSTRIES & JOBS THAT ARE ANCHORED TO PLACE
- REDUCE INEQUITY AND IMPROVE RESILIENCE
- STRENGTHEN WHOLE REGIONS

Creating Thriving Wheatbelt Communities

On October 5th, Bencubbin played host to Town Team Movements "Creating Thriving Wheatbelt Communities," sponsored by FRRR. The event covered topics around; the vision of a thriving Wheatbelt community, the concept of "quick wins," highlighting the power of taking swift, tangible actions to enhance local areas, placemaking freedom and encouraging attendees to transform public spaces without always seeking formal permissions, insights were shared on creating and managing Town Teams which drive community-driven change, and drought resilience and its impact on Wheatbelt communities were discussed, emphasising the need for collective support during tough times. These included: mindful meditation sessions, block parties, rain fall tracking display, green gardens, watering the lawn and keeping it green, street BBQ's, places people can hang out, places people can connect and interact, utilising pubs/cafes as a place to gather. These ideas will be further explored at community level and actions to be implemented in the NEWROC 2024/25 through the FRRR funding. Attendees didn't just talk; they acted. Quick wins came to life through activities like painting surfaces, adding solar lights to trees, guerrilla gardening, and creative chalk art.



Local Government Honours Program 2023

Eminent Service Award: Cr Quentin Davies



Elected to the Shire of Wyalkatchem in 2005 and appointed President in 2013, Quentin Davies is a highly respected leader across the wheatbelt region for his thoughtful guidance on a range of critical issues. An active and willing mentor, Quentin has worked to encourage the election of young and diverse Councillors, positioning the Shire for a successful transition into the future. Quentin has been a staunch supporter and promoter of buying local, and established Wylie Community Meats to ensure the community could complete its weekly shop within the town boundary. He has also worked tirelessly to maintain the local doctor, the hospital, and childcare services, and has spearheaded the upgrade of sporting facilities and the consolidation of sporting clubs. Over his long and

dedicated Local Government career he has actively agitated against bank closures; he continues to publicly and privately lobby Western Power and Telstra for improved service reliability and is constantly calling on the State Government to retain the live sheep export industry. Quentin served as President of the North East Wheatbelt Regional Organisations of Councils (NEWROC) from 2017 to 2019 and is the current serving deputy chair of the Great Eastern Country Zone. Throughout his time on NEWROC he has been a strong advocate for regional collaboration to drive outcomes that could not be achieved by councils working in isolation. Quentin is a founding member of the Central East Accommodation and Care Alliance and is currently the Alliance's Secretary and a member of its Executive Management team.

Eminent Service Award: Cr Gary Shadbolt



Serving the community of Mukinbudin for 20 years as an elected member, Gary Shadbolt continues to be an outstanding community leader who is held in high regard amongst his fellow community members. Elected to Council in 2003, Gary was then elected Shire President in 2007, and has led the community through numerous major infrastructure projects and exciting community initiatives over the past 16 years. Under Gary's outstanding leadership, the Mukinbudin Aquatic Centre received a major capital upgrade, which saw the 1960s pool transformed into a modern, clean, and attractive new facility. Gary was a major contributor to the development of the 24-child capacity Mukinbudin Early Learning Facility which was opened in 2011 and was the instigator of the new \$5 million health

centre in Mukinbudin. Most notably, as chair of the Central Eastern Accommodation and Care Alliance, Gary drove the \$20 million project to build 71 independent living units within the 11 member Shires. Since its completion in 2019, the accommodation has enjoyed a 100 per cent occupation rate. The group is currently looking to build Stage Two of the project to increase accommodation availability across the Wheatbelt. Gary also spearheaded the construction of four executive Government Regional Officer Houses, was personally involved in opening a local café to serve the community and was instrumental in the establishment of a Bendigo Bank in the town. Gary is chair of the Council's Audit Committee, chair of the North East Wheatbelt Regional Organisations of Councils, was executive chair of the Centenary Celebration Committee, was Council's representative on the Regional Road Group, and is a Delegate on the Great Eastern Country Zone.

Merit Award: Belinda Taylor



Manager of Corporate Services with the Shire of Trayning, Belinda Taylor has been a dedicated employee for over 20 years. Beginning with the gardening team in 2003, Belinda worked her way into a managerial position and regularly works outside of hours, to ensure projects and services are delivered on time. Belinda is passionate about the future of the Trayning community and is a key driver of community events and initiatives, working quietly behind the scenes and letting others take the credit. She personally purchases prizes for community competitions and gifts, and she often prepares and donates food for community events and Shire meetings. During the COVID lockdowns, Belinda ensured residents in the Shire who lived alone, the elderly or those who had no

family close by, were checked on regularly.

Local Government Distinguished Officers Award: Dirk Sellenger



Chief Executive Officer with the Shire of Mukinbudin since 2016, Dirk Sellenger's career with Local Governments across regional Western Australia has spanned 28 years. Beginning with the Shire of Shark Bay in 1994, Dirk has since held senior management positions with the Shires of Lake Grace, Trayning, and Murchison and was appointed CEO of the Shires of Murchison, Chapman Valley, Upper Gascoyne, and Mt Marshall, before he began as CEO with the Shire of Mukinbudin. Dirk has spearheaded innovative projects in Mukinbudin such as relocation and construction of both a childcare facility and a medical centre, the construction of a large nature playground and park, and the installation of a major

street art project to brighten the street appeal of the townsite. He has strong financial vision and through his leadership, Mukinbudin Shire is now in a strong and robust financial position as a result of strategies that have focused on reducing shire debt, streamlining the rates process, and firming up cash reserves. A committed community member, Dirk can also be found participating in fundraising for the local school, doing gate duty at winter sport, or cooking the barbeque at local events.