

# Co-operatives WA News

Summer 2011/12

## IYC 2012 WA Launch

## WA Patron IYC 2012 Prof Alan Robson AM CitWA

The Co-operatives WA initiated IYC 2012 State Steering Committee held a very successful WA launch of IYC 2012 on 22 November 2011. The WA launch was held to coincide with the national launch held in Canberra on the same day. Speakers at the WA launch were the Hon Simon O'Brien MLC, Minister for Commerce, Wally Newman Deputy Chairman CBH Group, Terry Agnew Group Chief Executive RAC WA and Chris Enright, Chairman Co-operatives WA.



l to r: Wally Newman, Chris Enright, Terry Agnew and Minister O'Brien

The IYC 2012 State Steering Committee includes representatives from -

- Capricorn Society
- CBH Group
- HBF
- RAC WA

who along with Murray Goulburn, Victoria, are Australia's top 5 member owned businesses based on annual turnover.

Having these 4 member owned businesses calling WA home is demonstration of a commitment to business co-operation with sustainably. Capricorn the youngest of the 4 commenced business in 1974. Read on to find out the age of the other 3.

The Department of Commerce is also part of the IYC steering committee which will operate throughout 2012.

Congratulations on the WA launch of IYC 2012.

There are many co-operative success stories around the world and their stories will be told during the International Year of Co-operatives.

In Western Australia we have our own success stories and I am very pleased that arrangements are underway to profile their achievements so people have a better understanding of what has been achieved in our State's short history through a co-operative approach to business.

Working in the agricultural sector for most of my professional research career brought me into contact with the power of purpose and success of rural and regional co-operatives in Western Australia.

Our current day WA member focused businesses extend well beyond agriculture and directly employ around 6,000 people, have over 1.75 million members and control a combined annual turnover in excess of \$6 billion.

I look forward to being part of having their stories told over the coming year.

Prof Alan Robson



**Seasons Greetings from  
Councillors and Staff of  
Co-operatives WA  
We wish members, their staff &  
families an enjoyable and safe  
holiday period and a  
prosperous 2012**

Newsletter of Co-operatives WA

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December 2011

## Did you know ?

Did you know that -

- In WA over 6,000 people work for a co-operative type business;
- WA based member owned businesses turnover in excess of \$6 billion annually;
- 4 of the top 5 member focused businesses in Australia call WA home;
- around a quarter of WA's co-operatives can trace their formation back to the early 1900's.

The table below displays the size of key member focused businesses that have been such an important part of our economic development and growth.

The story of these businesses, a number of which have become iconic in the state's our history will be told over the coming year.

Not only do these organisations directly help their members but the likes of CBH have helped fund the tertiary studies of thousands of students over the years through seasonal employment opportunities.

## WA's Top 10

Congratulations to WA entries on Australia's Top 100 list for 2011 -

- Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd
- HBF
- Capricorn Society Ltd
- RAC WA
- Ravensdown Fertiliser Co-operative Ltd
- Geraldton Fishermen's Co-op
- Police & Nurses Credit Society
- Western Australian Meat Marketing Co-op Ltd
- Co-operative Purchasing Services Ltd
- Mount Barker Co-operative Ltd
- Wesbuilders Co-operative Ltd
- Poultry Farmers of WA Co-operative Ltd
- York & District Co-operative Ltd
- Kojonup Co-operative Ltd
- Ord River District Co-operative Ltd
- Sweeter Banana Co-operative Ltd

WA Member Focused Business Sector	Turnover	Members	Employees
CBH Group	2,870	4,710	**2,766
HBF (WA)	1,012	890,000	769
Capricorn Society	1,030	14,500	230
RAC WA	504	720,000	1,232
Geraldton Fishermen's Co-op	135	249	180
WA Meat Marketing Co-op	124	2,076	344
Ravensdown Fertiliser Co-op WA	120	4,000	35
Retail Co-operatives Sector	85	11,028	353
Co-operative Purchasing Services	28	270	11
Irrigation Co-operative Sector	25	2,330	42
Others	151	99,386	429
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,084</b>	<b>1,748,549</b>	<b>6,391</b>
**Includes 1,800 seasonal workers			

## 2012 Councillors

### Councillor

Chris Enright (Council Chairman)  
Vern Dempster  
Bruce Ede  
John Ritchie  
Rhys Turton  
Greg Wall  
Stephen Wren

### Member Entity

Mount Barker Co-op  
CBH Group  
WA Meat Marketing Co-op  
Geraldton Fishermen's Co-op  
Ravensdown Fertiliser Co-op  
Capricorn Society  
Co-operative Purchasing Services

A warm welcome is extended to Greg Wall who joins Council representing Capricorn Society. Greg is also the Chair of Social Business Australia P/L and IYC 2012 Secretariat Limited.

Appointed Capricorn CEO in August 2011, Greg is an experienced Chief Executive in the mutual space with a strong financial services background in retail and commercial banking. Greg has significant CEO/Managing Director experience in financial services with over 11 years as CEO of State West Credit Society and two years as Managing Director of Home Building Society (HBS).

Prior to his CEO/Managing Director roles, Greg held executive roles with Challenge Bank including Head of Marketing and State Manager for Western Australia.

Following the Bank of Queensland acquisition of HBS in 2008, Greg undertook consulting work as well as carrying out directorship duties for a number of Boards. Greg's past and current Board Directorship positions include:

- Automotive Holdings Group Ltd, Director and Chairman of Audit Committee, 2005-2011.
- Freo Group Ltd, Chairman, since 2009 (a privately owned mining services & construction group).
- Western Australian Football Commission, 2009-2011.
- Ear Science Institute of Australia, since 2008.
- Fremantle Football Club, 2002-2005.
- Gold Estates of Australia, 2000-2010.
- CUSCAL, 2001-2006.
- Edith Cowan University, 1990-1995.

Born and raised in Western Australia, Greg has spent most of his professional career in Perth. Greg holds a Master of Arts from Curtin University, is married and has two adult children.

## Capricorn Society

Capricorn helps people in the automotive industry save time and money through consolidated billing, instant credit, access to a vast network of suppliers, financial growth opportunities, an exclusive rewards program and more.

Capricorn are a key player in the automotive parts buying sector with the power of more than 14,500 members across Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Their members are also their owners which means as the Capricorn business grows, so does the members.

In recent years Capricorn has expanded to offer members a broader range of services including motor vehicle and equipment finance through Cap-ezi Finance, exclusive travel services through Capricorn Travel and business protection through Capricorn Mutual.

Working closely with other industry leaders Capricorn offers members training and educational workshops, social and networking events. Through dedicated area managers regularly visiting members to understand their business needs members are kept up to date on what's happening at Capricorn and in the wider industry.

## Co-operatives WA

### Vision

To be the centre of excellence and leading authority on the co-operative movement in Australia

### Purpose

Represent the interest of members

Promote co-operative vision and values and the co-operative business model

Promote the co-operative sector's significant contribution to the economy and the community

Support the formation and development of co-operatives

### Structure

Legal entity operating continuously since 1917

Managed by elected board of Councillors

Voluntary Membership

Open to entities operating on co-operative principles

Member funded

Apolitical

## CBH Group Profile

The CBH Group is an integrated grain storage, handling and marketing co-operative owned and controlled by Western Australian grain growers for their benefit. CBH is Australia's biggest co-operative and a leader in the Australian grain industry, with operations extending along the value chain from grain storage, handling and transport to marketing, shipping and processing. Owned and controlled by over 4,700 grain growers, the core purpose of the CBH Group is to create and return value to growers. **Established in 1933**, CBH has constantly evolved, innovated and grown. The Group currently employs approximately 1,000 permanent employees supported by 1,800 casual employees during harvest months. These employees are located across the State at head office in West Perth, nine regional offices, port terminals at Kwinana, Geraldton, Albany and Esperance, 193 wheatbelt receival sites and CBH's engineering workshops. The Group's marketing division, CBH Grain, markets a range of grains including wheat, barley, canola, oats and lupins to more than 20 markets around the world, supported by offices in eastern Australia, Hong Kong and Tokyo.

## What are you doing ??

Get involved with IYC 2012, celebrate your co-operative's achievements! Lift your profile, let people know what you are doing and tell your story. Options abound from simply adding a message to your email sign-off to a full on media blitz.



Want ideas—contact Co-ops WA.

## HBF Health Profile

**Formed in 1941**, HBF was established as the Metropolitan Hospitals Benefit Fund of Western Australia, with the core purpose of providing affordable health services to Western Australians. Today as WA's leading health fund HBF continues to help Western Australians access the best possible healthcare. One of WA's highest profile member-based organisations HBF has almost 900,000 members, the great majority of them West Australians. For over 20 years HBF has also provided members with a range of general insurance products in addition to health insurance. In 2011 HBF achieved a milestone when, for the first time, they paid over a billion dollars in health benefits and general insurance claims to their members. In an era when the health insurance sector is increasingly dominated by large, for profit insurers, their not for profit status is vital in enabling HBF to deliver the best possible value to their members who are their most important stakeholders. HBF's vision is to lead the way in improving the health and wellbeing of West Australians and their promise to members is that they will receive the best personal experience possible.

## RAC WA Profile

The Royal Automobile Club of WA (RAC) is a proudly run WA organisation that provides a range of services and products to more than 720,000 members and reinvests its profits to benefit those members and the community. From its origins as a small club of motoring enthusiasts more than 100 years ago, the RAC has evolved into one of the most trusted and recognised brands in WA. The organisation now employs more than 1,200 people. Today, the RAC is the State's peak motoring organisation, representing the interests of its members on issues such as road safety, fuel pricing, infrastructure funding, transport planning, greener motoring and sustainable mobility. Built on its famous roadside assistance service that has been **rescuing members on the road since 1926**, the RAC now offers other relevant products and services through a number of businesses, including:

**RAC Insurance** – WA's largest private car & home insurance.

**RAC Finance** – Providing Western Australians with quality finance products and services since 1988.

**RAC Auto Services** – A network of nine service centres located around Perth and Mandurah.

**RAC Driving Centre** – A world class facility that highlights the RAC's commitment to safe driving in WA.

**RAC Travel** – Established in 1928, it provides members with expert knowledge of State, national and international travel.

One of the RAC's main priorities is to deliver service excellence to its members. A network of dedicated member service centres across metropolitan and regional WA, an award-winning call centre based in WA and a fully dedicated website, help to make the organisation easily accessible throughout the State.

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## 2011/12 Sponsors

Council is pleased to announce, and thank, Co-operative Bulk Handling and Capricorn Society on becoming Platinum Sponsors of Co-operatives WA.

We also welcome Caxton Co-operative as a 2011/12 sponsor. Caxton is owned by WA Snap Printing Franchisees. Need printing – think Snap and check out [www.snap.com.au](http://www.snap.com.au).

Co-operative Purchasing Services and the Mount Barker Co-operative have continued their sponsorship of Co-operatives WA activities and we thank them for their ongoing assistance.



## Block buster Presentations 2011

The depth of questions coming from the floor of conference indicated delegates had a strong interest in what both the Belconnen Health and Hepburn Wind co-operatives had achieved in their relatively short history.

Billed as a “blockbuster” conference the presentations by the two visiting east coast co-operatives did not disappoint.

Annual Conferences continue to be well attended with programs aimed at combining meaningful and relevant presentations along with important networking opportunities.

The co-operative sector continues to receive strong support from the Hon Simon O'Brien Minister for Commerce who not only officially opened conference but had visited co-operatives in Katanning earlier in the year as part of a regional cabinet meeting.

## 2012 Annual Conference

New venue, new format! Plans are underway for a special annual conference in 2012 as part of IYC 2012. If you have recommendations on suitable speakers email details to [info@cooperativeswa.coop](mailto:info@cooperativeswa.coop)

It is also planned to incorporate into the conference an international flavour by inviting researchers from around the world to present academic papers on the UWA Business School sustainability research project.

## Co-op Seeking Assistance

Co-operative Housing, a new organisation is seeking a Technical Director (Finance).

Co-operation Housing was formed in 2010 by a number of housing co-operatives with the goal of more effectively using resources to support and grow housing co-ops in Western Australia for low to medium income households. Co-operation Housing is registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) as a public not for profit company limited by guarantee.

Co-operation Housing is currently seeking to fill a Technical Director (Finance) vacancy to provide specialised assistance to the Board of Directors and to lead the Finance Committee.

Under the Co-operation Housing Constitution (2010), up to four Technical Directors are allowed, in addition to five elected Board members comprised from housing co-operative members. The term of office for Technical Directors is two years, after which re-appointment is permissible. The Constitution does not allow for any reimbursement to Technical Directors apart from reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

Co-operation Housing's Board meetings are held monthly on a Tuesday morning in Fremantle. Interested persons with relevant qualifications and demonstrated experience are invited to contact the Chief Executive Officer, Rebecca Hicks on 0437 995 952 for further information.

## Thank you Trent Bartlett

At the 2011 AGM members placed on record their acknowledgement and appreciation of the positive contribution made by Trent Bartlett to the business of Co-operatives WA and the co-operative movement locally, nationally and internationally. The meeting supported the minuted acknowledgement by acclamation. The Chairman has conveyed the meeting's sentiments to Trent along with those of Council members. Trent served on Council from 2003 to mid 2011.

Trent will join the CBH Board as an Independent Director at their AGM on February 28 2012.



**Merry Christmas!**

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