

Co-operatives WA News

2013 Annual Conference

A very successful annual conference was held at the Royal Flying Doctor Service's headquarters at Jandakot Airport. In addition to the normal conference proceedings, delegates had a guided tour of the RFDS facilities. They heard first hand from Grahame Marshall, CEO Western Operations and expert Jandakot staff members in the communications, engineering and hospital facilities, who make it all happen. There was also a visit to the Royal Aero Club for lunch and a talk on the RAC Rescue Helicopter operations and capabilities.

The RFDS relies heavily on financial support from businesses and individuals to fund their state-wide services. As delegates learned, the RFDS delivers much more than just an air ambulance service.

Council made a small donation to the RFDS for the use of their facilities. If your Co-operative supports community services think about including the RFDS in your list of benefactors.

Council Vacancies

There are vacant positions on Council that need to be filled. Great environment to contribute and learn and not too demanding on your time.

For information about how get involved ring either Chris Enright or Peter Wells.

Congratulations to Greg Wall

Capricorn Group CEO, Greg Wall was elected to the board of the International Co-operative Alliance at the recent international conference held in South Africa. Greg is the first ICA director to be elected from an Australian co-operative.

December 2013

LEADing Board Program

Co-operatives WA is bringing an expert international presenter to Perth to conduct a 2 day LEADing Board professional development program over 17/18 February 2014. Venue will be Technology Park Conference Centre Bentley.

Places are limited, so telephone 9368 5155 or email info@cooperativeswa.coop to secure places for your directors and CEO.

What does the future hold?

Early in the New Year there will be a review of Co-operatives WA's Statement of Corporate Intent.

An important part of the review process will be input from you as a Member, on what you want from Co-operatives WA over the next few years.

Email your top 3 expectations of/wants from Co-operatives WA so your Councillors are better informed.

Thank you to our Platinum Sponsors



Newsletter of Co-operatives WA

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Legislation Up-date

A Bill to amend the Co-operatives Act 2009 (WA) to be part of the Co-operatives National Law (CNL) process is expected to be introduced into Parliament during 2014. Whilst NSW and Victoria are planning to transition into the CNL on 3 March 2014 the other States and Territories have until mid May 2015 to effect the required legislative changes.

Co-operatives WA is working with the WA Minister's Department on legislative matters and will advise Members of developments as they occur.

Council Members

Council is comprised of —

Chris Enright - Chairman

John Ritchie - Deputy Chairman

Councillors - Rod Madden, Brian McAlpine and Greg Wall.

If you are interested in being part of shaping the direction of Co-operatives WA, speak with Chris Enright or Peter Wells about becoming a Councillor. Council meets in Perth 4 times a year with meetings normally lasting around 4 hours. There are casual vacancies so no election needed.

Australia's Top 100

Thank you to Members who have regularly provided data as part of nominating for past annual Top 100 lists. Work is underway to collect data to enable an up-dated List to be published. The collection of data from the co-operatives sector is under review to lessen demands on your time. Members have been very forthcoming when approached in the past and we encourage you to continue to provide data when approached.

50th Anniversary

Congratulations to Ord River District Co-op (ORDCO) who celebrated their 50th Anniversary in August. . Established in 1963 by cotton growers for the principal purpose of processing and marketing cotton ORDCO now provides a complete range of farming inputs and services in the East Kimberley.

Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals

The launch of the Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals in July heralded a new era for national representation.

Go to www.bccm.coop to read about the BCCM.

The BCCM will provide a new national avenue to have the co-operative message heard in Canberra along side other member-owned and member-focused business models.

UWA Research Up-date

Watch for the 2014 release by UWA of their major findings from the ARC Linkage Grant - *Sustainable cooperative enterprise: an investigation into the factors influencing the sustainability and competitiveness of cooperative enterprises.*

Know your Rules

- Is your board and management aware of their obligations, and the consequences, relating to Members failing to remain actively engaged with their Co-operative?
- Does your Board and management understand their options when required to issue documents to Members?
- What does it mean to be a "small co-operative" and are you a "small co-operative"?
- Are you aware of your requirements to report to the Registrar of Co-operatives (Department of Commerce)?
- What is a "Disclosure Statement" and is every Co-operative required to have a Statement?
- How well versed is your Chairman and the Board Secretary in meeting procedures?
- Is your Co-operative operating according to its Rules - and if not which needs to change – the Rules or the way business is being done?
- What is required to change the Rules?
- Do you understand Co-operative Capital Units and how they can be used?

Call 9368 5155 to discuss how Co-operatives WA can assist.