

Co-operatives WA News

Christmas 2014

2014 Annual Conference

Another successful annual conference was held this year with the Conference content well received by delegates.

The Burswood-on-Swan venue was particularly relaxing with the river just stone's throw away and an excellent view of the city. Thank you to WA Meat Marketing Co-op for providing legs of lamb for the major door prizes, and to United Crate Co-op for the coolers to look after the fantastic quality of WAMMCO's product.

Planning is underway for a combined Conference and interesting site visit to a metropolitan location in 2015. Watch out for details in early 2015 and enter into your diary.

New Councillors

Welcome David Fraser (Capricorn) and Tony Renshaw (York and District Co-op) to Council for 2015.

If you are interested in being a Councillor ring either Chris Enright or Peter Wells.

Thank you—CBH & CSL

Thank you to our Platinum Sponsors, they continue to do a fantastic job in supporting not only Co-operatives WA, but the wider co-operative movement through their involvement with BCCM, nationally and the ICA at the international level.



Executive Leadership Program: Co-operatives and Mutuals

16-21 August 2015 (Fully residential program)

What better way to promote the **Executive Leadership Program: Co-operatives and Mutuals** for 2015 than to lift from 2014 testimonials:

"...The opportunity to meet and work with peers in the cooperative community was invaluable, especially given the regional location for many of the attendees. It's clear that everyone left the program with a clear list of actions to implement in their respective organisations." **Wayne Hosking**, CEO Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative.

"...The program was fast paced and loaded with worthwhile information and interaction, I have walked away with many new ideas to share with my business colleagues." **Stephen Birch**, Head of Supply Capricorn Society

The Program is a joint UWA AIM initiative made possible by Prof. Tim Mazzarol's research at UWA Business School under an ARC Linkage Grant supported by Co-operatives WA. The program is leading the area of co-operative learning and has no peer in Australasia.

For more information go to www.aimwa.com and search *Executive Leadership Program: Co-operatives and Mutuals*.

Meeting Member needs

Early in February your Council will be carrying out a strategic review of Co-operatives WA's operations. An important part of that process will be input from Members on what they want from Co-operatives WA over the coming years. Email your top 3 expectations/requirements from Co-operatives WA so your Councillors are well informed.

Newsletter of Co-operatives WA

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December 2014

2015 Council Members

Council will be made-up of Chris Enright, Chairman; John Ritchie, Deputy Chairman; David Fraser; John Hassell and Tony Renshaw. Rod Madden, a Councillor since June 2012, will stand down from Council in January. Speak with Chris Enright or Peter Wells about becoming a Councillor and help shape Co-operatives WA. Council meets in Perth 3 times a year with meetings normally around 3 hours.

BCCM

The Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals continues to advance the interest of the co-operative business model at a national level with the BCCM submitting papers to numerous government enquiries launched during 2014. Go to www.bccm.coop to read about BCCM activities.

Australia's Top 100

Congratulations to the following WA entries in the revamped list of Australia's Top 100 Co-operatives and Mutuals by annual turnover, published in November.

(Australia-wide ranking in brackets)

Co-operative Bulk Handling Group**	(#1)
HBF Health	(#4)
Capricorn Society**	(#5)
RAC WA	(#9)
Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative**	(#31)
WA Meat Marketing Co-operative**	(#32)
P&N Bank	(#34)
Healthguard Health Benefits Fund	(#45)
Health Insurance Fund of Australia	(#47)
Wesbuilders Co-operative**	(#89)
Mount Barker Co-operative**	(#90)
Co-operative Purchasing Services**	(#94)

**Member of Co-operatives WA

WA had only 13% of the Top 100 co-operatives and mutuals businesses but accounted for 27% of the combined turnover.

(Source: 2014 National Mutual Economy Report)

Legislation Up-date

A Bill to amend the Co-operatives Act 2009 (WA) to be part of the Co-operatives National Law (CNL) process will be introduced into State Parliament during the first half of 2015. NSW and Victoria transitioned into the CNL during 2014 with the WA Bill to complete its passage by May 2015.

Co-operatives WA is continuing to work with the WA Minister's legal advisers and will keep Members apprised of developments. Minor Rule changes may be necessary in some cases with a simple board resolution and notice to Members all that will be required.

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 communicate with 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 one?
- How well versed are your Chairman and Board Secretary in meeting procedures?
- Is your Co-operative acting within its Rules. If not which needs to change, Rules or the way business is done?
- What is required to change the Rules of a Co-operative?
- Do you understand Co-operative Capital Units and how they can be used?

Call or email Co-operatives WA if needing assistance.

**Wishing everyone a
Merry Christmas
and a happy and safe
New Year.**