

A **forward** look at what is possible

Conference Program

Day One

MORNING SESSION

- 8:00 Registration Opens
- 8:25 MC Welcome
Kitty Prodonovich, Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry (RCCIWA)
- 8:30 Welcome to Country
Lester Coyne, Menang Elder
- 8:45 Overview and Purpose
Kristen Pyrz-Brown, Albany Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- 9:00 Futurist View
Paul Higgins, EmergentFutures
- 9:45 Opportunities and Benefits in Investing in The Great Southern
Michael Carter, Chamber of Commerce & Industry WA (CCIWA)
- 10:00 Agtech: Investing in a Sustainable Food Future
Dr Natasha Teakle, AgriStart
- 10:15 IR Reform Update for The Great Southern
Ryan Martin, CCIWA
- 10:30 Panel Q&A
Jarrad Gardner, GSDC
Dr Natasha Teakle, AgriStart
Michael Carter, CCIWA
Ryan Martin, CCIWA
- 10:50 Morning Tea
- Agriculture Discussion
- 11:10 Future Technologies of Farm Management
Lucy Anderton, LA.ONE Economics & Consulting

- 11:25 Agriculture Investment and Milne Agrigroup's Growth
Boaz Kogan, Milne Agrigroup
- 11:40 Investing in Regional Towns
Kellie Todman, CBH Group
- 11:55 Agriculture Panel & Q&A
Housing & Planning Discussion
- 12:20 Future of Social and Affordable Housing in The Great Southern
John Lysaught, Advance Housing
- 12:35 Great Southern Property Market Update
Joe White, REIWA
- 12:50 Engaging with The Great Southern for Large Projects
Matt Thomson, Decmil
- 1:05 Great Southern Projects
John Boccamazzo, Real Force Property
- 1:20 Housing and Planning Panel Q&A
- 1:40 Lunch

**Times are subject to change*

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Conference Program

Day One Cont.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Education Discussion

- 2:15 **The future of Tertiary Education in the Great Southern**
Professor Cobie Rudd-
Edith Cowan University
- 2:30 **The Potential for Albany to be a University Town**
Chandra Sundaeswaran-
Curtin University
- 2:45 **Future Programs to Fill the Gaps in the Workforce**
Lee-Anne Smith- Southern Regional Tafe
- 3:00 **Education Panel**
Lee-Anne Smith, Chandra Sundaeswaran, Prof. Cobie Rudd
- 3:15 **Afternoon Tea**
- ##### Renewable Energy Discussion
- 3:35 **Current and Future Projects and why the Great Southern**
Glen Wilson- Vestas
- 3:50 **UWA Wave Project Update**
Dr Wiebke Ebeling-
UWA Marine Energy Research Aus
- 4:05 **Net Zero Now**
Murray Gomm- Oranje Tractor Wine
- 4:20 **Bio Technology**
Stephen Birkbeck-
Raintree Estates Agri Business
- 4:35 **Audience Q+A Panel**
Glen Wilson, Dr Wiebke Ebeling,
Murray Gomm, Stephen Birkbeck
- 5-6 **Sundowner**
Sponsored by GHD @ Due South



Pre-Kindy to Year 12 Day and Boarding

For further information or to book a tour, please visit
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EMBARK ON A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

Day one Sundowner sponsored by GHD @ Due South 5pm



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Conference Program

Day Two

MORNING SESSION

- 8:00 Event Registration
- 8:30 MC Welcome
Kitty Prodonovich, Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry (RCCIWA)
- 8:45 **The future of sustainability in projects Panel Discussion**
Dr Wiebke Ebeling, Marine Energy Research AUS
Paul Mackey, Southern Ports
Ruth March, City Of Albany
Prof. Stephen Hopper, University of WA
Jeff Foley, GHD
Clare Senior, University of WA
- 9:50 Morning Tea
- Tourism Discussion
- 10:05 WA Spaceport Project Update
April Walker, WA Spaceport
- 10:20 Regional Focus for The Great Southern
Kylie Sullivan, Tourism WA
- 10:35 Dune Beer Co Project Update
Kate Marwick, Dune Beer Co
- 10:50 Potential for Alternative Routes in The Great Southern
Kym Francesconi, Nexus Airlines
- 11:05 First Nation's Tourism in The Great Southern
Briony Arnold, WAITOC
- 11:20 Tourism Focus for The Great Southern
Catrin Allsop, Australia's South West
- 11:35 Tourism Panel Q&A

Mining & Trade Discussion

- 12:05 Great Southern Impact on Operations
Elyse Borlini, Rio Tinto
- 12:20 Southdown Project Update
Glenda Stirling, Grange Resources
Southdown Project
- 12:35 Future Planning
Keith Wilks, Southern Ports
- 12:50 ESG Impact on Great Southern Projects
Jim Allenby, Parvate ESG
- 1:05 Trade Potential in The Great Southern
Sharni Foulkes, Broome Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 1.20 Mining & Trade Panel Q+A
- 1:50 Lunch
- 2:00 Buses Depart for Tourism Opportunity
Limeburners Distillery
Oranje Tractor Wines
Binalup Walking Tracks and Beach

**Times and Speakers are subject to change*

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Conference Speakers



Paul Higgins

EMERGENTFUTURES | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For the last 20 years he has worked as a futurist across a wide range of industries and organisations, assisting businesses with strategic thinking and planning using a futures perspective. Paul's personal background is in food and agriculture. Paul immerses himself to deliver a thought provoking and insightful view of what the future holds.



Lucy Anderton

LA.ONE ECONOMICS & CONSULTING | ECONOMIST AND FARMER

Lucy Anderton is an accomplished agricultural economist and farmer, combines her profound farming expertise with a keen understanding of economics to create empowering solutions for industry. Founder of LA.ONE economics and consulting her journey began on farms, where she cultivated her understanding of agriculture's complexities. She has worked for government in economics and policy, has a masters by research, studying a decade of farm financial, social and productivity data for 270 farms.



Michael Carter

CCIWA | TRADE & INVESTMENT HEAD

Michael brings a wealth of experience spanning more than 28 years, with a multifaceted background in International Engagement and Strategy, Business Development, and Government Liaison. Michael has an expansive global network of business contacts, cultivated through years of dedicated work. He's been instrumental in guiding clients toward international trade success, facilitating ventures across Western Europe, The Middle East, North America, and Asia.

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Conference Speakers



Dr Natasha Teakle

AGRISTART/INNOVATION CLUSTER | MANAGING DIRECTOR

Tash is experienced in business strategy, commercialisation, innovation and investment. She is passionate about sustainable primary industries and new technology. She comes from a WA farming family and spent 8 years as an agricultural researcher and lecturer at the University of Western Australia, University of Glasgow, University of Southern California and University of Sydney. Tash has led AgriStart for the last 7 years, helping hundreds of startups across regional Australia and is an active angel investor. She is currently Chair of the Project Management Group for the Food Technology Facility at FIPWA, Deputy Chair of Busselton Jetty and board member for South West Angels. Tash has a PhD in Plant Biology and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (1st Class Hons), and has qualifications in university teaching, research commercialisation, leadership and corporate governance (graduate of the AICD). She holds several advisory and volunteer roles and has been on the judging panel for the WA Innovator of the Year awards since 2015.



Ryan Martin

CCIWA | DIRECTOR OF WORKPLACE RELATIONS

Ryan has 15 years of management and industrial relations experience, adopting a common sense approach when providing legal advice to businesses across a wide range of industries.

Ryan provides workplace solutions that contribute to the strategic thinking and direction of the business, assisting them to meet their core objectives and values by effectively drafting and negotiating contractual agreements. Ryan provides assistance across a range of areas including employment law, discrimination and equal opportunity and strategic industrial relations negotiations and has experience assisting clients to defend various claims in the Fair Work Commission and Federal Court.



April Walker

WESTERN AUSTRALIA SPACEPORT | FOUNDER

April Walker is the founder of Western Australia Spaceport and Azimuth.

Based in the City of Albany, WA Spaceport and Azimuth will attribute to Australia's sovereign launch capability by delivering on the vision, 'Space technology and exploration are possible for those who wish to pursue it'.

April has a bachelor's degree in Applied Science from Queensland University of Technology and is a Master of Business Administration candidate from AGSM at University of New South Wales.

April's professional career comprises of complex defence, infrastructure, health and commercial projects across Australia.

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ALBANY BUNBURY ESPERANCE

Conference Speakers



Prof. Stephen Hopper

UWA ALBANY | PROFESSOR

Professor of Biodiversity at UWA Albany since 2012, Steve has 50 years as a conservation biologist and teacher, including 12 years leading Kings Park and Botanic Garden (1992-2004), and six years leading the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (2006-2012). Steve's research focuses on sustainable living with biodiversity, especially with Aboriginal Elders. He has investigated granite outcrop flora and ethnobiology for more than 40 years.



Briony Arnold

WAITOC | PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Briony, is a born and bred West Australian woman, a descendent of the Yamatji nation. She has a strong background in education, as a teacher for over 20 years across the state, then in education management roles in the Great Southern and Southwest region. Briony provides business support to Aboriginal tourism businesses in the Great Southern, Southwest, Wheatbelt and Goldfields regions for WAITOC.



Kylie Sullivan

TOURISM WA | TOURISM EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Meet Kylie, a passionate advocate for adventure and discovery. Kylie is the Tourism Experience Development Manager based in the awe-inspiring Great Southern, the driving force in delivering the National Park Tourism Experience Development program stretching from the towering forests of Walpole to the serene beaches of Esperance. With two decades of experience in the hospitality, travel and tourism industries, Kylie's career journey has been nothing short of adventurous. From orchestrating expedition cruises to destinations like Antarctica, Libya and the Galapagos to leading national sales and marketing strategies for global hotel chains. Kylie is passionate in assisting operators to create and elevate new visitor experiences, to enrich the tapestry of exploration across the Great Southern Region and beyond.



Lester Coyne

MENANG ELDER

Lester Coyne is a respected Menang-Noongar elder who has been actively involved in his community and has contributed to various aspects of life in the Great Southern region of Western Australia. Lester Coyne has been an advocate for peace and community well-being. Lester Coyne has been involved in advocating for Indigenous and cultural heritage and promoting understanding between different communities. Lester Coyne's commitment to community well-being, reconciliation, and heritage preservation has made him a respected figure in the Great Southern region of Western Australia.

Conference Speakers



Kristen Pyrz-Brown

ALBANY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kristen is an experienced business owner, executive and leadership coach and trainer, starting her own Albany based business, Valeo Coaching in 2021.

Kristen began her work with the Albany Chamber of Commerce & Industry in 2020 as an executive committee member. In early 2023, Kristen was successfully recruited into the CEO position. Kristen now uses her voice to advocate for local business. She is also a proud advocate for diversity and equality. Kristen has lived and worked in six countries, including Germany, Poland and the U.K.

Kristen has studied extensively and holds a Masters of Business Administration (MBA), a Masters of Business Leadership as well as a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. Kristen joined the ACCI Board of Directors in May 2022, through her own business, Valeo Coaching.



John Lysaught

ADVANCE HOUSING | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

John is the CEO of Advance Housing, the Great Southern's largest dedicated community housing provider.

With senior executive level experience in a number of service driven industries John has a strong and diverse mix of senior strategic and operational business and leadership ability. These strengths include cultural change management, staff development, multi-site operations expertise, community engagement, advanced financial management skills, occupational safety and health knowledge, developing and delivering strategic initiatives, and process improvement.

John has led a number of service organisations active in disability, mental health, aged care, peak advocacy, hospitality, and housing and this has given him a true grounding in the value of community services and assets.



John Boccamazzo

REALFORCE | CO-FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR

Has over 40 years of multi-disciplinary experience in Property and Land sourcing, Property development, Project management, Construction, Property sales and Hospitality.

Holds a Building Practitioner Licence, a Building Contractors Licence since 1993 and a Diploma of Project Management since 2015

Realforce undertakes commercial development and construction in Medical, Hospitality, Residential housing and unit developments for private and government organisations.

Realforce is responsible for building some of Albany's most iconic buildings including Due South Tavern, Albany Day Hospital and the renovation of the Premier Hotel, all of which have won multiple MBA excellence awards.

Investing in strong regional ports and strong regions

Southern Ports facilitates trade through its ports at Albany, Bunbury and Esperance – connecting our regions to world markets and underpinning the state's economic growth and prosperity.

\$300k+
invested into our local communities

\$37mt
cargo collectively handled by our ports per year

Take a look at how we're planning for the future with our Master Plan



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PORT OF ALBANY SNAPSHOT



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Conference Speakers



Kym Francesconi

NEXUS AIRLINES | GROUP EXTERNAL RELATIONS MANAGER

Kym's background is focused on small business, tourism, and external relations. Kym has had a diverse career that includes being a qualified Dive Master, tour guide, business owner, board member, partnership manager and business advisor.

Previous work experience includes Senior Manager Partnerships and Industry with Tourism Western Australia, Business Advisor for the Small Business Development Corporation, and Communications Manager for Destination Perth. Kym has also operated several tourism ventures, including the Underwater Explorer glass bottom boat on Rottnest Island and Coastline Tours, a small bus tour company.

Kym is excited to now be working with the Nexus Airlines team as Group External Relations Manager.



Chandra Sundaeswaran

CURTIN UNIVERSITY | DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR LEARNING ENTERPRISE & PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Chandra is a post-graduate engineer and entrepreneur with experience in diverse sectors across higher education, social enterprise and not-for-profit sectors in India and Australia. His work on projects partnering with government, industry and higher education over the past decade give him a deep understanding of the challenges and the opportunities in driving innovation in large organisations and jurisdictions. Previously, he has led industry-education partnerships with ECU and Murdoch University and worked on innovative approaches to economic development in the regional Western Australia by supporting the development and capacity building of innovation hubs in the Pilbara, Peel, Midwest and Southwest.



Roberts Gardiner

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Conference Speakers



Glen Wilson

VESTAS | LAND ACCESS MANAGER

Glen Wilson leads new wind farm prospects in Western Australia. Formerly a Service Manager for Vestas, he oversaw Service teams maintaining wind and solar farms nationwide. With a power generation background since 1996, Glen has provided professional guidance globally, emphasizing renewable energy. Passionate about diversity and equality, Glen resides in Perth with his wife Emilie, son Hamish, and their cat Parker. An avid cricket and AFL fan, he balances a successful career with a commitment to a sustainable future.



Stephen Birkbeck

RAINTREE ESTATE | CHAIR

Stephen Birkbeck has always sought to support Indigenous communities. He strongly advocates supply chains joining forces to use their collective resources to improve regional communities' socio-economic prospects worldwide. He has been invited to present in front of world leaders, which led to establishing The President's Circle, supported by the United Nations Convention on Bio-Diversity. Stephen uses these networks he has established over 40 years to support new emerging global industry standards that generate export demand for regional communities and build transparency into the ethical practices in the global supply chain.

As a veteran in sustainable luxury goods, cutting-edge R and D and sustainable tourism, Stephen has been awarded over 30 prestigious State and National awards, including National Regional Exporter of the Year, National Export Hero (AIS) and been the inaugural inductee into the WA Export Hall of Fame. In 2019, he was awarded his greatest honour – Tjamu (grandfather) by the Martu nation of the central deserts.

Stephen founded Mt Romance and The Sandalwood Factory and now Chairs regional tourism centrepiece Raintree Estate – parent company to The Dam, Cannabis Botanical Distillery and The Temple, the largest employer of females in the Great Southern.

Stephen will speak on ways in which regional businesses can create a global competitive advantage through unique selling propositions driven by a mission-focus approach to guide and inspire regional Australia to build an exciting and sustainable future."



Murray Gomm

ORANJE TRACTOR WINE | OWNER

Established in 1996, 10km northwest of Albany, Oranje Tractor is a diverse smallholding of wine grapes, over 170 fruit trees. Motivated by a desire to work with nature rather than against it, Murray Gomm and Pam Lincoln achieved organic certification for the farm in 2005. In more recent years Murray and Pam have introduced a range of regenerative farming practices that build soil carbon, a diverse soil microbiome, soil fertility and nutrient dense produce with minimal inputs.

Conference Speakers



Clare Senior

UWA | MANAGER, GRAND CHALLENGES AND UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EXPERTISE

Clare Senior is an experienced project manager with a history of managing strategic projects from conception through to completion and evaluation. These include Student Equity Outreach Programs, Student Experience of Learning and Teaching Projects, University Leadership Programs and Mental Health Service Accreditations. Clare has worked in the tertiary education sector in Australia and the UK and prior to this, she worked in the Government's Department of Health. Clare is passionate about social change, leadership, equity and volunteering and enjoys working with and connecting people with diverse expertise towards achieving a shared goal. Clare has a Bachelor of Science (Psychology) and a Graduate Certificate in Business Leadership.



Matt Thomson

DECMIL | PROJECT MANAGER

Matt is a local professional with an extensive background in Civil Engineering and Management, prompting his involvement at various levels and sectors in infrastructure development in the region including Land Development, Local Government and Construction.

Matt is currently a Project Manager with Decmil, most recently managing the final completion of the Albany Ring Road Stage 2, a significant economic development project set to leave a lasting legacy for transport logistics in the region and the Port of Albany.



Professor Cobie Rudd BHSc(N), MPH, PhD, GAICD

EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY | VICE-PRESIDENT

Professor Cobie Rudd is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Regional Futures) and Vice-President at Edith Cowan University (ECU) and is focused on increasing engagement opportunities in regional, rural, and remote Western Australia to better support the educational, research, community, and industry needs of the regions. As part of this portfolio, Professor Rudd also heads up ECU South West, including ECU's Bunbury campus, the largest regional campus in Western Australia and a series of learning hubs.

Professor Rudd also leads ECU's Athena Swan initiative, the only internationally recognised framework for gender equity, diversity and inclusion accreditation. Under her leadership, ECU achieved the Athena Swan Bronze Institutional Award in December 2018 and the first Athena Swan Cygnet Award in Australia in August 2022. She was welcomed as a CEO for Gender Equity in October 2021. In March 2023, she was inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame.

She has served as a Non-Executive Director on over 14 boards of governance.

Professor Rudd holds the degrees of Bachelor of Health Science in Nursing from the University of New England, Master of Public Health from Queensland University of Technology, and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Western Australia. Additionally, she is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Registered Nurse.

Conference Speakers



Joe White

REIWA | PRESIDENT

Joe White is the current President of the Real Estate Institute of WA (REIWA) and the Director of JMW Real Estate in Dunsborough.

With over 30 years' experience in the real estate industry, he has extensive knowledge of WA's property market, particularly in the regions.

Joe has a keen eye for statistics, town planning implications and housing trends and is passionate about housing supply and affordability.



Glenda Stirling

GRANGE RESOURCES | COMMUNITY LIAISON MANAGER, SOUTHDOWN PROJECT

Glenda Stirling is a CPA and 30-year veteran of the WA Mining industry. Having grown up on a farm in Youngs Siding and obtaining an Accounting degree from Curtin University, Glenda has worked on St Georges Tce, the Pilbara, Gascoyne, Goldfields, and Great Southern in various commodities.



Boaz Kogan

MILNE AGRIGROUP | GENERAL MANAGER, SUSTAINABILITY

Having worked in senior strategic roles across agribusiness, biotech and academia in Australia, NZ, Israel and Spain, Boaz has extensive experience in assessing business and technology feasibility and using collaborative networks to solve complex problems. With a broad education across sciences and arts, Boaz is experienced in strategic planning, marketing and brand building, change management projects, financial analysis and feasibility studies, with particular experience in research institutes (public sector) and agribusiness and food industries (private sector).



Ruth March

CITY OF ALBANY | MANAGER, ENGINEERING & SUSTAINABILITY

Ruth is a Chartered Civil Engineer by profession with over 30 years experience delivering small and large scale projects both in the private sector and for Local Governments in the UK and Western Australia. During that time she has worked in the Nuclear sector safely demolishing nuclear power stations.

Ruth currently works at the City of Albany as the Manager of Engineering and Sustainability and has a passion for managing waste effectively and sustainability.

Iconic Albany



2025 ACCI Business and Community Directory Photo Competition

Submit your best photos that depict the culture, the community, the place that is Albany and the Great Southern. The photo can be a landscape, landmark, or other iconic image in or around Albany.

The winning image will become the front cover of the 2025 ACCI Business and Community Directory. Runner-up photos will be featured throughout.

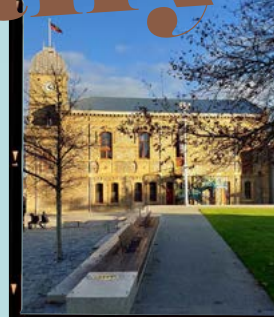
The competition will be open to a 'People's Vote' to decide 10 finalist photos. We have invited photography icon, Steve Parish OAM to judge the finalists for the winning photo and runners-up.

The competition is now open for entries until **COB 4 July 2024**.

Entries to albanycci.com.au/directory



Voting starts 5th July until 22nd July with Steve Parish choosing the winner 29th July 2024



Steve Parish OAM, Iconic nature photographer



Full competition details and T&Cs at albanycci.com.au/directory



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Conference Speakers



Jeff Foley

GHD ALBANY | SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER

Jeff Foley is a Senior Project Manager with GHD, based in Albany. He is also a Technical Director with 23 years' experience in the areas of business management, planning, engineering, climate change research and sustainability. He holds a PhD from the University of Queensland on the Life Cycle Assessment of Wastewater Treatment Systems, with a special focus on fugitive methane and nitrous oxide greenhouse gas emissions. Jeff's involvement in infrastructure projects has ranged from policy, planning, permitting, concept design and modelling, through to detailed design, construction, commissioning, optimisation, and contract administration.

Jeff has worked as a consultant and researcher across Australia and brings to his role a strong customer focus, excellent communication skills, and a broad network of industry and community relationships. He has a track record of pragmatic design and project management that incorporates the best of suitable technologies with the realities of constructability and operability.



Dr Wiebke Ebeling

UWA MARINE ENERGY RESEARCH AUS | CENTRE MANAGER

Wiebke has a background in the biological sciences and completed a PhD in Neuroscience at the Australian National University in Canberra. She is also a qualified workshop facilitator for career development. Since 2010, she has worked in education & outreach in various science areas at several Australian universities. In 2018, she took on the role of Centre Manager for Marine Energy Research Australia (MERA) – then known as the Wave Energy Research Centre – based at the UWA regional campus in Albany, in the historic railway station now operated as the Great Southern Marine Research Facility, under Wiebke's management. She leads the Albany hub of the United Nations Regional Centre of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development (WA) and has been a Board Director at the Southern Ports Authority since 2020. Wiebke further volunteers as an Executive on the Great Southern Science Council and the Albany Family & Domestic Violence Action Group.

Today's Wind Powering Tomorrow

Vestas is one of the world's largest renewable energy companies and has delivered more than 166,000 MW of turbines in 88 countries. Vestas directly employs around 800 people in Australia and New Zealand.

Vestas is proposing a 500 MW wind farm in the Shire of Gnowangerup. The wind farm will:

- Invest around \$700m into the Great Southern Region
- Provide opportunities for local contractors and businesses
- Create approximately 400 new jobs during construction

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Vestas

Conference Speakers



Ms Catrin Allsop

AUSTRALIA'S SOUTH WEST | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

With more than 19 years' experience in the tourism industry, Catrin is the Chief Executive Officer of Australia's South West, one of Western Australia's five Regional Tourism Organisations. Catrin brings strong leadership, proven strategic implementation and effective stakeholder engagement skills to the organisation and region.

Catrin's industry representation includes Board Member of the South West Development Commission and Regional Development Australia South West, and significant involvement in key industry project areas such as product development, aviation and trails marketing as well as various collaborations with industry stakeholders in developing partnerships to increase co-operation in destination management. Catrin holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in International Management and Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration.



Paul Mackey

SOUTHERN PORTS | ALBANY ENVIRONMENT MANAGER

Paul Mackey is the Environment Manager at Southern Ports, Albany and has a background in Environmental and Marine Science with First Class Honours in applied seagrass research. Paul has worked in a number of industries including construction, mining, logistics, defence and marine transport. Previous employers include the Edith Cowan University, CSIRO, (fmr) Western Australian Department of Environment, Albany Port Authority, Port Hedland Port Authority and Southern Ports.

Southern Ports is the custodian of the three 'gateway' ports of Albany, Bunbury and Esperance, connecting Western Australia to the world. We exist to create value for the communities in which we operate and the customers who make use of our facilities. We believe in our Vision: Strong Regional Ports, Strong Regions.



Sharni Foulkes

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY BROOME | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Sharni Foulkes is a dynamic and passionate advocate for the stunning Kimberley region. With over \$1B worth of upcoming projects, her energy and enthusiasm know no bounds, and she's dedicated to showcasing the immense potential and opportunities that this extraordinary corner of the world offers. As the CEO of the Broome Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sharni is not just a leader but also a driving force behind the development and growth of the Kimberley. Her approach is characterised by boundless enthusiasm and a deep commitment to collaboration. She thrives on creating opportunities, both for the local community and the broader region, making her a catalyst for positive change.

Conference Speakers



Lee-Anne Smith

SOUTH REGIONAL TAFE | DIRECTOR OF TRAINING SERVICE (GREAT SOUTHERN)

Lee-Anne Smith is Director of Training Services for the Great Southern region of South Regional TAFE. She has a background in HR and education having worked in the VET sector for 20 years. She holds a BA, and qualifications in Training and Assessment, Government, Sustainability, Business and Leadership.

Lee-Anne is passionate about ensuring that students in regional WA have access to outstanding training programs and facilities that support strong employment and personal development outcomes.



Keith Wilks

SOUTHERN PORTS AUTHORITY | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Keith Wilks is Chief Executive Officer of Southern Ports, where he oversees the management of Western Australia's three southern regional ports at Albany, Bunbury and Esperance and a combined annual trade value of \$49b.

Keith's diverse career spans almost three decades. He was Chief Operating Officer at Southern Ports for over three years and has held executive, senior and advisory positions at the Port of Newcastle, Port Authority of New South Wales, and Svitzer.

He has extensive experience at sea and holds a Master Mariner certification, providing an exceptional understanding of the maritime sector and the evolving nature of the ports industry.



Kate Marwick

DUNE BEER CO | OWNER / OPERATOR

Kate Marwick, the owner of Emu Point Cafe, is also involved in an exciting venture called Dune Beer Co. This brewery aims to create a premium venue that seamlessly blends local produce, exceptional beer, and a deep respect for the land.



Jarrad Gardner

GREAT SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jarrad is currently the CEO of the GSDC. Jarrad has extensive experience in state government, across the energy, water, housing, forestry and land development sectors. Jarrad formally worked in the Department of Treasury, with key involvement in the implementation of major government initiatives, policies and industry sector reforms. Returning to the Great Southern in 2020, Jarrad took on the Director Regional Development role for the GSDC.

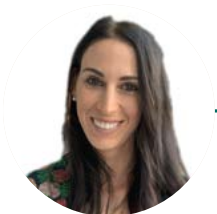
Conference Speakers



Kellie Todman

CBH | MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY RELATIONS

Kellie Todman is Manager of Government and Industry Relations at the CBH Group, liaising with local, state and federal Government and grain industry organisations to advocate for good outcomes for CBH and the grain growers of Western Australia. Kellie has more than ten years professional experience in the fields of marketing, communications and government and community relations and before joining CBH, worked in local government for a number of years. In her current role at CBH Kellie looks after regulatory approvals in addition to managing the CBH Growers' Advisory Council.



Elyse Borlini

RIO TINTO | SENIOR ADVISOR, REGIONAL COMMUNITIES WA

Elyse is the current Regional Communities Senior Advisor at Rio Tinto. After working in education and educational leadership for 10 years across the Northern Territory, Pilbara and Kimberley regions, Elyse joined Rio Tinto as a community engagement advisor in the Pilbara. Elyse is now based in the Peel region where she supports regional communities across Western Australia including Albany.



Jim Allenby

PARVATE ESG | MANAGING DIRECTOR

As the Managing Director of Parvate ESG, Jim leads a team driving sustainable business growth through tailored Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) business advisory services. Their expertise spans various industries and with a WA origin we are a growing presence across Australia and in the vibrant market of India. Jim is enthusiastic about the transformative impact he can bring to businesses, aligning their operations with ESG principles for enduring success.



Kitty Prodonovich

REGIONAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY WA | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kitty is the CEO of the Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry of WA. Kitty has previously held the positions of Presidents of both the RCCIWA (2005 – 2010) and the Kalgoorlie-Boulder CCI (2003-2005) and has owned two small businesses in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, the first one at the age of 21.

Kitty's involvement with a regional Chamber of Commerce began in 1991, and she is a strong and driven advocate for regional business communities. Kitty is a past Chair of the board of the Small Business Development Corporation and currently sits on the General Council of CCIWA and is a Non – Executive Director on the board of Keystart Home Loans and the Country Housing Authority.

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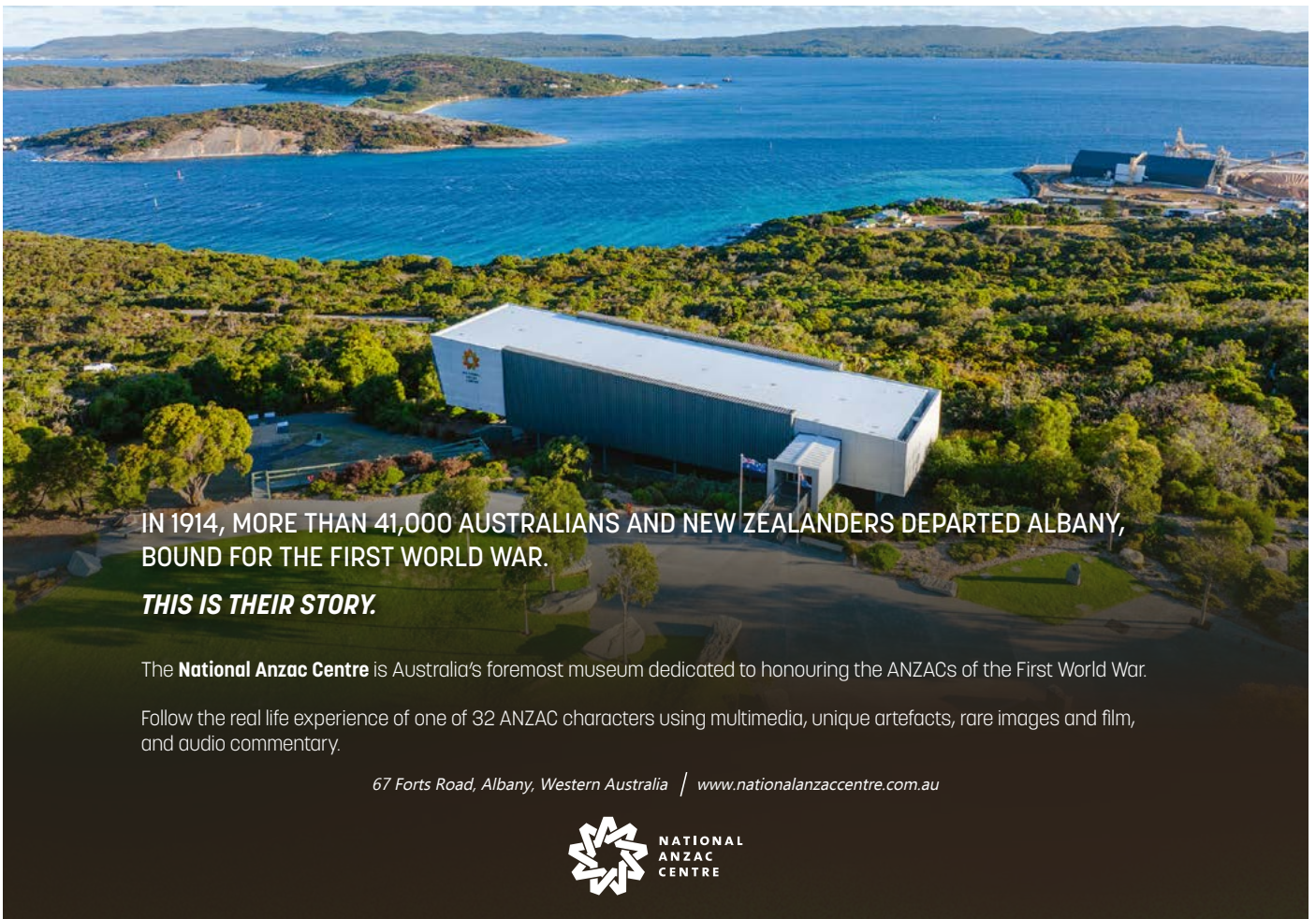
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