

Report For Local Government Week – Cr David Wallace

Tuesday 1st August

I attended a Mayor and Presidents Forum chaired by Cr. Lynne Craige. Mr Colin Murphy, Auditor General, spoke about his new responsibility for Local Government audits. Mr Duncan Ord, Director General, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, spoke about the idea of combining the different departments together. Lastly, Mayor David O'loughlin, ALGA President, discussed the Local Government's National agenda and current priorities.

Wednesday 2nd August

Speakers at the Party Policy Presentation were Hon. David Templeman, Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts. Hon. Rita Saffioti, Minister for Transport; Planning; Lands. Hon. Stephen Dawson Minister for Environment; Disability Services.

The main topics were about the policy direction of the newly formed state government. There was also time for a Q&A session.

The CEO Paul Martin and myself attended a session with the Director General of the Department of Water and CEO of the Water Corporation, about securing water supplies into the future through various ways, like wastewater recycling facilities. We also met with the Director General of the Department of Culture and the arts. We had a very positive discussion about the way forward to plan for future art clusters in York.

In the afternoon I attended the WALGA AGM.

Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th August

The convention program featured a number of outstanding speakers with the convention keynote speaker, Dr Ernesto Sirolli. Former Lord Mayor of Adelaide Stephen Yarwood, spoke about innovation in urban development and a panel discussion featuring Liam Bartlet, Paul Murry, Jessica Strut and moderator Verity Hames, touched on issues in state and federal politics. The convention concluded on Friday with an outstanding presentation from Idris Mootee who spoke on design thinking and innovation and how to execute them. Another major idea I took out of the convention is that futuristic technology is developing and being introduced at an exceeding rate and it is important that it is embraced as to not fall behind but in a responsible and logical manner.

Other than the opportunity to hear and learn from experts and authorities in areas related to local government, the other major benefit of attending local government is the opportunity to network with other presidents and councilors, particularly with comparable shire to York. This is of great benefit to listen to what innovative initiatives other councils are implementing or have implemented, and also to discuss other issues that are affecting the local government sector. This allows me to learn from the experiences of other councils to improve the efficiency of the council and the engagement with the community.

Cr Denese Smythe
Report on Local Government Week



Wednesday 2nd August 2017

The Annual General Meeting was the first event during the convention that I attended. President Cr Lynne Craigie opened the meeting at 1.30pm. The attendees were then addressed by Hon Mark McGowan MLA, Premier of WA, this address was well received by the attendees, this was then followed by an address from Hon Mike Nahan MLA, Leader of the Opposition.

Lynne Craigie presented the WALGA President's Annual Report, followed by an address by the President of ALGA.

The day progressed with the announcement of Local Government Honours and award presentations including scholarship and Anzac Day Award.

Ricky Burges, CEO of WALGA introduced the WALGA State Council and the AGM Business Session commenced.

There were two late items – Matters of Special Urgent Business adopted at the meeting, both these matters were from the Shire of Trayning.

- Motion: WALGA lobbies on behalf of the local governments for an exempt regulation to be introduced to the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 seeking an exemption from complying with AASB 125 Related Party Disclosures, and Business Operating Procedure-Related Party Disclosures, - it was noted that the issue could be considered as part of the current Local Government Act review process.
- Motion: That WALGA Lobbies the Minister for Transport;
 1. a) To seek a reversal of their stated intent to reduce the State Road funds to Local Government Agreement by \$10.3 million in 2017/18; and b) for the reinstatement of the fixed percentage of licencing fees.
 2. Investigate options for the Local Government sector to reduce services and assistance provided to State Government entities unless financial compensations are provided.

Both these motions were passed.

The AGM closed and all attendees were invited to the Opening Welcome Reception in the Exhibition Pavilions.

Thursday 3rd August 2017

Thursday commenced with Cr Lynne Craigie, President, WALGA, opening the proceedings, followed by a Welcome to Country.

Dr Ernesto Sirolli, Founder of the Sirolli Institute was the opening keynote speaker, he was a passionate presenter who told the story of how in 1985, he pioneered in Esperance, Western Australia, a unique economic development approach based on harnessing the passion, determination, intelligence, and resourcefulness of the local people. The results of "The Esperance Experience" have prompted more than 350 communities around the world to adopt responsive, person-centered approaches to local economic development similar to the model pioneered 32 years ago. The Esperance community project is still active and has created over 800 new businesses in the first 20 years.

Dr. Ernesto Sirolli is the Founder of the Sirolli Institute, a non-profit organization and social enterprise since 1995 that teaches community leaders, Governments and Corporations how to manage Enterprise Facilitation Communities.

The concurrent sessions for the morning started and I attended the "Engaging Young People in Local Communities" session with presenters; Colin Pettit, Commissioner for Children and Young People, Jeremy Chetty, Co-Founder, Student Edge, Juan Larranga, State Manager, Youth Partnership Project, Karin Chicote, YPP Project Manager, Youth Partnership and Steven Vo, Project Engineer, City of Gosnells.

Commissioner for Children and Young People, Colin Pettit explained his guiding principles, functions and priority areas, which include:

- Advocating for all children and young people.
- Monitoring laws, policies and practices that affect the wellbeing of children and young people.
- Promoting and valuing the voice of children and young people and the positive contributions they make to our society.
- Consulting children and young people, parents, families and government and non-government organisations.
- Researching the latest trends and information that relate to children and young people.
- Inquiring on behalf of children and young people about issues relating to their wellbeing.

The Commissioner explained that he had two advisory committees, one urban and one rural and consults with:

- Children in out of home care

- Youth Justice – where he said that the five main reasons for young people getting involved in crime were family, individual problems, friends, school or work and community.
- Young Aboriginal leaders
- Children from CALD background
- School and Learning Areas – he said a report on this is to be tabled in parliament shortly.

The Commissioner said:

“What young people see as important to their wellbeing” include:

- Relationships with family and friends
- School and getting a good education
- Being safe
- Having the ability to have fun and engage in a range of activities, and
- In particular in regional areas, the importance of a strong connection to their communities and culture

“What children tell us makes a difference”

- Having friendly staff who like children
- Being proactive of their views
- Having their views taken seriously
- Being given choice and flexibility around participating
- Having expectations and clear rules

“Challenges”

- Resources
- Representatives.

Student Edge Co-Founder, Jeremy Chetty then spoke on how Student Edge started whilst he was living in the City of Canning and what it offers today. Student Edge is free to join and has 90,000 members from all over Australia – it is an online community for 12 to 25 years. They have an ideas centre (user generated access) that involves all the members and allows students to help each other. They have online forums, conduct surveys and polls, have competitions job listings and study material.

Youth Partnership Project, Juan Larranaga (State Manager) The Project (YPP) commenced in 2014. after a culmination of over two years of collaborative work between community and government entities in the South East Corridor Region to address the anti-social and criminal behaviour of young people on the Perth-Armadale train line. The aim of the project focused on providing more effective and efficient services and support to children and young people in the community that need it the most in order to increase their opportunities for more positive development.

It was reported that in 2016 Youth Justice spent \$48 million locking up young people in Western Australian and during the years 2015-16 one in four of these young people came from the southeast metropolitan area. With the help of Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC), the Youth Working Group analysed how services were delivered for young people at the time, which showed that the lack of coordination and collaboration

between services was a major contributing factor to the overall poor outcomes for youth intervention initiatives in the region.

Steven Vo Project Engineer City of Gosnells with Paul McAllister – spoke on the Mills Park redevelopment” a \$47 million project. Steven spoke about how he was just out of university and found it difficult to obtain work so he volunteered at first after contacting Paul on LinkedIn. They then went on to talk about how the community was consulted to ensure the redeveloped site met the needs and aspirations of its local groups.

The City won the Designing for the Future category at the National Growth Areas Alliance Awards for the many future-focused elements of Mills Park, including environmental sustainability through the use of innovative water technologies, the 6 Star Green Star community facility, and substantial wetland and waterway rehabilitation.

Paul McAllister has since left the City of Gosnells but praised Steven for his constant asking of questions and challenging ideas.

After lunch the second concurrent sessions where held and I attended the “Taste of Waste” sessions with speakers – Marcus Geisler, Chair, Waste Authority, Charles Sullivan, Director, Engineering & Works Services, City of Cockburn, Nicki Ledger, Waste Education Officer, City of Cockburn, Andrew Murphy, Manager Waste and Fleet, City of Stirling and David Burton, CEO, Shire of Koorda.

Cr Doug Thompson from the City of Fremantle introduced the session and queried the environment standards for rural landfills.

Marcus Geisler said that they were trying to move WA to a low waster state and that the Waste Strategy was approved in 2012. Mr Geisler spoke about the blueprint for managing waste in WA through five strategic objectives:

1. Planning
2. Regulation
3. Best Practice
4. Economic instruments
5. Engagement

Charles Sullivan and Nicki Ledger of the City of Cockburn talked about the 3-bin system they currently use and its benefits.

Andrew Murphy from the City of Stirling spoke about recovery from verge side collection, the currently are providing a 3 bin services, one free skip bin per year (on demand) and a separate on demand service for mattresses, white goods and E-Waste, They also schedule a green waste pick up every 9 months. Mr Murphy said that sorting

is cheaper than landfill. He said that 24 months on they have not had an increase in illegal dumping, 20% of households booked a skip bin per year. Bulk junk tonnage has reduced by 35%, sorting of skips yielding 42% recovery and there has been a significant contribution to their overall diversion from landfill by a rate of 51%. The City of Stirling is happy to share information for a business case,

David Burton, CEO, Koorda, spoke about how they were trying to establish a new landfill on an old golf course and the pitfalls they have encountered. (The application is still in process) He also mention the Draft Environmental Standards for Rural Landfills – risk based approach to sites.

The Container Deposit Scheme paper is to be released soon.

The last session for Thursday was titled “What the Future Holds” and presented by Stephen Yarwood, former Lord Mayor of the City of Adelaide. Stephen is an Urban Futurist. Stephen talked about Cities 2050, 3 D technology, and told us of a set of apartments that were built in Dubai using 3 D printing in one day.

He talked about Amazon in Australia, and how it will help to revitalize local communities through economic development, and the Amazon dot – smart home hub – like the Google Home Hub released on 20th July 2017.

Mr Yardwood has an Air B&B and talked about “Sharing Economy” such as Uber and Air B&B etc. Hiring bikes, an Uber pool and Eat with – having a meal at a home in another country etc. He said he believe that there would be 10 million self driving cars by 2020 and by 2040 Mercedes believe there will be no driver cars being built. Mr Yarwood spoke quickly and I made some dot points on other things he touched on.

- Autonomous vehicles (not driverless cars)
- Electric Cars
- Hyper loop
- Everyday we create 2.5 quintillion bytes of data
- Sim City
- Virtual reality – augmented reality
- Next iPhone will have sophisticated augmented reality
- Pokémon Go – only the start
- By 2030 smart phones will be smarter than we are
- Artificial Intelligence
- Density, Mix, Access 2050
- City Skylines – game
- Jane Jacobs – futurist
- Movies to watch – Her and Black Mirror

Friday 4th August 2017-08-07

The announcement of the 2017 Banners in the Terrace Awards was made and the overall winner was Exmouth.

The morning session was "State of Play" with host Verity James and panellists Liam Bartlett, Paul Murray and Jessica Strutt all political reporters.

The panellists talked about the visit by the Prime Minister and how it was a "listening tour" but they felt he was not listening:

Jessica Strutt:

- No funding allocation as was expected to be announced
- Possibility of loosing up to 5 seats in WA at next Federal election including Christian Porter
- No GST increase – currently .34c in \$ - laughing stock of the nation and our Federal MP's do not seem to care
- PM not well taken by journalists'
- State budget about to be announced by Ben Wyatt
- Cost shirting from state to local government – i.e. road maintenance

Liam Bartlett:

- No one is doing anything about the GST issue

Paul Murray:

- Spoke about R4R
- All mining royalties go to Feds and A is penalised for having mining royalties
- Labour was initially in favour of R4R
- Ben Wyatt is looking at bank tax – SA model

The last concurrent session I attended was "Welcome to the Community" with Rebeca Ball, Office of Multicultural Interests, Cr Alep Mydie, Shire of Katanning and Imam, Aleem Ali, National Manager, Welcoming Cities, Stuart McAlpine, Wheatbelt farmer and Tess Joyner Slot, Joyner Slot Consulting. Cr Stephen Strange from Bruce Rock was the facilitator. Due to a discussion during the morning tea break about the proposed application for a landfill in York I was late for this session and missed the first speaker, Rebeca Ball.

Cr Alep Mydie, Shire of Katanning.

- Represented Katanning meat industries on overseas visits to Dubai, Singapore and Malaysia.
- Katanning has brighter opportunity for investment – he has just opened a coffee shop and finds it a great way to talk to the community

- Don't be negative about the place you live
- Look at improvements, look to the future

Aleem Ali - National Manager, Welcoming Cities

- 90% of migrants have moved voluntarily
- Spoke about the Scanlan-Monash Index
- Over the next 35 years migration will –
 - Drive economic development
 - Contribute \$1.6 trillion to Australia
 - Add cultural vibrancy
 - Revitalize communities
 - Attract increased funding
- Welcoming Cities – connecting vibrant communities – made for Local Governments
- “Supporting local councils and their communities in advancement as a welcoming, prosperous and cohesive nation”
- 8 member councils including 2 in WA – Canning & Stirling
- Scanlan Foundation.

Stuart McAlpine – Wheatbelt Farmer and Tess Joyner Slot, Consultant

Stuart McAlpine was disheartened with the decline in population within his hometown of Buntine. Realising the need to repopulate Buntine and identifying a number of skills shortages within the region Stuart recognised a gap between a large number of workers in the metropolitan area and the current shortages in the Northern Wheatbelt.

After making contact with the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre and the Office of Multicultural Interests, Stuart presented a concept plan to the Shire of Dalwallinu at the November 2010 Council meeting. This was the beginning of the “Repopulation Project”

- Initial intent was to bring in humanitarian refugees
- Initially they brought in Burmese migrants but this was not successful
- Then used 457 Visa's
- Some of the actions to address the cultural diversity included:
 - Holding 15 different English language classes
 - Formed a partnership with Multicultural Interests Office
 - Attracted Filipino migrants mainly
 - Provided new residents pack
 - Held social community events

As a result they have had a 15% population growth, the school doubled in students, 15 migrants have become Australian Citizens and 11 new home have been built. The Shire completely funded the project and it needed to be driven locally.



I enjoyed the conference and believe that it was beneficial due to all the information received, networking with other Shire Councillors and being provided with insights into what the future holds for our town, York, the state of WA and the nation.

2017 WA Local Government Convention

Report from Councillor Heather Saint

One of the keynote speakers at the convention this year was Ernesto Sirolli, who's session was titled 'There is no Geography to Intelligence and there is no Geography to Passion'. Ernesto's personal introduction records that he is a world leading authority on local economic development. His emphasis is on creating positive change in communities by empowering existing local talent and its entrepreneurs. He believes that the future of every community lies in the importance of harnessing the passion, determination, intelligence, imagination and resourcefulness of the local people. Dr Sirolli established the Sirolli Institute in 1996, which he says is a social enterprise that teaches civic leaders and entrepreneurs not to let local intelligence go to waste.

Dr Sirolli showed an expression of humility at his level of arrogance as a young middle class person expecting that he could change things. He basically said that if people do not wish to be helped then, leave them alone! Never arrive uninvited and expect the immediate acceptance of change. However, when motivating a community, humanistic psychology shows that every man and woman at any given time in their lives has a wish to improve themselves and that improvement is our dream.

I attended a further session with Dr Sirolli which was titled 'Community Enterprise Facilitation' aimed at promoting local economic growth and support for the people in its community. The key message being that to provide caring, competent, dedicated advice and support to entrepreneurs is as important as physical infrastructures to the development of a stable and prosperous economy.

Every business is the product or service you want to provide and in that respect and from his experience, 60% are product people and 40% are marketing people with next to none being financial managers. The key to a successful business is the control of these relationships. Generally speaking most businesses are poorly balanced from the outset and it is always better to have an even split between all three areas of expertise than have one top heavy area which could ultimately result in a failed business. The secret of a successful business is to know your strengths and play to them and then seek assistance for the rest.

Ernesto's definition of an entrepreneur was 'someone who wakes up in the middle of the night screaming', and that being an entrepreneur can be a misery. A perceived successful entrepreneur is never a lone wolf, he or she is surrounded by marketing experts and financial managers. The Biography of an entrepreneur is always written by a sycophant and records the pitfalls, failings and troubles along the way to success, after their demise.

Another session I attended was 'Engaged and Empowered Citizens'.

The focus was that engaged and empowered citizens generate optimism about the future. They produce good decisions to meet tough community challenges and contribute to economic vitality. A civic engagement approach to decision making can lead to innovation and deliver better results to the community. The session highlighted community participation models and social justice frameworks that are being used nationally and overseas to improve the inclusiveness, liveability and resilience of local communities. Key documents include IAP2 Quality Assurance Standard Process for Community & Stakeholder Engagement.

Many important points were raised including understanding the engagement process, know your demographic and that negotiable and non-negotiable issues need to be defined up front. A further issue related to IAP2 Guideline, Public Participation Spectrum, that there was a misapprehension amongst the public that once they are involved in the process, they become the decision maker, and this was another issue that needed to be addressed up front with the community in the process of engagement.

Meanwhile, within the organisation there needs to be commitment and understanding, alignment of policies and processes, a consistent approach, a demonstration of mutual trust, building of community intelligence and to establish and maintain relationships.

One of the speakers said that 'words matter', that consistency is the key as is the common language. Things that need to be addresses are values, goals, intended outcomes and evidence.

Another of the speakers stated that his company was specifically established to measure outcomes and impacts (inputs/outputs). He also uses unique selling propositions and the data collection includes performance management systems - cultural, social, civic, economic and place. Finally providing charts and reports indicating the level of success to include feedback on values and attendance was a great communication tool used in providing feedback to the community.

The final speaker of this session was from the Chamber of Arts & Culture WA. He re-iterated that Arts and culture are a vital part of all our lives in Western Australia, connecting us with emotional expression, creative ideas and thoughts, our place in the world and our humanity. They also have the capacity to play a key role in diversifying and developing the economy of Western Australia. They can help grow and expand our workforce, drive tourism outcomes, and deliver on the growing demand for creative capital. They can strengthen our innovative capacity, support our cultural diplomacy and boost health and well-being.

Yet in 2016 the arts and culture sector in Western Australia is not being adequately supported to achieve great things for our state. It has had years of diminishing support and urgently needs political attention. In the last eight years, the arts portfolio has lost \$110 million through the non renewal of the Ignite funding package and the application of efficiency dividends to the portfolio and its agencies. Today the arts sector is in crisis with:

- Continuing long-term decline in State government support through its Consolidated Revenue Fund.
- Over-reliance on forecast Lotterywest income to replace declining recurrent funding
- Historic underfunding of Western Australian arts and culture by the federal government.
- Reduced investment from the corporate sector due to the downturn in the economy.

The Chamber's vision is that Western Australia is valued locally and recognised globally as a leader and world player in arts and culture.

‘Welcome to the Community’ was the next session I attended and many of the stories told by the various speakers were quite personal to me as a relatively recent migrant myself. It was identified that nearly 30% of West Australians are born overseas. Today WA is the State with the highest proportion of migrants in its resident population, with around one in three people born overseas. Western Australia also has the fastest growing population of all the States and Territories.

One of the speakers pushed for social diversity and cohesion. He said that the majority of migrants moved to Australia voluntarily and that 50% of the migrant population were born overseas themselves, or have a parent that was. The speaker said that social cohesion levels highlight that the majority of Australia believe that migration is a success story, however, negative views have increased over the past 18 months mainly due to the reaction to narrative.

Nevertheless, social economic benefits are huge, over the next 35 years there will be a drive in economic, skills and population growth. Migrants contribute \$1.6 trillion to the Australian GDP, add to cultural vibrancy, revitalise local business and service and attract increased funding and investment.

Welcoming the change works as it draws talent and produces benefits to the economy.

The speakers emphasised that thriving communities which support the diversity of people’s different backgrounds and their circumstances are appreciated and positively valued. In this context, Local Government needs to be adaptive and ready to deliver policy and services which support community cohesion and promote trust. The purpose the session was to explore how Local Government encourage and foster welcoming communities.

One of the final sessions was ‘The State of Play’ relating to Australian politics, State and Federal. This was a panel session comprising of Journalists, Liam Bartlett, journalist and public broadcaster; Paul Murray, former editor and columnist for the West Australian and current affairs broadcaster; and Jessica Strutt, political reporter and media adviser; moderated by Verity James, one of Perth’s leading television and radio presenters.

Various topics discussed included Malcolm Turnbull's recent visit to WA when he was uncomfortable responding to questions about the issues of same sex marriage and his position on a plebiscite to the extent that he was unexpectedly prepared to discuss WA's GST issues. Other subjects including Government cost shifting, Bank tax and Royalties for Regions. This was a very informative and humorous session with a light hearted approach.

During the convention, the Trade Exhibition was a very valuable resource with a wide range of displays. As a member of the team on the Avon Park working Group, I was pleased to return with a good selection of material relating Park and Play equipment, natural materials and outdoor musical ideas to take along to the next meeting.

On a walk through Perth, the Banners in the Terrace along Adelaide and St George's Terrace, created by communities of Western Australia to represent their town or suburb were exceptional with some very deserving winners. Perhaps there is an opportunity for the schools and our very talented local artists to take up the challenge to create a Shire of York entry into the 2018 competition.

Overall, I thought that the 2017 WA Local Government Convention was excellent, it was very well presented and definitely worth attending.

Report on 2017 WA Local Government Convention

By Pam Heaton

Keynote Address

By Dr Ernesto Sirolli

Dr Ernesto spoke on local economic development. His experiences range over the world and he was open and frank discussing his failures (hippo eating tomatoes) to his successes, economic development in Esperance. His main messages were that Governments in white established countries need to be invited into another country to assist the population, not to assume that they have a God given right to go in and make changes.

He works with local people to achieve their goals, harnessing their knowledge and determination in the process.

Engaging Young People in Local Communities

Panel discussion

Commissioner Pettit

The role of local government when working with young people is as follows;
Firstly to consult with young people and listen to their answers.

Promote participation

Ask how we can support young people

How do we engage with young people?

Keep them at school for as long as possible. Organise classes that will be of interest to them.

Expand on available sporting facilities.

Keep them safe, ie finish sport in daylight hours so that they are not travelling home in the dark. Establish facilities in developed areas not on the edge of town.

Engage a younger person on the staff to whom kids feel safe talking to

Jeremy Chetty Co-founder of Student Edge, Australia's largest online student Community of 9000,000 members.

This is an online forum for young people and students.

It helps students with courses of study.

Runs forums on issues affecting students eg health, jobs, accommodation.

Runs polls

Students get paid to complete a survey, therefore earning extra cash.

In a recent survey students were asked where they would most like to work and in order of popularity the results were

Google

Microsoft

Samsung

Government.

Juan Larranaga

State Manager of Youth Partnership WA program

He spoke on the Armadale project. How local government can assist to keep kids out of youth detention

Steven Vo civil engineer, project engineer City of Gosnells

Steven was qualified and unemployed, he offered to work on a project for no wages so that he could get experience. He was supervised by a senior engineer and eventually became part of the team and continues to work there today. His suggestion is for local councils to take on trainees, volunteer workers, apprentices in order to give young people the necessary work experience and work ethic.

A Taste of Waste

Panel Discussion

Marcus Geisler Chairman Waste Authority.

His main message is for councils to;

1. have a waste strategic plan covering the complete chain of waste disposal in our area.
2. Introduce the three bin system accompanied by education for house holders.

Andrew Murphy, City of Stirling
Uses the 3 bins
Have one free skip bin per year
Collect mattresses as a separate collection.
Sorting is cheaper than landfill.

David Burton, Shire of Koorda
Bureaucracy is causing most problems as city departments make unrealistic demands on regional shires and have no knowledge of local conditions.
Koorda wanted to use an old golf course for landfill but excessive demands were levelled on the Shire and their issues are still not sorted.

WALGA representative, Rebecca ? has proven to be of assistance in this issue.

What the Future Holds

Stephen Yarwood

An urban futurist.

Stephen specializes in the future of cities and towns He is the founder of city2050
His planning experience is diverse dealing with land use, a range of community designs, policy development and research.

Convention Breakfast with Matthew Pavlich

Matthew talked of his football career, the decisions he made during that career and his future plans. The main message to come from his talk was that one has to be true to his team and club and the lessons learnt from childhood.

Welcome to the Community

Panel discussion

Stephen Strange Bruce Rock
30% of folk living in WA were born overseas.

Rebecca Ball
Multicultural interests
Make sure all interests have a seat at the table

Alep Mydie
Shire of Katanning
People make a community. A community is a home.
Alep is a Councillor and his message is to listen to your community, take on board their concerns, be inclusive.

Aleem Ali from Welcoming Cities
We all have a migrant story. Migration will drive economic growth, bring skills and population growth and revitalize local economies.
How to achieve this ?

1. Knowledge sharing
2. Develop partnerships
3. Celebrate success
4. Standards and accreditation.

Stuart McAlpine and Tess JoynerSlot from Dalwalinu
Worked together to increase the town's population by

1. attracting migrants into the town.
2. Setting up English classes
3. Give information on visas and citizenship applications
4. Assisted the local school to get more TA's
5. Gave out welcome packs.
6. Formed partnerships with housing departments to get housing for new arrivals and so built 11 new homes.
7. Ran social events to encourage new arrivals to mix with the community.
8. There was a 15% increase in the population.
9. The local members of the Brethen came on board to some extent.

WA Local Government Convention

Perth Convention Centre, 2-4 August 2017

The highlights for me of the sessions I attended....

One of the world's leading authorities on local economic development, Dr Ernesto Sirotti, delivered the opening keynote address: **"There is no Geography to Intelligence and there is no Geography to Passion"**. Ernesto began working as a volunteer for International Aid in Africa in 1971. As he reflects, with the wisdom of later years of experience, he and his colleagues obviously believed they were smarter and better than their 'clients' because **they** decided what the people needed (rather than asking the people what they wanted). Among other 'contributions' decided by these volunteers, crops were planted and, to everyone's amusement, the only ones to benefit from the huge amounts of money and effort expended on the entire project were the hippos, who ate all the tomatoes!

This experience led Ernesto to develop his own theory – which was at odds with all that was being taught at the time. Ernesto attributes much of his philosophy to reading "Small is Beautiful", which changed his life. It stated that, above all in development, if people do not wish to be helped, leave them alone! Putting this philosophy into practice, Ernesto's approach is to work with the client – who approaches him – as a facilitator, connecting them with the assistance they require to achieve their dreams: to Be More, Have More, Become More.

Ernesto has observed that entrepreneurs are usually good at one thing: either product, marketing or finances, never all three. To be successful, support in the other areas is imperative. In the workshop that followed, Ernesto explained how the well-known success stories always involved two people working together to combine their particular expertise: eg, Edison and Batchelor, Jobs and Wozniak, Gates and Allen. Tesla, a recognized genius, never succeeded in the same way because he was a lone genius. In other words, according to Ernesto, if someone is alone, they are not in business!

In summary, Ernesto is convinced the future of every community lies in capturing the passion, intelligence, imagination and resources of the people. We usually do not know who we have in our community because entrepreneurs will not come to a meeting to tell others what they have. Instead, Ernesto's person-centred approach to economic development leads to positive change in communities through harnessing the power and innovation of entrepreneurs already living in those communities. His message: we should aim to create a community where intelligence and entrepreneurs are respected.

In **"A Taste of Waste"**, a panel comprised of representatives from the Waste Authority (Marcus Geisler, Chair), City of Cockburn, City of Stirling and Shire of Koorda shared their practices and findings. A clear message is that all local governments need a strategic waste plan to address the waste in their community. There are programs available from the State Government to assist with this.

Marcus stated there has been a significant reduction in the amount of levy collected over recent years. This indicates a clear reduction of waste to landfill. In 2015 there were 6.2 million tonnes, 5.4 million in 2016. Of the 3 sources of waste – commercial

and industrial; construction and development, metro and non-metro – only the latter category was not meeting set target reductions. Unfortunately, there has been no significant change in community behaviour.

Imagine a pyramid in your mind. At the top of the ‘waste pyramid’ is **Avoidance**, followed by **Recovery** (reuse, reprocess, recycle, energy recovery [in that order]), and **Disposal** at the bottom of the pyramid.. Projects have been introduced to achieve this, yet they can take 10 years to develop. The Better Bins Program is an example. Some communities have introduced 3 bins with coloured lids to represent green waste (green), recyclables (yellow) and rubbish (red). The City of Cockburn has supplied fridge magnets, a recycling tub and a composting caddy to households to assist with this. They have found that 31% of waste is green waste, and a similar figure for recyclables. All of this is redirected from landfills.

The City of Stirling uses verge side collections to remove mattresses, white goods and e-waste from landfills. Every 9 months they have a green waste collection. They have verified that sorting what is collected is cheaper than sending it to landfill, at a savings of \$30 per tonne. This equates to \$500 000 saved annually. Every household is also entitled to on-demand, 3 m skip bins. One is free, 2 others are available at a subsidized cost of \$85 each.

The Shire of Koorda, on the other hand, is very dissatisfied at the lack of support they have received when they applied to develop a regional waste site 6 km out of town to replace the nearly full site closer into their town. The proposed site is on an abandoned golf course which wasn’t close to any waterways and situated on impermeable clay. An interesting scenario...

Some other points made at this session:

- In the Draft Environmental Standards, a need for more landfill must be demonstrated prior to new construction being approved
- Only glass is recycled in Australia, much of it going into road base.
- Other recyclable materials rely on international commodity prices.
- Eventually, food waste will come out with the green waste.

The key messages I took from “**What the Future Holds**”, presented by Urban Futurist Stephen Yarwood, were:

1. We cannot plan the future by looking at the past.
2. Technology influences cities’ spatial dynamics.

“**The State of Play**” - Another **panel**, comprised of Liam Bartlett, Paul Murray and Jessica Strutt, and moderated by Verity James, provided a fascinating insight into politics, policies and politicians, with the real needs of the members of our communities usually lost in the mix.

Of course, the loss of WA's fair share of GST ranked high as a serious issue which must be addressed. During his recent visit to WA to cut the ribbon to open the new highway, Malcolm Turnbull was prepared to discuss highly controversial topics rather than take questions about the GST. Someone from the WALGA Convention audience even suggested secession as a remedy! A more logical approach is for every local government to write to the Federal Government about this issue. WA has lost another \$.04, now down to being given only \$.34 in the dollar of our rightful allocation.

The final session I attended was again comprised of a panel who discussed various aspects of the **NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme)**, which the Federal Government introduced in July. The \$22 billion scheme is the biggest social policy program since Medicare but, unlike other states and territories which will operate under a decentralized system, the WA NDIS will be locally administered and run by the State Government through the Disability Services Commission. The State Government expects to offer grants for infrastructure and information services.

There is an expectation that Local Government will understand, respond to and support the new self-service system being introduced. However, it was noted that Local Government needs assistance with:

- Grant funding
- Regional and remote support
- Advocacy and communication

This massive social reform will provide 460 000 Australians with permanent and significant disability, who are under 65 years of age, with support to live a normal life.

Interestingly, age groups vary in how they spend their money:

- 45% of 7-14 year old spend time after school with friends or mainstream programs
- 32% of 15-24 year olds spend time with community, cultural or religious groups
- 37% of 25 + year olds are actively involved in community, cultural or religious groups.

'Social inclusion' is a 'grey' concept. Paul Fleay, CEO, Inclusion WA defined it in this way:

People return to or begin to occupy valued social roles within society and community life, not just increased presence of marginalized persons in society segregated from others.

What can Local Governments do to support this? Paul suggests they build in resources, eg communication devices; plan for community access; create an Inclusion Plan. Through genuine caring, the otherwise socially isolated will thereby:

- enjoy improved health and well-being
- experience social cohesion and safety
- have social capital to be able to 'make things happen'
- enjoy diversity, opportunities
- claim economic benefits – average \$17 000 each year to spend.

In conclusion, I found the sessions I attended very relevant to my role as Councillor. Being the second year I've attended also made a difference because I felt more attuned to all that was available to us, including the many and varied businesses that had displays in the central hall and offered their information / assistance if sought.

Furthermore, there was overall recognition of the progress in York and the quality of our leadership when talking to other Councillors, CEOs, officials from government departments and the business people. Our engagement with the community in moving forward is well-supported because Local Government forms the foundation for other levels of governance. It is up to us to represent the community at the same time we introduce new ideas and, potentially, improved ways of creating a future for those who will inherit it.

Jane Ferro
August 2017