

Report for Local Government Week Cr David Wallace

Tuesday 31st July I attended a Mayors and Presidents Forum with guest speakers.

- Andrew Hammond, Commissioner, City of Perth: Observations from CEO to Commissioner
- Rachael McIntye, Head of nbn Local WA: To present an update on the nbn

Andrew Hammond was particularly refreshing on his role of commissioner with the City of Perth and how his role is exactly the same as a councillor.

There was also time to discuss emerging issues affecting the industry. The main one was the impact of social media.

Wednesday 1st August **Presentations from Government Ministers**

- Hon David Templeman MLA, Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts
- Hon Dave Kelly MLA, Minister for Water; Fisheries; Forestry; Innovation and ICT; Science
- Hon Fran Logan MLA, Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services
- Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Minister for Transport; Planning; Lands
- Hon Ben Wyatt MLA, Treasurer; Minister for Finance; Energy; Aboriginal Affairs

There wasn't anything new to come out of this, but there was an update on the progress of the Local Government Act Review.

The CEO and myself attended two sessions one with Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries about the State Mountain Bike Trails Strategy and how we can develop trails in York.

The second session was with Department of Jobs, Tourism Science and innovation. This was about where York is now in the tourism space and how can we take it to the next level.

In the afternoon I attended the WALGA AGM.

The Convention program featured a number of outstanding speakers, both plenary and topic specific concurrent sessions. Opening keynote speaker Anh Do, share a moving and engaging account of his family and how they arrived in Australia. It was a story of grit, determination and optimism.

The political panel session hosted by broadcaster Liam Bartlett, and featuring former senator Jacqui Lambie, former Premier of NSW Hon Bob Carr and former Senator for South Australia Natasha Stott Despoja was an interesting take on the state of federal politics.

There were a range of honours and awards were presented, recognising the achievements of both individuals and councils in service to the Local Government sector.

I also attended a Nature Place Walkshop. This was very interesting in the way you use adventure play grounds and natural open space to get more children out doors more often, so they can reap the benefits of playing, learning, being physically active and connecting to their community.

Also over the four days it was a great chance to talk to other Presidents, Councillors and CEOs about initiatives and issues in the sector.

Report on the 2018 WALGA Convention

Councillor Kevin Trent

The 2018 Western Australian Local Government Convention was held over the period 1 - 3 August in the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

I attended the following events.

On Wednesday 1 August the WALGA Annual General Meeting commencing at 1.30pm

The following motions were dealt with:-

Amendments to the Association's Constitution to ensure that the President and Vice President are elected by State Council from Rural and Metropolitan Councils on a rotational basis. The amendments will ensure that the President and Vice President remain from each group even if one position is vacated. **Carried**

The full wording is available from WALGA.

Roadside Vegetation The Shire of Victoria Plains moved That the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation Regulations 2004* be amended to permit clearing or reduction of vegetation:

1. Within 30 metres of all farm driveways/gate/entrances: and
2. On road bends and intersections obstructing 'line of sight', be cleared. **Carried**

GST Revenue Distribution Share for WA

The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup moved

That WALGA adopt a policy and position as the representative of the WA Local Government section o persistently seek and advocate for an increase of the GST distribution share back to Western Australia. **Carried**

Rural, Regional and Remote Community State Government Funding Cuts

The Shire of Moora moved:

That WALGA express its deep concern to the WA State Government regarding the continued attack on rural, regional and remote communities in WA through reducing funding to critical services and infrastructure programs, cuts that disproportionately discriminate against already disadvantage communities across WA **Carried**

By resolution of the meeting Subiaco was able to introduce the following motion: That the WALGA advocate to amend:

1. Schedule 2, Part 7, Clause 61 (e) of the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 to allow Local Governments to remove reference to 'a single house' from the exemption of requiring development approval; and
2. The Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 to permit Local Governments to introduce a requirement into their local planning scheme to require development approval to be issued prior to a development application for development of a single house being demolished. **Lost**

The City of Subiaco are concerned that houses in the streets are being demolished before a development application for a new building has been processed by the Council, leaving 'gaps' in the streetscape.

The result of this motion's defeat did stir the Deputy Mayor of the Bayswater to raise the issue of the perceived domination of the agenda by country councils over the metropolitan councils. Cr Craigie President of WALGA disagreed, suggesting the appropriate route would be via the Zone and then to the State Council for a decision. (the West Australian Monday August 6)

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting are on the WALGA Website.

The Annual General meeting was followed by the opportunity to attend the Convention Opening Reception.

During the Conference opening on Thursday 2 August the Conference was addressed by Mr David Templeman, Minister for Local Government who spoke of the review of the Local Government Act 1995, inviting delegates to put forward their thoughts on the revised Act. Phase one of the review has been completed. The areas which will be visited are:-

1. Universal training for elected members,
2. The introduction of a mandatory code of conduct,
3. An overhaul of CEO recruitment and performance reviews, and
4. Simplification and clarity around gifts and improved access to information.

A series of discussion papers will be released in the coming months for Councillors and Officers to comment on as part of Phase two of the consultation in preparing the new Local Government Act.

The Conference was then addressed by the Leader of the Opposition who addressed the issues facing Local Government, especially funding for Councils. Unfortunately he suggested that Councils should have sufficient funds as the State has been in a period of growth, however his speech did indicate a lack of understanding on how rates are struck and fees such as the increase in the ESL is greater than most Councils set the rate in the dollar. The President, Cr Lynne Craigie used the WALGA advertisement in the West Australian on Tuesday August 14 to inform all who read the paper and this column how Local Government's are required to set their rates.

The Opening Keynote Presentation was delivered by Anh Do, an author, actor, producer and comedian. Anh traced his life, starting in Vietnam post the overthrow of the South Vietnamese Government by the communists of North Vietnam until today, where he plans to act in a film of his life story based on his book *The Happiest Refugee*. His address highlighted the need to not accept failure as defeat, but to try again, demonstrating that by resilience, grit and optimism will win through.

After morning tea taken in the trade exhibition area, Dr Geoff Raby, a former Ambassador to China with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) spoke on the future as he sees it and the big picture economy.

He believes that China is beginning to flex their muscles, with their claims over the South China Sea and the One Belt One Road Initiative, strengthening ties with land based and other nations in the African and Asian region. He is of the opinion that Australia, reliant on trade with China could be at odds with the United States and their policy of trade embargoes to bring smaller countries into line with the United States.

Before lunch, taken in the trade exhibition area, Mark McCriddle, a research based futurist spoke on key social trends and Australia as we move to the year 2020. Mark used the latest demographic data to give a snapshot of the changes, the trends, the challenges and the opportunities for Western Australia and WA's Local Governments.

Following lunch those attending the Conference split into groups to attend three concurrent sessions:-

1. Leading Local Economics
2. Changing Nature of Communities followed by Creating Great Places and
3. Too Toxic to Talk

I attended the session on Changing Nature of Communities followed by Creating Great Places.

The first phase of the session was presented by Kim Ellwood and Dr Rita Afsar of the Office of Multicultural Interests and Sarah Janali, Team leader, Cultural Diversity & Community with the City of Stirling.

The OMI representatives presented information on the changing population and introduced the program Search Diversity WA an online tool which enables users to search and download data on cultural, faith and language statistics in WA from the ABS Census information.

The second phase of the session, Creating Great Places was presented by Cr Jimmy Murphy Convenor, Town Team Management and Councillor of the City of Vincent and Dean Cracknell, CEO of Town Team Management. They brought the conference information on Town Team Management and how the organisation can assist with organising and empowering local communities by working proactively with their Local Government to create active, resilient and successful places.

After a break for afternoon tea in the Exhibition Centre the winners of the Banners in the Terrace were announced. York was not represented. As the City of Perth are replacing the banner poles in the central area of St George's Tce the opportunity to exhibit the banners was reduced.

The final session was addressed by Billie Jordan, a comedian who became famous with her Hip Op-eration Crew, a group of Senior Citizens from New Zealand who learned hip hop dancing and then went on to win the World Hip Hop Championships in Las Vegas. The fact the participants were aged 73 to 98 and in some cases suffered Alzheimer's did not deter Billie.

The Convention Gala Dinner was held on Thursday evening, brought forward from the Friday evening following suggestions from previous Conferences. I did not attend the Convention Gala Dinner.

As I had a prior engagement in York later on Friday I was unable to attend the Sessions on Friday.

My wife attended Partners event, a visit to the Ferguson Valley on Thursday, to be paid for by myself.

The Councillors attending the Conference were accommodated in the Ibis Hotel in Murray St. Unfortunately the hotel does not have adequate car parking and I parked in the adjacent Wilsons Car park.

Conclusion

Over all the Conference was a success and much was gained from attending, meeting Councillors from other Local Governments and viewing the Exhibits.



Cr Denese Smythe report - Local Government Week 2018

I attended the 2018 Local Government Week Convention with other councillors on Wednesday August 1 to Friday August 3 2018. This years program included a list of great speakers and sessions providing information to attendees. The keynote speakers where Anh Do, Dr Geoff Raby, Mark McCrindle, Billie Jordan and Paul Huschilt.

The trade exhibition included over 100 displays from machinery, playground equipment through to technology and much more.

Wednesday, 1 August

As the Shire of York representative on the Midland Country Zone I was required to vote at the Local Government AGM and therefore attended this meeting which was held from 1.30pm to 5.00pm.

At the AGM there were a number of motions that where approved and one late item that lost. These motions in brief included -

1. "A number of Constitutional amendments proposed by State Council as well as some technical clarifications, these amendments were endorsed by State Council in May 2018";
2. "Motion for regulatory amendments to enable clearing of vegetations close to driveways, road bends and intersections, with a view to improving road safety";
3. "Seeking WALGA's support to advocate for an increase to the GST distribution for WA";
4. "Concern regarding funding cuts, particularly to education services and infrastructure, affecting rural communities"

The city of Subiaco proposed amendments to Regulations to give Local Governments more discretion relating to demolition and development of a single house, this motion was lost.

After the AGM I then attended the welcoming reception held in the exhibition pavilions.

Thursday 2 August

Session 1 was an opening presentation from Anh Do, author, producer and comedian, Anh provided us with a history of his life which included how he arrived in Australia and his life story up to the present. I had previously seen Anh and although he told his life story again it was in a different context and to a very different audience, I therefore enjoyed this presentation as much as the first time.

I believe Anh's story relating to hardship and determination to achieve is very relevant in today's world as it confirms my belief that no matter what life throws at you, you can still achieve good things if you believe in your self and have the passion.

Session 2 was a presentation on the Big Picture Economy by Dr Geoff Raby, a former Australian Ambassador to China from 2007 to 2011. Dr Raby resigned his position to establish his own Beijing based business advisory company.

Dr Raby read his presentation which was mostly about China-Australia relations and I found it quite monotone. I did not get much from this presentation at all as it was more about global relations rather than local.

Session 3 Research based futurist Mark Mcrindle provide us with a demographic snapshot of Australia now and towards 2020.

Mark talked about the growing population and how at present Australia's population is growing by 326,100 per year with 45% by natural increase and 55% from overseas migration. He talked about the six generations:

Builders	Aged 72+
Baby Boomers	Aged 53-71
Generation X	Aged 38-52
Generation Y	Aged 23-37
Generation Z	Aged 8-22
Generation Alpha	Under 8 years

Mark discussed the technology changes over this period including simple things like the words in texts nowadays. He also talked about how the community is redefined with 39% of people spending time at the local shopping centre, 19% at the local pub, 16% at a park or sports ground, 11% at the local community centre, 6% at the local school, 5% at a local church, 4% at a facility of a local community group such a CWA etc.

Session 4 After lunch on Thursday we broke out into concurrent sessions and I attended "Leading Local Economies"

This session discussed being a Place Maker and Place Leaders as the vision keepers, coordinators, strategic engine and organisational glue. We discussed Issues and Stakeholders with the Place Managers in the middle, for instance:

Issues	Stakeholders
Physical Environment	Council
Community Development	Council Departments

Social & Cultural
Access & Transport
Environmental
Business Economics

Business
Local Community
Property Owners
Investors
Developers
Government Departments
Media

We were then provided some relevant dot points that I believe our Council with the CEO and his team are currently working towards or achieving.

- *Become a facilitator - be easy to do business with*
- *Enable and leverage community spirit*
- *Get out of the way*
- *Provide governance and guidance*
- *Build relationships - lots of coffee and listen*
- *Local Government may require realignment to deliver optimum outcomes*
- *Many small things make a difference - ie. Evolution vs Revolution*
- *Leadership*

Session 5 Our last session for the day was a presentation called "The Granny Whisperer" by Billie Jordan. Billie was very entertaining in telling her story about how she founded the Hip Operation Crew and Hip Hop group with members aged from 76 to 91. Again this story was one of a person battling to overcome huge odds and how working towards a goal can be achieved. Billie's story is going to be made into a movie.

Friday 3rd August

Session 6 This session was a Panel of Jacqui Lambie, Bob Carr and Natasha Stott-Despoja, with Liam Bartlett as the moderator. The panel discussed the current political system and the future of Local Government. Questions were then taken from the floor.

Session 7 Another concurrent session I attended was Getting Professional Performance from Non-Professionals.

This presentation by Dwayne Nestor former Western Force performance coach discussed the synergy between the professional requirements of elite sportspeople and Councillors, given the wide and diverse careers, interests and culture.

This was the last session I attended.

I believe that attending Local Government Week is beneficial as it encourages networking with other Councillors, provides up to date information on latest trends and allows access to a variety of professional knowledge.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend.

Cr Denese Smythe

2018 LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONVENTION

Cr Heather Saint

The year's conference titled 'Ready & Relevant' was held at the Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre from 1 – 3 August. Cr Lynne Craigie, President of WALGA, gave the opening welcome address.

Plenary Speakers included Ahn Do, who gave the key opening address, Dr Geoff Raby, (former Australian Ambassador for China) who discussed Big Picture economy, Mark McCrindle, (Research Based Futurist) gave a Demographic Snapshot of Australia: now and towards 2020 and Billie Jordan (Founder of the Hip Operation Crew) told of The Granny Whisperer.

A later conversation panel session with Liam Bartlett as the Moderator, included Hon Bob Carr, Jacqui Lambie and Natasha Stott Despoja AM.

Session 1: Opening Keynote Address - Ahn Do

Ahn Do told how he arrived in Australia at the age of two and went on to describe the journey that he and his family faced as Vietnamese refugees. Yet, despite the challenges of language barriers, integration issues and family problems, Anh went on to achieve a high standard of education attaining a Bachelor of Business and a Bachelor of Law. He went on to be a Comedian, Author, Actor and Producer and has become a well known and accomplished Artist.

Session 2: Big Picture Economy – Dr Geoff Raby

Dr Raby gave a global overview of the economy to include the effect of President Trump's trade war on China, the EU, Canada and Mexico, stating that with most trade agreements the devil is in the detail and will take time to unravel. Trump wants to prevent autocratic country control which others are not prepared to concede.

He described how the economic growth of China will be effected which will of course impact on trade relationships with Australia. China will act assertively to protect its own needs and is exercising its strength to shape the world. The unusual simultaneous economic growth around the world is good for Australia and global stockmarkets are at near record levels.

The biggest threats to Australia are:

- Negative impact of Trump's trade war and potential retaliation
- China's debt – crash in property prices / hard landing
- Any risks in the Asia region
- US rising tensions with Iran and the conflict possibilities

New World Order (NWO)

The US will continue to affect Australian security and that of Asia but will not be a leading power, having to share with growing economies such as India.

China's debt is in local currency which is less of a risk. The distribution of wealth in China is as skewed as the USA. The Chinese economy is 2/3 the size of the US but was created in 5 years from nothing! China has a domestic market and a capacity to offset losses.

Effective policies need to be developed generally. China is the dominant regional power and in a NWO dystopian future, Australia needs to develop a more independent foreign policy.

Western Australia is the most important state in Australia regarding the relations with East Asia. With mining resources, energy, agriculture, tourism and universities, WA is a great beneficiary of China's economic growth and open door policy.

Taiwan was originally the leading trade relationship with Australia but China has a rising middle class looking for higher quality products and greater demand. WA plays an important role in the trade and economic partnership with China which needs to be re-iterated to the rest of the country.

Malcolm Turnbull stated that China is not a strategic competitor however, in the last 5 years Australia has shown 'strategic mistrust' with a reluctance to become involved in some important initiatives, which somewhat contradicts his comment.

The EU Global Financial Crisis of 2008-9 severely affected economic growth, income distribution has diminished and youth unemployment has escalated. In 2016 the UK resolved to leave the European Union with contentions. 'Brexiters' were concerned about the loss of Sovereignty and more importantly, the large EU budget support offered to EU countries. The EU accounts for 40% of UK exports and when the separation occurs, (which is anticipated for March 2019), remaining in the customs union does not allow the UK to enter into 3rd party arrangements for trading, which would include Australia.

Session 3: Demographic Snapshot of Australia: now and towards 2020 - Mark McCrindle

Mark discussed changing times, emerging trends and the future coming at us – not the other way round! Changes over just the last 10 years indicate that there are 7 billion people with 50 billion digital devices and that 90% of the data in the world today was created in the past 2 years alone. Today's demographic is digital, global, social, mobile and visual.

The population of Australia has increased from 21.4 million to 25 million. In 2012, WA had the fastest growing population but, by 2018, it is the 2nd slowest growing state. Interstate figures declined with the Mining industry recording the move of workers from the west to the east. WA has the largest land mass of any state or territory but is the most 'citycentric' with 77% of capital city living in Perth compared to Melbourne 76%, Sydney 65% and Brisbane 48%.

Housing affordability and lifestyle opportunities are affected by the youth spending trends and lifestyle factors and expectations - needless to say they need to cut back!

With an aging population it is anticipated that most will be over 66 by the year 2048.

Concurrent Session – Too Toxic to Talk

Speaker, Mary Power discussed dispute management and resolution. Managing a relationship includes trust – not when you talk about other behind their back. Boundaries include personal and collegial. As an example: Councillors are not there to be loved!

Conflict is described as a crisis in people's relationships which requires communication of an appropriate language.

Key factors include separating the person from the problem. To consider who is the person and what is the behaviour, is the response emotion or strategic. So much relies on far more than body language and when the balance of 3 factors - words, tone of voice and body language match, trust has been built in a relationship. The power of trust is in listening but listening is not necessarily agreeing.

The session went on to cover aspects of dispute resolution in all aspect of work and personal life. A conversation may include a disagreement about what happened and include a level of blame. What did the other person say or do, what was the effect of this on them. Feelings sometimes make it difficult to speak of listen and feelings are often based on perceptions. If feelings are not expressed they leak into the conversation.

It is important to hold an identity conversation for a better understanding of the person. Help diffuse their emotion, treat them with respect even though you may disagree but most importantly, put yourself in their shoes and don't be judgemental.

Fighting fair – be willing to fix the problem – attack the problem not the person and look for answers so that everyone gets what they need.

Anger stems from hurt or disappointment. People are more likely to listen to us if we listen to them and essentially you can change yourself buy you can't change other people.

Saying sorry – it has the power – Apologise! and regardless of the response, if mistakes have happened be foregiving and learn to forgive yourself.

Concurrent Session – Getting Professional Performance from Non-Professionals

This was a lengthy session that covered the speakers 7 step process for consistent professional performance in relation to his sporting background and achievement.

1. Purpose
2. Self-Awareness
3. Goal setting
4. Self Development
5. Mental Toughness
6. Purposeful Preparation
7. Learning to Lead

Conversation panel session with Liam Bartlett as the Moderator, included Hon Bob Carr, Jacqui Lambie and Natasha Stott Despoja AM.

Topics discussed by the panel included how Local Government had pioneered a lot of re-cycling and environmental issues and implemented change by driving the initiatives to all levels of government. Various cultural issues that require advocacy.

Report by Cr Pam Heaton on the 2018 Ready and Relevant 2018 WA Local
Government Convention. August 1st to 3rd

Anh Do

Comedian, artist, author and high achiever. An inspiring speaker to appear first on the bill board. Anh told of his journey to Australia, the trials, pitfalls and near death experiences and then took us to his present situation, family man TV presenter, accomplished artist, Archibald winner and still has time to entertain concert goers.

Anh's story is an inspiration. To start with so little material wealth behind him but with a world of talent, that could have so easily been lost when his boat was attacked by pirates, the wonder of Anh Do is that he is with us today. His mother was a strong woman who did not let poverty hold back the aspirations she had for her children. Working three jobs as a single mother she beat all odds to encourage her children to achieve and keep trying. A remarkable family. A remarkable man.

Dr Geoff Raby

An Australian economist he has served in China and Australia. Dr Raby looked at the 'Big Picture Economy.' DR Raby's current role is that of an advisor to businesses hoping to establish a business with China. It was interesting listening to his thoughts on Australia/USA /China relations. Dr Raby feels that, as the USA continues to step back from the international stage, the American influence will lessen and Australia can commit to a firmer relationship with China. His comments were that Australia views China's push into Australia with alarm and that mistrust will lessen.

Dr Raby has worked with diplomats, Kevin Rudd, the World Trade Organisation, and represented Australia at many international forums. He brought to the convention an international view of our world.

Mark McCrindle

Mark is a social researcher, demographer, author and well-known public presenter. He spoke of the changing times in all fields; technological, social, economic (eg Amazon) in Australia and overseas.

I would have appreciated Mark taking a closer look at the effects of technological change on local communities. During his presentation he briefly touched on the effects of technology on population, but not so much on small

communities. What I wanted to hear was his thoughts on the effects on, for example, York. What this will mean for our population. How we can prepare our community for change. What direction, we as a shire, need to take to keep relevant. What changes are needed, for example, to our town planning department, to the environment, planning our open spaces.

Mark spoke well on the Australian scene, I would have preferred a more local input.

Billie Jordan

What a breath of fresh air. Billie, a New Zealand Woman of the Year, has worked with seniors aged between 73 to 98 in New Zealand to form a hip-hop dance group. In so doing she has encourage activity, a sense of belonging, encouraged good health and produced positive outlooks on life in those in her group. Billie is very down to earth. For example, all dancers had to have with them a Tupperware container in case they died on the job. Their ashes would go into the container.

If someone died during the dance the group would step around them and keep going. Billie took her group to Las Vegas to compete in a hip-hop competition. The compare asked one of the oldies, "what are you folk doing"? Her answer, "Having fun".

What started Billie's interest in the oldies was after she saw a housing plan showing an aged development located on the far outskirts of the town. When she discussed this with the planner she was told, "Oldies like peace and quiet".

Billies response was," they also like to walk to the shops, to a bingo night, to the hairdresser" and so on. This started her on the road to fun, dance and belonging.

Billie's influence changed the lives of those in her group and changed hers as well.

Panel Discussion

The panel session was moderated by Liam Bartlett. Other panellists were Natasha Stott Despoja, Jacqui Lambie and the Hon Bob Carr.

Lively (and sometimes fruity) discussions were held between the three panellists who held differing views on many points. Bob Carr gave an Australian and international view on many topics. Jacqui Lambie was an

unapologetic Tasmanian and is currently the leader of the Jacqui Lambie Network political party and Natasha is doing a lot of work on behalf of woman and girls

Changing Nature of Communities

See, Search and Diversity WA, an online tool that allows you to search and download data on cultural, faith and language stats in WA from the ABS.

Points raised during the presentation

1 is there a range of languages in your community?

2. understand the cultural group so that activities can be relevant.

3 the proportion of Australian born is decreasing as the proportion of overseas born is increasing.

4 cities are increasing in population as migrants coming to Australia are accustomed to city living.

5 use the Library from which to disseminate information. It is free and accessible to most.

6 connect people via mentoring eg builders take on a non-English speaking person as a labourer.

7 look for diversity champions.

Creating Great Places

See, Town Team Movement. www.townteams.com.au

Sept 2018 there will be a Town Team Conference. See website.

Ask the community what they want, eg a mall, a village square, a central park, community centre or a hall. The population must be involved in this in order to create a successful place.

Once this has been established you can move to the function.

Festivals.

Open a shared space.

Outdoor dining.

No traffic.

Who can create great places?

Governments, Businesses, Neighbours, Groups, Town Team.

There are 21 Town Teams in place, country and city

I see York is successful in the running of our festivals, but have we asked the community, is this what you want?

Do we have options for suitable space?

Insurance. Talk to Community Underwriters.

Banner in the Terrace

Won by the Shire of Harvey.

How Prepared are We.

If flow charts, boxes, more committees, reports, and the 'trends in the increasingly important recovery space' will do it, then we are prepared.

Hazards include earthquakes, air crash, power disruption, oil spill, terrorism, fire, train crash, disease outbreak.

Hazards are increasing, eg temperatures are rising, it is now 1 degree warmer.

The S W corner of WA will be getting warmer and dryer and this will lead to an increase in hazards. Other factors to be considered are, an increasing population, an ageing population, a reduced ability to prepare.

Cost of disasters, currently Australia wide, \$9B.

Recovery

Community recovery includes; health, wellbeing, recovery network . We need to review local recovery guidelines, develop practical resources, be prepared, build a culture of recovery,

Questions. Is there training for CEO's ? A , work with WALGA

Discussion points raised,

1 Protect assets

2 Know and manage the risks

3 Recoveries are long and complex

4 A connected community is more resilient.

5 Support volunteers

6 Climate change adaptations are imperative.

Overview

An interesting and thought-provoking conference.

WA Local Government Convention

Perth Convention Centre, 1-3 August 2018

This year's convention opened with a laid-back brass band, Junkadelic, who improvised and, if nothing else, made sure everyone was awake!

The key note speaker, **Anh Do**, was truly amazing: a degreed professional (BBus and BLaw), author ("The Happiest Refugee"), artist (Archibald Prize winner), actor (starring in a film about his life), producer ("Anh Does Vietnam" and "Anh's Brush with Fame") and comedian (NSW Triple J Raw Comedy Champion). As if his accomplishments aren't amazing enough in their own right, he nearly died as a 2 year old on an 8 m fishing boat with 47 other Vietnamese refugees who came to Australia.

Anh had the audience rapt with his many stories, from childhood through to the present, drawing both laughter and tears as we followed his challenge-filled journey and numerous accomplishments. Both of his parents encouraged him in spite of the severe hardships they faced as refugees, a key factor to Anh's fortitude and perseverance. Anh's incredible sense of humour and unwavering compassion was an inspiring way to begin Day 1 of the WALGA Convention.

The next session, **Big Picture Economy**, was a rapid-fire international economic perspective on what is happening around the world and the implications for Australia. **Dr Geoff Ruby** is current chair and CEO of Geoff Ruby & Associates, located in Beijing, and former Australian Ambassador to China from 2007 to 2011. He is currently Vice Chancellor's Professional Fellow at Monash University.

Dr Ruby termed the demise of the liberal internationalist agenda by the USA as 'The Great Unravelling'. He described President Trump's actions as unilateral as the USA removes itself from international agreements and actions. The tariff war with China is now impeding economic growth.

The rise of China, the most successful autocratic economy, is regarded as the most significant event that has promoted global change. Meanwhile Europe is facing a crisis of confidence and belief in its vision for itself. This began with the financial meltdown of 2008-9, especially affecting Turkey, Greece and the Eastern Countries. Many countries in the European Union are now poorer than where they were at the start because of failure to provide economic security and sealed borders.

Re Brexit – it seems likely that Britain will totally part company in March 2019. This will leave Australia unable to enter into third party trade deals.

Dr Ruby sees the easing of tensions with North Korea as positive. China is playing an active role in global economics and is prepared to act assertively to enhance its own interests and standing. Global stock markets are at or near record levels. US economic growth is robust as in countries around the world, including Australia, in spite of the political unrest. The US is less dependent on Middle East oil. However, there is concern about a trade war.

Dr Raby stated Australia must develop effective responses to the new world order and negotiate better with Asia as China has emerged as the dominant regional power. The US will have to share leadership with China, India, autocracies and Europe.

He sees this as very challenging times for Australia as it must develop a more independent foreign policy to deal with a variety of world powers. WA is regarded as the most important State because of its overall trade relations with China and Middle East regions. WA has benefited from China's economic reform and growth, which is very high at 6.8%.

This situation is very different from when China was small and poor during the time of Bob Hawke, who negotiated the first investments in iron ore mines. China's rising middle class are demanding higher value products, which has great potential for Australia.

According to Malcolm Turnbull, China is not a strategic competitor and there is nothing to be afraid of: yet we behave with strategic mistrust. This is somewhat of a contradiction according to Dr Raby, who believes Australia should be building relations and more constructive partnerships rather than acting out strategic mistrust. He described China's economic distribution as skewed, like the USA's, when you view the greater middle class consumption in both countries. Fortunately for China, it has a domestic market and a capacity to offset trade with other countries.

Mark McCrindle, a research based futurist, presented a **Demographic snapshot of Australia: now and towards 2020**, highlighting its changing times and emerging trends. Rather than us looking to the future, the future is now literally coming at us. As recently as 2008, there were no technological digital devices: ie, no tablets, no iPads, no smart phones / devices.

Mark identified 1997 as the cross over between face-to-face and the electronic screen age, a time of true social change. We now have 3 symbols that 'scare' today's generation when they appear on the screen:

- Low battery
- Slow downloads
- Dead battery!

As we all know, the population is ageing, so much so that by 2048 there will be more people over 60 than those under 20.

More interesting figures: Today's national average tenure in a job is 3 years. This results in 17 jobs and 5 careers for the average person.

The concept of 'community' is redefined today as taking place in shopping centres!

These are characteristics of the world today:

- Digital
- Global
- Social
- Mobile
- Visual

As our population and communities are changing, therefore our approach needs changing. There is a data overload in today's world, so Mark advises us to:

1. Be innovative in finding ways to compress information, remembering that pictures / graphics are very effective at succinctly conveying information.
2. Be responsive – listen as well as speak. One would be wise to 'Seek first to understand, then to be understood' (advice from Stephen Covey's book, "7 Habits of Successful People").
3. Be collaborative in our communication and our participation.

Mark's closing thought: create a culture of collaborative innovation.

A panel of four led the discussion **Leading Local Economies**. The first speaker, **Professor Lee Pugalis** from the University of Technology Sydney echoed Mark McCrindle's theme, describing economic development as a collaborative endeavour or co-responsibility requiring working in partnership. Ideally, businesses and the local community operate with shared responsibility and shared ambition.

Targets set should relate to key strategies and needs. Aim to compress key messages onto one page, then prioritize areas of growth so they can be actioned.

Kitty Prodonovich, the CEO of Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry, told us there are 218 152 small businesses in WA, and they contribute \$39.7 billion to the WA economy.

These businesses bring:

- Vibrancy and interest
- Community activation
- Invested people – financially, personally, professionally
- Economic diversity
- Jobs
- People
- Community leaders
- Ambassadors and advocates for the community

Because they are very busy and overwhelmed people, business owners want their local government:

- To provide one form that covers everything when they apply for something
- To provide one point of contact
- Present a friendly face
- To give them business or go to a nearby community if something is not available locally
- To be paid quickly
- To be appreciated, understood and valued

Andrew Vuleta, CEO Town of Victoria Park, shared how he and his team have transformed their town into a thriving, vibrant community. His advice included:

- Become a facilitator
- Enable and leverage community spirit
- Get out of the way!

- Provide governance and guidance
- Build relationships
- Develop leadership within the community to drive events

Andrew Campbell, CEO, Shire of Manjimup, related how their local government addressed a town centre revitalization program:

- Be a leader, enabler, disruptive innovator
- Be funding opportunity ready
- Leverage your money / grants / funding

The Granny Whisperer, as **Billie Jordan** is known, is the founder of The Hip Operation Crew, a dance group consisting of members whose ages range from 73 to 98. Billie taught them hip hop dancing, which has earned them a place in the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest dance group in the world. The goal Billie set for them – which they actually achieved – was to perform in the World Hip Hop Championship in Las Vegas. A documentary film called *Hip Hoperation* was made about them and has won many prestigious awards.

Perhaps even more amazing than what Billie accomplished with very elderly people - who all had serious conditions to contend with, ranging from heart attacks to strokes to hip and / or knee replacements to arthritis to blindness and more – is her own tragic upbringing. Billie came from a severely dysfunctional family that left her feeling isolated, depressed and with no future. In order to survive, she had to remove herself from both her immediate and extended families. A film is currently being made about Billie and what she has accomplished, something I plan to see.

Another **panel**, this time of three leading political figures in Australia moderated by **Liam Bartlett**, discussed how the ‘politics’ impact on decisions and issues that affect local communities. The panel session featured former senator **Jacquie Lambie**, Former Premier of NSW **Bob Carr** and former Senator for South Australia **Natasha Stott Despoja**.

Both Natasha and Jacqui believe elected leaders ought to be elected on a strong basis of representing their constituency and be reliable in basing their decisions on this solid basis. Bob Carr’s view was that anyone elected should represent their party and its platforms first and foremost, to enable the voters to rely on expectations being met.

There was an interesting discussion around local government’s effect at the Federal level. Jacqui stated we, in local government, have a tremendous amount of power and are at the key point of decision making. Natasha described local government as the closest to the people, the cutting edge of reconciliation and diversity. Unfortunately, scandals at our level have a disillusioning effect on other levels.

Bob added that the federal level has resources local councils don’t have. On the other hand, local government has pioneered environmental needs / changes, conservation and various initiatives. The local community actually leads the way in areas like the ‘war on waste’.

It was agreed that there ought to be systemic training at all levels of government. Only local government offers training for its elected members, even though it isn’t yet

mandatory. By contrast, there is nothing available for those elected to the State and federal levels.

Getting Professional Performance from Non-Professionals was the topic expertly covered by **Dwayne Nestor**, a high performance coach who spent 12 years developing elite amateur and professional athletes. He also worked for many years with up-and-coming talent at the Western Force. The demands placed on both elite professional and elite amateur athletes can be compared to the combination of personal and civic responsibilities which can create tremendous pressure on elected members of local government. There is a universal expectation of high performance by the community when managing budgets, determining levels of service, safeguarding assets, as well as standards of personal behaviour set out in the *Local Government Act*.

With all this in mind, Dwayne gave us 7 steps to mindset excellence. They are:

1. **Purpose:** Why do you do what you do? Understanding your true intent will allow you to see your work as a passion or a means to an end. You will then have a clear context to relate your mindset to.
2. **Self-Awareness:** Allow time each day to be present with yourself, eliminate distractions and use your senses to reflect on where you are at that moment. If you know your strengths, you can build upon them. Knowing your weaknesses allows you to make improvements. How well we know ourselves influences our personal relationships.
3. **Goal Setting:** Goals are only worth the paper they are written on. It's your ACTION PLAN to support those goals that creates success. This plan includes: Measures / Needs / Obstacles / Motivations / Publicity (ie, publicly state your goal so you are held accountable) / Reward (very important to celebrate success).
4. **Self-Development:** What do you do for yourself on a daily basis to improve? With a performance mindset we look at learning as a daily endeavour.
5. **Mental Toughness:** When we deal with disappointment well, when we persevere when times get tough, when we deal well with distractions, when we win the little battles we create confidence and self belief without blaming others. Then anything is possible!
6. **Purposeful Preparation:** When we prepare or practise with intent, when we push ourselves to be the best we can be, we achieve so much more than only 'going through the motions'. Focus on the task, have clear objectives and develop a balance between quality and quantity.
7. **Learn to Lead:** Leadership is a skill, and like all skills, it can be learned. Key aspects are:
 - Communication, which includes your tone, your body language and non-verbal messages.

- Trust, achieved by gaining insight to self, makes others more comfortable around you.
- Creating visions of where you want to go and how you want to get there.

Quality leadership influences others and allows your legacy to build. It is our followers who determine who is a leader. Then is it not just ourselves changing the world, but also our advocates.

Again, I found the sessions I attended very relevant to my role as Councillor. The many and varied businesses that had displays in the central hall offered their information / assistance if sought. Therefore, even on our breaks between sessions, there were many opportunities to learn even more about some of the latest developments and products that are now available.\

Jane Ferro
August 2018

2018 WA Local Government Convention

As I am in the first year of my term as Councillor, the 2018 WALGA convention was my first WALGA attendance. I participated in the convention on Thursday and Friday with the days structured around speaker sessions, the trade exhibition, workshops and touring various locations of interest to local governments. I focused my time on both the speaking sessions and the workshops.

The convention was extremely informative with a number of broad ranging sessions. Dr Geoff Raby's session centred on global issues, providing interesting insights into China, amongst other world powers. In-depth discussions took place on federal politics, particularly during the panel discussion with Jacqui Lambie, Natasha Stott Depsoja and Bob Carr. Another session covered the changing social environment we live in, with Mark McCrindle giving his insight in to how Australia's demographics are evolving. This was particularly useful and applicable to local government.

Delegates were asked to nominate for a preferred topic during a period of concurrent sessions. I took part in the session 'Leading Local Economies'. During this session we heard from Andrew Campbell, CEO at the Shire of Manjimup, and Kitty Prodonovich of RCCI WA. Andrew presented on his learnings from economic development initiatives within his shire. This was strongly relatable and inspired some constructive conversation with my fellow Councillors during the following break. Kitty discussed the value of small business to a local community, how we as a Council engage them, and how we can be a local business friendly council.

The convention also offered great opportunity to network with fellow local government members, and I spent time talking to other Councillors from nearby shires. As a new Councillor, I took away many initiatives and ideas from my first time at a WALGA conference. I am excited to put these learnings into action in the York Shire and community.

Cr. Denis Warnick