

OUTBACK COMMUNITIES AUTHORITY - NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2013

NEW OUTBACK COMMUNITIES AUTHORITY MEMBERS & CHAIR

Appointments to the Outback Communities Authority were announced by the Minister for State/Local Government Relations Gail Gago MLC in June 2013. Minister Gago said the appointees would commence their terms on July 1 2013, and she was looking forward to working with them. "The Authority has jurisdiction over almost two-thirds of the State, and serves about 4,000 people in numerous small communities, service locations and pastoral and farming properties in the outback," Ms Gago said "The OCA does important work in managing the provision and improvement of public services and facilities for outback communities, as well as helping to communicate the views, interests and aspirations of those who live there."

Minister Gago thanked outgoing Chair Bill McIntosh AM, as well as Members Patricia Katnich, Toni Bauer and Jennifer Cleary for the effort and commitment, and welcomed the new members. "Mr McIntosh has been an outstanding Chair and has given so much to the outback community, of which he is a proud part, and I wish him and the other outgoing members all the best for their next endeavours."

Ms Gago said. "I would also like to welcome the new Members - Cecilia Woolford, who will take up the position of Chair, Marilyn Turner, Joyleen Booth and Peter Allen – and thank them for accepting their new positions."

Ms Cecilia Woolford Incoming Chair. Cecilia is from Hillridge Stud near Kimba and is a farmer and pastoralist with experience as Chair and board member of a number of statutory and non-government boards at the state and national level. Since January 2012 Cecilia has Chaired the newly created Andamooka Town Management Committee.

Mr George Beltchev is an Executive Consultant at SA Health where he is developing key performance indicators for small community based organisations funded by government. Mr Beltchev also held the position of Chief Executive, Country Health SA for four and a half years, often visiting outback communities and managing the provision of health services to outback residents.

Ms Margaret Heylen is a strategic and social planning consultant based in Aldgate and has undertaken work for state and local government over a number of years, specialising in community engagement. Ms Heylen currently holds a number of positions on government and non-government boards and committees, and worked as a consultant to the Outback Areas Community Development Trust (OACDT) in 2008 to facilitate and report on the outcome of community forums which tested future governance arrangements for the outback.

Ms Frances Frahn is a pastoralist based near Carrieton and participant in state and national leadership forums for young pastoralists. Ms Frahn also has experience working with young people and developed the OACDT's Youth Development Strategy.



Ms Cecilia Woolford



Mr George Beltchev



Ms Margaret Heylen



Ms Francis Frahn



Message from the Chair

Being appointed to the role of Chair of the Outback Communities Authority is a tremendous honour and is a role I take very seriously. I sincerely thank the immediate past Chair Mr Bill McIntosh AM for his commitment to the Authority. I believe the Outback Communities Authority is a pivotal entity for advancing outback South Australia. By developing and fostering key relationships with groups such as the South Australia Arid lands Natural Resource Management Board, Regional Development Australia and the Pastoral Board the Outback Communities Authority can and will, take a strategic approach to improving the wellbeing of all those living and working in the outback. I look forward to working with the people of the outback to better my understanding of their needs and desires for living in remote SA. I also look forward to working with the second iteration of the Outback Communities Authority Board as it provides a voice and strategic direction for the entire outback. The third member of the team that I will maintain a close relationship with is the Office of the Outback Communities Authority as it deals with the operational matters of the Outback Communities Authority affecting our communities.

Cecilia Woolford
Chair



General Manager's Message

The induction of the recently appointed Board of the Outback Communities Authority has marked the beginning of this financial year. The induction process informs new members of the direction and projects of the previous board and provides detail on the administrative requirement of being a board member. As we prepare for the third meeting of the new board for 2013-14 business returns to normal with a number of significant issues for the Board to consider. The Office for the Outback Communities Authority is working with a number of government agencies to establishing a best practice approach to dealing with waste management in remote communities. The result of that work will require the focus of the Outback Communities Authority over the coming months. The Outback Communities Authority has also requested staff to look at the relevance and effectiveness of its raft of community funding policies. That work is now well underway and will require the input of the broader community. To allow communities to have input into the information gathering process a consultation campaign is planned for later this year. I envisage the campaign will be quite extensive as it is important to hear what remote communities are saying to us.

Mark Sutton
General Manager

Outback Communities Authority Project and Sports Grants Round 1 2013 -14

Round 1 of the Outback Communities Authority Project Grants and Small Sports Grants for 2013-14 opened in August 2013, with applications closing on 30 August 2013. Applications were received for 14 Project Grants and 9 Small Sports Grants.

An Assessment Panel evaluated the applications against the assessment criteria and subsequently recommended that the Outback Communities Authority allocate approximately \$44,000 in Project Grants and \$2,887 in Small Sports Grants. The allocation of funds was approved by the Outback Communities Authority in September 2013.

Round 1 of the OCA Project Grants specifically called for applications from outback communities seeking financial assistance for sponsorship of events. The Marree Progress Association and Gawler Ranges Progress Association's were successful with their applications for sponsorship of the Marree Gymkhana and Outback Ball. Other projects approved included the purchase of a town tractor at Innamincka, history signage at Lyndhurst, water tank and trailer at Olary, hall renovations at Coorabie and Fowlers Bay, town entrance signs and support for Flow FM at Penong and a gymkhana shade marquee at Copley.

Successful round 1 Sports Grants included projects such as gym equipment at Blinman, horse yards and gymkhana helmets at Gawler Ranges, tennis balls and nets at Penong and Leigh Creek, swimming pool equipment at Yunta and gym mats at Marree.

The next round of Project Grants and Small Sports Grants commence in February 2014.

Earlier this year the Outback Communities Authority undertook a review of its public consultation policy, in response to the recommendations in the Ombudsman's report that followed his investigation into Andamooka's Community Contribution Scheme and the Community Affairs Resourcing and Management Agreements.

The Outback Communities Authority has now completed the review of its public consultation policy. The policy, Community Engagement - Our Commitment, outlines the principles the Outback Communities Authority will adhere to when consulting on strategic management plans, annual business plans, budgets and Community Affairs Resourcing & Management agreements. It also illustrates how the Authority will involve the members of the community when making decisions that might significantly affect them.

The revised policy reiterates the Outback Communities Authority's commitment to open, accountable and responsive decision making which is informed by people who live and work in the outback. The Board is confident this policy provides a clear direction for the Outback Communities Authority to follow when undertaking consultation.

The Ombudsman has been provided with a copy of the amended policy and has subsequently stated he is satisfied the amendments address the recommendations made in his final report. The Ombudsman has now closed his file on this matter. The policy is now posted on the Outback Communities Authority web site, www.oca.sa.gov.au

OCA History Projects

Historian John Mannion is currently working on a number of research projects for the Outback Communities Authority. John is currently searching the archives for information to be used in the development of Outback War Memorials project and for the development of a Railway Museum at Marree.

John has also been instrumental in securing a replica Kalamazoo which will be restored by the Lyndhurst Progress Association. It's planned to locate the Kalamazoo at the Lyndhurst community hall together with interpretive signage.

If you have any information on these projects that you would like to contribute contact John Mannion on 8658 6003. If you have ideas for other history projects for your Community contact Mark Shirley on 8648 5973.

Mrs Joyleen Booth has since 2005 co-managed with her husband a pastoral property on the Strzelecki Track east of Lyndhurst. A descendant of the Wangkanguru people, Mrs Booth was the Diamantina Shire Council's first and longest serving Aboriginal woman, and was a member of the Queensland Local Government Women's Association.



Mrs Joyleen Booth

Mr Peter Allen of Andamooka is a business proprietor who has been a member of the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association since 2007 and was the Chair until 2012. Since January 2012, he has been a member of the Andamooka Town Management Committee, and has owned and operated businesses in the Kimberley region of Western Australia and northern South Australia.



Mr Peter Allen

Mrs Marilyn Turner of Marree has been the co-lessee of the Marree Hotel since 2011 and previously worked for 15 years in senior positions in Federal Government agencies in Canberra, including in environmental compliance on the Beverley and Ranger uranium mines and audit, infrastructure and service delivery programs for the Federal Government's Closing the Gap strategy.



Mrs Marilyn Turner

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The OCA Consults on Community Contribution Scheme for Iron Knob

On 11 October 2013 the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) commenced consultation with Iron Knob landowners and occupiers seeking feedback on the draft 2014 Financial Plan, Budget and Community Affairs Resourcing and Management (CARM) Agreement. The consultation has been initiated in response to the OCA receiving a formal request from the Iron Knob Progress Association (IKPA) for assistance to continue with the day-to-day administration of the Association's affairs due to the increasing legal and logistical demand on the community volunteers.

The IKPA has endorsed the application of a Community Contribution Scheme as a mechanism for equitable cost sharing for the delivery of municipal services currently provided by the IKPA for the benefit of the whole community.

In response to the IKPA's request, the OCA has developed a draft Financial Plan, Budget and CARM Agreement for the period 1 January 2014 - 30 June 2014. Any arrangement beyond June 2014 will be subject to further consultation.

The draft Financial Plan sets out the core responsibilities of both the IKPA and the OCA. If adopted the Financial Plan and Budget will be incorporated into the Iron Knob Community Plan 2013-16. The proposed CARM Agreement for Iron Knob will result in the introduction of community contributions from landowners for the provision of services identified in the Community Plan. The amount of the community contribution would be set at \$120 payable in 2 installments of \$60 each (for the period of 1 January - 30 June 2014).

The consultation period closes on 15 November 2013. Iron Knob landowners are strongly encouraged to provide feedback on the draft Financial Plan, Budget and CARM Agreement. A Community Information session was held in the Iron Knob Institute at 6.30pm on Monday 4 November 2013.

Information packages are available from the Iron Knob Post Office or the Office for the OCA by telephoning 1800 640 542 (freecall from unincorporated areas) or 8648 5970.

Contact us

Outback Communities Authority

12 Tassie Street
PO Box 2353
Port Augusta SA 5700
Freecall: 1800 640 542
(Unincorporated Areas)
Phone: 08 8648 5970
Fax: 08 8648 5971
Email: oca@sa.gov.au
Web: www.oca.sa.gov.au

OCA Moves to Primary Industries & Regions SA

Through the machinery of government changes, the Office for the Outback Communities Authority is transitioning to Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA). The move is not a physical move, the Office for the OCA is still located at 12 Tassie Street, Port Augusta but outback communities will notice some minor changes when receiving reimbursements or payments from the Outback Communities Authority. Payment references will, from around December 2013, have a reference to PIRSA and not the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Clients receiving tax invoices will notice a similar change and there will be more payment options available. Payment options will be clearly displayed on the reverse of all tax invoices. Clients are reminded to note the change of bank details for the Outback Communities Authority as from December.

It is expected that the move to PIRSA will be completed in mid December, until then it is business as usual. Contact the Office for Outback Communities Authority on 8648 5970 if you would like current payment options confirmed.

OCA 2013-14 Business Plan and Budget

On 29 April 2013 the OCA commenced consultation on its draft 2013-14 Business Plan and Budget document. Comments received were considered by the OCA at its June 2013 meeting and the Plan was subsequently endorsed to then seek Ministerial approval. The Minister for State/Local Government Relations, Minister Gail Gago MLC, approved the 2013-14 Business Plan on 18 September 2013 enabling the Plan to be printed. In the third year of its current term, the OCA have decided to present their annual Business Plan and budget as a stand alone document, as opposed to incorporating it with the Strategic Management Plan 2011-2015 as done in previous years. The OCA felt that separating the documents would make access to the current business of the OCA easier. It should be noted that the OCA's 2011-2015 Strategic Management Plan remains unchanged.

The OCA's 2013-14 Business Plan and Budget highlights the strategies and priorities for the forthcoming year and includes the budget that will underpin these activities. The OCA is pleased to have incorporated a list of significant activities achieved from the 2012-13 year in the document.



A copy of the 2013-14 Business Plan and Budget document will be available from the Office for the OCA from mid November and will also be available from the OCA's website www.oca.sa.gov.au.