

LEADWEST MEMBERS HIGHLIGHT REPORT

AUGUST 2011



AGENDA 1: EDUCATION & SKILLS

Apprenticeship Group Australia

LeadWest visited the Deer Park facilities of Apprenticeship Group Australia (AGA) to meet with Mr Anthony Magnuson (AGA's Operations and Development Manager) and Mr Tom Hallinan (AGA's Recruitment Manager).

AGA offers apprenticeships in carpentry, plumbing, electrical, automotive, boiler making and fitting and turning. The applications for apprenticeships starting in January 2012 are open from August to early September. AGA guarantees employment at the end of the apprenticeship and organises work placements on behalf of their apprentices.

AGA is looking to develop its relationships with businesses, educators and other stakeholders in Melbourne's west.

Building Melton Together

Skill shortages in Melton Shire's building industry will be tackled as part of a new Building Melton Together initiative.

The program, initiated by Melton Council in response to the rapid growth in housing development, aims to link up 150 pre-screened Melton Shire job-seekers with employers.

LeadWest's Manager Business and Projects attended the launch of the initiative.

Kick Start Your Arts Career

LeadWest is supporting the Footscray Community Arts Centre in its quest to secure ACFE funding support to underpin a "Kick Start Your Arts Career" initiative.

The initiative involves the development of a multi pathway arts education program based on a skills-set for emerging artists and cultural

facilitators and producers that recognises their skills and knowledge and allows them to achieve a qualification in their chosen field.

The program will be pitched at hard-to-reach learners, particularly members of our region's community from an Indigenous or CALD background.

Footscray Community Arts Centre can provide a safe and supportive environment for these learners as they develop their skills and knowledge, and in partnership with Victoria University will provide them with learning and pathway opportunities into accredited Vocational Training and Employment.

LeadWest meets with Gordon TAFE

LeadWest's CEO met with representatives of Gordon TAFE to discuss their plans to establish a beachhead in the rapidly growing outer suburbs of Melbourne's west.

Wyndham is of particular interest due to its excellent connectivity to Gordon TAFE's base in Geelong.

Skills Victoria

Leadwest met with John Stapleton of Skills Victoria. John has replaced David Baber as the Regional Manager for Market Facilitation in Melbourne's west. The meeting canvassed issues associated with the region's skills imperatives and initiatives to improve skill outcomes were flagged, noting the potential for involvement of the Western Melbourne RDA Committee.

AGENDA 2: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & JOBS

EDA and PIA Conference

In partnership with LeadWest Council Members, LeadWest sponsored the Economic Development Australia conference held at Caroline Springs.

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Moonee Valley Business Gala Lunch

LeadWest joined other sponsors at the 2011 Moonee Valley Business Luncheon, which was attended by over 150 business leaders drawn from across Moonee Valley.

Wyndham Business Awards

LeadWest were proud to again be associated with the Wyndham Business awards and participate in judging businesses in the Service – Small to Medium category and the Business of the Year Award. LeadWest congratulates all winners and in particular the Werribee Open Range Zoo on becoming the Wyndham Business of the Year for 2011.

Manufacturing in Melbourne's west

LeadWest met with representatives of both Victoria University and Melbourne University in relation to networking opportunities supporting the evolution of manufacturing in Melbourne's west.

Further collaborative initiatives are to be undertaken to support innovation and the sharing of best practice amongst local businesses.

AGENDA 3: TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

LeadWest attends Western Water Corporate Plan Launch

LeadWest's CEO joined over 150 other regional stakeholders in reviewing the Western Water Corporate Plan. The breakfast forum was attended by the Hon Peter Walsh, Minister for Water, Agriculture and Food Security. The Minister outlined the Victorian Government's agenda for water security.

East – West Road Link Advocacy

LeadWest along with other key western region advocacy bodies such as G21, Committee for Geelong, Committee for Wyndham, VECCI and

the RACV continue to press both the Australian Government and Victorian Government to support for a second strategic major road crossing to Melbourne's west to its east.

With the rapid growth taking place not just in the western suburbs but the entire south western part of Victoria, LeadWest firmly believes that a second road crossing as an alternate to the West Gate Bridge is vital.

LeadWest has arranged for a feature article on such a second road crossing to run in the Business West magazine's September edition.

Regional Rail Link Community Reference Group

LeadWest's CEO participated in a site visit along the proposed route of the Regional Rail Link. Proposed station developments were discussed as were key interface areas between the project and the community.

Western Transport Alliance Meeting

LeadWest participated in a meeting of the Western Transport Alliance held at Maribyrnong Council. Key issues discussed included:

- National Heavy Vehicle Regulations
- Transport Strategy update
- Grade Separation projects
- Project updates on Westlink, Regional Rail Link, Inner West Truck Traffic, and the Western Ring Rd Upgrade

Transport Department Secretary, Mr Jim Betts briefed attendees on the Victorian Government's transport priorities.

Minister Mulder addresses VRBPTAC

Through his participation in the Victorian Road Based Public Transport Advisory Council, Leadwest's CEO received a briefing from Transport Minister, the Hon Terry Mulder on the Victorian

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Government's key transport priorities.

AGENDA 4: HEALTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Clare Court Children's Service

LeadWest's CEO joined other regional stakeholders at the opening of the Clare Court Children's Service – an integrated children's service hub in Yarraville.

Officially opened by the Hon Nicola Roxon, the \$10 million facility incorporates a shared early learning program, maternal and child health service, play groups and community space.

Community Health Screening

LeadWest's Manager Business and Projects has been participating in the Project Reference Group for the Community Health Screening Project initiated by Western Melbourne RDA (WMRDA). The group is planning the

provision of a free health screening service, available to people in the Melbourne's west who are unemployed or under employed.

A Breakfast Briefing for the region's stakeholders was held at Whitten Oval. Professor Peter Ebeling addressed attendees, who were also informed about the project by WMRDA's Chair Bill Jaboor and Committee Member Bill Noonan.

The event was well attended and included a group of medical students undertaking their training through the Western Centre for Health Research and Education. These students will participate in the project, providing them with experience with people in the region who are unemployed or under employed.

Health Service Planning - North West Metro Operating Model

LeadWest's CEO joined regional health sector stakeholders in a forum to help scope a suitable health service planning model for implementation across Melbourne's north-west. Jointly funded by the Department of Health and Melbourne University, the project aims to foster best practice planning frameworks and improve service delivery into a region of priority.

Victoria Police Kokoda Breakfast

LeadWest joined over 600 other regional stakeholders in attending the Victoria Police Kokoda Program's fundraising breakfast held at Moonee Valley Racing Club.

Susan Alberti Charity Ball

LeadWest's Chairman and CEO attended the Susan Alberti Charity Ball in support of juvenile diabetes.

Youth Junction Inc Fundraising

LeadWest invited a range of stakeholders from the region's Community Development sector to share its table at the Youth Junction Inc fundraising breakfast at Victoria University's VenU restaurant.

PivotWest StreetHealth

LeadWest's CEO attended a forum hosted by Pivot West on their Mobile medical unit. The mobile health unit has been delivering much needed basic health services for over 2 years to a part of the community in the western suburbs that often fail to be able to access normal health services.

Social Inclusion

LeadWest's Manager Business and Projects participated in a workshop on Social Cohesion that was convened by the Committee for Melbourne.

Following on from the Committee for Melbourne's Shaping Melbourne

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Taskforce, Paul Bird (former State Director of Mission Australia and now CEO of Youth Support and Advocacy Service) is leading the development of a paper on the importance of social cohesion as our city grows.

The workshop provided an opportunity to influence the fourth document in the Committee for Melbourne's "Shaping Melbourne" series.

AGENDA 5: ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & IMAGE

Vision For Werribee Plains – Grants Projects

LeadWest's CEO joined other members of the Grants Panel to assess sustainability projects drawn from across Melbourne's west. Applications seeking funding support for over \$2.5 million were received.

No Vision For Werribee Plains?

LeadWest considers it disappointing that the Victorian Government has not as yet indicated its intention to provide ongoing funding support for the Vision for Werribee Plains initiative in order to underpin its sustainability agenda throughout the western region.

Werribee River Biolink Project

LeadWest is managing a project that aims to provide a long-term plan for the Werribee River as a regional biolink.

Working with a range of stakeholders, we will investigate the nature of aquatic, riparian and terrestrial corridors required for a regional biolink.

We will then develop an Action Plan, a document setting out the physical works required to meet priorities for connectivity along the corridor.

The Action Plan will need to address the Wyndham, Melton and Moorabool planning schemes and planning tools. It will also need to recommend appropriate tools for encouraging land management practices to achieve the vision for the Werribee River.

In August, LeadWest appointed Kellogg Brown and Root (KBR) as consultant for the project, held an inception meeting at which project scope was negotiated and agreed, and participated in a meeting of the project's Technical Reference Group.

Paint the Picture – The Future of Wyndham

LeadWest participated in a community forum hosted by Wyndham Council at which a vision for Wyndham's future was workshopped. The forum was structured in a most creative way and was facilitated by Gilbert Rochecouste of Village Well. It provided members of the community with an opportunity

to articulate issues and suggest values that should underpin planning for Wyndham's future.

AGENDA 6: TOURISM, ARTS, CULTURE & RECREATION

LeadWest meets with Tourism Victoria CEO

LeadWest's CEO met with Tourism Victoria's CEO to flag issues associated with growing the contribution that tourism can make to employment in Melbourne's west. Investment in public infrastructure were seen as vital in securing growing private-sector investment in the region's tourism sector. The training needs of the tourism sector were also canvassed.

Seaworks Maritime Museum

The Maritime and Site Works Collection at Seaworks was launched by Western Metropolitan Liberal MP Andrew Elsbury. The collection

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features dozens of models of ships that visited Williamstown, vintage diving gear, historic ships logs, Harbour Trust paperwork dating back to 1877, paintings and life-size model passengers. The collection is largely ex-National Trust with many items donated from the Port of Melbourne Corporation, some individuals, the Ship Lovers Society, the Polly Woodside Volunteers.

AGENDA 7: REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Meeting with Jacinta Allen MP

LeadWest's CEO joined MPs from Melbourne's inner-west in a meeting with the Hon. Jacinta Allan, Shadow Minister for Regional & Rural Development and Shadow Minister for Roads. A comprehensive briefing was provided on the key infrastructure imperatives in Melbourne's west covering both 'hard' and 'soft' infrastructure assets.

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