

CO-OPERATIVES WA NEWS

Summer 2010/11

Co-operatives 101

Co-operative enterprises put members at the centre of their business (and not capital) and can be defined in terms of three basic interests:

- ownership
- control
- beneficiary.

Because co-operatives are owned and democratically-controlled by their members, the decisions taken by co-operatives balance the need for profitability with the needs of their members and the wider interests of the community.

The principles and values a Western Australian co-operative must follow are set out in section 6 of the Co-operatives Act 2009 and are based on the International Co-operative Identity Statement of the International Co-operative Alliance.

The co-operative model of enterprise can be applied to virtually any business activity. Co-operatives exist in traditional economic sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, consumer and financial services, housing, and production (workers' co-operatives). Co-operative activity spans to a large number of sectors and activities including education services, child-care, health and social care, funeral, schools, sports, tourism, utilities and transport.

Hundreds of millions of people around the world have chosen one of the many co-operative business models for their enterprise to enable them to reach their personal and community economic and social development goals. Co-operatives create and maintain employment; they are responsible for producing and supplying safe and quality services to their members and the communities in which they operate.

It's not always evident to the wider community that a business is operating on co-operative principles. One aim of the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives is to lift the profile of co-operative business models and the many co-operative enterprises that already exist and are doing good things in our economy.

By showcasing co-operatives and delivering education around co-operative business models and the co-operative way of doing business the movement can grow and be recognised as a legitimate 4th sector of the Australian economy, as is the case elsewhere around the world.

Primary economic sectors:

- 1st Sector** - business private sector, which is privately owned and profit motivated;
- 2nd Sector** - public sector which is owned by the state;
- 3rd Sector** - social (charity) sector, embracing a wide range of community, voluntary and not-for-profit activities;
- 4th Sector** - social business, where entities such as co-operatives, credit unions and mutuals, share prosperity with all of their stakeholders i.e. members, customers, employees and the community.

UPDATES:

2010

- The Hon Simon O'Brien MLC moved into the newly created portfolio of Finance; Commerce; Small Business following a cabinet re-shuffle in December.

2011

- Focus on planning for Transition, and IYC

2012

- UN International Year of Co-operatives, and London Olympics
- Repeal of Companies (Co-operative) Act 1943

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Vale—Warren York OAM

Passed away in Albany November 2010.

Warren received the Medal of the Order of Australia in January 2007 for service to the co-operative movement and to the community of Mount Barker through a range of health, aged care, school and church organisations.

In 1992 Warren was Plantagenet Citizen of the Year.

Included in Warren's Order of Australia citation for community service and achievements were the following -

Co-operatives WA Councillor 1983 - 2002, including 2 years as Chairman.

Mount Barker Co-operative Limited 1969 - 2003

General Manager/Secretary, 1977 - 2003;

Accountant/Secretary, 1971 - 1977; and

Accountant, 1969 - 1971.

Inaugural Chairman of Co-operative Purchasing Services Limited, for 8 years; Ordinary Director, for 4 years.

Co-operatives WA IYC planning

Members are no doubt aware of the United Nations announcement that calendar 2012 will be the International Year of Co-operatives. Co-operatives WA will have a IYC leadership role at state level and will be working closely with the IYC national steering committee.

AIM	OUTCOME
Increase community awareness	Greater public awareness and knowledge about co-operatives, how they benefit members and the level of their contribution to stable economic development in Australia; State, national and global networking across the entire co-operative spectrum that ensures Australian co-operatives operate at world best practice level.
Promote growth	Formation and growth of co-operative enterprises among individuals and businesses that deliver credible and sustainable solutions to shared needs, financial stability, economic growth and prosperity.
Establish appropriate public policies	State and Federal public policies that allow co-operatives to fulfil their potential and serve their communities as the emerging and credible 4 th sector in the economy.

IYC Theme

"Co-operative enterprises build a better world"



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UWA Australian Research Council research project



Tom Webb, Program Manager of the Master of Management - Co-operatives and Credit Unions program at Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University in Nova Scotia Canada, visited Perth during December and met with Co-operatives WA and the UWA Business School Linkage Grant research team.

Ongoing collaboration with St Mary's will form part of the Co-operatives WA sponsored UWA Australian Research Council research project.

Annual Conference

Co-operatives WA 2010 annual conference attendees ranked the day highly on all criteria with the business session and official conference dinner well attended.

The Hon Bill Marmion MLA, Minister for Commerce, delivered the opening address and spoke in encouraging terms about the direction and potential of the Western Australian co-operative sector. The Minister acknowledged the constructive working relationship that existed between Co-operatives WA, the Department of Commerce and the office of the Registrar of Co-operatives.

Planning is underway to secure key note speakers who will make the 2011 conference a must attend event.

Lock in the date – Wednesday 14th September 2011.

As always, our aim is to ensure you won't be disappointed.

Australia's Top 100 Co-ops, Credit Unions & Mutuals

WA co-operatives continue to be well represented in the Top 100 list.

Number 1 in Top 100 2nd edition was Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd with Capricorn Society Ltd featuring at No. 4.

Co-operatives WA had 13 members in the Top 100. Information for the 3rd edition of the list, based on a co-operative's financial year ending in 2010, will be gathered early in the New Year. If your co-operative's annual turnover is greater than \$5 million you can nominate for the next publication by emailing Top100nomination@cooperativeswa.org.au.

We will send a short survey form for completion and return. To view 2nd edition go to www.cooperativeswa.org.au and click on CWA News.



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

Under the direction and guidance of UWA Business School Prof Tim Mazzarol, the Australian Research Council assisted Linkage Grant research program* will hit the ground running in the New Year. The formalities of the ARC grant and research protocols have been completed. Extensive data collection has already started and a reporting timeline is in place. If you are approached by the research team, please afford them every assistance possible. Members of the UWA team are –

Prof Tim Mazzarol
Prof Geoffrey Soutar
Prof Kadambot Siddique
Prof John Watson
Asst Prof Joanne N Sneddon
Dr Elena Mamouni Limnios



* **Research Title:** Sustainable cooperative enterprise: an investigation into the factors influencing the sustainability and competitiveness of cooperative enterprises.

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Council and Committees

At the Council meeting following the AGM all office bearer positions are filled for the following twelve months. Office bearers for 2011 are -

Council Chairman	Chris Enright
Council Deputy Chairman	Trent Bartlett
Governance Committee	Bruce Ede (Chair), Trent Bartlett & John Ritchie
Membership & Education Committee	Rhys Turton (Chair), Vern Dempster & Stephen Wren
Industry Reference Group	Chris Enright, Trent Bartlett & Bruce Ede

Thank you to Robin Judd; welcome John Ritchie

Robin has been on Council since March 2002 and throughout that time actively contributed in all Council matters, including serving on the Governance Committee. As General Manager – Finance, Robin's focus in 2011 will be on the significant changes new fishing regulations will have on Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative. As such John Ritchie will join Council in the New Year as the Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative representative. As chairman of Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative, John is well placed to guide the activities and direction of Co-operatives WA.

On behalf of all members Council extends a sincere vote of thanks to Robin for his input into Council matters.



Ask FIDO to dig up your unclaimed money

We often see familiar names in the WA unclaimed moneys list published in *The West Australian*. However, the WA list contains only a fraction of money that is unclaimed by Western Australians.

As a service to your members why not include a message in your next newsletter suggesting they do a simple web search of various unclaimed money registers every year.

Searching the following key web addresses is not a big task and could prove very worthwhile –

www.fido.gov.au; www.dtf.wa.gov.au; www.osr.nsw.gov.au; www.sfo.vis.gov.au

Co-operatives WA Members should do their own search on an annual basis. Whilst EFT use has reduced the number of recent transactions that go unclaimed or missing, there are very many transactions from some years back that are still to find their correct home.

Seasons Greetings from Councillors and Staff of Co-operatives WA

