

# Co-operatives WA News

**Dame Pauline Green  
President International  
Co-operative Alliance**

**APRIL 2012  
IYC UP-DATE**

With Australia's two International Co-operative Alliance members based in Perth it was pleasing that Dame Pauline Green, ICA President, visited WA in February en route to the Australia Post launch of the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives commemorative stamps. Whilst in Perth Dame Pauline met with senior representatives from WA's co-operative sector. Also involved in the meeting were representatives from the Government and the Opposition, with the co-operative sector receiving cross-party support for the States' Co-operatives Act. The 2012 IYC celebrations embrace all member focused entities and embrace co-operatives, credit unions and mutuals.

We thank Capricorn Society for assisting with Dame Pauline's travel arrangements. Our thanks also go to the CBH Group for hosting the industry lunch at which Dame Pauline spoke about the role of the ICA as the world body for the co-operative movement.



## Concurrent National/WA IYC 2012 Launch

In late November 2011, The Hon Simon O'Brien MLC Minister for Commerce officiated at the WA IYC 2012 launch at the UWA Business School. The State launch was held on the same day of the National launch which was held in Canberra.

As part of the State launch a number of WA specific Info Sheets were released as background information to Western Australian sector. The Info Sheets can be downloaded from [www.cooperativeswa.coop](http://www.cooperativeswa.coop).



## Showcase your Co-op DNA

- ◇ Be proud to say you're a co-op
- ◇ There are easy low cost no frills ways
- ◇ Get a co-op tag into your email sign-off
- ◇ Use the IYC 2012 logo
- ◇ Display "Proud to be member owned" message on your orders and invoices

## Welcome—Fruit West

There is no better demonstration of interest in the co-operative business model than the registration of new co-operative ventures. It is therefore with pleasure, that Co-operatives WA welcomes Fruit West Co-op, a recently established co-op, as a member.



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## UWA Centre of Excellence

A legacy outcome of the Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant research program was always intended to be recognition of the UWA Business School as a centre of excellence in co-operative learning/teaching.

The work being done at UWA by Prof Tim Mazzarol, as leader of the ARC research team, is already being recognised at an international level. Prof Mazzarol was invited to address the recent Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society annual conference in Dundee, Scotland on his research and what makes a co-operative successful and sustainable.

The ARC project is also receiving acknowledgment in academic circles with a global network of researchers collaborating with UWA on the publication of a teaching reference book as part of the output from the Linkage Grant.



## E/Prof Alan Robson AM CitWA – WA Patron IYC 2012

Speaking at the Dame Pauline Green industry lunch earlier in the year, Prof Alan Robson WA Patron IYC 2012 and recently retired UWA Vice Chancellor, delivered the following sobering message that is well worth sharing with our membership and our wider readership -

***“Co-operatives do their best work when things are tough, then have to face the toughest of competition when times are good, a fact many co-op members overlook when offered opportunistic short-term deals from their co-op’s competitors.”***

This leads to the age old question- “What’s in it for me?” The UWA researchers will help co-ops provide answers to this question. Unfortunately, history has tended to see co-operatives taken down a pathway where, as ex-members, people only get to understand and appreciate the true value of a co-operative after its demise.

## Co-operative Capital Units

On 11 May 2012 the UWA research team will hold a Co-operative Capital Units symposia at the UWA Business School. The symposia will bring together legal and accounting professionals to discuss the ARC research findings and how CCUs can be utilised in the capital structure of a co-operative. The symposia is free. Download event details from [www.cooperativeswa.coop](http://www.cooperativeswa.coop) and register by 4 May 2012.

## Congratulations to the “2009 Club”

There are a hand-full of members yet to complete their transition process but on all accounts the entire Membership of Co-operatives WA are in good standing with the Department of Commerce.

Well done to those who have moved over to the 2009 Act.

## Be proud - Stamp your mail IYC 2012

Australia Post official pre-paid envelopes are valid until used, so grab a stock and promote your co-operative status.

There is also an official Australia Post IYC souvenir stamp sheet available.

Australia Post also has the IYC 2012 coin for sale.



Order online at [www.australia2012.coop/downloads/IYC-DM-Flyer.pdf](http://www.australia2012.coop/downloads/IYC-DM-Flyer.pdf) or ask at your local Post Office.

## Co-operatives WA Council Office Bearers

Chris Enright has been elected unopposed as Co-ops WA Chairman. John Ritchie, Chairman Geraldton Fishermen's Co-op has been elected unopposed as Deputy Chairman, a position that became vacant on the retirement of Trent Bartlett from Council.



Chairman—  
Chris Enright



Deputy Chairman—  
John Ritchie

## Annual Conference 2012

This year's conference will be held over 2 days in November. Session 1 of the first day will be set aside for an International Academic Research Exchange. Session 2 on Day 1 will be a "town and gown" panel and workshop with industry members and visiting academics addressing jointly the key issues confronting co-operatives. This year's conference theme is -

***"Co-operatives in the Fourth Sector: The Role of Member Owned Businesses in the Global Economy"***

The theme draws on a blend of UWA research findings and the practical experience of co-operatives at the coal face striving to do good things for their membership.

## Farm Weekly

Thank you to members who have made a contribution the Farm Weekly feature spread on Co-operatives. If you are still to be approached it is a fantastic chance to fly the co-op banner.

## Co-operation among co-operatives

Co-operation Housing, is still looking for a volunteer Technical Director (Finance). Formed in 2010 the Co-operative's objective is to support and grow housing co-ops in Western Australia for low to medium income households. Co-operation Housing is registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) as a company limited by guarantee.

Co-operation Housing is currently seeking to fill a Technical Director (Finance) vacancy to provide specialised assistance to the Board of Directors and to lead the Finance Committee. Under the Co-operation Housing Constitution, up to four Technical Directors are allowed, in addition to five elected Board members drawn from housing co-operative members. The term of office for Technical Directors is two years, after which re-appointment is permissible. Technical Directors are reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses but otherwise the role is voluntary.

Board meetings are held monthly on a Tuesday morning in Fremantle. If you have the relevant qualifications and experience and can help mentor this group, ring the CEO Rebecca Hicks on 0437 995 952 for further information.

## Unique Australian Currency IYC Commemorative Coin

To celebrate the important role that co-operatives play in our communities and beyond, the Royal Australian Mint has issued a commemorative \$1 uncirculated coin. The coin features building blocks, which represent the role that co-operatives play in providing stability in a fast-paced global economy. Worthy of consideration as a gift to your co-op's VIPs.



To order go to: <http://mintissue.ramint.gov.au/mintissue/product.asp?code=310163>

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