

Co-operatives WA News

UWA Centre of Excellence

The Co-operatives WA supported Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant program is approaching its final phase with the writing up of the academic research findings.

Discussions are also progressing with the UWA on creating an *Australasian Cooperative Enterprise Studies Centre (ACES-Centre)* at the UWA Business School with the Centre to provide various courses of education and training that address the needs of co-operatives and member owned entities.

The work done at UWA by Prof Tim Mazzarol is being recognised at an international level with New Zealand ready to pledge support for a UWA based ACES-Centre as an initiative covering Australasia.

We hope to have a proposal ready to put to the co-operative sector and other member focused entities over coming weeks.

APRIL 2013

Review of Co-ops Act 2009

On behalf of all Members, Co-operatives WA has made representations to the Department of Commerce on a review of the Act. A Bill to amend the Act is expected to be drafted this year with the aim of streamlining administrative arrangements when a co-operative wants to operate interstate.

We will advise Members individually of any impact changes to the Act will have on their operations. Our representations have been based on minimising changes for existing co-operative through grandfather/preservation clauses along similar lines to what was done when moving from the 1943 Act to the 2009 legislation.

Post IYC 2012

Did you "showcase" your Co-op DNA as part of IYC 2012?

There are easy low cost/no frills ways to tell people you're proud to be a co-operative.

Do your orders, invoices and emails display a "Proudly member owned" message?

IYC 2012 was as much about the future as it was the past.

Thank you

Calendar 2012 was a big year with IYC events and promotion of the co-operative business model.

Our thanks go to Capricorn and the CBH Group for their Platinum Sponsorship of Co-operatives WA activities and their wider engagement with national initiatives throughout IYC 2012.

Co-ops Act 2009 Reporting

Key Co-operatives Act 2009 reporting deadlines -

Annual Return (Form 10) must be lodged within 28 days of AGM.

Appointment or cessation of Directors and Officers (Form 13) must be lodged within 28 days of change.

Download forms from www.commerce.wa.gov.au/ConsumerProtection/Content/Business/Cooperatives/Forms.html.



Newsletter of Co-operatives WA

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April 2013

New Minister

Portfolio changes following the recent State election resulted in the Attorney General, The Hon Michael Mischin MLC, also becoming the Minister for Commerce.

A customary welcome to the world of Co-operatives has been extended to the Minister who is an Upper House Member for North Metropolitan Region.

We have also extended a welcome the Minister's Parliamentary Secretary, Mr Paul Miles MLA, Member for Wanneroo, who will deal with Co-operative Act matters in the Lower House.

Council Members

Council is comprised of —

Chris Enright - Chairman.

John Ritchie - Deputy Chairman

Councillors - Rod Madden, Brian McAlpine, Rhys Turton and Greg Wall.

If you are interested in being part of shaping the direction of Co-operatives WA, speak with Chris Enright or Peter Wells about what is involved in becoming a Councillor. Council meets in Perth 4 times a year with meetings normally lasting around 4 hours. There are casual vacancies so no election needed.

Australia's Top 100

Nominations for Australia's Top 100 Co-operatives Credit Unions and Mutuals by annual turnover have opened.

If you have not provided your most recent data please email to Co-operatives WA today. We need your turnover figure and staff numbers expressed as a head count and Full Time Equivalent.

WA has had a strong presence in the Top 100 list and we don't expect that to be any different in the next issue.

50th Anniversary

Congratulations to United Crate Co-op who are celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year. Read about their journey on the following page.

Do you have a celebration or event coming up? If so email details to info@cooperativeswa.coop.

Annual Conference—2013

The 2013 conference will return to the traditional month of September. Keep Wednesday 11 September 2013 free.

More details will follow shortly.

Inactive Membership - Time started when?

The day a co-operative was registered under the 2009 Act is the start date of any time related events set out in the Act or the rules of a co-operative. Therefore, to determine when a membership comes up for review due to inactivity, time starts to count from the most recent of:

- date of registration under Co-operatives Act 2009; and
- date the member joined the co-operative.

i.e. for a co-operative that transferred from the 1943 Act to the 2009 Act you disregard any time prior to the date of registration under the 2009 legislation.

The registration date is recorded on the Certificate of Registration issued by the Department of Commerce and mailed out to Co-operatives with a copy of the Registered Rules.

DoT

Hopefully we have resolved difficulties some members have recently experienced with DoT. When registering a motor vehicle DoT applies to co-operatives, the same rules as applied to Incorporated Associations.

In most cases a Co-operative must present its Certificate of Registration when buying/registering a motor vehicle. As such, look after your Certificate and keep it in a safe place, it's more than a wall ornament.

If you encounter problems with DoT email info@cooperativeswa.coop.

R.I.P.

Companies (Co-operative) Act 1943

Died – 31 August 2012

Cremated – 1 September 2012

United Crate Co-operative Ltd

Growers Supporting Growers For Over 50 Years. 1963 -2013

United Crate Co-operative Limited was formed in 1963 by a number of conscientious growers who saw the need to provide a packaging service conducive to the marketing requirements of the State's horticultural industries.

Prior to 1975 the traditional crate varieties were made of wood which was cheap and easily sourced. In 1975 the introduction of the re-usable plastic crate system was developed to supersede its less reliable predecessor.

The Co-operative became one of the first in the State to commercially hire plastic produce bins to complement the existing crate range. Growers who trialed this new addition praised its performance both in the field and its presentation when marketed.

The merits of the plastic crate were heralded as a revolutionary breakthrough on several fronts.

The crates were more durable, more easily transported, and provided better protection of produce, lighter in weight for ease of handling, more hygienic and less taxing on natural resources.

Environmentally, the plastic returnable crate system is sound. All crates and bins broken or damaged through prolonged use can be returned to the manufacturer to be reground to produce new crates. When one considers the amount of disposable packaging that contributes to landfill there can be no comparison.

United Crate has grown from humble beginnings 50 years ago in West Leederville to industry leader, with 5 depots servicing the regional needs of our customers in Carnarvon, Manjimup, Donnybrook and Geraldton.

Many of the original founding members have retired, passing on their knowledge and skills to their children, some of whom have become members in their own right. Also in the last twelve months growers from diverse backgrounds have successfully applied to become a member with the knowledge and benefits of supporting our mutual objectives, thus maintaining the stability and ongoing growth of our Co-operative.



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