Hedland is set to benefit from the General Practitioner (GP) Housing Project, which has resulted from a partnership between BHP Billiton Iron Ore, the Town of Port Hedland and the Royalties for Regions program. The project will provide quality homes to attract medical professionals.

Construction of the Cooke Point accommodation on Dempster Street is well underway. The housing is within walking distance of a primary school, sports field, day care centre, library and sports bar, and will be a mix of executive-style properties with two large family homes and five others more suited to medics with smaller families.

The prospect of moving to Port Hedland is sure to become more attractive to GPs with the knowledge that successful candidates will be living in arguably the best location, with uninterrupted, multi-million-dollar foreshore and ocean views on their doorstep. BHP Billiton Iron Ore Senior Manager Community and Indigenous Affairs, Chris Cottier, explained the importance of the GP Housing Project to delivering more, quality medical services to Hedland.

“The GP Housing Project is an important undertaking for the Hedland community, delivering quality accommodation specifically designed to attract and retain medical practitioners within our community,” Mr Cottier said.

“The project will improve access to health services for Hedland by alleviating the severe shortage of accommodation for healthcare professionals throughout the town.”

Stage One has seen a $4.5 million investment by the three partners and is due to be completed by the end of this year.
ART AWARDS
A CULTURAL SHOWCASE FOR HEDLAND

The annual Hedland Art Awards, set to open on 24 August at the Port Hedland Courthouse Gallery, will showcase the work of creative talents from across the State’s North and Mid West.

The awards celebrate the talents of artists based in the Pilbara, Kimberley, Gascoyne and Mid West regions and are a highlight of the Hedland cultural calendar with crowds of over 500 attending the opening night each year.

Facilitated by FORM and supported by principal partner BHP Billiton Iron Ore and a host of other generous sponsors, the awards offer some of the highest prize money in the country for a regional art award.

The 2011 show saw the top prizes going to Jill Churnside for ‘1946 Pilbara Strike’ (Most Outstanding Work), Jan Billycan, Yulparija Artists for ‘Kirriwirri’ (Best Work by an Indigenous Artist) and Helen Ansell for ‘Milling at Millstream’ (Best Work by a Non-Indigenous Artist).

This year’s prize money has increased to $65,000, with the winners being announced on opening night. This increase has led to greater competitiveness in the already high quality of artworks entered.

The awards will again coincide with FORM’s West End Markets, enhancing an already vibrant evening that includes local makers selling arts and crafts, live music, food and street performers. The art awards and the festival weekend events offer a great way to support regional local artists, crafters and musicians.

“Television is very excited for the much-anticipated return of the Hedland Art Awards - they are always fantastic for artists to come together and showcase their work at the Courthouse Gallery,” said Kate Antonas, Regional Development Manager, FORM.

“We hope to have another huge turnout for opening night and the markets, with artists and community members travelling from across the regions to attend with their friends and families.”

For more information on the Hedland Art Awards and the West End Markets, visit www.courthousegallery.com.au or contact the Courthouse Gallery on 9173 1064.

REVVED UP AND READY TO GO!

The Port Hedland Motorcycle Club is again gearing up for the J&S Labour and Machinery Indee 500, a two day desert race on the weekend of 13-15 July held at Indee Station, 65km south of Port Hedland.

The race will have over 200 riders tackling 500km of challenging Pilbara terrain including hard-packed desert, station tracks, rocky sections, sandy rivers and creek crossings.

The Indee 500, first held in 2005, runs over three days and begins with a non-compulsory ‘Prologue’, which is a timed 8km section of the main track to sort starting positions on the first day. In previous years the two racing days consisted of five laps over a 100km circuit, but this year riders will face four laps of a gruelling 125km circuit. The changed circuit will better preserve the track for the duration of the race and allow more riders to take part.

Andrew Paine, President of the Port Hedland Motorcycle Club, explained why the race is so important to Hedlanders.

“The Indee 500 is the biggest event the club has throughout the year and attracts entrants from all around Australia, some coming from Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria”, he said.

“Nominations sold out in two and a half days this year and we’ve got some big name riders coming to compete.”

Individual riders can enter the race in three different engine classes for two-wheel bikes, or enter the ‘Pony Express’ class, which is a team of two or four riders in a tag-team type of competition. There are also categories for Veterans, Masters, Quads and Ladies.

The Indee 500 brings excitement for spectators too, who can watch from viewing points along the course. Many people camp at Indee Station, which, for $10 per adult per night and children staying free, is a great way to spend the weekend.

For more information regarding the race format, previous results and photos, check out: www.indee500.com.au
The $10.5 million upgrade and redevelopment project continues the revitalisation of this community quadrant of the South Hedland town centre, with improvements to the skatepark, library, Lotteries House and the Hedland Well Women’s Centre to follow.

The project is supported by the Federal Government’s Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program, BHP Billiton Iron Ore, Royalties for Regions, the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Town of Port Hedland.

The South Hedland Aquatic Centre will become a state-of-the-art facility that will include an Olympic-quality 50m pool for swimming and water polo, a four-lane 25m pool for swimming lessons, and an aqua tower water slide for toddlers. All pools will be heated, allowing the community to swim year-round, even in those cool winter months when the temperature barely hits the high 20s!

A big drawcard is sure to be the BHP Billiton Iron Ore Latitude Real Wave Simulator that creates ocean-like tube waves, giving the ultimate surfing or bodyboarding experience. The Latitude will be the largest free-standing wave in Western Australia. Check out the action on youtube by searching ‘latitude’ and see what all the excitement is about.

With expected completion by the end of this year, the South Hedland Aquatic Centre will be the place to be this summer.

Hedland’s Youth Have Talent

Hedland celebrated Youth Week by showcasing the amazing talent amongst kids and youth in the community.

The Hedland’s Got Talent event, organised by the Youth Involvement Council (YIC), allows young people from all walks of the community to display that special talent they may never have displayed to an audience before.

Three afternoons of heats were held at the YIC Lawson Street Youth Centre as part of the April school holiday program, which gave performers their first opportunity to show off their skills.

Guests at the final, held at the Matt Dann Centre in South Hedland, were privileged to see some fantastic dance, singing, rapping and musical instrument performances by some very talented youngsters whose gifts had previously been hidden from the public eye.

YIC Manager, Vicki-Tree Stephens, explained the importance of Hedland’s Got Talent.

“It’s great to showcase and celebrate the many different talents that our young people have in a forum where they feel valued,” she said.

Local MC, KJ, won this year’s competition—making it two years running—with his energetic and uplifting hip-hop performance.

Other stars were Oliver Evans, who wowed the crowd with his guitar wizardry, and three-piece rock group EKJ (Ellie, Kyle and Josh) with their rendition of Franz Ferdinand’s “Take Me Out”.

KJ and EKJ followed up their success by performing longer sets in front of several thousand people at Portbound in May, showing that the talents among Hedland’s youth can be showcased to the world!
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR BUDDING SCIENTISTS AND MATHEMATICIANS

The new Hedland Mathematics and Science Centre of Excellence has brought a revamped, exciting experience to the learning of Maths and Science for Indigenous students from Years 4 – 7.

The program operates out of a dedicated centre at South Hedland Primary School in two-hour sessions delivered twice-weekly after school, and is a partnership supported by BHP Billiton Iron Ore and managed by the Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation.

The Maths and Science Centre of Excellence draws up to 30 students identified through national and in-school testing as demonstrating aptitude and potential in maths and science from South Hedland, Cassia, Baler, Port Hedland and St Cecilia’s primary schools.

The program aims to increase the number of Indigenous students choosing career paths in maths and science related industries. It builds and extends student competency through hands-on science experiments, fun maths activities and interactive technology games.

Participants also become members of the CSIRO’s Double Helix Club. Through this affiliation with Australia’s national science agency, students are able to access a wide array of science magazines and a range of stimulating activities.

Mathematics and Science Centre of Excellence Project Manager, Emily Leech, explained how the program engages.

“The maths challenges the students and builds their problem-solving skills. The science activities give them the opportunity to use some high-tech equipment they don’t have at school and discover how science is used in the real world and industry,” she said.

“The Centre of Excellence has only been operating for a short time and already we have had some extremely positive feedback from the local community about the program.”

HEDLAND - THE PILBARA’S FESTIVAL CITY

The news is out! Perth-based Sunset Events will stage the first North West music festival in Hedland with the support of the Town of Port Hedland, BHP Billiton Iron Ore, Atlas Iron and a number of other sponsors.

Saturday 18 August will see up to 8,000 people gather for the gig at the McGregor Street Reserve in Port Hedland. Those from out of town will be pleased to know that included in the entry price are camping facilities (although a separate camping ticket is needed) and they are encouraged to bring a swag or tent and reserve their ‘patch’. Detailed information will be provided at the time of ticket purchase.

An event of this scale is unprecedented in the region and is being promoted as far afield as Exmouth and Coral Bay. Headlining the festival are the ‘Australian kings of hip hop’ – Hilltop Hoods – who will be supported by The Cat Empire and The Living End – as well as a number of acts still to be announced.

The festival is part of the Town of Port Hedland’s progressive three-year Community Engagement Strategy, working with organisations that have a focus on youth, art and the environment. A key element of this is to ensure that not only will the festival become a drawcard for the town, but to ensure that environmental, social and economic benefits remain within the Pilbara beyond the actual weekend of performances.

Local community groups, youth organisations, food sellers or crafters will be invited to hold stalls to expose their wares to the community. The focus on the environment will see a ‘green team’ established for the event to collect cans and food waste for recycling.

Sunset Events will also provide a buddy system to local youth who will be invited to work with them and the Town of Port Hedland to learn the ropes of stage production, site management and marketing and communications.

The North West Festival 2012 promises to be a tremendous event that will support local businesses and service providers in a number of ways and is sure to become a fixture on the Hedland calendar.
This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Second World War bombing of Port Hedland by Japan.

While Australians always remember the Japanese bombings of Darwin throughout 1942-43, the wide geographical extent of the attacks is sometimes forgotten.

Australia’s north from Broome, Wyndham, Port Hedland and Derby in the west to Townsville and Cape York in the east, suffered 97 bombing raids during the Second World War.

Port Hedland was hit on 30 July 1942 when nine bombers appeared over the town at 7.15am and, flying at around 15,000 feet, dropped 30 bombs, some of them weighing over 200kg.

It is thought that the planes were targeting Corunna Downs, the (at the time) secret airbase near Marble Bar.

While the bombings missed significant town infrastructure such as the harbour and railways, they did take out the Port Hedland Meteorological Office that served as the RAAF radio hut and had only been built two weeks prior.

The attacks also hit the Royal Flying Doctor’s base, located on the racecourse at the time – fortunately when Dr Dicks, the resident Flying Doctor, was in the air 10,000 feet above Hedland.

Tragically, there was one casualty, 20-year-old soldier, J Adams, who was killed instantly by a bomb splinter.

Seventy years after the attack, the bombing is being commemorated by the Town of Port Hedland, Port Hedland RSL and Port Hedland Historical Society, with a memorial celebration and wreath-laying at the Civic Centre on 30 July.

For more information on the bombing or the commemorative celebrations, please contact the Port Hedland Historical Society on 9173 4300.

We would like to acknowledge the passing of Helen Macfarlaine, a treasured member of our community, on 12 April 2012.

Helen came to Port Hedland in 2003 and made a significant contribution to the life of the town and, in particular, students at Hedland Senior High School, where she taught.

Helen’s skills as a wordsmith were well known by her students, but did you know that she was the creative mind behind the name for this newsletter in 2008?

On marrying Brett Ballard on 4 October 2009, she kept her maiden name because, as she told Brett, “the kids have always known me as Miss Macfarlaine.”

Helen died unexpectedly following what had been successful surgery. She will be deeply missed by many in the community and our condolences go to Brett and other family and friends.
A HELPING HAND

The initiative of BHP Billiton Iron Ore’s Security and Emergency Services Supervisor, Delwyn Rohrlach, the local St John’s Ambulance branch was gifted an off-road ambulance from the company’s own fleet.

The BHP Billiton Iron Ore 4WD ambulance was scheduled to be replaced due to stringent site regulations. The vehicle, which is in great working order and fully equipped for use as an off-road ambulance, is perfect however for non-site based deployment.

Delwyn said that BHP Billiton Iron Ore works with emergency services, including St John’s Ambulance, the State Emergency Service and FESA, to support response to emergency situations by supplementing services and personnel.

“All of our local Emergency Service Officers at BHP Billiton Iron Ore volunteer with St John’s Ambulance, FESA or the SES, and the business dollar-matches this voluntary contribution to further support local service provision,” Delwyn said.

“Through the donation of this off-road ambulance the local St John’s service will now be able to provide pre-hospital and emergency support to people who find themselves in emergency situations off the beaten track.

“With the active outdoor lifestyle led by many people in Hedland, the new ambulance will be a great asset for the Service and our community,” Delwyn said.

BHP Billiton Iron Ore support emergency services throughout the community. These initiatives cover a broad range of activities, from deploying personnel and services in emergency situations, providing the major projects’ helicopter for remote evacuations, through to funding health services through the Community Development Program and assisting to build new homes for GPs.

Delwyn Rohrlach had the pleasure of presenting the off-road ambulance to the South Hedland St John’s Ambulance team earlier this year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BHP Billiton Iron Ore Community Cuppa
Friday 13 July and Friday 10 August, 9am – 11am
Community Office, 1 Wedge St (Cnr Wedge and Richardson St)
Port Hedland
Community Cuppa is a chance to sit down with the BHP Billiton Iron Ore Community and Indigenous Affairs team each month and have a coffee and a chat. Find out more about the Community Grants program, discover the range of projects that the company supports or discuss any issues or concerns you may have.

For more details about how to apply for Community Grants please phone the Community Team on 9173 4670 or email porthedlandcommunity@bhpbilliton.com

FREE

Spinifex Spree Carnival & New Recreation Centre Opening
Friday 27 – Sunday 29 July – various times
New Recreation Centre, Hamilton Rd, South Hedland
Celebrate the grand opening of Hedland’s newly-built, state-of-the-art Recreation Centre as part of the Spinifex Spree Carnival on Friday and Saturday. Enjoy appearances by renowned comedy trio, Tripod and WA’s favourite children’s performers, The Lulus, as well as of the usual fireworks, sideshow alleys and carnival entertainments. The National Basketball League’s Perth Wildcats will also take on the Cairns Taipans on Sunday as part of the official opening ceremonies.

FREE

West End Markets and Workshop
Saturday 25 August
The West End Cultural Precinct
Glass Lane Park and Courthouse Gallery Gardens
The West End Markets offer creative people from across the Pilbara and wider North West a means of selling their wares in a marketplace geared towards artistry and which supports local makers. The markets also coincide with the Hedland Art Awards.

FREE

BHP Billiton Iron Ore Community Grants Program
August Funding Round 2012
BHP Billiton Iron Ore invites you to apply for funding through its valuable Community Grants Program. Applications must be submitted using the standard form before 1pm on 1 August.

For more details about how to apply for Community Grants, please phone Lisa Lock on 9173 6680 or email porthedlandcommunity@bhpbilliton.com

FREE

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