Hedland played host to teams from Broome, Derby, Exmouth, Karratha, Tom Price, Newman and Paraburdoo at the North West Netball Championships in June.

Approximately 400 players and supporters created a terrific atmosphere, with teams’ ages ranging from 12 & Under to Masters (over 35 years).

Port Hedland had wins in four divisions – 12 & Under, 14 & Under, 16 & Under and Masters, the latter team breaking Karratha’s 10-year reign. In addition, the A Grade team made the Grand Final, becoming runners-up to Broome.

Masters member, Rowena Burnham, was thrilled with their triumph “We feel fantastic – it’s been a long time coming and we’ve finally done it!”

The success for Hedland didn’t stop there, with 27 junior players talent identified by Netball WA. They will go on to train with the North West Regional squad, in the hope of being selected to represent the region in Perth later this year.

Two local umpires, Teneal Russell and Rachel Page, were also identified by Netball WA, and will have further development opportunities this year. Teneal was named Most Improved Umpire.

Narelle Jamieson was named Junior Coach of the Tournament, which is an outstanding achievement. Tracey Swami and Lyn Pemberton were honoured for their years of service, being named Life Members of the North West Netball Region.

Association President Lisa Lock said, “The event was a huge success, with months of planning by the committee, and an enormous effort by wonderful volunteers and sponsors.

“Congratulations to our players, officials and volunteers – everyone should feel very proud of what we achieved!”
A DECADE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

World Environment Day on 5 June coincided with Care for Hedland’s 10-year anniversary, which was celebrated with a dinner at the Walkabout Hotel.

From 12 members, the group has grown tenfold and reaches out to many more, working with schools and other organisations.

Pip Short, Care for Hedland’s Coordinator, is employed full-time in a partnership with BHP Billiton Iron Ore. She ranks the program that monitors Flatback turtles as one of the most significant, commenting, “‘Experts’ said that Hedland didn’t have any Flatback turtles, but we have shown otherwise. Nests of this endangered species were being dug up by foxes. Following ongoing determined efforts and over 2,000 volunteer hours last year, including contributions from nine overseas and eight interstate groups, hatchlings are emerging.”

Cash for Trash is another satisfying program championed by Care for Hedland. ‘This WA ‘first’ is now a monthly fixture in Hedland’s calendar. What began as a glass and aluminium recycling initiative has extended to plastics, cardboard and newspapers. The scheme has been recognised with an Environmental Innovation and Protection accolade at the national Tidy Towns Awards.

At the dinner, Richard O’Connell, BHP Billiton Iron Ore’s Head of Community and Indigenous Affairs, acknowledged Kelly Howlett’s enormous contribution as the founder and long-time Chairperson of Care for Hedland.

To join Care for Hedland, please contact Pip Short on 0488 907 260 or email coordinator@careforhedland.org.au

Judy English and Kelly Howlett ran a Care for Hedland gardening workshop, ‘Starting Your Pilbara Patch’ that was held at the Port Hedland Pony Club.

EARLY PARENTING SUPPORT AT HAND

Ngala is WA’s leading not-for-profit provider of early parenting services, supporting families with children 0-6 years. They are now providing services in Hedland.

For sleep-deprived or first-time mums – or anyone who has concerns about their parenting abilities or their babies or young children – calm advice is just a phone call away.

As the oldest charitable organisation in the early parenting and early childhood sectors, with nearly 125 years of service to the community, they are used to dealing with the issues that can trouble many parents.

Ngala aims to help families develop resilience, life skills and their own resources to enjoy an independent and fulfilling family life. Services include information, education, family support and early learning and development, through to therapeutic, individual and family group interventions, including those where children are at risk.

Thanks to a new three-year partnership with BHP Billiton, local parents will have access to Ngala more regularly, with two Hedland visits each year. In addition, a video-conferencing service will be trialled to help connect between times.

The first visit will take place later this year, with details of workshops to be announced in due course.

In the meantime, if you need assistance, phone the Ngala country access helpline on 1800 111 546, or visit www.ngala.com.au

The Ngala team on hand to provide advice and services to parents.
Hedland Community Radio - 6HCR - has existed in many forms over various periods since 1988, when it was started by South Hedland TAFE.

The new building at Anderson Street in Port Hedland provides a secure base for the first time. The premises demonstrate a real community effort, with a great deal of expertise and volunteer hours provided, including a donation of paint. A $50,000 Community Grant from BHP Billiton Iron Ore helped connect the station to the transmitter and purchased a range of equipment.

Joan Foley has been with the station for around a decade and took on the Manager’s role four years ago. She said, “My father was in radio and I was first broadcasting as a 12-year old on Cocos Island.

“Volunteers learn at the elbow of another volunteer. Also, there is now a Certificate 3 course in Multimedia running through the Pilbara Institute and the Pundulmurra Studio. I love the way people grow in confidence and in their ability by becoming involved.

“There is an amazing sense of belonging here for all volunteers, which has come about through their long-term contributions that have brought us to where we are now,” Joan added.

On 10 August, the building will be officially opened when a 24-hour “Radio-athon” takes place. Organisations can take over the studio for 15 minutes, choose their own music, get two 30-second business promotions and voice their own talk breaks – all for only $50. Broadcasters will also play requests for five dollars each, with all funds going to the Cancer Council’s Relay for Life.

Hedland Community Radio is always on the lookout for more volunteers. Please contact Joan Foley on 0437 156 917, Voula on 0418 280 499, or pop in to the studio. Tune in to 101.3 for your fix of Hedland Community Radio!

The town has said “see you later” to a familiar face and valued colleague.

Donna Lewis, former Program Coordinator at the Well Women’s Centre, left Port Hedland recently to travel around Australia.

Her diverse role at the Centre brought her into contact with many community members, particularly women, and she will be missed by a great many people.

Reflecting on more than a decade in Hedland, Donna noted some career highlights: “One would have to be WOW 2013 (Women on Wellness Week). We put in a lot of planning and effort into the event, and it was a huge success and lots of fun this year.

“Working with such a great team in a wonderful environment is something that doesn’t come along very often. To be part of a community that cares for ladies and works hard to ensure they know they are important has reminded me to always be like that,” Donna said.

Donna has worked with various organisations in her time in Hedland, including Port Hedland International Airport, FMG, and her own business, Hedland Family Focus.

She’s given thousands of volunteer hours to the town, including years with the Hedland branch of Rotary and as an Ambassador during cruise ship visits.

Donna and her husband felt the time was right to do something for themselves, though they’ll miss the people – including their two daughters and their partners who will be staying in Hedland – and the great community spirit.

“I have been involved in a few community organisations that have allowed me to learn from some great people new skills that I will take with me wherever I go,” she added.

For information about the programs and services provided at the Well Women’s Centre, please contact 9140 1124 or email program@wellwomens.com.au
NEW LOOK, NEW TOURS, AT PORT HEDLAND VISITOR CENTRE

The new-look Port Hedland Visitor Centre is now offering a raft of tours exploring the town’s fascinating history, heritage and larger-than-life industry.

Following a recent refurbishment, the centre has been transformed into a traveller’s haven, offering a wealth of local and regional tourism information, contemporary gifts and keepsakes, a selected collection of maps and books and comfy chairs to make use of the WiFi service. Locals will enjoy the town’s most encompassing bookstore, fibulous art and a unique range of specially-commissioned jewellery.

The Port Hedland Local History and Town Tour visits several monuments. Sites such as the World War II Rifle Range – where spent 303 slugs can still be found – the water source used by Afghan camel operators in the 1920s, and the 1946 Strike Sculpture commemorating protests by Pilbara Aboriginal pastoral workers for better wages and working conditions, are on the itinerary.

Guided tours of BHP Billiton Iron Ore’s Nelson Point facility and Rio Tinto Dampier Salt’s operations are also on the schedule, and are perfect for new residents or for when friends and family come to visit.

To book, please call in to the Visitor Centre at 13 Wedge Street, phone 9173 1711 or email info@visitporthedland.com.

FACT IS STRANGER THAN FICTION

Do you know that Port Hedland was named after Lars Peter Hedlund, a Swede born in 1829?

His fascinating story has been recorded in some detail and published by genealogist, Inger Nemeth, and Bruce Hedland-Thomas, one of his great-grandsons.

It is unclear when the Swedish name became anglicised to Peter Hedland, but in Sweden in his early 20s, he was registered as living in Soderhamn. He became a seaman in 1848 and somehow made it to Fremantle, where he jumped ship, aged 25 years. By all accounts, he was a skilled seaman, but had a chequered history and there are reports of fighting and kidnap, ending with his mysterious murder.

In 1858, he married Ellen Adams in the Fremantle Congregational Chapel. She was illiterate and marked the marriage certificate with a cross.

Some five years later, Captain Peter Hedland steered the single-masted cutter, Mystery, into a narrow entrance of what is now Port Hedland. He was part of an exploration party investigating the Pilbara coast for suitable grazing country and described “a beautiful little harbour, 30 miles west of the entrance to the DeGrey,” and named it Mangrove Harbour.

At Geraldton Quarter Sessions in March 1871, Hedland and three others “were arraigned on a charge of kidnapping” but were acquitted by a jury of their peers.

By March 1881 he had died, murdered at the age of 52 years, a board ship the Lapwing. However, there is no known official report of his body being found and there is no record of the murderers being brought to justice.

Ellen, his widow, had a hard life, taking in washing for the family to survive. She died of a heart attack on 18 December 1908 and is buried in an unmarked grave in Fremantle Cemetery.

Footnote: References are taken from The Peter Hedland Story – His life and death as a Coastal Skipper before and after discovering Port Hedland Harbour, published in 2005 by Inger Nemeth and Bruce Hedland-Thomas.
WHERE DO YOU READ HEDLINES?

Ruth Battle and Dawn Pascoe brought the spectacle of circus to Port Hedland in June for FORM’s West End Markets at the Courthouse Gallery Gardens.

The Perth based duo is Natural Wings – an aerial dance company that fuses circus, dance and theatre.

The trapeze artists, who each have around 10 years background in theatre and circus, have been working on this particular act for a year.

“What we do is dancing in the air,” Ruth said. “Doing tricks that require precision and control, like hanging from your neck and heels and doing things up there that are interesting to watch.”

For Dawn, the best part is the energy the performers get from the crowd.

“You get lost in the moment. You become someone else up there – it’s like a fantasy,” she said.

“Port Hedland has been such a great audience and very welcoming!” Dawn said.

NEW LOOK FOR HEDLAND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The newly-refurbished Hedland Senior High School has been officially opened and feedback from the students, staff and community members has been phenomenal.

Stages One and Two of a three-phase project have seen the completion of a new reception area, general office area, an interview room and conference room.

As part of the changes and improvements, access to the school’s new entrance is now from Hamilton Road, South Hedland.

A new block has also been developed and boasts generous indoor and outdoor spaces for senior students and gives them a modernised take on a senior common room.

Students, Brooke Goldman and Losaline Vailala, commented on how they aim to take responsibility for their ‘teacher-free zone’ and that their classmates will protect their privilege by all playing their part in maintaining high standards.

Laetitia Ramirez, another senior student, said “being free to enjoy the benefits of a student common room means you can make your own two-minute noodles and get homework done. It’s important, as it helps to teach you independence.”

At a later date, Stage Three of the school’s refurbishment will consist of a glass-enclosed cafeteria that will replace what is currently the canteen.

Principal, John Burke, acknowledged the financial contribution from Royalties for Regions, BHP Billiton Iron Ore and the Department of Education, reporting that these bodies have long supported the school community’s efforts in ensuring that the only high school in Port Hedland is a quality facility for both staff and students.
Fans don’t have much longer to wait for some of Australia’s music legends to visit Port Hedland for the second coming of the North West Festival.

Based on the huge success of last year’s inaugural North West Festival, when positive feedback poured in from attendees, media, stakeholders, stallholders and artists alike, this year’s line-up at the Port Hedland Turf Club is huge! It sees an amazing list of artists, led by Paul Kelly and Bernard Fanning, arriving in town in the lead-up to the event on 24 August.

Also on the bill are 360, Grinspoon, The Black Seeds (from New Zealand), Bluejuice, Abbe May and Vance Joy, and there is one more spot that has been left open for an unsigned artist playing original music and residing in the Pilbara region. Promoters, Sunset Events, will choose three bands to play a live final in The Very Best of the North West band competition, and the winner will be rewarded with the opening slot.

There will be a dedicated camp ground for tents (with vehicle parking alongside), and a separate area for campervans and caravans. Camping is free with the purchase of a General Admission plus Camping, VIP plus Camping or Under 18 plus Camping ticket. The relevant conditions can be seen at www.northwestfestival.com.au/camping-and-accom/camping-info/

The main presenting sponsors are once again the Town of Port Hedland and BHP Billiton Iron Ore, with numerous other contributors from the private and public sectors.

It’s exciting to have a line-up of this calibre in the Pilbara and there are sure to be a lot of music fans getting ready for the arrival of these incredible artists and counting the sleeps until their big day out!

If you haven’t bought your ticket yet, log on to www.northwestfestival.com.au/tickets/where-can-i-buy-them/

The Children’s Book Week
Monday 19 – Friday 23 August
There will be a range of events in Hedland’s schools and libraries, including a visit from children’s author Mem McDonald. Please contact South Hedland Library for more information on 9158 9373.

North-West Festival
Saturday 24 August
Port Hedland Turf Club, McGregor Street
There can’t be anyone who doesn’t yet know that Paul Kelly and Bernard Fanning will be heading this year’s amazing line-up!
More details are available in the Town of Port Hedland’s events guide or at www.northwestfestival.com.au

Breast Screening WA @ Hedland Health Campus
Until Wednesday 28 August
Hedland Health Campus, Colebatch Way
Ladies, use this opportunity to have your mammogram. Please ring 13 20 50 to book your appointment.

Hedland Art Awards
This is a call for entries to these prestigious awards.
Exhibition runs from 30 August – Friday 11 October
The Courthouse Gallery
Release your creativity! There are eight categories plus a Most Outstanding Work prize of $20,000.
Please contact The Courthouse Gallery for details on 9173 1064 or email mail@courthousegallery.com.au

BHP Billiton Iron Ore Community Grants
November Funding Round 2013
Applications close 5:00pm, Friday 1 November
BHP Billiton Iron Ore invites you to apply for funding through its valuable Community Grants Program. Applications must be submitted using the standard form.