

ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF EAST FREMANTLE

For the Year ending 30 June 2012



TOWN OF EAST FREMANTLE

The Municipality of East Fremantle was created in 1897, when it separated from the Town of Fremantle to become an independent local authority. The Town has a population of approximately 7,700 and is 3.2 square kilometres in area. It is bounded to the north and west by the Swan River, across which many properties enjoy expansive views. To the east it shares a common boundary with the City of Melville, to the south and west with the City of Fremantle.

The Town has a rich history. The local Aboriginal tribe known as Nyungar obtained food and drinking water from the river foreshore and open grassy areas. The track that linked the fledgling Swan River Colony based in Fremantle to the future city centre of Perth in 1831 is documented traversing along the East Fremantle cliff edge finishing at the river ferry crossing at Preston Point. Early settlement of the area consisted of large farm holdings, however as the colony prospered during the 1890s gold rush the nature of settlement altered dramatically, rapidly changing to a residential area.

The Plympton precinct today contains many charming worker's cottages which were established largely between 1890 and 1910. Riverside was established by the merchant elite of Fremantle and is perched high on the cliffs overlooking the River. Gracious homes, some from the goldrush era, are dotted along the escarpment. Further northwards, the Preston Point area was developed in the 1950s with houses typical of the period also enjoying the expansive views over the river.

The Woodside and Richmond precincts contain many homes dating from 1900–1940. Described as 'sweetness and light' this area is characterised by its fine brick and tile bungalows on generous sites with mature garden settings.

The Town of East Fremantle has strongly resisted the push for inappropriate infill development and encouraged the retention of the many heritage homes in the municipality. Whilst pressure from various sources to increase densities will continue to occur, the Town will seek to ensure appropriate development takes place, in a way which preserves the Town's character and streetscapes, protects its heritage and maintains residential amenity.

The Town At A Glance

Established as a Municipality:	2 April 1897
Population:	7700
Number of Dwellings:	3,065
Number of Rate Assessments:	3,312
Area:	3.2km ²
Area of Parks & Gardens:	65ha
Location:	25km from Perth GPO
Length of Roads:	40km
Annual Operating Expenditure (actual):	\$ 7,121,524
Rate Revenue (actual):	\$ 5,107,576
Employees:	34
Principal Officers	
Chief Executive Officer	Stuart Wearne
Executive Manager Finance & Admin	Les Mainwaring
Manager Planning Services	Jamie Douglas
Environmental Health Officer	Shelley Cocks
Operations Manager	Ken Dyer
Office Location:	135 Canning Highway East Fremantle
Telephone:	(08) 9339 9339
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Office Hours:	8.30am-5.00pm Monday-Friday

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Annual Report 2011/2012

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Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2012

Elected representatives

The following elected members represent the Town's residents and ratepayers. Home addresses and contact details are provided to assist you, if you wish to contact your elected member for information or help you with a council matter.



Mayor Alan Ferris

1 Polo Way
East Fremantle 6158

T: 9339 0595

mayor.ferris@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au



PRESTON POINT WARD



**Deputy Mayor
Cr Alex Wilson**

46 Locke Crescent
East Fremantle 6158

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Cr Barry De Jong

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East Fremantle 6158

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WOODSIDE WARD



Cr Maria Rico

11 Petra Street
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Cr Dean Nardi

120 Marmion Street
East Fremantle 6158

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RICHMOND WARD



Cr Richard Olson

4/46 Alexandra Road
East Fremantle 6158

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Cr Cliff Collinson

48 King Street
East Fremantle 6158

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PLYMPTON WARD



Cr Rob Lilleyman

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East Fremantle 6158

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Cr Siân Martin

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Town of East Fremantle

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www.eastfremantle.wa.gov.au

Mayor's Report

In the 2011/12 financial year the Town continued its work on a number of key projects.

Last year I wrote about the Town Centre Redevelopment project which was at the stage of developing a local planning framework to guide the future development. Public forums were held during the year to encourage community input and to assist Council in developing the local planning policy for the Town Centre. The policy was adopted by Council during the year and provides prospective developers with a clear vision for the type of development the Town aspires to.

The community engagement with this project was very important and I am very pleased that a planning application for Stage 1 of the Redevelopment was approved by Council during the year. The approved plans will significantly improve the amenity of this area and provide an active and vibrant space for the community to enjoy.

The East Fremantle Oval Precinct Redevelopment Project is another significant project which Council has been working on. Elected members attended a series of workshops in February to review the Masterplan for this precinct and to create a Concept Plan as a starting point for this project.

The concept plan is only a starting point and contains the aspirations of Council for this site. These are aspirations only and considerable work is needed to inform this development. It is expected that the development of the options for this site will take a further 12 months.

Amalgamation remains on the State Government agenda and continues to threaten the independence of the Town. The State Government remains committed to forcing a reduction in the number of metropolitan Councils to "achieve greater efficiencies". The draft report by Professor Alan Robson was released in May 2012 and Council has been involved in providing input and feedback on the draft report. The final report is not due to be completed until later in 2012.

Council remains opposed to forced amalgamations and will continue to identify ways to partner with other councils and key stakeholders in delivering services to our community.

Two other large projects that should be mentioned are the Plympton Footpath project and the upgrade of Glasson Park. Council held a community forum for both of these projects to get feedback on the draft designs. In regard to the Plympton Footpaths a draft design was prepared which preserved most of the trees and also maintained the available street car parking. Following positive support of the design upper King Street has been completed. Council has committed to the design for the Plympton ward and a further two streets are budgeted for 2012/13.

The upgrade of Glasson Park continued Council's plan to revitalise all of the Council's parks. Over the past few years Lee Park and Richmond Raceway have been upgraded. The plans for Glasson Park were discussed at a community forum

Mayor's Report

and also with the students of East Fremantle Primary School. This project is planned to be complete in time for the 2012 East Fremantle Festival

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their commitment and support during this year. Councillors put in a significant amount of time and energy to ensure that the Town continues to move forward and that we improve the amenity and lifestyle for the long term benefit of the Town.

To the CEO Mr Stuart Wearne and his assistant Ms Janine May thank you for your dedication and commitment to our Town. I would also like to recognise the work the various components of the Council including the works team, led by Ken Dyer; the Finance and Administration teams, led by Les Mainwaring; the Health and Community services team led by Shelley Cocks and our hard working Town Planning team, led by Jamie Douglas.

In closing I am extremely proud and privileged to be Mayor of this great Town. I look forward to updating you in the coming year with more details on the significant projects underway.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Stuart Wearne, Chief Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION

The 2011-2012 financial year saw many achievements by Council for the benefit of the Town.

Council officers and elected members continued to provide good governance and improved Council services and facilities.

In terms of governance, Council's auditors once again provided an unqualified audit report (ie there were no statutory or compliance breaches), and neither the Department of Local Government, nor the Department of Housing, nor the Planning Commission nor the Ombudsman raised any concerns with the Town.

In terms of Council services and facilities, much was accomplished and residents and ratepayers should be proud of the achievements of the Town's elected members and staff for this period.

At officer level, the more noteworthy outcomes are reflected in the reports from the Departmental heads, which I commend to you.

Meanwhile, the following are the two key strategic issues facing the Town, together with the operational activities which were dealt with by the Town during the year.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM PROGRAM

This refers to the program, and ongoing processes, which was initiated by the Minister for Local Government, Mr Castrilli, in February 2009 to "reform" local government in Western Australia. The program has the strong support of the Premier.

By "reform", the Premier and Minister's key objective is to significantly reduce the number of local governments in Western Australia.

This issue, including advice on a range of tasks which Council has been obliged to undertake in respect of the process, has been discussed in detail in previous reports by the CEO.

Since June 2011 the focus switched entirely from country local governments to the metropolitan area councils, via the appointment by the Minister of the Metropolitan Local Government Review Panel.

As the intended outcome of the Minister's "reform" program, consistent with the Minister's and the Premier's long stated personal views, is that the Town ceases to exist, it is clearly the most critical issue facing the Town.

I discuss this issue in detail at the end of this report.

FINANCIAL REFORM IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

I have written on this matter in previous annual reports. It is a far more critical issue for the future of local government, in this State and indeed Australia wide, than the number or size of local governments. It remains extraordinary it is an issue which the Minister has ignored in his "reform" program, is never mentioned by the Premier and neither included in the

Chief Executive Officer's Report

abovementioned Review Panel's Terms of Reference or even referred to in that Panel's various reports.

In my previous comments I referred to the findings of the earlier Federal "Fair Share" Inquiry into local government financing and cost shifting, which concluded there was an Australia wide financial sustainability crisis in the local government sector and recommended significant improvements in regard to local government financing.

This subsequently led to a national intergovernmental agreement on cost shifting being reached.

The "Fair Share" Inquiry had found the infrastructure backlog alone to be a "time bomb" for local governments across Australia.

In financial terms, the backlog of unmet but essential local government infrastructure works was estimated to be \$14.5 billion (currently estimated at \$18 billion) nationally, of which an estimated \$2.2 billion currently involves Western Australia.

Yet I advised in my last report, change had been very slow to occur.

If anything, since then, the situation has declined even further.

In recent times there are some notable examples of the state and Commonwealth governments ignoring the intent of the abovementioned intergovernmental agreement. However this agreement is critical. It is meant to stop the transfer of further unfunded responsibilities onto councils by guiding how the three levels of government work together to deliver services.

Yet across Australia there is a growing regulatory burden imposed on councils by other levels of government.

For example, a recent Productivity Commission report on local government regulation found that state governments are significantly increasing the regulatory burden on local governments by requiring them to undertake more and more functions on their behalf.

Despite the resulting increase in Council responsibilities, property rates have generally continued to remain local government's principal source of revenue. Nevertheless, nationally, rates in local government have for many years increased by a lesser amount than Commonwealth taxation revenue. Despite this increase in Commonwealth taxation and Commonwealth grants to the States, Federal and State grants to local government have, in relative terms, declined whilst, as indicated, services shifted to local government have increased.

As a result councils are forced to ask ratepayers to pick up the revenue shortfall, or face service cuts, until other levels of government properly fund the real costs of responsibilities they impose on local government.

Whilst the Minister, Premier and the Review Panel's Report bemoan the resulting council rate rises, they all fail to acknowledge that in relative terms, Council rates are an almost insignificant component of taxes Australia wide, representing only 3.5% of taxes, whilst Federal taxes constitute 80.1% and State taxes 16.4%.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

As a result of the abovementioned financial pressures, local government generally faces the choice of reducing services, ignoring its deteriorating physical infrastructure and/or increasing rates and charges.

Given the demands upon local government and its limited capacity to raise further additional own-source revenue, adequate revenue growth for general purposes can only be achieved through an increase in the quantum of intergovernmental financial transfers.

Council has long argued that local government should receive a guaranteed real terms share of Commonwealth tax revenues, equivalent to a minimum of 1% of Commonwealth general taxation revenue and paid directly by the Commonwealth.

Other reforms should include:

- Increased Financial Assistance Grants and an improved growth/escalation methodology
- Permanent funding for Roads to Recovery
- Resurrection of the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program
- Prevention of further cost and responsibility shifting onto local government by other levels of government
- Progress on constitutional reform.

In the foreseeable future, the ability of local government to meet the legitimate aspirations of its communities will significantly depend on how Federal and State Governments respond to the issues referred to above.

No amount of State Government imposed amalgamations will change the fact that if local governments are underfunded for the tasks that the State and Commonwealth governments expect them to carry out, then they will not be able to satisfactorily carry out those tasks, regardless of their size.

TOWN CENTRE

Together with many residents, Council had long desired an improved Town Centre to be developed on the site of the existing ageing East Fremantle Shopping Centre, with the best possible public benefit resulting. However Council has always been limited with respect to its influence on achieving this goal as none of the area involved is Council land.

In recent times, a proposal which Council had supported did not come to fruition, in part due to declining economic circumstances encountered by the developers and in part due to a protracted legal dispute between the major landholder, Russell Quinn, and the owners of the supermarket, over parking.

In more recent times, when the financial climate improved and a new development application was foreshadowed, the Chief Executive Officer recruited Malcolm Mackay, a prominent urban planner, whom the CEO had previously engaged in relation to advice both on the Town Centre and George Street.

Mr Mackay subsequently conducted a workshop with elected members with respect to parameters and other requirements which they wished to be reflected in a concept plan, to be produced by Mr Mackay, as one of a number of planning tools envisaged to help guide any proposed development.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

This work not only resulted in an agreed concept plan but also set in train a planning and consultation process which was later to involve the recruitment by the CEO of a further consultant, Warren Giddens, to carry out a public consultation process with respect to the development of a Draft Local Planning Policy – Town Centre Redevelopment Guidelines.

Meanwhile a number of discussions took place with Mr Quinn and his former architect, John Colliere, regarding a proposed development for the shopping centre, which took into account Council's adopted planning guidelines.

On 30 June 2011 a planning application was received from Mr Quinn, the date being significant because after that date the matter would need to have been dealt with under the State Government's Development Assessment Panel process, which would effectively have largely taken the decision making out of Council's hands.

Mr Quinn is to be congratulated for his decision in that regard. As the Mayor has noted in his report, Stage 1 of the development was subsequently approved during the year. This occurred in December 2011, following extensive Council deliberations and public consultation.

The application approved is for a Mixed Use Activity Centre incorporating a pedestrian Plaza, two storeys of shops and offices with apartments above and a roof top tavern. The proposed development is a maximum of six storeys in height and is subject to a number of approval conditions.

There is no doubt the approved development, when implemented, will be a significant asset to the Town. Equally importantly it will undoubtedly trigger further redevelopment of the entire Town Centre site.

It is anticipated that site works will commence in the first half of 2013.

EAST FREMANTLE OVAL PRECINCT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

In February this year, the CEO contracted consultants SRD Consulting to hold two workshops with elected members, with the objective of progressing this project, following the earlier adoption by Council of the East Fremantle Oval Precinct Masterplan, albeit as a *guide only*.

Various factors, including issues involving the Planning Commission, WA Football Commission and at Council level, had led to something of an impasse with this project and it was deemed necessary for elected members to agree on a more defined course of action.

The Mayor was the driving force in this regard and the initiative quickly gained the support of the WA Football Commission and the Department of Sport & Recreation.

As noted in the Mayor's report, the workshops led to a course of action being agreed to and ultimately a Concept Plan was produced.

The objectives of this Concept Plan are:

- to establish a multi-functional community use, residential and recreational precinct within the area of the 'A Class Reserve' bounded by Fletcher, Allen, Marmion and Moss Streets.
- to redevelop the East Fremantle Football Club facilities and expand and enhance Locke Park public open space
- to facilitate the development of service commercial uses and a range of diverse housing within the Precinct.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

The adoption of a Concept Plan is the first step in a comprehensive program of planning and consultation to be undertaken in coming months.

With regard to this project the extensive work of Jamie Douglas (Manager Planning Services) is acknowledged. Also acknowledged is the work of the East Fremantle Oval Recreation Precinct Redevelopment Project Working Group (Mayor Alan Ferris, Cr Alex Wilson, Cr Rico and Cr Nardi (shared), Mr Geoff Glass - WA Football Commission, Mr Adam Kelly - East Fremantle Football Club, Mr Brett Treby - Department of Sport & Recreation, Mr Bill Turner - East Fremantle Croquet Club, Mr Les Capes - East Fremantle Bowling Club and Ms Karee Sherwood – East Fremantle Playgroup).

SCHEME AMENDMENT NO 9

It was noted in the last report that this Amendment, which primarily entailed the necessity for planning approval for all demolitions, had been adopted by Council and was awaiting Ministerial approval.

Subsequently the WAPC declined to support the Amendment and stated they wished the demolition requiring planning approval aspect to be confined to properties on the Heritage List only.

In subsequent discussion with the CEO it was agreed properties listed in the Municipal Inventory (involving about 1,300 properties as opposed to the 38 properties on the Heritage List) would also be covered by the amendment. This was a major concession.

Amendment 9 was subsequently approved by the Minister and has been gazetted.

TOWN PLANNING

Other particular achievements in the town planning portfolio have included:

- The adoption of Residential Design Guidelines
- Review of Town Planning Scheme No 3 and Local Planning Strategy
- George Street Precinct Access and Parking Management Plan consultancy commenced.

The Manager Planning Services' report provides more detail on these initiatives and the Manager Planning Services is thanked for his excellent work in regard to these projects.

PRESTON POINT ROAD BLACK SPOT SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

A report on this project was included in the CEO's previous report.

The project was designed to improve road safety, aimed specifically at reducing the number and severity of crashes.

The design by the Roadswest Engineering Group took account of an independent road safety audit. The approved design included:

- lowering the speed environment by reducing lane widths and installing low points.
- new pedestrian crossing points and new footpaths.
- on-street parking, in accordance with current standards.
- removal of road side obstacles.
- widening of the verges and embankments along the sporting grounds to provide clear zones to provide recovery for errant vehicles.
- minor drainage improvements.
- new kerbing.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

- new asphalt surfacing.
- better delineation using new signs and pavement markings.

The works were completed on 4 July 2011.

Whilst the long term results remain to be seen, the outcomes to date have been very positive.

In terms of speeds, counts taken at various locations along the road indicate there has been a general reduction in speeds and in particular, a marked reduction in very high speeds. In terms of accidents, the following table illustrates the outcome:

		5 years prior to June 2011	16 months since June 2011
VEHICLES	Pier St intersection	20	6
	Other intersections	18	Nil
	Non intersection accidents	34	3
CYCLISTS	Intersections	2	Nil
	Non intersection accidents	2	Nil

With respect to the 6 accidents at the Pier Street intersection, it should be noted that, whilst part of project, no works have been carried out to date at this intersection due to technical issues, however these issues have now resolved and a roundabout is to be installed in 2013.

It should also be noted that any accidents at Canning Highway and Petra Street intersections are excluded from these figures, as these locations were not part of the project.

Main Roads WA have recently written *"At this stage these statistics, together with recorded speed reductions, suggest the project has been very successful from a traffic and safety perspective"*.

LEEWIN BOAT RAMP UPGRADE

This has been a \$1,050,000 project with Council's contribution over \$300,000.

The project is described in detail in the Operations Manager, Mr Dyer's report.

The work of Mr Dyer, on this project, has been extensive and excellently conducted.

The new facilities include three launching ramps, finger jetties and rock armour protection. The parking area has been upgraded to cater for additional boat trailer parking and includes new lighting, drainage, landscaping and asphalt re-surfacing.

Council staff have undertaken many of the works which were originally intended to be contracted, as part of an exercise to improve Council's budget position.

This is a significant regional facility. In statistical terms the use of the launching ramp by East Fremantle residents is very minor. The project thus represents a major contribution by the Town to regional infrastructure and the boating community and as with the Underground Power Program (the Town of East Fremantle was almost the first local government to implement such an program) demonstrates the Town's capacity to take on such large projects, the contrary views of the Minister, Premier and Review Panel regarding the ability of small local governments to do so, notwithstanding.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

The works were due for completion in early December 2012, prior to the beginning of the boating season.

SWAN RIVER FORESHORE EROSION CONTROL WORKS

Council has carried out a large amount of erosion control works over the past several years. Whilst the assistance of Swan River Trust funding has been appreciated, there is a growing issue for those local governments which are spending considerable sums in this regard, despite the Swan River and surrounding area being under the control of the Swan River Trust. Many of the walls now being repaired or restored were originally built by the State Government, yet with no discussion or any form of compensation, this responsibility has been passed to local government.

During the year Perth metropolitan local governments with river boundaries established the C21 partnership to help progress issues such as the above on a joint basis with the State Government.

However the C21 initiative has essentially been ignored by the Government.

In fact it is one of the recommendations of the abovementioned Review Panel that new local government boundaries should encompass all of the Swan and Canning Rivers. Whilst this in itself would not affect East Fremantle, as the Town is almost unique in having its boundaries extend to the middle of the Swan River, it is widely believed that if this proposal is implemented, this will make it even easier for the state government to pass costs associated with river and foreshore management, on to local government.

Meanwhile, the Town greatly values the role and work of the Swan River Trust, in protecting the river and its environs and continues to be involved in a number of cooperative ventures with the Trust.

PLYMPTON FOOTPATH PROJECT

This project had been at something of an impasse for a number of years, largely due to the issue of street trees. Most Plympton Streets do not have verges and the roots of street trees (in many cases involving inappropriate species) have adversely impacted on many footpaths. In addition to kerbing, all previous plans had entailed the removal and replacement of all street trees. However the CEO had been opposed to this on streetscape and other grounds.

A design commissioned this year however, entailed an innovative approach using liquid limestone which maintained almost every street tree and existing parking. More details can be found in the Operation Manager's report.

Following community support, the design was carried out in respect of upper King Street. This has been deemed a success. The next such works are to be Sewell Street between George Street and Canning Highway and Glyde Street between Marmion Street and George Street.

GLASSON PARK PLAYGROUND

Work continued on a major upgrade of this Park and its playground equipment. The Mayor has described the community consultation which occurred and further detail is given in the Operation Manager's report.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Features of the upgrade works include new lighting, additional barbeque facilities, new tables, chairs and benches, a drinking fountain, limestone paths, rejuvenated basketball practice area, upgraded reticulation, re-turfing and mulching to heavily shaded areas.

The Park was planned to be reopened at the end of November, just in time for the East Fremantle Festival.

PETRA STREET RESURFACING

This was a joint project between the Town of East Fremantle and the City of Melville which was wholly managed by the Town. The project also included new drainage and kerbing works and was completed in May 2012.

KERBING REPLACEMENT

In 2011-2012 the kerb replacement budget was used to support the following works:

Footpath pilot program Plympton Precinct.

Kerbing was installed on King Street between Marmion Street and George Street to support a new design for the street's footpaths.

Asphalt re-surfacing program.

To support the asphalt re-surfacing program, kerbing was installed on Petra Street, Hamilton Street, Parker Street and Stratford Street.

Drainage Capital Works.

Kerbing was installed to support drainage works on Locke Crescent, Fraser Street, Clayton Street and View Terrace.

Various

Kerbing installations to support footpath and crossover repair works at various locations throughout the Town.

In 2012-2013 it is planned the budget will be used for the following works:

Footpath replacement program Plympton Precinct.

Kerbing to be installed on sections of Sewell Street and Glyde Street. The new kerbing will be installed on the sections of road that are to have new footpath installations. These sections include Sewell Street between George Street and Canning Highway and Glyde Street between George Street and Marmion Street.

Asphalt re-surfacing program.

Kerbing to be installed in Alcester Street and May Street in preparation for asphalt re-surfacing works. Alcester Street to be re-surfaced this financial year. May Street programmed for re-surfacing in the 2013-14 financial year.

Drainage Capital Works.

Kerbing to be installed after drainage installation works are completed in the Fletcher Street catchment area.

Various

Kerbing installations to support footpath and crossover repair works at various locations throughout the Town.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

TOWN HALL AND OLD POLICE STATION CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION WORKS

Work has continued on these two projects, following a detailed structural report and other investigations.

Detailed advice is given in the Operation Manager's report.

PLYMPTON STEPS

Work commenced on the production of a Conservation Plan for the Plympton Steps and Kitson Park, which the CEO had commissioned.

EAST FREMANTLE FESTIVAL

Another successful Festival was held. Special thanks go to Festival Organiser, Cynthia Williamson, Shelley Cocks and Ken Dyer and the East Fremantle Festival Committee: Crs Wilson, Collinson, Rico and Nardi for their work in making the Festival such a success.

EAST FREMANTLE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Pursuant to Department of Sport & Recreation CSRFF funding, substantial improvements to the East Fremantle Lawn Tennis Club were carried out this year including resurfacing five courts, replacing fences, installing a pollution trap, removing noxious weeds, planting native plants, and improving drainage and car park facilities.

OTHER CLUBS

Works in relation to the East Fremantle Junior Football Club (new floodlights), East Fremantle Cricket Club (new synthetic cricket wicket), East Fremantle Croquet Club (new floodlights), East Fremantle Lacrosse Club (new storage facility) and East Fremantle Tricolore Soccer Club (new floodlights) are outlined in the Operation Manager's report.

SWAN YACHT CLUB

Negotiations with Club officials continued and at 30 June the lease was nearing completion.

OUTDOOR EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

There has been an enthusiastic response to the equipment installed last year on the verge of Riverside Road, near the Red Herring restaurant, at times with members of the public queuing to use it!

More equipment will be installed early next year once an optimum location has been decided.

THE GAZEBOS (FINALLY!)

The long awaited replacement of the gazebos in John Dolan Park finally took place, after obtaining a "s.18 approval" from the Minister which followed comprehensive and successful Aboriginal consultations. The s.18 approval obtained was tailored to cover a range of potential future works involving the river foreshore area.

The gazebos have proved very popular, as expected and have not given rise to a single complaint of antisocial behaviour.

DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

This report is made pursuant to section 29(2) of the Disability Services Act (1993).

The Town of East Fremantle is committed to achieving the six key outcomes which are promoted under the Disability Services Act 1993, via its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

The outcomes are:

1. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of and any events organised by a public authority.
2. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of a public authority.
3. People with disabilities receive information from a public authority in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.
4. People with disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of a public authority as other people receive from the staff of that public authority.
5. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to a public authority.
6. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultations by a public authority.

During the 2011-12 year the following progress was made in regard to improving disability access and inclusion.

In 2011 the concrete path along the Swan River on Riverside Rd was upgraded and levelled, and further seating was installed at the same level as the paths, to improve accessibility.

More generally, the Town has continued its footpath upgrade program in a number of areas, whereby all slab footpaths are being replaced with concrete and all bitumenised foot paths are being resurfaced. In 2011 a new design for footpath and kerbing was constructed as a pilot in King Street, with the intention of ultimately replacing all footpaths in the Plympton Ward in accordance with the same design. There have been particular problems in Plympton caused by tree roots "lifting" footpaths and kerbing, which is particularly difficult for the frail aged and disabled. The new design has been very popular with the residents and Council has already received a letter of appreciation from a disabled resident living in supported accommodation in King Street.

Every year sees the construction of more pram ramps which are implemented, during footpath upgrades. Bus stops also continue to be upgraded to disability compliance standards.

In 2007 there were 5 ACROD bays in the Town of East Fremantle, now there are 11 bays, facilitating improved access to buildings and services.

Planned reconstruction of the car park at the John Tonkin Park and the associated boat ramp will improve access for disabled park users and boat launchers. The new boat ramp will be wide enough to facilitate the use of wheel chairs whereas the current one is not.

Liaison with Main Roads has finally resulted in agreed improvements for disability access at the Canning and Stirling Highway intersection, although the implementation remains subject to Main Roads budget allocations.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

In 2012 accessible drinking water fountains which were accessible to wheelchair users were provided at Riverside Road, adjoining newly installed exercise equipment, and at Locke Park, adjoining an existing pathway.

In 2011 new shelters were installed by the river at the base of the Plympton Steps. The shelters are disability accessible and link pathways between the shelters and the path along Riverside Road.

The joint East Fremantle/Fremantle Library continues to improve its services to the disabled. For example during the year the provision of audio reading devices to foster inclusion by print disabled users was improved. The library also plans to purchase a print to audio scanner within this year.

Finally, following a review of the existing Plan, Council endorsed an updated Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2012-2016 at the Council meeting held on 20 November 2012.

SENIOR EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION DETAILS

This report is made pursuant to section 5.53(2)(g) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 19B of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996.

Number of employees of the Council, in bands of \$10,000, entitled to an annual salary of \$100,000 or more:

Salary Range	2011/2012 No of Employees
\$100,000 - 109,999	1
\$110,000 - 119,999	0
\$120,000 - 129,999	1

ELECTED MEMBER CONDUCT

This report is made pursuant to sections 5.53(hb) and 5.121 of the Local Government Act 1995.

In the financial year ending 30 June 2012, no complaints were received by the CEO (the "complaints officer" pursuant to s.5.107 of the Local Government Act) regarding the conduct of elected members pursuant to sections 5.107-5.109 and 5.121 of the Local Government Act 1995.

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE DISTRICT

This report is made pursuant to s.5.53(3) of the Local Government Act 1995.

Council adopted a Plan for the Future of the District on 20 June 2010.

Under the Plan's "Strategic Direction" it was stated there would be a focus on:

"Our strategic direction is based on linking the built and natural environments with the Town's strong sense of community and positive lifestyle, with a focus on:

- *Community involvement*
- *Creating a vibrant Town Centre and working with the community to gain maximum community benefit from the redevelopment of the Old Royal George Hotel, Woodside Hospital, East Fremantle Oval Precinct and Leeuwin Barracks.*

Chief Executive Officer's Report

- *Conserving and restoring the Town's heritage buildings.*
- *Encouraging walking and cycling.*
- *Fostering a range of recreation and physical activities.*
- *Sponsoring community arts, festivals and events.*
- *Promoting environmental sustainability.*
- *Maintaining the financial viability of the Town."*

Comment on most of these issues (eg references to the Town Centre) can be found in the Mayor's report and/or the CEO's report and/or the various manager's reports.

The exceptions are the old Royal George Hotel, Woodside Hospital and Leeuwin Barracks.

No works have been carried out on the Royal George Hotel since the CEO's last report, although the National Trust, the owners of the building, recently reported that they were in discussion with a number of parties concerning the building's conservation and redevelopment.

At the time the Plan for the Future was formulated, the future of Woodside Hospital was unclear, after maternity services had been transferred to Kaleeya.

At present however Woodside Hospital remains in the hands of the Health Department and is used for administration purposes. There had been no indications that the Health Department is planning to dispose of the property.

A similar situation exists with Leeuwin Barracks. Whilst its disposal was also being mooted at the time, the Defence Department has, several times, delayed a decision in this regards and the Barracks continue to be used for defence purposes.

The Plan lists as "Major Projects included within the Plan" the following:

- *Roadworks renewal*
- *Footpath improvements*
- *Kerbing replacement*
- *Street tree replacement*
- *Drainage upgrades*
- *Parks, gardens and reserve improvements*
- *Playground equipment upgrades*
- *Plant and light vehicle replacement and*
- *Civic buildings improvements and maintenance.*

Comment on all of these issues can be found in the various officer reports.

AMALGAMATION

Introduction

This advice follow comments made at the beginning of this report.

Whilst it is normal (though not mandatory) to limit reports to the end of the financial year in question (ie 30 June 2012), such is the importance of this issue that it is considered appropriate to provide an update to the end of the calendar year.

The final report of the Metropolitan Local Government Review Panel was publicly released by the Minister for Local Government, John Castrilli, on 25 October.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

The Panel has recommended that the Government cut the number of councils in Perth from 30 to 12.

The three member Panel was appointed by the Minister in June 2011, to review the structure of local government in metropolitan Perth.

The Panel's appointment followed the almost complete failure of the Minister's earlier Statewide review, which he had commenced in February 2009. At that time the Minister stated that he wished to achieve a significant reduction in the number of local governments in WA and that if sufficient local governments did not amalgamate voluntarily, forced amalgamations would occur. The subsequent review was particularly targeted at abolishing a number of local governments in the Wheatbelt which the Minister considered were financially unsustainable. He referred to those local governments as "withering on the vine".

However the Minister ran into significant opposition from those local governments, and the Government's coalition partner, the National Party.

Despite the Minister and Premier seeking a minimum of 40 amalgamations across the State, after 2½ years and a great deal of time and expense being expended on the Minister's review by every local government in WA, the Minister ultimately achieved only *one* amalgamation, this being the Shire of Mullewa (population 1200), which combined with Geraldton.

Undaunted at the failure of this exercise, the cost of which has been estimated at \$25 million, the Premier and Minister, decided to forget about country local governments and switch their attention entirely to the Perth metropolitan area.

The primary task which the Minister set for the "independent" Panel (chaired by Professor Robson, an agricultural scientist with no background in local government) was to recommend a significant reduction of the number of local governments in Perth – in fact this was stipulated as one of the Panel's Terms of Reference. Thus the Government had a pre-determined outcome for the Panel, well before the Panel commenced their "independent" research into the supposed need for such metropolitan amalgamations.

The Panel's Draft Findings were released for public comment in April 2012 and subsequently reviewed by the CEO at the request of Council. The CEO's highly critical response to that report, in particular citing the almost complete lack of evidence for the Panel's finding that widespread metropolitan amalgamations were necessary, was submitted to the Panel.

In the Panel's Final Report, the Panel has proposed two amalgamation models – Option A and Option B (the Panel's preferred option).

Under Option A, the Town of East Fremantle would disappear, with the suburb becoming a very minor part of a large Council comprising the former City of Melville, former Town of East Fremantle, former City of Fremantle and Rottnest Island. The Council would have a population of approximately 141,000 and be "focused" on Fremantle.

Option B is similar, except for some minor boundary changes such as the inclusion of Coolbellup, North Lake and part of Hamilton Hill.

No name for the proposed new Council has been suggested and it is not necessarily the case that the administration offices would be located in Fremantle.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Since the Report was released, a number of residents have contacted Council to ask where Council stands on the recommendations.

As the Mayor has stated in Council's forthcoming newsletter, the Council is currently considering its response to the report. It is a large report and given that it involves the Town's very existence, it is important that Council provide a considered and comprehensive response.

Meanwhile however, the point can already be made that either option would obviously mean a massive reduction in the existing level of elected member representation of the East Fremantle community.

Currently in East Fremantle, the Mayor and eight Councillors serve a population of approximately 7,700, a ratio of one elected member per 855 residents. Under what is proposed, at best, a maximum of 12 Councillors (it may be less) and a Mayor will serve a current population of between 118,000 (Option B) and 141,000 (Option A). In the case of Option A, the ratio becomes one elected member per 10,846 residents and in the case of Option B, it becomes one elected member per 9,077 residents, with the ratios getting even greater as the population grows.

Currently all elected members live in the Town and thus "know" the Town. (The CEO also lives in the Town and was previously a long serving Councillor.) Some elected members are involved in local sporting clubs and community organisations and some have, or had, children at local schools. In other words, they are part of the East Fremantle community. However under the proposed amalgamations, it is quite unlikely there would be even one designated elected member for East Fremantle, since the suburb wouldn't even be large enough to qualify as a Ward in the proposed super council. In fact, it is statistically likely that *not one* elected member of the proposed new council would even live in East Fremantle.

It is thus fair to ask how such a massive change in representation would affect all of East Fremantle's residents and ratepayers and all of the Town's sporting clubs and other community organisations, such as Glyde-In and Neighbourhood Watch – which all currently have such ready access to the Council's staff and elected members.

The Town, together with a number of other local governments attempted to raise this issue with the Panel, only to have the Panel dismiss such concerns as motivated by "self interest" and *not "in the interests of the community of the whole metropolitan region"*.

The Panel in fact appeared quite disinterested in the views of local governments or members of the communities they served, stating "*The Review is not about the performance of individual local governments*".

Despite this self serving statement, the following points should be made:

- The Town is financially strong. It is almost totally financially self reliant and could easily manage without the small government grants which it receives.
- The Review Panel itself, in its report, stated "*The Town's financial position is considered as sustainable*", and went on to cite "*a strong operating result*", "*low debt*" and sizeable reserve funds. In fact the Panel singled out the Town, when it wrote "*size does not appear to be an impediment to strong and consistent financial performance for the Town of East Fremantle*". In addition, the Department of Local Government assessed the Town as operating "*well above the required benchmarks*".

Chief Executive Officer's Report

- In an earlier survey of every elector in the Town, which had a very high response rate, the great majority (about 90%) of respondents stated they did not support amalgamation. Only 4% were in favour of amalgamation and 6% were undecided. However neither the Minister nor the Panel was interested in this information.

Further, a more recent survey of all local governments in the metropolitan area bar one (Peppermint Grove), which was carried out earlier this year and was the biggest of its type ever carried out in Perth, found that the Council with the highest level of community satisfaction was the Town of East Fremantle. Equally significantly, this independent survey also found, generally speaking, the larger the local government, the less the community satisfaction. However the Government, and the Panel, were not interested and still claim "bigger is best".

The Report advised that regional local governments (such as the SMRC, which handles the waste and recycling of our Town and a number of other local governments on a regional basis and through such a shared service approach, offer a very cost effective alternative to amalgamations), should be abolished.

The Report also recommends that political parties be allowed to run candidates in local government elections, along with the introduction of compulsory voting. This will almost certainly result in party politicised councils in many cases.

It is no surprise that the major developers and their various lobby groups are the most enthusiastic supporters of the Panel's amalgamation proposals. Such developers tend to see local governments and their planning schemes as impediments to maximising profits and, would prefer to deal with as few local governments and as few town planning schemes as possible.

If the proposed amalgamations proceed, current town planning provisions which the Town has carefully developed, in consultation with the community, to help ensure good building design, the amenity of neighbouring residents and the protection of streetscapes, would almost certainly be lost, under a unified Town Planning Scheme covering the area from Melville to Rottnest Island, which would ultimately be adopted.

The Report contains no evidence of savings through the proposed amalgamations. Despite the Minister and Premier claiming savings of 10-15% from amalgamations, Professor Robson disagrees. In fact, according to Professor Robson, the proposed amalgamated councils are unlikely to result in staff savings, noting that following recent amalgamations in Queensland the number of local government employees actually increased. Professor Robson also advises he would not expect Council rates to fall as a result of the proposed amalgamations.

The above is of no surprise. There is a substantial body of research which indicates the supposed significant financial benefits of amalgamations is generally illusory, with negligible savings at best and in a great many instances with costs actually increasing.

It has been reliably estimated the proposed amalgamations would cost in excess of \$200 million to achieve. With the Government currently cash strapped, there has been no suggestion it will pay these costs. In that event, if the proposals are to proceed, ordinary ratepayers, very few of whom sought these proposed amalgamations, would have to pay, through increased rates.

In respect of the proposals, the Minister and Premier have allowed a six month response period. This period ends on 5 April 2013, which is after the State election. This move

Chief Executive Officer's Report

appears designed to reduce the chances of the amalgamation proposals, which have immediately attracted widespread criticism, becoming an election issue.

Surely on such a significant issue, the government should have been prepared to face the scrutiny of electors and seek a mandate for change.

Whilst comments from local governments and the public have been invited, surprisingly, and without explanation, the Minister has stated any submissions received will remain confidential. This is in contrast to the Robson reports, which published all responses received.

Comments can also continue to be provided to the Council.

If the Government is returned, the key question will be whether it will embark on forced amalgamations.

This is a fundamental issue of local democracy.

Whilst the Premier previously agreed to no forced amalgamations prior to the 2013 election, he has refused to guarantee this will remain the case after the election. In fact earlier this year the Premier stated that if he won the election he would take that as a mandate for forced amalgamations. Given the nature and scope of the recommended amalgamations, which involve almost every local government in Perth, and the degree of opposition, it is inconceivable the plan could be carried out without forced amalgamations.

Meanwhile Mark McGowan has stated WA Labor remains opposed to forced amalgamations under any circumstances, as have the Nationals and the Greens.

This has been a politically based review, which, in the Town's case, has produced a predictable outcome. Both the Premier and Minister have long sought the end of the Town and well before this Review. Thus the outcome of this Review simply appears as a means to that objective.

It is worth noting that whilst the constantly repeated argument in the Robson Review is that the proposed amalgamations are necessary to manage Perth's predicted population increase of 1 million over the next 20 years, the fact is that Perth experienced a population increase of 1 million over the last 30 years and until the Minister's review, no one had suggested the existing local government structure had been a handicap to managing that growth. On the contrary it could be argued the existing structure met the challenge, as reflected in the fact Perth is rated amongst the most liveable cities in the world.

It is also worth noting the irony of the fact that during that 30 years, the City of Perth was broken up and three new local governments (Town of Victoria Park, Town of Vincent and Town of Cambridge) formed. That breakup, incidentally, was supported by Premier Barnett at the time.

However despite the recommendations of the Robson Review and whatever pro amalgamation stance the government ultimately takes, this need not be the end of the matter.

Since the Town was founded in 1897, the East Fremantle community, supported by its Council, has successfully opposed a number of attempts by State governments to abolish the Council, dating back to 1918! However it has been the strength of the community's opposition which has prevented this from occurring.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

It is hoped the community will, once again, make its views clear on this occasion and perhaps if there is sufficient opposition, the Government will finally be prepared to listen.

Meanwhile, for the Mayor, Councillors and staff, it is very much business as usual and as can be seen from this Annual Report, a great deal has been achieved in the Town this year, for the benefit of the community. With such a dedicated Mayor, Councillors and staff at the helm, residents and ratepayers are assured this will continue to be the case next year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Once again I wish to acknowledge the important role the various sporting clubs and community organisations play in the Town. Council enjoys excellent relations with all of the East Fremantle clubs and community organisations.

They include the East Fremantle Yacht Club, Swan Yacht Club, East Fremantle Lawn Tennis Club, East Fremantle Football Club, East Fremantle Junior Football Club, East Fremantle Tricolore Soccer Club, East Fremantle Bowling Club, East Fremantle Croquet Club, Fremantle Rowing Club, East Fremantle Cricket Club, East Fremantle Junior Cricket Club, East Fremantle Lacrosse Club, 1st Fremantle Scout Group, 1st Leeuwin Scout Group, Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Link, East Fremantle Playgroup and Glyde-In.

None of these Clubs could exist without the hard work of their volunteers and the work of these many volunteers is acknowledged.

Council again acknowledges and expresses continued support for the wonderful and longstanding work of Noel Nimmo, Council's Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, and his team of volunteers.

Council also acknowledges the work and dedication of Sue Limbert and her many HACC volunteers, who have made that service the envy of many other local governments.

Finally, Council acknowledges the significant assistance of the Town Planning Advisory Panel, all volunteers and whose advice is invaluable.

I particularly wish to acknowledge the support I have received from staff and elected members in my role as CEO.

The East Fremantle community should feel very fortunate to have such an able and dedicated group at its helm.

Mayor Alan Ferris is a hardworking Mayor who and has maintained a harmonious team of Councillors.

That team: Deputy Mayor Cr Alex Wilson, Cr Barry de Jong, Cr Maria Rico, Cr Cliff Collinson, Cr Dean Nardi, Cr Siân Martin, Cr Rob Lilleyman and Cr Richard Olson deserve to be applauded for their commitment and teamwork over the past year.

With respect to staff, I believe Council has done well to attract and retain the competent, multiskilled and loyal staff to the degree which it has.

For many years, in tables prepared by the WA Local Government Association, the Town of East Fremantle has stood out as having extremely low rates of staff turnover.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Yet, with limited career paths and support staff and given the ever present threat of amalgamation, a quite different result would normally have been expected.

As Chief Executive Officer, I am proud of what Council staff have achieved this year through their dedication, hard work and professionalism.

In that regard the excellent work of the four managers: Shelley Cocks (Principal Environmental Health Officer), Jamie Douglas (Manager Planning Services), Ken Dyer (Operations Manager) and Les Mainwaring (Executive Manager Finance & Administration), who took over from John Roberts in April 2012, is particularly acknowledged.

I also wish to make special mention of Peta Cooper, Council's long serving Planning and Building Coordinator, whose efforts in maintaining the smooth operation of planning and building – and particular in respect of the significant upheaval wrought by the implementation of the new Building Act – has been invaluable.

Finally, as always, and as thoroughly deserved, an extra special thank you to my Personal Assistant, Ms Janine May. Janine has served the Town almost all of her working life and is personally known to a large number of the Town's residents. Janine has given another year of sterling service, frequently working beyond the call of duty yet always cheerful and continuously supportive, both to myself and other staff.

Janine, thanks once again, for all your support, your patience and tolerance in what has been a very busy year. Your good grace, lack of complaint and most of all your irrepressible good humour has continued undiminished and is a joy.

Finally and most importantly, East Fremantle residents and ratepayers are thanked for their strong support of Council over the past year.

With such support it has not only made it easier to face the various challenges, but also helped make Council's efforts feel all the more worthwhile.

Finance Report

Les Mainwaring, Executive Manager Finance & Administration

The function of the Finance and Administration staff of the Town covers a broad range of activities including financial management and reporting, accounting, information technology, rating, debt collection, asset management, treasury, records management, human resource management, accounts payable, payroll, Council support, Local Law compliance services including Ranger Services,

The primary focus is financial management and statutory compliance in terms of accountability and disclosure. To this end, the Town is developing a process of integrated planning which includes community planning, long term financial planning, asset management, annual budgeting and audited annual financial statements. During the year monthly financial reporting is used to assist the Council in the role of managing Council's financial and physical resources.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

2011/2012 Annual Budget

The Town of East Fremantle's 2011/2012 Budget was adopted at a Special Council meeting held on Tuesday 5 July 2011.

The 2011/2012 balanced budget provided for a number of significant items for the benefit of the community including:

• Leeuwin boat ramp upgrade	\$650,000
• Town Hall renewal	\$289,000
• Old Police Station renewal	\$100,000
• Preston Point Rd/Pier St roundabout	\$237,246
• Plympton Ward footpaths	\$168,160
• Petra St resurfacing	\$168,160
• Riverside Rd pavement repair	\$148,942

Operating programs include extensive works on street, verges, footpaths, trees, ovals and passive recreation areas.

In addition to Council's waste management and recycling services, one bulk rubbish and three green waste collections are provided annually.

Support has continued to be provided for community services such as the Glyde-In Centre; Infant Health Clinic; Community Midwifery Program; East Fremantle Family Playgroup; Council's Home and Community Care services and the George Street Festival.

Council budgeted for an overall rate income increase of 5% for residential and commercial rates.

2011/2012 Annual Financial Statements

The Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2012 has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and complies with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and associated regulations. The audit was completed by Macri Partners on the 31 October 2012. A copy of the Audited Financial Statements is included at the end of this document.

Finance Report

Operating Statement

The year ended with a small operating surplus of \$297,199. The operating surplus can be attributed to an additional 11% in operating revenue against an additional 4% of operating expenditure. The areas of significant revenue variation include \$118,000 in pre-paid federal general purpose grants; \$48,000 parking fines brought to account from cash to accrual; \$355,000 in additional recoverable works and \$82,000 additional reserve interest earnings. Areas of significant expenditure variation include savings on employment costs from staff vacancies and outside staff moving from contract to permanent, \$277,000 additional costs of recoverable works and \$51,000 additional government utility charges.

Consolidated Cash Position

The consolidated cash position of the Municipal and Reserve funds for the Town of East Fremantle for the year ended 30 June 2012 shows a balance of \$3,605,413. This includes Unrestricted Cash \$592,384 and Reserves funds of \$3,013,029. Reserves are used by Council to fund future development and renewal of assets of the Town of East Fremantle.

Council invests surplus funds in short term deposits with banks to provide a secure return on its investments, and no investment is subject to market linked variations of the capital sum. Interest earnings for 2011/2012 year were \$380,689, and included \$147,639 for the benefit of Council's Reserve Funds.

Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Financial Position

This statement provides for the net assets of the Town of East Fremantle, where the net assets have increased during 2011/2012 by \$1,426,915, compared to an increase of \$1,010,617 in 2010/2011.

Joint Venture Arrangements

Council has a 2.18% stake in the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC), and a 2.42% stake in the Regional Resource Recovery Centre a major trading undertaking of the SMRC, which fulfils a strategic role in Councils recycling objectives. There is also 6.68% stake in the South West Group of Councils which is concerned with shared service opportunities.

Financial Ratios

In assessing the performance trends of the Town's financial resources, the financial statements include ratios which provide a comparison between the last three financial years of reporting. Generally the ratios give an indication of an organisation with low debt and adequate cash flow to meet operations, which is a sound platform for future operations. The ratios include:-

	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10
Current Ratio equals Purpose: To assess adequacy of working capital and the ability to satisfy short term obligations. The objective is to maintain a ratio greater than 1, and the Town has effectively maintained this level at balance date.	0.98	0.68	2.40
Debt Ratio equals Purpose: To identify exposure to debts as a proportion of total assets, with the lower the ratio the stronger the financial position. The trend indicates a strengthening of the balance sheet.	7.62%	8.9%	10.24%
Debt Service Ratio equals Purpose: To assess the degree to which available revenues are committed to repayment of debt, with a ratio less than 10% considered desirable. The Town has a very low ratio which indicates that Council has been operating within	2.03%	2.25%	2.40%

Finance Report

	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10
funding constraints without relying on debt to expand services.			
Rate Coverage Ratio equals Purpose: To assess the level of autonomy that Council has compared to other sources of revenue, with the higher the level the higher the autonomy. There has been a slowly falling trend which indicates that there is both an increasing reliance on other revenues and that those other revenues are growing faster than rates.	61.70%	63.70%	64.70%
Outstanding Rates Ratio equals Purpose: To assess the cash flow impact of uncollected rates on liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts. A ratio of less than 5% is considered desirable, therefore a ratio of less than 1% indicates the level of effort in maintaining effective debt collection control and the corresponding benefit to cash flow from the collection of \$5.4 million in rates.	0.80%	0.59%	2.47%

RATING

The Town of East Fremantle levied \$5.4m of rates in 2011/2012 and also collected an Emergency Services Levy for the state of \$828,690. An outstanding rates ratio of less than 1% is well under the guidelines of 5% and indicates the successful efforts in maintaining effective debt collection control, whilst continuing the endeavour of providing excellent customer service in a cost effective manner.

To ensure Council's continued compliance with rating legislation and procedures, Council is an active member of the Local Government Rates Officer Group. The group meets regularly to discuss compliance and clarification of current issues.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The Town of East Fremantle has demonstrated its ongoing commitment to good and compliant record keeping practices by adhering to its Record Keeping Plan which was approved by the State Records Commission in December 2008 and remains valid until 2012.

As a component of the approval of the Town's Record Keeping Plan the Town is required by the State Records Office to remain compliant with the State Records Act 2000. A part of the actions necessary to maintain those requirements the Town adopted record keeping guidelines to assist elected members to manage the official records created or received by them in the course of their work for the Town of East Fremantle.

All correspondence is registered in Council's electronic document management records system and stored electronically for distribution and archival purposes. For the year ending 30 June 2012, approximately 8,000 individual items of correspondence were recorded, scanned and processed through this system.

To ensure Council's continued compliance with the State Records Act and procedures, Council is an active member of the Local Government Records Management Group which consists of member councils from the 144 councils within Western Australia. The group liaises with the State Records Office to ensure compliance and clarification of current issues.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Council has planned a strategy to upgrade the existing server infrastructure, improve Depot ICT communications and provide for a more robust disaster recovery capability. This project

Finance Report

plan was formulated from a review of the IT Strategy in June 2012 and is scheduled to commence in November 2012.

On completion of the server upgrade Council will look to review and upgrade the website design, as well as looking to take advantage of other IT initiatives that will improve customer services.

LOCAL LAWS

Council concluded its 8 year review of the Town's Local Laws in 2011. The next major review is scheduled for 2019.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Council has utilised the resources of the South West Group (SWG) to undertake an independent review of insurance arrangements for SWG member councils.

The SWG engaged external consultants to provide a thorough analysis of the price and appropriateness of Local Government Insurance Service products. Preliminary detailed reports have been provided and the enquiry was ongoing at 30 June 2012.

PLANT AND LIGHT FLEET REPLACEMENT

The Town continues a regular replacement program for light and heavy fleet items in accordance with the ten year plant replacement program, with sufficient funding made available from Plant Reserve to cover the net cost of changeover.

During the 2011/12 period the Town replaced one 5 tonne works truck and trailer, two ride-on mowers and six light fleet vehicles. The HACC service also replaced two buses and one service utility.

Plant replacement proposed for 2012/13 is set to include a Parks tilt/tipper truck and four light fleet items.

Operations Report

Ken Dyer, Operations Manager

ROADWORK RENEWAL

Road Resurfacing Program:

- Parker Street
- Stratford Street
- Hamilton Street
- Petra Street

The road resurfacing program for 2011/12 was undertaken during March and April of 2012. The works were carried out without profiling the existing pavement as has previously been the standard practice. The existing pavement was crack sealed and a 30mm asphalt overlay was installed. The installation process was once again achieved without profiling, which produced a saving of approximately \$6.00/m². The deletion of the profiling process significantly reduced the Town of East Fremantle's waste disposal costs.

All roads resurfaced in the program were subject to installation of new kerbing were required. The old kerb was profiled down to road level and new kerb was installed on the same alignment. Apart from the aesthetics, the installation of new kerbing allows for a further asphalt overlay to be installed when the roads become due for resurfacing in the future. Drainage management is also improved with new mountable kerbing at crossovers preventing stormwater ingress to private property.

Petra Street - Metropolitan Regional Roads Group Program

Petra Street works were funded by the Town of East Fremantle, the City of Melville and the Metropolitan Regional Roads Group funding program. Petra Street defines the boundary between the City of Melville and the Town of East Fremantle. The Town of East Fremantle prepared tender documents and undertook construction and management of the works on behalf of both Councils. Resurfacing and associated works were completed in May 2012.

Riverside Road Anti Hoon Speed Cushions

Installation of speed cushions and associated works were completed in March 2012.

Preston Point Road/Pier Street Roundabout

The Preston Point Road/Pier Street intersection has an unconventional layout with significant misalignment of the east and west legs. The unconventional layout combined with vertical geometry makes it difficult to see the intended channelisation from a distance and results in confusion for motorists. Design works for this project required the production of a design incorporating the retention of a major Telstra Pit in its current location, liaison with the Public Transport Authority for bus turning circles and drive through speeds and improved channelisation. The design was subject to a road safety audit. The result of the audit and Main Roads approval required some additional design. The updated design has now been approved by all authorities and tenders will be called in August 2012.

Preston Point Road Parking Embayments

Construction work for the parking embayments was completed during June 2012.

Riverside Road – Part Reconstruction/Asphalt Overlay

The budget for these works was redistributed to accommodate other more urgent requirements. Council officers are investigating the possibility of funding the works through State Government Black Spot and Metropolitan Regional Road Group programs.

Operations Report

FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENTS

King Street – Plympton Precinct.



A survey of King Street road reserve, footpaths and features including drainage, street trees, service pits and light poles was undertaken to support the design of the new footpaths and roadside kerbing.

The footpaths and roads in the Plympton Precinct have been identified as requiring upgrade as a priority due to their condition, and the high pedestrian usage due to the proximity of the George Street commercial precinct and East Fremantle Primary and Pre Primary Schools. King Street, between George and Marmion Streets was the subject of a design process to form a blueprint for the construction of all footpaths and roads in the precinct. The design process and the construction materials used have taken into account the heritage of the area, the position, species and suitability of the existing verge trees and the requirements for traffic movements and parking. The design and construction of the footpaths on both sides of King Street between Marmion and George Streets was completed during the 2011/12 financial year.

Riverside Road – Riverside Precinct

A new concrete dual use path was installed between the Department of Education Boat Shed and the Red Herring car park. As part of the works new seating and drinking fountains were installed.

DRAINAGE UPGRADES

Stratford Street Catchment

The works include the installation of drainage pits and pipe work on Fraser Street, Stratford Street and the intersection of Fraser and Clayton Streets. The works were undertaken to intercept some of the peak flow stormwater upstream of the Clayton Street low point. This reduces the risk of flooding to properties at the Clayton Street low point during heavy rain events. The works have resulted in part of the flow from Clayton, Fraser, Pier and Gordon Streets being intercepted and piped below ground to the Stratford Street compensating basin. No further flooding of properties at the low point in Stratford Street has occurred since the drainage upgrade.

Locke Crescent

Drainage pits and kerbing were installed along Locke Crescent between Habgood Street and Chauncy Street to alleviate localised flooding to properties in Locke Crescent.

Operations Report

GRANT FUNDING

The Town of East Fremantle is in receipt of grant funding for the following projects:

Leeuwin Boat Ramp and Car Park.	\$825,000.00
Preston Point Rd/Pier St Roundabout Construction.	\$153,978.00

Leeuwin Boat Ramp & Car Park

Design and Construction

In early 2011 the Town of East Fremantle applied to the Department of Transport for grant funding under the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme. The successful funding application has provided for the construction of a new boat launching ramp, jetties and parking facilities at the existing Leeuwin Boat Ramp. Council Officers in co-ordination with select engineering contractors commenced the design and approval process for the works in early 2011.

Department of Indigenous Affairs

As a part of the approvals required for the works, Aboriginal Heritage approval was sought under Section 18 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. After an exhaustive consultation and investigative process, Section 18 approval under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 was granted in December 2011.

Department of Transport

Liaison with Department of Transport Officers and MP Rogers, design engineers has been undertaken to optimise the design of the ramp and jetties. Final approval of design was received from the Department of Transport in September 2012.

Swan River Trust

Swan River Trust Development approval was required as part of the project approvals. Extensive planning and design sessions were held, and liaison with Swan River Trust planning officers was undertaken to ensure all design and planning issues would be compliant with the Trust's requirements. The application included planning and design for the boat ramp, jetties and re-design of the car park including drainage, landscaping and associated works.

Development approval was granted in June 2012.

Construction

Tender documents have been prepared for the Boat Ramp and Jetty works with the tender expected to be awarded in August 2012.

Car park works will be undertaken by Town of East Fremantle engineering and parks department. Construction is expected to commence in July 2012 with completion of the works planned for early December 2012.

BUILDING HERITAGE WORKS

Old Police Station

During May 2012 a new galvanised iron roof, roof tie downs, gutters, downpipes and re-furbished veranda posts were installed to the old Police Station building adjacent to the Town Hall. The old stand alone asbestos laundry was removed from the rear of the building.

Additional works planned for the building and the holding cells to complete restoration works include primer treatment, painting, protection and redecoration to all external timbers

Operations Report

including doors and window frames. Cleaning, re-pointing and some re-construction of the external limestone block work. Repair, replaster and apply protective coatings to the areas of damaged walls and ceilings of the upper floor internal rooms. Refurbish old external toilet and make operative. Install new electrical wiring to comply with Australian Standards. Refurbish internal floor areas.

Town Hall

Works undertaken to the Town Hall during 2011/2012 have included repairs to areas of rising damp along internal areas of the front facade. Preparation work and installation of coatings to internal offices, meeting rooms and toilets.

Prepare and request quotations for the replacement of the external fire escape stairs on the west side of the building. Stair installation expected in October 2012.

Preparation of works package to investigate air-conditioning and ceiling loads on structural integrity of the roof supports. Remediation works expected to be completed in late 2012.

Prepare and request quotations to carry out exterior redecoration, crack repair works and re-coat the exterior of the building. Works are planned to be undertaken in the 2012/13 financial year.

PARKS & RESERVES

Playground - Parks Equipment

The playground equipment and play area edging at Raceway Park were renewed during this financial year. The playground equipment was chosen to provide opportunities for children of all age groups to enjoy the park's facilities.

Exercise equipment included in the 2010/2011 budget was installed along Riverside Road between the Red Herring and the Marine Education Boat Shed.

Tree Planting

The annual planting of street trees was carried out in August 2011, with approximately 40 trees planted throughout the Town.

East Fremantle Oval

Work included the re-turfing of the centre square and goal squares. Applied top dressing, verti drained and fertilised the entire oval. Provided regular maintenance to the oval including mowing, general brush cutting, rubbish removal and maintaining the irrigation system. Installed new lighting tower footing and relocated existing lighting tower. The new footing was installed after the existing footing and rag bolts were found to be damaged and corroded.

Wauhop Park

Applied top dressing to both the upper and lower grounds, verti drained, fertilised and over sowed with rye grass. Continued to provide regular mowing to the grounds and surrounds and maintained the irrigation systems

Henry Jeffrey Oval

Returfed around cricket wicket and covered artificial wicket for football season. Applied a slow release fertiliser to the entire oval and continued to provide regular mowing to the grounds and maintenance to the irrigation system.

WH Kitson Park

Operations Report

Lowered bore head below ground level in front of Plympton steps to provide a safer environment for park and stair users.

Centenary Waterfall

The existing waterfall pump became inoperable and was replaced with a new pump.

Glasson Park Upgrade

During 2010 Council identified Glasson Park as requiring a major upgrade of play equipment and facilities. An initial design was developed by Council Officers and was subject to public consultation. After initial consultation the design received general acceptance, with play equipment design subject to further consultation by Council with East Fremantle Primary School students. At the completion of the consultation process Council officers provided final design concepts to Council for approval. On approval, play equipment and ancillary items were ordered with the onsite works to be commenced in October 2012.

Ulrich Park Fence

A new post and rail fence was installed at Ulrich Park. The fence posts and rails are constructed from composite materials which are sourced from plantation timbers. The fence materials are expected to last 25 years and are recyclable when no longer required.

Dolan Park

Council installed three gazebos to replace the redundant treated pine shelters. The gazebos were installed with Section 18 Aboriginal Heritage and Swan River Trust approvals

Locke Park

Limestone retaining walls were installed in Locke Park along Moss Street and adjacent to the Sumpton Green child care centre. The old tennis court building was demolished after inspection found the building to be structurally unsound and containing asbestos. Tree planting is planned for the old tennis court area adjacent to Sumpton Green

Verge Maintenance

Council continues to provide a verge mowing service throughout the Town.

SPORTING CLUBS

Council continued to provide ongoing support to all clubs during 2011/2012. Some of the projects undertaken include:

East Fremantle Tennis Club

Council provided financial, contractual and officer support for the design and approvals for the resurfacing of synthetic courts and the construction of drainage and car park facilities. Works are expected to reach completion in late 2012.

East Fremantle Junior Football Club

Council provided financial, contractual and officer support for the installation of new floodlighting at Henry Jeffrey Oval. The lights have been commissioned and provide lighting to the entire oval. Provision of the lighting has increased the available training area and in turn provided greater opportunities for more juniors to be involved in the sport.

East Fremantle Croquet Club

Council provided financial, contractual and officer support for the installation of new floodlighting at the East Fremantle Croquet Club. The lights have been commissioned and provide lighting to the playing surface for night games during the summer months. The Club

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expects the provision of lighting will provide an opportunity to increase player numbers and provide a more ambient playing atmosphere during the summer months.

East Fremantle Tricolore Soccer Club

Council provided financial, contractual and officer support for the installation of additional floodlighting at the East Fremantle Tricolore Soccer Club. The lights have been commissioned. Provision of the lighting has increased the available training area and in turn provided greater opportunities for more juniors to be involved in the sport.

East Fremantle Cricket Club

Council provided financial and officer support for the construction of a new synthetic cricket wicket installation on Henry Jeffrey Oval. Prior to the installation, Henry Jeffrey Oval was used primarily during the winter months as a base for East Fremantle Junior Football. The Oval is now in use year round and continues to remain a favourite dog exercise area during the week.

East Fremantle Lacrosse Club

Council provided financial and officer support for the construction of a new storage facility at the rear of the cricket practise nets on Preston Point Reserve. The new storage facility provides a larger, secure storage area which can be easily accessed from the playing area.

Health & Community Services Report

Shelley Cocks, Environmental Health Officer

Health and community services encompasses legislation including Health Act 1911 (as amended), Environmental Protection Act 1986 (as amended), Food Act 2008, Disability Services Act 1993, Emergency Management Act 2005, Tobacco Products Control Act 2006 and regulations made pursuant to those Acts; and Health Local Laws. It also implements the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, liaises with Fremantle Library Services, Sumpton Green Community Centre, Glyde-In Community Centre, East Fremantle Community Health Services, East Fremantle Neighbourhood Watch and the East Fremantle Festival. Technical matters coordinated by health and community services include environmental monitoring and projects such as the APACE subsidised native plant scheme, waste management including verge collections, hazardous waste and waste reduction workshops, graffiti management including urban art projects and liaison with sporting clubs in respect of grant opportunities and projects such as Kidsport.

All routine programs associated with the above issues progressed well throughout the year, and I draw your attention to the following achievements in the 2011-12 financial year.

WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING

The tonnes of waste for composting totalled 2,423 tonnes and tonnes of recycling totalled almost 1,000 tonnes. Unfortunately recycling company Perth Engineering lost its recycling plant to fire just 4 months short of the SMRC composting facility nearing completion. Council's contractor Cleanaway stepped into the breach and a temporary contract was made until the SMRC composting facility could be commissioned. This was achieved on time and the waste composting and recycling program at the SMRC's Regional Resource Recovery Centre is now providing agreed services to the Town of East Fremantle. This will stand us in good stead with our planned move to weekly recycling in the next financial year.

URBAN ART PROJECT

The Town of East Fremantle continues the implementation of its Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan in alignment with the State Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy (2004), local police and Neighbourhood Watch Groups, the local business community and residents.

May 2011 saw the completion of an urban art mural in the George Street Underpass with the assistance of Grant Funding from the Office of Crime Prevention. Artists Darren Hutchens and Dan Duggan along with art students from John Curtin College of the Arts and the East Fremantle Primary School culminated in a vibrant and colourful transformation of this previously heavily graffitied site.

Grant funding of \$15,000 from the Office of Crime Prevention for the proposed "Bus Stop Blitz" project was received and will be spent in the next financial year on decorating three bus stops in Marmion Street.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Under the guidance of our Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Noel Nimmo, ably assisted by area coordinators Barry Renouf and Rod Francis, Committee members

Health & Community Services Report

Myrtle Nimmo and Joan Donaldson and volunteers, Neighbourhood Watch had another successful and busy year.

Monthly meetings were held in conjunction with Fremantle and Community Police and the Office of Road Safety and all matters related to crime, road safety, disability access and graffiti were considered and discussed. Newsletters are delivered to all homes every second month, containing information in relation to general safety and security especially for Seniors, home security information and methods of reporting crime.

The Town would like to thank all involved in Neighbourhood Watch in East Fremantle.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The library rated 84% in a Community Satisfaction Survey, continuing to be highly valued by the community. Almost 180,000 people visited the library during 2011/12 with 112,000 of them borrowing over 220,000 items, 22,700 using a library computer and 13,000 using the wi-fi service. East Fremantle residents account for 1,917 Fremantle Library members.

Self serve loan stations were introduced to free staff to more proactively assist people to have a better customer experience from their visit. Changes to floor layout improved access to and visibility of stock on the shelves, and created a better space for library events in time for the celebration of 2012 as National Year of Reading.

New online resources were introduced, music tracks from the Sony music catalogue are free to library members via web download, and downloadable audio books are now available in the same way. The addition of ebooks to this suite of services was very close at the end of the financial year.

National Year of Reading 2012 was launched with an Outdoor Reading Room in the square adjacent to the library. This extended the reach of the library beyond its walls, encouraging people to read, visit the library and accept the trust that was placed in them with an unsupervised facility. Feedback was very positive from the community and the library won the 2012 Library Board of Western Australia Award for Excellence for the project. A monthly guest speaker program continued to encourage reading and library use, attracting 750 people over the year.

Local History Librarians assisted the Town's Pioneer's Lunch through an oral history interview with Mr John O'Byrne, who had lived in the Town longer than any other resident, and created a display for the event on the Town's history and Mr O'Byrne's life. An oral history project focusing on community organisations included Glyde-In and East Fremantle's Community Care service. Historical photographs from the Town of East Fremantle are being scanned and added to the digital collection.

Students from Richmond and East Fremantle have been involved in the library's school visits and outreach programs for children. The Young People's Librarian was invited to present stories at the East Fremantle Primary School fete, and a library stall at the East Fremantle Festival resulted in almost 300 children and their families making badges and finding out about the library.

The Toy Library moved from temporary premises in George Street, to the new Hilton Community Centre. There has been some decline in members from the Town, with

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people obviously reluctant to travel the extra distance to continue their use of the facility, however overall usage by the Town's residents remains strong. At the present time, there are 78 East Fremantle toy library members.

EAST FREMANTLE FESTIVAL

This year saw the annual East Fremantle Festival move forward a week from the first Sunday in December to the last Sunday in November, at the request of the City of Fremantle, in the lead up to the World Sailing championships. Despite this, the Festival was deemed a huge success by participating stallholders, local businesses, performers and festival attendees. A crowd of 10,000 attended and were delighted with the mix of street and stage performers, artisan market, food stalls, free kid's activities and cooking demonstrations by local chefs Soren from the George St Bistro and Graeme from Wild Poppy.

Roving entertainers comprised the Osmosis Street Band with their Spanish reed and percussion instruments, Clare Stace was a Star Princess on stilts, Conny the Clown twisted balloons into animals, Darian mimed his way up and down the street and Scooby juggled and entertained the crowds.

The Town celebrated its decision to become a "Fair Trade Town" with a coffee sack race between Mayor Alan Ferris and the Mayor of Fremantle Brad Pettitt. After a very fast race Mayor Pettitt took out line honours. The Town hosted a Fair Trade Corner, a recycled product corner and a raffle which raised \$550 for the Lord Mayors Distress Relief Fund Appeal in regard to the recent bush fire in Margaret River.

Once again, I wish to thank major sponsors Lotterywest and the Fremantle Herald, as well as the work done by Festival Coordinator, Council Staff and the Festival Committee.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Emissions Detail by Year

FINANCIAL YEAR	ENERGY	STREET LIGHTING	FLEET	WASTE	TOTAL
2010-2011	396	314	133	4	847 T Co2e
2011-2012	389	316	134	4	842 T Co2e

Emissions by Source (Averaged)

Street lighting	40.4%
Energy	42.3%
Fleet (Fuel)	16.8%
Waste	0.5%

Note that energy is comprised of electricity and gas supply to buildings and water usage.

Tricolore Community Centre

The 10kW installation of solar panels on Tricolore Community Centre was completed in the 2011/12 financial year. The energy consumption fell from 189 GJ in the 2010/2011 financial year to 155 GJ in the 2011/12 financial year. However, the total energy charges rose from \$11,000 in 2010/11 to \$13,000 in 2011/12, reflecting the rising cost of electricity.

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Dovenby House

Energy consumption at Dovenby House (with a 5 kW solar panel array) fell from 34 GJ in 2010/11 to 33 GJ in 2011-12. Costs were consistent at around \$2,000 per annum.

KIDSPORT

The Town of East Fremantle has recently signed up for Kidsport. This initiative takes the form of a grant from Department of Sport and Recreation for \$10,000 for Kidsport payments, and an administration grant of \$5,000.

KidSport will assist *eligible* families to receive up to \$200 annually for each of their children aged between 5–18 years, to subsidise fees to join a sport and recreation club.

Eligible families include those with health care cards or pension concession card, or those referred by other community groups, such as schools, juvenile justice teams, government agencies and health practitioners. These groups are known as referral agents.

Kids and parents/guardians can obtain an application form from their participating local government office or their website, or from a sport or recreation club, a referral agent or anywhere local governments make them available. The parent/guardian fills in the application and takes it to be validated at the local government they reside in. A photocopy of the health care card or pension concession card must be attached.

Alternatively referral agents may assist in filling out the application, complete their section on the back and give it to the parent/guardian to sign. The parent/guardian will take the voucher to the sport or recreation club for processing when registering their children. The club will then invoice the local government.

East Fremantle clubs who are now Kidsport include Tricolore Soccer Club, East Fremantle Junior Football Club, East Fremantle Football Club and Fremantle Rowing Club. The grant has also assisted East Fremantle children to join clubs in adjoining areas including rugby, netball and surf life saving.

NEIGHBOURHOOD LINK

Sue Limbert, Community Services Officer

I am delighted to report on Neighbourhood Link's activities. Another year has quickly passed, again with much achieved over that time.

The Neighbourhood Link program constantly strives to provide quality HACC support services, to ensure community members can remain living independently with access to quality care programs such as:

- Domestic Assistance
- Social Support
- Respite Care
- Centre-based Day Care-Aged
- Centre-based Day Care-Young Adult Summer Holiday Program

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- Transport-Bus Shopping service
- Transport CBDC
- Counselling/Support/Advocacy (Care Recipients)
- Gardening/Home Maintenance

Our annual customer survey enabled us to focus on improving our services and responding to client feedback.

HACC Project Officer Donna Vincent left in December 2011. Jenny Logan took on the busy role as Project Officer. I would like to extend our many thanks to both Donna and Jenny without their funding assistance and support we would not have been able to provide our much needed programs.

I am pleased to report that the WA HACC Assessment Framework is proving to provide improved service provision and a positive journey for our clients and carers. Neighbourhood Link staff have worked positively as part of a united sector with Commonwealth Respite and Care Link Centre and our two regional Assessment Services (Care Options and Silver Chain) to ensure that the best possible outcomes are achieved for our clients.

Key achievements for Neighbourhood Link included:

- All staff of Neighbourhood Link worked as an effective team towards achieving our purpose.
- Service was provided to all clients.
- Continued support was provided to Care-Options and Volunteer Home Support by sitting on the various boards and committees.
- Continued links and networking with other agencies within the disability and frail aged sectors.
- Provided support, supervision and assessment for students on fieldwork placements from Central TAFE, Challenger TAFE and Polytechnic TAFE.
- Neighbourhood Link clients celebrated Seniors Week with a 'Come and Try Exercise/Pamper Day' at the Next Generation Gym in Bibra Lake during the 8,9, 10 November 2011 thanks to a Seniors Week grant from Council on the Ageing and Bendigo Bank.
- In November 2011 we replaced the CBDC bus and the gardening ute thanks to two HACC non-recurrent funding grants.

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank the staff, students and volunteers, for the great contribution they have made to ensuring Neighbourhood Link continues its great services to the community assisting and aspiring people to step up to a better quality of life. These staff show exceptional talent and commitment. They give unstinting care and great passion to their busy roles. Finally, I would like to thank the CEO Stuart Wearne, the Mayor and Councillors for their continued leadership, commitment and support.

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RANGER SERVICES

By Andrew Driver, Senior Ranger

OVERVIEW

For the year ending 30 June 2012, Ranger Services were manned by one full time Senior Ranger and one casual Ranger working a total average of 26 hours per week.

SERVICES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Rangers are Authorised Officers under the following Acts and Regulations:

- Dog Act
- Animal Welfare Act
- Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act
- Litter Act
- Bush Fires Act
- Off Road Vehicles Act
- Local Government Act
- Local Government(Miscellaneous Provisions Act
- Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act
- Fish Resources Management Act
- Town of East Fremantle's Local Laws

Council's Ranger Services are also responsible for:

- Assisting with road closures
- Assisting emergency services at traffic accidents
- Parking
- Mooring pens / Launching Ramp
- Cash collections and banking
- Courier duties
- Community education programs
- Insurance applications
- Safety and security of Council property
- Emergency management response
- Liaising with emergency services
- Liaising with school authorities
- Liaising with business holders
- Liaising with residents and community members
- Liaising with community youth groups
- Liaising with Defence Department

DOG STATISTICS

Infringement notices

From 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 Rangers issued a total of nine (9) infringement notices for contraventions of the West Australian Dog Act.

Cautionary notices

From 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 Rangers issued two hundred and seventy (270) cautionary notices for contraventions of the West Australian Dog Act, 98% of cautionary notices were issued to non residents of the Town of East Fremantle

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The face value of these cautionary notices had they been issued as infringements was \$27,000 .00 dollars.

Attacks

From 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, there was one (1) dog attack involving injuries to humans, which has been settled with all medical costs and lost earnings recovered to the satisfaction of the injured party.

There were three (3) dog attacks involving injuries to other animals, These files have been closed and settled with the veterinary costs reimbursed to the injured dog's owner by the attacking dog's owner.

On average Rangers attended two (2) minor dog incidents per week, with numbers increasing during the summer months. These minor incidents usually involve a dog's alleged or perceived intimidating and aggressive behaviour or general nuisances.

A number of these cases occurred in off lead exercise areas and were generally the result of an owner throwing a ball / loved toy for there dog to chase and other off lead dogs chasing the same ball.

In all cases the dog's owner was identified and a Ranger was allocated to work with the owner to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities under the Dog Act and to assist the owner with advice on behavioural control techniques available to them to train their dog safely and correctly.

A significant number of these reported cases were in fact situations defined as lawful under the Dog Act (1976), such as a dog barking aggressively at pedestrians while lawfully contained behind satisfactory containment fencing or gates.

Education

Ranger Services have conducted an extensive "Dog Awareness" program in the Town of East Fremantle.

This included Rangers being rostered on duty between the hours of 6.30am and 8pm and working a substantial number of hours on a voluntary unpaid basis in areas of high dog usage (ie Foreshore areas, Niergerup track areas, Preston Point Road, Silas Street Park and Marmion Street).

Numerous dog owners were spoken to for various offences with verbal and written cautions being issued on each occasion, during the educational "dog owner awareness education programme" rangers suspended the issuance of infringement notices in general but were authorised to issue infringements to repeat offenders.

Also due to the educational programme the ranger services team distributed a total of nine hundred and seventy (970) informational brochures to dog owners to raise the levels of voluntary compliance with the Dog Act.

During this period Rangers also issued two hundred and nineteen (219) free dog leads to dog owners found to be walking dogs off lead within the Town of East Fremantle boundaries as part of the educational cautioning process.

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Barking Complaints

Rangers have investigated one hundred and fourteen (114) official dog barking complaints, (official complaints involve at least three complainants, two from different residences for each complaint). All of these complaints have now been resolved and closed to the satisfaction of both the complainant and the barking dog's owners.

However, Rangers receive on average three (3) barking dog complaints a week with most resolved by verbal interaction between the owner and a ranger services team member, in general most owners are not aware of the dogs nuisance barking before the ranger brings the matter to their attention and these extra complaints do not form part of the above recorded figures.

Rangers endeavour to provide the owners of barking dogs with advice and practical help in relation to the many alternatives to them to enable the owner to successfully modify the animal's behaviour.

The number of barking dog complaints received by Ranger Services is expected to increase each year as larger blocks are subdivided and property lines are drawn closer together and the number of small "house" dog's increase.

Stray/Impounded Dogs

Total dogs collected	102
Returned to owners	68
Total dogs impounded at Shenton Park	34
Dogs reclaimed by owners	20
Dogs unclaimed and re-homed	14
Dogs destroyed	0

Registrations

For financial year 2011 to 2012 a total of 964 dogs were registered with the Town, with 872 of these dogs being sterilised.

Ranger Services staff conducted an extensive dog registration program, which included conducting a door knock to follow up expired dog registrations, canvassing dog owners in the streets and local parks, and the use of cautionary notices for follow up action.

FIRE BREAKS

Fire break inspections of all relevant properties were conducted in early November and all the relevant property owners were then advised in writing of the actions required to bring their land into compliance with the requirements of the Bush Fires Act.

A further check of all relevant properties was conducted in the first week of December 2011 with nine (9) properties requiring attention as they did not comply with the November 30 deadline mandated by State Government.

The nine (9) properties receiving fire warning notices and all nine (9) owners ensured that their properties were compliant by the date stated in the cautionary notices.

Bush Fire Act infringement notices were not issued to these nine (9) property owners as there were verifiable mitigating factors in each case and the owners of each block

Health & Community Services Report

ensured that there blocks were compliant with the Bushfires Act by the date stated on the issued cautionary notice.

PARKING

Launching Ramp

Income from the two (2) parking ticket machines located at the Launching Ramp totalled \$130,428.40

Parking Infringements

In financial year 2011 to 2012, Council raised an amount of \$118,048.38 in paid parking infringement penalties. This figure does not include the penalty fees currently outstanding for infringement notices that are currently on reminder notice, final notice and Fines Enforcement Registry status.

There were one thousand eight hundred and ninety three (1,893) parking infringement notices issued by Rangers during the 2011 to 2012 financial period.

Parking Cautionary Notices

There were a total of four thousand four hundred and seventeen (4,417) parking cautionary notices issued by rangers in the 2011 to 2012 period. The face value of these cautionary notices had they been issued as infringement notices was \$242,935.00 dollars.

LOCAL LAWS

As most residents and visitors to the Town of East Fremantle are generally unaware of the various Local Laws and penalties applicable within the Town of East Fremantle, Ranger Services employs a policy of "inform rather than infringe" in relation to contraventions of Local Laws.

Rangers issued a total of five hundred and forty-nine (549) cautions for contraventions of various Local Laws. Upon issuance of each cautionary notice, Rangers advise the offender of the relevant Local Law, the reason for the Local Law and the potential penalties for future contravention of Local Laws.

In all but thirty-eight (38) occasions the issuance of the first cautionary notice was sufficient to rectify the contravention within the time frame set by Rangers.

Of the remaining thirty-eight (38), these were rectified as soon as practical to do so after the issuance of the cautionary notice, taking into account mitigating factors such as residents inability to comply as a partner was away, in hospital, elderly resident with no immediate family assistance, etc .

In each of these cases Rangers arranged for either a time extension or direct assistance via either other Council Departments, Voluntary Agencies, State Government agencies or by Rangers directly assisting the resident.

The face value of these cautionary notices if they had been issued as infringement notices was \$54,900.00 dollars.

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LITTER ACT

Rangers issued a total of four hundred and eighty-seven (487) cautions for contraventions of the Litter Act.

A significant number of these were in relation to white goods being placed on verges during green waste only collections and vice versa.

A rise in the number of contraventions of the Litter Act was noted within the Town of East Fremantle each time that a neighbouring Council had an authorised waste collection.

ABANDONED VEHICLES

There were a total of one hundred and nineteen (119) cars abandoned within the Town of East Fremantle during the 2011 to 2012 period.

Rangers continued the policy commenced during 2004 to 2005 of attempting to locate the vehicles owners prior to impoundment and advise them of both the penalties / costs of the abandonment and alternatives available to them.

Rangers identified all owners of these vehicles and advised them that should the Rangers be required to impound the vehicles that the owners would then become liable for the cost of impoundment, towing and storage for a minimum amount of \$900 and that Council would seek to recover these costs via court action.

Owners were also advised that scrap dealers would generally pay the owner \$40-\$80 and would also arrange to have the vehicle removed at no cost to the owners.

Rangers were able to ascertain that the owners of six of the vehicles had left Australia and therefore had no choice but to impound the vehicles and disposed of the vehicles by donating the vehicles to FESA for rescue training purposes.

It should be noted that a significantly large number of the vehicles reported by residents as alleged to be abandoned vehicles, are in fact found to be owned by neighbouring residents who have gone on holiday or are fly in/fly out workers and who for a variety of reasons choose not to park the vehicle outside their own home, but rather park further up the road in front of a neighbours home causing a perceived detrimental impact on the complainant.

This problem is extremely prevalent within the Plympton Ward.

STOLEN VEHICLES

There were a total of seven (7) stolen vehicles located and recovered by Rangers within the Town of East Fremantle during the 2011 to 2012 period.

DAMAGED INFRASTRUCTURE REPORTS

Rangers recorded and reported one thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight (1828) cases of damage to infrastructure within the Town of East Fremantle during the 2011 to 2012 financial year.

In all cases Rangers notified the appropriate agency such as Main Roads, Western Power, Town of East Fremantle etc in order to ensure that repairs/replacement of the damaged asset was made as soon as possible by the relevant agency.

Town Planning

By Jamie Douglas, Manager Planning Services

The broad objective for Town Planning in the Town of East Fremantle is to provide for the current and future needs of the community in a sustainable manner. This is achieved through the application of Strategic Planning and Development Control functions by the Council.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic Planning involves the analysis of issues and the development of policy and statutory documents which influence the activities of residents, the business community and government agencies now and in the future. During the year the Planning Department reviewed the various existing Local Planning Policies and the provisions of the Town Planning Scheme - Number 3 and proposed a program to update the various planning provisions to respond to current planning objectives and future challenges. This program involved the following;

New Residential Design Guidelines

New Residential Design Guidelines have been developed to protect and promote the existing and desired character of each Precinct within the Town. They have been developed to control the maintenance, conservation and adaptation of existing residential development, along with the development of new infill and replacement residential development.

Residential development within the Town is currently controlled by the provisions of the Town Planning Scheme No. 3 (TPS 3), the Residential Design Codes (R-Codes) and more than twenty relevant Local Planning Policies. State Planning Policy 3.5 Historic Heritage Conservation must also be considered where relevant.

In August 2011, Council commissioned 'Griffiths Architects', together with 'Chris Antill Planning and Urban Design', to build on the development requirements contained in these planning documents, and consolidate the guidelines into a comprehensive Local Planning Policy (LPP) to replace the current Local Planning Policies relevant to residential development.

Following an extensive program of public consultation new Residential Design Guidelines were approved by Council in May 2012 as a Local Planning Policy for the purposes of public advertising in accordance with the Scheme's provisions. It is envisaged that the Guidelines will be implemented in October 2012 subject to the completion of the advertising period.

Review of Local Planning Strategy and Town Planning Scheme No 3

The Town's Planning Scheme No 3. and the Local Planning Strategy which supports it were adopted seven years ago. It is therefore necessary to review and update these principal planning documents for the Town to better address emerging trends and future planning issues. Consultants have been appointed to undertake this project, and an initial report was considered by Council in April 2012.

The project comprises the following:

- review of the Town of East Fremantle Town Planning Scheme No 3 Local Planning Strategy,
- the identification of areas where infill development could be supported in conformity with the Town's planning objectives,

Town Planning

- proposed scheme amendments to support guided infill development in the R12.5 residential zone, and to designate subdivision and plot ratio requirements for developments in the 'Mixed Use' zone.

Amendments to the Town Planning Scheme No 3 which give effect to the draft strategy are being drafted and will be considered by Council in late 2012.

Access and Parking Management Plan – George Street Precinct

Council selected GHD in April 2012 to undertake the Plan in response to competing demands between commercial and residential car parking and to facilitate future commercial and mixed uses developments in the Precinct.

The following objectives are identified for the Plan;

- The identification of the nature and volume of current and future access and parking needs
- The protection of a reasonable level of access to on street parking for residents
- The promotion of alternate modes of transport (other than private vehicle use) to and within, the Precinct
- Review efficacy and safety of the current restrictions on vehicular access in Hubble and Glyde Streets in the vicinity of the Trade Winds Hotel.
- To maximise the availability of existing parking
- Consider opportunities for additional public car parking to support existing and potential developments
- Maintain and promote an attractive and safe streetscape environment
- Promote linkages with the Town Centre and peripheral areas
- Provide a program of detailed works and actions for the implementation of the access and parking strategy.

It is anticipated that a draft Plan will be considered by Council for public release in late 2012.

Amendment 9 to TPS No 3 – Demolitions and Exemptions

Scheme Amendment 9 makes textural changes to the Scheme to require an application for planning approval for demolitions relating to Buildings on the Heritage List also to increase the extent of minor non-consequential works which are exempt from the need for planning approval. It is envisaged Final Approval will be granted by the Minister for Planning in August 2012.

Heritage Listing of Properties

Council commenced the translation of properties from the Municipal List onto an expanded Heritage List under Town Planning Scheme No3 in June 2012.

Town Hall/Police Station Redevelopment

Conservation works are progressing in accordance with the program indicated in previous reports. Re-roofing of the former Police Station was completed 8 June 2012.

STATUTORY PLANNING

Statutory Planning involves the assessment of development proposals in respect to the Town's statutory planning provisions and (where necessary) enforcement proceedings to require development to occur in compliance with these provisions and Council's planning approvals.

Town Planning

The Planning Department received 196 applications for Planning Approval during the year. This compares with 257 applications in the previous year which is a decrease of 31% in the number of applications processed. Similarly, the value of the approved developments for which Building Permits were issued decreased from \$25,816,662 in 2010/2011 to \$20,787,197 in 2011/2012.

Of the Planning applications received only 18 were either refused or withdrawn.

Council's determinations were appealed to the State Administrative Appeals Tribunal on five occasions during the year. One appeal was subsequently withdrawn with Council's decision being upheld in respect to the remainder of the appeals.

PLANNING RESOURCES

The Town draws upon both staff, elected members, consultants and community representatives in undertaking the activities identified above.

Council's Planning and Building Services staff consisted of Mr Jamie Douglas as the Manager Planning Services, Ms Carly Pidco as Council's Town Planner, with professional assistance from Mrs Peta Cooper and part time assistance from Mrs Lisa Bentham and Ms Carmen O'Hehir. During the year Mr Mario Ioppolo resigned as Council's Principal Building Surveyor and his position is currently being filled by part-time in-house consultants.

Membership of the Town Planning & Building Committee (Private Domain) as at 30 June 2012 consisted of Cr Alex Wilson as Presiding Member, Mayor Alan Ferris, Cr Barry de Jong, Cr Siân Martin, Cr Maria Rico, Cr Dean Nardi and Cr Cliff Collinson.

The Town Planning Advisory Panel comprises (as at 30 June 2012) Cr Alex Wilson (Chair), Ms Vanessa Collins, Mr Henty Farrar, Mr Nicholas Gurr, Mr David Johnston, Mr Michael Connor, Dr Jonathan Dalitz and Ms Pam Walker. The contributions from these voluntary community members and their expertise in respect to design assessment is acknowledged and greatly contributes to the achievement of good design outcomes for new development and the protection of heritage values.

PLANNING AND BUILDING STATISTICS

Town Planning

<u>Approval to Commence Development:</u>		196
<i>Approval</i>	101	
<i>Delegated Approval</i>	69	
<i>Swan River Trust Approval</i>	1	
<i>Applications Deferred</i>	0	
<i>Applications Withdrawn</i>	4	
<i>Building Licence Only Required</i>	17	
<i>Refusal</i>	4	
<u>Appeals:</u>		
<i>Dismissed (inc Application for Review)</i>	3	
<i>Withdrawn</i>	1	
<i>Application for Costs – Dismissed</i>	1	

Town Planning

<u>Subdivision</u>		
Final Approval	2	
Endorsement of Deposited Plan Only	2	
Refused	1	
<u>Value of Works</u>		
Residential Dwellings	21	\$20,655,221
Alterations/Additions	52	11,584,854
Swimming Pools/Spas	20	568,979
Ancillary Accommodation	2	85,000
Outbuildings	10	370,607
Patios/Alfrescos/Landscaping	21	250,560
Carports/Garages	8	208,600
Reserve Lighting	3	313,000
Balcony/Verandah	3	63,400
Fencing/Retaining Walls	10	183,212
Home Occupation	6	
Changes of Use	3	250,000
Air Conditioning	2	17,000
Solar Panels/Roofing	6	100,736
Commercial	2	425,000
Retrospective Approval	2	
Demolition	4	
	<u>175</u>	\$35,076,169

Building

<u>Building Approvals:</u>		
Residential Dwellings	16	\$12,401,369
Alterations/Additions	25	4,149,234
Swimming Pools/Spas	25	711,271
Outbuildings	5	33,407
Fencing	15	143,012
Patios/Alfresco	28	579,649
Carports/Garages/Sheds/Studios	9	372,625
Ancillary Accommodation	2	140,000
Balcony/Verandah	4	62,000
Roofing	6	167,675
Internal Alterations	6	189,037
Commercial Fitout	3	1,183,000
Commercial Alterations/Additions	2	355,000
Reserve Lighting	3	298,000
Solar Panels	1	15,500
Cubby House	1	1,918
	<u>151</u>	\$20,787,197

Building Approval Certificates 1

Materials on Verge Permits: 8

Demolition Permits: 11

Residences 11

Garages 1