



Program at a Glance

Message from the Foundation

The 2024 Summit is fast approaching and we are very much looking forward to connecting with the “doers” from across rural, regional and remote Australia at our annual event.

This year’s theme is **Beyond Boundaries: Fostering Connection, Partnership, and Collaboration for Regional Growth**. The program is coming together and in partnership with our host, **Regional Development Australia South West**, we are pleased to share a snapshot of what’s on offer. Our focus this year is on partnerships and collaboration to affect change in the regions. We also want attendees to get out and about in the Busselton Margaret River region, experience the south west and meet the leaders making a difference. Over the coming weeks we will announce more speakers as part of our short and sharp SEGTALKS concurrent sessions on Thursday. We look forward to seeing you to Busselton!

Monday 28 October

6pm - 8pm	Emerging Champions dinner <i>(invite only)</i> .	Shelter Brewery
-----------	--	-----------------

Tuesday 29 October

9am - 5pm	Emerging Champions Program with illuminate Education <i>(invite only)</i> .	Busselton Community Resource Centre
1pm - 5pm	Pre Summit Energy Session. Remember the days when we didn’t really think about our energy bills and the weather used to be something at the end of the news? Now it seems that energy and weather are constantly headline issues as we struggle with decarbonising our energy sector. Do you feel like you know enough to make informed decisions in relation to renewable energy, powerlines, electrification, EVs, gas and retail energy contracts? Join us for a deep dive into the energy sector, aimed at giving you the information and contacts you need to make good decisions – or just have good BBQ discussions!	Busselton Community Resource Centre
5.30pm - 7pm	Summit Welcome Drinks. <i>For catering purposes please indicate if you are attending when you purchase your ticket.</i>	The Taphouse Busselton

Wednesday 30 October @ Sabina River Farm

7am - 8am	Conference Registration (7am) and Networking Breakfast (7.30am)
8am - 8.30am	Welcome by RDA South West; Welcome by City of Busselton; Welcome by Federal Member for Forrest, Hon Nola Marino MP <i>Myles Pollard, Master of Ceremonies</i>
8.45am - 9.15am	State of the Regions, Glenn Macquire, AEC Group
9.20am - 9.40am	Ministerial Address
9.40am - 10.10am	Mary G - Black Queen of the Kimberley
10.10am - 10.30am	Keynote - Alex Jenkins, WA Data Science Innovation Hub
10.30am - 11.10am	MORNING TEA
11.10am - 11.30am	Interview - Mary G; Behind the Humor
11.30am - 12.15pm	Keynote - Mark Lamb, CEO Murray Darling Association
12.15pm - 1pm	Arts and Culture. Panel facilitated by Scott Robinson, thebox Bec Bignell, Filmmaker and Creator and Matt Lewis, Emergence Festival
1pm	LUNCHBOXES
1pm - 6pm	Off site tours (6). Transfers provided.
6pm - 8pm	Buses return directly from the tours to Sabina River Farm for our networking dinner, fire pit under the stars and entertainment by the Busselton SHS jazz band. Buses will be available from 8pm to return delegates to the Busselton CBD and Geographe area.

1

NANNUP; THE ASPIRING TRAIL TOWN

Nannup has transformed itself as a trail town and includes the Nannup Tank 7 Mountain Bike Park. It will host the UCI Gravel World Championships in 2026 and is gearing up for an increase in tourists and visitors.

We will start at the Nannup Brewery and be introduced to the Experience Nannup strategy and app. We will then proceed to Nannup's mountain biking mecca – Nannup Ngoolark MTB Jump Park and Nannup Tank 7 MTB Park. Both are mountain bike attractions with unique points of difference being the locality to town, use of natural elevation to create world class trail experiences. We will also visit the flying fox and Emu Nature Play at Marinko Tomas Park.

The tour will finish with a Geo Park presentation and refreshments at the Nannup Function Centre.

2

CAPEL MARRON & ROCKY RIDGE

Capel Marron Farm is part of AquaFarms, a collective of Australian farmers looking to provide the best quality produce at farm gate prices. AquaFarms believes in the power of a 'Pond To Plate' supply chain to ensure the freshest quality produce.

Cape Marron Farm completed a marron hatchery expansion in 2019 and is now expanding its operations into tourism, with construction underway on a 300-seat restaurant, discovery centre and marron viewing tanks, set to open later this year. It is the first time visitors to the South West will have access to the marron farm, believed to be the world's largest.

Following Cape Marron Farm the tour will head to Rocky Ridge Brewing Co, a 100% carbon neutral operation. They have also been certified as a sustainable operation, the only brewery in Australia. We will also learn about the South West Brewers Alliance, a collective group of Independent Brewers.

3

DOLPHIN DISCOVERY CENTRE & TRANSFORMING BUNBURY'S WATERFRONT

The Dolphin Discovery Centre is a non-profit organisation that undertakes essential conservation, eco-tourism, education and research projects. Collaborations between Bunbury Dolphin Discovery Centre, Universities, Government Departments and other like-minded organisations, both locally and internationally helps ensure that the well-being of the wild dolphin population and marine environment.

Following the DDC tour we will visit the State Government's Transforming Bunbury Waterfront project. Locals and visitors alike are enjoying the enhanced Koombana Foreshore (including the redeveloped Dolphin Discovery Centre), upgraded Jetty Rd Causeway and Jetty Baths area. The Casuarina Drive redevelopment continues and Stage 3 work to upgrade Casuarina Boat Harbour has begun.

Stimulating the economy through boosting the tourism and marine industry sectors are important outcomes of this project. Throughout the timeline of the project, there has also been an emphasis on maximising job opportunities and tenders for locals.

4

BUSSELTON JETTY

Extending 1.8 kilometres over the protected waters of Geographe Bay, the heritage listed Busselton Jetty is the longest timber-piled jetty in the Southern Hemisphere.

Following the decline of government funding and the crippling effects of Cyclone Alby in 1978, a community group was formed to raise funds for much needed restoration and maintenance. Between 1987 and 2003, the community organisation now known as the Busselton Jetty Environment and Conservation Association (BJECA) raised sufficient funds to replace 50% of the Jetty structure, establish the train service and constructed the iconic Underwater Observatory and Interpretive Centre.

In 2011 a \$27 million refurbishment of the jetty structure was completed. \$24 million was contributed by the Western Australian State Government with the balance contributed by the Shire of Busselton and BJECA. This tour will include a Jetty train tour and presentation by BJECA in the Marine Discovery Centre.

5

COWARAMUP

Once a sleepy and undiscovered community, the town now bustles with excitement and activity. With the local Cowaramup Cows strolling the streets and posing for photographs, the village has become a must visit destination for all those venturing 'down south'.

The focus of this tour will be on how the small rural town has differentiated itself either side of two major towns and a city, as well as how the community is planning for significant population growth.

6

NGILGI CAVES

A self-guided experience begins with a walk along a scenic pathway through native bushland. A series of interactive installations along the above-ground Ancient Lands Experience, bring you to the entrance of the stunningly decorated Ngilgi Cave.

Above-ground you will learn about the cultural connections to the land, flora and fauna, the formation of the Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge and the pristine caves beneath it.

Arriving at the entrance to Ngilgi Cave, majestic stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, and beautifully coloured shawls will await. This tour also includes a presentation from the Capes Foundation. Please note this tour requires closed in shoes, some fitness as there are a lot of stairs and venturing beneath the ground some 12 storeys.

Thursday 31 October				
7am - 8am	Big Ideas for Rural Australia Breakfast (seperate ticketed event) @ The Goose Restaurant			
	The Hilton Garden Inn	The Esplanade Hotel North	The Esplanade Hotel South	Youth and Community Activity Centre
8.30am - 10.30am	SEGTALKS and ACTION PANEL Rural Education and Workforce	SEGTALKS and ACTION PANEL Collaborating for Regional Growth	SEGTALKS and ACTION PANEL Navigating the Skies	SEGTALKS and ACTION PANEL Community Design and Leadership
10.30am - 11.15am	MORNING TEA and room change			
11.15am - 1.15pm	SEGTALKS and ACTION PANEL Climate and Energy	SEGTALKS and ACTION PANEL Community Led Revitalisation	SEGTALKS and ACTION PANEL Regional Industries and Economy	SEGTALKS and ACTION PANEL Water
1.15pm - 2pm	LUNCH on the grass and foreshore area, at the Youth and Community Activity Centre			
2pm - 3pm	CBD Walk 1 and 2 Place Activation	CBD Walk 2 and 3 Investment Attraction	CBD Walk 4 and 5 Tourism	
3pm - 4pm	Closing Remarks and Networking Drinks @ The Busselton Pavillion. <i>For catering purposes please indicate if you are attending when you purchase your ticket.</i>			

