

# Spectacular backdrop for chamber networking

RECORDS were broken for the first Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry Business After Hours of the year with more than 300 people enjoying an inside view of the iconic Albany Entertainment Centre (AEC).

In addition to the AEC, other hosts for the night were WA Country Builders, and the Perth International Arts Festival Great Southern program. The 2011 ACCI Business Awards were also launched on the evening.

WA Country Builders Albany general manager Rod Harris announced that Albany had been chosen as the location for the 2011 Regional Telethon Home.

Oyster Harbour Joint Venture members Heath Developments and the Department of Housing have donated the block of land and WACB will be looking for local suppliers and trades people to support the construction of the house, according to Rod.

Money raised through the auction of the home will be returned to the region. It was hoped construction would get under way by late March, completed in September and the home ready for auction in October.

Rod also announced the introduction of a new "affordable" range of homes designed to fit on to cottage lots in the Clydesdale Park Estate, McKail. And if any more evidence was needed of WA Country Builders supporting the community, Rod reminded the crowd that the company was always willing to talk to groups about sponsorship opportunities.

AEC general manager Garry Snowdon said the centre was set for a busy start to 2011, especially with the Perth International Arts Festival (PIAF)

program kicking off on February 8.

The AEC is currently owned by the Perth Theatre Trust and has contracted AEG Ogden (Perth) to manage the centre for the first two years of operation.

Garry recommended several performances to the BAH crowd including PIAF's The Animals and Children Took to the Streets on February 25, The Platters on March 8 and Motherhood The Musical on March 10.

The AEC box office was open Monday to Friday 10am-5.30pm and on Saturdays 10am-1pm. Tickets can also be purchased over the phone and via the website [www.albanyentertainment.com.au](http://www.albanyentertainment.com.au)

Garry said a number of functions had already been booked during the year that would be catered for by the food and beverage division. The recent appointment of a chef meant that the cafe would soon be opened, where local produce would be showcased.

In PIAF Great Southern program manager Rod Vervest's absence, ACCI chief Graham Harvey read out Rod's speech regarding the upcoming festival.

The biggest ever program of PIAF unfolds in February with tickets sales roughly double the same time last year. This means more the 5000 tickets have been purchased to date.

Rod said the program had achieved the highest level of local sponsorship from businesses and the festival was delighted with the new and existing partnerships that have been established.

Rod encouraged everyone to get on board the PIAF program – as a punter, a supporter, a sponsor, an advocate and immerse yourself in it.

"If an event looks challenging, go and confront it. If it looks interesting, give it a go. If it looks like pure fun, go and have some fun and get into it. And importantly, talk about it, share it, write a letter about it, criticise it, wax lyrical about it," he said.

"This is increasingly our festival in the Great Southern and the more we make it ours, through local sponsorship and support, the more we define ourselves as a culturally sophisticated and contemporary society."

Graham Harvey concluded the formalities by launching the 2011 ACCI Business Awards. This year the closing date for all applications is March 4 with the gala presentation to be held on Saturday March 26 at Wignall's Winery under the 'big-top'.

Graham said preparation of a submission gives businesses a fresh perspective and new insights into future strategies for the growth and development of your business.

"It also gives you a golden opportunity to stop and reflect how far you have already come. Regardless of whether your business is named a winner this year or in the future, you will have the opportunity to benchmark your performance against other successful businesses."

Finalists and winners receive publicity at a local level with the possibility of State promotion, as winners in some categories are eligible for the Small Business Development Corporation WA Regional Small Business Awards.

February's BAH will be hosted by Latro Lawyers and the Great Southern Distilling Company.

## New members!!

Welcome to our newest member whose membership was approved at last month's Executive Committee meeting:

**Pocock Building Company - Matt Pocock**

## Join us at...

### February's BAH

- > Wednesday 16 February
- > 5:30-7:30pm
- > Hosts: Latro Lawyers and the Great Southern Distilling Company
- > Venue: Great Southern Distilling Company, 252 Frenchman Bay Rd
- > RSVP to [events@albanycci.com.au](mailto:events@albanycci.com.au) or fax registration form to 9842 3040 by noon, Friday 11 February, 2011
- > Registration form enclosed

See you there!



▲ Sabine Blankner and Michael Hemmings from Michael Hemmings Photography.



▲ Kate Henderson and Hayley Ranger from Laubman and Pank with Amanda Romeo from Tony's of Albany.



▲ Grenville Brown from Albany Prestige Realty, Glenise Bailey from Plantagenet Shire and Sean Little from Westpac.



▲ Garry Capelli and Leanne Rogers from the Lake House Denmark.