Australia’s biggest commercial solar farm, the Greenough River Solar Farm (GRSF) is contributing $200,000 over five years to the Hollomby Foundation, to benefit local students and initiatives at the Geraldton Universities Centre.

Opened in 2012, the GRSF 50kms south of Geraldton has been producing about 22,000 megawatt hours (MWh) a year of clean energy - that’s enough for about 3000 average households!

GRSF General Manager, Hugh Webster said the company was very pleased to be able to support such a successful and worthwhile local educational initiative.

"It's important that regional students have the same opportunity to further their studies and their careers locally - scholarships and other means of support financed by our community support initiative will help fulfil that objective," he said.

GRSF will provide $40,000 a year for five years to the Hollomby Foundation to be used for science, engineering, technology and renewable initiatives, and associated scholarships.

Founder of the Hollomby Foundation, Ian Wheatland, highlighted that this was the most substantial donation to have been made to the Foundation.

“This support is most significant and will allow GUC to provide outstanding opportunities for local students in science and technology fields," he said.

"For a local enterprise to recognise the importance of giving back to its community and developing our next generation is particularly heartening."

Mid West Development Commission Chairman, Murray Criddle believes it is fantastic that Greenough River Solar Farm is investing into the region’s future through the students studying at GUC.

GUC Chair Steve Douglas thanked GRSF for their generous support and hoped this would inspire other businesses to follow suit.
CQU met with Geraldton Universities Student Squad (GUSS) on their visit.

It was a pleasure and privilege to welcome Chancellor Rennie Fritschy, Vice Chancellor Prof Scott Bowman and Campus Development Director Kari Arbouin from our largest university partner, CQU, to Geraldton in April.

The visit strengthened the already solid relationship between CQU and GUC, with the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor meeting with students and Academic Coordinators to discuss how their programs are running.

During the visit, CQU met with community leaders to gain a sense of further opportunities in the region. This included discussions on the articulation of Durack Institute of Technology courses into CQU programs supported at GUC.

GUC Chair Steve Douglas said, “The visit highlighted how solid our existing relationship is with CQU, and for Chancellor Rennie Fritschy and Vice Chancellor Prof Scott Bowman to go out of their way and take the trip to Geraldton confirms an exciting future on both ends.”

In semester one this year, 105 students were studying CQU programs supported by the GUC.

First GUC Graduate appointed to the Board

2010 graduate, Donna McVee has been appointed to the Geraldton Universities Centre Board - the first former GUC student to do so.

Donna completed her Bachelor of Education through the support of GUC after leaving her position as Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Western Australia.

Currently a Primary School teacher at Bluff Point Primary, Donna believes her experience and knowledge of the Mid West region will assist her in her new role on the board.

“Having grown up in Geraldton, I have an understanding of the complexities of country life and the demands placed upon rural families,” she said.

“As a new board member I would like to see the GUC continue to develop, not only their range of courses offered to meet the needs of students, but also the opportunity given to indigenous students to study.

“I would also like to see the continuation in development of GUC’s range of digital technologies to ensure the support provided to the students is the most up to date, keeping them part of online and interactive communities.”

The GUC would like to congratulate Donna on her achievements and we look forward to her future successes as part of the GUC Board.
GUC community activities

Uni Week 2014
Uni Week saw more than 500 Year 10 and 12 students from local high schools visit the GUC to hear about their range of options from both GUC and visiting Perth based universities.

GUC students helped keep it real for the school students, addressing each group about the advantages of studying locally including GUC’s close knit, supportive learning community, staying close to family and friends and the many financial advantages.

Youth Science Forum
The GUC supported the Forum, which promotes science to high school students and encourages them to study and pursue a career in science.

With a focus on nursing activities, the GUC table gave students a chance to make ‘medicine’ using jelly crystals as the example of how antibiotics is stored. This fitted perfectly with the Forum’s theme of “Crystallography,” which is the United Nations International theme for the year.

Learning Celebration
Semester 1 STEPS students were recognised for completing their course in May, with a celebratory lunch held at the GUC.

Congratulations!

Student Riccardo Amazzini addresses visiting students

The GUC is fortunate to have many highly qualified and experienced people to tutor in the programs we support from a range of universities. This column will provide you with an insight into one of these tutors each newsletter.

TUTORS in Profile

With a career spanning 33 years, including 25 years as a senior manager with Main Roads, Tim retired in February, freeing up a few hours a week to offer GUC and our engineering students.

Tim worked with Main Roads at various locations across the state from Perth, to the Kimberley, Wheatbelt and the Pilbara. His breadth of experience and knowledge in the engineering field, and local connections, made him the ideal coordinator for the Associate Degree in Engineering.

“I really enjoy my new role at the GUC and the chance to help the next generation of civil engineers is a great way to finish my career as a professional engineer,” he said.

Tim’s formal qualifications include an MBA, Certificate in Building and Construction Law, Practitioners Certificate in Mediation and Conciliation, and, of course, a Bachelor of Engineering.

His previous roles involved duties such as project management, final design approvals and road planning for major projects.

“My career certainly has allowed me to enjoy many different experiences and a variety of opportunities,” Tim said.

“My role as Engineering Coordinator at the GUC is the next chapter of my work life and I am looking forward to continuing to share my knowledge and experiences with the current and future Engineering students at GUC.”

Tim Glenister
The GUC welcomed Tim, our Engineering Coordinator to the GUC Academic team this year.
2014 Scholarship recipients

Congratulation to the 2014 Scholarship Recipients:

Mid West Development Commission: Awarded to Morgan Freeman
City of Greater Geraldton: Awarded to Maree Espinos and Robyn Zadow
The Hon. Paul Brown MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region: Awarded to Paige Maeder and Cody Purcell
Shire of Irwin (pictured top right): Awarded to Kobi Jeffery and Lauren Tunbridge
Shire of Northampton: Awarded to Rachael Clancy
Bendigo Bank Geraldton: Awarded to Michael Patrick
Ian Blayney MLA Member for Geraldton: Awarded to Brodie Drage
Bundiyarra Community Aboriginal Corporation: Awarded to Matthew Harp

The GUC thanks the local businesses, organisations and individuals for their ongoing support to the Hollomby Foundation.

GUC hosts ‘Chat and Chomp’

This month the GUC hosted the quarterly Chat & Chomp - an opportunity for human service organisations to network. The evening proved to be an ideal way to see who’s doing what and to grow relationships. The GUC also took the opportunity to highlight our new facilities which are available for hire.