



Media Statement

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Bunbury, how you've changed since we arrived!

Landgate staff will celebrate 20 years since the Agency first opened the doors to its Bunbury office next Friday, July 4.

The celebrations will be extra special for four staff members who have worked at the office since it opened in 1988 as the then Valuer General's Office.

Between them, there is more than 100 years of valuation experience.

Landgate's Bunbury Office Manager Duncan Rutherford said although the role of Landgate (and its predecessors) had changed over the years, it remained a valued service provider for Bunbury and the southwest region.

"I think it reflects greatly on the close relationships the team has fostered with local clients to be able to celebrate this 20-year milestone," Mr Rutherford said.

"It also reflects on the fantastic lifestyle available in Bunbury. I remember how back in 1988, much to the amusement of the locals, there would be a mass exodus of Valuer General's staff back to Perth every Friday afternoon.

"However, all these years later these same people rarely make the trip to Perth and, when they do, are the first to complain about traffic congestion and queues!"

It seems that Landgate staff are not the only ones charmed by the Bunbury lifestyle, with the City's house prices increasing sevenfold in the past two decades.

Landgate's Valuation Services Branch statistics show that in 1989 the median price for a house in Bunbury was \$78,950 and in South Bunbury was \$88,750.

Compare this to the most recent statistics available from 2007 and the same suburbs are fetching median house prices of \$555,000 and \$407,500 respectively.

"It's amazing to think of how much Bunbury has grown since we first opened," Mr Rutherford said.

"Bunbury in the late 80s was a predominantly industrial town on the cusp of being transformed with projects such as the rehabilitation of the former railway marshalling yards and planning underway for the redevelopment of the Marlston Hill and Silo's precincts.

"Although still a port city, Bunbury has developed into a major regional centre with great lifestyle appeal for families and a strong, diverse economy."

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Landgate's Bunbury team has also grown from eight staff in 1988 to 17, currently comprising nine valuers and eight support staff.

In the expanding property market, the office continues to provide Bunbury and southwest locals with a one-stop-shop for land and property information and services.

"Our document registration service is highly regarded by local settlement agents and conveyancers throughout the region," Mr Rutherford said.

"Then there's the Valuation Services team who provide local and State Government agencies in the southwest with a comprehensive property valuation service.

"The team cover 14 local government areas in the south west, with the continued growth in subdivision and building ensuring a very busy work schedule."

"And of course we provide locals with access to all kinds of property information, sales maps, aerial photos and map products."

For more information on products and services available through Landgate visit www.landgate.wa.gov.au

Ends

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