



SHIRE OF
HARVEY

A Breath of Fresh Air

Community Sail Training Trust (Leeuwin) Advisory Group **Minutes**

Harvey Chambers Meeting Room
Wednesday 22 April 2026
12:00pm

Minutes

1. Official Opening

The meeting was opened at 11:58 am Chair Shire President Michelle Campbell. Resuming the Advisory Group meetings after a hiatus since 2024.

Acknowledgment of Country

The Shire of Harvey acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.

Introductions around the room as there were new faces.

2. Attendance

Delegate - Shire President (Chair)	Michelle	Campbell
Deputy - Councillor	Craig	Carbone
Manager Community Development	Ben	Rose
Community Development Officer	Amy	Cleasby
Administration Officer (Minutes)	Deb	Sparkes
Aboriginal Trainee (Observer and Youth Representative)	Ethan	Wright
Australind Lions Club	John	Suckling
Brunswick Lions Club	Fred	Talbot
Brunswick Lions Club (Observer)	Judy	Talbot
Harvey Lions Club	Norman	Stanford
Harvey Rotary Club	Tony	Parton

3. Apologies

CEO, Shire of Harvey	Annie	Riordan
Director - Community and Lifestyle	Suzie	Haslehurst
Leeuwin Port Warden	Gerrit (Gary)	Van Burgel OAM JP
Youth Trainee – recruited but yet to start		

4. Actions from Previous Meeting

Nil.

5. Agenda Items

5.1. Leeuwin STS 2026 Sail Dates

Youth Adventure Voyage - Fremantle to Geraldton	22 May to 27 May	7 days
Youth Adventure Voyage - Fremantle to Fremantle	26 Sept to 2 Oct	7 days
Youth Adventure Voyage - Fremantle to Fremantle	5 Oct to 11 Oct	7 days

Amy reported that the Leeuwin has undertaken 3 sails so far this year, recommencing in February after the Leeuwin was repaired.

The May sail is too soon for the Advisory Group to recruit and make arrangements, suggest that the September and October sails were favourable, being round trips to and from Fremantle, and September being during school holidays. Service groups are happy with utilising the sail dates in September and October.

The process was explained to the new members of the Advisory Group:

- Recruitment (social media arranged by SoH Marketing and Communications);
- School group visits by Community Development Officer (CDO);

- Applications received;
- Service group interviews applicants. Service group chosen based on location of applicant.
- Amy confirmed with Leeuwin that the Youth Voyage sail price per person is \$3,122.
- If applicant suitable they will be advised and provided with payment process: \$400 contribution by applicant.
Each Service Club / group to contribute \$1,200 annually to the project which is added to the Shire's annual budget for the Leeuwin STS activity of \$10,000.
- Allocate applicant to a sail date, can be requested by applicant and be dependent on schooling commitments.
- Post-sail, applicant to report back about their experiences and life skills learned, to service group as their guest speaker and SoH at Concept Forum.

This process can take a few months. The Advisory Group was asked if they approve keeping the applications open all year round, instead of for a shorter period prior to each sail. Unanimous agreement on keeping the application period open all year round to establish a pool of applicants, with SoH arranging a refresh of marketing every 3 to 6 months.

The successful applicants from 2024, who did not get the opportunity to sail due to the Leeuwin being scuppered, have been contacted by Amy, but no response from either of them to date. Amy to reach out again to these two applicants. Believe that one of the applicants has aged out of the criteria for being a youth.

Harvey Lions advised that they already have an applicant for the 2026 sailing. Information to be sent to Amy to follow up on this applicant.

5.2. Marketing the program

Promotion of sail opportunity: suggestion from Manager, Community Development that applications are left open all year round to create a pool of applicants for current and future sail dates. This approach may also increase the number of applications received as it provides flexibility for sailors around departure dates etc.

Amy to liaise with SoH Marketing and communications to arrange advertising for September and October sail dates. It was noted that Leeuwin may set more dates

5.3. Leeuwin costs

The cost per person for a Youth Adventure Voyage is \$3,122 (inc GST, Amy confirmed with the Leeuwin that is the current price).

Service groups are happy with the modest increase in their contributions to \$1,200 each per sail. The applicant contribution has been maintained at \$400 per applicant. The Leeuwin does provide tips and tricks to fundraising for the applicants and SoH can forward these as part of the application process. The balance of the sail costs will be covered by SoH. Unfortunately SoH cannot cover the applicants \$400, this must come from the applicant, but SoH staff can work with the applicant on the fundraising process.

5.4. Evaluating impact of program

This is a large investment by the service groups and SoH and evaluation of any impacts would be useful for future budget justifications.

It was also discussed that a pre- and post-sail evaluation to gauge the success on each individual / and their family.

Amy to check with the Leeuwin to see if they conduct a similar survey and if they would share the results, so we do not duplicate this exercise.

5.5. Council's expectations of returning sailors

As part of the program, applicants are asked to come back to SoH after the sail experience to present to Concept Forum. SoH has not been successful in making this follow up presentation happen.

Service groups report quite the opposite, and have enjoyed return visits by the participants and value the feedback from the applicants on how the Leeuwin experience had affected their lives, increased their confidence, developed leadership skills etc.

Discussed making this post-event presentation to both SoH and the service groups a mandatory task for all participants. Also discussed the time difficulty for the Shire's scheduled Concept Forum meetings vs the Service groups regular meetings. This could account for the discrepancy in attendances.

Australind Lions Club took this one step further and suggested that the participants also come back one year later to see if this experience has affected their lives longer term. Also, if they would like to speak to the new applicants encouraging participation. SoH could video their stories and use as a marketing tool. Harvey Rotary said that one participant, Ms Silver, was so impressed with the experience that she went on to work for Leeuwin. Community Development to discuss logistics with Marketing and Communications.

6. Other Business

6.1. Around the table

Brunswick Lions Club

We think that this is an important opportunity for youth that are disadvantaged and could use a hand up. This is the type of applicant we are looking for, someone who could benefit from an improvement in their life. Brunswick Lions Club are proud to be a part of this program and enjoy witnessing the apparent before and after difference.

Harvey Lions Club

Harvey Lions are happy with this program and agree with what others have said about the program.

Harvey Rotary Club

Agree with Brunswick Lions Club. Rotary also has other programs with youth in need and where there is not financial input required by participants. Would value School input (aside from letter of support for the Leeuwin program) as service groups do not usually have an existing relationship with the students.

Australind Lions Club

Agree with above comments, nothing to add.

7. Next meeting

Meetings are to be held quarterly to discuss sailing schedules and applications received. Meeting invitations will be forwarded soon:

- Wednesday 22 July 2026, Australind
- Wednesday 21 October 2026, Harvey
- Wednesday 20 January 2026, Australind

8. Closure

In closing the meeting, the Chair stated that if Leeuwin were offering a site visit to the Leeuwin, the Advisory Group would gratefully accept such an invitation. Have previously found the tour adds extra depth to the Advisory Group's understanding.

The Chair also expressed her thanks to the service groups, is happy this program is up and running again, and looks forward to the applications coming in.

The meeting was closed at 12:35pm.