

# EDITION 93 - APRIL 2022 FREE - ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE

http://www.manjimup.crc.net.au/cafe-bytes.html

# Quote for April

"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot." – Michael Altshuler (1978 –)

Chat subject for April
Easter eggs, love them or hate them?

Welcome to our 93<sup>rd</sup> Newsletter. March has rolled away and April has arrived, carried in on the cool breezes. Let's be grateful the bush fire season is almost behind us, it will be internal warming fires from here on.

Thank you to the contributors to Bytes this month, we always appreciate anyone who agrees to share stories with us.

Enjoy Easter, and the school holidays, Term One completed with a much deserved break for our teachers.

Let's all do our best to stay Covid Safe and not complain about our restrictions.

#### **POLLINATORS APLENTY**

'Pollinators Aplenty', a project currently running with the Southern Forest Community Landcare (SFCL), had its first community workshop on Sunday March 27: Building a Native Bee Hotel with Tracy Lansdell. The 39 participants took home their newly created bee hotels, in preparation for the nesting season in summer. Tracy enthused and inspired all with her knowledge of native bees, gained from years of observations in encouraging a fertile eco system around her own dwelling space.

Attendees numbered 39, included home school families, participants from Northcliffe, Manjimup and Bridgetown; two of Tracy's followers travelled from Mandurah, staying in Pemberton to attend the course. (Could Eco tourism be our future?)



The project and aims to reconnect people with nature via encouraging people to build refugia for our pollinators, increase the range of plant diversity in their garden, including edibles for human health (hence the free pollinator plants and seeds given away) and increase community cohesiveness through sharing information and resources.

Pollinators Aplenty is funded by the State NRM and partnered by the Manjimup CRC and the Manjimup Community Garden. Special thanks to volunteers on the day for your assistance! (John Hunter, Tracy and Bob Rolfe, Chanah Rowe and members of the Southern Forest Community Landcare). The next workshop in the series of 9 through the year, is planned for April 30<sup>th</sup>. Building bat boxes for micro bats with Joe Tonga. Stay tuned to the SFCL Facebook page for more details.

Sharon Rose

# **WESTERN SWAMP TORTOISE**

The Western Swamp Tortoise (*Pseudomydura umbrina*), was thought to be extinct for over 100 years until a school boy spied one in 1953 on a road in Swan Valley. It is the most endangered Australian reptile with only two known wild populations near Perth. Little is known about the species prior to its rediscovery but it is thought that Swamp Tortoise were most likely found in swamps on the Swan Coastal Plain between Mogumber in the north and Donnybrook to the south.

Western Swamp Tortoise are the smallest species of the Australian *Chelidae* family of aquatic or semi aquatic turtles, they are short necked, have a squarish shell that is brown or black above and white, yellow or olive brown below. They have webbed toes with five claws on each foot. Their short neck makes them easily distinguishable from other freshwater tortoises in Western Australia. Males have a shell length of 15.5cm and females 13.5cm, maximum weight of males is 550g and females 410g. They are carnivores and eat small invertebrates such as tadpoles and frogs when swamps contain water in winter and spring. When water dries up in summer they hibernate in holes in the ground or under deep leaf litter. The Western Swamp Tortoise is long lived (60 - 100 years), they are a slow reproducing species with one clutch of eggs per year laid in an underground nest.

Their limited numbers pose a number of threats as their habitat disappears due to land clearing for housing and agriculture, use of pesticides and fertiliser and fire. Climate change is also making an impact with drier winters, if swamps dry out too early, females may not produce eggs that season. Feral predators like rats, cats and foxes will also eat tortoises and their eggs.

The population declined from greater than 250 in the 1960s to around 15-25 mature individuals in the late 1980s. Perth Zoo began a breeding program in 1989, since then more than 900 Western Swamp Tortoise have been bred as part of the recovery program and over 741 released to boost numbers in the wild, (data April 2018). Perth Zoo has a population of around 150-200 with another population being established at Adelaide Zoo as an "insurance population". Without the recovery program and significant efforts to restock the population, the Western Swamp Tortoise would most likely be extinct.

When the tortoises reach 100g in weight (about three years of age), they are released into managed wild habitats by West Australian Parks and Wildlife (DBCA). Release sites include Twin Swamps, Ellenbrook, Mogumber and Moore River Nature Reserves. Release sites are also being trialled in our South West which is outside the Swamp Tortoise normal range, it is hoped that a cooler, wetter climate will counteract the effects of drier summers.

Should you be lucky enough to spot one of these rare little animals, fill out a fauna report form and send it to the Department's Species and Communities Branch <a href="mailto:fauna@dbca.wa.gov.au">fauna@dbca.wa.gov.au</a>

Liz Coley



Photo - dpaw.wa.gov.au

# **COMMUNITY BYTE SIZED PIECES**

- The Shire of Manjimup has extended the fire ban for Zone 8 Manjimup, Pemberton and Quinninup, Zone 6 Northcliffe and Walpole. Please note prohibited burning times have been extended to the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 restricted burning until 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
- Lower South West Football League advises that fixtures will commence on the 9<sup>th</sup> April pending Covid restrictions being removed or reduced, follow your club to find out details.
- Manjimup Farmer's Market days are being held every Saturday 8.30am to 12.30pm, lots of delicious homegrown fruit and vegetables, plants, craft stalls etc, something for everyone.
- Need Room Hire? Available for permanent tenants or casual room hirers, check out our competitive rates on manjimup.crc.net.au or ask our friendly Reception staff at the Centre.
- The Manjimup Art Gallery is currently displaying "Wild Inspiration" from 12<sup>th</sup> March to 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Read our article about artist Barbara Maumill in this issue.
- Southern Forest Steppers will be holding their annual 'Pop up Shop' Friday 1st at 12pm and Saturday 2nd April at 9am in the former Target building. Come along and bag a bargain and help to raise vital funds for Cancer research (see story further on in this issue)
- Due to Covid restrictions, the Anzac day service is yet to be finalised. Keep an eye on the RSL Manjimup and CRC Facebook pages for more information as the day approaches. The RSL is always looking for new Members, so message them on Facebook if you are interested.
- Our thanks to Hon. Alannah MacTiernan and our local MLA Jane Kelsbie for calling in to the Centre and presenting us with free RATs for community distribution.



# **BUSINESS MEMBERS**







# TOMATO—Solanum lycopersicum

The French used to call tomatoes *pommes d'amour* : apples of love.

This delightful, edible fruit, *Solanum lycopersicum*, is a species of the nightshade family and its use as a food is believed to have originated in Mexico. Like so many of our commonly grown food plants it was introduced to Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by the Spanish after their colonization of South America.

The glorious red fruit was regarded with suspicion by some (red being the colour of danger) and thought to be poisonous or some kind of aphrodisiac, perhaps the Garden of Eden's forbidden fruit should have been a tomato!

It is unclear when and where the first tomatoes were planted in Australia but they are probably the most popular home grown vegetable, (botanically a fruit), that we cultivate in our gardens.

Our temperate climate is ideal for these sprawling vines, they need a long growing season, plenty of water and are gross feeders. Give your seedlings a hard time in their punnets, allow them to become a little root bound and flower, water occasionally if they need it. Plant them deeply into a good rich soil with plenty of added organic matter and an appropriate fertiliser, mulch with straw and water consistently, tie them to stakes as they grow and they will reward you with a fine harvest.

There are many varieties available and we all have our favourites, I like the taste of Grosse Lisse, this is a great all-rounder, ideal for sandwiches and great for making sauces. Roma is perfect for sun dried tomatoes with a little salt, basil and olive oil. Cherry and Grape tomatoes grow well in pots and are just the right size to snack on.

Most commercial varieties are red, in contrast Heirloom tomatoes come in a riot of colours, green, yellow, orange, pink, black and purple and more besides.

Tomatoes are packed full of goodness and contain the anti-oxidant lycopene which helps to mop up damaging free radicals, they are packed full of vitamins including A, C and E.





## **TOMATO TART**

**Ingredients:** 400g shortcrust pastry, 1 1/2 tablespoon Dijon Mustard, 100g Gruyere cheese grated, 2 small shallots thinly sliced, 2 tablespoon chopped rosemary, thyme and sage, 2 to 4 large ripe tomatoes thinly sliced, extra virgin olive oil for drizzling.

Method: Preheat oven to 210C.

- Roll out pastry to approx. 25cm x 35cm rectangle, spread with Dijon mustard leaving a 1.5cm border.
- Scatter over Gruyere, shallots and herbs, layer with sliced tomatoes overlapping slightly.
- Fold in the edges to form a border, scatter with herbs and season to taste. Drizzle with olive oil.
- Bake until golden brown and cooked through. (I used a mix of grated Gruyere and Parmesan) any tasty cheese will work with this).

Makes a delicious lunch served as is or with a leafy green salad.



## **NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING**

National Service Training, 1951–1959

A few years ago, we did a Bytes story about compulsory National Service in the era of the Vietnam War, and as that was not the first of these Government commands, we have investigated previous Australian National Service for our April Anzac edition.

Back in 1951 when Australian forces were doing active service in the Korean war the Liberal and Country Party Government introduced compulsory training for eighteen-year-old men, to undertake 176 days of military training. And of course, compulsory means by law they were compelled to do it otherwise jail was the option. The young guys could choose between Army, Navy and Air Force. Those who elected to undertake their training in the army could break it into two periods, 98 days in the Australian Regular Army and 78 days in the Citizen Military Forces (CMF). Those who elected to undertake their training with the Royal Australian Navy or Air Force had to complete their 176 days in one stretch.

In time the scheme was criticised as being irrelevant to modern defence needs, and also being costly, diverting Regular Army resources and funding from ongoing operational requirements, to supporting recruitment and training of short-term personnel. In 1959 the scheme was abolished.

Eighteen year olds possibly may have looked on this time as a paid adventure, 176 days equals near on six months. And if Women's Lib had been around back then females may have been included in this National Service.

A Manjimup local, Maurice Masters is willing to share his memories, and recalls national service as a great time in his life. In 1952 when he finished 5<sup>th</sup> Year, i.e. year 12, at Muresk College, it was time for his National Service to start, so he was enrolled in the Collie intake. He chose the army for his training, which meant he was sent to Swanbourne Barracks for his three months, with approx 500 or more eighteen year olds, divided into platoons of around 30. They were accommodated in small huts, doing five days a week training, paid £5 per week, and weekends free to socialise. Legal age for alcohol was 21 back in those days, as was the age of voting.

Training involved learning all about discipline, building physical strength, and handling firearms. (And yes, learning to spit polish their boots.) When the three months was done there was still Citizen Military Forces to serve, spread over the next two years involving weekends of training at Bridgetown Rifle Range Camp, and two weeks per year at Northam Army Camp, topping up the army skills.

Maurice says he loved his army stint and believes eighteen years olds of today would definitely benefit from National Service.

#### **ANZAC DAY 2022**

RSLWA is preparing for Anzac Day events for Monday April 25<sup>th</sup> while acknowledging that plans may change due to public health advice.

RSLWA CEO John McCourt said final arrangements for ANZAC Day would depend on health advice closer to April 25 and the level of public health and social measures in place at that time.

"Right now, all of WA is under Level 2 measures. Should this remain as we near ANZAC Day then the CBD Parade would not be able to proceed as Level 2 restricts events to no more than 500 persons," Mr McCourt said.

This would apply to local Anzac Day services as long as the restrictions last. The Driveways Dawn Services have had strong support across WA for the past two years with families gathering at the end of their driveways to pay their respects to our fallen soldiers and veterans. Some may choose to commemorate in this way again in 2022.

If you want to take part in an Anzac Day Service please refer to your local RSL branch, they will be aware of any restrictions applying as a result of the pandemic. Meanwhile we thank all our returned soldiers and those who lost their lives for their bravery and sacrifice for our country.

Liz Coley





## CHARLIE BURNS—LOCAL INDIGENOUS ANZAC HERO

There are quite a few stories around about Charlie, all very interesting, and I have snatched some excerpts to produce a few memories of this popular, local indigenous identity. The Australian War Memorial have a very informative record, well worth a read, he can also be found under Anzac Heroes.com.au, and Joanna Box has published a book on Charlie's life.

Charlie was born in the Kimberleys in 1896, on a cattle station. At age six he was taken under the guardianship of Fred and Grace Brockman, Fred was a surveyor, and Brockman family owned property in the Pemberton area. Our upgraded Brockman Street is named after this family. So, Charlie left the north and came down to live in Guildford, attending Guildford Grammar School, a very different situation for him to adjust to. After his school years he worked in many varying jobs, including going with his guardian Fred as a survey hand, working on the Brockman properties in the South West, doing some blacksmith trades. But then the First World War came along and in August 1915 Charlie enlisted in the army. Statistics show that more than 1000 aboriginal men, although not allowed to vote at that time, enlisted and served in the forces. Charlie's life had given him a lot of experience with horses and after doing service with Australian Army Service Corps, and First Signal Squadron for a short while, he was allocated into the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment, serving in Egypt, Sinai and Palestine, until 1919. He earned a Bravery Award while in Palestine when he rescued a NZ soldier who got into serious trouble while swimming in dangerous waters off the coast of south west Gaza. Several soldiers had previously drowned there. Charlie saw the swimmer in trouble and he swam out through the strong current with a life line, which apparently broke, but as a strong swimmer he managed to get the NZ soldier back to shore. His bravery is recorded with Desert Mounted Corps.

After returning home he wandered through different areas, doing black smithing for Northcliffe Group Settlement, stockman on Brockman properties, helping to build fences on Pemberton farming properties and planting restorative marram grass on large areas of sand dunes on the Warren Coast. He was obviously good at Aussie Footy, in 1920s-30s he played for Pemberton Warriors, and it is said he was offered a spot with Subiaco Football Club in 1921, but declined the city opportunity, opting to stay in the South West.

Then in 1940 when the second world war was raging, Charlie, around 44 years of age, was working as a slaughterman, and enlisted for overseas service, a little older than most who enlisted for service. He was sent to the Middle East, around the same areas he served in WW1. This time he was working on Railway Construction, also as a cook, returning back to Australia in 1943, serving in WA, then eight months in Victoria. He returned to WA in 1945 and spent five weeks in hospital before his age related service discharge.

Charlie was a popular, well known local, and has left behind a lot of memories. The Pemberton Hotel have honoured him with photos and memories in their Function Room. He finished his days at Moonya Lodge, passing away in 1990, aged 94. His grave can be found in the Manjimup Cemetery.



Charlie Burns Medals, donated to Australian War Memorial by Pemberton RSL. photo Australian War Memorial website

Vale Charlie, with two world war services to his credit. Lest We Forget.

## WALKING FOR CANCER

#### STEPPING OUT TO HELP VALUABLE RESEARCH

Many thanks to the Steppers for providing this article, which all locals need to be aware of, let's get behind them and support in as many ways as we can.

Southern Forest Steppers Debi Johnson & Hannah Ciccone will be taking part in the 9th New Town Toyota Walk in Perth for Women's Cancer at the end of April, to raise vital funds for the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research.

Each participant is required to raise a minimum of \$500 to take part in the walk. As this goes to print, there is currently 758 walkers who have raised over \$465,000. So, we want to add as much to this as we can.

Following on from the success of our Fundraising in 2021, we have again set up a "Pop Up Shop" where the local community donates clothes, shoes, homewares, bags, and accessories which will go on sale this Friday 8th April at 12pm & Saturday 9th April from 9am. Last year we were able to raise an astonishing amount of \$7000, this year we would like to exceed that total!

You will find the "Pop Up Shop" in the old Target Building on the corner of Ipsen & Rose Streets, Manjimup.

Come along and support a great cause, grab yourself a bargain, and we will also have prizes to be won. Eftpos facilities are also available.

We would also like to encourage anyone who has thought about signing up for the walk to do it. Its such a moving experience, you laugh, cry, make some amazing friendships, and know that what you are doing is making a huge impact on the women in our lives. Every single dollar raised goes directly to the Perkins and their researchers to make significant discoveries to hopefully one day stop Women's Cancers. Or at least make it that a Cancer diagnosis doesn't have to end with a death sentence.

"Together we can save lives"

We look forward to seeing you at our "Pop Up Shop" and would like to thank our wonderful community for supporting us.

Debi & Hannah



CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Debi 0429 728 884

Hannah 0477 556 690



## A FEW THOUGHTS FROM A MANJIMUP SHIRE COUNCILLOR

I am continually inspired by the young people I encounter. Many have innovative ideas, energy and a fresh way of looking at the world. Our young people are our future – and working more closely together to shape that future is the way to build a stronger, more sustainable community for us all.

Netball is the biggest team sport in Australia, played by over 1.2 million people – yet its real beauty is much greater than the game itself. For some participants, it's about exercise and competition, performing at the highest level; for others, it's a social occasion. But there are also opportunities for generations to connect; for mentoring to occur; to build confidence; try new skills; develop leaders; support mental health; to foster inclusion. It presents the opportunity to create a safe space in which to build community.

Of course, this is not just true of netball. The same opportunities are presented in all our community sports and organisations – whether we look to St John's, Scouts, Cadets, arts and music groups, repertory clubs, churches, community gardens or any of the many other local volunteer groups across our Shire.

I have just spent the weekend coaching some very impressive young umpires at Netball WA's Developing Talent Challenge in Perth – a chance for developing netballers and umpires across WA to test themselves against some of the state's best. Regardless of whether we are talking about athletes or volunteers, however, it is clear that when provided with opportunity, support and encouragement, young people are capable of remarkable things.

It is widely acknowledged that volunteers are the backbone of local communities and there are serious concerns regarding the declining trend in volunteerism, recently exacerbated by impacts of COVID. To ensure the sustainability of our community groups, it is more important than ever that we harness the diverse talents, skills, enthusiasm and imagination of our young people.

New roles and responsibilities can easily be adopted by community organisations: youth subcommittees; apprentice committee members or coaches; formal or informal mentoring arrangements; allocation of small, individual areas of responsibility; submitting nominations for community awards. Given that approximately one third of our local population is classified as youth, it is vital that we engage, acknowledge, appreciate and celebrate the valuable contribution they make.

I had never imagined that I would be able to work for a State Sporting Organisation whilst living in Manjimup. But technology has made many things possible, and our current COVID context has driven all industries to re-imagine their workplace realities. Flexible working arrangements are now, by necessity, the norm. Tertiary education is continuing to shift into online delivery modes. Our youth can therefore increasingly consider their futures in a local context. It is possible to imagine a future in which they will be able to live, study and work in a range of fields in our local community. We must actively seek to engage these young people in meaningful ways and provide avenues through which their participation matters.

Susan Dawson Vidovich



## **GETTING TO KNOW OUR LOCAL ARTIST—BARBARA MAUMILL**

**Wild Inspiration**, currently on display at the Manjimup Gallery is not to be missed. It features 28 exquisitely detailed artworks that could be mistaken for high-resolution photographs.

The works reflect images that we see through the course of our normal day in this beautiful area of the state - early sunlight filtering through our native forests, the majesty of our stunning local birdlife and streetscapes that will have you guessing which streets might have inspired them. And if you don't know the artist, let me introduce you.

We can claim Barbara Maumill as a local as she has lived in the area since 2009. She says she and her partner were looking for an alternative to the hot climate they were living in at Bindoon. They wandered around the South West to find somewhere to plant their roots and the Manjimup area stole their hearts. Barbara says it is the most beautiful area she has ever seen. Perhaps she was drawn to the lush bushland of the area after spending her early years living in New Guinea where her father taught at a school in the Highlands before eventually moving to Bunbury.

At 14, Barbara wandered into an art gallery in Bunbury, where members of a local art group encouraged her to submit a sketch for an upcoming art show. Barbara sketched a frog which ended up selling for \$5, a small fortune for a 14 year old at that time. Since then, Barbara's work has won prizes in a variety of exhibitions and many of her works have sold, including one of a Yellow Breasted Robin that now lives in a private residence in Tuscany.

Despite her highly successful career as an artist, *Wild Inspiration* is Barbara's first solo exhibition. It is fitting that Barbara's beautiful work is being featured at the Manjimup Art Gallery, where it can be presented to maximum effect.

Barbara says she received a lot of advice and encouragement from local art groups when she first began painting. She said this helped to build her technical art knowledge but more importantly, it increased her confidence. She has never forgotten her early mentors and is now providing the same nurturing support to young local artists. Art students from local schools will have the wonderful opportunity to spend some time with Barbara while she works in the Manjimup Art Gallery space as an artist in residence.

Barbara's other interests include walking her dogs through trails and tracks in and around Palgarup and Manjimup. These walks double as an opportunity to see new scenes and outlooks that inspire new ideas for new works.

Wild Inspiration is on display at the Manjimup Art Gallery from 12 March to 23 April 2022. Don't miss it!

A special thanks to Barbara for sharing a little of her story with Café Bytes readers.

Kathy Hill, and Vanda Deitos





**Business Membership** 

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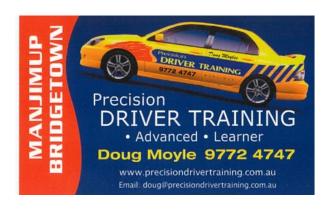
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ACC: 151749 (Please use Surname as reference and email a copy of your confirmation of payment)





## MANJIMUP COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE VOLUNTEER REPORT

Hi All...

And a belated Happy Birthday to Jane Pratt for Sunday! Jane spent the day at our Southern Forest Community Landcare, 'Pollinators Aplenty', Native Bee Hotel making session facilitated by Tracy Lansdell. Was Awesome to see so many people attend this CRC and Community Garden partnered event. More on the cover page.

So we're almost into April – a new month, new beginnings and definitely a change in seasons!

• First up and with the end of the hot days, our Heart Foundation Monday Walk group will go back to its normal start time of 0900. Walks vary according to the weather and injury. We sometimes only manage a lap pf the Heritage park, but lately have been traipsing along the rail formation, between 3-4 kms round trip, often accompanied by up to 4 friendly pooches. So it's an act-belong-commit/dog walking/people walking/proactive community land care session. What a



way to start the week! Our eye spy litter pickups seem to be making a difference and the prize to the keenest eye definitely goes to Kathy Green



• Tuesday morning's **Be Connected computer classes**, from 1000 till noon continue to run but we will take a break over the Easter holidays. If you are interested in attending these self-paced learning modules as a student or mentor, please contact the CRC on 9777 2774.

• The next **Women's Day at the Manji Men's shed** will be on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 0900-noon.
A great chance to learn new skills and work on our own projects under the guidance of our amazing mentors from the Men's shed (pic of Rose Yeoman and her completed bench). This is a wonderful example of how

community groups can help empower each other. For more information contact Francis Hull on 0409 115 784

**Are you new to town or looking to volunteer?** Wherever I've lived in the world, joining a local volunteer group in an area of personal interest is the best way to learn about a new area, make new friends, discover new skills, potentially receive mentoring and often – as your network



grows – there's employment, should you be looking for work. Potential employers see you as being pro-active. Volunteering not only gives transferable skills, but builds resilience as it takes courage to step out of our comfort zone. There's lots of volunteer opportunities through the CRC and our volunteers help support many other community organisations. For more information call: 9777 2774

Sharon Rose



WHO ARE WE? The Bytes Team who bring you this publication are:

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