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WARREN ARTS COUNCIL

Twenty one years ago, on May 3rd 1993, the Warren Arts Council (WAC) officially became an incorporated body. Traditionally reaching twenty one years would always call for a celebration, being termed a Coming of Age occasion, Attaining your Majority and the Key of the Door.

Mary Nixon, a Life Member and current President of WAC has been in the group since its beginning and she is very excited about embracing this milestone. Mary has some great 21st celebration ideas already in place for October 18th, which is just two weeks after WAC's Manjimup Bluegrass and Old Time Music Weekend. We'll all still be in party mode from the singing and toe tapping of the Music weekend, so it's pretty good timing.

Over the years WAC have been instrumental in bringing many varied top performances to town, from hold on to your belly comedies, to last year's beautiful Classical music High Tea Concert.

This year is the biennial WAC Manjimup Bluegrass and Old Time Music event, set for October 3rd to 5th. Mark that weekend on your calendar so you won't miss out on enjoying and participating in the happy heart warming weekend of fun and musical entertainment. How about we get our town echoing with the sound of music?

Music warms the soul so it will definitely be a smiling, joyful occasion, and for now Mary invites you to come join the warm up Bluegrass Sessions every first Saturday of the month at the Round House. "Do you play an acoustic instrument - guitar, violin, cello, bass, mandolin, banjo, which perhaps is in the cupboard gathering dust? Or perhaps you're in the closet with your instrument - they call shy players closet pickers in the USA!

Well, if you have been hovering and hawing about coming down with your instrument to join the jam - linger no longer - be bold, join in and have a good time."

Keep an eye out for further details of the October events, it will be a good opportunity for us all to see another aspect of this vibrant country community to which we belong.



FREE

Issue 1, June 2014

Manji Cafe Bytes

Welcome to the first edition of the *Manji Café Bytes*. In recent months, conversations over coffee have often led to how our town could do with a regular "bits and pieces", light hearted publication that will show what a thriving happy bunch we are. Those feel good stories that share just what our community has to offer outside of our front doors. So we are giving it a go, to do a bit of community binding, with little things that happen in our area which may not meet the general public eye. Thanks to the Manjimup Volunteer and Resource Centre for temporarily funding the printing. Manjimup has many interesting and productive activities going on, and many interesting, and generous people in our midst. We are hoping enough of you share our interest, enjoy a quick read with your coffee and maybe share your stories with us, to make this venture worthwhile.

A Picture Paints a Thousand Words

Brockman Street is scheduled for a big make over, and the corner of Brockman and Rose streets in Manjimup is displaying the first steps to this, where a wonderful work of art has been installed representing our region – an abundance of produce and a community that comes together in "sharing our harvest".

The project has been funded by the Community Arts Network Western Australia (CANWA) with support and contributions from the Shire of Manjimup, and coordinated by Lisa White from the Shire's Home and Community Care (HACC). Lisa recognised an opportunity to involve the community, particularly our youth and people with a disability, in an art project to complement the proposed Brockman Street Upgrade.

The project involved holding community consultation workshops on the design of the mural, and Lisa White who coordinated the workshops explained that *"the emerging theme was around our region's produce and our community coming together in celebration of our harvest."* Local artist Fiona Sinclair who has been working on the mural since December, attended the workshops to take photos which she then used as the basis for her painting. You may be surprised to see some locals you know smiling out at you from the lunch table group. Fiona dedicated her art work to her father in law, you will find the dedication in the right hand corner.

Part two of the project saw primary school students and people with a disability become involved in the design of 125 hand-made ceramic tiles in conjunction with Fremantle artist Helen Kirby.

Art class students drew images to represent our region, including indigenous art, and once the tiles had been pressed out of clay, students transferred the images onto the tiles by etching the outline into the clay. After the tiles were cleaned, three coats of colour paint were applied by different community groups, followed by three coats of glaze before they were fired in the kiln. The tiles will be on display in the Manjimup Library until the end of May, and will later feature in the Brockman Street footpaths.



Pictured above left: Local artist Fiona Sinclair with her work on the corner of Brockman and Rose Streets. Above right: Some of the tiles, that are currently on display in the Manjimup Library.

Manji 1979

Who remembers these
businesses, and who
worked in them?

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business featuring in a
"remember when", in similar
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As One Door Closes.....

Manjimup has a feeling of mourning about it, there's a general wide spread sadness brought about by the closing of Alf's Continental Store and we are yet to really feel the reality of what this will mean to us.

How many yarns about Alf's have you heard over the last month or so since the closure announcement was made? We all seem to be able to come up with memories from throughout the years and you know, to put it simply the town just won't be the same. Sad, but true.

We could blame the big supermarkets, and the introduction of seven day trading. Yes, we could. But we could accept that the Guadagnino family have given fifty three years to serving us seven days a week, and maybe it is time for each and every one of them to have a change, and experience what the rest of us have been doing during those years. Travel. Weekends with family. Watching the Footy in peace.

Thank you to the generations of the Guadagnino Family who have served this community, and generations of our families, as well as they have.

We plan to feature a Noongar word every edition. Thanks to Heather Ryan, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, for pointing us towards some great resources.

We'll be doing the *MOODITJ* thing and seeking permission.

MOODITJ – "powerful or good"



Manjimup

Community Resource Centre

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GETTING TO KNOW OUR COMMUNITY - THE STORY OF ABDUL ... Manjimup, like everywhere else, can always do with another smiling face and if you look kindly in the direction of Abdulwahid Zahidi you will be sure to receive a shy smile, then if you share a word with him, and he is very eager for a chance to master the English language, you won't hear a whinge or a grizzle from him. Which it must be said is not what some of us lucky, rather spoilt Australians are like, we are sometimes much too prompt to share a negative or two here and there.

Abdul 's story is not a happy one, whilst he is extremely grateful to be safe here in Australia, there's a sadness hovering around him, because of his distance from his wife and children, one of those heart wrenching situations we are hearing about all the time in the news, and hey look, we have one right here in our midst. Abdul had no choice but to leave his home land Afghanistan because as long as he stayed within sight of the Taliban he was at risk of losing his life. Back in his home country Abdul ran a business making cement bricks, but when he sold some of his products to the Americans, who used them for road blocks against the Taliban, he quickly found himself an enemy and the Taliban's solution to halt him supplying was to lock him away. Let's not think about what their next step would be.

But thankfully, Abdul escaped by climbing a fence, unfortunately injuring his back in the process. He gathered his family, and they fled into Iran. Unfortunately even there, the Taliban continued to persecute him. The only solution was for Abdul to raise enough money to leave and seek safety in another country, and that is why he is here with us now. His wife and children, aged from 9 to 18, continue to live in Iran, his wife is a seamstress so can support the younger children with her income but he fears for his sons now that they are maturing and could come under the attention of the Taliban.

He made it to Christmas Island, went through the screening of the Australian authorities and just over a year ago was allowed to come to Manjimup and join his sister, brother in law and their three children. As soon as he arrived he approached the Community Resource Centre and has been a volunteer in our community in quite a few capacities, earning the admiration of all he has come in contact with. To quote Polly Valentine, CRC Special Projects Officer, "We at CRC love Abdul, he is a wonderful volunteer who always wants to help in the community". Community Service Worker Jill Walker was keen to express her gratitude for Abdul's help in her role of caring for our less fortunate citizens requiring emergency housing. Jill says he has been exceptionally caring in his attention to one in particular who suffers from a mental illness. Abdul is soaking up the advantage of the Community Resource Centre **ELF** program, that is, **English Language Friend** Program and has English lessons with volunteers Doreen Owens and Arthur Clemens who are delighted with his progress.

Abdul told us that back in his home country he always had a vegetable patch, growing tomatoes and potatoes mostly, so that's what he has been doing in his yard here in town. His tomatoes were looking so good that when Norm Eaton, vice President of the Warren Agricultural Society Show Committee (pictured below with Abdul in his tomato patch) spied them as he dropped Abdul home after one of his volunteering stints for the March Show Day, he convinced Abdul he should enter them in the Produce section of the Show. You would benefit from seeing the smile on Abdul's face as he proudly shows his First Prize Certificate. Norm says the Show Committee were so impressed with Abdul's efforts as a volunteer for the event that they gave him free entry tickets, and also for his sister and her family.



Abdul is happily planning his winter garden, and his sketch of the crop he has in mind was clearly a turnip, which will be a major ingredient in soups for the family. He was generous enough to share these with the other drop-in clubs. He fed those prize winning tomatoes on sheep manure.

This Month's Chat Subject: If you run out of conversation while sipping your coffee, here's something to think about to share:

What is your favourite sound? And why? You may be surprised at some of the comments this brings out.

A Farewell Message from Jeremy Hubble, former CEO of the Shire of Manjimup

It has been an absolute honour to serve Council in the capacity of Chief Executive Officer for the last seven years and before that as a Director for eight years. I believe I have served the organisation and our community to the best of my abilities with diligence and commitment.

I would like to thank past and present Councillors. I enjoyed the previous close and co-operative working relationship with Council which, I believe, was to the great benefit of our community and did much to raise the reputation of the Shire of Manjimup within the local government sector.

Appreciation must be given to our great staff, both past and present, who demonstrate genuine commitment to serving our community with limited resources at their disposal. They deserve Council's support. I am particularly grateful for having such a diverse, cohesive and capable senior management team.

I really enjoyed my time as CEO

TRUFFLE KERFUFFLE The distant melodic sound of magpies echo around the green paddocks, the early morning mist swirls lazily between the neatly planted rows of hazel and oak trees, there is a touch of coolness in the morning air with the promise of another perfect early June day as the sun begins to rise above the still waters of the lake.

Morris opens one eye and savours the early morning quiet, he knows he has another busy day ahead and prepares himself for the task at hand, some deep breathing exercises and a flaring of the nostrils, a few preparatory sniffs of the earthy scented air and that's it, he's ready. He rises to his feet at the sound of footsteps and voices, there are the usual friendly greetings and some speculation about what the day ahead will hold, there is an air of excitement as he leads the way through the orchard. Feet crunch on stray hazelnuts, treading carefully lest they disturb the treasure that lies beneath the soil.

All eyes are on him as Morris goes to work, sleek black body and delicate nose snuffling gently between the fallen leaves, he pauses and taps his paw on the ground to mark the spot. There is the freshness of the breeze, the lazy heat of the sun and the gentle scent of decaying leaves but beneath all that our hunter has detected the subtle earthy, musky aroma of truffle, a job well done and one that our trusty truffle dog will repeat many times in the next few months.

June to August is truffle season in Manjimup and this year the Truffle Kerfuffle will be held on June 27th to 29th. We have the right climate and condition to be able to produce some of the world's finest truffles, much beloved of chefs and lovers of fine dining everywhere.

So come along and see what this kerfuffle is all about. See you there!



TRUFFLE WITH PASTA – Liz's Kitchen Rules

500g Pappardelle (or any ribbon type pasta), butter, garlic, sea salt, black truffle and truffle oil, parmesan cheese. Boil pasta in salted water until al dente, strain pasta reserving 1 cup of the water.

Return pan to the heat, add butter, garlic and sea salt, cook until fragrant, add pasta and reserved water. Grate over parmesan and toss.

Serve piping hot in bowls with freshly shaved truffle and a splash of truffle oil.