



EDITION 94 - MAY 2022  
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<http://www.manjimup.crc.net.au/cafe-bytes.html>

### *Quote for May*

*"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." – Albert Camus (1913 – 1960)*

### *Chat subject for May*

*Who is loving the cool weather?*

Welcome to our May Café Bytes, winter is approaching and the Autumn colours are surrounding us with beauty. It's almost time for our heaters to be glowing. We hope you enjoy reading the variety of stories we have gathered. Our thanks to Denis Pratt for sharing his memories of National Service, and to Dennis Dickerson and John Old for allowing us into their lives. We feel that sharing life stories is a way of bringing our community together. Thanks also to Brenda Dawes for her contribution on the ADRA Op Shop. If you would like to contribute information on your Community organisation, please contact us on the [manjicafeytes@gmail.com](mailto:manjicafeytes@gmail.com)

Our Business Memberships are continuing to grow—see inside for details of our newest Members. If you would like to add your Business, complete the Form inside, see our Website [www.manjimup.crc.net.au](http://www.manjimup.crc.net.au) or contact Louise on 9777 2774

## GOBLINS' RECOVERY

The majestic shape of the tree structure gives this amazing place its name.

Unfortunately, the fires that raged around the Yeagerup Donnelly River region in March burnt through Goblin Swamp, and apparently paper barks are rather 'explosive burners'. But hopefully in time the Gobblins will recover. Also, as the boardwalk was damaged and will need major repairs, the public is asked not to visit the area, walking around the trees causes damage to the root system and will delay the recovery. It is expected to be some time before the area is open again to visitors.



**Please note: Goblin Swamp was damaged in a bushfire and is closed for repairs. The walk trail from Snotty Gobble Loop Campground to Goblin Swamp is also closed. You can still follow the 1km trail between Grass Tree Hollow and Snotty Gobble Loop campgrounds. [Parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://Parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au)**



<https://www.adra.org.au/>



## From Little Things, Big Things Grow

The Adventist Disaster and Relief Agency (ADRA) Op Shop, operating behind the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Highfield Street, had humble beginnings.

The initial inspiration was to operate it as a Welfare Shed with donated furniture as well as some clothing, but it became apparent that this facility was not going to provide the space required to support both. With help from the WA ADRA Coordinator, they transitioned to the Op Shop you see today. The staff are all volunteers from the wider community.

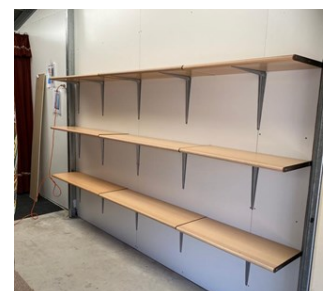
Completely self-supporting, and open to the public only two mornings a month, over the two years it's been operating, slowly and steadily this Op Shop is being transformed and has become a very pleasant place to visit.

"We have been so blessed with good quality second-hand and new clothing and other items. and the support of our menfolk with physical labour in and around the shed has been amazing", says the manager of the Op Shop, Brenda Dawes. "And to see more and more people coming in and commenting about the quality and great prices is a great testament to what this Op Shop aspires to be in the community. Not just to sell at inexpensive prices but we've been able to help in cases of emergency."

The ADRA Pop Shop from time to time works in conjunction with the Manji Pantry when supplying items and food to those in the hardest of times. In just the last few months at least five people have benefited from having items donated to them due to extreme financial hardship or loss. These people who were helped out went through an interview process to ascertain their situation.

The shed was also involved in providing seasonal workers with warm clothing and wet weather gear they didn't have since coming from the Pacific Islands where they don't need winter clothing. And the Op Shop has been able to supply the ladies with certain sanitary items.

So, from little things, big things grow and this lovely little Op Shop is providing a fantastic community service. Opening hours are 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month from 9.30 till 12 noon.



Thanks to Brenda Dawes for the story and pictures



## WESTERN GROUND PARROT

The critically endangered Western Ground Parrot, (*Pezoporus flaviventris*), also known as Kyloring in the Noongar language is one of the rarest bird species in the world.

This seldom seen bird only reveals its presence at dusk and dawn when its beautiful bell like call echoes around its heathland home. For most of the time it is pretty much invisible due to its elusive nature, ground foraging habit and its colouring which allows the bird to blend into the coastal heathland it inhabits. This fact alone has hampered efforts to learn more about one of our most endangered birds.

It was believed for over a century that the Western Ground Parrot was the same bird as its more numerous East Coast cousin, however DNA analysis in 2010 revealed that it was genetically distinct from other species, making it unique to Western Australia.

The Western Ground Parrot is a slender, medium-sized parrot with a long tail. It has distinctive bright-green plumage with yellow and black streaks, and has a narrow, bright-red band above its beak. This beautiful bird spends most of the day feeding close to the ground in dense coastal heathlands with a diverse range of low-growing shrubs, well camouflaged as its distinctive colouring blends into the background. It has a varied diet consisting of seeds, flowers, green fruit and leaves, it will feed on bushland which has been burnt but requires a long unburnt habitat to shelter and breed. The last active nest, discovered in 1913, was described as a slight depression among low prickly vegetation containing 3 eggs.

Once found all along the coast from Dongara to Israelite Bay, now only one small population of about 150 birds is thought to remain in Cape Arid National Park and Nuytsland Reserve. Out of control bushfires which destroy their habitat, feral predation and climate change are the major threats facing the Western Ground Parrot. Seven western ground parrots were transferred by DPAW in July 2014 from a secluded south coast enclosure to Perth Zoo, work is ongoing to develop a successful breeding program.

The Western Ground Parrot recovery efforts are coordinated through the South Coast Threatened Birds Recovery Team. This group involves representatives from the DBCA, Perth Zoo, community, Birdlife WA and Friends of the Western Ground Parrot, a community group formed in Albany in 2003 when it became obvious that the bird was seriously declining in numbers. The group became incorporated in 2009 and is now a registered charity. They aim to raise awareness of the threat of extinction that the Western Ground parrot is facing, increase funding for community projects and lobby for government support. If you would like to help or donate to their rescue fund: <https://western-ground-parrot.org.au>

Liz Coley



© Brent Barrett, DBCA

# Liz's



## Kitchen Rules

### APPLES—*Malus domestica*

There are many varieties of apples, (*Malus domestica*) cultivated worldwide. The wild ancestor of the species (*Malus sieversii*) originated in Central Asia where it is still found today. Apples have been grown for thousands of years in Asia and Europe and were brought to Australia by early settlers. Apples grown from seed tend to lack the desired qualities of their parents and are most often grown from grafting onto rootstocks.

There are more than 7,500 cultivars of apples, bred for various uses such as eating, cooking and cider making. Apples are milled or pressed to produce apple juice which can be drunk unfiltered. Apple juice is fermented to make cider which can be quite a potent alcoholic beverage. It was more popular than wine for many years in England, especially the West country where most of the cider apples were grown. Apples are an important ingredient in many desserts such as apple pie, apple crumble, apple crisp and apple cake. They can be pureed in apple sauce, and also made into apple butter and apple jelly, they are easily dried in an oven or dehydrator and make a delicious snack.

The phrase “An apple a day, keeps the doctor away” has been traced to 19<sup>th</sup> century Wales, the original phrase being “Eat an apple on going to bed, and you’ll keep the doctor from earning his bread”. Despite the saying sadly there is no evidence that eating an apple a day has significant health benefits. Everyone knows the story of Eve coaxing Adam to share her apple “the forbidden fruit”, but did you know that the larynx became known as Adam’s apple as it was thought a piece of the fruit remained in Adam’s throat.

The Southern Forests supply nearly 60% of Western Australia’s apple production with Manjimup being the home of Pink Lady and Bravo apples. Pink Lady was bred in Manjimup and is now grown and distributed throughout the world.

Apples contain Vitamin C and potassium, vitamins K and B6, manganese and copper.

This cake would originally have been baked in a pot beside an open fire and later in the oven on a tin or enamel plate, much better than ovenproof glass because the heat travels through and cooks the pastry base more readily.





## IRISH APPLE CAKE

**Ingredients:** 225g white flour, ¼ tsp baking powder, 110g butter, 125g caster sugar, 1 egg, approx. 50-125ml milk, 3 or 4 large cooking apples, ½ teaspoon cinnamon (optional).

**Method:** Grease a 24cm ovenproof pie plate and preheat the oven to 180°C. Sieve the flour and baking powder into a bowl, rub in the butter with your fingertips until it resembles the texture of breadcrumbs. Add 75g caster sugar, make a well in the centre and mix to a soft dough with the beaten egg and enough milk to form a soft dough. Divide in two and put one half onto the pie plate and pat out with floured fingers to cover the base. (The pastry should be soft, more like a scone dough). Peel, core and chop up the apples, place them on the dough and add 45g sugar, (depending on the sweetness of the apples). Roll out the remaining pastry and fit on top, press the sides together, cut a slit through the lid, brush with a little beaten egg if you like a nice browned top and bake in the preheated oven for 40 minutes approximately, or until cooked through. Serve warm with cream.

## EMU PLUMS

Emu Plum (*Podocarpus drouynianus*), also known as Emu Bush or Wild Plum grows around creeks and low lying areas in our South West and Great Southern. Emus feast on it, hence the name, and it was an important food source for our First Nations people, who knew it as Koolah.

It is part of the Conifer family and has male and female parts on separate plants, very slow growing, height can be between 0.75 to 3 metres and forms clumps which can be metres wide. The plant is part of the understorey of our Jarrah and Karri forests and spreads mostly by root suckering. Emu Plum has the ability to survive and regenerate after bushfires which makes it a hardy plant.

Emus play an important part in this plant's survival, they eat the fruit and pass the seeds in their scat which starts off a new shrub. If you spot a pile of Emu scat with big seeds it is most likely Emu Plum. Emus love it but what about the taste? According to some the fruit while edible does not have a lot of taste, so maybe we should leave it for the Emus. The plant is liked for its appealing foliage and the long and leafy stems are harvested for the floristry industry.

An interesting plant indeed, just one of the many species worth looking out for when you are out and about in our beautiful part of the country.

Liz Coley



Photo—[inspirationoutdoors.com.au](http://inspirationoutdoors.com.au)

## MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in May. The first Mother's Day celebration in Australia began in 1924 when Sydney woman Janet Heyden started the tradition because she wanted to help lonely, elderly mothers at a hospital she visited.

Giving flowers on Mother's Day is thought to have originated with workers returning for Mothering Sunday who would pick wild flowers to give to their mothers when they returned home. Chrysanthemums, Roses and Carnations are the most popular flowers with gift givers today. Chocolates and perfume are also high on the list of Mother's Day presents and there are sure to be plenty of cards available to honour our mothers.

Mother's Day celebrations are on the 8<sup>th</sup> May this year, a happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful Mums, you deserve it!

Liz Coley

M-O-T-H-E-R

'M' is for the million things she gave me,  
'O' means only that she's growing old,  
'T' is for the tears she shed to save me,  
'H' is for her heart of purest gold;  
'E' is for her eyes, with love-light shining,  
'R' means right, and right she'll always be,  
Put them all together, they spell 'MOTHER,'  
A word that means the world to me.

Howard Johnson



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## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING SCHEME 1951-1972

Sincere thank you to Denis for this interesting story

Many younger Australians may be unaware that our country once had a National Service Training Scheme that was compulsory to all eighteen year old males as they reached that age and comprised three months of basic training and a further two years of Citizen Military Forces (CMF) which included a two week advanced training camp each year and an occasional weekend camp and some night training dependant on your circumstances, and whether you were Army, Navy or Air Force and what bases were in your region.

The scheme struggled to keep on schedule and I got my call up at nineteen years, living in Fremantle three years into a Builder's Apprenticeship and I was not pleased when told my three months' training would be added to my five year apprenticeship.

I was drafted in at Swanbourne Army Barracks with a few hundred others in early winter of 1953 and started marching next day, and never stopped for three months. But I did enjoy the training and the use of weapons, like the 303 rifle Vickers Machine Gun, Bren Gun and Owen Gun, all standard Australian Army equipment which we also trained to disassemble and reassemble in day and night conditions until you were proficient in both. About half way through basic training everyone was drafted to more specific training in different areas of the three Services, such as Logistics, Transport, Supply and Planning, and Communication. I was drafted into Anti Aircraft Artillery Battery stationed at Burt Street Barracks in Fremantle. Two streets away from where I was boarding. After two weeks of training on the guns in barracks we towed the guns down to Point Peron where we conducted a live fire off the Point at a target anchored in the water about 3 km out to sea. After about three rounds even with muffs and ear plugs the noise was so horrendous a few of the gun crew had to be replaced as their nerves were completely shattered. The next time we did a live fire exercise was the following year in our CMF fortnight camp when we transported the guns by road and barge to Garden Island and camped with the guns on the west side of the island for the two weeks which included four days of live firing at a target called Drouge, an open ended silk sock about 3 metres in diameter and 15 metres long, towed by an aircraft, in this instance a twin engine Mosquito Fighter Bomber that ruled the target out of the bom bay doors on enough steel rope to keep plane and crew safe from shrapnel. The first salvo of five shells that went up exploded half way between plane and target. A brief radio message from the aircraft to Battery Command was, "if you boys don't improve on that we are heading back to Pearce." As the guns are electronically controlled some slight adjustments got us back on target which resulted in three hits over the four days shoot, which was assessed to be a good result.

On reflection I did enjoy the comradeship and discipline of the training in National Service and if were in Troop, Platoon or a Company you all worked as a single unit which was the purpose and design of the training we were put through. The end result was the Armed Forces now had a huge pool of part trained personnel who could be brought up to speed on short notice in the event of an armed conflict in our region.

Denis Pratt. National Service 5703364

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## TURNING THE PAGE—A NEW JOHN ON THE BLOCK

John Old (Oldsie) has been Windy Harbour's Shire Caretaker since 2002 and after twenty years it is now time for retirement. John formerly lived in Manjimup, and a lot of locals hold leases in the settlement.

Possibly not many people have really thought about what the caretaker job involves, but it would have to be classed as being an extremely demanding role. John says he was under no illusions about what would be expected of him as caretaker when he took it on, he and his wife Diane were fired to take on the challenge. Two years after starting as caretaker John built the park Kitchen, mostly with donated materials, and a leaseholder raffle to raise money for the roof cladding.

With 232 leaseholder properties to keep an eye on, maintenance of roads, managing a constant water supply plus monitoring the caravan park services, 130 people capacity during this distancing Covid era, being just a few of the Caretaking tasks, there wouldn't be much spare time. And in addition, the expectations of the public might sometimes require being available twenty four hours a day for problems that may pop up. There's also the public conveniences management, plus ordering stock for the shop and liaising with shop staff. And ensuring that dog owners stick to the rules, an important safety requirement.

And of course, there's the Caretaker's major role if a fire threatens, as did the 2015 Northcliffe fire which severely threatened Windy Harbour, and to quote John: "Windy wasn't going to burn on my shift mate". His battle to protect Windy during this fire is recorded in the book *After The Burn*, which features stories, poems and photos sharing the community's fire experiences. A dedication to all fire fighters and teams who worked so hard during that nightmare time.

A leaseholder told of John's speedy reaction during this year's hot dry summer, when a bus in the caravan park caught fire. Although unfortunately the bus could not be saved, a possible catastrophic fire was prevented from spreading through the settlement.

Other duties include keeping an eye out for illegal campers in the area, speeding drivers, safety at New Year when parties are in full swing. And you can't carry out the caretaker role, enforcing the law, without stirring anger here and there. Laws he did not make, but sometimes people need a reminder.

John says the tourists, especially international visitors, have loved close contact with the kangaroos he has become buddies with, he thinks they would be the most photographed animals in Australia.

John and Karen Couanon, the new team on the block, will soon find their niche in the settlement, so it will be another John, or maybe Karen, doing the early morning ritual of driving quietly around the settlement, checking out everyone's cottages, which is a comforting thought for leaseholders at home when the wind has been blowing a gale as we know it can do at Windy.

Enjoy your retirement John and thanks for your twenty years of caretaking Windy. John's first plan for retirement is to hit the road, and enjoy freedom.

A warm welcome to John and Karen stepping into the role.

John's buddies enjoying their 'Skippy Mix'



## CREATIVE WRITER SHARES HIS STORY

Dennis Dickerson hasn't always written, he admits that English wasn't his preferred subject at school, but now that he and wife Nikki have retired, he has a little more time to spare.

Dennis spent most of his early life in Esperance, a beautiful part of the state and he says he draws on his early life there as a background for some of his stories. He spent some years on the grey nomad trail, travelling around and working here and there. After spending some time at a caretaking job in Quinninup he got to know and like the Manjimup area.

Eventually he returned to Esperance with the idea of settling down there, that didn't work out and as he liked what he had seen of Manjimup decided that it would be an ideal place to live. Over the last four years he has joined our local Men's Shed and you can find him fixing things at the Repair Café on a regular basis. He likes to go camping and fishing in his spare time.

And of course, he writes most nights, Dennis says he gets a great deal of enjoyment from putting words on paper, he admits he writes "by the seat of his pants" and is never quite sure how a book will turn out until it's finished. The genre he prefers is action/adventure fiction, books rather than short stories. To date he has finished four books and would love to find a publisher, that's not an easy task. However, some of the most aspiring writers were published later in life, Laura Ingalls Wilder was 65 when *Little House on the Prairie* was published.



Good luck with your writing Dennis and we hope to see your name on the best seller list!

Story and photo: Liz Coley

## SOUTHERN FOREST STEPPERS

Congratulations to the ladies who have been working heart and soul to raise money for Women's Cancer research, Harry Perkins Institute. Their achievements have been outstanding, our community is so fortunate to have such dedicated caring members. Thank you Steppers, we are proud of you, we hope you enjoy your challenging long walk on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

On behalf of the **Southern Forest Steppers** I would like to thank our wonderful community for supporting and digging deep to help us reach the mammoth total of \$67,822 as part of the **New Town Toyota Walk for Women's Cancer**. The funds raised go directly to cancer research here in WA.

Yesterday a team of 23 local ladies and gent walked 35/42kms around the streets of Perth. The sun was shining and spirits were high. In total there were 860 walkers collectively raising \$1,115,317.00.

Well done walkers- an amazing achievement Bring on 2023!!!



Kathy Hill



## COMMUNITY BYTE SIZED PIECES

- Shire of Manjimup advises that the free annual hard waste collection for 2022 will commence from Monday 16/05/22 for Manjimup, Deanmill, Jardee and Palgarup. Monday 23/05/22 for Northcliffe, Windy Harbour, Pemberton, Browns Road, Quinninup and Walpole. Check with the Shire for further details.
- Manjimup's Michelle Aiken has been selected to join the WA Squad to travel to Tasmania in October to take part in the 2022 National Games. Michelle generally takes part in equestrian events, this year she will be taking part in the swimming competition. We wish you all the best Michelle.
- Carol Hackett of DCH Design is working her magic outside Manjimup Bakery on these cold mornings, her lovely designs are brightening up our main street. Love your work Carol!
- The Manjimup Men's Shed are looking for new members, contact Secretary Russell Candy on 041254063 or call in at 2 Perup Road, Manjimup, Tuesday and Thursday 9am to 3pm and Wednesday 9am to Midday.
- Our Shire crew have been hard at work replanting the Roundabout gardens, we look forward to seeing them in bloom.
- Have you considered becoming a member of Manjimup Community Resource Centre? We have several packages available, including our \$50 Djeran for businesses which will give you a business card sized ad each month in Café Bytes. Ask our friendly reception staff for details.
- We farewell Tracey Rolf who has been part of our customer service staff at the CRC over the last few months. Many thanks and all good wishes Tracey. We would like to welcome Marie Reeves to the team.
- Every Monday our 'walk yourself well' group meets at the carpark opposite the Wellness Centre at 9am. Walks are of varying lengths to cater for everyone. Pooches on leads are most welcome to join our walks too!
- Do you know what the CRC does?
  - Delivers services on behalf of the Government through funding provided by Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development;
  - Scanning, printing, copying, emailing, laminating and everything in between;
  - Services Australia (Centrelink) & Department of Veteran's Affairs Agent;
  - Department of Transport Agent;
  - Room Hire;
  - Host a range of training and upskilling sessions, such as the Be Connected program;
  - Has a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator who can assist you to find volunteering options or assist your organisation to find volunteers;

Our Website [www.manjimup.crc.net.au](http://www.manjimup.crc.net.au) is packed full of useful information or call in and have a chat with one of our very helpful Staff!



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