

Who are we? The Bytes Team who bring you this publication are:

Polly Valentine, Manjimup CRC  
community@manjimup.org.au

Liz Coley & Kathy Hill  
Yarn Spinners  
[manjicafeytes@gmail.com](mailto:manjicafeytes@gmail.com)

Design : Janne Hennessy  
&  
Manjimup CRC : Clancy Utech



Artist : John Duncan

FREE

Issue 9 - February 2015

# Manji Cafe Bytes

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business from 1979 ?

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Yanmah Summer Sunset

**WELCOME** to a warm edition of Manji Café Bytes. As we are preparing our newsletter for publication we are feeling the sizzle that January and February usually brings and find it hard to remember the biting cold of winter. But... it will be back! And before we know it we will be complaining about the chill. We hope you enjoy our collection of stories for February and don't forget to let us know if there is anything you would like featured, we always welcome suggestions at [manjicafeytes@gmail.com](mailto:manjicafeytes@gmail.com). There's lots of interesting events and ventures happening around town that are worth spreading the word about, and that's what our newsletter is hoping to do, to share the community spirit. Enjoy the sunshine and warmth, and good luck to all school students as they head into their next scholastic year. Copies of Manji Café Bytes are also available online at <http://www.manjimup.crc.net.au/>



Yanmah Summer Twilight

## VALENTINE'S DAY

It seems that your Bytes Team is not immune from the love bug, Valentine's Day is fast approaching and our thoughts are turning towards romance.



Chocolates, flowers, cards, a bottle of champagne and a romantic movie and we are all ready to celebrate February 14<sup>th</sup>: hearts, doves and ribbons put a light in the eye and a spring in the step, young or old. Once Cupid's arrow strikes we want to show that special someone how much they mean to us on Valentine's Day.

So who was Valentine? One of many legends has it that Saint Valentine was a Priest of Rome who was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry, and for ministering to Christians, who were persecuted under the Roman Empire.

Most of us can recite the old Valentine rhyme, "Roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet and so are you". Interestingly, it mirrors some of the words from [Spenser's](#) epic "[The Faerie Queene](#)" 1590.

*"She bath'd with roses red, and violets blew,  
And all the sweetest flowres, that in the Forrest grew".*

In 18th-century England it evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by giving flowers and confectionery and sending greeting cards known as valentines. Valentines were handwritten at this time, mostly signed "From Your Valentine" or "Be My Valentine", sentiments still expressed today.

In 1797, a British publisher issued "[The Young Man's Valentine Writer](#)", which contained scores of suggested sentimental verses for the young lover unable to compose his own. We don't know if there are any copies still around but it could come in handy!

All this tells us that romance is here to stay, so whether you say "Valentinsdag" (Scandinavian) or "Dia dos Namorados" (Portugal), go out and buy some red roses, send a card to your love, enjoy a romantic dinner for two and in a hazy glow of contentment bask in the thought that you can do it all again next year!

## SOUTHERN FOREST FLOWERS

Hidden away in a valley just east of Manjimup town site is an amazing display of hydrangeas in many colours of white, pink, blue, purple and green, and all hues in between.



The flowers grow magnificently in this temperate climate of Manjimup where they enjoy the deep blackbutt soil and the availability of pure fresh water.

There is strong demand from the domestic flower market in Perth for this crop from the Southern Forests Region, where the conditions for prime blooms are favourable compared to further north, where strong, hot easterly winds and higher temperatures make the commercial growing of hydrangeas almost impossible.

The business has been growing steadily over the past decade with Magnolia species also grown for the domestic cut flower market. More recently the farm has entered into a successful arrangement with a young female entrepreneur promoting Manjimup hydrangea amongst her posies that are available to customers across the metropolitan area with hydrangeas available each week of the summer season. This year, she will be featuring these beautiful hydrangeas in Valentine's Day posies.

For Robyn Bowles who runs this horticultural enterprise the end result of perfect blooms leaving the farm for happy customers is a most rewarding and satisfying outcome. An adjoining neighbour, Eris (pictured above with Robyn) helps with the picking and bunching twice per week.

## WHAT'S YOUR STORY ?

The Café Bytes team has been bringing you local stories for nine months, and we have now discovered that we are not the only ones who like to tell stories.

You may be surprised, as were we, to learn just how many people do actually like to share their stories, which of course pleases us to find we are not alone. We sure do have a lot of writing company because if you go to <https://open.abc.net.au> you will find over 67,000 stories in text, video or photos contributed over the past five years by around 11,000 people from regional Australia. Now that's a whole lot of story tellers! As well as on that web site, selections of these stories appear across ABC TV and Radio and you can also keep up to date with ABC Open news and events on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The ABC Open producer for our area is Ruslan Kulski. Ruslan is located in Bunbury and visits south west towns to run workshops on getting those stories out there. We are fortunate to have him visit Manjimup once a month to run workshops for the newly formed Warren Documentary Group, the members of which plan to record local history in video, writing, and photography formats.

The workshops are held in the Gallery next to the Library, 1 pm to 3 pm on the second Wednesday of the month, and they are **free** - don't you just LOVE that word, and open to anyone interested. If you are at all interested you would be sure to enjoy these sessions - you will find Ruslan an amazingly enthusiastic, encouraging and supportive instructor.

Thanks to the ABC for providing this service to we regional folk.

## COFFEE CHAT SUBJECT

**Do you think we need an Oxygen Bar in Manjimup?**

First of all, have you heard of them? Well, at these bars, for around \$15 you get the chance to breathe pure oxygen for ten to fifteen minutes, with the addition of therapeutic perfumes if you wish, and that's all it takes to purify your body, with a healthy antidote to air pollution. Or so the fans of this oxygen boost say and they are proving very popular in cities we hear.

Who do you think will set up the first one here? or does Manjimup have enough fresh air without logging in for a top up?

*All you need is love.*

*But a little chocolate now and  
then doesn't hurt.*

Charles M. Schulz

The Noongar word for this month is

**BUNURU**

February & March : the second summer

One of the six Noongar seasons

(Kaartdijin - Noongar Knowledge - South West Aboriginal Land & Sea Council)



Manjimup

Community Resource Centre

Your local connection



**MANJIMUP POLICE STATION & LOCK UP  
NOW OVER 100 YEARS OLD : 1914 – 2014**



(Our thanks to Sue Kennedy, Manjimup Historical Society member, for supplying the photo and information. You will also find a Police Station historical display in the Manjimup Library. )

Amongst the buildings in the Historical Hamlet at the Heritage and Timber Park is the old Manjimup Police Station and Lock Up Building, which celebrated one hundred years in 2014.

The Manjimup Historical Society archives holds an associated extract from the "SOUTHERN TIMES" newspaper dated Thursday 4 December 1913 "PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACT. Tenders for MANJIMUP POLICE STATION will be received by the Hon the Minister for Works until noon December 16. (Particulars Court Houses, Bridgetown and Bunbury) C. A. MUNT Under Secretary for Public Works"

Originally this building was located in Giblett Street, immediately south of where Jaycees Park is now, and a Police Sergeant's house was built on the corner of Mount and Giblett street, next to the original Police Station and Lock Up. In the 1950s a new police station was built, at its current site in Mount Street, and the unused station became the Manjimup Tourist Bureau. In the mid 1980s after the Visitor Centre found a new home, the Police Station was relocated to its present situation in the Timber Park and for the past ten years it has been put to good use as headquarters for the Manjimup Historical Society. Following the new building being constructed for the Historical Society last year, the police station building is currently empty.

The first police constable was William Albert Dunstan, who commenced duties on August 25<sup>th</sup> 1914. Manjimup was gazetted as a town in 1910, so that means the town was without its own police station for four years, presumably serviced by the Bridgetown Police. It could have been a bit of a rude shock to residents when the station opened and they found themselves under constant police observation!

**FREE WI FI FOR MANJIMUP CBD !!**

Article : Gina Nieuwendyk  
Shire of Manjimup



The Shire of Manjimup is continuing to modernise the facilities provided in the town centre of Manjimup, by being one of the first Shires in the South West to bring free WiFi into its CBD.

Gone are the days of local governments sticking to the traditional role of providing just roads, rates and rubbish services," said Shire of

Manjimup President Wade DeCampo, a strong advocate for bringing the Southern Forests region up to speed with its metropolitan and international counterparts such as the Cities of Perth and London. "It is certainly timely for the Shire to be taking the initiative of providing free WiFi - it is a driver of economic activity and improves the visitor experience of Manjimup."

Blanket WiFi has been available since late November in Giblett Street, Brockman Street and Coronation Park, which means users can move freely within this zone and stay connected to the internet, without having to rely on 'hotspots'.

Locals, businesses and tourists will see signage go up to advertise the 'free WiFi zone', and should look forward to being able to access emails, social media and other resources such as maps and tourist information, from the centre of town," said Cr DeCampo. "Having the WiFi available in Coronation Park provides a connection between Brockman Street and Manjin Park Precinct, which opens up the town centre even more."



*(One of our Bytes Team Members spent Christmas in Hobart and found it almost impossible to locate an internet site, internet cafes being very hard to find, and if free internet was available in the Hobart CBD it was a closely guarded secret. So well done Manjimup Shire for this initiative.)*

**Pictured left : Two of our "locals" being among the first to enjoy the benefits of the free wi fi zone in the CBD**

**TOMATOES**

**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 the Americas. 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 they are 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 are 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.

Colourful, versatile, mouth-watering with a taste of summer in every bite, sliced in a salad or added to a sauce, or simply served for lunch as a simple Bruschetta, eat and enjoy!



**Liz's Kitchen Rules**

**Bruschetta**

1. Chop up ripe, flavoursome fresh tomatoes with garlic and basil, season with salt and black pepper
2. Brush thickish slices of Ciabatta or French bread with olive oil, and toast in the oven.
3. Top with the tomatoes when done.

Glen and Jo Burston and the team out at the Maroo Wildlife Refuge are doing a wonderful job caring for our sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. They are committed to raising awareness of endangered species and preserving our Australian wildlife natural environment



"Maroo Wildlife Refuge has been asked to write some articles for the Manji Café Bytes, so here we go, and we do hope you like the reading of our 1<sup>st</sup> article on a very special little girl.

Ivy was found in the carpark of Manjimup Building Supplies and as she was all alone with no mother her outcome was not good. Luckily a DPaW worker was passing by, when they noticed something that should not be in a carpark and transferred her into our care for raising.



Are you not sure what Ivy is? Well she is a female Western Ring Tail Possum [*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*] and she is on the Western Australian now "Endangered" list so she is very special.

*Pseudocheirus* means something like a "false hand" as they look like they have 2 thumbs and 3 fingers which provide very good grip for climbing. *Occidentalis* means western, which means they are a species of their own.

The most inland population mainly occurs at Perup [Maroo Wildlife Refuge Area] and around Manjimup [checkout Faunadale Nature Reserve] and mainly lives in "Marri/Jarrah Forest". The only other population is found in the South West Coastal areas only containing Peppermint Tree.

So you see we live in a very special area with very special wildlife.

When she is small, feeds consist of a special Marsupial milk formula 6 times a day which includes night feeds, yes very early mornings in there too. This will last for over for 2½ months and then when her weight is approx. 600gms she will be weaned entirely over to natural browse consisting of Bottle Brush and Grevillia flowers, with big side orders of young Jarrah and Marri Leaves.

Ivy sleeps during the day in a Dray, which is a nest of leaves, and awakens at night to feed on native leaves and flowers.

When she reaches a weight of over 800gms, Ivy will be suitable for release back into the wild where she belongs, and we will let you know her progress.

Faunadale Nature Reserve, just 5kms out of the Manjimup town site is another area Western Ringtail Possums can be found

We enjoy caring for Ivy, knowing that she will help save her species in this unique part of the Southern Forest.

Let us know what you thought of our 1<sup>st</sup> Manji Café Byte."

Glen Burston

Maroo Wildlife Refuge Inc is a not for profit organisation that relies on donations that go directly to the wildlife.



Jo - 0409 086973  
Glen-0429 727837

Web: <http://www.maroowildliferefuge.com>

Blog: <http://maroowildliferefuge.blogspot.com.au> Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/maroowildliferefuge>