

WHO ARE WE?

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Bowl turned from Robbie's Corner Cork Tree,
Property of Karen Gibellini (Robinson)



Artist : John Duncan

Welcome to our first edition of Café Bytes for 2018, may the twelve months of this New Year be kind to all.

The Christmas festival is fading into memory, but will be back again in just 11 months. Some will love the thought, some will not.

We all greet Christmas with different enthusiasm.

Enjoy a happy and safe holiday season.

We always welcome your ideas at manjicafeytes@g.mail.com and copies are also online at www.manjimupcrc.net.au

SAYING FOR THE MONTH

“Old age is not so bad when you consider the alternative” – Maurice Chevalier (1888 -1972)

CHAT SUBJECT

New Year's resolutions, do you still make them? And do you keep them?



Hope 2018 is a blast for all of you. Happy New Year from the Cafe Bytes and Manjimup CRC

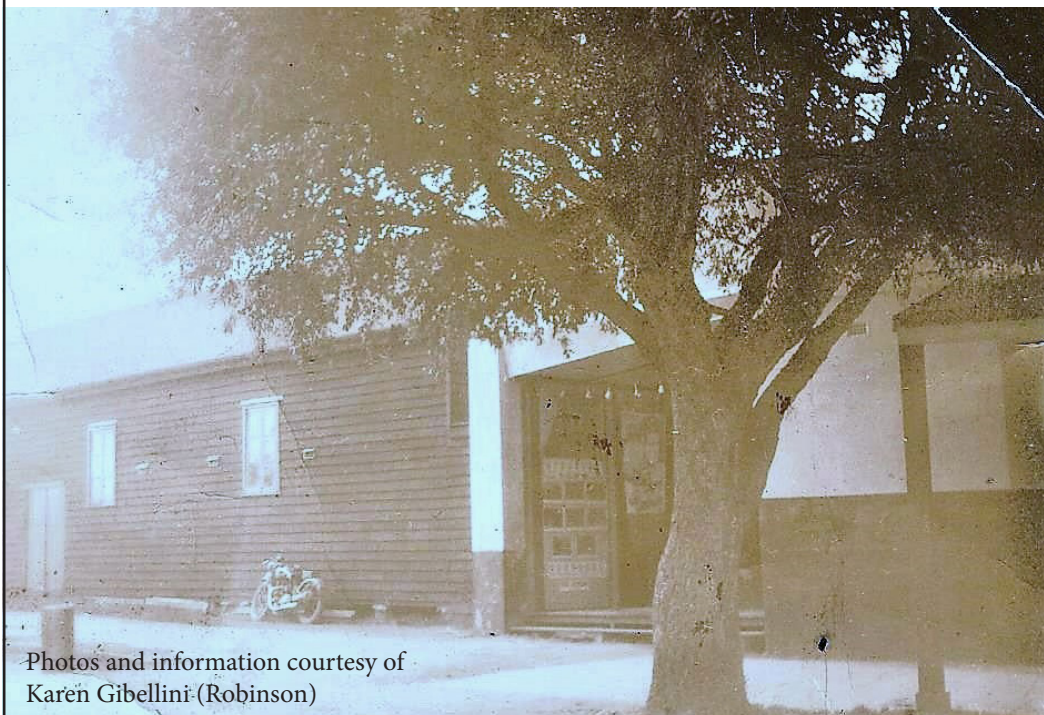
A MEMORABLE TREE

Locals who have been around for a while remember the “famous” cork tree on Robbie's Corner - Alfie's corner in today's language. It was said to be the best specimen of cork tree in the state and was a town icon before the timber arches were built. Gleaned from an old Manjimup-Warren Times, it seems the tree was planted by George Robinson around 1917 on the first local Arbor Day, when he was 12 years of age. George and his father Robert were both known by the nick name “Robbie”. Young Robbie inherited tea rooms and a movie theatre on Robbie's Corner, and Robbie's Cool Drink factory originally at Robbie's Corner then Rose Street (where Coles are now) then moved to Pritchard Street, businesses the senior Robbie, an early pioneer, had established. South West Electrics are currently operating from what was the final Robbie's cool drink factory site.

The Manjimup-Warren Times, December 1961, featured an article about the Robbie's Corner Cork Oak having flowered, leaving a dusting of brown petals on the road and footpath, and stated that many tourists were aware of the tree and came to check out the bark, and shiny leaves.

Around this time Manjimup Road Board advised that the cork tree was to be transplanted, over a two year program. The Manjimup Tree Society members took the tree in hand; the first year the branches were lopped and roots cut back, then the following year it was transplanted to Alex Jones Animal Sanctuary (now the Heritage Park). We have not been able to find anyone who can remember which year the tree was transplanted. Alf's store opened in 1966 – was it still on the corner at that time? A niece of Alex Jones recalls being taken to the animal sanctuary, i.e. Heritage Park, by her uncle and shown the dying cork tree – it hadn't liked being moved. There are a few other cork trees in public areas in the Shire - one in Rea Park, one at Quinninup which has been listed in protected Trees of Australia, one outside South West Electrics, which is believed to have been propagated from a seed of the Robbie's Corner cork tree and planted by either George Robbie or Lou Evans, and there is also one in a car park at Northcliffe and at the old Donnelly River Forestry settlement.

But it seems the Robbie's corner Cork Tree remains in memories as “the best”.



Photos and information courtesy of
Karen Gibellini (Robinson)

THOUGHT PROVOKING WORDS.

This heart warming contribution is courtesy of Dylan Martin-Harley, a young 11 year old lad who lives in England. His Dad, Scott Martin, grew up in Manji, his grandfather John Martin worked for The Forest Department, now days Dept of Parks and Wildlife. Dylan's great grandfather, Wally Broadbent was a life member of Deanmill Football club with three generations of the family playing football for Deanmill. Unfortunately young Dylan has been battling a benign brain tumour for a few years, his eyesight has been affected and he remains on treatment. But all of this has given him the strength to seek any joy that he can find around him. Dylan attends St George's School, Windsor Castle. We have Dylan's permission to share his comments following a visit of a South African group to Windsor Castle.

These Breathtaking, joyful Kenyan's from East Africa made my Monday morning blues turn into Friday happiness. The seven dancers sung their tribes favourite songs. Whistling to communicate with the animals, parading with spears around a dead lion, which was popular with the men and the lullaby sung to the baby, popular with the women. I couldn't believe their backgrounds, houses made from twigs, cow dung and mud. Only 2 rooms, one to work in and one to sleep in. Jobs were split in two, the men hunted for food and the women cooked and looked after the children. Economically they were poor but in love, joy and friendship, there were rich.

This is our issue, our generation is a generation of wanters, they have to keep up with the latest fashion or get the latest phone

to be happy. Our world needs to join up with Kenya's world, a place of give, they all believed in God and didn't want anything! We need to give not take, receive and not take. If we do this we can drive a new generation, one who will appreciate the world we live in and expand human existence and life.

Dylan Martin-Harley aged 11

A couple of years ago the Make A Wish Foundation granted Dylan's wish, which was to meet his favourite tennis player Andy Murray. Not many would be able to sit through the video of this occasion without a tear or two. You can find it via this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0Tskc0K4J8>.

Keep up your strength Dylan you are a champion!



THUMBS UP

Thumbs Up to those who brought so much Christmas cheer to our community, the town was in high spirits for Christmas 2017 with lots of evidence of volunteer assistance. The response for requests for donations of gifts for those finding life tough was totally over whelming.

Thumbs up to our dedicated school teachers, we hope you are enjoying your well-earned holiday.

Thumbs up to those who made New Year Resolutions and keep to them.

RASPBERRIES

Raspberries are one of those fruits that look as delectable as they taste, rich dark red and abundant on the bush they are just waiting to be picked and eaten.

They are the edible fruit of a number of plant species from the genus Rubus, the rose family, the name raspberry comes from raspise, “a sweet rose-coloured wine” or it may be from the old English rasp, describing its rough surfaced appearance.

The scientific name for raspberries, Rubus idaeus, means “bramble bush of Ida” named for the mountain where they grew on the island of Crete. There are Rubus species native to most continents, Europe, Asia and North America and Australia is no exception with eight indigenous species found mainly in Queensland. The early settlers brought canes with them, they are easy to grow from suckers and can be very invasive if left to grow unchecked, the suckers developing at some distance from the main plant.

The south west provides ideal growing conditions for raspberries, they require a well composted soil with added cow manure and some protection from hot afternoon sun. Mulch to retain moisture and give them a drink of Seasol in spring and summer to encourage fruiting and they will reward you with a bumper crop. The canes will need some support, star pickets with three rows of wire, about 1.5 to 2 metres high, is ample and recalcitrant canes can be tied back to this framework if necessary. A good variety for the south west is “Heritage” as it is a low chill plant but there are a few to choose from, “Chilliwick” and “Chilcotin” are a couple more worth trying. Summer species fruit on last year’s canes and autumn varieties on this year’s growth. Winter is the best time to plant your raspberries, picking season is summer to autumn, cut the canes back to ground level in winter and don’t forget to check for suckers, with a little care you too can be snacking on this delicious berry in no time.

Raspberries are a good source of vitamin C, manganese and fibre. They also give us vitamin K, vitamin E, magnesium, folate and potassium. All the good things in one small package.

LIZ’S KITCHEN RULES

RASPBERRY MERINGUE

Ingredients: 375g fresh raspberries, 2 tablespoons caster sugar, 2 cups apple juice, 3 teasp vanilla bean paste, 12g sachet gelatine, 1 egg, 55g extra caster sugar, 600 ml thickened cream, 250g extra fresh raspberries.

Method: Combine raspberries, sugar and I and ½ cups apple juice in a saucepan over medium heat. Cook for 5 mins, stirring occasionally until berries soften. Set aside to cool. Place in a food processor and process until smooth. Strain through a sieve into a bowl, discarding seeds. Heat remaining apple juice and 1 tsp vanilla bean paste in a saucepan, add gelatine and whisk with a fork until gelatine dissolves. Rest for 10 minutes, stir into raspberry mixture, place into eight serving glasses and then into the fridge for 4 hours or until set. Preheat oven to 100C. Line a large tray with baking paper, beat egg white in a bowl until peaks form, add extra sugar and beat until thick and glossy. Pipe 2cm meringues on to your prepared tray, bake for 30 minutes, turn oven off and allow to cool with door slightly ajar. Whisk cream until soft peaks form, fold in remaining vanilla, divide half the extra raspberries and meringues among the serving glasses, top with cream and remaining meringues and raspberries. Sprinkle with chocolate flakes if desired or leave them as they are, truly heaven on a plate, perfect for a light summer dessert.



NEW YEAR’S PRAYER

Thank you Lord for giving me the brand new year ahead
Help me live the way I should as each new day I tread.

Give me gentle wisdom that I might help a friend
Give me strength and courage so a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy and the happiness it brings.

Please give the leaders of our world a courage born of peace
that they might lead us gently and all the fighting cease.

Please give to all upon this earth a heart that’s filled with love
A gentle happy way to live with your blessings from above.

Charlotte Anselmo

LOOKING BACK ON 2017

January: To start off the New Year in style we were talking about New Year resolutions, the most popular were to lose weight, exercise more, drink less alcohol and give up smoking. There is no reason to assume that has changed this year, unless you took up our suggestion about recording your life in a diary or journal, maybe that kept some of you on the straight and narrow!

February: The secret lives of wrens are a little bizarre, what with Dad and previous offspring minding the babies while Mum flits off to find a new mate or two, leaving Dad none the wiser as she coyly returns to the nest in the early hours. Studies of these fascinating little creatures are ongoing and who knows what other secrets will be revealed, only time will tell.

March: We learnt about the fine collection of art held by the Shire of Manjimup, there are about 40 paintings including works by Kathleen O’Connor, Elizabeth Durack and Guy Grey-Smith. The art was gifted by the late Sir Claude Hotchin, a successful businessman with a passion for art, who gave many works to local governments, hospitals and universities.

April: Tales of a dark and stormy night on April 4th as cyclone Alby roared through the south west in 1978, wind, rain, fire, we had it all, and as 2018 brings up the 40th anniversary we just might be talking about that again. It wouldn’t be April without footy season and to start you off we offered some tips on tipping, pretty good tips to follow as it turns out, one of your bytes team took her own advice and won the weekly competition in the West Australian.

May: 79 years of quiet achieving and we applauded those wonderful ladies from the Warren District Hospital Auxiliary Group for their tireless volunteering and fund raising, which has enabled many patients to have access to bedside phones and television. Cheerful smiles from the trolley round with goodies and necessities make hospital stay a little more bearable for all.

June: Life after life, well just maybe, if you are happy to have your body frozen after death and transferred to a liquid nitrogen vessel for preservation. If you are an optimist you may awake after 20 years and if you are a pessimist wait 500 years. No one really knows but it is an interesting thought. Maybe your bytes team could test it for you, look out for us 500 years from now.....

July: Our bytes team was still on a high after our trip to Sydney and the harbour bridge climb, one of Australia’s best-known landmarks with fantastic views over one of our oldest cities. Well worth the effort and we hope we filled you with enough enthusiasm to give it a go. We may not have filled you with enthusiasm for a winter solstice naked swim as the eager participants in Hobart do every year on Jun 21st. Or did we miss it?

August: Let’s go driving, some interesting facts here and it’s still the same, city driver vs country driver, we all have road conditions to adapt too. The main message is don’t drive distracted or tired and consider other road users.

September: Let’s go walking, there are some lovely walks around town and the Shire is working on the Linear recreation park and removal of the rail lines, another path to follow. Talking about feet we were tapping our toes to the Bluegrass musicians on the Queen’s birthday long weekend, hopefully they will be back to entertain us all this year.

October: Halloween month and spooky times aplenty as witches and hobgoblins galore tricked and treated their way around town. Maybe they passed the Jaycees Park, now consigned to history with clearing of the site for future accommodation. Not spooky but it certainly holds a lot of memories for the Jaycees and families involved and for the many children who used the swings and spun the roundabout daily during school holidays.

November: Bytes had a double page addition for the first time as we featured Remembrance Day. Major Troy Williams contributed a very informative piece about the origins of the day and a brief resume of his own army background. We also spoke about National Service, and an interesting Manjimup World War 1 connection with a bio of Pte John Crawley contributed by Sue Kennedy of Manjimup Historical Society.

December: Finally, it was Christmas pudding and tales of sixpences, pancakes in the park and thumbs up to the Cherry Harmony festival volunteers. We had a Donnelly River Cruise and a look around the Southern Forest Lifestyle Village and we spoke about gratitudes to remember as the New Year loomed. We hope you enjoyed 2017 as much as we did, if you have anything to contribute this year, let us know, we welcome your input. A safe and happy new year to everyone. If you missed any of these stories you can check us online at www.manjimupcrc.net.au

THINGS TO DO IN JANUARY

Visit the Manjimup Library Art Gallery where you will see some fabulous student artworks, showing us what our young folk think about how it is to be living in WA at the age of 10. The exhibition runs until Jan 31st.

Don’t forget the Twilight Manjimup Farmers Market on January 19th, being held in the evening will bring a different atmosphere for the markets.

The Shire Australia Day celebrations will be held in Walpole this year. There will be a free bus service, bookings are essential, you need to phone Manjimup Shire to secure a seat.