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FREE

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Manji Cafe Bytes

SAYING FOR THE MONTH

When it rains, look for rainbows,

When it's dark, look for stars.

Anon

CHAT SUBJECT

Crews will depart in 2026 for a one way trip to Mars, what do you think it would be like to live on the Red Planet?



Welcome, can it really be November already! With upper school leavers tackling their final exams, and looking forward to their Leavers' celebrations. And Pemberton is a-buzz with the filming of Jasper Jones, bringing a very exciting time for our neighbouring town.

November is also a time of remembrance, at 11 am on 11th November we show our respect with two minutes' silence, honouring the courage and bravery of all those who fought in the First World War. Then on Nov 14th & 15th there will be an interesting war memorabilia display, with a slight difference, hosted by the Manjimup Historical Society at History House.

Enjoy the glorious sunshine, but please keep in mind that the coming months will be Fire Danger season. Prepare your property to make sure you keep all of your assets safe, particularly the most precious – your loved ones.

And don't forget that we always welcome your ideas at manjicafeytes@gmail.com and copies of Manji Cafe Bytes are also available online at <http://www.manjimup.crc.net.au>



MEMORIES

There was a framed picture on the wall when I was a child, I often gazed at the ornate writing, medal and what appeared to be a large penny and I was told it was in memory of my grandfather who was killed in France in the First World War.

The words were a commemoration of his passing, his name in red underneath and his regiment, the Welsh Guards, below this was the British WWI medal and the large penny which was a Memorial Plaque made of bronze, years later I found out that they were popularly known as the "Dead Man's Penny".

I knew he was buried somewhere in France and almost nothing else, except the fact that Nana was widowed with five children. Many years later I was shown a grainy yellowing photo of a smiling man with thick, curly hair and a fine moustache, waxed to a point, as was the fashion in those days, looking at his face and seeing family resemblances, made me curious to find out more.

I discovered he was born on December 5th, 1878, the eldest of seven children, the family living on a farm in North Yorkshire. Grandfather left the village school in his early teens to work on the land as was common in Victorian England. During the longer days of spring and summer he would have been out from dawn to dusk, farm work was very much manual labour then, according to family recollections he was in charge of the farm horses. I can picture him walking behind the plough on a fine spring morning, the steady rhythm of the horse's hooves, the scent of the newly ploughed earth and the cawing of crows wheeling behind him. The family were tenant farmers and at the whim of the landlord, the estate changed hands and the new owner had other ideas so the family were evicted and moved into the village.

Grandfather began married life in 1909, finding work with a plasterer and raising a family, wages were low and the dinner table was often supplemented with the vegetable garden and a bit of night time poaching on the estate!

The war would have seemed far away and a complete contrast to rural life but eventually the army recruiters arrived with their posters of Lord Kitchener and "Your Country Needs You". Grandfather perhaps seduced by the idea of fighting for King and Country enlisted in the West Yorkshire Regiment and was given a few weeks training at a local army camp.

The 1st Battalion Welsh Guards was raised as a new regiment by Royal Warrant on 26 February 1915 and Grandfather's regiment became a part of that. All too soon he was shipped to France to fight in the trenches, the awful conditions are well documented and it must have been a complete contrast to the life he had left behind. The Allied Forces made a stand against the Imperial German Army's occupation of Belgium and the outcome of the battles resulted in the formation of the Western Front which stretched many hundreds of miles across the country.

The push against the enemy intensified and it was during one of these battles that Grandfather became a war casualty on the 24th August 1918 at the age of 38, the war ending a few short weeks later.

We visited Paris in September this year and went by train to Arras in Northern France, the Bucquoy Road Cemetery is a little way out of the town, beautifully kept with green lawns and flower beds. Grandfather's grave was at the rear of the cemetery and alongside were three other headstones, all members of the same regiment and killed on the same day, were they hit by the same shell or mown down by gunfire? We shall never know, but is reassuring to think that they fought as comrades and now rest side by side.

There was a yellow rose blooming against his headstone as I placed a card in front of it, sunshine and peaceful green farmland surround this serene place, we spent a couple of hours there before signing the register of visitors and driving back to Arras.

We had coffee in a small café there and were intrigued to see English, Australian, Canadian and U S flags displayed proudly on the wall, we spoke to the owner and discovered that both world wars are still very much remembered in the town. It was he who told us We had coffee there was a major battle fought near Arras in August 1918 and there is a large memorial in the town square dedicated to the brave men who lost their lives.

It took some time but I am thankful that I had the opportunity to be the first member of my family to make this special journey, it was a wish fulfilled and on November 11th I will bow my head, recalling memories of his final resting place. RIP Grandad.

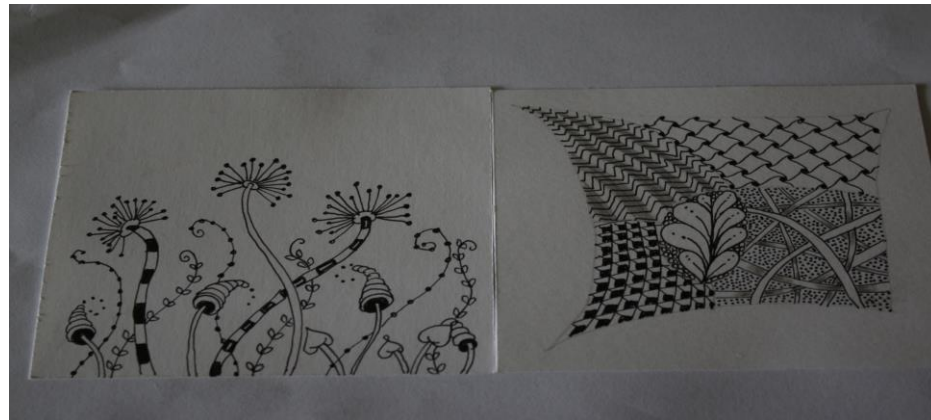
Manjimup Laneways.

Albert Halden moved to Manjimup during the depression as a boiler maker but was then put on as a truck driver, collecting cream from nearby farms. In those days, farmers were quite isolated and in a lot of cases the cream truck was their only contact with the outside world. Not only did Albert pick up the cream, he used to do the shopping for a lot of the women folk, never using a list, he kept it all in his head.



Zentangle and Adult Colouring

Have you ever wondered about the latest craze for adults? Drawing Zentangle and Adult colouring books. The art of Zentangle came from Maria Thomas and Rick Roberts in Massachusetts, America. It was created just 9 years ago. We liken it to the doodles you do when waiting on the telephone talking to a Government Department. It is done in four or five basic steps, most are very simple, but look complicated. The colouring books are available in newsagents and supermarkets at varying levels on complication, some I think you need good reading glasses and fine coloured pencils but they are being used by ladies, office workers as a de-stress tool, teenage boys, men and ATAR students to take time away from study. It is very enjoyable and time consuming. So give it a go if you need to destress. Zentangle patterns can be found on the internet and books.



Memories of Days Gone By

Contributed by the Stapleton Family.

The Manjimup Resource Centre building was once a residence for Solicitor, Ashley Williams, then later Dr Paget, Dr Rose and also the Veterinary Surgeon Dr Croxford. It next became the residence of Jim and Yvonne Stapleton and their family who moved in on 14th February 1966. At that time the home was owned by Mr Dick Reeve who also owned the butcher shop on the corner (Reeves Butchers) where Chicken Treat is now.

The old Roxy Picture Theatre was where the Reject Shop is now, but was demolished in the late ‘60s and Woolworths took its place, and is now the Reject Shop. On the block behind our house was the R.S.L. Hall, where our family had many happy occasions. Between the butcher shop and us, where the car park is now, was just a scrubby block, where the young Stapleton children used to build cubby houses.

Mr Reeve continued to be a wonderful land lord until the Stapleton family purchased the home and lived happily there until it was bought by the local Shire Council in 1981. We are pleased to see the original home at 45 Rose Street and the new extensions blend so beautifully, now as the Manjimup Resource centre

"A meeting place for many in the years to come."



STRAWBERRIES

Spring sunshine is chasing away the cold of winter and gardens are overflowing with an explosion of colour and greenery. The strawberry patch is once more brimming with bright red goodness, and there is nothing quite like the heavenly aroma of a fresh, juicy, strawberry picked straight from the plant.

The garden strawberry (*Fragaria x ananassa*) is a widely grown hybrid species of the genus *Fragaria*, which was bred in Brittany, France around 1750, a cross between wild strawberries brought from eastern North America and Chile, prior to this, wild strawberries and cultivated selections from wild strawberry species were the common source of the fruit.

The French began taking wild strawberries from the forest and growing them in their gardens in the 14th century. Charles V, King of France, 1364 to 1380, had 1,200 strawberry plants in his royal garden. Garden strawberries were widely cultivated in England by the 16th century and it was Thomas Wolsey in the court of King Henry VIII who created the heavenly combination of strawberries and cream.

Strawberries are a comparatively easy crop for the home gardener, all you need is an open, sunny position, a well-drained soil rich in humus, dig in lots of compost, animal manure and blood and bone about a month before you plant out the runners. These should be spaced about 35cm apart in staggered rows, mulch with straw or pine needles to keep the fruit clean for picking. Popular varieties are Red Gauntlet, a heavy cropping strawberry producing large, bright red fruit and Tioga, a vigorous grower that bears lots of sweet, medium sized strawberries through till late autumn. Snails and slugs love them so a little pest control is needed if you don't want to share.

These luscious berries are good for you too as they are an excellent source of antioxidant promoting vitamin C and manganese. Plus, strawberries are a good source of iodine, potassium, magnesium, vitamin B6, and omega 3 fatty acids and provide us with dietary fibre.

Liz’s Kitchen Rules

DECADENT STRAWBERRIES

Ingredients: 200g buttery biscuits, 200g cream cheese, 200ml thickened cream, 6 tbsp icing sugar, 2 tsp vanilla extract, 500g strawberries, halved or quartered.

Method: Blitz the biscuits to crumbs in a food processor, divide the crumbs into six parfait glasses. In a large bowl, whisk the cream cheese, cream, 5 tbsp icing sugar and vanilla until softly whipped, tip half the strawberries and remaining sugar into another bowl and mash with a fork. Ripple through the cream mixture and divide between the parfait glasses, top with remaining strawberries. Eat and enjoy!



ManjimUP-CYCLING

There’s a new shop in town, have you noticed?

If you wander along past theHotel, you will come across ManjimUP-CYCLING, somewhere completely different to browse around.

We highly recommend you pop in and say hello to Mary Nixon who has taken the initiative to try something new, and check out her interesting display of handmade clothing, for children and adults, and accessories made from recycled fabric. The shop also holds appealing pre-loved household items and retro clothing. Mary has put in a big effort to set up the shop, bringing a spice of new life to that end of town so let’s give her some support.

And as well as her unique collection, Mary is starting up a market, inviting anyone who “makes, bakes or grows” to come join in and set up a stall. These will be held on a Sunday - and how many times have you heard people “there’s nothing open in town on a Sunday”?

The first market will be November 29th and then the last Sunday in the month from there on. If you have a product you are proud of, why not share it with others, and with Christmas just around the corner it’s time to think of gifts, with a handmade choice you would give something a little different, something unique, not just a chain store item. Your gift would have a little soul attached. Or why not treat yourself and buy yourself a gift?

If you have any questions you can either call into the ManjimUP-CYCLING, Thursday to Sunday 10 am to 4 pm, or email Mary onmanjimmarkets@gmail.com or Like the Manji Markets facebook site to keep informed.

Let’s add a little bit of history to this enterprise. In 1915 Don McKay opened a business in Manjimup, and then in 1926 after several moves around other shops in Giblett Street, he opened a multi agency business –right where Mary’s shop is. During the tough depression years of the 1930’s Mr McKay, a licensed auctioneer, held auctions and a Paddy’s Market in his shop, and here’s a coincidence: Mary’s Sunday Market will be in that very same spot. Going around, and now coming back again! Mr McKay’s wife Anne had a café, Annie’s Kitchen in the building next door.

Recently, on October 22nd our area was treated to a free event, the fourth Anne McKay Address, thanks to the generosity of the Manjimup Rotary Club and the Manjimup Shire. All those who heard Professor Lyn Beazley speak were fortunate indeed. Professor Beazley, 2015 WA Australian of the Year, entertained over 100 people with her inspirational presentation. She is very much a high achiever with the ability to hold the interest of people of all ages.

LOCAL FORESTERS’ INVOLVEMENT in WORLD WAR 2.

Something you may not have heard much about in historical war records is the role of the Australian Army Forester Companies in the Second World War. The Manjimup Historical Society will have a display of memorabilia from these Companies in History House at the Timber and Heritage Park on the weekend of November 14th and 15th, from10 am to 4 pm, which promises to be very interesting.

These Forestry companies played an important role during the Second World War, under the Royal Australian Engineers’ Division. There were three companies of Australian Army Foresters, which were a request from the British Government. The first company was formed by Eastern States Foresters around 1940, the second company formed shortly after, with a combination of Eastern States and West Australian foresters and the third company was formed mostly from South West Western Australians, with around 100 SW men. All personnel were required to have a background in timber, and with our thriving timber industry of that time, men from the Warren area were certainly valued additions.

The plan was for these companies to go to France, but with Germany’s invasion of France they were redeployed to Britain, based there from around 1941 to 1943. Their role was forestry management, harvesting and milling timber supplies for the war effort, which was required for bridges, railways, building maintenance and air raid shelter repairs.

In 1943 when the Japanese joined the war, the foresters were sent to Bougainville and New Guinea to continue with the timber harvesting, and to teach their skills to the locals. The companies were disbanded when the war ended in 1945.

Many of those in the forestry companies who went to Britain married whilst over there and on their return to Australia it took some time before their wives and children finally joined them.

The display will be sure to interest all locals, it is a part of our history that we can feel very proud of.