

Spirit of KWINANA



MARCH 2009



Community Resource and Knowledge Centre on the Horizon

The progress of the Kwinana Community Resource and Knowledge Centre continues full steam ahead and there is no doubt that this state of the art facility will exceed all expectations.

Since the appointment of an architect in late 2008, Town of Kwinana has established a Library Reference Group, made up of local community members and library users to work together with the architect throughout the design phase.

The reference group has toured other libraries within the Metropolitan area and discussed with the architect and service providers, who have confirmed tenancy, design aspects that they would like to see incorporated within the centre. The involvement of both of these groups will ensure that the design reflects the needs of the Kwinana Community.

The 27 million dollar state of the art facility will incorporate a café and alfresco area located right on Chisham Avenue. As well as housing modern library facilities, it will offer space and amenities for community use and provide space for not for profit community groups. Initial designs show a Wi-Fi zone, which will also enable free internet access both in the centre itself and in the fabulous Town Centre right next door.

This development will be one of the many taking shape in the new Town Centre, including construction of the Youth Centre and other key private developments.

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Mayors Message

Welcome to the first edition of the Spirit of Kwinana newsletter for 2009.

As you may be aware, there has been a lot of media attention of late surrounding the Local Government Minister's announcement on his vision for local government amalgamation. Minister Castrilli has asked local Councils to advise him by August of their intention for amalgamation as well as a reduction in the total number of elected members.

I was present at the meeting when the Minister made his initial 'review announcement' and he highlighted that there may be circumstances where Councils need to be left on their own due to "unique circumstances". We are of the view that Kwinana is one such council given its anticipated growth and substantial infrastructure projects over the next few years; such as the Community Resource and Knowledge Centre, Youth Centre, Orelia Sports Oval, Thomas Oval Sports Pavilion and the Wellard and Bertram Community Centres to mention a few. Kwinana is a developing council and we want to ensure that the building projects we have been working hard to bring to fruition over the past few years are not compromised by a potential amalgamation.

Kwinana has built a strong identity and marketed itself to stakeholders and broader regions; we have developed long term financial and asset plans to guide us, and in consultation with you, our community, we have captured the needs of our families and are progressing to satisfy those desires.

I did speak to the Minister following his announcement and advised him that the Town would be putting forward



a strong case on its community's behalf to retain its unique identity especially now that we are a viable and sustainable growth local government.

Amidst the dramas of local government I have had the pleasure in attending the Australia Day celebrations in January with over 300



residents; the launch of the evaluation of the "Better Beginnings" early literacy program at the State Library; the launch of the Town's "Children, Family and Youth Plan" and have also met with the Children's Commissioner, Michelle Scott, who has since accepted our invitation to tour the Town and hear more about the good things the Town is trying to achieve for the youth and children of Kwinana.

Earlier this month the CEO and I visited Canberra where we saw key parliamentarians and their policy advisors to discuss a range of initiatives and funding opportunities for the Town. Since our meeting we have been advised that one of the projects we discussed in Canberra, the Communities for Children funding, will now continue, when it was originally identified for funding cuts and therefore will continue to maintain a positive impact for our youth.

The CEO, Neil Hartley and I have also met with Superintendent Scott Higgins of the South Metropolitan Police District to discuss a range of topics impacting the Town such as graffiti, hoon activities, motorcyclists and off-road vehicles, arsonists and police resources in the Kwinana District. Mr. Higgins was fully understanding of our concerns and was keen to do his best to allocate resources to address the issues raised.

So as you can see, Council has hit the ground running early in 2009 and I look forward to reporting back to the community further about our civic activities throughout the year.

Carol Adams
Mayor

Birds flock to the Spectacles

Friends of the Spectacles together with the GreenCorp team flocked to the Spectacles Wetlands to participate in a Bird Identification Workshop conducted by Birds Australia.

Birds Australia has identified over 87 species at the wetlands including birds such as the Swamp Harrier, the Hooded Robin and the endangered Freckled Duck.

It is hoped that the Friends of the Spectacles will be able to use the knowledge gained through the workshop to track certain species over time to see whether birds such as the Rufous Night Heron and the Straw Necked Ibis continue to migrate to the popular breeding ground.

If you are interested in bird watching or would like to see the diverse range of plants and animals in the area, the Spectacles Wetlands is the most southern of the Beelihar chain of freshwater lakes and is located off McLaughlan Road, Kwinana.

Multicultural Ding Dong Festival

Kwinana will come alive with celebrations of diversity and cultural heritage at the annual Multicultural Ding Dong Festival on Saturday 21 March at Ridley Green.

The Festival coincides with Harmony Week, a celebration of diversity and the many benefits multiculturalism brings to our society.

Unique to Western Australia, Harmony Week enables us to recognise and respect our differences. Western Australia is the nation's most culturally diverse state, with more than a quarter of Kwinana's residents born overseas. Harmony Week showcases the significance diversity has on shaping the political, social, religious, sporting and cultural life of our State.

In celebration of Harmony Week, the Festival will include free performances by culturally diverse musicians and dancers, including Belly dancers, Miles to Go Celtic Trio, Dance for Africa, Wellard School of Music and indigenous dancers.

Bouncy Castles, Merry go rounds, Face painting, Kite workshops, Art activities and, of course, the music & dance will entertain local children and families. A range of various food stalls will be available for refreshments.

The festivities take place from 3:00pm - 8:00pm. So bring your picnic rug or chairs and come along to enjoy the cultural diversity of our region.

For further information on the Multicultural Ding Dong Festival and Harmony Week, please contact Corrine Long, Events Coordinator on 9439 0289.



Additional Diary Dates



Wednesday 25 March - Ride to the Recquatic

Enjoy a free spin class at 6:15am. A healthy breakfast will be held at 7:30am for those who participate in the class or for residents who ride to the event. Everyone welcome. For further information please contact the Kwinana Recquatic on 9439 0227.

Sunday 29 March - Neighbour Day

Getting together with the people next door or across the street is the first step towards turning your street into a community.

Grants of \$50-\$100 are available to encourage residents to host a bbq, picnic, or get together with their neighbours.

Application forms are available on the Town of Kwinana website www.kwinana.wa.gov.au or at Administration Building on Cnr Gilmore Ave & Sulphur Road. Funding is limited.

Wednesday 13 May - Volunteering Expo

Celebrate National Volunteer Week by attending Town of Kwinana's Volunteering Expo at the Kwinana Recquatic, from 10am - 2pm.

If you have spare time in your week and would like to find out more about the rewarding volunteer positions available in Kwinana come along and see what volunteering has to offer you.

For further information please contact the Volunteer Resource Centre on 9439 0425 or email volunteers@kwinana.wa.gov.au

Spectacles Yargan Tours - Season 3

TOURS

Baarniny & Waangkaniny (Walk & Talk) tour

Requires a minimum of 8 people.

2 hrs - \$30A & \$20u16 (inc GST)

Includes: Lake Walk, spear throwing, Yargan (tortoise) dig, wildflower walk in Kambarang (Spring), damper and billy tea.

Middaring & Baarniny (Dance & Walk) tour

Requires a minimum of 20 people.

2hrs - \$50A & \$30u16 (inc GST)

Includes: Lake Walk, Aboriginal dance, Kangaroo stew, damper and billy tea.

Group tours are welcome.

Please forward group enquiries to Mandy Grubb on 9439 0200/ 0417 992 486 or via email spectaclestours@kwinana.wa.gov.au

DATES

31 January to
28 March 2009
Every Saturday
6.00pm to
8.00pm

Sunday 5, 19 & 26
April 2009
1.00pm - 3.00pm

Shuttle Bus & Public Transport Available.
20% discount concession cards.
Children under 3 Free.

For more information:
www.spectaclestours.com.au
spectaclestours@kwinana.wa.gov.au



Australia Day Awards

Kwinana's 2009 Australia Day event saw the Town's community celebrate in true Aussie style with around 300 people enjoying a free aussie breakfast, with the company of some native animals under the shade of the gum tress in Council gardens.

The morning saw the presentation of the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Awards to the Town's Citizen, Junior Citizen and Community Group/Event of the Year and the Council would like to congratulate the following for their outstanding input into the community:



Citizen of the Year

The award for the citizen 25 years or over was presented to Pat De San Miguel for her commitment with running the Hope Valley Dance. Pat has been involved with the group since its inception almost 40 years ago and has acted as president of the committee for the past 10 years. Pat has also spent time as a girl guides leader and remains an active member of the Mandogalup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.



Young Citizen of the Year

Quiet achiever, Campbell Simpson was awarded in the under 25 year old category in recognition of his time spent volunteering on various projects to help make the community a better place. Campbell was involved in the Calista Primary School environment program and helped out at Freakfest. Campbell has also worked during his own time to help raise funds for animal relocation.



Community Group/Event of the Year

The Community Group of the Year was presented to Colin Kerr, Bridging the Gap on behalf of Ngulla Community Nursery that is now widely recognised as a training facility that is making a valuable contribution to community life in Kwinana. The Nursery continues to host local volunteers who wish to share in both horticulture and community interests.



LyriK Youth Awarded

The LyriK youth incentive program has started '09 on a high by announcing the LyriK Young Person of the Year and LyriK Group of the Year awards.

Amberley Sparkes, LyriK Young Person of the Year and The Gilmore Girls, LyriK Group of the Year, received their awards in front of a 300 strong crowd at the Town of Kwinana Australia Day Breakfast.

Amberley, aged 10, attends Bertram Primary School and was originally nominated into the LyriK program for her achievements in winning an award with the Tim Winton Award for Young Writers. Amberley not only won her category in the Middle Primary section but also won the overall award for "Outstanding Achievement".

Amberley has since chosen to develop her award winning story "Mrs. T's Shoes Collection" into a children's book to be distributed throughout Kwinana. She also volunteers her time to help with the production of the newly created youth magazine 'Konnect' and is a member of the Bertram Primary School Dragonflies Vocal Group.

The Gilmore Girls from Gilmore College were originally nominated into LyriK for their commitment to each other and their school to find appropriate means for resolving conflict and promoting healthy relationships within their peer circles, their families and

their school.

Since being nominated, these young women have demonstrated outstanding commitment to their cause by designing the "Ingredients for a Healthy Relationship" poster which was distributed to local primary schools, other secondary schools and youth service organisations within the region and Gilmore College.

Towards the end of the year, the group began mentoring younger students at Gilmore College and commendably donated their remaining prize money to the Kmart Wishing Tree to help improve the festival season for disadvantaged families.

At the Australia Day ceremony, LyriK recipient, Campbell Simpson was also awarded the Premier's Active Citizenship - Youth of the Year award.

Nominations can be submitted by friends, family, organisations and local businesses. Nominations close on Friday 10 April at 5pm.

For further information please contact Project Coordinator LyriK - Zoe Evans on 9439 0274.

Remain on Alert

Fire Authorities ask residents to remain on alert and not be fooled by a few cloudy days and summer showers.

Unfortunately even after rainfall, the rain does not penetrate to the lower levels of grass making it unsafe to burn piles of bush and litter.

Rural residents are reminded that no fires are allowed until 31 March, after which a permit is required. Burning is prohibited in residential areas.

Protect your property from all emergencies by:

- Keeping your property clear of dry grass, bush and other materials
- Remove leaf litter from gutters and roofs
- Maintain your fire breaks
- Take advantage of the 3 greenwaste and 1 Bulk/Whitegoods collections; and
- Check your insurance is valid

Information on fire laws and emergency preparation can be found in your local emergency preparation pack or on the Town of Kwinana website www.kwinana.wa.gov.au

Residents are also requested to keep a look out for arsonists. Any suspicious behaviour should be reported to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Bertram Community Centre

In late December the Town appointed a consultant to conduct a feasibility study of a Community Centre in Bertram.

The Town hosted two community consultations for Bertram residents on 28th January 2009 to ensure the needs of residents were reflected in the study and the consultants will forward their report to the Town in mid March.

Crime Prevention is everybody's business

By joining Neighbourhood Watch you can be involved in a variety of programs and community opportunities to tackle the issues of community safety and well-being. When becoming part of the Neighbourhood Watch Program, there will be an opportunity for you to make a difference. There will be information and training sessions available to all members and you can share your ideas and experiences with other members of the team.

The good thing about Neighbourhood Watch is that you can do a little or a lot. All your efforts are appreciated and help make the Town of Kwinana a safer and happier place to live whilst allowing you to build relationships with your neighbours.

The Community Safety Office is located at the Kwinana Hub Shopping Centre and is open Tuesday to Friday from 9am - 3pm or by appointment.

If you have any questions relating to community safety or the Neighbourhood Watch Program please contact one of our friendly volunteers or the Community Safety Officer on 9430 4030.

Report suspicious activity to the POLICE on 131 444.

Do you like the Spirit of Kwinana?

The Town of Kwinana would like to hear what you think of the Spirit of Kwinana newsletter and invite you to contact us. We'd especially like to hear what Council information you want to read about and ideas for regular features. Please send comments to the Marketing and Communications Officer, Town of Kwinana, PO Box 21, Kwinana WA 6966 or email admin@kwinana.wa.gov.au.



Trail Now Open

The Magenup Lake Community Nature Trail is now open for the whole community to enjoy.

The trail through the natural bushland and wetlands of Magenup Lake can be enjoyed by people of all ages, whether on foot, walking the dog, riding a bicycle or horse-riding.

The Town of Kwinana and Green Corps have installed signage along the trail to highlight important features of natural and cultural significance, including flora, fauna, and the connections the local Aboriginals have to the natural environment.

The Lake is a regionally and locally significant

natural area included in the Jandakot Regional Park and managed by the Town of Kwinana. The project was initiated by Wandí Landcare Group and Greenskills. The Wandí Landcare Group has been actively involved in the area since 2001 and regularly undertakes rehabilitation activities, which can be viewed on a walk along the nature trail.

Lake Magenup can be accessed via the Wandí Community Centre off De Haer Road, Wandí and the start of the trail commences behind the Equestrian Centre.





Playaway at Kwinana Public Library

The first all in one audiobook is now available at Kwinana Public Library.

The new audio device is light and compact and smaller than a deck of cards, enabling you to listen to your favourite author or story wherever you go.

Just plug in headphones, press play and start listening to your book.

Why not experience the Playaway for yourself by asking staff at the Library where you can find these when you next visit.

Healthy Lifestyles

Having recently adopted the Healthy Lifestyles Strategic Plan, the Town would like to introduce you to the Healthy Lifestyles team; working together to promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

Kwinana residents are encouraged to eat healthy food, give up smoking or drinking excessive amounts of alcohol, stay mentally fit and do regular physical activity. Ways to keep active can include joining a club or group, going along to the Kwinana Recquatic or just getting out for a walk or ride on your bike.

If you are serious about getting active and healthy in Kwinana and need some help or advice please call and ask for someone from the Healthy Lifestyles Team on 9439 0200.



One-off redress scheme closing soon

Do you know people who were abused or neglected as children in WA State care?

If so, please suggest they apply to Redress WA, as they may be eligible for:

- an ex gratia payment
- an acknowledgement of their pain and suffering
- an apology; and
- an opportunity to supplement their personal record.

The Redress WA Scheme offers full support to help people complete and strengthen their applications. This one-off scheme closes on 30 April 2009.

The scheme helps people with their applications and provides counselling throughout the application process.

Eligible individuals must now be adults and have experienced the abuse or neglect as children before 1 March 2006. Child abuse after that date is covered by other legislation.

Redress WA covers those who, as children, lived at places approved by the WA government such as:

- foster homes or other residential settings
- institutions and facilities such as group homes, hostels, farms, orphanages or missions.

Applicants do not have to have been State wards, nor do they have to provide their care records to apply.

For further information or support, contact Redress WA on 1800 617 233 (freecall, except from mobiles) or visit www.redress.wa.gov.au

Kwinana: A Child Friendly Community

The recently adopted Children, Family and Youth plan is a 5 year strategic plan that provides a clear framework and a way forward for agencies working within the Town of Kwinana for the direct benefit of residents.

Through this plan the Town identifies the importance of investing in the 'early years' to ensure we secure a bright future for the children and young people of Kwinana.

For a copy of the plan please contact the Town of Kwinana Strategic Projects Officer on 9439 0200 or visit the Administration Centre.

Greenwaste Collection Dates

May Greenwaste Collection Dates:

Area 1 (Medina, Calista & Orelia)

Monday 11 May

Area 2 (Leda, Parmelia and Wellard Village)

Monday 18 May

Area 3 (Others)

Monday 25 May

Please place your greenwaste on the verge by Monday 6am on the scheduled start date for your area. Allow 5-7 days for collection.

For further information please refer to your Resource Recovery Guide, the community calendar or contact Council's approved bulk waste contractor D & M Waste Services on 9527 1101.



Cnr Gilmore Avenue and Sulphur Road, Kwinana WA 6167
PO Box 21, Kwinana WA 6966
Ph: 9439 0200
Fax: 9439 0222
TTY: 9419 7513

Councillor Focus

Cr Sandra Lee

Having lived in Kwinana since the late 1960s, you could say that Councillor Sandra Lee is one of the many locals who has experienced Kwinana's growth first hand. Sandra recalls when she used to walk to Calista Primary School along a track in the bush which is now the Gilmore Avenue dual carriageway and when the local children used the thousands of acres of bushland as their playground.

Councillor Sandra Lee was elected on Council in 2005 and outside of attending council related meetings; you may see her spending time with her family, attending a philosophy café discussion or at the local markets selling fresh, tasty, top quality home-made cakes and fudge.

And if you'd like to talk to Sandra about something she is passionate about, then talk about renewable energy. Sandra Lee is a strong supporter of wind power, solar power, wave power and geo thermal power; energy supplies that can meet increasing demand and have minimum impact on the earth.

"I have been blessed with two beautiful daughters Janelle and Carmen. Together, as a family, we have experienced so many changes in Kwinana and I feel that my children have been lucky to have been brought up here.

I felt proud and honoured that I was selected as Councillor and since my involvement, my main interest lies in preserving our beautiful bushland. Perhaps one day in the future the bushland known as Leda Reserve can become public open space to rival Kings Park and become the Jewel in our crown.



My role allows me to work together with groups and organizations involved in waste management, local business, environmental improvement and industry. By being a part of these groups I have learnt about how companies are improving their environmental footprint; that 1 million recycle bins are processed at the processing facility that the Town uses each month; and the importance on promoting and networking within local business.

I must say that getting to know the people, who in my opinion, are the backbone of the community and volunteer their time, energy and effort to groups such as the RSL, Heritage Group, Medina Residents Group, Kwinana Senior Citizens and Kwinana Home Support Service, to name a few, would be the highlight of being a Councillor.

And having grown up in Kwinana myself, I feel privileged to be part of the tremendous growth that is taking part in the area, particularly the Town Centre. I am looking forward to the new Knowledge and Resource Centre, tavern, residential developments and office accommodation.

Us locals have always known that Kwinana is a hidden gem, now the secret is out and other people are recognising the fact too."

Students stress less with yourtutor

Students in the Town of Kwinana are reminded that they have access to free tutoring help online at their library or home through the innovative program 'yourtutor'.

yourtutor is a unique learning service that connects students via the internet to qualified, expert tutors for assistance with homework, assignments and study questions. The tutors

are all Australian educated and are available online from 4pm-8pm Monday to Friday. Help is immediate, professional, secure, anonymous, and free to library members. Students in Years 4-12 simply log on to www.kwinana.wa.gov.au, click on library and then yourtutor.

For more information visit the Kwinana Public Library or visit the website.

This information is available in alternative formats.

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