

Good for **U**
AND your community

Walpole Agency
44 Latham Ave, Walpole.
Phone 9840 1783.

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited
ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL 237879. (S41515) (08/12)

Bendigo Bank

Walpole Weekly



February 4, 2015

Free Community News of Walpole,
Nornalup, Peaceful Bay & Bow Bridge

Proudly published in *litter-free* Walpole

Fires threaten Northcliffe

At writing (February 4) Northcliffe is under threat from a fire that was first reported at 10am Friday.

The cause of the fire is suspected to be lightning.

Residents in the Northcliffe townsite and the subdivisions of Parkview, Bracken Rise and Double Bridge were under imminent threat of fire and were "strongly urged" to relocate.

Approximately 130 firefighters from DFES, Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) and local volunteer bushfire brigades were on the scene. Some 35 support personnel were assisting them.

Firefighters were working to contain the western boundary of the fire to protect Northcliffe as well as life, property and critical infrastructure in the Parkview, Double Bridge, and Bracken Rise Estates, and surrounding areas. They had already saved a number of structures, including homes.

Firefighters were also working to contain the eastern and northern boundaries before the onset of western and southerly winds forecast for Wednesday afternoon.

Crews from State Emergency

Service, WA Police, and the Forest Products Commission were also assisting at the scene.

WA Police were door-knocking properties in Northcliffe and recommending that people evacuate to Pemberton. This was not a forced evacuation and people could choose to stay.

Firefighters have had to deal

with several fires over the past week alone.

On Monday morning, Walpole Volunteer Fire & Rescue were asked to assist but there were not enough qualified volunteers available in town to crew a truck.

Walpole needs more volunteers. Call 1800 628 141 to speak to a volunteer recruitment advisor.

Community Resource Centre celebrates 20 years



Carolyn Aggiss (left) and Bruce Manning (right) spoke at the Walpole CRC's 20th Anniversary dinner, January 28. See Weekly Social pp 14-15.

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Our water is too precious to waste. Avoid long showers.

The towns of Denmark, Albany and Walpole have all received significantly less than average rainfall this year.

With summer now upon us, there's extra pressure on our local water supplies.

And while we are managing the water supply for our community, it is still important for us all to do our bit to save our precious water.

One of the best places to start is in the bathroom. Reducing each family member's shower time by just two minutes, for example, can result in big savings. And switching to a water efficient showerhead can reduce your shower water by a quarter.

For lots more fresh water thinking tips, visit watercorporation.com.au.

FRESH  THINKING

 **WATER**
CORPORATION

Calendar of Events

Date	Details
Feb 5	Seniors Computer Club restarts in 2015 at 1 pm @ Walpole CRC
11	Business After Hours @ Walpole CRC with Bendigo Bank
28	'Thank You Fireys' Red Balloon Day
Feb 28-	Walpole in the Trees Regatta
Mar 1	incorporating the 2015 Moth State Titles
Mar 6	Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" Westlink Simulcast @ Walpole CRC
Oct 3	Live Life with Relish Festival

NOTE: Power interruptions are scheduled for Walpole, Boronia Ridge, Hazelvale, North Walpole, Broke, & Jarrah Glen on **Saturday Feb 7** and **Wednesday Feb 11** from **8:00 am to 5:00 pm**. The reason for the work is "routine maintenance".

Important Deadlines

Marron season

The marron season closes at **12 noon on Feb 5**.

OP-SHOP

Community project applications by **Feb 13**.

WA heritage

Nominations for the Western Australian Heritage Awards close **Feb 20**.

Herring limits

New herring bag limits of 12 per angler per day from **Mar 1**.

Manji grants

Community groups and not-for-profit applications for Shire of Manjimup community grants by **4 pm Mar 27**.

Farm finance

Applications for the Farm Finance Concessional Loan Scheme close on **Apr 30**.

Hard waste

Walpole hard waste collection will take place **May 25**.

Walpole Quality Meats
Supplying & supporting
Walpole for over 11 years

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Walpole Weekly

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DEADLINE for all advertisements, stories and pictures is **10 am each Monday at weekly@walpole.org.au**; news items are included solely at Editor's discretion. Announcements, notices of meeting etc will be treated as paid advertisements unless they have particular news value.

ADVERTISING RATES

(Effective from February 1, 2015; rates include GST; exclude agency commissions where applicable)

Full page (190mm wide x 270mm deep)	\$ 95
If right hand page nominated	\$105
Full colour (back page, inside front/back)	\$220
Half (190mm x 132mm OR 93mm x 270mm)	\$ 50
If right hand page nominated	\$ 55
Quarter (93mm x 132mm OR 190mm x 63mm)	\$ 28
If page 3 or 5 nominated	\$ 32
Eighth (93mm x 63mm)	\$ 15
If page 3 or 5 nominated	\$ 18
If front page nominated	\$ 50
Classifieds (sixteenth; standard font & layout)	\$ 10
If private & non-commercial (one per person)	Free!

SPECIAL ADVERTISING: Talk to us. Colour wraps, colour inserts, dedicated positions, advertorials, centerfolds, special effects, flyers etc are all available by negotiation.

DISCOUNTS & DEALS: Talk to us. A 13th month of advertising is FREE if 12 months are paid for in advance. A discount of 50% applies to notices of births, deaths & marriages.

INVOICE issued at the beginning of the month after publication

SUBSCRIPTION per calendar year (post) \$ 55

INTERNET: All editions of the Walpole Weekly can be downloaded from Walpole.org.au (follow the links).

DISCLAIMER: The Management Committee takes no responsibility for the content of contributions and any views expressed are those of the contributor.

Weekly Weather

Temperatures and rainfall for
Sunday January 25 to Saturday January 31, 2015

	Temperatures		Rainfall
	Min	Max	mm
Sunday	15.8	23.0	0
Monday	11.5	25.3	0
Tuesday	14.3	31.8	0
Wednesday	17.6	37.3	0.8
Thursday	19.3	27.8	0.4
Friday	18.6	26.5	2.0
Saturday	17.0	26.4	0.2
Total rainfall for the week			3.4

Forecast for the next five days:

Thu Feb 5	Fri Feb 6	Sat Feb 7	Sun Feb 8	Mon Feb 9
 17 27 Possible shower	 16 23 Partly cloudy	 14 26 Possible shower	 15 31 Possible shower	 17 25 Possible shower

Sources: www.bom.gov.au; www.willyweather.com.au

Times to Remember

Walpole Waste Transfer Station

Tuesday and Thursday 1 - 5; Sunday 9 - 5

Peaceful Bay Tip

Wednesday 9 - 1; Sunday 1 - 4.30

Library ph: 9840 1108

Wednesday 9 - 12 and 1 - 3.30

Friday 9 - 12 and 1 - 3.30 Saturday 9 - 12

Walpole Op Shop

Monday—Friday 9.30 - 11.30 and Saturday 10 - 1



**St George's
Anglican Church
Walpole**
Corner Vista and Pier Streets
**Holy Communion
Sunday 10am.**

Contact: Rev Sue Lodge-Calvert
Telephone: 9848 2173
Website: www.denmarkanglican.org.au



Submit your friends' and family members' birthdays to the editor at weekly@walpole.org.au

Feb 6
Feb 7
Feb 9

Paulie Slann
Kirsten Torre
Jenny Love

BOM's climate outlook

An overview of the monthly and seasonal climate outlook issued by the Bureau of Meteorology, Jan 29:

- February to April is more likely to be drier than normal over most of WA and across large parts of the eastern mainland states.
- For the month of February, most of Australia has a moderate to strong chance of a drier than normal month. This signal persists across much of the country in March.
- February to April shows an increased chance of warmer than normal days over WA, parts of SA, and much of Queensland and NSW.
- Night-time temperatures for the three months are more likely to be warmer than normal over most of WA, western SA, and areas of both Queensland and NSW. Cooler than normal nights are favoured in an area to the south of the Top End of the NT.
- Climate influences include some residual warmth in the tropical Pacific Ocean, and a warm central Indian Ocean.

For more, visit bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks

SBC's new manager



With Business Advisor Paul Matenaar handing over the reins to Stephanie De Vaney (*pictured*), the Small Business Centre (SBC) Warren-Blackwood is once again open for business.

The SBC provides advice on how to start up a business, how to expand an existing business, and how to address business operating issues.

Ms De Vaney is a local business owner with small business management experience and is keen to assist in growing and developing businesses across the Warren-Blackwood region.

The SBC can be contacted by phone 0401 448 811 or email info@sbcbw.net.au.

Walpole Quality Meats
Supplying & supporting
Walpole for over 11 years

Was your 2015 New Years resolution to shape up for summer?

The Rec Centre has the perfect class to help kick start your new exercise program.

Moov-it.

A fully supervised low intensity exercise class suitable for all ages, aimed at those starting or restarting their new fitness program.

In Moov-it we work on strength, flexibility, balance and cardio in a safe and fun environment. What have you got to lose!

Moov-it

10.30 am Thursdays; starts this week 5th Feb.

Cost \$10 p/class \$8 seniors.

Bring a towel and water bottle.



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Terry Redman MLA

Member for Warren-Blackwood

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Authorised by T Redman,
5/78 Strickland St Denmark WA 6333



NATIONALS
for Regional WA
THE

Letters and contributions to the *Weekly*

The *Walpole Weekly* is YOUR newspaper; published by the community for the community.

There is so much going on that it is impossible for the Community Resource Centre to cover it all for you.

You can help us with words:

- If you're on a committee or in a club, let us know what happened at your big event.
- If you've witnessed something amusing, dramatic, unusual or eventful, jot it down for us.
- If you're an expert in a particular subject or a close follower of politics, sports, books, music, or anything else, we welcome your idea for a regular column.
- If you've written a joke, poem or a *very* short story we'd love to share it with the community.

If you think you can't write, you probably can; and of course we will edit and proofread it!

And you can help us with pictures (and captions):

- If you've attended an event send us your snaps (please identify all the people in them).
- If you've caught a huge whiting or seen a ghost in Pioneer Park, send us your pictorial proof.

Submit your contributions and ideas for stories and columns to weekly@walpole.org.au.

The *Walpole Weekly* values freedom of expression and welcomes contributions and feedback from readers via letter or email on any topic of community interest:

- 1) All content submitted for publication must provide full name and contact details.
- 2) If the writer wishes to remain anonymous, the words "Name withheld by request" will be used in the byline.
- 3) Any content published will be done so without alteration—except to enhance flow, clarity, spelling, and grammar—therefore the writer should carefully check facts and consider their choice of words.
- 4) Should content be deemed by the Editor to be too long, incomprehensible, libelous, illegal, or incite a sensitive issue, then it will not be published.
- 5) In the case of content being rejected, the writer/s will be notified of the decision by the Editor.
- 6) Should the writer dispute the Editor's decision they should take it up in writing with the Management Committee of Walpole CRC.
- 7) The Management Committee will make the final decision on whether or not to publish the content in the next available edition of the *Weekly*.

Walpole Agency

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Alex, Monty honoured on Australia Day

Now (at writing) fighting the dangerous fires threatening Northcliffe, Alex Williams (*pictured right*) was recognised on this year's Australia Day Honours list with an Emergency Services Medal (ESM).



Emergency Services Medal front and back

The ESM recognises distinguished service by members of emergency services across Australia.

Mr Williams currently serves as captain of Hazelvale Bush Fire Service (BFS) brigade, as South Coast Commander of Volunteer Marine Rescue Western Australia (VMRWA), and as Training Officer for Walpole VMR.

Mr Williams has been involved with VMR in WA since 1971 and the BFS since 1996.

VMRWA Commander Jeff Howe described Mr Williams as a "very worthy recipient".

For a decade 85-year-old Montague Sanders (*pictured below*) has been picking up after us.

On January 26 Mr Sanders was thanked for his voluntary Tidy Towns efforts with a Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award Commendation.

Mr Sanders and wife Rita moved to Walpole in 2003, whereupon Dr Longley at Silverchain discovered that Mr Sanders was suffering from an urgent case of acute angina.

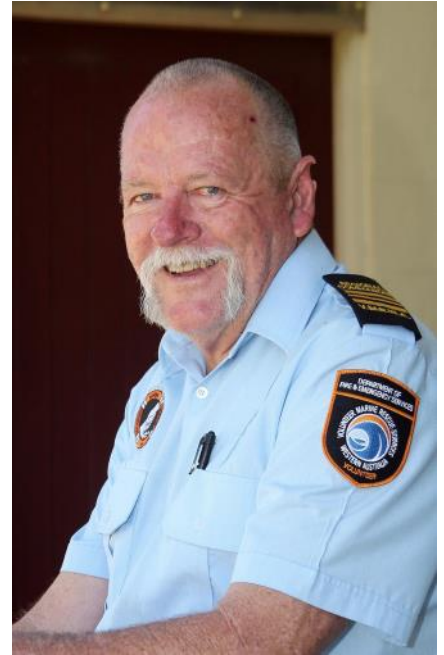
After an ambulance ride to Denmark, a Flying Doctors flight to Perth, and a triple bypass operation at Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital, Monty rediscovered the energy of youth and decided to try to make the world a better place.

After 12 months of recuperation, Mr Sanders answered an ad in the *Walpole Weekly* calling for volunteers to join the Tidy Towns team and he has been an active participant in the program since.

Mr Sanders recalls a time only 10 years ago when parts of Walpole township were little better than dumping areas.

"If we all do a little bit we can make a big difference," he said.

"I'd like to thank my supporters and whoever it was nominated me for the award," he added.



ESM recipient Alex Williams
© ALBANY ADVERTISER



Montague Sanders with his Active Citizenship Award. "I feel as fit as a 50-year old", said the octogenarian.

Improving your network

Western Power crews will be conducting high priority network maintenance in your area this February.

This investment to replace 45 poles across the Walpole region is part of our bushfire mitigation program and is essential for the ongoing safety and reliability of the network.

For the safety of the community and our crews your power may need to be interrupted while we complete this work.


Due to the high volume of upgrades required, some customers could experience a number of interruptions and will be notified in advance for each one.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation while we complete this high priority work.

Unless you receive a power interruption notice, this work is not expected to impact your power supply.



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Ray of hope for the black and the smooth

If you enjoy our coastline there's a fair chance you will have come across some inquisitive gentle giants of the sea, the humble stingray.

Two of the most spectacular species, the black and smooth stingrays, are now protected under newly introduced regulations in both the West Coast and South Coast Bioregions of Western Australia.

Under the new regulations, fishers now must release the rays

immediately if caught.

Recfishwest Chief Executive Officer, Dr Andrew Rowland said fishers acknowledged the tourism and conservation value of large tame residential stingrays, particularly in holiday locations such as the Hardy, Walpole and Nornalup Inlets on the South Coast and along the West Coast in areas such as Rottnest Island, Lancelin and Jurien Bay.

"Having the opportunity to see

and interact with large stingrays at close quarters while out fishing adds to the overall enjoyment of the outdoor experience," Dr Rowland said.

"Recreational fishers support protecting these species and their associated values in a case of recreational fishermen doing their bit for marine conservation."

"Hamelin Bay is already a protected area for all ray and skate species, but this change now preserves the communities' ability to interact with large resident stingrays at other popular interaction areas, and the department has worked closely with Recfishwest in developing this new regulation."

The new rules only affect the smooth and black stingray species with recreational fishers still able to fish for other species.

Fishers are reminded to be wary of stingrays' dangerous tail stings when catching and releasing stingrays.



Smooth rays, like the one pictured, and black rays are now protected in the West Coast and South Coast bioregions effective immediately.



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Government of Western Australia
Department of Regional Development



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

GENUINELY SOUTHERN FORESTS GREENING UP THE PILBARA



The Genuinely Southern Forests team has recently been working with Select Fresh to supply fresh lettuce and cauliflowers to Rio Tinto's Pilbara FIFO sites. From early this year we have been working with some of our members on supplying Genuine fresh local produce to Rio Tinto's FIFO workers with great success.

We thank the growers for their ongoing support and look forward to continue to provide and introduce different produce lines to Rio Tinto. If you are intersteted in getting involved then please contact our office on 08 9772 4180.



GENUINELY SOUTHERN FORESTS CARTONS AVAILABLE IN STORE



As produce ripens around the region and gets packed ready for market, you will start to see a consistent feel to things...our local growers are packing into Genuinely Southern Forests cartons and we are excited!

The GSF team has developed a series of produce cartons that are available to our members to purchase through the SFFC office. These include avocado trays, apple cartons, 10kg fruit cartons, and cherry boxes, and more being developed.

It is great to get the growers support and see Genuinely Southern Forests produce getting to market.



If you are interested in finding out more please contact our office on 08 9772 4180.

GENUINELY SOUTHERN FORESTS PRODUCE ON THE MENU



Living in the food bowl of WA certainly has its perks! Not only do we get to enjoy the beautiful environment and backdrop of the Southern Forests, we also get a firsthand opportunity to taste Genuine fresh local produce from Genuine down-to-earth locals!

The Genuinely Southern Forests team is pleased to be working with some of the local businesses, cafes and restaurants on identifying and sourcing fresh local produce to make it more readily available to you.

Why not drop by the Manjimup Farmers Market (1st and 3rd Saturday of each month), IGA Pemberton, Karri Country Good Food Coop in Northcliffe, The Cherry Box in Manjimup, and now Woolworths Manjimup to purchase some Genuinely Southern Forests produce to

take home with you.

If dining out is more your style, then visit some of our regions cafes and restaurants who Genuinely support our local growers by sourcing local seasonal produce for their menus.

CONTACT US

Southern Forests Food Council Inc. 6a Brockman Street / PO Box 1258 Manjimup WA 6258
t: 08 9772 4180 e: laura@southernforestsfood.com www.southernforestsfood.com

Manjimup | Pemberton | Northcliffe | Walpole

Pop Skip Jump may pop-up again

The arty crafty pop-up shop Pop Skip Jump could become a more regular feature along Walpole's main Nockolds Street.

The joint venture was such a success that discussions are now underway about future opening dates, including possibly popping up at Easter.

In the meantime, hair is being trimmed, permed and coloured once again down at The Big Hair Shop.

A collaborative venture between The Big Hair Shop and artists Liz Edmonds (The House That Jack Built),



Sarah Walker (Peaceful Bay Beanie Company) and Justine Gamblin (Little Shed Studio), Pop Skip Jump received "bucket-loads" of positive feedback and sales.

The temporary shop opened between Christmas and New Year, January 17-18, as well as the Australia Day long weekend; short periods during which Ivan Gardner (The Big Hair Shop) was on holidays.

"Visitors and locals alike came for a look and to buy unique hand-made souvenirs and gifts," Justine Gamblin said.

"A noticeable trend, especially in the week after Christmas, was the number of locals who brought their visiting family and friends into the shop to show off the home-grown talent and meet the artists," she added.

Complementing the drawings, paintings, prints, cards, beanies, sunhats, tea-cosies, up-cycled t-shirts, cushions, iphone cases and cork boards of the principal partners were unique woodwork items by Kevin Pierce (Southcoast Woodwork), botanically dyed silk and wool scarves by Penny Jewel, leaf-themed embroidery by Caitlin Stewart (Not what it Seams), paintings and cards by Marilyn Barrington, and block pictures, prints and cards by Leanne Fry (Le Papier).

Better healthcare for vets

Veterans will have faster access to treatment for a range of disorders following the federal Government's expansion of non-liability health care arrangements.

Federal Member for O'Connor Rick Wilson MP said that veterans who are diagnosed by a general practitioner or psychologist with conditions such as PTSD, depression, and anxiety will be able to access free treatment programs without needing to prove a link between their service and their condition.

For more information on mental health support for veterans and their families, contact DVA or visit the At Ease website at www.at-ease.dva.gov.au.



The Walpole Community Resource Centre (CRC), organiser of the AvaG'day in Walpole Australia Day Markets, wishes to thank the following people and organisations for helping make the day a success:

Shire of Manjimup, Wayne Webb, Rob the Vegeman from Manjimup, Walpole Quality Meats, Walpole-Nornalup Visitor Centre, Golden Wattle Supermarket & BP, Tony & Jenny Boyle, Jenny Whitelock, Brendan Boyle, Nathan & Deanne Blake, Sarah Walker, Cr Dave Tapley, Jenny Willcox, Walpole Bakery, Walpole Work Camp, and any others whom we may have forgotten to mention who generously gave of their time and energy.

Each year our Australia Day event has its challenges and 2015 was no exception; an escapist sheep, a non-functioning shearing unit, heat, and even selling out of burgers by 1pm. The community always rises to the challenge as evidenced by positive feedback received from all quarters.

Thanks to all who came to share the day with us!

The Walpole Hotel Motel

What's on:

Fridays: Chase the Ace
Happy Hour
Bar Snacks



Restaurant Open Hours

Lunch 12-2pm, Dinner 6-8pm 7days

New RDA leadership

Deputy Mayor of the City of Albany Greg Stocks has been appointed as the new Chair for the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Great Southern WA Committee with Ms Liz Guidera from Katanning appointed as the new Deputy Chair.

Mr Stocks said he was excited at the opportunity to work with the RDA and looks forward to continuing engagement with a broad range of stakeholders on RDA's economic agenda for the region.

"RDA Great Southern has made a significant contribution to the region including a facilitation role for delivering over \$17 million of Commonwealth funding for priority infrastructure projects including the Centennial Park redevelopment project in Albany and other important projects in our regional towns," he said.

Mr Stocks said there was a renewed focus for Regional Development Australia Committees to drive economic growth and make the most of the potential capability of their regions.

He paid tribute to outgoing Chair Milton Evans and Deputy Chair Sue Bennett-Ng, who along with the RDA Committee had made a great contribution over the last five years in establishing the RDA and ensuring the organisation was directly involved in major strategic planning for the Great Southern.

Mr Stocks' first challenge will be to oversee the selection of a new RDA Committee in the coming weeks with new members jointly appointed by the Chair and Deputy Chair in consultation with the Minister.

Mr Stocks said he would be seeking people with skills and experience from across the region representative of the diverse communities and economy of the region.

"One of the strengths of the RDA Committee has been the bringing together of committed people who understand their own backyard and who are able to achieve good outcomes which best serve the whole region".

The RDA Committee will also assist local community stakeholders to develop project proposals and direct them to appropriate public and/or private funding sources – including the \$1 billion National Stronger Regions Fund.

Anyone interested in joining the RDA Committee should contact the Executive Officer Simon Lys on 9842 5800 or email admin@rdagreatsouthern.com.au



*Deputy Chair
Liz Guidera*

Seniors Computer Club

Resumes this Thursday at Walpole CRC at 1:00pm

All seniors welcome to attend



***We have something for everyone !
Annual membership \$25 and \$5 per Term.
Each Thursday afternoon 1– 4 pm
Afternoon tea included.***

Enquiries to 9840 1395

OP-SHOP APPLICATIONS

Walpole OP-SHOP applications in by Fri 13th Feb please — community projects — to the shop or P.O Box 266.

We need more help for Saturdays.

Please let us know if you can assist.

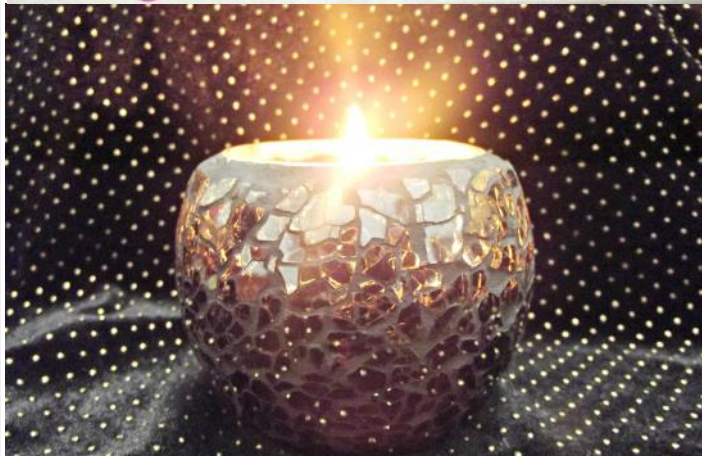
Kate O'Brien 9840 1665

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

South Coast Environment Group AGM will be held 10am Friday Feb 13 at SCEG office (next to Walpole Post Office). New members welcome.

**Walpole Quality Meats
Your Local Butcher**

PRglow Candles



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(I no longer do Markets.)

Popular fragrances for Valentines Day are:
Pink Diamonds, Amber Romance, Passion,
Red Cherry Bourbon & Love Spell.
Last day to order for Valentines Day
is 10th February.

Please phone or email:

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www.PRglowCandles.com.au

Manji grants open

The Shire of Manjimup's annual community grants round for 2015/2016 opened on Monday (February 2).

Each year Council allocates up to 2% of the Shire's rates income back to the community by way of grants.

Last year this equated to more than \$100,000 in cash support for events, sports, community centres, art projects, community gardens, youth zones and more.

Funding is available under three categories: events, community projects and youth.

Shire President Wade DeCampo said: "One of the great things about the Shire's community grants is that you don't have to be an incorporated body to apply, which means funding is potentially accessible for one-off events or pop-up projects."

One of the events funded in 2014/2015 was the Walpole Regatta.

"We're particularly interested in initiatives that improve the quality of life for community members of all ages, and provide a reason for people to visit and stay in the region," said Cr DeCampo.

"This is the only opportunity for the community to access Shire funds for the year," he continued.

"You may not think that your event or project will qualify, but I encourage you to contact the Shire and put your idea out there, and if you're not eligible for one of the Shire's community grants, we will steer you in the right direction."

Application forms for the 2015/2016 community grants can be downloaded from the Shire's website, picked up from the Shire office, or from Community Resource Centres and public libraries.

Applications close at 4pm on Friday, March 27.

Walpole Quality Meats
Support us.
We do support you!

Silent Meditation

Sundays 9:00 am

Kentdale Hall, Parker Road

Enquiries:

Jillian 9840 8685



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RAINBOW COAST

TIMBER SUPPLIES

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Online marketing class

Amy Burch (*pictured*), co-founder of Burch Family Wines, which owns Howard Park and Madfish Wines, will share her experiences as part of a WA Department of Communities-funded online marketing class to take place April 24 at Howard Park Wines.

The Denmark Chamber of Commerce received Grants for Women funding to support regional businesswomen, with a focus on the online environment.

Local online marketing specialists Lydia and Conrad Kenyon interviewed Ms Burch as part of the project.

"Denmark people are very culturally orientated," Ms Burch said. "They seem to reach out to anything that has value, are not easily fooled, and are looking for quality in life. People want to come because Denmark has something special. Keep that something special, but use it to your advantage."

A key element of the program will be access to ongoing support from the Chamber of Commerce and Small Business Centre Great Southern, for those who wish to develop their businesses and seek confidential, independent expertise.

Women's Interests Minister Liza Harvey said Grants for Women offered community organizations working in a range of areas a chance to promote women's interests and wellbeing.

"Creating opportunities and better outcomes for women leads to a positive flow-on effect to families and the community in general," Ms Harvey said.

Denmark Chamber of Commerce: 9848 2065.



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Walpole CRC celebrates 20 years

Some 40 current and former Committee members, staff, and volunteers of Walpole Community Resource Centre (CRC) gathered at the Tree Top Restaurant, January 28 to celebrate 20 years of service to Walpole & Districts.

Bruce Manning, CEO of Great Southern Development Commission, delivered a brief history of the CRC, from its humble beginnings in old single men's quarters on Vista Sreet, to its current multipurpose space in Walpole CENTRAL on Latham Avenue, and outlined some of the CRC's achievements and unheralded contributions to Walpole & Districts.

"Walpole CRC has been viewed as something of a benchmark in the CRC network," Mr Manning said.

"The tireless efforts of Jennifer Willcox were critical to this success; doing the work of three people."

Former CRC Special Projects Officer Carolyn Aggiss reminisced on her time with the CRC and spoke of Ms Willcox's ability to identify people's strengths and instil confidence in them.

CRC Operations Manager Linda Beard said: "The event was an opportunity to thank some of the people past and present who have made enormous voluntary contributions to the success of our CRC."



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Walpolians feature in Denmark awards

More than 660 people witnessed the presentation of the 2014 Shire of Denmark Sportsperson of the Year Awards on Australia Day at the Council's annual breakfast in Berridge Park.

The pinnacle for Sport & Recreation achievement in the Shire, three awards are presented annually: Junior Sportsperson of the Year (for under 18 years of age), Senior Sportsperson of the Year, and the Service to Sport Award.

Junior Sportsperson of the Year for 2014 was won by former Walpole Primary School student Ebony Thorpe (now 15 years old) for outstanding achievements in netball and basketball.

In 2014, Miss Thorpe represented the Great Southern Netball region in Division 1 at the Regional Netball Championships in Perth and captained the Denmark Netball Association Under 15 team at the Smarter Than Smoking Netball Championships in Perth.

Senior Sportsperson of the Year for 2014 was won by Michael Reddin for rifle shooting. He won the Division 3 of the Great Southern District Rifle Association Prize shoot and competed in the Northern Territory Queens Prize with shooters from all over the country winning Division 2.

The Service to Sport Award for 2014 was won by Glen Burton from

the Denmark Basketball Association and Denmark Walpole Football Club. Mr Burton has been a dedicated volunteer performing a number of roles within those clubs. He has coached numerous teams across both sports.

Damian Schwarzbach, Shire of Denmark's Manager of Recreation and Youth Services said: "There was a fantastic response this year from Denmark sporting clubs with 13 nominations received.

"It would be fantastic next year to have all Denmark sporting clubs nominate their award winners and the volunteers who give so much back to the community."

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Ebony Thorpe accepts Junior Sportsperson of the Year

Golf

Scroungers results from January 27 (Par)

1st	B Cooper	square
2nd	K James	- 1
Best 4th	#10	B Cooper
Nearest the pin	# 13	G Peck
Best 2nd	#11	B Cooper
Longest putt	# 9	M Lumb
Best chip	#1	G Peck
Birdies	#11	B Cooper

Summer golf results from February 1 (Stableford)

Winner	B Cooper	39 points
Runner-up	M Tindale	38 points
Longest putt	#9	M Tindale
Best 2nd	#5	E Tindale
Best Teams Winners	Ladies 35 - Men 29.4	

— Betty Cooper

Pennants bowls

Results from January 31:

Ladies Walpole 4 Cranbrook 0

Men's 1st Division

Walpole 1 Albany Green 5

Men's 3rd Division

Walpole 6 Mt Barker Golf White 0

— Peter Grant

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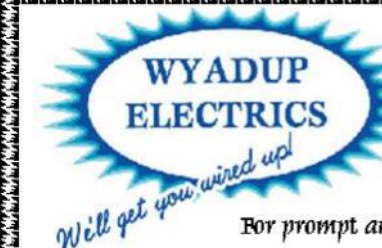
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Help shed light on Australia's elusive water rat

It's a platypus! No, it's an otter! Hang on, is it just a sewer rat?

It has been mistaken for all of these things but the little-known rakali is Australia's own native water rat—and it needs your help.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW) have launched a new citizen science project to gather information about the rakali.

"Rakali are mysterious, shy creatures, so it can be difficult to study them," said WWF's Dr Sabrina Trocini.

"We're asking anyone who has seen a rakali or found evidence of

indicator of healthy waterways.

They are larger than introduced rats, have partially webbed feet and can be easily distinguished by their broad, blunt nose and the white tip on their long, thick tails. Their water-repellent fur is dark grey to black on their backs, with lighter coloured bellies.

"If you're out on the rivers, lakes or beaches this summer, please keep your eyes peeled for signs of rakali [which are] especially active around sunset," Dr Trocini said.

"Signs to look for include footprints (*pictured*) or tail drag marks in mud or sand, and feeding 'middens', a dense scattering of shell pieces left behind after their meals of crabs, crayfish, aquatic insects or mussels (*pictured*).

Tim Gamblin said: "We especially want rakali sightings in the wild but

are also interested in those on your farm dam or similar waterway."

Any record of recent activity adds value to the WWF/DPAW monitoring database for this elusive mammal.

Good local places to see rakali are the Deep River, Coalmine and Sandy Beach, the Inlet Mouth and Broke Inlet, however they can also be found much further inland such as at Fernhook Falls.

While not yet on the threatened species list, populations of water rats have declined in Australia over recent decades and they are now a



protected species in WA.

"Throughout the 1930s and 40s, rakali were hunted for their fur, which had a significant impact on their population," said DPAW ecologist Dr Geoff Barrett.

"Changes in river and wetland habitats and illegal fish traps also are also threats."

The Rakali Community Survey will run from December 2014 to March 2015.

Email details of a sighting and photos of the evidence to rakali@wwf.org.au or phone 08 6231 0223.

— Dr Sabrina Trocini & Tim Gamblin; pics by Mordanaglaya (*rakali*) & Tim Gamblin (*evidence*)



their presence to get in contact with us ... help us get a better understanding of where they live and what threats they face."

Unlike introduced black rats that are destructive to native wildlife, rakali are native rodents that occur naturally across Australia.

Little is known of their current distribution in southern WA except that their range has declined in the Wheatbelt due to salinity and habitat degradation.

Rakali live near permanent bodies of both salt and fresh water, including rivers, wetlands, dams and sheltered coastline areas, and their presence is considered an



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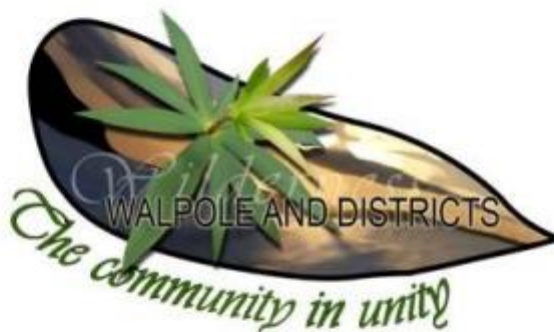
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