



INCORPORATED IN 1970

CRESTWOOD NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE CRESTWOOD HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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DATES TO REMEMBER

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

23 February 2009

30 March 2009

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

25 February 2009 7:30pm

(see p. 8)

NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for the next **Crestwood News** is **3 April 2009**. Please send reports, announcements, notices, ads, articles and photos to Malcolm as early as possible before this date:

24 Coronet Court

crestwoodnews@inet.net.au

HAPPY NEW YEAR

President's Report

I trust that everyone has had an enjoyable and safe festive season. I hope your New Year has started well and I wish you all the best for the coming months.

I am pleased to advise that our gardeners now have access to email. So if you have any non-urgent queries you may email them with your questions. You may also use this means to inform them of any problems you notice on the estate, such as missing sprinklers or broken park lights. If you place your email address on file with them, this will also enable them to let you know of any last minute changes or breakdowns to any of our systems, such as reticulation. The email address is:

crestwoodpark@bigpond.com

I would like to thank our Treasurer, Roy Malone, for his thoroughness and efforts over recent weeks in preparing the budget figures for the Committee's consideration in mid January. This culminated in the proposal being distributed to all of you for the upcoming Special General Meeting regarding the annual fees for 2009/10 (see notice on page 8).

I would urge all homeowners to be at the meeting in person, or if that is not possible, then make sure you submit a proxy form before 7.30pm Tuesday, February 24th. For a quorum we need a minimum of 30% of member households (89 in number) to be present or have submitted a proxy.

There will soon be a number of committee positions which will need filling as the existing committee members complete their terms. I urge you all to consider nominating for these as they become available. We really need more residents to become involved in the running of the estate. I, personally, would like to thank all existing committee members for their past and continuing efforts.

If homeowners become concerned about anti-social behaviour on the estate involving damage to property, graffiti, substance abuse, or noise (taking into consideration the time, place and circumstance) please **ring the Police on 13 14 44**.

Trevor Davis

"A Unique Way of Life"

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(T = Telephone - F = Fax)

President	Trevor Davis	21 Princeton Ct/trevor.davis@bigpond.com.au	T: 9459 3961/0448 860 748
Vice President	Trevor Veen	110 Regency Dr/trevor.veen@mapsurvey.com.au	T: 9493 3021
Secretary	Sandra Wilson	105 Regency Dr/crestwood@safe-mail.net	T: 9493 6622/F: 9452 1830
Treasurer	Roy Malone	116 Regency Dr / rmalone@mford.com.au	T: 9459 4364/F: 9459 4364
Aquatic Centre	Trevor Veen	110 Regency Dr/trevor.veen@mapsurvey.com.au	T: 9493 3021
Parks & Reticulation [also the contact person for tree removal]	Rob Wilson	14 Hume Rd / rwi5579@bigpond.net.au	T: 9493 5567
Aesthetics [also the contact person for building approvals and fencing]	John Rushton	20 Coronet Ct / jonjanr@iinet.net.au	T: 9493 6096/F: 9493 6596

CRESTWOOD CONTACTS

Community Centre Hire	Marjan van Dijk	darrencolley@iprimus.com.au	T: 9459 8776
Social Club Coordinator	Vacant		
Crestwood News	Malcolm Mintz	24 Coronet Ct/crestwoodnews@iinet.net.au	T: 9459 2902/F: 9459 0119
Webmaster	Rod Campbell	srcampbell4@bigpond.com	
Twenties Club	Margaret Davies	19 Regency Dr	T: 9459 4115
Playgroup	Ros Norman		T: 9493 2597
Groundspersons	Ryan Epps	Hours: 7am - 3pm / Mobile 0417 713 213	T: 9459 5782/F: 9452 3224
	Taffy Ray	Hours: 9am - 3pm / Mobile: 0417 989 326	T: 9459 5782/F: 9452 3224
		Email contact: crestwoodpark@bigpond.com	
Pool	Office		T: 9459 5782/F: 9452 3224

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

City of Gosnells	Office Hours	T: 9391 3222
Ranger	After Hours	T: 9357 0754
Graffiti Removal	All Hours	T: 9391 3222
State Graffiti Hotline		T: 1800 442 255
Thornlie High School		T: 9459 2544
Canning Vale Police Station		T: 9456 9555
Police Emergency		T: 000
Police Non-emergency		T: 131 444
Home Security Audit		T: 9493 3311
Crimestoppers		T: 1800 333 000

WELCOME TO CRESTWOOD

Mark Ian Warman 123 Regency Drive
Jemma Doreen Myers 349 Spencer Road

FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES

Marie & Andre Webster-Viola 123 Regency Drive
Peter Marshall 349 Spencer Road

Contact the editor if you have something you would like to contribute to the Crestwood News.

This can be notification of births, deaths, special birthdays and graduations; tips on garden design and general gardening, including composting, plant selection and watering ; favourite recipes; hobbies or crafts you would like to share; safety and security issues; information about individuals or groups of interest to others on the estate; financial matters such as news of house and land values, and other items of mutual interest.

Hobbies

Do you have a hobby you would like to share with others? The *Crestwood News* would like to run a series of articles on the hobbies of residents in the Crestwood community. A short article describing the hobby, how you got involved in it and why you enjoy doing it, and sharing one or two interesting or amusing incidents which occurred when carrying out the hobby would be perfect — such as gluing yourself to a model airplane, ending up with a narrow vase in pottery when you set out to make a low-lipped cup, or winning a particular award or gaining special recognition. You can write the article yourself, or meet with the editor who will be happy to write the article using your input.

From Taffy, Ryan & myself we hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year. However, its now back to work for most of us. We wish to thank residents for their efforts in keeping the rear access of their properties clean and tidy. This makes the effort put in by the grounds people worth while. However, there are still a couple of properties that need some attention, so please can you all take a look out the back gate occasionally. We need these areas kept clear both for the safety of walkers and or access for the blower which we use to blow down the paths after mowing. The parks and gardens are starting to look really good thanks to Ryan's efforts. There are still dry patches appearing in some parks which we are treating with a wetting agent and a small amount of fertiliser. This should bring all back to normal. On that note, we all could do the same. You will be amazed at the result. Water alone will not do the job.

Parks & Reticulation

On reticulation, we have had some households saying they have poor pressure on their station. We have five bores on the estate of which we use four at a time. At times we do have a bore which will fail due to a high or low pressure reading. This is one reason for sometimes getting limited water. Another problem we have is that all stations are not the same size; some are eight house stations and some six. Our main problem is that all houses have different sprinklers and layouts. This we have no control over. We do wish that all properties had pop-up sprinklers as they give a better and more even cover of water. If the houses on your station have open flow type sprinklers they will get more water than you. There is not a thing we can do about it. This may be a topic for a future AGM.

A request from our grounds persons: if you notice any faulty sprinklers around the parks, or lights that are not working properly, can you please report them so we can arrange for these to be fixed? The grounds staff cannot see all that goes on around the estate.

Access to the parks has become an issue. The rule is that if you need access, the grounds people should be contacted and an arrangement made. A bond needs to be paid, by a resident of \$300 dollars or a contractor, \$500, which covers any possible damage to Crestwood. This will be given back as soon as all items are checked and verified to still be in good condition. There is not much point for a contractor to turn up to carry out work unless this bond is paid. It tends to upset some people. We have had issues where we have had repairs carried out on people's behalf and then had to wait for payment. This ties our grounds people up and wastes the time of all of us. We would appreciate it if everyone could follow this rule. After all, it's there to protect us from damage by others.

Rob Wilson

Unfortunately, I have to start with an un-pleasantry. It has been reported to me that some of our pool users have been swearing at the lifeguards. **THIS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED** by the committee. There is no excuse for such behaviour and if it continues I will have no hesitation in suspending the offender from using the pool. If you have a grievance please contact me. As in previous years, some of the lifeguards have difficulty converting to our way of life. Some go too far one way and others do not. It is a balance that I work hard on to achieve but if no-one contacts me then I can't help people find that balance.

Pool

Now that that is said and done, onto more enjoyable items. What a wonderful evening it was in the park for the carols. The weather was perfect, the mood was one of good cheer, faces were full of smiles and the Thornlie Church of Christ choir was absolutely sensational. I must thank them and all the others who helped before, during and after the night. It made organising the event so very easy.

Then on Christmas Eve we had the floating obstacle course. This was a different one to previous occasions which gave the younger children, and the older adults, a better chance of getting to the end. Thank you to the YMCA Aqua Jetty for, once again, allowing us to use it.

The hot weather from late December to early January has seen a good number of residents using the pool. A very pleasing sight. Over that time we have had a bit of difficulty keeping the toddler's pool at the correct chlorine level and I thank you for your patience and understanding. Since then, things seem to have stabilised.

The VacSwim has come and gone with a good number of Crestwood kids, and the odd adult, improving their aquatic skills. Then again, on the last weekend of the school holidays, the YMCA inflatable returned with more fun being had.

The sausage sizzles being run by your local Girl Guides is proving to be a success. If you haven't already, please come down and join in. See the pool notice board for details of when the next one will be run. Typically once a fortnight on a Friday.

Lastly, we have received notification from the Health Department of W.A. granting us our registration as an authorised pool. Due to VacSwim classes we have qualified at a higher standard than needed, but that allows us to operate at any of the lower classes.

Regards, Trevor Veen

INCIDENT REPORT

Incidents reported on the Crestwood Estate

No incidents have been reported to the Crestwood News



POLICE WATCH - Thornlie

from the *Comment News*

Break-ins Burslem Dr (commercial), Gimlet Pl; motor vehicle theft Expedition Dr (2 December 2008)

Break-ins Spencer Rd (commercial), Berehaven Ave; graffiti damage Murdoch Dr (9 December 2008)

[No crime statistics were published between 16 December and 13 January]

Break-ins Burslem Dr, Murdoch Rd (both commercial), Hughenden Dr; motor vehicle theft Wilfred St, Yale Rd (20 January)

Break-ins Forest Cres, Ovens Rd Spencer Rd (all commercial), Elvington Way, Storey Rd, Towncentre Dr; motor vehicle theft Storey Rd; graffiti damage Thornlie Ave (27 January)

Crime Prevention for Older People

Although the risk of crime to older people is lower than that to younger people, it is still important to be aware of the risk and to take sensible precautions.

Simple Steps to Improve Your Safety

- ▶ Ask the local community policing officer to conduct a security appraisal of your home. They will provide practical advice on how to solve any security problems they see, as well as restoring your confidence in you home's security.
- ▶ Lessen the risk of having your handbag snatched by:
 - holding the bag under you arm, close to the body
 - holding the bag firmly, not putting it on counters, seats or in shopping trolleys
 - being very careful when doing banking
 - considering the use of pockets or money belts
 - not resisting if someone snatches your handbag, as it is not worth the risk of injury
- ▶ If someone snatches your handbag, remain calm and observe the thief so an accurate description can be given to police.
- ▶ To lessen the risk of consumer fraud, be cautious about buying anything by telephone or from door-to-door sales people.
- ▶ When out in the car, remember to *Look, Lock Leave!* Look to ensure no valuables are visible, then lock and leave. When you return to your car, look around before unlocking the doors.
- ▶ Travel with a friend where possible, and use well-lit main roads rather than side streets.
- ▶ Familiarise yourself with timetables to reduce the time spent waiting at a bus stop or railway station.
- ▶ When using public transport at night, stay close to well-lit areas or where there are other people.
- ▶ When walking at night, don't use back lanes, parks or vacant lots as a short cut to your destination.
- ▶ If you experience a crime, ask the police officer who attends about *Project Deadlock* which is for older people who have recently suffered a personal crime or a home intrusion and are fearful as a result. Lockwood Australia will supply new locks free of charge, and Keywest Lock Service will install new locks free of charge, but certain conditions apply.

from *Seniors, Safety and Crime*, July 2008

HOUSE BURGLARY

Most home burglars are spur-of-the-moment opportunists. They just see an opportunity and take it. In a large percentage of home burglaries reported to police, burglars entered through an unlocked door or window.

Most burglars want to take as much out of your house as they can and sell it as fast as they can, for as much money as they can get. Their primary targets are expensive items that are highly portable and easy to dispose of. They are not usually shy. They'll not only walk right in if the door's open or unlocked, many of them don't really care if your are busy elsewhere in the house.

Think about how you can make it harder for a thief to find and sell your valuable property. Conduct the home security audit checklist on your property to ensure your home security is adequate.

Home Security Audit Checklist

- Street number clearly visible from the road?
- Letterbox secured with lock?
- Meter box secured to protect power supply?
- Trees and shrubs trimmed to eliminate hiding places? Property should be clearly visible from the street.
- Remove loose objects from the yard so offenders can't use them to break in.
- Gates locked when not in use?
- Is your backyard difficult to access from the front yard?
- Movement sensors installed to front, side and rear lighting?
- Are sensors/globes high enough to avoid easy reach?
- Garden sheds/workshops secure?
- Security screens fitted to doors and windows?
- Do windows have key locks?
- Can visitors be identified without opening the front door?
- Do you have a home alarm system?
- Are valuables engraved or marked for identification?
- Have serial numbers been recorded?
- Are you a member of Neighbourhood Watch?
- Do you have a dog?

Keep in touch with your neighbours. They are your most valuable security asset as they can keep an eye on your property and report any suspicious behaviour.

from *City of Gosnells Beat the Burglar* brochure



Minutes

Committee Business:

Parks and Reticulation: The proposal to remove the roses from Underpass D and replace them with something more appropriate was approved. Also regarding Underpass D, information from Peter Wynen suggests that informal permission was given by a former estate gardener, John Ellufsen, to remove the fence and bougainvillea. The fence is possibly inside the property line. A survey may now be required before determining how to proceed.

Underpass murals are looking shabby. Sandra is to call the City of Gosnells to find out what might be possible to have these improved.

Ryan has been given permission to clean up at the back of Crestwood properties as he has time. Ryan will also be supplied with uniforms as per his contract.

Two mainline breaks have occurred recently. A note is to go into the *Crestwood News* regarding the notification of faults. The reticulation system schedule has been changed to accommodate the changes necessitated by daylight savings.

Park lights have been adjusted. A response is still being awaited from the City of Gosnells regarding dogs off leads in the parks. Sandra is to write to the City requesting inspection of park bins and replacement where necessary.

Finances: Reminders were sent out to homeowners still owing fees. An insurance survey is to be carried out on 10 December with the President to attend. Rob has been asked to provide an estimate of the capital expenditure for the main reticulation line for next year.

Payment for the pool lights that were sold has yet to be received. Rob is to check on the fuel levy charged by MultiTurf with a view to having this removed. This information is necessary for budgeting purposes.

A second phone line and broadband package have been ordered by Sandra.

Gosnells has informed us of an increase in funding as part of the Public Open Space contribution.

Social: A barbecue for the committee and gardeners is to be held on 14 December. George Putland is to be asked about the requirements for Carols in the Park on 21 December. Santa and the sausage sizzle is also to be held on the same day. The inflatable obstacle course and bouncy castle will appear at the pool on 24 December.

General Business: The list of those eligible for gold passes (those resident in Crestwood for 20 years or more) was given to Roy by Daphne. Marjan will now update the board. Rod has indicated he is working on the website.

Some work is still required on an update of the welcome packs, in particular the sections on costs for hiring the Crestwood Hall and catering costs. An inventory still must be completed.

Visitor's Business: One of the visitors was concerned about a possible fire risk posed by the build-up of dead vegetation in Park 15. A path leading to nowhere is also dangerous. Rob is to investigate this.

Friends of another visitor are willing to donate a cubby house. This offer was rejected as it is likely to cause an insurance problem. There is also a lack of shade in the grassed area surrounding the toddler pool. The solution to this is likely to be a shade sail.

DECEMBER 2008

Committee Business:

Parks and Reticulation: Regarding the trees in Princeton Court, Sandra is still to write a letter to the City of Gosnells. Trevor Veen did talk to someone about this and received a reply that these trees have probably the same status as those in the Hume Road cul-de-sacs. A tree in Park 10 is to be removed due to dry rot. Ryan has been asked to sort the problems that have arisen in Park 15.

Ryan has started replanting Underpass D. With Underpass C, the City of Gosnells has suggested that we contact the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for a possible grant to revamp the murals. Clarification was made regarding the City being responsible for the underpasses with reference to a 2005 discussion paper. Further follow-up is required.

Issues have arisen regarding clear access to the parks via Princeton Court. Staff are now being asked to park inside the gates to reduce congestion. A gift is to be purchased for Taffy and Ryan.

Pool: The Crestwood pool is now a Class 2 facility. Sandra is to organise for certificates to be hung in the pool office. The safety registers are now complete. Copies are with the President, and are in the pool office and ute shed. The insurance survey is now completed.

Problems with chlorination of the pool are now hopefully behind us. The heating rubber for the toddler pool will need to be replaced. The non-slip floor treatment in the toilets and change rooms is working well and is appreciated by users. A quote of \$1900 has been received for replacement of a window. Payment has now been received for the old pool lights.

A new clock is needed for the pool area. [This has now been purchased by Gordon Blake].

Aesthetics: Contact was made by a resident after receiving notification of overhanging trees. This is being dealt with. A card has been sent to Jan.

Finances: Regarding payment of the Crestwood levy, there is only one case of non-payment which needs to be followed up. There are also two partial payments which still have not been accounted for.

A budget meeting is scheduled for 12 January. The Special General Meeting is tentatively scheduled for the last Wednesday in February.

General Business: Telstra is to be contacted regarding the poor quality of the current line in the pool office and the non-receipt of the internet package. [Note: this was misaddressed, but eventually found its way to the pool office].

Christmas Eve arrangements are in place. The Carols in the Park was a great success with thanks to George Putland for liaising with the Thornlie Church of Christ and arranging for their choir to sing. A letter of acknowledgement and thanks will go to the church along with a donation of \$750.00. Thanks also to Graeme Bell, Rob Wilson, Santa (Trevor Davis), Edna More and the Anderson and Veen families and their relatives for their contributions throughout the day.

Tentative approval has been given to a request to use the Crestwood Hall on 25 April. This involves placing a dance floor over the toddler pool area. Still to be addressed are noise issues.

Visitor Business: Congratulations were offered on the success of Carols in the Park with a comment that it was good to see children participating. Thanks were also given to the editor on his presentation of the *Crestwood News*.

Santa & Carols at Crestwood



Santa's bell rang earlier this year than last, sounding through the parks of Crestwood, announcing the imminent departure of the traditional yellow hot rod carrying Santa and his helpers. As Graeme Bell steered a careful course through the parks, always cautious not to upset an ever-vigilant Santa, there gradually grew behind him an excited trail of children, some following on bikes, others on scooters, and some even running along on foot. Santa, who rumour had it was planning a tilt at the Crestwood presidency, waved quite regally from the front seat of the hot rod, calling out, "Merry Christmas", to the families gathered at the backs of their properties as he passed. And ensconced, as always, in the rumble seat, were Santa's helpers, Jessica and Scott Veen, who monitored the scene from their van-

tage point at the rear.

As Santa criss-crossed the Crestwood Estate, making sure every park was visited, children began to gather at his chair set up in the park outside the pool, in the tempting shade of a marquee erected especially for Christmas. They began to take their places on the grass, waiting eagerly for Santa's arrival. And when Santa was seated, and his helpers unloaded bags of hidden gifts, more children came running, each with a look of anxious anticipation. As his



Thank You

There were many people who helped on the day. Particular thanks to George Putland for organising the carol singing. Without him, the evening just wouldn't have happened. And thanks, of course, to the Thornlie Church of Christ for supplying the sound system and their wonderful band and choir.

Thank you, too, to those who helped with the sausage sizzle: the Anderson family for their BBQ skills, Rob Wilson for setting up and packing away the barbecue, and Edna Moore and the Veen family for ongoing contributions throughout the day.

And not to be forgotten, Graeme Bell for supplying his hot rod and driving Santa around the estate, and Santa himself, also known as Trevor Davis on the other 364 days of the year, and Jessica and Scott Veen for helping Santa distribute his presents.

The sum of \$750.00 was presented to the Thornlie Church of Christ both in appreciation for making our traditional Carols at Crestwood such a success and for saving us a similar expense had we hired our own sound equipment for the evening.

helpers handed Santa gifts one by one, the children fell silent, listening for the imminent calling of their names.

With all the gifts distributed, and the time approaching 6:30, attention turned to dinner. The buzz of sizzling sausages and the smell of grilling onions drew the crowd to the food marquee set up along the pathway leading away from the pool. A large esky held the soft drinks. The choice was yours – Coke, Fanta, Sprite, Pasito, Lift, Kole Beer, and once your choice was made it was on to collect your roll and sausage. Decisions did not end there, for at the far end of the barbecue was a row of sauces – tomato, mustard, barbecue or sweet chilli. And the cost for a drink and sausage? Just \$1.00 each.

There was other activity as well as the evening moved on. By 7:30 preparations had long been completed for the appearance of the Thornlie Church of Christ choir waiting to sing a mix of Christmas carols in both traditional and not so traditional arrangements. Unlike last year when rain forced a change of venue, this year the weather was perfect.

Continued on the next page ...

... continued from the previous page.

The music stands were in place, stools were positioned for the musicians, the drums were nestled comfortably in their corner, the keyboard stood somewhat incongruously on the lawn, and the wires for the public address system were discreetly disguised as Christmas decorations with the speakers secreted behind some large park trees.

Twenty-two carollers had come to entertain us, accompanied by six musicians playing acoustic and electric guitars, flute, keyboard and drums. The musicians had warmed up earlier with a variety of tunes to accompany dinner, and now



it was the carollers turn to take us into the main part of the evening. Simone, the choirmaster, welcomed us all and led her group off with the opening carol, *Angels We have Heard on High*. It



didn't take long to change beat, for by the second carol we had a calypso version of the *The First Noel*, followed by a similarly arranged, *Mary's Boy Child*. Simone was particularly good at setting the relaxed festive mood of the evening, and in leading not only



the choir, but involving the audience as well. There were many other carols which the audience knew well and joined in singing, but we left it up to the choir to present a version of *What Child is This* sung to the tune of *Greensleeves*, and a barbershop quartet rendition of *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*. The evening ended with a rousing adaptation of *Joy to the World*, showing not so vague influences of Credence Clearwater Revival, and finally *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. Somewhere in the middle of all this, there was time for the traditional *Twelve Days of Crestwood*, sung by a group of Crestwood residents of varying voices, talents and egos, but undoubtedly much improved on the performance of the

previous year.

The evening was well-attended. Families formed a semicircle of chairs, blankets and strollers on this night for both young and old. Many had bought battery-run candles which changed from colour to colour as they were waved in time to the music in the darker part of the evening. As the weather cooled, sweaters came out and were donned, although it was doubtful that the children, active in running, riding scooters and bicycles, dancing in enjoyment and even turning cartwheels, would have felt the cold. The evening ended not all at once, but gradually with Crestwood's residents wishing each other well, then turning and heading in the direction of their respective homes.



Text by the Editor; photos from Sandra Wilson, Trevor Veen & George Putland

Reporting Reticulation Faults

If you notice your reticulation has not come on for a few days or that the pressure seems less than optimal, please report this to the gardeners as soon as possible. If you also notice that something has gone wrong with the reticulation in the parks, or that some sprinkler heads have gone missing, or you see any other problems, please report these as well.

Contact Ryan or Taffy on 9459 5782
or email: crestwoodpark@bigpond.com

Pick Up After Your Dog

We have all heard of housebroken dogs, but park-broken dogs are a distinct rarity. So do the right thing and pick up after your dog.

The following is from the Gosnells City Homepage

Dog owners are required to ensure that their dog is on a leash when in a public place. When in an exercise area and your dog is off-leash, you must ensure that your dog remains under effective control at all times. (Don't allow your dog to become a nuisance to other users of the exercise area.)

When in a public place with your dog it is your responsibility to ensure you pick up any excreta your dog leaves behind and dispose of it in the bins provided.

Now Available Email Notification

If you would like to receive important Crestwood notices by email, you can send your email address to:

crestwoodpark@bigpond.com

This will be used to notify you of any last minute changes, such as to the reticulation schedule due to faults, to regular swimming times due to breakdowns, or to any other matters where normal contact channels would be too slow.

Special General Meeting

**25 February 2009
at the Crestwood Hall
at 7:30 pm**

This is the annual meeting where the budget for the coming financial year is set. A quorum of 30% of households is required (89 member households either present or by proxy). Try your best to be there as your attendance is important.

The History of St. Valentine's Day

The history of Valentine's Day is obscure, and further clouded by various fanciful legends. The holiday's roots are in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration commemorated annually on February 15. Pope Gelasius I recast this pagan festival as a Christian feast day about 496, declaring February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day.

Which St. Valentine this early pope intended to honour remains a mystery: according to the *Catholic Encyclopaedia*, there were at least three early Christian saints by that name. One was a priest in Rome, another a bishop in Terni, and of a third St. Valentine almost nothing is known except that he met his end in Africa. Rather astonishingly, all three Valentines were said to have been martyred on Feb. 14.

Most scholars believe that the St. Valentine of the holiday was a priest who attracted the disfavour of Roman emperor Claudius II around 270. At this stage, the factual ends and the mythic begins. According to one legend, Claudius II had prohibited marriage for young men, claiming that bachelors made better soldiers. Valentine continued to secretly perform marriage ceremonies but was eventually apprehended by the Romans and put to death. Another legend has it that Valentine, imprisoned by Claudius, fell in love with the daughter of his jailer. Before he was executed, he allegedly sent her a letter signed "from your Valentine". Probably the most plausible story surrounding St. Valentine is one not focused on Eros (passionate love) but on agape (Christian love): he was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion.

In 1969, the Catholic Church revised its liturgical calendar, removing the feast days of saints whose historical origins were questionable. St. Valentine was one of the casualties.

It was not until the 14th century that this Christian feast day became definitively associated with love. It was, it is said, Chaucer who first linked St. Valentine's Day with romance. In 1381, Chaucer composed a poem in honour of the engagement between England's Richard II and Anne of Bohemia. As was the poetic tradition, Chaucer associated the occasion with a feast day. In "The Parliament of Fowls," the royal engagement, the mating season of birds, and St. Valentine's Day are linked: *For this was on St. Valentine's Day/ When every fowl cometh there to choose his mate.*

Over the centuries, the holiday evolved, and by the 18th century, gift-giving and exchanging hand-made cards on Valentine's Day had become common in England. Hand-made valentine cards made of lace, ribbons, and featuring cupids and hearts eventually spread to the American colonies. The tradition of Valentine's cards did not become widespread in the United States, however, until the 1850s, when Esther A. Howland, a Mount Holyoke graduate and native of Worcester, Mass., began mass-producing them. Today, of course, the holiday has become a booming commercial success.

by *Borgna Brunner, infoplease.com*



Crestwood Hall Hire

The Crestwood Hall is available for use by residents. It is ideal for large or small functions: birthday parties, morning teas, playgroups, meetings. It can be hired on a one-off or regular basis. Charges are as follows.

Daytime (to 5pm) — \$11.00/hour to a maximum of \$55.00
Night-time (to midnight) — \$22.00/hour to a maximum of \$110.00.

Up to 50 people are allowed in the Hall. Full use of the kitchen is included for both day and night functions.

Commercial (for-profit events or those charging an entry fee) — \$25.00 per hour to a maximum of \$100.00 – 8am - 5pm
 A \$300 bond applies to all bookings. To book or obtain further information call Marjan: 9459 8776

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Committee meetings of the Crestwood Homeowners Association are in the process of being set for 2009. At the moment, only meetings for the next 3 months are finalised with other dates being tentative. Check the latest issue of the *Crestwood News* for any changes. This panel will also be updated to reflect any changes. Crestwood residents are welcome to attend all or part of these meetings held at the Crestwood Hall. Visitors' business is always attended to first, so residents may leave whenever they wish.

23 February

30 March

20 April

25 May

29 June

27 July

24 August

21 September

26 October

30 November

21 December

CRESTWOOD PATCHWORK & QUILTING GROUP

Meeting on a Tuesday night in
the Crestwood Hall 6:30 pm -
9:00 pm



New members welcome. Come and meet
us or ring Jan on 9493 0045.

CRESTWOOD MOTHER'S GROUP / PLAYGROUP

New members and their friends are always welcome. — We
would love to hear from you.

We meet on Friday mornings at the Crestwood Hall
10.00 am—12.00 noon
0 years to 6 years old / \$10.00 per term

Runs during School terms

Call Ros on 9493 2597

Social Card Mornings

Join me for a creative morning of card making, a great way to meet people and develop friendships.

Where: 24 Princeton Court

When: Friday mornings, 9:30 -
11:30 am during school terms

Cost: \$6.00 to cover materials for 2 pre-prepared projects, morning coffee or tea and biscuits.

Contact: Joanne Brand for further information -
Phone 9459 6114 / 0403 474 075 or email -
brand_family@iprimus.com.au



Belly Dance

Ladies, come and try something different. Have fun and learn how to belly dance. Our friendly group welcomes beginners or experienced dancers.

Come join us.

Monday evenings 7:30 pm in the Crestwood Hall
(except for the last Monday in the month)
Cost \$10.00 per class — includes drumming class.

Non-Crestwood residents welcome.

Phone Gillian 9459 9904 or Heather 9452 2427

Christmas Eve at the Pool



The sounds of laughter mixed with shouts of amusement and a few mildly disturbing yelps drew the attention of Crestwood residents to the pool on this temperate Christmas Eve. Peering through the surrounding fence one could see tethered in the centre of the pool a multicoloured obstacle course. This was not the same course as last year which not only challenged, but dared swimmers to reach the final slide and descend into the water, but a milder version, more welcoming and satisfying for the uninitiated. A yellow rope held the obstacle course firm to one edge of the pool, while a larger umbilical cord of soft, rounded, plastic pipe was attached to a

life sustaining pump that supplied the course with the air needed to keep it puffed up and floating.

A variety of obstacles punctuated the colourful 15 metre length. Vertical posts greeted those starting the course, forcing them to go through, around or over, only to be met by an unbalancing dip that brought them to horizontal barriers which again they had to cross. And then, finally, if they still remained perched, however, precariously, on the plastic monster, they were faced with a large, round stump, somewhat like the remnant of an ancient jarrah tree, which they had to navigate to reach the end and plunge successfully into the water.

Children of all ages and sizes made their way



from start to finish, interspersed here and there by teenagers obviously preparing for driving on WA roads by rushing ahead and overtaking the slower ones, not always successfully, and more cautious adults who, while they should have known better, still took some daring leaps across the horizontal barriers, oblivious to the onlookers who no doubt were thinking, "Could this be my conservative neighbour who only this morning was carefully trimming roses?" From time to time, from a young one stuck somewhere in the middle, there arose the cry, "I don't like it!", but they, too,

managed to survive, either dropping off into the water, or moving on with the flow to complete their challenge.

Hoses from two sides were directed onto the obstacle course to keep it slippery, the drops catching in the light and giving the scene a kind of magical quality, more like that of falling stars than water. There, however, was not always an innocence in the way the water was sprayed, with some participants receiving more direct hits than others, reflecting some secret joke or grudge by the ones doing the spraying.

And if you were not into swimming, or wanted to postpone your challenge to another time and place, there were always the reclining lounges placed around the pool for your relaxation. That is where the families positioned themselves, surrounded by picnic baskets and eskies, everyone settling in for an enjoyable and stress-free Christmas Eve.



Text by the Editor; photos by Sean Killgalon; and thanks to the YMCA for supplying the obstacle course

Preparing the Soil

Although many Australian, and particularly Western Australian plants, have evolved in poor soils, they perform better if some fertiliser and a soil conditioner is used. It makes the difference between the look of bushland where plants are merely surviving and the look of a garden where plants are thriving. Improving the soil does not mean changing its whole nature, however. If your soil is alkaline or acidic, it is best to accept the status quo and choose plants that prefer those conditions. Many garden centres will do a quick pH test if you take in a soil sample. Australian native plants generally prefer a slightly acid soil, i.e. pH 5.5-7.0.

Planting and Watering

Autumn to early spring is the ideal time to plant Australian species. Planting is possible outside this time frame, but extra care of the planting would then be essential. Choose young plants, check that they are not root bound, and water them after planting. It is a good idea to submerge plants in a bucket of water with a capful of fish emulsion to thoroughly wet the soil and roots before placing it in the ground. If a plant is root bound, and this can be seen if the roots are growing around the inside of the pot, these roots must be straightened, gently, before placing the plant in the ground



When planting, dig a hole about three times the size of the pot. Mix in some rotted leaf mulch and a soil conditioner that will help sandy soils hold their water. There are a number available at garden centres. Then remove the plant from the pot and plant it to the same level, firming the soil around it.

Dry area species should survive just on the winter rains and, once established, will not need supplementary watering. Many other Australian plants have low water requirements but, contrary to popular belief, not all Australian plants are drought tolerant. Ask garden staff about water requirements, particularly for the first year.

Today, subsurface trickle irrigation is recommended because water is delivered straight to the root zone and is not lost through evaporation. Older gardens still have overhead sprinklers which are not ideal as water gathering on foliage may create humid conditions that encourage fungal disease. Most Australian plants can tolerate a sprinkler system provided that they are not over-watered. Over-watering reduces their flowering and produces lush growth that is more attractive to pests and diseases. In the case of species from dry areas, over-watering can kill them.

Mulching

While mulching is not absolutely essential for many Australian plants, it does help to reduce evaporation and keep the soil cooler. Mulch may also have an aesthetic role. Avoid piling on more than 50mm of mulch, keeping it away from the base of the plants. Excessive mulch can suffocate the soil and mulch that is too close to the plants can cause the stem to rot. Always buy good quality mulch from a reputable source so that you can be sure it is not harbouring fungal diseases.

An Australian groundcover is a good, living alternative to conventional mulch if you are willing to be patient while it grows and spreads. Stones and well-placed rocks also act as a mulch, and can be beneficial for dry area plants that prefer less humidity around them.



Fertilising

Australian plants need only a little fertiliser, and the slow release type is recommended. Over-fertilising is counterproductive because, just like over-watering, it produces lush growth that attracts pests and diseases. Kangaroo paws are particularly susceptible if you overfeed them.

Because many Australian plants have developed in phosphorus-poor soil, they cannot tolerate phosphate in fertilisers. This is especially true of plants in the families which include *Boronia*, *Leschenaultia*, *Banksia* and *Grevillea*. For plants such as these, use a fertiliser that has been specially formulated to their needs. Not all Australian native plants, however, are phosphorus sensitive. Eucalypts, for example, are not and neither are kangaroo paws. To be on the safe side, avoid using general fertilisers on native plants for the phosphorus level in these is generally too high.

Managing Pests and Diseases

Generally people who grow Australian plants are interested in the environmental aspect and consequently do not want to use chemicals to control pests and diseases. Their reward is that these same plants tend to attract birds and beneficial insects that keep the pests in check. To maintain this natural balance, you should have enough different plants to ensure that there are flowers in all four seasons of the year.

Pruning

The best way to create a neat, dense, compact shrub is to trim it early in its life. This may mean sacrificing the first year's flowers, but the reward will be a nicely shaped shrub covered in flowers the year after. Continue to prune annually after flowering. By pruning lightly and regularly you can prolong the flowering period of certain plants, banksias being a good example. Nip out each flower once it is spent, as this produces a more compact habit and new flowers.



by Grady Brand, Department of Agriculture *Garden Note No. 43*, with some additions by the Editor

The New Hospital Wing

When some doctors were told to contribute to the construction of a new wing at a hospital, the allergists voted to scratch it; the dermatologists preferred no rash moves; the gastroenterologists had a gut feeling about it; the microsurgeons were thinking along the same vein; the neurologists thought the administration "had a lot of nerve"; the obstetricians stated they were labouring under a misconception; the ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted; the orthopaedists issued a joint resolution; the parasitologists said, "Well, if you encyst"; the pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!"; the paediatricians said, "Grow up!"; the proctologists said, "We are in arrears"; the psychiatrists thought it was madness; and finally, the surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing.

The radiologists could see right through it; the internists thought it was a hard pill to swallow; the plastic surgeons said, "This puts a whole new face on the matter"; the podiatrists thought it was a big step forward; the physiotherapists thought they were being manipulated; the urologists felt the scheme wouldn't hold water; the anaesthesiologists thought the whole idea was a gas; the cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no; and the otologists were deaf to the idea.

Needless to say, the idea of contributing to a new wing did not fly.

The Psychiatric Hotline

Hello, welcome to the Psychiatric Hotline:

- > If you are Obsessive Compulsive; please press 1 repeatedly.
- > If you are Co-dependent, please ask someone to press 2 for you.
- > If you have Multiple Personalities, please press 3, 4 and 5.
- > If you are Paranoid Delusional, we know who you are and what you want. Just stay on the line so we can trace the call.
- > If you are Schizophrenic, listen carefully and a little voice will tell you which number to press.
- > If you are Manic-Depressive it doesn't matter which number you press. No one will answer.

Officer Fitness Reports

Actual excerpts from the British Royal Navy and Marines fitness reports.

- ◇ His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity.
- ◇ He has carried out each and every one of his duties to his entire satisfaction.
- ◇ He would be out of his depth in a car parked in a puddle.
- ◇ Technically sound, but socially impossible.
- ◇ This Officer reminds me very much of a gyroscope; always spinning around at a frantic pace, but not really going anywhere.
- ◇ This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
- ◇ Since my last report he has reached rock bottom, and has started to dig.
- ◇ She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
- ◇ He has the wisdom of youth, and the energy of old age.
- ◇ This Officer should go far and the sooner he starts, the better.
- ◇ This man is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.
- ◇ The only ship I would recommend this man for is citizenship.
- ◇ Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.

The Suit

When the store manager returned from lunch, he noticed his clerk's hand was bandaged, but before he could ask about the bandage, the clerk said he had some very good news for him.

"Guess what, sir?" the clerk said. "I finally sold that terrible, ugly suit we've had so long!"

"Do you mean that repulsive pink-and-blue double-breasted thing?" the manager asked.

"That's the one!"

"That's great!" the manager cried, "I thought we'd never get rid of that monstrosity! That had to be the ugliest suit we've ever had! But tell me. Why is your hand bandaged?"

"Oh," the clerk replied, "after I sold the guy that suit, his guide dog bit me."

Seeing Eye Dogs

There were two buddies, one with a Doberman and the other with a Chihuahua. The guy with the Doberman says to his friend, "Let's go over to that restaurant and get something to eat."

The guy with the Chihuahua says, "We can't go in there. We've got dogs with us."

The buddy with the Doberman says, "Just follow my lead." They walk over to the restaurant, the guy with the Doberman puts on a pair of dark glasses, and he starts to walk in.

The bouncer at the door says, "Sorry, mate, no pets allowed."

The man with the Doberman says, "You don't understand. This is my seeing-eye dog."

The bouncer says, "A Doberman?" He says, "Yes, they're using them now. They're very good."

The man at the door says, "Come on in."

The buddy with the Chihuahua figures, "What the heck," so he puts on a pair of dark glasses and starts to walk in.

Once again the bouncer says, "Sorry, mate, no pets allowed."

The guy with the Chihuahua says, "You don't understand. This is my seeing-eye dog."

The bouncer at the door says, "A Chihuahua?" The man with the Chihuahua says, "A Chihuahua? They gave me a Chihuahua!"

Elementary My Dear Watson

Sherlock Holmes and Matthew Watson were on a camping and hiking trip. They had gone to bed and were lying there looking up at the sky.

Holmes said, "Watson, look up. What do you see?"

"Well, I see thousands of stars."

"And what does that mean to you?"

"Well, I guess it means we will have another nice day tomorrow. What does it mean to you, Holmes?"

"To me, it means someone has stolen our tent."



International Year of Astronomy



The International Year of Astronomy, 2009, will be a year-long, worldwide, public celebration of astronomy held to mark the 400th anniversary of Galileo turning a telescope to the sky. Australia is one of the 63 countries signed up to participate. Check out www.astronomy2009.org.au/ for more info. You can use the site's search facility to find out what is happening throughout the year in and around Perth.

Summer school holiday achievements

Congratulations to all of you who participated in this summer's Vacswim classes. Well done to all who passed another level. Keep reminding your parents to let you participate each year. Two of our cousins have landed great summer holiday jobs after completing their 'bronze'. It may not seem important now, but all those accumulated swimming achievements could prove valuable to you in the future, too.

Do you feel the need to try something different this year?

The following might give you some food for thought:

Duke of Edinburgh — challenges for 14-25 year olds:
www.dofe.asn.au

Fencing: www.wafafencing.org.au

Canoeing: www.wa.canoe.org.au/
www.championlakes.canoe.org.au

Growing carnivorous plants: www.acps.org.au



Well done to those who also participated in the premier's Summer Reading Challenge. We hope you enjoyed your reading and have gained great ideas and enthusiasm for more reading even now that school has begun again. We've spent many hours after 'lights out' at home secretly reading good books.



Playing games with faces

Do you sometimes find yourself stuck in a queue of people with a boring wait to get to the front — or having to wait somewhere for others to turn up? Try relieving the boredom by playing mind games. This can be especially fun if you have someone else with you to whisper your ideas to. An old song that mum and dad like called *America* by Simon and Garfunkel has in the lyrics :-

*Laughing on the bus
Playing games with the faces
She said the man in the gabardine suit was a spy
I said "Be careful his bowtie is really a camera"*

This gave us some ideas to start with. Recently we made up a character for a guy we saw eating outside a library. He was eating junk food really quickly, so we invented the idea that he had escaped from his wife, a dietician who cooks really healthy meals at home (he was wearing a wedding ring), to eat junk food that he really likes when she isn't around. We also guessed what sports he played and what sort of movies he'd like to watch. We used the type of clothing he was wearing as clues for this. We pretended that he borrowed library books and skim read them to accommodate his junk food eating binges instead of reading them properly.

Let your imagination run wild. You could have great fun and the practice may help when you have to do your next piece of creative writing in English class!



Page prepared by Rebekah and James Wilson

English

If you have difficulty communicating in English ring the Translating and Interpreting Service. Don't hang up, your call will be answered (Local call cost only)

Portuguese Portuguese

Se tiver dificuldade em comunicar-se em Inglês, queira telefonar ao Serviço de Traduções e Intérpretes. É favor não desligar pois há-de-se responder à sua chamada (incorre-se apenas o custo local).

Romanian Limba Română

Dacă nu stăpîniți limba engleză, telefonați Serviciului de Traducători și Interpreți. Nu încheideți, așteptați pînă vi se răspunde (convorbirea este taxată ca o convorbire locală).

Serbian Српски

Ако имате потешкоћа са комуницирањем на енглеском језику телефонирајте служби за превођење и тумачење. Не спуштајте слушалицу, одговоримо на ваш позив (по цени локалног позива).

Macedonian Македонски

Ако имате потешкотии со зборувањето на англиски јазик тогаш телефонирајте и на Службата за преведување и толкување. Не спуштајте ја слушалката, ќе ви одговориме на позивот (по цена само на локален позив).

Hungarian Magyar

Ha nehezen érteti meg magát angolul, hívja fel telefonon a Fordító és Tolmács-Szolgálatot. Várjon türelemmel, amíg válaszolnak, ne tegye le a kagylót. A hívást helyi beszélgetésként díjazták.

Czech Český

Jestliže máte potíže domluvit se anglicky, zavolejte Překladatelskou a Tlumočnickou Službu. Nezavěšujte, váš telefonní hovor bude odpovzen. (Za cenu místního hovoru).

LINGUISTIC PUZZLE: Irish Gaelic

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. tá an fear tuirseach | 1. <i>The man is tired.</i> |
| 2. bhí na garsúin breoíte | 2. <i>The boys were sick.</i> |
| 3. tá na fear tuirseach | 3. <i>The men are tired.</i> |
| 4. ólann an garsún an bainne | 4. <i>The boy drinks the milk.</i> |
| 5. óladar na garsúin an uisce | 5. <i>The boys drank the water.</i> |
| 6. ól sé an uisce | 6. <i>He drank the water.</i> |
| 7. tá an fear san fé an uisce | 7. <i>(The) that man is under the water.</i> |
| 8. bhí an uisce fuar | 8. <i>The water was cold.</i> |
| 9. tá an bainne seo fuar | 9. <i>(The) this milk is cold.</i> |
| 10. tá an gadhar fé an mbord | 10. <i>The dog is under the table.</i> |

Can you discover the meaning of the words in Irish Gaelic? There are specific techniques you can use to do this. Two of the easiest are repetition and minimal difference. For repetition, you look at sentences in which just one word or phrase is repeated. For minimal difference, you look at sentences or phrases which differ in only one way. There is also word position and remainder. For word position, you look to see if a particular type of word always occurs in the same position in the sentence. (You look at the language you are trying to identify, not English!) And then there is remainder: the only word left in a phrase or sentence after the other words have been identified. In the data, parenthesis around the word (*the*) indicates that this word is found in Irish Gaelic, but does not translate into English. **ANSWERS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE CRESTWOOD NEWS.**

Irish Gaelic is a member of the Goidelic branch of Celtic languages, a branch which also includes Scottish Gaelic and Manx. The other major branch of Celtic is Brythonic. Languages in this branch are Welsh, Cornish, Breton and Gaulish. Irish Gaelic is actively spoken by approximately 5% of people in the Irish Republic, and comfortably used by an additional 10-15%. Others learn it as a second language.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| the (singular) | _____ |
| the (plural) | _____ |
| that | _____ |
| this | _____ |
| he | _____ |
| man | _____ |
| boy | _____ |
| <i>How do you form the plural of the noun class shown in the data ?</i> | _____ |
| dog | _____ |
| table | _____ |
| milk | _____ |
| water | _____ |
| is/are | _____ |
| was/were | _____ |
| drink (infinitive) / past tense - 3 rd person singular | _____ |
| verb ending: past tense - 3 rd person plural | _____ |
| verb ending: present tense - 3 rd person singular | _____ |
| tired | _____ |
| sick | _____ |
| cold | _____ |
| under | _____ |

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½ page: 1 issue \$ 40; 3 issues \$ 100
 ¼ page: 1 issue \$ 20; 3 issues \$ 50
 ⅛ page: 3 issues \$ 25

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If you would like to advertise in the *Crestwood News*, phone the editor, 9459 2902, or email crestwoodnews@iinet.net.au to discuss submission of your ad. You will be invoiced for the full amount after your ad first appears in the newsletter.

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