



INCORPORATED IN 1970

CRESTWOOD NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE CRESTWOOD HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE NO. 65

MARCH - APRIL 2013

IN THIS ISSUE

FRONT PAGE

President's Report 1

CRESTWOOD CONTACTS

2

REPORTS

Aesthetics 3

Parks and Reticulation 3

Pool 3

Safety and Security 4

From the Minutes 5

Special General Meeting 8

WELCOMES & FAREWELLS

2

FEATURES

Gardening 9

Recipes 8

NEWS

Updates & Announcements 7

NOTICES

General 6

Social 7

Personal 7

TRADES & SERVICES

Crestwood Residents 11

Community 12

DATES TO REMEMBER

Swimming Pool Busy Bee

Sunday, 21 April 2:00 pm (see p. 7)

Crestwood Homeowners Fees

30 April 2013 (see p. 7)

Annual General Meeting

22 May 2013, 7:30pm (see p. 7)

NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for the next **Crestwood News** is **7 June 2013**. Please send reports, announcements, notices, ads, articles and photos to Malcolm as early as possible before this date: 24 Coronet Court
crestwoodnews@iinet.net.au

Changes are on the Way Have Your Say at the Coming AGM

Well, what a surprise the Committee and I had in February when we could not get enough people to attend the Special General Meeting to discuss and determine the fees for 2013/2014. With those in attendance, plus proxies, we fell six short of the 89 homes required for a quorum. So the meeting was re-scheduled for March 20 where we had a good number of people attend coupled with a good number of new proxies.

In the past we have had to chase people to attend the Special General Meeting to get the extra couple needed for a quorum. I would ask that, in the future, if you cannot make the Special General Meeting, please complete a proxy and hand it in so that the meeting can go ahead on schedule.

The Annual General Meeting is coming up and I would ask that you make an effort to attend. The quorum numbers are somewhat less than for the Special General Meeting, but we do need good numbers to attend to ensure we have widely representative views and receive broad feedback.

You will soon receive the agenda for the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 22 May and I would ask that you consider being involved on the committee. Some members of the committee have indicated their intention not to re-nominate, so some positions will become vacant and require nominations. Please give it serious consideration.

As I get older the year seems to go quicker. The first quarter has already gone, and Betty's Advent calendar tells me there are only 199 days to Christmas (as of April 4 when my report was written).

One more plug about attending the Annual General Meeting. There are some important issues to be discussed and decisions to be made that will affect all of us in the coming years. These include the future of the newsletter and the post of treasurer. I look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting.

Trevor Davis, President, Crestwood Homeowners Association

A Unique Way of Life

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(T = Telephone - F = Fax)

President	Trevor Davis	21 Princeton Ct/ trevor.davis@bigpond.com.au	T: 9459 3961/0458 707228.
Vice President	John Rushton	20 Coronet Ct / jonjanr@optusnet.com.au	T: 9493 6096/F: 9493 6596
Secretary	Sandra Wilson	105 Regency Dr/sandrawilson@inet.net.au	T: 9493 6622
Treasurer	Roy Malone	116 Regency Dr/ r.ma.malone@internode.on.net	T: 9459 4364/F: 9459 4364 Mobile: 0477 293 633
Aquatic Centre	Darren Colley	11 Regency Dr darrencolley@iprimus.com.au	Mobile: 0448 940 985
Parks & Reticulation	Mike Bernoulli	24 Hume Rd / mike@bernoulli.fi	Mobile: 0402 423 172
Aesthetics [the contact person for building approvals, fencing and tree removal]	John Rushton	20 Coronet Ct / jonjanr@optusnet.com.au	T: 9493 6096/F: 9493 6596

CRESTWOOD CONTACTS

Crestwood Web Page	crestwood.org.au	
Crestwood Email	crestwood@safe-mail.net	
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
Twenties Club	Vacant	
Playgroup	Sofia	Mobile: 0419 924 491
Webmaster	Rod Campbell	webmaster@crestwood.org.au
Wildlife Carers	Evelyn or Louise	9459 1627 (Louise) T: 9459 0612 (Evelyn)
Groundsperson	Richard Sangwin	Hours: 9am - 3pm T: 9459 5782/F: 9452 3224 Email contact: crestwoodpark@bigpond.com Mobile: 0417 713 213
Pool	Office	T: 9459 5782/F: 9452 3224

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

City of Gosnells	www.gosnells.wa.gov.au	Office Hours T: 9397 3000
Ranger	(After hours calls will be diverted to a pager service)	All Hours T: 9397 3000
Graffiti Removal		All Hours T: 9391 3222
Goodbye Graffiti Hotline	Contact Crimestoppers	T: 1800 333 000
Thornlie High School		T: 9376 2100
Canning Vale Police Station		T: 9456 9555
Life Threatening Emergencies		T: 000
Police Non-emergency		T: 131 444
Neighbourhood Watch		T: 9493 3311
Crimestoppers		T: 1800 333 000
Join e-WATCH	ewatch@gosnells.wa.gov.au	

Crestwood Committee Meetings

The committee meetings of the Crestwood Homeowners Association for 2013 have been set on the following dates. 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. Meetings generally begin at 7:30pm. The **Annual General Meeting** is **22 May**.

30 January 2013
25 February
25 March
29 April
27 May
24 June

29 July
26 August
23 September
28 October
25 November
16 December

WELCOME TO CRESTWOOD

Marius & Maria Pepenar 49 Regency Drive
 Albert Wijaya & Monica Amidjaja 27 Regency Drive
 Jeffrey Hatton & Gemma Seabourne 81 Regency Drive
 Mark Anderson & Gail Hyde 90 Regency Drive
 David & Joyce Ellis 23 Grenadier Drive

FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES

Julia Elton-Bott 49 Regency Drive
 Bradley & Anne-Marie Page 27 Regency Drive
 Natalie Wynen & Robert Linsley 81 Regency Drive
 Alan & Heather Connelly 90 Regency Drive
 Bill & Jo Walter 23 Grenadier Drive

Recent correspondence from the Committee of the Crestwood Homeowners Association.

Aesthetics

1. [A residence on Lachlan Road] You have recently had a large Lemon Scented Gum removed from your front garden. I inquired at the last Crestwood committee meeting if any of the committee members knew anything about it; no one had heard from you. According to the Crestwood constitution any homeowner who wishes to remove a tree must first make an application to the Committee stating the reasons for the removal of the tree and the Committee must agree before the tree is removed. It is Crestwood policy to maintain as many healthy mature trees as possible. The committee will agree to the removal of trees that are unhealthy or a danger to people or property. Please reply to this letter and give us your reasons for removing what was, to all appearances, a healthy tree. (A detailed explanation for removal of the tree was subsequently received and retrospective approval was given).

John Rushton, Committee Member for Aesthetics

The current pool season is drawing to a close, and a late burst of warm weather has seen good attendance. Overall this has been a very successful season, with no major interruptions or issues. Indeed, it appears to have been a rather warmer summer than usual, with the pool rarely closing due to inclement or cold weather.

Pool

The pool will close for the season, weather permitting, at 6 pm on Sunday April 14. There will be the customary busy bee on April 21 at 2 PM to clean up and pack everything away. If you can spare an hour it will help greatly to speed up the task.

This winter we will be carrying out the regular scheduled maintenance and servicing of equipment. In addition, a horizontal beam on the exterior of the hall is cracking and will need to be replaced. The metal gate between the main and toddlers pool has also rusted, and this will also be repaired. I am also hoping to purchase a new barbecue. The current ones have seen a lot of use over the years. However, one in particular is getting a bit past it. Half of the knobs have come off and a pair of pliers is sometimes required to turn the gas on.

Some things it seems never change. Our resident pair of ducks has returned to settle by the pool each evening. I'm beginning to wonder if they ever left at all.

Darren Colley, Committee Member for the Aquatic Centre

Crestwood Estate's parks and gardens are looking pretty good due to good turf management practices, constant reticulation repairs and maintenance, regular herbicide spraying and the pruning of trees, all of which have produced these rewarding results. Credit goes to the gardeners for their hard work over the last financial year, work which has avoided major interruptions to the reticulation system and the supply of water to Crestwood's homeowners. I am sure that the number of houses which have been sold of late is a reflection of how attractive the estate looks for investors and purchasers.

Parks & Reticulation

Last financial year the focus was on the development and improvement of the garden beds. This year, with the new budget now in place, and the support of the Committee, further improvements to the gardens have been scheduled to take place over the Winter and Spring seasons, all of which will again contribute to the improvement the Estate.

The Committee has supplied the gardeners with new machinery, technology and vehicles over the past 12 months. This will greatly aid the gardeners productivity while also providing them with a safe working environment.

Richard Sangwin, Crestwood Estate Gardener and Mike Bernoulli, Committee Member for Parks and Reticulation

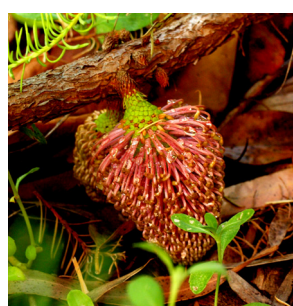
Banksias



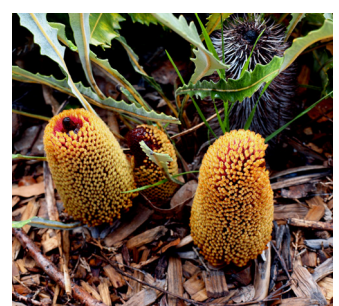
B. Integrefolia



B. Meisneri



B. nutans



B. petiloaris

INCIDENT REPORT

Incidents reported on the Crestwood Estate



POLICE WATCH - Thornlie from eWatch

February 1- February 13: A busy week in Thornlie with seven burglaries reported. The first, in Thornlie Ave, was during the morning on Wednesday February 6. A neighbour driving past saw two youths in her neighbour's doorway so pulled into the driveway, sounded the horn and called the police. A great tactic that scared off the crooks without placing the neighbour in danger.

The following day thieves broke into the bowling club on Thornlie Ave, setting off the alarm which scared them off before they could steal anything. Later the same morning a house in Shelburne Rd had a window forced open so thieves could get in.

During the day on Monday February 11 a house in Timbercrest Rd had a rear door forced open so thieves could steal household items. Later that day a house in Pembury Rd had a window forced open allowing thieves to get in and steal electrical and computer equipment, jewellery and generally a lot of property. A house in Caldecott Street also had the back door forced that day, with an iPod being stolen.

During the night on Wednesday February 13 a resident in Wilfred Rd heard someone trying to force open a window. Turning on some lights scared the offenders off, but no one was seen.

The news isn't all bad in Thornlie. An address in Greenway Ave was searched under authority of a search warrant and two juvenile females were arrested and charged with various offences.

February 14 - February 21: Four burglaries in Thornlie this week, the first during the day on Thursday Feb 14 on a house in Lester Drive. The occupant was inside and heard a window being smashed and saw the person responsible jump over the back fence. The only description is a slim male with a moustache and wearing dark clothes. During the day on Saturday Feb 16 a resident in Spencer Rd had left the back door unlocked, allowing a burglar to walk in and steal a handbag. The thief was seen by the occupant and he was described as having dark skin, wearing a bright blue hoodie jumper and sunglasses.

That same day there was another burglary in Lester Drive, again through an unlocked back door. The resident saw the person responsible, who casually walked off when confronted. The thief is described as dark skinned, possibly of aboriginal descent, approximately 30 years old of slim build with short brown hair, and clean shaven.

The last burglary was in Ross Place, during the night on Sunday Feb 17. A kitchen window was left open, allowing thieves to climb in and steal a handbag and purse. Some of the items had been dumped down near the river.

Three of the four burglaries in Thornlie this week were through unlocked windows and doors. This shows the opportunistic nature of the offenders, and whilst some will smash a window, that is usually because they can see something inside they want. So please close the curtains or blinds when you go to bed and do not leave valuables like handbags, laptops, car keys, etc, on display.

There has been a rise in cars being broken into this week, with cars being targeted in Clowes Crt, Ilford Place, Shillington Way, Spencer Rd, Thornlie Ave, Cambourne Way and Empire Way. In most cases people had left valuables such as wallets, computers, handbags, iPods and mobile phones in plain view in the cars.

March 1 - March 8: Thornlie has had an increase in burglaries this week. During the day on Monday March 4 a house in Hargrave Drive had a glass door smashed to allow thieves in. They searched the house and stole some coins, but they have also left some forensic evidence.

A business at the Spencer Village Shopping Centre was broken into by smashing a window during the night on Tuesday March 5.

During the early morning on Wednesday March 6, a fish and chips shop at Forrest Lakes Shopping Centre was broken into by forcing the front door. Thieves stole a small amount of money and cool drinks. Later that day a house in Nyandi Court had an attempt made to kick in the front door. The good quality deadlocks fitted ensured the crooks didn't get in, although they did damage the door in their efforts.

A house in Lyrebird Way had a window left unlocked, allowing thieves to climb in during the early morning on Friday March 8. Thieves stole wallets, cash and car keys. Later that day a house in Spencer Rd had the front door forced open. The resident arrived home to find the front and rear doors left open, allowing the crooks a quick exit in case they were disturbed. In this case they may have been disturbed as nothing was stolen.

There have also been two reports of purses being stolen from trolleys in shops in Thornlie this week. Ladies should always keep their handbags and purses in their possession, don't leave them in the trolley.

Finally in Thornlie, four youths were sighted stealing a motor scooter from the Thornlie Square Shopping Centre on Sunday March 10. Information from the public, with a very good description, provided some good avenues of investigation that subsequently identified all four youths.

March 9 - March 21: Seven burglaries in Thornlie last week with a noticeable trend: they are mostly occurring in the morning, before lunchtime. On Wednesday March 13 a house in Tonbridge Way had a window smashed so thieves could steal a wallet, and a house in Oriole Way had a rear door left open, allowing thieves to walk in and steal cash, jewellery and a small safe that had not been bolted down.

During the day on Friday March 15, a resident in Helena Cres came home to find a white hatchback parked near his front door and four males inside the house. The males pushed the resident in the back as they ran to the car and drove off. The next morning a house in Voyager Drive had a door damaged so thieves could get in.

The Lakers Tavern was broken into during the night on Sunday March 17, with CCTV capturing the offence. There is some pretty good footage which will be reviewed to identify any offenders.

A house under construction in Shillington Way was broken into on Monday March 18, and graffiti left on walls inside the house. The last burglary was in Towncentre Drive, again between morning and lunchtime, when an attempt was made to force open a window. Decent locks prevented the crooks getting in.

March 22 - March 28: During the early morning on Monday March 25 thieves walked in through an unlocked back door to a house in Merino Crt, stealing some keys and the car parked in the drive way. The car was later recovered in Kenwick.

Later that day a house in Lowan Street had a window forced allowing thieves to get in and steal computer equipment and cash. That same day a resident in Berehaven Ave returned home to find one of her neighbours walking out of the house. Not the neighbour's house, coming out of the resident's own house. The resident has given us the details and our detectives are waiting for the neighbour to return home.

During the night on Tuesday March 26 a restaurant in Thornlie Ave was broken into by smashing a glass door. A resident nearby heard the noise and rang police who attended within minutes, catching two of the crooks as they tried to run away.

Later that morning a house in Partridge Way had a screen removed in an attempt to break in. Good window locks meant the crooks couldn't get in. A similar thing happened shortly after on another house in Partridge Way. Both houses had dogs, which made a lot of noise and possibly scared the thieves away. Later that afternoon a house in Anderson Way had a window forced open so thieves could get in and steal computer equipment. Later that night a house in Haven Place had left a back door unlocked, allowing thieves to walk in, steal keys and steal the car from the driveway. The car was later found in Cloverdale.

Committee Business:

Parks and Reticulation: Six park bins have been purchased from the City of Gosnells for \$76.00 each. The quote received for work on Underpass B was only for one side. A request will be made to requote for refurbishment of both sides. When this is done, and we are happy with the quote and drawings, the paperwork will be lodged with the City of Gosnells.

Discussions were held regarding the lawn mowing contract with a decision to retain the current contractors as per their quote. Rich wants to purchase more gear-type sprinklers for the park reticulation system, but such an allocation will have to wait until funds can be allocated to him.

The City of Gosnells sent a representative to look at the bushland area after vandalism there resulted in a number of mature trees being cut down. The City will undertake a controlled burn of each of the three sections on a three to four year rotation basis. That means that over a three to four year period, one section will be burned, resulting in a nine to twelve year period before a section is burned again.

Michael, the part-time gardener, is completing his 'white card' online, a requirement for working with certain aspects of construction. Crestwood will reimburse him for the fees involved on completion of the course.

No helmet is needed to be worn when riding the quad bike. Rich is to source another location to dump rubbish.

Pool: All appears to be running smoothly. The broken window has now been fixed. This will be an insurance claim.

Aesthetics: A mature tree was removed from a property on Lachlan Road without permission of the Committee. A letter is to be written to the owners regarding Crestwood's tree policy with the information about the preservation of native trees to be repeated in the newsletter.

Finance: Some fees are still owing.

Roy is authorised to sign all documentation regarding the purchase of a new Mitsubishi Triton GL 4x2 2.4L petrol ute for use on the Crestwood estate. The new vehicle will have signage applied in a burgundy colour. Rich is to purchase the old ute for \$600.00, the cost of which will be deducted from his salary over four pay periods.

March 2013**Committee Business:**

Parks and Reticulation: A new ute and whipper snipper have been purchased. The grass has been fertilised and weeds poisoned.

Reticulation times changed as of 1 March. An outline of work to be done in coming weeks is to be provided to Mike.

Pool: The pool closure for the season has been set for 14 April with the busy bee scheduled for the 21st. Since Darren will be overseas at the time, a volunteer will be asked to act as coordinator.

A request by the attendants to have a closing BYO barbeque at the pool has been approved. Residents are to be reminded at the start of next season that all pool bookings need to be made with Darren as well as with the pool attendants.

The broken microwave ovens and large clock have been replaced.

Some minor hassles have been experienced with the security system. John is to make enquiries with builders about the repair or replacement of the exterior beam in the Crestwood Hall.

Aesthetics: An explanation regarding the native tree removed without permission from a property on Lachlan Road has been received and accepted. A retrospective letter of approval will be provided.

Finance: Most fees have now been paid. The second quote for development of Underpass B is to be forwarded to Trevor for lodging with the City of Gosnells. Both sides are to be completed at the same time.

The MultiTurf mowing contract is to be accepted at a 5% increase for the next six months. Rich is to be asked to provide a detailed document to the Committee to use when calling for quotes from a number of contractors before the end of this six month period.

Grevilleas**G. midnight****G. lanigera****G. winter's delight****G. petropheloides**

Destruction in the Bushland

On Saturday evening, 9 February, someone entered the bushland with a chain saw or other mechanical cutting device and randomly cut down both full trees and large branches from mature trees. This senseless act not only has an effect on the aesthetic of the bushland, but will also have an effect on the understory plants which have grown accustomed to the shade of these trees.

The City of Gosnells has visited the site and will be helping us restore the area. To begin with they will be carrying out a controlled burn. The bushland is divided by paths and fences into three sections, and one of these sections will be burned every four years. The burn will be followed by spraying to control the exotic weeds and grasses which have proliferated. This timetable will allow plants in each section to regenerate and set seed before the next scheduled burn, something which will preserve all the species in the area.

If any homeowner becomes aware of any interference in the bushland or hears the sound of a chainsaw, particularly at night, please call the police on 13 14 44. This random act of vandalism may very well happen again.



On the Crestwood Estate Native Trees Are Protected



One of the striking things about the Crestwood Estate is its mature trees and residents should do their best to preserve this natural heritage. The felling or pruning of native trees, even on one's own property, requires permission. This is something homeowners agreed to when purchasing their properties at Crestwood. Permission can be obtained from the Committee Member for Aesthetics, John Rushton.

Trees that are deemed dangerous or poorly placed will be dealt with appropriately. What Crestwood is trying to avoid is the removal of perfectly healthy trees which pose no danger to homes or people. Trees which have been growing on the estate for over 40 years are really irreplaceable.

Some of the more common native trees found on the estate are the gums (Eucalyptus, Corymbia), banksias, paperbarks (Melaleuca), the WA Christmas tree (Nuytsia floribunda) and the WA peppermint (Agonis flexuosa).

FUTURE OF THE CRESTWOOD NEWS

The current editor of the Crestwood News will have served in that position for six years after publication of the coming May-June edition. After this edition, he will no longer continue as editor. This raises two questions:

1. Is there someone else in Crestwood willing to take over as editor?

- ▶ Anyone interested in this voluntary position should be able to work within a publishing program such as Microsoft Publisher and have some ability to edit photographs.
- ▶ The time commitment per issue is 25-30 hours which is generally spread over the two months between issues.

2. Does Crestwood need a newsletter?

- ▶ There are few social activities taking place on the estate and we have been without a social coordinator for three years. It is these activities which are of

interest to residents and have a natural place in the pages of the Crestwood News. Without these, filling the pages of the newsletter with relevant material has proven difficult.

- ▶ Most of the sections in the newsletter undergo little change from month to month and can be made available on the Crestwood webpage. These sections include contacts, meeting dates, Crestwood Hall hire and continuing social activities such as the Playgroup and Quilting Group, and the Trades and Services page of the Crestwood Residents.
- ▶ Reports and announcements can be placed on the webpage and an email sent to residents when new announcements are available.
- ▶ Most of the information available on the Safety and Security page can be accessed by subscribing to eWatch.

This is one of the topics to be discussed at the AGM. You are welcome to give your opinion before that time by contacting Trevor Davis, President of the Crestwood Homeowners Association: Telephone: 9459 3961; Email: trevor.davis@bigpond.com.au.

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 made by homeowners and \$500 to those bookings made by tenants. A minimum cleaning charge of \$150 will be taken from the bond if the hall is not cleaned to a satisfactory standard.

Hall hire does not include access to the pool area. For children's parties there is a minimum adult supervision requirement.

To book or obtain further information call Marjan: 9459 8776

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 Sofia on 0419 924 491

Crestwood Playgroup

Resumes for Term 2 on Friday, 10 May

Theme: Teddy Bear's Picnic

Bring along your favourite cuddly toy and a piece of fruit to share. Enjoy games, music, book readings and other activities. We welcome all little people, their carers and friends. For more information contact Sofia 0419 924 491 or Sandra 0417 944 138.

Time is Running Out Crestwood Needs a New Secretary

Sandra Wilson will have served as secretary for just under six years. She will no longer be available to serve in this position after the coming AGM. We will need a new secretary.

Please consider your situation and volunteer if you can. Crestwood runs on the efforts of volunteers. Other options, such as the outsourcing of positions (within the restrictions of our constitution) will be substantially more expensive for homeowners. If more than one person is available, it may be possible to share the tasks involved.

Swimming Pool Busy Bee Sunday, 21 April 2013 at 2:00pm

Come and help close up the pool for the season. An hour of your time is all that is needed. The more people who volunteer, the faster the task will be finished.

Congratulations to Glynn and Kate
Teape of Regency
Drive on the birth of their son, Miles, a brother to April.

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.**

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWS

Annual General Meeting Wednesday, 22 May 2013, 7:30 at the Crestwood Hall

The Annual General Meeting of the Crestwood Homeowners Association will be held on Wednesday evening, 22 May 2013, at 7:30 at the Crestwood Hall.

You are encouraged to come along and have your say in the running of the estate. The Committee is still looking for someone to take up the positions of Secretary and Editor for the Crestwood News.

2013 – 2014 Crestwood Homeowners fees

Payment of Crestwood homeowners fees for the 2013-2014 financial year are due on **30 April 2013**. If you are paying by Option A, a total amount of \$1170.00 is due at this time. If you are paying by Option B, the first instalment of \$440.00 is due by this date.

If you miss the payment deadline for either of these two options, then your total fees of \$1300.00 become payable under Option C, due on 31 May 2013.

You can pay your fees to our Treasurer, Roy Malone, 116 Regency Dr. If you have any queries, contact Roy at his home on 9459 4364.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

It was not an auspicious beginning to the first attempt at holding the Special General Meeting on 20 February. With just 44 proxies received and 34 homeowners present, we were still 11 short of the 30 percent of homeowners needed for a quorum.

Frantic ringing and running about to rouse neighbours into action was only able to raise that number to 83, still six households short. At 8:04, with no possibility of achieving a quorum, the meeting was adjourned and rescheduled for 20 March. At a rescheduled meeting, only 15 percent of homeowners need be represented.

With 87 proxies and 39 homeowners present, there was little doubt that the reconvened meeting was sufficiently represented. The only official business of the evening was the budget for the coming financial year. This was put to the meeting and passed with no dissenting votes.

Before passage, there was some discussion, primarily on the reason for the \$25,000 deficit recorded for the current financial year. This was almost exclusively due an overspend by the new gardener. While there was general agreement that such expenses need to be reviewed carefully, there was also agreement that Crestwood had been somewhat neglected in the past and that such an expense might be justified in bringing the surrounds up to a better standard.

Another question from the floor queried the increase in Crestwood rates over time. The homeowner asked if the 50% increase in rates over the past nine years was any indication of what awaited us in the future. The meeting agreed that increases in Crestwood rates over the recent years had been below the cost of living and had to be considered modest for that reason. Some checking revealed that the rates paid in April 2003 for the 2003-2004 financial year were \$780. This could indeed be considered a 50% increase, but over an 11

year period if this year's 2013-2014 rates are included. This increase, however, compares to an approximate 30% rise in inflation over the same period of time.

There was a final query about the cost of our mowing contract. One homeowner mentioned that the gardener had received an informal quote for mowing that was \$8,000 less than the current contractor charged. The committee was asked to explain why they renewed the current contract when a cheaper option was in the offing.

The president replied that the committee was open to tenders, but only on an official basis. The informal quote received by the gardener was nonspecific and there was no way of knowing what it did or did not include. The committee was happy to institute a formal call for tenders mid-year and consider all bids at that time.

The meeting was officially closed at 7:55 and the floor opened to general discussion. Firstly, Bill Water, a former president, was thanked for agreeing to represent Crestwood at the coming Heritage Council meeting. Additionally, after residing at Crestwood since 1975, Bill and his wife Jo, have decided to downsize and will be leaving the estate in April.

Two homeowners also took the floor to thank the current gardener for service beyond his call of duty, one for sorting out long time reticulation problems and the other for helping with the removal of a fallen tree.

Other comments touched on scooters in the park, damage to Crestwood parks caused by service vehicles, damage which would now be covered by an increased bond, and responsibility for repairing pathways in the park, a responsibility which fell to the City of Gosnells.

The open part of the meeting ended at 8:15 with some homeowners returning home, and others staying for a cup of coffee and a biscuit.

Text by the Editor

Fireside Chicken Soup

Ingredients

500g chicken soup pieces
8 cups water
salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 parsnip, sliced
1 stick celery, sliced
2 carrots, sliced
1 turnip, sliced
3 tbs chopped parsley
1 tps fresh thyme
1 tps grated lemon rind

1 clove garlic, crushed

Method

1. Place chicken pieces, water, salt and pepper in a large saucepan. Cover and simmer for 1 hour.
2. Add vegetables, thyme and 2 tbs of parsley and simmer for a further 25 minutes.
3. Remove chicken from soup and pick meat from the bones. Return to the pan and taste soup for seasoning.
4. Mix together lemon rind, garlic and the remaining 1 tbs of chopped parsley.
5. Ladle soup into heated bowls and sprinkle with parsley mixture. Serves 6.

From: *Australia the Beautiful Cookbook*

Irish Soda Bread

Method and Ingredients

1. Preheat oven to 190°C. Grease a large baking sheet.
2. Whisk together thoroughly in a large bowl: **230g plain flour, 2 tbs sugar, 1 tps baking powder, ½ tps bicarbonate of soda** and **½ tps salt**.
3. Stir in **160g raisins** and **2 tps caraway seeds**.



4. Whisk together in another bowl **1 egg** and **160 ml buttermilk**.

5. Add buttermilk mixture to the flour and stir just until the dry ingredients are moistened. The batter will be stiff but sticky. Scrape the batter onto the baking sheet in a mound 15 to 18 cm in diameter.
6. Bake until golden brown and a toothpick inserted in to centre comes out clean, 25-30 minutes. Transfer the bread to a rack to cool completely before serving.

From *The Joy of Cooking*

Establishing Native Gardens

Soil Preparation

Although many Australian, and particularly Western Australian, plants have evolved in poor soils, they perform better if soil conditioner is used. It makes the difference between the look of a bushland where plants are merely surviving and the look of a garden where plants are thriving.

Improving the soil, however, does not mean changing its whole nature. 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. For the Crestwood sandy soils, the pH is slightly acidic, about 6.5, which is ideal for many Australian native plants.

To improve the soil and make it more retentive of moisture, you can add 1-2 litres of aged compost and about a ½ litre of bentonite clay. You can also buy products called Sand Remedy or Soil Solver. 'Clumping' cat litter may also be used as this type of litter has bentonite clay. You add these to the hole you dig where you intend to place the plant. Make this hole 30-45 cm deep and equally wide, fill it with water two to three times, and mix the compost, clay and sand together. You are then ready to plant.

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 would then be essential. Once a plant becomes stressed due to the lack of water, it will probably die.

Choose young plants, checking that they are not root bound. Don't be fooled into buying the largest plant available, for those are the plants that should have been sold long before you arrived at the nursery. Look for plants that are fresh and green, have a number of growing points and signs of new growth. Remove them from the pot and gently tease out the roots that have begun to grow around the bottom of the pot. If this isn't done, it is likely that the roots will continue to grow in a circle. Place a tablespoon of slow release native fertiliser into the hole, add the plant and water in well.

A technique called mid-stem planting has recently been trialled and shown to be successful. Following this system, you place the plant in the hole and bury it half way up the stem, first removing any foliage or lateral branches. The technique would clearly suit plants with long stems, such as eucalyptus seedlings, and would be less suitable for bushy plants such as grevilleas.

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 of them are drought-tolerant. Ask garden centre staff about watering 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 usually still have overhead sprinklers which are not ideal, as water gathering on foliage may create humid conditions that encourage fungal disease. Overhead sprinklers can be used, but be careful not to overwater. Over-watering

reduces 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 also has an aesthetic role in many gardens.

Avoid piling on more than 50 mm of mulch, keeping it away from the base of the plant, as excessive mulch can suffocate the soil. 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 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.

For plants that cannot tolerate phosphorus, use a fertiliser that has been specially formulated for Australian natives. These plants develop special root systems that allow them to extract the minimal amount of phosphorus in Australian soils. An excess of phosphorus added to the soil will see them burn up and die in as little as a week. Some of the most popular native plants fall into this category: grevillea, banksia, hakea, and isopogon, conospermum (the smoke bushes), adenanthos (the woolly bushes) Telopea (the waratah), and South African plants such as protea and leucadendron.

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. If you have mature Australian shrubs that have become straggly after some neglect, reshaping may be possible if the stems you want to prune still have foliage.

If the shrub has become too woody, so that the stem you want to prune is devoid of leaves, it is unlikely to produce new shoots at those points. Instead, as a last resort,

try lopping it off at the base. This harsh treatment parallels natural events - such as bushfire or grazing by animals - and many Australian plants automatically respond by shooting afresh from the base.

Text from the Kings Park website with additions by the Editor

Melaleuca conothamnoides



Pithy Sayings

1. The first piece of luggage off the carousel never belongs to anyone — George Roberts.
2. America is so advanced that even the chairs are electric — Doug Hamwell.
3. As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder — John Glenn.
4. I don't believe in astrology. I am a Sagittarius and we're very sceptical — Arthur C Clarke.
5. We are here on earth to do good unto others. What the others are here for, I have no idea — WH Auden.
6. Having more money doesn't make you happier. I have 50 million dollars but I'm just as happy as when I had 48 million — Arnold Schwarzenegger.
7. The best cure for sea sickness is to sit under a tree — Spike Milligan.
8. Wood burns faster when you have to chop it yourself — Harrison Ford.
9. A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kickboxing. — Emo Philips.
10. When a man opens the car door for his wife, it is either a new car or a new wife — Prince Philip.

Is Your Daddy Home?

The boss wondered why one of his most valued employees was absent but hadn't called in sick, so he dialled the employee's home number and was greeted by a child speaking in a whisper.

"Hello, is your daddy home?" — "Yes, he's out in the garden."

"May I speak with him?" — "No," the child whispered.

"Well, is your mommy there?" the boss asked. — "Yes, she's out in the garden too."

The boss asked, "May I talk with her? — Again, the small voice whispered, "No".

Hoping there was someone he could leave a message with, the boss asked, "Is there anyone else there I could talk to? — "Yes," whispered the child. "A policeman."

Wondering what a policeman was doing at his employee's home, the boss asked, "May I speak to the policeman?" — "No, he's busy," whispered the child. "Busy doing what?" — "Talking to mommy and daddy and the police dog men."

Growing more worried as he heard a loud noise in the background, the boss asked, "What is that noise?" — "It's a helicopter," the child answered, still whispering.

"What's going on there?" the boss asked, now truly apprehensive. — "The search team just landed a helicopter," the child answered.

"A search team!" repeated the boss. "Who are they looking for?" — Still whispering, the young voiced replied with a muffled giggle, "Me!"

Church Signs

Signs found outside Christian churches.

1. There are some questions which can't be answered by Google.
2. Honk if you love Jesus; text while driving if you want to meet him.
3. Read the bible, it's user friendly; plus we offer tech support here every Sunday.
4. Whoever is praying for rain, please stop.
5. How do we make holy water? We boil the hell out of it.
6. What is missing from CH _ _ CH? — U R.
7. Adam blamed Eve; Eve blamed the snake, and the snake didn't have a leg to stand on.
8. Keep using my name in vain and I'll make rush hour longer — God.

Humour

Sunday School Getting to Heaven

A Sunday school teacher wanted to test her class to see if they understood the concept of going to heaven. She asked them, "If I sold my house, my car and had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me to heaven?"

"No," said the children.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the lawn and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me to heaven?"

The answer again was, "No!"

"Well, then, if I was kind to animals, and gave sweets to all the children and helped out all the poor people in the neighbourhood, would that get me to heaven?" she asked them again, and again they answered, "No!"

Bursting with pride for her class, she continued, "Then how do I get to heaven?"

A five year old boy shouted out from the back of the room, "You got to be dead!"

What Does God Look Like?

A Sunday school teacher was walking around the classroom looking at the pictures that her class was drawing. As she got to one girl who was drawing diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I am drawing God".

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Noah

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "Do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the ark?"

Johnny raised his hand and replied, "No. How could he with just two worms."

The Good Samaritan

A Sunday school teacher was telling the class the story of the Good Samaritan. She described the situation in vivid detail so that the children would have a clear picture of what the Good Samaritan did. She then asked the class what they would do if they saw a person lying on the roadside wounded and bleeding.

A thoughtful little girl broke the silence. "I think I'd throw up."

The Deaf Bookkeeper

A Mafia boss finds out that his bookkeeper, Guido, has cheated him out of 10 million dollars. His bookkeeper is deaf, That was the reason he got the job in the first place since it was assumed that Guido would hear nothing and would, therefore, never have to testify in court.

When the Godfather goes to confront Guido about the missing money, he takes along his lawyer who knows sign language. He tells the lawyer, "Ask him where the money is."

The lawyer uses sign language and asks Guido, "Where is the money?" Guido signs back, "I don't know what you are talking about."

The lawyer tells the Godfather, "He doesn't know what you are talking about." The Godfather pulls out a pistol, puts it to Guido's head and says, "Ask him again and if I don't get the right answer, I'll kill him."

The lawyer signs to Guido, "He'll kill you if you don't tell him where the money is." Guido trembles and signs back, "Ok, ok, the money is in a brown briefcase buried behind the shed at my cousin Bruno's house."

The Godfather asks the lawyer, "What did he say?" "He says you don't have the nerve to pull the trigger."

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Call or email the editor to add or remove details: 9459 2902 / crestwoodnews@inet.net.au

Don Russell Performing Arts Centre

The Don Russell Performing Arts Centre is a professional theatre located next to the Forest Lakes Shopping Centre on Murdoch Road in Thornlie. A number of professional shows are presented throughout their season.

As part of the Morning Melodies program the Centre will present *Joyce and Kim Jazz Duo*, Wednesday, 17 April and *The Seas and Islands of WA's Wild Coast* – short documentaries from the 1950s to the 1970s, Wednesday, 22 May (special price \$8.00). Morning tea is served at 10:15 am and performances start at 11:00 am. Admission is \$12.00.

The Centre will also host *From Bach to Beatles* by Gil Sullivan, Thursday, 11 April at 8:00 pm; *Cocktails and Crooners* with James Flynn, Saturday, 27 April at 8:00 pm; *Mr Jim's Magic Show* by James Sleight, Tuesday, 30 April at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm and Grace Barbé, a Seychelles Island singer, Saturday, 17 May at 8:00 pm.

For more information and bookings you can go to the Gosnells website, www.gosnells.wa.gov.au, you can call 9493 4577 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, or you can visit the box office between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

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Seniors Card Workshop

Seniors are invited to learn about the benefits, concessions and rebates of the WA Seniors Card. There will also be advice on reciprocal card use in Australia, card eligibility and information on all Seniors Card concerns.

Date: Tuesday, 16 April 2013
Time: 10:00 am
Venue: Addie Mills Centre
2 Astley Street
Gosnells

This is a free workshop and bookings are essential. For more information, visit the City's website or contact Seniors Services on 9391 6037.

Preventing Falls for Seniors

The City of Gosnells Falls Prevention program is providing local seniors with free in-home audits to prevent falls and potential serious injury.

Seniors will also receive a free comprehensive information pack which covers the nine steps to staying on your feet, as well as nutritional guides, medicines register and a detailed checklist with feedback and tips for avoiding hazards at home.

To qualify for this service, seniors need to live in the City of Gosnells and be eligible for a Seniors Card.

For more details or bookings for the Falls Prevention Home Safety Audit, please contact the City Senior Services team on 9391 6037.