



INCORPORATED IN 1970

CRESTWOOD NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE CRESTWOOD HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE NO. 57

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2011

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Santa in the Park

Carols in the Park

Sunday, 18 December 2011

(See p. 11)

Crestwood Homeowners Fees

31 December 2011 (See p. 6)

Solicitors HMF Legal Holiday Close

23 Dec - 9 January 2012 (See p. 3)

NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for the next **Crestwood News** is **3 February 2012**. 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

Seasons Greetings to All

Enjoy Yourselfs — Stay Safe, Stay Healthy

Thanks to our experienced committee, all sections of the estate have been well looked after and are running smoothly. I am grateful to them all for their dedication to what is an addition to their busy schedules. I don't need to remind the Crestwood community that these are voluntary positions and that committee members have other jobs to attend to and demands of their own families to meet. I wish them all a restful and rewarding holiday season.



The pool has opened with great fanfare, the tribulations of getting there suddenly fading into the past. The busy bee went off well, due to Trevor Veen's organisation, the tiling was finished on time, thanks to Darren Colley's quick intervention upon return from his holiday, and Belgravia moved in with one year's experience at Crestwood behind them to take over for another season.

The cool start to the season saw the ducks still in residence, sometimes outnumbering the mostly youthful residents who braved the cold water, but the warming of the weather has seen the pool far better attended by residents of all ages. The lap swimmers can again be seen diligently exercising just after the 12:00 opening, and children on floats and noodles make their presence known somewhat later in the afternoon.

The vandalism problems that plagued the bushland and were mostly controlled after reports to authorities at Thornlie Senior High School have again been in evidence. If residents see anyone attempting to vandalise or graffiti any property on the estate, this should be reported to the police on 13 14 44.

The reticulation season is now well under way with the system coping well after winter repairs. Residents are still reminded to check for broken pipes and missing sprinkler heads. Remember, too, that if you turn off the connection to your property to let Grant, the gardener, know. The increase in pressure across the other properties watered at the same time could cause the system to trip out.



All that remains now is to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Written on behalf of Trevor Davis
President, Crestwood Home Owners 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/F: 9452 2857
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	T: 0448 940 985
Parks & Reticulation	Mike Bernoulli	26 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	Margaret Davies	19 Regency Dr	T: 9459 4115
Playgroup	Ros Norman		T: 9493 2597
Webmaster	Rod Campbell	webmaster@crestwood.org.au	
Wildlife Carers	Evelyn or Louise	9459 1627 (Louise)	T: 9459 0612 (Evelyn)
Groundsperson	Grant Douglas	Hours: 9am - 3pm	T: 9459 5782/F: 9452 3224
		Email contact: crestwoodpark@bigpond.com	0417 989 326/ 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			T: 1800 442 255
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

Committee meetings of the Crestwood Homeowners Association for 2011 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.

24 January 2011
28 February
28 March
18 April
23 May
27 June

25 July
29 August
26 September
24 October
28 November
19 December

WELCOME TO CRESTWOOD

James Michael & Sean Fenelon 60 Grenadier Drive
 Ken & Jill Williamson 4 Hume Road

FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES

John & Fiona Ecclestone 60 Grenadier Drive

Recent correspondence from the Committee of the Crestwood Homeowners Association.

1. [A residence on Coronet Court] Thank you for your building application for the construction of a patio. Because you have requested your application be processed as quickly as possible so that your patio will be completed before Christmas. I have emailed your application to the committee members, and it has been approved. We hope that all goes well with your building project, and that you enjoy your new outdoor living area.

John Rushton, Committee Member for Aesthetics

Aesthetics

This winter the pool underwent major repairs as the tiling and bull nosing around the main pool had to be completely replaced. Unfortunately, wet weather in September/October delayed the completion. For a while it was touch and go as to whether or not it would be ready for the scheduled opening. After many emails, meetings and discussions with the contractors the work was finished in the nick of time. While all this was going on I was overseas on holidays! I am very much indebted to the efforts of the other committee members and Bel-gravia staff in expediting the repairs in my absence. Thanks also to Trevor Veen who coordinated the busy bee in October.

Pool

Some of the kids from Crestwood celebrated the pool opening with a mass leap into the pool. This was reportedly followed by a mass scramble out of the pool owing to it still being quite chilly. Indeed the cooler weather has been reflected in a drop in user numbers compared to last year. This will hopefully change soon as we move into summer and the weather warms up.

With the weather warming up many of you may like to take advantage of the barbecues provided at the pool. The attendants will be happy to get them out on request. Please remember that others may want to use them as well, and that they should be cleaned after use. Please also be reminded that no glass bottles or containers are permitted in the pool area.

On the subject of functions, it is possible for Crestwood residents to book the hall and use the pool. However, booking the hall does not automatically give one the right to use the pool. If you wish to do this, please contact me to discuss arrangements. Permission can be given if the numbers involved are not too great, and the usage will not duly impact on other pool users. Also please note that in respect to a child's party strict adult to child ratios apply at all times.

Coffee and tea facilities have been provided for pool users again this year and are situated by the door to the office. That's enough from me. On behalf of Marjan and myself we'd like to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and a splashing 2012.

Darren Colley, Committee Member for the Aquatic Centre



Our solicitors HFM Legal are closing their office on Friday 23 December and reopening on Monday 9 January. If any homeowners will be in the process of refinancing later this month or early next month, please contact our Honorary Treasurer, Roy Malone on 9459 4364 or 0477 293 633 urgently to discuss this.

Finance

Roy Malone, Honorary Treasurer

The reticulation season has been an on again off again affair over this spring with welcome rains giving Crestwood almost 25ml in November and an additional and unexpected boost in December. The main problem with the reticulation so far has been the recording software on the computer. This means I have had no read-out of how the system is performing, having to rely on the old system which is not as reliable as the computer generated graphs. This problem should be resolved in December. Once again I would ask residents to keep checking their reticulation to ensure it is in good order. Thanks to all who have done repairs.

Parks & Reticulation

The look of the underpasses has been improved with a new coat of paint and no longer presents the aged patchwork effect.

The parks have been fertilised and should recover in a couple of weeks time from the sudden bout of hot and windy weather we have had. The wind has also made a lot of mess around the estate, at times seeming like a never ending blizzard of leaves and twigs. There will be a three week interval to the mowing over the Christmas break with mowing commencing again on the third of January.

Best wishes to all for the festive season and New Year.

Grant Douglas, Crestwood Estate Gardener

INCIDENT REPORT

Incidents reported on the Crestwood Estate

No incidents have been reported to the Crestwood News

WORK FROM HOME SCAMS

1 Mystery shopper job: Mystery Shopping Inc. has been luring Australians through newspaper ads promising \$300 per completed "assignment". Applicants are asked to email their details to an overseas email address and receive traveller's cheques. Their first assignment is to note security and customer service details while cashing them. Afterwards, they can deduct their fee before transferring the leftover money back to Mystery Shopping by untraceable wire transfer. These cheques are forged, and you commit a crime when you cash them. You can also be held responsible for repaying the money to the business who cashed the cheque.

2 Online payment process job: An email job offer arrives from a company claiming to have found your resume on the Seek website. They offer you a position processing payments; only a little computer knowledge is required and you'll be paid daily with a minimum income of \$4000 per month. Typically you get another email saying there was a mistake and they had accidentally sent four times the amount of your paycheck. You're told to wire the rest of the money to someone else when you receive the cheque. The money you receive may have been stolen from other people's bank accounts.

3 RAC job offer: You receive an email directly addressed to you offering a job with the reputable WA company, RAC Finance, and promising \$3900 a month for only one or two hours work a day, four to five days a week. You're asked for your bank account details to receive payment that you're instructed to transfer to an account in Europe. With some of these scams, the initial money transferred to you is recalled once you've transferred it overseas.

4 Envelope stuffing/email processing scam: In the old envelope-stuffing scam it was promised you would be sent up to 1000 stamped and addressed envelopes a week and that you would earn \$1-\$2 for every envelope stuffed. Once you pay the required fee, however, all you receive are flyer templates. You're told to put up the flyers on noticeboards asking people to send you \$2 in a pre-addressed, prepaid envelope, you'll then send them a flyer. In a modern take on this, Project 21 placed online ads "Work from home processing emails. Earn up to \$5000 pm p/t" The catch is you're charged \$90 each for 12 manuals. The manual says to place ads like the one you responded to and sell copies of the manuals. The kit includes samples of the ads to adapt. If you follow this advice you're advertising a job that doesn't exist and breaking the law.

5 Affiliate marketing (upfront payment) scam: Schemes such as GoogleCash claim to enable you to create a "click through" portal that will supposedly generate a revenue stream for the buyer/job seeker. One unhappy customer reported to WA ScamNet that, after she paid for the starter kit, money was taken from her bank account another four times without her knowledge, and no kit arrived.

From *Choice*, November 2011, p.39



POLICE WATCH - Thornlie

from eWatch

31 October - 5 November: A vacant house in Rushbrook Way was broken into by smashing a window during the day on Thursday November 3. Nothing was stolen.

A lady was loading her shopping into her car at Thornlie Square on Thursday 3 November. Unfortunately she left her handbag on the car and a male person grabbed the bag and ran off.

During the night on Friday 4 November offenders removed a flyscreen from an open window in Geographe Way. This is a timely reminder, coming up to warmer weather, to lock your windows and doors, even when you are home, and especially when you go to bed. You should also close your curtains and blinds so thieves can't see in to decide whether to break in.

There were several burglaries in each of Gallant Court, Geographe Way and Matthew Way, and burglaries in Ripplewood Ave, Lyrebird Way, Gunn Crt, Gallant Crt and Shelburn Way.

6 November - 16 November: There has been a slow but steady rise in the number of cars being broken into across the whole metropolitan area. Often it is simply a case of a window being smashed, reaching in and taking something from the car. The prevalence of these offences can be linked to the advances in technology where valuable items are smaller, such as laptops, mobile phones, GPS units etc. It is astounding how often people leave such valuable items in plain view in their car, and on their return they are surprised to find their car broken into and the valuables stolen.

Prevention really is the best solution and the bulk of prevention needs to come from within the community. Look, Lock, Leave is still a valid strategy. Look inside your car for anything valuable and remove it. Lock your car, and as you Leave be aware of your surrounds.

Thornlie continues to be a focus for us. A house in Lyrebird way was broken into through a front window on Wednesday November 9, however no one was seen. On Friday November 11 offenders tried to force the back door of a house in Cameron Street. The occupants had some good quality security and the crooks didn't get in.

During the early hours on Sunday November 13 offenders broke into a house in Cornedale Place by removing the flyscreen to an open window. The thieves then took several items including the keys to a car that was subsequently stolen. The same day someone tried to break into a house in Merino Crt by forcing the back door, but again, the occupants had good quality security.

During the early hours of Monday November 14 an attempt was made to break into a shed in Heath Place, and during the day on Tuesday November 15 a house in Thornlie Ave had the front door forced to gain entry and a purse stolen.

17 November - 24 November: A house in Rushbrook Way was broken into on Thursday November 17 by forcing the front window. The offenders found keys to a car in the driveway, which they used to steal the car.

Three thieves stole a bicycle from the Thornlie Aquatic Centre on Thursday November 17. They were described as three dark skinned Australians, a very tall one aged 18 wearing a black Adidas jacket, a shorter one aged about 16 and another one aged about 14.

A house in Northwood Loop had tiles taken from the roof in an apparent attempt to break in. This occurred on November 21 and is similar to a few reported in Canning Vale as well.

The news isn't all bleak in Thornlie. On Wednesday November 23 Canning Vale Police conducted simultaneous search warrants on two houses in Merino Crt, resulting from public information. At one house we recovered a stolen motor bike as well as other property, and from the other house we seized a quantity of drugs.

Later that same afternoon we received a report of a male youth stealing a pink motor scooter from Thornlie Square. We had our All Terrain Vehicle patrols out along the river, and they located and arrested the thief (who wasn't hard to spot on a bright pink scooter). A 15 year old male from Thornlie was charged with stealing a motor vehicle and several driving offences.

On Thursday November 24 we received a call about youths tagging graffiti in Thornlie. When stopped by a member of the public, they threatened him with a knife. We had cars in the area and the offenders were immediately located and arrested.

25 November - 1 December. A house in Mallard Street had a glass door smashed at the rear of the house during the day on Friday November 25. Police spoke to the neighbours, who didn't see anything. During the day on Monday November 28 a house in Greenway Ave was broken into by offenders using a shovel left in the yard, to smash a bathroom window.

During the day on Tuesday November 29 we had three reports of houses being broken into through the roof. The houses were in Kurrajong Drive, Tritonia Rise, and McNamara Drive. If you see anyone on a house roof, even if they are wearing work clothes, reflective vests or have a van parked in the driveway, please call police on 131444. We would rather we spoke to them and confirmed they were bona fide, than not get a call at all.

September 2011

Committee Business:

Parks and Reticulation: Repairs are needed to one of the bores.

General bore work is to be completed following Grant's suggestion.

Spraying and fertilising in the parks has been done, including the spraying of weeds behind Princeton Court.

Quotes for the painting of the ends of the underpasses have been received and tabled. The recommendation is to go with Design Paint at \$2750. Mike and Grant are to coordinate in overseeing this.

The property audit has been undertaken and letters are being prepared to go out to relevant homeowners. The assets list has been placed on the computer. Numbers of house lots outside the rear of houses facing the park is to go ahead when the weather fines up.

More vandalism has been noticed in the bushland. Additionally, wild weather has created a bit of a mess on the estate.

The issues surrounding Delvin's drivers licence and visa have now been sorted.

Pool: The tiling around the pool is proceeding at a slower pace than anticipated. It is still hoped to have everything completed by the opening date in mid October.

Solar heating for the toddler pool has been replaced and is working. Jason is organising the chlorine dosing system for the pools.

The pool passes are currently being prepared. A defibrillator has been ordered for the pool office. An article explaining its necessity and use will appear in the next issue of the *Crestwood News*.

Trevor Veen is organising the busy bee to open the pool for the season while Darren is overseas on holiday. An inflatable is scheduled for the pool on 13 November with a BYO picnic or barbecue to follow. This will go ahead as scheduled depending on the weather.

Aesthetics: The carport replacement on Coronet Court has been approved.

Social: Santa and Carols in the Park have been scheduled for Sunday, 18 December. Planned is a BYO picnic with barbecues available. The Guides are to be invited to do a sausage sizzle fundraiser.

October 2011

Committee Business:

Parks and Reticulation: We are waiting for a contractor to undertake work on painting of the underpass ends. The ends have been cleaned and prepared for painting. Additionally, a surveyor is required to do initial planning for future underpass development. A discussion was also held in the committee regarding the underpass areas that Crestwood is responsible for.

Fertilising of the parks has now been completed. Faults in the valves for the bores have been repaired and the start of the reticulation season has begun. The on-off times for the park lighting have also been adjusted.

Delvin has returned from 10 days leave.

Pool: Darren has expressed thanks to those who helped with the pool in his absence. The pool tiling work has now been completed. The defibrillator is now in the pool office and signs are to be laminated and put up regarding its availability and use.

Spare pool pass application forms and schedules are now kept at the pool office. Daphne has prepared a list for non-issue of pool passes.

Chris will be the attendant at the pool for six days a week. Jason has been asked to check the toddler pool heater for leaks.

Tea and coffee supplies are to be purchased for use at the pool. The staff are to be requested to try to keep the kitchen and office area tidy and clean. Responsibility for daily cleaning of the toilets is to fall to the pool attendant.

Aesthetics: A pool and fence application for Grenadier Drive has been received.

Financial: Various homeowners have been sent letters about overdue fees.

Social: The inflatable is scheduled to be at the pool on 13 November, weather permitting.

A request for a small group party has been approved.

Further discussion was held regarding Christmas festivities scheduled for Sunday 18 December. Agreement was reached to keep things simple.

General Business: Documents regarding committee procedures require some updating. Sandra is to search for electronic copies for Trevor to work through.



2011-2012 Crestwood Homeowners Fees

Under **Option B**, the **3rd instalment** of \$406.00 is payable by **31st December 2011**.

You can pay your fees to our Treasurer, Roy Malone, 116 Regency Drive. If you have any queries, contact Roy at his home on 9459 4364 after 7pm.

Christmas Festivities Can You Help?



A lot of help is needed to make the Christmas festivities scheduled for 18 December successful. If you are free and able to offer some of your time, here are some of the tasks you can help with:

- Preparing a grotto for Santa (before 5pm), then clearing it away afterwards.
- Handing our song books for carols (just prior to 7pm).

Please ring Sandra on **9452 1830** or email sandrawilson@inet.net.au with your offers of help.

A Prank to Some — Disturbing to Others

Phantom Door Knocking

A number of instances of what might be called 'phantom door knocking' has been brought to the attention of the Crestwood News. This is where someone knocks on a door, or loudly tries the doorknob as if trying to get in, and then runs off. When the homeowner opens the door or otherwise investigates, no one is there. This might happen once, or it might happen again to the same property a little bit later. It tends to occur just after sunset when it is has just become dark.

Crestwood has a number of homeowners who are elderly and others who live alone, and such behaviour has proven to be very disturbing to some. They feel their house, at best, is being watched

and at worst is being targeted for a crime. A small group of young people has been seen moving along the streets where this has occurred, and they are suspected of being involved in these incidents..

If you are concerned about this behaviour, or if you suspect your house is being targeted to see if anyone is home, call the police on 13 14 44 immediately after the occurrence. If several incidents are reported as occurring on the same day, the police may consider it suspicious behaviour and initiate patrols to locate the youths. If you can see the youths close by after answering the door, you should ring the police immediately and report it.

Delivery Crestwood News

The Princeton Court - Coronet Court route will soon become vacant and we will need a volunteer to deliver the *Crestwood News* to these streets. There are 40 houses on this route and delivery, six times a year, should take no more than 30-40 minutes.

It would be more efficient if the volunteer is a resident on one of these streets, but interest from anyone on the estate is welcome.

If you are willing and free to volunteer, please contact the editor by phone or email. Details are in the Contacts section, page 2, of the newsletter.

Planning structural changes to your property?

Read This

The Crestwood management committee wishes to remind all homeowners who are planning to make improvements, structural alterations or any other changes to their property, to first contact the aesthetics committee member with your plans. This includes plans for fencing and major pruning or removal of trees.

While the committee wishes to support you in your desire to improve your property and lifestyle, all of us, as Crestwood homeowners, have obligations under the covenant that we signed on the purchase of our properties. It is important that any alterations be made in accordance with this covenant and that is why it is essential that the committee be contacted first before any plans are realised.

Relevant information is available on the Crestwood website or from the secretary (see p. 2 for contact information).

Christmas at Crestwood



Santa in the Park Sunday 18 December 2011

5:00 - 5:30 Look our for Santa driving through the parks.
5:30 - 6:15 Santa arrives at the main park in front of the

pool to hand out gifts.

5:45 - 7:00 **Sausage sizzle**. The Thornlie Church of Christ will be running the sausage sizzle this year as a fundraiser for an orphanage in India. Cost: \$3.00 for a sausage, bun, onions and sauce; drinks \$1.00 a can.

Santa has asked that the value of gifts be kept below \$20.00 per child. These should be delivered to 21 Princeton Court by 17 December with the name of the child clearly marked.

Carols in the Park 18 December 2011



Sunday 7:00 - 9:00

The Thornlie Church of Christ choir will entertain us. Meet at the main park in front of the pool.

Crestwood Hall Hire

NOTICES

SOCIAL

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



ZUMBA
FITNESS

PARTY YOURSELF INTO SHAPE

The Latin-inspired, easy to follow, calorie burning dance-fitness party is now at Crestwood.

CRESTWOOD HALL
Wednesdays 6:30 pm

For more information
phone Lisa 0450 957 025

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, 10:00 -
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. Non-Crestwood residents welcome.
Cost \$10.00 per class — includes drumming class.

Phone Gillian 9459 9904 or Heather 9452 2427
for time and location of the class.

Viennese Crescents

Method & Ingredients

1. Position a rack in the upper third of the oven. Preheat the oven to 180°C. Grease baking sheets.
2. Beat on medium speed until lightened in colour and creamy: **225g unsalted butter, softened.**
3. Sift over the top and beat until well combined: **135g icing sugar.**
4. Stir in: **2 tps vanilla extract, 100g ground walnuts or ground blanched almonds.**
5. Gradually sift over the top while stirring: **280g plain flour**
6. Knead until well blended. Pull off generous 1 tbs pieces



of the dough, roll with your hands into a short rope and shape into crescents. Space 3 cm apart on the sheets. (If the dough is soft and hard to handle, refrigerate until slightly firm.)

7. Bake, 1 sheet at a time, until the crescents are faintly tinged with brown and slightly darker at the edges, 13 to 16 minutes; rotate the sheet halfway through baking for even browning.
8. Remove the sheet to a rack and let stand until the biscuits firm slightly. Transfer the biscuits to racks to cool. Sift over the biscuits until evenly coated: **120g icing sugar.**
9. Makes about **4 dozen 6 cm** biscuits.

From: *The Joy of Cooking*



Kourambiedes

Method & Ingredients

1. Beat on medium speed until lightened in colour and creamy: **350g unsalted butter, softened, ¼ tps salt**
2. Beat in until very fluffy and well blended: **120g icing sugar, 1 egg yolk, 2 tbs brandy, 1 tps vanilla extract.**
3. Gradually add and stir until well blended and smooth: **420g plain flour, sifted.**
4. Cover and refrigerate the dough until firm enough to shape into balls, about 1 hour.
5. To bake, position a rack in the upper third of the oven. Preheat the oven to 180°C. Grease baking sheets.
6. Pull off pieces of dough and roll between your palms into



generous 2.5cm balls. Space about 2.5 cm apart on the sheets. If desired, garnish the balls by inserting into the top of each: **1 whole clove.**

7. Bake one sheet at a time, until the biscuits are faintly tinged with brown, 14 to 18 minutes; rotate the sheet halfway through baking for even browning.
8. Remove the sheet to a rack and let stand until the biscuits firm slightly. Gently transfer the biscuits to racks to cool completely. Handle gently as these biscuits are fragile.
9. Sift over the biscuits until evenly coated: **90g icing sugar.**
10. Makes about **4 dozen 2 cm** biscuits.

From: *The Joy of Cooking*

Mother Kroll's Lebkuchen

Method & Ingredients

1. Position a rack in the centre of the oven. Preheat the oven to 200°C. Line a 33 x 23 cm baking pan with greased aluminium foil, allowing it to overhang the 2 narrow ends of the pan by about 5 cm
2. Bring to the boil in a large, heavy saucepan: **250 ml honey.**
3. Remove from the heat and let cool completely. Stir in: **150g light or dark brown sugar, 1 egg, lightly beaten, 1 tbs fresh lemon juice, 1 tps grated lemon zest.**
4. Combine and sift over the honey mixture: **350g sifted plain flour, ½ tps bicarbonate of soda, 1 tps ground cinnamon, ¼ tps ground cloves, ½ tps ground allspice, ½ tps ground nutmeg.**
5. Sift together: **60g chopped, blanched almonds, 35g chopped citron.** Add to the honey mixture and stir



until well blended. Firmly press the dough into the pan to form a smooth even layer. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out almost clean, 18-20 minutes.

6. Meanwhile,, stir together until smooth: **180g icing sugar, 2 tbs fresh lemon juice, ¼ tps vanilla extract.** If necessary, stir in enough water to yield a spreadable consistency.
7. While the bar is still warm, spread the icing evenly over the top. Immediately mark into 5cm squares and decorate by placing in the centre of each square: **1 candied cherry.** Arrange around each cherry in a X shape originating from each corner: **4 whole blanched almonds.**
8. Remove the pan to a rack and let stand until completely cool and the icing is set. Using the overhanging foil as handles, lift the bar into a cutting board. Carefully peel off the foil, Cut into the marked squares. If possible, let the biscuits age for 2 weeks to allow the spices to ripen.
9. Makes 24 5x5 cm squares.

From: *The Joy of Cooking*

DRIVEN AWAY - EXILE OF THE MAGPIES

Chipita appeared without warning one day last September, very hungry and very noisy, running after any magpie willing to feed her. Her appearance was unexpected since all the other baby magpies appeared in January. When January finally did come, Chipita was joined by Beauty and Whitey. Three babies was a new phenomenon, but there was enough food to go around and enough carers to do the feeding.

We were determined not to grow attached to the little ones this year. In previous years we had become fond of Moonie and then Slurpie, but after caring for each of them until May, the adult magpies decided they had to go. Each was driven out of the group and soon disappeared. Once Moonie was gone we never saw her again. Slurpie went missing for six weeks. We would sometimes see him as a lonely soul at the far end of Regency Drive, and so we knew he was still alive and well. Then suddenly he showed up again in our garden.

He was very careful to arrive when no other magpies were present and then leave after having a few titbits of cheese which we offered. He did this for two weeks, always getting the timing exactly right, but then one day he became too relaxed and Ferrel spotted him from his perch on the Nicholii and plunged down viciously at him. Slurpie took off with Ferrel in close pursuit, and that was the last we saw of him.

And so this year, with three baby magpies in our garden, we could only assume that when April turned to May it would be their turn to be driven out of the group. Chipita grew up but never did shut up. She had to be the noisiest of all the magpies that had come to our garden. Even with food in her beak she would continue to whine, and when swallowing the sound would turn to a gurgle. Sitting alone on a branch was still not a time for silence, for there would always be a little whimper of sound.

Beauty and Whitey also developed their own personalities. Beauty was the most skittish and stayed the furthest away, rushing out from wherever she was hiding, seeking her bits of cheese, collecting one, two, three and even four pieces, before rushing back to enjoy them in the private shadow of a tree. Whitey was the plumpest of the lot with short, stumpy legs, and while not as nervous as Beauty, she could never bring herself to come close enough to eat from our hands. She would dash up close, then have a change of heart, and stand a few arm-lengths away waiting for a bit of cheese to be thrown to her.

May came, and the magpie world was still peaceful. Then winter set in, and the babies and adults would all appear together, dry or drenched depending on the weather. By August we had decided that these babies would be allowed to stay, and we relaxed and drew closer to them. And then one day, just at the start of September we heard that ominous cry, that magpie-tainted scream that echoed of threat and terror. It was happening all over again.

Chipita was suddenly caught in a frenzy of flapping black and white feathers. The family that had been her protectors during the early months of fledging and feeding, had now become her attackers. Big Daddy had Chipita by the legs, grasping and twisting so that she was thrown on her back, unable to right herself. The magpies, Ladybird, Ferrel and Cain drove into her with their beaks, pulling at her tail feathers, jabbing at her face, poking under her wings. Big Daddy, still holding tight, also bent forward from his outward position joining in the attack.

The cries were loud as the magpies lashed out, oblivious to the air and shrubs around them. Chipita continued her panicky wail, unsure why her protectors had turned so firmly against her. Then suddenly Big Daddy lost concentration and Chipita broke free, running first under a heavily branched grevillea and then flying off to the protection of a dense pine tree at the neighbours. Driving her that far away seemed to satisfy her attackers for now, and they flew off over the roof of our house and into the park.

This was an attack meant to drive Chipita from the group. It was not the fatal assault that magpies reserved for intruders into their realm, the brutal, bloody altercation that could leave the outsider blind, battered and frequently near death. No, Chipita was still family and would not be killed, just forcibly and painfully driven away. But what did exile mean for an isolated magpie that could only become an outsider in another group or live on the fringes of two groups, belonging to none?

By afternoon the cries began again. This time it was Beauty, calling from the Cinerea, hanging head down with her feet firmly held by Ferrel. But Ferrel was not alone, for there was also Cain pecking away at the helpless Beauty who could do nothing but hang and struggle.

We witnessed all of this from below in the garden and decided, at least this once, to intervene. The battle branch was only mid-way up the tree and when we turned the hose on the three magpies, Beauty finally had a chance. Cain was the first to break off from the attack and fly back to the park. Ferrel held on longer, but then let go and Beauty quickly disappeared across the street and into a shielding tree.

MAGPIES

FEATURES



By late afternoon the three babies were back in the Cinerea. Chipita and Beauty had each experienced an attack. Whitey stayed unchallenged. Cringing when her siblings succumb to the violence of the adults, she had not yet had this violence turned on her. Whitey was clearly not being forced from the group.

The next day the babies ventured from the Cinerea into the park for this was their territory. Here is where the worms lay waiting to be pulled from the ground and the beetles lay hiding in the clumped blades of grass. This is where they could find the unfortunate skink running just a little too slowly into the bark crevice of a tree, a skink they could play with, pulling off its tail, pushing it along, holding it under one foot, and then, inevitably, scooping it up with one quick flick of the beak. But today the territory was no longer theirs. The adults swooped down and drove them back into the Cinerea and there began another attack.

Seven of them dove into Chipita before realising that Beauty was getting free. Three then broke off and followed the screeching Beauty down to the end of the cul-de-sac, over the pathway to the pool and back into the Brazilian pepper tree, just heavy enough with foliage to foil any attempt to grab and hold her. These attacks eventually ended with Chipita and Beauty coming back to the Cinerea, Chipita with feathers sticking out to the left and right and a tail now greatly diminished, while Beauty, whimpering loudly, appeared unscathed. Whitey flew in to join them, inching her way along the branch she shared with Beauty. Whitey was to witness another week of these attacks before she disappeared, choosing the comfort of the adult magpies over the fraught world of her siblings.

The attacks continued for many more weeks and we intervened whenever we saw them. Sometimes all it took to distract the attacking magpies was for us to appear in the garden, for they flew to us for the little titbits of cheese. Sometimes aiding the beleaguered babies was harder. The adult birds, lost in their frenzy, might hardly acknowledge our presence. At those times only sharp claps would break their spell, or even a handful of wood chips thrown in their direction.

There was nothing the two babies could do to counter the attacks except to fly dropping and turning, fast and hard, to the nearest tree, desperately avoiding being dragged to the ground where the attack could only intensify. When they knew the adult birds were close and watching they took their well practised positions of subservience: head-up, breast down, and tail up and shaking. Even Chipita did her best to show she was no threat, although her tail feathers were vastly diminished. All this did absolutely no good, for the adults were still determined to drive them from the group and the territory.

We did our best to keep the babies around, and they treated the Cinerea in our front yard as a tree of sanctuary. At first they slept there, but it was far too open and they were far too exposed to feel safe. The dense pine or the Brazilian pepper tree at the end of Coronet Court became their sleeping place, but when morning came they returned to our yard and the Cinerea for their extra ration of cheese. And then one morning, looking out from breakfast, we saw the third baby. Whitey had returned, cheerfully scooping up the cheese bits where she remembered she would find them, innocently cavorting with Beauty and Chipita. Whitey had returned for she too now was being driven away.

The three little ones still survive in a decreased territory at the end of the street, ever cautious as they dart from one side of the road to the other, poking their beaks into the gardens and lawns, calling and carolling loudly. The attacks have not quite ended, but they come less frequently and involve many fewer birds. Not all the adults threaten them, but neither are they allowed back into the group. How long this little bit of territory at the end of the cul-de-sac will remain theirs to roam it is impossible to know, but for now they seem to have accepted that space and each other for that space and each other is all they have.

Text by the Editor

Replacement Windows

Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with the double-glazed, energy-efficient kind, and today I got a call from the contractor who installed them. He was complaining that the work had been completed a whole year ago and that he still hadn't been paid. Well, I told him a thing or two. I told him that the fast-talking sales guy who sold me the windows said that in one year the windows would pay for themselves. So, it has now been a year, I told him. There was only silence at the end of the line, so I finally hung up. He never called back. I bet he felt like an idiot.

The Psychologist and the Proctologist

Best friends graduated from medical school at the same time and decided that, in spite of two different specialties, they would open a practice together to share the office and personnel. Dr Johnson was the psychiatrist and Dr. Jones was the proctologist.

The first sign they put up said: **Dr Johnson and Dr Jones – Hysterias and Posteriors**. The town council was livid and insisted they change it,

The doctors then changed it to read: **Schizoids and Haemorrhoids**. That was also not acceptable, so they changed it again to read: **Catatronics and High Colonics**. That was still no go.

Next they tried: **Manic Depressives and Anal Retentives**. That got the thumbs down again. Then came: **Minds and Behinds**, but that was still no good.

So they tried: **Analysis and Anal Cysts**, not a chance; **Nuts and Butts**, no way. **Freaks and Cheeks**, still no good. **Loons and Moons**, forget it.

Almost at their wits ends, the docs came up with: **Dr. Johnson and Dr. Jones, specialising in Odds and Ends**. Everyone loved it.

Mature Lady Driver

A mature lady gets pulled over for speeding.

Lady: Is there a problem officer?

Officer: You were speeding. Can I see your licence please?

Lady: I'd love to show it to you, but I don't have one. I lost it four years ago for drink driving.

Officer: Can I see your vehicle registration papers please?

Lady: I can't show you those either since I don't have them. I stole this car.

Officer: Stole it?

Lady: Yes, and I killed and cut up the owner. His body parts are in plastic bags in the boot if you want to see them.

The officer looks at the woman, backs away from the car and calls for backup. Within five minutes three police vehicles arrive and surround the car. A senior officer gets out and approaches the lady's car, gun half drawn.

Officer: Could you step out of the vehicle, please.

Lady: Is there a problem, sir?

Officer: One of my officers told me you have stolen this car and murdered the owner. Could you now open the boot of the car, please.

The lady gets out of the car and opens the boot. It is empty.

Officer: Is this your car, ma'am?

Lady: Yes, here are the registration papers.

Officer: One of my officers claims you do not have a driver's licence.

The lady digs into her handbag and after rummaging around for while, produces a driver's licence. The officer examines it, looking quite puzzled.

Officer: My officer told me you didn't have a driver's licence, that you stole this car and hacked up the owner.

Lady: I bet that liar told you I was speeding too.

HOW THE FIGHT BEGAN

1. One year I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift. The next year I didn't buy her a gift. When she asked me why, I replied, "Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year". That's how the fight started.

2. I took my wife to a restaurant. For some reason, the waiter took my order first. "I'll have the rump steak, rare, please." The waiter said, "Aren't you worried about the mad cow?" "Nah, she can order for herself," And that's how the fight started.

3. My wife and I were sitting at a table at her high school reunion. She kept staring at a drunken man sitting alone at a nearby table, swinging his drink. I asked her, "Do you know him?" "Yes," she sighed. "He's my old boyfriend. I understand he took to drinking right after we split up all those years ago. I hear he hasn't been sober since." "My God. Who would have thought a person could have gone on celebrating that long!" And that's how the fight began.

4. When our lawnmower broke, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed. but somehow I always had something else to take care of first; the shed, the boat, making beer Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point. When I arrived home one day I saw her sitting in the tall grass busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I was gone only a minute, and when I returned I handed her a toothbrush and said, "When you're finished with that you can sweep the driveway." The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

5. My wife sat down next to me as I was flipping channels on the TV. She asked, "What's on the TV?" "Dust," I answered. And then the fight started.

6. My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our up and coming anniversary. "I want something that goes from 0 to 150 in about three seconds," So I bought her a bathroom scale. And that's how the fight started.

7. My wife was standing nude looking in the bathroom mirror. She was not happy with what she saw and said to me, "I feel horrible. I look old, fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment." I said, "Your eyesight's very nearly perfect." And that's how the fight began.

God, the Artist

A Sunday school teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He's an artist," said a kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know, replied the child, "Our Father who does art in heaven ..."

This is My Stop

While riding the bus, an old woman noticed a young man who was holding on to the same pole staring at her. Eventually he said, "Excuse me, this is my stop."

Since she wasn't blocking his way, she was confused. "Well, go ahead," she said. "And this is my pole," he replied.

The old woman was perplexed until the man added, "I just bought it at the hardware store to hold up my shower curtain."

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FEATURES

POEM

The Battle

Mum kept showing him what he must do
 But each time six others would show him too!
 Up and down to no avail

The little one still did fail.

I placed a board against the wall
 But that didn't do any good at all.
 He was too fast an quick for me
 To place him back with his family.



I watched this struggle, feeling pain
 As he tried and tried yet again.
 With mum still urging him to come
 I'm glad to say, he finally won.

Happy together as a family
 An awesome sight for me to see.
 Waddling off to the park that is best
 They all settled down for a well earned rest.

Chris Wynen, 2011

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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 presents a special entertainment program each month which includes morning tea. Contact the centre for their latest brochure. Morning tea is served at 10:15 am and performances start at 11:00 am.

The Centre will also host *Kings of Swing*, Saturday, 18 February at 8:00 pm and *Motherhood the Musical*, Saturday, 24 March at 8:00 pm.

For more information and booking 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.