



INCORPORATED IN 1970

# CRESTWOOD NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE CRESTWOOD HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE NO. 63

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2012

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Santa and Carols in the Park

16 December 2012, 5-9pm  
(see p. 6)

### Crestwood Homeowners Fees

Due 31 December (see p. 6)

## NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for the next **Crestwood News** is **8 February 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](mailto:crestwoodnews@iinet.net.au)

## Enjoy the Seasonal Festivities

### Stay Safe and Be Secure

As another year nears its end, I am pleased to say things are going well. Our new gardeners, Rich and Mike, have the Estate parks and gardens looking extremely good.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Committee and the gardeners for their contributions during the year. Their help and support have made my involvement with the Committee more enjoyable.

With the festive season approaching, may I, on behalf of the Committee, wish every homeowner and resident all the very best for a Merry Christmas. I hope that the New Year brings all that you want and more. With New Year's Eve festivities not far away, I trust that you will enjoy a safe and happy evening. Do not risk the safety of your family or yourself by drinking and driving.

A word of caution, now, in respect to the security of your home as it has come to my notice that a couple of vehicles parked in driveways have been broken into in recent weeks. If you observe people acting suspiciously, or going onto properties that you know they do not belong to, ring 13 14 44 and report it to the Police Assistance Centre.

It is also very important to make sure that your doors are locked at all times, and that includes if you are working in the garden at the front or rear. Unfortunately, the days of leaving your doors unlocked are long gone, so if you are working out front, make sure the back door is locked, and if working at the back, ensure the front door is locked.

Also, if going away over Christmas, remember to stop newspaper deliveries; arrange for a neighbour to collect your mail or have the Post Office hold it for you.

Finally, a couple of positions are likely to become vacant at the AGM next year, so please give consideration to whether you are able to fill one of them. A big thank you to Malcolm, our newsletter Editor, for another year in producing interesting and informative newsletters.



Trevor Davis, President, Crestwood Homeowners Association

## A Unique Way of Life

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

(T = Telephone - F = Fax)

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

<b>Crestwood Web Page</b>	crestwood.org.au	
<b>Crestwood Email</b>	crestwood@safe-mail.net	
<b>Community Centre Hire</b>	Marjan van Dijk	darrencolley@iprimus.com.au T: 9459 8776
<b>Social Club Coordinator</b>	Vacant	
<b>Crestwood News</b>	Malcolm Mintz	24 Coronet Ct/crestwoodnews@inet.net.au T: 9459 2902/F: 9459 0119
<b>Twenties Club</b>	Vacant	
<b>Playgroup</b>	Saskia	Mobile: 0409 649 358
<b>Webmaster</b>	Rod Campbell	webmaster@crestwood.org.au
<b>Wildlife Carers</b>	Evelyn or Louise	9459 1627 (Louise) T: 9459 0612 (Evelyn)
<b>Groundsperson</b>	Richard Sangwin	Hours: 9am - 3pm T: 9459 5782/F: 9452 3224
		Email contact: crestwoodpark@bigpond.com Mobile: 0417 713 213
<b>Pool</b>	Office	T: 9459 5782/F: 9452 3224

**COMMUNITY CONTACTS**

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

**Crestwood Committee Meetings**

The committee meetings of the Crestwood Homeowners Association for 2012 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.

**30 January 2012****27 February****26 March****30 April****28 May****25 June****30 July****27 August****24 September****29 October****26 November****17 December****WELCOME TO CRESTWOOD**

Yang Liu 36 Hume Road  
Allan Kane and Nicole Joyner 22 Lachlan Road

**FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES**

Adrian and Roslyn Corker 36 Hume Road  
Paul and Rowena Fanali 22 Lachlan Road

Recent correspondence from the Committee of the Crestwood Homeowners Association.

1. [A residence on Hume Road] Thank you for your application to build an extension to your patio and carport. You have included all the required documentation and the Committee is pleased to approve your application. We all hope your project goes well.

2. [A residence on Cavalier Court] Thank you for your application to remove your old wooden patio and erect a steel frame, pitched roof patio in its place. We have received copies of your plans and City of Gosnells' building licence, The Crestwood Committee is pleased to approve the construction of your new patio. The new larger patio will provide a better outdoor living area. We trust you will enjoy this new addition to your home.

3. [A residence on Princeton Court] Thank you for your application to install a pool in your back yard. You have submitted all the relevant plans and the City of Gosnells' building permit. The Crestwood committee approves your application and hopes you and your family enjoy your new pool.

John Rushton, Committee Member for Aesthetics

## Aesthetics

Our solicitors, HFM Legal, will be closing their office for the festive season on Friday evening, 21 December, and will not be reopening until Monday morning, 7 January 2013.

## Finance

**Important!** If any homeowner is in the process of re-financing or undertaking any other home-related financial transactions during this period, please contact me, Roy Malone, urgently so that there is no hold-up in your plans.

Roy Malone, Treasurer, Crestwood Homeowners Association

The pool has been open for about a month now without any major issues. It was very heartening to see a great number of residents turn out for the busy bee on October 14. It was one of the best attended in years, and we had the sails and lounges out in no time.

## Pool

We are once again employing Belgravia Leisure to maintain and manage the pool. Our attendants this year are Sam, Kwong, Lindsay and Stuart. I hope everyone will make them welcome. These guys have all been trained in life saving and resuscitation techniques. However, they are not here as life guards; all pool users remain responsible for their own safety, and especially that of children under their care or supervision. Their main roles include testing the water, cleaning the pool and monitoring the function of the pool pumps and filters. They also implement our rules and oversee access to the pool itself. They are a friendly bunch. If you have any questions or require assistance please ask, and I'm sure they will help where they can.

Regular users will be aware that the pool opening hours gradually increase as the season progresses. Previously we have had organised swimming outside of those hours, giving residents the opportunity for an early morning swim. This option lapsed several years ago, but Adrian Falconer of Princeton court has put his hand up to try and organise such sessions again. If you are interested in an early morning swim please contact him on 0466744819.

I finally got around to buying three new large flotation mats. The last lot had gradually broken into small bits. With that in mind I have purchased the thickest possible. Coming later in the year will also be new lane ropes. These have to come from the eastern states, and will replace the rope with fishing floats that we currently use.

That's all from me. Best wishes for the coming festive season and happy swimming.

Darren Colley, Committee Member for the Aquatic Centre

Crestwood has found a replacement for Delvin, Michael Maybe, who is the new part-time gardener. He has been with us for just over a month and is keen in aiding in the upkeep of the estate.

## Parks & Reticulation

Hedging of the underpasses is continuing along with the planting of hibiscus to the Estate's entrances. The lawns have been kept manicured and gardens free of weeds. In November, fertilisers were applied to the shrubs to promote flowering and ensure they remain healthy.

The check and upkeep of the reticulation system has been a priority during the past two months. To make sure the parks remain green and lush, many of the gear-drive sprinklers have been replaced. There will still, however, be noticeable brown patches, particularly in the centres of some parks, which is the result of the initial placement of the sprinklers. Particular turf-management practices will be put in place to help combat this problem, although this will only be, at best, a short term measure. Long term budgeting and planning will be required to cure the problem completely.

Richard encourages all residents to report to him directly if you notice problems with your reticulation; for example, it is not performing as it should or it is staying on longer than normal. You can contact him on 0417 713 213.

In the coming months, the gardeners will be repainting the numbers on the valve boxes and on the paths identifying house lots by number. The first application of fertiliser to the park lawns will be carried out along with the second application of a liquid wetting agent. The gardeners will also be going around the estate, lifting the canopy of the park trees where needed and pruning back any shrubs that pose a danger or obstruct pedestrian or vehicle right-of-way. Where these shrubs are the responsibility of an individual homeowner, a note will be made of the address and an invoice presented to the resident (see Notice, page 6).

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

# INCIDENT REPORT

Incidents reported on the Crestwood Estate

eWatch reported a robbery on Regency Drive, the week of 28 September and Grenadier Drive during the week of 5 October.



**October 12 - October 18:** A better week in Thornlie, but still more activity than we would like. There were 9 burglaries this week. During the day on Friday, October 12, a house in McNamara Drive had a window left unlocked allowing thieves to climb in and search through the house. Later that night a family in Summer Place left some bedroom windows open while they were in another room. Thieves reached in and stole computer equipment, but no one was seen or heard. The same night thieves smashed a glass sliding door to a house in Spring Road, but didn't manage to get inside.

During the early morning on Monday, October 15, a house in Lester Drive had an attempt made to force open a window in the rear yard. Fortunately the window was locked with a good quality lock, so the crooks didn't get in.

There were also several burglaries along Yale Road during the day on Wednesday, October 17, as well as at a shop at the Forest Lakes Shopping Centre and the Thornlie Primary School.

Thornlie continues to experience a lot of cars being broken into during the night. Residents are still leaving handbags, wallets, cash and computer equipment in cars. Even if they are in the glove box, it is still an easy target, so please don't leave valuables in your car.

**October 19 - October 25:** Thornlie continues to be a busy area with 8 burglaries this week. During the early morning on Saturday, October 20, a house in Beagle Place was broken into and thieves stole keys and then a car parked out the front. The car was later found in Spearwood. Later that night a house in Tarradee Circuit had a window smashed in an attempt to break in. The residents scared the offenders off but didn't see them at all.

A house in Jacqueline Drive was broken into during the day on Monday, October 20. Investigations have identified a person of interest, who is actively avoiding the police, but it is only a matter of time before he is arrested for this burglary. There were also burglaries in Knightsbridge Way, Murdoch Rd, Charlton Place and Pembury Rd during the daytime, and Charlton Place at night.

Cars continue to be broken into during the night. Around 4 am a car in Spring Rd was broken into, waking the resident who chased off four youths and called police. Police arrested two 14 year old youths nearby and later charged them with possessing stolen property.

**October 26 - November 8:** Four burglaries in Thornlie this week, which is a lot less than in the past few weeks. Canning Vale Police have been patrolling the area in marked and unmarked cars, on quad bikes and even on bicycles, and this has helped keep the crooks at bay.

Two of the burglaries were attempts to get in, foiled by the people at home at the time. The first was in Tarragon Place during the night on Wednesday, October 31, when a thief was seen trying to break in. The second was on Friday night, November 3, just before midnight. A resident in Sage Rd had left the windows wide open, which was too much of a temptation for a passing thief who was about to climb through the window but was scared off by the woman inside the house.

The next day a house in Clancy Way had the lock forced off a back door to gain entry, allowing thieves to search the house, leaving a mess before stealing jewellery. The other burglary in Thornlie was a shop in Martindale Ave, when two youths threw a brick at a window before coming back and kicking in the glass.

**November 9 - November 15:** Thornlie has been hit very hard this week with 15 burglaries. A lot of these occurred overnight from Monday, November 12, to Tuesday, November 13, and were spread across the day and night time. Many are being committed by smashing windows and glass doors, which makes a fairly loud noise. Unfortunately, the increase in burglaries isn't being reflected in an increase of reports of suspicious behaviour in Thornlie. The majority of the offences are in the area bounded by Murdoch Drive, Warton Road, Spencer Road and Ovens Road.

**November 16 - November 22:** Thornlie has been hit very hard this week with 15 burglaries. A lot of these occurred overnight from Monday, November 12, to Tuesday, November 13, and were spread across the day and night time. Many are being committed by smashing windows and glass doors, which makes a fairly loud noise. Unfortunately, the increase in burglaries isn't being reflected in an increase of reports of suspicious behaviour in Thornlie. The majority of the offences are in the area bounded by Murdoch Drive, Warton Road, Spencer Road and Ovens Road.

## POLICE WATCH - Thornlie from eWatch

**September 28- October 4:** Thornlie is continuing to experience more burglaries than normal. There is a common theme of dark skinned males, using scooters or motor bikes, to commit burglaries in the early hours from about 5 am to lunchtime.

Burglaries for this week were in Berehaven Ave, Ilford Place, Bremer Place, Murdoch Rd, Ningaloo Way, Regency Drive and Tawny Way. There was also a burglary at a shop at the Forest Lakes Shopping Centre shortly after midnight on October 2. Three men were seen on CCTV to break into the chemist before stealing a quantity of medication.

Also in Thornlie a female victim was at the Thornlie Square Shopping Centre on Tuesday, October 2, when she was approached by a dark skinned male who indecently assaulted her. The male then tried to steal her handbag and when he wasn't able to, he ran off. Witnesses watched him hide and when police arrived pointed out where he had been. A male person was found a short distance away and was subsequently arrested.

**October 5 - October 11:** Thornlie is still the busiest suburb with 14 burglaries for the week. The burglaries are almost exclusively during the day, starting from early morning through to lunchtime, so it is likely these people are being seen, but not reported.

There were burglaries in McNamara Drive, Ulm Crt, Wilfred Rd, Grenadier Drive, Luke Crt, Caldecott St, Oriole Way, Kenmare Ave, Yale Rd, Matthew Way, Sloan Crt and Berehaven Ave.

Our intelligence suggests there are two groups responsible, each of them committing burglaries in pairs of dark skinned males. One group is aged 18 to 22 years old and is targeting sheds and motorbikes, the other is 16 to 18 year olds and is targeting houses.

There was also a street robbery in Thornlie last week. A lone female was walking home on Crusader Drive during the middle of the night (a recipe to become a victim) when she was approached by a male who grabbed jewellery from the victim and ran off.

## Youth Parties Results of a Police, Parents and Youth Community Forum

From a police perspective, the main messages relating to youth parties are:

1. Don't post them on social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook. Once anything is posted on such sites, you have no control over who gets the message and you may have uninvited people turn up. Instead use written invitations and keep a record of who is invited. If they aren't on the list, they don't get in.
2. Speak to other parents and advise them of the plans: Is alcohol allowed? This is not recommended, but it is your house.
3. Speak to the young adults having the party. Set the ground rules.
4. Have a gatekeeper, a responsible adult who isn't drinking and who will control who comes in and out. It should be a one way gate: If you are in you stay in; if you go out, you stay out. Keep your party out the back, not in the street.
5. Register your party with the police. This can be done by calling 13 14 44 or online at [www.police.was.gov.au](http://www.police.was.gov.au). This lets us know what addresses to add for patrols.
6. Finally, if there is any trouble, report it early before it gets out of hand.



## September 2012

**Committee Business:**

**Parks and Reticulation:** The park lawns have been cored, testing of the reticulation system is ongoing and repairs to walkways in the parks are in progress. All lights are now operating on 'photo' cells.

The watering schedule is to remain the same for houses on the estate as the current system does not allow for time changes except through rewiring. Alterations to the parks' watering schedule are to be made to conserve water. The question of replacing the mainline through Underpass B before redevelopment was raised. This would occur only if replacement was needed.

A quote has been received for a new motor for the current blower, and for a replacement. MultiTurf would charge \$600.00 per mow to blow the paths clean.

Delvin's resignation has been accepted. An advertisement for a new part-time gardener is to be placed in newspapers.

A request was made by one of the visitors about the placement of seating in the parks. This is to be looked into. The same visitor mentioned the poor appearance of some of the back yards on the estate and asked about the responsibility of agents in this regard.

**Pool:** Water is now circulating 24 hours a day. The dosing system is to be serviced, although it is currently working well. A health inspection is expected soon.

The Belgravia coordinator has been made aware of the security cameras. An extra key is required for a new staff member. A request has also been made for attendants to have *attendant* written on their shirts rather than *lifeguard*. The toilets at the Hall are to be cleaned during the summer by the Belgravia attendants.

A request has been made for new lane ropes and pricing is required for new mats.

Use of the Hall has been requested for Girl Guide activities and has been approved. Use of the pool and Hall has also been approved for an activity on 8 December.

**Aesthetics:** Contact is still to be made with owners of the property where a wall is leaning.

A request for an open fence to be moved closer to the footpath has been approved. A complaint was received from a property on Lachlan Road about a neighbour's fence and documentation is still to be received regarding a patio application on Cavalier Court.

**Finance:** One set of overdue fees has been paid this week. The Estate is unlikely to recoup a bad debt of \$957.34 and a follow-up is required for a house on Regency Drive.

**Social:** Christmas carols in the park and sausage sizzle are to be organised by George Putland and his group from Thornlie Church of Christ for 16 December.

## October 2012

**Committee Business:**

**Parks and Reticulation:** Another request has been made by a visitor for a change in time of reticulation, asking that the time be pushed back from 6:30. It was explained that this is not possible under the present system. The committee discussed various possibilities, including pushing back all watering times and watering the parks less.

Many instances of uneven pressure were noted across the reticulation system. Sandra is to draft a note for the gardener to give to residents where they can note reticulation problems at their property.

A tree fell at Underpass A. This was cut up and removed by contractors. Trees were also vandalised. A police report is to be lodged with replacements expected to be funded by an insurance claim. The path leading to the Ovens Road entrance is to be constructed during January.

The new part-time gardener is Mike Mabey.

**Pool:** The busy bee went well with about 25 people attending.

New lane ropes and hook are to be ordered at a cost of \$1700. New mats are also to be purchased at \$370 each.

A request has been made by one of the residents for early morning swimming. He is to be approached with a set of requirements if such a request is to be made feasible: indemnity, a set time, a minimum number of participants and a coordinator always to be present..

**Aesthetics:** Contact has been made with owners of the 'leaning wall' property and approval has been given for erecting a replacement wall.

Garage work at a property on Hume Road is fine, and documentation for the patio at Cavalier Court has now been provided.

**Finance:** Roy is coordinating with Richard in making up the budget for next year.

**Social:** Christmas carols and sausage sizzle is to go ahead as planned.

**General Business:** Star pickets noted at a garden at the Ovens Road entrance need to have plastic caps fitted over the top to make them safer.

The art group which uses the Crestwood Hall is to be asked to think how they might contribute to the improving the appearance of the Hall.



## 2012 – 2013 Crestwood Homeowners Fees

Under **Option B**, the 3<sup>rd</sup> instalment of \$415.00 is payable by **31<sup>st</sup> December 2012**. Tax invoices were forwarded to all homeowners concerned in early November.

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.

## Reticulation Change to Current Watering Schedule

As a result of changes made to the park watering schedule, it is now possible to start the watering of all residences one hour later than shown in the current schedule. This will allow residents who are scheduled at the earliest watering times to enjoy a bit more time outdoors in the early evening before watering starts.

The change was implemented on December 1 when all stations moved to 20 minute watering per station and will remain effective until the end of the watering season. Sunday tests will remain unchanged.

## HFM Legal Closing for the Holidays

If you are undertaking any home-related finance, please contact our treasurer, Roy Malone, immediately to avoid any delays (see Finance, p. 3).

## Vehicle Access to the Parks A Bond Must be Paid

If you, or a hired contractor, need access to your house via the parks, then a bond must be paid. The gardener should be contacted and arrangements made for this to be done.

If access is required by a resident, the bond is now \$500.00 and if access is required by a contractor the bond is \$700.00. This can be paid by either the resident or the contractor. This covers any possible damage to the Crestwood Estate. There are also limits to the weight and size of vehicles allowed to enter the parks. An application form is available on the Crestwood website or from the gardener.

The bond will be refunded once everything has been checked and verified to still be in good condition. Any damage will be deducted from the bond.

## Back of Properties Adjoining Parks You May be Billed for Clean-up

The gardeners will be moving through the Estate to prune back any shrubs and trees that are obstructing the pathways. They will clean up to one metre from the path and will be billing homeowners for the work where it is deemed necessary.

There have been many notices and letters sent out over the years asking homeowners to make sure the area of their property which abuts the pathways and parks is tidy and non-obstructive. Billing homeowners for this clean up is clearly a last resort.

# Christmas at Crestwood



## Santa in the Park Sunday 16 December 2012

5:00 – 5:30 Look out 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 the Springbuds Orphanage in India. Cost: \$3.00 for a sausage, bun, onions and sauce; drinks \$1.00 a can. You can also have a BYO picnic.

**Santa has asked that the value of gifts be kept below \$20.00 per child.** These should be delivered to 11 Regency Drive by 15 December with the name of the child clearly marked.

## Carols in the Park



## 16 December 2012

Sunday 7:00 – 9:00

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

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 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 Saskia on 0409 649 358

## 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.



## Michael Mabey Crestwood's Part-time Gardener

Crestwood's new part-time gardener is Michael Mabey. He is originally from England, but came to WA 23 years ago and now lives in Gosnells. He trained as an electrical technician with particular reference to agriculture. His experience in gardening is mainly informal, working in home gardens and volunteering at the Amaroo Retirement Village.

Michael, who has been with us just a month, was struck by the pleasant surroundings presented by Crestwood when he arrived. Asked what improvements he would like to see, he mentioned clearer and better signage which he feels should be one of Crestwood's priorities. Michael feels it would be also be good if a book were kept where residents could inform the gardeners of problems they feel should be addressed, such as reticulation faults, branches overhanging pathways, etc. so that these can be dealt with in an efficient way.

I'm sure all residents will join me in welcoming Michael to the estate.



*Text by the Editor*

## Christmas Biscuits



### Bourbon Balls

#### Method & Ingredients

1. Sift together into a medium bowl: **180g icing sugar** and **2 tbs unsweetened Dutch-process cocoa**.
2. Whisk together until well blended: **60ml bourbon** and **2 tbs light corn or golden syrup**. Stir into the cocoa mixture.
3. Crush **200g vanilla wafers** in a food

processor or electric mixer. Mix with **100g coarsely chopped pecans**.

4. Stir the pecan mixture into the cocoa mixture. Roll into 2.5cm balls between your palms. Roll in **90g icing sugar**.



5. Store at room temperature between layers of greaseproof paper or parchment paper in an airtight container for up to 3 weeks..

*From: The Joy of Cooking*

## Iced Sugar Biscuits

#### Method & Ingredients

1. Whisk together thoroughly: **455g plain flour**, **1½ tps baking powder** and **½ tps salt**.
2. Beat on medium speed until very fluffy and well blended: **285g unsalted butter**, **softened and 190g sugar**.
3. Add and beat until well combined: **1 egg**, **1tbs milk**, **2½ tps vanilla extract** and **¼ tps finely grated lemon zest** (optional).
4. Gradually stir the flour mixture into the butter mixture until well blended and smooth.
5. Divide the dough in half. Place each half between 2 large sheets of greaseproof or parchment paper. Roll out to a 3mm thickness, checking the underside of the dough and



smoothing any creases.

6. Keeping the paper in place, layer the rolled dough on a baking sheet and refrigerate until cold and slightly firm, about 30 minutes.
7. Position a rack in the centre of the oven. Preheat the oven to 190°C.
8. Working with one portion at a time (leaving the other in the refrigerator), cut out the biscuits using 5-8cm cutters. With a spatula, transfer them to the baking sheets, spacing about 4cm apart. If not planning to ice the biscuits, decorate with sugar or sprinkles.
9. Bake 1 sheet at a time, just until the biscuits are lightly coloured on top and slightly darker at the edges, 6-9 minutes. Rotate the sheet half way for even browning.
10. Remove the sheet to a rack and let stand until the biscuits firm slightly. Transfer the biscuits to a rack to cool. These biscuits take well to decorative icing.

*From: The Joy of Cooking*





It wasn't so much a question of splashing out as pooling our resources as 25 people arrived on time to set up the swimming pool for the coming season.

The lounges came out again from their place of winter hibernation, replete with various species of spiders and numerous intriguing though unidentifiable examples of dust and refuse dangling from active and rejected spider webs. Those who brought gloves cheerfully ignored the potential dangers a bite might bring, while those who handled the lounges with bare hands were far more circumspect. But once the lounges were out, willing crews made short shrift of any winter dirt, sweeping away the webs and washing off accumulated grime.

The one idealist in the group, deciding it was time to cause a few ripples, (cannily refraining from making waves), not only remembered where the lounges were located the previous year, but was quite persuasive in convincing us that they would look far better when matched and grouped by their various styles. As we were an accommodating group what followed was a subdued comedy of lounges shifting from one side of the pool the other, all taking place beneath the rising shade sails.

The shade sails, too, having been pulled from storage and dragged or carried around the pool, were deposited at the poles possessing a matching number. There was a planned and quasi scientific approach to the placement of the sails this year with those involved presented with a map embossed with a number showing the location of each. It was then only a question of waiting for a free ladder to secure the sails in place. In an hour it was over.

Thank you to all who helped. The large turn-out reduced the time and lightened the load. The next call for volunteers will be April when it comes time to reverse the process and put everything away again.

*Text by the Editor*

**N**uytsia floribunda, more commonly known as the Western Australia Christmas tree, is a ten meter

## Western Australia Christmas Tree

It has many unique characteristics such as its parasitic roots and seasonal, fluorescent yellow-orange flowers. These characteristics evolved specifically to enhance the survival and reproduction rate of the tree. The parasitic roots capture more water and minerals for the tree, and its colourful flowers increase the chance of pollination by insects.

The Latin name *Nuytsia* comes from Pieter Nuyts. Nuyts was a member of the Council of Dutch Indies and a 17th century explorer in Southwestern Australia. The word *floribunda* comes from the Latin word *floribundus* meaning profusely flowering.

*Nuytsia floribunda* is the largest of the Australian mistletoes, and the largest mistletoe in the world. The mistletoes have a very interesting tradition around Christmas time. According to the Scandinavian custom any male and female who meet under a hanging mistletoe are obligated to kiss. Mistletoe was the plant of peace in ancient Scandinavian times, and at any time if enemies met by chance beneath it in a forest, they stopped the battle and maintained a truce until the next day. This eventually led to tradition of kissing below hung mistletoe to signify peace at Christmas.

*Adapted from: [http://bioweb.uwlax.edu/bio203/s2009/mortense\\_jord/index.htm](http://bioweb.uwlax.edu/bio203/s2009/mortense_jord/index.htm)*





## Children and Religion

1. A little boy was overheard praying, "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."
2. After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times why he was crying. Finally, the boy said, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."
3. A Sunday school teacher asked her class why it was necessary to be quiet during a church service. One little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."
4. A mother was preparing pancakes for her two children, Kevin 5 and Ryan 3, when the boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. The mother saw the opportunity to introduce a good moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, he would say, 'Let my bother have the first pancake. I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you play Jesus."
5. A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six year old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you heard mommy say." The little girl bowed her head and began, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner."

## Children Writing About the Ocean

1. This is a picture of an octopus. It has eight testicles [Kelly, age 6].
2. If you are surrounded by ocean, you are an island. If you don't have ocean all around you, your are incontinent [Mike, age 7].
3. When ships had sails, they used the trade winds to cross the ocean. Sometimes when the wind didn't blow the sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they would have been better off eating beans [William, age 7].
4. Some fish are dangerous. Jellyfish can sting. Electric eels can give you a shock. They live in caves under the sea where I think they have to plug themselves into chargers [Christopher, age 7].

## Military Humour

1. Officer: Soldier, do you have change for a dollar?  
Soldier: Sure, buddy.  
Officer: That's no way to address an officer! Now let's try it again. Do you have change for a dollar?  
Soldier: No Sir.
2. Having just moved into his new office, a pompous new colonel was sitting at his desk when an airman knocked on the door. Conscious of his new position, the colonel quickly picked up the phone, told the airman to enter, then said into the phone, "Yes, general, I'll be seeing him this afternoon and I'll pass along your message. In the meantime, thank you for your good wishes, sir."  
Feeling as though he had sufficiently impressed the young enlisted man, he asked, "What do you want?"  
"Nothing important, the airman replied. "I'm just here to hook up your phone."
3. On some bases, the Air Force uses one side of the airfield and civilian aircraft the other with the control tower in the middle. One day the control tower received a call from an aircraft asking, "What time is it?"  
The tower responded, "Who is calling?" The aircraft replied, "What difference does it make?" The tower replied, "If it's a commercial flight, it is 3 o'clock, If it is an Air Force plane, it is 1500 hours. If it's navy aircraft it is 6 bells. If it is an army aircraft, the big hand is on the 12 and the little hand is on the three. And if it is a marine corps aircraft it is Thursday afternoon and 120 minutes to Happy Hour."

# Humour

## More Blonde Jokes

1. During a recent password audit by Google, it was found that a blonde was using the following password: *Mickey Minnie Pluto Huey Dewey Louie Donald Goofy Melbourne*. When asked why she had such a long password, she rolled her eyes and said, "Hello! It has to be at least eight characters long and include one capital."
2. A blonde, lady motorist was about two hours from the Gold Coast when she was flagged down by a man whose truck had broken down. The man walked up to the car and asked, "Are you going to the Gold Coast?"  
"Sure," answered the blonde. "Do you need a lift?" The man replied, "Not for me. I'll be spending the next three hours fixing my truck. My problem is I have two chimpanzees in the back which have to be taken to the Gold Coast Zoo. They are a bit stressed already, so I don't want to keep them on the road all day. Could you take them to the zoo for me? I'll give you \$100.00 for your trouble."  
"I'll be happy to," said the blonde. So the two chimpanzees were ushered into the back seat of the blonde's car and carefully strapped into their seatbelts. And off they went.  
Five hours later the truck driver was driving through the heart of the Gold Coast when he suddenly saw something that horrified him. There was the blonde walking down the street, holding hands with the two chimps, much to the amusement of the passersby.  
With a screech of his brakes, the truck driver stopped and ran over to the blonde. "What are you doing here?" he demanded. "I gave you \$100.00 to take the chimps to the zoo."  
"Yes, I know you did," the blonde replied, "but we had money left over and so we are now going to Sea World."

## Water! Water!

- A fleeing Taliban, desperate for water, was plodding though the Afghan desert when he saw something far off in the distance. Hoping to find water, he hurried toward the oasis only to find a British soldier selling regimental ties.
- The Taliban asked, "Do you have water?" The soldier replied, "There is no water. The well is dry. Would you like to buy a tie instead? Just £10.00" The Taliban shouted, "You idiot infidel! I do not need an over-priced tie. I need water. I should kill you, but I must find water first!"
- "OK," said the soldier. "It doesn't matter that you do not want to buy a tie and that you hate me. I will show you that I am bigger than that and that I am a much better human being than you." If you continue over that hill to the east for about two miles, you will find our Sergeants mess. It has all the ice cold water you need."
- The Taliban staggers over the hill. Several hours later he staggers back, collapses with dehydration and rasps, "They won't let me in without a tie!"

## Children and Grandparents

1. When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." He then told me, "Look in your underwear. Mine says I'm 4 to 6."
2. A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What is it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she answered. "I can't read."
3. A second grader came home from school one day and said to her grandmother, "Guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, a little surprised, said, "That's interesting. How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "Just change y to i and add es."

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'Twas the night before  
 Christmas and  
 Santa's a wreck...

How to live in a world that's politically correct?

His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",  
 "Vertically challenged" they were calling themselves.

And labour conditions at the North Pole  
 Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul.  
 Four reindeer had vanished, gone in a day  
 Released to the wilds by the RSPCA.

And equal employment had made it quite clear

That Santa had better not use just reindeer.  
 So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,  
 Were replaced with four emus, and you know  
 that looked stupid!

The runners had been removed from his sleigh;  
 The ruts were termed dangerous by the E.P.A.  
 And people had started to call for the cops  
 When they heard sled noises on their roof-

# A Politically Correct Christmas

Smoke from his pipe had his workers quite frightened.  
 His fur trimmed red suit was called "unenlightened."  
 And to show you the strangeness of life's ebbs and flows,  
 Rudolf was suing over unauthorised use of his nose

No gifts of leather, nothing of fur,  
 Nothing once living that might cause a stir.  
 Nothing that might be construed to pollute.  
 Nothing to aim. Nothing to shoot.

Nothing that clamoured or made lots of noise.  
 Nothing for just girls. Or just for the boys.  
 Nothing that claimed to be gender specific.  
 Nothing that's warlike or non-pacific.

Dolls were said to be sexist, and should be thrown away;  
 And Nintendo was bad because it took up the day.

He just could not figure out next.

He tried to be merry, tried to be gay,  
 But you've got to be careful with that word today.

His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground;  
 It seemed nothing acceptable would ever be found.

Something special was needed, a gift that he might  
 Give to all without angering the left or the right.

A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision,  
 Each group of people, every religion;

Every ethnicity, every hue,  
 Everyone, every-where...even you.

So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...

"May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on earth."





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### Eye Test

Count every "F" in the following text:

*Finished files are the result of years of scientific study combined with the experience of years. ....  
(see below)*

How many "f" are there?

Count them again.

Wrong, there are 6!. Really, there are. Read the passage again. Try to find the 6 'f's before you turn the page upside down to find the correct answer.



For some reason the brain does not process "of" in this context.  
Finished files are the result of years of scientific study combined with the experience of years. ....

Finding 3 'f's is normal; 4 is quite rare. If you got 6, you're a genius.

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½ page: 1 issue \$ 40; 3 issues \$ 100  
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