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FREE

Issue 2, July 2014

Manji Cafe Bytes

Manji 1979

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See Our Friendly Staff

Timber Arch

On July 4th it will be a year since the southern arch tumbled down and we still miss it. We have an unofficial report from Manjimup Shire regarding its replacement.

It has not been forgotten, and it will happen. But for now it is a matter of wading through Main Roads safety requirements. We all realize that things have changed since our local community worked together to put the arch in place in 1982, things are not so straight forward as the get out and get it done, back in those days. So we need to be patient.

The photo we have of Graeme Gandy on top of the arch, striking in the last peg, is a perfect example of how work safety regulations have changed! Graeme's grandfather, Jack Trevor, had helped with installing the northern arch in 1958, and Graeme was carrying on a family craftsmen tradition.



HOLIDAY CHALLENGE

What is it ?
Where is it ?



Manjimup Photography Club member, Peter Bowdidge has combined with the Coffee Chat Newsletter team, *Manji Café Bytes*, to bring a small challenge to school children as an activity during the holidays. Perhaps our young people with all that energy they have to burn, might like to go hunting in the Timber Park to see where this photo was taken, it is a small section of something that can be found in the park.

Sorry to say, there is not a prize, it's just for fun and to test observation skills. So how about it? Take a trip to the Park, spend some time in the adventure playground, and then go for a walk to find where Peter took his photo.

The solution to this photo challenge will be published in the next *Manji Café Bytes*. So, here's a chance to play detective.

This Month's Chat Subject ?

If you run out of conversation while sipping your coffee, here's something to think about to share:

If a time machine came to town, what era would you choose to return to?

The Noongar word for this month is

KAYA meaning **HELLO** and **YES**

Thanks once again to
Heather Ryan

Welcome to edition two of *Manji Café Bytes*. We are excited about the positive feed back we've received. Remember, we are simply a group of volunteers trying to produce a light hearted publication, which we hope will bind our community together a little more. Let's share the good things around us. That would have to benefit all of us, wouldn't it?

So if you have something you would like to pass along, or any comments, our email address is manjicafeytes@gmail.com. Thanks to The Community Resource Centre for agreeing to fund printing of 100 a month for twelve months, but this means we will later be looking for sponsors, or advertisers, so if you enjoy our chat stories please keep that in mind.

Also, this and subsequent editions of the newsletter will be available on line, at www.manjimup.crc.net.au

Winter Vegies

All that welcome winter rain bringing much needed relief for our gardens and water supply is creating something wonderful in the paddocks around Manjimup



Jewel bright purples and reds, pristine white and all the different shades of green were vividly displayed in Rob Walker's **Veg out on the Verandah** when I visited on Saturday morning

Ray, one of Rob's helpers, told me that Gary from Manji Central Deli and Rob had thought that the verandah was an ideal spot for fruit and vegetable sales and would help to fill the void left by the closure of Alf's Continental Store.

And judging by the early Saturday morning customers there is definitely a need for such a venture, in fact there has been such a positive feedback that Rob and the friendly staff will be available **Saturdays and Sundays from 8.00 am to 3.00pm.**

I learnt that all the leafy vegetables are grown out on the farm vegetable patch and apples and pears picked from the orchard. Produce not available on the farm is sourced locally where possible. The 3 for \$5 special is proving a success with customers - I chose Spring Onions, Savoy Cabbage and some wonderful Purple Kale, all fresh and just bursting with goodness.

I was delighted to discover Ladyfinger eggplant (also known as Lebanese or Japanese eggplant) nestling amongst the other goodies on display. Eggplant is such a versatile vegetable, it has a distinctive flavour and yet has the ability to take on the flavours of meat, chicken, herbs and spices with ease. It is delicious stuffed, baked or fried.

So ignore the winter weather, get those coats, scarves and gloves on and visit **Veg out on the Verandah**, and if you buy the eggplant try this cheesy and delicious recipe!

Liz's Kitchen Rules

Tomato Eggplant Bake

1 medium eggplant (about 450 gram or equivalent weight in Ladyfinger eggplant) cut into cubes, toss into a pan with a little olive oil and cook until just tender. Layer eggplant with 2 large diced tomatoes and 1 large diced onion in a baking dish, drizzle with 4 tablespoons melted butter and sprinkle ½ teaspoon dried basil over the top, cover with tinfoil and bake in a 200deg C oven for about 25 – 30 minutes. Toss ½ cup dry bread crumbs with about 2 tablespoons melted butter, arrange 4 slices mozzarella cheese on top of the vegetables, sprinkle with crumb mixture and about ½ cup of grated parmesan cheese. Return to oven and bake uncovered until cheese is bubbly and golden (about 10 minutes).



Manjimup

Community Resource Centre



You will probably be aware that the Shire of Manjimup has a staff member who is working hard with other organisations towards educating our community on how to handle alcohol sensibly. Many of us will have witnessed what excessive alcohol can cause, and if we haven't the media are always keen to show us on our screens.

Our local campaigner with the Shire is
Assunta Di Francesco
Project Officer
Alcohol Management Project

As part of the project a series of graphics has been developed, which you may see out in the community, showing the Drink Safe for Adults and Under 18. No Alcohol The Safest Choice messages.



Don't Feed the Fear

Have you seen any of these signs alongside some of our bush roads? They have been there for many years and we locals are quite used to them.

We know they are related to the curse of the jarrah forests, Dieback Disease.

Don't Feed the Fear

There are other signs out there too that warn of poison risk, i.e. 1080 fox baits, aimed at culling the vermin foxes. Those signs are a little more explanatory.

We are wondering, tongue in cheek, do those disease warning signs strike fear into the hearts of visitors to our regions? What might they think when they see a sign like this, with a strong warning of what can happen to them if they stay around. Disease? What disease? What ghastly unknown malady might we catch from amongst these beautiful forests?

A Step in Time

Manjimup has an interesting history, well probably all country towns have varying pasts, but perhaps our town has seen more ups and downs than many others. One very colourful, but little documented local industry was the rise and fall of tobacco growing, between 1928 and 1961. Those interested in preserving history feel it's a shame this isn't being recorded, while some who lived through it are still here to share their stories. Hopefully this will happen and perhaps someone reading this might like to step forward? Most of the growers were European migrants, the majority being Macedonian, who worked extremely hard and reaped the reward of their labours, but then had their dreams dashed when the market failed, tobacco from other areas was in demand and our locals had to just "get over it" and move on to other sources of income. Well, that's how it was reported back then, but maybe there's another side to that story which should really be told. These were tough days for both the growers and the community also. Local businesses really felt the pinch when the cashed up growers lost their income.

The question being asked in relation to this article is : how many of you have noticed a pattern in the paving on the corner of Peace Park, opposite the Court House ? If you have seen it, do you know what it is? The MCB team has done a little investigating, and Nick Markovski has come forward with its story. It represents the Republic of Macedonia flag.



The design was set into the footpath around 1995 while Nick was President of the local Macedonian Community by local paver of that time, Tony Ducker. At the same time as the paving being installed, there was also an attempt to relocate a tobacco drying kiln into the Timber and Heritage Park, to take its place in local history.

Apparently the installation of the kiln met many obstacles, and didn't happen. The Manjimup Historical Society installed a commemorative plaque to the Tobacco Industry at the Timber Park in 1995. The Macedonian flag, which is red and yellow, was changed in 1991 and what we have in our pavement depicts the current flag. So if you are on foot around that area, perhaps you might check it out and spare a thought for those hard working migrants who contributed so much to what our town is today.

Thanks to Nick Markovski for the photos showing :
On the left, left to right : an as yet unidentified lady on the left holding a model of the tobacco kiln, with Nick Vellios, Nick Markovski and John Engelev
On the right , left to right : Nick Vellios, Macedonian Ambassador to Australia Victor Gabor, Wade de Campo, Tom Markovski, Nick Markovski.
children : Ashby Fardella and Liam Markovski

Winter

Just in case you haven't noticed, winter is back, and if it's up the usual South West pattern, we can expect it will be around for a while. Remember last year? It must have been November before the rain and cold eased. There's no more sunset viewing from the deck, and the chill will continue beyond the heralding of Spring on September 1.

For those of us left behind after the stampede to the sun leaves town there are lots of good things about Winter in Manjimup, but perhaps we just need a reminder or two.
Perhaps the biggest plus of winter weather is the absence of bushfire risk. Then there's footy; local and national – now that's a Winter joy isn't it? And those healthy hot meals that "warm the cockles of your heart" as your granny used to say. Our slow cookers will fill our homes with delicious promises. We have no mosquitoes, march flies, and other flying insect pests to annoy us, and the rain gods will see to the watering of our gardens for us and our Winter veggie crops almost take care of themselves.

So drag out your beloved ugg boots and bright cheerful scarves, and don your beanie. There's nothing like a change of wardrobe. Spare a thought for our Aussies up north who wear the same type of clothing all year, which has to be a little boring, doesn't it? Perhaps you could ask some friends over for a board game, or a game of cards, and relive your childhood memories.

So hunker down and enjoy the positives of these next few months. Happy Winter everyone.

Winter Party Time

Town is pretty quiet in July, so we need to make our own fun. Drag out your sparkles and tinsel and have yourself a merry little Christmas in July while we can have our warm cosy fire, roast turkey with all the extras, plum pudding with custard or brandy sauce, mulled wine, sleigh rides in the snow. Ah well, perhaps not the sleigh rides.

All you need is a few elves, a Santa suit and a theme for some fun Christmas gifts. How about Chris Kringle swaps in footy team colours. Check out the reaction of a one-eyed Docker who scores an Eagles scarf. It could fast turn into a swap theme. Or worse !