

THE ESPERANCE

EXPRESS



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ESPERANCE'S LOCAL PAPER TURNS 40



Express celebrates 40th anniversary

WELCOME to the Esperance Express 40th anniversary liftout.

A local newspaper is somewhat akin to an old friend: he or she comes around regularly, tells you what is going on around town, and you can rely on them being there and standing up for you when you need them.

For 40 years the Esperance Express has been an old friend to a great many in Esperance.

It has chronicled the history of the town both in words and pictures for the past four decades – the good times and the bad times, the triumphs and the trag-

For 40 years the Esperance Express has been an old friend to a great many in Esperance.

edies. Indeed, it's reasonable to suggest that everything of importance or of interest to local people has appeared in the pages of the Esperance Express over the past 40 years.

Some of the more memorable stories include Skylab crashing to earth around Esperance in 1979, the sinking of the

Sanko Harvest in 1991, the lead event of 2006 and the floods and wind damage of the 'perfect storm' in 2007.

As the media business and platforms for delivering news rapidly change, the Esperance Express is at the forefront of those changes. From being simply a twice-weekly newspaper only a few years

ago the Express now has its own dynamic website, Facebook and Twitter pages, and the complete paper is available to subscribers on line.

But no matter what the future holds for newspapers and news delivery, readers can be assured that the Esperance Express will continue to be their old friend, delivering all the local news and advocating and advancing the needs and interests of the local community.

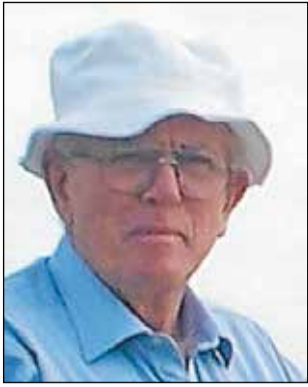
Paul Goldie
Managing Editor
Esperance Express

Florissons HOME FURNISHERS



Celebrating 40 years with the Esperance Express

An investment in Esperance



Bob Stead - Owner of the Esperance Express 1980-1993

WHEN Dalyup farmer and businessman Bob Stead purchased the Esperance Express and associated publications in

June 1980, many may have questioned his sanity and business acumen.

The paper was dedicated to giving the community a voice, with owners John Clarke (manager) and Bob Dunwoodie (editor) committed to 100 per cent local news, but financial problems meant that as an investment it could have been viewed as a risky proposal.

"I happened to have some finance available and a desire to invest in a business which employed people," Mr Stead said.

With 25 employees the paper fitted the bill, and he was convinced that it could

run at a profit. Eighteen months after purchase, the situation was different: the paper had broken even and its future appeared bright.

Mr Stead said that some hard business decisions were made in order to keep it afloat.

"The first thing we did was sell the Merredin paper to John Venturis, who already owned 50 per cent; on the condition that he bought the lot and that we printed it," he said.

The Bunbury paper was also divested and, despite attempts to keep it afloat, the Kalgoorlie paper was also sold.

"We were able to turn

the Express around with changes to the management structure and tight financial control, under the guidance of accountant Peter Wardle."

Focus on local content was the aim of the dedicated Bob Dunwoodie, who not only retained his position at the editor's desk but assumed the mantle of managing editor. The combination of a strong readership and advertising sales was crucial to the paper's financial renewal.

"The key was advertising sales," Mr Stead said.

This was not such a hard feat at the time.

"The place was boom-

ing: Kambalda Nickel was on line, the Boulevard Shopping Centre was being built and Radio 747 was in its infancy."

During the 13 years that the Stead family owned the Express, they saw technological changes which included the transition from golf ball typewriters, telex machines and an IBM typesetter to faxes, Apple Mac computers and A3 laser printers and emails. It also saw the growth of the associated retail business which was an agency for equipment including Brother, Sharp and Toshiba - but it was the people behind the paper

that made the business a success.

"We had terrific staff, and were always proud of the Express as a training ground."

Journalists, printers and computer-compositors were among the staff trained who excelled in their chosen fields.

The decision to sell the Esperance Express to Rural Press Limited in 1993 was made as a result of continued interest from West Australian Newspapers, and an eventual 'bidding war' between that company and Rural Press - a war which was won by the latter.

Local paper keeps the community informed

ESPERANCE has had a very colourful history over the past 40 years that the Esperance Express has been operating. The late 1970s and early 1980s especially were a growth period for the town and there were many interesting stories around. I recall various personalities that have been involved with the paper and would be interested to know where they are now. John Clarke, who I believe started the paper, was a clever and experienced journalist. He was an amiable man and was extremely hard working.

Later local farmer Bob Stead owned the paper. At this point it really served the community with lots of human interest stories covering the activities of every group in the community and also featuring some gripping sports coverage.

This was really the newspaper's golden era as it was the primary source of news for the community before local radio started broadcasting and other forms of media were available. Stories that are particularly memorable for me include the coverage of HRH Prince Charles' visit in 1979, the Skylab incident, also in 1979, and the visits by the first cruise ships and some navy vessels to Esperance.

The Esperance Express' coverage of the dreadful Condingup and Esperance bush fires in December 1998 kept the community informed. I also remember the controversy that surround-

ed the installation of the first iron ore sheds and how the paper succeeded in keeping the community informed with balanced reporting that consulted all the parties involved. It will be interesting to see what the future holds for the Esperance Express. There are more forms of news and media available today than ever before and with increasing numbers of people turning to digital news sources print media has to remain competitive.

With its current SuperTown status Esperance is at an exciting point in its history. The Waterfront development and Port Access Corridor are large infrastructure projects that, along with the upcoming Town Revitalisation, will enhance Esperance and at the same time provide many stories for the current team of Esperance Express journalists.



Malcolm Heasman - Shire of Esperance President

A message from home

IN 1973, I was in my fourth year of studying medicine in Perth. As I was a country boy, I was boarding at St George's College. Life was challenging as I faced the big city and juggled the pressures of study.

A constant comfort and reassurance from home on the farm was two types of communication - the first were cassette tapes that went back and forth, allowing me to hear my mum and dad's voices. The

second was a copy of my hometown newspaper. Early on it was known, and I remember it as, *The Esperance Advertiser*, (there was also an *Albany Advertiser*). The editions helped my homesickness and kept me in touch with home.

Since I have come back home as a doctor, I have spent much time reading the *Esperance Express'* articles and enjoying the photos, particularly of my kids when they partici-

pated in sport. It was always a great source of encouragement and a confidence booster to them.

A local paper with local content is important for the social fabric and cohesion of our community.

I congratulate the *Esperance Express* for its contributions to our colourful pioneering history, and look forward to the future contributions continuing our growth as a vibrant place to live, work and play.

Happy 40th anniversary *Esperance Express*.



Graham Jacobs - Member for Eyre

A part of the community

AS a teenager growing up in Esperance in the 1950s, to read a regular newspaper meant waiting two or three days for that day's publication to arrive in Esperance via Perth. Our then population of just over a thousand residents obviously did not justify a paper of our own in those dim distant days.

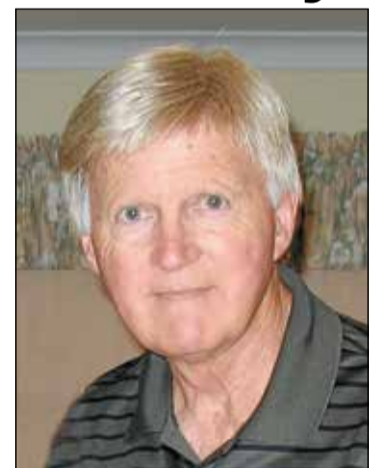
Modern transport has ensured the latest national and international news now hits the streets on the same day of print. Those papers obviously don't contain the local news and information that residents have always craved for above all else.

For me personally, the Esperance Express has always been a must-read every single

publication. As the town and district has grown so rapidly over the last 40 years, much of the real community interest happens constantly.

I delight in reading the front page headlines, the 'My Story' section, 'Thumbs Up/Down', entertainment in town, sporting achievements, shire council notes and The Classifieds, the births, the deaths, the engagements, what's for sale or even what's being given away.

Reading the latest Esperance Express is something I will always enjoy doing as it engenders the spirit of being part of such a vibrant community. I congratulate the Express and its wonderful local staff for the



Neville Mulgat, Esperance resident of 60 years and a Freeman of the Shire.

very high standards they have long exhibited.

PINK LAKE IGA

Happy birthday to the Esperance Express

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Congratulations and Happy 40th Birthday Esperance Express

Be as happy as the bird in the tree at **Jode Nursery**

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Towns First Locally Produced Paper

Esperance has two newspapers, with the publication today, of this, the first issue of The Esperance Express.

The newspaper, which will be circulated throughout the town and districts, is of unique production.

The Express is the first provincial newspaper to be printed off-set in W.A.

"If the backing is forthcoming, it is envisaged that this new industry to Esperance will, in the near future, employ a relatively low cost.

This sophisticated equipment allows great versatility of type and display material at will, in the near future, employ a relatively low cost.

Works Manager is Mr. Julian Clarke, 33, previously of Albany, while editor is Mr. Bob Dentwoodie, 32, of Esperance.

Both have more than 17 years experience each in the printing industry.

Mr. Clarke is pictured at right, inspecting the first print made in Esperance.

MORE STAFF

Other members of the staff are Miss Judy Terrell and Mrs. Judy Denton who will both operate the intricate IBM computer.

Outlining the production of the Express, Mr. Clarke said all typographical material required in volume is produced on an IBM computer with interchangeable type heads.

The Solna off-set press, is capable of producing work of a very high standard at 6,000 impressions hourly (two pages at a time).

Their efforts to learn the IBM operation within a short time has been much appreciated said Mr. Clarke.

The IBM is similar to an electric typewriter. Pages are made up by just up methods in page form and are then reproduced by means of photography to obtain a page size negative from which a printing plate is made.

Mr. Clarke said the machine can be used for color work. Of Swedish make, and being off-set, the machine works through a chemical reaction between the ink and a slightly acidic water based solution.

Staff increase will depend entirely on backing received and acceptance by the residents.

The machine was brought to Esperance by rail from Perth after being road transported from Melbourne to Perth.

Mr. Clarke, his wife, Margaret and three young daughters will reside permanently in Esperance.



GREEN LIGHT FOR FESTIVAL

A three day festival will be held at Esperance in the August school holidays.

Through the efforts of the Esperance Chamber of Commerce, a six-man committee has been formed to organise the festival.

In January, 1972, Esperance Jaycees organised a small-scale festival, which after considerable negotiation with other organisations was successful, though not financially.

Final plans are being discussed for a program and various organisations and service clubs are expected to be asked to help.

The chamber decided to change the time of holding the festival to August because of members being too busy to organise a January festival.

The festival will be held on August 31, September 1 and 2 at various venues around the town.

However, the committee were able to hand-over a small credit to the Chamber of Commerce when that body decided to run the festival.

The committee are expected to meet tomorrow to discuss the program preparation.

Committee members will also discuss the possibilities of asking the gun club, rifle club, pistol club staging a mammoth shoot-out.

At present, it has been suggested that the following events be held:

Percy the Penguin will be invited to visit the town for the weekend as a feature for the festival.

- Beer festival
- Motorcycle races around the town
- Soapbox derby
- Miss Festival Queen
- Pony club gymkhana
- Spanish dancing horse

A treasure hunt will be held for children during the car trial, with prizes and lucky spots.

The Chamber of Commerce decided late last year to delay plans for a festival because most members were too busy with Christmas and the school holidays.

This has been based on reliable technical information.

As a result of previous deputations an extra 50 ft in height will be added to the proposed TV mast, which will now be about 250 ft high.

Improved aerial pattern has also been approved which will help increase the viewing coverage.

T.V. Action

Two members of the Esperance TV Action Committee will fly to Kalgoorlie at the weekend to discuss new technical information recently received, with Kalgoorlie Federal Member, Fred Collard.

The information received from an undisclosed source, has given the committee new hope in its effort to provide the district with a full television coverage.

Mr. Hepburn said on Wednesday the committee believed that TV for the districts could be provided for considerably less expense than at first thought.

This has been based on reliable technical information.

As a result of previous deputations an extra 50 ft in height will be added to the proposed TV mast, which will now be about 250 ft high.

Improved aerial pattern has also been approved which will help increase the viewing coverage.



It's our pleasure to introduce Rosemary Grundy, 20, of Esperance, the first of a regular series of photographs featuring Esperance girls. Rosemary willingly offered to help us get the series on the way. She will soon be leaving for New Zealand with local girl Wendy Langer on a work-holiday.

Forecast

MOD. S.E. WINDS
LITTLE CHANGE
WEEKEND TEMP.
24-28C.

Inside Today

- BIKIES, P2.
- ANCHORS FOUND, P3
- SAGA REVIEW, P5.
- POOL WARNING, P12.
- CLASSIFIED, P6.
- SPORT PICTORIAL, P13.
- FISHING FEATURE, P14.
- RACING DETAILS, P15.
- BASKETBALL, P16.

Barry Hepburn's Menswear Centre

Wishes Success to the Express from the Country Store with City Prices

Esperance is home

THE first cover girl for the 1973 Esperance Express Rosemary Weckert (nee Grundy) says she has seen many changes to Esperance over time.

She said when she was a teenager she and her friends made their own fun.

"We'd always be at the beach like Saturday afternoon or straight after work we would be out at Twilight or Wylie Bay. You'd go camping. We did not have people hanging around the streets," she said.

Ms Weckert said she also use to visit the driveways frequently with her friends.

Ms Weckert moved away from Esperance for a while but has been living in Esperance for the last 30 years.

I lived in Perth for six years and I could not go back to that life," she said.

She has three daughters and three granddaughters.

She said the pace of Esperance has not changed. "It has got busier but you know it still takes you five minutes to get anywhere," she said.

Ms Weckert said Esperance is a town perfect for raising a family. She said individuals who come to Esperance have to embrace the town.

"It's a cruisy lifestyle down here and it is what you make it," she said.

She said she believes the town could be improved in a few ways such as making it more appealing to tourists by having shops carry on trading after 12pm. She said there should be more activities for children.



ROSEMARY WECKERT (NEE GRUNDY)

Happy Birthday Esperance Express!

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JAYCEES WANT ENTERTAINMENT

The possibility of organising entertainment each weekend from New Years Eve to the end of the school holidays has been suggested by the Esperance Jaycees.

The idea is to replace last year's Festival Week where many of the functions clashed. Other service clubs have been asked to discuss the proposal.

"The idea is to spread the events over a period to make sure that there is something on every week-end, not for the benefit of the community but also to entertain the visitors," said Jaycees president Mr Rod Eime.

"Each of the service clubs can nominate a weekend for their entertainment and this will ensure that dates don't clash and that each function

receives maximum support." The Jaycees hope to hold a beer festival possibly early in February with a wide display of international beers and foods.

They also hope to get entertainment from Perth and some admission fee, probably in the region of 60c would be charged to cover this expense.

JOINT COMMITTEE
It is hoped that after the other service clubs hold their next meeting that a joint committee can be formed to work out some definite proposals, with the possibility of a program being ready in mid-December.

"As far as last year's festival was concerned it was a huge success for the public, but some of the organisers had

mixed feelings," said Mr Eime.

GOOD FOR TOWN
"A new set up along the lines described can do as much good for the town as the festival and once initial organisation problems are ironed out it must be a great success," he said.

"There has always been a lot of co-operation between the clubs but this year I think there has been a more conscious effort to work together."

Mr Eime said that the organisation of entertainments need not be restricted to service clubs alone, "I feel it would be a good opportunity for other organisations such as football clubs to raise money and once a preliminary program is worked out they should submit proposals for free week-ends."

STEAKHOUSE NEEDED TO PROMOTE BEEF

Esperance is missing a great opportunity to advertise the district's great meat potential by not having a steak house, according to the deputy director of the Department of Tourism, Mr Fred Logue.

Mr Fred Logue.

"The steak house would have unlimited natural advertising around it—with some magnificent looking beef on the hoof throughout the area, particularly along the main roads leading to the town," he said.

With colorful pamphlets distributed throughout the State and other states, Esperance

would quickly become known for its beef and possibly meat products.

Mr Logue felt that someone was missing a great business opportunity by not establishing such a unique facility in Esperance.

While on holidays in the area last week for several days, he had taken the time to im-

vestigate the tourist situation.

"Having spoken to a top sales promotion officer recently, I now understand what he meant when referring to our country areas failing to promote their own areas by using a natural resource," he said.

"The officer mentioned Carnarvon, Geraldton with its crayfish, Busselton with its mutton, and so it goes—most areas have some local identification—and Esperance has its beef."

Impressed
What impressed him most was the farm lands and the condition of the stock along the belt—east and west of Esperance—all close to the seaside.

While in the area he spoke to many visitors, many of them from the other states and from E WA who were on a round trip.

He said Esperance should develop itself as the main gateway to the south-west of WA—a welcoming place for the tourist, where they could stay in comfort after a long journey across the Nullabor, or before having to return across the long stretch of road.

Norseman was already acting as a welcome place for the visitors, but they lack the facilities to make them feel completely relaxed.

Mr Logue said in this modern age everyone had a motor vehicle and most people wanted to travel. He said the word of mouth passed on from one visitor to his friends was invaluable particularly if they had a pleasurable time in any one area, such as Esperance.

On the map Esperance appears (MORE IN PAGE 3.)



GIBSON bushfire brigade members are pictured extinguishing the last of the fire. They are Mr Bill Rennie (right) and Mr Tom Horton.

HOMESTEAD GUTTED BY FIRE

Appeal for Homeless Couple

A public appeal has started to help a Gibson couple, left homeless on Monday when a fire completely destroyed their timber-frame and corrugated iron home.

The couple, Mr and Mrs Broughton Boydell, were pioneers of the Gibson farming area, first settling there about 18 years ago.

The Gibson Country Women's Association has organised the monetary appeal, following an immediate public response after the fire on Monday when donations of food, clothing, bedding and a caravan were received.

SNAKE BLAMED
A 122cm dugite snake was

blamed for starting the fire, which started at 1pm—and within less than an hour and a half nothing but twisted corrugated iron remained in a heap on the ground.

Mrs Ruth Boydell said she had killed a snake before lunch in the laundry. She thought that something could have been knocked over, possibly a tin of paint.

"The fire went so quickly there was nothing we could do," she said.

Two members of the Gibson bushfire brigade who raced to the fire within minutes of the alarm, Mr Bill Rennie and Mr Tom Horton, said they had no chance of putting out the fire with the pumping gear they had.

A neighbor, Mr Ken Grewar who attended the fire, returned soon after with a fully equipped caravan for the couple to live in.

SEVEN CHILDREN
Mr and Mrs Boydell who have an adult family of seven run about 3,000 acres, carrying sheep and grain.

A neighbor said Mr Boydell's hobby had been making toys. "His children never went without toys at Christmas, even when things were tough," the neighbor said.

The St Andrews Ladies Guild are collecting linen for Mrs Boydell, who is a member. Donations can be left at Gor-

din's Manchester shop.

The house and contents were partly insured.

Fingers Injured

Mr Harry Little, a farm manager at Manginup was today recovering in the Royal Perth Hospital after an operation to try and save three fingers badly damaged in an accident when his hand was caught in the blower of a stack mower.

The accident happened early on Tuesday morning in the paddock of the Torradup property near Manginup. Mr Little was rushed to the Esperance hospital for initial surgery before being transferred to Perth by the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

It is believed that doctors have been able to save two of the fingers.

GOOD NEWS.....

Esperance residents can look forward to a bigger and brighter version of the Express next week. A giant show supplement will give readers plenty of information about the Esperance Show to be held 18th, 19th and 20th October.

BAD NEWS.....

Home deliveries of the Express and other papers from your newspaper will cost readers an extra cent from November 1 due to increase in fuel maintenance and labor charges.

VANDALS DAMAGE SAFETY GEAR

Vandalism is becoming an increasing problem for Esperance Apex members who constantly see their work the target for hoodlums who do countless dollars worth of senseless damage to Apex installations.

The most common targets for vandals are the six life reels that Apex have installed at various danger points on the beaches around the coast.

"Two weeks ago, we installed a new life reel at a cost of \$100 and already vandals have been shooting at it," said Mr Graeme Matthew, president of Apex.

At various times ropes on the life reels have been stolen or cut.

"These reels are there for the benefit of the public and fishermen," said Mr Matthews, "and there is going to be a time when a life is lost because of senseless vandalism making the reels ineffective when they are needed most."

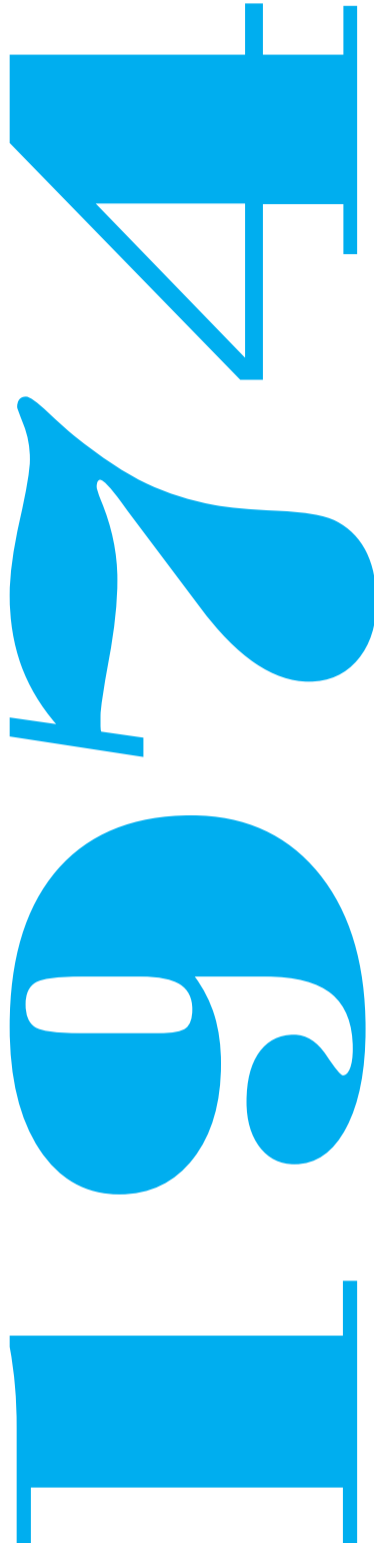
"Apex members spend a lot of time servicing these reels" he said "but how long can we expect members to be enthusiastic when they see their work abused in such a way."

"I would like to appeal to the public to keep their eyes open and to report anything suspicious either to Apex or directly to the police."

A SOUTH SIDE STORE

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Barry Hepburn's Menswear Centre



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- Facials
- Massages
- Waxing
- Tinting
- Teeth Whitening
- Pelactiv Treatments and much more

Survey Will Determine Tuna Fishery

Esperance is on the verge of being developed as a major fishery. Its success or otherwise will depend on the results of tuna catches at present being conducted out of the port.

Managing-director of Albany fish processor, Hunts Canning Co Pty Ltd, Mr Rodney Hunt said on Tuesday that the fishery would be fully tested by four South Australian tuna boats which had been engaged to operate in the vast area east, south and west of Esperance.

The survey, which was originally announced last October will include:

- * The four boats from SA, each being operated by experienced owner-skippers.
- * Esperance fishermen, and several other boats from Albany.
- * A spotter aircraft.

Practical experience gained by local and Albany fishermen during last year's tuna season will be supplemented by the vast experience and knowledge of the SA skippers.

Mr Hunt said that two of the boats from SA had already arrived and would be operating almost immediately. Each boat is valued at between \$180,000 and \$200,000.

The two boats, the Zora, owned and skippered by Captain Stan Lukin and the Zada, owned and skippered by Mr Karlis Picoe will be joined by the Fortane and South Blue Finn during the next few weeks. They will operate from the Bight to Cape Leeuwin.

MOST EXPERIENCED
Mr Hunt said the boats are manned by some of the most experienced tuna polers in Australia.

They are fitted with live-bait tanks and ample refrigeration and modern equipment ranging from automatic polers to radar.

The boats are expected to work the area for about three or four months.

"These men have shown a lot of fortitude and guts to come over here and investigate the potential of the fishery—having a known SA fishing season," Mr Hunt said.

TOO EARLY

"It is too early to make statements about the success or otherwise of the fishery, but we hope the results of the survey will reveal a definite pattern which will lead to a large industry in Esperance.

"I don't mean to point any criticism at local fishermen or at their ability, but I hope they will gain experience from the top men in the industry.

"A new industry such as this is difficult for the local men to gain experience quickly enough to test the commercial potential of a new fishery.

"For this reason, we felt that a great benefit could be obtained for the WA fishing industry by the use of the expertise and experience gained by these fishermen from SA over a long period of years."

FOLLOW

Mr Hunt said that at this stage, the boats would follow the tuna schools wherever they may occur.

The prospects for a tuna fishery in the Esperance area are indeed encouraging, and initial catches have been good, he

PRICE INCREASE

From today the recommended cover price for the Esperance Express is ten cents.

The increase is in line with other provincial newspapers some which were increased during the course of last year.

The increased price is being forced on newspaper proprietors due to a 50 per cent increase in the cost of newspaper for newspaper printers and publishers.

Freight charges have also risen and are also adding to increased costs.

The increase of two cents is expected to be reviewed if any further cost rises for materials are experienced during 1975.

At this point of time it is too early to comment on the eventual size of the fishery. We will naturally watch the entire operation very closely, and will, at a later date decide whether to proceed with a processing works in the Esperance area," he said.

Hunts Canning have been operating in Albany for more than 30 years. The company also started a salmon processing works in Esperance, which never got off the ground because the fish changed their migratory habits, which did not include Esperance.

FINANCE
Mr Hunt said that a proven tuna area off the coast would be a significant factor in helping fishermen to get finance for boat building.

At present local fishermen are using considerably smaller boats, which would probably be replaced if the fishery proved successful. One of the larger locally operated boats is the Pyramid, owned by Mr Don Perkins and skippered by Mr Bob Bubb.

The Albany and Esperance fishermen are at present using dead bait because of the lack of facilities on their craft.

One of the early problems facing the tuna fleet is the lack of unloading facilities in the harbor area.

BOAT HARBOR
It is believed that the Public Works Department are continuing with plans to establish a small boat harbor off the Taylor-st groyne, but final details are not known.

At present all tuna caught are being handled three or four times more than is necessary because of there are no facilities.

The Esperance Port Authority have been approached with regard to placing a temporary freezer unit in the port area, where catches of tuna can be

stored, before being transported by road to Albany for processing.



THE two tuna boats from South Australia are pictured at right. AT top: Managing-director of Hunts Canning Co, Mr Rodney Hunt (centre) discusses the Esperance proposal with owner-skipper Mr Don Perkins of Esperance (left) and Capt Stan Lukin, of SA.



LOCALS PICK CUP WINNERS

The 1975 Esperance Bay Turf Club's running of the Esperance Cup on Saturday has attracted a lot of interest.

Record fields have been nominated and racing is expected to be keen.

Count Adgy appears to be the favorite and the best outsider could be Jack of Ark.

A brief survey of racing enthusiasts yesterday indicated the following:

FRED PHILLIPS (owner): Count Adgy, but my horse (Temple Prince) will be hard to beat if he starts.

MAX BROWN (building supplier): Count Adgy with a

high regard for Jack of Ark.

MRS PAM CROSS: Shipmate a horse that I follow.

B RAMM: Jack of Ark at good such way value hardest to beat Count Adgy.

A J BOW: (Going for 1, 2, 3)—Shipmate, Count Adgy, Camoros.

WARREN GELLARD (owner-trainer): Count Adgy looks a good thing.

JOHN GATES (TAB manager): Can't Afford—good each way.

HARRY TAYLOR: Count Adgy or Shipmate.

JOHN O'DONNELL (service station): Princess Anna who is well weighted and will run out the distance.

school children are most susceptible

Threadworms are as common as Colds! Even the healthiest child can become infested... by body contact through playing with other children at school, by handling contaminated objects of every day use.

PARKE-DAVIS VANQUIN kills threadworms with a single dose.

Bob Kieraths Pharmacy
5 and 24 Andrew Street

BILL TO CONTROL VEHICLES OPPOSED

By JOHN CLARKE

Moves by the Minister for Police, Mr Ray O'Connor to legislate for the licencing of all recreational vehicles is causing concern among fishing clubs and other four-wheel-drive, bike and buggy owners.

Esperance Surfcasters secretary, Mrs Dot Hayes said this week that a universal call by all clubs to the public and their members of Parliament was being made, as recreational vehicle owners saw the pending legislation as the thin edge of the wedge of banning their vehicles from using some beach and bush areas in the pursuit of their chosen sport.

The clubs are protesting because they consider that although licencing of all recreational vehicles is necessary to give third party coverage for the general public, so assurance has been forthcoming from the authorities on whether or not further restrictions will be placed on recreational vehicle owners.

They fear that once the legislation is passed for mass licencing that reasons such as environmental control, noise and pollution will be used to

restrict their movements off recognised main roads.

In the Esperance Surfcasters case, Mrs Hayes said that it was ridiculous to contemplate penalising fishermen and holiday-makers who had hundreds of miles of coastline for their recreational use threatened with being cut off by Mr O'Connor's legislation.

Safety

Other safety precautions enforced by clubs on members are the erection of high flag poles on vehicles to ensure that they are easily seen to avoid collisions in sand dune country.

Access
In some cases, access to these areas was only possible

along beaches, she said.

It is generally a well-known fact that fishing clubs have their own penalty clauses in club rules for members who exceed set speed limits on beaches and also fail to carry adequate lighting similar to police requirements for road use.

One of the main criticisms of recreational vehicles has been that they cause erosion of beaches and sand dunes when continually traversed.

Recent experiments have exposed that the erosion of dunes and beaches is more likely to occur after being trampled by stock or humans as it has the effect of breaking up the top soil and allowing wind to shift large quantities of sand to other areas.

These windblows have shifted large sandhills in very short time after being walked over by humans.

Contrary to earlier beliefs very little damage has been

(MORE IN PAGE 20.)

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FIRST STEP TO HANDLE WOOL

A regional wool handling centre will be established in Esperance, and should be fully operational within two weeks, according to the State manager and director of Economic Wool Producers (WA), Mr Michael Shallcross.

Mr Shallcross was speaking after a meeting of wool producers at the Pier Hotel on Monday night attended by representatives of the wool industry.

About 65 people attended the meeting to hear addresses from Mr Frank Mery, State manager of Independent Wool Dampers; Mr David Knight, representing the British firm, Sir James Hill and Sons, Wooltop Manufacturers, and Mr Alan Smith, manager and director of Economic Wool Producers, Canberra.

Mr Shallcross said the new regional centre EWP has operated, the methods used here, offered by WA Reclus and would be of immediate benefit to local wool producers.

The chief speaker at the meeting, Mr Alan Smith said the development of sale by sample and objective measurement, with increasing use of sale by separation was making the establishment of regional handling centres more commercially feasible.

Their introduction in selected locations throughout the major wool producing areas of Australia, was now becoming a reality.

Few commodities lend themselves so easily to handling and storage as wool, it is basically soft, perishable and non-breakable. We find one of the major advantages of sale by sample, is being able to receive, warehouse and test away from the point of display and sale," he said.

"Reduced land costs, and a more flexible labor attitude in the country, enable regional centres to handle wool more cheaply than in the major cities.

Development

"Such centres, contribute to the development of the region itself. Growers are close enough to see the system functioning in their own area, check delivery of clips and settle queries personally.

"They may also take advantage of familiarising themselves with the handling procedures, including the sample line operation which, although publicised, is not actually seen by many growers.

Mr Smith said it should be realised that economies must be apparent with a proper feasibility study and cost analysis conducted before any new regional centre should be established.

The system EWP (WA) would be using to handle wool in Esperance, maximised all the advantages of regional handling centres, test line procedures, and other presale function, while at the same time, having the facility to move wool to Fremantle in sale lot form into a dumping complex with the most modern equipment right at the days side.

Growers in the Esperance area, now had the facility of a warehouse in their own district.

By testing wool in Esperance, growers could gain several days in the testing procedure which would ensure speedy sale accompanied by a test certificate.

Quick delivery

Mr Smith said that by moving the tested lots to Fremantle prior to sale, growers and buyers would be assured of quick delivery should a purchase be required for shipment immediately after sale.

"An advantage to EWP, is that before sale, growers wool will arrive in our store in sale lots, minimising the amount of handling necessary," he said.

"These stores will not be blocked by wools from clips still shearing, or have incomplete lots, or wool unavailable for sale at growers request.

"Esperance is the third re-

gional wool handling centre EWP has operated, the methods used here, offered by WA Reclus and would be of immediate benefit to local wool producers.

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"Reduced land costs, and a more flexible labor attitude in the country, enable regional centres to handle wool more cheaply than in the major cities.

Problems

Another problem in regional centres, had been the grouping together and disposal of small untestable lots.

"This I understand, will not occur in Esperance because of the facilities already a-

Freight costs

Mr Shallcross said that his company would be examining freight charges from Esperance and would render whatever assistance they could.

Manager of WA Reclus, Mr Alan Griffiths, said that he was pleased that EWP (WA) would be operating through the local warehouse, but stressed that the normal operations of his company would in no way be affected.

He said that services offered to local brokers and growers by WA Reclus would con-

MORE IN PAGE 23

Committee Formed To Check Parks

A strong attendance at a special meeting to discuss National Parks held at Council Chambers on Wednesday February 11, was an indication of the Esperance community's concern, said Shire Clerk, Mr Ted Chown.

Twenty-six people, including Shire President, Mr Orlando Stuart, attended the meeting to discuss the role of the newly formed Esperance Shire Council National Parks Committee. The committee consists of Cr Bill Kent; Cr Charles Hyland, Shire Engineer, Mr Peter Coulson and Mr Bill Burnes. Mr Chown said that several important points were discussed at the meeting, and the committee had received clear indication of what people wanted.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- The committee undertook to pursue the following points:
- The possibility of establishing a recreation corridor along the beaches fronting onto National Parks, to be under control of the Shire Council, to enable free access to the beaches at all times.
- The appointment of a representative from the Esperance district to the National Parks Board.
- That the NPB be required to advise the Esperance Shire Council before any further land be incorporated into a National Park.

CANNABIS CASE HEARD IN MAN'S ABSENCE

A man charged with cultivating cannabis at Grass Patch was convicted of the offence in his absence in the Esperance Court of Petty Sessions yesterday.

James Cameron, pig farmer, of Bullsbrook failed to appear before Magistrate C Zempilas to answer the charge.

Cameron had been remanded in the Beaufort court on January 23 to appear at Esperance court yesterday.

Magistrate Zempilas decided to hear the evidence and judge the case in his absence.

Seizant Daft, the police prosecutor, produced evidence to prove that Cameron had been notified of yesterday's court proceedings.

Farmer, Raymond Alan Arnold, of Grass Patch West, told the court that on October 17, 1975, he had gone to a farm owned by Mr A Griffiths to collect a horse that had strayed.

On the way back he took a short cut across Crown Land off Bishop's and came across two men apparently planting something in a cleared patch of ground.

He spoke to the men who said they were planting "trial plots" and after some general conversation left the area. He later identified the men

to be Murray John Stringer and James Cameron.

The police prosecutor then called Murray John Stringer to the stand.

Stringer told the court that in September, 1975, James Cameron visited him on the property where he was employed as a farm laborer at Grass Patch.

Cameron had asked Stringer if he wanted to earn \$10,000.

Stringer said that he agreed to help but did nothing about it for three weeks, except transfer some fencing material to the area that he and Cameron had inspected during Cameron's visit.

About three weeks later, Stringer said, Cameron had arrived back with three tin of seeds that he said were cannabis seeds.

A few days later they had taken two tractors, a root rake and a plough to an area in the scrub and had cleared and ploughed an area of land about 55 by 65 yards.

The following day Cameron left the farm in a utility and took with him the seed and a quantity of area and superphosphate. When he returned that night he told Stringer that he had not got much done and would need some help next day.

Stringer told the court that he went with Cameron to the plot next day and saw evidence of some planting done by Cameron.

He said that to hurry things up he had suggested using two iron droppers with a wee attached, and they had done this.

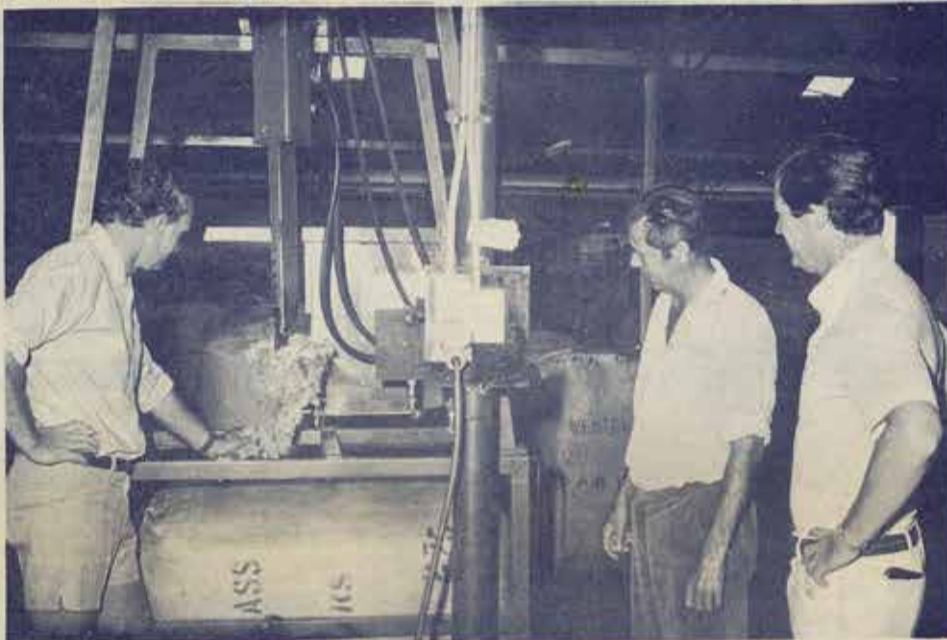
Stringer said they had been there for three hours when a man on a horse rode up and questioned them.

He said after the man had gone, that Cameron had panicked and said that he was worried that the man who saw them might talk and cause someone to investigate.

Stringer said that Cameron told him to check the area in a few days and destroy the plants that had germinated.

Stringer said he was worried and asked Cameron what

MORE IN PAGE 23



MR ALAN GRIFFITHS, Mr Phil Arlidge and Mr Michael Shallcross examine the operation of a wool-grabbing machine at WA Reclus. Photo by PETER O'BRIEN.

DOBBERS CORNER

STUFF what good mates are made of! A group of Esperance businessmen visited Perth recently and from reports one of them won't be allowed to go again if his wife has anything to do with it. Just for fun one of the party stowed a pair of women's bikinis in his unsuspecting mate's case when packing for the trip home. Wife was not amused when unpacking time came. Some joke!

MUST have been a great trip for the basketballers—they arrived back, left the bus parked on the wrong side of the road, several cartons and bags of empty cans on the roadside—and it's been that way for days.

NO PLANS TO EXTEND ROAD

The Main Roads Department claims that it has no plans to extend the Eyre Highway from Norseman through Hyden to Perth.

A spokesman for the MRD in Kalgoorlie is reported to have said that no consideration had been given to building a road in that area and no investigations had been carried out.

A meeting of the Boulder Shire Council last week was told by Cr Terry Clegg that it appeared that plans may be implemented in the near future to extend the highway.

He said that any plan to extend the road would be a severe blow to Kalgoorlie, Boulder, Coolgardie and Esperance.

AFFECT Cr Clegg said it would affect tourism in each town because travellers would tend to use the new road direct to Perth.

The new road could also result in the channelling of cargo through the port facilities at Fremantle instead of Esperance.

The council decided to seek the support of the Eastern Goldfields Esperance Zone Development Committee in opposing any such plan.



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DOUBTS ABOUT FUTURE OF TANKER JETTY

While the Esperance Shire Council goes ahead with plans to spend over \$50,000 to restore a small jetty close to the town business area, one of Esperance's major tourist assets, the 2,865 foot tanker jetty is on the verge of almost total decay.

For the sake of a similar amount of funds needed urgently to replace 35 piles that have broken in half the tanker jetty has been seemingly abandoned by the Shire and the people of Esperance.

Esperance Port Authority chairman, Mr Ralph Bower, said his authority can do nothing to stop the inevitable very rapid, and without the injection of a massive funding program, almost impossible to allocate in the 1976-77 financial year has been spent and the benefits are so short term as to be near useless. He said the jetty, vested in the EPA, had been the subject

of annual surveys by Hugh McKenzie which had shown the rate of deterioration to be very rapid, and without the injection of a massive funding program, almost impossible to allocate in the 1976-77 financial year has been spent and the benefits are so short term as to be near useless.

Mr Bower has deplored the circumstances that have allowed the jetty to attain and retain its present dejected condition. Hundreds of piles supporting the jetty have been savaged by wave action and rendered the head of the

By PETER O'BRIEN

The EPA, he said, does not have the funds needed to restore it and without help from the people of Esperance, nothing further can be done to stop the inevitable happening. Mr Bower said the pile deterioration was consistent for almost the entire length of the jetty with some sections, particularly those close to shore, suffering more seriously. The EPA recently saved a small section about 20 feet from the shore line by driving in replacement piles to arrest a sag in the jetty decking.

Such action was becoming increasingly necessary as section after section showed the effect of broken and half broken piles surrendering their support. Mr Bower said the EPA had been warned they could not continue to maintain the jetty beyond the confines of the Public Works Department grant for the past financial year. The current Minister for Works had offered a similar amount for this year if the EPA could put up the other

PIPELINE BOOST FOR REGION

It is expected the \$500,000 oil pipeline at Esperance will save the town \$1.5 million a year in distillate and fuel imports.

This was one of the comments made by the Minister for Transport, Mr David Woodsword, when he officially opened the new Esperance oil pipeline on Friday.

He said the pipeline would port exporting nickel concentrate and possibly containers to the State when and if fuel strikes were mounted.

Mr Woodsword complimented the work done by the local port authority, particularly in these challenging times. He also thanked the oil companies Shell and Mobil for servicing money loans raised through the authority.

BAD AFFECTS There would be bad affects to the whole State if farmers were denied access to fuels for harvesting or sowing periods. In fact the situation would be disastrous, Mr Woodsword said.

The instruction of the pipeline will mean more ships will use the port of Esperance. Larger ships and fishing ships will use the port for refuelling purposes and I can even see the

DOUBLE INTAKE The three kilometre pipeline is expected to double the previous oil intake. The pipe can pump up to 500 tonnes of fuel an hour.

As a result of the pipeline, we may see the depth of the harbor increase to accommodate larger ships. In addition a \$1 million has been set aside for future oil installations here and in the Goldfields, Mr Woodsword said.

TRANSPORT Minister, Mr David Woodsword uncovers the commemorative plaque at the start of the oil pipeline with assistant Goldfields Regional Administrator and EPA chairman, Mr Ralph Bower.



BE PREPARED SAYS DEP-PREM

Community preparedness was vital in dealing with natural disasters, WA Deputy Premier, Mr Don O'Neil, said in Esperance on Wednesday.

Mr O'Neil's remarks were read at the opening of Civil Emergency Week at Esperance by the State Emergency Service director, Mr Malcolm Brommel.

He said the aim of emergency week was to bring to the notice of the public that countering the effects of a disaster was a community effort.

"It involves not only various government departments, but also voluntary agencies community organisations. We must rid communities of the 'it can't happen here attitude.' When an emergency or disaster occurs it strikes suddenly," he said.

Bushfires, floods, cyclones and storms all happen annually in Australia and within minutes can affect the local community, large or small.

Inevitable it came back to how the community could handle that particular emergency till help arrived.

Preparedness started at the community level with help and training from expert groups such as the State Emergency Service.

SEE ALSO PAGE 2



MR and Mrs Graeme Wylie rejoice as Mr Geoff Perks presented them with a cheque from the community.

FIRE VICTIMS WELCOME CHEQUE

A total of \$3,350 has been raised on behalf of last month's fire victims, Graeme and Julie Wylie.

The Wylies had their brick and fibro farm house reduced to rubble when fire swept through it on Saturday, October 8.

Neighboring families in the Coodinup and Meridup districts donated generously to get the young married couple back on their feet once more. One organizer of the fund raising campaign, Mr Geoff Perks, said about five families travelled to various properties in the New Year, after harvesting, he said.

He said some people banded together and donated a \$200 dinner set and Westfarms in Esperance donated a \$140 gas

water heater. "People have been fantastic to us in these past few weeks and we would like to thank everyone who has helped us," Mr Wylie said yesterday.

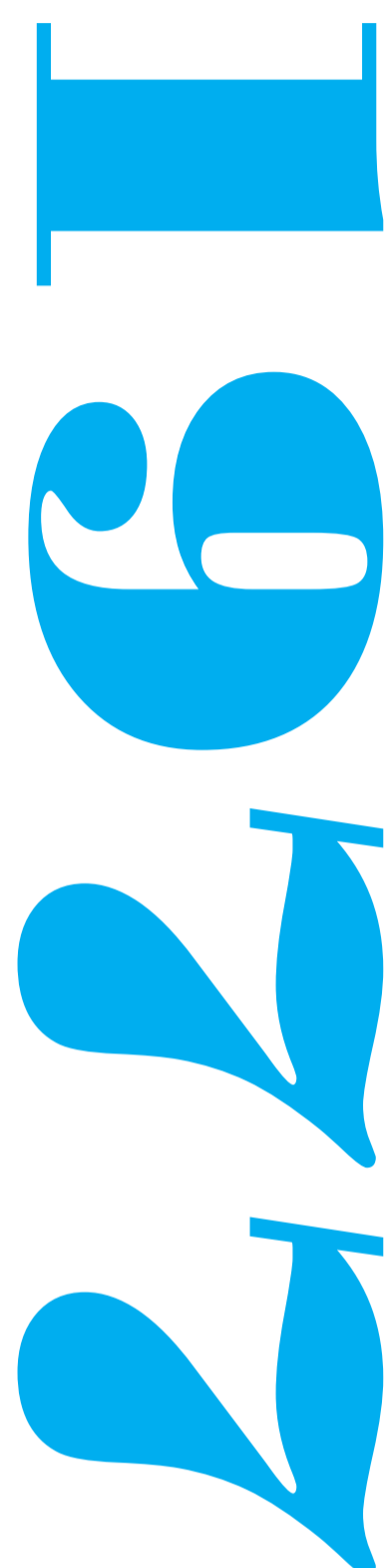
KEPT BUSY "I haven't had much time to work on the house, I've been kept busy working the land and doing contract work, but I hope to put some more time into rebuilding in the New Year, after harvesting," he said.

He said the house and its contents was valued at about \$36,000, and that he and his wife had only been in the house for 11 months.

"We were lucky in one respect. After the fire we did not have time to get depressed, there was too much to do," Mr Wylie said.

"Several hours after the fire, my sister Andrea was married and the wedding celebration was held at the house - or what was left of it."

The couple are now living in a small granny flat which was located about two metres from the house. Although the walls were scorched, firemen managed to save the flat. The Wylie's fire mishap is the second such house fire in the 12 years.



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THIS was the scene at the graveside yesterday as the interment of 16 year-old murder victim Caroline Fountain was buried at Esperance cemetery.

DEEP MYSTERY OVER MURDER

At the funeral service of 16-year-old Caroline Fountain at St Andrew's Church yesterday, Rev Tony Gibbons asked in his address the question still puzzling authorities—"Who is to blame for Caroline's murder?"

The church was almost full as relatives and friends of the dead girl gathered together to pay their final respects. Rev Gibbons stressed while and lack of respect for the death meant the end of a person leads to murder. "Rev person's body, it meant only that. The soul, mind, sense of honour and other facets of the character had not been destroyed. While death was an intrusion into life, and whoever killed was offending against God as well as the victim, there was the certainty of resurrection. Rev Gibbons posed the question of who was to blame for the murders. He said while the murderer or murderers were directly responsible, part of the blame had to lay with today's permissive society. There was too much emphasis today on "doing your own thing". This had been carried to the extreme by the present society.

VANDALISM
"Repeated acts of minor vandalism lead on to major breaks later on, sexual permissiveness now leads to marital breakdowns later on."

The church was bashed throughout the service, which included the Psalms "Abide with Me" and "The Lord is my Shepherd". From St Andrew's the cortege proceeded to the Esperance Cemetery where Rev Gibbons officiated at the interment. Family and friends were still shocked and deeply grieved at the sudden and inexplicable death of Caroline Fountain.

DISCOVERY
The girl's body was found unclothed and partially hidden under bush and hay at the side of Longbottom's Lane last Thursday morning by Mr John Banner who was exercising horses. The discovery sparked off the biggest manhunt ever seen in Esperance, with a full team of detectives from Perth headed by Det-Sgt W Mott joining with Sgt-Sgt W Round of Esperance and uniform branch men in an exhaustive search for the killer. An autopsy showed the girl died as a result of gross injuries to the head and neck. The wounds were apparently caused by a heavy instrument, possibly an axe.

A FAMILY photo of Carolyn Fountain.

RESERVED
Caroline came to live in Esperance after leaving Esperance Senior High School. At the time of her death she was not employed and had been living with her sister in a duplex. Friends of her schooldays say Caroline was a quiet and reserved girl. She travelled into Esperance during her school days by bus from Coomalbidup. Her parents, Mr and Mrs George Fountain live at Lost River Station, where Mr Fountain is employed. Miss Fountain left the Cass Tavern where she had been with a group of friends at 11.50pm last Wednesday night. It is understood she proposed to walk home.

INVESTIGATIONS
Intensive police investigations have turned up only one sighting of the girl after that time. She was observed walking in a north-westerly direction at a point past the Fair Hotel. The time between this sighting, at around 12.05am and the discovery of the girl's body is still a blank. The clothing worn by the girl on the night of her death is still missing, apart from a pair of jeans which were recovered in the Pink Lake road area. Anybody finding a white blouse or any other female garments is asked to contact police at once. Police are also anxious to contact anyone who may have driven along the Esplanade between midnight and 12.30 on Thursday to help build up a clearer picture of the girl's movements.

NEW RATES
Esperance Shire Council employees face steep hikes in rentals from January 1. This is an extension of the council's earlier policy decision to move out of the field of employee housing, a policy which has proved quite costly over the years. The increases mean employees will be paying rentals based on SRC rates, representing a sharp increase in each case. As an example, a house in Desperance built in 1950 which has attracted a rental of \$17.60 weekly in the past will now cost its tenant \$32.50 a week. All council-owned houses, with the exception of that supplied to Shire Clerk Mr Ted Chowna will be subject to the new rates.

CBH KEPT BUSY DESPITE RAIN

Despite widespread harvesting stoppages after recent rainfall, grain receipts at the Esperance Co-operative Bulk Handling depot have been steadily building in recent weeks and are expected to reach a peak in the late December to mid January period.

A CBH spokesman said on Monday about one third of Esperance's grain crop had already been harvested but the amount of grain received at the depot would reach peak level soon. The spokesman said 19,000 tonnes of wheat, 5,750 tonnes of oats and 3,000 tonnes of barley had been received up to 8am Monday. A further 20,500 tonnes of six row barley, 11,000 tonnes of two row clipper barley and 5,110 tonnes of two row feed barley had also been received. "The harvest was building up steadily but work has slowed down considerably since the recent rain and we'll have to wait a few days for the crops to dry out before grain receipts start building again," the spokesman said. "In the six working days from December 8 we received 34,392 tonnes of grain but this receipt rate has been slowed by the rainfall." Some farmers were delivering grain on Monday but these shipments had been harvested before the rain and stored on individual farms. But the spokesman said good prospects were still expected with few problems with moisture content, weeds or pests, and the harvest would probably be at least as good as last year. "In the peak before the wet period, we received 6,500 tonnes of grain on one day, beating last year's record receipt of 5,700 tonnes in one day," he said. "But the rain was fairly evenly spread through the area and no single area appears to have been badly affected." The CBH depot in Esperance has taken on about 20 casual staff in addition to its permanent staff to handle the work load during the harvest.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT APPEAL

The sum of \$2,500 has so far been raised by district residents for the Hazel Cahill Benefit Fund.

Mrs Cahill, one of Gibson's best known and respected citizens for many years is a patient in the Shenton Park Annex in Perth, making a slow recovery from multiple injuries which inflicted crippling damage.

The appeal was launched recently by Gibson Progress Association and sporting groups at Gibson.

The biggest single money-spinner so far was the recent cabaret evening at Gibson when more than 200 people attended, allowing a total result for the night of \$1,100.

A number of individual donations have also been made.

NEED FOR FACILITIES

Fishing havens and unloading facilities for the fishing industry should be established at Duke of Orleans Bay, Seal Creek, Fanny Cove and Israelite Bay, the Esperance Fish Study Group has recommended.

The recommendation was contained in a report from chairman of the group Mr Bill Kent to last meeting of the Esperance Industrial Development Committee.

The recommendations were made after study by the group of the South Coast Fisheries Study, and has already made comment and suggestions to the relevant departments.

ADDITIONAL
It was stressed in the report, any such development would be additional to the proposed fishing facility at Hopetoun.

The EIDC felt at this stage the main thrust should be to obtain full facilities at Bandy Creek and as soon as an impact study had been made a submission would be made for this facility.

Free Testing

Free headlight testing will be held at the Esperance police station on December 23 as part of the RTA's road safety campaign for the Christmas holiday period.

The tests will be held behind the police station from 7pm to 9pm.

The local RTA also organised a speedometer test recently but this was poorly attended by local motorists. An RTA spokesman said on Tuesday the RTA were hoping for a better response for the coming test which would give a valuable chance to check an important part to their vehicle's safety equipment.

TARGET CHEMISTS

THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND TO THEIR TARGET CUSTOMERS A HAPPY XMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR AND ASSURE YOU OF BIGGER BRIGHTER AND BETTER SPECIALS NEXT YEAR AS IN THE PAST!!

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TINA and Tom Murray of Lake Grace made sure they were not caught unprepared for Wednesday afternoon's Skylab orbit over Esperance. They took shelter under this giant umbrella and kept a keen watch on the heavens to make sure none of the debris hit them on the head. Photo by BOB TAYLOR.

A SIGHT TO REMEMBER IN A LIFETIME

At 12.30pm last night hundreds of Esperance people new something about the doomed Skylab space station the NASSA experts in Texas did not know.

That is where it was. While the experts were telling Australia and the world how they managed to bring the 77.5 tonne of junk down into the Indian Ocean, local people were seeing a galactic sight they will remember for a lifetime.

Stunning, fantastic and, along the coast to the west of Esperance, where observers were three of the most common adjectives used to describe Skylab's destruction.

Mr Johannes Marold of Dulyup saw the explosion. "It was frightening. It broke up right in front of me," he said.

"We saw it coming in the distance and suddenly it broke and went in all directions."

Mr Marold and most other people say they saw a bright chunk fall towards the ocean in the east.

Most of those who did not see Skylab heard it.

About 120 seconds after it went over head there was a series of sonic booms which woke many people from their sleep.

Mr Gordon Hammond of Esperance said he called the police in Perth to report his sighting which led to calls from the US networks NBS and ABC.

He said they could not raise anyone else in Australia and in frustration called the police in Perth who directed their calls to him.

Many people listening to the radio were amazed at the doobis expressed about "fainted sightings."

But fairly soon the news that has put Esperance around the world began to be believed.

News services in the US were apparently frustrated somewhat by the Telecom diplomat.

Express editor Bob Dunwoodie was also woken up several times during the night by reporters from all over Australia for the latest on Skylab.

Esperance Rotarians To Raise \$50,000 For Nursing Facilities

Esperance Rotarians have offered to raise \$50,000 to establish local permanent nursing care facilities.

The offer came in one of four submissions presented yesterday to State Health Minister Mr Ray Young.

Submissions from the 100-member Esperance Shire Council and the \$30,000 leaving Rotarians and Welfare Committee accompanied the Rotary submission.

Esperance Rotary Club president Mr Colin Balken told the Minister today in a submission to Esperance offers to take the Minister, President of \$50,000 as a district Andre said the inadequacy of contribution towards a council's last request for permanent nursing care until the conversion of six places provided such a unit is started by the hospital for permanent care patients had become clear.

He said the Esperance Shire Council promised a donation of \$10,000 towards this target doctor, hospital, personnel and the Recherche Committee and persons caring for the elderly in Esperance.

He said a permanent nursing care unit is Esperance's primary need.

"I feel a new unit would be needed for the purpose, but by all means undertake conversions of the existing building if feasible," said Mr Andre.

The submission said an 85 percent occupancy rate of hospital beds will be reached in the next 10 years meaning something is not done about permanent care patients.

LAST REQUEST

At the moment the occupancy rate is 64.8 percent but Mr Andre said it would be short sighted to quote that figure as a reason for wanting to use space in the existing hospital.

He said even in the last year three have been times when the general wards have been filled and spaces had to be found in specialty wards.

Speaking in the Recherche committee submission, president Phil Attridge said space for at least 18 permanent nursing care patients was needed now.

He said the Recherche committee had always had a

TRAIN VS SEMI

An Esperance man was lucky to escape with his life when the semi-trailer he was driving sliced in two by a train at Millendon Tuesday.

Mr Sydney Esser was driving a wheat trailer from Neerim to Esperance across a level that in Kwinana received crossing when the train hit the semi structural damage.

The train, heavily laden with wheat, was travelling from Neerim to Esperance across a level that in Kwinana received crossing when the train hit the semi structural damage.

A crane was needed to remove the trailer from under the locomotive but the load of sheep at the Millendon prime mover was only distributed Livestock Company when it damaged.

Mr Esser told police the sun was in his eyes when he looked to the left and he simply did not see the train.

Sewerage Policy Holding Back Progress

Endorsed NCP candidate for the South Province Mr Bob Russell believes the present State Government sewerage policy is stopping Esperance's progress.

Mr Russell said sewerage is undoubtedly the best form of septic disposal but asks if Esperance can afford it.

He agrees large subdivided areas should have sewerage conditions but not small ones where the cost per block would be too great.

Blocks in Esperance are currently being held up because the town planning department has put sewerage conditions on them.

One is in developed residential area and the block is surrounded by unsewered homes.

The owner wants to put in a full sewerage system for the necessary pipe, work and a pump, the cost of meeting the condition would be about \$29,000-\$34,500 into the price of the two blocks.

LOCAL ADVICE

"That is what they are here for and that is how Esperance can continue progressing."

He said a policy that calls for every subdivision to have sewerage is impractical and the Government should heed some local advice.

Town planning Minister Mr June Craig said for several years the Public Works Department has required all new subdivisions be sewerage and consequently the town planning board makes this a condition of subdivision.

BEING STUDIED

"The Esperance shire council strongly supports the policy. It is possible for developers to appeal to the minister or, now, to the new town planning appeal tribunal against this or any other conditions of subdivision."

Several appeals against sewerage conditions are currently being studied.

MORE IN PAGE 3

PRICES INCREASED

There are two other recent similar cases of this in Esperance.

Mr Russell said another reasonably small subdivision on Pink Lake rd of 11 blocks would have to pay a minimum of \$22,000 to meet the sewerage condition. This is at least \$2000 extra per block.

He said the current price for a septic tank in Esperance would be \$800.

If block prices are increased by \$2000 to \$14,000 subdivisions will become uneconomical and progress will stop.

WITHOUT DELAYS

Mr Russell believes local authorities should have more say in determining when sewerage conditions should be enforced.

He said in some cases appeals will obviously be upheld but not without delay and extra costs.

"Red tape hinders like Esperance sewerage cost the

Ready and waiting

The scrub land 200 miles from Esperance around Baladonia was being crisscrossed by ultralights and four wheel drive vehicles crammed with newsmen and souvenir hunters searching for a piece of Skylab.

People were ready and waiting with anything from an Instamatic to the most sophisticated camera to get a shot of Skylab's destruction.

Many however found it going too fast or not bright enough to be sure of any success.

But the spectacle was enough to make sure the next shipment of developed film to reach town will be awaited with bated breath by some.

Some Esperance people heard debris falling onto roofs just after the sonic booms.

In the morning searchers turned up several pieces of the Skylab.

These were mainly little more than burnt charcoal.

Mr Phil Adesse of the State Emergency Service had people bring him burnt bits of debris for analysis.

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'I THOUGHT WE WERE DEAD'

Twelve people narrowly escaped death early yesterday morning when their Skywest Metroliner crash landed and burst into flames about 500 metres east of the Esperance aerodrome.

Passengers on the aircraft said later the starboard engine failed as the aircraft banked to make its final approach to run-way 29.

The pilot managed to level the aircraft off slightly and "made for the first clear patch of ground he could see."

He then put the aircraft down in a paddock and eventually brought it to a halt only metres from some overhead power lines.

The plane was already alight before the passengers began evacuating but all were able to escape without serious injury.

Minutes after the last passenger escaped from the burning plane there were two big explosions

one young man who suffered slight abrasions to his leg.

As one onlooker said later: "It's a pretty good fair crash when you can cover all the casualties with a couple of band-aids."

The first warning any of the passengers had that anything was wrong was as the plane made its final approach to the airstrip about 7.45am.

Telecom workers Ray Rose and John Copp were on the flight making a routine trip to Esperance for their work.

The first warning we had was when the pilot banked for the approach to the right and then could

not straighten up," Mr Rose said later. "The pilot didn't say anything but we could see we were going to hit."

By ANDY FIGGIFORD

"We kept losing height and then the right wing hit the ground. The pilot was too busy to say anything but he really did a great job to get us down in one piece."

"At the time I thought this is it, we've had it. You read of that many air crashes where no-one survives and I really thought we were dead."

Mr Copp said this was "my first and last plane crash" and he was glad to be alive.

After the plane crash landed it continued for some distance before the nose-wheel collapsed. It then slewed another 40 or 50 metres before stopping.

Don't panic

"After the plane stopped someone, I don't know who it was, yelled out 'careful, don't let any of us panic' and no-one did," Mr Rose said.

"I was going to go out of the left hand side at first but when I looked out the plane was on fire beneath me."

Mr Copp was sitting on the right hand side but escaped on the opposite side.

"The right hand side was up in the air and all of us left the plane through the left hand emergency door and the front entrance," Mr Copp said.

Mr Rose said the passengers had been very ord-

erly and a credit to themselves the way they behaved after the crash. It had only taken about a minute to get everyone out of the plane although he did not remember any specific orders being given by anybody.

After the crash the passengers "calmly" walked in a state of shock about 30 metres away. The first explosions wracked the downed aircraft shortly afterwards.

Mr Copp said he and the others were concerned at first when they could see no sign of a passenger who had been sitting next to the pilot.

By then the plane was burning fiercely but they

MORE IN PAGE 2

DIDN'T LOOK WELL

Telecom senior lines officer Ray Rose, from Perth, took his mate Telecom supervisor John Copp to the Esperance Hospital later in the morning to have a sore shoulder checked out.

"They said his shoulder was all right but thought I looked a bit grey and stuck a needle into me," Mr Rose said.

"The thing was I felt okay by the time I reached the hospital with John but it was me they ended up treating."

Mr Rose reckoned the bumpy landing had

put him off flying for a while and he'd try to keep a bit closer to the ground in future.

Mr Copp said at the moment he was not very keen to get airborne again but he would probably fly again.

After the plane had crash landed and the passengers escaped before it exploded Mr Rose took time off to get a few snapshots of the scene.

He returned later to try for a few more and see if any of his luggage had been saved but was told the Transport Department had ordered no one was to go near the aircraft.



THE tail and burntout aftersection of the Skywest plane. Bits of wreckage and the track the plane took can just be seen in the background.

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TECH LIKELY CASUALTY OF EDUCATION CUTS—PAGE 4

0116

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DOG STOLEN,
SHIRE RANGER
THREATENED

Esperance police are hunting the person who stole and possibly killed a family pet belonging to Shire ranger David Somerville last week and who later threatened him through an anonymous note delivered at the shire council offices.

Police chief Sgt Ron Sparks has appealed for public support to trace the pet—a white samoyed dog—and whoever made the threat.

The letter was delivered to Mr Somerville last week and contained the pet's dog tags and registration disc.

It implied Mr Somerville himself was also at risk.

"It would have to be one of the most cowardly and despicable acts that I have seen in a long time," Sgt Sparks said.

INTOLERABLE

"This is an intolerable offence and we are convinced the public would think so too. I think it's probably someone who is disgruntled by some previous action by Mr Somerville in the course of his duties as the town ranger and this aspect is being investigated.

"But obviously there is a

lot more chance of us having success if the public is prepared to co-operate."

CONTACT POLICE

The samoyed—a large husky type dog—disappeared from Mr Somerville's home on May 22 and has not been seen since.

It was not prone to wander far from home and police think it likely the dog was taken away by a vehicle.

Anybody who saw someone with a white samoyed in a vehicle near Westmacott on the day or who has spotted a "new" one since—perhaps in a household backyard—is asked to contact police.

"Anybody having any ideas on who it might be are asked to contact us," Sgt Sparks said.

"Any information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

DESPICABLE CRIME

"Police are treating this as a despicable type of crime and are anxious to get the co-operation of the public to bring the person to justice."

People committing this type of offence left themselves open to charges such as stealing, if the dog is still alive and also offences under the Criminal Code should the dog be destroyed.

They would also be liable under the criminal code for the threatening note.

The dog answers to the name of "Kossak."



The crowd at the civic centre opening included a big number of children both as onlookers and taking part in the street parade. Pictured with the shire crest at the complex entrance are (from left) Sonya Elms, Catherine Kieffer and Kerry Franklin.

500 ATTEND CIVIC CENTRE OPENING

More than 500 people were at the official opening for the Esperance \$1.2M civic centre by Deputy Premier Ray O'Connor on Saturday.

The centre is the first in WA completed with help from the State Government Regional Cultural Facilities fund and is rated as probably unique in Australia in design.

The big crowd included a 70-strong official party and artists and performers of national and international standard. The ceremony was also an attraction for art-lovers and possibly even to watch the parade leading up to the opening and the official ceremony.

For Saturday night a capacity 520 people packed into the main hall for a variety evening staged by local groups and helped make the opening day a success.

Opening the centre Mr O'Connor said it would act as a model for other towns to follow with regional cultural facilities.

"As well as being a focal point for the encouragement of local talent it will

TV PLANS

THE Australian Broadcasting Tribunal this week granted licences for commercial television translator stations for Esperance and Norseman.

Mid-Western Television Pty Ltd, licensee of VEW-8 Kalgoorlie, was granted the licences with both having time conditions. The Esperance service must start before December 31, 1982 while the Norseman station must be operating before November 30 this year.

Deputy shire president, Cr David Reichstein thanked all concerned with the opening and displays who helped "bring the centre to life" and stressed the hall's community role.

"Council saw its role as buying the best expertise available and evaluating their concepts in terms of the needs of our community," he said. "How well we have succeeded will become apparent in the use you make of your centre in the future."

The civic centre was partly funded with \$375,000 State money through the regional cultural facilities fund.

Fund chairman Dick Basham was one of the official guests and was impressed with the results after the months of planning and building.

THANKED

Shire president, Cr Merv Andre thanked local people for the mandate to go ahead with the centre at the last electors' meeting.

"This is more than just a building—it is a complex institution. It belongs to the people of Esperance, lock, stock and barrel," he said.

"I commend it to you. I hope you will enjoy it, be proud of it, boast about it to visitors and above all use it. Then the hard work, the cajoling of ministers and government departments and the long struggle to bring it into existence will be very worthwhile."

Although Esperance was the first centre to have a building completed under the fund a near \$3M Geraldton project was expected to be finished about September.

It also had a request from Albany Town Council for funding and a preliminary submission from Manjimup

to consider.

After the opening Cr Andre rated it as "probably the high point in the history of Esperance" was delighted with the public response and favourable comments made about the building on the day.

"The Minister was highly delighted with the facility that the government had subsidised," Cr Andre said.

Mr O'Connor had said Esperance was the best facility of its type outside a city he had visited anywhere in Australia.

"Councillors can be extremely proud of this project which is really a demonstration of the fact they are co-operating so well together that they are able to produce such a magnificent thing," Cr Andre said.

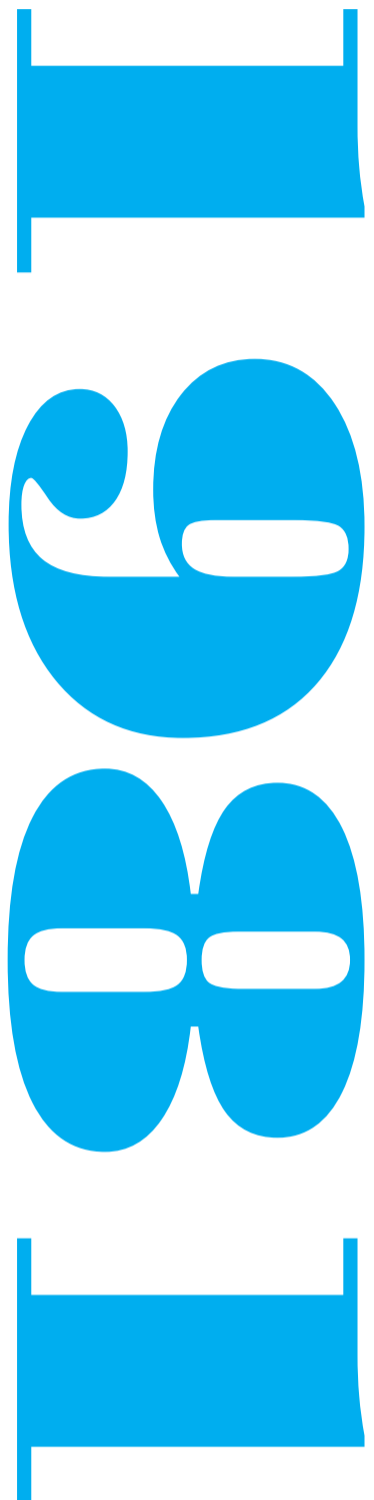


LOADING the time capsule into the wall cavity during the civic opening is shire president Cr Merv Andre. The capsule will stay there until 2031.

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Free beach dubious legally
WAY OPEN TO NUDES

Esperance has what could be WA's first official nude bathing beach—but there is no guarantee anyone using it is not breaking the law and liable to police action.

Police Minister Bill Hassell earlier this year said it was up to local authorities if they wanted nude beaches.

And local police have backed the recent Esperance Shire Council move proclaiming Nine Mile Beach for nude swimmers.

But only last week Albany Shire Council withdrew its plans for a "free" beach there as it believed the move would be illegal.

Esperance Shire Council will clearly sign post the nude beach soon to avoid chance encounters between clad and bare beach users.

Remain

Shire clerk Ted Chown said council wanted an area set aside for nude bathers so they could be removed from family beaches.

Mr Chown said council was acting under assurances given by Mr Hassell in a July press release that nude bathers swimming in a defined area would not be prosecuted provided no criminal activities were reported.

"We have the assurances of the Police Minister action will not be taken," said Mr Chown.

An Albany Shire Council spokesman this week said that council had decided against a nudist beach as people using it could still face police action.

Although Mr Hassell indicated a local authority could set aside a nudist beach or draft by-laws allowing nude bathing he had also said in each case the chance of police action under the Police Act section 66 (11), or the Criminal Code section 203 would remain.

Mr Hassell said according to police and Crown Law Department advice if a local authority wanted a nudist's beach—"well defined and well proclaimed"—the chance of offending others was much reduced.

It would then be unlikely any prosecution of a nude swimmer or sunbather under the Police Act or Criminal Code would succeed.

Unlikely

Mr Hassell said according to police and Crown Law Department advice if a local authority wanted a nudist's beach—"well defined and well proclaimed"—the chance of offending others was much reduced.

It would then be unlikely any prosecution of a nude swimmer or sunbather under the Police Act or Criminal Code would succeed.

Complex

"This does mean that regardless of a council by-law allowing nude bathing the Police Act and the Criminal Code do not allow it and police action may still be taken," said the council spokesman.

Mr Chown said the law was complex on nudity and there seemed to be conflicting logic on it.

Mr Hassell had said it would be up to a local authority to decide if nude bathing should be allowed on its beaches. This would seem to override the Police Act.

Section 104 states people bathing nude near or in view of any public walk, quay, jetty, bridge, street, road or other public place between 6am and 6pm are liable to fines up to \$40.

Police Say OK

Esperance Police have welcomed the nudist area at Nine Mile Beach as it will hopefully reduce the amount of nude bathing on public beaches where it is likely to offend.

Station chief Sgt Jim Compton said police had co-operated with Esperance Shire Council and were "quite happy" with the Nine Mile idea.

He said police would not act on complaints about nudity at Nine Mile Beach as it would be clearly sign posted.

"If a person likely to be offended still goes there after being warned by all the notices we wouldn't take any action at all," said Sgt Compton.

Police Minister Bill Hassell had indicated local authorities would proclaim nude bathing beaches and he was satisfied with the Minister's stance.

But Sgt Compton said it would be "a different kettle of fish" if any complaints of indecent behaviour were received. Police would have to act on things like indecent acts in a public place.

"But nine times out of 10 where it's a nude beach you don't get that sort of thing because people only go there to swim or sunbake."

If police got any complaints about nudity other than at Nine Mile Beach they would tell offenders it was against the law and there was a special beach set aside for nude bathing.

CROSS OVER...



BMX boom: HOLIDAY fever is in the air. Locals could not have failed to notice the many camera laden visitors or the school age population making the most of the spring weather. Making the most of his two week break (and BMX bike) is Scott Mackenzie. Here he flexes his muscles in a tricky "cross over." Photo by MICHELE BOYLE.

By MICHELE BOYLE and SEAN MURPHY

GOVERNOR ON VISIT

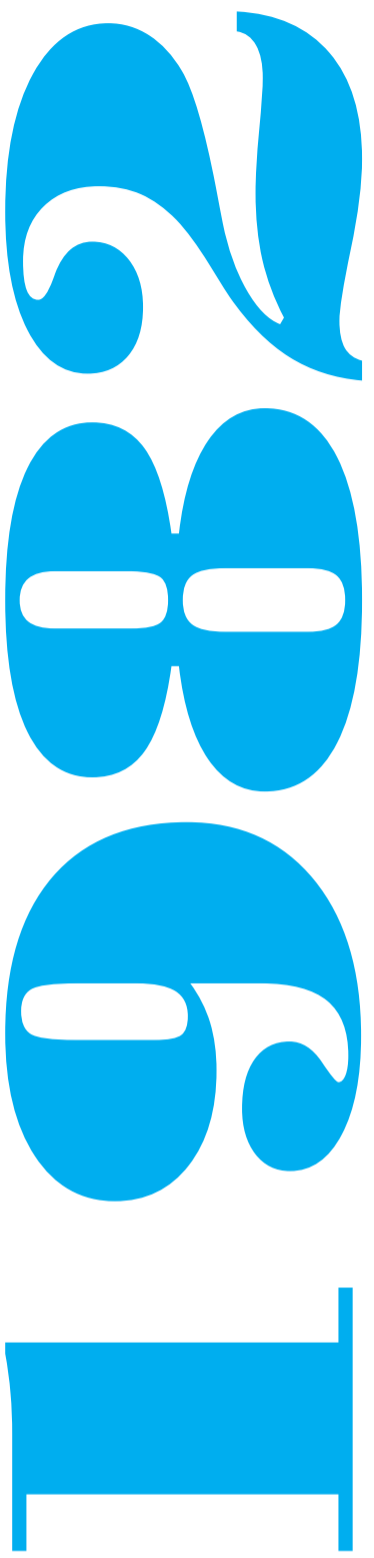
State Governor Sir Richard Trowbridge and Lady Trowbridge visited Esperance on Wednesday and Thursday as part of an official tour.

Sir Richard and Lady Trowbridge attended a civic reception Wednesday night and had dinner with Esperance Shire Councillors.

An inspection of Bandy Creek boat harbour and a general look at the town completed their itinerary before lunch at Dempster Homestead.

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VOL 11 NO 42

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Study shows level falling

COULD PINK LAKE BE DRYING UP?

The Conservation and Environment Department will be asked to comment on an alleged link between Pink Lake's diminishing water levels and salt mining on the lake.

This week Vitamins Australia—a Perth based company planning an algae harvesting project on the lake—told Esperance Shire Council studies showed salt extraction was one factor why the lake was getting drier.

"If too much salt is taken from the lake it may become very dry. Vitamins are concerned, like everyone else, that the lake does not become completely dry during the summer months," said a

company spokesman. "Our company does not wish to and will not interfere in any way with the existing salt operation on the lake, but we also do not want to be blamed for the actions of other parties."

"We therefore strongly

recommend that if any additional quantities of salt are harvested annually, your council if it has not already done so, makes an independent assessment of the effect."

WA Salt Supply head George Lister declined to comment on the Vitamins

Australia allegations yesterday.

Council also plans sending a copy of the company's claims to the Lands Department.

In the same letter the company spokesman told council "we are very conscious of our responsibilities in respect to the Pink Lake."

Our company has

agreed to the terms of a contract with a large Japanese company for the supply of product from our algae.

"Esperance is receiving a great deal of publicity overseas as the product which we will derive from the lake has not been produced naturally in the manner which Vitamins have patented."

"And therefore a biotechnological breakthrough has occurred which should bring many benefits to the township of Esperance."

The company expected to submit plans for council approval within a month on the establishment of algae ponds and an extraction plant.

The ponds would help cultivate the algae *dunaliella salina* which grows naturally on the lake and causes discolor.

UNDERTAKE

"Under the terms of our lease with the WA Government we have been required to undertake environmental studies on the lake."

"The studies have proved conclusively that no environmental damage will occur to the lake or any surrounding areas by the establishment of our ponds and the subsequent extraction of the algae on lot five before the water is returned to the lake with it still containing some algae."



19 want eviction for occupants of house

Trying to pick front door locks in the early hours, breaking in and "spraying foul language" on walls, peering through windows, hitting a dog on the head and abusive foul language are some of the reasons 19 Easton and lower Burton rd residents want the occupants of an Easton rd house evicted and the house demolished.

These are some of the allegations in a petition to Esperance Shire Council this week.

Petitioners claim the house has too many people living in it and that the occupants interfere with neighbours.

They also allege the occupants leave rubbish on the road causing tyre punctures, hang washing on the fence, have too many dogs, urinate on fences, their children create a traffic hazard by playing "dare devil" on the road and take clothes from neighbours' lines.

At night their dogs get into rubbish bins and they race cars, the petition claims.

The petitioners say they are frightened to stay at home alone after dark and asked their names not be mentioned as they feared reprisals.

"Some of us are very distressed and we would like to live our lives without being interfered with."

The house was condemned in February and the State Housing Commission was given seven days to have it in order.

At council's May meeting Cr Bob Russell said he

understood the same people had been allowed to move back into the house after money was spent repairing it.

Cr David Reichstein successfully moved council negotiate with the SHC to ensure responsible tenants lived in the house. It was council's responsibility to ensure tenants conformed to reasonable behaviour patterns.

Cr Russell seconded the motion and added a copy of the petition be sent to the SHC.

30mm OVER USUAL RAIN

FROM last Thursday to yesterday 8mm rain has fallen bringing the progressive total from January to 149mm. The average progressive rainfall to April's end is 119mm.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and (rainfall) from Thursday May 19 until 9am yesterday: 23.7, 12.1; Friday 26.6, 9.3; Saturday 24.2, 7.0; Sunday 20.2, 8.9; Monday 16.6, 13.1 (3.6mm); Tuesday 17.9, 13.4 (4mm); Wednesday 20.1, 11.1 (0.4mm) and 8.2 was Thursday's minimum.

OLD CANNERY OPEN DOORS TO PUBLIC

TOP: Leather craft instructress Jean Reimers and ABOVE: basket weaver Madeleine Webster will be at the Old Cannery's June 9 annual day to give details of their second term courses. See story page 4.

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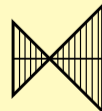
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Agent: rents not too high in town

Real estate agent Keith Bishop hotly denies claims that Esperance business houses are paying excessive rents comparable to Hay-st Perth prices.

The claim was made by local businessman Ray Croker in a front page Express article on February 29.

Mr Croker said the poor prospects faced by many outlets were made worse by high rents.

Mr Bishop rated the claim as totally false, "wishy washy," and disputed Esperance residential and commercial rents were excessive.

"When we were paying about \$7.50 per square foot, the Carousel Shopping Centre was \$12.50.

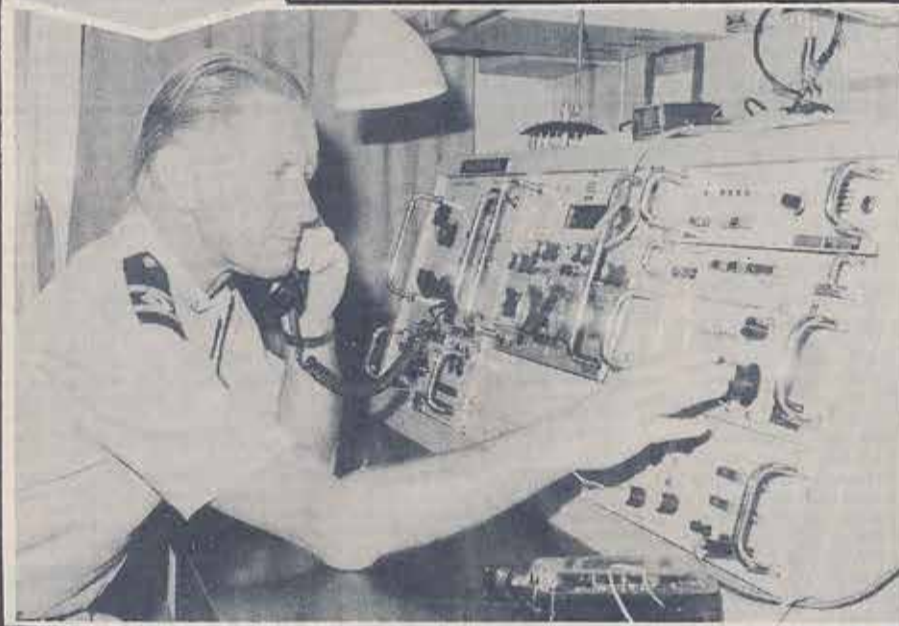
"In Esperance now the highest would be about \$107 a metre with an average of \$70 to \$75 a square metre.

"To rent a shop in Perth you would be looking at an absolute minimum of \$700 and if you obtain space in Carillion it's about \$1000.

"We are about one twelfth of rents in central city Perth. "It is one of their lowest costs in running their business."

If rentals scared a prospective businessman he should forget about buying a business.

THE biggest ship to berth at Esperance port, the TNT Capricornia combines the latest technology with a fuel source most thought was antiquated. Pictured is radio operator Deane Laws using modern communication equipment. For full story see page 12.



Grenade was 'live'—army

A Japanese hand grenade displayed at the Esperance Municipal Museum for seven years could have maimed or killed despite assurances from its owner, according to an army bomb disposal captain.

The captain, who could not be named under Defence Department policy this week confirmed the World War Two grenade was dangerous and said the slightest vibration could have set it off.

He said even the unscrewing of the grenade's glass display cabinet may have been enough to disturb 40-year-old crystals in the shell.

The army treated the bomb to render it safe after a tourist with

war experience claimed it had not been properly "deloused." The captain said most explosives had been removed but not thoroughly.

Museum archivist Olive Tamlin reported the tourist's claim to the Esperance Shire Council before the police were informed.

Mrs Tamlin said she had been told not to "worry about it" as it had been defused but she maintained the tourist seemed to know what he was talking about.

The police were unable to contact museum curator Allan Longbottom until Monday January 23—three days after the tourist lodged his report.

The army was called next day but a two man team did not arrive in Esperance until nine days later.

By KEN JEFFREYS

The army at the time told police there was no need to close the museum as the grenades were out of public reach and could not be handled.

The captain said the nine day delay was caused by restrictions on man power and the urgency of a number of Perth cases. Esperance was not assessed as a priority.

Details of the incident emerged only this week after Mrs Tamlin told an Express reporter the results of the army inspection. She had done so to clear any confusion.

Police chief Sgt Jim Compton declined to comment. Several

spokesmen in fact preferred to think the grenade was a "dead" issue.

Shire clerk Ron Scoble said he contacted police as soon as a report was made. The report was treated seriously but panic had been avoided.

"We did what had to be done."

The army captain agreed correct procedures had been followed.

He advised anyone who thought they had a dangerous explosive to contact police.

HOT TOPICS FOR TALKS

A WA Bushfire Board two day seminar on aspects of fire prevention and fighting in Esperance this week attracted 28 volunteer fire fighters and interested people.

It was the first time in three years a seminar was run locally. Board director John Robley said the seminar examined theoretical and practical ways to fight fires.

Lessons learned from the Ash Wednesday fires, the organisational aspect of fighting large fires were some topics and a weather bureau's Perth forecaster spoke on forecasting weather for Esperance.

Yesterday they were due to inspect the outskirts of Esperance—a high risk fire area.

BLAME FOR FARM DECLINE

Government agricultural policies plus economic strategies policies which drain wealth from agriculture have contributed to Esperance's current rural downturn according to Primary Industry Association zone president Tony Overheu.

He outlined the politically soluble problems in the zone's submission to the Rural Hardship Inquiry and called on the Burke

government to lobby Federal Government to get damaging policies reversed.

To back up his claims are results of a random survey of farmers in February.

It showed five percent will not survive this year, another 10 percent are not as desperate but will be

forced to sell within the next two years, another 20 percent are only marginally viable but if they get rural reconstruction loans will be able to ease their debt structure.

Another 30 percent are projecting deficit budgets and 30 percent will pay tax.

Esperance was a relatively young farming area starting in the 1950s and had not had time to create established wealth to support it in the bad times.

Farmers suffering most had bought large tracts of land or started new land development programmes in the last two to four years.

From 1978 to 1982 land prices tripled and people who had borrowed heavily to buy or develop land got hit with three bad seasons in 1979 to 1981.

Rapid hikes in production costs for the last eight years, static world grain prices since 1979 and rain at harvest were other reasons.

He claimed governments had continually robbed agriculture of

MORE IN PAGE 27

Not insoluble



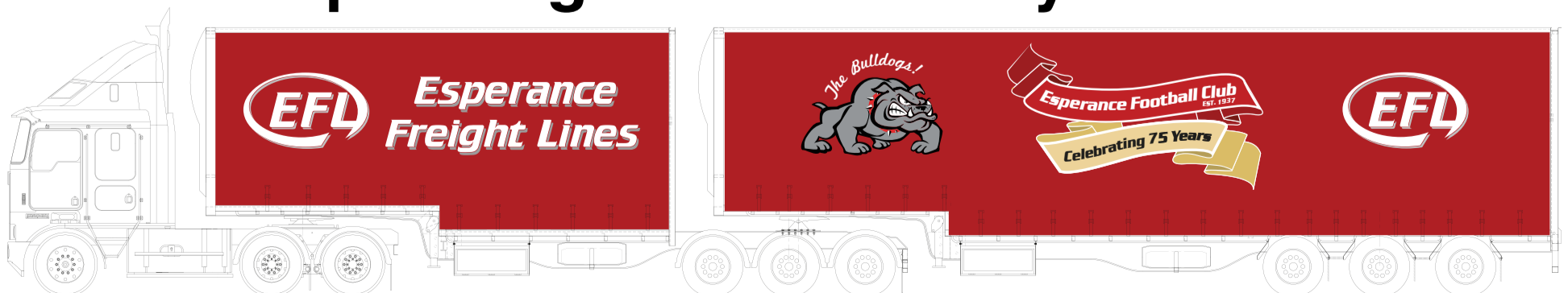
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CASH TROUBLE THREATENS LIFE OF LONG JETTY

The Tanker Jetty's future is again in doubt after extensive pile deterioration in recent years. The damage was revealed in a Port Authority report to the Shire Council.

Authority managing secretary Colin Stewart tabled a structural plan showing 67 outer piles along the jetty had worn through completely—and another 38 were 50-75 percent worn.

At the jetty head some piles had been renewed but others still needed repair.

A planned Marine and Harbours department report would outline the maintenance required. An estimate for pile replacement covering all work costs is \$1200 each.

To replace the 67 100 percent worn piles alone will cost over \$80,000.

The operation involves removing some decking and piling a hole under the jetty, positioning the piles and attaching them to the jetty.

Council will ask the State government for funds to replace the worn piles. Authority chairman Ralph Bower said the main problem was head pile deterioration.

"There is a growing concern about the head as you can't take off

the concrete deck and simply drive the piles in like in the neck walkway.

To do so would be an operation costing over \$1M. The rest is also a big job and not about to be done overnight."

Some money was available from the 1978 Tanker Jetty Maintenance Agreement between Esperance Shire Council and the now defunct Public Works Department.

The agreement allowed for maintenance for 550m of jetty costing \$200,000 over 10 years with the council contributing \$50,000.

This covered up to pier 124 but not the 68 piers beyond including the head.

Jetty control and maintenance remained with the authority but was financed by PWD. Mr Bower said the

\$20,000 received annually was spent "all along the jetty."

This money now came from the Marine and Harbours Department which took over this PWD section.

Marine and Harbours spokesman Trevor Levers said the agreement did not allow for the money to be spent beyond Pier 124. This was the authority's responsibility.

Esperance Shire engineer Peter Coulson said council was seeking to review the agreement.

"So far there haven't been any formal talks

with the Marine and Harbours department but we believe them to be quite willing to review the agreement."

The main point was to make provision for raising loan funds. Re-piling operations were behind the deterioration rate due to some money spent on decking.

A danger with the jetty was if it deteriorated and wood broke off and floated into the harbour.

Under the agreement this would be seen as a navigational hazard and the jetty could be demolished. There was a chance wood could break off from the unmaintained middle piles.

Summer's brief showing



SWINGING into summer is Haidee Vandenberghe (3) helped by her big sister Caroline (right) and Jodi Mincherton. Tuesday's heat was a warm reminder of the holiday season.

FUNDING SHORTFALL

Esperance's marriage guidance service is threatened with closure by a shortfall in Federal Government funding.

Escare was advised by Marriage Guidance Council WA executive director Jim Crawley if further funding was not forthcoming services in Esperance and Kalgoorlie would be closed in December.

The two staff counsellors would be retrenched.

Since Esperance's counsellor Audrey Savage is on holiday Escare is unsure of the current position.

Escare's Val Baillie said it was not known whether the Esperance service would resume in the New Year. Mr Crawley could not be contacted for comment this week.

Esperance Shire Council will support Escare's bid to retain the service. Council has agreed to write to the six Federal and four State parliamentarians involved.

Esperance and Kalgoorlie are the only country centres which have a marriage guidance counselling service. There is also a skeleton service in Bunbury.

Escare said Mrs Savage held consultations at its office two days per fortnight. She handled 12 to 14 cases a week.

The service's cost—funded by the Attorney General's Department—was \$16,000 per year which

covered wages, accommodation and travel.

The minimum cost to the government of a supporting parent and one child was \$6441.50 not including other government concessions.

Marriage guidance had only to save three

cases a year from seeking supporting parent's benefits to justify the present Esperance service's cost.

The family was the community's backbone and Escare was convinced of the present

MORE IN PAGE 4

Council reveals new tip site alternative

Despite compulsory resumption procedures now in progress for the proposed new tip site at Wylie Bay a second area is being investigated.

A special Shire Council Properties and Town Planning Committee meeting this week decided to inspect land in East Location 21—a site between the High School Farm and the weather bureau.

Shire engineer Peter Coulson said the new site was a long term proposal and council

was only at the research stage. The Wylie Bay was still the number one priority.

It was not anticipated the Wylie Bay site would fall through but council had decided to start research on another site to cater for the possibility.

The Committee had not had a chance to in-

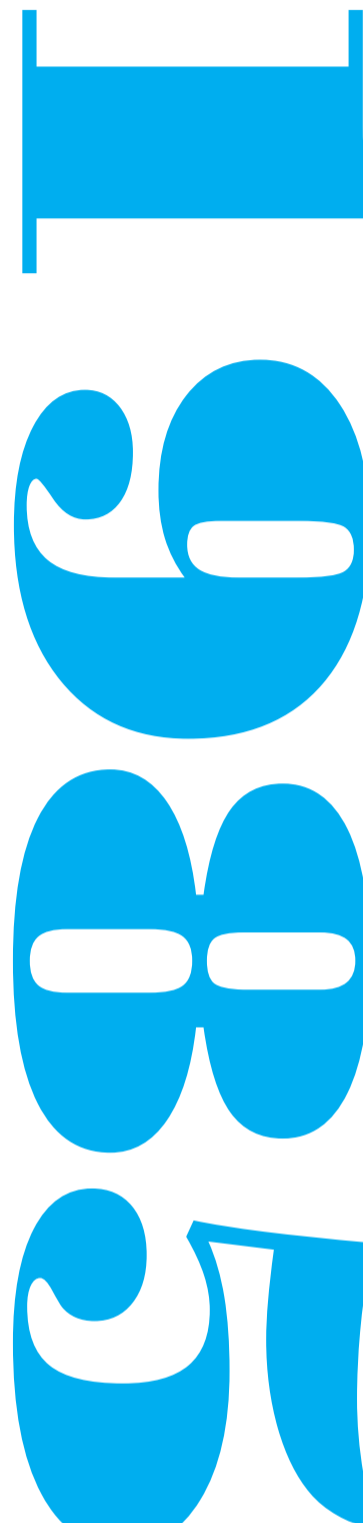
spect the new area. Subject to it being satisfactory the Environmental Protection Authority and Health Department would be asked to start an immediate assessment.

Mr Coulson said there had been no negotiations with the owner—LJ Gellard—so no price had been fixed. He had yet to make an assessment of the tip's life on the new site.

It was expected the resumption procedures for the first priority site at Wylie Bay would go before

MORE IN PAGE 4

Wylie still best



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BUSHFIRES SPARK SIX HOUR BATTLE



Esperance suffered its worst bushfires in five years last Friday as homes and property on the north-eastern edge of town were threatened. Over 800 students were evacuated from Esperance Senior High School as the blaze—fanned by winds gusting to 80kph—burnt to within 15m of classrooms.

Two fires started at about 1pm on Friday—one near the high school and another near the town rubbish tip.

The high school fire was contained fairly quickly but the other got out of control and burnt through land surrounding hobby farms near Longbottom Lane, crossed Monjupup-rd and was finally stopped at Stable-rd.

Esperance town fire

Lack of firebreaks

brigade captain Bill McGillivray said the two fires could be further broken up as two seemed to start near the rubbish tip—one south and another west of Fill-rd—and another fire began further north on Pink Lake-rd.

The town brigade was called out at 1.15pm and the police were called at 1.20pm to the high school fire.

This fire seemed to start near Thompson-st and despite individual efforts and a front-end loader clearing firebreaks workers could not stop it crossing George-st.

By DAVID MEIKLEJOHN

It moved quickly through the bush towards the school and the adjacent hostel and children were evacuated to nearby Nulsen Oval.

Volunteer fire fighters sprayed down house roofs and nearby fences for protection against the heat. The fire crossed a hostel access road and burnt out bush near the high school tennis courts.

A fire engine stopped it from catching onto

classrooms just 15m away.

Meanwhile on Freeman-st firefighters were slowing the fire as it moved along the roadside but they had problems with spectator cars blocking access.

In a bid to ease the problem police blocked off general traffic from Pink Lake-rd at the railway line.

The fire burnt among side houses on Treasure-rd and Scholey-st but none were damaged. It was then contained with sandtracks and earthmovers clearing new firebreaks.

With this fire under control the brigade

truck then moved to Rouse-st to check the fire which had started near the rubbish tip.

It had jumped Pink Lake-rd and may have been joined by another fire started on the north side of the road.

West-south-westerly winds gusting to 80kph fanned the fire forward at about 25kph.

The brigade saw the fire would miss Nulsen houses which were further protected by front-end loaders widening sandbreaks.

The brigade truck then got a call to McLean-rd to defend Ian Stewart's property. At the same time more

MORE IN PAGE 4



ABOVE: Firefighters found themselves rushing from one spot to another on Friday not knowing what they would face when they arrived. Here the Esperance town brigade truck races along Winston-ay towards the fire threatening houses in Nulsen while (AT TOP) volunteer workers prepare a backpack water tank for use near McLean-rd. Thick smoke made goggles almost a necessity to fight close to the fire.

2000ha OF SCRUB UP IN FLAMES

It was a fire which missed everything.

No-one was hurt and neither the police nor the shire council received any property damage reports despite over 2000ha being burnt out.

The fire covered the area in about four hours and given fighters little time to get organised and fully co-ordinated.

Rather they had to rush from one danger spot to another and all the while on the retreat.

Town fire captain Bill McGillivray said "we were extremely lucky that towards

the end of the afternoon the wind died down a little allowing us to hold the fire."

But since Friday criticisms about how the firefighting was handled and a possible cause have arisen.

Many feel the rubbish tip could have been to blame for at least one fire as burning paper could have caught onto bush.

Police are continuing investigations into the fire cause.

A solution suggested for the rubbish tip problem with burning paper is to alter the entrance road.

Now the road enters the tip area almost directly which allows a clear passage for burning debris to be blown down into bush. Re-modelling the road with a zig-zag approach would reduce this problem.

Former Urban-Rural Bushfire Brigade chief Max Tink attacked the firefighting co-ordination but said the workers "did a magnificent job under the circumstances."

"There was no central command and

MORE IN PAGE 4

More photos page 4

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SHARK ATTACK!

A promising young surfer is in a satisfactory condition in the Esperance District Hospital after a 3.5m shark attacked him while surfing at Fourth Beach late Monday afternoon.

Grantley Butcher (18) received massive lacerations to his lower left leg when the shark dragged him from his surf board.

What started out as a leisurely afternoon surfing turned into a battle of survival for the young surfing fanatic.

Badly savaged surfer drove himself to hospital



SHARK attack victim Grantley Butcher is comforted by his mother Lorna in hospital on Tuesday morning.

Mr Butcher was sitting about 200m off shore waiting for a wave at about 6pm when he first saw the Bronze Whaler.

"I was just paddling around waiting for a wave when I saw it just below the surface about 10m away.

"At first I thought it was a dolphin but soon realised it was a shark."

Previous

Having had about five previous encounters with sharks while surfing Mr Butcher started paddling slowly towards shore.

"The next thing I saw was the shark underneath me. Its dorsal fin was in front of my board.

"It must have knocked me off the board with its tail. I got back on the board and started paddling for shore."

The shark then attacked Mr Butcher

from behind pulling him from his board by the left leg and dragging him under.

"I must have been under the water for at least five seconds. The shark was thrashing around. I could feel his head moving from

By PHIL SCOBLE

side to side.

"For some reason he let go and when I came to the surface my board was about five metres away."

Torn

Even with his calf muscle badly torn Mr Butcher swam to his board and caught a wave into shore.

"I could hear the shark going mad behind me. I don't know if it had my leg rope it bit off stuck in its throat, but it was going crazy."

When he reached

the beach Mr Butcher tried to walk but collapsed.

His injured leg was unable to take any weight and he crawled up the beach to his car and drove himself to hospital.

Dragged

"Blood was pouring from my leg and I couldn't stand so I dragged myself and my board up the beach.

"It was pretty hard driving the car with only one leg. You want to try it some time."

The full extent of the attack was revealed in hospital when Mr Butcher's wet suit was cut away.

Esperance next Saturday to work in the Goldfields to save money so he could spend more time pursuing his surfing career.

"I was planning to go to Margaret River and compete in some surfing contests."

Mr Butcher was recently sponsored by international surfboard manufacturer Santosha to compete in surfing contests.

Thankful

From his hospital bed Tuesday Mr Butcher said he had kept relatively calm during his ordeal.

"I was just thankful when the shark let me go my board was not too far away."

"I could have been a goner."

The last reported shark attack was about 15 years ago when 21-year-old abalone diver Gary McKinnon was attacked by a Bronze Whaler east of Esperance.

He received a badly injured hand in the attack.

BIG COUNCIL SPILL POSSIBLE IN '88

At least nine and possibly all 13 Esperance Shire councillors could come up for election in the May 1988 poll because of the ward boundary redistribution called for by Local Government Minister Jeff Carr.

Council currently has its proposed changes—which reduce the four country wards to three—before Mr Carr for approval.

The idea is to abolish the existing central ward and allocate its voters to the other three country wards. Each country ward will get

two councillors. Esperance (town) ward which now has six councillors will gain one seat from the country in the reshuffle.

Changes

The changes will not be in place in time for this May's elections but

will affect 1988.

This May five seats are up for election. The seats of shire president Merv Andre and Cr Chris Friend from Esperance ward fall vacant along with deputy president David Reichstein's central ward seat, east ward's Cr Don March, and north's Don Paterson.

By Friday Crs Reichstein and March had renominated for their existing seats. In Esperance ward Cr Friend had

renominated while in a surprise move Cr Paterson had switched targets and nominated for the town seat. Cr Andre will retire in May.

Elected

Country ward councillors elected this year will very likely have to face the electors again next year without serving their full three year terms.

The question is up to the Local Government

Minister but it would appear the reshuffle—which in effect creates three new seats after abolishing the old four—will require it.

Facing

Also facing the electors in 1988 will be the four councillors due for election next year anyway—Esperance ward's Colin Beilken and Bob Camplin, west ward's Stewart Hockey and central's Bob Savage.

The poll will have to include the extra Esperance ward seat

MORE IN PAGE 30

13 councillors up for election

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PROTESTORS spoke out about their opposition to the destroyer berthing in Esperance as they marched alongside the Ingersoll.

Marchers line wharf to protest ship

Sailors were unperturbed by over 70 protestors who stood on the wharf with anti-nuclear banners opposing the nuclear armed ship in the Esperance port.

The protest was overwhelmingly supported by mothers and their children determined to make their opinion known.

Protestors of all ages assembled at the RSL Park at 12.30pm on Saturday to inflate balloons and distribute banners.

They trooped off down James-st and along The Esplanade to the USS Ingersoll—banners were held high, children skipped along carrying balloon bunches, dogs weaved in and out, chatter and musical tunes combined for the high spirited and friendly protest before the sailors.

On reaching the boat dispersed into the air and blown onto the boat. An un-named sailor demonstrated his goodwill when he collected a bunch of balloons from the boat and walked down the gangway "to return them to the owner."

By NICOLA GRASSIE

Nuclear Awareness Group president Wendy

Stewart was pleased with numbers for the march.

"Esperance is a small conservative township—often they don't even get this response in other areas."

"In Fremantle they often get about 100 protestors for the whole

of the city."

She estimated there were more than 90 protestors by the time they reached the wharf.

She was relieved there was no trouble caused as she got a few threatening telephone calls saying protestors would be run over.

industries—if an accident occurred they would be wiped.

"No security measures have been taken and the possibility of an accident does

exist—why must they come into our port for rest and recreation when they have enough fuel to go from Fremantle to

MORE IN PAGE 2

Ainsworth National Party Roe electorate candidate

The National Party has selected its frontrunner in the forthcoming Roe Seat election.

At a Ravensthorpe National Party meeting last week WA Farmers Federation Grains Council President and Salmon Gums farmer Ross Ainsworth won the pre-selection from fellow National hopeful Ian Goldfinch.

More than 40 party members representing 15 branches in the

Roe Electorate voted—in a secret ballot—to give Mr Ainsworth the party ticket to run in the election against Liberal candidate Graham Jacobs and a yet unknown Labor candidate.

Although he won the pre-selection Mr Ainsworth said he now had to get the party's "official endorsement" before he could begin campaigning.

Formality

"It is only a formality but it has to go before the National Party State Council meeting to get their seal of approval."

Once the seal was given—on September 12—he would begin his campaign based on local issues and the Nationals' "track record" in WA.

"The major things I will be standing on would be the good record of the Nationals" in WA. "It is a party that represents the

interests of country people in general. It's the party that is representative of small business and equal opportunity and quality of life for country people.

"I will be putting together a campaign team in the next two or three weeks and once that is in place I will be going out and campaigning on the local issues I think are important and will also be talking to the local people to listen to their concerns over what they consider to be important issues."

In an electorate taking in Esperance, Ravensthorpe, Lake Grace, Kent, Gnowangerup and Kulin shires plus Dundas'

MORE IN PAGE 2

Campaign on 'track record'

Peaceful

After the protest she got calls from people who were proud the demonstration was not aggressive but controlled and peaceful. Esperance Sen Sgt Bill Todd said "the protest was a small peaceful demonstration."

Collectively protestors were against the absence of safety procedures in Australian ports but on an individual basis these comments were made:

Schoolteacher John Gillet said he was protesting against the escalation of the Cold War.

Radiated

"I have a six-week-old son and don't want to see him radiated before adulthood."

Carpenter John Makela said while the ship was in the Esperance port it posed a threat to fishing, grain and farming



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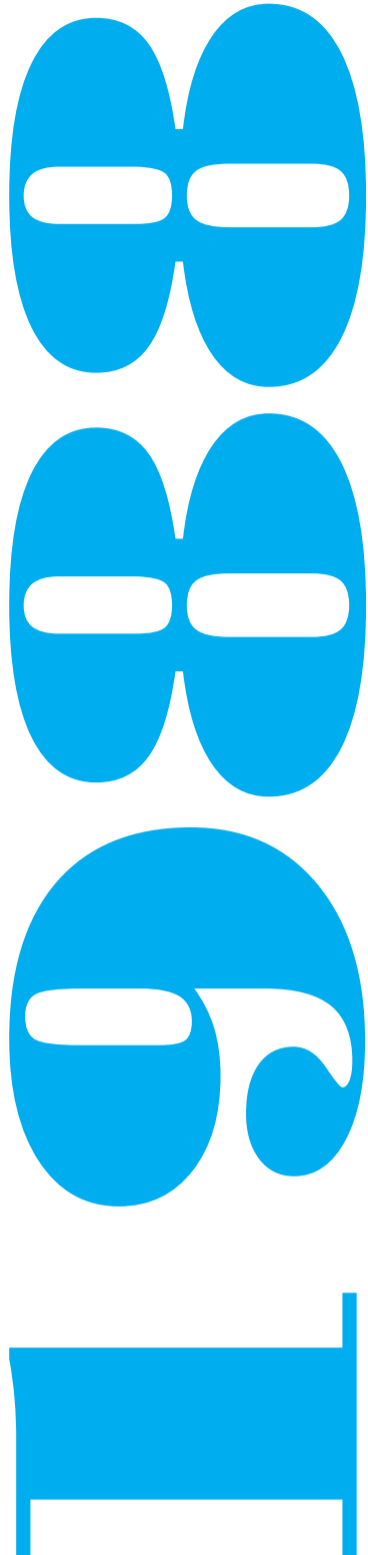
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ISLAND VISIT

The archipelago's new island Iran Saeidi is not a permanent fixture in Esperance waters. According to Esperance Customs sub-collector Kevin Shepherdson it was waiting for load port orders after money from Iran had been sent.

He said special attention was being paid to the ship because Immigration Department had received information crew members were going to jump ship. People on board were restricted to the vessel.

HOPE FOR NEW HOME

LINGALONGA kids (clockwise bottom left), Kris Trenberth (3), Sarah Higgins (4), Robert Tate (3) and Kim Reynolds (4) are hoping Community Services Department will supply the cash needed to build a new Randell-st home for their child care centre. It was revealed recently land for a new centre had been purchased, so only financial backing is needed to start improving child care facilities in Esperance.

importance—and the issue of who should be maintaining them.

Maintained

"Government dams provide locals with water—but they really haven't been maintained by the WAWA." Because dams were used to water stock—they did not fit WAWA

operations or funding schemes. "Responsibility for the dams should be taken over by other departments or local authorities."

Conservation and Land Management Department was one body considered as suitable to take responsibility for the dams—if they were interested. **MORE IN PAGE 2**

WATER CRISIS NOW OFFICIAL

Areas within Esperance Shire have been officially declared water deficient. And as farmers look expectantly at the sky for rain to wet ground for this year's seeding—last year's lack of run-off rain is continuing to cause and accentuate problems.

North and west wards have been declared water deficient because of seriously depleted stock water supplies. Acting Agriculture and Water Resources Minister Julian Grill said he approved the declaration following drought consultative committee advice.

So far about 65 farmers running a combined total of around 200,000 sheep were carting water—and it was expected the declared area would be increased to include the Sandplain.

The declaration meant WA Water Authority would ensure free water is available at strategic points so farmers had to travel no more than 40kms—round trip—from their farms for water supplies.

Kalgoorlie WAWA regional operations engineer Don Ward said preparations for water carting were underway. "Once we are formally advised we make arrangements with the Transport Department to award contracts."

By DOROTHY HENDERSON

The department had standard contracts which were utilised.

"WAWA's role is to co-ordinate. We liaise with the Agriculture Department and will talk to them to find out where water should be situated throughout the Mallee and Salmon Gums area."

WAWA would also monitor loads and authorise contractor's payments.

Old government dams would be utilised.

Affected

"We will have to decide which of these are well placed for drought affected farmers."

Government dams in water deficient areas were nearly all dry.

"Esperance borefield is large so there is no need to run them all to meet normal requirements. The flow rate is designed so salt is not a problem."

When extra water was needed other bores were drawn on to spread the load rather than punishing working bores.

Water shortages in country areas highlight government dams'

"The dams are small and the majority of them have already been carted from."

Mining

Water would have to be carted to top up dams—where from depended on dam location but most water was likely to be drawn from Esperance.

"We normally choose the most appropriate location to get water from—in the past we have carted from Shark Lake."

Drawing water from lakes was time-consuming because pumps and truck access were needed so it was better for overhead pipes and tanks to be used.

The extra demand would not affect Esperance's water supply—not by 32 bores. "Groundwater supplies in Esperance are not a problem."

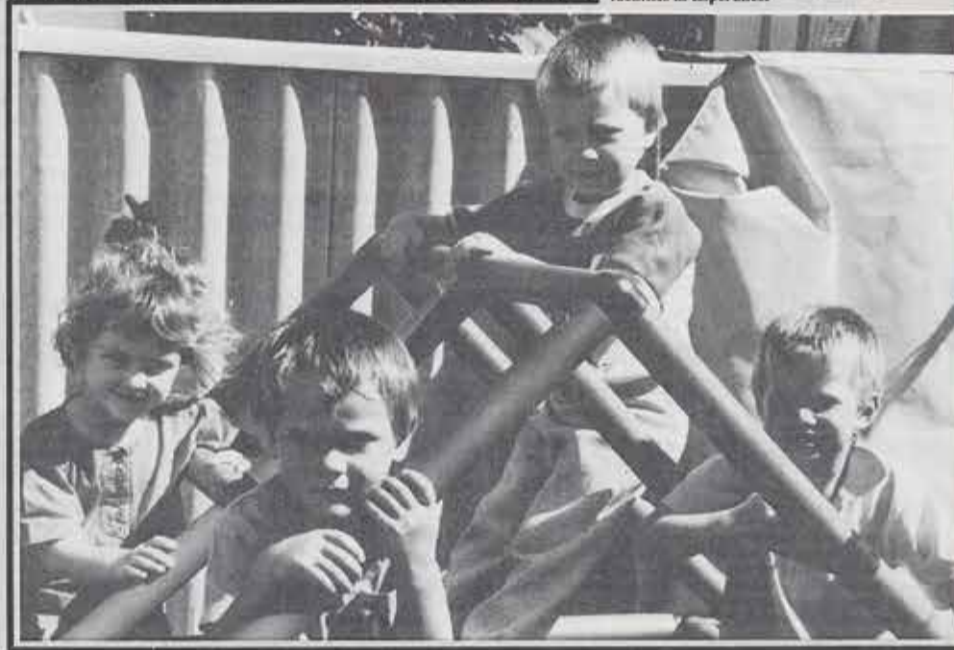
Carted

The borefield was designed so water mining was not occurring.

"We are utilising water which would otherwise be wasted."

Pumping rates were designed to remove waste water—which would normally flow out either to the sea—or inland depending on factors like soil type and slope.

If borefields were pumped too hard—salt water did cause a problem.



JOBSTART WORKS WELL

Jobstart, a government scheme, has helped Esperance's disadvantaged find work.

Esperance CES manager Greg Trenberth said about 40 people had gained jobs through jobstart.

"We have a list at any one point of 40 to 50 people employed under the jobstart and aboriginal programmes."

Mr Trenberth said the programme did not target unskilled people but people who were disadvantaged.

For a person to be eligible they

must have been unemployed for six months or nine.

Government also classifies aboriginals, individuals who have been in prison, migrants with language disabilities and physical disabilities.

"These people are disadvantaged in their efforts to find work."

Employers were given subsidies for taking people on.

Financial incentives were \$50 per

week for juniors and \$180 per week for people over the age of 45 employed.

AGREEMENT

Period of employment was for six months. Although an agreement was signed it was not binding and there was no obligation for a person to stay.

About one third continued once the agreement ended, the rest left at the end of or during this period.

He thought the scheme was a good idea as long as people bore in mind its objectives.

"It is a person orientated scheme as distinct from a wage subsidy scheme."

Ages ranged from 15 to 60 with jobs such as farmwork, retail, clerical and trades available.

"Normally what happens is an employer rings up looking for a

MORE IN PAGE 3

WIN A NISSAN EXA FOR KEEPS



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Bush tucker in town!

Esperance's Aboriginal community joined together to celebrate National Aboriginal Week with a series of Nulsen Primary School held displays and activities last week.

Esperance celebrations were funded and supported by Esperance Aboriginal Bay of Isles Committee as the local contribution to National Aboriginal Week Celebrations undertaken across the Nation.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Commission's National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee created the week to promote understanding of Aboriginal and Islander culture and heritage among all Australians.

During the celebrations school classes took part in various activities like tasting traditional foods and bark painting. Included on the tasting menu was damper topped with golden syrup or jam and freshly cooked kangaroo meat.

A photographic display of Esperance Senior High School Aboriginal students' 1987 desert tour proved a hit with display visitors as did the craft work on show. This craft included carrying bowls, spears and handcrafted goannas. Also on show were Aboriginal motif t-shirts and other fashions made by local craftspeople.

School Aboriginal education teacher Robyne Reynolds said she was pleased with the way students had got into the Aboriginal week spirit and was looking forward to further success next year.

"This year has been a great success at Nulsen. Next year we would like to involve other Esperance schools in the celebrations. It has also been magnificent to see so many members of the local Aboriginal community take part in this year's activities."

**DRUNK DRIVERS
DISGUST POLICE**

Esperance has the third highest arrest rate for alcohol related driving offences of any Western Australian country town.

This dubious distinction was earned on an outright basis with per capita figures likely to see Esperance's 8500 inhabitants fare even worse in comparison to other towns.

Esperance police sergeant Gary Sparks described the town's arrest rate for driving with a blood-alcohol reading over 0.08 percent (drink driving) and over 0.15 percent (drunk driving) as disgusting.

"We have the third highest arrest rate in the State for alcohol related driving offences."

"For a town of Esperance's small size I find this disgusting, though we would still be disgusted

even if there was only a single case of drink driving."

Sgt Sparks said it was not only the rate at which alcohol related driving offences were occurring but their severity.

"In the short time I have been here the other thing I have found extra disturbing about alcohol affected drivers encountered is they are way over the legal limit."

The amount of publicity given to drunk and drink driving made further police warnings ineffective, but no person in Esperance had an excuse for driving with an illegal amount of alcohol in their blood.

Esperance Court records show of the first 300 cases handled in 1990 of all kinds, 60 involved alcohol affected drivers.

Of these nearly half, 26 cases, were of the more serious driving under the influence of alcohol type.

Incapable

This means that the drivers of the offence had a blood alcohol level in excess of 0.15 percent and were deemed by law to be incapable of having proper control of a motor vehicle.

Figures showed the typical irresponsible Esperance driver willing to risk other road user's lives by driving with illegal blood alcohol levels was male and aged between 20-30 years.

The 60 cases showed 52 male and just eight female offenders, with 42 drivers aged 20-30 years, 10 18-20 years, five 30-40 years, two 40-50 years and one over 50 years.

Serious

Of the eight female offenders only one had been charged with the more serious driving under the influence charge.

To date more than 700

cases have been recorded in Esperance—but local Crown Law Department figures were only made available for the first 300.

Complete figures are now being sought through WA Attorney General Joe Berinson's office.

When asked to comment on local drink related offences, WA Police Minister Graham Edwards called on Esperance people to support the State Government's push to lower the legal blood alcohol limit to 0.05 percent from its present 0.08 percent level.

Realise

"It is up to Esperance people to realise the move to 0.05 percent is part of an overall strategy to save lives on our roads."

"Some people attempt to cloud the issue of road death through alcohol abuse by saying lowering the blood-alcohol level would destroy social life in country areas."

"Most country people will look past this shallow view and see the real worth of 0.05 percent."

Mr Edwards said he had been greatly encouraged by results of a June survey which showed 62 percent of country people supported the reduction to a 0.05 blood alcohol limit.

Chilly day

Esperance's 11.9 degree celsius Monday maximum was the coldest September maximum since records began to be kept at the local meteorological office in 1969.

The previous lowest September maximum was recorded on September 26, 1979 when the mercury crawled to 12.6 degrees C.



ESPERANCE District Education Office Aboriginal liaison officer David Williams does the cooking as Nulsen Primary School students Rodney Jamieson, Kody Kelman and Giovanni Gerdel try out some freshly cooked kangaroo.

By MARK FLETCHER

"People have been warned, everyone driving a car has a friend or relative who has been caught and that should be enough warning."

Being caught with illegal amounts of alcohol in the blood meant at least a licence suspension and a heavy fine.

Repeated offences could bring lifetime disqualification from driving, prison and/or massive fines.

Two recent Esperance accidents, both involving drivers affected by alcohol, ended with some of those involved in Esperance District Hospital.

In September a car rolled on the Esperance-Coolgardie-hwy five kilometres south of Scaddan and in August a car ran off Kalgoorlie-rd and hit a tree.

The drivers in both cases were charged by police with drink driving.

Life reel saves a life

The availability of an unvandalised Esperance Apex life reel saved a life last Saturday when it was used to save a Kalgoorlie fisherman who fell from rocks at Twilight Cove.

Esperance police senior constable Frank Yates said Brian Bond had been fishing with a group of friends when at around 9am his line snagged resulting in him falling from rocks into a heavy swell.

"Mr Bond is a reasonable swimmer but he was wearing a heavy woollen jumper and found himself

unable to get back to land in the heavy swell."

The sudden woollen jumper made it hard for Mr Bond to keep himself afloat and those on the shore were soon worried for his safety.

"Another member of his party went to his assistance, but also slipped into the water."

Both men had been in the water for about 15 minutes when a female in the group remembered publicity given to the Apex life reels and sought out the one provided at Twilight Cove.

"She remembered seeing a television report about the reels being vandalised and the difficulties Apex

were having keeping the equipment in working order."

Using the life saving equipment, both men were successfully plucked from the sea to safety.

Mr Bond's wife was extremely concerned at his condition and the man told police he genuinely believed the Apex equipment had saved his life.

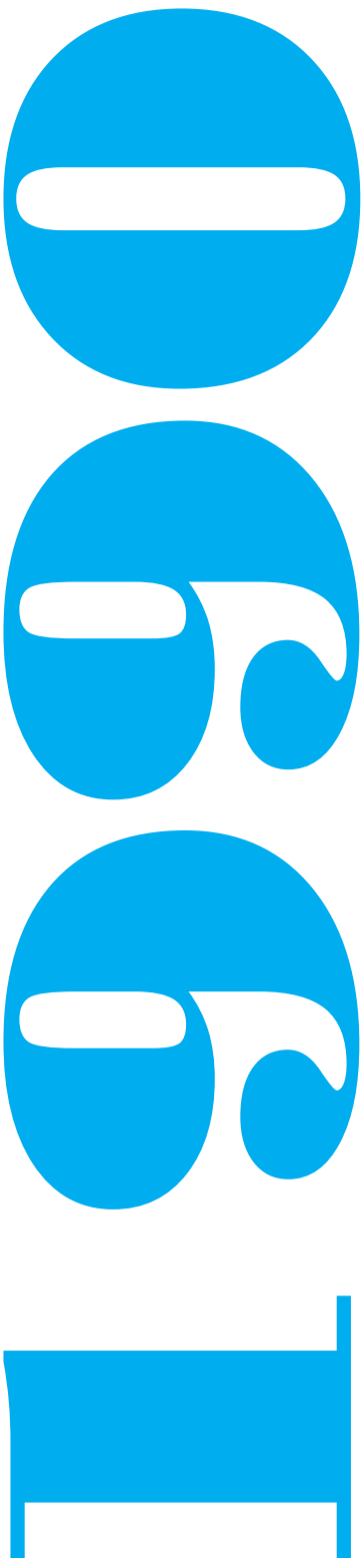
He showed his gratitude to the local service club by making a cash donation toward's the life saving equipment's upkeep.

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40 CENTS THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14, 1991 VOL 19 NO 13 PH 712322

Run aground!

SANKO Harvest low in the water, severely holed, leaking fuel oil and stuck fast off Cape le Grand. INSET: Another aerial view clearly shows the slick spreading. Photos by David Green.



No immediate danger

A 33,000t Korean bulk cargo ship, Sanko Harvest, ran aground at 3.20am this morning about 7.5km off Cape Le Grand between Hastings and Hood Islands, about 34km from Esperance.

The ship was severely holed in the incident and a fuel oil slick measuring 3.5km by 300m was observed moving in a westerly direction from the ship, driven by an easterly wind.

Marine and Harbours Department executive director John Jenkins said the ship's master told Esperance Port Authority his ship had suffered reasonable damage to its hull and there was some fuel engine oil leaking from the ship.

"The department's Esperance harbour master Ian Harrod proceeded to the ship at first light to assess the damage and

Esperance tug Cape Le Grande is standing by."

Built in 1985, the ship displaced 33,000t and had a 20 member all Korean crew on board. It was carrying 30,000t of phosphate.

"A preliminary report from Captain Harrod at 9.30am confirmed the ship is severely holed on its port side and aground on a reef.

"Some fuel oil spillage has occurred but it is not a major pollution problem yet. The cargo is intact and posed no threat."

Plan co-ordinator David Oliver would be despatched to Esperance if Mr Harrod indicated further action was needed.

Mr Harrod and Mr Oliver were unavailable to comment as they were investigating the incident.

Stuck fast

Mr Merivale farmer John Locke was one of the first people to see the ship as he flew over it around 8am.

He said the ship was broadside to the wind, appeared to be stuck fast and was lying low in the water.

Esperance Conservation and Land Management Department district manager Klaus Tiedemann said there was no immediate threat.

"We have a three day weather forecast and we are plotting the oil slick. We are monitoring the situation as it unfolds."

CALM is responsible

for Cape Le Grand National Park, its beaches and islands near the ship.

Wildlife in the area includes seals, fairy penguins, dolphins, numerous fish and bird species.

Esperance Shire clerk Ron Scoble said the local port authority had an action plan for such events, but it dealt mainly with the immediate harbour area.

Mr Scoble said council would be doing all it could to help if the local coastline became affected with oil from the ship.

"The port authority has an action plan, but this deals more with spillages in the harbour area.

"Council does not have resources to cover a slick so far from town. We have no authorisation of control in those waters in any case.

"Council will be doing all it can to help if beaches are threatened by this accident."

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No such report

Esperance's Radio 747 did not put to air a report which claimed this year's Oz Rock concert was marred by violence.

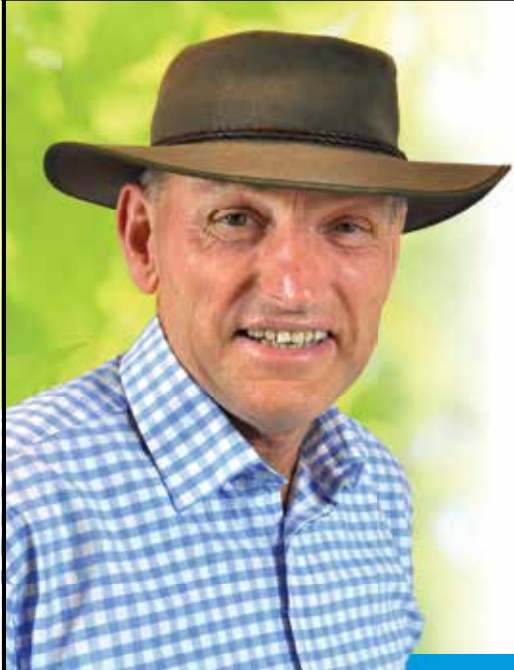
Station general manager Neville McGrath said his station had backed the important local event by promoting it through its lead up phase, during and after the event.

"At no time did any reporting on Radio 747 after the event say there had been any trouble at the concert. We look forward to backing next year's concert."

Mr McGrath said the Express reporter responsible had apologised for any inconvenience the error may have caused.

Story by **MARK FLETCHER**
TIM EVANS
DENISE MORTON

The States Resources Plan for combating oil pollution was initiated and all required equipment was on its way to Esperance from storage areas in other State ports.



Graham Jacobs MLA

Your State Member for Eyre



Congratulations to the Editor and Staff, both past and present, on the 40th anniversary of the Esperance Express.

Thank you for bringing the local news to the community and I wish you the best for another 40 years.

Regards
Graham Jacobs

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40 CENTS TUESDAY AUGUST 4, 1992 VOL 20 NO 62 PH 712322

COLLEEN YOUNG, Graham Cooper, Graham Gath and Robin Gurney were among the many parents to answer the call when Castletown Primary School principal Pauline Grewar (centre) sent out the call for help early yesterday morning. Photo by Mark Fletcher.



MINDLESS THUGS CONDEMNED

Castletown Primary School staff, students, parents and community helpers have triumphed over a mindless act of weekend vandalism.

Some time over the weekend thousands of dollars damage was done to rooms occupied by the school's youngest students, school offices, the library, education centre and school canteen—a crime described as mindless and beyond belief.

No sooner was the damage discovered than droves of parents with children at the school and at other schools were on sight with brushes, gloves, vacuum cleaners and brooms making the rooms safe for those worst affected by the crime, the school's junior students.

By MARK FLETCHER

So badly was the school canteen damaged, lunch orders had to be prepared elsewhere with Esperance Primary School giving its support to get students fed.

While inflicting a sickening list of mindless damage to the school, at least one of the offenders was cut, adding blood to paint and other liquid strewn throughout affected areas.

Principal Pauline Grewar listed

the damage done to the school in what was an unprecedented attack.

"Windows were broken in my office and the deputy's office, room's 10,11 and nine, and the library.

"The junior art room had paint thrown around and things were thrown around in all rooms. There was produce destroyed and blood in the fridges in the canteen. Blood on the telephones, carpets and chairs. All school taps and lights had been switched on.

"There has been thousands of dollars of damage done, television sets in the library were tampered with, the card index destroyed, books thrown all over the floor and audio and video cassettes found this morning in the quadrangle."

Despite the vandalism, the community response had made good much of the damage in a matter of

hours, and showed the community would not bow to such mindless acts.

"People responded to the call brilliantly, they have been buzzing around with brooms and brushes, the community spirit is great.

Responsible

"It is also remarkable the way the children have responded, they went and helped and were most responsible about the whole thing.

"It is incomprehensible to me how people could do something like this, it is just beyond belief.

"Never in the school's whole history has there been vandalism to this extent. I am sure it has nothing to do with the school itself, vandalism is a community problem."

Esperance District Education
 MORE IN PAGE 2

"It's just beyond belief"

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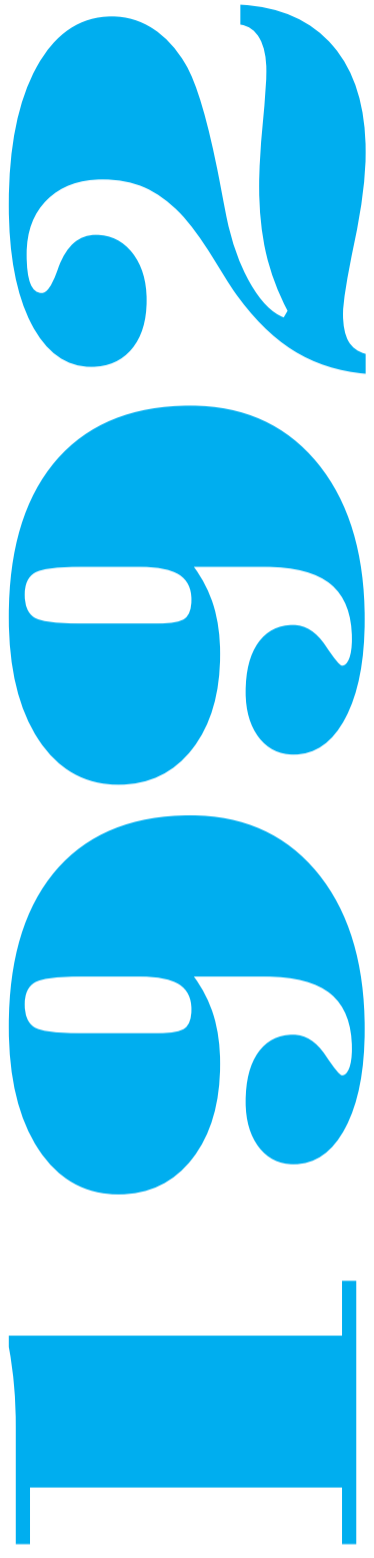
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SPEED FREAKS!

“People around town would be shocked their kids are doing it . . .”

Esperance youth, some as young as 13, are using amphetamines, while at least 25 are injecting “speed” on a regular basis.

The drug is reportedly being imported into Esperance by at least half a dozen people, who are willingly selling it to local teenagers despite the consequences.

Some users are apparently sharing dirty needles, and there are fears of the spread of AIDS and

hepatitis among local youth. For the past six months the *Express* has been in constant touch with a select group of Esperance “homeless” youth and the people trying to help them.

One of them, a former drug user in regular contact with many of the speed abusers, has described in glib detail the drug’s use and its effects.

She described speed as a “gutter” drug, worse than heroin, that made users feel “great,” almost “invincible.”

A gram of speed, which came as a yellow powder, cost between \$80 and \$100, and was often mixed with anything from Epsom salts to flour and Glucogen.

Kids would each contribute about \$20 to the price of a gram, then share it between them, cutting it further to make it go round.

EXCLUSIVE

By DAVID WILLIAMS

“It’s not confined to kids—it’s the kids that are suffering though. The market is kids, the dealers are taking advantage. When you are young is when you are most stupid.”

The safest way to take speed was to wrap it up in cigarette paper and swallow it, but many injected it. She had seen some users filing the end of their needles on matchboxes to get rid of the barbs on them, developed from overuse.

“It gives you butterflies and a dry mouth, and makes you great—makes you almost invincible. It

MORE IN PAGE 2

● Focus on Esperance’s homeless youth P8-9

PRICE RISE

The *Express* now costs 50 cents, following the first price rise in nearly five years.

The price has been held at 40 cents since August 1988, but cannot be held indefinitely. The rise is due to cost and wage increases over the past four-and-a-half years.



THE grubby side of Esperance. The photo may have been set up to illustrate the point, but the image is a common one in certain circles. Photo by DAVID GREEN.

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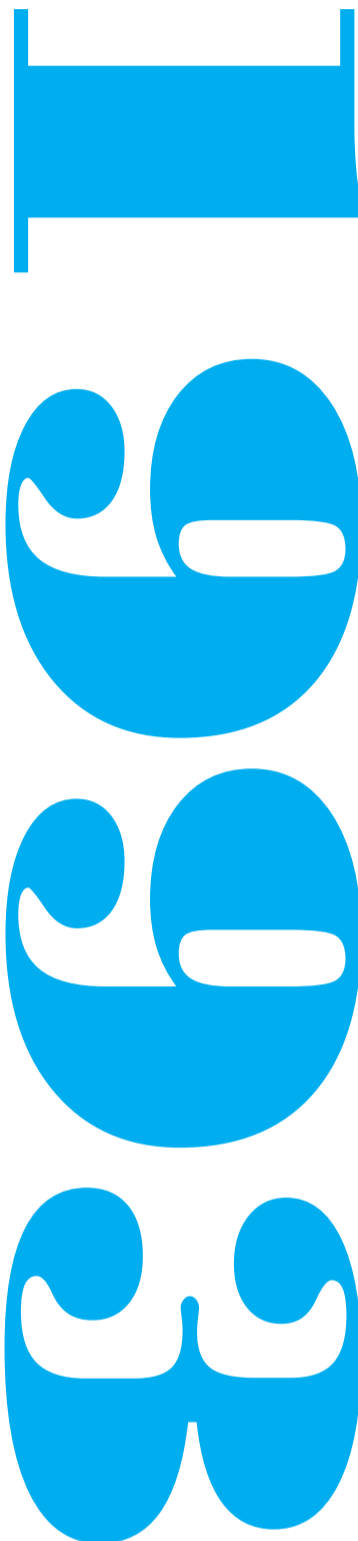
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50 CENTS TUESDAY JANUARY 4, 1994 VOL 22 NO 1 PH 712322

BRAWL SPOILS NEW YEAR

An ugly brawl in Andrew-st on New Year's morning—in which both innocent women and men were bashed—marred Esperance's new year celebrations.

Esperance Police Officer in Charge Senior Sergeant Jim Arbuckle condemned those involved in the brawl which began on The Esplanade at about

2.10am and then moved into Andrew-st.

"This sort of behaviour will not be tolerated in Esperance. It is just not on."

Police, badly outnumbered, did all they could to control the situation but as one fight was broken up another started.

It is believed the brawl began with the assault of a teenage girl before it developed into a wild running melee in which innocent bystanders waiting for taxis in Andrew-

st were also bashed. Esperance District Hospital reported a busy time in the early hours of the new year treating the wounded.

By MARK FLETCHER and
LYNDEL TAYLOR

Several traffic accidents occurred at the weekend, the worst of which saw a passenger with internal injuries, Christine Agals (29) flown to Perth for treatment. The accident occurred 1km down Springdale-rd

from South Coast-hwy on Sunday afternoon when the vehicle rolled over. The two people in the car were taken to Esperance District Hospital. The driver, Gregory Lichtwalk (30), suffered minor injuries.

A second accident occurred on Sunday evening when a car drove through the Watson-st/Harbour-rd intersection and hit a sign on the other side of Harbour-rd. No one was injured in the accident and the car suffered minor damage. In other incidents over the weekend:

● Doctor Jacobs' Dempster-st surgery was broken into on Friday night. The offenders broke in via a side window and made off with \$200 in coins.

● The Esperance Speedway Club rooms were broken into with offenders gaining access to the bar and making off with \$200 worth of frozen food and an esky. The crime left the club with a \$600 repair bill.

● The social rooms at the rear of the Post Office were broken into sometime over the weekend. Offenders smashed a window to gain access and then ransacked drawers.

● A farmer near Dunns Rock did not have a happy new year after he discovered someone had driven up from the beach and broken into a caravan on his property. The thieves stole a television, gas cooker and gas bottle, 1000 litres of diesel, two drills and various hand tools.

● On Sunday night two motor bikes were stolen from the verandah of a house in Smith-st. The Honda 80cc and Honda 50cc dirt bikes have not yet been recovered.

● At about 4.20am on New Year's Day a Suzuki sedan was turned on its side as it stood in front of the Esperance Police Station. Two offenders were arrested almost instantly for the offence.

Smiling in the face of disaster

AFTER suffering from burns, inhalation and fractured limbs as the result of a major accident, BP driver Greg Walsh looks surprisingly mellow while Esperance Fire Brigade volunteers douse potentially flammable "petrol" covering the accident area. Greg's smile gives the slightest indication he's not taking this all too seriously—he knows the training exercise he is a part of will soon be over and his "wounds" will have been miraculously healed. Esperance's emergency services had it all under control—"doing disaster the safe way." More on pages 6-7. Photo by STEVE PENNELLS.



Bureau's hard work pays off

Esperance is experiencing a summer season bonanza with 5000-6000 visitors soaking up all the Bay of Isles has to offer and almost doubling the town's population in the process.

Local tourist bureau manager Les Wilkins said with the numbers the town was experiencing most accommodation, apart from the occasional cancellation, was taken up.

"Numbers through the bureau are on a par with last year but bookings for cruises and Woody Island trips are up.

"Foresore attractions are doing well as are local retailers, restaurants, takeaways and coffee shops."

On top of this the bureau was most pleased with the community support it was receiving with travel bookings up a phenomenal 90 percent compared to the same December period last year.

"Obviously visitors are happy with the service bureau staff Tracey, Elaine and Jean provide, particularly their cheerful, helpful attitude."

The extra bookings also helped the bureau to continue its excellent record in promoting attractions and he hoped all would enjoy a happy and prosperous new year.

Visitor numbers showed the promotions held during 1993 had paid off starting with the Adelaide Caravan and Camping Show in February.

"This was followed by the Perth Caravan and Camping Show in March as was the Perth Holiday and Travel Show.

"In May Esperance was promoted at the Melbourne Caravan and Camping Show followed by a northern roadshow through the State's north in October before a week long major Kalgoorlie promotion."

Promotions like these over the last eight years could be seen

to be bearing continued fruit in the numbers of visitors choosing Esperance as their holiday destination.

Esperance Tourist Forum Secretary David Lomax said his organisation was quite excited about increasing Esperance tourism.

"I've noticed many more Japanese tourists in town which is due to the hard work of the Les Wilkin's tourist bureau promotions and Harold Hardwick's direct approaches to get tour operators to consider Esperance."

People who turned up in Esperance were also well catered for with numerous foreshore recreational options ranging from pedal cars to jet skis. When people went back after a successful holiday they would tell their friends and this gave the town continued promotion.

The forum's motto was "stay another day" and this is what it would be working towards through its work and projects in 1994.

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NATIONAL MUTUAL

TODAY

Teachers vote to maintain action

Local teachers have agreed to organise rolling stop-work meetings for two hours every month until the State Government takes a more serious look at the union's Quality of Education Campaign.

PAGE 5

Port at a standstill

Esperance port is again at a standstill after workers voted yesterday to continue strike action.

PAGE 3

Save with Club Two!

See page 4 for details.

Tuesday deadline

Because of the Foundation pay long weekend the deadline for classified ads and sports copy for Tuesday's Express is 10am Tuesday.

WEATHER

Day	Max	Min	Rain
Thur 25	18.7	9.8	9
Fri 26	18.8	13.1	2.6
Sat 27	19.4	8.4	-
Sun 28	20.9	8.7	-
Mon 29	16.3	12.4	6.8
Tue 30	17.7	11.8	-
Wed 31	19.5	6.9	-
Thur 1	-	10.7	0.4



AFTERMATH: Esperance WA Fire and Rescue Service volunteers examine the wreckage shortly after the accident. Photo by STEVE PENNELLS

Horror train smash

By STEVE PENNELLS

The damage bill from Tuesday's spectacular collision between an iron ore train and a road train at the South Coast-hwy railway crossing 5km out of Esperance could rise to more than \$9 million as Westrail works to clean up the wreckage.

Cranes and Westrail staff arrived yesterday from Perth and Kalgoorlie and crews are currently working around the clock to clear the site.

The accident occurred at about 4.10pm on Tuesday when an OD Transport truck with a 48 tonne barley load collided with the Westrail train carrying 3,600 tonnes of lump iron ore.

Two locomotives and 22 of the train's 60 wagons were derailed in the crash which saw the road train split into two sections, 200m of train track torn away and a 1.5m hole gouged into the road.

Miraculously no one was seriously injured in the accident and the train and truck drivers walked

away with minor injuries.

The area surrounding the site has been closed off since Tuesday afternoon and all traffic is being diverted while the wreckage is removed.

Lump iron ore spilt from the train's 22 derailed wagons has already been cleared and transported by truck to the Esperance port and the damaged wagons are currently being lifted from the site.

Once the wreckage is removed the road and track will be repaired

and contaminated soil containing about 3000l of diesel which leaked from one of the locomotives will be removed to prevent ground water contamination.

Westrail District Engineer Dean Giraud said it was hoped the tracks would be repaired and in use by tomorrow afternoon.

Two iron ore trains and one fuel/nickel train due at the port have been affected by the track's closure.

Esperance Port Authority General Manager Colin Stewart

said the port had accumulated a sizeable iron ore stockpile and the accident would not affect iron ore shipments.

The Residents for Esperance Development action group has called for an immediate inquiry into the accident and crossing safety.

Despite repeated requests, Transport Minister Eric Charlton has refused to comment.

● **More stories, photos P2 and 4**



DEVASTATION: An aerial shot of accident scene shows the extent of the damage. Photo by DICK THORP

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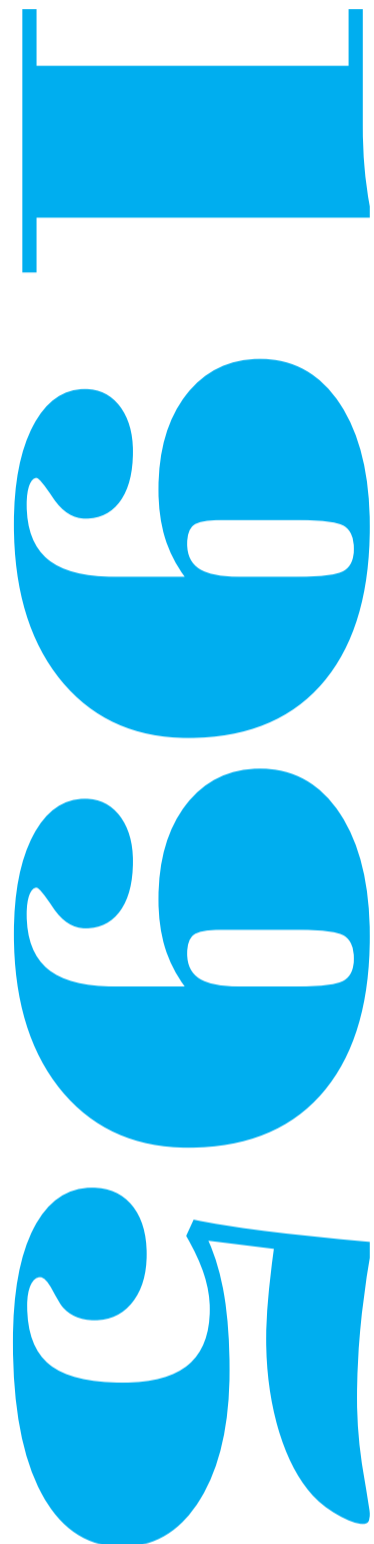


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Close call for swimmers



HIDDEN DANGER: Two local body boarders survey West Beach where two Kalgoorlie youths were rescued last week. While the beach may look harmless the presence of a rip makes swimming dangerous. Esperance Goldfields Surf Life Saving Club President Allan Read recommends people make use of Twilight Beach where the surf club patrols the waters on Sundays and public holidays. Photo by AMANDA SCOBLE.

Rescue prompts call for West Beach surf patrols

By AMANDA SCOBLE

There are fears someone will drown at West Beach unless lifesaving patrols are instituted at the beach.

Local resident Sean McFarland made his fears known to the *Express* after the first rescue of the summer at West Beach last week.

Mr McFarland's views have been supported by Esperance Goldfields Surf Life Saving President Allan Read.

Mr McFarland pulled two youths from the water after they got into trouble while swimming at West Beach.

The Kalgoorlie youths, in their late teens, got caught in a rip at the beach.

Mr McFarland said if

something was not done at the beach someone would die.

"My sons and I have pulled more than 50 people out of the surf at West Beach in the last year and something has to be done.

"Someone will drown and they'll keep drowning until something is done."

Mr McFarland said the beach should be patrolled by qualified lifesavers on school and public holidays as well as through the summer months to prevent people drowning.

"I don't care who does it, the main concern is that someone does it."

Mr Read said he shared Mr McFarland's concern for the safety of those swimming at West Beach.

But Mr McFarland and Mr Read both agree prevention is better than a cure and people needed to be made more aware of the risk they were taking when they swam at the beach.

Mr Read said because the Esperance coastline was so beautiful people did not realise how dangerous it could be.

"West Beach is a beautiful beach but it is also one of the most dangerous and has the ability to turn nasty very quickly."

Mr Read said it was impossible for the nearly 100 local beaches to be patrolled all the time and Esperance had some dangerous beaches.

"We want people to know that there are safer beaches

to swim at in Esperance and Twilight Beach is patrolled by lifesavers.

"It is impossible to watch all the beaches but people should be aware which ones are patrolled, and where they can swim safely."

"I would like to see signs as you go down onto West Beach that tell people there is a dangerous rip and if they drive up the road Twilight is safe and fully patrolled."

Mr Read said while it was good someone was at West Beach when it counted this time, that would not always be the case.

"From the club's point of view we want people to know that we don't recommend anyone should swim at West Beach but it is ultimately up to the individual."

TODAY

Bad weather affects tourism
The bad weather over the holiday period has seen local tourism businesses suffer with people cancelling their bookings and leaving Esperance early to escape the unseasonal weather.
PAGE 2

Promises, promises!
Shire President Ian Mickel joins other locals in sharing their New Year resolutions.
PAGE 5

School's Out!
PAGE 6

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Fri 24	17.5	15.2	-
Sat 25	19.3	12.2	0.1
Sun 26	26.7	8.7	-
Mon 27	22.6	13.0	-
Tue 28	20.2	12.2	0.2
Wed 29	19.5	7.5	-

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Page 17-27

Pages 40, 32, 33

Town library stays

But council lends support to college library merger

By ROBERT NEWTON

Esperance Shire Council voted to retain Esperance Public Library in its current location and agreed in principle to take part in the Esperance Community College joint venture library proposal at a special meeting on Tuesday attended by more than 100 concerned ratepayers.

It was standing room only in council chambers on Tuesday afternoon as councillors debated the advantages and disadvantages of including the public library in a proposal to combine Esperance Tertiary Education Centre and Esperance Senior High School facilities.

Amalgamation opponents Heather Galbraith, Georgina Brien, Rod Rogers and Harold Jacobs were just some of the local ratepayers who quizzed Esperance Shire President Ian Mickel on how a library merger would affect users of the existing library.

Mr Jacobs drew applause from the audience when he described the meeting as an example of bureaucratic gobblede-gook.

After more than an hour of questions from ratepayers and presentations from Rockingham Joint Library Facility Librarian Deb Hamblin and Esperance National Seniors Association Branch President Brian Pearce, council resolved to retain the shire library service to customers within the CBD and agreed to a joint venture proposal subject to the issues of capital contributions, ongoing operating costs and representation on a management committee being presented to council for further consideration.

As Cr Mickel asked individual councillors their views on the amalgamation proposal, it became obvious the majority of councillors supported the retention of the shire library.

Cr Julie Starcevic was met with cheers of approval when she said the shire library should not be moved.

"The campus library is going to go ahead regardless and the facility will be available to our young people. There is a vast difference between an educational and recreational library and I support the status quo."

Cr Louise Paterson said it was not local government's responsibility to fund educational facilities.

"This is the responsibility of the State and Federal Government. We have no guarantees in this proposal, we're signing up for a percentage commitment which could increase over time."

Cr Lawrie Shaw said while he supported Option E, he believed council was obligated to take part in the Community College joint venture library.

"I believe the future of Esperance is out at Pink Lake Road. We've been elected by the public to do our job and make decisions about the future, but I'd like to see the library building remain council property."

But Cr Miles Cattle said further resolutions could not be made on the amalgamation until a motion passed at a special council meeting on June 24 was either carried out or rescinded.

The previous motion states that council not enter into a joint library with Kalgoorlie College until such time as a financial, technical and administrative proposal is presented by Kalgoorlie College for council's consideration.

"Council shouldn't enter any proposal if they haven't got what they required from the previous meeting. It's pointless being here discussing anything until we've got this information."

During the meeting Nulsen Progress Association President Rod Rogers spoke from the floor supporting Cr Cattle's comments.

Mr Rogers said council was breaching the Local Government Act by not complying with the June 24 motion and any further resolution on the issue was illegal.

Council subsequently made a second resolution—to reaffirm its commitment to Resolution 279 of the June 24 meeting.

Yesterday, amalgamation opponent Heather Galbraith said a special electors meeting would be organised to further discuss the amalgamation issue.

"I urge everyone who is concerned about the loss of shire library services to attend the meeting. Council can then see the number of people who are opposed to any amalgamation."

Two call for resignation

At least two disgruntled ratepayers have called for the resignation of Esperance Shire President Ian Mickel and several other shire councillors over their handling of the joint venture library proposal.

Nulsen Progress Association President Rod Rogers and Esperance National Seniors Association Branch President Brian Pearce called for the resignations following Tuesday's special council meeting to discuss whether the Esperance Public Library would be included in the Esperance Community College joint venture library proposal.

Mr Rogers and Mr Pearce said they believed council had displayed a lack of leadership on the issue and breached the Local Government Act by making a resolution which did not correspond with a previous motion passed on June 24.

The June 24 motion stated that council not enter into a joint library with Kalgoorlie College until such time as a financial, technical and administrative proposal is presented by Kalgoorlie College for council's consideration.

Mr Rogers is adamant council cannot make further resolutions on the issue until either a proposal

Continued Page 2

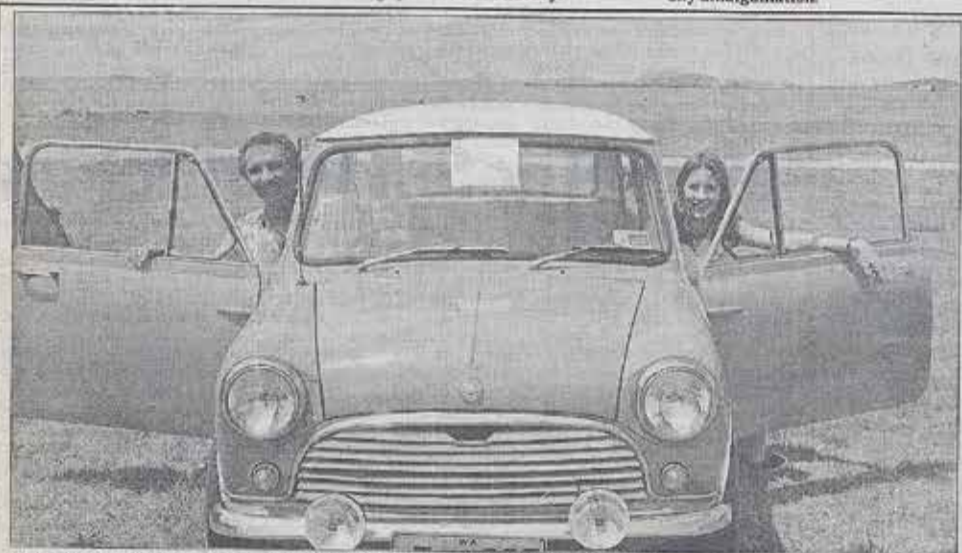
What does option E mean?

The resolution is in accordance with Option E outlined in an amalgamation position paper released by Esperance Shire Chief Executive Officer John Burrows last week.

The option calls for the shire to retain the Windich Street library with books and services catering for the needs of current library users—the remainder of books and services would be relocated to the joint library facility.

Advantages of the option include the establishment of specialist services in two locations and provision of services for elderly people and young children in a central location.

Disadvantages include the high cost of funding both facilities and the notion that a specialised shire library service would be restrictive to other users.



MAJOR LOVE FOR MINIS: Frank Antoniolli and his daughter Cherri were among the people who revelled in the wonder and delights of the Morris Minor, or Mini, at a specially organised parade on Sunday. The two are big fans of this white and khaki Cooper S Mini. For the full story and more photos see page 8. Photo by SONIA APLIN.

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Fri	17.1	5.4	10.4
Sat	18.3	10.4	-
Sun	14.9	9.7	5.0
Mon	17.7	5.9	0.4
Tue	18.5	5.7	-
Wed	22.0	7.3	-

INSIDE Page 2 Page 3 Page 6

Pink Lake black spot

By MONA CAMPBELL

There are renewed calls for the re-alignment of the western end of Pink Lake Road where Sunday's horror smash occurred—the fourth accident endured by local residents in just 12 months. Local police and residents have stressed the importance of having the dangerous curve towards the Eleven Mile Beach Road end of Pink Lake Road re-aligned, an option first proposed after a fatal crash in October, last year. The notorious curve was the scene of a horrific accident early on Sunday morning which left three people injured—two of them seriously.

Esperance Police Sergeant Gary Neil said there had been three reported accidents at the exact location in the past 12 months. "There was a fatality in October last year (a woman passenger was killed after the driver of the vehicle lost control), Sunday's serious accident and an accident which resulted in minor injuries in October last year. "There have been several serious crashes there over the past few years and obviously if the road's re-aligned there's less likelihood of crashes occurring. "The current alignment of the road has obviously contributed to the serious crashes which have

resulted in the fatality and serious injuries." Esperance Shire Engineer Michael Kahler said there was no denying a road re-alignment was needed. "Over a number of years there have been accidents on that section of road. Based on the accident history it's quite urgent." Pink Lake Road resident Elizabeth Oorschot said it was the fourth accident to happen close to their home in the eight years she and her family had lived there. "The accident occurred directly outside our front gate. "We were woken by banging on the door. It was the driver of one of the vehicles and my husband Bert went out to assist. Mrs Oorschot said three of her family members also attended the 1997 fatality. Mrs Oorschot said a road re-alignment should be carried out. "The quicker they do it, the better." But she said ultimately safety on the road was up to drivers to act responsibly. She said three of the four accidents which had occurred close to her home had allegedly been drink-driving related. "The road has got a bend in it, but it's not any more dangerous

Re-alignment on the cards

Ironically the scene of Sunday's accident has already been earmarked for re-alignment. Esperance Shire Engineer Michael Kahler said following last year's fatality, council resolved in February to carry out the necessary work on a detailed design for the re-alignment of the bend in Pink Lake Road. "To date we have completed a survey of the area, a preliminary design of the bend re-alignment, entered into negotiations to purchase land from the adjoining owner (negotiations are continuing) and contacted Main Roads WA regarding possible funding of the works under the Black Spot Program." Mr Kahler said the program was a Federal Government initiative to treat hazardous road locations. "The program aims to provide financial support to improve the physical condition or management of locations noted for a high incidence of crashes involving death and serious injury." He said the funding submission had been rejected because it failed to meet the criteria. Mr Kahler contacted Main Roads WA on Tuesday who said they would send council further funding application information. A second submission will be submitted in July for the 1998-99 financial year following finalisation of the property negotiations. "A final decision will be costed and presented to council."

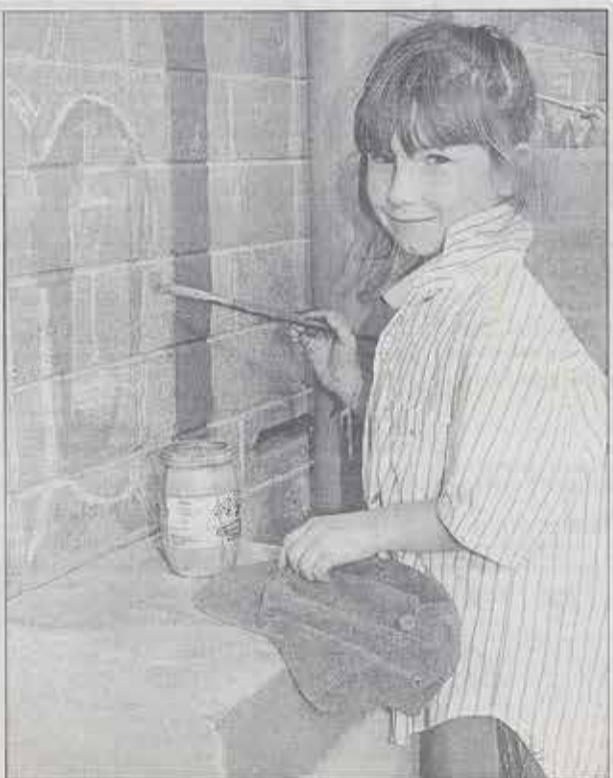
Accident under scrutiny

Two Perth Major Crash Section senior constables and two vehicle examiners arrived in Esperance yesterday to further investigate the facts behind Sunday's accident on Pink Lake Road. Esperance Police Constable Roland Van Es said throughout yesterday the four representatives were kept busy determining Sunday's crash.

"The vehicle examiners checked both the vehicles (involved in Sunday's accident) to see if they were roadworthy and the major crash senior constables were trying to establish exactly what happened. Impact, speeds and the exact cause." Const Van Es said a report from the Major Crash Section would be sent to Esperance Police in two weeks.

School clubs increase the fun factor

Who said school wasn't fun? Fishing, art and craft, drama and community volunteer work were just some of the activities going on at Esperance Primary School during the past four weeks. For an hour each week staff and students have been participating in school clubs. Teaching and non-teaching staff, parents and the entire student population have been involved in the initiative which is aimed at building the school/community interaction and developing student self-esteem. Esperance Primary School Clubs Coordinator Jenny Brodie-Hall said the concept had been embraced by all participants. "From the kids' aspect it was a chance to interact with other kids and teachers they don't normally see during class hours. At least 12-15 parents also helped out. "It has been very successful. We hope to do it again." Club activities included singing, dancing, pottery, mural painting, sewing and cooking. **PICTURE PERFECT:** Year two student Courtney Moffat carefully stays within the outline as she paints a mural as part of clubs activities. More photos page 15. Photo by ROBERT NEWTON



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Due to the New Year's Day public holiday on Monday, January 3 the deadlines for Tuesday's *Esperance Express* will be altered. All classifieds and sports copy must be received by 10am Tuesday.

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	Max	Min	Rain
Thurs	25.3	14.2	-
Fri	23.7	13.7	-
Sat	21.4	15.4	Trace
Sun	22.5	15.3	0.2
Mon	24.6	14.8	-
Tue	28.1	15.1	-
Wed	28.4	16.0	0.8

Taking a drug-free lesson in the waves

Fourth Beach was the place to be for potential surfers last week for some lessons from the experts.

The Esperance Local Drug Action Group sponsored a two-day surfing clinic in conjunction with West Australian Drug Abuse Strategy Office and Surfing WA.

This was the first time such an event had been held outside the metropolitan area.

Twenty surfers, ranging in ability levels and aged between 8-29 years, took part in the clinic run by Surfing WA State Coaching Director Mike McMonigal and coach Peter Hayes.

Mr Hayes was Australian open surfing champion in 1997 and Australian junior champion in 1988 and has won the State championship many times.

"We're very honoured to be invited down here by the Esperance Drug Action Group," Mr McMonigal said.

"Everyone's having lots of fun and learning the basics about surfing as well."

Local Drug Action Group member and clinic organiser Jill Fitzpatrick said the aim was to promote an active drug-free lifestyle by demonstrating a fun, exciting and healthy way to enjoy life in the surf—rather than choosing drugs to achieve highs and have fun.

"Esperance LDAG understands that drug abuse is one of the most serious and worrying problems affecting our society.

"The damage caused by drugs not only impacts on the drug user, it also impacts on their family, friends and community," Fitzpatrick said.

"Sponsoring the surf clinic is one way of taking action to prevent or reduce drug abuse in our community."



DRUG-FREE FUN: Sarah Ashman, Sarah Mather, Hayley Oldfield and Savannah Vanderschoor were among the 20 surfers who took advantage of the surfing clinic at Fourth Beach last week. Photo by KELLIE DOLAN

Ready for Y2K

Local services prepared for millennium night

By VICTORIA YOUNG

Local services are on stand by, ready to combat any problems the turn of the century may present.

Sea Search and Rescue, the State Emergency Service, police, hospital staff and St John Ambulance have been planning for any New Year and Y2K complications during the past few months.

But local Sea Search and Rescue and State Emergency Service Manager John Coates said he did not expect anything out of the ordinary this year.

He said the usual number of staff would be on call and he did not expect any Millennium Bug problems with communication equipment.

"We have generators on stand by if needed by the hospital or other services," Mr Coates said.

He added the Local Emergency Management Advisory Committee had a meeting several weeks ago and, as a result, senior staff from local services were on stand by.

Esperance Police Officer-in-Charge Senior Sergeant Len Stansfield said he did not expect any adverse effects from the millennium.

He said if there was a problem the power supply would be the main area affected.

If this did happen there could be problems with services such as automatic teller machines, petrol pumps and security systems.

"We have had assurances from Western Power that the power won't go out," Sen Sgt Stansfield said.

He said if the power remained then 90 per cent of anticipated problems would be avoided.

But Storm Security Manager Dave Hubble said the impact of Y2K on security systems was unknown.

Mr Hubble said systems more than three years old could pose problems but systems installed in the past two years should be compatible.

He said his company had a contingency plan in place and had arranged for extra staff to work on New Year's Eve to cater for any problems with alarms or security system malfunctions.

"The main concerns we have are alarms going off around the place and electronic doors opening," Mr Hubble said.

He added there had been an influx of calls to his company by people checking

their systems were compliant and from banks about extra security staff.

Malfunctions and power cuts are also not expected to affect Esperance District Hospital or the local ambulance service.

Representatives from both organisations do not anticipate a New Year too different from past years.

Hospital Director of Nursing and Health Services Manager Sherryl Wolfenden said hospitals throughout Western Australia had been planning for the millennium for about six months.

Mrs Wolfenden said an extensively tested contingency plan was in place.

She said enough staff would be available with a number of senior staff rostered for the night.

"I think a lot of time and effort has gone into planning for the event and we are quietly confident," Mrs Wolfenden said.

She added the hospital had backup generators which would supply power, if required, for about four days.

"I suppose the main concern through the State would be if anything goes down for a prolonged time," she said.

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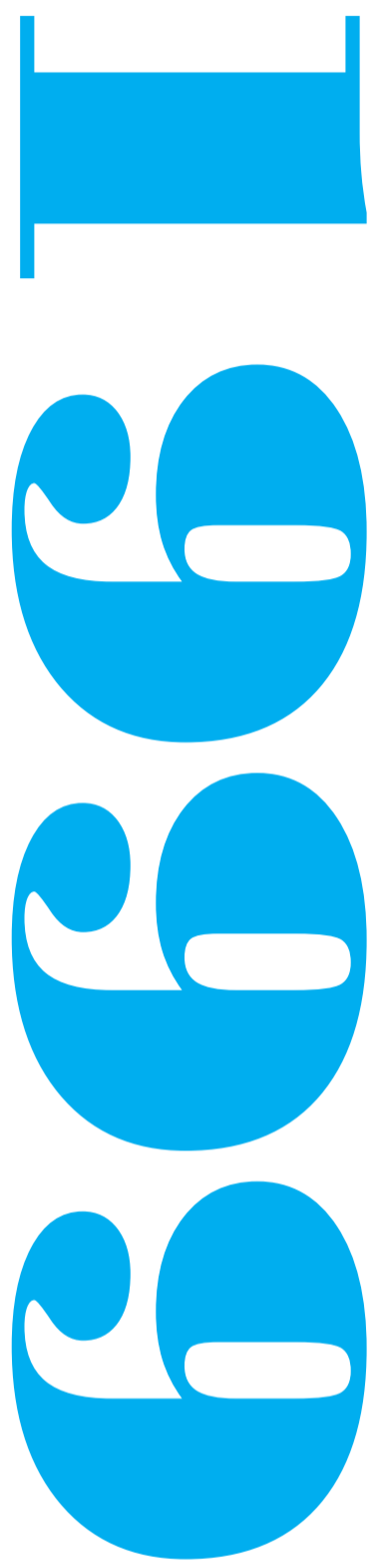
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Continued Page 2



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INSIDE

Pages 3-14

Up in flames

'Historic relic' reduced to embers on Esperance beach

By ROBERT NEWTON

Any hope of conclusively proving the age of the controversial Middle Island cross has gone up in flames—literally.

On the weekend former dive operator Clive Trevan destroyed the cross in a dramatic act of defiance on a cold, grey Esperance beach.

Mr Trevan hit the headlines when he removed the Oregon pine cross, supposedly marking the 1803 grave of sailor Charles Douglas, during a Middle Island ecological tour last Sunday.

The 75-year-old says he built and placed the cross on the historic island 27 years ago. Yesterday he stood by his claim.

"The grave marker I placed in Charles Douglas' grave site no longer exists," he wrote in a letter to the *Express*.

"So all those who are jumping up and down trying to get possession can now cease their jumping for it has been torched."

The burning took place on Saturday morning at the Free Beach on Great Ocean Drive.

On Friday Mr Trevan visited the *Express* office and asked for a roll of film to photograph "something interesting on the weekend".

Yesterday morning he returned with a used film canister, a letter to the editor and the charred remains of the cross posted onto a marine plywood "plaque" he has donated to the Esperance Bay Historical Soci-



RELIC OR RUSE? Local resident Clive Trevan took this photograph of the Middle Island cross he destroyed on an Esperance beach on Saturday. Mr Trevan said it was his cross and he could do what he liked with it.

ety. Mr Trevan's letter will be published in Thursday's *Express*.

The processed images document the destruction of the cross—it's inscription visible through the flames.

On New Year's Eve three men found the cross in bushland on the island's northern side. They first believed the cross was directly linked to a visit to Middle Island by Captain Matthew Flinders 197 years ago. Douglas was the boatswain aboard

Flinders' famous vessel HMS Investigator.

Following the discovery Mr Trevan came forward and said he made the cross in 1972 using driftwood, Araldite, four brass screws and a hot iron rod.

Nine days ago he removed the cross from Middle Island despite protests from ecotour passengers including Department of Conservation and Land Management Esperance District Manager Klaus Tiedemann.

Mr Trevan's weekend actions partly relate to concern heritage authorities were about to take permanent possession of the cross.

"They are interested in depriving me of my find and actually stealing my find using laws which they have put together so they can acquire what is mine, stick it in a museum."

Continued Page 2
● Men back Glover entry - Page 2

Trevan admits he's seen plaque

For the first time Clive Trevan has publicly admitted he has seen the historic 197-year-old copper plate Captain Matthew Flinders placed on the grave of Charles Douglas.

Yesterday Mr Trevan told the *Express* he found the copper plate, which is referred to in Flinders' journal, on Middle Island at the site of Douglas' grave in 1972.

He said he removed the plate and replaced it with a wooden cross.

"I saw it when I went to the island in October 1972," Mr Trevan said.

"It had eroded to a certain extent. It was laying on the surface."

"I'm of the view that if you take something away you should put something back."

Mr Trevan said the copper was taken from the sheathing of HMS Investigator's hull and was about 30cm by 30cm in size.

He would not say where the plate was currently located except it was "somewhere on Middle Island".

Mr Trevan suggested a replica could be placed on Douglas' grave.

He said he anticipated some criticism for not handing over the relic.

"My skin is reasonably thick through the sunshine I've received over the years. They can't hurt me, I'm too old for that."



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Mon	25.4	14.1	0.6
Tues	18.8	11.4	0.6
Wed	23.6	8.9	-

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FESTIVAL CHALLENGE: Festival of the Wind committee member Lyndel Taylor with Castletown Primary School students Katherine Wilson, Larissa Stringer, Shane Cartledge and their class who will be entering the festival's logo competition. Photo by VICTORIA YOUNG

Design a festival logo with gusto

STUDENTS have the chance to vie for the honour of designing the 2002 Festival of the Wind logo.

Last year's logo was designed by Cath Bishop and was the leafy sea dragon who became fondly known as Ziggy.

In the lead-up to, and during the festival, Ziggy appeared on T-shirts, stickers and posters and was even seen zigzagging through the streets during the festival.

FOW committee member Lyndel Taylor said organisers decided to make the competition fairer for students this year and have opened it to school-aged artists from 6-17 years of age only.

Ms Taylor recently visited Castletown Primary School students to encourage them to enter the competition.

"The logo is for the Festival of the Wind and should therefore bear some relation to the wind in Esperance and the local environment," Ms Taylor said.

"Think about what the wind does, what it is used for, how it makes you feel."

Heather Gee, who coordinated the last two festivals, said it has always been difficult to choose a winner and adults had won the last two festivals.

"We feel that the children have supported the logo competition strongly for the last two festivals," Mrs Gee said.

Ms Taylor said the design must translate well in both large and small format, colour and black and white.

Continued Page 2

Leadership spill

Council's first female president takes the reins from Mickel

By Bettina Bowling

ESPERANCE Shire Councillor Julie Starcevich ousted Esperance Shire president Ian Mickel from council's top job on Tuesday night, creating two possible firsts for Local Government in Esperance.

Cr Starcevich became the first female president after winning in a re-vote when she tied the three-way vote with Cr Mickel.

Newly-elected councillor and former Esperance Shire president Don Paterson was also contesting the presidency but withdrew his nomination after the tie was announced.

Esperance Shire Financial Services executive manager Paul Breman, acting in chief executive officer Mike Archer's absence, said the tied vote for president was the first that current council staff could remember.

He said the voting was done by secret ballots. The vote count was not released.

Cr Paterson, who re-nominated for the deputy position, beat off competition for the spot from Cr Beverley Stewart, Cr Tony Letto and Cr Tony Bright.

A victorious Cr Starcevich told council the presidency re-vote was an exciting finish.

She said the next two years were going to be very challenging for her and she was looking forward to it.

She told the *Esperance Express* she was "pretty proud" to be Esperance's first female Shire president and would encourage more women to consider running for council.

Cr Starcevich said while Cr Mickel was definitely disappointed she admired and respected him greatly and would like to think she could call him her friend.

"He gave me his support (on Tuesday night) and I'm sure I can call on his expertise and experience in the future," Cr Starcevich said.

Cr Mickel, who had been president since 1994, said he would continue to work 110 per cent for Esperance in the next two years.

"Naturally I'm disappointed but I think I was the first one to congratulate Julie," Cr Mickel said.

"I know I can work with Julie, that's fine."

Cr Mickel said he had suspected from the campaign run against him the vote would be divided the way it was.

But he said he would now have more time for his community and family.

Cr Mickel was re-elected as a delegate to the Country Shire Council Association and will continue to serve as Western Australian Municipal Association president.

Cr Starcevich said she would be continuing the good work done by council in

recent years. The big challenge was to lead council in a direction beneficial to the community and to make council strong.

She said big issues council faced included the town planning review, the proposed industrial park and the Ormonde Street development.

"Within the next financial year council will be debt free which has been an ongoing commitment," she said.

Cr Starcevich said she was confident Cr Paterson and she could work extremely well together.

She said she believed incoming councillors would add a new dimension to council and she had confidence in first time councillors, who faced steep learning curves.

Cr Paterson said the tie had been "on the cards" and he had not expected to win the presidency. A number of councillors had confirmed to him they would support Cr Starcevich.

He said he was pleased to be elected deputy and he had a great respect for Cr Starcevich.

Mr Breman said council staff were looking forward to working with Cr Starcevich and the new councillors.

"I would also like to acknowledge the contribution and dedication of the immediate past president Cr Ian Mickel and also the retiring councillors," Mr Breman said.

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In the name of fun
Page 3



Ian bids port farewell
Page 9



SPORT Ladies bowled over
Page 28

Doctors' insurance fallout

By Kellie Dolan

THERE is no guarantee operations will not be cancelled in Esperance now that Australia's largest medical indemnity insurer faces liquidation.

This is the concern of Esperance Doctor Catherine Moore, who is one of five doctors in town previously covered by United Medical Protection.

UMP covered 32,000 doctors, mostly in Queensland and New South Wales. Only 500 out of 5000 doctors in WA used UMP.

Many doctors and surgeons across the nation withdrew services

fearing they would not be insured if facing malpractice suits, even though the Federal Government verbally promised cover until June 30.

But yesterday afternoon the government's assistant treasurer Helen Coonan promised in writing that doctors would be covered from April 29 to June 30.

To date no procedures have been affected in Esperance.

But Dr Moore said she could not guarantee to locals that operations would not be cancelled in the future.

"I'm not sure that I could totally reassure them.

"I don't think I could totally guarantee that at the moment," she added.

Despite this she was heartened to receive the letter promising cover yesterday afternoon.

She said the situation would not affect her work, but could affect local procedural doctors—those who conducted surgery, anaesthetics or obstetrician work.

Her main concern was who would cover future claims which arose from before April 29.

"It doesn't surprise me that it come to this," Dr Moore said. "Society has got to think about

how litigious it's going to be."

Rural Doctors Association president Graham Jacobs, who is also an Esperance doctor, agreed the issue yet to be resolved was claims which were already in the pipeline or those which had not been raised yet.

He said the Medical Defence Association covered most doctors in WA and were more than keen to take on the doctors previously covered by UMP.

He said medical indemnity was a big issue for the RDA and premiums were rising.

The pressure was going to be particularly significant to obstetri-

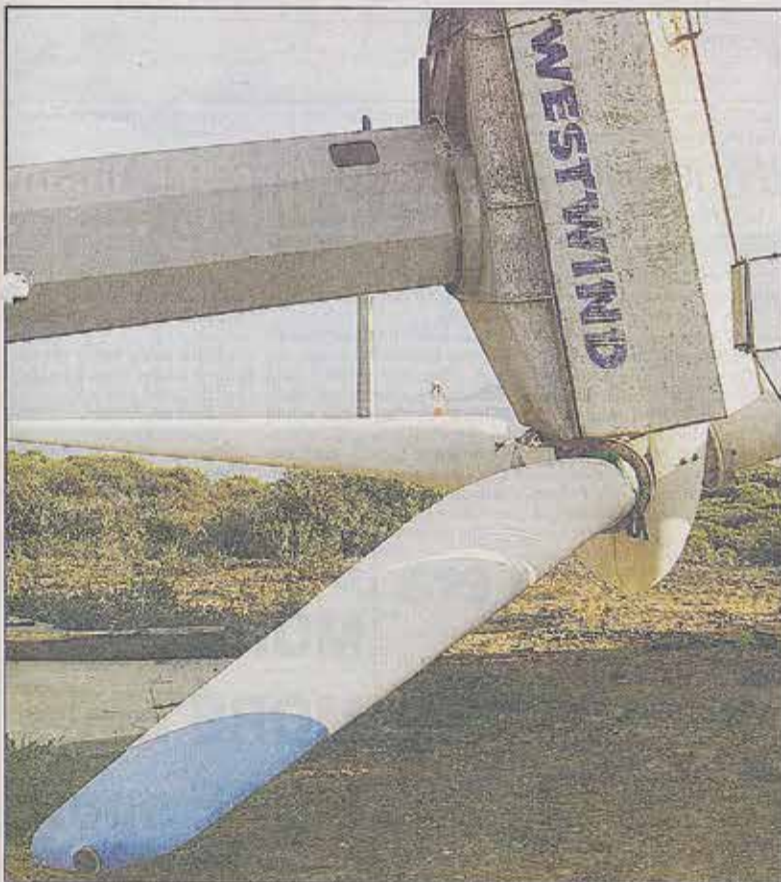
cians and anaesthetists.

Australian Medical Association WA president Bernard Pearn-Rowe said all governments and the medical profession must work together to address UMP's problems and medical indemnity costs.

There needed to be legal reforms and greater support for doctors.

"We will seek an urgent meeting with the State Health Minister (Bob Kucera) to discuss this pressing issue," Dr Pearn-Rowe said.

Dr Jacobs said the RDA of WA was keen to help people with queries about the issue. Phone Dr Jacobs on 9071 5111.



End of an era for historic wind farm

By Clare Harvey

THE dismantling of the Salmon Beach Wind Farm on Tuesday marked the end of a pioneering venture in alternative energy.

The demonstration farm of six 60kW turbines built in 1987, was the first wind farm in Australia.

Each windmill was about 22m high, had a 16m rotar diameter and a rotational speed of 35 and 45 RPM.

The farm was decommissioned about one year ago because of urban encroachment and the age of the machines.

Western Power Sustainable Energy manager Adrian Chegwidden said the Salmon Beach farm confirmed the practicality and viability of wind energy as a renewable energy source.

• More page 2



GOING DOWN: (Above) A crane slowly lowers a 22m high windmill. GROUNDED: (Left) The nacelle and blades of a Salmon Beach Wind Farm windmill is laid down. Picture: CLARE HARVEY

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Ash-rain insurance doubt

By Ryan Pedler

EARLY indications are that costs of damage repair and cleanup operations associated with the ash-rain that fell in Esperance on Monday night will not be covered by insurance companies.

Austnet Group Insurance Brokers Esperance franchise owner Rod Parsons said insurance companies were tending to treat the ash as a pollutant from atmospheric conditions, which is a pay-out exclusion under insurance policies, rather than standard bushfire ash.

"That seems to be the line the insurance companies are taking at present," he said.

The ash was associated with

smoke from a large bushfire near Cascade that was blown into Esperance late on Monday afternoon and trapped under rain clouds.

Soot and ash fell on hundreds of cars and homes throughout Esperance as light rain fell through the smoke that night.

Most reports are of the ash being non-staining but many will have been left with expensive cleanup jobs that could include repainting.

Dempster Dundas Insurance manager Chas Brodie-Hall said whether any clean-up costs or damages are covered by insurance is likely to depend on the nature of what fell from the sky.

If tests reveal that what fell from the sky was not just bushfire ash,

any damage may not be seen as bushfire damage.

"It appears to be ash but the nature of it is quite different to fire ash. It depends what was actually contained in the ash," he said.

Mr Brodie-Hall had received about 10 inquiries but no claims had yet been lodged.

Esperance Shire executive manager of development services Richard Brookes said a sample of the ash was sent to Perth for analysis on Tuesday and the results should be known within a week.

Insurance companies are also organising assessors to conduct tests.

Cascade brigade member Will Carmody said the fire burnt a range

of things including mallee scrub, coastal heath and farmland, and the smoke could have contained a vast range of ash, vapours and oils including much tannin and eucalyptus oil.

Esperance Meteorological Office technical officer Jeff Hoey said it was not uncommon to have bushfire smoke blown into Esperance but he had not encountered anything similar to the ash-rain in his 10 years in Esperance.

The ash-rain that fell was just intermittent drizzle but if it had been stronger rain the ash may have been washed away before it had a chance to settle on vehicles and property.

● Whopping fire, page 2

Specks from sky cause car wash frenzy

By Ryan Pedler

ESPERANCE people have been cleaning furiously in the wake of the ash that was deposited on Esperance associated with this week's large fire near Cascade.

Quick 'n' Clean car wash manager Steve Cooke said Tuesday was probably the busiest day the car wash had ever had with 160 people using the automatic laser car wash service and about 140 using the self-service bays.

People have had to wait up to an hour.

The car wash normally closes between 10pm and 5am but will operate as a 24-hour service until the weekend at least.

Mr Cooke said only people with old cars were having trouble removing all the stains from their car.

Kar Kare Esperance owner Michael Sainty said people should clean the ash off their vehicles as quickly as possible but different types of paint jobs required different types of detergent.

"People have got to be careful because some detergents will strip your paint job off and that's more dangerous than having the black stuff on there in the first place," he said.

Mr Sainty said a low-concentration dishwashing detergent could help to remove the ash because it seemed to contain some oily residue.

Raelene Klingberg, of Westmacott Street, said she had washed her 1985 Toyota Corolla three times by hand, three times with a scourer and been through the laser wash but still could not remove all the ash stains.

There were also many houses in her street covered with ash stains. Esperance Shire executive man-



Ryan Arnold was among those who needed to give his car a good scrub.

ager of development services Richard Brookes said many people in the district had got residue from the ash in their rainwater tanks but did not know if sufficient amounts to contaminate the tanks entered.

Ratten and Slater financial controller Wayne Howell said about a dozen cars were covered with ash but, after some time-consuming cleaning, it had been removed.

Dempster Holden sales manager Warren Melvin said all cars at the car yard avoided the ash because they were put in the show room in anticipation of a hailstorm. The yard was heavily hit by the December 2001 hailstorm.



Cars had to wait up to an hour to get washed.

INSIDE TODAY



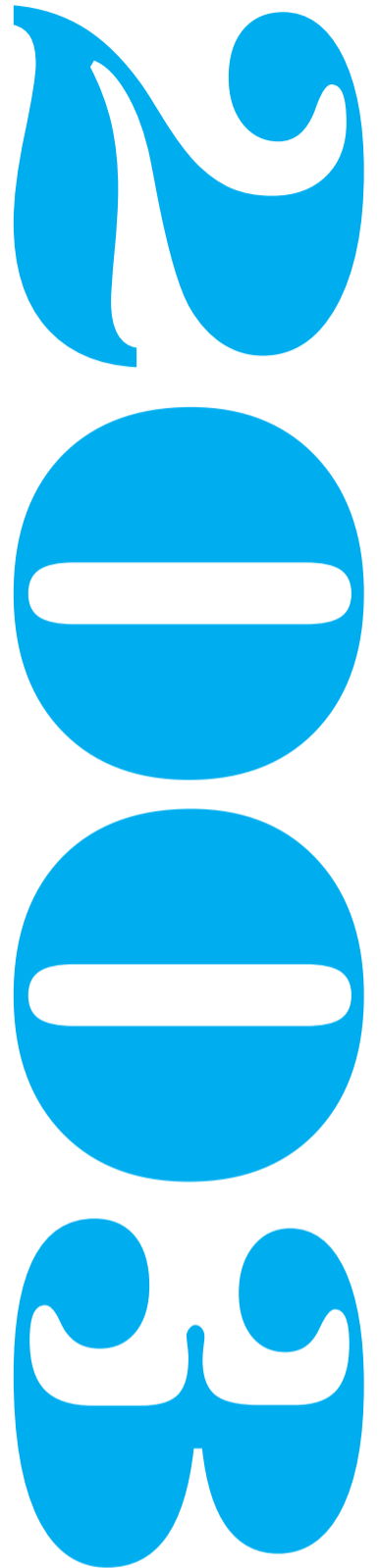
Scrub for historic brigantine
Page 3



Mobile force on the road
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Lead export on cards

THE Esperance Port Authority has begun discussions with Perth-based Magellan Metals about the possibility of exporting lead carbonate from the port.

Magellan has begun construction of its mining and processing operations 30km west of Wiluna and will be ready to start exporting their product early next year.

Wiluna, 1000km north of Esperance, is much closer to Geraldton but Esperance port holds more attractions for Magellan.

The lead carbonate would be trucked to Leinster and railed to Esperance in covered kibbles on the same trains as the nickel con-

centrate currently handled by the port.

Port chief executive Colin Stewart said: "The port would uphold the highest operational standards if it were to export the lead carbonate product."

"The lead carbonate would be handled through the port's existing enclosed conveyor system."

"On and off-site monitoring programs would be expanded to include the monitoring for lead, to ensure there is no impact outside the port."

"Strict hygiene procedures would also be implemented for port employees who would be handling the product."

The lead carbonate would be exported for about two years. After this time, the mine's refinery will come online which will refine the carbonate into a solid lead product, which would also be exported through Esperance.

Lead carbonate is a white powder and contains about 60 per cent lead.

To minimise dust associated with handling of the product, Magellan would produce the lead carbonate in small, moist "agglomerates", or balls, about half a centimetre in diameter.

Provided the necessary environmental approvals are in place,

export of the lead carbonate could start in February.

It would go to China where there is enormous demand for base metals. About 300 tonnes a day would be produced.

Magellan Metals general manager Trevor Watters said the company was considering Esperance as its export port because of its excellent operational and environmental record and the efficient road and rail network.

"We are impressed with Esperance port's handling, monitoring and environmental management," Mr Watters said.

● **Editorial, page 2**

INSIDE TODAY



Literacy bonanza
Page 3



Cross section of the ages
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Arts cheer for the gondolier

By Maya Tai

THE Esperance art community will be out in force this Saturday to reflect on and celebrate the year that was with the annual Arts Awards.

The Civic Centre has been transformed into Venice with a picturesque set built by Esperance Community Arts youth arts coordinator Phil Shelton and his YooART-Attack crew.

And guests are encouraged to wear masks to add to the masquerade ball-inspired atmosphere of the ECA-organised evening.

"It's a rare opportunity for all the different

types of artists and art volunteers in Esperance to come together and celebrate," ECA chairperson Catherine West said.

Arts groups including the Esperance Theatre Guild, Esperance Bay

Music Club, Cannery Arts Centre, Society of Artists, Fellowship of Australian Artists and Esperance Showbiz have each nominated one person for the coveted Martyred Mannequin Award.



PETAR Quinlivan in front of the Venice-inspired YooART-Attack-built set to be the centrepiece at the Arts Awards on Saturday.

The award, this year created by Kirsten Biven, recognises exceptional long-term volunteer contribution to local arts.

It is inscribed with the words 'masquerade deceptive show or pretence' to reflect the theme of the evening.

There will be displays of wearable arts in three categories inspired by the concept the human body is a canvas.

They include Dare to Hair in which local hairdressers will showcase their weird and wonderful creations. Dare to Stare involving human statues and Dare to Move where the audience will be treated to a choreographed dance routine.

Money raised from Dare to Snare, a Dutch auction of local artworks by Esperance artists, will fund future ECA youth arts programs.

Local band Attitude are to play on the night.

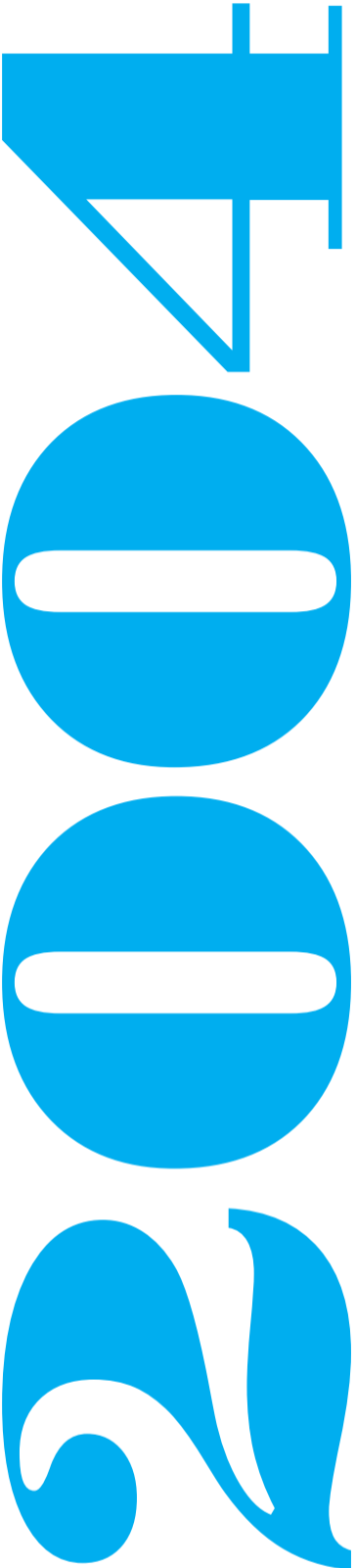
"It's a bit more of an art happening than an art show," Mr Shelton said.

Tickets for the awards, available from Hospitality Inn, are fast running out.

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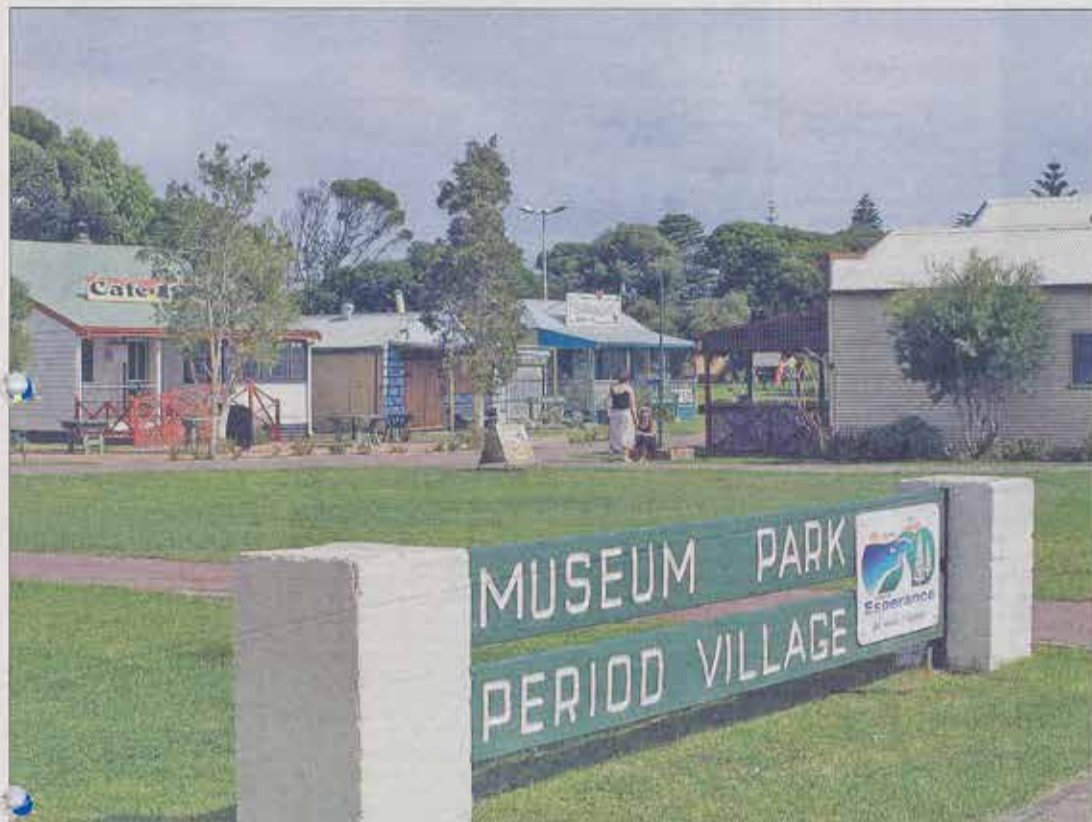
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Village eyed off



Could it really be sacrificed for a Coles supermarket?

By Victoria Young

AN historic and serene Esperance icon which greets thousands of tourists every year, Museum Village, could become the site of a shopping centre or department store if a proposal is accepted by the Esperance Shire and the community.

Coles Myer has expressed interest in the site.

For more than 30 years, the Museum Village site has preserved a significant part of the town's history.

It is the site of rail history and has buildings of significance, among them the old Methodist church, courthouse and matron's house.

Operators of the businesses in the village are aghast at the supermarket proposal.

The Soundshell is also under threat.

While the houses would be preserved, one proposal is they would be moved next to the museum and the vacated land would be open for retail development such as a discount department store and supermarket.

Under the draft Esperance Townsite Foreshore Redevelopment master plan being finalised, the future development-planning options for land between the foreshore to the east, Harbour Road to the south, Dempster Road to the west and extends northwards to Castletown Quays to include

the CSBP site, Tank Farm and Water Authority Reserve is being planned.

The ambitious multi-million dollar master plan includes major road realignments, creation of shopping along the foreshore, beach stabilisation options, a cultural centre, waterpark and lagoon and a tourist resort.

Relocating the museum at a cost of \$900,000 has also been suggested.

The land at the village site is a mixture of Crown land and private ownership.

The Esperance Townsite Foreshore Redevelopment master plan was commissioned by the Esperance Shire in May 2004. The plan is being devel-

oped under supervision of the Esperance Townsite Foreshore Master Plan Steering Committee, by Perth-based Benchmark Projects.

The masterplan committee is made up of tourism, State Government, Esperance Shire staff and councillors, Esperance Port Authority and Chamber of Commerce and business representatives.

Councillor Peter Paxton is on the committee.

Cr Paxton said while he believed all parties should be given a fair hearing, any proposal for commercial development would have to be in the best interests of the community.

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Farewell to Rod
Page 7



Big crew for Quiet Lion tour
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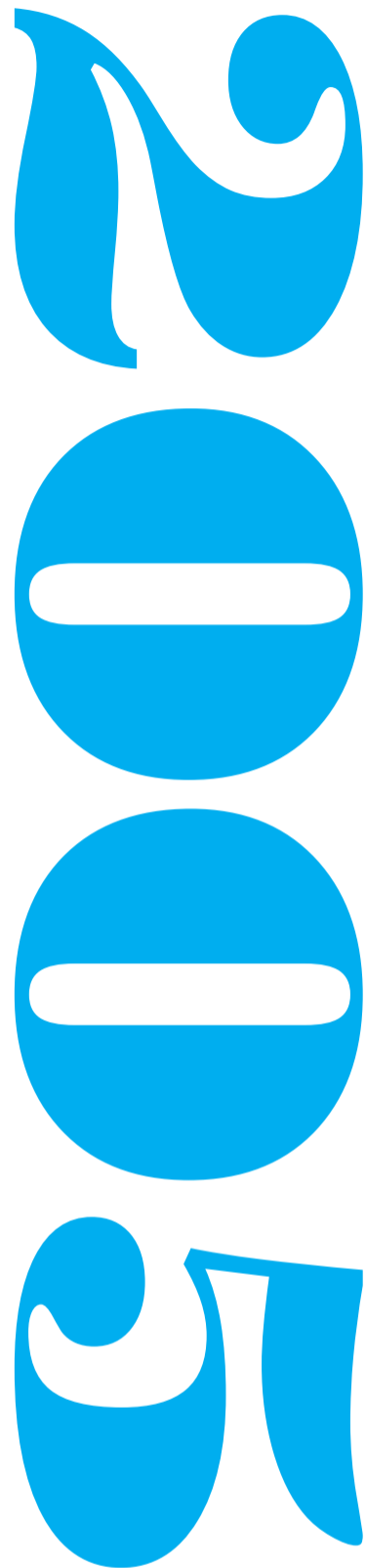
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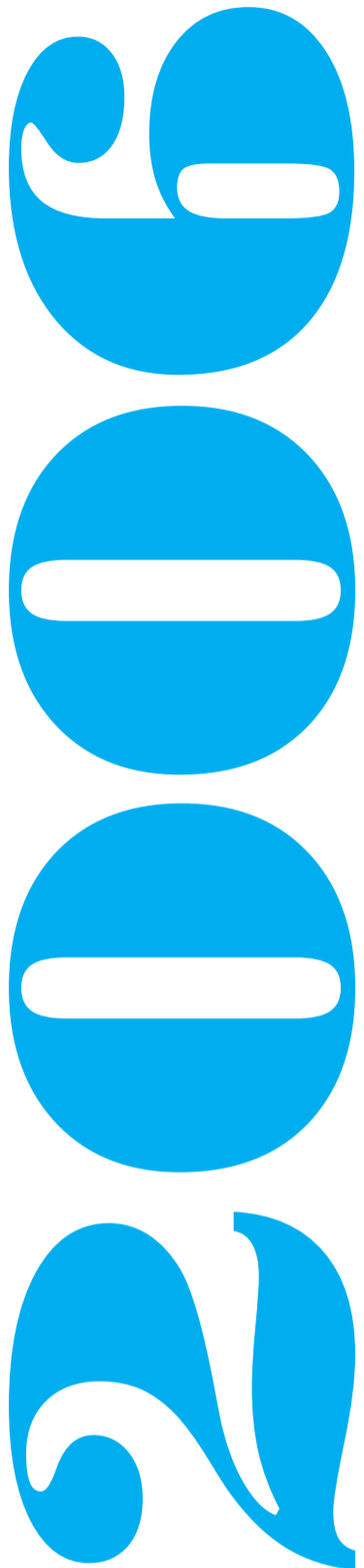
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Santa comes to town
INSIDE TODAY



Don't miss the boat
INSIDE TODAY

CAUSE OF DEATHS NOT KNOWN

Birds falling from the sky



By SARAH QUINTON
sarah.quinton@ruralpress.com

MORE than 60 birds have mysteriously died in Esperance in the past three weeks, some literally falling out of the sky, causing concern to residents and leaving an eerie absence of the feathered creatures in some backyards.

Dempster Head resident Michelle Crisp came across a few dead birds in her backyard and on further investigation gathered 30 more birds around her house and surrounding area.

"A couple of them were convulsing on the ground and vomiting, it was really quite distressing for us, because we used to have a lot of birds in our backyard and now there are none," she said.

Neighbours Terry and Wendy Neville had also experienced a number of birds dying in their backyard.

"There's quite a noticeable difference now, I used to put the sprinklers on and there would be heaps of birds, now we don't even get one," Terry said.

Department of Environment nature conservation coordinator Mike Fitzgerald has described the affected area as being 38 hectares of land from the southern end of Dempster Street near the caravan park and the entrance of Harbour Road up to Philip and Orr Streets.

"At the present time we have no idea what has caused the deaths, if it is industrial or biological," he said.

"We are sending birds for autopsy, but they must be recently dead and we have found that their stomachs are empty because they have regurgitated whatever they have eaten, meaning we can't get a proper sample."

A specimen was sent to pathologist Dr Cleve Main at the Department of Food and Agriculture to determine the cause of the birds' death but no result has been received as yet.

The birds being effected are the yellow-throated miners, new horned honeyeaters and wattle birds as well as some seagulls that were found at Port Authority park.

Mr Fitzgerald said all birds were insect or nectar eaters, except the seagulls which tend to eat a different diet, usually carnivorous.

"We believe it could be water or insect related, but we don't know until we get the results back from the pathologist."

Mr Fitzgerald is asking for anyone with information regarding the birds' deaths - including chemical spills, any unusual insects or insect behaviour - to contact the Department of Environment and Conservation.



Michelle Crisp shows off one of the silver-eye birds that she found outside her house on Orr St. Anyone who finds a dead bird or has any information is asked to contact CALM.

Unique medium for stunning images

STUNNING images and video footage of Esperance's diverse marine and terrestrial environment will be projected onto the Shell tank at the corner of the Esplanade and Harbour Road as a unique way of showcasing the region to the public.

See page 3

Dempster Street development challenged

THE history of a block of land subject to a planning application for four double-storey dwellings was questioned by its neighbours in their attempt to have it rejected during the recent Esperance Shire Engineering and Development committee meeting.

See page 3

Donations from supermarket

A NEW initiative by IGA Supermarkets has enabled two local community groups to receive donations from Pink Lake IGA.

See page 7

Paintball returns

CROUCHING in the grass, spotting the enemy and firing. This is not real-life warfare; this is paintball, back in Esperance after a year's hiatus and ownership handover, just in time for the summer holidays.

See page 24



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ESPERANCE survived winds of up to 100km/hr and a record 220mm of rain yesterday. Although there was widespread flooding and damage to property, there were no serious injuries or fatalities resulting from the 'perfect' storm. Pictured above, the entrance to the Esperance Bay Yacht Club was flooded by late yesterday afternoon. PICTURE: LEIGH RITCHIE See story page 3, 4.





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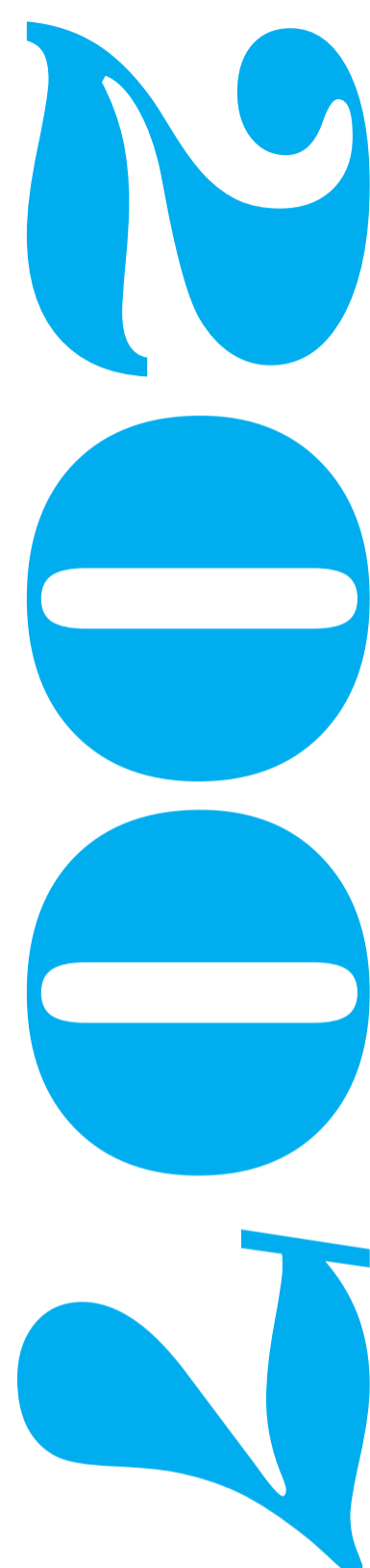
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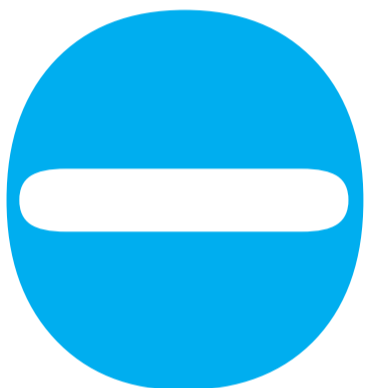
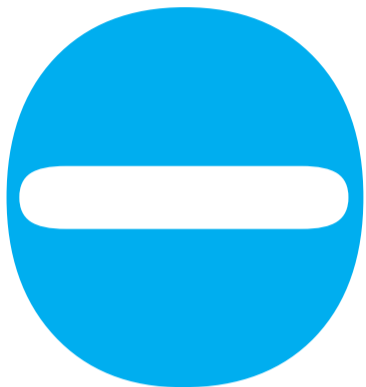
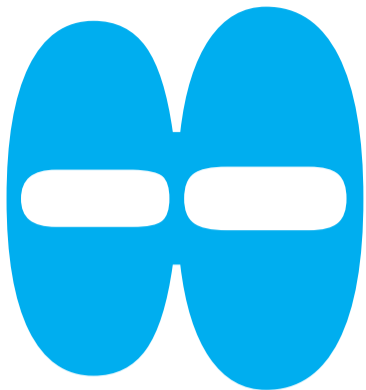
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Married twice
INSIDE TODAY



Hockey season ends
INSIDE TODAY

IMPORTANT LOCAL HISTORY SAVED

Dempster homestead now heritage listed

By **RACHAEL BRICE**

LOCAL historic landmark Dempster homestead was last week officially declared as heritage listed.

The three acres of land upon which the homestead stands was included in the listing by the Heritage Council.

The homestead has been on a waiting list for declaration as a heritage site for well over two years and the announcement comes as a great relief to museum curator Dorothy Andre.

"It's a good piece of history saved," Mrs Andre said.

"We have lost too many of the old buildings in Esperance."

Earlier this year when the Main Roads WA considered two proposed options for the Esperance Port Access Corridor Alignment, concern was raised over the impact that such a decision would have on the homestead.

However heritage architect Ronald Bodycoat's submissions to Main Roads WA, the National Trust, the Heritage Council of WA, the Australian Heritage Council, the Federal Heritage Minister Peter Garrett and his state counterpart Michelle Roberts, together with local public criticism, were enough to stop the development from going ahead as proposed.

Shire President Ian Mickle, on being told that the homestead was officially on the heritage list, said it was fantastic news.

"It's a very important piece of Esperance history saved," Mr Mickle said.

"The Dempsters showed great spirit and great persistence to set themselves up here."

The three Dempster brothers Andrew, Edward and William, built the 10 room homestead in 1863 and it is said to be the first house in Esperance.

Its current owner Marie Louise Wordsworth bought the house in the 1960s after moving to Esperance from Tasmania and spent countless months and a substantial amount of



DEMPSTER Homestead now has an official heritage listing.

money restoring the old building.

"She spent a lot of money fixing up the place," Mrs Andre said.

"She saved it - if she hadn't bought it, it probably would have been bulldozed."

Once a year Mrs Wordsworth lets the museum open the house to the public and all the money raised through entrance fees goes to the museum.

"She's helped us raise thousands of dollars for the museum over the years - she's a very generous lady," Mrs Andre said.

Now that the site has heritage listing the owner can apply for grants from the heritage committee for upkeep and restoration of the house.

"It needs a lot of work done, for example, the roof is leaky," Mrs Andre said.

While the owners can perform restorations they must comply with heritage council specifications.

Mrs Wordsworth did not know the listing had been made official until Wednesday afternoon and was extremely pleased to hear the news.

"I'm so glad it's finally been approved," she said.

"It's such a nice old building and very important to the town."

The Perth Heritage Committee is to visit to the homestead to do an archaeological dig on the land in search of two graves that are said to be there.

Mrs Andre doesn't know what they will do with the graves if they find them but believes that they should stay there because the house and land is protected now.

Mrs Wordsworth now lives in Perth but has a caretaker and a gardener on the property but has no apparent intentions to sell the home.

"I hope she never sells it," Mrs Andre said. Mrs Andre said Prince Charles stayed at the homestead during the 1970s.

Esperance birthday celebrations

THE Esperance Birthday celebrations will be taking place this Saturday marking the 113th anniversary of Esperance officially becoming a municipality. See page 3

Film to be shot on Woody Island

FORMER Esperance resident turned film-maker, Brendan Ritchie, is set to showcase Woody Island and the Recherche Archipelago in his upcoming film titled Woody Island. See page 5

A park of history

WITH the Esperance Birthday celebrations fast approaching, now is a great time to look back at the history behind Esperance's iconic Museum Park Village. See page 5

Beachcombers wanted

LOCAL artists, sculptors and carpenters are being encouraged to take up beachcombing over the next few months to find material for an upcoming art exhibition - Flotsam and Jetsam. See page 8

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Fire drill
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Condy fair
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SECOND BEST TOWN IN AUSTRALIA AND ...

Best in WA!



By CALE HILL
cale.hill@ruralpress.com

IT'S official – Esperance is the best town in Western Australia, and one of Australia's top towns.

The latest issue of Australian Traveller magazine features an article on the 100 best towns in Australia, where Esperance dominated competition against heavyweight tourist destinations such as Broome, Byron Bay, Margaret River, and 95 other locations, to take out second place.

Yamba, in New South Wales, took out the

number one position, while Queensland's Port Douglas came in third.

Esperance is described by Australian Traveller as "the real secret of WA."

"Esperance is insanely beautiful, and is described by most who see the remote area as the most beautiful coastline in Australia," the magazine states.

Esperance was one of three WA towns to finish in the top 10 on the list, with Broome taking out fourth place, and Margaret River coming in at number 10.

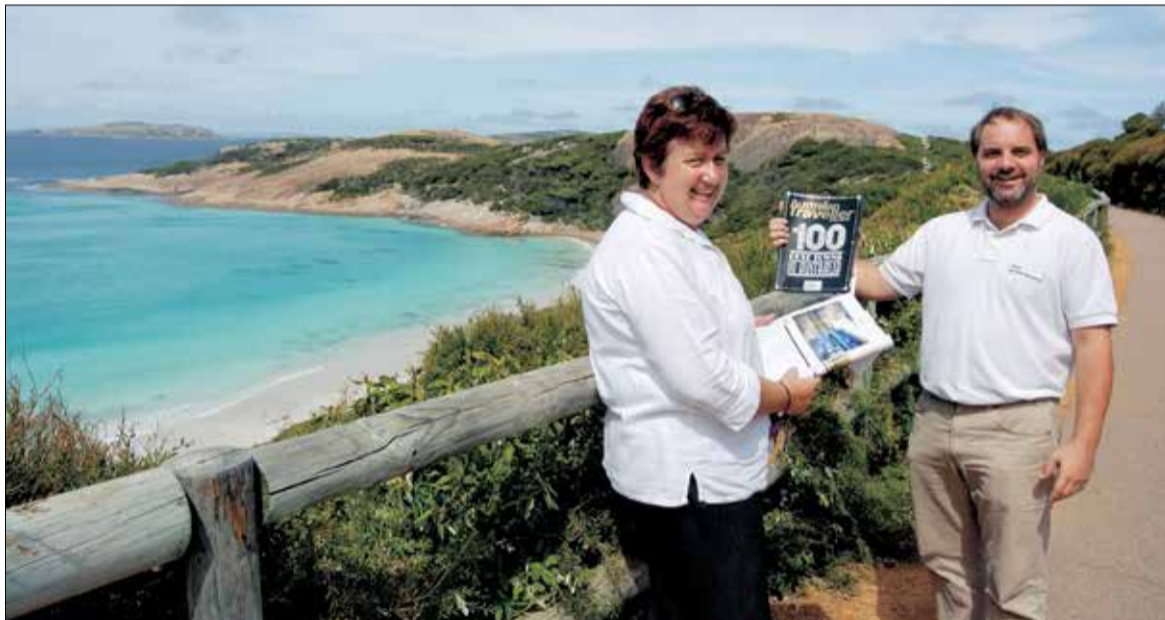
All up, WA had a total of 13 towns on the list. Editor of Australia Traveller, Greg Barton, described the reasoning behind the list.

"Every year we had a 100 things issue, and several months ago we put a call out to readers to let us know what their favourite town is, for whatever reason - it could be the most beautiful town, it could be the friendliest town.

"A list of towns was then collated and researched, and then 12 judges were chosen from various parts of tourism in Australia, who each went through the list and made some suggestions of their own.

"We made sure each judge represented different tastes – we had fashionistas, grumpy old men, sports nuts, tourism industry experts, travel writers, and even some well-trained normal people."

Continued page 4



ESPERANCE Regional Tourism Association representative Meredith Clark and Shire Manager of Tourism and Culture, German Ugarte, are very pleased that Esperance was voted as WA's number one town, and the second best town in Australia, by Australian Traveller magazine.

Road safety initiative

ESPERANCE has become the first rural town in Western Australia to commit to a voluntary community project to lower driving speeds. See page 3

Beacon collapses

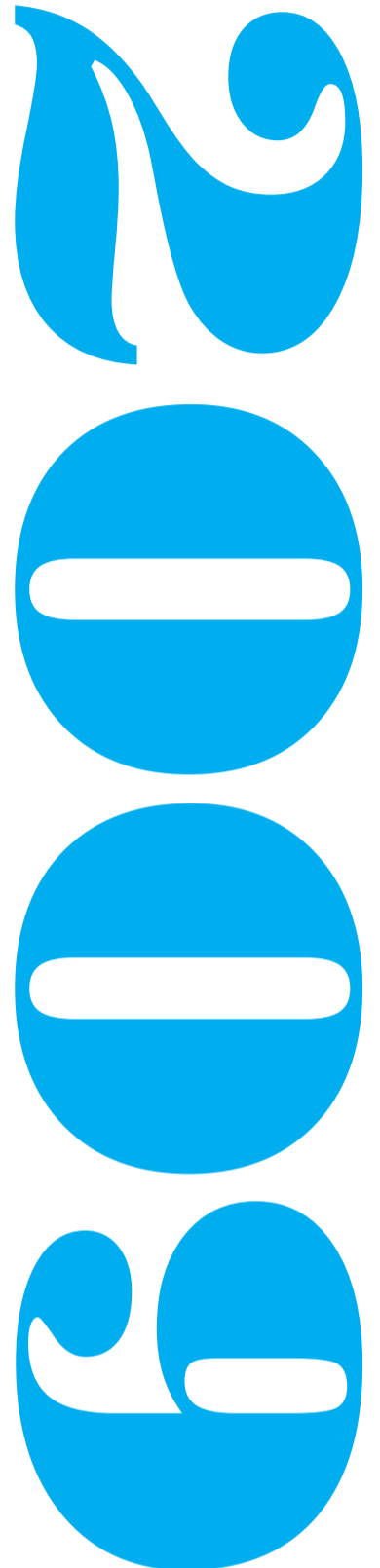
A RED No2 port channel beacon that indicates the shipping channel into the Esperance Port collapsed overnight on Friday. See page 3

Local responds to Queensland oil spill

AN Esperance Officer from The Department For Planning And Infrastructure (DPI), along with seven other Western Australian officers, have travelled to Brisbane as team leaders to assist in a shoreline clean up of the Queensland Coast in response to a recent fuel spill. See page 4

Merrivale book launch

ESPERANCE woman Carole King has compiled a book, which gives an insight into the lives of and history of early residents of the Merrivale area. See page 6



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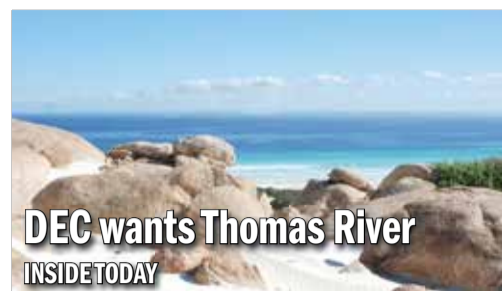
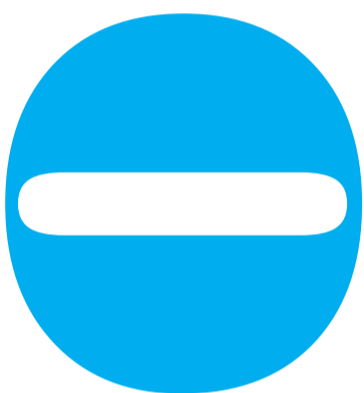
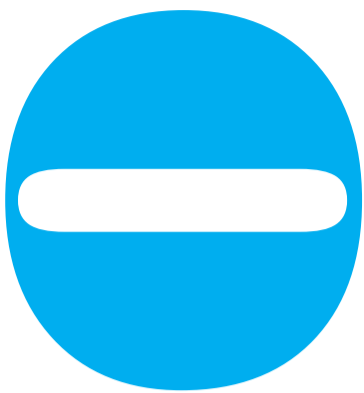
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SLIPPERY ROCKS ACCIDENT A WARNING TO ALL

Girl survives fall into sea

By **JULIA KOGAN**
 julia.kogan@ruralpress.com

A SUNNY afternoon could have turned out to be a tragic tale had it not been for the quick-witted cousins involved.

Sarah Fitzgerald and Danica VandenBogert were enjoying their last days of school holidays, walking between West Beach and Lovers Cove, when Sarah slipped about 100m off a rock and into the water and could not get out.

The severely short sighted 16-year-old, who lost her glasses when she fell into the water, was desperately trying to climb out but the waves made it extremely difficult.

"I slipped down the rock into the water and landed in a wave," Sarah said.

"I stood up but was dragged back up by another wave - I thought I was going to die so I just accepted it.

"I remembered seeing a ravine in the rocks while I was taking photos and I managed to use the waves to pull myself up into it, where I sat until Danica came to help me."

In the meantime Sarah's cousin Danica, 15, called for help and then came to Sarah's rescue.

"Danica slid down a rock which was about 70 degrees and attempted to pull me out using her leg so she remained stable on the slippery rocks, pulling me to safety."

At that stage Danica left Sarah to ring for help as there was no reception where they were.

"I was on the phone but all I could hear was Sarah screaming

for help," Danica said.

"I was freaking out as we are best friends and I didn't want my best friend to die," she said.

Danica was eventually able to pull Sarah out and helped her to the top of the rock.

Sarah's mother, Robyn Fitzgerald, said she wanted to use the incident as a warning to others to be careful on the slippery rocks.

"Someone was obviously looking after Sarah and Danica," Ms Fitzgerald said.

"The girls were smart and didn't panic and were clever with what they did and knew what they had to do.

"You would think that girls their age would get panic stricken, but not these two."

Since then Ms Fitzgerald has forbidden Sarah to climb any more rocks.

Luckily the Esperance Senior High School student got away with no broken bones but she has grazed limbs and is relying on crutches to move around.

Esperance Police took the two shaken girls to the Esperance Hospital.

Officer in Charge Senior Sergeant Ricky Chadwick said that this incident proves how easy a fun day can change in a moment.

"The outcome in this instance could have been a lot worse," he said.

"The coastline is beautiful but does present some hazards, in particular the rocks that are wet are extremely slippery.

"It presents a real danger if you slip and fall into the ocean, and that can happen so easily," he said.



ABOVE: COUSINS Danica VandenBogert and Sarah Fitzgerald recall their traumatic experience battling the elements of nature in a bid to survive.



LEFT: ESPERANCE girl Danica VandenBogert at the West Beach site just before her cousin Sarah Fitzgerald, who took this photo, slipped and fell into the waves on Friday.

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Wheat spill
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Beach Fun
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Curator steps down
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WILL PINK LAKE EVER BE PINK AGAIN?

Pink Lake mystery

By CHERYL LONG
cheryl.long@ruralpress.com

PINK Lake appears to be regaining its pinkish hue after around ten years of being a pale shade of its former glory.

While Esperance has numerous lakes, there are few which have that intensity of pink colour, most being on private property.

This distinctive colour is caused by the alga *Dunaliella salina* and the pink bacterium *Halobacterium cutirubrum*, both of which are salt tolerant.

Halobacterium grows in the salt crust at the bottom of the lake, and any pink colour evident is due to a balance between the *Dunaliella salina* and the *halobacteria*.

At high salinities, high temperatures and in high light, the alga accumulates the red carotenoid pigment, beta carotene (this is the same pigment as in carrots).

The beta-carotene protects the alga against damage by high light and gives it the orange-red colour, which in turn colours the lake pink.

Local historian, Merv Andre, points out that the lake commonly known as Pink Lake is officially named Spencer Lake.

"It's just always been known as the Pink Lake," he said, "and is only one of three pink lakes in Western Australia which are coloured pink because of the alga,

Dunaliella salina.

"The others are Lake Hillier on Middle Island and Hutt Lagoon, north of Geraldton.

"There might be other lakes which are pink, but it is not from *Dunaliella salina*."

Mr Andre says he believes the pink colour is now returning to the Pink Lake, following the closure of the local salt works last year.

"When I said I believed they were taking too much salt out of the lake and that this would have an adverse affect on the lake's colour, that was hotly contested," Mr Andre said.

"But I am sure that within five years, the lake will be a brilliant pink again."

Peter Lister, who was Manager of the WA Salt Supply Company, which mined salt from Pink Lake before the company finished operations mid-2010, said there were a few contributing factors to the lake's colour or lack of.

"When we have really wet years like we did in 2000, 2001 and 2005 that affects the colour," he said, "and it takes a couple of years to recover from that."

"But it's the same every year, it starts to get pinker every year around mid-January to mid-February."

Mr Andre also said he had been told by "people who are supposed to know", that there is an underground hyper-saline stream, coming down from Norseman that feeds into Pink Lake.

"The colour of the lake is affected by its level of salinity



THIS aerial photo shows how extensive the lakes system is around Esperance.

and this is also affected by how much rainfall we get.

"So, in winter, you will find that when the lake gets to be less salty, with the inflow of winter rains, that the lake will cease to be as pink."

"It then takes some months for the alga blooms to reinstate themselves."

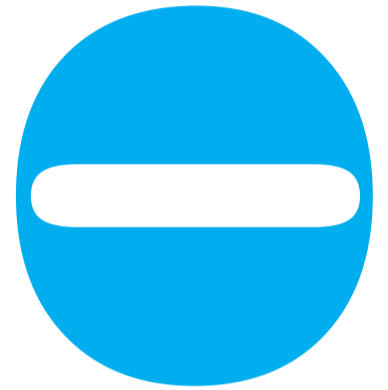
Mr Andre also pointed out that it was not uncommon for lakes in the area to be a variety of colours.

"My son has a property at Scaddan with ten lakes on it, and they are all different colours," he said.



SITUATED north-east of Gibson, this small, but richly pink coloured lake is located on private property.

Continued Page 3






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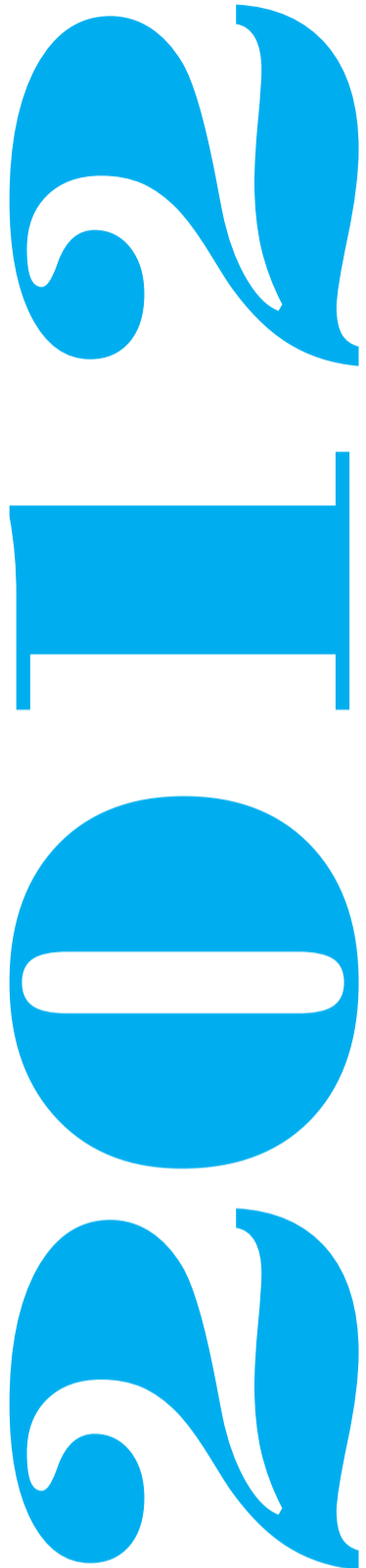
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Special day for nurses
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Mother's Day celebrated
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Trip down memory lane
INSIDE TODAY

Roster boon for doctors



By **LIV GAUNT**
liv.gaunt@ruralpress.com

THE Southern Inland Health Initiative (SIHI) has introduced a 24/7 emergency roster which enables Esperance District Hospital to always have a doctor on site between 8am and 8pm and one within 10 minutes' travel of the hospital after hours.

THE Minister for Health, Dr Kim Hames MLA, said in Esperance on Thursday the roster benefited both the hospital and the doctors. "Previously rural doctors had little private time and what they did get was frequently disrupted," he said.

"Having this roster means when doctors have time off they are able to enjoy it, which also helps us to attract doctors to the region."

Dr Toby Pearn said the roster had been hugely successful for patients too.

"People are now assured of getting the attention they need, particularly over the summer months when we receive an influx of visitors who do not have a GP in town," he said.

While in Esperance, Dr Hames was shown a mobile X-ray machine donated by First Quantum Minerals (FQM).

FQM manager, government and community relations Dave Coggin

said the company was pleased to donate the machine somewhere it would be useful.

Dr Hames thanked FQM for the donation and said it was a fantastic piece of equipment for the hospital. "Since the machine is mobile it can be used anywhere in the hospital and it also gives immediate results which is really useful."

The previous X-ray machine at the hospital has now been transferred to Ravensthorpe Hospital. "This one gift will greatly benefit two communities," Dr Hames said.

The \$31.8 million development of the hospital was also discussed, both at the hospital and at a public forum held at the Civic Centre.

The development aims to provide the hospital with 11 emergency bays, rather than the three operating now, to expand operating areas, upgrade birthing suites and the maternity ward.

The wider use of the Telehealth system, which enables doctors and patients in Esperance to speak live via a video link to specialists in other locations, will also be encouraged.

"We are very excited about Telehealth as it increases the contact people are able to have with the health care system, and we want to expand its use," Dr Hames said.

The hospital upgrade work is expected to be complete by 2015.



SHERRYL Wolfenden, Dr Graham Jacobs, Dr Kim Hames, Peter Tredinnick, Dave Coggin and Wendy Duncan with the new mobile X-ray machine.



AN Adelaide man drowned off Quagi beach on Saturday afternoon.

Adelaide tourist drowns at Quagi beach



By **LAUREN VARDY**
lauren.vardy@ruralpress.com

A 63-YEAR-old Adelaide man drowned off Quagi beach after he slipped and fell from rocks at 3.25pm on Saturday.

Esperance police Sergeant Beswick said the man was holi-

daying with his wife and friends at the time.

"It appears the man had gone finishing with his wife and friend when he fell into the water from the rocks," he said.

Sgt Beswick said the man's wife and friend attempted to rescue him before Esperance police were notified and

attended the scene.

An officer swam out to retrieve the deceased.

St John Ambulance Esperance and their community paramedic were also at the scene.

Sgt Beswick said the man was fishing from one of the two rocky outcrops in the area

when he was seen to slide into the water.

Police will now look into the safety aspects of the incident including signage and anchor points and conduct a coronial investigation.

Sgt Beswick said the swell was moderate at Quagi beach at the time.





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School days
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Esperance ablaze

NIGHT time backburning as seen from Pink Lake. Photo by David Green.

By Rex Drabik

ESPERANCE residents were evacuated from their homes on Monday as two fires blazed near the town, threatening lives and homes.

With fire conditions in Esperance at an all-time high, Monday's temperature peaked at 40.7C with wind gusts up to 50 km/h from a south-westerly direction.

Two fixed-wing aircraft were dispatched from Albany to assist, with at least one house confirmed as seriously damaged in the blazes.

According to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the first fire near Ocean Street in Sinclair was reported to authorities just before 11am.

Ocean Street and John Street

were closed off to the public, as emergency services fought to prevent the flames from spreading to a nearby school and houses.

Sinclair resident Jody Marsh said she initially feared her house was in the path of the fire when she saw the smoke billowing from Sinclair.

"We saw the smoke coming from the area near our house and we rushed home to grab a few things," she said.

"The police encouraged us to evacuate but we decided to stay at our house.

"The flames were right behind the Esperance Christian Primary School.

"We stayed in our house with a couple of friends and water."

With the fire raging in adjacent

bushland, Esperance Christian Primary School students were evacuated from their classes at about 11am and placed on a bus.

"We took the precautionary measure to remove the children from their classes and put them on a bus," Esperance Christian Primary principal Anne Tonkin said.

"We sat on the bus for a while and then the emergency services asked us to disembark from the bus.

"All the kids and staff then waited in one classroom near the exit.

"We kept the bus on stand-by."

At 3.45pm, a bushfire all clear was issued for the Sinclair area.

The second blaze in the Pink Lake area was reported to emergency services at about 12.30pm.

According to DFES, the second fire started between Spencer Street and Eleven Mile Beach Road, with confirmed reports that one house and three sheds were seriously damaged in the blaze.

Efforts were made to establish a containment line on one side of the fire, with DFES confirming that the fire was finally brought under control and contained about 9 pm.

An emergency bushfire warning was issued for residents living in the vicinity of Dunkley Circuit, Barook Road, Eleven Mile Beach Road, Spencer Road, Keenan Road and Sanctuary Crescent in Pink Lake in the Shire of Esperance.

Residents were warned of the immediate danger and were told to "act immediately" to survive, with a threat to lives and homes.

Those who were not home at the time of the fires were warned it was too dangerous to return.

Fixed-wing water bombers and about 50 fire fighters fought the fast-moving Pink Lake bushfire, which burned in a north-easterly direction at about 1000 metres per hour, with embers flying about 200 metres ahead of the fire front.

In all, an estimated 380 hectares were destroyed in the Pink Lake area, with an additional 15 hectares in the Sinclair area. Investigations into the causes of Monday's fires are continuing.

Police believe that at least one of the fires may have been deliberately lit.

More pictures page 4

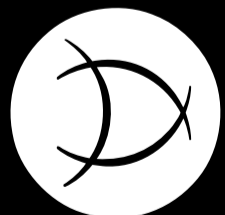


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