Cockburn Gazette
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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2012

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See page 10.
CiTy FaRMeRs

Growing Toward Wellness participants who revitalised the Azelia Ley Homestead Museum. Picture: Martin Kennealey

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Makeover a 'godsend'

MUSEUM CURATOR INDEBTED TO WELLNESS GROUP

Bryce Luff

HAMILTON Hill's historic Azelia Ley Homestead Museum in Manning Park has received a much-needed makeover thanks to volunteers.

Growing Towards Wellness (GTW), a program assisting marginalised members of the community to acquire employment pathways, gave participants the opportunity to undertake a significant role in restoring and preserving the museum and surrounding park.

GTW founder and director Jimmy O'Rourke said the From Heritage to New Beginnings integration project came about when the group went to look at the roses, which to the dismay of everyone, were almost dead.

"The curator said, 'if you can save the roses, you can put in more around the park,'" he said.

Fifteen weeks later, and with funding from the Department of Training and Workforce Development, the park and museum are looking better than ever.

"The museum has been a safe place of learning for people with mental illnesses, helping them progress on to accredited training," Mr O'Rourke said.

"Some of these people haven't worked or engaged in the community for years or even ever in their lives, and now they're restoring agricultural machinery and other items while learning broader skills needed to further their education and employment."

Museum curator Alex Campbell said the help was a godsend as good volunteers were hard to come by.

"We have 700 kids, plus bus tours, through the museum each year wanting to look at tractors and things, so to keep the price down to a gold-coin donation we need volunteers," said Mr Campbell.

"They do a tremendous job."

Local chaplains awarded for school brekky initiative

TWO local YouthCARE chaplains have been acknowledged for their goodwill after jointly receiving Foodbank WA's 2012 School Breakfast Program (SBP) Volunteer of the Year Award.

The award acknowledged the volunteers for their efforts in providing kids with a healthy start to the day.

Chaplain Margaret Marriott, of South Coogee Primary School, and Joel Candy, of Yangebup Primary School, have co-ordinated the combined distribution of 809 kilograms of perishable and non-perishable foods at their respective schools this year.

Margaret said the program helped students set a positive morning routine.

"The SBP allows time for relationships to flourish, whilst enjoying good food and developing new skills," Ms Marriott said.

"It sets the tone for the day and creates space between the morning rush of getting to school and being ready to learn."

School chaplains and YouthCARE workers Margaret Marriott and Joel Candy . Picture: Martin Kennealey www.communitypix.com.au d388658

Extraordinary youngster

12-YEAR-OLD WINS YOUTH AWARD FOR COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Bryce Luff

NORTH LAKE resident Neve Guilfoile was recognised at a ceremony on October 10 for her contribution to the community as part of World Mental Health Day.

The 12-year-old collected the Act-Belong-Commit award in the youth category, recognising her work as an active member of the community and for advocating for improved services for people with disabilities.

The softly-spoken Corpus Christi College student accepted the award from Mental Health and Disability Services Minister Helen Morton.

Describing the various works she has participated in, including a school peer pals program and the Red Cross, Neve said it was exciting to be recognised for her efforts.

"I'm very proud to win the youth award," she said.

"I love being an active volunteer, having a go and being a part of the community. It shows how ordinary people can make a difference."

So where does this ambitious girl see herself in the future?

"I have a passion for animal welfare so a job with animals would be good," she said.

Young advocate Neve Guilfoile loves making a difference. d389533

your say WHAT HAS IT BEEN LIKE WORKING AT THE HISTORIC AZELIA LEY HOMESTEAD MUSEUM?

MORGAN JONK

I love saying I've contributed to the history of the museum and saying I've contributed to the history of the place. I can't wait to come back in a few years with the family to see how it is then.

JASON LUCKS

It's been great to restore the natural heritage. It's a beautiful place.

BRUCE GARDINER

It's been excellent working here. It's offered volunteers a great facility to work out of. Everyone can get stuck in.

BEN PADDON

It has been good to have work for the past three months and we have nice people to work with. We started with the roses and moved on to dusting, polishing and varnishing the displays.

NICOLE PAYNE

We have been working with things we don't work with on an everyday basis. We now have more experience on the history of Perth and hands-on experience with tools and equipment.

No stop to car washes

RESIDENTS close to Cockburn Cement have had a small part of their distress alleviated at a forum on Wednesday night.

Under its current agreement, locals are entitled to get the dust emitted from the company cleaned from their cars, airconditioners, and solar panels at the cost of Cockburn Cement.

"The rumours of us stopping the washing of cars are untrue," said health safety and environment manager Megan Neville.

General operations manager Michael Williams told the audience the agreement was under review because people outside the affected area were claiming the free wash.