

## Gidge Gossips January 2017

A New Year is like a clean sheet of paper or a fresh fall of snow (not in Gidge), spread out before us and every mark will show, so be thoughtful how you tread!

Christmas and New Year were hot and not helped by the ongoing power cuts, some lasting as long as 26 hours. The one on Christmas Day was a first and not welcome. Anyway we all survived and think most people will have on their "to do list" for 2017 "purchase a generator". A great idea, but an added expense for those living here.

Of course, without power, many people were without telecommunications. Mobile Tower was running out of battery power and the back up at the exchange. Repeaters not working without power for those of us who need to use them to get mobile coverage. The promised new tower in North Gidge not even started. The NBN tower in Joseph Road not on the horizon as yet. Great for somewhere in the Outer Metro area and only 40kms from the CBD. Particularly in a High Fire Risk area, with a huge amount of Spring growth and temperatures over 40 degrees on several days.

But hope springs eternal, we are now on the way to having a Medical Centre in Gidge, thanks to John Cory, the GPA, our Councillors and the rest of the Councillors of the City of Swan but no thanks to the Planners at the City who, after almost a year, recommended turning it down on the grounds that this was not orderly development!!!! Have they been up to Gidge recently? The City has not done a lot towards creating orderly development. We are still waiting on a Structure Plan for the Townsite which was designated as High Priority in the 2004 Gidgegannup/Brigadoon Place Plan, adopted by the City in 2006. If we waited for that we wouldn't have a Medical Centre, until most of us are inhabiting the cemetery.

On a more upbeat note Main Roads are certainly getting on with the upgrades to the junctions on to Toodyay Road. Thanks to Frank Alban for this, he listened to the community and got things moving for us and hopefully all these upgrades will be completed by the end of 2018.

The Boral claypits had some unwelcome visitors, thanks to a radio programme advertising them as resembling the Mediterranean. Then on to facebook and whereas a few locals might have had a swim in them in the past, the hordes began descending from the flats, parking all over the Toodyay Road, breaking down fences and gates, leaving litter and ignoring the fact that they were trespassing and the dangers of swimming in clay pits. Clay gets very slippery when wet and large deposits of silt gather as well, making this a very dangerous recreation. Fortunately no fatalities.

So here is looking forward to 2017 and all it holds.

So just a last reminder of our politically correct world and thank goodness we are living in Gidge and have not reached that pinnacle yet:

### **Health & Safety rules for working over Christmas**

Please be advised that all employees planning to dash through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way are required to undergo a Risk Assessment addressing the safety of open sleighs. This assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly where there are multiple passengers.

Please note that permission must also be obtained in writing from landowners before their fields may be entered. To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

Benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available for collection by any shepherds planning or required to watch their flocks at night.

While provision has also been made for remote monitoring of flocks by CCTV cameras from a centrally heated shepherd observation hut, all facility users are reminded that an emergency response plan must be submitted to account for known risks to the flocks. The angel of the Lord is additionally reminded that prior to shining his/her glory all around s/he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to account for the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and the overwhelming effects of Glory.

Following last year's well publicised case, everyone is advised that legislation prohibits any comment with regard to the redness of any part of Mr. R. Reindeer. Further to this, exclusion of Mr. R Reindeer from reindeer games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence.

While it is acknowledged that gift-bearing is commonly practised in various parts of the world, everyone is reminded that the bearing of gifts is subject to Hospitality Guidelines and all gifts must be registered. This applies regardless of the individual, even royal personages. It is particularly noted that direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically precluded under provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Further, caution is advised regarding other common gifts, such as aromatic resins that may initiate allergic reactions.

Finally, in the recent case of the infant found tucked up in a manger without any crib for a bed, Social Services have been advised and will be arriving shortly.

Compliance with these guidelines is advised in order for you to fully participate with the festive spirit.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**