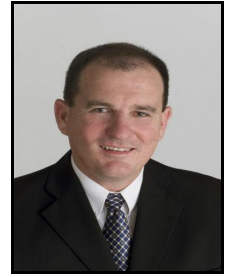


Murray's Beat

Local News & Views



A community Newsletter from Murray Cowper
MLA, Member for Murray

October 2007

Call For Dwellingup Centenary Organisers

I recently visited Colleen Sing, of the Dwellingup Community Compact, to offer assistance with the planning of the Dwellingup centenary celebrations due in 2009.

Dwellingup, like many of the Murray region's assets, is steeped in history. It contains the remains of Western Australia's only Prisoner of War camp, rebuilt itself from the ashes after one of WA's most devastating fire disasters in 1961 and again in 2007, and contains many remnants of WA's timber industry from a bygone era. The town has now re-invented itself, embracing the values of conservation and heritage. Perhaps the best symbol of its success in these areas is the remarkable Forest Heritage Centre, which educates the public on how WA's forests can be appreciated, utilised and managed with a view to sustaining their use for future generations.

Colleen Sing says that the Community Compact envisions the celebrations to go on throughout 2009, with different groups and businesses organising different activities. These activities will culminate in a main birthday celebration in the long weekend of October 2009.

Right: Murray pictured with Colleen Sing of the Dwellingup Community Compact

The Community Compact are asking people to come to an initial Steering Group Meeting on the 20 October 2007, at 2pm at the Wine Tree on Holyoake Road.

Those requiring further information are encouraged to call Margot Roberts on 9538 1570.



Keysbrook Mining Update

I have managed to obtain some information on the status of the Keysbrook mineral sands project. I have found it somewhat unfortunate that there has been little information provided on their website, their community news updates having ceased in August 2006. I was also told by local residents that the audit of bores in the area in February 2007 authorised by Olympia was not completed due to lack of warning to local landholders. Recent developments include the following:

- In August, the Keysbrook North Dandalup Action Group (KNAG) opposed the application by Olympia to have a licence to draw approximately 2GL of water from the Nambelup Groundwater area.
- In July I received a response from the Minister for Environment, David Templeman, after requesting that Olympia apply to the Mining Warden's court for the necessary approvals. He informed me that as the land in question was held in pre-1898 title, the private landowner had ownership of the minerals rather than the State, and therefore the Mining Act provisions did not apply.
- Currently the EPA is assessing the project in light of the public's submissions and it is envisioned that a recommendation will be made before the end of the year. However, Olympia will then need to also obtain shire approvals.
- Further management plans have been submitted by Olympia as requested by the EPA. The company have also claimed in their report to shareholders that a Rehabilitation Management Plan was "revised and updated with additional input and agreement from the landholders" in the quarter ending June 2007.

I have already outlined to the Minister for the Environment the electorate's concerns regarding this project and will continue to vigorously pursue this matter with him if the EPA recommends the project be approved.

Environmental Lesson from North Dandalup P. S.

Last month I nominated North Dandalup Primary School for the CSBP Environment and Sustainability Award in this year's round of Regional Achievement and Community Awards.

I visited the school recently to learn more about the school's environmental endeavours, and to get a few organic farming tips from the children. The school won the Premier's Education for Sustainability Award in 2005, and I am hoping to recognise their ongoing achievements with this latest nomination. I was extremely impressed by the knowledge that the children have retained, such as biological names of native flora and fauna species, and the enthusiasm with which they talk about the huge efforts the school is making to protect the planet's vital resources.

The school has a number of environmental programs, including a protected bushland area containing rare and endangered plant species, a recycling compound which the community also uses, worm farms, native plant nurseries and permaculture gardens. Students work on the programs as a whole school activity every Monday afternoon.

The school's principal, Merrilyn Jones, says that "the degree of environmental awareness in our students is a fair measure of how basic understandings can change behaviour and develop life long held beliefs, which will create a more sustainable world."



Murray getting some organic farming tips from North Dandalup Primary School students.

Round 'em up and Hand 'em in: Mobile Muster

I am currently inviting residents in the Murray region to "round up and hand in" their old mobile phones in the mobile phone industry's official recycling program, the "Mobile Muster".

Mobile phones are not biodegradable and over 90% of the materials in mobile phones, batteries and accessories can be recovered and used to make new products such as stainless steel, plastic fence posts and jewellery.

By recycling our mobile phones we can protect the environment and more efficiently utilise our non-renewable resources such as gold, silver and copper.

One tonne of circuit boards yields as much as 110 tonnes of gold ore, 123 tonnes of silver bearing ore, and 11 tonnes of copper sulphide ore.



Most Australians update their phones every 18 – 24 months, resulting in around 15 million unused phones and batteries lying around homes and offices – so it is a credit to the mobile phone industry that they are taking the initiative to be responsible for their industry's product, for its entire life cycle.

I am encouraging people to take advantage of the free recycling service by dropping your mobile phones at my office in Meadow Springs, or setting up other collection points in the Dwellingup area. Please contact my office on 9583 3830 for further information.

Murray Cowper MLA recycling his old mobile phone

Can I assist you? Do you want to discuss an issue of concern? If so please contact me at:

Shop 21 Meadow Springs Shopping Centre MEADOW SPRINGS

PO Box 94, Mandurah WA 6210 or PO Box 184, Pinjarra WA 6208

Tel: 9583 3830 Fax: 9583 3834 or Email: murray.cowper@mp.wa.gov.au