

Gidge Gossips January 2016

After a two month break with Christmas and New Year happening, there is a tendency to look blankly at the first Gidge Gossips for 2016 and to wonder where this year will take us.

The past couple of months have certainly been eventful but not always in a pleasant way. First of all the arsonist who was plaguing Gidgegannup and particularly the Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades. It's a very strange mind that can deliberately start fires in any place, particularly a tinder box such as Gidgegannup. We have to be immensely grateful to our Volunteers who have saved our community on countless occasions. This then culminated with the terrible events of 6th January which caused so much heartache for countless people in the South West. This could so easily have happened in Gidgegannup as on that afternoon we had about 18 lightning strikes that we knew of in Gidge. Due to the tireless and remarkable efforts of the Volunteer Fire Brigades and the vigilance and actions of community members, backed up by aerial support we survived. We, as a community, can't thank you, every one of you, enough.

We can only hope that any Enquiry recognises the significant and vitally important role of the Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades, Emergency Services Volunteer Association, State Emergency Service Volunteer Association, and WA Farmers. These people know the rural areas and the special needs they have.

Animals straying - The good news is that a lot of paddocks are now eaten out and with the recent rains, any remaining feed doesn't interest livestock too much. Look out for livestock on the roads. There have already been reports of sheep roaming.

The recent rain was quite amazing. Fortunately we missed the main parts of the storm or there would have been a lot of damage.

The other animals roaming appear to be dogs – frightened by storms, gates getting left open and all the other causes. Most are found and returned to their homes, but some go missing permanently. Make sure your best friends are safe and not getting into any trouble.

This is a fantastic time of the year with time for everyone to relax and enjoy the warm weather. City of Swan has organised a lot of holiday activities so check them out on the City website, Notice Board in townsite, Community face book page, community website. So many ways to get the news out to the community. Now the Gidgegram is back for 2016 there will be tons of information in that as well. Thanks again to the Gidgegannup Agricultural Society who pay for this monthly newsletter to appear in your letterbox and to Sandra Harms who puts the whole thing together. Another venture supported by the community. The amazing thing about Gidgegannup is it's huge reliance on volunteers and how well this works. So another big thank you to all the volunteers in our community.

So there you go big pats on the back all round and let's look forward to a safe and productive 2016.

Bearing in mind that our lovely black cat Mabel died just before Christmas. She was aged and just went off into a peaceful sleep, I thought this joke suited the occasion. Thanks
Janette

A cat died and went to Heaven. God met the animal at the Pearly Gates and said, "You have been a good cat all of these years. Anything you want is yours for the asking."

The cat thought for a moment and then said, "All my life I lived on a farm and slept on hard, wooden floors..."

I would like a real fluffy pillow to sleep on."

God said, "Say no more." Instantly, the cat had a HUGE fluffy pillow.

A few days later, 12 mice were simultaneously killed in an accident and they all went up to Heaven together.

God met the mice at the Gates of Heaven, with the exact same offer that he made to the cat.

The mice said, "Well, we have had to run all of our lives... from cats, dogs, and even from people with brooms.

If we could just have some little roller-skates, we would never have to run again."

God answered, "It is done." All the mice had beautiful little roller-skates.

About a week later, God decided to check on the cat... He found her sound asleep on her fluffy pillow.

God gently awakened the cat and asked, "Is everything okay? How have you been doing? Are you happy?"

The cat replied, "Oh, everything is just WONDERFUL... I've never been so happy in my life! My pillow is always fluffy and those little "Meals-on-Wheels" that you have been sending over are delicious."

HAPPY 2016!!!!