

■ Letters to the Editor

Hay fever story tickles right spot

I PARTICULARLY liked journalist Lauren Vardy's musings about the agony associated with spring-onset hay fever, published in the "Talking Point" last Wednesday.

God knows, I've tried to find a good remedy myself and found little that will aid the issue.

The statement "he has hay fever" probably tells you the average Joe is mildly irritated by flora and is prone to snivelling, a little welling up of the eyes and the occasional bouts of moaning. Chances are, he probably carries a pocket-pack of tissues in his back pocket.

For the majority of us, hay is the least impressive of all fevers, but it's certainly not the easiest to live with.

Margaret Fern
Esperance

Letters to the Editor

WE value the opinions of our readers and encourage you to put pen to paper and air your thoughts. Letters should be no more than 300 words, clearly typed or neatly handwritten and must be edited for size. Correspondents MUST include their full name, address and a daytime contact number for verification.

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Government of
Western Australia
Department of State Development
Department of Mines and Petroleum

Mineral Royalty Rate Analysis

The Western Australian Government invites public submissions to its analysis of the State's mineral royalty rates.

Terms of Reference and a Stakeholder Consultation Paper are available from the Department of State Development and Department of Mines and Petroleum, including regional offices, or online at www.dsd.wa.gov.au

For more information:

Call 9222 0555, fax 9222 0505 or email royalties@dsd.wa.gov.au

Submissions are to be addressed to:

Nicky Cusworth, Deputy Director General Strategic Policy
Department of State Development
Level 6, 1 Adelaide Terrace,
East Perth, Western Australia 6004

Submissions will be accepted by hand, mail, fax or email to the details above until COB 31 October 2013.

adcorp F86751

Gossips revel in social media

THE shame associated with bullying can make it difficult for victims to come forward, and now the ease and speed of gossiping online makes it even harder.

It is devastating people in our small community have felt compelled to make a number of horrendous gossip pages on Facebook.

Problem with the age of information

HEAR, hear to Val Scannell Harris for having the courage to stand up to online bullies on the front page of the August 30 edition of the *Esperance Express*.

Social networking sites, useful as they are, blur the lines between gossip and fact before school children are able to learn the difference.

Sites like Facebook encourage young people to learn from each other with an inevitably limited perspective and do not engender them in a discernment for the truth.

Are we raising a generation who do not love learning but rather see the screen as a source of opinion that suit their point of view without testing their veracity?

Social networks are a far more powerful weapon in our children's hands than we appreciate.

Facebook is a case in point.

Not only used as a social hive reuniting old friends, it is also a gossips' paradise, infesting the online world with half truth and insult.

Children and teenagers alike need to be taught that flippant comments posted online can leave people's reputations in tatters.

Our young people are only now beginning to experience the impossibility of erasing what is posted and revealed.

Deb Smart
Ravensthorpe

Sadly, anyone who has a social media account can comment on these sites – strangers who don't know anyone involved will comment.

The shame of it is, parents are doing it too. You can tell by the posts.

Sadly this all makes it hard for children to come forward, knowing these days that

nothing is kept secret, no matter how hard you try.

Secrets spread like wildfire on the internet. It's instant.

I can only hope Facebook sees the sense to remove these pages once and for all.

Jim Briggs
Esperance

Jetty has important role to play

THE jetty is the uniting line in our changing Heart Shaped Bay.

It means so much to us. If you pay a company \$100,000 or so to do a structural study on a jetty, are they really going to come back to you and say "it's fine"?

Sure there are going to be some areas of concern.

That could have been addressed in the past with funds designated for rehabilitation works to maintain a safe environment.

It is almost as if the powers to be actually want the jetty to close.

Let us look at the present scenario.

The proximal portion of the jetty has been demolished leaving it a free-standing structure.

This exposure has left the jetty vulnerable to excessive movement and aggravation of timber structures.

Where the proximal portion of the jetty was removed, it left a couple of degenerated piles, offering little support, making access to the jetty perhaps a bit risky without some remedial work.

To my mind, those that have been contracted to do foreshore remedial work with partial dis-

mantling of the jetty must leave with the jetty fully resurrected.

Was this an oversight in the tendering requirements?

Maybe we can stop talking, keep our money in our pockets and get to work and rectify the situation.

If it has to be so, I volunteer my time to help build the structure. Anyone else?

If the jetty was to close beyond a reasonable time, I for sure will find a way to still fish there and my son, regardless.

What would be the worst-case scenario if we use the jetty in the interim? One might fall into the water. Wow.

Is the shire going to close all the rocks around the bays because they are unsafe also?

I know where I would take my chances.

Like Merv (Express article August 8), our families have all been brought up with the jetty as a main part of our lives. There was little obesity, we were active all day.

Today, the children's world is closing down.

It is unsafe to go to the park. It is unsafe to go to town on your own. It is unsafe to go fishing on the jetty.

Children are dying from obesity, from depression from inactivity and overindulgence of technology that gives nothing back in terms of endorphin release or physical challenge.

Come on guys lets lighten things up some.

Our children cannot fish off James Street Jetty and cannot fish off the main jetty.

We should be doing everything in our power to rectify this situation as soon as possible, both jetties, teach our children to be responsible, to be aware of potential dangers and don't drive them on to the rocks.

Esperance shire, take some time to consider what family unity and adventure the jetty provides.

If you hadn't noticed you should have taken time to experience the delight a child/adult may get from pulling in the odd herring.

You have definitely underestimated the importance of this asset.

In response to article "Safety concerns delay jetty opening", Mr Heasman, the jetty has not come to the end of its life.

David Eltringham
Esperance

Wind farms take precedence Take responsibility

I REFER to your front page August 23 article regarding Esperance's wind farms.

I represent the owners of the Esperance gas-fired power station. The fundamental error in the report is that wind farms are constrained for commercial reasons, to allow the power station to operate.

In fact, the complete opposite is true.

Most of the time, Esperance uses all the electricity the wind farms produce, and the power station makes up any shortfall so that a reliable supply of electricity is always available.

This virtuous circle means the power station operates to balance the output of the wind farms with the need of Esperance's residents and businesses.

When the wind blows hard, the power station backs off and vice-versa. To ensure the power station is always ready for action, it is important that two of its seven gas turbines are running at all times.

Occasionally, overnight, Esperance's electricity load is so low that not all the wind farm output is needed. On these rare occasions the wind farms are limited so the system does not become unstable.

Wind power is inherently unpredictable and unstable and can vary from zero to 30 per cent of the Esperance power demand over a period of one month. The balancing role of the gas-fired power station is critical to a safe and reliable electricity supply for Esperance. Rather than benefit from reduced output of the wind farms, the power station would benefit from increased wind power as we would then save on the considerable cost of gas needed.

Esperance is a fortunate town, self-sufficient in electricity production with wind power satisfying about 23 per cent of its electricity demand each year.

We hope that wind power will grow in Esperance in line with the town's overall growth even though available wind energy has shown a downward trend during the past two years. We look forward to a time when Esperance has grown to such an extent that the output of the wind farms are never constrained.

Neville Selby, Esperance area manager
Transfield Worley Power Services

A COUPLE of weeks ago I watched in horror as a ridgeback on Castletown beach savagely attacked our harmless little cavalier king charles, Jimmy, in front of my children.

This large and powerful animal spotted him from several hundred metres away and charged straight for him.

Jimmy didn't even see it coming, he was too busy chasing flies.

The owners of the Ridgeback were powerless to stop it as it wasn't on a leash, and were left for dust at it raced to our dog and mauled him.

I knew it would turn on me if I tried to kick it, and I didn't want my children to see that, so all I could do was ditch handfuls of sand and scream at it to "get off him".

Which of course it didn't.

Eventually, when he caught up, the owner threw himself on his dog and pinned it down, but it still wouldn't let go of poor little Jimmy for some time.

When it finally did I bundled him up and took him to the vets.

After a week, and several trips back to the vets, Jimmy died of devastating internal injuries sustained from the attack.

The owners (who were tourists and did not give me a contact number) said their dog had never done anything like that before.

A story unfortunately heard too many times.

I want to do justice to Jimmy and ask all dog owners: "How well do you know your dog?" and raise awareness of this all-too-common issue that could have been avoided by proper dog handling and responsibility.

To avoid an attack such as this happening again, which frighteningly could have been on a child, its as simple as this: If you are the owner of a large, powerful, or unpredictable dog, walk it on a leash, or if it's off the leash put a muzzle on it.

Better still, do both.

Jennene Riggs
Esperance

Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show & festival

7th-17th SEPTEMBER

Coach & Caravan parking, Devonshire tea, Local Craft On Sale

Senior Citizens Centre Admission \$4
Over 600 labelled specimens on show
Opening of Crochet Flower Display
High Tea
Sunday 2pm at the Community Centre.

• 4x4 Tag Along Tours 10,12,13th of September

• Gala Dinner, Entertainment Markets Sat 14th of September with Professor Stephen Hooper

• Guided Bush Walk Sun 15th of September

wildflowersravensthorpe.org.au

