

Rockingham's Most Beautiful Gardens

The City of Rockingham has once again held its annual Beautiful Garden Competition. A big congratulations to all those who entered!

With so many beautiful gardens throughout the Rockingham Community it proved to be a tough task for the judges who had the challenging job of finding the most loved and beautiful landscape.

After much deliberation the winners of Beautiful Gardens 2009 were announced as follows.

Single Residential Dwelling

- 1st Place Deb Crane
- 2nd Place Franz Haus
- 3rd Place Sarah Harken

Sub- Divisional reserve Development

- Spy Glass Hill Reserve
- Secret Harbour, Satterly Group

School Ground Award

- Malibu School

Frog Friendly

- Ron & Gloria Capes

Native/ Water Conservation Garden

- Terry & Rita Chambers

Multi Unit residential Dwelling

- 1st Place Barbara Campbell
- 2nd Place Sheila Howe

Some wonderful prizes were kindly donated by local businesses and the City of Rockingham would like to thank BHP Billiton, Rocky Mowers and Chainsaws, Carramar Nursery, Bailleys Fertiliser and Lotus Blossom Water Garden for their support.



Palm Beach Facelift

The 'Last Pole' marked a special occasion for the City of Rockingham as the council celebrated the completion of its first Underground Power Project in the Palm Beach Area.

The City of Rockingham has been working in partnership with the State Government who has a long term goal to have at least half the houses in Perth supplied with underground power by 2010. Called the Underground Power Program, it is designed to improve residential amenity and safety as well as the quality and continuity of power supply.

The underground power project is one of a number of major projects that have occurred in the Palm Beach area recently, with other projects including:

- Val St jetty extension
- New Palm Beach jetty
- Drainage project on the Esplanade Foreshore

- Upgrading of the Palm Beach East boat ramp

The Palm Beach area was chosen specifically for several reasons including the age of the existing infrastructure in the area, its proximity to the coast and also to improve the power quality to reduce incidences of signal interference and the number of blackouts.

Importantly this project also allowed for the removal of the unsightly old powerlines which creates a much more aesthetically pleasing street-scape. Nearly 1200 properties have been serviced by the new underground power cables. In the process of construction, 16.5 km of drilling for the new underground cables has occurred and 310 new lights have been installed.

Fifty per cent of the funding for this project was provided by the property owners who will benefit from the works. The remaining 50 per cent comes from the equal contributions from the Office of Energy and Western Power.

The City of Rockingham will be lodging an expression of interest for round five of the State Underground Power Program and plan to have several areas of Rockingham converted to underground power over the next few years.



Diesel Rocks Rockingham this New Years Eve

Do you want to know where the party is this New Years Eve? You will not want to miss the family fun celebration happening at Churchill Park, Rockingham Foreshore. See out the end of 2009 with this free family concert, featuring Australian music legend, Diesel live on stage!

With Diesel and supporting acts Boom! Bap! Pow! and Aiden Varro there will be plenty of

opportunity to rock the night away. Diesel, best known for his songs "Come to me" and "Tip of my tongue" has recorded nine albums with two of them becoming number one Australian Hits.

With the City of Rockingham securing such a great Australian Music Legend to see in the New Year the stage definitely looks set to be bigger and better than ever before.

Bring your family and friends and join us on the foreshore for a final day of festivities and fireworks as we bid adieu to 2009 and welcome New Year 2010.

This annual celebration is made possible with the support of Lotterywest, Water Corporation, BHP Billiton, Coast FM, IPM and the Weekend Courier.

Mayors Message

Welcome to the December edition of the City Chronicle, courtesy of the City of Rockingham. It is with pleasure that I present my Christmas Message for 2009 and take the opportunity to look back on another successful year.

An important milestone I would like to acknowledge is the City of Rockingham's 21st Birthday! On the 12th November, 21 years ago, Rockingham was given City status, propelling us into an incredible period of growth and prosperity. As a community we have worked together over the last 21 years to transform Rockingham into a vibrant and sustainable city.

It excites me that over the summer months and holiday season the city comes alive, with residents and visitors enjoying Rockingham's

wonderful beaches, attractions and family fun events.

Family is a major aspect of the Christmas season and my favourite holiday to cherish simply because I am spending it with loved ones. I truly believe "doing with" will always be more meaningful than simply "buying for" and in these challenging economic times I am pleased the City of Rockingham can present opportunities and a setting to recapture a Traditional Australian Christmas focusing on family and fun.

On behalf of the elected members of Council, and Council staff, may I extend to everybody our very best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Mayor Barry Sammels

User Friendly Beaches



The matting has been installed on the foreshore only a short distance from the Cruising Yacht Club and is accessed via a ramp directly onto the sand.

It is a proud achievement for the City of Rockingham as they are only the second Local Government Authority in WA that has installed accessible beach matting.

The Beach Matting compliments Beach Wheelchairs purchased by the City of Rockingham earlier this year. The Beach Wheelchairs are available for hire, free of charge, from the Rockingham Cruising Yacht Club.

Mayor Barry Sammels officially launched the Beach Matting on Friday 3rd of December to coincide with International Day of People with Disability.

Interesting Fact:

Did you know the matting was originally designed by the armed forces to enable tanks and other heavy military vehicles to travel across sand and is now being used in an innovative way all over the world? What a great solution to allow enhanced access to the beach!

The City of Rockingham is renowned for its wonderful coastline, a major drawcard for residents and visitors alike. Access to the beach and water has emerged as a major issue for people with disabilities, not only for people in wheelchairs, but also people with mobility problems.

Being aware of these issues the City of Rockingham is successfully making beaches more user friendly for all with the installation of Beach Matting along Rockingham Foreshore.

Spring Festival

Rockingham, WA - Council's presence at the 2009 Rockingham Spring Festival created an ideal setting for the City of Rockingham to highlight some of the area's award-winning services, popular facilities and upcoming projects.

Twenty-five City staff members and volunteers contributed their time on Saturday, 21 November to represent the City and showcase the great work they do.

This year Council's marquee featured several displays including Roadwise, Health and Wellbeing, Community Development, and Planning. An estimated 700 festival-goers visited the tent to inquire about community programs, services, and future developments in Rockingham.

As part of an ongoing partnership between Challenger TAFE and the City, students from the Quinlans Hospitality & Tourism Training Centre served over 1,000 miniature mocktails to help attract visitors. The Flute n' Veg Duo also made an appearance, offering free fruit and vegetables to promote healthy eating habits.

Council staff and volunteers were pleased with the turnout and enjoyed interacting with the community.

NYE Road Closures

The City of Rockingham would like to remind residents that road closures will be in place with Rockingham Beach Road closed between Flinders Lane and Railway Terrace from 12 noon on Thursday 31 December 2009. Road closures will reopen when deemed safe.

Residents are also encouraged to utilize the public transport networks available to them on this night and should visit transperth.wa.gov.au or call 13 62 13 to consider their options.

Swimming Pool Safety

Did you know the home swimming pool is the most common site in which drowning occurs for children under the age of five and that creating a barrier between children and water is one of the most effective ways of drowning prevention?

The City of Rockingham reminds home swimming pool owners it is their responsibility to ensure pool barriers are compliant with pool fencing regulations regardless of whether they have young children in their residence. Barrier compliance is the owners/occupiers responsibility at all times and not just when an inspection is due.

Swimming pool fencing should be maintained and checked on a regular basis to make sure it is self closing and self latching. Under no circumstances should a gate be propped open.

It is important to note that implementing these barriers is not a substitute for supervision. The most important action a parent can do to prevent their child from drowning is to supervise their child at all times.

Learning water familiarisation skills can be fun for both the parent and child so why not consider enrolling your child in an infant aquatic class at the Rockingham Aquatic Centre and help your child develop water confidence and safe water practices.

Events Rocking Up



31st Dec: Rockingham Foreshore NYE Celebration @ Churchill Park

17 Jan: Rockingham Aquatic Centre Fun Day Sunday @ Rockingham Aquatic Centre

22-31 Jan: Rockingham Patchwork Exhibition @ Gary Holland Community Centre

24 Jan: Jim Thompson Memorial Cycle Race @ Smeaton Way, Rockingham

Go Green and Reduce Energy Bills

Are you a homeowner ready to go green, save energy and reduce your energy bills?

If you answered yes then it's time for a home energy audit and the City of Rockingham is happy to help!

The City of Rockingham has recently acquired three Home Energy Assessment Toolkits which allow homeowners to do their own home energy assessment without paying for an expert to come to their home.

The kits have been developed through the 'ClimateWise' Programme run by the South Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC).

The toolkit helps you to identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency in your home. It's easy to use and each kit contains:

PowerMate Lite - for instantly measuring power use of appliances;

Infrared thermometer - for checking insulation leaks around doors & windows;

Timer - to check shower length and flow;

Outdoor & indoor thermometers - to help track effectiveness of the house to hold temperature overnight;

Compass - to identify building orientation;

An easy to follow home energy assessment manual; and

Flyers - with tips to reduce energy use

The kits are free to borrow and are available from Rockingham Regional Campus Community Library (Murdoch University); Safety Bay Library & Warnbro Community Library.

Nyoongar Art Award Winners Announced



The City of Rockingham has announced the winners of its Nyoongar Art Awards. Rod Garlett was announced as the major prize winner and was awarded \$12,000 in cash and \$2500 towards professional development for his piece titled "Noongar Boodja". The Emerging Artist Category was won by female artist Wendy Hayden for an acrylic piece on canvas titled "Carrolup Wildflower Picking". Commendations were also awarded to Lindsay Henry Harris, Lance Chadd, Ben Pushman and Shane Pickett.

"The City of Rockingham was delighted to host the Nyoongar Art Awards in Partnership

with the Town of Kwinana and would like to congratulate all artists who entered the awards," said Rockingham Deputy Mayor Brian Warner.

"The talent on display from local Nyoongar artists was outstanding and I would like to congratulate the winning artists," he added.

All submissions were showcased with an exhibition sponsored by Healthways "Respect Yourself, Respect Your Culture" and BHP Billiton. The program included workshops with Nyoongar Artists for school children and floor talks with the Curator and Artists.