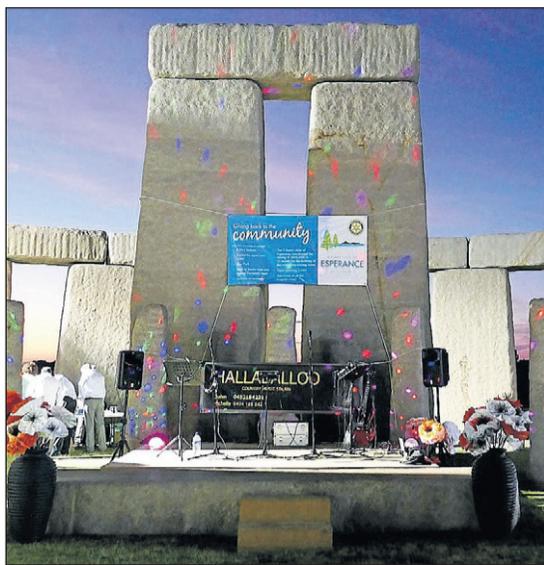


Dinner aids fight against cancer



Sunset: Stonehenge provides the spectacular backdrop for Rotary's mesothelioma research fundraiser.

By **LOIS SAUNDERS**

MORE than \$10,000 has been donated by the Rotary Club of Esperance towards finding a cure for a disease which kills twice as many Australians as road accidents.

Mesothelioma, caused by breathing in microscopic asbestos fibres, is a cancer without a cure.

At a Stonehenge function to raise cash on Saturday, club president Stephen Schmedje presented mesothelioma sufferer Barry Knowles with a \$10,000 contribution to fund research for a cure.

Six years ago Barry Knowles was diagnosed with mesothelioma and given six months to live.

Mr Knowles said his aim was to raise \$150,000 through his not-for-profit Reflections through Reality Foundation to fund trials of a vaccine which arrested the growth of mesothelioma in mice and rats.

The foundation aimed to raise awareness of the risks of asbestos and to provide support for mesothelioma sufferers.

Foundation director Larry Graham told the 190 people at the dinner mesothelioma was no longer confined to miners and manufacturers of asbestos.

The number of women and children falling victim to the disease was increasing because of its widespread use in



Fundraiser: Reflections through Reality Foundation director Larry Graham, mesothelioma sufferer Barry Knowles, Rotary Club of Esperance president Stephen Schmedje, Renee Knowles and foundation secretary Jo Morris gather at the Stonehenge dinner to raise funds. More photographs on page 12.

homes and public infrastructure.

"Thousands of people are dead because they ignored warnings about exposure to asbestos," Mr Graham said.

He said asbestos was commonly used in fire blankets, kitchen trivets, clutch and brake linings until the mid-1980s.

"Please be careful of asbestos and treat it as a dangerous substance," he

said.

When Mr Knowles retired to Tasmania, a chance X-ray after an accident with a falling tree identified a shadow on his lung.

Mr Knowles had worked in the building industry in Busselton since his 14th birthday.

After a Tasmanian respiratory specialist predicted Mr Knowles had only months to live,

he returned with his wife Renee to their four daughters in Western Australia.

"As a Christian man I believe God has a purpose for me," Mr Knowles said.

Faith sustained Mr Knowles to write and publish his autobiography *Reflections through Reality*, to establish the foundation of the same name to raise funds for

research into a cure and to support to mesothelioma sufferers.

Mr Knowles said he felt reaffirmed when the Governor of Western Australia helped launch the foundation, respiratory specialist Bill Musk became a director of the board and ABN Group managing director Dave Alcock joined as an investor in the foundation.

TUTORING ESPERANCE

OPEN DAY

Saturday 19th March
9.00am to 1.30pm

Parents! Come by and inspect our tutoring environment, meet Christine and discuss with her the programs on offer. Enrolments also available on the day.

Phone Christine:

9071 1760 or 0458 541 562

E-mail: tutoring4kids@outlook.com

Or drop into 58 Windich Street

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

TASTE DUMBLEYUNG

Saturday April 2 | 3pm til Midnight
Stubbs Park, Dumbleyung

Various food vans • A number of local wine and produce tastings
• Bluebird Kids Corner with rides and show-bags • Live music by Hayden McGlenn and eight piece showband CatzMeow • Local Fashion Parade
• Silent Auction • Traditional Tractor Pull Competition • Bar

PLUS exclusive Taste of Dumbleyung Gala Dinner hosted by Fervor – indulge on a seven course degustation dinner of delicious local produce all matched with wine in our exclusive open air restaurant
(Tickets on SALE! \$180pp email dumbleyungevents@gmail.com)

Brought to you by/major sponsors

Get on DEC! Dumbleyung Events Committee

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CBHarcup

The former Bluebird Festival has run its last race with a brand new look and feel in 2016!
DEC have endeavoured to uphold the great community spirit which has made the Bluebird Festival such a success.

Save the Date!

like us on Facebook

Awards recognise multiculturalism

OUTSTANDING individuals and organisations have been recognised for their contribution to multiculturalism in WA.

This year's West Australian Multicultural Recognition Awards recognised 27 individuals, organisations and community groups over eight categories including individual contribution, lifetime service, volunteering, local government, private sector, marketing, and arts and culture.

At the launch of Harmony Week, citizenship and multi-

cultural interests minister Mike Nahan said the breadth and depth of the 27 individuals and organisations recognised reflected WA's diverse and dynamic community.

"These awards are a clear statement of the importance of recognising what is done, often behind the scenes, to ensure WA's cultural diversity continues to flourish," Mr Nahan said.

"Those being recognised represent cultures from around the world and bring a rich

diversity and experience to benefit all West Australians.

"From individuals working at a grassroots level to organisations incorporating the principles of multiculturalism in their day-to-day business, it is clear there is a thriving commitment across the community to build on our rich and proud multicultural traditions.

"It is fitting we are recognising this work at the beginning of Harmony Week, which is a time when we reflect on the importance of cross-cultur-

al understanding.

"Harmony Week is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits culturally and linguistically diverse communities bring to WA," Mr Nahan said.

Harmony Week ends on Monday.

WA Multicultural Recognition Award winners were City of Stirling multicultural project officer Eva Mwakichako and WA Police multicultural engagement officer Zainon (Zen) Mohamad Kassim.

Rural local councils primed to do more

RURAL local governments will benefit from a financial injection of more than \$5.4 million to support leadership and innovation in the sector and strengthen accountability and performance of the councils.

The cash is available through the state government's Country Local Government Fund would be invested in a series of capacity building initiatives over two years, local government minister Tony Simpson said.

"It is a priority of the government to help country local governments to have the capacity to deliver a wide range of community services into the future," Mr Simpson said.

"This funding will enable them to

achieve innovative local solutions in service delivery and community partnerships and ensure councils have the right governance to support this.

"These initiatives are fundamental to our commitment to creating a stronger local government sector in Western Australia and better outcomes for residents and ratepayers."

Since 2013, the capacity building program has provided more than \$10 million in support for local councils.

Projects in this round of funding include support for local governments to develop closer links with community organisations and improve their understanding of commu-

nity development, a program to attract and retain more young people into local government careers, a provision of an online management information tool and undertaking governance review and a review of levels of service to ensure community needs are met.

It was a significant step forward for social and economic development in regional areas, regional development minister Terry Redman said.

"This program will support ongoing improvements in the capacity of country local governments to identify and act on opportunities for developments and initiatives, particularly with the community and not-for-profit sector," he said.

Easter

SUNDAY 27th
AUCTION

Museum Village Market
Lion Club/ Fire Fencing Group

Items on Display at Cafe Veranda start
From 9.30am with auction starting at 11.00am

\$3,000

plus up for auction.

All items were donated by local business
(items were for the Cabaret which had been cancelled)