

# Menzies Matters

Issue 2

Free

June 2008

## SAVE ENERGY THIS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Thursday 5 June is World Environment Day. To mark the occasion Horizon Power, through its Betterways program, is encouraging the community to take simple steps to save energy, starting in their very own homes. Horizon Power's Community Relations Manager, Lana Rudez said Horizon Power is encouraging the community to contribute to a sustainable energy future by providing some simple energy saving tips.

"There are many ways to save energy, and money, in the home," she said.

"The greatest opportunity to save is with appliances that use the most power, such as water heating, space heating and cooling."

Horizon Power reminds the community of the following energy saving ideas:

- Insulate your home. Insulation reduces the amount of outdoor heat penetrating your home in summer, while in winter it helps to keep the heat indoors.
- Make sure your hot water system outlet pipe is well insulated.
- Adjust the louvres on the air conditioner so they face downwards for heating and upwards for cooling.
- Use your kettle, not the stove, when you need to boil small amounts of water for tea or coffee.

*continued on page 2*

## HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Menzies Classic... Save Energy...
- 3 Thornley High School Visit
- 5 ANZAC Day... Australia's Biggest Morning Tea...
- 6 Plenty of Horse Sense
- 10 June Calendar

**Don't miss Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at Kookynie, Old Miners Cottage.**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 11.00am onwards**

**Ph 9031 3013**

**RSVP: Be There!**



## MENZIES CLASSIC – 2008

The Menzies to Kalgoorlie race has a wonderful history which will be reflected in the excitement of this year's event. The race commenced in 1928, following a discussion at a club meeting concerning the lack of distance races on the Goldfields, Messrs J Richards, JC Walsh, Chas Egan along with a small committee set about organising a long distance event. Their choice of starting point was the small mining town of Menzies, 81 miles north of Kalgoorlie. Many of the business men of the Goldfields supported the venture and, on the King's Birthday, June 1928, at 8:00am, the limit men were sent away for the first "Menzies". Twenty-four riders started in this event.

From its inauguration in 1928 until 1932 the race was known as the Menzies-Kalgoorlie Road Race, but two days before the race of that year Charlie Egan, the well-liked and highly respected secretary of the club, tragically died, and all riders in the race that year wore black armbands as a token of respect. It was decided later that the race of which Chas Egan was one of the originators, should in future be known as the "Chas Egan Memorial Race".

In 1935, owing to a scarcity of riders and general lack of interest, the race was held to Bulla-Bulling and return, but that was the only divergence from the original course, as in the following year it reverted to the old Menzies-Kalgoorlie course. From that time, the

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Continued from page 1

- Load the dishwasher to capacity before running it.

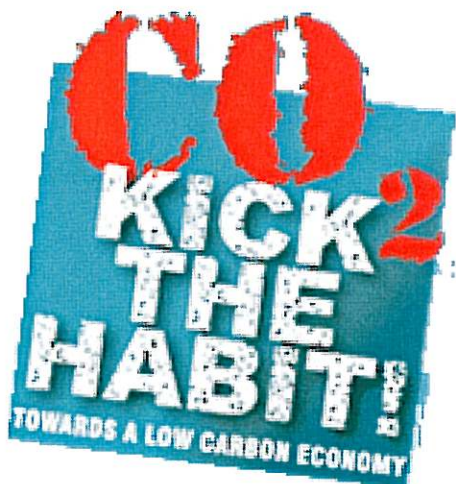
Horizon Power's newly-created Betterways initiative seeks to promote innovative energy use in regional Western Australia. Betterways will provide ideas, information, products, services, education programs and events that enable community members to make positive energy saving changes.



For more energy saving ideas, visit [www.horizonpower.com.au](http://www.horizonpower.com.au) and download the Energy Saving Ways brochures.

### About World Environment Day 2008

World Environment Day, commemorated each year on 5 June, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.



The World Environment Day slogan for 2008 is **Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy**. Recognising that climate change is becoming the defining issue of our era, UNEP is asking countries, companies and communities to focus on greenhouse gas emissions and how to reduce them. The World Environment Day will highlight resources and initiatives that promote low carbon economies and lifestyles, such as improved energy efficiency, alternative energy sources, forest conservation and eco-friendly consumption.

The main international celebrations of World Environment Day 2008 will be held in [New Zealand](#). UNEP is honoured that the city of Wellington will be hosting this United Nations day ([read the press release](#)).

The day's agenda is to give a human face to environmental issues; empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development; promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues; and advocate partnership, which will ensure all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

### When did it all begin?

World Environment Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Another resolution, adopted by the General Assembly the same day, led to the creation of UNEP.

### How can you celebrate World Environment Day?

#### [The World Environment Day Alphabet - 80 Ways to Celebrate](#)

World Environment Day can be celebrated in many ways, including street rallies, bicycles parades, green concerts, essay and poster competitions in schools, tree planting, recycling efforts, clean-up campaigns and much more. In many countries, this annual event is used to enhance political attention and action.

Heads of State, Prime Ministers and Ministers of Environment deliver statements and commit themselves to care for the Earth. Serious pledges are made which lead to the establishment of permanent governmental structures dealing with environmental management and economic planning. This observance also provides an opportunity to sign or ratify international environmental conventions.

On this World Environment Day, let us examine the state of our environment. Let us consider carefully the actions which each of us must take, and then address ourselves to our common task of preserving all life on earth in a mood of sober resolution and quiet confidence.

#### **MENZIES MATTERS**

The next edition of *Menzies Matters* is due for publication on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July. Deadline for contributions is 5pm Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2008  
Email: [cdo@menzies.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdo@menzies.wa.gov.au)  
Ph. 08 9024 2702

### Thornley Visit to Menzies Remote Community School

Here are some thoughts about the Thornley High School visit from the Yilba and Wan-um-bee Class.



At 9.30am the Thornley students arrived. The Wan-um-bee and Yilba classes went outside. We broke into three groups and did some activities together.



*Kyra Shepherd*

At first we were shy that the Thornley students came to our school. After a little while we began to make friends with the Thornley students. My friends were Haylz, Alyce, Asha, Cassie, Jess, Alana and Janelle.

*Tonya Tucker*

On Wednesday the Thornley students came to Menzies school we did three activities then we had lunch and played games like bump, knock out, donkey, and around the world until the students left. I felt shy at the start then felt happy because they joined in the games we played.

*Rickiesha Williams*

race grew in popularity, and its prize list increased until it finally became Western Australia's richest handicapped road race.

Mention of the Goldfields Road Classic is not complete without some comment on the road. During the first five years the term "road" could hardly apply to the bush track, rough, ripply and sandy, that connected Menzies to Kalgoorlie, and the stretch from Menzies to Comet Vale was a cyclist's nightmare, being almost axle deep sand.

By the late thirties, the road improved. Although it was still far from perfect, at least by then a cyclist could heave a sigh of relief when he reached bitumen at Broad Arrow, instead of bumping over ripples, skidding in ruts and ploughing through sand for the rest of the journey right into Hannan Street as the earlier cyclists did.

The great road rider R Hudson, the winner in 1928, once took 5 hours 55 minutes, 45 seconds to cover the 81 miles from Menzies to Kalgoorlie. In 1939 another great rider, Geo Hebbard, took a mere 3 hours 35 minutes 35 seconds. This record was eventually broken in 1993 when Andrew Sime clocked 3 hours 20 minutes 10 seconds. The race times have continued to fall, with record times being set nearly every year. In 1998 Paul Miller set a time of 2 hours 46 minutes 48 seconds. In 2001 Tyson Lawrence covered the distance in 2 hours 36 minutes 51 seconds. The 2002 Classic produced a new benchmark time with Russell VanHout covering the distance in 2 hours 28 minutes and 10 seconds. Will this be broken in 2008?

To find out the results of the Menzies Clasic check out this website:

[www.kalgoorlie.com/cycleclub/](http://www.kalgoorlie.com/cycleclub/)





**PLAYGROUP**

Playgroup is held on Thursdays.  
For further information contact  
the School on 9024 2049



**Drought**

*The white quartz palaces are standing yet,  
Scattered pieces mingle with ironstone fold...  
Black and white... where ancient Gods played  
chess,  
And crowned the King with gold.*

*And when the Gods took pity on the longing of  
this land,  
In ecstasy the seeds erupted... and blossomed  
in the sand.*

*And I smell the scent of woodsmoke still,  
I see the ghostly shapes... I hear the silent  
footfalls...*

*I sway with an ancient, drumming grace. And I  
wait with this land that cannot sleep,  
For the God's returning... for our lands  
rebirthing.*

*Nita Valentine Nov. 2002  
Contributed by George Valentine*

**Menzies Hotel**

**Open 7 Days – 12noon until late**  
**Phone 9024 2016**

**Menzies Roadhouse – 9024 2046**

**Open 7 Days – 7am to 8.00pm**  
*(Sunday closing time – subject to trade)*



*Caroline Dimer*

Everyone was shy but we had to go out to play.  
It was joyful to play with them. After we played we  
got into groups. My group made volcanoes first.  
That was fun.

*Iona Sheehan-Lee*

When the Thornley students arrived I felt shy but  
they were sweet. I met some girls named Alana,  
Kat and Hazel. We had a sausage sizzle cooked  
by Ms Kelly.

*Shania Cameron*

At first we were shy but we got used to the  
students. They were friendly and I thought it was  
fun. They were helpful.

*Pamela Blizzard*

I felt shy when the Thornley students visited. They  
were sweet.

*Shenae*

It was exciting and the students were helpful. It  
was fun.

*Sethen Sheehan-Lee*





\$200.30 was raised at the morning tea recently held in the Menzies Town Hall on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.



Thankyou to Mrs Kelly and the school children from Menzies Remote Community School for preparing all the wonderful food and setting up the hall. Congratulations to all of the Menzies community for supporting this worthwhile fundraiser



## ANZAC DAY



An ANZAC Service was held at the school the Wednesday after ANZAC Day at the start of 2<sup>nd</sup> Term.

A presentation on the life of Mr Jim Brennan who fought in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War was given by Tonia (Grand-daughter of Jim)



Parents, school children and community members participated in the Service which included raising the Australian flag, listening to stories and singing the National Anthem; Advance Australia Fair.

The ANZAC Service concluded with morning tea in the school staffroom. It is planned next year to hold an ANZAC Day Service on April 25<sup>th</sup>.



## PLENTY OF HORSE SENSE

By Lennie Wallace

Ringside watchers at the Cairns Show of 1946 were aghast when their hero, Jack Robinson, fell at a hurdle and was fatally injured. Jack, or 'Robbie' as he was perhaps better known, had long entertained show-goers in the far North with his talented horses, the grey Amy Johnson and the much darker Black Bess. The mares were every bit heroic as Amy Johnson's name-sake, the young aviatrix who flew a little Gypsy Moth solo from London's Croydon airport to Darwin in May, 1930.

Robbie was associated with horses all his life working as a stockman, a drover and a Mounted Policeman before enlisting in the Queensland Mounted Infantry when the Boer war broke out. He was at the relief of Mafeking and at the heroic stand at Eland River where his and his fellow Australians' bush knowledge was highly valued. Returning home, he moved to Irvinebank. Here he received a surprise visit from one of his old police friends who persuaded him to rejoin the Force.

Before long his superb skills of horsemanship were noted and he was put in charge of training of Police mounts in Brisbane. Here he not only broke-in horses but used his superb talents educating the best for spectacular Mounted Police displays. It was here that he began training 'trick' horses and at the Brisbane Exhibition of 1910, his trick horses gladdened an admiring audience of many thousands. The following year, with his 'honourable discharge' from the Police Force, he moved again to develop a small cattle property on Pinnacle Creek near Northcote on the old Hodgkinson Goldfield. This property was later the home of another well-known Northerner, Glenville Pike.

Like others in the area he bred top remounts for the Australian Light Horse in World War 1. He still did some droving working in with a friend, Brian Grogan, who owned Lakefield on Princess Charlotte Bay. Robbie would bring the cattle down from there to Mareeba trucking yards.

The equine Amy Johnson was a great crowd-pleaser, so was her companion Black Bess. She would jump through a burning hoop to rescue a 'baby', a rag doll suitably dressed in 'baby' clothes. Grasping the baby in her mouth she would jump back through the burning hoop to 'safety'.

Amy could also select a handkerchief when Robbie asked her to take one of a certain colour from a box of gaily coloured hankies. Even more cleverly, she could also make a correct selection when asked by a spectator Robbie loved training and working his horses and entertained thousands of servicemen stationed in the Far North in World War 2 with their rather miraculous feats. He never used a whip to enforce his commands. The mares obeyed instantly on a softly whispered request. When Robbie's wife died in the early 1920s, Robbie moved in to Mareeba making his home on Granite Creek, his base for the Lakefield droving. At Sand Flat (or Spring Hill) further up the Peninsula and just north of Curraghmore, lived the Kelly family, Toby, Mary, the two boys Owen and George and Aileen. Aileen learned to

ride almost as soon as she could walk. Toby had purchased a beautiful big thoroughbred named Trump and Aileen immediately fell in love with him. It was mutual but Aileen, not yet school age, had problems even climbing onto her old pony, Snoopy. The boys didn't help, thinking it was good fun to take the horse a few steps out just as Aileen was about to mount it from the top of the fence she had climbed for that purpose.

Toby was familiar with Robbie's trick horses and decided he'd try a bit of training of his own. He'd try to teach Trump to lie down while his little rider climbed aboard and then to gently stand up. It worked well and Aileen and Trump were inseparable. She later rode Trump on her own from Sand Flat to Maitland Downs to spend time with her friend Mary Ahlers. Toby was aware of Aileen (and Trump's) capabilities and argued that, as Trump would never drop his head and pig-jump, the only way Aileen could fall off was in a gentle slide, in which case Trump would immediately lie down for her to re-mount. His theory wasn't tested. Aileen left early one morning and arrived at Maitland about four that evening. She had been told not to go out of a walk on her ride but managed a dashing canter when she got to the house yard gate and the Ahlers came out to greet her.

She and Trump entertained showgoers in the north for several years. Trump could do his lying-down asleep trick, select a coloured handkerchief and also pick the right suite from cards held in Aileen's hand. He was expert at counting and had been taught to give a correct answer when asked simple sums like 'what's two from four'.

From being led on Snoopy by Ruth Wallace of Butcher Hill in the Mareeba Rodeo parade, Aileen graduated with Trump to competing in the sports and show events. Her mates Mary and Nancy Wallace often competed and the one they had to outdo was Matey Taylor on his champion little pony, Bambi. Bambi was little bigger than her namesake but was very difficult to beat. They were at Mossman show, trying hard to secure a blue ribbon when Toby complained that Trump's fans wanted to see him perform his tricks, not watch him in the ring events. Rather grudgingly, and between events, Aileen consented.

With a crowd gathered, Toby took over 'Do you work hard at Spring Hill, Trump?' Trump vigorously nodded his head.

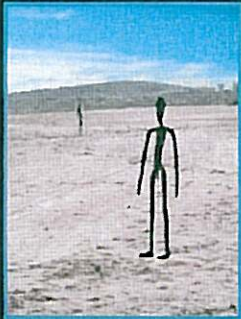
'How many days a week do you have to work?' Trump replied by striking the ground rather forcefully seven times with his fore-hoof. 'How many days a week does Aileen work?' Trump counted out five with his hoof, thought better of it and added a sixth beat. 'How many days a week does Toby work?' Trump knew the answer to that one. He struck the ground once, refusing Toby's entreaties to add to it. 'Well,' said Toby, 'what does Toby do all week?' Trump had the answer to that one, too. He lay down and went to sleep. The crowd loved it.

All good things come to an end. Trump's end came in Mareeba where he is buried under a shady tree on the bank of the creek. Aileen, still horse mad, now lives in Menzies, Western Australia.

*Reproduced from the Northern Sun, July 2007*

## Lake Ballard

51 sculptures form the "Inside Australia" exhibition by internationally renowned artist Antony Gormley. They stand scattered on 'Lake Ballard', a salt lake approximately 50km west of Menzies.



*'Its almost like your heart starts beating slower, everything slows down and you're close to something that is close to the beginning of things'*

Antony Gormley

### What to Bring:

Insect repellent, sunscreen, joggers (old shoes in case it is wet or muddy), and your camera.

Please note tour may operate in bus or 4wd depending on numbers. Pick up at Motel/hotel. 50% cancellation fee applicable if cancelled within three (3) days of travel. Tour could be cancelled due to road conditions and if so an alternative travel will be offered. Bookings can be made at the Visitor centre in Kalgoorlie and Menzies or direct to Morapoi by phoning (08)90313380.

## NUGGET TOURS

PO Box 532 Kalgoorlie WA 6430  
 morapoistn@bigpond.com.au  
 www.morapoi.com.au Ph: 08 9031 3380

# Lake Ballard

"INSIDE AUSTRALIA"

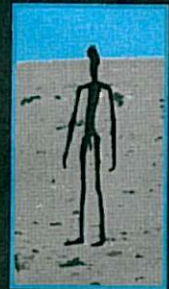
## Day Tour

Wednesdays & Fridays

Departs Kalgoorlie 1.00pm  
 Returns Kalgoorlie 8.30pm  
 Adult \$A132pp Child \$A82pp

Pickup Menzies 2.30pm  
 Returns Menzies 7.05pm  
 Adult \$A89pp  
 Child \$A49pp

Includes: Visit to famous Lake Ballard sculptures and Bush Dinner.



## Two Day Tour

Saturday: Departs Kalgoorlie 2.30pm  
 Sunday: Returns Kalgoorlie 1.45pm  
 Adult \$A298pp  
 Child \$A158pp



Includes: Visit to famous Lake Ballard sculptures; Niagra Dam; Indigenous sites; overnight Morapoi Station Stay in modern rooms, including all meals.



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**Council Meetings are held in the  
 Council Chambers, Menzies**

Thursday, 19th June 2008	9.00 am
Thursday, 17th July 2008	9.00 am
Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> August 2008	9.00 am

# June

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Foundation Day – Public Holiday	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> World Environment Day	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Australia's Biggest Morning Tea - 11am Old Miner's Cottage, Kookynie
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Council Meeting, Shire of Menzies – 9am Council Chambers	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>					