

Waggrakine generosity gives relief agency a lift

■ Alexia Parezee

For a welfare organisation that needs more than \$5000 per week to cover its costs, Mid West Disaster Relief can do with any funding it receives.

So it is thanks to the Waggrakine Progress Association, which recently donated \$1500 to the not-for-profit group, that there will be a little more weight off its shoulders this month.

"We do what we do for the community because there are so many people out there who struggle to live day by day," founder and president of the organisation Chris Sorohan said.

"We are so grateful for this donation and all that comes our way.

"It costs us \$5000 per week to pay for this facility so we do appreciate any help we can get."

Association treasurer Margaret



Waggrakine Progress Association's Des and Margaret Pike with Chris Sorohan (middle) from Mid West Disaster Relief. Picture: Alexia Parezee

Pike said the decision to donate funds to the welfare organisation was sudden.

"We were dropping some gear here last month and decided we really wanted to donate our cheque

to them right then and there," she said.

"This place does a phenomenal job and we want to help them continue what they do.

"And with Christmas coming, we

understand this is a very busy period so we hope this helps."

Every year the association donates about \$2000 to local charities.

The balance of the \$2000 this year went to the Salvation Army Geraldton.

Members of the association and big supporters of the Santa Fun Run, Carrie Kenning and her husband Garry, were happy the donation would be spent in the local community.

"We had excess funds for the hire of our hall and decided to donate to these two charities," she said.

"We are really impressed with how the money is used within these charities and we want to support what they do for our local community.

"Both of these charities are heavily focused on improving the lives of those less fortunate than us and we want to support their work."

IN BRIEF

AQUARENA

Family fun day

There'll be more fun and entertainment for children in Geraldton on Sunday with the annual 98.1 Spirit Family Fun Day. The annual hit with the kids will be at the Aquarena from noon to 4pm.

The pool inflatables including the BIFF, Crocodile BIFF and SMIFF will be open, as well as the brand new outside "run, slip and slide castle".

Other activities also include the Tarzan rope, Old MacDonald's Farm, and favourite pool friend Cray Z will be there with giveaways and prizes. Entry \$2. For more information contact the Aquarena on 9921 8844.

UNIVERSITY

Social work degree

Geraldton Universities Centre will offer a Bachelor of Social Work next year. This will be the next qualification for students already studying a diploma of Community Services, Youth Work and Counselling at Durack Institute of Technology.

Students who have finished the diploma, will be able to go straight into the second year of the degree.

VISITOR

Santa on the way

He might be a busy man, but Santa Claus is coming to town.

Joined by his helpers, Santa will be at the Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation 'Streeties' Christmas get-together on Friday. Festivities start from 5.30pm and you can buy and cook your dinner.

Everyone is welcome to attend the event at Streeties on Eastward Road in Utakarra.

Santa will also pay a visit to McDonald Wholesalers.

Kids will be able to meet Santa and have their face painted and receive lolly bags and balloons.

The event is free and parents can receive five per cent off every sale item. To meet Santa head to McDonalds Wholesalers on Bradford Street between 1pm and 5pm on Friday.

COLLISION

Witnesses sought

Police are seeking information in relation to a traffic crash in Wonthella yesterday.

A motor vehicle and moped collided at the intersection of Place and Flores roads at noon. Anyone who witnessed the crash is asked to contact Senior Constable Pears at the Mid West Gascoyne Traffic office on 9923 4505.

CRASH

Children 'stable'

Four children who were injured in a car accident in Geraldton last week were still in a stable condition yesterday.

The boys, aged four, six, seven and eight, were taken to Princess Margaret Hospital after the incident. The six-year-old has been moved out of the intensive care unit and is starting to feel pain on the upper half of his body, but a close relative yesterday told *The Guardian* he was still unable to move his legs.



Pia Lanzinger, far left, managed to get 150 people to "Adopt a Wajarri word", part of her community initiative funded by Spaced. Picture: Clinton Nalder

Project breathes life into Wajarri language

■ Ryan Hadji

One hundred and fifty people have adopted a Wajarri word, part of a promotion aimed at keeping the Aboriginal language alive.

Berlin-based artist Pia Lanzinger set up the promotion through arts organisation Spaced, which

gave artists from around the world a way of creating partnerships with local communities.

She said she was proud people from Geraldton had embraced the language and the project.

"I'm really happy people were so into the project," she said. "I'm very happy the Wajarri community

supports the project. I got so many positive comments, from people who love the project, they want to tell other people."

Ms Lanzinger will be back in mid-February for the showcasing of the project at the Western Australian Museum in Perth.

She cannot wait to return to Ger-

aldton. I loved it from the very (first) second I came here," she said. "I was happy I was the artist who got to come to Geraldton, I really enjoyed it."

■ Geraldton goes Wajarri will go on display at the WA Museum Perth from February 19 to March 29.

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