



26th May, 2010

Dear Editor,

After reading through the last few issues of our local rag, the ~~PETITIONS~~ ^{ET} ~~partitions~~ throughout the town, it's becoming very evident that we have a serious problem arising.

Fact: 21 schools throughout country towns, discontinuing courses for year 11 and 12 students.

Going through that list of schools, I realized it included one I have just revisited before returning home from a 10 day trip. Our journey began at beautiful Jurien Bay, through the wheat-belt and the goldfields to Kalgoorlie, venturing through country towns, many being affected by the businesses for sale or closed down, are now sadly facing yet another blow to the growth of their towns, the closure of their school.

Many of these towns, lets take Dalwallinu, we stayed overnight at a lovely park, owned by the Shire, improving and upgrading, the busiest the past year for a long time. Chatted with 2 young lads, early 20s, making plastic tanks, and living on-site, surrounded by travellers, the stars and an open fire, sharing kangaroo steaks and fresh dew fish.

Visited the old court house, the Goal, is now a very cosy craft shop, run voluntarily by the Senior citizens of the community, and proudly giving the history of their town, this was evident at many places of interest through our 2,600km journey. Happy to be alive and we have to ask ourselves why... Children...Happiness
...Growth.....

They bring growth to our community, businesses grow as the young families settle in our small towns, and families come together as a

unit, land releases open, and our year 11 and 12 students fulfil apprentices, derived from the businesses in the town and surrounding areas.

Dalwallinu hosts 'Wattle Week' a street parade, market day and cabaret.

Fact: Dalwallinu is part of a world famous W.A. tourist routes through wildflower country. Within a 100kms of the town is the largest density of Wattle (*Acacia*) species to be found in the world. From July to October, 1,000's of wildflower enthusiasts enjoy our beautiful flowers and countryside.

Fact: The first graziers were Benedictine Monks on vast pastoral leases in the 19th century. In 1907 European settlers came with the ambition to develop the area into a wheat-growing region. First land release in 1910. Today a 100 years later, land releases again, and we're closing the year 11 and 12 schooling? The Badima People in the Northern tracts, and the Galamaia people occupy the land throughout the shire. Accommodation ~~Hotel~~ Motel, B&B, excellent "Shire Caravan Park" and activity about the town.

Back to the school, these kids will travel around 200kms a day for schooling, these same kids will spend the weekend doing homework, not footy, ball games, etc, no time, and definitely too tired, a night meal, shower, bed, to see another long day. Yes, Dalwallinu, promoting land releases, just like Jurien, Cervantes, Dongara, oh that school is going too.

Fact: Dalwallinu High School rated the top in the district by the "My School" website, proud and now confused by the decision to close down. Excellent Health Services, Resident Doctor, Hospital, Age Care, Retirement, Great Sporting Facilities, catering for Aussie rules Football, Hockey, Bowls, 25m 6 lane Swimming Pool, Squash, and many other activities, a town now coming alive.

Fact: 1934-1941 came East Pitara Primary School a short journey east of Dalwallinu, 4 teachers and 20 families attending school, one student Olympic Athlete Shirley Strickland, Wangan Hills, yet another school closure, what happens to the surrounding towns of Kalbarrie, Yerecoin, Calingirri, New Norcia, Moagumber, through the wheat-belt, closing Wyalleatchem, Mabelinbadin, Southern Cross, Narembeen, across to Corrigan, Zuerichading, Brookton, Boddington, Wagin, Lake Grace, Gnowangerup and Tojournup, what happens to the kids on properties, surrounding all those towns. The Schools as far north as Wyndham, down to Mullewa, from Dongara to Carnamah, and these kids?

All these towns that the Mining Companies, developers of the land release, businesses, encouraging growth, the young families investing in their properties, their future, children into school, with the knowledge of being together till completion of schooling. Be able to have the choice to go further in the Education System given to our kids today. So what does the future hold now for these families, these smaller towns, closing these schools.

Fact: To bring infrastructure to our remote country towns?

Better health Services, etc, etc, etc,.....?

*Our kids are the heart and soul of our heritage and the generation of the future of Western Australia.
For the sake of our future. Keep our year 11 and 12 students where they belong. Keep our new-borns — year 10 here where they belong too.*

Am I ~~the~~ the only one as confused as the birds?
..... I don't think so.....

Can you help all of our kids by being a voice and save our schools and the places we call our home.

*Fact: Estimated to have in the vicinity of 30,000 people living in
and around Jurien Bay by 2030.....*

And no 11 and 12 year courses after 2010.

Not if this happens around the country towns.

*Shouldn't we be expanding and improving our schools in readiness
for 2030.*

Very confused mother and grandmother

Big Adam

*7c 1.19pm 10/6/10 N/A
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