

# Charity begins at this home

■ Alexia Parenzee

A half a million dollar house and land package has been donated to Mid West Charity Begins at Home to auction off as part of their annual charity fundraising.

The fully furnished property donation from Redink Homes and land plot from Geraldton Heights aims to help the local not-for-profit organisation raise funds for cancer sufferers and those with serious illness within the Mid West community.

Once completed the Moresby property will be open to the public and will be up for auction shortly after. Mid West Charity Begins at Home president Chris Dobson said she was overwhelmed to be receiving the property package as a means of raising funds which would go on to help many families in the region.

"We are honoured and absolutely overwhelmed at the generosity and whole concept of this and to think that this home-grown charity is able to be involved in something so big," she said.

"As a result of Redink Homes and Geraldton Heights' generosity we will be able to help so many more people in the Mid West.

"It takes the meaning of charity to a whole new level."

Mid West Redink Homes general manager Peter Bisby said the organisation had been waiting for the opportunity to work with a charity and felt a connection with Charity Begins at Home.

"For us it was all about the quality of the charity, how they go about doing what they do, and knowing that the money fundraised will be



Redink Homes, Charity Begins at Home, Geraldton Heights and the City of Greater Geraldton are working on plans for the donated home and land package. Picture: Alexia Parenzee

well spent," he said.

"The most important thing to us is that the money that gets raised here also gets spent in the community."

Geraldton Heights development manager Travis Kell said it was an honour for the land developers to be part of the cause.

"The opportunity to be involved in such a worthwhile cause for the community is such an honour and a privilege. Geraldton Heights is 100 per cent committed to Charity

Begins at Home and their cause and the needs of the Mid West," he said.

"Giving back to our community is very important to us and we are very excited about everything this fantastic project has to offer."

Plans for the house and land package are currently underway with help from the City of Greater Geraldton. Chief executive officer Ken Diehm said the City would help the project in any way it could.

"We are happy to support in whatever way we can and will fast-track the plans and waive fees in order to get this project happening," he said.

"We consider ourselves to be a small player in this project and encourage local suppliers and contractors to get behind this project which will benefit local residents in need through the charity."

The 2000 sq/m block is due to be completely finished and open to the public in early October 2014.

## Minister to visit Geraldton

State Police Minister Liza Harvey will visit Geraldton tomorrow to discuss community concerns about crime.

Ms Harvey and Geraldton MLA Ian Blayney will attend a public meeting at 10.30am at Fitzgerald Hall, Chapman Road, Bluff Point.

A spokesman from Mr Blayney's office said the meeting was planned to run for an hour with a short morning tea/informal discussion period to follow.

Ms Harvey's visit follows a street march in Geraldton last month organised by Facebook group Geraldton Residents Demand Our Streets Back, demanding stiffer penalties and more police.

Several hundred people took part in the march.

Geraldton Residents Demand Our Streets Back's Michelle McLean said that the group's two main goals — the march and getting the Police Minister to Geraldton — have been achieved.

"We are supporting the minister's visit to Geraldton and we are looking forward to any positive proposals the minister brings forward," she said.

## It's time to have your say

### COMMENT

Tomorrow is the day when you, the people of Geraldton, get to contribute to what services the City council offers ratepayers.

It is not often or common that this opportunity comes around. The City has spent a considerable amount of money trying to get more community involvement after the rate rise debacle, and it has worked.

Real decisions have been made on real community feedback for capital projects and now it's the time to make decisions on the range and level of services.

Have your say.

Turn up to QPT at 3.30pm tomorrow and give the panel your feedback.

## Protesters hit the streets against Abbott government

■ Darcy Hay

Geraldton will be the state's only regional participant in a wave of national protests on the weekend, with demonstrators to deliver their 'vote of no confidence' in the Abbott administration.

Fifty protesters are registered as

attendees on the March In March Geraldton's Facebook page, which links into more than 30 protests held across the nation.

March In March organiser Sarah Sheppard said a lack of consultation between the Federal government and voters was one of the drivers behind the peaceful pro-

test, as was the Coalition's actions and policies on the environment, human rights, education, health-care, aged care, international relations and science and technology.

"There's been protest after protest, it just seems that the government aren't listening," she said.

Ms Sheppard said both herself

and Labor MLC for Agricultural Region Darren West would speak to the crowd after the demonstration.

March In March Geraldton will be held Sunday, March 16, starting at 2.45pm at the yellow submarine, and finishing at the end of Geraldton foreshore.

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