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de Laeter 'a special man'

STAFF at the Gravity Discovery Centre are mourning the loss of one of their greatest teachers and mentors in Professor John de Laeter, who died last week after a short battle with cancer.

A staff member, speaking on behalf of other colleagues, said Prof de Laeter was an amazing man who would be very sorely missed.

"He was such a special person, and it will be quite impossible to replace him," the staff member said.

"He was a fantastic mentor, and was always willing to listen and help anyone."

Emeritus Professor de Laeter led the formation of the Gravity Discovery Centre Foundation and the campaign that paved the way

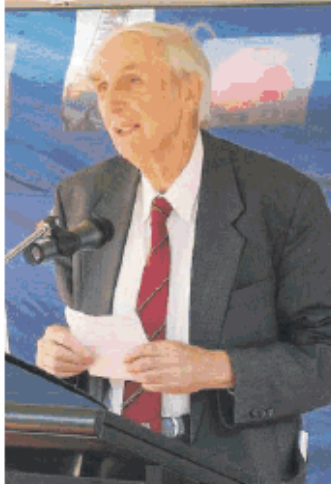
for the construction of the centre in Gingin. He was also previously involved with the foundation of the Technology Park in Bentley and the Scitech Discovery Centre.

A scholarship fund honouring his work and his wife, Robin, was established earlier this month at the centre, giving high school students opportunities for 10-week study programs at Gingin.

"We are very proud to be able to offer the scholarship, and to be able to run it every year in Prof de Laeter's honour," the staff member said.

"It will continue honouring the work he did here and will bring long-lasting benefits to young people across WA."

Prof de Laeter died on August 18.



Irreplaceable: Staff at the Gravity Discovery Centre are mourning the loss of Emeritus Professor John de Laeter, who died last week.

Strategy still on, says minister

AGRICULTURE Minister Terry Redman confirmed last week that the Regional Saleyards Strategy was progressing after the Opposition campaigned for the "long-awaited" release of the document.

MLA Mick Murray said the strategy was initially due for release before the end of the 2009-10 financial year.

"Livestock producers, local shires and future investors need some certainty about the Government's intentions," he said.

Mr Redman said the strategy was progressing.

"Although it has taken longer than anticipated, the Government remains committed to the strategy and an announcement will be made in due course," he said.

Shire to engage entomologist

THE Shire of Gingin is continuing its fight against stable flies, with council last week formally voting to employ a dedicated officer.

Council will ask entomologist David Cook to quote for his services, which will be for two days a week from October to May.

Council initially hoped to get an officer full-time for this period, but a price tag

of more than \$100,000 proved too costly.

The part-time services are estimated to cost between \$40,000 and \$70,000.

Dr Cook was employed by the Shire earlier this year to inspect suspected fly breeding sites and help property owners, particularly vegetable growers, and bad habits that were encouraging the problem.

Rottnest is now online

As of Monday 23 August 2010 you can now book Authority accommodation, bike hire and rental mooring by visiting www.rottnestisland.com and following the link.

Bookings can still be made through Central Reservations on 08 9432 9111, in person at the Rottnest Island Visitor Centre or at E Shed Fremantle.

Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment and Conservation

Western Shield wildlife recovery

Fox and cat baiting using dried meat baits containing a naturally occurring toxin (108Q) will be carried out during September, October and November on up to 3.9 million hectares of conservation lands throughout the state. All aerial and ground-baited areas are signposted and should be considered toxic to pets at all times of the year. Owners of domestic dogs or cats should not allow their pets to enter baited areas.

ATTENTION PET OWNERS: THESE BAITS WILL KILL DOMESTIC CATS AND DOGS.

Through baiting, the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) can continue to control the threat of foxes and cats and bring native animals back from the brink of extinction. This wildlife recovery program is significantly helping conservation efforts for endangered native species such as the woylie.

For more information on Western Shield, contact your local DEC office or browse the information about Western Shield in the 'Management and protection', 'Programs' section of DEC's website at www.dec.wa.gov.au

The department acknowledges BHP Billiton, Tasear Joint Venture, Alcoa World Alumina, Western Areas NL, Worsley Alumina and Tectonic Resources NL for their sponsorship of Western Shield.

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