



Media Statement

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MEDIA RELEASE

Marmion boy remembered

The death of a Royal Perth Hospital burns patient three years ago has inspired a new fundraising drive.

The Jack the Wagtail project will be launched at Marmion Primary School on Wednesday, in honour of former local resident Jack Dunn.

The 16-year-old received burns to 95 per cent of his body in a paddock fire near Eneabba in December 2002 and died in January 2003, after a brave seven-week fight.

Country and city people from around WA and around the nation rallied to support Jack and his family, as he was treated by burns surgeon Fiona Wood, and her team, at RPH.

Marmion Primary School aims to raise funds for burns research and treatment at WA's burns units at Royal Perth and Princess Margaret Hospitals, and to raise public awareness of fire safety in schools and the community.

Jack the Wagtail, or The Willy Wagtail Day, is so named because one of his former teachers commended his fighting spirit, saying he was as "tenacious as a willy wagtail".

Marmion Primary is joined in this project by Jack's former primary school at South Padbury, and they are supported by patrons, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon and Australian of the Year Fiona Wood, Bali survivor Peter Hughes, and Australian cricketer, Justin Langer.

The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and the WA Career Fire Fighters Fund for Children are also supporting the event.

The JACK THE WAGTAIL event was an idea from Jack's dad Gary, and was developed by the Marmion Primary School children.

The children will sell black and white willy wag tail pins to raise money, and tomorrow will release 400 black and white balloons.

Jack's father Gary Dunn said he hoped the Jack the Wagtail event would inspire people, as well as educate them.

"We are releasing the balloons to remind us that if you have a dream, you can reach the sky," he said.