



*Ending the isolation.*

Wednesday 22, 2007

## Senses Foundation Honours Great Philanthropists, Past and Present

THE SENSES Foundation will host a special ceremony this Thursday, August 23 at 10.30am, at its new premises at 11 Kitchener Avenue Burswood, to honour those philanthropic people who help fund its important work in the community through generous bequests.

The Foundation will launch **The Walter Padbury Circle**, an initiative aimed at thanking people in the community who make a gift of money or property to the Foundation in their wills.

It's named after the extraordinary West Australian philanthropist, Walter Padbury, who is also regarded as the state's first millionaire.

There will be a number of Walter Padbury's descendants at the launch of the Circle on Thursday, including his great nephew Matt Padbury (from Jolimont), who will give a brief presentation on Walter's remarkable life.

He will tell the story of a young boy who came to Western Australia with his father in 1856. His father died just a year later but not before making arrangements with neighbours to care for his son and leaving them money for that purpose. They kept the money and threw the boy out.

Walter was left alone and destitute at the age of just nine.

He worked hard in a number of menial jobs and over the years built himself and his business up to be a success. In an extraordinary life, he was at various times an agriculturalist, an explorer in the northwest, a businessman, a retailer, an exporter and just briefly, a politician.

Walter Padbury died in 1907 leaving a very generous amount, in excess of 700 pounds, to the then Royal WA Institute for the Blind. It was one of many bequests he made to charitable organisations.

Senses Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation that has its origins 110 years ago, as the Royal WA Institute for the Blind.

It amalgamated with the WA Deafblind Association in 2001 and the Senses Foundation was created. It moved to its new premises in Burswood in March 2007.

Sponsorship and Bequests Co-ordinator, Anita Bell, says bequests continue to be an important part of the Foundation's fund raising.

"The Walter Padbury Circle is a great way to recognise and thank those very generous people who leave the Senses Foundation money, enabling it to continue its important work providing a whole range of services to people who are blind with additional disabilities and deafblind," she said.

"This includes help with specialist communication, physiotherapy, alternatives to employment, respite and advocacy.

"By becoming part of the Walter Padbury Circle benefactors join a very special group of people and receive among other things a free Will service and updates on Senses Foundation's work and events.

"We think it's very fitting that it be named in honour of such an extraordinarily successful and generous West Australian."



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Photo shows: Anita Bell Sponsorship & Bequests Coordinator Senses Foundation, Matt Padbury - great nephew of Walter Padbury and James Thom - President Senses Foundation.

For more information on Walter Padbury or the Circle contact Senses Media Liaison Officer Kerry Faulkner on 0432098878. Photos will be available on request.