



Ending the isolation.

September 12, 2007

Ahoy - It's International Talk Like a Pirate Day again!

JUST when you thought there couldn't possibly be another 'Good Cause Day', the Senses Foundation Inc announces it has September 19 firmly circled on its calendar to celebrate **International Talk Like a Pirate Day**.

The Wikipedia online encyclopaedia describes International Talk Like a Pirate Day as a parody holiday, initiated by Americans (it could only happen in America!) John Baun and Mark Summers in 1995.

Summers chose the date as that of his ex-wife's birthday and one he wouldn't easily forget.

Observers of the holiday, Wikipedia goes on to explain, simply talk the curious and often complex language of pirates, "greeting friends for example not with 'hello' but 'Ahoy me hearty'."

The man behind the initiative at the Senses Foundation is project officer, Michael House, who says staff let the day slip by unrecognised last year but not without an undertaking they'd go all out in 2007.

The Senses Foundation is the primary advocate for people who are deafblind and perhaps better known by some as the former Royal Institute or the Blind before it merged with the WA Deafblind Association in 2001.

What has Senses got to do with pirates? Michael House explains (*pirate inflection*):

"The Senses Foundation has had a really busy 12 months – moving to new premises, restructuring and welcoming a lot of new staff and services all aimed at helping end the isolation for people in our community who are deafblind.

"It is really serious work.

"But celebrating this special day, tongue in cheek, shows our lighter side and helps bring us together as a team.

"The day will be marked by staff dressing, and of course talking, like pirates.

"Anyone not in character will not be forced to walk the plank but will be fined proceeds going to the Senses Foundation.

“Far worse, they will also be excluded from partaking of any rum that will naturally flow once the sun passes the yard arm.”

Picture shows: Senses staff, Richard Long (left) and Michel House, in character for International Talk Like a Pirate Day.

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