



The first batch of refurbished guitars is handed over to The Song Room (Damjan Janevski)

Music left in old guitars

By Goya Dmytryshchak

A new charity that repairs old guitars is bringing smiles to children's faces.

Guitars Gathering Dust collects unwanted guitars and, with the help of the Hobsons Bay Men's Shed, repairs and spruces them up before handing them on to children-based music charities.

The first batch of 30 guitars on Tuesday was donated to national not-for-profit organisation The Song Room for the Jennings Street School in Laverton, a prep-year 12 school for children

on the autism spectrum.

Guitars Gathering Dust was founded by Williamstown's Craig Watt.

"There's so many old guitars that are probably just lying under the bed or in a garage just gathering dust, so we're trying to create an awareness campaign," Mr Watt said.

"The Song Room provides a dedicated music resource to the Jennings Street School so we know that the guitars will be well used."

Mr Watt said some of the guitars might need a new neck or bridge – that was where the Men's Shed came in.

"A lot of times, these instruments end up in hard rubbish collection because people think they're too damaged and beat up to be of any use ...

"It's amazing what you can do with a little bit of knowledge and TLC.

"Hopefully we'll be able to work with The Song Room and the national body of the Men's Shed to roll out this initiative a little broader."

A number of music stores have jumped on board, helping by donating strings and acting as drop-off points.
Details: guitarsgatheringdust.com

Termites move on suburbs

Melbourne's boom in new home builds is being blamed for a reported spike in the number of termites across the city.

The pesky pests are said to have been eating more homes as their natural habitats are cleared for a three-bedder with tasty flooring or walls.

Building inspectors have reported termites have been particularly active in Footscray, Laverton, Werribee, Williamstown, Carrum Downs, Cranbourne, Pakenham and Frankston.

The University of Sydney's Professor Nathan Lo, from the School of Life and Environmental Sciences, said it was possible more termites were moving into suburban areas, particularly those areas close to cleared forests.

Many homes might have been affected by termites a few years ago, with signs they were there only apparent now, he said.

Jim's Building Inspections director Paul Commerford said inspectors had reported a 25 per cent increase in the number of homes showing evidence of termite activity.

Buyers and home owners should watch out for the potential warning signs of termites which include:

- Any rotting or damp timber on the property;
- Hollow sounds or discrepancy in sounds when knocking on timber walls;
- Dampness underneath the house;
- Old tree stumps in a backyard that show signs of termite activity.

Melissa Heagney/Domain



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