

Bacteria bakers work on breakthrough

By DAVID HUDLESTON

Nedlands researchers have their hearts set on a little oven for Christmas – one that cooks up batches of bacteria.

For only \$16,000 the bacteria cooker could deliver the next breakthrough treatment for scientists at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research in Nedlands.

Researchers hope that everyone who comes to the Discover the Perkins Open Day this Saturday will get involved in the activities, including spend-

ing \$5 to decorate researchers' lab shoes to help raise money to buy the bacteria baker.

Called a Shaker Incubator, it is big, red and Swiss-made.

It looks like an easy-bake oven and grows lots of bacteria, from which scientists extract DNA for experiments.

Like all ovens it does its job best when a recipe is followed.

To boost bacteria in an easy-bake Shaker Incubator oven: Take a smidge of bacteria, add some interesting DNA; Mix in some electrical pulses; Add a bath of chicken-smelling science soup; Cook overnight at

37C while shaking vigorously; and Voila! Watch your bacteria grow and multiply the DNA until there's buckets of it to use in experiments.

Institute director Peter Leedman said a large quantity of DNA helped researchers run a far greater number of experiments.

"Having the incubator grow large amounts of bacteria will enable us to extract DNA that we can use to test which drugs work best for, say a particular patient's antibiotic resistant infection or for stopping tumour metastasis," Professor Leedman said.

"It is conceivable the next breakthrough treatment for cancer, diabetes or heart disease could be discovered using the amplified amounts of DNA produced by the Shaker Incubator.

"We are opening our doors to the public this Saturday, November 16, so people can tour the labs, talk to researchers, listen to presentations, learn how to use some of our vital equipment and take a virtual reality tour of a cell."

Register at perkins.org.au for this free event at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, 6 Verdun Street in



The Shaker Incubator the Perkins Institute is raising money to buy.

Nedlands. Parking is off Monash Avenue, Hampden Road corner. The event will be from 10am to 3.30pm

Jordan zooms in

Young racing star Jordan Love left for Portugal on Thursday to drive Porsche cars really, really fast.

The former Christ Church Grammar School boy will compete against other top youngsters for a driver's seat in Porsche's supercar championship.

"It follows the Formula One calendar, so to win it would be a real career booster," Jordan (20) said.

Jordan's Porsche can't be bought at Nedlands' Porsche Centre.

"It has a few similarities to the road car, but was designed and built in a German factory," Jordan said.

"At Bathurst this year it got up to 294km/h through the chase at the end of Conrod Straight."

Before Jordan graduated from Christ Church three years ago he told the POST he failed his first driving test because of speeding



Zoom zoom ... Jordan Love and his team around his Porsche.

(Jordan feels the need for speed, POST, May 14, 2016).

He got his licence the second time around, in a Hyundai Getz.

Starting in go-karts aged nine, Jordan stepped up to Formula Ford when he was 15 and has been driving Porches for two years.

"I'd like to think I'm the next big thing, but it's a lot of hard

work – and a bit comes down to luck," Jordan said three years ago.

His worst stack left him with two broken ribs.

Jordan said support from his Christ Church teachers was crucial to his success.

"At times, when I said I couldn't get something done because I'd be away racing, I got the raised eyebrow," he said.

Historic home demo opposed

A Victorian, Georgian-style house in North Fremantle in poor condition shouldn't be demolished, a Fremantle council committee has said.

Owner Wade Anderson, who wants to demolish the house at 13 Jewell Parade, said its condition meant it needed to go.

A report to councillors said four submissions were received on Mr Anderson's application: two supported demolition, while two objected to demolition via neglect.

The report said the property had some cultural heritage significance, and made a contribution to the broader cultural heritage significance and character of the area.

"It has some rarity value as one of two remaining timber-framed duplex residences in the area," the report said.



Rarity value ... The house at 33 Jewell Parade

"It's also important to note that the City received a subsequent development application for the change of use to public car park of 13 and 15 Jewell Parade."

Mr Anderson paid \$325,000 for the 390sq.m property in June 2011.

Mr Anderson's application will go before next Wednesday's full council meeting.

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