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**VOL.42 NO.1846** 















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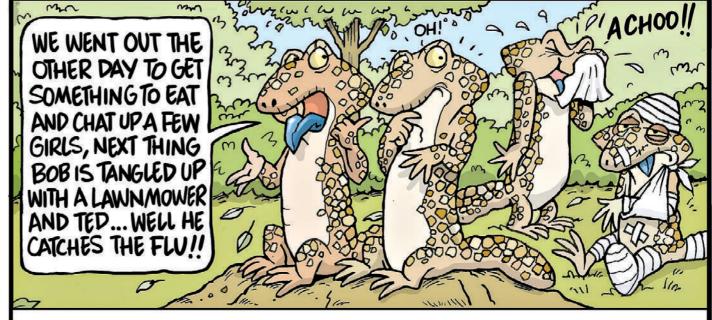
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KANYANA WILDLIFE CENTRE IS ASKING THE COMMUNITY TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR BOBTAILS, AS THEY ARE OUT FOR SUMMER LOOKING FOR FOOD AND MATES.

# ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say: editorial@echo-news.com

# Chair-less **Christmas**

Dear Echo News,

I feel sorry for the Father Christmas who has had to walk around the Kalamunda shopping centre.

From my observation, he wasn't given a chair to sit on so the children could come to him to make their Christmas wishes, and I also did not witness that he was supplied a few sweets to give the children.

What has happened to the Christmas spirit in Kalamunda. Bring back the good old days. N Walsh

Kalamunda

# A five minute resolution

Dear Echo News,

At this busy time of year, we hear so much about making New Year's resolutions in an effort to improve our health.

Eating better, drinking less, exercising more, quitting smoking, and drinking more water are a few.

While these are all important steps in helping reduce your stroke risk, one of the simplest things you can do which could save your life is getting your blood pressure checked.

Blood pressure is the single biggest modifiable risk factor for stroke and it can be managed with medica-

High blood pressure damages blood vessel walls and makes them weaker causing a burst blood vessel and a stroke.

Around 4.1 million of us have high blood pressure and many of us don't realise it. Unfortunately, high blood pressure is a silent killer, it has no symptoms.

The only way to know if it is a health issue for you is by having it checked by your doctor or pharmacist.

You can control your blood pressure by reducing your salt intake and changing your diet and lifestyle, particularly through regular exercise and maintaining a healthy weight.

We often hear stories from survivors of stroke and their carers that stroke changed their family's life over the Christmas period.

Often, they miss the warning signs because they were celebrating or didn't want to be a burden on their family. But it is always better to be safe rather than sorry.

Stroke can change lives in an instant. It attacks the brain - the human control centre and can strike anyone of any age.

More than 27,400 people had a stroke for the first time in 2023, which equates to one every 19 minutes.

The good news is 80 per cent of strokes can be prevented. Make having regular blood pressure checks a priority in 2024.

Be aware of your stroke risk and take steps to manage it. Do it for yourself and do it for your family.

If you think you are too young to have a stroke, think again. One

# Thought for the day

"Chains of habit are too light to be felt until they are too heavy to be broken.'

- Warren Buffet

ple who care." in three people who has a stroke is of working In a moment of vul-

It will only take five minutes, and it could save your life.

L Murphy Stroke Foundation

# **Christmas** miracles

Dear Echo News,

I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the amazing support and generosity The Salvation Army has received from the Australian community again this year.

We at the Salvos want you to know that your acts of kindness have made a huge difference to the thousands of people we help every day.

Reflecting on the many heartfelt stories I have heard, I am reminded of countless families whose lives have been transformed by your immense support and we thank you.

Your compassion has brought much-needed hope and joy to individuals and families, especially at Christmas time.

One family shared: "The Salvos' help and kindness have meant that we've been able to put presents under the tree and see the joy on our kids' faces on Christmas morning."

Another said: "The Salvation Army gave my children and I a sense of Christmas and that there are still peo-

nerability, another person confided: "The Salvos allowed me to feel like I was worthy. In my darkest hour, they provided a hand up, which gave me the strength to keep go-

So, thank you.

Your contributions, whether big or small, have made an incredible difference in the lives of so many and allowed us to do what we do best – helping others and ensuring nobody struggles alone.

Your donations and time spent volunteering has helped to provide tens of thousands of food hampers, more than 132,000 meals and over 250,000 gifts and toys to families this Christmas.

We simply could not do what we do without

If you need support or for more information about The Salvation Army, please visit salvationarmy.org.au or call 13 SALVOS (13

**C R Walters** The Salvation Army

The Echo reserves the right to edit letters for length, legal reasons or clarity. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Echo. All letters must contain the author's full name, address and phone number for verification purposes.

# **REGULAR FEATURES**

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# FEATURE P14



Due to lack of space, the crossword will not be running in this week's edition. We apologise for any inconvenience. Please check our website for the crossword and last week's solution.

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# **Beetle alert for Perth**

**GERA KAZAKOV** 

MORE than a hundred traps to help curtail the spread of the invasive polyphagous shot-hole borer beetle are currently deployed by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) within the City of Swan with a further 28 traps in the City of Kalamunda.

Since the beetle was first detected in August 2021, it has now been found in more than 950 properties within the Perth metropolitan area, leading to the creation of a quarantine zone which encompasses 25 local government areas in the metropolitan region.

The non-native beetle attacks a wide range of plants by tunnelling

into trunks, stems and branches, and also has a symbiotic relationship with a fusarium fungus, which it farms as a food source for itself and its larvae, according to DPIRD.

"There has been one detection of the beetle in the City of Swan (south-western area)," a DPIRD spokesperson said.

'There have been no detections in the City of Kalamunda.'

Within the City of Kalamunda, Forrestfield, Wattle Grove, High Wycombe, and Perth Airport are in the quarantine zone.

In the City of Swan, Midland, Hazelmere, and Middle Swan create the zone's eastern border, with West Swan, Dayton and Bennett Springs creating the northern border, with the southwestern Swan suburbs of Guildford and Woodridge also included.

Within the zone, movement of untreated wood and plant material is restricted, with DPIRD stat-



ing that wood must be chipped into pieces that are 2.5cm in diameter before leaving it.

The DPIRD spokesperson said signs of beetle infestation included multiple entrance holes in tree or plant trunks (about the size of a ball point pen tip), sawdust or dieback.

Treated woods which are used for construction, packing, pallets or fencing and furniture are free to move in and out of the zone.

Acting biosecurity executive director Sonya Broughton called on the community to report any suspected beetle activity to DPIRD and to check their trees as well.

"The beetle can severely damage host trees once it takes hold with some species dying within two years of infestation," she said.

"With no known treatments available, pruning and removing infected trees is currently the only way to prevent this serious pest from spreading to our other trees and putting urban canopy at risk.



# Mundaring shire welcomes North Stoneville decision

SHIRE of Mundaring has welcomed the Western Australian Planning Commission's (WAPC) decision to refuse the North Stoneville structure plan proposal.

At its meeting on Thursday, December 7 the WAPC resolved to refuse the structure plan, based on the plan's inability to adequately demonstrate the threat of bushfire risk, including safe evacuation, as well as the true impact of traffic on the road network.

Shire President Paige McNeil and deputy Trish Cook provided a deputation to the WAPC on behalf of council at its public hearing on Thursday, November 23 along with 22 verbal and nine written deputations.

Ms McNeil said that the December 7 decision was the latest in a series of refusals for the planning application.

"The recent refusal by the WA Planning Commission endorses council's and our community's long held concerns about an urban development at North Stoneville," she said.

"The decision is a testament to years of persistence by council and our community who understand the increasing bushfire risk that we face in this region. The decision tells us that planning in bushfire prone areas must aim to safeguard not endanger our community.

WAPC noted that the traffic, evacuation and bushfire analysis and modelling could not adequately demonstrate community safety and the protection of environmental conservation values cannot be appropriately balanced with the outcomes of bushfire risk management.

The matter will now return to the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) on February 2.

The applicant can then decide whether to withdraw or proceed to a final hearing with SAT as the decision maker



The next generation of railcar, the C-series, features six railcars, and are soon to hit the track.

# First Bellevue railcars about to hit the track

**PETER W LEWIS** 

THE first of the Bellevue produced C-series railcars are expected to start operating in the next couple of weeks in a staged transition into operation as manufacturing continues for the remaining railcars.

The return of locally manufactured railcars follows testing last June, with more than 200 people being directly employed at the rail manufacturing facility.

With railcar manufacturing returning for the first time since 1994, half of the contract has been delivered from local content with more than 270 jobs created leading to a steady line of employment opportunities.

As the next generation of railcar, the C-series features six railcars, with three doors on each side of every railcar with a total of 246 railcars will be delivered to support new Metronet projects.

Manufactured at the purpose-built Bellevue Railcar Manufacturing and

Maintenance Facility, the new C-series will see the retirement of the older A-series and will travel along the Mandurah-Joondalup lines.

With a 35-year service life, the C-series will transport Western Australians for years to come.

Transport Minister Rita Saffioti said more than a dozen local businesses have also gained work, manufacturing key components, including fuel tanks, pantographs and 400 passenger seats per rail car.

"It's all helping to rebuild our ca-

pacity in the rail industry," she said.
The C-series railcars will start servicing the Mandurah rail line in February, and the Yanchep extension that is due to open within months.

The new Bayswater train station and the Morley to Ellenbrook rail line are due to open by the end of this year, while the Byford rail extension that has closed the Armadale line, and the new Thornlie to Cockburn link will not be finished before March





The new station will be on the site of the former Forrestfield library. Picture: Andrew Williams.

# **Work starts on revamped** Forrestfield cop shop

**GERA KAZAKOV** 

**PRELIMINARY** construction works have begun on the revamped Forrestfield police com-

The upgraded station will see the police complex moved onto the site of the old Forrestfield library, on the corner of Strelitzia Avenue and Salix Way - right next to the current police station.

The planning report estimates works to cost \$14.5 million, with the current station to remain operational during construction, before its expected demolition during the later stages of construction to make way for an updated secure vehicle com-

Forrestfield Police station officer in charge and senior sergeant Brad

Robinson said the current police station will still be open Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm.

"The area next door will be under construction but that will have no effect on the operational hours of the current station," he said.

The planning report states that the revamped station will have the same look and feel as other police stations across the state, with the Forrestfield design based on the revamped Baldivis station.

"A key objective of the WA police force is for all future stations to have the same look and feel, thereby enabling staff to readily and easily assimilate into a new environment, the report said.

The works are due to be completed this year with the new police station operational by the end of the year.



Senior Sergeant Robinson outside the Forrestfield station. Picture: Andrew Williams

# New cop takes the helm at Forrestfield

**ANDREW WILLIAMS** 

A MONTH into his role as the new officer in charge of the Forrestfield police station, Senior Sergeant Brad Robinson says he is absolutely loving it.

While his 28-year-long career has seen him live and work across the state, this is his first time in charge of an entire station, a role which he has always

Snr Sgt Robinson said his primary focus was maintaining timely and quality responses to crime and investigations, respectful engagement with the community, high visibility policing in areas deemed to have high crime rates, and ensuring victim safety.

Snr Sgt Robinson aims to utilise cutting edge technology to continue the reduction in crime rates in the Midland district and Forrestfield subdistrict.

"At the moment our crime

volunteer

stats are looking pretty good, we are tracking under where we were this time last year," he

He wants to continue to work closely with businesses to respond to retail theft and anti-social behaviour.

No stranger to adapting to the newest technology, Snr Sgt Robinson was in charge of the strategic implementation of the automatic number-plate recognition system, saturating Perth with cameras to notify police in real-time of the location of

A hills resident, Snr Sgt Robinson is looking forward to the challenge of running the Forrestfield station, and is excited to be able to police the community he is part of -a first for his time in working in the Perth metropolitan region.

"I've spent a lot of time in regional WA, so I really like that country style of policing, it's a personalised touch," he said.

Latest round of community

"I've always been a very passionate officer, no matter where I am but I feel as though my passion has elevated somewhat because my family and friends are here.'

His career has seen him travel across the state, from Kununurra to Broome, Albany, the Goldfields, and several metropolitan districts.

His years of experience across the sector include traffic management, cold case investigation, crime squads, internal affairs, spearheading ANPR technology, and managing the Perth Airport's Covid response at the height of the pandemic.

The Perth Hills pose a unique challenge for policing as officers have to balance metropolitan and semi-rural duties.

However, Snr Sgt Robinson believes he is equipped with the skills needed to guide his officers through these chal-

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# rivercare grants announced COMMUNITY groups have been granted \$255,055 in funding to assist with the improvement of waterway health in the Swan Can-

ning Catchment. The funding, which was granted through the seventh round of the state government's community rivercare program, will go towards 14 projects which will enable weed control, foreshore revegetation and wetland resto-

ration work across key locations. Grants of between \$3000 and \$20,000 for projects running up to two years were made available as part of the program's latest round. The program's next round will make grants of up to \$100,000 available for one-year projects.

Community rivercare grants have been available since 2017, with the state government in 2021 committing a further \$4 million to the program over four years.

For more information about the community rivercare program, visit the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' website.

Environment Minister Reece Whitby said the state government was committed to safeguarding and enhancing the natural values of the Swan and Canning rivers, and he was delighted to support these community-led initiatives.

"Now in its seventh year, projects delivered through the community rivercare program continue to make a difference and protect our iconic Perth wa-

"I congratulate all successful recipients and look forward to celebrating the positive environmental and social outcomes of their projects."

Approved projects include: Friends of Mandoon Park Dar-

lington Brook Wildlife Corridor rehabilitation project - \$10,201.

Habitat improvement for birds and/or other species dependent on waterways Friends of Under the Heritage Trail Jane Brook restoration project \$19,465.

Habitat improvement for birds and/or other species dependent on waterways Susannah Brook Catchment Group Burgess Road Creek integrated weed management and habitat \$17,449.

Foreshore revegetation and weed control Friends of Darlington Wetland rehabilitation action plan \$10,788.

Foreshore revegetation and weed control Braun Family and Harry Hunter Rehabilitation Group revegetation and weed control along a Canning River drainage tributary - Braun Property \$19,872.

Habitat improvement for birds and/or other species dependent on waterways Friends of John Forrest National Park weed control along the Jane Brook in John Forrest National Park \$20,000

Foreshore revegetation and weed control Lower Helena Association Helena River foreshore revegetation project \$19,509.

Habitat improvement for birds and/or other species dependent on waterways Friends of Piesse Brook weed control above the Lower Helena diversion dam \$18,400.

For more information about the community rivercare program, visit the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions website at www.dbca. wa.gov.au

# Mind the bobtails this summer



OVER the course of the year, Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre believes it will admit more than 300 bobtails - their most commonly admitted species.

Kanyana hospital manager Tasha Rea said as soon as the weather heats up reptiles are on the move – but with more movement comes more risk for them, as Kanyana has already had to deal with dog attacks, motor vehicle accidents, and cuts and lacerations from lawn mowing equipment on bobtails.

Ms Rea said it's important to check long grass before it's cut, as it's a prime bobtail habitat, so checking before mowing will help avoid injuring the creatures.

She said the centre has seen bobtails cut-up by whipper-snippers and lawnmowers which staff and volunteers have helped nurse back to health.

Whipper-snippers tend to be a little bit more nasty, just because of the nature of the machine ... they seem to do more damage

Top: A bobtail with bobtail flu about to be placed into a nebuliser unit. Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre nebulises bobtails to help clear out mucus and open their lungs. Bottom: Bobtails that have cuts and lacerations will be bandaged by centre staff. Pictures: Gera Kazakov than the lawnmower."

She also wants to remind people that bobtails on the side of the road can be relocated (if it's safe to pull over and do so) and that it's important to keep dogs away from them – in fact, dogs can even be trained to not harm bobtails.

The centre also treats more than either human or animal related injuries to bobtails: they also provide care to the critters if they come down with bobtail flu.

Ms Rea said bobtails which have gunky eyes, gunky noses or look underweight are all displaying tell-tale symptoms of the bobtail flu – a sickness which only affects bobtails and isn't contagious to humans.

The dead giveaway is that tail, so if the tail's really flat, they're very underweight, and that can be a real positive sign of the flu," she

"So, with that, if they aren't found they will actually die – they will die from upper respiratory tract infection (URTI).'

But not all is lost for an injured or sick bobtail – Ms Rea said injured bobtails bought to Kanyana will be looked after by the centre's team of vets and volunteers.

Injured bobtails can be bought to Kanyana wildlife centre but care must be taken when handling them as they can also bite - so always pick them up from the behind the neck and cover their head to distract them before attempting to do so.

# Bullsbrook roadhouse raises buffer concerns



**ANITA McINNES** 

BULLSBROOK residents are raising their concerns about a planned 24 hour roadhouse proposed for Lot 31 (1487) Neaves Road including that there is an insufficient buffer proposed.

The proposed development is across the road from where Margaret Carlton and Tony Lindsay have lived for 19 years.

The \$3 million proposal is due to be reconsidered by JDAP on January 16, but Ms Carlton and Mr Lindsay believe they will be negatively affected if it goes ahead.

Their house is about 30m from the road front and they said their rural amenity could be lost due to odours, noise and lighting at night from the proposed service station.

They thought state planning policy 4.1 recommended a generic buffer zone of 200m between 24 hour truck stops-service stations and residences due to these emissions.

We are well within this buffer zone as are two other residences," they said.

"Also, although Neaves Road is busy during the

day it is quiet at night.
"The noise from vehicles, particularly trucks, slowing down, entering and then leaving throughout the night would be excessive.

"There are no street lights on Neaves Road so it is quiet and dark at night.

The lights, including a proposed 9m sign would directly affect our home, our animals and the wildlife we have on our property.

Further, the proposed site will be elevated over a metre further increasing the effect of odours, noise and lights.

The responsible authority report prepared by the city for the JDAP discusses setbacks from the road but does not mention any buffer between the proposed roadhouse and nearby residences.

An officer's report prepared for the city's December meeting last year said the proposal largely complied with the development standards outlined in the city's local planning policy POL-TP-126 but entailed variations to setbacks.

The report does say a retaining wall is proposed to be screened with landscaping to assist to soften the impact of the wall along the street edge.

The retail building and truck fuel canopy will be setback from Neaves Road (front) boundary compliant with the policy," the officers report said.

alfresco area will be located within the front setback worried about contstant light, noise and smells. being a minimum 18.5m from Neaves Road in lieu of the required 30m front setback.

"The proposed retaining walls are also within the front setback area with a minimum setback of 10m from the front boundary.

"The car fuel canopy has been re-orientated away from Neaves Road reducing its visual impact on the streetscape.

The report said a retaining wall was proposed along the front, with a 10m setback to the front lot boundary and a reduction in height.

"The retaining wall is proposed to be screened with landscaping to assist to soften the impact of the wall along the street edge.

The officer's report said development control policy 1.10 freeway service centres and roadhouses including signage should be considered in the assessment of the proposal as Neaves Road would be subject to a future upgrade to become a primary regional road reservation under the MRS and under the control of Main Roads WA.

"The policy sets out that where possible, the development should not be visually prominent by way of being at a higher elevation than surroundings.

"City of Swan staff consider the amended proposal to be responsive to the context of its rural setting with a reduced height of 1.1m above the natural ground level.

The development has been re-orientated to reduce building bulk along the street edge. Landscaping between the street and the development will also assist to reduce visual impact.

In December last year councillors voted to recommend to the JDAP that they refuse the application for two reasons.

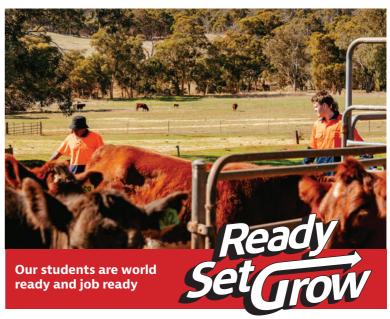
One was the proposed roadhouse, which would store and dispense petroleum, was a high risk land use considered to be inappropriate within a bushfire prone area.

Their second reason was that a high risk land use within a bush fire prone area was not considered to satisfactorily address the design principle of 'safety' as set out in state planning policy 7 – design of the built environment and so was not considered to comply with the policy.

As part of the State Administrative Tribunal process the JDAP has to reconsider the decision on or before February 2 with a directions hearing to be held on February 9.



"But the proposed car fuel canopy and covered A roadhouse proposed for Neaves Road has some nearby residents



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**ANDREW WILLIAMS** 

**SACRED Heart Primary School** in Mundaring has welcomed its first new principal in more than a decade.

Incoming principal Mark Tenney said he had big shoes to fill in replacing George Firns, who retired last December after 11 years as the catholic school's principal.

"He's definitely left his mark on the school, and he's been brilliant in helping the transition of me coming in," Mr Tenney said.

'He's been a brilliant servant of the school, and it was sad to see him go but I'm excited to step into his shoes and continue his legacy at the school.

"I'm really excited about this new chapter in Sacred Heart's history, and I'm really looking forward to the opportunities the kids will experience going forward."

For the last six years Mr Tenney was the assistant principal of St Matthew's school in Narrogin.

During COVID, as teaching transitioned online, Mr Tenney used the opportunity to finish his post graduate teaching degrees, and now holds a Master of Education in leadership, and a Master of Education in religious education.

Sacred Heart Primary School teaches more than 150 students from pre-kindergarten to year 6 which Mr Tenney said creates a personalised approach for every

"What has struck me so far is the school is very personalised and individualised, not only as a parent coming in but also as a principal."

A father of four, Mr Tenney's own children will be starting at Sacred Heart this year.

"It seemed like a beautiful school and community, a great place to bring my family and kids along to as well.

"It's a lovely small school tucked away in the hills. Sort of like the hills best kept secret," he

Mr Tenney said his initial goal is to get to know the students, parents, and staff, and so far, he has felt very welcome in the commu-

"We have a whole range of different backgrounds and cultures at the school, there is a misconception that you have to be catholic to attend a catholic school, but anyone is welcome," he said.

"Parents are more than welcome to come in and say hello and have a walk around to familiarise themselves with the school before the school year starts.'





Rural Women's award finalist Jay Page says it's essential students learn about the plight bees are facing. Picture: DPIRD

# Finalist keen to talk about bees

SCHOOL children in the Wheatbelt will be able to learn more about the importance of bees for pollination and crop growing if a Northam apiarist is successful in the AgriFutures Rural Women's award.

Named a finalist in this year's award Jay Page wants to expand school education to raise awareness of sustainable bee produc-

As a bee lover and educator, Mrs Page is passionate about teaching children the importance of bees, their role for our planet, the plight they are facing and what we can do to help. In 2022, she saw a need for bee education for primary school

children that was relevant, inspiring and age appropriate. She used her 16 years of early childhood teaching experience to deliver a series of bee educa-

tion-themed incursions throughout the Perth area including Hills Outside and School Care in Darlington and Kalamunda Out of School Centre in Wallis-

Mrs Page from Messines Bee Farm has aspirations to expand her business into the Wheatbelt

by offering school incursions to the 71 public and private schools in the region – schools that often miss out on these opportunities due to their distance from Perth.

For more than two decades, the Rural Women's award has celebrated and empowered women in Australia's rural and emerging industries, businesses and communities.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development director general Heather Brayford congratulated the WA finalists and paid tribute to the role of



Have your say on the City of Swan's noise management plan for our waste collection vehicles.

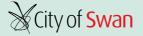
Each weekday and on some public holidays, we collect kerbside waste from properties across the City.

Our waste collection noise management plan, which aims to ensure waste is collected with minimal disruption to our residents, is up for renewal.

One of the key benefits of the plan is that it allows waste to be collected between 6am and 7am from homes in certain areas to minimise traffic congestion.

Tell us what you think by Sunday, January 28, 2024. www.swanengage.com/nmp





# Pilot dies in microlight plane crash in Beverley

THE pilot of a small micro light aircraft has died after his plane crashed at a regional property near Little Hill Road in Beverley just after 11am on Saturday, January.

The pilot, 69-year-old Beverley grandfather John Wilson, the sole occupant of the aircraft, sustained critical injuries and died at the scene.

His family had been watching his flight when the aircraft crashed onto his neighbour's

Police, St John WA and Department of Fire and Emergency Services personnel attended the scene, while Recreation Aviation Australia is investigating the crash.

Police will prepare a report for the Coroner. Beverley is a popular destination for gliders and microlight aircraft and used for ultralight and sports plane training.

# **York CRC fraud case to continue in March**

**ANDREW WILLIAMS** 

THE case involving allegations of the mishandling of community centre funds by a former York Shire councillor and his wife will continue

In October of last year, former councillor Ashley Garratt and his wife Robyn Garratt were charged with defrauding the York Community Resource Centre (CRC).

anneared in Northam Magistrates court this past Monday, January 8, with their next appearance set for March 18.

Mr Garratt has been charged with one count of benefitting from fraud, and one count of property

He also faces one charge of failing to adequately store firearms of ammunition safely, but this is unrelated to the York CRC case.

Mrs Garratt is facing thirteen charges in relation to alleged misappropriation of funds from the York CRC, where she worked.

Those charges are seven counts of fraud by count of property laundering, and two counts of benefiting from fraud.

# Ageing population presents housing challenge

THE federal government has released the Centre for Population's 2023 population statement, underlining the ageing, housing and care-related challenges on the horizon.

There are currently two million people over the age of 75 around the country, but by 2040, this cohort will increase to 3.4 million, with an additional 1.4 million people over 75 within the next two dec-

According to the Property Council of Australia these changes will have many implications, including increased demand for healthcare, social services and aged care services and age-friendly infrastructure and appropriate housing options.

They said retirement villages across the country save the commonwealth government a billion dollars every year by delaying entry into aged care facilities through better designed homes that lead to fewer trips, falls and interactions with healthcare systems. And when Australians 'rightsize', their homes re-enter the market, benefiting singles, couples and growing families, helping to close the supply gap.

"Beyond just the housing benefits, residents of retirement communities are 41 per cent happier, 15 per cent more physically active, and experience reduced levels of loneliness and depression," they said.

More information is available at www.propertycouncil.com.au

Midland library returns home

**GERA KAZAKOV** 

MIDLAND's public library has returned to its Helena Street home and is open to the public once again after construction on the internal roof structure was completed.

In 2021, the library was closed due to structural issues with its roof and a pop-up library was established on The

However, the pop-up library closed December 11 last year, and on January 2 the public library on 45 Helena Street was again open to the public.

City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson said great care was taken to ensure the building was safe for use, and that staff were excited to welcome the community back in.

The reopening of the library is great news for the community," she said.

The head contractor for the roof reconstruction was Geared Construction. The total value of the contract was \$1.9 million, with provisional sums of \$29,000 also included

The project included lighting and electrical upgrades, along with fire safety and security upgrades.

The Midland public library is back at 45 Helena Street. Picture: Gera Kazakov



# Be prepared when visiting national parks this summer

VISITORS to Western Australia's national parks, which abound in our readership area, are being urged to be prepared before setting off on a trip this summer.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, which manages WA's national parks, is reminding visitors to check on camping tips, bushwalking advice, water hazards and other safety information prior to visiting national parks.

Safety hazards in parks are being constantly reviewed to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable visit

With the bushfire season now with us with the chance of extreme or catastrophic fire danger ratings increased, popular parks may also be closed while in some cases parks or trails will be proactively closed.

Meanwhile, parks that are regu-

larly impacted by hot weather will have safety messages on signage, in park brochures and on park specific webpages.

Environment Minister Reece Whitby said Western Australia has a wonderful range of options when it comes to national parks and ma-

'The wide-open spaces, diversity and wildlife offer great rewards to visitors, but they can present chal-

'That's why it's important for visitors to plan their trip and ensure they have enough water, food and fuel when travelling.

To help you stay safe, plan your trip to one of WA's national parks by visiting the 'Know before you go' section at www.exploreparks. dbca.wa.gov.au and for park, road and trail closures go to www.alerts. dbca.wa.gov.au

# Lake Leschenaultia closure guidelines

SHIRE of Mundaring has decided to adopt a more flexible approach to guide the closure of Lake Leschenaultia.

At its December council meeting, council decided that while closure of the lake was important during days of extreme and catastrophic fire danger rating days for public safety, flexibility needed to be provided to ensure that local conditions warranted such a closure.

Shire President Paige McNeil said that while it was absolutely imperative to keep the community safe, it had become apparent that at times the Bureau of Meteorology and Department of Fire and Emergency Services rating of extreme or catastrophic did not reflect local conditions.

"We have provided our chief executive officer, supported by shire officers, authority to make a determination to leave the lake open to the public in the event it is considered local weather conditions do not reflect extreme or catastrophic conditions,"

"Council did not make this decision lightly as we are very aware of the bushfire risk to our community and visitors to the lake. However, we listened to our community and in this instance we feel we need to be flexible and have the ability to base decisions on specific local conditions, not more general

regional condition ratings.'

In addition to the more flexible approach being taken by the shire, more work is being done on alternative mitigation actions which could eliminate the need to close the lake in the future.

Of particular concern to the shire is the one way access, in and out of the lake. This remains a primary concern which is driving the closure in certain weather conditions

President McNeil said that the shire had been requested to undertake an independent risk assessment of the lake.

"The assessment is aimed at identifying potential mitigation actions including the number of access points to reduce the risks to users and the community, in the event of a fire, to a level which could see the shire comfortably leave the lake open in all weather conditions.

"Importantly we know that we can never completely eliminate the risks to users of the lake in the event of the fire," she said.

"What we can do is develop strategies to reduce the risk to an acceptable level. At the moment that means closing the lake in certain weather conditions however we are hopeful that other mitigation actions, such as secondary access, will allow us to keep the lake open.



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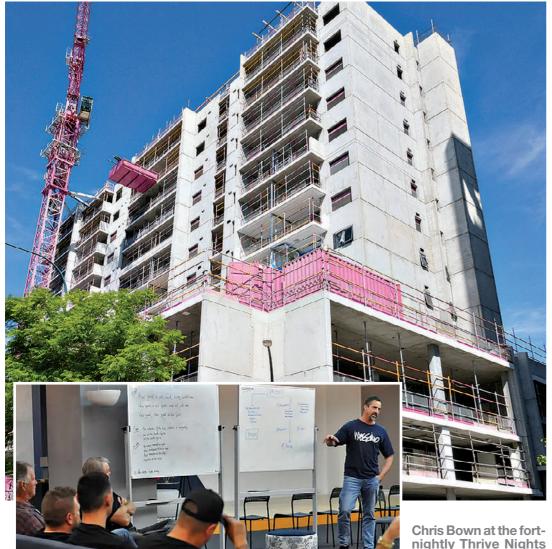
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# Ex-cop turned prisoner rehabilitator

as part of Thrive In-

tegration.



**ANDREW WILLIAMS** 

A FORMER Midland detective went from locking people up to helping people out by turning his mind to prisoner rehabilitation.

Chris Bown was a police officer for more than fifteen years before he quit in 2015. He was sick of arresting the same people time and time again.

Mr Bown said that often former prisoners struggle in getting their life back on track and a lot turn back to the lifestyles that got them in trouble in the first place.

"I got sick of the revolving door, if someone gets out of prison and can't get a job it's pretty obvious to me what they are going to end up doing," he said.

"Everybody needs a purpose, and it just wasn't rewarding sending people to prison anymore, because jail wasn't changing them anymore."

After a conversation with Gerry Hanssen, the executive director of specialist high-rise construction company Hanssen, about wanting to do more to help the prisoners who kept coming in and out, Mr Bown received a job offer.

"I think he's always wanted to do something like this, but he just needed someone to facilitate it," Mr Bown said.

"I went to my wife and said I'm sick of locking people up, I want to unlock people"

Since starting with Hanssen in 2015, Mr Bown has overseen the employment and work of more than 100 ex-prisoners at the construction company, with 80 currently employed.

Mr Bown believes the biggest contributing factor to the revolving door

of prisoners is often a lack of positive role models in their formative years.

"I think the key to breaking the cycle is these guys going home to their kids every night.

"Before, their kids would have seen their parents going to prison but now they see them going to work every day," he said.

The idea with Hanssen was to create opportunities for those who often find it hard getting employed after release.

Many ex-prisoners struggle to gain employment after release, due to the stigma associated with them, having to produce a criminal record, as well as long gaps in their resumé which may turn potential employers off.

In addition to his work with Hanssen, Mr Bown founded his own rehabilitation program called Thrive Integration, a support group aimed at reducing recidivism.

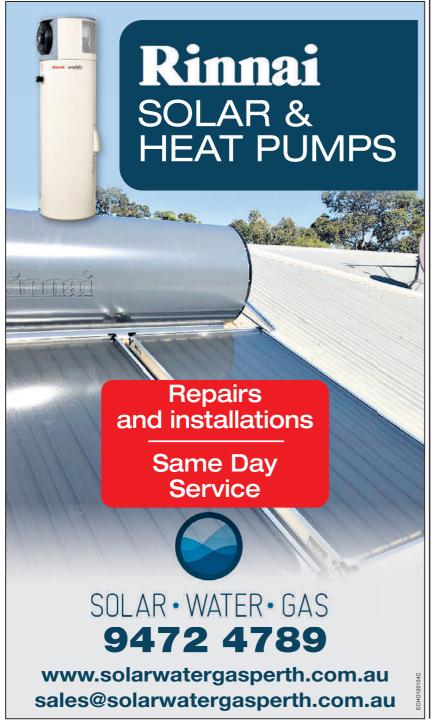
Run fortnightly on Wednesday evenings, Thrive Nights are informal gatherings which focus on opportunities for ex-prisoners to build relationships, gain an education and participate in discussions about what they are facing.

"It's a cross between a church service and an AA meeting pretty much. But it's completely voluntary if they want to get involved in the faith side of things," he said.

"They all basically encourage one another, one day someone might be down, and the others will support them.

"When you get a father back into the workforce you also get them back into the home."

Mr Bown is proud of the work he does and the program he's created and thinks it's only going to grow.





Flight Lieutenant Jesse Versteegen has been posted to No. 79 Squadron to fly the Hawk 127 aircraft at Pearce air base. Picture: Department of Defence

# **Graduate to fly Pearce Hawk 127s**

NINETEEN student pilots received their wings and graduated from No. 2 Flying training school, flying PC-21 aircraft at Pearce air base in December for the final course graduation for the year.

The course, which includes pilots from the Royal Australian Air Force and the Royal Australian Navy, produces competent junior Australian Defence Force officers capable of flying training aircraft with the skill and confidence necessary to transition to operational aircraft.

Six graduates received awards for their achievements during the course.

Pilot Officer Olivia Downey was awarded the Royal Australian Air Force Association (WA division) trophy for most improved, while Pilot Officer Jordan Curd received the 'Fitto-fight' high performance physical training award.

Pilot Officer Madison Hall received the Returned Services League trophy for demonstrating the highest qualities in leadership.

The Air BP Australia trophy for the graduate with the highest aggregate of academic marks was awarded to Pilot Officer Zachary Harris, while Pilot Officer Nicholas Wardle received the DJ Friedrichs Aerobatics trophy for the highest level of aerobatic skill.

Flight Lieutenant Jesse Versteegen was awarded the Pilatus Aircraft trophy as course dux after he received the SJ Goble Memorial trophy as the most proficient pilot, the G Scutt/E Davey Memorial trophy for most proficient at instrument flying, and the Martin Baker Australia Navigation trophy as the graduate displaying the highest level of navigation skills.

He has been posted to No. 79 squadron to fly the Hawk 127 aircraft at Pearce air base.

# Australia Day Pool Party

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Kalamunda Water Park 38 Collins Rd, Kalamunda Friday 26 January

Gates open 9:30am-5pm Activities from 10:30am-2:30pm

\*Early Bird 2 for 1 entry passes now available at the Kalamunda Water Park











# Shire President's Message

Happy New Year! Before I focus on 2024, I would like to reflect on, and sincerely thank, our amazing community for the care and generosity displayed during and after the pre-Christmas Parkerville bushfire.

Thanks to the rapid, co-ordinated efforts of our Volunteer Bushfire Brigades, Shire staff, DFES and other emergency services, the fire was contained in very challenging conditions. The outstanding response of our volunteers in particular highlights their critical role in keeping our community safe and the importance of ensuring they are supported.

The day after the fire, I spoke to Premier Cook and Emergency Services Minister Dawson and took the opportunity, on behalf of our Community, to remind them how important it is that our volunteer fire-fighters are equipped with the best of resources. Council will continue to advocate with State Government to meet the future needs of our volunteer

The impact fire can have on our community also brings to light the importance of being bushfire prepared.

Please take the time to prepare your property and practice your bushfire plan with your family available to everyone over the age of 14 years, and neighbours. Here is a useful website link to assist you in developing your plan - it will be our future direction. We have a specific youth 15 minutes well spent **mundaring.wa.gov.au/** survey out for young people aged 12 to 25 prepare-for-a-bushfire

Our Shire works hard to keep our Community as bushfire safe as possible, which is why over the next six months you will see continued bushfire mitigation works focused on verges in Coothalie Road Chidlow, Cockatoo Drive Mundaring, Wattle Court Reserve in Mahogany Creek and on the eastern side of Lake Leschenaultia.

Refocusing on 2024, we have an important six months in front of us as Council reviews the Shire's strategic direction. You will play a critical part in this by providing your views and ideas on how we can continue to improve as an organisation. Keep an eye out for the Shire's Community Scorecard in the mail. The scorecard survey is your opportunity to tell us what improvements and priorities you would like to see. Your ideas will help shape our 2024-2034 Strategic Community Plan.

While our community scorecard survey is we are also seeking input from our youth on as well as one for parents and caregivers who are also encouraged to participate. We will utilise these survey results to assist us in developing a new youth informing strategy. We welcome your feedback via the Engage Mundaring website **engage.mundaring.** wa.gov.au/youth-informing-strategy by Monday 29 January.

Check out the new shaded playground, flying fox and fun exercise equipment at Broz Park in Helena Valley and our new Timber Train playground at Lake Leschenaultia. Our Shire has so many great things to do and we want you to start spreading the word and inviting people to

enjoy what we have to offer. I'm looking forward to sharing

new projects and exciting initiatives with you this year!

Paige McNeil **Shire President** 





### **Summer of Entertainment events**

We're back with a range of events to suit all

**Aguafest at Bilgoman Aguatic Centre** Friday 8 March, 6pm to 8pm A free family-friendly outdoor pool festival featuring live DJ, real-life mermaids, free

sausage sizzle and amusement ride.

**Blues and Folk Live at Sculpture Park** Saturday 23 March, 5pm to 7.30pm A free Twilight Tunes concert for the whole family with musicians from the Mundaring Folk and Blues Club. BYO food and drink.

Youth Fest at Harry Riseborough Oval Friday 12 April, 12pm to 3pm Celebrating Youth Week, the event for 12 to 17 year olds features DJ Bexx skate clinic, gaming trailer, virtual reality, outdoor laser skirmish, bungee trampoline, art and craft, BBQ plus more!

# **Community Grants 2024**

Our popular grants program supports local community groups to deliver activities and programs that benefit the broader community. The following grants open on Monday 29 January and close on Thursday 7 March. Successful recipients will be notified in April.

**Community Event Grant** - for groups wishing to run fetes, festivals, markets, sporting/ recreational carnivals, exhibitions, small performances and training related to the event. **Milestone Event Grant** - to celebrate a significant milestone achievement. Matching Grant - for projects including equipment, minor capital upgrades, promotional material and training. Visit mundaring.wa.gov.au/community-grants to learn more.

# What's On in January 2024



### 1 Ordinary Council Meeting

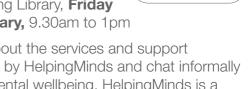
The January Council Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 23 January** at 6.30pm at the Shire Administration Centre.

The Agenda is available on the website, Administration Centre or at our libraries. Meetings will be live streamed via the Shire's website mundaring.wa.gov.au/ council-livestreams-and-recordings



Boya Library, Wednesday **17 January,** 9.30am to

Mundaring Library, Friday **19 January, 9.30am to 1pm** 



Learn about the services and support provided by HelpingMinds and chat informally about mental wellbeing. HelpingMinds is a non-profit organisation providing a variety of mental health carer support services.



### 3 Story Time and Baby Rhyme Time (FREE)

Starting from **Tuesday 30 January** (no bookings necessary).

**Story Time** for children aged two to five years promotes a love of reading and encourages social interaction. Children will enjoy songs, stories and a craft activity. **Baby Rhyme Time** is a language enrichment program for babies and toddlers aged 0-24 months. Enjoy songs and stories in a relaxed atomosphere.





7000 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring WA 6073 





mundaring.wa.gov.au (🌐 engage.mundaring.wa.gov.au



f facebook.com/ShireofMundaring



instagram.com/shireofmundaring

# eye on crime

Police want anyone with information regarding the below incidents to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or you can can make a report online at www.crimestopperswa.com.au





# Midland burglary and stealing charges

MIDLAND rapid high harm offender response team detectives have charged a father and son in relation to a spate of burglary and stealing offences that occurred on Wednesday, November 29.

It will be alleged that about 4.25am, a stolen Nissan Patrol was used in a ram raid in an attempt to steal an ATM from a shopping centre on Beechboro Road, Bennett Springs.

A short time later, the vehicle was driven to an address in Gooseberry Hill where three men entered the home of an 81-year-old man and stole various property items.

About 9.45am, the Nissan Patrol was driven to a home on Beeches Mews in Brigadoon.

The trio smashed a side window to gain entry to the property, stealing a large amount of jewellery, cash and a gun safe containing

About 10am, the stolen vehicle was seen on Toodyay Road in Red Hill. Officers activated their emergency lights and sirens, however, the driver ignored directions to stop and accelerated away from police.

The vehicle was driven recklessly and at speed through multiple suburbs including Jane Brook, Middle Swan, Greenmount, Koongamia and Helena Valley.

The vehicle came to a stop after crossing onto the wrong side of Roe Highway and collided head on with a truck – fortunately, the driver of the truck was uninjured.

Police arrested the 45-year-old driver and a 17-year-old passenger.

The pair were conveyed to hospital for treatment of minor injuries sustained in the crash, and will face court later this month.

# **Burglary arrests in Stratton**

MIRRABOOKA detectives have charged two men in relation to several incidents that occurred in Yokine, Yangebup and Bassendean between December 28 and January 9.

During one incident it will be alleged the men aged 33 and 45, gained entry to a home on North Road in Bassendean about 8.30am on Tuesday January 9, where they stole various items.

Police investigations into these incidents resulted in detectives attending a residence on Stratton Boulevard in Stratton about 9.30am on Tuesday, January 9 where they arrested the 33-year-old man.

During this arrest, a police officer and the 33-year-old man were bitten by a dog at the property. Also on January 9, detectives arrested the 46-year-old man at a residence on Atkinson Court in Stratton.

The 33-year-old man of no fixed address has been charged with one count of trespass, three counts of aggravated home burglary and commit, four counts of stealing and two counts of steal motor vehicle.

The 45-year-old man from Halls Head has been charged with aggravated home burglary and commit and one count of stealing.

They both attended court this week and remanded in custody. The 45-year-old man has his next hearing at the Perth Magistrates Court on January 22, while the 33-year-old's next hearing will be at the Perth Magistrates Court on February 21.

# **Brabham fatal crash investigation**

OFFICERS from the major crash investigation section are seeking information regarding a fatal crash in Brabham on Friday, December 29.

About 12.10pm, a Ford Falcon utility was being driven south-east on Fairmount Boulevard, near the intersection of Mayfield Drive, when the vehicle left the road and struck the fence of a property at the corner of Fairmount Boulevard and Mayfield Drive.

Members of the public provided emergency first aid to the driver until police and

St John WA personnel arrived.

The driver of the vehicle, a 61-year-old woman, was taken by St John WA to hospital, where she later died.

Anyone with information regarding this crash, or who saw the Ford utility being driven in the time leading up to the crash, is asked to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report the information online at www.crimestopperswa.com.au.

If you or anyone you know has been affected by a road crash, contact Road Trauma Support WA on 1300 004 814.

# Man charged over Ellenbrook arson by Strike Force Vulcan detectives

STRIKE Force Vulcan detectives have charged a 56-year-old man in relation to a series of deliberately lit fires that occurred in Ellenbrook on Monday, January 8.

It will be alleged, between 10.30pm and 11.30pm, the accused ignited several bush-

land fires in the vicinity of: Vasse Park, Lomas Circle - Grassdale Wetlands, Geographe Loop - Wyara Park and Liton Lane.

It will be further alleged the accused also attended a property on Elmridge Parkway and ignited a grass tree in the front yard of a residential property.

Fortunately, the resident was able to successfully extinguish the fire prior to DFES arrival.

The 56-year-old Cloverdale man was quickly located and arrested by Ellenbrook

Police and charged with five counts of wilfully light or cause to be lit a fire likely to injure or damage.

He was remanded in custody and is due to face court at the Perth Magistrate's Court on January 17.



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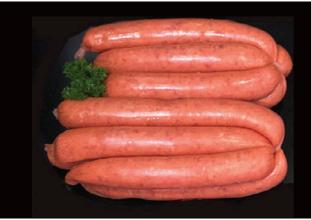
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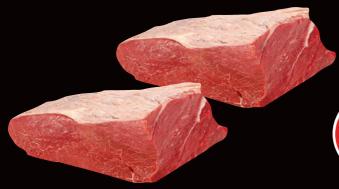
BEEF RUMP STEAK BULK PACKS





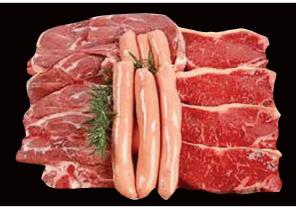
BEEF PEPPER OR GARLIC STEAK





BEEF BLADE ROASTS





BARBECUE PACKS (SAUSAGES, STEAK, CHOPS)





LAMB LEG ROASTS





LAMB
FOREQUARTER
CHOPS
BULK PACKS

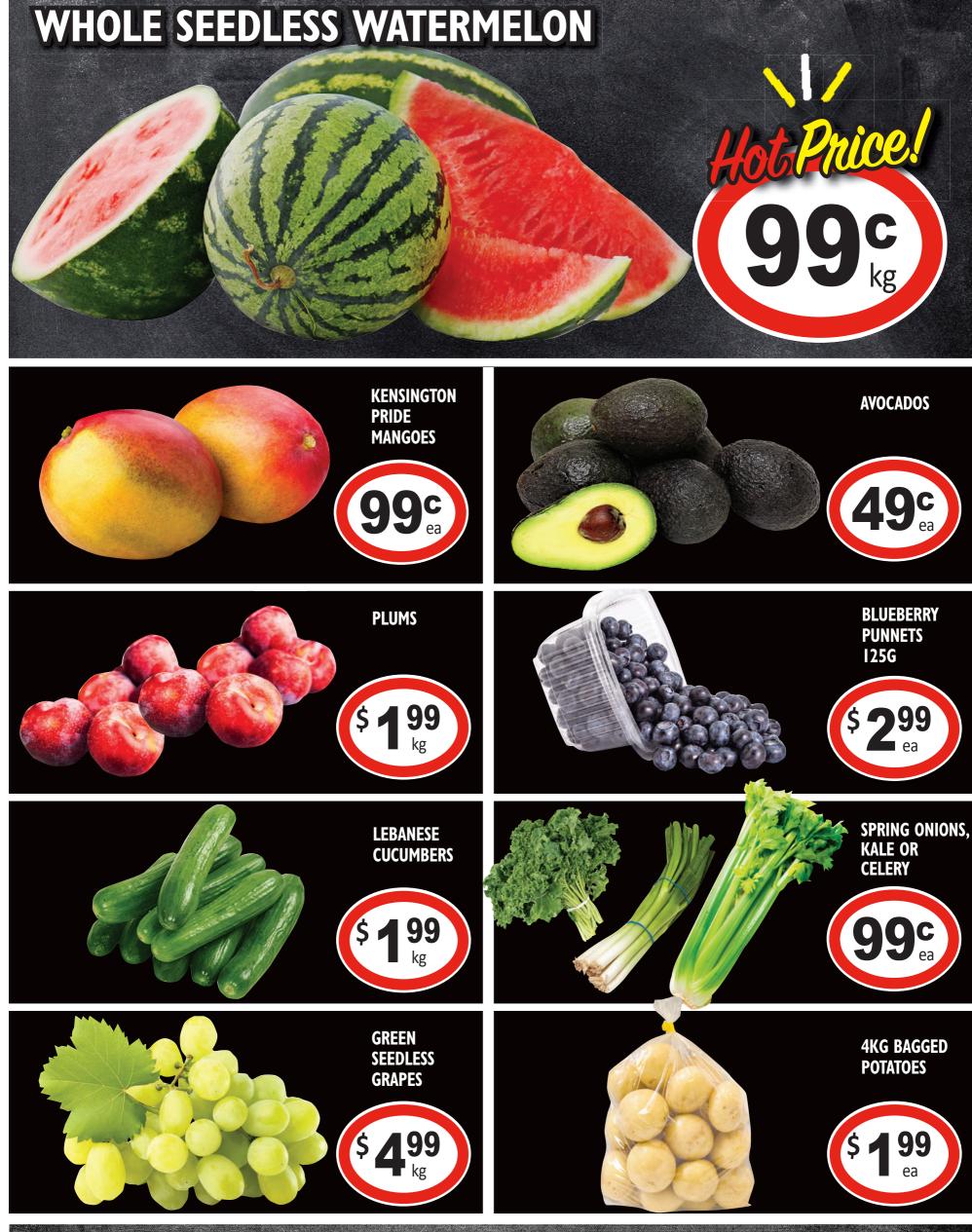


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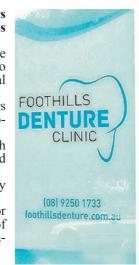
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Wellness is on the menu in January at Amaroo Retreat & Spa!

Treat yourself to a well-deserved break with

20% off all our day spa services. From now until February 1, 2024, immerse yourself in rejuvenating treatments like blissful relaxation massages, nourishing facials, and invigorating body scrubs and wraps.

Or rejuvenate at Kapurn: Skin, co-located at Amaroo Retreat & Spa in Mt Helena, our APHRA registered team members offer treatments such as IV Nutrient Therapy, cosmetic injectables and a range of transformative aesthetic services to suit your individual needs.

Amaroo Retreat & Spa is a haven of holistic wellbeing. After your pampering session, take a dip in our luxurious mineral spring pool.

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Enhance your experience with a delightful cheeseboard, decadent dessert, refreshing summer cocktail, or indulge in a sumptuous lunch at The Lounge at Amaroo Restaurant.

20% off special does not include remedial treatments, injectables and IV nutrient therapy.

Treatments must be booked and performed before February 1, 2024.

Contact details: reservations@amarooretreat. com.au | 08 6244 4800.



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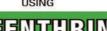
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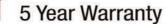
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# City of Swan news update



# Mayor's message

### Kaya everyone,

Happy new year to you all. I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing break with your loved ones, whether you were at home or away.

It has been a great start to the year for the City, with this month's

reopening of the Midland Public Library on Helena Street the first of many exciting milestones for our community in 2024.

If you are yet to visit the refurbished library, I encourage you to pop in and have a look around. Midland Public Library houses the City's largest collection of educational resources.

I am excited to share with you our greatest achievements of the 2022/23 financial year at the City's Annual Electors Meeting from 6pm on Monday, February 5 at Ballajura Community College Performing Arts Centre.

At this meeting, Council will receive the 2022/23 Annual Report, answer your questions and consider your proposed motions.

This year, questions and proposed motions by community members can be submitted online by 5pm on Friday, February 2. You can do this by visiting www.swan.wa.gov.au/AME.

Please note that questions and proposed motions "from the floor" at the meeting will only be accepted at the discretion of the Presiding Member, time permitting.

The Annual Electors Meeting is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in your community, reflect on our shared achievements and talk about the future.

I look forward to seeing you there.

I would also like to encourage you to keep an eye out for the City's annual Community and Business Perception Survey, which will be available to complete from January 29 to February 19.

We want to make sure our community continues to thrive, and to do that, we want to know how you think we can improve our services, facilities and events.

The survey is run by independent consultancy, Cataylse, and all data will remain secure and confidential.

The City is committed to delivering outstanding services to our diverse community and businesses, and your feedback is invaluable.

We will share the survey link in the Echo and through all of our communications channels when it becomes available.

Tanya Richardson Mayor, City of Swan



# **Engage with us**



# **Community and Business Perception Survey**

The City is preparing to launch its annual Community and Business Perception Survey, which will run from January 29 to February 19. It is an important survey that helps us plan for our community's future. We want to know what you think, so please visit our website at the end of this month and have your say. We will provide the survey link on all of our communications channels when it becomes available.

Go to swan.wa.gov.au/swanengage



## **Fishmarket Reserve**

If you are a regular visitor to Fishmarket Reserve, we want you to help us identify recreational uses for this space before we revegetate it. We want to ensure the new vegetation thrives, so we want to plant in areas that are not in regular use. We have identified some recreational uses but we would like you to tell us if there is anything we have missed. Please have your say before January 21.

Go to swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au/ fishmarket-reserve



### **Ballajura Safe Active Street**

Time is running out for Ballajura residents to have their say on a proposed Safe Active Street, which would provide an east-west connection between the existing Tonkin Highway pedestrian shared path and Ballajura Central Shopping Centre. In addition, the Safe Active Street would tie into the proposed Tonkin Highway footbridge to give residents better access to the Malaga Train Station. Have your say by January 14, 2024.

Go to swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au/ ballajurasas



# What's happening

### Animate a 3D dinosaur

Enter the world of dinosaurs with this free 3D animation workshop held on January 15 and 24 at Guildford Public Library. Choose from three different dinosaurs to animate, then learn how to light, decorate and shoot your own prehistoric scene. This hands-on school holidays workshop is perfect for children aged 13 and over. If you bring a USB, you can take it home. Please book as spaces are limited. Call 9207 8880.

### Rock 'n' Roll Music Quiz

Get ready for another unforgettable night of music trivia with Tony Papa-Adams at the second Old Midland Courthouse Music Quiz Night from 5.30-7pm on Wednesday, January 24. There will be live performances, and prizes and snacks to fuel your competitive spirit. Whether you're a casual music fan or a seasoned pro, this is a chance to put your knowledge to the test. Please book as spaces are limited. Call **9267 9020.** 

### **Decluttering workshop**

Have you dreamed of a simpler, more organised lifestyle? Do you want to learn how to responsibly rehome items and recycle or dispose of the rest? Then this workshop is for you. For \$5, join sustainability educator Laura Monisse for an engaging session on the art of decluttering and living a better life with less. The workshop will be held from 5-6.30pm on Wednesday, January 31 at Old Midland Courthouse. Call 9267 9267.

Visit our online event calendar for a full list of upcoming events in the City of Swan. Go to www.swan.wa.gov.au/events













# SENTÉRTAINMENT Midland DADAA presents Edge of Reality

CREATIVES from Midland Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts, Australia (DADAA), in collaboration with Outcome Unknown will be performing at the Blue Room Summer Nights on Saturday, January 20, at 4.30pm.

The event, The Edge of Reality, aims to showcase experimental music from the unseen and the unheard in a night of incantatory spoken-word and experimental music by two acts working on the margins.

The Definitives are the resident band at DADAA Midland. This motley crew of poets and visual artists draw on their lived experience of mental illness to create whimsical vignettes propelled by freewheeling rhythms.

The group works with processed guitar, bass, and synthezisers while their spirited performances consist of stories being told and then pulled apart in a wild chorus of sounds, voices, and occasionally, laughter.

Their work has been hailed by experimental music legend Robbie Avenaim, while collaborations with local musicians Josten Myburgh, Annika Moses and Eduardo Cossio have brought the band a word of mouth following.

The second act will see Jenny Hickinbotham team up with the experimental musicians Plyanci and Scientia to present a new collection of songs featuring ambient electronics and fluid pulses.

Jenny draws on multiple voices, perspectives, and temporalities to explore mental illhealth with pathos and playfulness.

Outcome Unknown, run by Eduardo Cossio, presents experimental music concerts in Perth. The monthly series platforms emerging and established artists from diverse musical backgrounds.

DADAA partners and works with emerging and established artists, communities, arts organisations, local and state governments, and not-for-profits to produce community arts and regional development projects with focus on inclusion and capacity building - taking the voices of people with disability to audience and communities.

Tickets can be found online at https://blu eroom.org.au/events/the-edge-of-reality/



The Edge of Reality features two acts performing experimental music.

# Guildford Grammar graduate in The Oak Tree



THE haunting The Oak Tree, with Guildford Grammar graduate Matthew Mckail, is based on a real oak tree planted by early white settlers at Wungong in Perth's foothills.

The play is set by the idyllic banks of the Swan River, where history, nature and art converge under a 190-year-old oak tree planted by early European settlers in the area, the Hardey family.

Directed by Jane Sherwood for Fifi Productions, The Oak Tree is written by former KADS Theatre performer Fiona Blakeley, who

The Oak Tree features Fiona Wildsmith, Guildford Grammar graduate Matthew Mckail, former KADS Theatre performer Fiona Blakeley and Ron Arthurs.

also appears as main character

The play follows the trials and tribulations of Kate and Lennie (played by Mckail) on their Wungong farm, as they are hindered by the ghost of a woman who lived there years before.

With the ghost vowing to protect an old oak tree at the property's entrance, Kate can either ignore the warnings and stand staunch in the face of adversity – or face up to what she longs to run from and risk everything that matters.

'We are so excited to bring back The Oak Tree to audiences in this magnificent setting," Blakelev said.

'And it's truly magical we get to do it in a place that lends so much depth and meaning to the

"The true star of the show has always been the grand old oak and, this time around, we'll be sharing the stage with the real thing.

A seasoned performer with more 25 years in the industry, Blakeley has appeared in numerous television commercials, short films and feature films and has performed at KADS, Melville, Harbour and Roleystone Theatres, Graduate Dramatic Society and the Short + Sweet 10-minute play festival.

She has also flexed her creative muscles as a writer with shows at Short + Sweet and Fringe World and is currently refining her historical fiction novel on Isobel Gowdie, renowned queen of Scottish witches.

"I'm fascinated with history and its relevance in our lives today," Blakeley said. "It inspires me how people living in those times still have relevance, together with the themes of grief and loss that cross the barriers of space and time to unite us.

"One of the themes in The Oak Tree is honouring the past – just because something is dead in our time does not mean it should be forgotten.

I also love ghosts in stories, as characters or metaphors for what they can represent, whether it be the past that needs to be acknowledged, things that haunt the living or as a messenger aiding the present."

The Oak Tree plays at 8pm on January 18, 20, 21, 24, 25 and 27 at Peninsula Farm.

# Notice Board

Canning Road, Kalamunda. The club's next meeting at the new address will be on Wednesday, February 14 - 9.30am for registration for a 10am start. Old and new members and also visitors welcome. Morning tea available. The club has guest speakers each month with interesting topics to entertain them. For more information call Leah on 9291 4163 or

Don on 0439 970 038. • Perth Hills Climate Change Interest Group is asking young people to take part in the Commissioner for Children

9374 6666 editorial@echo-news.com and Young People's online survey inviting West Australians aged under 18 to

A free service for non-profit organisations

share their views on the environment. Topics covered include littering, caring for the natural environment and what can be done to protect the environment for the future. Visit www.ccyp.wa.gov.au/

Noticeboard is for non-profits and community groups advertising free/ low cost events/programs. Entries must be emailed to editorial@echonews.com two weeks before the event.

# Read between the lines

by Pastor Ian Kirk



# A New Year

Christmas seems to have long passed us, and now we are halfway through January. How has this year gone so far? Are you hoping for a better year?

Some of my friends are hoping for a better year after a challenging time last year. Colleen and I can relate, especially after her diagnosis of heart failure last May.

The thing is – we have no guarantee of a better year We have no idea what may happen and what we may face. I am mindful, for example, of how 2020 began well, and yet a few months into the year, we were hit with the covid pandemic.

Despite not knowing what lies before us, I am grateful for family and friends as we mutually support and encourage each other. For those who are alone, I particularly feel for them.

But besides having family and friends around us, I am grateful for the ongoing wonder of Christmas. Jesus wasn't just born in a stable. He came to show us the way to fullness of life - to peace, joy and contentment. He came to die for us so that we could be forgiven and be made right with God. He even rose from the dead, giving us eternal hope and ensuring us of His daily presence.

To those who trust in Jesus, what a real comfort it is as we enter another year, for He is with us, whether we have storms to face or smooth seas before us.

# Woofer of the week

**Upcoming Events** 

· Friends of the Western Swamp Tor-

toise are meeting on Monday, January 15

at 7pm at Clementine Cottage, 40 Citrus

Street, Upper Swan. The group will be

discussing their direction for 2024, which

is their 24th anniversary year. Their youth

team will be meeting on Saturday, Janu-

ary 13 at 2pm in The Vines. For more information call Jan on 0408 024 800.

• The Kalamunda Probus Club is relo-

cating to the Kalamunda RSL hall - 35

Gypsy is who kelpie, has lived on a About farm. two-years-old she is very active and obedient and friendly. She sterilised, vaccinated and microchipped. Costs apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.



VITO and Teresa Di Paolo have always been keen gardeners growing all their own veggies and wanted to share this massive 'tortarella' Italian cucumber they grew dedicating it the City of Swan because of its S shape.

Since migrating from Italy to Australia in 1971 the couple have resided in the City of Swan.

Letizia Ludewig of Greenmount, who sent the picture to Echo News, said her parents had been growing the cucumbers for years but had never had grow one in that shape before.

She said they recently signed up for community support via My Aged Care and City of Swan community services that assists people like them to continue living a healthier and independent life in their own home.



Vito and Teresa Di Paola with the S-shaped cucumber.

**ECHO** 

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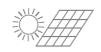
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Expressions of interest for membership of Central Regional TAFE Governing Council are invited. Expressions of interest are also sought for the Governing Council Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson positions at Central Regional TAFE.

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The State Government is committed to increasing the representation of women on Government boards and committees and supports diversity in the appointment to boards and committees.

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Please send a brief curriculum vitae of no more than two pages using the approved proforma by Friday 19 January 2024 by email at: TAFEGoverningCouncils@dtwd.wa.gov.au

The curriculum vitae proforma and further information about Governing Council membership and the application process is available at www.dtwd.wa.gov.au

Note: Recommended applicants will be asked to consent to a criminal record check. Applicants with a convictions record are not automatically precluded from appointment to the Governing Council. Each case will be considered on its merits

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Mitch Roche, Jye Chalcraft and Tom Panuccio. Picture: Swan Districts Football Club.

# Two more Victorians join Swans

**CHRIS PIKE** 

SWAN districts have announced two more Victorian recruits for the side, with duo Tom Panuccio and Mitch Roche joining some familiar faces for the 2024 season.

Panuccio is a former teammate in the Geelong VFL team of Swan Medal runner-up Jackson McLachlan while both he and Roche are former teammates and good friends with fellow new recruit and reigning Cats VFL fairest and best winner Jye Chalcraft.

Panuccio is a young player who never imagined football could take him across the country growing up in the Victorian town of Euroa, but now after two years in Geelong's VFL team he can't wait to get to Swan Districts.

"It's very exciting and I would never have thought footy could take me to the other side of the country," he said.

"I thought I'd also be Victorian and playing a lot of VFL footy, but you can never tell what's going to happen in the future."

Panuccio was always an emerging and hard-running talent who then made the move to Geelong to continue his footballing progress in the VFL and that's where he has spent the last two seasons.

Mitch Roche joins the club for 2024 on the back of being the vice-captain at Shepparton United in the Goulbourn Valley League in country Victoria.

He put together a standout 2023 season at country football level as a high ball-winning midfielder including a best of 43-possession performance and since then his travelling the country for football commenced, most recently being in the Northern Territory playing with NTFL Waratah's.

The wider expanses of the WAFL grounds are something Roche is looking forward to taking advantage of although getting used to the Burley footballs might take a bit more time. "It will be a little bit of a step

"It will be a little bit of a step up from what I've played before when I've mainly played just senior country footy," Roche said.

# Midland Guildford female A off to a good start

**JOSHUA MCKENZIE** 

MIDLAND Guildford Cricket Club returned to action in 2024 with the female A grade notching up a 79-run win over Wanneroo in their one-day match.

After struggling early, the side recovered from 4-51 and then 6-116 to post 227 all out thanks to a 70-run partnership between Shay Manolini (50 runs from 98 balls) and Ashlee King (41 from 37).

Manolini was also the standout with the ball to complete an all-round performance as she took three wickets for just 29 runs off her 9.2 overs.

Morgan Pires took 2-7 off 8 overs, while the other five bowlers used took a wicket each in a balanced display in the field to dismiss Wanneroo for a total of 148.

The female B grade faced a more challenging fixture against Rockingham Mandurah.

After dismissing their opponents for 92 inside 28 overs, no batsman passed 20 for Midland Guildford as

the team was bowled out for just 90 after 30 overs and lost by two runs.

The senior male sides faced Bay-swater Morley on Saturday.

The male Ist grade fell short in a top of the table clash, losing by three wickets as batsmen failed to capitalise on opportunities to produce big

In the match for the male 2nd grade, it was a similar story as the side lost regular wickets on the way to being bowled out for 145.

It proved to be a challenging run chase as Bayswater Morley lost seven wickets and took 46.1 overs to reach the target

After a lacklustre start in the male 3rd grade, Haydn Lucas (53 from 72) and Anthony D'Sa (51 from 33) combined to take the team from 5-94 to 203 all out in what would ultimately be just short of what was required; their opponents chased the target down with just two balls to spare.

The male 4th grade enjoyed a comfortable victory, winning by 80 runs in a one-sided contest as they posted 8-232 and dismissed their opponents

for just 152.

Both the male U17 and male U15 also faced Bayswater Morley in a Saturday and Sunday 50-over fixture.

The male U17 enjoyed a comfortable victory as they won by 99 runs thanks in large part to the 144-run partnership shared by Harry Giancono (70 not out from 97) and Vishver Morendage (85 from 93).

This was the main factor in posting 4-252 from their 50 overs before Tom Hayward (3-32 off 10 overs) was the standout bowler in a performance that saw the side dismiss their opponents for 153.

The male U15 witnessed twin centuries from Flynn Howse (106 from 128) and Kobe Fernie (101 not out from 95) as they posted 3-284.

from 95) as they posted 3-284.

A 112-run opening partnership between Howse and Cooper Neill (40 from 68) set the platform, before Howse and Fernie combined a 133-run partnership to guide the innings for their side.

In response, Bayswater Morley could only manage 5-159 as they fell 125 runs short.



# ЕСНО

# **Local Real Estate**

Residential Commercial Rural & Country





# Midland modesty up for grabs

ONLY a 10-minute walk away from Midland Gate shopping centre, this three-bedroom two-bathroom apartment sits right in heart of Midland.

For those looking for a new home, the property contains plenty of natural light despite its southward orientation.

There's plenty of storage space in the kitchen, with a microwave nook freeing up bench space for either dinner, lunch, or breakfast preparations.

The stainless steel oven sits below the four-burn-

The stainless steel oven sits below the four-burner gas stovetop, and a stainless steel dishwasher makes post-dinner clean ups a touch easier.

An open-plan living and dining area provides ample room to entertain, and the second storey balcony gives another entertaining space — with the built in balcony clothesline able to be retracted for more space to relax or host.

Inside the house is kept cool with air conditioning, and each room contains their own mirrored built in robes

The bathroom is tiled, and the laundry is utilitarian with its space – able to fit a washing machine, dryer, sink and cupboards for storage.

A double-car garage provides peace of mind for the automotive enthusiast looking to protect their pride and joy, and also makes parking a breeze for For investors, the property is currently tenanted until February, with the properties strata fees being \$2,601 per annum, council fees costing \$1,900 per annum and water rates coming at \$963.24 per annum

Perth Airport is roughly a 15 minute drive from the property, Perth CBD is roughly a 30 minute drive, while the Swan Valley is right on the properties doorstep – roughly a 10 minute drive away.

Address: 5/62 Sayer Street Midland Price: \$439,000 Agency: Real Estate Plus For more information contact Milton Rendell on 9274 5000



# I Remember When...

Do you remember when the only air-conditioning in your family car was the window being down? Our car was a 1958 VW beetle so there wasn't a lot of air coming in. There was a storage area or something we called our boot behind the back seat that I could squeeze myself into when we had a few mates in the car and no seat belts. Dad's car was black so it was a heat magnet and wasn't the coolest car with only small windows in the front doors. Do you remember the old side windows in a lot of the cars then? Today as we are coming into the hot weather I reflect on those days. This was back in the late sixties and early seventies. When at school there was no air-conditioner maybe a large fan at the front of the class and at home you used to leave the front door open at night to let any breeze you could through. Most homes only had a flimsy old fly wire door not like the secure ones we have today. No local pool just swam in the river and many of us in Guildford used to go over to Bassendean to do our swimming lessons during the school holidays. Also during the holidays when it was hot we did a bit of fishing as well as have a swim to keep cool. Many of us used to run around in bare feet and how our feet survived who knows. It wasn't uncommon for us to throw a blanket out on the back lawn at night and sleep there watching the planes fly over with the sun waking us early in the morning. My Dad was a baker working shift work so I have no idea how he survived in summer. In our house we had no air-conditioning and lived in an old fibro house that consisted of two bedrooms, the front lounge, a kitchen/dining and a sleep-out on the veranda where the bathroom was. Out the back was the wash house/toilet. Our house was a typical late 1940-50's design home. Gee, today as I leave my air-conditioned office and get into my air-conditioned car then drive to my air-conditioned house, I think my Dad would tell me I've got a bit soft in my old age. I reckon when Dad had a cold beer on a hot summer's day it was pretty refreshing.



Milton Rendell - CEO Real Estate Plus Group

# REAL ESTATE Plus

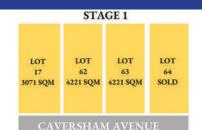
.com.au

**CHIDLOW** 9572 4113

**MIDLAND** 9274 5000 **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** 6146 3333



# **CAVERSHAM**



### St Winnols Estate

- Lot 62 4175 sqm
- Lot 63 4231 sqm
  Lot 17 2996 sqm
- Lot 64 4221 sqm
- More coming soon...

Midland 9274 5000

# **MIDVALE**



### COMING SOON

### 9 Victoria Parade

- 3 Bedroom 1 Bathroom
- Brick & Tile
- **Needs Loving**
- Solar Panels

845 Sqm Block

Anne 0409 004 424

Midland 9274 5000

# WUNDOWIE FROM \$120,000



# **NEW TO MARKET**

**18 Grevillea Street** 

- 819sqm Corner Block
- Water and power services in place
- Edge of town location
- Grass trees and wild flowers
- Bus service, IGA, swimming pool & more Joanna 0409 847 102

Chidlow 9572 4113

# MT HELENA \$1,350,000



# **ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES**

**500 Kingston Road** 

- Large 5 x 2 Brick/Iron Home
- Spacious Living Areas,
- Powered GP Shed, 28 Acre Block
- Dam, Soak, Winter Creek
- Peaceful Lifestyle Awaits

John 0417 933 258 Chidlow 9572 4113

### **OFFERS OVER \$285,000 MORANGUP**



# **ENJOY THE GOOD LIFE**

**121 Red Brook Circle** 

- 2.001 Hectare (4.94 Acre)
- 2kms from Toodyay road
- 10 Mins away from Noble Falls
- Rural Lifestyle
- Fantastic views

Anne 0409 004 424 Midland 9274 500

# **MIDLAND**



# \$439,000

**PRACTICAL** 5/62 Sayer Street

**SPACIOUS &** 

- 3 Bedrooms & 2 Bathrooms Large open-plan living area
- Well Appointed kitchen
- All Bedrooms have mirrored
- Tenanted Until 02/02/2024

Milton 9274 5000 Midland 9274 5000

# **WOOROLOO**

# \$1,250,000



# **OPEN SUNDAY**

### 10.30AM-11.30AM 4525 Werribee Road

- Two Homes on lovely 50 Acres
- Extensive Stabling and Shelters Plenty of Hay and Machinery
- Storage Lots of Feed and Tack Room
- Areas Auto Water Troughs to most Paddocks

Joanna 0409 847 102

Chidlow 9572 4113

# **BAYSWATER** \$7,000 P/W GROSS PER MONTH + GST



### **VERSATILE WAREHOUSE** APPROX. 400SQM

### 210 Collier Road

- Fully fenced property Approx 400sqm floor area
- Available now
- Shared site
- Negotiable Lease Terms

Mike 0403 621 899

Comm & Ind 6146 3333

### **MIDLAND RENT \$29,500 PA + O/G + GST**



## PROFESSIONAL CHARACTER OFFICE - 54SQM

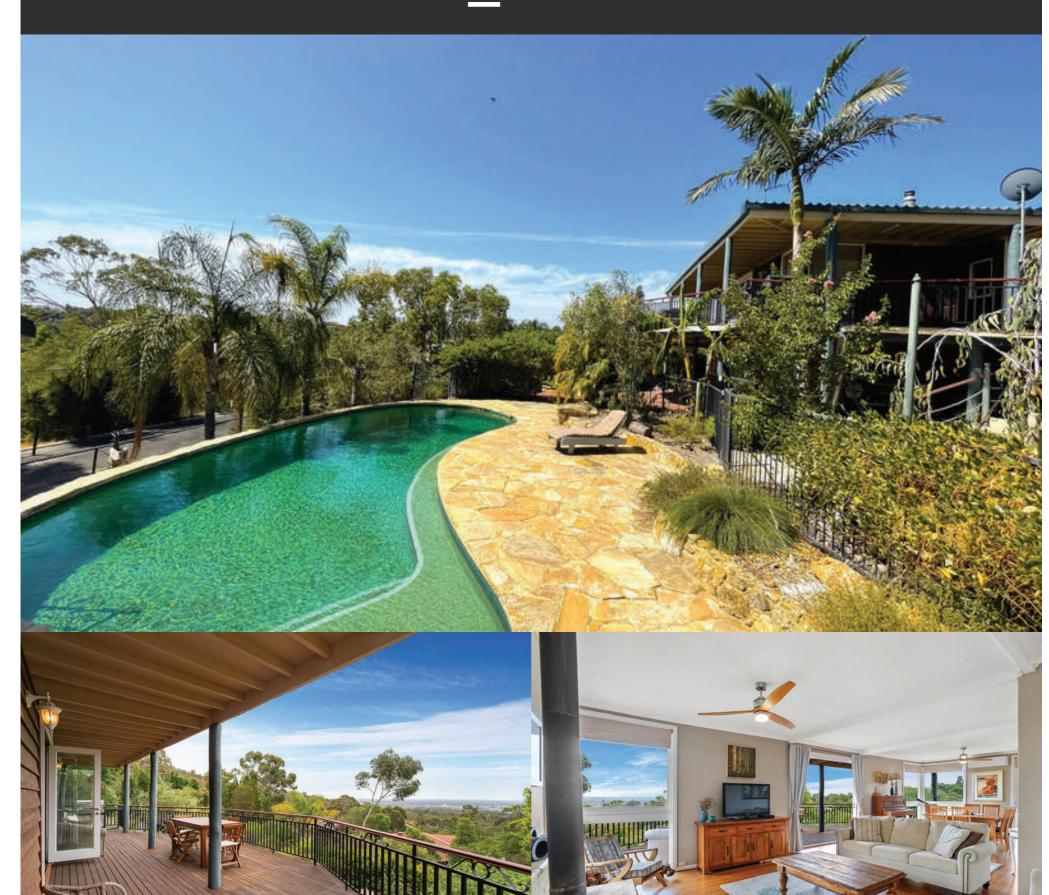
1/42 Victoria Street

- Diagonally opposite bus stations
- Directly opposite Centrepoint Shopping Centre
- Highway Exposure Reverse Cycle air conditioning & Alarm System
- 3 Large Offices

Mike 0403 621 899 Comm & Ind 6146 3333



# THE AGENCY



# **Unique Escarpment Bliss With Panoramic Views**

- Stunning 180 degree panoramic views
- Loads of character and big personality
- Cedar and iron & brick base construction
- Two level design home with separate studio/gym/activity
- Studio has water, power and T.V aerial point
- Stacks of outdoor decked entertaining spaces
- Large lagoon style salt water pool with gazebo
- Original full sized asphalt tennis court & hit up wall
- Large natural earth storage room or ideal cellar
- Various fruit trees and vege patch/chicken coup area



**Patrick Harper** 0413 440 107 patrickh@theagency.com.au

# 5 Lobelia Drive

# **Darlington**











For Sale From \$1.2 mill

Open for Inspection Contact Agent

**SCAN TO VIEW** 



1300 AGENCY

# THE AGENCY



# 5 Acre Lifestyle Bliss With Stunning Home

- Striking & very spacious top quality kitchen
- · Central feature stone 2 way Chazelle fireplace
- Fully ducted reverse cycle air-conditioning
- · High vaulted ceilings through living/dining area
- · Separate equipped media/theatre room or library
- Beautiful rough cut Travertine tiled flooring
- · Palatial sized master bedroom with deluxe ensuite
- · Large timber lined outdoor patio/alfresco entertaining
- · Kids play area adjacent to fire pit and pizza oven
- 5 kw solar panel system 3 phase power to property



Patrick Harper 0413 440 107 patrickh@theagency.com.au 25 Studmaster View

# Bullsbrook

For Sale From \$1.29 mill

Open for Inspection Contact Agent

SCAN TO VIEW



1300 AGENCY

# Community Barefoot Bowls for 2024

Get your team organised now to try their hand at the game of lawn bowls.



Don't have a team?

Come along anyway, we can help.

# **Mundaring Sporting Club**



Competition runs for 4 nights:

Friday 2nd February
Friday 9th February
Friday 16th February
Friday 23rd February 2024



**Registration:** Wednesday 17th January 2024

**Teams:** Teams of 3 players (with a rotating 4th player)

Costs: \$40.00 per team (discount available for families with

children between 10 and 16)

\$10.00 each player per night (green fees, meal and prizes)

\$5.00 each child player aged between 10 and 16

Time: 6.00pm - arrival and practice

6.30pm - meal

7.00pm - commence play

# **Enquiries to Paul Rhodes on 041 867 7053**

Unable to attend registration night? register on line: venusplumbing1@gmail.com

665 Coolgardie Street, Mundaring

We operate a cash and card bar. Our Club does not have wheelchair access.

www.mundaringsportingclub.com.au

A great
evening's
entertainment
and competition can be business,
family or
friends

