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Nominations for Youth Week ambassadors for 2025 are now open. Every year four young leaders from WA are selected to be the voice of WA's youth for Youth Week in April. PG 12









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THE CITY OF KALAMUNDA IN RESPONSE TO WESTCYCLE SAID THAT THE NEW WORKS ON KALAMUNDA ROAD ARE AN INTERIM MEASURE ... BUT A CYCLING LANE REMAINS A LONG WAY OFF.

# ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say: editorial@echo-news.com

#### **Parking** pain continues

Dear Echo News.

To read "disappointing to hear that the local community considers changes to design as being dishonest" highlights how the lived experiences perspective of planning challenges those of bureaucrats who have said one thing and done another.

Centre

At the very first consultation we were shown designs and were told, not consulted. All plans had plenty of parking, the fact that the road layout has changed with the number of northbound lanes, the continued rule breaking by drivers crossing from east to west, no road signage to stop illegal traffic regulations especially parking in Cale, and the constant dialogue of concerns being thrown around from MJA to CoS, do upset us.

Computer aided design and modelling has failed our personal experiences.

If there are ongoing issues and changes, then how does that look when we have had to trust that the foundation and the assumptions made by the Alliance and presented to us are solid and factual.

shown on the plan then it would have been costed. The same with rehabilitation of footpaths and verges.

This feels like a David and Goliath situation whereby Goliath can change the rules, say how benevolent he is, and yet brush aside the rising disappointment from those being trodden on.

We stand as squashed between the bureaucracies but still able to give voice to those we represent, our neighbours fellow citizens, ratepayers all! Thanks again Kevin, Sarah et al. Dr. B Steels Midland

#### **Dutton's** fossil con

Dear Echo News,

Peter Dutton has now confirmed what most of us already knew, or at least suspected.

His Coalition is intent on allowing oil, gas and coal more time to pol-lute, and he's supporting - and being supported by - the Fossil Fuel Lobby. It's a con.

The big oil, gas and coal producers desperately want to keep making their profits at our expense and Mr Dutton is assisting them by firstly pushing the unworkable and water-muddying 'nuclear option'.

He then abandoned the 2030 Carbon Reduction targets as 'un-realistic'. This is, even by his standards, a cynical, but thankfully transparent attempt to con the Australian people.

If he fails to get elected, and loses his leadership role, will he then join one of the fossil fuel producer's boards, like so many others before him? Watch that space.

P Carman Hovea

#### **Midland** target for firearm thieves

Dear Echo News,

In response to the story on Firearms ownership Midland police district tops registered firearm ownership (Echo News, June 7). I say to Paul Papalia: in your efforts to so called "remove firearms from the community to create safer communities," you now go and advertise to the public, the locations

#### Thought for the day

"Someday is not a day of the week."

- Janet Dailey

crime related purposes,

arms and other meth-

Well done! You have now just gone and advertised to the low life thieves and organised organisations crime which areas and suburbs they can now target to potentially acquire firearms to sup-

where there are higher

rates of firearms own-

port their illegal indus-

If you are serious about public safety, spend your time, resources, and the buyback money on increasing your intelligence and monitoring of unlicensed and illegal firearms use and trade, rather than making legitimate licensed firearms owners the target yet again. Now we have the government and the criminal elements of society targeting legitimate firearms owners.

This release of sensitive information shows a blatant disregard for "public safety". I hope that in future correspondence refrain from releasing sensitive, potentially harmful data. This release of sensitive data may potentially cause an increase in firearms theft from licensed firearms owners - but that will only add to your agenda to remove them from society.

Your focus should be on recruiting more police, fixing the ever-increasing domestic violence issues, public nuisance and road safety - unlicensed children and teenagers riding motorbikes on the streets and the recreational walking trails in the hills, which are all more of a risk to the public than firearms.

You should revisit and educate yourself on the statistics of licensed firearms being used for

versus unlicensed fireods (knives, vehicles, hands and feet).

Forget your politi-cal agenda and quote facts rather than trying to gain votes using "public safety" as your agenda. Mental health checks for driver's licenses and revoking the vehicles and licenses for reckless and dangerous drivers makes more sense, will save lives, and will increase 'public safety'

Well done Papalia on your disregard for "public safety". You can certainly remove that from your next election agenda prom-

Name and Address Withheld

#### Walker St needs a footpath

Dear Echo News.

The 'walk safely to school – National Road Safety Week' message was highly visible on the large neon sign on Great Eastern Highway in May.

Many people took part in this worthwhile activity, enjoying the safe walk to school.

However, Mundaring Christian College is yet to have a proper footpath to their school on Walker Street to enable a safe walk to school.

This is despite the dangerous amount of traffic on this route, particularly at drop off and pick up times for students at Mundaring Christian College and also Mundaring Primary School. Walker Street is the main access road for these two Primary schools.

This safety issue has

been raised by myself three times in the last five years. Furthermore, I understand the school was given a commitment more than 10 years ago to address this serious problem.

The current pebble path is simply not adequate. Pedestrians, residents with prams, gophers and bicycles will continue to put their lives at risk whilst commuting along Walker Street.

#### J Ripley Mundaring

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.

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# Council endorses 'imperfect' Leschenaultia fire risk report

**GUANHAO CHENG** 

SHIRE of Mundaring has endorsed the actions in a Lake Leschenaultia bushfire risk report despite opposing deputations and the divided opinions of the bush fire advisory committee.

The council majority voted for the endorsement at the June 11 ordinary council meeting, with deputy shire President Trish Cook and councillor Prapti Mehta voting against the motion.

Chidlow volunteer bushfire management team captain Catriona McCarthy made a deputation to council against the motion to endorse the report.

'I'm representing the collective voices of the Chidlow volunteer bushfire management team and speaking in opposition of the Lake Leschenaultia report, and appeal for you not to endorse the implementation of the nine actions within the report," she

"Our main concerns surrounding the nine recommendations is that they focus heavily on fuel reduction as the main mitigation strategy.

"As councillors, are you prepared to sign off a single focused report and make decisions to approve a flawed strategy that will potentially impact thousands of lives, not only of those attending the lake, but the residents of Chidlow that stem off Rosedale Road and only have one route to es-

The item was contested at the bush fire advisory meeting, being carried nine to seven, with the two attendant deputy chief bush fire control officers showing a difference in judgement.

Ms McCarthy was also present at the committee representing the Chidlow bri-

In November 2023, the shire began limiting public access to Lake Leschenaultia when the fire danger was deemed 'extreme' or 'catastrophic', as reported in Lake Leschenaultia to close during extreme weather (Echo News, November 10).

These pre-emptive closures were made in the interests of community safety.

The report recognised community members who enjoyed Lake Leschenaultia's amenities had not received the pre-emptive closures well and saw the closures as being overly cautious.

This matter came to council in December, as reported in Lake Leschenaultia closure guidelines (Echo News, January 12), and councillors decided the shire needed a more flexible approach when the regional danger ratings did not reflect local condi-

Due to this, consultant agency Executive Risk Solutions was tasked by council to arrange a bushfire risk report.

The report aimed to find if the current fire danger rating system used was overly cautious, and whether Lake Leschenaultia could safely remain open despite generalised regional ratings advising otherwise.

To this end, the report outlined nine actions aiming to guide council decision making, update the Lake Leschenaultia emergency response plan from last year, add safety options, and ultimately limit future closures.

At the June 11 meeting, concerns were raised about how viable the mitigation strategies were, given the focus on fuel load (the amount of flammable material in a given area), and the controlled burning that would be needed to manage it.

Cr Cook said she was concerned about



the report and foreshadowed an alternative motion to note the motion and not endorse if it didn't get through.

"I think you're right; I think it's not perfect, and I think it kind of needs to be," she

"It doesn't sit well with me that the local Chidlow bushfire brigade doesn't feel comfortable with it and they're the main people that know that area the best and they have the best local knowledge.

"I don't want to ruin the lake as well; it's a beautiful environmental place and I don't necessarily know if that will bring the balance and the environmental part of that hasn't been addressed in the officer's

Councillor Doug Jeans said that in summary, even though he sympathised with Chidlow brigade's concerns, the report was simply a first step in a process to localise data from the Bureau of Meteorology to better inform the closures of the lake.

"If the fire risks aren't managed well, (Chidlow bushfire brigade are) the frontline," he said.

"But I don't believe that will ever happen because we don't put our own fire people

This is the first stage of getting a better understanding of how we can manage that site for the community."

# **Gerry Hanssen tackles bureaucracy**

**MIKE PEETERS** 

TAKING the stage directly after Kevin Bartholomew's hard-hitting presentation, construction boss and Swan Chamber of Commerce vice president Gerry Hanssen also gave his take on bureaucracy at last week's Hour of Power.

The executive director of Hanssen Construction admitted that dealing with bureaucrats was something he had plenty of experience with over the years, and it was not always pleasant or easy.

In fact, his opening statement was, "At 60, I was just out of nappies figuring out how this game

He said he could recall plenty of building projects that had stalled or been subject to long delays because of factors such as planning approval, building permits and the like.

"However, I found that as long as I did my fact-finding and compliance, things always worked out in the end," he said.

Mr Hanssen said one of the secrets to tackling bureaucracy was learning how to handle personal confrontation; something he hoped he had perfected after so many years in the industry.

He went on to outline several humorous exam-

ples on how to deal with bureaucracy without 'losing your cool'.

"Bureaucracy often hides behind regulations and trying to please the people in power is not the answer," he said.

"Since I became more heavily involved with the Swan Chamber of Commerce

about six years ago, I have always done my best to try and change

the culture and make people more aware of the dangers of bureaucracy.

"I believe the bureaucrats are actually there to serve us, not the other way round, so we need to challenge them, even if we are feeling burnt out or

"Of course, my being a 'super optimist' helps and I would encourage everyone who struggles with bureaucracy to try to keep going and never give up."



Gerry Hanssen.

# **Swan CEO responds to Hour of Power**

**GUANHAO CHENG** 

CITY of Swan chief executive officer Stephen Cain has responded to questions about complaints regarding the disruption to question time during last week's Hour of Power.

Mr Cain attended the event discussing dealing with bureaucracy and addressed the points made by the speaker Kevin Bartholomew during his question time slot, as reported in Bartholomew's bureaucracy battle (Echo News, June 14).

Mr Bartholomew said he was displeased with what he saw was an intrusion on a moment reserved for the concerns of his business to be heard and understood by the community.

'As the owner of the Commercial Bar and Kitchen, I was invited to share my experiences on 'Dealing with Bureaucracy', particularly focusing on the significant challenges we have faced due to the New Midland Station construction project," he said.

'Despite my repeated requests for him to be seated and ask his questions from the audience, Mr. Cain continued to leaving no opportunity for meaningful discus-

"I believe that the role of the chief ex-ecutive of the local council should be to support and facilitate dialogue with small businesses, not to shut it down.' Bartholomew Mr



Swan chief executive Stephen Cain. said he had contacted

the mayor three times in the past week to address Mr Cain's conduct at the event and was waiting on a response.

ly dismayed by Mr Cain's behaviour," he said.

'Several business owners approached me afterward cont page 18.

"Other attendees at the Hour of Power were equal-



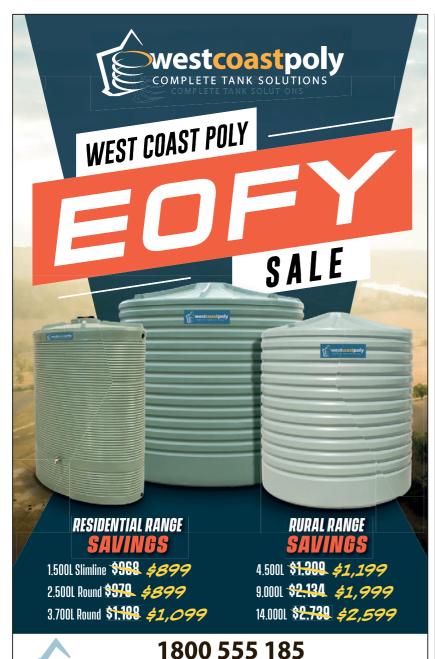
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The finalists for the Swan Chamber of Commerce/City of Swan Business Awards have been announced! A record number of entries across a broad range of categories, the Judging Panel were impressed with the calibre of the nominations and are excited to announce the following successful businesses, organisations and individuals as finalists for the Awards.

Finalists will wait with bated breath for the winners to be revealed at the Swan Chamber/City of Swan Business Awards 2024 held at the prestigious Sandalford Wines, Estate Room on Saturday 6th July. Tickets are selling fast so be sure to secure yours soon by heading to the Swan Chamber of Commerce website.

#### BUSINESS/ORGANISATION/INDIVIDUAL FINALISTS

Alix Miller	Indigo Junction
Amaroo Retreat & Spa	Jack O'Keeffe
AmberChes Spirits	Johnson Property Corp
Andrea Southam	Karting 2 Live Ltd
Armed for Life	Malaga Print & Signs
Augustin Facchini	Matthew Burton
Bendigo Community Bank Mundaring	Onisimo (Junior) Tagicakibau
Commercial Bar and Kitchen	Pinelli Estate Winery Restaurant
Connor Keane	Quest Apartments
Copper and Oak	ROAR Inc.
Crosslinks Disability Support Services	Seth Good
Echo News	Sin Gin Distillery
Eco Fashion Week Australia	Sister Project
Ellenbrook Arts	Swan City Youth Service Inc
Ellenbrook Community Collective Inc	Swan Settlers Markets
Envisage WA	Swan Suburbs Rugby Club
Fallon Payne	Tenjune Hair Studio
Gemma Ben Ary	The Ellenbrook Mile (WA) Inc
GP Superclinic @ Midland Workshops	The Henley Brook
Graham Cox	The House of Honey & The Sticky
Green Embassy	Spoon Cafe
Gretta O'Connor	Train & Retain
Guildford Heritage Festival	Webequip Pty Ltd T/as MACS4U
Council Inc.	Westralia Car Care
Haulmore Trailer Sales Pty Ltd	Wild West Wheelchairs
Hills Symphony Orchestra	Zac Johnson
Illawarra Medical Centre	Zero Rentals







Woodbridge recycling afternoons get everyone involved.

# Primary schools get waste wise

**JACKI ELEZOVICH** 

PRIMARY schools in the City of Swan are among those who have received a WasteSorted Schools grant from the State Government to help fund waste-smart initiatives.

These can include waste-conscious plans like worm farms, chicken coops, and vegetable gardens.

Woodbridge Primary School and Caversham Primary school both received more than \$3000 through the grant.

Woodbridge teacher and spokesperson Hayley Berry said the grant funded the implementation of a new colour-coded bin system and allowed students to learn more about the importance of recycling.

"We plan to use the money for new colour coded bins for all classrooms and eating areas around the school. WasteSorted Schools suggested that using a colour code for our bin system that reflects what is already used in our local community is the best way to encourage students and staff to put their rubbish in the correct bins, and not contaminate recycling," she said.

Woodbridge will introduce three colour-coded bins for food scraps, general rubbish, paper waste, and Containers for Change.

"With this funding, we will also be able to introduce a team of Year 4 and 5 students called the 'waste wise warriors.' This team will support our school in effectively implementing our new bin system, 'waste wise Wednesdays', and composting to reduce waste and minimise our overall carbon footprint," she said.

Caversham Deputy Principal Eliza Outred said their school would use the funding to start a paper and cardboard waste initiative with a similar student-driven approach.

"The grant will allow us to build upon our current sustainability journey and meet goals in our team plan. In 2023, we established a student leadership 'Cavy green team' to facilitate waste mini-

misation practices and promotion and this funding will allow us to expand upon their current operations," she said.

Ms Outred said Caversham students have been nothing but enthusiastic about getting involved with waste wise initiatives around the school.

"Our 'green team' is reinvigorated each semester, as there is so much interest in being involved. Our successful and enthusiastic student team is proof kids do care about the environment and are eager to be involved."

Ms Berry said the idea of applying for a Waste-Sorted Schools grant came from finding out how much waste the school is producing currently, and seeing the need for change.

"Change begins with learning, and what better time to instil positive sustainability habits in the future leaders of our country than in primary school? Teaching these values early helps ensure a more sustainable future for all," she said.

"We would highly recommend other schools applying for this grant."

The WasteSorted Schools grant program saw more than \$113,000 in funding distributed to schools across WA in the first round of funding. Schools are eligible to receive up to \$5500 through two rounds of grants per year.

State environment minister Reece Whitby said it's important to recognise the role schools play in educating and inspiring kids to reuse, reduce and recycle.

"This is a fantastic program that helps schools build infrastructure and implement initiatives that can avoid and recover waste while reducing costs," he said.

The second round of the program has recently opened for applications, and forms can be found at https://www.wasteauthor ity.wa.gov.au/programs/view/wastesorted-schools-grants.

Schools are encouraged to send applications until August 6.

# Pancho the first of his kind in Oz

**GUANHAO CHENG** 

GOOSEBERRY Hill has recently become home to a grand champion dog who is also the first ever intermediate sized coated version of its breed in Australia

Pancho is a coated Xoloitzcuintle, formerly known as a Mexican hairless but they come in two coat types.

Pancho's owner and retired nurse Annette Price said he was an Australian first and claiming his title as an Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC) grand champion in the open category was no small feat.

"The breed is predominantly hairless, and usually when a coated goes against a hairless, the hairless wins," she said.

"It's really difficult for a coated to go anywhere against a hairless, so this is a significant victory in the showring."

Ms Price had never competed in dog shows prior to Pancho's showing and had found him through his brother online.

"We actually first saw Pancho's brother and he just came up on Facebook," she said.

"We thought, 'Wow, what a unique breed'. So, we contacted the breeders.

"They screen you to see if you're a suitable owner. We had a look at him, and she thought about it, and we ended up with his brother and mother, who



is from Mexico."

Ms Price said Pancho's mother was the foundation dog for all miniature xolos in Australia.

"Pancho was meant to be a mini, but he grew a bit too big," she said.

"His mummy and brother are hairless, but he has a coat, so we named him Pancho."

Ms Price said Pancho is now happily resting at home after claiming his ANKC grand champion title but might enter into the showring once again as a neuter, in a few months, after it's been decided whether Pancho will have puppies or not.

# 'Perth Film Studios' is named for screen production facility

WA's new multi-million-dollar screen production facility, currently under construction, has hit another key milestone with the signing of an operations agreement underpinned by funding from the state government.

Now formally named as 'Perth Film Studios', the new facility will be operated by Perth-based company Home Fire. The agreement covers a pre-operational period and the first 10 years of operation, with the option available to the state to renew for a further three 10-year periods.

The government has already committed \$233.5 million to the construction and delivery of Perth Film Studios on a 16-hectare site on Marshall Road, near the new Malaga Metronet station. The facility will be open for productions from early 2026

Additional funding of \$57 has been approved by government to underpin the operations and facilities management of Perth Film Studios over the initial term and is repayable to the state from business operations. The new facility is expected to generate a variety of direct and indirect jobs and significant economic return over the long-term.

The facility is a crucial part of the state government's longer term 'screen industry strategy' to develop and grow the local production industry over the next 10 years, by establishing WA as a major international and national film and television production destination.

The Arts and Culture Trust will be the owner of Perth Film Studios on behalf of the state government and upon completion of the build, it will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the operations agreement with Home Fire.

The agreement finalises a rigorous threeyear, staged process under the government's market-led proposals policy to deliver an election commitment to diversify the state's economy and develop a globally competitive screen industry in WA

Market-led proposals enable the state government and the private sector to work together to create jobs and stimulate WA's economy

through development proposals.
Culture and the Arts Minister David Templeman said supporting WA's film, television and digital media industry is a critical part of the state government's commitment to diversify the economy and create highly skilled job opportunities, particularly in an area that needs to both train and retain local talent.

"Our state has an abundance of magnificent scenic locations, ideal for a diverse range of filmmaking genres, and is already home to an extremely talented, world-class creative sec-

tor.
"Along with the roadmap for the future outlined in our WA screen industry strategy, Perth Film Studios will put us in a strong position to attract high-quality national and international film and television projects to our

state.
"The outcome demonstrates the innovation and creativity that can be achieved by working with the private sector to harness the expertise of relevant industries," he said.



Artist render of the new Perth Film Studios.



A teenage boy and his mother sit together, reflecting on the family-centred approach of Ruby's, Western Australia's new program to prevent youth homelessness.

# **New diversion program helps** combat youth homelessness

PARKERVILLE Children and Youth Care will launch Ruby's, an innovative two and a half year pilot program dedicated to curbing youth homelessness in Perth, on July 1.

Designed to empower at-risk youth aged 12 to 17 and their families, Ruby's aims to prevent homelessness by fostering family stability and providing essential support to address the heightened risk of adult homelessness for individuals who experienced it in childhood.

By prioritising family reunification and stability, the program focuses on restoring the family unit, enhancing communication, and promoting cooperation among family members, and through customised support tailored to each family's needs, Ruby's aims to mitigate the long-term effects of homelessness on young people.

The initiative is supported by a joint funding partnership between the Department of Communities and the Sisters of St John of God, underscoring a shared commitment to addressing youth homelessness and investing in the well-being of vulnerable community members.

"We are thrilled to launch Ruby's in partnership with the Department of Communities and the Sisters of St John of God, Parkerville Children and Youth Care chief executive officer Kim Brooklyn said.

This initiative represents a significant step forward in our collective efforts to prevent youth homelessness and support families in need.

An evaluation component will be implemented over the first two years to measure the program's impact and effectiveness in transforming the lives of young people and their families.

We believe that every young person deserves a safe and stable home environment," Ms Brooklyn said.

"Through Ruby's, we are committed to working closely with young people and their families to address the root causes of homelessness and create lasting solutions.

Ruby's will be offering safe accommodation for up to six young people per night, while working with the whole family to address the areas that are preventing the young person from living at home on a fulltime basis.

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# York and Midland finalists in police excellence

**GUANHAO CHENG** 

YORK and Midland officers have been recognised for their outstanding performance in the force this year with a York officer awarded for operational achievement.

Ten teams and eight individuals received Recognition of Excellence Awards at the June 13 morning breakfast event held at Perth Zoo's The Maali venue.

Among them was Sergeant Andrew Galbraith from York who won the operational achievement award for individual finalists.

Mr Galbraith was given the award for his commitment to his community, highlighted during his response to a family violence incident in York in March.

While off-duty, he was alerted to an urgent task in his community and recalled two police officers to attend

Mr Galbraith then went to investigate the incident area in his personal vehicle, and to determine if more officers would be required.

He had to intervene in the incident, off-duty, and detained an aggressive perpetrator with help from public members until on-duty officers arrived

During this incident Mr Galbraith put himself in harm's way and was assaulted.

Mr Galbraith's actions were deemed to highlight his commitment to protecting vulnerable community members from harm and were judged an example of the duty and care values of WA Police Force being applied on the frontline.

Constable Aaron Mitchell-Gow was nominated as a finalist for his work as a York officer, recognising his performance beyond his rank in disrupting methylamphetamine distribution in his community.

Midland Detectives were nominated as finalists for both the available team categories this year.

In community recognition, Midland Detectives located an abducted 15-month-old child, about 40km away, after deploying interview staff to gather information quickly and effectively.

In operational achievement, Midland detectives' involvement in resolving serious crimes in their incident with professionalism was recognised and highlighted by their two recent investigations.

The first involved recovering eight stolen vehicles from an outlaw motorcycle gang in October, and charging the perpetrators, and the second was the seizure of illegal firearms stolen during a burglary in the final two months of 2023.



Sergeant Andrew Galbraith's service to his community was recognised after intervening in a domestic violence case while off-duty.



# Midland officer awarded Australian Police Medal

SENIOR Constable Bevan O'Donnell has been awarded the Australian Police Medal in the King's Birthday Honours List.

Mr O'Donnell has served the Western Australia Police Force for almost 20 years, and began as an Aboriginal Police Liaison Officer (APLO) before transferring to become a police officer in 2007.

A WA Police spokesperson said SC O'Donnell was actively involved with the Moorditi Maaman (*Strong Men*) Group in Midland, which was established to support local Aboriginal men who were struggling in many facets of their life.

"SC O'Donnell often goes above and beyond his re-

Senior Constable Bevan O'Donnell.

mit as a police officer, liaising with various agencies to help identify and support elderly Indigenous people who do not have the ability to leave home or access local services," they said.

"His efforts ensure those vulnerable members of the community are kept safe."

They said SC O'Donnell had a wonderful ability to work across the cultural divide, providing a compassionate policing service to vulnerable members of our community.

In 1987, along with his three brothers, he helped establish the Walley Bates Memorial Boxing Club in Midland.

The club helps teach young men and women the disciplines of boxing, and many of the youths attending have since become leaders amongst their peers.



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# Variety grant helps Ballajura students

**JACKI ELEZOVICH** 

**BALLAJURA Community College has received** an EduKids grant from Variety WA to help with back-to-school equipment costs for its students.

Head of student services Ray Roberts said the grant allowed the college to help its most vulnerable students more effectively, putting money where it matters most.

He said teachers were often adept at picking out which of their students needed a little extra help, an essential step in figuring out how to direct EduKids funding within the school.

The grant has funded canteen vouchers, uniforms, school bags and equipment for the college's 'breakfast club', helping underprivileged students start the school year and each school day with full bellies, good mindsets, and all the right equipment.

"Times are tough for families across WA at the moment so being able to access and distribute items via a grant like EduKids helps us tackle some of the effects of disadvantage that we are picking up," Mr Roberts said

Variety WA chief executive officer Chris Chatterton said EduKids grants were designed to provide practical support for WA kids to allow them to purchase necessary back-to-school equipment with funds distributed through their school.

State schools can apply for up to \$2500 in grant funding, with the requirement to help at least 10 students with costs associated with heading back to school.

The grant program has been running since 2020, and Mr Chatterton said it has reached some of WA's most disadvantaged kids and helped set them on the path for success at school by providing access to basic back-to-school needs.

This year, Variety WA received a 'global innova-

tion award' for the EduKids program, recognised out of 39 Variety branches around the world.

Mr Chatterton said the award would help the program expand even further, and push the organisation towards their goal of offering an EduKids grant to every public school in the state, which would cost an estimated \$1.3 million.

"In 2023, Variety WA supported 100 government primary schools and 60 government high schools or one fifth of public schools across the state through EduKids grants," he said.

"We worked together with schools to deliver the program which ensures vulnerable children receive

"In WA one in six children are experiencing disadvantage in some form and education is a key factor in helping to break people out of disadvantage. It's a complex issue that needs ongoing support.

Ballaiura students and staff celebrate their grant with Variety WA.





group routines since she was three years old, and said she loves expressing herself through dancing.

"I love leaping and flying," she said.

Her mother Amy Jordan said she loves seeing her daughter involved in the sport and seeing Eliza's pride in achieving after putting in months of hard work.

The DMIA competitions took over the Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre last weekend with competition categories running over the full two days.

A wide variety of disciplines were showcased throughout the competition weekend, competed by a range of age groups from preschool kids to adults.

DMIA is a WA-based organisation working to promote dance in all disciplines across the state and keep kids involved in social sports such as dancing.

The Showtime competition is the biggest competition of the year for DMIA's theatrical dance sector, and dance teams came to Kalamunda from all over Perth and WA to compete in team, partnered and solo events.

Ms Jordan said the competition was full of supporters and family cheering on their young dancers.

Eliza competed in five disciplines, in both group and solo performances, including acrobatics, jazz and hip hop.

Ms Jordan said Eliza took up extra individual lessons before competitions for some additional coaching and spent all her spare after-school hours practicing her multiple dance routines at home.

Eliza was excited to win second place in her jazz solo performance, distinguishing her hard work and dedication to her art.





#### **Shire President's Message**

Hello everyone,

Our shire boasts many attractions including beautiful Lake Leschenaultia, our 'Jewel in the Crown'. The past two summers have seen the Lake closed more frequently due to changes in the Australian Fire Danger Ratings, even on days that didn't always match our local conditions.

Council listened to our community's concerns. We commissioned a bushfire risk assessment resulting in nine recommendations, which we're implementing to keep the Lake accessible and safe for our community and visitors when conditions allow. Our priority is the community's safety and well-being, while ensuring everyone can enjoy the Lake this summer.

July's introduction of FOGO will encourage us to reduce landfill waste. Similar to the plastic bag ban, the fortnightly general waste collection requires changes in our waste behaviour. Landfill sites are a source of air and water pollution so reducing the amount of waste we send to landfill will help achieve a more sustainable future. If you have questions about the changes, please call the Shire on (08) 9290 6666 (option 1).

The anticipated redistribution of Federal boundaries will see Shire of Mundaring in a new seat named in recognition of Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel and her dedication to honouring victims of war crimes and her service to nursing and the community. I'll be travelling to Canberra in July to attend the National General Assembly and to speak with Federal Ministers on behalf of our community.

Our recent Telecommunication Community Forums identified potential solutions to improve reliability in the Perth Hills, and I'll be presenting our case to Ministers to gain support for further investment to improve our connectivity.

With the electorate of 'Bullwinkel' pegged as a marginal and crucial Federal seat, I'm excited to seek funding for our Mundaring Townsite and new Cultural Hub, plus upgrades to our sporting pavilions and changerooms to support the growing

participation in junior and senior sport across our talented Shire.

Paige McNeil **Shire President** 



#### **Handy Links**



Register for eRates its quick, easy and helps our environment. mundaring.wa.gov.au/council/

register-for-erates

Not sure when your general waste bin or recycling bin will be collected? Do you want to check when the next verge collection is for your area?



Visit my.mundaring.wa.gov.au/ BinLocationInfo/Details and enter your address to check.

Did you know your usual bin days will not be changing. From 1 July, you will also be able to check when your FOGO bin is collected using this link.

#### JP Signing Service

A JP signing service is available from:

#### **Mundaring Library**

Thursdays from 1pm to 2.30pm and Fridays from 10am to 12pm

#### **Boya Library**

Tuesdays from 5.30pm to 6.45pm

Please call Mundaring Library (08) 9290 6780 or Boya Library (08) 9290 6755 for further information and to check availability.

#### 1 July Ordinary **Council Meeting**

The meeting will be held on Tuesday **9 July** at 6.30pm at the Shire



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

#### 2 FREE Hearing **Checks**

Boya Library Friday 26 June 9.30am to 2pm

Call (08) 9290 6755 to book.

# 3 Your Farewell Wishes with Julie

#### Carlton

#### **Thursday 18 July**

10am to 12pm, Boya Community Centre

Reflect on what matters most to you, and make sure your loved ones understand your wishes. Spots are limited and booking is essential via 180724b.eventbrite.com.au

#### What's On



Boya Library Thursday 25 July 10am to 12pm

Midvale Hub Parenting Centre present this FREE workshop to help parents of children aged three to 10 understand and support emotions in themselves and their children. This is not a suitable event for children (parents may bring babies under five months).

Bookings essential via 250724b.eventbrite. com.au

#### 5 Parenting Toddlers (18 months to three years)

Midvale Hub Parenting Service present this FREE workshop for parents and

caregivers to support their toddlers. Topics include early brain development, promoting cooperation and supporting tantrums and social and emotional development.

#### Thursday 1,8 and 15 August

Parkerville Baptist Church, 910 Seaborne Street, Parkerville

Registration essential via: events.humanitix.com/parenting-toddlersparkerville-3bv2jeds



7000 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring WA 6073 





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# Gaming authorities raid an illegal Wangara high-stakes poker venue

GAMING authorities and the WA Police Force have carried out a raid on a suspected illegal gaming house, shutting down a high-stakes poker event at an industrial premises in Wangara.

On April 18 authorised officers from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) executed a search warrant under the authority of the Gaming and Wagering Commission of WA (GWC), as part of the state government's battle against illegal gambling activity in the community. The raid also involved WA Police who provided support.

The GWC has since revoked the 'gaming operator certificate' of the event organiser as well as the two professional card dealers who were allegedly taking part.

This certificate allowed them to act as authorised card and dice dealers, cashiers, and supervisors at permitted gaming functions.

Also, the organiser's company has had its 'gaming equipment suppliers certificate' revoked which allowed for gaming equipment and dealer services to be supplied for these functions. Eight players who attended the event have also been issued with infringement notices.

A professional-grade poker table, casino-style gaming chips and other instruments of gaming were seized in the raid, along with \$2,800 in cash.

However, chips worth \$13,000 were allegedly being wagered on the night. Police and Racing and Gaming Minister Paul Papalia and WA's new GWC Chair Gary Dreibergs are warning industry participants to comply with the strict conditions of approved permits and certificates, and not to use them to conduct underground unlawful gaming operations for personal gain.

Gaming function permits are made avail-

able to not-for-profit community groups, charities, sporting clubs and other bodies seeking to run gaming-style fundraising activities, and a financial return statement must be lodged with the DLGSC following the function.

This latest bust was the third carried out in the past 12 months. In April 2023, an unlawful baccarat game was shut down at an alleged common gaming house operating from a Mt Lawley business premises.

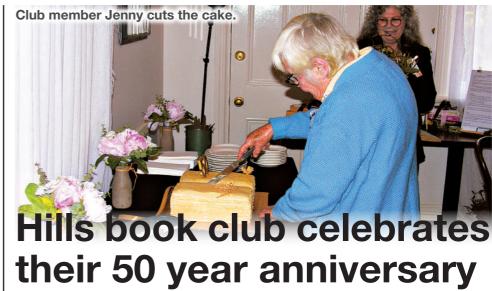
Three professional dealers had their casino employee licences cancelled and subsequently lost their jobs. One of the four alleged organisers, a 35-year-old man, was charged with the unlawful possession of money by WA Police and was given a 12-month suspended jail sentence.

The court ordered that \$104,000 of his money which was seized in the raid be forfeited to the State. A second search warrant was executed in December 2023 at a Cloverdale home where 16 people were present at the alleged common gaming house.

A total of more than \$190,000 in cash has now been seized in all three raids.

Police and Racing and Gaming Minister Paul Papalia said the government was committed to stamping out unlawful gaming in the community and these multi-agency enforcement actions will ensure compliance with gaming and wagering laws.





THE Warriapendi Bookclub, a local hills group, celebrated its 50th Anniversary on Saturday, June 8 with a luncheon and a special guest speaker at the Parkerville Tayern

The book club was formed in 1974 and is believed to be one of the longest continuously running book clubs in WA.

They maintain a membership of 11 and meet monthly in members' homes to discuss the book chosen by each member in turn.

The club has seen stable membership with one of their current members being involved for over 40 years, and several others for over 30 years.

Detailed records have been kept so most

Detailed records have been kept so most of the previous members were able to be contacted and invited to attend the function along with current members.

Altogether, 30 people were present for the function, including two original members.

The original constitution and records were on display, along with their recent updates.

Each of those attending was presented with a name tag which included the year they had joined, and a booklet listing all the books the club has read over its 50 years, totalling 508 books over the span of its existence.

Former ABC presenter Gillian O'Shaunessy was guest speaker at the anniversary

event and talked about her lifelong love of literature and the importance of books and reading.

She is also the host of Reading Between the Wines Facebook group, celebrating a passion for the written word.

After a light lunch and the cutting of the celebratory 50th Anniversary cake, members continued to enjoy renewing acquaintances from earlier years of the book club and reminiscing with old friends.



Guest speaker Gillian O'Shaunessy talking with club member Norriel.

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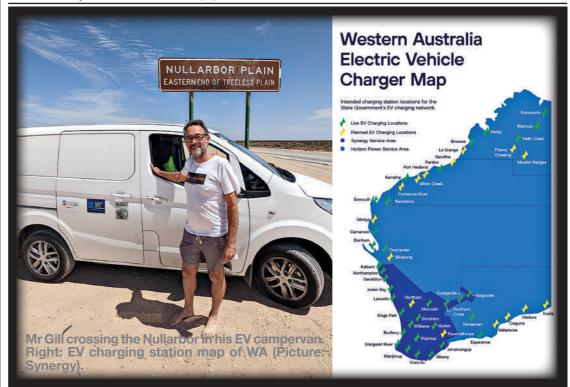




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# **Electric vehicles charging** ahead in Bassendean



Mr Gill using a WAEV charger on a more recent trip. Right: Some NRMA charging stations on the journey across.

#### **MIKE PEETERS**

BASSENDEAN environmentalist Steve Gill has owned a Chinese-made electric vehicle (EV) BYD T3 for the past couple of years and is not surprised at the current revolution that is sweeping Australia.

Chinese-made and designed EVs have been in the news recently for their affordability and popularity, and for good reason as according to news reports they are currently outselling traditional EV rival Tesla.

"I have spent much of the past few years trying to draw people's attention to climate change, and the insidious effect that burning fossil fuels is having on the planet," said Mr

He said he is more than happy with the reliability and comfort of the van since driving it over from Sydney two years ago.

"I drove it back to WA using only the roadside electric charging units to recharge the van, plus powered sites in caravan parks across the Nullarbor.

'The journey took me 12 days and while the van might get close to the 300km per charge around town, I didn't get nearly that on a long trip," he said.

Fortunately, with the electric chargers located at convenient intervals, Mr Gill had no trouble recharging the van as he drove across the continent and completed the trip as planned, with zero vehicle emissions.

Throughout 2023 he worked around Perth as a courier, proving that the little electric van was up to the task, albeit occasionally needing a top up over lunch on a busy day to make sure there was enough range to get all the deliveries done.

"I love that Australian National Couriers (ANC) in Redcliffe gave me the chance to do the work and at the same time help reduce their carbon footprint - they understand the need to decarbonise and are making good progress on that front."

Earlier this year, Mr Gill enjoyed a successful trip down south, charging his EV at the new EV charger in Bunbury, before heading to Nannup where he charged the van to 100 percent overnight from the caravan park's electric powered site.

He is planning a trip from Perth to northeast NSW later this year and expects it to be considerably quicker than his first interstate trip, thanks to the continued development of new fast charging options between Perth and Adelaide.

He added that if he could do anything to help speed up the transition away from the fossil fuels causing global warming, he would

"I have grandkids and understand what greenhouse gases are doing to the climate, and the oceans, and how that's changing their prospects in a warming world.'

Climate Action and Energy Minister Reece Whitby said it was thrilling to see so many locations throughout the state join the WAEV Network.

"The Cook Government is serious about electrifying and decarbonising transport in Western Australia, which is why we've invested \$44.5 million in this project," he said.

"As the network expands, tourists and visitors will be able to travel up and down our state's coast knowing they can charge their EVs at regular intervals.

"Not only does this make WA more accessible, it serves an important role in ensuring we are prepared for the energy transition.

With the WAEV Network now nearing completion, we are another step closer to

WA's clean energy future."

This ambitious WA State Government project is being delivered by Synergy and Horizon Power with support from local government authorities and is expected to be completed by the end of this year.





# Metronet first priority: local government grants shift focus

THE state government has announced updates to the Western Australian Bicycle Network (WABN) grants program, making Metronet connections the new focus of suburban cycle path projects.

From July this year, local governments will be able to apply for four-year funding grants for cycling path projects within two kilometres of new Metronet sta-

Under the WABN scheme, the state government will match local government investment up to 50 per cent of a project's cost.

The funding will now be considered for projects with a four-year timeline, instead of the previous two. A state government spokesperson said this change aimed to provide "more funding certainty to local governments delivering projects, and better longterm planning for walking and riding infrastructure.

Since the WABN scheme opened for applications in 2017, the state government has invested more then \$300 million into local government projects to build more than 240 kilometres of cycling and footpaths, and a further \$310m has been committed for projects to roll out over the next four years.

The Morley-Ellenbrook train line, the department's biggest public transport project since building the Mandurah line, will cover 21km of new rail and include five new stations: Ellenbrook, Whiteman Park, Malaga, Noranda and Morley.

The state government estimated the completed project will support more than 6500 jobs and support growth of surrounding communities.

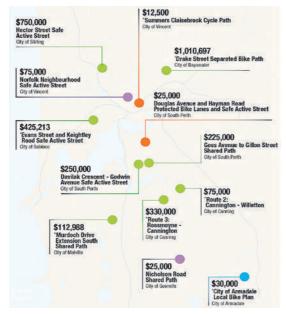
'The refocussing of the grant program aimed to fill key gaps in public transport connection, and planned precincts around each station will provide better access to housing, jobs, community services and tourism," Transport minister Rita Saffioti said

She said the state government was investing at "record levels" to improve Perth's transport network and foster greater social inclusion and interaction through public transport and healthy travel methods such as walking or cycling.

"Through Metronet, we're transforming Perth's suburbs, and by refreshing our local government bike network grants program, we're complementing this work to slash congestion and give people more choice in how they move around our city," she said.

"Active travel is a healthy, cost-effective and sustainable way to get around, and by better aligning our funding programs to the long-term cycle network for Perth, Peel and across our regions, we will deliver better-connected and more vibrant towns and cities.'

More information, including intake dates and the application process, will be provided to local governments over the coming month.



Map of funding already received under the metro scheme.

# **Camp Quality giving kids with cancer back** their childhoods

CHILDREN'S cancer charity Camp Quality's fundraising appeal 'Childhood not Cancerhood' is calling for support to give childhood back to kids and their families going through the trauma of cancer.

One Perth family knows all too well how harrowing a childhood cancer diagnosis is for the whole family. When eight-month-old Riley was diagnosed with Retinoblastoma, family life became consumed with traumatic cancer treatment.

Camp Quality was there to support the every step of the way. After registering, the family went to Swan Valley for their first family camp.

"Family Camp has meant we could have a break from all the hospital trips and enjoy time as a family to reconnect and find some time for Riley to have some fun and to be a kid. Being able to watch Riley do so many activities she couldn't do before has been one of the best parts of the camp," her mother

Camp Quality programs bring positivity, fun and laughter back into the lives of almost 13,000 kids facing theirs or a cancer diagnosis in the family and kids whose worlds have been turned upside down

"It's really nice to be around families that understand, even the simple things like the importance of hygiene and not attending events when you are sick. Riley has bounced back and thanks to Camp Quality we have been able to keep some happiness through this troubling time," Demi said.



Camp Quality chief executive officer, Deborah Thomas said donations make a lasting difference.

"When you donate to Camp Quality, the positive impact you have on kids facing cancer is real, measurable and significant. We give families the chance to reconnect on our Family Getaways, kids the opportunity to just be kids on our camps, and families the opportunity to create new memories on our Family Fun Days.

"Our fundraising appeal is an opportunity for everyday Australians to support kids and families going through their darkest days. Funds raised will go towards helping families like Riley's, access our free supportive programs and give them a break from the trauma of a cancer diagnosis," Ms Thomas said.

# Zig Zag cycling lane a long way off

WESTCYCLE says that recent works on the hilly section of Kalamunda Road expanding its central painted island, has reduced it from two lanes to a single wider 3.7m lane with no marked cycling lane.

"The City of Kalamunda has said while long term plans do include a bike lane on the road, the current works were a budget-restricted 'interim measure'

designed to improve road safety at intersections and along the route, Westcycle spokesperson Shane Starling said.

The city has told us the needs of cyclists have been considered as part of these works with the provision of wider traffic lanes and a painted median, noting the median would result in a travel speed reduction.

"It also allows vehicles to safely turn as well as to overtake slower moving cyclists at a reduced risk of encountering oncoming traffic.'

Mr Starling said while the city's '2017 cycling plan' does call for cycling lanes along Kalamunda Road, the timeframes are not specified and are dependent on financing from local, state or federal sources.

However, these potential funding sources often come with criteria that rule out certain works – for instance WA Bike Network grants do not extend to unprotected bike lanes as they are not deemed to adequately protect bike riders.



"Of concern is that the city has said further works Kalamunda Road would not come up again for consideration until sometime beyond 2030. In the meantime, it highlighted Gooseberry Hill Road and the Zig Zag as preferred cycling routes into the Kalamunda area,' Mr Starling said.

"The city has told us that the use of Kalamunda Road by commuter and recreational cyclists (i.e. cyclists other than experienced on-road cycling training groups) is very low, given the steep grades on the escarpment, high traffic volumes and lack of cycle lanes."

On-road cycling training groups typically cycle in larger groups, often riding two abreast. This makes them more visible and helps ensure drivers pass bike riders at a safe distance.

But some cyclists have cast the Kalamunda Road changes as a "wasted opportunity" to better accommodate all road users.

Mr Starling said to comply with the 1.5-metre passing rule (where speed limits exceed 60km/h) especially if a group of cyclists is riding uphill, motorists are obliged to cross the continuous line markings of Kalamunda Road's new painted

This is authorised in the WA Road Traffic Code, although not all motorists may be aware of it.

#### **Special Meeting of Council**



Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of Council will be held in the Council Chambers, Administration Centre,

2 Railway Road, Kalamunda, on:

#### Monday 1 July 2024 commencing at 6.30pm

The purpose of the meeting is:

- To consider submissions received with respect to the proposed Differential Rates.
- To consider and adopt the Municipal Fund Budget for the 2024/25 Financial Year [ending 30 June 2025] together with supporting schedules, including striking the Municipal Fund Rates, adoption of fees and charges and other consequential items arising from budget papers.

**Anthony Vuleta Chief Executive Officer** 





The Nationals WA Legislative Council candidate Julie Kirby and Central Wheatbelt candidate Lachlan Hunter.



Nationals WA leader Shane Love, Senator Bridget McKenzie, Central Wheatbelt MLA Mia Davies, Member for Central Wheatbelt, Nationals Central Wheatbelt candidate Lachlan Hunter and Legislative Council candidate Rob Horstman.

# Live sheep export ban under national spotlight

**PETER W LEWIS** 

THE standing committee on agriculture's public meeting for the live sheep phase out enquiry at Muresk on June 14 has attracted national media attention, with the issue also being aired on the 7.30 Report earlier this week.

The impact on farmers, their families, the agricultural industry in general and local communities was put under the spotlight, along with the consequences the ban would have on sheep prices and implications for the processing industry.

Farmers told the parliamentary inquiry that some Wheatbelt towns will not survive if the live sheep export trade is banned by 2028 as planned.

Farmers, shearers, truckies, agricultural workers and community members rolled up, while farming utes lined up for kilometres in a united front to oppose the federal government's live sheep export ban.

Further exposure was given by the attendance of One Nation's Pauline Hanson and Nationals senator for Victoria and leader of the Nationals in the Senate Bridget McKenzie.

Member for Central Wheatbelt MLA Mia Davies told Echo News that the Labor Party was an ideological menace with no conscience or understanding of our regional econo-

my – and they need to go.
"They have treated this legitimate industry with contempt from the day they announced the decision.

"It is clear there has been no thought to the human or economic impact on the broader agricultural sector and communities that rely on it by removing this avenue for sheep producers and the supply chain.

"The rally through Perth, and the turn-up to Muresk for the Federal Parliament's hastily convened inquiry was a superb show of force from our region and its supporters.

"The 'Keep the Sheep' convenors and organisers of the rallies have the full support of The Nationals here and in the federal parliament, and we'll keep fighting for what is right. We stand with our farmers, shearers, stock agents, truckies, and small businesses and their families

"I fear for the future of our schools, health services, volunteer run groups, businesses and communities, and I'm mad as hell that a Prime Minister and his government would be proud to create this stress and havoc simply because they're chasing a few inner-city green votes in Melbourne and Syd-

ney.
"I'd be disgusted that a federal government can be so cavalier with our international trading partners future food

security, and our own. We should be proud of the superior meat and wool product that have been bred over generations, instead the Labor Party is throwing us under a bus.

"The Prime Minister rolled into the Lodge on the back of Western Australian votes, and I will be making sure every last minute I have in Parliament as the Member for Central Wheatbelt is dedicated to making sure they are shown the door.'

Nationals candidate for Kalamunda Lisa Logan said the announcement of the shutdown of the live export industry showed yet again that Labor simply doesn't care.

"Labor doesn't care about the agricultural industry, the people, our regional communities, or our international trade

"As a former farmer, my thoughts are with all those whose livelihoods are being jeopardised and I stand in solidarity with the 'Keep the Sheep' convenors and organisers of the rallies," she said

The 'Keep the Sheep' online petition has already attracted more than 57,000 signatures out of its goal of 60,000 signa-

The online petition and further information on the ban can be found at https://www.keepthesheep.com.au/petition

# "Lets keep local people in work" Support your local Business

# **Become a Youth Week Ambassad**

**JACKI ELEZOVICH** 

NOMINATIONS for Youth Week ambassadors for 2025 are now open.

Every year four young leaders from around WA are selected to be the voice of WA's youth for the duration of Youth Week in April.

Youth Minister Hannah Beazley said the youth ambassadors have always been an integral part of Youth Week as a voice for their generation and a new perspective on how they should be celebrated.

"Ensuring young people's voices are heard and embedded in all things Youth Week WA is what makes it so special," she said.

Ambassadors will work to plan events for Youth Week celebrations including free community events in Perth and regional areas and helping to shape the kickstART young creatives festival, contribute to the young people's planning committee, and act as a spokesperson for Youth Week WA. They will also get to attend events including both opening and closing parties, and assess grant applications.

In 2024, ambassadors took on another special project: Catalyst,

This year's Youth Week Ambassadors Fatima, Izabella, Nathida and Samuel.

an online publication showcasing stories, work and perspectives of young people in WA.

Ambassadors engaged with young people and organisations during the week to gather contributions and then oversaw the development and design of the final publication.

Ms Beazley said any young leader who is involved in their community and wants to take the next step towards creating change should apply to be an ambassador.

"The youth ambassadors program provides an invaluable platform for young leaders to drive positive change and inspire their peers," she said.

Ms Beazley said the program keeps young people in charge of how they want their week of celebration to look.

"Young people are central to the week's planning and development, and I encourage everyone to apply or nominate someone they think would be suitable.

Applications will close on Sunday, July 21. Application forms can be found at https://www. wa.gov.au/organisation/depar tment-of-communities/youth-

#### **Support for victim-survivors of family violence**

THE state government has committed \$7 million to provide individualised and flexible funding support to victim-survivors of family and domestic violence in Western Australia.

The flexible support package program provides funding to family and domestic violence organisations across the state to administer direct financial support to victim-survivors.

This support enables victim-survivors to access practical supports to enhance their safety and re-establish their lives such as furniture and household goods or items to meet daily living needs.

More than 40 family and domestic violence sector organisations will share in the funding which has been allocated over a two-year period.

In recognition of the diverse experiences of family and domestic violence, service providers consider each package based on individual risk and the circumstances of the women and children. There are no restrictions to the package amount provided and funding is determined by the case management plan.

This initiative builds on a previous two-year trial funded via the National Partnership Agreement for Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses, which commenced in June 2022.

In addition to housing re-establishment and crisis-related assistance, the program provided women cont page 18.



# Lithium battery fires to break re

EMERGENCY services have responded to an increasing number of lithium-ion battery fires this year with the statistics on track to break last vear's total of recorded incidents.

Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson said local authorities are concerned that alongside the significant increase in lithium-ion devices that Western Australians could be putting themselves at risk in charging the highly flammable products

During winter people are more inclined to bring rechargeable devices inside their homes and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is urging Western Australians to take precautions to protect themselves from battery fires following deaths in New South Wales and Queensland.

DFES has responded to 70 fires ignited by lithium-ion batteries so far this year - on target to pass the previous record of 110 set in 2023.

Authorities are particularly concerned about the spate of residential fires sparked by e-bikes or e-scooters that can spread very quickly and are difficult to extinguish.

Batteries of cheaper products have flooded the market in recent years and are now becoming damaged or reaching their end-of-life.

These batteries are being replaced by incompatible alternatives, posing a serious fire risk.

eRideables have already caused 20 fires this year, including two devastating incidents last week that destroyed homes in Karratha and Carlisle.

Batteries that enter thermal runaway and explode can start a fire metres away from where they are being charged, potentially engulfing an entire home in a matter of minutes.

To reduce the risk of lithium-ion battery fires, DFES recommends to purchase reputable products and source replacement batteries from the original supplier, regularly check for signs of physical damage and overheating, charge devices away from flammable items such as beds or couches, set a timer that will remind you to remove a fully charged device before you go to sleep, and install a hard-wired interconnected smoke or heat alarm in areas of the home where you are charging devices.

Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson said lithium-ion batteries are relatively safe when you buy them from reputable suppliers and treat them with care.

"But compromised products that overheat and explode have caused fatal house fires overseas and interstate - we don't want Western Australians at risk.

The Cook Government is investing an additional \$140 million to ensure our emergency services are well equipped and prepared for all types of incidents, but people also need to take responsibility for their actions when it comes to fire safety.

"There will always be the temptation to try to save a bit of money on a cheaper product, but I urge people to be careful. Most home fires involving lithium-ion batteries go unnoticed before it is too late."

Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Darren Klemm said lithium-ion batteries have fast become one of the greatest fire risks in our homes as products like eRideables and cordless power tools

These fires are preventable if you follow safety advice including charging on a hard surface and not leaving devices on charge indefinitely."

# Call to wise up, rise up against abuse of elders

WORLD Elder Abuse Awareness Day was held on June 15 with a theme of 'Wise Up, Rise Up Against Elder Abuse'.

The day is recognised annually, and has been designated by the United Nations since 2011 as an opportunity for people around the world to unite in voicing opposition to elder abuse and the suffering it inflicts upon victims.

Research by the Australian Institute of Family Studies shows that 15 per cent of Australians aged 65 years and over who live in the general community have experienced elder abuse.

The theme 'Wise Up, Rise Up Against Elder Abuse' will focus on how the community can support older Western Australians to find out more about elder abuse, recognise the signs, and where to access support and take action in their own lives and communities to prevent it from happening.

Buildings and landmarks across WA were lit up in the colour purple, the symbolic colour of the day, including the Bell Tower, Elizabeth Quay, Matagarup Bridge, Fremantle Prison, Fremantle Shipwrecks Museum, Karratha Red Earth Arts Precinct and the Kununurra Magistrates Court.

Additionally, the Purple Road installation at Parliament House launched earlier this week will mark a significant achievement with the community artwork reaching 100 metres.

The Purple Road is a collaborative initiative developed by the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre's Older People's Rights Service, with thousands of hand-crafted purple flowers representing an older person's unique story.

For the second year in a row, the



state government has also provided funding of up to \$3000 to hold initiatives during the week of the annual

Events planned include information workshops, education seminars, morning teas and art projects to support local people to work together to identify and respond to elder abuse in their local community.

Seniors and Ageing Minister Don Punch said elder abuse was a significant issue in the community.

"It is a complex social, health and human rights issue experienced and carried out by people of all backgrounds.

"We can all 'wise up' by finding out more about elder abuse, how to recognise the signs, and where to access support. We can 'rise up' by taking the time to listen to older people in our lives about what is important to them, if they feel safe and valued, and take action to support them.'

If you or anyone you know is experiencing elder abuse, please contact the WA Elder Abuse Helpline and Information Service on 1300 724 679.

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**BASSENDEAN:** 

Bassendean Library 46 Old Perth Rd Bassendean Shopping Cnr West & Old Perth Rd

Beechboro Library

332 Benara Rd **BOYA:** Boya Community Centre Clayton Rd & Scott St

**BULLSBROOK:** Bullsbrook Newsagency 2544 Great Northern Hwy

CHIDLOW: **Chidlow Growers Market** 570 Rosedale Rd

Chidlow Postal & Home Centre Thomas St

**DARLINGTON:** 

**Darlington Liquor** 4 Montrose Ave

**EDEN HILL:** Eden Hill News & LPO S3/85 Walter Rd

**ELLENBROOK:** 

Dome 36 Main Street Espresso Coffee Ellenbrook Central Ellenbrook Central 204 Pinaster Rd (cnr The Promenade) Tania Lawrence Office

Total Health Ellenbrook 3/42 Main S<sup>-</sup>

Woodlake Village S/Centre FORRÉSTFIELD:

Edinburgh Road S/Centre Forrestfield Forum 20 Strelitzia Ave Walridge Country Estate

**GIDGEGANNUP:** Gidgegannup News

GLEN FORREST: Glen Forrest Post Office Railway Pde IGA Glen Forrest

**GUILDFORD:** Guildford Newsagency

**HELENA VALLEY:** Helena Valley Lifestyle Village 2340 Helena Valley Rd IGA Helena Valley Torquata Blvde

**HERNE HILL:** Herne Hill Village Lottery Centre 777 Gt Northern Hwy

Swan Settlers Market 124 Lennard St

**HIGH WYCOMBE:** High Wycombe Village Kalamunda Rd

**Newburn Newsagency** 47 Newburn Rd
The Village Supa IGA 120 Wittenoom St **KALAMUNDA:** 

City of Kalamunda Railway Rd Crabbs IGA 12 Canning Road Kalamunda Centro S/Centre 39 Railway Rd Kalamunda Library

7 Williams S Kalamunda Newsagency Havnes St **Nightingales Pharmacy** 123 Canning Rd Jack Healey Centre 21 Mead St

**KOONGAMIA:** Koongamia Store **LESMURDIE:** 

IGA Lesmurdie 241 Lesmurdie Rd Sanderson Road S/Centre

**MAHOGANY CREEK:** Begonia Pets 5895 Great Eastern Hwy

**MAIDA VALE:** Hill View Public Golf 350 Kalamunda Rd Maida Vale IGA Unit 2/31 Maida Vale Rd Zanthorrea Nursery

155 Watsonia Rd **MIDLAND:** Baptistcare 1A North St Centrepoint S/Centre

307 Great Eastern Hwy City of Swan Admin. Office Morrison Rd **Crooked Spire** 71 Victoria Street **Echo News Office** 4/9 The Avenue Greg's Discount Drug Store 243 Great Eastern Hwy IGA Supermarket 295 Great Eastern Hwy Midland Library 45 Helena Street

Midland Gate S/Cente

Food Hall Entry

Professionals 5 Star 15 Victoria Street Real Estate Plus

Shop 2/5 Junction Parade Swan Valley Fresh Markets Cnr Morrison Rd & Keane

The Ritz Cafe 16/27 Old Great Northern

MT HELENA: IGA Mt Helena McVicar Pl

**MUNDARING: Brookwood Realty** 2/1 Mundaring Weir Rd Coles Supermarket Great Eastern Hwy Hills Fresh

7110 Great Eastern Hwy **Mundaring Newsagency** 7295 Great Eastern Hwy Mundaring Village Shopping Centre 7295 Great Eastern Hwy

**Mundaring Visitors Centre** 7225 Great Eastern Hwy Shire of Mundaring

7000 Great Eastern Hwy **PARKERVILLE:** Parkerville General Store

**SAWYERS VALLEY:** Atlas Fuel 10895 Great Eastern Hwy

**SOUTH GUILDFORD:** IGA Waterhall **STONEVILLE:** Stoneville Fresh Food Market 5345 Richardson Rd STRATTON: Stratton Park S/Centre **SWAN VIEW:** IGA Swan View 139 Morrison Rd Swan View S/Centre THE LAKES The Lakes Roadhouse Great Eastern Highway **UPPER SWAN:** Vibe Roadhouse

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#### Wed 19 June

**Chidlow Tavern** Jam Session (all welcome). 7pm. Free. 4 Thomas St Chidlow

#### **Thurs 20 June**

**Mount Helena Tavern** Matt Sofoulis. 6pm. Free. 900 Keane St

#### Fri 21 June

Mount Helena

**Parkerville Tavern** Sue Summers. 6pm-9pm. Free.

6 Owen Rd Parkerville

**Chidlow Tavern** Replikate.7pm. Free. 4 Thomas St Chidlow

**Rose & Crown** Jared Herft. 5pm-8pm. Free. 105 Swan St Guildford

**Bassendean Hotel** Nicki Rose. 5pm-8pm. Free. Jinx! 8:30pm-Late. Free. 25 Old Perth Rd Bassendean

#### Sat 22 June

**Mount Helena Tavern** Full Tilt. 6pm. Free. 900 Keane St Mount Helena

Sat 22 June cont.

**Parkerville Tavern** Kevin Curran. 6pm-9pm. \$79 Tickets. (includes 3 course meal and fire performer) 6 Owen Rd Parkerville

**Bassendean Hotel** Jammin' with Charlie. 8pm-Late. Free. 25 Old Perth Rd Bassendean

#### Sun 23 June

**Parkerville Tavern** Jon Evans. 3pm-6pm. Free. 6 Owen Rd Parkerville

**Rose & Crown** Matt Burke. 2pm-6pm. Free. 105 Swan St Guildford

**Bassendean Hotel** Cam Dobie. 2pm-5pm. Free. 25 Old Perth Rd Bassendean

**Chidlow Tavern** Lush in Roots 12:30pm. Free. 4 Thomas St Chidlow



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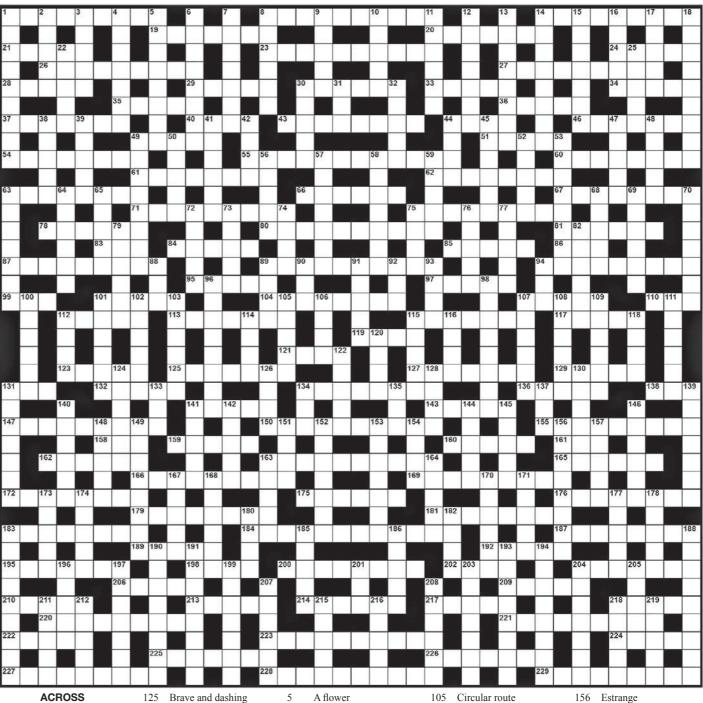
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# Mind Boggler Crossword



#### **ACROSS** Throbbing

Mazes Scoop of tournament wins (coll) (5,4)

Alligator pear Most important Modify fittingly

21 23 24 26 27 28 29 Decisive Ages Shut out Donations An engine

Precious stones Type of stone Light purple A mountain ridge

A waterway A hold-up Bank workers Became older

Sheath A single step Literature of love

46 49 51 Lariat A principle Diced paper Concurrent Family member

Imparted secrets Absurdity Light footwear Short pleasure trips

Of the home NSW city Differently Places of action

Coastal navigation structure Owing Rocky hills 83

84 85 Slow mover A billiard stick Funds official Backward movement

Engaged to wed Extended dramatic work Have life 97

A limb Desire earnestly A herb

A directional sign Container Therapeutic help (coll) 113 Not either one

Trapping Old Hollywood star, ... Flynn 119 Tale of adventure

Water chute

Brave and dashing 127 Shape wood 129 Done up as shoes Coy NSW town, ... Bay

132 134 Reciprocally A drain 138 Nevertheless Cricket trophy Cuban currency

Cessation of war 150 Look forward to English university A listener A scoundrel 159 160 Sharpened

A garland 162 Fair-haired 163 Hades Stir into action Multi-talented

Hospitality assistant A climbing shrub Artist's room Former French emperor 176 Ominous

And the rest (2,6) Unrefined sugar syrup Already done (Fr) (4,8) 183 Abstaining from alcohol

A compere A sample Varnish ingredient 198 Curves Touches Run away

A cure-all Possessor Countrified Lists to one side A slight error Fishing gear

Angry A public declaration 221 Scraps Egyptian city Specifically-themed music

US state

2.17

Chocolate tree Classy in dress Treat as a celebrity One who makes up prescriptions 229 Drenched

DOWN

Matter-of-fact Jumped over Change Sloping type

A flower Canal boats

Good position A type of grasshopper A desert plant Of the nose Enchantments

Insignia of royalty Glancing rebound Street scribblings Form together Goddess of hunting

Slack Act wrongly 22 25 Creep around A bird Peninsula near Hong

Kong 31 A curved bone Uncanny 38 39 Flaxen cloth

Jugs Nude lady rider of fable 42 44 Amount of medicine Mexican currency A fault-finder

Give a speech A fool Authorised seller A tendon Capital of Vietnam Act of believing

Pastoral poem Cured hide Ideas Combine Indonesian island Of the back Follower of Hinduism 65 A measuring instrument 69 70 Soundness of mind

Clam stew Freight carried 73 74 75 Follow straight on Irish republic Capital of Norway Boredom A card game A display in skies

Writer Accelerate motor Uncommon 88 Aerated matter Smooth-acting

Climbing plant Illuminated sign A counter

Thorns Type of heeled shoe A root vegetable Angelic child One giving insults A flag

Circular route A direction Concurred Ending A mechanic's tool Above the tree line (zoo) House covering Wife of Zeus Fierce expression Prefix - against Be in front Type of bread A garret A large number of US space agency (init) A sales gimmick Common sense Of little depth Be in debt

106

109

116

122

128

133

Floor cover A meadow 137 Incorporated (abb) Crime against a nation Soldier's lodging Tiny particles Frequent continually 141 Showing no emotion 145 Part of a play

A firearm A singer 149 Glacial fissure Not any Inactivity 153 A condition 154 A powder

Estrange A muscle Beyond the usual A wooden pin Olden inscription style 167 Reply Ponder 170 Coral formations A healing ointment An artist's stand Many times Short sword Slight argument 182 Lost A fish Lacklustre finish Way of renting Attend to Parts of head Device for using wind Lines of houses About the moon Own up Main city Biblical vessel Communication with Drop suddenly Main artery Excitable 208 Inconstant Astray Sleepers noise Call invalid Part of a song Bring on

English racecourse

1172





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The Reject Shop opens at Midland Megaplex on Thursday 27th June at 8.30am. Find the store opposite Spudshed.



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between

the lines

by Ken Duffy

often hurt.

have to face

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Living with hurts and pain affects nearly everyone

of us. The Bible teaches us that living life often hurts.

The champions of faith in the Bible all hurt but their

faith and trust in a God who loves and cares for them

enabled them to rise up against their pain. 1Peter 5:7

says, "Cast all your cares upon God because He cares

for you." Psalm 55:22 tells us that "God will sustain us

as we cast our burdens on Him." Life hurts....people

hurt (intentionally or unintentionally)....situations

It's okay to hurt, but when you hurt it's great to take

our tears and troubles to a God who cares and share it

with Him. That was the reality that champions of faith

experienced. It wasn't 'hocus-pocus, airy-fairy' stuff.

It was the reality that enabled them to cope with life.

Many people crumble under the hurts of life and seek

counseling after counselling, which many times helps,

but the secret that many believers have discovered

is that there is a God who loves and cares for them. They can take their hurts and pains to Him, and be

empowered to cope with the craziness of life we all

As we get older many times we find ourselves

reflecting on the hurts we caused, intentionally or

unintentionally. The Bible is full of such stories, but

how great it is to know we can be enabled to face up to

the hurts we have caused and received because we have

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# **Notice of** Meeting

In accordance with s5.5(2) of the Local Government Act 1995, notice is given that a Special Meeting of Council is scheduled to be held in the Council Chambers, Midland Town Hall, 312 Great Eastern Highway, Midland on:

#### On Wednesday, June 26, 2024 Commencing at 6pm

This Special Meeting of Council has been convened for the purpose of considering the following:

- 1. Adoption of the Corporate Business Plan 2024/2025 -2027/2028
- 2. Adoption of the Annual Budget 2024/2025 and Long Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2033/2034



#### **Stephen Cain**

Chief Executive Officer

June 14, 2024

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# Notice Board **Upcoming Events**

- Midland Men's Shed Social Tuesday is every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am in the Baptist Church Hall, Bellevue. For more info call Kevin on 0417 961 971. For workshop inquiries call 0411 833 055.
- Kalamunda Prostate Cancer Support Group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Falls Farm, 41 Cagney Way Lesmurdie from 10am to 1pm. For more information call Roy on 9295 2522 or Ray on 0427 095 892.
- · Eastern Hills Senior High School is holding a fundraising concert, showcasing talented students from Guildford Grammar, Eastern Hills, Helena College, and other special guests. The concert will be held at Eastern Hills SHS in Mount Helena from 7pm on Wednesday July 24, tickets are \$20 each and can be booked through the website: www.

robertjuniperawardforthearts.org

- Orienteering WA's next bush event will be at Yetar Spring, east of Sawyers Valley on Sunday, June 30. Come and have fun with friends and family. Compete individually or in groups – walking or running. Register online (preferred) until 5pm the day prior or on the day from 9 to 10.30am at the caravan. For more information call Helen on 0409 889944.
- Stoneville and Parkerville Progress Association is holding a general meeting on Thursday June 27 at 6:30pm in the Parkerville Pavilion. Bring your ideas and input into what's happening in our community, support community projects, and talk with your local advocates over nibbles. New members are welcomed.

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.



#### Woofer of the week

Ken is a three year-old golden retriever x St poodle. His previous owner was finding it hard to keep up with his grooming and feeding, he needs a home with someone that has time for him. He is sterilised, vaccinated and microchipped. Costs apply. For more info contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.



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Stephen Cain during question time.

#### **Swan CEO responds to** question time concerns

from page 3.

sharing their disappointment and concern that their own questions and issues were not addressed due to the disruption caused by Mr Cain.

We need practical solutions and genuine support to ensure the viability of our business and the safety of our community during this disruptive period of Metronet construction in this old precinct of Midland.'

Mr Cain said the event was about difficulties regarding bureaucratic processes so he was there in a

capacity to help.
"The Swan Chamber of Commerce's Hour of Power event was about the challenges of dealing with bureaucracy, so I attended as a member of the Chamber to listen and to offer any advice or support that may help our ratepayers," he said.

At the invitation of co-presenter, Gerry Hanssen, and the Swan Chamber of Commerce President, I responded to matters raised in the presentations during the O&A section of the event.

"I also offered continued personal assistance to local business owners affected by Metronet works and further engagement with the audience in general about working with local government.

'Swan Chamber of Commerce leadership has made it clear to me that they appreciated my attendance and my willingness to address concerns directly, and they have invited me to speak at a future Hour of Power

# **Support for victim**survivors of family violence

and children with increased access to counselling and wellbeing courses, necessary items for schooling and social connection, and travel or relocation

The initiative forms part of the state government's \$72.6m funding package announced last November to strengthen responses to family and domestic violence in WA, which was informed by the family and domestic violence taskforce.

Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence Minister Sabine Winton said that no two experiences of family and domestic violence were the same.

The kind of individualised supports that one person might need can be different to what another person needs to help re-establish their lives following domestic violence.

"The flexible funding available through this program ensures the needs of victim-survivors are front

"When I have visited refuges across the state, staff have given me meaningful, practical examples as to how this program has helped women accessing their services

"One example was a woman who received help to purchase white goods to establish a new home for herself and her family."





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# **Sports**

9374 6666 editorial@echo-news.com

# Kalamunda rugby heroes reach top level







Dane Sawers in action. Picture: Elspeth Townsend.



Hera-Barb Malcolm-Heke. Picture: Elspeth Townsend.

BY ELSPETH TOWNSEND

KALAMUNDA Districts Rugby Union Club (KDRUC) Dane Sawers has just jetted off to South Africa as part of the Australian Wallabies squad for the World Rugby U20s Championship.

The club also boasts two players, Sammy Wood and Hera-Barb Malcolm-Heke, who recently made their debut for the Australian women's national rugby union team, the Wallaroos.

Sawers began with KDRUC as a four-year-old and has played for the WA U16s, U18s and U20s, and for Australia in the U18s and U20s.

A Western Force Academy player, he starred for the Wallabies U20s in 2024 against both South Africa and New Zealand, scoring the team's opening try against the Junior All Blacks.

Taking up rugby at age six, Sammy Wood spent 10 years at the Armadale, Roleystone, Kelmscott (ARKS) Rugby Union

In 2022, she moved to KDRUC to join the Kala Kweenz and in 2023, debuted for the Western Force Women's Super W team as a halfback against The Brumbies.

Wood has played all games of the Super W season and made her debut for the Wallaroos against Canada earlier this year. Hera-Barb Malcolm-Heke started at KDRUC at just four-

years-old and at 16, played her first game for the Kala Kweenz. She was soon selected for the Western Force women's team, stepping into the hooker position and has been at the forefront of the women's game at KDRUC ever since.

In 2023, Malcolm-Heke captained the Kweenz to the FMG Women's Premier Grade premiership title, before being selected for the Wallaroos.

# Hawks too strong for **Saints**



**BRIAN PALLISTER** 

IT was another tough week for Bullsbrook when they took on reigning premiers Pickering Brook, who were sitting undefeated on top of the lad-

Losing by 113 points, 20-19 (139) to 4-2 (26), and hit by injury, Bullsbrook came into the game with only 17 avail-

James Thompson had the lone role of carrying the Saints' ruck with no other options available, and again put in a very competitive performance against two taller opponents.

Steven Caccetta read the drop of the ball from the ruck contests: kicking the ball forward where Brett Wolfenden, Michael Brescacin and Jamie Sokiich were taking turns at kicking goals.

George Schneider and Sheldon Aplin while keeping the Hawks to four.

could do little to halt the Hawks' continuous attacks and by the first break, the Hawks were 4-0 up.

Pickering Brook bosses the field against Bullsbrook.

The Saints had been getting the ball to half forward but subsequently breaking down. After Rory Crosby and George Schneider were moved forward to offer marking targets, the Saints finally broke through for their first goal.

The Hawks then switched up a gear, peppering the goals for a six-goal, seven-behind quarter return.

Mitch Shilling along with Mitchell Johnston and Riley Thompson began from deep in the backline to where Angelo Vallis, Adam Brescacin and Jack Giancomo were controlling the centreline, and pinpointed the leading forwards from there.

The Saints had their best quarter for the game with three goals in the third,

George Schneider managed another goal and Declan Vince chimed in for one, while Shane Gray snapped one out of mid-air.

Riley Thompson has become one of Pickering Brooks' key back men after spending most of his first 100-odd games up forward.

This transition has provided the Hawks with a strong marking defender and his reliable efforts were rewarded with the "Think Mental Health" match ball.

Christian Huggins and Jorden Heally combined with Jaiden Fernie and James Thompson to be Bullsbrook's major contributors.

Pickering Brook had a longer list, with Brett Wolfenden (six goals), and Michael Brescacin and Jamie Soklich (five eacn).

Steven Caccetta along with Adam Brescacin were ball magnets all day.

# **Swan Districts take out Memorial Cup**

SWAN Districts overcame South Fremantle by 27 points, 10.12 (72) to 6.9 (45), at last week's John Todd Memorial Cup match in Bassendean.

There was a huge attendance at the game, which was extra special as it was held in memory of the club's late former coach, John Todd.

The John Todd Cup game has been played between Swans and South Fremantle since 1999

It was renamed the John Todd Memo-

rial Cup in honour of Swans and South's legend and WA football giant John Todd, who had a profound impact on both the Swan Districts and South Fremantle football clubs

Some of his achievements include Swans Premiership Coach (1982, '83, '84, and '90), South Fremantle Premiership Coach (1997), and Advance Australia award winner (1985).

He also received an Order of Australia award in 1986, was inducted to the WA Sporting Hall of Champions in 1997, made the Swans Team of the Century, and was a South Fremantle and Swan Districts Life Member.

Mr Todd was also elevated to legend status in the South Fremantle and WA Football Hall of Fames, and immortal status in the Swan Districts' Hall of Fame.

John Todd's daughter Debbie Todd presented the John Todd Memorial Cup to the Swan Districts' captain and coach after the game.

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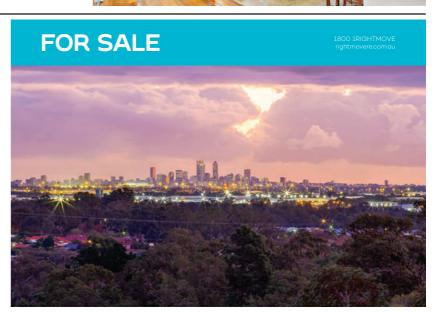
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