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PG6



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PG7



Midland's MMA shines at Domination promotions
PG19



Charity group closes after 40 years

World Vision Mundaring held their beloved community donation stall in Mundaring shopping centre for the final time last week, ending more than 40 years of the group's presence in the hills.

Picture: Jacki Elezovich **PG 4**



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Merry Christmas from your State Representatives



Matthew Hughes Member for Kalamunda
Michelle Roberts Member for Midland
Alanna Clohesy Member for East Metro
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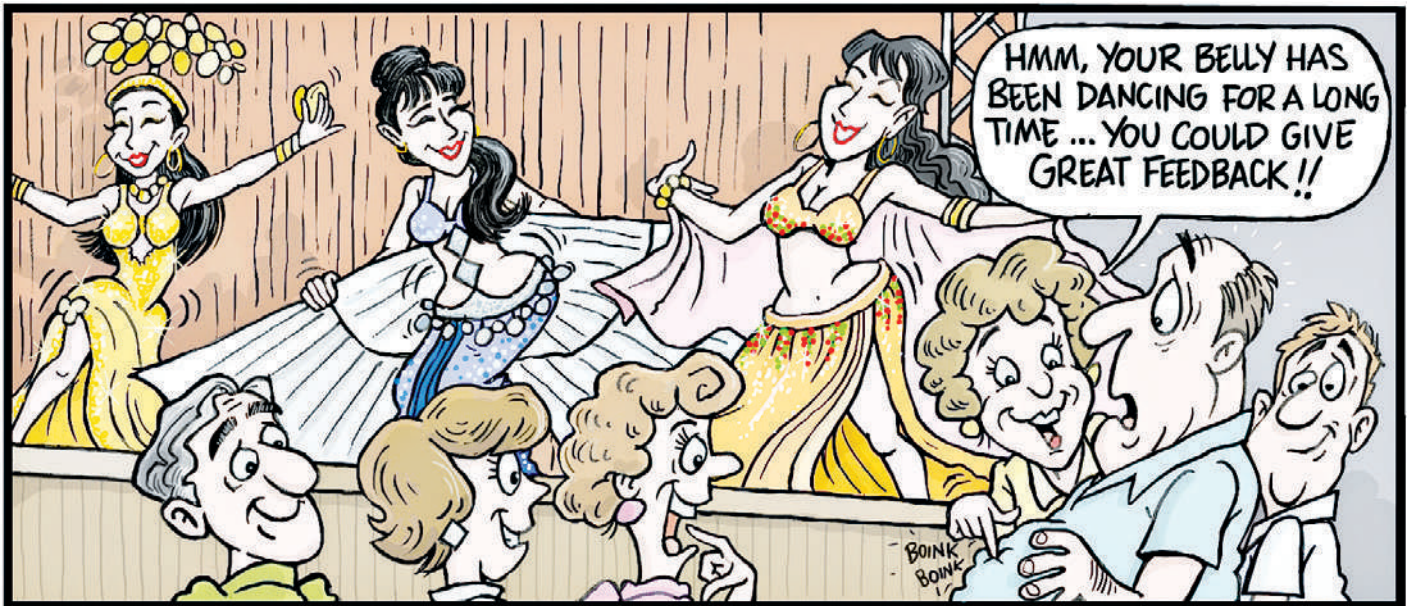
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Support from Beyond Blue

Dear Echo News,
The festive season can be a joyous time for many people, as they take a well-earned break from work and school and spend time with family and friends. It's a time to rest and reset for the new year.

Yet for others, this time of year can be particularly difficult, and the holidays may not feel "jolly" at all. It can bring additional financial pressures, relationship strain, or pressure to host the perfect Christmas.

The season to be merry can also amplify feelings of isolation and loneliness, especially for those who are separated from family or have lost a loved one.

So, as we head into the holiday break, regardless of what you're dealing with, please know that you don't have to face this time alone.

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And finally, a big thank you to everyone who has donated to Beyond Blue this year. Our support service is run purely on dona-

tions, so your kindness and generosity allow us to always be there when people need us the most.

G Harman
Beyond Blue CEO

Dutton nuke plan doomed

Dear Echo News,
Opposition leader, Peter Dutton's attempts to distract attention from renewable energy, in his proposal to develop nuclear power stations across Australia, is dangerous, ill-conceived and doomed.

And the fossil fuel lobby cynically uses his desperation to gain government to urge him to delay the removal of oil, coal and gas from the energy mix.

Coal needs to go now. Oil very soon and gas as soon as possible and when renewables are fully operational.

Anything else would be a travesty to the environment and is simply a ploy to extend the profits from environmentally dangerous fossil fuels.

The nuclear option is two to three decades too late and in any event, an unnecessary financial and environmental risk, as his failure to provide adequate, accurate costings demonstrates.

If only the Opposition could think, count and understand that we are not like France or Britain; we don't need nuclear as they might.

We have a wide, brown, windy and sunlit land that is ideal for clean and renewable energy generation.

They have enough issues with which to beat Labor, without this stupid thought bubble.

P Carman
Hovea

Kalamunda FOGO review disappoints

Dear Echo News,
I feel disappointed by the City of Kalamunda's recently carried motion to review the conditions of the FOGO arrangement, in particular in relation to the cost of additional landfill bins, and the frequency and size of landfill collections.

Whilst councillors may have been hearing from a particular cross section of our community that the FOGO system isn't working for them - creating solutions to address these issues, such as more comprehensive community education, targeted to address the specific concerns should surely be the first port of call.

Some councillors instead have taken the stance we need to review all possible options to increase the volume or frequency of landfill collections and that the opt in cost of an additional landfill bin under the new structure is too high and needs to be reviewed.

One could argue the cost to send waste to landfill should be high - as a reflection of the ever-increasing environmental cost that excessive landfill waste creates.

There are many members of the community rolling up their sleeves and adapting to the new system.

I ask councillors acknowledge this, rather than trying to appease the vocal minority by advocating for the unsustainable continuation of upwards of 240L of mixed waste being rammed into landfill on a weekly basis.

H Lill
Kalamunda

Thought for the day
"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light." - Aristotle

EV cars to power houses

Dear Echo News,
Having listened to Opposition leader Peter Dutton and his spokesman Ted O'Brien try to defend their policy of building nuclear power to "lower the cost of power", have they considered the following?

The federal government is now allowing future electric vehicles to store excess power for later use; there are some four million households in this country with rooftop solar; with the decreasing cost of batteries, including reusing EV batteries to store power, as I have done over the past two years, in order to prevent the grid collapsing with too much power (nuclear power plants are not designed to ramp up and down easily).

Rather stay generating permanently households could be forced to stop generating or feeding to the grid.

Currently under almost all circumstances I am able to go off-grid at will.

If even 20 percent of the households decided to go off-grid, the costs of power would go up because of the reduction in the number of customers.

K Blake
Lesmurdie

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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P16 Crossword

Disclaimer:
All election-related editorial content published by Echo News is prepared in accordance with our editorial policies and principles of fairness, accuracy, and impartiality. Responsibility for editorial decisions rests with Peter W Lewis General Manager/Editor.

ECHO News

ADDRESS:
Unit 4/9 The Avenue
Midland WA 6056

Phone: 9374 6666

GENERAL MANAGER / EDITOR
Peter W Lewis 9374 6605
peter.lewis@echo-news.com

ADVERTISING
sales@echo-news.com
Karon McCracken 9374 6610
Reed Lewis 9374 6600

EDITORIAL
editorial@echo-news.com
Anita McInnes 9374 6603
Guanhao Cheng 9374 6602
Jacki Elezovich 9374 6601

PRODUCTION
production@echo-news.com
Jeanene Allen 9374 6613
Liz Rowlands 9374 6613
Thomas Brady 9374 6613

ACCOUNTS
accounts@echo-news.com
Caprice Harries 9374 6604

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Artist rendition of the Town Centre revitalisation project.

Mundaring shire secures \$15m for town centre revitalisation

PETER W LEWIS

THE Shire of Mundaring has secured \$15 million from the federal government's thriving suburbs grant program, paving the way for the transformational town centre revitalisation project, with construction expected to commence in 2026.

Shire President Paige McNeil said the once-in-a-generation initiative would create the Mundaring Cultural Hub — a catalyst for diverse housing options and economic growth in the Perth Hills.

"This is a landmark moment for the Shire of Mundaring and a huge step forward for our community. The heart of Mundaring will become an arts, culture and community showpiece, promoting economic growth and increased tourism. This funding brings us closer to realising our vision of a vibrant, sustainable future for Mundaring," she said.

She said the project will stimulate investment in housing diversity to meet demand for retirement living, aged care, and independent housing, conveniently located near retail, healthcare, and vibrant public spaces just 35km from Perth CBD.

Surrounding land will be available for mixed-use development once current services are consolidated into the new Mundaring Cultural Hub.

Economic modelling conducted by the shire estimates the project will increase gross regional product (GRP) by \$68m, generate \$112m in direct output, and create up to 61 direct jobs during construction, with an additional 87 indirect jobs contributing

\$37m in wages.

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, and Local Government Minister Catherine King underscored the importance of federal investment in local communities.

"Councils and local organisations have struggled to maintain and upgrade essential local assets after being deprived of a competitive urban community infrastructure program under the former government.

"We established the thriving suburbs grant to fix this problem — to support local organisations with the funding they need to build better cities and more liveable suburbs.

"Whether sports clubs, urban precincts or community hubs, community facilities are the backbone of connected societies — and they're becoming increasingly important.

"By consolidating outdated community services into a modern, multi-purpose cultural hub, the project will deliver a dynamic centrepiece featuring an art gallery, contemporary library, visitor centre, local history museum, wellness clinic, and versatile community spaces.

"These facilities will connect seamlessly with key attractions such as Sculpture Park and local walking trails, enhancing Mundaring's appeal as a cultural and recreational destination."

Affectionately known as the heart of the hills, the Shire of Mundaring is home to more than 41,000 residents and spans 645sqkm, with nearly half designated as national park, state forest, or reserve land.

Concern over Brabham drainage

ANITA McINNES

THE statutory planning committee has endorsed a recommendation of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to approve the Brabham Stage 3 LSP with stage 1 expected to start next year.

When the statutory planning committee — it supports the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) to undertake its statutory planning functions — met on December 11 Paul Morgan from Peet said the market would be strong for some time in the corridor.

Mr Morgan said this was why they were keen to progress a second development front, which fell within the structure plan area and they were looking to start that in early 2025.

"Importantly as part of that we will deliver important diversity in lot product and affordability in this market that is becoming more of an issue and we'll also be focused in this area adjacent to the future train station to deliver more opportunities around sustainability, innovation and density as we interface with that train station."

CLE Town Planning and Design owner and director and WAPC board member Jane Bennett, who is leaving the DevelopmentWA board this year and was presenting as a private resident and not as WAPC board member said the stage 1 residential component would most likely start in the north east corner.

The statutory planning committee members acknowledged the written submissions from residents and the Urban Bushland Council, Bushmead Conservation Cobbers and Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group, which raised issues regarding environmental concerns, particularly relating to

drainage and rising ground water.

But the statutory planning committee minutes said members were advised by DPLH that the structure plan was sufficiently supported by technical information including a water management strategy as well as other environmental reports provided by state government agencies and that no fundamental concerns had been raised by any state government agencies.

Members were also advised that the LSP was supported by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and that the applicant would be required to complete a water management plan as part of the subdivision process.

Members were further advised that the developer had federal approval for the removal of trees on the site, that the structure plan was in line with this approval and that DPLH had recommended modifications to require a tree retention plan to be submitted as part of the subdivision approval process which was required to address the alignment of roads to ensure tree retention was maintained.



There are concerns the Brabham issues are being ignored.

Senator chimes in on Railway Parade

GUANHAO CHENG

MANAGEMENT of the Midland Metronet station project was mentioned in a November senate hearing when Senator Linda Reynolds raised resident concerns to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

Senator Reynolds said she'd been working closely with Commercial Bar and Kitchen owner Kevin Bartholomew over the last 12 months and visited the venue multiple times to see the disruptions firsthand.

"Shockingly, The Commercial Bar and Kitchen have been passed around between DevelopmentWA, Public Transport Authority, Metronet, and the WA State Labor Government without any resolution," she said.

"I raised this issue in Senate Estimates with the Department of Infrastructure and Transport, who were unaware of the extent of the issues and failed to provide any resolution.

"The department confirmed the issues have only been raised about the nightworks on 'a broad level, not at a detailed level'."

Senator Reynolds said her office received multiple emails per day about the disruptions on Railway Parade from local businesses and residents voicing their concerns and that they deserved an apology.

"Issues (include) flooding, power outages, damaged roads and footpaths, road closures, loss of parking spaces, private parking being used and blocked by contractors, faulty street lights, traffic cones and signs left strewn across the road for days," she said.

"There have been potential multiple breaches, which as a project with federal funding deeply concerns me.

"Development should never come at the expense of the local community."

Dust mitigation also remained a chief concern for Railway Parade residents heading into holiday season with calls for more effective measures to prevent a repeat of last year's sandblasting.

"During last year's Christmas shutdown, we expe-



The dust at Railway Parade that has residents worried.

rienced several severe dust storms as seasonal easterly winds picked up dust from the construction site, frequently rendering our licensed alfresco area unusable," Mr Bartholomew said.

"With the site closed and no immediate action from contractors, I sought help from the City of Swan to understand local dust tolerances.

"However, I was informed that the City of Swan has no jurisdiction to enforce standards at our address.

"(I was told) the responsibility for enforcing local laws and tolerances lies solely with DevelopmentWA."

When *Echo News* reached out to DevelopmentWA about dust mitigation issues, they said the PTA was best placed to respond as the authority responsible for the management of the project construction.

A PTA spokesperson said this summer, dust suppressant and water carts would be used across the entire project site, including along Railway Parade and monitors were in place for early detection of issues.

"Works will temporarily stop between Saturday, December 21 and Sunday, January 5 and the site area will be treated with dust suppressant in the lead-up to the closure," they said.

"If residents have any concerns about dust during the closure, they can contact the project team on (08) 9326 3666."

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Bring out all 3 bins by 6am on bin day.

If your collection day falls on or after a public holiday, your bins will be collected the following day.



Find out more:
kalamunda.wa.gov.au/xmasbins



A dedicated group of volunteers ran the stall every week.

Hills charity group closes after 40 years

JACKI ELEZOVICH

WORLD Vision Mundaring held their beloved community donation stall in Mundaring shopping centre for the final time last week, ending more than 40 years of the group's presence in the hills.

Committee member Nancy Johnston said it was a tough decision to let the charity group come to an end.

"It's just the last year or 18 months, it's just gotten harder and harder to get people to help, and people get sick, and life happens, and so it was really with very heavy hearts that we decided to close the group," she said.

"I think World Vision will always be in all of our hearts."

Ms Johnston has been with the group for 11 years, and one of its founders Mary Hayne was on the committee for the entire 41 years during which the club operated.

Ms Hayne said she got started with the group making clothes for hospital patients in Ethiopia and has seen the group grow over the years.

"It was a small group when I started, but we got bigger, and we used to join in all the things the shire put on like evening markets and events that we would take our stall to," she said.

"It all took a lot of organising, but it was always

worth it."

The group held a weekly stall outside the Mundaring Woolworths, selling everything from baked goods and jam to handmade Christmas decorations and books to raise money for World Vision projects.

Fellow committee member Kryssie Winton, who has been with the group for 19 years, said the community was always generous.

"We definitely had our regulars, people who would come week after week," she said.

"People were always just so giving, and particularly with our last stall, we were telling people they could take things whether they wanted to donate or not, and so many people brought up donations anyway, I was just blown away."

Ms Hayne travelled extensively during her time running the Mundaring branch and sponsoring children through World Vision, and said it was always encouraging to see the difference World Vision projects and sponsorships were making to kids' lives overseas.

"I've done a lot of travelling and seeing the circumstances people were living in and how we were helping them, and it made me feel like I was doing something worthwhile and good for the world," she said.

"We put two sisters through nursing training, and **cont page 18**

Midland dancer wins on world stage

JACKI ELEZOVICH

MIDLAND Dance Studios owner Tabetha Vaglivello, also known by her stage name Zahara, recently competed in the Belly Dance Now International Challenge and won first place in the international professional and teachers category.

She said she has been a dancer since her childhood. "My interest in belly dancing blossomed in 2000 when my mother-in-law took me along to a restaurant - Ali Tent in Vic Park," she said.

"I saw this lady come out and she was wearing a beautiful costume, and she started dancing and I thought I could do that, so I went home and tried it and realised I couldn't."

"My mother-in-law took me to one of my first classes and I haven't looked back since."

Ms Vaglivello said she loves the many different facets of Middle Eastern dance.

"I love that 25 years after my first lesson, I am still learning," she said.

"There is so much depth and richness of cultural understanding needed for belly dance, from understanding the beautiful cabaret style or the earthy folkloric styles, the styles and costumes and regions you must know them all and understand the cultural heritage and rich tapestry of the different areas and communities."



Tabetha competed in multiple rounds over months to make it to finals.

"I love that it builds a sisterhood for the dancers; young, old, tall, small, skinny or round this dance helps women go on a journey of femininity and body acceptance and allows them to feel beautiful about themselves inside and out."

cont page 18

Elfenbrook 2024 celebrates diversity

ELLENBROOK'S annual Christmas celebration returned for another year bringing together the community's members from different cultural backgrounds to experience shared holiday cheer.

The annual family friendly event Elfenbrook featured local performers, including the Hills Symphony Orchestra, community groups, a family show, displays, markets and fireworks.

A Christmas pageant with more than 40 groups participating and a visit from The Grinch was also part of the experience.

Elfenbrook Community Collective (ECC) secretary Cate McCullough said crowds this year were noticeably up, to around 25,000.

"It's such a great annual event, that brings people

together in a wonderful celebration of our community," she said.

"Importantly, it also showcases the diversity we have in the City of Swan with a number of stalls from our multicultural groups featured."

"The event enables and empowers these groups to showcase their cultures and it gives them so much exposure."

ECC chair Kevin Bailey said this year's highly successful Christmas festival exceeded all expectations.

He said the quality of the event reflected the dedication and hard work of a group of volunteers committed to making a memorable day for the Elfenbrook community. **cont page 18**

Ellenbrook Community Hub commences construction

CONSTRUCTION has begun on the \$7.5 million Ellenbrook Community Hub project, supported by a \$3.5m WA Labor Government commitment, a \$2m Lotterywest grant and a further \$2m in federal funding.

The City of Swan has provided the land and \$500,000 for landscaping once the building is complete with construction scheduled for completion by November 2025.

The hub will be the shared home to an array of community groups, including the Ellenbrook Men's Shed, the Ellenbrook Combined Probus Club, Ellenbrook RSL and several multicultural associations.

The hub, to be built next to the Ellenbrook Bowls Club on Cashman Avenue, will feature a large hall to cater for functions, performances, events and regular group recreation activities, a workshop building for the core tenant the Ellenbrook Men's Shed, an activity room, arts and craft space, community room and indoor and outdoor storage rooms.

Local Government Minister Hannah Beazley said the facilities, activities and services to be offered at the Ellenbrook Community Hub would deliver so many benefits to the community.

"From a large hall for performances and events, to a workshop and activity spaces – it will have something for everyone," she said.

"Our Cook Labor Government is proud to support this important community project in the heart of Ellenbrook.

"This project is not just about immediate benefits - it is about building a sustainable, positive and inclusive future for the Ellenbrook and Aveley communities."

Swan Hills MLA Jessica Shaw said the project would be an important asset for the growing Ellenbrook community in the years to come, providing locals a place to come together and foster strong social connections.

"I am so glad to see this project reach this important milestone and am proud to have supported the efforts of the local community to bring this hub to life," Ms Shaw said.

"I look forward to seeing the City of Swan making it available to all community groups on an affordable and accessible basis."

City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson said it was exciting to see construction of the Ellenbrook Community Hub officially kick off.

"This marks the start of a new era of community connection in a rapidly growing area of the Swan region," Mrs Richardson said.

"The City of Swan is grateful for the support of the state and federal governments, as well as the funding boost from Lotterywest, making this project a reality."



VRRA said the planning amendment would pave the way for further development that would fundamentally destroy the character of The Vines.

VRRA calls for rejection of Vines amendment

ANITA McINNES

THE Vines Residents and Ratepayers Association (VRRA) is calling on the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) to listen to the big percentage of people against proposed amendment 9 to The Vines outline development plan 3.

In a statement VRRA said 90 per cent of the community, the entire City of Swan council and Swan Hills MLA Jessica Shaw were united in opposition to the proposal and the WAPC should "reject this application to prevent irreversible harm to the environmental, tourism and recreational value of The Vines".

The proposed amendment prepared by Hatch on behalf of the golf course owners – The Vines WA – includes a new two-storey driving range facility to the north of the clubhouse within the existing golf course area, changing the existing driving range to an R40 zoning enabling the development of over 55s housing and perimeter public open space areas, delivering medium density housing options adjacent the resort centre and amending the land to residential R60 and creating a 14-hole short course.

VRRA said The Vines WA proposal to modify the structural plan of the Vines golf course from recreation and tourism to residential land use (including high density R60 housing) would fundamentally and irreparably change the character and nature of the area forever.

"This application by Vines WA gives rise to the exact same concerns that led the JDAP to reject its earlier iteration in 2023, failing to present the full extent of the plan

and underrepresenting the scope and impact of this planning change on The Vines community," the statement said.

At the December 11 council meeting Tim Trefry from Urban Solutions gave a deputation supporting the proposed amendment.

He said The Vines was 30-years-old and needed to be upgraded to stay an attractive amenity with two-storey driving ranges, the fence would be 20m away from residents, existing golf holes were remaining and residents had been advised all the golf holes were to remain.

Cr Aaron Bowman declared an impartiality interest and an apprehended bias in the item as he was a past chair of the VRRA as well as a long-term resident of The Vines.

He said it was important he explained his reason for declaring an apprehended bias.

He quoted a Peppermint Grove issue where a councillor voted on an item, which Cr Bowman believed was passed unanimously, and the applicant challenged it on an apprehended bias.

After explaining why he did not want to risk the applicant having any reason to challenge the decision he left the chamber so did not vote on the item.

The 14 remaining councillors voted to recommend to the WAPC that the amendment be refused for reasons including that prohibitive elements such as three emerging safety hazards created by the proposed modifications, absence of bushfire emergency plans and the adverse impact of higher traffic volumes expected to be generated by the proposed additional housing and driving range facility had not been adequately addressed.



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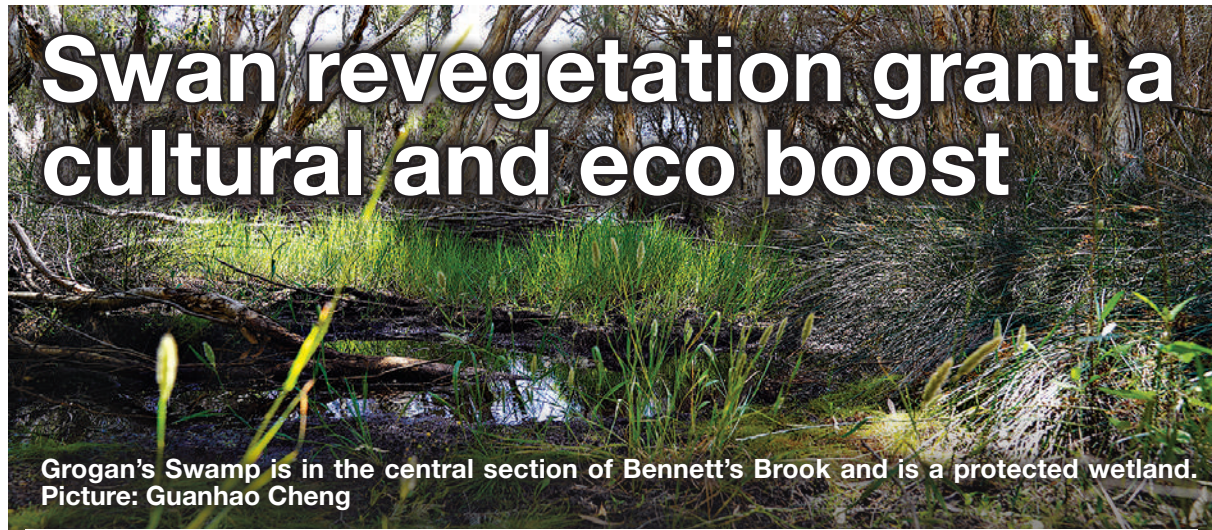
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Swan revegetation grant a cultural and eco boost



Grogan's Swamp is in the central section of Bennett's Brook and is a protected wetland. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

GUANHAO CHENG

BASSENDEAN's latest federal government grant is set to combine cultural opportunities and environmental protection and regeneration following the allocated funding of up \$1.74 million awarded to revegetate brook and swampland.

The Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation has been awarded the funding to conserve native and threatened species and improve the ecological health at Bennett Brook.

The project by Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation will address critical threats to the site, including threats to Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation-listed threatened fauna and ecological communities, through targeted weed control and revegetation.

Such fauna includes the endangered black cockatoo species Carnaby's black cockatoo and forest red-tailed black cockatoo.

The project will also aim to build the capacity of Whadjuk youth in scientific and cultural approaches to habitat restoration.

Students from Kiara College and John Forrest Secondary College Bushranger Unit have already started working to revegetate the area.

Bennett Brook, also known by its Noongar name as Korndiny Karla Boodja, and its Grogan's Swamp, are both culturally and ecologically significant bodies of water that feed into the Swan River.

Bennett Brook flows through Mussel Pool and joins

the Swan River at Bassendean.

It's home to three native fish species, the long-necked turtle, native freshwater mussels, small freshwater crustaceans and tiny macroinvertebrates.

Quendas live on its banks and the brush-tailed possum often nest in the paperbarks nearby.

Noongar Elder and Whadjuk's cultural advice committee chairperson Greg Ugle said it was really good that the project would benefit Noongar people with connections to the area.

He said the Whadjuk cultural advice committee and Traditional Owners would be involved in deciding on what happens with the land and planning its restoration with native flora.

He said the land was part of a transfer under Indigenous land use agreements and it was important to recognise the area's significance for broader Noongar connection, rather than Whadjuk only.

Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation chief executive officer Lisa Dobrin said the grant offered a unique opportunity and meaningful collaboration between Noongar people, state and federal governments and the wider community.

"The project brings together the cultural wisdom of Whadjuk traditional knowledge holders with modern conservation science, creating a powerful partnership that will protect threatened species, restore native vegetation, and train young Whadjuk people in both traditional and contemporary environmental management practices," she said.

Kalamunda receives Youth Week funding

JACKI ELEZOVICH

THE City of Kalamunda was among more than 30 local governments and organisations across WA who received grants for 2025 Youth Week activities.

State government grants worth \$75,000 were distributed to support events for Youth Week 2025, which is the state's biggest annual celebration of young people and will run from April 10 to 17.

City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas said she hoped to deliver an engaging and impactful Youth Week program, which will include a youth symposium to hear young voices on issues including climate change, personal safety and resilience.

"In consultation with the youth advisory council and Youth Action Kalamunda, the city has identified key issues that matter most to young people," she said.

"This year's Youth Week program, the 'champions of change youth symposium', has been developed in direct response to this feedback.

"The symposium will bring together local youth leaders and change champions to empower and inspire young people to lead positive change in their communities."

Three key sessions will cover local solutions to climate change, hands-on first aid courses for U18 and Kalamunda-grown sporting stars sharing their experiences of resilience.

Ms Thomas said the city's youth team was collaborating with the

youth advisory council to ensure the event remained youth driven.

"Youth Week WA is a vital opportunity to highlight the contributions of young people and celebrate their potential to shape the future of our community," she said.

"With initiatives like the 'champions of change youth symposium, the City of Kalamunda continues to build an environment where young people can thrive as advocates and leaders."

Youth Week provides young people across WA with an opportunity to express their ideas, raise important issues, showcase their talents and connect with peers.

The celebrations will kick off in Karratha and will include more than 100 events.

The 2025 theme is 'our threads, this place, your moment', reflecting young people's connection to their communities and to each other.

The theme was selected by the Youth Week planning committee which includes the 2025 Youth Week ambassadors Daisy Pilsforth, Emily Sullivan, Lisa Lee and Om Sharma.

Youth Minister Hannah Beazley said there was something for everyone in the variety of events being held in communities across the state.

"Youth Week 2025 is once again shaping up to be another epic celebration of our incredible young people, their positive contributions and to promote their talents and help them foster valuable community connections."



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New quokka population in hills

A NEW quokka population has been discovered in the Perth Hills by local charity, Bibbul Ngarma Aboriginal Association Inc (BNAA).

The quokkas were discovered through the BoorYul-Bah-Bilya program, a recent initiative that aims to address declining river health through creation of a new type of community catchment plan.

According to the BNAA this is the first time that quokkas have been photographed by the general public in the Perth Hills and is an important finding for conservation of the species.

"While known to occur in isolated locations in the Darling Range, quokkas are rarely seen by the wider community. Their exact location will remain confidential and the best place to see quokkas is still on Wadjemup-Rottnest Island," a spokesperson said.

Quokkas are best known on Wadjemup-Rottnest Island although small groups live in the forests of Noongar Boodja, mostly around Jarrahdale, Dwellingup, Collie, Nannup, Northcliffe, Denmark, the Stirling Ranges, Green Ranges and Bald Island.

BNAA Senior Elder Greg Ugle said: "Looking at these photographs, this is an important find for me. As a Noongar Traditional Elder, my intention is to be sure to protect these little animals."

BNAA chairperson Walter McGuire said the discovery of these quokkas on Whadjuk Boodja demonstrated the importance of community-led programs like BoorYul-Bah-Bilya.

"As Noongar Traditional Owners, we have the language, stories and knowledge to look after this land as we have done since time began. Through BoorYul-Bah-Bilya, we will do everything we can to ensure that quokkas do not become another in a long list of our extinct or endangered native animals," Mr McGuire said.

BNAA director Francesca Flynn said she hoped this important discovery would help to strengthen efforts to protect mainland quokkas and other threatened native species that



Credit: Tim Blake BoorYul-Bah-Bilya

were under constant threat from land clearing, fires, feral predators and the changing climate.

"I acknowledge the huge effort of BoorYul-Bah-Bilya volunteers, including Tim Blake who has purchased fauna cameras and dedicated many volunteer hours," she said.

Quokkas were once abundant in south-west WA but have reduced dramatically since the 1930s, likely due to foxes and widespread land clearing practices for agriculture and mining. In the 1920s, quokkas were considered a pest of pine plantations and farms near Perth and were actively hunted and poisoned.

Current threats to mainland quokkas include predation by foxes and cats, habitat loss due to land clearing, Phytophthora dieback and destruction by feral pigs, increased bushfire intensity and burning of swamps and creek lines and reduced rainfall and drying of wetland habitats.

Quokkas are a threatened species under both state and commonwealth legislation and in WA, they are listed as vulnerable under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria.

Nationally, quokkas are listed as vulnerable under the Commonwealth Environment Protec-

tion and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Quokkas have been studied extensively on Wadjemup-Rottnest but research on mainland quokkas is limited, which limits the development of strategies to protect them.

This new quokka population was identified by BoorYul-Bah-Bilya volunteers as part of a conservation audit to assess the health of the Mandoon Bilya (Helena River) catchment, and the finding will assist the ongoing management of quokkas in the Perth Hills.

BoorYul-Bah-Bilya is the first program of its kind to consider the environmental, cultural and social values of a river in one integrated plan.

It uses the Mandoon-Helena River to create a model process that can be applied to any river by any community, with the program aiming to restore river health, protect cultural significance, improve social amenity, support sustainable economic growth and reconnect people with the many values of rivers.

BNAA are working with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to manage the discovery and hope it will lead to additional resources including more surveys, monitoring and research, and protecting key populations and habitats.

Donate to help black cockatoos

TRILLION Trees, an environmental non-profit in Hazlemere, is fundraising this Christmas to plant native trees for black cockatoos.

Native trees are needed by black cockatoos for both habitat and food, and Trillion Trees chief executive officer Mark Hullett said between the lasting impacts of summer heatwaves and the continued clearing of native bushland for urban and rural development, these iconic Western Australian birds were in peril.

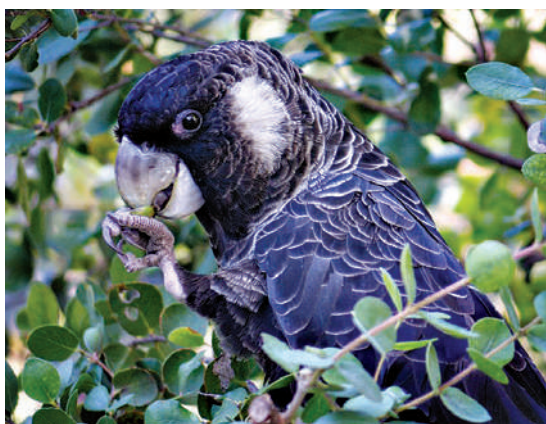
"Our black cockatoos are in crisis," he said. "We urgently need to plant thousands more trees for black cockatoos as so many of their food sources have been lost to land clearing for development and the impact of last summer's record-breaking heatwave."

"Our black cockatoo Christmas campaign invites West Australians who are fans of these majestic birds to take action to save them by donating money towards the planting of more trees which will one day act as feeding and roosting sites for these at-risk birds."

"This campaign is important because black cockatoos are iconic West Australian birds and we need to protect them."

Next year, Trillion Trees will be placing nesting boxes at restoration sites where black cockatoos have been spotted, providing crucial short term roosting and breeding habitat until the trees planted are mature enough to support the cockatoos to live in them.

Restoration sites in the area include Reg Bond Reserve in Viveash, Helena River in Hazlemere,



Whiteman Park in Caversham and Guildford Meadows where planting volunteers excitedly spotted a flock of Carnaby's black cockatoos flying overhead during a winter planting day earlier in the year.

Other projects extend out to the Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions and include restoration of wetland, eucalypt and banksia forests.

Trillion Trees will plant a variety of trees and native plants to act as both feeding and roosting sites for the three key local species of black cockatoos: Carnaby's, Baudin's and the forest red-tailed.

Banksias, a main food source for all three species, needs at least 10 years to mature enough to grow fruit, which Mr Hullett said is why planting needs to happen urgently and on a large scale.

Donations can be made through www.trillion-trees.org.au/black-cockatoos

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Tuesday 24th December
★ Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Wednesday 25th December
★ Holy Communion 9.30am

CHURCH OF ST FRANCIS
Werribee Road, Woorlooloo

Sunday 22nd December
★ Holy Communion 11.00am



METRONET Australian Government Public Transport Authority BUILDING FOR TOMORROW

Partial closure of Railway Parade between 56 to 66 Railway Parade

Monday 13 January to Sunday 13 April 2025

To facilitate critical works on METRONET's New Midland Station Project, Railway Parade will be closed for road re-surfacing and drainage works between 56 to 66 Railway Parade from Monday 13 January to Sunday 13 April 2025.

Detours and traffic management will be in place for the duration of the closure.

Plan ahead and follow the signs.

Dates may be subject to change.



For more information or if you have any queries, call 9326 3666, or email info@metronet.wa.gov.au.

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21 Cort Way, **Rockingham**



Mt Helena Volunteer Bushfire Brigade captain Aaron Thredgold holds up the cheque with Amaroo Retreat & Spa owner Kirstin Westerman surrounded by brigade volunteers.

Amaroo Retreat & Spa donates \$10,000 to support Mt Helena volunteer fireys

AMAROO Retreat & Spa has donated \$10,000 to the Mount Helena Volunteer Bushfire Brigade to directly aid the dedicated volunteers who bravely protect lives, property, and the environment each fire season.

Owners of Amaroo Retreat & Spa, Kirstin and Mike Westerman, said they were committed to supporting the local community.

“Our region is no stranger to the risks of bushfires, and we are continually inspired by the selflessness and dedication of the Mount Helena Volunteer Bushfire Brigade,” they said.

“Supporting their efforts aligns with our ethos of community care and giving back to those who work tirelessly to protect us all.

“If you eat in our restaurant, enjoy a massage or stay overnight, you enable us to continue to support our wonderful hills community.”

This contribution from Amaroo Retreat & Spa

reflects the business’s values as a corporate citizen and its commitment to nurturing a strong, resilient community.

Amaroo has long championed local causes, seeing it as an essential part of the retreat’s mission to not only serve as a sanctuary for relaxation but also as a vital contributor to the wellbeing of its neighbours.

With this contribution, the total distributed to the community is more than \$30,000.

The donation will be put towards recognising the dedication of the Mount Helena brigade members, ensuring they receive the support, appreciation and resources they so richly deserve.

For more information on how you can support the Mount Helena Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, or to learn more about Amaroo Retreat & Spa’s ongoing community initiatives, please contact

Manager@amaroo retreat.com.au or go to www. amaroo retreat.com.au

Swan volunteers recognised for their many years of volunteering

JACKI ELEZOVICH

SWAN Community Care recognised its longest serving volunteers during a celebration lunch held last week in honour of International Volunteer Day.

Service pins were awarded to volunteers who had served more than 15 years with community care, and gift vouchers were awarded to three volunteers who had served for more than 20 years.

Doug McCarty who had served for 20 years, Jean Bennion who had served for 22 years and Lynn Lake who had served for 29 years were all given a voucher from the City of Swan volunteer advisory committee, which was presented by City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson.

Swan Community Care volunteer coordinator Sharon Richards said volunteers undertook a variety of roles including administration, driving members of the community to appointments or social outings, and working in day clubs provided by the group.

“We are always looking for people who enjoy working with people, people who make a difference and bring a smile to the faces of others,” she said.

Recently, Ms Richards stumbled across a story written by Lynn Lake, Community Care’s current longest serving volunteer, back in June 2010, of how she came to be a volunteer with the group.

“One day quite some time ago now, when my children were in pre-school, I was sitting at home on my own listening to the radio,” Lynn had written.

“The usual music, news and general talking and chit chat was going on when suddenly something caught my attention: it was an announcement, I remember it was a lady’s voice talking about volunteering, saying the words; ‘Why not volunteer? We need your help!’”

“I sat there thinking, ‘I wonder if I could do that?’ I have always felt I was able to relate to the elderly but wasn’t sure what the duties entailed or if I was capable, so I wrote down the details and decided to ring the number.

“I spoke to a lady by the name of Margaret who was the coordinator, she was so nice and she suggested that I work in the day centre as an assistant, so I did that was 15 years ago now and it’s hard to believe where the time has gone.

“That very first day I met a lady by the name of Jean, we have been friends ever since through good



Lynn Lake received her award from City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson.

times and bad and we have witnessed a lot of changes including the staff, however one thing that remains is the longevity of the majority of volunteers.

“During the past 15 years I have been fortunate to meet some really interesting people, sometimes people touch your life and stay with you always, I feel very honoured and privileged to have been let into their lives and I have never looked back.”

That story was penned more than 14 years ago.

Lynn has now been volunteering with Swan Community Care for more than 29 years, twice a week and so has given about 2958 days of her time to helping others in the community.

Ms Richards said Lynn had always been very generous and loved to share her artistic skills and talents.

“Coming up to Christmas and Easter there is a frenzy of activity making cards and decorations,” she said.

“Over the years she has supported countless club members develop their own skills with all sorts of different crafts including painting, paper-craft and needlework.

“Lynn has a great, positive view of life and a fabulous sense of humour and she brings a smile to the faces of all she works with, we couldn’t ask for a more dedicated volunteer.”

If you have a skill or talent you would like to share or you have some time and would like to bring a smile to somebody’s face, Swan Community Care would love to hear from you.

For more information contact Sharon Richards on 9267 9062 or Sharon.Richards@swan.wa.gov.au

Annual Report 2023-2024

Each year in accordance with Section 5.53 of the Local Government Act 1995 the City of Kalamunda produces an Annual Report to inform residents of the activities undertaken during the financial year, and to present the annual financial report.

The 2023-2024 Annual Report is now available and can be accessed through the publications area of the City’s website:

www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au

Printed copies are also available at the City’s Administration Centre and Libraries.

Anthony Vuleta
Chief Executive Officer

Notice of Meeting - Annual General Meeting of Electors

The City of Kalamunda Annual General Meeting of Electors to receive the 2023-2024 Annual Report will be held at the City of Kalamunda Administration Centre, 2 Railway Road, Kalamunda on:

Tuesday 4 February 2025 at 6:30pm

The Annual General Meeting of Electors is an opportunity for all residents and ratepayers to ask questions or voice your opinion.

Anthony Vuleta
Chief Executive Officer



Market could go up, or down, or stay the same, according to

NO
Fin

It's been a big year for numbers, with the usual trends going upwards, downwards and even sideways. It's been a roller coaster ride, but instead of screams of terror, you hear the soothing sound of fax machines humming in the background.

Whether scrutinising these profit margins is justified, with parties aligned on the left and right refusing to meet in the centre. It's been a big year for numbers, with the usual trends



GOT 15 MINUTES TO BURN?

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Not using this time to create your bushfire plan instead could cost you so much more.

🔍 My Bushfire Plan



Businesses continue to seek profit based on calculations that have been calculated, showing a strong preference towards more green numbers and less red ones. Reports indicate an

excessive number of emails marked as important with no subject matter that suggests any importance. It's been a big year for numbers, with the usual trends

that, we conclude this incredibly ordinary article about the utterly unsurprising world of finance. Stay tuned for our equally riveting report on the growth of grass, which experts anticipate will be green.

It's been a big year for numbers, with the usual trends going upwards, downwards and even sideways' NORMAN FLAT



wards and statistical the bank

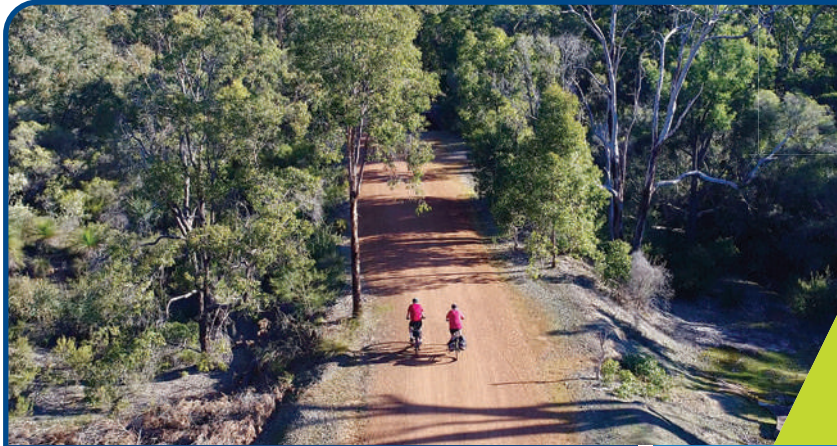
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Shire President's Message

Hi everyone,

I'm thrilled to share some exciting news with you all.

Shire of Mundaring has been awarded a \$15 million grant from the Federal Government to build our much anticipated Mundaring Cultural Hub.



This significant investment will not only enhance our town centre but also provide vibrant spaces for community events, arts, and cultural activities. This is a monumental step forward in our journey to revitalise Mundaring's town centre, and I couldn't be more excited about the positive impact this will have on our community and economic growth. As we look ahead to the upcoming State and Federal elections in 2025, our advocacy efforts continue. We are seeking financial support to:

- Implement a telecommunications power system to ensure continuous communications during emergencies
- Upgrade our sports facilities with modern change rooms
- Develop the Helena Valley Parkland Masterplan
- Upgrade the Scott Street and Great Eastern Highway intersection
- Partner to deliver the Brown Park Masterplan upgrades
- Enhance our Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Stations to ensure they are fit for purpose.

With the bushfire season upon us, I urge everyone to be bushfire ready. Ensure your properties are prepared and that you have a plan in place. Visit DFES mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au/ to learn more. Stay informed about burning periods, fire danger ratings, total fire bans and more by signing up here bit.ly/SMSinfotool for the Shire's free SMS alerts.

During the holiday period, I encourage you to make the most of our free 'Summer of Entertainment' community events or explore our shire's beautiful landscapes, walking trails and attractions. Support local and enjoy our cafes and hospitality venues!

On behalf of the Council, I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I'm looking forward to a prosperous and exciting 2025 for all of us in the Shire of Mundaring!

Paige McNeil
Shire President

Lake Leschenaultia access



Visitors to the lake can now enjoy the popular destination more often during fire season, thanks to updated closure protocols and extensive bushfire mitigation efforts.

Following a review prompted by the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS), new measures balance safety with increased access.

Shire President Paige McNeil praised the collaborative effort, saying, "These changes reflect a commitment to both safety and community enjoyment. I thank everyone involved in making the lake a safe and welcoming space."

Hazard reduction burns, firebreak upgrades, and ongoing maintenance have significantly lowered fire risks. Visitors are reminded to stay alert and follow emergency procedures.

For more information, visit our website bit.ly/MDGLakeAccess or contact our Community Safety and Emergency Management Team on (08) 9290 6666.

Town Centre Revitalisation



\$15million boost for Project

Thanks to a successful grant application and a strong advocacy focus on this vital project, the Shire has secured \$15 million from the Federal Government's Thriving Suburbs Grant Program to deliver the Mundaring Town Centre Revitalisation Project.

The funding will establish a Cultural Hub featuring an art gallery, library, visitor centre, museum, wellness clinic and community spaces, enhancing connections to local attractions like Sculpture Park and walking trails.

Speaking of this landmark moment for the Shire, President Paige McNeil said "This funding brings us closer to realising our vision of a vibrant, sustainable future for Mundaring."

Construction is set to begin in 2026, with the project expected to boost housing diversity, create over 140 jobs, and stimulate economic growth. Find out more about the project by visiting engage.mundaring.wa.gov.au/mundaring-town-centre-revitalisation

What's On

1 January Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 28 January

The meeting will be held on Tuesday 28 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.



2 Summer of Entertainment 2025

Get ready for an unforgettable summer! Our popular Summer of Entertainment is back in 2025, packed with FREE events for the whole family. Whether you're a movie lover, outdoor enthusiast or music fan, there's something for everyone. Mark your calendars for these exciting events:

Movie in the Park

Friday 17 January
Brown Park, Swan View

LakeFest

Friday 31 January
Lake Leschenaultia

Twilight Tunes

Saturday 22 February
Sculpture Park

Visit our website for further information mundaring.wa.gov.au/leisure-recreation/summer-of-entertainment-2025.aspx



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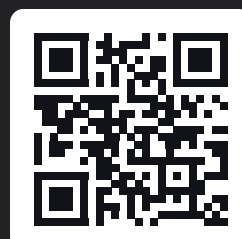
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What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?
The elf-abet!



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Merry Christmas

The Management and Staff at Echo News would like to wish all our readers and advertisers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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We are closed from 5pm Thursday December 19, 2024 and reopen 9am Monday January 6, 2025



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Malcolm, Raynee & Hanny wish all our clients, family and friends a very Merry Christmas and Safe & Happy New Year



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From the Care Team at Right at Home – Perth Midland!




Merry Christmas

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Bendigo Bank

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From the Staff and Directors in Mundaring




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Authorised by Tania Lawrence, Australian Labor Party, 2/257 Great Eastern Highway, Midland WA 6056

ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

Your local Gig Guide

Fri December 20

Settlers House York
John Sloper.
6pm. Free.
125 Avon Terrace York

Bassendean Hotel
DJ Roller.
5pm-Late. Free
25 Old Perth Road
Bassendean

Rose & Crown
Greg Scott.
5pm-8pm. Free.
105 Swan Street
Guildford

Lyric's Bar
Furniture.
7pm. Free
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

Sat December 21

Settlers House York

Graeme Fisher.
6pm. Free
125 Avon Terrace
York
Lyric's Bar
Crash Creole.
7pm. Free.
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

Thurs 26 December

Bassendean Hotel
Anderson.
8pm-Late. Free.
25 Old Perth Road

Thur 12 December

Hemingway & Co
Blues Thursday.
6.30-9pm. Free.
6/7095 Great Eastern
Highway Mundaring

Sun December 22

Bassendean Hotel
Kevin curran.
2pm-5pm. Free.
25 Old Perth Road
Bassendean

Cont. Sun 22 Dec

Lyric's Bar
Ange Leech.
5pm. Free.
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

Rose & Crown
Bob Brisbane.
2pm-6pm. Free.
105 Swan Street
Guildford

Noble Falls Tavern
Tyler Ian.
1pm-4pm. Free.
2672 Toodyay Road
Gidgegannup

Parkerville Tavern
Brothers in Arms
4pm-7pm. Free.
6 Owen road
Parkerville

Tue 24 December

Hemingway & Co
Jazz Tuesday.
7pm-9pm. Free.
6/7095 Great Eastern
Highway

Thurs 26 December

Hemingway & Co
Blues Thursday.
6.30-9pm. Free.
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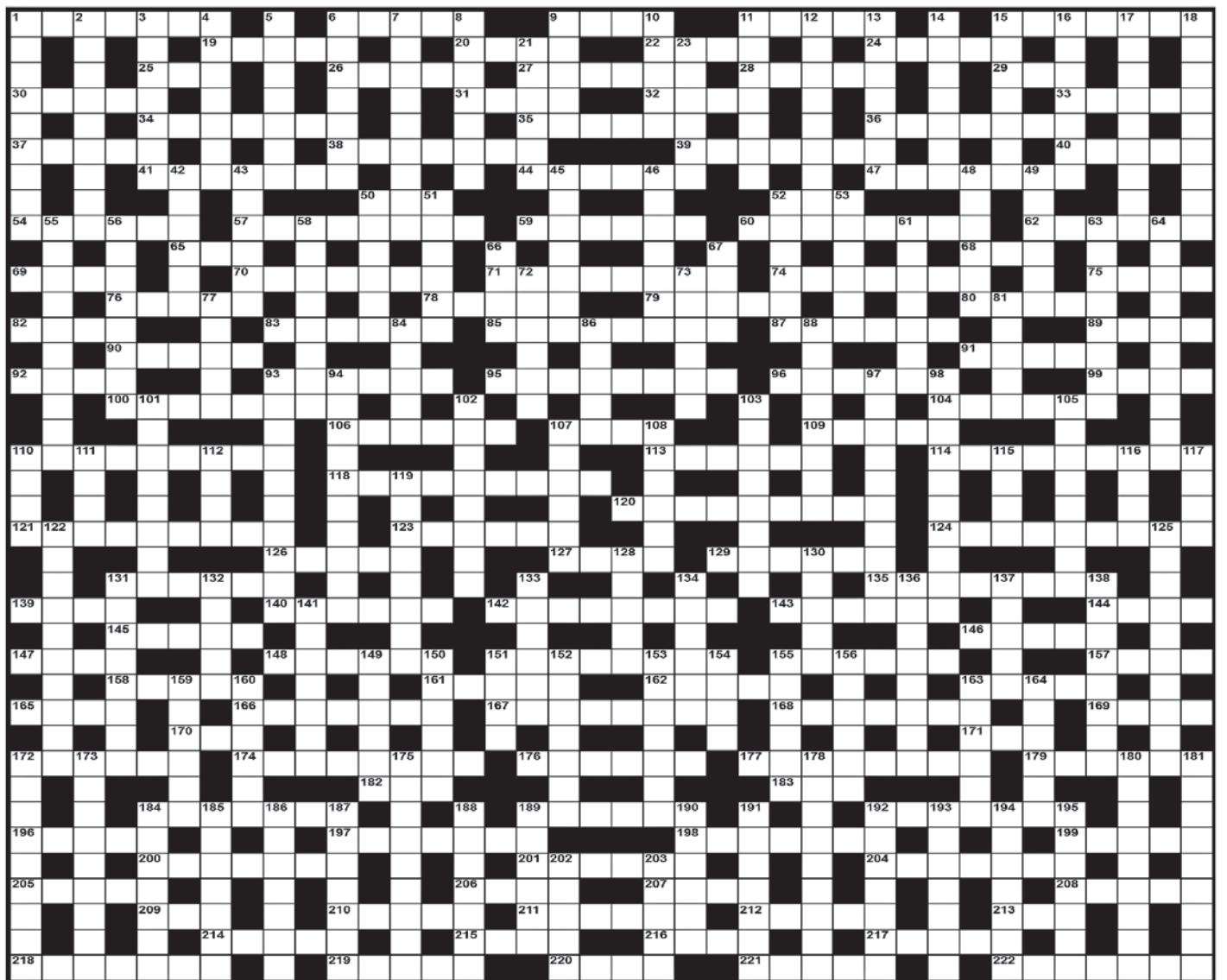
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ECHO NEWS

Mind Boggler Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Bent over
- 6 Mine deposits
- 9 A powder
- 11 Subject
- 15 Repeats from memory
- 19 Angry
- 20 In place of, in ...
- 22 Nautical greeting
- 24 Pond growth
- 25 Meadow
- 26 A fruit
- 27 Artist's room
- 28 Before
- 29 Indian state
- 30 Hooded jacket
- 31 Mexican dish
- 32 A rajah's wife
- 33 Shoulder garment
- 34 Dizziness
- 35 A public speaker
- 36 Lights up
- 37 A secret store
- 38 First settler
- 39 Endurance
- 40 Accustom
- 41 Riotous behaviour
- 44 Acting group
- 47 Naval sword
- 50 A relative (abb)
- 52 High explosive (init)
- 54 Instrument for sewing
- 57 Pariahs
- 59 Keen insight
- 60 Personal magnetism
- 62 Fell into disuse
- 65 Short sleep
- 68 Influenza (abb)
- 69 Eating place
- 70 Classy in dress
- 71 Headlong
- 74 An opening
- 75 Catch sight of
- 76 Stop suddenly
- 78 An artist's stand
- 79 To object
- 80 Fear
- 82 Bends at the waist
- 83 A prickly plant
- 85 Bush walkers
- 87 A sycophant (coll) (3-3)
- 89 An assistant
- 90 A smell
- 91 Coquet
- 92 A venom tooth
- 93 Made a dupe of
- 95 A basis of jellies
- 96 A nursery

- 99 Chooses
- 100 Profound
- 104 TV program host
- 106 Small wheel
- 107 A river valley
- 109 Wanders
- 110 Learning
- 113 Australian stork
- 114 Grave marker
- 118 Final inconvenience (4,5)
- 120 Agree to
- 121 Italian dish
- 123 Dried grape
- 124 Outer skin layer
- 126 Skin on the head
- 127 Drains
- 129 A star sign
- 131 Fit for eating
- 135 Carved in metal
- 139 Makes an offer
- 140 Picturesque
- 142 Paid assistants
- 143 Striped animals
- 144 Large-scale
- 145 Sharp pains
- 146 False
- 147 German river
- 148 Sacred Indian river
- 151 Cuts short
- 155 Ex-Russian dictator
- 157 Take from the top
- 158 Fencers' swords
- 161 Irregularly notched
- 162 Indigenous language (NZ)
- 163 Beleaguerment
- 165 An employer
- 166 Sailing ship
- 167 Scottish instruments
- 168 Asleep
- 169 Highway
- 170 A paddle
- 171 A groove
- 172 Holiday destination
- 174 A shrub
- 176 Ignores rules
- 177 Take back
- 179 Church passageways
- 182 Fuel
- 183 Large body of water
- 184 Type of mollusc
- 189 Inspect casually
- 192 Type of snake
- 196 In the dark
- 197 Sign as permitted
- 198 False action
- 199 On a par
- 200 Wild
- 201 Extravagant

- 204 Apt
- 205 In short supply
- 206 Put shoes on horses
- 207 A stake
- 208 Cowboy's show
- 209 Foot digit
- 210 Body parts
- 211 Pester
- 212 Plunders
- 213 Day before
- 214 A knave
- 215 Border
- 216 Small island
- 217 More capable
- 218 Makes certain
- 219 Ballads
- 220 A single part
- 221 A coarse fibre
- 222 Hang by attachment

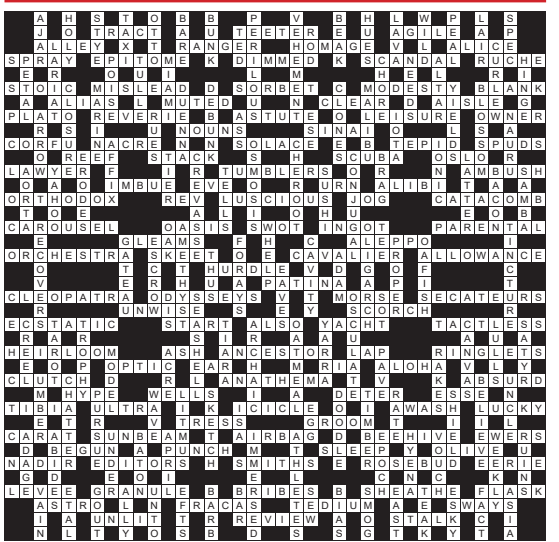
DOWN

- 1 A notion of guilt
- 2 Ban from company
- 3 A group discussion
- 4 A sketch
- 5 Caribbean island state
- 6 Part of a surfboard (3,4)
- 7 Doctor's decision
- 8 Spread thickly
- 9 Instructor
- 10 Egyptian city
- 11 Symbolic
- 12 A vibrant canopy tree
- 13 Of the heart
- 14 Not in favour
- 15 Boat competition
- 16 Car frame
- 17 Values greatly
- 18 Suffered heat
- 21 A guard
- 23 With grating voice
- 42 List for discussion
- 43 Drive forward
- 45 Prepare for a second use
- 46 To go before
- 48 Lazed about
- 49 A greeting gesture
- 50 Person of learning
- 51 Country's divisions
- 52 A particular conception
- 53 Public transport
- 55 Gave off moisture
- 56 Horse event
- 58 Reference books
- 61 A green vegetable
- 63 A plunderer
- 64 A long journey

- 66 Prefix "formerly" (arch)
- 67 Distinctive doctrines
- 72 More strange
- 73 Placid
- 77 Outer edge
- 81 A memento
- 84 Consumers
- 86 Australian marsupial
- 88 Parts of ears
- 93 Distribution licences
- 94 Increase speed
- 97 Ornamental pendant lights
- 98 Gifts at Easter time (6,4)
- 101 Grabbed
- 102 Lose body moisture
- 103 Large buildings
- 105 No longer in use
- 107 Draws off liquid
- 108 Throws out
- 110 Head parts
- 111 A fertiliser
- 112 Initials (abb)
- 115 A short skirt
- 116 A reproductive egg
- 117 Flows back
- 119 Astonishment
- 122 It reads the same backwards as forwards
- 125 Frighten
- 128 Town square
- 130 Inactive
- 131 Type of coffee

- 132 A wind instrument
- 133 Old Greek Gorgon
- 134 Burial stones (Grk)
- 136 Steer a ship
- 137 Garlic mayonnaise
- 138 Meal courses
- 141 A church cup
- 149 Yawning
- 150 Attends to
- 151 Corn pieces
- 152 Customary
- 153 Moving force
- 154 Tolerable (2-2)
- 155 Walks sideways
- 156 A display in skies
- 159 Foreign
- 160 Rolled parchment
- 163 A thoroughfare
- 164 Country holding
- 172 Abhorrent
- 173 Strong supporters
- 175 Flower tea
- 178 Dogged
- 180 Convert to cash
- 181 Ingested
- 184 Speak haltingly
- 185 Branched horns
- 186 Joint pain
- 187 Sells door to door
- 188 Irons
- 189 To be rightly placed
- 190 Reflected sounds
- 191 Tells tales
- 192 Knock-back
- 193 Completely
- 194 Dallies
- 195 Go back
- 202 Farewell (Fr)
- 203 Break in two

Crossword Solution 1197 from 13 December, 2024



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Upcoming Events

• **Mundaring Probus Club's** next speaker meeting is on Monday, January 13 at 10am at the Glen Forrest Sports Club. The guest speaker is Professor David Kennedy whose topic is why the Roman Empire, which seemed almost modern and nearer to us than to its predecessors and successors, did not become fully modern. For more information call 0412 427 533.
Noticeboard is for non-profits and community groups advertising free/low cost events/programs. Entries must be emailed to editorial@echo-news.com two weeks before the event.



Woofers of the week

Oaklee is a two-year-old koolie cross who is very good with other dogs and very food motivated. He knows commands such as sit, stay and shake. He loves playing with balls, running around and he walks good on a lead. He is sterilised, vaccinated and microchipped. Costs apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

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Elfenbrook 2024 celebrates diversity



Elfenbrook 2024 was a success with thousands of people from different backgrounds turning out to join the shared festivities.

from page 4.

"It's heartening to see the inclusion of people of all ages and backgrounds," Mr Bailey said.

"The ability to stage an event of this magnitude also depends on the faith of our sponsors, and we thank our long-standing partners, the City of Swan, Lotterywest, Ellenbrook Toyota and Bullsbrook Water Carriers.

"We especially thank the new sponsors that are continuing to come on board such as Harcourts - Valley to Vines and Loan Market Ellenbrook."

Mr Bailey said a special thanks needed to go out to the Metronet team for their help with the coordination of traffic management, trains and buses, as well as their financial assistance as a new sponsor.

"The number of individuals, community groups, business and organisations that come together to celebrate and make this event a success is heart-warming.

Hills charity group closes after 40 years

from page 4.

the kids we sponsor often keep in touch after they age out of the sponsorship system."

Mary kept a fabric doll gifted to her on one of her trips to South Africa, clothed in a bright orange dress and headband and handmade by women who Mary visited in her travels.

"I visited two of our sponsor children on that trip, my husband and I went to all sorts of projects to see what was being done, and it is really special to be able to see where your money is going and who it's helping," she said.

Ms Winton said she held close to her heart many stories of how World Vision had helped people.

"It just fills your heart, knowing that you're doing something for someone else," she said.

"It doesn't matter if you don't get a thank you, who cares about the thank you?"

"That thank you is coming from you knowing that you're doing something to help someone."

Ms Johnston wholeheartedly agreed.

"There's a saying that being a volunteer is the art of giving without wanting anything back for it," she said.

"It's a satisfaction for yourself, to say nothing of the mental health benefits, and it doesn't matter what kind of volunteering you do, it's just about knowing that you're doing something good for someone else.

"It's just been wonderful for all of us, I'm happy I was part of it."

Midland dancer wins on world stage

from page 4.

She said she entered the Belly Dance Now international challenge as an exploration of her skills, to get feedback and keep pushing herself as a dancer.

I entered the competition after having a serious car accident when I was pregnant with my son," she said.

"I underwent an emergency C-section and had quite severe neck and back damage where I had to stop dancing and relearn to dance and walk.

"My son was very sick for the first few years of his life and this took a toll on me as an individual but also as a dancer and I didn't know what level I was at anymore."

She said the competition was more focussed on the growth of its entrants rather than prizes.

"This competition was a little different from normal competitions so we received quite detailed feedback from the panel of judges and they would assess everything from musicality, understanding of the music, costuming, cultural appropriateness and technique.

"The competition was spaced out over approximately eight months and there were four heats, then finals.

"It was an amazing experience, although challenging and it was hard to perform on video with no audience."

Ms Vaglivello was in Cairo for two weeks as part of a dance camp, which she won as first prize in the competition.

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In accordance with section 5.25(1)(g) of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 12 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 Shire of Mundaring gives notice of the date, time and place at which ordinary council meetings and committee meetings are open to members of the public will be held during the 2025 calendar year:

Ordinary Council Meetings
Tuesday 28 January 2025
Tuesday 11 February 2025
Tuesday 11 March 2025
Tuesday 8 April 2025
Tuesday 13 May 2025
Tuesday 10 June 2025
Tuesday 8 July 2025
Tuesday 12 August 2025
Tuesday 9 September 2025
Tuesday 14 October 2025
Wednesday 22 October - Swearing in Ceremony
Tuesday 28 October - Special Council Meeting (appointment Deputy Shire President, appointment to Committees etc.)
Tuesday 11 November 2025
Tuesday 9 December 2025
All meetings will be held at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber at the Shire Administration Office, 7000 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring WA 6073.

Audit and Risk Committee Meetings
Tuesday 25 February 2025
Tuesday 22 April 2025
Tuesday 24 June 2025
Tuesday 26 August 2025
Tuesday 9 December 2025
All meetings will be held at 4.00 pm in the Council Chamber at the Shire Administration Office, 7000 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring WA 6073.

Jason Whiteaker
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Read between the lines
by Pastor Ian Kirk



The Road to Bethlehem
Last week we went to see 'the Road to Bethlehem'. It's where you step back into time and walk through various scenes that depict the events leading up to the birth of Christ.

We came across mean King Herod and fully armed Roman soldiers, three wise men, shepherds, and an innkeeper at Bethlehem. We even saw real camels, sheep, and a donkey. The final scene, of course, was the stable where Mary and Joseph held a baby - a real baby who was trying to grab the microphone.

My favourite scene was the one involving the shepherds. Going off script, they boasted to one another about the scars they had received from rescuing their sheep from wild animals. Showing us their fake scars, one had scars from a bear attack, and another from a lion attack.

But in the middle of their boasting, high up on some scaffolding, an angel suddenly appeared. True to the biblical account, the shepherds shook with fear, and with a booming voice, the angel declared "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today, in the town of David, a Saviour has been born for you. He is Christ the Lord."

What a declaration! Jesus was born to be our Saviour - to save us from the consequences of our sins, and to grant us eternal life - if we would believe in Him. What good news of great joy!

Midland's MMA shines at Domination promotions

A grade makes T20 grand final

JOSHUA MCKENZIE

THE Midland Guildford female A grade side will face Subiaco Floreat this weekend in the T20 grand final to be played on Saturday, December 21 at the WACA ground.

In the final T20 match of the regular season for the female A grade, the side faced Subiaco Floreat.

After winning the toss and batting first, they posted 7-111 from their 20 overs with Chloe Piparo top scoring with 23 runs from 18 balls.

In the second innings, Morgan Pires was the standout bowler with three wickets for 11 runs from three overs.

Taneale Peschel (2-17 from three overs) and Lilly Mills (2-11 from two overs) both made key contributions as the side bowled out their opponents for 69 to secure a 42-run victory. The female B grade played Melville in their T20 semi final.

Their opposition posted 5-149 from 20 overs and the side would be dismissed for 57, missing their chance to play in the T20 grand final this weekend.

The female U17 will play in the T20 grand final after victory in their T20 semi final against South Perth by four wickets.



MIDLAND mixed martial artist Ashraf Farawah fought and won his mixed martial arts (MMA) debut on November 20, at the Domination promotion's MMA 9 event, adding to his win streak this year.

From the touch of the gloves Brian Lim from Bravos BJJ came out with his arms swinging.

Trying early for a takedown which was stopped by the ever-nimble Farawah.

Early on, Farawah displayed his precision and control during the stand up striking.

Even with ferocious overhands coming from Lim, Farawah's composure and distance management proved too much for his opponent.

With the final 40 seconds to go in the first round, Lim was able to wrestle Farawah onto his back.

Farawah was able to fight back to his feet, create the distance and disorient Lim with a massive head kick, followed up with a jumping knee.

A second head kick and knee from Farawah unfortunately landed the Midland fighter into grappling range with Lim managing a final takedown to end the first round.

Heading into round two, Farawah's plan was to avoid playing into his opponent's strength as a jiu-jitsu purple belt by keeping the fight off the ground.

The next two rounds saw inside and outside leg kicks from Farawah with crisp and precise punches contrasting the ferocity that was coming from Lim's fists.

With the leg kicks chopping at the opponent's ability to move, pristine boxing, head movement and the occasional knee being thrown from Far-

awah, he gave his opponent a display of striking skill.

The fight was a three-round war that went the distance, leading to a decision win for Farawah, with commentators claiming the bout had fight of the night potential.

Farawah was awarded most promising fighter of the night for his efforts.

Mad Dog Martial Arts coach Slade Hutcheson trained Farawah from age 14 and said he never missed a class.

"If there was a class on, he was there," Mr Hutcheson said.

"Really, he is just such a humble, good natured and hard-working person.

"He is a great coach, friend and huge part of the Mad Dog Team."

Farawah said he aimed to focus more on MMA in the future and his time training Muay Thai was always aimed to develop a good stand-up game to implement into his MMA arsenal.

"I feel like a broken record, but I do genuinely mean it - thank you everyone for your support, you guys know who you are, not just (during my MMA debut) but for the whole year," he said.

"I had the opportunity to fight four times this year, enjoying every moment of each and every one and winning them all as a nice bonus.

"The transition to MMA was no joke - (Lim) was a very tough opponent who was well versed in his stand up and groundwork.

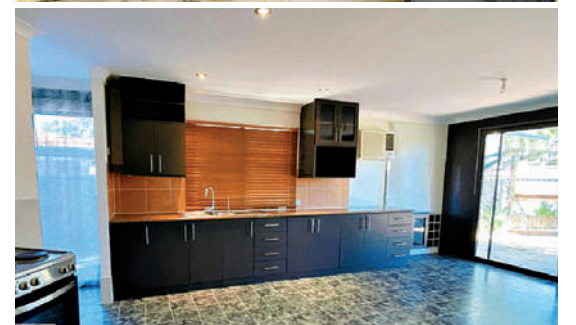
"He was a perfect match up for my debut and I really appreciate the time and effort Slade gives for us fighters, balancing a club, full time job and keen fighters all on one plate."



Midland's Ashraf Farawah came away with a victory during his debut mixed martial arts match.

ECHO Local Real Estate

**Residential
Commercial
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Middle Swan modesty with spacious shed

THE gumtrees on either side of the driveway emphasise the character of this Middle Swan property and serves as a reminder of the home's locality in the Swan Valley fringed by treelined hills.

This uniquely designed four-bedroom and two-bathroom family home sits on a 662sqm block with a spacious front lawn that contributes to the neighbouring streetscape's character.

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perature during cold-winter or hot-summer days and solar panels to help offset the cost of keeping them running.

Outside, the back porch provides a paved-brick floor area for barbecues and gatherings in the open air.

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ior school campus and Midvale Primary School, while Swan Christian College and La Salle College are all within 2km of the property, with Swan View Senior High School and Corridors College being less than 3km travel away.

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