



Picture: Guan hao Cheng

Swan Valley vintage 2025

Upper Reach owner Laura Pearce inspects their vineyard's verdelho grapes.

PG 5

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f SteveCataniaMidland
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WE MUST REVOKE THE APPROVAL OF THE DESTRUCTION OF 60,000 TREES DESTROYING THE ENDANGERED BLACK COCKATOO'S HABITAT!!

SAVE OUR TREES

REMEMBER... WESTERN AUSTRALIANS CAN PLANT TREES WITH TREEBATE!

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SAVE PERTH HILLS IS CALLING ON FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT MINISTER TANYA PLIBERSEK TO REVOKE 'THE ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL' TO REMOVE 60,000 TREES BY SATTERLEY'S AND THE ANGLICAN CHURCH'S TOWNSITE PLAN.

ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say:
editorial@echo-news.com

Lesmurdie aged care proposal

Dear Echo News,
I wish to thank *The Echo* Newspaper for publishing my letter (*Echo News*, January 10).

I have since heard that one aged care proposal for an 81 bed nursing home at Sunshine Park in Lesmurdie is now on the move with the state government.

Isn't amazing what can be achieved in an election year! However, I doubt the obvious inertia over the last year would have been addressed had it not been for *The Echo's* help in publishing my letter.

Let us hope the drought has now broken in aged care and that the state government will get on with Heidelberg Park in Carmel as a matter of urgency.

I Jones
Lesmurdie

Live sheep debate continues

Dear Echo News,
The nonsensical and divisive call by some that farmers are being disrespected or ignored by the government's closure of the live sheep trade must end.

Not even the Libs agree with the Nationals on that one.

We as a community decided about a decade ago that we would no longer tolerate this trade and we called for it to end.

Democracy is about making decisions for the majority.

We have all had to accept decisions that we have not supported or that we feel did not support us. It's time to get over it and accept the will of the people.

In any event those affected are being compensated with well over

Thought for the day

"There are two ways to be. One is at war with reality and the other is at peace." — **Byron Katie**

\$100 million by the rest of us taxpayers — yet again (think diesel subsidies and a multitude of other subsidies and deals) — despite them having a decade to prepare and transition. We should all be so lucky.

If they'd supported the Tammin abattoir a few years back they may still have it, but their bloody-minded refusal to accept change meant that the business was no longer viable.

We could and should have had a wonderful lamb meat industry here.

P Carman
Hovea

Homeless heat wave concerns

Dear Echo News,
As Midland temperatures soar to 44 degrees take a moment to consider our poor homeless and those elderly and disabled living in old homes built without climate protection or unable to afford air conditioners. More people die of heat stroke than pollution.

Sadly, this week I saw a homeless elderly person wheeling her supermarket trolley with all her possessions, walking along Great Eastern Highway with her dog.

Where will she be going?

Yet we do have solutions. Midland Gate could open its doors and invite people to shelter from the heat.

Swan Park and schools have large air conditioned basketball courts.

Students could prepare lunches as a social service and build a sense of community.

With temperatures set

to hit 50 degrees and heat waves to be more frequent and last longer, what is the shire's policy to offering and establishing heat refuges for the most vulnerable, just like we organise evacuation centres for bushfires?

Let's all check on our elderly neighbours and ask: Are you OK?

Dr C Hughes
Midland

Unhappy Basso ratepayer

Dear Echo News,
I write in response to a recent article in *The West*, Saturday, January 11 page 4 'Premier denies claims Labor has neglected its suburban heartland'.

I find it to be true and disrespectful that unfortunately and for many years now Bassendean is considered to be a safe Labor seat therefore no need to buy votes.

However, now a past Bassendean mayor has decided to run as an independent against the current Labor member and all of a sudden Labor's (good news Roger) has announced a new housing project next to Bassendean train station which local council has been advocating for many years now.

Cynical me says this is only due to elections coming up and Labor should be much more productive in these so call safe seats.

As a ratepayer-taxpayer of Bassendean and Labor voter I'm disgruntled and disappointed with Labor and now undecided and perhaps time for a change!

G Coleman
Bassendean

Thanks from the Salvos

Dear Echo News,
With the start of a new year, 2025 offers us a chance to reflect on the year that has passed, and also look forward to the new beginnings offered in the year ahead.

For *The Salvos*, looking back on 2024 means reflecting on the one person every 17 seconds that we helped through the year.

Thank you particularly for your generosity towards our Christmas Appeal, which helped provide a special Christmas to those who would have otherwise gone without.

If it wasn't for your support, children would have gone without presents under the tree, families without a special Christmas meal and many without hope and joy during the festive season.

While some Australians were in the position to give to *The Salvos* during Christmas, many others found it to be one of the most financially crippling times of the year, particularly as our nation faces a cost-of-living crisis.

To anyone who found themselves in that position, and now may be facing debt, financial hardship or stress about money, we want to let you know that there is hope at the start of this year.

The Salvos Money-care service offers free and confidential financial counselling to Australians each year, helping them to get on top of their finances.

There is no better time than the start of a new year to take a fresh look at your finances and get on top of your financial situation.

We encourage all Australians to take a

look at their finances this year, and if you are struggling to cope financially, reach out to *The Salvation Army's* Money-care service. We are here for you.

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Colonel R Walters
The Salvation Army

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

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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

EDITORIAL

editorial@echo-news.com
Anita McInnes 9374 6603
Guanhao Cheng 9374 6602
Cindy Cartojano 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

OFFICE HOURS:

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Calls for Park Street parking solutions

GUANHAO CHENG

PARKING on Park Street has been an issue for years and residents are calling for action to make the street safer and more accessible.

Swan Hills Liberal candidate and councillor Rod Henderson, who was not speaking on behalf of the City of Swan, said the Park Street and West Swan Road intersection was complicated by high traffic volumes on West Swan Road, but also by the proximity of three major event venues there.

“The guts of it is you end up with very significant congestion there and there’s even been a number of accidents,” he said.

“Certainly, people complained about that when Bailey’s was proposed, and at the time I proposed that if it were to go ahead, it should be a roundabout at that intersection, albeit that we don’t like roundabouts on our tourist road.

“So, the fundamentals are quite simple – there’s going to have to be some works done at that intersection to make it work.”

Mr Henderson said the parking issue, although located on the same road, was separate to the road traffic issues.

“The parking matter is that clearly the venue doesn’t have enough available parking,” he said.

“From my perspective, if they

want to have that many people come to their place, they should make available parking.

“I’ve had a number of emails where people have said that parking is way out of hand.

“And it is – I mean, you can get parking for several hundred meters up and down Park Street occurring.

“Particularly for the residents living there, if someone parks in their driveway or across a gate or something like that, it’s not good enough.

“So I do believe that they should be looking at how they provide for their patrons.”

Fellow Swan Valley/Gidgegannup ward councillor Charlie Zanino, who was not speaking on behalf of the City of Swan, had also heard from residents about the situation on Park Street and agreed the parking and traffic needed reassessment and action.

“This matter might be brought to council, but I’ve heard lots of complaints from residents about it for quite some time now,” he said.

“This will be major work but it does deserve a second look.”

Bailey Brewing Co chief executive officer Tony Williamson said they understood the concerns raised by residents and have been engaging the appropriate people to address it.

“We have been working closely with the City of Swan and the De-



Verge parking is an issue Park Street residents want solved. Pictures: Guanhao Cheng

partment of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to implement a comprehensive parking management plan that ensures all patron vehicles are hosted on our property,” he said.

“This plan has been designed by a traffic engineer in consultation with all parties to minimise congestion and prevent verge parking on Park Street, albeit verge parking on Park Street is not illegal.

“In addition to this, we continually review our parking arrangements to ensure they meet the needs of our patrons while respecting the local community.

“As part of our ongoing efforts, we encourage feedback and maintain open lines of communication with both residents and council members.”

A DPLH spokesperson said preparing a parking management plan was a condition of the West-

ern Australian Planning Commission’s approval of development at Bailey Brewing to manage vehicle access, circulation, and parking at the site.

“The (plan) is required to be implemented by the proponent/operator at the time the proposed development is completed, and the expanded operations commence,” they said.

The City of Swan has been contacted for comment.

Rental growth in Swan suburbs

ANITA McINNES

HALF the suburbs to make the top 10 Perth suburbs for rental growth for houses in the past year are in the Swan local government area, according to CoreLogic data.

The data (see table below) shows Middle Swan up 15.9 per cent and a median rent of \$640 topped the list for the top 10 Perth suburbs for rental growth.

Midvale with an annual change of 13.7 per cent and a median rent of \$682 was third, Stratton up 13.4 per cent and with a median rent of \$642 was sixth, Lockridge also up 13.4 per cent and with a median rent of \$629 was seventh and Swan View up 13.3 per cent and with a median rent of \$639 was eighth.

The CoreLogic quarterly rental review released earlier this month said out of all the capitals Perth (8.1 per cent or \$52 per week over the year) recorded the biggest 12-month increase in rents.

“Sydney maintained its position as the country’s most expensive rental capital, with a median weekly rental value of \$773,” the quarterly rental review said.

“Stronger rent rises saw Perth take out the second spot at \$695 p/w, overtaking Canberra at \$667 p/w.”

The quarterly rental review said gross rental yields for metropolitan Perth fell 30 basis points over the year from 4.5 per cent to 4.2 per cent.

REIWA chief executive officer Cath Hart said while the market eased over 2024, rent prices still

set new records.

The median dwelling rent hit a new high of \$650 per week in April, but remained stable for the remainder of the year.

REIWA chief executive officer Cath Hart said it was 8.3 per cent higher than at the end of 2023.

The median weekly house rent was at a record \$670 at the end of 2024.

“This was 3.1 per cent higher than at the end of the September quarter and 8.1 per cent higher year-on-year,” she said.

Ms Hart said more rent price growth was likely in 2025, but the growth rate was expected to be lower than last year.

“In the Perth rental market, we are likely to see more periods of rent price stability,” she said.

“We expect the pressure in the rental market to continue to ease as more investor-owned new builds currently under construction are completed.

“However, with Eastern States investor activity declining, we are not expecting a surge in new supply towards the latter part of the year.

“With the changes seen in 2024, the vacancy rate is likely to continue its upward trend and we should reach a more balanced market sometime in 2025.

“The greatest demand for rental properties is likely to be for homes closer to the CBD, lifestyle hubs and key transport infrastructure.

“Areas on the outskirts of Perth, particularly where there is a lot of new supply, may see rent price growth soften.”

Top 10 Perth suburbs for annual rental growth - by property type

Source: CoreLogic

Rank	Suburb	Region	Median value	Gross rental yield	Median Rent	Quarterly change	Annual change	Vacancy rate
Houses								
1	Middle Swan	Perth - North East	\$670,294	5.22%	\$640	0.7%	15.9%	1.3%
2	Nollamara	Perth - North West	\$682,927	5.17%	\$668	3.1%	14.4%	0.4%
3	Midvale	Perth - North East	\$661,246	5.62%	\$682	2.0%	13.7%	0.7%
4	Westminster	Perth - North West	\$678,551	5.11%	\$656	3.1%	13.7%	0.8%
5	Marangaroo	Perth - North West	\$784,391	4.69%	\$689	2.0%	13.5%	0.8%
6	Stratton	Perth - North East	\$658,031	5.24%	\$642	1.8%	13.4%	1.8%
7	Lockridge	Perth - North East	\$667,306	5.12%	\$629	2.7%	13.4%	0.9%
8	Swan View	Perth - North East	\$663,938	5.09%	\$639	1.5%	13.3%	0.6%
9	Burns Beach	Perth - North West	\$1,385,190	4.26%	\$1,115	1.2%	13.1%	0.5%
10	Iluka	Perth - North West	\$1,448,343	4.18%	\$1,127	1.8%	12.9%	n.a

Median value refers to the 50th percentile of valuation estimates observed in the region. Median weekly rental value refers to the 50th percentile of rental valuation observed in the region. Growth rates are based on changes in the CoreLogic Rental Value index, which take into account value changes across the market. Only metrics with a minimum of 20 rental observations and a low standard error on the median values have been included. Data is at December 2024.



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Swan Active Ellenbrook project showcased

PETER W LEWIS

THE City of Swan has released a digital flythrough video showcasing the potential look and feel of the Swan Active Ellenbrook project, with earthworks to commence next month.

The project is the city's largest infrastructure project to date.

City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson said it was gratifying to see the community's joy as long-awaited projects came to fruition.

"The community's passion for seeing their suburb transform was felt at the Ellenbrook train line opening as a cheer erupted when Swan Active Ellenbrook was mentioned," she said.

"As I looked around the event, I could see the newly installed signage surrounding the nearby Swan Active Ellenbrook site – highlighting its proximity to the train station and representing a wealth of investment in the area."

Hasluck MHR Tania Lawrence said it

was the start of a new era for Ellenbrook residents who would have more facilities at their fingertips than ever before.

"The community expects us to deliver modern social and infrastructure projects in their area and with the opening of the Ellenbrook line and the impending start of works for Swan Active Ellenbrook, that's exactly what we are doing," she said.

Swan Hills MLA Jessica Shaw said the aquatic centre was a huge win for the community.

"From the opening of the train line to seeing the Swan Active Ellenbrook project come to life, it is an exciting time for the Ellenbrook community who has patiently waited for these facilities," she said.

Deputy premier and West Swan MLA Rita Saffioti said she was extremely proud to have delivered the project for the people of Ellenbrook.

"Ellenbrook and Perth's eastern corridor is thriving with the opening of our promised train line and now the impending start of works on the Swan Active Ellenbrook



leisure facility guarantees even more activation in this area."

You can watch the fly-through at www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4xxnM6clt



Mundaring urban tree canopy funding

THE Shire of Mundaring has secured \$82,953 in funding through the urban greening grant program to enhance tree canopy and vegetative cover in Greenmount and Swan View.

More than 200 trees will be planted, focusing on areas where urban canopy is currently lacking.

According to a shire spokesperson these projects are crucial in reducing urban heat, creating ecological corridors, and enhancing biodiversity through the establishment of food sources for endangered black cockatoos and other native wildlife.

"The plantings will also provide broader benefits such as increased biodiversity

and improved hydrological health, contributing to a more sustainable urban environment," the spokesperson said.

Shire President Paige McNeil said the project reflected the shire's vision of being the place for sustainable living and supports its commitment to adopting sustainable practices.

"This includes growing our urban forest to preserve our natural environment for the enjoyment of current and future generations," she said.

"Planting more than 200 trees in our foothills delivers on our commitment to enhance our natural habitats to support conservation and recreation.

"Increasing tree canopy will also help

to connect local bushland, like John Forrest National Park with our neighbourhoods, creating healthy spaces for our community and wildlife."

The urban greening grant program reflects a collaborative approach to addressing climate resilience while fostering local biodiversity and improving human health and wellbeing.

Supported by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and delivered in collaboration with the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA), the program provides \$1.6 million across 16 local governments to plant more than 5000 trees and 130,000 understory species.

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Upper Reach winemaker Lauren Pileggi pouring verdelho grapes into the crusher. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

Vintage is back for 2025

GUANHAO CHENG

UPPER REACH winery workers are busy picking and crushing grapes as vintage 2025 gets underway.

Echo News visited Upper Reach winery to see the all-hands-on-deck action of crushing grapes in preparation for making some of the Swan Valley's celebrated wines.

Upper Reach owner Laura Pearce was dressed in a rubber apron and rain boots as she washed off yellow crates previously filled with verdelho grapes, which were crushed in the morning.

"Making wine is 80 per cent washing crates," she said, hosing off the juice inside and outside the yellow container.

"Vintage has just started and we're probably back to, I guess, what I would call an average year.

"Although, we are down about 15 per cent in our yield and I think that's been effected by the really dry period we had.

"We could see that because we perhaps didn't get as many buds on our vines during winter.

"But also during flowering, which is in the spring, the growing season, there wasn't as many flowers or inflorescences on the vines as

we would normally get."

Mrs Pearce said the first pick of the Verdelho at Upper Reach was on January 16, and the end of vintage depended on the weather.

"For example, we've got a really hot week coming up, so that moves everything forward a little bit quicker," she said.

"I think all the white grapes will be picked by the end of January.

"Typically, we get maybe five days or a week off for a break and then we start picking the red.

"If we have rain, it makes it longer.

"If we have really hot days, it makes it shorter.

"The cooler the weather, the longer the vintage will be.

"We'll probably be done by the end of February or the first week of March."

Mrs Pearce walked through the vineyard and inspected the clusters of green pearls hanging in the morning sun.

She explained that although smaller than table grapes, wine grapes were grown for their flavour and sometimes a lower yield would produce more flavourful grapes.

"There's a quantity quality trade-off for wine grapes, particularly," she said.

"So, we're not necessarily chasing yield at

each vineyard, depending on their growing conditions, but also what sort of wine they're hoping to make with those grapes as to what yield they're chasing.

"So, there's not really a one size fits all answer."

When asked whether there were any challenges or war stories to share that encapsulated the vintage experience, Mrs Pearce laughed.

"I don't want to jinx myself as we're only about three picks in," she said.

"There's always a few disasters, don't you worry but right now, it's all going smoothly.

"That's often the sign of a great winemaker.

"A good winemaker can make great wine with great grapes and the conditions have been perfect.

"But a really great winemaker is when things are not going perfectly, whether that's climatic or internally or anything, they can still make great wine.

"It's doing the very best you can all the time, but it's especially important when you don't have perfect conditions."

Sandalford Wines vineyard manager Ben Maher said compared with last year's vintage (which was the earliest on record in the Swan Valley) the 2025 harvest was looking more typical.

Bullsbrook Vibe proves to be the cheapest

THE task of finding the cheapest fuel was made easier for Bullsbrook residents who are only a short drive away from Vibe Northlink which sold the cheapest non-membership based unleaded petrol (ULP) and cheapest metro diesel, according to 2024 FuelWatch data.

The average cents per litre (cpl) for ULP at the independent retailer was 164.3 and the average price for diesel was 168 cpl.

FuelWatch advises consumers to go fuel shopping on Tuesday as this is the cheapest day to fill up, while Wednesday is the most expensive.

Consumer Protection WA spokesperson said an average of \$1300 could be saved annually by motorists who are willing to shop around for fuel.

Consumer Protection commissioner Trish Blake encouraged consumers to visit the FuelWatch website to guarantee the best deal and the most savings.

"Don't remain loyal to a brand or site as it could mean you're paying too much," she said.

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We will work with the states and territories to implement tougher knife laws and tighter bail laws.

And we'll enhance online safety for our children.

Information accurate as at September 2024.



MATT MORAN
LIBERAL FOR BULLWINKEL

0497 700 466 matt.moran@waliberal.org.au Matt4Bullwinkel

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Save Perth Hills is organising a rally to call for the federal environment minister to revoke last year's environmental approval of the North Stoneville proposal.

Rally to pressure minister

ANITA MCINNES

SAVE Perth Hills is holding a rally next month to call on the federal government to revoke the environmental approval given in September last year for North Stoneville SP34.

There has been a lot of criticism of federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek's decision to give environmental approval for the proposal in September last year including from the Shire of Mundaring, Save Perth Hills (SPH), WA Senator Linda Reynolds along with Liberal candidates Adam Hort (Kalamunda) and Matt Moran (Bullwinkel).

According to Satterley's construction environmental management plan May 15, 2024 the North Stoneville structure plan has areas of public open space including conservation of Aboriginal heritage values and a 193ha conservation area.

But the proposed development site is in the distribution range of all three species of black cockatoo – two listed as endangered and one listed as vulnerable.

This week Save Perth Hills said the rally would call on Ms Plibersek, to revoke Satterley's environmental approval to bulldoze "60,000" Stoneville trees and endangered black cockatoo habitat, and instead, protect the hills' biodiverse environment and increasingly bushfire prone community.

In *Environment minister's approval ties in habitat offsets* (Echo News, September 20, 2024) Ms Plibersek said her approval of the development only related to the project's effects on matters of national environmental significance.

Ms Plibersek said of national environmental significance in structure plan 34 were the Carnaby's black cockatoo, Baudin's black cockatoo, the forest red-tailed cockatoo and the chuditch.

"My department accepted that clearing associated with the development would clear habitat that could potentially be used by these species, however

this could be managed by the offsets of other habitat within the area," she said.

"This is the standard approach to the approval of matters under federal environment law."

SPH said Satterley's proposed offset site was 184 km away from Stoneville, in the wheatbelt wilderness of Williams and called the long environmental approval unprecedented.

"A 110-year environmental approval, under an Act the federal government itself describes as 'outdated', and that involves bulldozing tens of thousands of healthy trees that provide crucial habitat for a species on the brink of extinction due to habitat loss, is deplorable," SPH chair Peter Brazier said.

The Shire of Mundaring called on Ms Plibersek to reconsider the approval of the proposed development with President Paige McNeil saying the shire was disappointed with the decision that was based on environmental surveys undertaken seven years ago.

Ms McNeil said they believed serious consideration had to be given to the current condition of the forest that had been impacted by the cumulative environmental fall out of the Wooroloo 2021 bushfire and the 2022-23 summer drought.

Minister's North Stoneville environmental consideration (Echo News, January 17) reported on a letter sent on December 23 on behalf of Ms Plibersek to Liberal candidate for Bullwinkel Matt Moran after he requested the minister reconsider the decision to approve the North Stoneville environmental aspects of the proposed townsite development.

"Your request for the approval to be revoked under section 145(2)(b) of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC) has been received and is currently being considered," the letter said.

The SPH rally will be held on Sunday, February 23.

SPH said political candidates from all major state and federal parties had been invited.

Promise for women's sport

CINDY CARTOJANO

WOMEN'S sport is promised a boost of \$30 million by a re-elected WA Labor government.

The City of Swan's Ellenbrook District Open Space (EDOS) is one of many facilities which could be upgraded through the proposed funding.

Of the \$30m, \$6m would be allocated towards the new boosting women and girls' participation in sport program, while the remaining \$24m would be used to improve changerooms and other facilities.

"More women are playing sport in Western Australia than ever before and local clubs need to provide spaces to cater for them," Premier Roger Cook said.

"Including safe and appropriate changing facilities."

During the August 9 City of Swan council meeting in 2023, councillor Bryce Parry raised his concerns about the lack of funding for women's sport, considering the growth in participation.

Councillors discussed the repurposing of the \$65,000 Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) event budget during the meeting.

Cr Parry said if the budget were to be repurposed, it should stay in women's sport.

"I strongly believe that we should be spending more on women's sport," he said.

"Women's facilities have not been kept up in the past 10 years and we need to spend a lot more than just \$65,000."

While speaking on his own behalf, not on behalf of the council, Pearce Ward Cr Aaron Bowman expressed his concerns about the lack of chang-



Labor promises funding for Swan and Mundaring to support women's sport.

erooms for women and girls.

Cr Bowman, who is a father of four children who are all involved in community sporting clubs, said girls have had to change outside or in meeting rooms with blankets over them because there just aren't enough changerooms for them.

"I've been advocating getting these addressed for the past 12-ish months," Cr Bowman said.

He said he was very happy to hear a re-elected Labor government has promised to act against this issue.

Mount Helena Oval at the Shire of Mundaring could also receive funding to improve its facilities under the same promise.



Fast food and car wash proposal for Kalamunda

GUANHAO CHENG

THE City of Kalamunda has received a development application for a McDonald's and a car wash, causing residents to voice their concerns about its potential impact on traffic and health.

Kalamunda resident Amanda Newell said residents were deeply concerned about the suitability and long-term impact of this development on Kalamunda.

"The Canning and Heath Roads intersection is already known for congestion and safety issues, including a tragic fatality in 2017.

"Increased traffic from the proposed development will only exacerbate the danger.

"Previous traffic studies have been insufficient, relying on limited data that does not reflect the area's growing population."

Further to the traffic and safety considerations, Ms Newell said the development clashed with city

planning, community wellbeing, and exposure to children.

A petition to oppose the proposed development had garnered more than 1000 signatures by January 23, with many residents commenting underneath that a fast-food outlet in the town centre would negatively impact Kalamunda.

"I am against a McDonald's in this location due to the adverse health impacts on our community – this proposed location is on the same street as our local primary school and a day care," one petitioner said.

"It is a high-density residential area favoured by our elderly population.

"Traffic, congestion and safety of our community will be negatively impacted.

"The proposed development could lead to increased traffic congestion between Heath Road IGA and Canning Road," another said.

"It's already quite difficult to exit

Heath Road, especially with the pedestrian crosswalk right in front of the IGA.

"Given these challenges, I believe this location is not ideal for either a car wash or a fast-food outlet."

The development application report prepared for the McDonald's and car wash addressed the existence of vegetation on the development site.

The report said the subject site contained six trees including a Morton Bay fig, two jacarandas, an English oak and two mature native marri trees.

The marri trees both stand over 21m tall and both have a 50 per cent live canopy ratio at a minimum.

The report said the mature marri trees had been identified as significant and as landmarks to be retained as part of the development and carefully integrated into the design, but the remaining four weren't guaranteed to be retained.

Ms Newell said this only accounted for the number of trees in the vacant carpark area, not the entire development.

"The report has only counted the trees in the vacant car lot and not the ones in the property that would be bulldozed for the development," she said.

"There's a house attached to that area where the development will go, and the car lot, and we counted 11 trees overall, but they're only keeping two of them.

"We've had talks with Guildford who were able to stop a McDonald's development on the same lines of preserving the heritage of the area.

"We're a home in the forest and that's what our city talks about in their action plan statement.

"A fast-food giant in our heritage village in the hill, in walking distance from daycares, primary schools and secondary schools is not healthy and it's not heritage."

Libs to triple support to grandcarers

A LIBERAL government will triple the grandcarers support scheme to recognise the invaluable role of grandcarers in supporting their grandkids, and keeping them out of foster care, according to WA Liberal leader Libby Mettam and opposition Community Services spokeswoman Donna Faragher.

"Grandcarers do amazing work, often taking on the role of a parent to keep their grandchildren out of foster care," Ms Mettam said.

"Unfortunately, they may not be financially prepared to be a full-time carer, which can lead to poverty and financial hardship – a problem that has only worsened under Labor's cost-of-living crisis.

"That why a Mettam Liberal government will triple the payment grandcarers receive from \$1000 per year to \$3000 per year for each eligible grandchild in their care.

Opposition Community Services spokeswoman Donna Faragher said in addition to increasing the payment available through the scheme, additional funding will also be given to Wanslea to support their grandcare program to dedicate a fulltime position in the Department of Communities to work with Wanslea and Grandcarers WA on enquiries from their client base.

"Wanslea is WA's only government-funded provider of a dedicated support service for grandcarers who provide full-time, primary care for their grandchildren," Mrs Faragher said.

"In addition to the increased payment to grandcarers, we will contribute another \$300,000 per annum."



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Midland independent candidate wants traffic fixed

GUANHAO CHENG

LONG-TIME Midland resident Sarah Howlett is running as an independent candidate for the seat of Midland and says it's time Midland's traffic got the state government attention it deserved.

Ms Howlett has lived in Midland for 30 years and is serving her fourth year in the city as a councillor for the Midland Guildford ward.

As a professional, Ms Howlett has worked, owned businesses and volunteered thousands of hours to community service in Swan, including organising local events.

She has spent 25 years managing key hospitality venues in the Swan Valley and has recently moved into the glass industry.

Ms Howlett said she strongly believes the Midland electorate deserves better and has been let down by successive state governments.

"I am running because the seat of Midland is considered a safe Labor

seat and it has been for the last 29 years under the same elected member," she said.

"A safe seat attracts no attention, and it gets nothing.

"You need to be a swing seat or a marginal seat to get anything done.

"Our elected member has been Speaker of the House, a very important job 100 per cent but it's a political party job.

"It's not representative for the electorate.

"Prior to that, our elected member was the Minister of Police, another hugely important role.

"Again, where does that leave time for her to look after her electorate affairs and the people and their concerns?

"So my frustrations are born out of 29 to 30 years of seeing Midland stagnate.

"A lot of that I've come to learn is through decisions made by state government, made for us, not necessarily with us."

Ms Howlett said she had been

doorknocking since June to understand what residents' concerns were and traffic became an issue repeated again and again.

She said the biggest problems were the road network infrastructure, and decisions around traffic infrastructure, which was causing business in Midland to die as people began shopping elsewhere.

"Even Guildford's choosing to shop elsewhere," Ms Howlett said.

"People won't come into Midland because it's just not accessible.

"None of these major state government decisions have been in the best interest of the businesses in Midland, which is leading to its demise.

"So that's one of the spurs that has got me wanting to run."

Ms Howlett, who has volunteered thousands of hours to community service, including organising local events, wants a ban on political-owned businesses.

Ms Howlett said she wanted to reform the planning system, which



Sarah Howlett says Midland's traffic is hurting businesses. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

has taken powers away from the community and local governments. Swan residents will have a

chance to see Ms Howlett and talk to her about issues or meet her during her Meetings in the Park

Electoral Commission misinformation warning

AS the WA State election campaign gains momentum, the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) is taking action to combat the spread of misinformation and disinformation.

Make sure you're getting the right information about the WA State Election



During elections, voters are often inundated with vast amounts of information, some of which may be unreliable or deliberately false.

Adding to these challenges, advances in artificial intelligence (AI) are creating new risks, such as the production of misleading text, imagery or video.

Misinformation undermines the integrity of the electoral process by amplifying voter confusion and eroding trust in the democratic process.

Getting the right information allows voters to make an informed choice about their voting options and know that their vote

counts in making their voice heard about the issues that matter to them.

The WAEC encourages voters to help stop the spread of misinformation by critically evaluating election-related information they encounter, particularly on social media channels.

WA Electoral Commissioner Robert Kennedy encouraged voters to think about where the information came from.

"Ask yourself: is the information reliable, is it current, is it safe? When in doubt, come to us as we will always have accurate and up to date information," Mr Kennedy said.

"By tackling misinformation head-on,

we can ensure every voter has confidence in their participation, while protecting the integrity of the electoral process. The WA Electoral Commission is here to provide all the support and information you need before you vote."

The WAEC is actively educating voters and media outlets through the launch of the 'check the facts' campaign.

The new multi-platform advertising, social media and website campaign outlines how to identify false or misleading information relating to the operation of the election.

For verified election information and updates visit www.elections.wa.gov.au



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Crooked Spire owner runs as Midland Liberal candidate

GUANHAO CHENG

CROOKED Spire owner and Swan Chamber of Commerce president Mike Matich is running as the Liberal candidate for the seat of Midland.

Mr Matich said he decided to run for the seat of Midland because he was frustrated and could hear the community's frustration as well.

"I'm really lucky that, you know, I've got this business right here in the middle of town and it is a really central point," he said.

"I get to hear from lots of different people from all walks of life.

"I think the frustration is like, it's like Midland's been forgotten.

"It's been a safe Labor seat for 28 years.

"In that time, I would often hear people who have been around talking about this nostalgic Midland and what it used to be like."

Mr Matich said when the Swan Chamber was looking at putting on a motor racing event in Midland, someone brought in photos from the mid-90s Gull Speed Classic events held in Midland.

"It's a great event – you could see cars and all the places set up but behind that I saw all these shops and I saw the life that was there.

"That really resonated with me and it made me understand what I'd heard for these last 10 years being in Midland.

"And I do feel like Midland has been forgotten."

Mr Matich said people in Perth didn't give Midland the respect it deserved but it was an area with great things already and potential on top.

"But these things that have come have not been because of government input," he said.

"It's because private enterprise or individual people and families have put these things here and has made it great.

"So, I really want to represent Midland and see Midland thrive and come alive



Mike Matich says he wants Midland electorate residents to speak to him about their concerns. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

again."

Mr Matich said some of the key issues he had heard about were cost of living, the traffic situation in Midland, and impact to businesses.

"We've got a cost-of-living crisis," he said.

"People are really struggling, we've got a large homeless population in Midland.

"We've got local issues, issues across the state, and we need proper solutions to these problems."

Mr Matich said it wasn't his first choice to run and he was never political but he wanted to make a difference for Midland because the community had approached him for representation.

"I actually think Midland is one of the best places in our state, and I've put my business here, and we've turned a derelict building into a thriving community, and I think that's really important," he said.

"I've never been a member of a political party up until a month ago – if you asked me a year ago, I probably would have laughed at you.

"I had enough advice as well not to do

this, saying that, 'in your role as the chamber president, you're apolitical', which I always have been.

"I've been able to meet with Rita Safiotti and Michelle Roberts over time and work with these people because at the end of the day, I want what's best for Midland.

"So, we've worked really hard at the Swan Chamber of Commerce over the last number of years to be apolitical.

"I'm assuming the next question from you is, well, how do you think the Swan Chamber of Commerce is apolitical when you are running as the member for Midland for a particular political party?"

"The great thing is we've got our treasurer, Michelle Maynard, running (for Labor) in Swan Hills.

"We've actually got two of our board members who are both running for parliament.

"So, I think that's really exciting and it just really shows the diversity that we've got in the chamber.

"This is me having a go and being a part of the system and trying to get in and make a change for Midland."

Free summer museum entry

FAMILIES can visit any of the Western Australian Museum's seven sites, including Boola Bardip, for free this summer thanks to the Cook government's free museum initiative.

The \$1.1 million program provides an opportunity for Western Australians and visitors to enjoy a memorable day out at WA's top museums for free until March 31.

General admission will be free for the WA Museum Boola Bardip and the WA Maritime Museum.

The removal of entry charges will mean admission to all of WA's museum venues will be free of charge, providing free entertainment for Western Australians and an even better value-for-money experience for tourists.

The WA Shipwreck Museum will remain free to enter.

The WA Museum is the state's premier cultural institution, showcasing the WA's rich cultural and natural heritage, and sharing stories about our ancient landscapes, enduring cultures, diverse people, and remarkable biodiversity.

Visitors to WA Museum Boola Bardip will be able to take in its latest special exhibition, 'Spinifex People: Art and stories from Pila Nguru', explore the eight permanent galleries, say hello to Otto the Blue Whale, discover WA's own dinosaurs and take part in a wide range of free tours, activities and events on offer every day.

A range of paid experiences will also be available, including the museum's latest virtual reality experience 'The Great Kimberley Wilderness'.

Free general admission to the WA Maritime Museum will include entry to the 'Empress Josephine's Garden' exhibition (bookings essential) and the opportunity to explore the vast riches of Western Australia's maritime history, including the America's Cup-winning Australia II.

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Woman charged after breaching lifetime dog ban

A BULLSBROOK woman is due in the Midland Magistrates Court on Monday, February 24 after being charged with breaching a lifetime dog ownership ban.

The 53-year-old woman was convicted and sentenced for 17 offences of animal cruelty on May 23, 2023.

The offences related to the breeding of sick dogs in unhygienic conditions.

The sentence imposed included a lifetime ban on owning, leasing, keeping or being in charge of any dog.

RSPCA WA will allege that in March 2024, a member of the Sheriff's office attended the Bullsbrook property to speak to the woman about other matters.

As she was waiting for the woman to answer the door, she heard a dog barking inside.

In October 2024, an RSPCA WA inspector attended the accused's home in response to a report that a dog had been heard barking at the property.

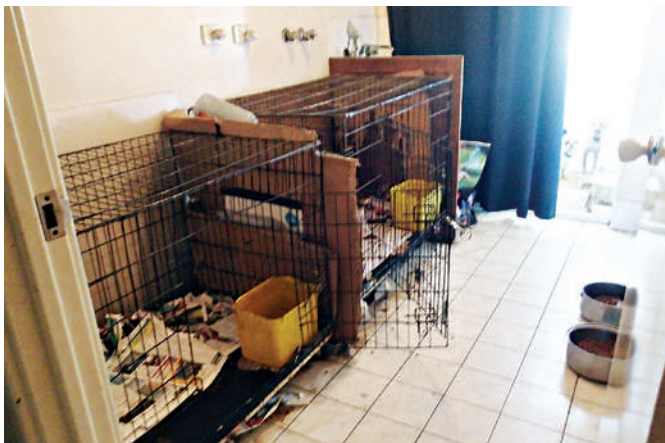
An RSPCA WA spokeswoman said as the inspector approached the house on the property, she heard multiple dogs barking and subsequently observed that there were three small unsterilised apricot-coloured poodle crossbreeds in an enclosure directly in front of the house.

The accused denied owning the three dogs and claimed she lived in a caravan situated on the property. An inspection of the caravan revealed it had no running water, no power and contained no personal items and it appeared to be unoccupied.

Conversely, an inspection of the home revealed women's clothing, a handbag containing personal items and photographs of the accused.

The woman has been charged under section 55(4) of the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

RSPCA WA will allege she did not comply with a prohibition order made against her.



The Bullsbrook woman was banned from owning or breeding dogs for the rest of her life in 2023.

Further, in December 2024, the accused was served with a written notice under section 79(2) of the Act that she had committed, and was still committing, an offence by living at the property with the dogs in contravention of the permanent prohibition order.

As per the terms of the Act, RSPCA WA alleges she has committed an additional offence on each day during which the offence is taken to continue after written notice of the offence was given to her by an inspector.

The maximum penalty is \$1000 for every day on which the offence is taken to continue.

The maximum penalty for breaching a prohibition order is a \$20,000 fine and one year in prison.

eye on crime

Three charged after robbery

MIDLAND detectives have charged three men as a result of their investigation into a robbery incident that occurred in Guildford on Saturday, January 11.

It will be alleged about 9.55pm, the accused entered a bottle shop on James Street and selected several items before attempting to exit the store without making payment.

Subsequently, it will be alleged when they were stopped by a female security guard a physical altercation ensued.

The woman in her 50s received serious head injuries and was conveyed by ambulance to Royal Perth Hospital for treatment.

The three males aged 18, 18, and 19 years, have been charged with aggravated robbery and will appear in court later this month.

Strike force seeks info

STRIKE Force Vulcan officers are investigating the cause of a scrub fire in Ellenbrook on Wednesday, January 15.

The fire started about 12.50pm, within Musselbrook Park located on Musselbrook Trail.

Weather conditions caused the fire to spread quickly but the efforts of Department of Fire and Emergency Services personnel and residents enabled the fire to be extinguished before it reached nearby homes.

Officers are seeking to identify three people who were in the area about the time the fire started and who may have information to assist with the investigation.

Strike Force Vulcan officers urge anyone with CCTV, mobile phone or dash-cam vision of the area taken between 12.30pm and 1.30pm, to upload the vision direct to them via the link: <https://wapf.au.evidence.com/axon/community-request/public/vulcan2024-25>

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



Gidgegannup Strike Force Vulcan arrest

STRIKE Force Vulcan officers with the assistance of officers from Forrestfield Police, have charged a 38 year-old man after a bushfire in Gidgegannup on Thursday, January 16.

WA Police said it would be alleged that between 3.45am and 4.20am the man set fire in two areas of bushland in the vicinity of Toodyay and Aspen

roads, Gidgegannup.

Department of Fire and Emergency Services personnel attended and extinguished the fire before it impacted on the lives, homes and businesses of people in the community.

The fire burnt more than 2ha of bushland.

The 38-year-old man from High Wycombe was charged with two counts

of wilfully light or cause to be lit a fire likely to injure or damage – he was due to appear before the Midland Magistrates Court on Friday, January 17.

The offence carries a maximum penalty of 20 years' imprisonment.

A police spokeswoman said timely information received from members of the public was a vital component of the investigation.



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Local Noongar artist Justin Martin with Clayton View Primary School Year 4-5 students and teacher Jodie Lander.

Community artwork brings burst of colour to Bellevue

A WASTE pump station on Elder Way in Bellevue has been given a colourful makeover after being transformed into a public mural as part of Water Corporation’s splash of colour program.

The work is thanks to local Noongar artist Justin Martin with help from Clayton View Primary School Year 4-5 students.

The colourful design followed a waterwise school incursion, where students learnt about Perth’s water supply and the significance of wa-

ter in Aboriginal culture.

The resulting artwork, featuring local wildlife, celebrates Noongar culture and the natural beauty of the country.

The pump station was selected following a recent upgrade project, which now allows it to handle increased inflows as the community grows.

Meanwhile in nearby Dayton, two electrical cabinets were also recently beautified by Aboriginal artist Sammy Wyborn with help from Caversham Primary School

Year 1-2 students.

Each side of the now colourful cabinets feature a different water story, incorporating Aboriginal symbols for river, rain, kangaroo, and emu in vibrant illustrations that weave around the previously drab infrastructure.

Since its inception in 2017, Water Corporation’s splash of colour program has brought art to more than 80 water and wastewater assets across Western Australia.

Midland MLA Michelle Roberts said she was thrilled to see

how the project had brought the local community together and sparked conversations about the importance of water conservation.

“The vibrant colours and intricate designs truly bring the structure to life and reflect the beauty of our local environment,” she said.

Water Minister Simone McGurk said the program was a fantastic initiative that not only enhanced water infrastructure but also celebrated community connections to water.

“It’s great to see so many local students learning about Perth’s water supply and Aboriginal culture as part of this program while having the opportunity to collaborate on community art.

“I’m sure the students will take great pride in contributing to a piece of art that will be enjoyed by the whole community as they pass by.”

For more information, visit www.watercorporation.com.au/About-us/In-the-community/Splash-of-Colour

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1201



Bassendean artist takes the fight against Parkinson's to canvas



Bassendean artist Andrew Grero is raising funds to fight Parkinson's.

A BASSENDEAN artist has completed his biggest commission yet – all while fighting the debilitating effects of Parkinson's.

Andrew Grero, 38, has been applying his unique talents on public walls, on canvas and for numerous businesses and venues across the city for the past three decades and is now looking to use creativity as a force for good to raise vital money and support for others fighting the illness.

His latest piece, commissioned by West Coast Suspensions to mark its 100th anniversary, is 23 m wide by 7m tall and took him more than 150 hours to complete, including several hours training on how to safely use an elevated platform for the first time.

It has captured the imagination of motorists and passers-by on Railway Parade in his home suburb of Bassendean.

The Perth creative and public servant is now planning to use the spotlight to raise awareness of Parkinson's in young people and is hoping to collaborate with others on putting together a series of events and projects that will inspire others and raise valuable funds.

He has just been given a mentor from DADAA, an organisation that is at the forefront of disability arts in Western Australia and will use this relationship to explore initial ideas for fundraising.

"It has been a real roller coaster since my diagnosis nearly three years ago," Mr Grero, who has recently welcomed his first child Jules Patrick with wife Erin, said.

"I found myself not being able to brush my teeth the way I wanted and then someone asked if I was dragging one of my feet. To be honest I didn't think much of it, so when the neurologist told me I had early-stage Parkinson's it was a complete shock.

"You feel like your world has been turned upside down and it's taken me a while to come to terms with the anxiety and thought of gradually losing the ability to do basic things we take for granted, including sports that I enjoy playing.

"Art has always been a passion and now it's my release. For a time, it was something I wasn't sure I could still do, and I do have days where my

confidence is lacking.

"However, as my latest commission has shown me, the reality is the actual opposite and, whilst it may take a little longer, it feels really good to be achieving new things and creating something special out in the community."

Mr Grero has completed more than 100 different commissions for local charities, businesses and individuals, who want to bring their venue or outside area to life.

He has a variety of styles and draws inspiration from his favourite sports, cultures and music when completing projects, whether it is for large outdoor murals, canvas paintings for loved ones or signwriting like a job he did for the rapidly growing Mexican restaurant chain Guzman y Gomez in Malaga.

A 45th anniversary artwork for Perth Wildcats is up there as one of his personal favourites, with the talented artist capturing legendary point guards Ricky Grace and Bryce Cotton on a canvas that was auctioned at the 2022 Wildcats gala dinner.

"I'm in a place where I want to give something back to the groups that have helped me in my journey," Mr Grero said.

"There are a few ideas I've got in mind, and these range from hosting an exhibition to drive fundraising to delivering painting workshops for others with Parkinson's to give them confidence and share that awesome feeling you get when you create something.

"There's a real community of great people out there and we're not letting this cruel disease beat us. It can take away a lot of things, but, if we show enough fight, we can still show the rest of the world what we have to offer.

"I've got a little boy I want to inspire now. I'm lucky enough to have artistic talent and, whilst my diagnosis was a setback, it's also an opportunity to use this rare combination to show you can still grow and achieve your goals with Parkinson's."

He is looking to increase the number of commissions he takes on over the next year. Contact aerogrero@gmail.com

AMA welcomes LGBTQIASB+ action plan

THE Australian Medical Association has welcomed the release of Australia's first National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTQIASB+ people as a roadmap to improve the health and wellbeing of the rainbow community.

The action plan, released by the Department of Health and Aged Care sets out a much-needed plan to improve the care and support LGBTQIASB+ people receive and deliver better physical and mental health outcomes across the community.

AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen said the AMA has identified LGBTQIASB+ health as a priority area for all governments, with people who are LGBTQIASB+ experiencing a range of barriers to accessing healthcare.

"We share the action plan's vision of a future with equitable health and wellbeing outcomes, through access to safe, respectful, high-quality and inclusive health and wellbeing services," she said.

The action plan sets out a range of focus areas encompassing prevention, access, capability and research — all of which can make a real and positive difference to health care outcomes for LGBTQIASB+ people. It will be important for governments to work with the LGBTQIASB+ community and other stakeholders to implement the action

plan and ensure its vision is fully realised.

Dr McMullen congratulated members of the LGBTQIASB+ health sector for their work on the plan.

"People who are LGBTQIASB+ thrive in healthcare environments where they feel safe, affirmed, respected and understood," she said.

"The principles of patient-centred care, consent, non-discrimination, bodily autonomy, and respect are central to healthcare for people who are LGBTQIASB+."

"LGBTQIASB+ people deserve nothing less."



AMA welcomes LGBTQIASB+ action plan.

Half price for regional travel

THE state government has announced travel on all Transwa regional services will be half price over the summer period.

The discounted travel will run on the same dates as the free summer public transport initiative from December 14 to February 5.

Transwa bus and train services connect to 240 destinations across regional Western Australia including Bunbury, Kalbarri, Kalgoorlie, Albany and Esperance.

The initiative will provide families with cost-of-living relief, while encouraging people to travel to and from the state's many regional stops and iconic tourism destinations.

Full fare passengers will be able to travel for less than \$20 for a round trip on a road coach between East Perth and Toodyay; \$80 for a round trip on a road coach between East Perth and Albany; and about \$100 for a round trip onboard the Prospector train between East Perth and Kalgoorlie.

Transwa passengers will also receive free travel across the Transperth network on the day of their regional journey. Simply present your Transwa ticket when boarding a Transperth bus, train or ferry.

Passengers can book tickets through www.transwa.wa.gov.au



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Extend your mind & make new friends

PLAYING bridge regularly stimulates your brain and helps keep your memory active, your brain alert and provides social interaction. It requires you to use maths, strategy and concentration. There is an old saying “use it or lose it” – playing bridge helps you to “use it”. In playing a game of bridge your brain is kept fully active, assessing your hand, working out your best bidding strategy, interpreting your partner’s bids and considering out how their hand fits with yours. Are there any other benefits to playing bridge? Of course there are. Your new friends will provide a gateway to other social activities. Playing bridge and being socially active results in better performance. People are less likely to be depressed; hence sleep better and tend to exercise more and have a better life in general. The Swan Districts Bridge Club introduces you to all this through its 2 hour session on Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm at the Old Court House, 49 Helena St, Midland, supports social bridge and lessons. At the completion of the 10 week training course, it has mentors to partner you for the first few weeks. The club’s main sessions are its match point events on Tuesdays @ 12.30pm and Thursdays @

9.30am at 10 Helena St, Bellevue. Contact David 0429 955 377 for information about the club, partners or lessons.



Play Bridge

Expand your mind, meet new friends
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Wednesday afternoons at 1.00pm at
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Swan Districts Bridge Club

Scouts Hall – 10 Helen Street, Bellevue.
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Contact: David Kininmonth 0429 955 377



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Come learn with your local bridge club

Kalamunda District Bridge Club is your local place to learn or play bridge in a relaxed Hills environment and new members are always welcome!

So come down, keep your brain sharp and make new friends, beware though it can be addictive.

Bridge is played at our clubhouse in Ledger Road, Gooseberry Hill, 5 days of the week. We are a friendly club with players at all levels of bridge. We usually offer beginner lessons twice a year, the next one will start on Friday 7th February and conclude Friday 28th March, with an

Open Day happening on Thursday 30th January from 12.00 – 2.00pm. We have occasional lectures from visiting experts and run a variety of competitions catering to all levels of bridge.

Monday evening supervised sessions are open to anyone wanting to practice their bridge skills. A partner is not necessary. It is a very popular evening where new players can gain experience in a very friendly atmosphere!

Please refer to our website for more information regarding days and times or phone Jenny on 0407 085 229 for information and to register.



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For further details and to register
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Our first Social Dance will be held on Friday 21st February there will be a floor show and general dancing. Entry is \$15 per person, so come along and enjoy the night.

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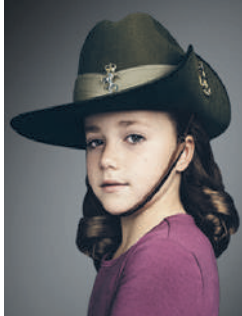
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Public Notice

REQUEST FOR CLOSURE OF A PUBLIC ROAD PORTION OF COAST ROAD, CAVERSHAM

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 58 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*, of receipt of an application seeking to permanently close portion the following portion of public road - Portion of Lot 3000 Coast Road, Caversham.

A plan showing the location of the road proposed to be closed can be inspected online at <https://swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au>; at the City's Administration Centre, Morrison Road, Midland; or at any of the City's libraries, during office hours.

Prior to Council considering this matter, submissions from the public are sought. Anyone wishing to object, support or otherwise comment on the proposal may do so by lodging a written submission, addressed to the undersigned, City of Swan, PO Box 196, Midland, WA 6936, or via email to assetmanagement@swan.wa.gov.au, on or before Friday, February 14, 2025.

Stephen Cain
Chief Executive Officer



CITY OF SWAN PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF SWAN BUSH FIRE BRIGADES LOCAL LAW 2024

The City of Swan has created the City of Swan Bush Fire Brigades Local Law 2024.

The purpose of the local law is to establish, organise, maintain, fund and administer bush fire brigades.

The effect of the local law is that Bush Fire Brigades will be managed and organised to comply with this local law.

You can view a copy of the proposed local law at the City's Administration Centre, 2 Midland Square, Midland, at any of the City's libraries or on the City's website: swan.wa.gov.au/LocalLaws.

The Bush Fire Brigades Local Law, as published in the Government Gazette, will come into effect 14 days after the publication.

For more information, please contact the City on (08) 9267 9267 or email swan@swan.wa.gov.au.

Stephen Cain
Chief Executive Officer
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Public Notice

REQUEST FOR A PORTION OF LAND TO BE DEDICATED AS ROAD IN LOT 8000 ON PLAN 68143 BLUNDELL STREET, DAYTON

Notice is hereby given of the City of Swan's intent to request the Minister for Lands to dedicate Lot 8000 on Deposited Plan 68143 as road, under section 56 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*.

A plan showing the location of the portion of land can be inspected online at www.swan.wa.gov.au; at the City's Administration Centre, Morrison Road, Midland; or at any of the City's libraries, during office hours.

Prior to Council considering this matter, submissions from the public are sought. Anyone wishing to object to, support or otherwise comment on this proposal may do so by lodging a submission online via: <https://swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au> or addressed and mailed to the undersigned, City of Swan, PO Box 196, Midland, 6936, on or before Friday, February 14, 2025.

Stephen Cain
Chief Executive Officer



Bushfire mitigation funding for Chittering and Toodyay

CHITTERING and Toodyay shires have received bushfire mitigation funding to develop strategies to reduce the threat of bushfires around communities in and near high-risk areas.

The Shire of Chittering will receive \$213,539 to fund 28 fire treatments, while the Shire of Toodyay will receive \$175,725 for 43 fire treatments.

The funding is part of the \$1.9 million state government mitigation activity fund (MAF) to assist 15 local governments across WA to undertake a range of bushfire mitigation strategies.

Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson said the funding will be used to undertake 272 treatments on Crown land, including mechanical works to reduce fuel levels, establishing fire breaks and planned burns where appropriate.

The grants have been approved by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson said climate change was making bushfire seasons more intense, and they are running longer.

"Last bushfire season there were more than 5000 bushfires

across the state - a significant increase on the previous year - and those fires burnt out more than 9.5m hectares.

"Around 93 per cent of WA is bushfire prone and local governments play a vital role in protecting communities under threat.

"Since 2017, the state government has distributed nearly \$62m in funding to 74 local governments to conduct over 8200 mitigation treatments," he said.



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Parkerville Tavern Ben Graham From 6pm. Free. 6 Owen road Parkerville

LoCale Under the Sea 5pm-8pm. Free. 37 The Crescent Midland

Mt Helena Tavern Matt Saoulis From 6pm. Free. 900 Keane Street Mount Helena

Sat January 25

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

Mt Helena Tavern Calico From 6pm. 900 Keane Street Mount Helena

Hemingway & Co Brett Hardwick From 7.30pm. 6/7095 Great Eastern Highway Mundaring

Lyric's Bar Darryl & the Devil From 7pm. Free 22 Lyric Lane Maylands

Parkerville Tavern Jon Evans From 6pm. Free. 6 Owen Road Parkerville

Mt Helena Tavern Aussie Day Eve Party From 5pm. Calico From 6pm. Free. 900 Keane Street Mount Helena

Sun January 26

The Commercial Bar DJ Morgan From 11am. Free. 70 Railway Parade Midland

Parkerville Tavern Funkoustic From 4pm. Free. 6 Owen Road Parkerville

Bassendean Hotel Onyx From 2pm. Free. 25 Old Perth Road Bassendean

Childlow Tavern El - Diablo 12.30pm - 3.30pm. Free. 4 Thomas St Chidlow

Mon January 27

Bassendean Hotel Almost Acoustic From 2pm. Free. 25 Old Perth Road Bassendean

Parkerville Tavern James Wilson From 12pm. Free. 6 Owen Road Parkerville

Tue January 28

Hemingway & Co Jazz Tuesday From 6pm. 6/7095 Great Eastern Highway Mundaring

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Childlow Tavern Muso Jam Night 7.30pm till late. Free. 4 Thomas St Chidlow



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Swan residents unite to give the gift of sight



THE Fred Hollows Foundation has thanked the Swan community for their continued generosity and support last year.

In 2024, the foundation has seen 76 new donors from Swan support their work, with 925 locals in total donating \$240,542 to help the charity restore sight to people living with avoidable blindness around the world.

Demonstrating their community spirit, Western Australian residents have donated an incredible \$3.4 million so far this year.

Founding Director Gabi Hollows expressed her gratitude to the Swan community for supporting the foundation's important work.

"Unfortunately, avoidable blindness is increasing globally, but we know that nine out of 10 cases of blindness and vision impairment are preventable or treatable," Ms Hollows said.

"We can do something about it. The Fred Hollows Foundation has restored sight to more than three million people and we won't stop until we achieve our mission of ending avoidable blindness," she said.

"We wouldn't be able to restore sight to as many people here in Australia and around the world without the generosity of our community."

Chansouk, an imaginative girl from Lao PDR, regained her sight thanks to life changing surgery.

When she was just two years old, she was on the verge of blindness after suffering from a traumatic eye injury from a nearby fire.

Chansouk's family sought help at Oudomxay



Eye Hospital, where Dr Senglar Laosern, who was trained by the foundation, diagnosed her with a cataract in her right eye. With only four eye doctors for every million people in Lao PDR, many children like Chansouk remain untreated.

Dr Senglar and visiting physician Dr Phatoumphone, who was also trained by the foundation, performed successful surgery on Chansouk, bringing joy to her mother Nam.

"I would like to thank all the nurses and doctors, and The Fred Hollows Foundation," she said.

Now aged nine, Chansouk loves maths and dreams of becoming a doctor, just like Dr Senglar.

Chansouk's sight restoration journey highlights the critical need for eye care in Lao PDR and the life-changing impact it can have on young lives.

Last year, The foundation performed more than 4.3 million eye screenings, distributed more than 6.8m doses of antibiotics for trachoma and ran education sessions for more than 5.6m adults and children globally.

In Western Australia, the foundation partners with several organisations to improve access to eye care in regional areas including the Kimberley and Pilbara region.

For more information about The Fred Hollows Foundation or to help restore sight, visit www.hollows.org or call 1800 352 352.

ECHO Notice Board

A free service for non-profit organisations
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Upcoming Events

- **The University of the Third Age Lesmurdie** branch is inviting new members to join their group for 2025. They meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 10am to noon at Falls Farm, 41 Cagney Way, Lesmurdie. You are welcome to go along and listen to their interesting speakers and make new friends over a cuppa. Their first meeting of the year will be on Tuesday, February 4. The talk topic will be Airship Disaster in the Arctic. For more information call Julie on 0419 240 150.

- **Mundaring Garden Club** meets at 10am on alternate Tuesdays at the Church of Christ, 1470 Stoneville Road in Mundaring. The first meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, February 11 when the club will hold a trivia quiz and membership enrolment. On February 25 their guest speaker will be journalist and broadcaster Deryn Thorpe who will give a presentation on gardens and landscapes in South Africa, Madagascar and Singapore. For more information call Helen on 0438 945 430.

- **The Gidgegannup Men's Shed** at Ian Stannard Pavilion, Gidgegannup Showgrounds is back in full swing for 2025 with all the regu-

lar activities. For more information and contacts visit their website <https://gidgegannupmensshed.org.au/>

- **The Parkerville Community Band** is looking for new members. Their first rehearsal for 2025 will be on Thursday, February 6 from 5pm to 6pm, at the Parkerville Pavilion 580 Seaborne Street, Parkerville. They are seeking more woodwind and brass players. They have a number of instruments available for loan, including alto saxophones, clarinet, trumpets and trombones. The group offers free membership to children under the age of 18 and is open to all ages. Players must have a reasonable ability to read sheet music. If you or a family member are looking to get more out of playing an instrument, you can go along for a few weeks, meet the group and see what they have to offer. Rehearsals are fun, engaging and they aim to put on a few performances each year in a relaxed and comfortable environment for all. For more information call Yvonne on 0416 233 277.

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

Kris is a one-year old German koolie cross. He is very trainable. He is a busy dog who wants something to do all the time to keep his mind occupied. He is very smart and would excel at obedience classes if given the chance. He is sterilised, vaccinated and microchipped. Costs apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

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ECHO Sports

Piparo and Whybrow score vital victory runs

JOSHUA MCKENZIE

MIDLAND Guildford female A grade achieved a dominant victory against Melville as they scored 268 all out after batting first in last weekend's match.

Chloe Piparo (69 from 73) and Abbie Whybrow (67 from 53) shared an important 117-run partnership for the second wicket, which propelled the score beyond the reach of their opponents.

There were contributions from all bowlers as the side dismissed their opponents for 145 all out to secure a 123 run victory.

The male 1st grade fell short against Willetton by seven wickets.

After being limited to 167 all out after a fast start by Jordan Roads (50 runs from 42 balls), the side struggled to gain any momentum in the bowling innings and were unable to take enough wickets to make it a competitive game with the modest total.

Jack Giancono was outstanding for the male 2nd grade with his performance of 5-31 from 10 overs helping to limit the same opposition to 194 all out.

After a strong start that was led by Mitchell Pope (82 from 123), the side could not get enough contributions from other batters as they fell just four runs short after finishing their 50 overs.

The male 3rd grade side produced a complete display that saw them victorious by seven wickets against Willetton.

Harry Giancono scored 74 not out from 99 to lead the chase of 3-174 in reply to the target of 172 set in the first innings.

Tom Southon was the standout in restricting the opposition to 9-171 as he took 3-33 from nine overs.

In the male 4th grade match, the bowlers restricted the same opponents to 7-218 with a collective effort.

Mohit Malviya (89 from 92) and

Daniel Barrington (57 from 111) shared a 139-run opening partnership which propelled the team to an eight-wicket victory with Kobe Fernie (45 from 49) and Oliver Voorn (17 from 16) both not out as the target was reached.

The male U17 managed an eight-wicket victory over Willetton that was led by Jaxon Ozanne (68 not out from 56) as they chased their target of 115 with 16 balls remaining. Against the same opposition, the male U15 could only post 8-87 from their 20 overs, with Cooper Forsyth top scoring with 45 from 51, as the side lost by nine wickets.

In the female U17 match against South Perth, the side lost by 32 runs as they failed to chase a target of 157 for victory.

With a chance to qualify for the quarterfinals, the female U14 lost by 22 runs against Perth after being set a target of 94 for victory.



Read between the lines

by Pastor Ian Kirk

Planning and Preparing

Our eldest daughter Amy has asked me to do a hike with her. It's the 123km Cape to Cape hike from Cape Leeuwin to Cape Naturaliste. Of course, I said "yes" – what a privilege to hike with her. In the past we have done some hikes together, but nothing as big as this one – it will take five days.

We are planning to go late August. We have already planned a few things. But the biggest thing of all is for me to begin planning a routine to get fit. After injuring my back last year, my physical fitness has dropped off markedly.

I'm looking forward to the hike – I've always wanted to do this. But there's lots of planning and preparing before I go.

What about when it comes to life! One day we will be "going" – leaving this life. Have you put any thought or effort into planning and preparing before you go? It's good to leave this world being right with others, affirming our love for those we care for. And there's something else – planning and preparing to meet our Creator. We often think that involves living a better life or becoming religious.

Jesus taught us that we can only plan and prepare to meet God and be received into heaven by turning to Him, trusting in Him, and being forgiven. Jesus said in John 14:6 "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life". No one comes to the Father except through Me".



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Wander through the garden in Wooroloo

THE big garden of this 2451sqm Wooroloo property is an ideal place to potter around or to relax.

The house has five bedrooms and one bathroom to accommodate a family and there are French doors near the front veranda for sitting and listening to the bird life.

Fruit trees and veggie gardens line the grass, allowing inhabitants to take a step back from the rat race and enjoy a slower pace of life.

Arriving at the property, visitors will find ample parking space, and entering through the side gate alongside the shed will lead into a spacious and well-presented garden which has been built by the current owners.

The family room can be ac-

cessed from the back veranda, being the first of two living spaces which flow through into the dining room and the main lounge.

The dining room has a split-system air-conditioner cooling this end of the home and there is ample space for a good-sized dining table to facilitate family dinners.

A small room next to it accommodates a fridge, which then leads into the original kitchen.

The options to create flow from the kitchen to the dining room have been left so new homeowners can make their own mark on this home.

The main lounge has an original ceiling rose and another split system reverse-cycle air-conditioning unit, as well as a slow combustion fireplace to manage temperatures

during the hot and cold Wooroloo seasons.

The front veranda is just through the main living space and is a perfect place for enjoying a morning cuppa.

The bathroom has a shower, vanity and toilet and is located near one of the first of five bedrooms, used as a sewing room.

The room is sizeable enough to be used as a guest room with views of the front yard.

The main bedroom is king sized with space for a built-in robe. The big window in here invites the morning sun, lazily falling over the front yard mainly consisting of native easy-care and lawned area.

The remaining bedrooms are spread through this end of the home, and bedroom three is also a

good size overlooking the veggie beds.

The remaining two bedrooms are adjoining, giving options as to how they can be utilised.

The gem of this property is the back yard and the generous under cover entertainment areas offer generous living space for an entire family.

A full-length veranda along the back of the home provides a spacious outdoor area and lawned area which is perfect for kids and pets to play in.

The other undercover area acts as the hub of this property.

Housing a slow combustion fireplace to gather around in the cooler months and a kitchen sink so residents don't have to go in the house in the barbecue months.

To assist with the watering there is a 5000L roof catchment water tank, with plenty of fruit-bearing trees.

A secure good sized chook pen is in the backyard beside the potting shed and shade house.

At the front of the property is a big shed with power and concrete flooring and alongside that is a single carport.

The circular driveway makes getting in and out a breeze.

Address: 415 Bailup Road, Wooroloo
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