

Woodbridge crossing questions

PG 5

Woodbridge residents have questions they want answered about the plan to remove the Morrison Road level crossing and build a grade-separated crossing in its place.

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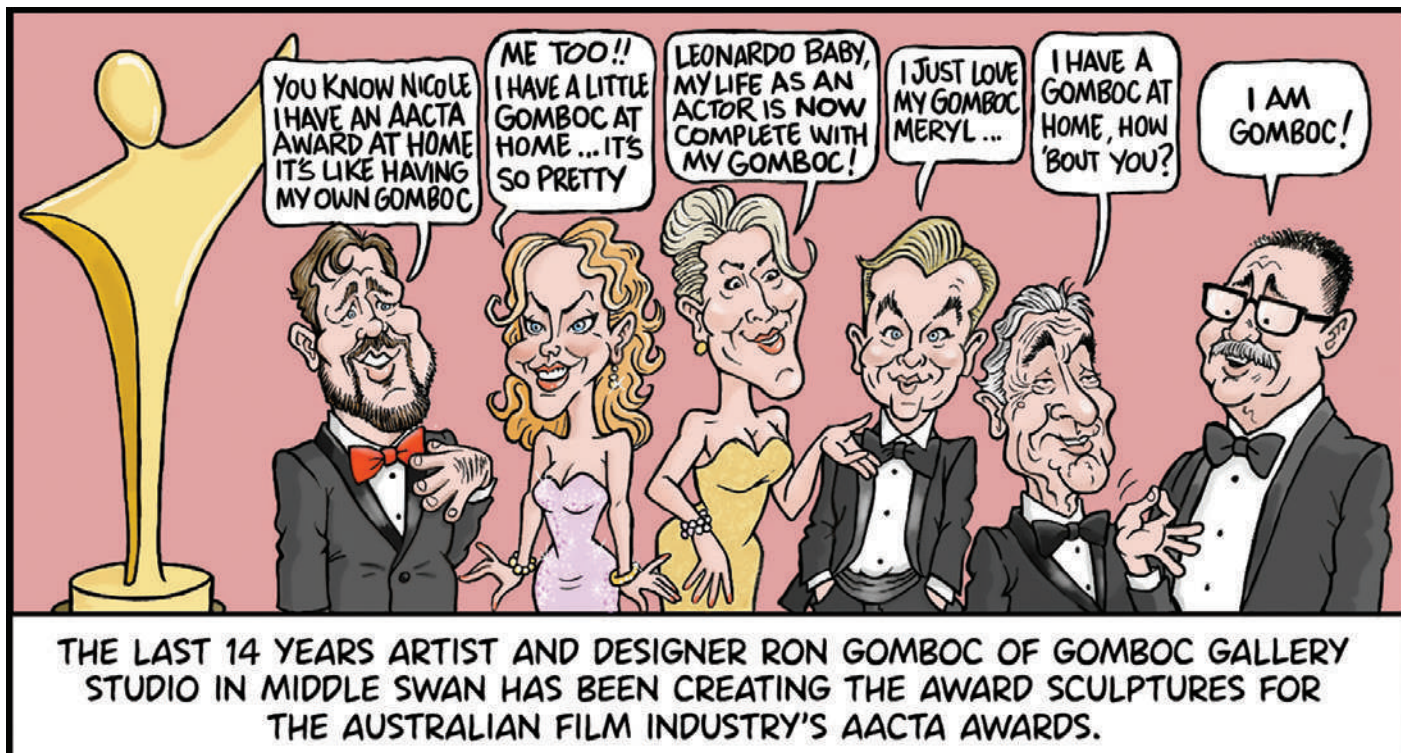
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Henley Brook alignment

Dear Echo News,
I write in support of the Swan Valley Residents' and Ratepayers' Association comments to *Echo News* (Letters, February 21.)

City of Swan's head of operations stated recently that he is not aware of any environmental assessments

(other than a 2013 desktop study) that have been done for the entire length of the Henley Brook Avenue alignment.

This is despite its proximity to remnant vegetation, black cockatoo habitat, a conservation category wetland, Bush Forever site 200, banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain threatened ecological community, three gas lines, two monitoring stations, associated earthworks within the APA gas monitoring station, priority 1 agricultural farmland protected under the Swan Valley Act and the pick-up/drop-off and parking zones of a primary school with soon to be 700 students.

These are serious obstacles to actualising this road, not to mention significant cost implications that ratepayers will bear.

Mayor Richardson forgot to mention that Henley Brook Avenue has not proceeded beyond Asturian Drive in Henley Brook.

The alignment encroaches on black cockatoo habitat, by law requiring the city to refer the work to the Commonwealth environment department (DCCEEW) for assessment.

Instead, the city commissioned an inadequate and inaccurate assessment to apply for a WA Environmental Protection Act clearing permit.

This substandard application has been appealed and the work has been held up for the past five months.

An environmental review for the entire length is well overdue.

The piecemeal approach being taken by staff can hardly be called orderly and proper planning. Nor can the city afford to blithely keep committing resources without doing

their homework. This is not the action of a responsible government.

It is time the city put its big pants on and undertook proper comprehensive environmental and fiscal assessments for this alignment before proceeding further.

The Swan Valley community has been asking for these assessments for more than 30 years and has been consistently fobbed off.

The inaction of the city in this matter is highly questionable and continuation risks reputational damage.

**J Zeck
West Swan**

Stoneville Road chaos

Dear Echo News,
Whilst I would generally applaud the shire for upgrading our roads, I cannot applaud whoever is organising the roadworks on Stoneville Road.

It's an absolute mess. A totally infuriating and challenging time for everyone in the area.

Communication is limited, detours inconsistently applied, signs left up even when the detour is not in place and what should be a 1km trip to the local shop can now be a 12km detour through Mt Helena.

More importantly why on earth was this timetabled for summer and the height of the bushfire season?

It's chaotic enough for the locals, I hate to think of the confusion out of area fireys would experience attending a fire under lights and sirens in the middle of the night.

Not to mention the distress an already fire traumatised community would experience trying to evacuate.

Whoever is planning this needs to put the community first – the roadworks could have

Thought for the day

"Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will."

— Suzy Kassem

and should have waited.
**D Sweetman
Stoneville**

Stoneville based on law not politics

Dear Echo News,
Matt Moran's letter (*Echo News*, February 28) is at the minimum disingenuous.

He would be well aware that the decision to give environmental approval (not whole project approval) to the North Stoneville development was based on current federal legislation.

The federal government proposed amendments in 2024 to strengthen the Environment Protection Act, which would have prevented environmental approval.

However, those amendments were blocked in the Senate by both the Coalition and the Greens.

Representatives of all parties and the Shire of Mundaring have consistently and strongly opposed the North Stoneville development – approval or rejection of the development proposal is based on the law, not party politics.

**A Paterson
Stoneville**

Fast food concerns shared

Dear Echo News,
I write regarding Fast food and car wash proposal for Kalamunda (*Echo News*, January 24) and I agree with residents' concerns.

My wife and I live very close to a fast food

outlet and can understand why the proposed Kalamunda outlet is being rejected by residents as some fast food outlets also attract anti-social behaviour.

We have seen on a few occasions troublemakers evicted from the store.

We are also sick and tired of picking up disposed wrappings from our verge from people that have made purchases from the fast food outlet.

**F Cherry
South Lake**

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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Swan, Hills and Wheatbelt election update

GUANHAO CHENG

STEVE Catania has won the seat of Midland for WA Labor with the Western Australian Electoral Commission 2025 state general election results showing with 67.6 per cent of the votes counted.

As of March 12, the election results showed 41.2 per cent of Midland electorate voters put Mr Catania as their first preference.

Midland Liberal candidate Mike Match won over 27.27 per cent of voters who put him as their first preference, but as candidates at the bottom are eliminated, their supporters' votes flow on to add to vote count totals for the remaining candidates.

Mr Catania was leading with 12,982 votes against Mr Match's 8336 on Wednesday, on track to replace former Midland MLA Michelle Roberts.

In Swan Hills, Labor candidate Michelle Maynard has achieved 45.15 per cent in the first preference votes which were counted.

Liberal's Rod Henderson is the second most supported Swan Hills candidate, winning over 24.58 per cent of first preference votes.

West Swan's Rita Saffioti has been elected for another term with 59.36 per cent of the first preferences counted, against Liberal candidate Lucky Saini who attracted 16.93 per cent of the first preference votes.

Kalamunda has been a politically divided electorate during this year's state election with the latest numbers from the commission showing Liberal candidate Adam Hort leading with an estimated 187 two candidates preferred votes.



Kalamunda electorate early voters who travelled to their nearest booth in Guildford will need to wait and see the impact of their votes which will now count as absentee votes as there was no early voting in the hills this time.

Labor candidate Karen Beale garnered 32.28 per cent of first preference votes which was a 31-vote lead against Mr Hort's 32.13 per cent first preference selection, though Mr Hort has pulled ahead based on two candidate preferred figures.

Ms Beale is running in place of retiring Kalamunda Labor MLA Matthew Hughes.

Forrestfield's Labor candidate Stephen Price is on target to win a third term with 42.23 per cent of voters putting him as their first preference.

Liberal candidate George Tillbury re-

ceived 32.42 per cent of first preference votes, being the second most voted for out of the Forrestfield electorate's candidates so far.

In Bassendean, although former Water Minister for Labor Dave Kelly was told to resign by then-Premier Mark McGowan citing needs to introduce more female members in cabinet, Mr Kelly returned to contest the seat.

Mr Kelly received 53.47 per cent of the first preference votes for the Bassendean electorate, with the Liberal candidate Ash

Kumar receiving 15.2 per cent of first preference votes as of Thursday morning.

The Central Wheatbelt electorate voted for The Nationals candidate Lachlan Hunter as first preference on 47.6 per cent of valid votes, and Labor candidate Rebecca Atkinson gaining 20.33 per cent of first preferences according to Thursday morning's figures.

Mr Hunter will be succeeding MLA Mia Davies as the Nationals representative for the electorate as Ms Davies runs for the federal seat of Bullwinkel.



A magpie with black and white bird disease being treated at Chittering Wildlife Carers.

Wildlife centres record spike in bird paralysis disease reports

CINDY CARTOJANO

DURING her neighbourhood walk last Sunday, Stoneville resident Helen Dobbie brought two sick magpies to her local vet where she learnt about the spike in a paralysis disease called black-and-white bird (BWB) disease.

"I felt to help them as I could see they were sick and unlikely to get better if I had left them alone," Mrs Dobbie said.

She spotted the male magpie first, and then the female magpie which she said had ants crawling on it and was almost lifeless, but had its eyes open and was still breathing.

Chittering Wildlife Carers vice chair Lee Chitty said her friends at Kanyana Wildlife, Native Animal Rescue and Darling Range Wildlife have also reported higher yields of sick birds with the BWB disease in recent months, which mainly impacts magpies.

Ms Chitty said research on the BWB disease is scarce so the cause and the reason for the rise in cases is still undetermined.

She thinks algae, bacterial growth within water and stagnant water could be the cause.

"I believe that because there's low water sources, water sources dry up, there ends up being more dirty water," Ms Chitty said.

She said symptoms can include paralysis, clenching of feet, inability to stand, fly, or stay upright.

Sometimes the birds are given boots to assist with physiotherapy which helps with stretching out fisted claws.

"Treatment for it can be really tricky because often when we do get a bird with BWB disease, it's almost too late," she said.

"So, it's gotten to the point where they're completely paralysed, almost unable to fly, unable to walk and sometimes at the point where they can't lift their head."

Ms Chitty said flushing out the bird's system is the most effective form of treatment.

If the case is not too severe, she said supportive care with vitamins, electrolytes and good food is the best treatment.

Ms Chitty said although the public can't put out water bowls in public spaces, people can help these birds by adding a fresh water source to their backyard, especially in the summer.



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EnviroFEST 2025 will be held at Village West in Whiteman Park.

EnviroFEST 2025 at Whiteman Park

WHITEMAN Park is hosting EnviroFEST 2025 alongside its sustainability workshops program on Saturday, March 22.

The City of Swan waste education team will be there to provide information about the impending FOGO rollout along with the community engagement team to explain all things natural environment in the city's strategic community plan.

Liberation Cooperative will talk about a vegan lifestyle and the Brabham Repair Cafe volunteers will be on hand so you can take your broken items to the pop-up repair café to give them a new lease on life and reduce waste.

While at EnviroFEST 2025 you can get all your worm farm questions answered by The Worm Shed and pick up some native plants to help attract wildlife to your gardens from Zanthorrea Nursery and ask your sustainable gardening questions as well.

A Whiteman Park spokeswoman said they were encouraging the public to register for the workshops and there would be a draw at each workshop for a sunshade and a plant.

EnviroFEST 2025 will be held at Village West, Whiteman Park from 10am to 3pm.

Visit <https://www.whitemanpark.com.au/whats-on/envirofest>

Swan resident concerned about Oakover Road rat-run



A Swan resident wants to know why the Oakover Road speed limit hasn't been reduced. Picture: Cindy Cartojano

CINDY CARTOJANO

SINCE the reduced speed limit along Great Northern Highway (GNH), Swan resident Rebecca Kelly says she's noticed heavier traffic on Oakover Road, especially during peak times.

Mrs Kelly and her family have lived on Oakover Road for 12 years and throughout those years, she's called on the City of Swan and Main Roads WA (MRWA) to re-evaluate the speed limit along the road.

She said her children were very young when they first moved and she was worried about living on an 80km/h road.

"My main concern was the speed limit because the speed limit is 80km/h but people don't go 80km/h all the time," Mrs Kelly said.

"You can bet people travelling up to 100km/h down that road."

"It's also used for speed strips, people coming and joyriding in their cars and all that sort of stuff."

"So that was my main reason why I rang 12 years ago when I first moved here."

Although she's not bothered by the reduced speed limit along GNH, Mrs Kelly said she was confused why MRWA made the change on a major highway, but failed to consider feeder roads such as Oakover and Campersic roads.

"They're dropping the highway and they

won't drop roads where it's residentially built up now, where people are reversing out of their driveways and trying to go to work, and with kids," she said.

"It's just craziness."

When Mrs Kelly contacted the city last year, she expressed her troubles with reversing out of her driveway.

"His solution was to reverse into my driveway."

But she told them this would be difficult to do if there was someone travelling 80km/h behind her.

During her many phone calls with the city, Mrs Kelly has suggested smaller roundabouts at the crossovers, narrowing the roads to create slow points and speed humps near stop signs or give way signs.

She's also suggested adding footpaths along Oakover Road to prevent people from walking on the road.

"I see a lot of people walking their dogs and riding bikes down Oakover."

"There's no real safe place to do it because there's no footpaths."

A city spokesperson said they were currently working with MRWA to address residents' concerns with Oakover and Campersic Roads.

"MRWA determines speed zones and the appropriate speed limits on these roads," the spokesperson said.

MRWA has been contacted for comment.



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Kalamunda event sponsorship

THE City of Kalamunda's cultural activities and event sponsorship program and small event sponsorship both offer funding opportunities to help bring local events to life.

The city said its sponsorship programs were designed to support vibrant cultural activities and community-led events that contribute to Kalamunda's unique identity.

Whether you're hosting a cultural festival, community event, or small local gathering, they encourage you to apply.

Financial year applications for the cultural activities and event sponsorship program and small event sponsorship are now open.

The City of Kalamunda cultural activities and event sponsorship program aims to support organisations in the running of larger public events that have a direct benefit to the local community or visitors to the city and offer positive promotion of the city's brand to its target markets.

There are three sponsorship categories and applicants are only eligible to apply for one category each financial year.

The \$250 event/program will provide a benefit to either a specific group or the wider community – the event/program must be located in the city and provide some benefit to the local city community.

The \$500 event/program will provide a direct benefit to a specific group, the local community or visitors to the city – the event/program must be located within the City of Kalamunda.

The \$1000 event/program will provide a direct benefit to a specific local group, the local community or visitors to the city – the event/program must be located within the City of Kalamunda.

Additionally, your application must demonstrate how you plan to promote the event/program to increase awareness and participation, and work toward the long-term sustainability of the event/program.

For more information and to complete an application form, visit the city's sponsorship opportunities page.

Applications close on April 21.

Residents call for info about Woodbridge crossing

ANITA McINNES

WOODBIDGE residents have questions they want answered about the plan to remove the Morrison Road level crossing and build a grade-separated crossing in its place.

On Monday, March 10 Main Roads WA said the project would increase safety for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians, reduce congestion and improve connectivity for the community.

"The removal of the level crossing will provide a safer, more efficient road network by reducing congestion and interactions with the rail network," a Main Roads spokeswoman said.

"The project is in the early stages of planning and development, with investigations underway.

"Further updates will be provided once the project scope has been fully defined, with wider engagement with the local community and businesses expected to occur in 2025.

"The project is jointly funded by the state (\$100 million) and commonwealth (\$100m) governments and is being delivered by Main Roads on behalf of Metronet."

Main Roads said construction work on the grade-separated crossing was currently anticipated to start in 2027.

The Woodbridge Ratepayers Association (WRA) said it had been seeking information on what is proposed for the grade separation crossing since last year.

President Lynn Deering said they wished to ask Main Roads what level of freight vehicle would the system be designed for, what



Self-confessed train obsessive Kevin McQuoid pictured at the Devon Street crossing says as Midland grows grade separation crossings like that proposed for Morrison Road make sense.

was the traffic forecast for the area alongside Woodbridge Primary School and Coal Dam and how would the crossing interface with Great Eastern Highway?

"Main Roads announcement and information from the City of Swan reflects the problem that lies at the heart of Midland a 'left hand and a right hand' but neither working together nor in the interests of consultation with our community evidenced by the car park and station," she said.

She said there was a problem in what really was the vision for Midland and who shared it and who had a right to have a say.

"Those of us who live here or 'the big hand of developers and retail industry'?"

"Who gets to decide how we wish to live?"

In *Midland traffic study required* (Echo News, February 20) independent Sarah Howlett, who unsuccessfully ran for the seat of Midland in the March 8 state elec-

tion, said closing the Helena Street crossing meant people from the Coal Dam development had to access through Amherst Road around the primary school and then exit over the Morrison Road crossing.

Ms Howlett said people could get caught at that boom gate for 20 minutes, which meant Woodbridge residents could not leave their community because of the traffic banking up.

She said one answer was to put an underpass, a grade separation at

Morrison Road.

"I don't know if that is the right answer as that's going to reclaim the primary school and I don't know where we're driving the traffic – the smarter thing would be doing a traffic study...before we spend another dollar trying to do a little patch work.

"But if they'd moved the freight line like they were meant to we wouldn't necessarily have this issue – that's another problem in itself."



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Water Corp response on Bullsbrook supply



Some water carters are drawing water excessively, placing at risk the continuity of scheme water supply to Bullsbrook residents, according to Water Corporation.

ANITA McINNES

WATER Corporation says it has been in frequent contact with water carting businesses to explain the pressure they are placing on the water supply scheme in Bullsbrook.

A Water Corporation spokesman said some operators were drawing water excessively, placing at risk the continuity of scheme water supply to Bullsbrook residents.

"Efforts to encourage more responsible and appropriate use of mobile standpipes in and around Bullsbrook have, to date, been unsuccessful," he said.

Water Corporation was responding to *Shane Love says Bullsbrook water supply critical* (Echo News, March 7) where prior to the March 8 state election The Nationals WA leader said if they got into power they would have to bring forward any plans to increase the supply of water in Bullsbrook due to the lack of water infrastructure in the area.

Mr Love said there are a lot of people who were not on scheme water and rely on occasionally getting a load of water trucked to them to supplement their own water tanks.

"Now the government, shires and cities have enabled this to go on for years so that they approve subdivisions and developments where there is no scheme water," he said.

The Water Corporation said carters had been directed to the nearby scheme at Ellenbrook where there was greater capacity to accommodate their activities.

"Water remains readily available to water carters from access points about five to 10 minutes south of Bullsbrook," the spokesman said.

"There is no material difference in the flow rate between these two schemes when using the correct equipment."

But Mr Love said he understood the water standpipes in use were capable of 100 litres a minute or 250 litres per minute depending on which size mobile standpipe carters had.

"What that means is that it adds half an hour for the time it takes (some carters) to fill a truck on what they could do if they were using the setup in Bullsbrook itself so that means people are way behind on waiting times for the delivery of water and could have a 10 or 12-week wait now for water to be delivered," Mr Love said.

Water Corporation said it was committed to working with water carters to ensure their operations were sustainable and did not place at risk supply continuity to those connected to scheme water.

"Scheme water infrastructure remains sufficient to keep pace with planned development in and around Bullsbrook, with additional capacity likely required from 2028," the spokesman said.

Mundaring residents raise general waste concerns

A POST about illegal dumping in Mundaring on a Perth Hills Facebook group has generated the attention of residents concerned about the size of general waste bins and the fortnightly collection.

The Food Organics, Garden Organics (FOGO) three-bin system was introduced by the shire in July last year.

Shire chief executive officer Jason Whiteaker said the system was implemented under the recommendation of the State Waste Authority.

"The shire made an informed decision to introduce the FOGO system based on expert advice, environmental benefits and the community's aspiration to be more sustainable," Mr Whiteaker said.

According to the shire website, under the FOGO system residents are provided with a general waste bin collected fortnightly, a FOGO bin collected weekly and a recycling bin collected fortnightly.

Some residents in the group commented on the post and believe illegal dumping is happening due to the reduced size of the general waste bins along with fortnightly collection.

Mr Whiteaker said the shire understands some households produce more general waste than others.

"For those who need additional capacity, residents can apply for an additional general waste bin," he said.



Mundaring residents express concerns with FOGO system on a Facebook post.

"Unfortunately as the service is charged on a fee for service basis this will incur an additional fee."

Mr Whiteaker said educational resources and waste-sorting guidance was available on the

shire's website to help residents manage waste more effectively.

He encourages businesses experiencing issues with illegal dumping to report the problem to the shire to identify solutions.

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The old report featured traffic impact assessment comments by Riley Consulting and Transcore which alluded to a need for traffic signals to improve the safety of the Kalamunda and Midland Road intersection, highlighting right turns as the manoeuvres leading to the most accidents.

Kalamunda intersection under traffic scrutiny

GUANHAO CHENG

KALAMUNDA residents have raised concerns over the traffic conditions at the Kalamunda and Midland Road intersection and say it should be a safety priority for the City of Kalamunda.

The intersection has come under scrutiny as a major development is under assessment to be developed near there.

A report was prepared for the development and provided to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to support its application.

Within the document, an appendix F item discussing traffic impact assessment conceded the intersection was a site of multiple crashes but the report has since been outdated as the proponents now op-

erate under an updated report.

Echo News was advised technical reports updated in response to consultation and the detail of community comments are not released, so therefore no updates are publicly available at this time.

City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas said the development application was lodged and advertised by DPLH as a significant development application.

"The City of Kalamunda was a referral agency during the consultation process," she said.

"Public consultation on this development application has now closed, and the proposal is currently under assessment by the State Development Assessment Unit (SDAU) within the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC).

"The SDAU will consider all feedback from the community, key stakeholders, local government, and state as part of their assessment process."

Ms Thomas said once the assessment is complete, a meeting held by the WAPC will be scheduled to determine the application.

"All registered parties will be notified of the meeting date by the WAPC, and agenda papers will be made available on this website at least five days prior to the meeting," she said.

"Opportunities to make a deputation to the WAPC prior to it making a decision may be available in accordance with the WAPC's meeting procedures."

A DPLH spokesperson confirmed a neighbourhood centre development ap-

plication at 332 Kalamunda Road, Maida Vale was submitted for determination by the Western Australian Planning Commission. It was advertised for comment in February to March 2024.

"In response to stakeholder feedback, including from members of the public, the applicant submitted a revised technical report into traffic movements which was subsequently shared with the relevant expert stakeholders including Main Roads WA for updated comments," they said.

"The application continues to be assessed while updated information provided by the proponent and stakeholders is considered."

Echo News has contacted Main Roads for comment.



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AMA calls for Midland radiation

PETER W LEWIS

AMA (WA) has called on the federal and state government's help for a solution for Midland cancer patients, whose only option for a fully public radiation therapy clinic without out-of-pocket costs is at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Nedlands.

The AMA has questioned why Midland cancer patients do not have the same access to radiation therapy without out-of-pocket costs when they're facing one of the greatest challenges they're ever likely to face.

"Unfortunately, patients in Midland face far greater hurdles than others. Background radiation therapy is needed for many Western Australian patients with a range of cancers. It usually involves an external beam of radiation directed towards a tumour," an AMA (WA) spokesperson said.

Background radiation can be used by itself to cure or improve some cancers, and it is often used before or after surgery to either shrink a tumour before surgery, or to try to "mop up" any remaining cancer cells after surgery.

This is often in combination with chemotherapy medications that target cancer cells, and successful treatment often requires a course of therapy that could mean daily radiation appointments for many weeks.

This can be quite arduous, making it hard for patients to maintain a normal work and life schedule.

Side-effects are common and can include fatigue, nausea and pain. Radiation therapy facilities require substantial capital expenditure to set up.

Western Australia relies on a mix of public and private services to deliver care across the metropolitan area.

The only fully public radiation therapy clinic is at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Nedlands, and is funded by the state government without any out-of-pocket costs to patients.

The private radiation therapy clinics are funded by patients, who receive Medicare rebates through the federal government for treatment.

Medicare rebates have become inadequate to cover the cost of care, leaving patients out of pocket.

For patients living in the eastern suburbs, the closest centre is Icon Cancer Centre in Midland.

Public patients can be referred for treatment there, but only if they can afford the out-of-pocket costs.

Otherwise, they have to travel from Midland or beyond to Nedlands.

The AMA maintains that the state government could immediately fix this problem and ensure that public patients received publicly funded radiation therapy at private radiation therapy practices close to their homes by fully funding it, instead of relying on partial funding from the federal government by Medicare and partial funding from out-of-pocket costs.

AMA (WA) president Dr Michael Page said he knew of patients who have had to travel from past Midland to Nedlands every day for six weeks for



Respiratory physician Dr David Manners, Libby Collett, who received breast cancer radiation treatment at Icon Cancer Centre in Midland, and AMA (WA) president Dr Michael Page.

this gruelling but essential life-saving treatment.

"This is not because the expertise and equipment aren't available in Midland, but because government red-tape and cost-shifting between state and federal governments prevents it happening," Dr Page said.

"These incredibly vulnerable patients, facing the worst situations they have faced in their lives – serious life threatening cancers requiring intensive daily therapy that can go on for months – have to travel for hours every day even when the treatment is actually available in their own area."

Respiratory physician Dr David Manners said one of the important parts of his job was to diagnose and coordinate treatment for people with lung cancer.

"It's a common occurrence that I will meet patients who return after a biopsy and have to tell them that they have lung cancer."

"I have to tell them that they require radiation treatment as part of their treatment plan. It's really important for me at that time to find out where they want to go to have their treatment."

"Patients who live in Midland, the Perth Hills, or Ellenbrook have a choice – either they choose to have their treatment locally here in Midland and may experience a gap of several hundred dollars, or they have to travel to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, with the added inconvenience."

"It's not fair that patients in our area here around Midland have to face that choice."

Lesmurdie Primary new year plans

ONE year since Lesmurdie Primary School completed its major redevelopment, principal Louise Armstrong says she's looking forward to the upgrades planned for 2025.

Mrs Armstrong said the early childhood area will be the focus this year.

"We were given a lovely big shade structure and sandpits but nothing else," she said.

"The early childhood, that's kindy, pre-primary, they have no climbing equipment."

"So that's what we're hoping to improve this year."

Mrs Armstrong said she is grateful for the pro-active P&C who were able to get funding commitments from both major political parties.

"So, there's been a promise of funds from the local government, and then the P&C will contribute, and the school will contribute, and together we should have a good amount of money to make improvements."

The school underwent construction for two years and was completed at the end of 2023.

Mrs Armstrong described this period as a disruptive time for the school, but she said staff and students were adaptable to the changes.

"We survived the build, but it was challenging."

With students and staff now settled into the re-developed school, Mrs Armstrong said it can now focus on its core business of teaching and learning.

"I think everybody's just a little calmer now."

"So, this year we're just focused on our core business."



Lesmurdie PS principal Louise Armstrong with students and wellbeing dog Leo. Picture: Cindy Cartojano

Power purchase agreement: What is it?

Mundaring is assessing a new renewable energy agreement. Picture: Cindy Cartojano

CINDY CARTOJANO

THE Shire of Mundaring is currently assessing a new renewable energy agreement facilitated by the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) as the current agreement is due to expire at the end of the month.

The agreement, also known as the power purchase agreement (PPA), was first adopted in March 2022, according to the shire's 2024 emissions reduction strategy report.

Despite being in effect for the past three years and, according to WALGA, more than 50 local governments signing the agreement, there seems to be little known about it.

According to WALGA's sustainability energy project beyond 2025 strategy, the

PPA is an alternative option to mitigate expenditure on energy, which is "linked to existing or newly commissioned renewable energy infrastructure".

When *Echo News* asked WALGA to clarify what the PPA involves, a WALGA spokesperson said, "A PPA is a contractual agreement that will purchase energy that is directly generated by a renewable asset."

"The WALGA contract uses LGC's (large-scale generation certificates) that are generated from wind farms that are surrendered and therefore used as carbon offsets."

"The purpose of the project is to provide significant cost savings and carbon emission reductions to participants."

According to a 2023 video by Cities Power Partnership (CPP), the PPA in-

volves locally sourcing renewable energy from the Albany, Collgar and Emu Downs wind farms.

CPP highlights reduced energy costs, price certainty and reduced emissions as the three benefits of the agreement.

A shire spokesperson addressed these benefits and said "In 2022-21 costs totalled \$212,954 and in 2024-25 costs totalled \$192,881."

"Rates were similar and set over the three years."

"For the seven eligible sites, emissions were reduced 100 per cent by utilising three wind farm sites."

The seven eligible sites, according to the shire spokesperson include shire admin, shire operations centre, Lake Leschenaultia, Bilgoman Aquatic Centre, Mundaring Arena, Boya Communi-

ty Centre and Stanhope Gardens.

The spokesperson said the shire gets its renewable energy from wind farms via Synergy and their contracted arrangements.

According to a Synergy map, the shire falls under the South-West Interconnected System (SWIS).

The energy retailer's website stated "Western Power owns and operates the transmission and distribution infrastructure within the SWIS."

"Synergy is a generator and retailer (or seller) of electricity in the SWIS."

In the CPP video, Shire of Mundaring President Paige McNeil said, "Collaboration with other local governments is really important."

"Especially when we're trying to tackle climate challenges."

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Wilderness Society



Helena River cultural significance talks

HELENA River's cultural and ecological significance will be the focus of two free community events to be held at the Boya Community Centre on March 22 and April 12.

The Bibbul Ngarma Aboriginal Association (BNAA) are hosting the event as part of the BoorYul-Bah-Bilya (BBB) initiative to explore the deep connection Noongar people have with the river and introduce efforts to restore its health.

After the informational presentations, attendees can also take part in the BBB cultural mapping project, contributing their knowledge and stories.

BNAA director Francesca Flynn said the river's cultural significance, particularly to Aboriginal people, was not well documented or understood, placing its cultural heritage at risk.

"The BBB cultural mapping project will enable BNAA to document the river's significant places, events and people from both an Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal perspective and develop a plan to protect and share the river's cultural significance with the whole community," she said.

"The health of our waterways is directly connected to the health of our communities through environmental, societal and economic wellbeing.

"(Helena River) is one of Perth's last freshwater rivers and the only major river valley in the metropolitan area that is still relatively natural, with large areas of forest and few roads.

"When waterways are degraded or disconnected from society, it not



Bibbul Ngarma Aboriginal Association members with City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas, City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson and Shire of Mundaring President Paige McNeil. Picture: Emily Wilson

only affects biodiversity but our entire way of life and the things that are important to all Australians."

The entirety of Helena River (also known as Mandoon Bilya) is a registered Aboriginal heritage site, with over 40 individual sites within the wider registration, and its flood-

plain in Hazelmere contains the second oldest archaeology site in southwest WA, with 29,000 years of demonstrated occupation.

Until 1829, the river sustained Noongar people with freshwater, food, medicine and an important route from Whadjuk to Ballardong

Country.

BNAA chairperson Walter McGuire said working together is the only way to get the best outcomes for Country.

"BoorYul-Bah-Bilya brings people together to understand that we're just one human race, with

many cultures and many differences, but we need to come together as one to look after our planet Earth," he said.

Both events start at 1pm and are free but registration is essential and are available on Go Cultural Aboriginal Tours.

A Safer intersection:

Elizabeth Street & Railway Road

The City of Kalamunda is upgrading the Elizabeth Street and Railway Road intersection to improve road safety and reduce the risk of accidents.

Following community consultation and technical assessments, a roundabout with a raised mountable centre island has been identified as the best solution.

This project is made possible with \$685,000 in funding from the Black Spot Program.

Key features

- **Raised mountable centre island:** slows traffic while allowing larger vehicles to pass through.
- **Improved visibility:** ensures a clear line of sight for all road users.

Project timeline

Works expected to be completed by June 2026.



Stay updated

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A meeting around the water outage and pressure issues was held at Chidlow town hall on February 10, chaired by Mrs Selleck and attended by federal and state political candidates.

Hills water security uncertain with Water Corp report pending

GUANHAO CHENG

CHIDLOW and Wooroloo action group members are waiting to resume consultations with Water Corporation about ongoing water outages and water pressure fluctuations which remain unresolved.

Chidlow Progress Association (CPA) member Roberta Selleck said she had hoped Water Corporation would send through a technical report that was sent to Water Minister Simone McGurk.

"We were hoping to get the report back so our group can continue talking to Water Corporation with a better understanding of the challenges on their end too so we could work together and arrive at some lasting solutions," she said.

"Realistically, now even if the report's ready, if Simone McGurk loses her seat, it won't be released until the new minister has been briefed and endorses it.

"It's a loss for us because we don't know what options are being considered so we're in the dark."

Mrs Selleck said the funding was there and could be seen in policies such as Royalties for Regions by the Nationals or the \$600 million infra-

structure fund outlined by the Liberal party.

"If Labor gets in, we are hoping they will also commit funding to solve this issue because the money is there," she said.

Since the meeting, the Perth Hills Water Crisis group has been formed which has now taken up the interests and concerns of Wooroloo residents experiencing similar water issues as a subgroup of the CPA.

A Water Corporation spokesperson said work was ongoing to investigate low water pressure reports in some Chidlow homes.

"It is important we work through this process thoroughly and methodically so as to best inform next steps," they said.

"This work is being treated as a priority and we are continuing to communicate openly with progress association members."

Mrs Selleck said she noted that Water Corporation only referred to Chidlow in their response.

"This is a hills issue not just Chidlow's, so it must include Wooroloo too," she said.

"Water Corporation is still monitoring and doing work as they say, which is good, but we're still waiting on that technical report to come to us."

Playwright off to French festival



Afeif Ismail

PETER W LEWIS

CAVERSHAM'S award-winning bilingual Australian-Sudanese playwright and poet Afeif Ismail has been invited by the Write Local Play Global (WLPG) network to attend the Bright Generations Performing Arts Festival for Children and Young People in France later this month.

Drawing on his African-Arabic heritage, Mr Ismail will explore how refugee settlers in Australia can contribute to the art scene.

He moved to Caversham in 2012 seeking a place where both solitude and inspiration could coexist after growing up in Ehasahisa in central Sudan on the banks of the Nile River.

"From the moment I arrived, the natural beauty of Caversham and the City of Swan captivated me," Mr Ismail said.

"The vast open spaces, the quiet rustling of eucalyptus trees, and the occasional symphony of birds at dawn formed a sanctuary that nurtured both my creativity and my longing for stillness."

"Yet, it was not just nature that drew me in - it was the seamless balance between peaceful re-

treating and easy access to the vibrant artistic and professional spaces that fuel my work and passions."

He said living in Caversham had granted him the space to delve deeply into his creative writing, to lose himself in the worlds he shapes with words.

"I am a nocturnal creature, and here, the night is nothing short of enchanting. Under a sky heavy with stars, the air hums with an unseen energy, a quiet magic that stirs the imagination," he said.

"In those hushed hours, when the world slows to a whisper, I find my muse waiting in the shadows, inviting me to listen, to dream, to contemplate to write."

His work has been translated into multiple languages and widely published, including in Westerly and the Fremantle Press Anthology of Western Australian Poetry and Unlimited Future, with extracts of his works translated into German, French, Spanish and Swedish.

At the festival which will be held in Marseille, France, from March 23 - 29 Mr Ismail will participate in a working discussion on cultural translation and share his two decades of experience in 'transcreation', a collaborative process he developed with Dr Vivienne Glance to adapt his works for English-speaking audiences.

This approach preserves the cultural richness of the original language by artistically reworking literal translations in close collaboration with the text's creator.

Bringing his extensive international festival, workshop, and forum experience, he said he looked forward to engaging in cross-cultural dialogue at this global gathering.

Mr Ismail hopes to forge new connections with directors and producers, aiming to increase productions of his work for young audiences, especially the children's play Sun of the Nile, translated into French by Gisèle Joly.

ASSITEJ International president Sue Giles said the translation marked an incredible step in broadening the play's reach and its ability to connect with French-speaking audiences worldwide,

cont. page 18



Nici Ward of Mt Helena at the 2023 Sound States mentorship program. Picture: Tashi Hall

Opportunity for artists

A FREE WA-based music mentorship program Sound States is back for 2025, and applications are now open for WA-based self-manager artists and artist managers.

Former Kalamunda resident Veronica Zurzolo said as a 2022 mentee of the program she couldn't endorse enough how beneficial Sound States was and encouraged everyone to apply.

Nici Ward of Mt Helena said having been in and around the music industry all her life she had been excited to be accepted into Sound States 2023 to further her understanding of how things had changed in the industry and how she could gain more knowledge to apply to her own journey.

"As an artist and now also someone invested in starting a small indie label, Sound States provided myself and the other attendees not only

knowledge to better equip themselves moving forward but also massive inspiration," she said.

"The sense that we are all in this together and sharing our past experiences and future goals was something I'll take with me forever."

"Providing a safe space for artists of all levels to ask questions and sit in on invaluable guest speaker sessions is something very special about Sound States and I encourage anyone starting out in the industry to apply."

Back for its fifth season, Sound States - presented by 360 Artist Logistics - is now accepting applications for 2025.

Designed for early-career artist managers and self-managed artists, the program empowers participants with the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to take control of their careers.

cont page 18.




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6 Owen Road
Parkerville

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Laneway Bar.
Steve Hensby Duo.
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22 Lyric Lane Maylands

Sat March 15

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Back Verandah Band.
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Avon Terrace York

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Ben Graham.
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Hwy Mahogany Creek

Hemingway & Co
Acoustic Saturday
Pick Me Ups.
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Highway Mundaring

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80s Underground.
8pm-Late. Free.
25 Old Perth Road
Bassendean

Parkerville Tavern
Shane Turner.
From 6pm. Free.
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

Mt Helena Tavern
Bob Brisbane.
From 6pm. Free.
900 Keane Street
Mount Helena

Sun March 16

Bassendean Hotel
The High Fidelity Duo.
From 2pm. Free.
25 Old Perth Road
Bassendean

Parkerville Tavern
Mucky Duck Bushband.
From 4pm. Free.
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Funkoustic.
4pm-7pm. Free.
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Hwy Mahogany Creek

Lyric's Bar
Laneway Bar.
Smeeton & Smallman.
From 2pm. Free.
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4 Thomas Sreet
Chidlow

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ECHO NEWS



eye on crime

Meckering to Forrestfield chase

DETECTIVES from the rapid apprehension squad have charged a man and a woman from Queensland with several offences after an evade police incident that occurred on Sunday, March 9.

It will be alleged, about 5.10pm, officers conducting traffic patrols in Meckering observed a Kia Cerrato hatchback vehicle travelling at excessive speed on Great Eastern Highway.

Inquiries revealed the vehicle was reported to have been stolen in Queensland on March 1.

A short time later, the stolen motor vehicle was sighted in Mahogany Creek.

Officers activated emergency lights and sirens, however, it will be alleged the accused failed to stop and accelerated away from police.

The evade was terminated by police due to community safety concerns, while the Police Air Wing continued to monitor the vehicle from the air as it continued to travel at excessive speed through Mahogany Creek and Midland.

About 6.50pm, the vehicle collided with a Toyota Kluger sedan driven by a member of the public at the intersection of Roe Highway and Berkshire Road in Forrestfield.

The two occupants of the stolen motor vehicle fled on foot and were arrested nearby.

A 31-year-old man has been charged with two counts each of stealing a motor vehicle and reckless driving, reckless driving to escape pursuit by police, failing to comply with a direction to stop, no authority to drive, unlicensed person possess firearm/ammunition, property damage and failure to report an incident in which property was damaged.

A 47-year-old woman has been charged with one count of stealing a motor vehicle to use without the owner's consent.

Both appeared before the Midland Magistrates Court on March 10. They have been remanded until March 14.

Man charged over Midland pursuit

DETECTIVES from the rapid apprehension squad have charged a 25-year-old man with several offences after an evade police incident that occurred on Wednesday, March 5.

It will be alleged that at about 12pm, the accused stole a Volkswagen Beetle sedan from a car dealership on Beechboro Road South in Bayswater.

About 1.45pm, police observed the stolen vehicle at a service station on Goodwood Crescent in Ellenbrook.

Officers activated emergency lights and sirens calling on the accused to stop the vehicle, however, it will be alleged the accused failed to stop and accelerated away from police.

It will be further alleged the accused drove recklessly and at speed through several streets including the Promenade, Millhouse Road, Egerton Drive, West Swan Road, Reid Highway, Roe Highway, Great Eastern Highway and Victoria Parade.

During this time, the vehicle struck a curb causing a tyre to burst.

About 2pm, whilst on Morrison Road, it will be alleged the accused collided with two police vehicles and a civilian vehicle before coming to a stop.

He was arrested at the scene with a search of the vehicle yielding three stolen firearms and a stolen mountain bike.

The 25-year-old Perth man was charged with 13 offences relating to the pursuit including stealing a motor vehicle, reckless driving to escape pursuit by police, aggravated burglary and three counts of stealing a firearm.

As the result of further inquiries the accused was also charged with 21 other offences relating to incidents that occurred between January 3 and February 24.

He appeared before the Perth Magistrates Court on March 6 where he was remanded in custody to appear before the same court on April 3.

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

Forrestfield armed robbery investigation

MIDLAND detectives are seeking public assistance in relation to an armed robbery that occurred on Saturday, February 15, in Forrestfield.

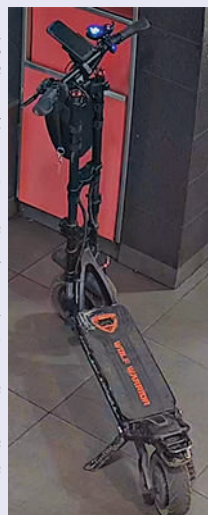
About 5.35am, the victim, a 16-year-old boy, was at a fast-food restaurant on Hale Road with his e-scooter parked inside the venue while he ordered food.

An unknown male person entered the restaurant and approached the victim, further threatening him with a knife before stealing the victim's e-scooter.

As inquiries continue, detectives have released CCTV images of a man who may be able to assist with the investigation.

He is described as being aged in his mid-30s, of a medium build with tanned skin, a distinctive black moustache and short black hair in a buzzcut hairstyle.

Anyone with information in relation to the incident, the whereabouts of the stolen e-scooter, or the identity of the man pictured, is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report online via www.crimestopperswa.com.au



Motorcyclist evade police charges

POLICE have charged a 27-year-old Pickering Brook man in relation to an evade police incident that occurred in Kenwick on Thursday, February 20.

It will be alleged about 12.45am, police sighted a black Yamaha motorcycle travelling recklessly southbound on Kenwick Road in Kenwick.

Police activated their lights and sirens; however, it will be alleged the driver failed to stop and he obscured the view of the number plate from police, by bending the plate.

Police Air Wing tracked the accused as he allegedly travelled at excessive speeds and through red traffic control lights throughout suburbs including Wattle Grove, Lesmurdie, Carmel and Pickering Brook.

Police attended an address on Carinyah Road in Pickering Brook where the accused was arrested and the motorcycle was impounded.

The 27-year-old man has been charged with reckless driving to escape pursuit by police, failing to comply with a direction to stop and using or operating an obscuring device to prevent a whole or part of a plate character being read.

Great Southern Highway crash

YORK police are seeking public assistance in relation to a crash that occurred in St Ronans on Friday, March 7.

About 3.30pm, a black Ford F250 utility and a grey Holden Statesman collided on Great Southern Highway.

Emergency services attended the scene.

The male driver of the sedan, and the female driver of the utility – both aged in their 50s – were conveyed to St John of God Midland Hospital by St John WA for medical treatment.

The male passenger of the Ford utility, aged in his 50's, was airlifted to Royal Perth Hospital for treatment of serious injuries.

Anyone with any information in relation to this crash, or anyone who saw either of the vehicles involved prior to the crash, is asked to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report the information online at www.crimestopperswa.com.au

Dash-cam, mobile phone or CCTV footage can upload directly to investigators via this link: <https://wapf.au.evidence.com/axon/community-request/public/seriouscrashstronans>

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Above: Ron Gomboc with his wife Terrie. Right: A team of WA filmmakers opted to receive their five AACTA awards at the Gomboc Gallery Studio.

Film industry awards have Middle Swan link

PETER W LEWIS

FOR the past 14 years artist and designer Ron Gomboc from the Gomboc Gallery Studio in Middle Swan has been creating the sculpture masterpieces for the Australian film industry's AACTA Awards.

The prestigious award is presented annually in Australia and Los Angeles in the US to international actors and people associated in the film industry as part of Australia Week.

"This is the only award in the industry that is signed by the artist, designer and maker," Mr Gomboc said.

International award recipients include renown international actors such as Meryl Streep, Leonardo Di Caprio, Robert De Niro and many others.

In the Australian film industry most of the well-known names like Russell Crowe and Nicole Kidman have a Gomboc sculpture in their collection.

Mr Gomboc has recently returned from the Gold Coast after attending this year's presentation.

"I had the privilege in meeting and greeting a number of producers and actors in the 2025 presentation, including

Tom Gleason who won two AACTA awards in 2025," he said.

"It was quite exciting to see Robbie Williams receiving one of my awards for his biopic Better Man and the producers of Boy Swallows Universe along with legends like Paul Kelly on stage receiving his AACTA award for his life-time contribution to music and film How to Make Gravy.

"Being a Western Australian, for me one memorable highlight over the fourteen years that I have been making the AACTA award was when a team of Western Australian filmmakers were recipients of five AACTA Awards for their documentary about Brett Whitely.

"They asked the Australian Film Institute to send the awards to the Gomboc Gallery as being Western Australians they wanted me as the creator of the awards to present it to them for their archives."

Gomboc Gallery Sculpture Park has evolved into being an internationally recognised venue exhibiting artists from all over the world.

The 4.5-hectare gallery remains a continuous work in progress and is totally funded by Mr Gomboc and his wife Terrie through private and corporate commissions and has remained free to public for the past 45 years in Middle Swan.

Over time Mr Gomboc has created major works for Sultan of Brunei, Sultan of Oman and Lord Michael Bishop for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and people like Andrew Forrest who commissioned him to design his largest sculpture to date for the Fortescue Mining Group 12 metre memorial for the victims of Cyclone George in Port Hedland, to name a few.

Arriving in Swan in 1961, the family lived in Midland then moved to Bellevue and in 1980 they purchased a property in Middle Swan that became Gomboc Gallery.

"Originally it was going to be my own studio/gallery but it soon turned into a gallery for other artists to exhibit due to demand for sculptural space," he said.

Forty-five years later it has one of the largest collections of international sculptors work on display for sale and a close association with Sculpture by the Sea where works remain on show for sale post Cottesloe exhibition.

"There is so much that has gone from Gomboc Gallery Studio in the Swan Valley to the world, not the least and most current the AACTA

awards," he said.

Mr Gomboc's own exhibiting with Sculpture by the Sea has continued for the past twenty years in Cottesloe and Bondi for 21 years, being the only WA artist to achieve this.

It is his own work that has been financing the whole concept, with Terrie managing the gallery.

"Despite the demise of cultural interest that artists in WA have been going through and financially difficult period we are optimistic for better times ahead," he said.

He has also received numerous other awards including the City of Swan's Citizen of the Year award for his contribution to the arts in 1991, the Midland region Telstra Small Business Development award and Swan Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Small Business award in 1996.

Mr Gomboc was also the recipient of the 1993 WA Week Council Citizen of the Year award for contribution to the arts.

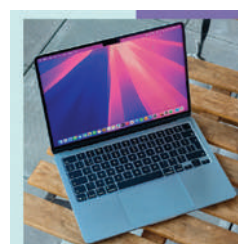
Further information can be found at www.gomboc-gallery.com.au



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A Transformative Women's Wellness Retreat at Amaroo Retreat & Spa

UNDER a starlit sky in the serene Perth Hills, Amaroo Retreat & Spa recently hosted an intimate Women's Wellness Retreat, offering ten incredible women a chance to reconnect, rejuvenate, and rediscover balance in their lives.

The evening began with a luxurious degustation dinner, where each dish was thoughtfully introduced by our Executive Chef, Chris, sharing insights into the inspiration and ingredients behind every creation. The exquisite menu, paired with the tranquil surroundings, set the perfect tone for an evening of indulgence and connection.

The retreat also provided powerful wellness insights, with Dr. Tonia Sebbs delivering an educational talk on women's health, peri-menopause, and menopause, empowering our guests with knowledge to navigate these natural transitions with confidence. Adding to the depth of



the retreat, Nurse Kirstin shared cutting-edge insights on longevity, wellness, and increasing health span, offering practical steps to enhance vitality at every stage of life.

This unforgettable retreat left every woman feeling nourished, inspired, and deeply connected—a true reflection of Amaroo's commitment to luxury, well-being, and holistic rejuvenation.

Stay tuned for our next exclusive wellness event!

Starting a conversation about making your home safer

YOUR client, parents, grandparents, neighbour, or friend may not realise that small hazards in and around their home can increase the risk of a slip, trip or fall.

According to Injury Matters before jumping into any major home modifications, start with a positive and supportive conversation about how simple changes can make their home safe, and where they can find support.

Injury Matters has produced a suite of 'Stay On Your Feet' home safety resources and tools including a checklist, quiz, Spot The Hazard game and video are designed to help older adults identify and remove hazards such as slippery floors, poor lighting, and cluttered walkways which can contribute to a fall.

Here are a few questions to guide your conversation about home safety and identify any potential hazards that can be removed.

Hallways and living area

Are pathways clear of clutter and furniture? If they use a walking aid, encourage them to clear and widen their pathways and hallways to move safely.

Is there enough lighting? All rooms, passageways, stairwells and entrances in the home should be fitted with globes of at least 75 watts.

Are mats, carpets and rugs secured to the floor? Torn carpet, mats without non-slip backing, polished floors and tiles can cause slips and trips.

Bathroom

Are the bath mats and floor non-slip? Encourage the use of slip resistant treatments on the base of baths or showers and non-slip bath mats.



Bedroom

Is a lamp or light switch and important items such as phones, glasses and medication easily reachable from the bed? Sensor lights can be used to avoid keeping lights on and purchased from Bunnings.

Is the bed at a comfortable height for getting in and out?

Kitchen

Are spills cleaned up immediately? Clean up spills straight away and take extra care in wet areas.

Outdoor areas

Are garden tools stored away safely after every use?

Are pathways uneven or are trees/plants overgrown? Encourage them to remove overgrown plants, pot plants, damaged pavers and slip hazards from walkways.

Further information is available at www.injurymatters.org.au/stay-on-your-feet/starting-a-conversation-about-home-safety/

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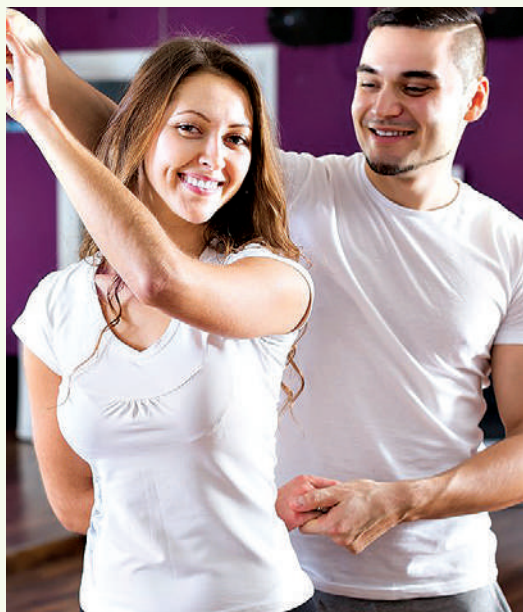
JUS' Dance offer a diverse range of ballroom dance classes including social group classes, medal classes and private dance lessons, suitable for dancers of all levels of experience – from beginners through to professionals.

New classes have started at both Maddington and Kalamunda Studio's now, so come down and have some fun and meet new people while learning something new.

Our next Social Dance will be held on Friday 11th April, there will be a floor show and general dancing. Entry is \$15 per person, so come along and enjoy the night.

Adult and Senior dance classes, day & evening include Ballroom, Latin, Salsa, Rock 'n Roll, Jive & Swing and New Vogue. Youth & Kids Ballroom & Latin classes for children ages 5 – 17 yrs. Kid Sport approved Club.

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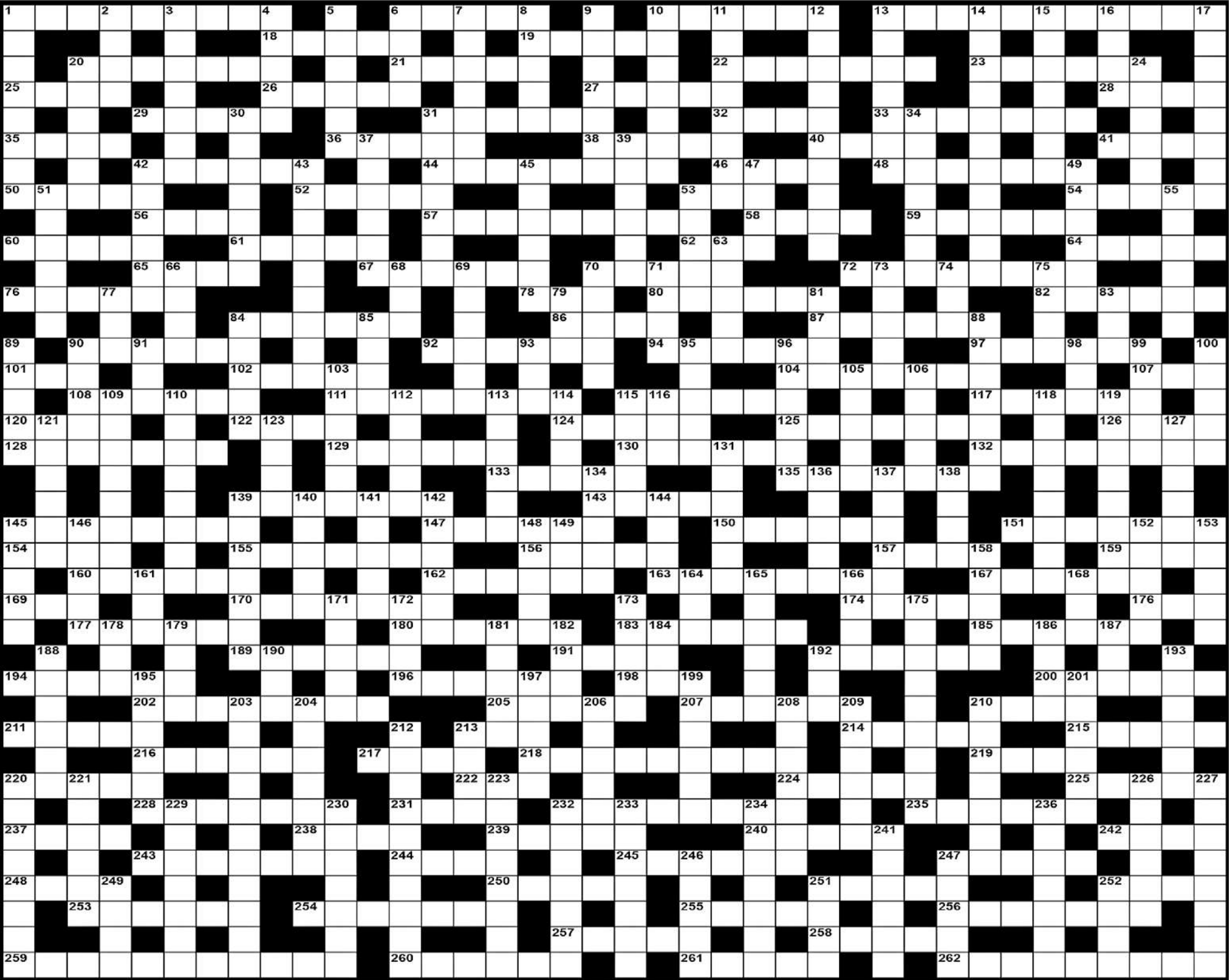
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ECHO

Mind Boggler Crossword

1208



ACROSS				DOWN			
1	Distance marker	84	Pries	191	A shape	84	Temperate
6	A Chinese mammal	86	Reflected sound	192	Representatives	85	Window glass
10	Morbid fear	87	Playfully tease	194	Alcoholic drink	88	Improve a photo
13	Occur together	90	Garden pavilion	196	Soldier's canvas holdall	89	Nostalgic style (coll)
18	Cognisant	92	Prove fictitious			90	Frivorously light
19	Inscribed stone pillar	94	Minority group precinct	198	Glide down slopes	91	Fastening device
20	Stitches	97	Mistakes	200	A sacred beetle	93	A large vase
21	Full range	101	Man's name (Bib)	202	A feeler	95	Arab women's quarters
22	Hearing position, within ...	102	Buffalo (US)	205	A maxim	96	A line on map
23	Soothed	104	A restorative place	207	Nearsightedness	98	Rowing pole
25	Chooses	107	America (init)	210	A jetty	99	Japanese dish
26	Borders	108	Mottled marking	211	Hard outer layer	100	Lowest point
27	Laundry appliance	111	Refusing to comply	213	United	103	Beginning
28	Shakespeare's King ...	115	Type of sheep	214	Continue for a time	105	A slight sign
29	Defamation	117	Musical dramas	215	Dodge	106	A fragrant resin
31	Principal Egyptian god	120	Was carried	216	Make esteemed	109	Lover of beauty
32	Hindu garment	122	A rajah's wife	217	Fibre plant	110	First public showing
33	Famous astronomer	124	Existing	218	Pre-eminent	112	Cut into
35	Illuminated sign	125	High flat area	219	Employed	113	Hymn
36	A decree	126	One from Bangkok	220	Plant secretion	114	Diplomacy
38	Derive by reasoning	128	Long series of wanderings	222	Eastern Standard Time (init)	115	Power
40	Reduce to carbon	129	A type of gem	224	A uniform part	116	Day before
41	A powder	130	A star sign	225	Pause (3-2)	118	Letter holder
42	Leave helpless	132	Casual in behaviour	228	Medical dispenser eg, eye-...	119	Ocean
44	Destructive insects	133	Come from the egg	231	European volcano	121	Strange thing
46	Needle case	135	Be fond of	232	Show doubts	123	Biblical figure
48	Used a defensive movement in fencing	139	Bad error	235	A fur	127	Antenna
50	River mouth	143	An aquatic carnivore	237	Entrance	131	Middle East country
52	Muse of amatory lyric poetry	145	And so on (2,6)	238	Idiot (coll)	134	More shy
53	In favour of	147	Hostility	239	Blast of sound	136	Scavenging animal
54	Articles	150	Concurred	240	From Dublin	137	Ship's steering device
56	Roll up	151	American muscle car	242	Form of jazz	138	Inner self
57	Rudimentary	154	Indian peasant	243	Counterbalances	139	Robbers
58	Handle roughly	155	Heavenly drinks	244	Information (coll)	140	Remove top
59	Remove stopper	156	Pleasing taste	245	Birds' enclosure	141	Faces
60	Biblical quendom	157	Spanish artist	247	Postal receipt	142	Had a break
61	Select group	159	Doing nothing	248	Grows older	144	Small children
62	Flow back	160	Look after	250	Drying cloth	145	Sesame St characters, Bert & ...
64	Have life	162	Clothes maker	251	Allow	146	Put in secret way
65	Floating structure	163	Dribble	252	Restore to soundness	148	Small islands
67	Church services	167	Compel	253	Ferocious	149	A pair
70	Hoist up	169	Decorate a cake	254	Nom de plume (3-4)	152	A standard of behaviour
72	Monotreme	170	Position with no escape	255	Renown	153	Four-stringed instrument
76	Amatory	174	Arm joint	256	An aromatic herb	158	A fit from illness
78	Exclamation	176	Afflict	257	A French river	161	A dandy
80	Italian ice cream	177	Send away	258	Male sovereigns	164	Have sights on
82	Resided temporarily	180	Change to suit	259	Fills again	165	Blue dye
		183	A cure	260	A dinner course	166	Small branch
		185	Sick	261	Uses a duster	168	Fish eggs
		189	A precious metal	262	Home on water		

Crossword Solution 1207 from 7 March, 2025

BETROTHED V A SALMONELLA S P GALLIVANT
L H U A I N E R T I A O M B A N D A N A A N V R
A C O R N Z A N T S P E C T A C L E S I N R U D R A P E
S R E C L A I M E D A H H E E I F F O R D E R L I E S A
P E N N E R A E R I C A C A S K E T I N F E R E E A N T I G
H A A D O N U T R M R K R L L A N N U L T H
E M B L E S T O S V E R I F I C E A N T S P I N D I E
M O A P E D A L E D S I B A N A L C R R
E L O N G A T E E I A C C O M P L I S H E D A O A F F I N I T Y
Z L D I M I N I S H A N R E S T R O O M N E
P R E S E R V E O O O C R U I S E R E S B U L G A R I A
I M O S A N D S T O R M T E M E L O D R A M A A K
R C O M B A T A D E C I P H E R D P O S E P S I S N
A O E R A F A B L E M N C N P I V O T T A S M E
N E W C A S T L E K L S O L I C I T O U S U K R E S E M B L E S
H H I M E G Y P T I N A H U M P S I T O O I
A R K I S S U E R A P E R I T T E I J P A P E R S P A
A P I N T O L E A K A G E E R S N O R K E L O R A T E
U F D I F S T N A N T I R E L T C X R
I L I D X F F A G O G E T C L E A K I T S
E P U R S E I N I T I A L A A M A T E U R T R E A T I
C R Y M I N O R T S S O M B R E R O T S P O U T B A T
A B M W K I O S K E U G B R A S S I B C U
R E C E S S I O N H C S P E C T A T O R S L W E M B R O I D E R
O L F A T A H S A O R U P L E A T A L L E N D
I B I K I N I K R A S T R O N O M E R O R S E E M E D
A E N D I V I D E N D S E U S E N T I M E N T K M N
C O N F E T T I E R H S L E I G H L N A O B S T A C L E
E X S T I L E T T O L S L H I T E M I S E D H H
P E R S P I R E N A A C Q U A I N T A N C E A E O P T I M I S T
E D A D O S E D L S C X T A I O N E M R
R I S O T T O R E S S E S O R C E R E R T E E N P T A F F E T A
I N V I C A R T P A A N S L T H E I R L N
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E R O A D T R A I N O M A T R M Q U A L I F I E D I
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CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

When an individual or other legal entity ("the Customer") requests Echo Newspaper ("Echo") to place an advertisement in this Newspaper, they agree to be bound by the following terms and conditions:

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This position is Monday-Friday and offers a salary package, including a commission structure with a weekly car allowance.
Email Curriculum Vitae to General Manager / Editor
E: peter.lewis@echo-news.com

Employment

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
TAFE Central Regional
Lecturer Heavy Vehicle Driving
Geraldton, Kalgoorlie or Northam (FTC up to 17.12.2025 with possible further term and/or permanency)
Level/Salary: Grade 1-9, \$93,426 – \$120,651 pa, LGA
The lecturer's primary role is to teach, facilitate learning, assess and mentor students in accordance with relevant curriculum and/or training package requirements.
To be successful in this role you will have a Drivers Licence C class, as this position requires travel. You will also need to hold an unrestricted HR, HC and/or MC Class WA Driver's Licence (or equivalent) for a minimum period of three (3) years and will also hold an unrestricted WA Driving Instructor's Licence for HR, HC and/or MC Class (or equivalent) or ability to attain.
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For Specific Inquiries: Please contact Michelle Harvey, Portfolio Manager on (08) 9956 2855 or Michelle.Harvey@crtafe.wa.edu.au
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Solar Services

Solar Panel Cleaning with Anti Mould & Solar Wax Treatment. 0421 455 546.

Wanted to Buy

Records, LP's or 45s collections + turntables + cassettes. 0424 489 910. Guildford.

Window Cleaning

Tatania's Window Cleaning. Tracks. Frames & Fly screens. 0467 282 127.

Yoga

YOGA Mon 6 -7.15pm
Gooseberry Hill Hall, 42 Ledger Rd
Ph Jeanene 0406 773 650

Opportunity for artists

from page 11.
Taking place across three days – Wednesday, July 30, Thursday July 31 and Friday, August 1 – at the State Library of Western Australia, Sound States provides a hands-on approach to navigating the music industry without relying on traditional gatekeepers.
The program features a lineup of mentors who have carved out their own success stories, building their audiences and careers from the ground up. Through in-depth sessions, panel discussions and networking opportunities, participants will gain practical insights from independent managers, self-managed artists, publicists, booking agents, tax specialists, radio producers, and more. Participants can expect personal success stories, DIY career strategies, and invaluable advice tailored to those forging their own path in the industry.
With a strong emphasis on fostering confidence and career autonomy, Sound States has earned widespread praise from past participants and industry professionals alike.
The program offers 15 successful applicants the opportunity to attend at no cost, with at least three positions reserved for regionally based participants.
The program will cover transport, accommodation, and ground transfers for regional attendees. Applications are open via bit.ly/SoundStates2025
Applications close on Saturday, April 26.

Playwright off to French festival

from page 11.
with the festival being a brilliant way to launch the project.
Dr David Moody, co-director of the first production of Sun of the Nile in 2012 at Nexus Theatre WA, said the work was a magical, hilarious and moving play set on the banks of the great River Nile in Sudan.
The story is told by the river itself, and what follows is a thrilling, roaring story of a Chief's broken promise with the beautiful and just crocodile Queen of The Nile and the attempts to put this crime right.
Following the festival, Mr Ismail will launch his new poetry collection, The River is Another Name for Her, published in Arabic by Barcode Publishing House in Vienna, Berlin, Doha.
His accolades include the 2022 Ballina Region for Refugees Seeking Asylum Poetry Prize and the 2015 Naji Naaman's Literary Prize (Lebanon).
He was also a recipient of the inaugural WA Theatre Development Initiative (WATDI) for his play Shrouds or the Dead, while his children's play The African Magician was nominated for the 2011 Australian Writer's Guild Award for Best Children's Play.
His productions have been staged at The Blue Room Theatre, World Fringe Festival WA, and Barking Gecko Theatre WA, and he won the 2008 Australian National Playwrights' Conference (ANPC) Bursary.

Read between the lines

by Pastor Ian Kirk

Life's Incidences

My brother John and I often find ourselves pruning big trees. With chainsaws in hand, ladders, scaffolding and ropes, we get up high and prune.
Taking on big trees began at my grandma's place in Bassendean. We would trim the hedges and medium-sized trees, but we would also climb up a massive Jacaranda tree to trim its branches in order to keep them from growing into the power lines.
One day, with dad supervising, we managed to lop off a big branch high up in the tree. My dad thought it would clear the powerlines – well, it didn't. It swung and hit the power line; not just any line, the 22,000-volt power line. The branch snapped the line, and it came crashing down, hitting our car's front windscreen. Because it was still alive, it melted some of the glass. Then there was a big bang and a firework display at a nearby pole-top transformer. What a disaster!
We've learnt lots of lessons from that incident; and others. Life has many close calls and mishaps. But it's also good to learn from them. We now pray before we prune trees, and we are thankful to God when we finish a job incident-free.
Life is precious! May we treasure life, and the God who gives us life and breath each day, and who protects us from so many close calls. Above all, may we know Him through putting our faith in Jesus Christ, and be blessed with eternal life.



ECHO Notice Board

Upcoming events

• Midland Friendly Garden Club meets at 9.30am on alternate Thursdays at Bruce Douglas Pavilion, Brown Park, Salisbury Road, Swan View. The next meeting will take place on March 20. The guest speaker will be Kerry Waters from Epiphytic Cacti and Hoya Society of Australia. Plants will be available for sale. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For more information call Jenny on 0424 553 002 or Barbara on 0482 935 686.
• Bullwinkel Decides: meet the candidates debate will be held on Wednesday, March 19 at Elsie Austin Pavilion, 21 Chidlow St, Mt Helena. The Mt Helena Residents and Ratepayers Progress Association general meeting will be held from 6.30pm to 7pm with the debate starting at 7pm.

• Midland CWA meets at the Midland Railway Yards Blacksmith Lane (West) Midland on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10am. CWA Flags are displayed on Yelverton Drive, Midland on meeting days. CWA offers a diverse range of interests and each branch works to meet local community needs. Call Maureen on 0460 777 557 or email maureenbarker1@gmail.com
• Midland Ascension Craft Group meets in the Parish Hall, 17 Spring Park Road, Midland every Tuesday of school term from 1pm to 3pm. All most welcome to join for a chat, cuppa, any craft and sometimes a guest speaker. For more information call 0433 265 683.

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

Princess is a four-month-old german shepherd cross. She is good with children and cats. She needs a new home as she is going to be too big for the flat where her owner lives. She is sterilised, vaccinated and microchipped. Costs apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

A free service for non-profit organisations
9374 6666
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Shay Manolini takes five wickets for Midland Guildford

JOSHUA MCKENZIE

A STRONG performance from the Midland Guildford female A grade resulted in an eight-wicket victory that was headlined by an outstanding bowling performance.

They restricted Wanneroo to 88 all out with bowler Shay Manolini taking five wickets for just 15 runs from 8.5 overs.

It was a comfortable run chase that was guided by Chloe Piparo (30 not out from 55) and Abbie Whybrow (30 from 32) as the side won with 28.3 overs remaining.

The male 1st grade entered the match against Wanneroo knowing that it would be their final game of the season.

After losing the toss and bowling first, Lachlan Pratt would be the strongest performer for the side with 3-54 from 10 overs.

Hudson Knight also took 2-43 from 10 overs as they restricted their opponents to 7-258 from 50 overs.

The run chase was highlighted by strong performances from Jordan Roads (57 runs from 50 balls) and captain Jordan Mast (46 from 74), as well as a dominating performance by Keaton Critchell who scored 91 from 88.

These efforts helped the side to win the final match of the season by three wickets with 16 balls remaining.

In the male 2nd grade match against the same opposition, the side would also bowl first after losing the toss.

After struggling early, the team would produce a strong fightback to limit their opponents to 144 all out.

Jack Giancono (4-51 from 10 overs) and Ben Skinner (3-22 from nine overs) were the bowlers that were key to bowling out their opposition.

After quickly falling to 3-21 in the run chase, Mitchell Pope (32 from 46) and Kelly Jones (41 from 74) were the players that steadied the innings and guided

the side to a four-wicket victory.

The result secured the team a finals berth after finishing 5th on the ladder and they will face University in the elimination final.

Difficult conditions saw the male 3rd grade restricted to 9-124 with Tom Colley being the lone standout with 63 not out from 76.

They were unable to defend the total and would lose by seven wickets.

With this result, the side will play Wanneroo again in the elimination final after also finishing 5th on the ladder.

The male 4th grade entered the round with the guarantee of finishing 1st on the ladder regardless of the result.

There were few standouts in their batting innings of 9-170 with Jack Markham top scoring with 34 not out from 59.

In the second innings of the match, the bowlers were led by Ash Mucciarone (3-21 from nine overs) but they could not defend the target as their opponents won the match on the final delivery with one wicket remaining.

The side will now face Mount Lawley in their elimination final.

It was a 118-run partnership between Lily-May Lyndon (51 not out from 92) and Brooke Catania (60 from 90) that propelled the female B grade to a strong total of 6-160 from 40 overs.

A collective effort in the bowling innings helped restrict their opponents Perth to 7-149.

It was a good performance to win by 11 runs as the side prepares for their final game of the season against Rockingham Mandurah.

The male U17 secured 4th position on the ladder with a victory over Wanneroo in a rain affected match last weekend.

Cooper Neill took 3-22 from four overs as they restricted their opponents to 7-106 from 20 overs. They could only manage five overs in the second innings



Midland Guildford bowler Shay Manolini put in an outstanding bowling performance against Wanneroo last weekend. File picture

as they finished 2-28 to win by eight wickets.

It was a loss by 15 runs for the male U15 in their final game of the season against Wanneroo which had them finish the season in 11th position.

After restricting their opponents to 93 all out with Aravind Anoop producing a spell of 4-14 from four overs, the side would fall to 5-11 before recovering to 78 all out with Cooper Forsyth scoring 48 from 59 in the defeat.

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