

Vigilance leads to Bells Rapids footbridge repairs

PG 4

Stoneville residents concerned over road works

PG 3

New Brabham Primary officially opened

PG 4



Picture: DFES

Perth Hills incident control centre not needed?

Despite the Wooroloo bushfire enquiry recommending a dedicated bushfire incident centre in the hills, mobile incident control units have been added to the DFES fleet instead.

PG 7

PREOFYS

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ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say:
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Govt ignoring cookatoos

Dear Echo News,

Regarding your story *Black cockatoo die-in at parliament house* (Echo News, May 2).

We have the environmental planning framework in this state to protect and support black cockatoos, the problem is getting the Cook government and decision makers like the WAPC and local councils to use them.

These controls have been put in a box at the back of the wardrobe, buried under discarded items and detritus where they can be hidden and forgotten.

Our state government is driven by development industries, especially housing and mining. Because of the wealth they generate, these sectors are extremely powerful and the government succumbs to their influence.

But like all things-monocultures are more prone to collapse because there is no inbuilt resilience.

When the crash comes, it is devastating and we all suffer.

Continued support of these to the exclusion of other sectors of our society, like our environment, is not a sustainable methodology.

The rally at parliament house and the call for a federal EPA to address the critical circumstances of black cockatoos in this state, is because it would sit above and exert pressure on Roger Cook's government to do better.

The establishment of a new law would put these controls into the limelight and achieve Australia wide exposure for the dire and terminal state of the black cockatoos under current conditions.

J Zeck
Swan Communities Environmental Alliance

Walk to school day is healthy

Dear Echo News,

Primary school aged children across Australia will make those important steps towards a healthier future by participating in National Walk Safely to School Day next Friday, May 16 and it's not too late to get involved.

This year marks the 26th anniversary of National Walk Safely to School Day.

The initiative aims to raise awareness of the health, road safety, transport and environmental benefits that regular walking, or alternative active transport (especially to and from school) can provide for the long-term well-being of our children, not just on May 16, but every day.

Apart from the physical benefits, regular walking or similar also has a favourable impact on children's cognitive and academic performance.

Thought for the day

Persistence is the twin sister of excellence. One is a matter of quality, the other a matter of time." — **Marabel Morgan**

Walk Safely to School Day also encourages positive environmental action, better use of public transport with reduced car-dependency and encourages parents and carers to walk more, reducing dangerous traffic congestion around schools.

The national initiative also promotes healthy eating and encourages schools and P&Cs to host a healthy breakfast on the day.

The extremely disturbing childhood obesity epidemic continues to affect 1 in 4 children at critical levels across Australia.

The best form of physical activity for all Australians is walking regularly. Children need at least 60 minutes of physical activity a day. We should encourage them to take a walk before school, during and at end of their day.

Being active every day, including walking to school, can help make a difference for many Australians. Whether you're a parent, teacher, or carer – everyone has a role to play in helping children and young people to lead active healthy lives.

H Scruby
Pedestrian Council of Australia CEO

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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CONSUMER PROTECTION

Love your Mum – shop smart

With Commissioner for Consumer Protection Trish Blake

With Mother's Day just around the corner, there's no doubt you'll be hunting for the perfect gift that shows you care – without getting caught out by dodgy deals or disappointing deliveries.

In the lead-up to Mum's special day, many retailers advertise special promotions to boost sales. While these offers can provide great value to shoppers, businesses must ensure that promotional pricing is accurate and not misleading.

Prices that are wrong or likely to create a false impression should not be displayed by businesses. This applies to pricing that is shown in-store, through paid advertising, or via digital platforms such as websites and social media accounts.

When advertising discounts, retailers must not mislead consumers about the amount they can save. For example, if a business says a product "was \$120, now \$80," then the item must have been available for \$120 for a reasonable period before the discount, otherwise the promotion is misleading. Similarly, if the \$80 promotional price is used for an extended period, it effectively

becomes the normal price, and advertising it as a special deal could mislead customers.

A displayed price can also be misleading if it's not the total amount the customer must pay. While optional extras can be offered, these must genuinely be optional. Charges that are unavoidable or pre-selected for customers cannot be disguised as extras and must be included in the advertised price.

Whether buying Mum's gift online or in a store, make sure you review the terms and conditions before you agree to buy.

Under Australian Consumer Law (ACL) a retailer does not have to give a refund or exchange if your Mum doesn't like the colour, it doesn't fit, or she simply wants something else. Check the in-store policy to see if a return or exchange is available for "change-of-mind".

If Mum is met with disappointment because her gift was broken, faulty or not as described, you'll be relieved to know you are entitled to a remedy under the ACL. Depending on the problem, this could be a refund, repair or replacement.

It's also worth keeping your proof of purchase for a period of time after Mother's Day just in case.

Pickering Brook still awaits townsite expansion

GUANHAO CHENG

MORE than four years after the first steps toward townsite expansion aimed to rejuvenate Pickering Brook tourism, residents still await the rezoning of rural land with an unclear timeline.

Residents were excited to see a step towards tourism growth in the area back in 2020, as reported in *Pickering Brook to expand* (*Echo News*, November 27, 2020), after the first phase of a two-phase report was endorsed by state government.

In that article, Pickering Brook resident Sue Marchesano said she had been waiting 30 years for the expansion.

More than four years on, Mrs Marchesano is still waiting as the 14ha of land to be rezoned from rural to urban remains unchanged and under assessment.

A Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) spokesperson confirmed with *Echo News* the Pickering Brook townsite urban expansion was under assessment but did not give further detail as to why it remained incomplete.

“A proposed metropolitan region scheme amendment to rezone approximately 14ha of land for the potential urban expansion of Pickering Brook is under assessment,” they said.

The City of Kalamunda mayor Margaret Thomas said the City of Kalamunda

requested the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) in 2021 to rezone 14ha of land from rural to urban for townsite expansion.

“In March 2021, (City of Kalamunda) requested the Western Australian Planning Commission proceed with an amendment to the metropolitan region scheme to rezone approximately 14ha of land from rural to urban to facilitate the Pickering Brook townsite expansion,” she said.

“The metropolitan region scheme amendment is currently being assessed by the DPLH.

“The city understands that an area of focus for this assessment is the consideration of bushfire risk, and water resources associated with soil and land capability for the development.

“An updated timeline on the progression of the metropolitan region scheme amendment has not been provided in relation to the DPLH’s assessment.

“Representations are being made to obtain further clarity of the schedule of consideration by the WAPC.”

In October last year, Planning Minister John Carey highlighted the double standard of hurrying the Pickering Brook extension while supporting the ongoing assessment of the Stoneville development despite bushfire risks being present in both and advised patience as reported in *John*



Back in 2020, Pickering Brook residents Sue and Lou Marchesano stood with former Planning Minister Rita Saffioti and former Kalamunda MLA Matthew Hughes as phase one of the strategy was completed and released.

Carey says WAPC independence must be respected (*Echo News*, November 29, 2024).

On October 24, 2024, Agricultural Region MLC Martin Aldridge asked how many times the Pickering Brook townsite expansion project task force had met since its creation.

South West Region MLC Jackie Jarvis responded to the questions representing the Minister for Planning John Carey.

“The taskforce has met four times – in September 2020, February 2022, November 2023 and April 2024,” Ms Jarvis said.

Residents concerned over Stoneville Road works

CINDY CARTOJANO

MUNDARING residents’ concerns about the road quality on Stoneville Road became apparent when the shire announced the start of new resurfacing work.

Residents commented on the shire’s Facebook announcement of the roadworks along Stoneville from Traylen Road to Carson Street and said the February project from Ankettell Road to Carson Street was either incomplete or inadequate.

Mundaring resident Lisa Williamson said she and her neighbours were disappointed about the resurfacing outcome of the February roadworks.

“The works apparently completed in February is completely substandard, dangerous and quite frankly appalling,” she said.

“Within two weeks of the apparent completion of the works, potholes, diverts and furrows had already appeared.

“The contractors attended and attempted to fix two large holes but in doing so, replaced the surface lower than the prepared surface in February.”

Ms Williamson said a few days after the work was completed, a sign was placed at either end of the resurfaced area to warn of loose stones and that line markings had not been added.

She said when residents emailed the shire about their concerns, they were told the issue would be fixed in due course.

“The area is an 80km/h zone and with the high amount of traffic including heavy vehicles, the surface is not suitable for the area and needs to be replaced,” Ms Williamson said.

A Stoneville and Parkerville Progress Association (SPPA) spokesperson said, with regard to the February work, the old road was far better than the new road.

“Anybody who’s basically using that stretch of road is saying, ‘when’s it going to be finished?’” the spokesperson said.

“Apparently that is the finished product until they put the lines in.”

The spokesperson said the recent work done on the weekend was also much better quality and was incomparable to the project done earlier in the year.

The SPPA spokesperson understands the resurfacing material used in a project was dependent on whether the area was rural or urban.

“This section that we’re complaining about, they’re saying that’s rural residential, so it doesn’t have to be as high quality as that asphalt,” the spokesperson said.

In an email to the SPPA, the shire said the road didn’t need a resurface and wasn’t presenting as dangerous if driving conditions, if



Signage along Stoneville Road advising lack of marked lines. Picture: Cindy Cartojano

the speed limits were adhered to, and if the driving was appropriate to the weather conditions.

Shire chief executive Jason Whiteaker said they had received residents’ feedback about the quality of roadworks on Stoneville Road.

“We want to reassure the community that the project is still within its defects liability period, and any necessary rectifications will be addressed promptly to meet our quality standards,” Mr Whiteaker said.

He said the shire’s operations team conducted an internal quality check when the work was completed.

“Their assessment focused on ensuring the works met the detailed specifications outlined in the contract,” he said.

Mr Whiteaker said West Coast Civil was the contractor of the Ankettell to Carson roadworks.

“West Coast Civil is responsible for any necessary remedial work at their own expense.

“We will rigorously monitor ongoing works and enforce the defects liability period to address any quality issues, ensuring satisfactory outcomes for our community,” he said.

The SPPA spokesperson said the SPPA would send complaints to the shire about how the Ankettell Road to Carson Street area was now a black spot.

“I think the contractors that have gone and laid that surface need to be recontacted.

“That contractor should be liable and if it’s a government contractor, they need to come and fix the problem and make it appropriate and safe,” the spokesperson said.

“Ratepayers, residents and taxpayers should not be footing the bill for abysmal inferior works of resurfacing to an integral section of the suburbs and the shire’s infrastructures,” Ms Williamson said.



Australian Government
Defence

Community Drop-In Session

Bullsbrook Scheme Water Infrastructure PFAS Investigation and Management Program

Defence is holding a community drop-in session to answer questions and provide information on the provision of scheme water infrastructure for the Bullsbrook community.

This is an opportunity for the community to meet with project representatives to discuss pipeline construction activities and connections to scheme water infrastructure, and per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) remediation and management actions for RAAF Base Pearce.

Community members can drop in at any time, no bookings are required.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Session details:


Date: Saturday 24 May 2025

Venue: Bullsbrook Museum (outdoor area)
22 Turner Road, Bullsbrook WA 6084

Time: 10:00 am—1:00 pm

Contact: If you have any questions regarding the event, please contact the project team.
Phone: 1800 987 614
Email: bullsbrook.defence@ghd.com

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Picture: Facebook Shirley Howard



The Bells Rapids footbridge safety rails were repaired quickly after community members notified the City of Swan of the extent of the damage. Picture: Facebook Ky-lee Demasi

Community vigilance leads to Bells Rapids footbridge repairs

GUANHAO CHENG

BRIGADOON residents sounded the alarm on large stretches of missing safety railing on the Bells Rapids footbridge leading to the City of Swan being notified and the footbridge being repaired last week.

Brigadoon resident Mitch Hastings first posted a video to Facebook on April 28 showing large portions of the bridge missing safety railings on each side which sparked outrage and concern in the community.

Mr Hastings said the bridge's condition astonished him when he first encountered it during a walk in Bells Rapids Park.

"My girlfriend and I decided to go for a nice walk with my friend's dog Tobi along the river (and then) walking across the bridge I was just shocked at how bad the handrails had degraded and more so that someone obviously knew about it," he said.

"Plastic orange construction barricading had been put up in one or two spots as well as some yellow caution tape.

"The further you walked across the bridge the worse it got with handrails completely missing and real risk present for anyone who was walking across the bridge.

"The river is not flowing so you can really see the depth of the valleys and rocky outcrops and (while) walking back I couldn't help but think in two months time, this river will be in full flow, and how horri-

ble it would be if a small child was to fall off the bridge (as) the area is often frequented by families and dog walkers."

Mr Hastings said it was then he decided to take a video and share it with the Campersic community and notified the City of Swan when he visited Midland on Tuesday, April 29.

"(I made) a report with the front desk clerk and showed her the video," he said.

"She admitted they knew about the bridge but thought it was just one or two hand rails so she said she would escalate it further."

City of Swan became aware of the damage to the bridge last Tuesday and responded, blocking off the areas within the hour of being notified.

The city's bridge maintenance attended the site on Wednesday and according to Brigadoon resident Karen Mowat, who was in contact with the city, by Friday, the bridge was repaired.

"I think everybody up here was astonished by the condition when Mitch Hastings put up the post originally," Ms Mowat said.

"I couldn't believe it was as bad as it was and thought before I lodged an issue, I needed to see it for myself.

"I took a walk down there and really I was surprised at the condition because living up in Brigadoon, I don't go down there that often so seeing it in the condition it was in, I was surprised it wasn't flagged by

tourists or visitors of the area as being unsafe."

Ms Mowat said she was glad to see the City of Swan responded quickly to the alert from the community and repaired the bridge but is concerned about the bridge's condition ahead of the Avon Descent.

She said the \$2 million funding pledge made by Swan Hills member Michelle Maynard to upgrade the Bells Rapids bridge would leave a tight turn around for works ahead of the major annual event.

"If that funding is only what's made available after the budget in June, which is what I'm led to believe after that, that's not a lot of time to do repairs," she said.

"If you walk across that bridge, if somebody was nudged on that bridge, and on the bad handrails, it's still an accident waiting to happen, especially if you've got numbers crossing for the Avon Descent.

"It's the main viewing place in the City of Swan other than Lilac Hill.

"I do think it's a shame that that bridge got into that condition.

"That didn't happen overnight, and I can't understand why somebody didn't let the city see it, and why the city was not paying more attention.

"That didn't happen overnight, not the rotten jarrah, because I keep getting told it's vandalism and I was like, well, maybe somebody's kicked some of them out but there's a lot more deterioration than vandalism."



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Midland

- 📅 Thursday, June 5, 2025
- 🕒 10am – 1pm
- 📍 Crooked Spire Art and Coffee House 71 Victoria St, Midland



Scan the QR code for more details and to register attendance.

New Brabham primary officially opened

A NEW primary school in Brabham that will accommodate up to 540 students from kindergarten to year 6 has been officially opened by Education Minister Sabine Winton and West Swan MLA Rita Saffioti.

The new \$39.9 million Maarakool Primary School was built to help ease enrolment pressure from the nearby Brabham Primary School.

The school's design features five classrooms, shaded play spaces for kindergarten and pre-primary students, and two double-storey teaching blocks with 13 general classrooms.

It also includes an inclusive education classroom, science and art classrooms, a library resource centre, a covered assembly area with a music room, outdoor play spaces and hardcourts, and a spacious administration block and staffroom facilities.

In 2024, the school leadership team developed a community engagement strategy that included ongoing consultation with traditional owner families, Elders, and Aboriginal artists to infuse First Nations histories and cultures into the school's design.

Foundation principal Anika Blackmore shared her enthusiasm for leading the school's establishment and its future role in the community.

"We are thrilled to offer a forward-thinking learning environment designed to inspire creativity and build strong community ties. Our focus is on fostering innovative and holistic learning programs while



Brabham Primary principal Anika Blackmore with new students Ayzal and Aliza Ali.

remaining deeply engaged with the families we serve," she said.

"We look forward to seeing our students build connections with each other and to see them energised and thriving as they engage in the range of academic and non-academic programs our team have carefully crafted."

West Swan MLA Rita Saffioti said she had always been focused on ensuring local students and their families had access to great education right here in the community.

"So, it's very exciting that another school in the electorate is open to cater for this growing catchment.

"The new school looks incredible and I'm sure students will love coming to school and learning in these state-of-the-art facilities."

Education Minister Sabine Winton said the state government was committed to providing quality public schools in Western Australia so students can have the best possible learning experiences.

"We also want to ensure the needs of families in expanding areas, such as Brabham and its surrounding areas, are met.

"While this is a new school, it is already special to the community, with Maarakool meaning 'with our hands', symbolising children, staff and families working together to create experiential learning.

The state-of-the-art primary school was designed by Bateman Architects and constructed by Universal Constructions in the Brabham Estate, developed by Peet in collaboration with DevelopmentWA.

Rentals out of reach for income support holders



REIWA says increasing demand and declining supply is fuelling the rental price increase. Picture: Cindy Cartojano

CINDY CARTOJANO

CHARITY organisation Anglicare Australia's rental snapshot reveals the affordability of listings throughout the nation has crashed to record lows.

Anglicare surveyed more than 50,000 rental listings and found a full-time minimum wage earner could afford 0.7 per cent of the listings surveyed.

The report found despite there being more available rentals in WA this year compared to last year, the properties were out of reach for those on income support or the minimum wage.

REIWA president Suzanne Brown said the significant increase in rental prices was fuelled by strong population growth and a decline in rental supply.

"This has impacted rental af-

fordability, particularly for the more vulnerable in our society," Ms Brown said.

According to REIWA, the median weekly rent in Kalamunda, Mundaring and Swan followed a parabolic trend between 2013 and 2025.

REIWA's data suggested Kalamunda's average rental in 2013 was \$448 per week, in 2019 it decreased to \$348 and this year it increased to \$590.

Mundaring's median weekly rent in 2013 was \$475, in 2018 it was \$400 and this year it's at \$700.

In Swan, the average weekly rent was \$410 in 2013, \$310 in 2018 and \$640 in 2025.

According to Anglicare single people on the age pension could afford 0.3 per cent of rental listings.

In Bullwinkel which includes parts of Kalamunda, Mundaring

and Swan, there are 19,325 recipients on the age pension.

This electorate had 3445 recipients on disability support pension who could afford 0.1 per cent of rentals, and 925 youth allowance recipients who wouldn't be able to afford any of the listings surveyed by Anglicare.

"The private rental market is simply impossible for Australians on low incomes," according to the rental report.

"This is not by accident.

"Generous tax handouts for investors have incentivised the buying and selling of homes like stocks, turning a fundamental human right into a speculative commodity trade."

Ms Brown said a multi-focused approach is needed to address rental affordability.

"Building more homes in general

will give some tenants the option to buy a home and exit the rental market, and provide more homes for investors to purchase, but it is not the only solution," she said.

"It is particularly important to ensure we have a legislative environment that encourages and supports investment."

Ms Brown said supply is impacted when investors leave the market which resulted in an increase of rent prices and added pressure to social housing.

She said increasing investment in social and affordable housing is one step to resolving the problem.

"Along with building more social housing or repurposing existing buildings, this can include support for initiatives like build-to-rent, which will provide more dwellings to be used as long-term rentals, and ensure a portion of homes in these



REIWA president Suzanne Brown.

developments are set aside for affordable rentals."

She said it would take time to see the impact of the state government's actions to address the issue of rental affordability.

Anglicare called on the government to directly fund and provide housing, instead of leaving it to the private sector.

It has also called on the government to wind back landlord tax concessions.



The federal vote count in Bullwinkel has come down to preferences with less than 100 votes separating Labor's Trish Cook and Liberal's Matt Moran as of Thursday morning.

Election results amid Bullwinkel ballot battle

WHILE the results for the seats of Hasluck, Pearce, Swan, Durack and Cowan are known the result in Bullwinkel is still playing out.

As *Echo News* monitored the results for Bullwinkel, there was a back-and-forth between Labor's Trish Cook and Liberals candidate Matt Moran.

On Wednesday afternoon the ABC reported Ms Cook was in the lead by 95 votes.

According to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) a full recount of all formal and informal ballot papers occurs if the margin of votes between the first and second ranked candidates at the completion of the distribution of preferences is less than 100 votes.

On September 5, last year Antony Green's election blog on the 2024 Federal redistribution – final bound-

aries for Western Australia released said the new seat of Bullwinkel was a notional Labor seat using the unusually good Labor results at the 2022 federal election.

"At a more normal election, and without a sitting member, Bullwinkel will be a very difficult seat for Labor to notionally retain," he said.

The Thursday morning following the Saturday, May 3 election the winner of the new seat was still undecided as Shire of Mundaring councillor and Labor candidate for Bullwinkel Trish Cook led with 175 votes.

In his blog Mr Green said the creation of Bullwinkel resulted in a significant strengthening of Labor's position in Hasluck, the Labor margin increasing from 6 per cent to 10 per cent.

cont page 18.

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The Child Safe Awareness policy was voted in unanimously by Shire of Northam councillors at the April council meeting.

Northam adopts child safe awareness policy

GUANHAO CHENG

THE Shire of Northam has formally adopted a new Child Safe Awareness Policy, reinforcing its commitment to ensuring all children and young people are protected across its services and facilities.

The policy, endorsed at the April council meeting, was amended on the night by councillor Julie Williams to clarify that child safety training will be provided not only to staff and councillors, but also to contractors, volunteers, trainees, and anyone undertaking work on behalf of the shire.

The policy stems from recommendations made by the landmark Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which was

established in 2013 after mounting public concern and evidence of widespread abuse in organisations such as schools, churches, orphanages, and youth detention centres.

Over five years, the commission heard from more than 8000 survivors and issued a final report in 2017 with hundreds of recommendations to prevent institutional abuse.

A key recommendation was for local governments and community organisations to implement child-safe policies and cultures.

Northam's child safety policy document states the Shire of Northam supports, values and is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.

cont page 18.

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The City of Kalamunda says Stirk Park with its lake and water features has been a key focus of its annual mosquito program this year.

Another Kalamunda Ross River virus case

ANITA McINNES

The City of Kalamunda says it has eight confirmed cases of Ross River virus in adult residents with two of those cases locally acquired.

Recently a reader contacted *Echo News* to say they knew two people who had contacted Ross River fever who said the only place they had been where there were mosquitoes was Stirk Park.

As reported in *Ross River detected in Kalamunda*, (*Echo News*, March 21) the city issued a statement on March 17 urging residents to take precautions against mosquito bites following the confirmation of a Ross River virus case in an adult who acquired the infection locally.

City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas said the city's annual mosquito control program runs from October to March and included monitoring and treating water sources such as stormwater gullies – through trapping, draining, and larviciding to prevent mosquito development.

Ms Thomas said that Stirk Park, with its lake and water features, had been a key focus area.

"As part of recent upgrades, stormwater and drainage improvements – including a baffle box gross pollutant trap – have been installed to improve runoff

treatment and reduce stagnant water," she said.

"We're also addressing stagnant water in unused swimming pools around the area by issuing clean-up notices and applying treatment where needed.

"Residents are reminded to maintain pools and ponds to prevent mosquito breeding."

Ms Thomas said the city also worked closely with the Department of Health to monitor mosquito activity and implement targeted control measures.

"We continue to promote the Fight the Bite campaign, encouraging residents and visitors to prevent bites, reduce breeding sites and minimise the risk of mosquito-borne diseases."

The city's Our Mosquito Wise education program also helps raise awareness, particularly among school-aged children.

There is vaccine for Japanese encephalitis viruses but no vaccine or cure for any of the other mosquito-borne disease acquired in WA.

The Department of Health said the most effective way to prevent infection was to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes.

When *Echo News* asked the city how many residents contracted the virus last year the city said to contact the Department of Health for the latest statistics.

Mobile incident units sufficient: Tania Lawrence

GUANHAO CHENG

HASLUCK MHR Tania Lawrence says mobile incident units offer more flexibility for fire incident responses and no longer take days to set up as technology and knowledge of their use improves.

“Given the significant variability of fire threats and locations across the Perth Hills, mobile incident units provide the versatility that our emergency services have sought,” she said.

“They can then locate the ICCs where they are needed to respond to the given emergency; be it fire, storm or even floods up north, and scale up the centre by transporting in technology ready-to-go units, instead of the days it takes to set up as we saw at Mundaring arena.”

The Australasian fire and emergency service authorities council (AFAC) recommended in a review of the management of the 2021 Wooroloo bushfire that DFES should lead the development of a multi-agency incident control centre to be built in or around the Perth Hills.

This was the first of 13 recommendations supplied to improve fire incident response and minimise damage to land and property during emergency fire events.

“Knowledge and technology are improving very rapidly in this area, and we need to take the advice of the emergency service professionals about what is required, which is what we have done in adopting a mobile solution,” Ms Lawrence said.

Ms Lawrence, who was re-elected on May 3, said the new mobile incident control units were supported by a \$1.25 million investment from the Albanese Government as reported in *Incident control centre reduced to mobile units* (Echo News, February 28).

A Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) spokesperson said the new control centres would be a versatile asset which would aid firefighting efforts but did



Hasluck MHR Tania Lawrence says the incident control centres can now be transported in ready-to-go units which avoids set-up times that used to take days. Picture: DFES

not confirm how they compared with a dedicated control centre in the Perth Hills.

“Four mobile incident control centres (MICC) have been built specifically for DFES and allow management teams to be closer to incidents,” they said.

“Each MICC is a mobile cache with structures and equipment to set up control centres, accommodation and catering hubs.

“They can be used as a standalone capability or can be positioned to complement an existing facility.

“The control centres currently used are re-

stricted to bushfires, but the mobility of the new units allows our response teams to set up a command post during a range of incidents almost anywhere in the state.

“A trial of the control centres will foster the development of further enhancements such as remote satellite internet and standalone solar power with battery energy storage systems.

“The MICCs will be a major boost in support for our career and volunteer emergency services crews.”

Since the Wooroloo fire, aside from the

incident control centre, the Perth Hills have pushed for a boost to telecommunications reliability in the event of major bushfires as reported in *Mundaring strengthen their ties in Canberra* (Echo News, July 12, 2024)

Ms Lawrence said Labor candidate for Bullwinkel Trish Cook recently pledged \$3.9m to upgrade six fire stations in the electorate and also a further \$1.2m to increase battery backup power for 23 mobile towers.

The estimated insurance loss of the Wooroloo bushfire was \$93m according to the AFAC review.



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Cindy Cartojano (centre) at the launch of the Wimmin's Work project at the State Library on April 30. Picture: Madigan Spooner

Immigrant mum's life told through photo-led story

ANITA McINNES

WHEN *Echo News* cadet journalist Cindy Cartojano decided to pitch a subject for Wimmin's Work, a project documenting the experiences of women living and working in WA, the first person she thought of was her immigrant mum Loreta.

Ms Cartojano said growing up her mum always told her and her brother stories about her life of poverty in Manila.

"When we went back to the Philippines last year, we visited the school she lived in and this experience really put things into perspective," Ms Cartojano said.

"I realised how fortunate I was to have the life I did.

"When I read the brief for the Wimmin's Work project, my mum was the first person that came to mind.

"She'd been working since she was a little girl to support her family because she was the eldest child.

"She gave up her dream of teaching because she was told by her parents nursing

would give her a way out."

Her mum studied and worked hard to make sure that her children did not grow up in the same environment she did.

Ms Cartojano said the hard work of immigrant women, especially was overlooked.

"These women often spend a lot of time away from home and away from their family," she said.

"But they get on with it anyway.

"I chose my mum for this project as a way of acknowledging her resilience and the resilience of other immigrant women like her."

The Wimmin's Work project – the name is a nod to the women's liberation movement and feminist adoption of the word women – was a partnership between the State Library and Women in Media WA and was supported by the state government.

The stories were launched at an event hosted by the State Library on April 30.

Creative Industries Minister Simone McGurk said the State Library and Wom-

en in Media WA had provided a platform and support for emerging and returning filmmakers, journalists and photographers to develop their craft.

"The stories showcase the lived experience of trailblazers, peacemakers, homemakers, risk-takers and movers and shakers who are shaping our state," she said.

Ms Cartojano, who started working at *Echo News* in January, said interviewing her mum was an overwhelming experience.

"There were moments in the interview where I felt sorry for her because of what she had to go through," she said.

"But as she shared her accomplishments, I felt proud of her.

"I think this shift in emotions is reflected in the way I edited the video because in the first half, she talks about her hardships and how she didn't want to do nursing.

"Towards the end of the video, it shows how she's come to terms with her career choice, and she says she loves nursing now."

Beverley empowers through education

RETIRED Gooseberry Hill school teacher 86-year-old Beverley Morris has been a beacon of hope and support in City of Swan and Perth Hills communities since joining Read Write Now in 1993 where her passion for education has made a lasting impact over the past 32 years.

Mrs Morris's dedication shines through in her work with numerous students and adult learners, and one of her most remarkable success stories involves a student recovering from a brain operation in 2017.

Although his reading comprehension was fine, he needed to regain the skill of reading again, so she started with phonics, using bigger print and less text on a page.

They chose Dr Seuss books, which he could later read to his four-year-old daughter, and starting with just a few pages at a time, they gradually increased the amount of text as his confidence and skills improved.

Even during the pandemic, they never missed a lesson, with Beverley adapting their sessions by leaving homework and exercises in the garage and conducting tutoring sessions



Beverley Morris.

over the phone.

They used a variety of reading materials, from Dr Seuss to Anh Doh's Happiest Refugee.

Today, her student is employed again, thanks to her unwavering support.

Mrs Morris remains actively involved in various community activities and was one of the founding members of the Kalamunda Learning Centre, and her story is a testament to the power of volunteerism and community spirit.

Read Write Now is a free adult literacy service that has been helping Western Australians improve their literacy skills since 1977.

The program offers one-on-one tutoring in reading, writing, maths, study, and basic computer skills.

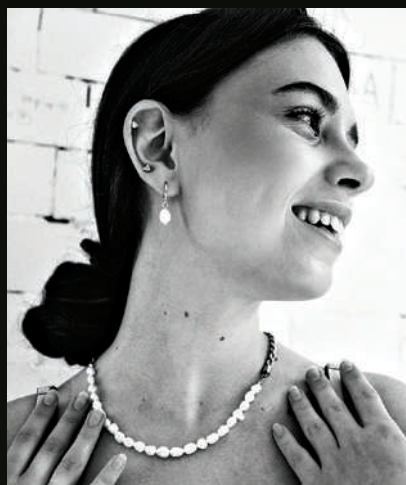
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Perth Film Studio milestone sets the stage for success



Work is progressing on the \$233 million Perth Film Studios in Malaga.

MASSIVE sound stages and workshops are being erected at the Perth Film Studios site in Malaga, with approximately 60 per cent of construction now complete.

The \$233.5 million project is a demonstration of the state government's commitment to grow the state's screen industry and a key component of its economic diversification strategy.

A further investment of \$57m will support initial operations and facilities management over the first 10 years, underpinned by an operations agreement with Perth-based company Home Fire.

Local jobs have been created through the use of local suppliers and manufacturers, including more than 1670 tonnes of locally acquired and fabricated steel.

More than 200 people are also employed directly on the site with one-fifth of the workforce apprentices or trainees. Approximately six per cent of the workforce are First Nations peoples.

When finished the studios will have a total of 8,200 square metres of interior production space within the complex that covers a 16-hectare site on Marshall Road.

The Perth Film Studios will also incorporate production offices, an art department, wardrobe, workshops, set storage, parking, and a 23,200sqm backlot – which is larger than the playing field at Optus Stadium.

The Arts and Culture Trust will be the owner of Perth Film Studios on behalf of the state government, with the film studios scheduled to open early

next year.

Premier Roger Cook said his government was working every day to ensure WA's economy remains the strongest in the nation and there is no better place in the world to get a quality job.

"Our investment in the Perth Film Studios is another example of how we're working to achieve that goal by diversifying our economy for the future and making more things here.

"Perth Film Studios will establish Western Australia as a major creative centre for international and national film, television, and digital media production.

"The studio complex will rival the best in the southern hemisphere and help attract major productions from around Australia and the world, while boosting business and employment opportunities for the local industry."

Creative Industries Minister Simone McGurk said the studios would be a huge boost to WA's creative industries sector, helping the state attract talent and production investment from all over the world.

"While the WA screen production industry has already achieved some big successes, construction of the Perth Film Studios will amplify that success and help expand the industry, providing real opportunities for our talented, home-grown creative professionals to remain in Western Australia.

"Our expectation is that over the next 10 years Perth Film Studios will attract up to 10 per cent of Australia's annual screen productions, compared to the current one per cent."

Fred Hollows Foundation thanks Swan residents



The gift of sight has been given to this Kenyan family thanks to generous support.

FRED Hollows Foundation has thanked the Swan community for their support during a challenging time for the international development sector.

Over the past 12 months, the foundation has seen 83 new donors from Swan support their work.

In total 976 people from Swan have donated \$268,070 in the past year, helping continue the late Professor Fred Hollows' vision of ending avoidable blindness.

Founding Director Gabi Hollows thanked the Swan community for supporting the foundation's important work.

"In these challenging times marked by rising costs of living, ongoing conflict, and increasing division, I want to take a moment to reflect on the countless people whose lives have been transformed after having their sight restored thanks to the generosity of everyday Australians.

"Fred used to say that we discover our own humanity when we help others. Every donation, big or small, is a step towards a world where no person is needlessly blind.

"It could be a mother returning to the workforce, a grandparent seeing their grandchild for the first time, or a child being able to go to school. Thank you, Swan, for your generosity in helping us restore sight to those who need it most," she said.

Eveline, a young mother from Kenya's Siaya County received the life-changing gift of sight, along with her children – two-year-old Vincent and seven-year-old Ruth.

For Eveline and her husband Boniface, their future seemed hopeless, with blindness affecting Eveline's ability to work and their children's education.

Thanks to supporters of The Fred Hollows Foundation, all three underwent cataract surgery, regaining not just their vision but also their independence.

Ruth is now thriving in school, Vincent can run and play like any other child, and Eveline has regained her ability to provide for the family.

"The miraculous vision has brought us more than just clear sight – it has brought us hope, joy and a brighter future," Boniface said.

This extraordinary transformation highlights the power of sight-restoring surgery, proving that generosity and accessible eye care can rewrite lives.

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

This year, the foundation aims to perform 3.8 million eye screenings, distribute 12.8m doses of antibiotics for trachoma, and run community health education sessions for 1.2m adults and children globally.

Readers can watch watch Eveline, Ruth and Vincent's story here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1POeIX-CaUE>

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



WA'S FIRST FAIR TO REIMAGINE HEALTH AND INCLUSION – LOUD, PROUD, AND COMMUNITY-LED



An exciting, first of its kind event is set to take place in Ballajura this May, bringing health, culture, and community together in a powerful display of inclusion and connection. The Together Now: Health & Community Fair will be held on Thursday, 22 May 2025, from 10:00am to 3:00PM at The Marketplace Precinct, Ballajura.

The event is proudly organised by Together Now WA (TNWA) – a local charity based in Ballajura. TNWA supports people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities through community services, emergency relief, and creative programs that bring people together.

The fair will feature over 40 leading health services, charities, and community groups from across Western Australia, including respected names such as Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services, Youth Disability Advocacy Network, Multicultural Futures, Worthy Australia, Kids First Australia, and zero2hero.

Highlights of the Fair:

- Live entertainment from DJ XQYEMU, Para and Ability Dance WA, and renowned drag performer Dean Misdale
- Free health services, including health checks and mental health support
- Games, giveaways, and informative community stalls
- A delicious Filipino-inspired menu from a local café
- Family-friendly activities, quiet zones, and sensory play for children

This community-led initiative is designed to be welcoming, inclusive, and accessible to all.

Event Details:

- **What:** Together Now: Health & Community Fair
- **When:** Thursday, 22 May 2025 | 10:00am–3:00pm
- **Where:** The Marketplace Precinct, Ballajura
- **Entry:** FREE to all

More Info: togethernowwa.org.au/together-now-health-community-fair-2025

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From 5pm. Free.
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Fri May 9

Settlers House York
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From 5.30pm. Free.
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Woodbridge Hotel
Jamm'n.
From 8pm. Free.
50 East St Guildford

Lyric's Bar
Laneway Bar
Smeeton and
Smallman. From 7pm.
Free. 22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Rhay Rom.
6pm-9pm. Free.
4260 Great Eastern
Hwy Mahogany Creek

Sat May 10

Settlers House York
Nick Childs.
From 5.30pm. Free.
Avon Terrace York

Woodbridge Hotel
The Unsung Heroes.
From 8pm. Free.
50 East St Guildford

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Jonny P.
6pm-9pm. Free.
4260 Great Eastern
Hwy Mahogany Creek

Hemingway & Co
Acoustic Saturday.
From 6.30pm. Free.
6/7095 Great Eastern
Highway Mundaring

Bassendean Hotel
Slim Jim @ the Phatts.
8pm-Late. Free.
25 Old Perth Road
Bassendean

Sat May 10 cont.

Parkerville Tavern
Jump the Gun Duo.
From 6pm. Free.
6 Owen Road

Lyric's Bar
Laneway Bar
Daisy Cotton Duo.
From 7pm. Free.
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

Sun May 11

Settlers House York
Nathan Ward.
From 12pm. Free.
Avon Terrace York

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Bill Chidzey.
3pm-6pm. Free.
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Hwy Mahogany Creek

Parkerville Tavern
Andrew Winton.
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ECHO NEWS

Update on Bullsbrook scheme water

ANITA McINNES

A COMMUNITY drop-in session about the provision scheme water infrastructure for Bullsbrook will be held on Saturday, May 24.

The Department of Defence said the session was an opportunity for the community to discuss pipeline construction activities and connections to scheme water infrastructure and per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) remediation and management actions for Pearce air base.

The most recent Bullsbrook scheme water infrastructure community update said more than 8km of pipe had been installed in West Bullsbrook, construction had started in South Bullsbrook with more than 1km of pipe already installed since January and the micro tunnelling section beneath Tonkin Highway successfully completed to design requirements.

The community update said in West Bullsbrook teams were continuing the installation of pipe along Railway Parade and Almeria Parade and had recently started working through the higher density residential areas including Brockholes Street.

In South Bullsbrook the team will complete installation of pipe on Warren Road and then move north onto Dewar Road.

In November 2018, the Department of Defence completed a detailed environmental investigation into the presence of PFAS on and in the vicinity of Pearce air base with investigations establishing that that PFAS were mostly concentrated in areas where firefighting foams were previously used, stored or disposed.

In Defence outlines steps for scheme



Defence is holding a community drop-in session to answer questions about provision of scheme water infrastructure for Bullsbrook residents affected by PFAS.

water access (Echo News, November 2, 2023) the department said in West Bullsbrook 188 properties would have the option to connect to the 14.2km pipeline with water supplied from the Ellenbrook tank.

Seventeen properties in South Bullsbrook would be able to connect and their water source would be a tank on Chittering Road.

A brochure available at a community session in 2023 said the Water Corporation needed to carry out upgrades in Bullsbrook before the South Bullsbrook

pipeline could be commissioned and that construction of the West Bullsbrook pipeline required trenching and horizontal drilling under the Tonkin Highway and the railway line at two locations.

Defence said to treat the water to Water Corporation standards a water treatment facility would be built on Robinson Road west of Tonkin Highway.

No bookings are required for the drop-in session and community members can drop in at any time between 10am and 1pm at the Bullsbrook Museum (outdoor area) 22 Turner Road, Bullsbrook.

Reluctant leaders to share their lessons at the Hour of Power

SWAN Chamber of Commerce president Mike Matich and chief executive officer Tom Smilovitis will share stories about their journeys in leadership roles at the May 14 Hour of Power.

Mr Matich, the owner of the Crooked Spire café, has turned a disused warehouse into a community hub for coffee, art, and connection.

His café's pay-it-forward initiative Suspended Coffees has delivered more than 10,000 free coffees to the homeless people in the Swan community.

In 2022, Mr Matich expanded the Crooked Spire by opening a second café in Henley Brook.

Mr Matich said he will be sharing a bit of his own story at the talk.

"From fixing up a rundown building in Midland to leading a team, running a business, and even stepping into politics," he said.

"There was no big plan, just a bunch of moments where I figured maybe I could help."

Mr Smilovitis, helped kickstart workplace chaplaincy across WA's construction sector when he joined Hanssen construction as a full-time chaplain helping workers dealing with personal and financial challenges.

Mr Smilovitis has over four decades of leadership experience across business, property management, and mentoring culminating in his current role as the chamber's chief executive officer.

Mr Smilovitis said people who sought leadership solely for its prestige often fell short.

"They enter for the wrong reasons, unprepared and unequipped," he said.

"In contrast, wholesome leaders often function long before they're given a title.



Swan Chamber of Commerce chief executive Tom Smilovitis and president Mike Matich will share lessons in leadership at the May Hour of Power.

"They carry the burden, the heart, and the fruit well before any recognition comes.

"These are the reluctant leaders and, in my experience, they are the most effective of all."

Both speakers accepted their roles at the Swan Chamber on the condition they could bring a fresh approach to leadership, cultivating a truly inclusive, professional business community.

They will reflect on their six-year journey steering the chamber toward genuine, organic growth and a more inclusive business community.

Mr Matich said the talk was for anyone who has ever thought they are not the

right person for the job.

"I have felt that plenty of times," he said.

"People might see me as confident or even a bit of a show pony, but I have never chased leadership.

"Reluctant leaders often lead with heart. They listen, they make space for others, they show up when it counts.

"You do not need a title or a five-year plan to change the world - whatever changing the world means to you.

"Sometimes it is just saying yes to something that scares you."

The Hour of Power will be held at 10am on Wednesday, May 14 at the Crooked Spire café in Midland.



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ECHO NEWS
Local Business Supporting Local People

Midland Morrison Bowling Club carnival returns

THE Midland Morrison Bowling and Recreation Club (MMBRC) in Middle Swan has announced the return of its first major bowling carnival in more than two decades, taking place on Saturday, May 10.

MMBRC secretary Bruce Weber said it would be exciting to see 144 bowlers competing for cash prizes, supported by about 60 visitors and volunteers.

"The club has a rich history, with Midland Bowling Club founded in 1907 and Morrison Bowling Club in 1968," he said.

"The two clubs amalgamated in 2006, relocating to the new Midland Sports Complex due to asbestos concerns at the original Midland site.

"This long-awaited carnival has attracted players from both local and regional clubs, including Swan, Bassendean, Ellenbrook, Mundaring and Maylands, with a few country clubs also making the journey.

"The enthusiasm from the bowling community has been incredible.

"We are especially grateful for the generous sponsorship and donations from Midland businesses and for the strong backing from Midland MLA Steve Catania."

The public can attend and enjoy a day of competitive bowling, community spirit and club pride.

"With many talented and passionate players representing their clubs, it promises to be a fantastic day for all," he said.

Mr Weber said the club had experienced steady growth over the past three years, nearly doubling their playing membership.

"This remarkable expansion has allowed us to add an additional team to both the Thursday and Saturday pennant



The Midland Morrison Bowling and Recreation Club has had recent growth and success including 2025 4th division pennant winners.

competitions, now competing across three divisions with seven teams.

"A significant contributor to this growth has been the rule change by Bowls WA, allowing for mixed-gender competition in the Saturday pennants.

"While this change may be fully implemented in the upcoming season, the anticipation has already helped broaden our

player base and foster inclusivity.

"With the increase in membership, we've been fortunate to attract several high-quality players.

"As a result, the clubs men's Thursday 5th division and 4th division mixed teams both won their respective pennants for the 2024-25 season.

"We're proud to announce that both

teams have earned promotion to higher divisions, reflecting the hard work and dedication of our players and selection and coaching members."

The club now is competing in four different divisions in 25-26.

For more information contact MMBRC secretary Bruce Weber on 0452 624 274.



Retired music teacher Karina McRoberts says participants don't need formal music training to be welcome at the music club.



New Mundaring club to connect through music

A NEW music club for adults is launching in Mundaring, offering a relaxed and inclusive space for people to sing, play instruments and connect through song.

The Mundaring and Hills Friendly Music Club will be facilitated by retired music teacher Karina McRoberts, who said the idea was to create a community-based music club with a welcoming atmosphere.

Ms McRoberts has been involved in a range of musical projects, including medieval fairs, charity events and a large-scale musical theatre night in York.

"That was a wonderful but huge endeavour, and now I'm hoping to downsize by creating a community-based music club with a friendly flavour," she said.

She said participants were encouraged to bring a song to share with the group, helping to build a varied repertoire over time.

"The idea is that everyone brings a song for the group to learn and share; and with time, a wonderful repertoire will be created," she said.

"The range is varied, and participants will

be encouraged to share songs from their cultural backgrounds."

The club will also offer opportunities to learn acoustic instruments, with Ms McRoberts providing some from her own collection and offering guidance for those interested in playing.

"Maybe you never got the chance or maybe you started in school but never got back to it or maybe someone bullied you and you stopped," she said.

"In this club, there's no judgement, no pressure, and nobody will be expected to read music."

Ms McRoberts said the focus was on fun and participation.

"It's not for show-offs – it's about cooperation, not competition," she said.

The first session will be held on Wednesday, May 14 from 10am to 2pm at the Mundaring Community Men's Shed.

Tea and coffee will be available and participants can bring a snack or lunch.

The event is free but RSVPs are required by calling 0423 980 241.



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Adelphi Living has brand new homes opening in Ballajura

Adelphi Living has brand new homes opening in Ballajura for NDIS Supported Independent Living and Specialised Disability Accommodation.

Adelphi Living CEO, Howard Emery, advised that these beautiful new homes can each accommodate three (3) Participants, in single oversized bedrooms with private fully accessible bathrooms.

At Adelphi Living we take a “Person Centred Approach” to the supports and services with Participants having choice and control in their daily lives.

For Ballajura, we have chosen fully accessible and high physical support housing designs for these new homes.

Adelphi Living assesses the needs of each Participant and selects the staff that are required for each Participants individual needs.

We have Registered and Enrolled Nurses and all our Support Workers have achieved a minimum of Certificate III in Individual Support, in either Aged, Disability, Community or Mental Health.

Mr Emery further explained that Adelphi Living is caring for several people who were previously living in aged care facilities, but now because they are under 65 years of age, they are eligible for NDIS funding and accommodation, which offers a more relaxed lifestyle and superior staffing levels.

For further details, please refer to the Adelphi Living website www.adelphiliving.com.au or contact them on (08) 6331 6888.



Breast health an important topic for discussion

BREAST cancer is the most-diagnosed cancer among female patients in Australia and the second-leading cause of female cancer deaths, so it's an important topic to discuss with your GP, according to the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP).

A peer-reviewed journal of the RACGP, the Australian Journal of General Practice (AJGP) keeps GPs updated on the latest research and provides information to assist them in providing high quality care.

The latest issue has a focus on breast health, including breast cancer early detection and prevention, assessing and managing breast skin changes and premature breast development.

RACGP president Michael Wright said the edition of the AJGP updated GPs on the latest evidence to guide breast cancer treatment and prevention.

An article by GP Dr Sandy Minck provides guidance for GPs on evidence-based strategies for breast cancer prevention.

Dr Minck, who undertook a risk-reducing mastectomy in 2023 said there were a range of preventive options for patients.

“More than 75 per cent of cases occur in patients over 50, but there has been a 10 per cent increase among patients under 50 in the last 20 years, so breast cancer will be a concern for younger patients too,” Dr Minck said.

“Lifestyle changes, medication, and surgical interventions can reduce breast cancer risk.

“These include maintaining a healthy weight, avoiding or limiting alcohol, and getting regular exercise.

“Risk-reducing medication can decrease breast cancer risk by 30 to 60 per cent.

There are two main categories of medication, selective estrogen receptor modulators and aromatase inhibitors. These are an effective risk-reducing strategy for patients who do not want to undergo, or want to postpone, mastectomy.

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Construction of new Beechboro disability accommodation

TWO purpose-built homes will be constructed in Beechboro to meet growing demand for specialist disability accommodation in Western Australia, with the first sod of the development turned last week.

The project will provide customised homes for six people with disability to help meet their individual needs and maximise day-to-day independence.

Property developer WAI Group and architect/builder Fortitude Living and G Living have partnered with specialist disability accommodation provider Nesti Housing and supported independent living provider Nulsen Disability Services to manage the new homes.

Located 13km from the Perth CBD, 100m from public transport and less than 500m from a supermarket and café, the residences have been designed to comply with and exceed SDA and NDIS standards.

Each property is architecturally designed with three bedrooms, as well as large corridors

and living spaces so participants can navigate the home with ease, step-free paths, adjustable kitchen benches, movable cabinets and height accessible light switches and power points.

Residents will have their own bedroom and ensuite and access to a kitchen, generous living spaces and an outdoor area. There is also a separate bedroom, office space and bathroom for overnight support care professionals.

WAI Group Director Paul Stanley said the Beechboro project was the latest investment in a slate of inclusive SDA homes by WAI Group across the state.

"WAI Group is as proud leader in Specialist Disability Accommodation and affordable housing in WA," Mr Stanley said.

"Together with disability and supported independent living providers, we are committed to increasing stocks of SDA properties so people with disability can enjoy functional, comfortable homes and lead as independent lives as possible."

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Bakers Hill Anzac Day Raffle results. Permit No LS222921225
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Have Your Say

Proposed Motor Vehicle Showroom and Workshop – 181 Morrison Road, Midvale

The Western Australian Planning Commission is seeking public comment on a significant development application for a motor vehicle showroom and workshop at 181 Morrison Road, Midvale.

The proposal is for a showroom, 28-bay workshop, detailing facility, automatic vehicle wash, external display area and associated signage and car parking, including 108 pre-delivery bays.

The application can be viewed at haveyoursay.dph.wa.gov.au/midvaledealership or in person by appointment at the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Level 2, 140 William Street, Perth. Contact SDAUconsultation@dph.wa.gov.au or 6551 9450 for an appointment.

Submissions can be made online or posted to: Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, State Development Assessment Unit, Locked Bag 2506, Perth WA 6001.

Submissions close **8 June 2025**. Late submissions may not be accepted.

DOLPH_26155

ECHO NEWS

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Northam adopts child safe awareness policy

from page 6.

“The safety and wellbeing of children is everyone’s responsibility,” the document reads.

“The Child Safe Awareness Policy is one of the many ways the Shire of Northam demonstrates its commitment to having a zero tolerance approach to child abuse and providing a safe environment for young people when interacting with the shire.

“The shire will promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people across the community and demonstrate leadership by supporting organisations and sporting clubs to be child safe and to protect children and young people from harm and/or abuse.

“Training will be provided for workers, volunteers, trainees, work experience students and anyone who undertakes work on behalf of the Shire of Northam.

“The shire will deliver child safe messages, aligned to the national principles for child safe organisations and commonwealth child safe framework, to all shire facilities through resources, awareness raising and sharing relevant information.

“The safety and best interests of children and young people are a primary consideration when making decisions that concern them.

“Children and young people have the right to speak up, be heard and taken seriously without consequence.”

The policy forms part of a broader effort across Western Australia, with other local governments also developing or adopting similar frameworks in recent years.

Northam shire officers will now begin rolling out the policy, including training and risk management procedures.

Election results amid Bullwinkel ballot battle

from page 5.

On Thursday, May 8 with 77.3 per cent of the vote counted incumbent MHR Tania Lawrence had secured the seat – according to the ABC’s Australian Federal Election 2025 Live results – with a lead of 28,513 votes indicating a swing of 6.9 per cent to the ALP.

In Swan incumbent MHR Zaneta Mascarenhas was leading by 23,918 votes – a swing to the ALP of 4.9 per cent – securing a second term (the electorate of Swan includes portions of the South Guildford and High Wycombe suburbs).

In the safe seat of Pearce, Tracey Roberts secured a second term for Labor and led by more than 11,814 votes, according to the ABC Pearce

Federal Election 2025 results (the electorate of Pearce includes Melaleuca and portions of the suburb of Lexia).

In Durack, the ABC reported Liberal candidate Melissa Price who has held the seat since 2013, was again in the lead (Durack includes the suburb of Bullsbrook, the Walyunga National Park, and the northern and central parts of the Wheatbelt region).

The ABC predicts Labor will secure a fourth term in the Cowan electorate as Anne Aly leads against Liberal candidate Felicia Adeniyi by 23,693 votes (Cowan includes the suburbs of Malaga, Ballajura and Cullacabardee).

Read between the lines

by Pastor Ian Kirk



The Stunning Cherry Blossoms

We have had the joy of seeing the last of the cherry blossom season in Japan’s north. Although the season finished a while ago in Tokyo, on the island of Hokkaido we saw the cherry blossoms in full bloom!

We had perfect sunny weather to see the fifteen hundred cherry blossoms at Goryokaku Park in Hakodate in stunning form. On our last day in Sapporo, we went to Nakajima Park to see another spectacular display of cherry blossoms. But this time, with a moderate breeze blowing, you could tell the season would soon be over – as thousands of white and soft-pink petals were blowing off the trees.

Seeing the petals blowing in the wind made me think of a Bible passage in Isaiah 40:6-7. We read “*All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers and the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it.*” Like the flower that fades and blows away, so is our life. We are here temporarily.

But there’s something that always remains. The next verse tells us: “*The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.*” God and His Word will always remain. Every promise He has made will never fail.

For those who trust in Jesus Christ, God’s Son, that is good news. We will not perish but have eternal life – because Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again.

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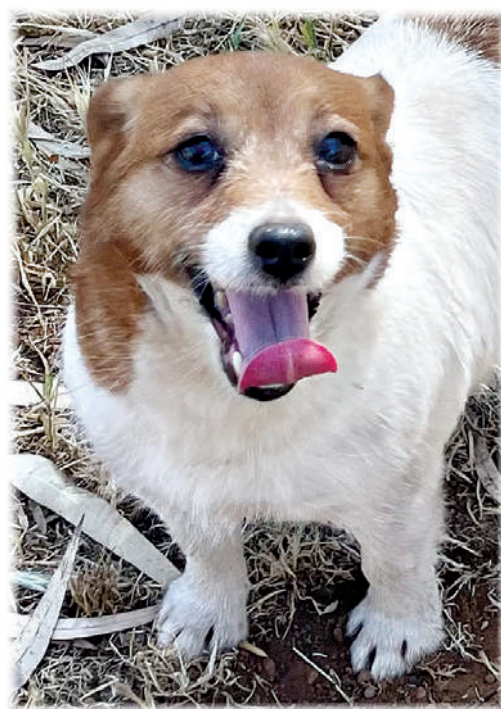
Upcoming Events

- **The Kalamunda Lapidary Club**, 3 Recreation Road Kalamunda is a club dedicated to collecting, polishing and creating exciting items of jewellery from natural gem stones and Australian minerals and crystals which they collect in the field. They have an open day on the first Saturday of the each month where possible with examples for sale. You can check their Facebook page for current events. For more information contact Richard on 0422 181 200.
- **Midland Friendly Garden Club** meets at 9.30am on alternate Thursdays at Brown Park, Salisbury Road, Swan View. The next meeting will take place on May, 15. Their guest speaker will be Herb Society of WA life member Marjorie Judge, who will be talking about the growing and use of fungi (mushrooms). Temporary premise at Swan View Youth Centre in the same complex. Visitors and new members are always welcomed. For more information Jenny on 0424 553 002 or Barbara on 0482 935 686.
- **The Kalamunda Combined Probus Club** will meet on Wednesday,

day, May 14 at St Barnabas Church Hall, Spring Road, Kalamunda at 10am. Their speaker this month will be Alex George. His talk will be about the bush of the Darling Range, including a little about the history of its early discovery. All members and friends are welcome as are the general public. For more information contact Don on 0439 970 038.

- **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. Call 0433 265 683.
- **Midland CWA** meets at the Midland Railway Yards Blacksmith Lane (West) Midland on the third 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

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

Precious is a seven-year-old jack russell cross. She needs a new home as her elderly owner has gone into care. She is not used to children. She is sterilised, vaccinated and microchipped. Costs apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

Chidlow Cougars too good for Lions

BRIAN PALLISTER

THE first quarter in the Chidlow game against Mt Helena in the Hills Football Association on the weekend was very scrappy.

Neither team could gain the upper hand as each wrestling contest moved into the next one.

The umpire's lungs were getting a good test out as the whistle continued to sound with each ball up.

The Mt Helena Lions managed to get the first goal on the board but it was the Cougars who went on to win 17.11 (113) to 6.9 (45).

Two late goals to Chidlow gave them a six point lead at the first break.

The second quarter started the same way as the first.

Bo Reid was up against Adam McKinlay in the ruck with neither holding much ascendancy.

The Cougars were resting on-ballers Luke Elliott and Jake Forman at full forward with good effect.

Luke Elliott kicked two goals in succession.

Riley Maturo and Michael Hine were instrumental in clearing the ball out of the Lions defensive area.

Ryan Schwagereit collected several possessions around the ground.

The Cougars managed to open the lead up to 24 points at half time.

After the break Chidlow started to open the game up, Steven Scorer was finding space, the 50m pinpoint delivery from Adam McKinalay continues to be a feature of his game.

When he can offer delivery like that his team mates know that they can lead into space and create the overlap.

The Cougars had multiple goal scorers, Jake



Despite getting the first goal on board the Lions were no match for the Cougars.

Forman, Benn Wood and Joshua Liddle joined in.

The Lions needed to dig deep if they were going to salvage anything from the game.

Matt Ellwood brought his game tally up three goals, as Mt Helena managed three goals for the last quarter.

This wasn't enough to slow the Cougars momentum as they scored seven of their own.

One of the last quarter highlights was Lukaz Dymock converting a kick at goal after a run-down holding the ball tackle, closely followed with his second goal for the game.

Hills Raiders aiming to rebound

THIS Saturday, Mundaring's Hills Raiders open men's team play their second game of the club's showdown series against the Perth Wildcats.

Jump ball starts at 7pm at Mundaring Arena where the Hills community can come together to enjoy food trucks and a live court side DJ as they support championship-level basketball.

Hills Raiders Basketball Association officer Shaun Bunting said the series was created as part of a strategic push to secure an NBL1 team.

"With the goal of providing genuine opportunities and a much-needed development pathway for our ever-growing Hills Raiders basketball community," Mr Bunting said.

The first games of the showdown were held last Saturday, which saw the men's and women's teams play the Joondalup Wolves.

Mr Bunting said there was great turnout from the community on the night.

"Despite a chilly Saturday night, we had a huge turnout for the opening round of the Hills Raiders showdown series at Mundaring Arena and the community support was incredible," he said.

"The stands were packed with green and gold as families, young players and long-time supporters came together to back our men's



Raiders open men's are playing their second game against the Wildcats on May 10 at Mundaring Arena.

and women's championship squads."

Mr Bunting said the Wolves proved to be too good on the night as both teams took a loss.

The women's team lost by 48 points while the men's team lost by 19.

"While the results didn't go our way, the energy and atmosphere were truly electric," he said.

"There was a real buzz throughout the arena and our players were lifted by the crowd's passion and support."

The following Saturday on May 7, both teams will be playing the Cockburn Cougars with the women's team playing at 6pm and the men's team following after at 8pm.

Local Real Estate

**Residential
Commercial
Rural & Country**

A modern home for investors or new buyers



LOCATED close to Reg Bond Park and less than 10 minutes from Midland Gate Shopping Centre, this newly built three bedroom two bathroom home caters to varying needs.

For those with young families, playful pets or active lifestyles, the closeness of the park is ideal, with its walk and cycle trails and open spaces.

The spacious frontage has a wide driveway, allowing four cars to park on the paved area and leads to a double garage.

To the right of the driveway is a fenced garden and a bricked section which would accommodate for outdoor furniture.

The large front entrance offers both aesthetics and functionality.

It creates a sense of grandeur and makes the home feel more inviting, while also

allowing large items to fit through seamlessly.

The main bedroom is situated to the right of the entrance and overlooks the front yard.

The room has an ensuite and is also fitted with two wardrobes for those who need the extra room.

The u-shaped kitchen is at the heart of the home, which would appeal to those who enjoy entertaining.

On one end is a broad counter which looks over the dining area and allows for bar stools to be stored beneath.

A natural stone design accents the light and airy bathroom which is fitted with a bathtub, vanity and shower.

The two-door vanity is perfect for storing away cleaning products or miscellaneous

items, which helps keep the space tidy.

The paved undercover courtyard is ideal for hosting barbecues, dinners and gatherings.

The spacious backyard can fit an outdoor living area, with mini sporting equipment on the side for active families.

For those who prefer a more cozy space, a garden lining the perimeters of the home would suit well.

With high fences covering the patio, privacy isn't a concern.

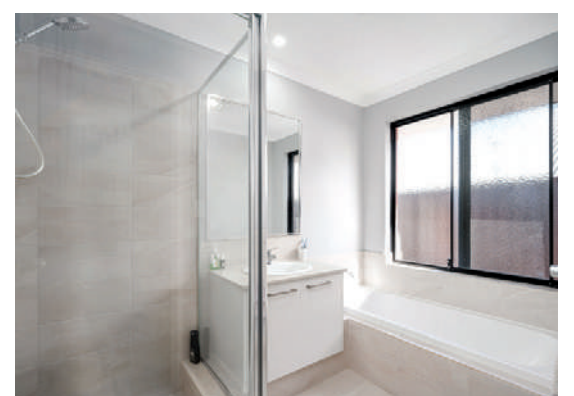
**Address: 52 Stewartby Crescent,
Viveash**

Price: From \$749,000

Agency: Real Estate Plus

For more information contact

Milton Rendell on 9274 5000



The Giumelli Story: A Hills Legacy

“Built From the Soil Up”

I grew up in the Perth Hills, on a stone fruit orchard that fed families, communities, and even a few royals overseas. My great-grandfather, Achille Giumelli, arrived from Italy in 1937 and began working the orchards of Pickering Brook. He didn't speak the language, but he knew the value of hard work — and soon after, he opened the district's first export cool store, shipping apples to the UK, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

In 1965, he founded A. Giumelli & Sons in Carmel — a name that became synonymous with quality, grit, and homegrown excellence in the Hills. Three generations later, that same work ethic runs through everything we do.

So when the opportunity came to purchase Choice Property Group — a Hills-based agency with more than 30 years of local history — it felt less like a business move and more like coming full circle.



Since taking over the agency, we've refreshed the branding, restructured, and redefined who we are — but one thing hasn't changed: our deep respect for this region, its people, and its lifestyle.

We're not here for the quick wins. We're a boutique, full-service agency that believes real estate should feel personal. Our goal is to shine a light on the Hills, not just for what it offers, but for what it represents.

It's a privilege to lead a company with deep local foundations — and even more so to do it in a place my family helped grow.”

We don't just know the Hills.
We are the Hills.

CPG.

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