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ECHO

Celebrations



Attendees at the 80th anniversary celebration of Bickley Outdoor Recreation Camp.

Eighty years of adventure and learning at Bickley Camp



Participants of the raft building program
on Bickley Reservoir.

BICKLEY Outdoor Recreation Camp in the
Darling Range has celebrated 80 years of rich
history where generations of Western Australians
have discovered the joy of outdoor adventure,
built lifelong memories, and grown
through shared experience in nature.

What started as a small national fitness camp
for young people in 1945, has become one of the
state's most valued outdoor education and recreation
facilities welcoming tens of thousands of
people through its gates each year.

From school students having their first canoe
experience, families connecting under the stars,
and community groups building teamwork on the
high ropes, Bickley has provided something for
everyone – regardless of age or experience.

The camp is located alongside the Bickley
Reservoir and now has capacity to cater for more
than 100 visitors a day, with dormitory accommodation
for up to 76 people and tent camping for 50 people.

Bickley is one of five outdoor recreation camps
operated by the Department of Local Government,
Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC).

It offers a range of outdoor programs and activities
including abseiling, flying fox, vertical challenges,
leap of faith, crate climb, canoeing, raft making,
orienteering, team building, search and rescue,
mountain biking and swimming.

DLGSC director general Lanie Chopping said
celebrating this remarkable 80-year milestone
was a great opportunity to reflect on the value
of outdoor recreation spaces and the impact they
have on the health and wellbeing of Western
Australians.

"For generations Bickley Camp has given
participants a chance to grow their confidence,
try new things and form real-world connections
away from screens.

"DLGSC is proud to acknowledge the past 80
years of Bickley and looks forward to continuing
Bickley's legacy of creating safe, inclusive, and
inspiring outdoor experiences for generations to
come too."



Top to bottom - Aerial photo of Kookaburra
precinct of Bickley Outdoor Recreation
Camp. Students from Orange Grove School
at the Bickley Dam in 1932 (Orange Grove
School at Bickley Dam 1932).

All pictures: Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Review of stable fly plan and BAM Act still ongoing

CINDY CARTOJANO

STABLE Fly Action Group (SFAG) president Bob Wilson is calling on the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and Agriculture Minister Jackie Jarvis to consider the group's eight recommendations amid a review of the stable fly management plan (SFMP) and the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act.

Mr Wilson said the 2019 SFMP was due to be updated last year but a draft of the review had not yet been made.

"So, the updated management plan which comes under the BAM Act is probably not being released until the BAM Act review is released," he said.

Mr Wilson said a meeting was held on June 5 with Nationals leader Shane Love, Opposition spokesman for agriculture Lachlan Hunter, the Shire of Gingin and the SFAG to talk about their concerns regarding stable fly.

He said the SFAG was concerned DPIRD may be passing the delegation of power to the local governments listed under the management plan.

"Our concern is, if that is to happen, then those local governments must get some financial help to take over those responsibilities."

Mr Wilson said the local government should also be given the power to prosecute landowners who fail to comply with management practices.

"So, not only the delegation of powers go to the local governments, but they also must have the power to prosecute if that's the case."

According to a DPIRD spokesperson, the stable fly was an established pest on the Swan Coastal Plain and numbers fluctuated depending on the season.

"Stable fly flourishes where there is plentiful rotting organic material," the spokesperson said.

"This can become an issue locally where intensive agriculture and residential areas co-exist in close



SFAG members, Nationals leader Shane Love and Opposition agriculture spokesman Lachlan Hunter at the June 5 meeting.

proximity."

The spokesperson said stable fly numbers were high during the 2024-25 summer.

"The unusually warm winter of 2024 combined with favourable breeding conditions over the 2024-25 summer contributed to this situation."

The DPIRD spokesperson said in WA established pests were managed at a local level through collaboration between landholders, local communities, local organisations and local government authorities.

The spokesperson said DPIRD was considering amendments to the SFMP.

"This includes consideration of strengthening the capacity of local government authorities to manage stable fly infestations."

DPIRD did not confirm if local governments would have the power to prosecute landowners.

Under the Act the stable fly was a declared pest in both the cities of Swan and Kalamunda.

Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas said although the stable fly

was not widespread, the city was aware it impacted some properties and monitored the issue closely.

"Where appropriate, we investigate complaints and liaise with DPIRD to ensure compliance with relevant regulations," she said.

"The city supports DPIRD's continued leadership on this issue, with local governments playing a supporting role where appropriate."

She said the management of the pest was not a core service of local government.

"If full responsibility were transferred to the city, it would require significant additional resourcing and funding."

"Any change would need support from the state government."

City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson said as a declared agricultural pest, DPIRD was responsible for controlling the stable fly population.

"The City of Swan believes that stable fly management must remain the responsibility

of DPIRD as the state agency charged with administering the BAM Act," she said.

"The city does not have the funding, technical expertise or legislative authority to take on this state government responsibility."

Mr Wilson said SFAG started its own reporting system three years ago because DPIRD's MyPest-Guide reporter became unreliable.

"It was a reporting system that you reported into and it was acknowledged that they received your report but there was nothing

else.

"You didn't hear whether they had sent anybody out to check the problem."

"We said this isn't good enough."

Mr Wilson said SFAG hadn't been able to talk to Ms Jarvis directly about their concerns.

"As it stands at the moment, this Agriculture Minister is the only Agriculture Minister we haven't been able to get a face-to-face meeting with."

Ms Jarvis was contacted for comment.

Funding for trees lost to PSHB



The beetle itself is tiny and leaves entrance holes in trees which are about the size of a ballpoint pen tip.

LOCAL governments, which have lost trees due to the polyphagous shot-hole borer can apply for funding through the WA tree recovery program, with applications for the first round to close on July 7.

PSHB is described as a highly invasive small beetle that burrows deep into trees, causing dieback and often eventual tree death.

Information about PSHB on WA.gov.au said establishment of the pest in WA would have a significant impact on the state's urban canopy and possibly threaten its agricultural industry.

"Underway since 2021, the PSHB eradication program is a nationally coordinated and funded eradication response led by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development," the post said.

Following the detection of PSHB in the Perth area in 2021, a tree removal and pruning program is now underway, with the aim of eradicating the threat of PSHB in WA.

To support the replacement of lost trees, \$7.2 million in state government funding over four years is now available for replanting initiatives.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) is managing the delivery of the WA tree recovery program, working closely with residents, local governments, schools and the Perth Zoo to replant trees lost from the effects of PSHB.

Currently, the grant program is offering funding to local governments for replacement planting projects.

While welcoming the state government's tree recovery program the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) said it was continuing advocacy efforts for more funding and research to combat PSHB.

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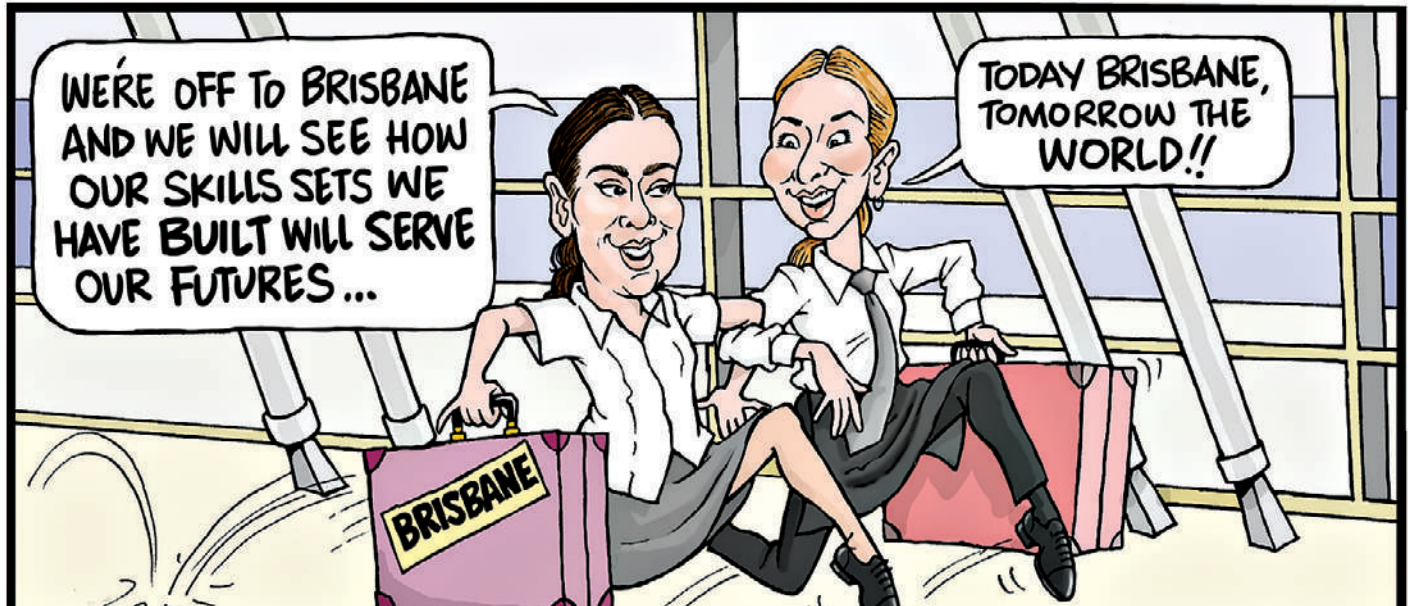


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AVELEY SECONDARY COLLEGE STUDENTS, AVA SMITH AND ELLIE LOO WILL BE HEADING TO BRISBANE AS THE COUNTRY'S MOST TALENTED YOUNG APPRENTICES, TRAINEES AND STUDENTS COMPETE FOR NATIONAL TITLES AND A CHANCE TO REPRESENT AUSTRALIA AT THE WORLDSKILLS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION.

ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say:
editorial@echo-news.com

Thanks for the story

Dear Echo News,
Thank you so much for running the article on our time capsule event and the celebration of David Hughes' 50-year milestone as a volunteer firefighter in a recent issue of your paper (*Echo News*, May 30).

I really appreciate the time and effort you and your team put in to getting our story out there.

We are grateful once again for the *Echo's* support of the Darlington Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.

**R Harvey
Darlington
Volunteer Bush
Fire Brigade**

ers are at your mercy, because the city has a monopoly, and therefore can do as they please, which disgusts me, as it is a blunt abuse of power.

While studying marketing one of my lecturers commented the difference between wants and needs.

I need a car, I want a BMW, reality is that I can only afford a Kia.

You as a city should look at this basic principle.

You as a city should do preliminary budgets based on estimated turnover, equal or less the inflation rate, then work out your total expenditure.

I am happy to help set up such a draft budget free of charge.

**R Furfaro
Kalamunda**

Resident happy to help budget

Dear Echo News,
I own my house at Coral Road, Kalamunda and rural land at Forrest Road, Pickering Brook.

The cost of living is well documented, with so many families struggling for food bills, and yet the management of the City of Kalamunda are totally oblivious to the hardship experienced by so many families.

Inflation is 2.4 per cent, yet residential rates are projected at 5 per cent which is well over double above inflation, and commercial at 7 per cent is 168 per cent above inflation.

How can you justify such massive increases?

You as administrators, seem to have no concept for taking into account the basis of how to construct a budget, based on the real world.

A consistency of your budgets is that increases seem to be well above inflation rates, and why is this so?

To me it indicates that management at the City of Kalamunda have demonstrated almost unbelievable incompetence in the composition of budgets.

But then us rate pay-

Thought for the day

"You miss 100 per cent of the shots you don't take."
- Wayne Gretzky

can serve out their term but cannot stand for re-election.

Under section 2.27 of the LGA 1995, under the heading Qualifications to retain membership of a council there is no provision to disqualify a councillor for not being an elector of the district if they were validly elected. They can only be disqualified if their election to council was not valid (2.19(1)(b)).

This is my legal advice and remains my view.

If it were otherwise, it would be stated with the other disqualification provisions which are: election to a legislative assembly or another council; convictions; misapplication of funds or property; failure to attend meetings.

Leaving the district is not included and is hardly an unusual or unforeseeable circumstance.

The counter argument is that for a councillor to be eligible, they must satisfy all three requirements of section 2.19 for the entirety of their term.

The test for this would be if an election were held today, would they qualify? But these words, or a provision to that effect is not written anywhere in the LGA 1995.

The law is ambiguous and as yet, not been tested in court, so could go either way. The legal cost of mounting an argument to SAT is in excess of \$30,000.

I don't believe anything I have said (or could have said) to the CEO would have changed his view on

my eligibility.

I maintain that I was not disqualified and I have acted in good faith.

But my situation was untenable: in legal jeopardy; no support from the CEO and faced with fighting an ambiguous law, I had no choice but to resign my position.

I wish the City of Swan all the best for the future.

**Former City of
Swan councillor
Dave Knight**

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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Grass and shrubs now being counted in tree canopy data

ANITA McINNES

IT is impossible to reconcile the Cook Government's statement about tree canopy data with the situation on the ground in local government areas such as the City of Swan, according to Swan Communities Environmental Alliance.

The community organisation was responding to the state government's announcement that the 2024 tree canopy data for the Perth and Peel regions showed urban canopy was at 22 per cent compared with 21 per cent in 2020.

Swan Communities Environmental Alliance spokeswoman Jan Zeck said greenwashing, no matter how persuasive, would not increase Perth's tree canopy.

"Only halting further clearing and embarking on a massive planting program will do this," she said.

Ms Zeck said the reality was thousands of trees were regularly bulldozed to provide vast areas for urban development in Perth's outer councils such as the City of Swan.

"Added to these are further losses in established areas associated with polyphagous shot-hole borer and recent extreme hot, dry summers.

"The result is plummeting, not increasing, tree canopy."

The Western Australian Planning Commission's (WAPC) urban canopy dashboard shows that in 2020 the City of Swan had a total tree canopy of 12 per cent.

Individual suburbs such as Dayton had a tree canopy of 5 per cent, Brab-

ham 10 per cent, West Swan 16 per cent, Whiteman and Henley Brook 18 per cent, Aveley 12 per cent, Ellenbrook 9 per cent, The Vines 20 per cent, Bennett Springs 10 per cent and Upper Swan 8 per cent.

The WAPC dashboard uses spatial data gathered from high resolution aerial imagery through CSIRO's urban monitor program, which is analysed by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to measure and monitor tree canopy trends across Perth and Peel.

The dashboard said local governments could use the data to track their tree canopies over time.

The 2020 data is made up of the land use categories of parks, roads and street blocks but the 2024 data now includes rural, water and other infrastructure and according to the urban tree canopy dashboard guidance notes the revised methodology also now includes reporting on additional vegetation types such as grass and shrubs less than 3m tall.

In *Tree strategy in need of regrowth* (The Sunday Times, June 8) Trillion Trees president Paul Barber said including the non-urban categories of rural, water and other infrastructure could inflate the overall figure and obscure the real losses in the canopy where most people lived.

Dr Barber, who has a PhD in biological sciences and forest pathology, said canopy targets, such as the often quoted 30 per cent, sounded impressive but without binding commitments, transparent reporting and regulatory enforcement they were just figures.

Ms Zeck said within the City of Swan an estimated 95,000 trees had already been removed for the Swan growth corridor south of Gnangara Road.

"When urbanisation is complete, in excess of 160,000 trees will have been destroyed in this area alone," she said.

"Tree loss is perpetuated as urbanisation continuously extends into former rural areas on the outer fringe.

"As rural land, these areas had tree canopies ranging from 15 to 25 per cent.

"Post development tree canopy sinks to zero to 5 per cent although it is probably closer to 1 per cent.

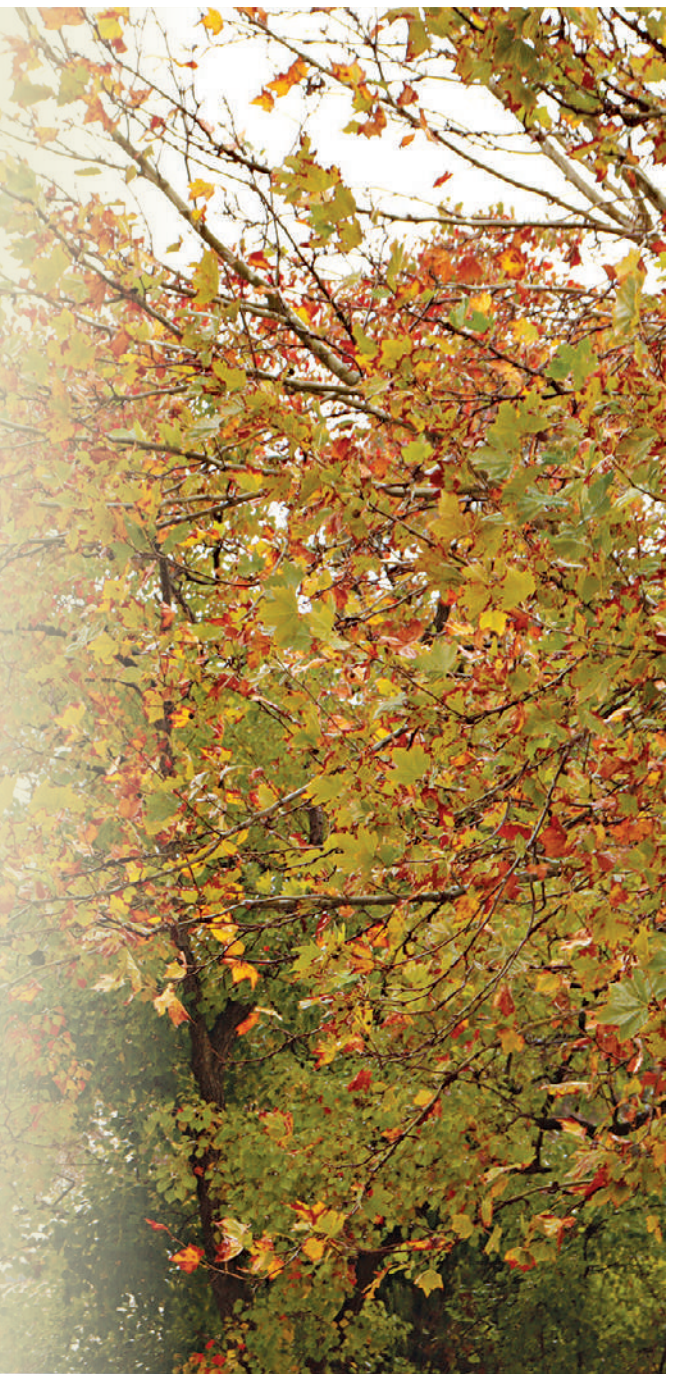
"In suburbs like Brabham, few trees have been retained (and) fewer survive the development process.

"Dewatering during construction lowers groundwater levels and rising groundwater post development causes flooding – both result in the death of retained trees.

"This, along with reduced survival rates of new plantings due to insufficient early stage care and extreme summer heat, means new suburbs are almost treeless and even constant replacement planting will not increase tree canopy any time soon.

"Effective canopy, no matter how it is calculated, will never be achieved without the preservation of existing mature trees."

Street trees are included in the WA urban canopy dashboard data, which shows in 2020 the total tree canopy in the City of Swan was 12 per cent.



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The citrus gall wasp causes woody textured nodular growths as their pupa grow within the citrus stem. Picture: WA DPIRD






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GUANHAO CHENG

REPORTS of citrus gall wasps in Kalamunda have been recorded by DPIRD with the end of June marking an important deadline for residents to control the pest.

Citrus gall wasps can damage citrus plants and reduce fruit productivity as the bumpy and nodular growths they cause disrupt water and nutrient flow in trees.

Any galls pruned before June 30 can be disposed of in green waste, but galls pruned after this date should be treated to ensure the wasp does not emerge from the pruned gall.

Prunings made before June 30 will ensure the developing wasps die inside the galls as the pruning dries out, but galls pruned after that date must be solarised by sealing them in plastic and placing them in the sun.

WA Citrus biosecurity representative Helen Newman said it was expected the populations were growing and spreading throughout Kalamunda following reports of the pest in the area.

"We no longer collect reports on citrus gall wasps from the metropolitan area, as it is considered an established pest," she said.

"Our focus is now on keeping this pest out of regional towns near commercial citrus orchards

"The wasp doesn't fly well, so it usually spreads to other nearby trees when egg-laying space on the infested tree is limited.

"It can, however, be carried on the prevailing wind like the strong easterlies, which will further its spread.

"If there is uncontrolled citrus gall wasp in an area, it is likely that it will establish quickly.

"If managed well, residents will be able to enjoy productive citrus trees for many years to come.

"Once citrus gall wasp becomes established in an area, it is difficult to manage and is an ongoing battle for home gardeners."

According to a WA Citrus fact sheet, citrus gall wasps have one life cycle each year, laying up to 100 eggs under bark of new green shoots, which hatch in two to four weeks.

The larvae then burrow into plant stem, causing the woody galls from which they emerge as adults in spring.

Wasps emerge from September to December, living three to seven days as adults during which time they are very difficult to control.

"You must work with your neighbours to successfully manage the pest," Ms Newman said.

Citrus gall wasps may be reported to the MyPest-Guide Reporter app or biosecurity@wacitrus.com.au



Draft bush fire brigades local law 2025

GUANHAO CHENG

CITY of Kalamunda council resolved to advertise their draft bush fire brigades local law 2025 for public comment at their May 27 ordinary council meeting.

The proposed local law's purpose is to provide for the establishment, organisation and maintenance, administration, and funding of bush fire brigades in Kalamunda.

The intended effect of this local law as outlined in council documents is to assist bush fire brigades in the area in complying with changes in law and operational practise.

The new act is broken up into six parts with the first part covering the preliminary information about the law and the definitions of terms used within the law.

The second part is about bush fire brigades and what needs to be done when establishing one, outlining when a local government may establish one, and the different roles that need to be appointed.

Part three covers the dissolution of bush fire brigades and how the city would dissolve a brigade if it is of the opinion the brigade isn't complying with the act or achieving the objectives for which it was established.

It states that if a brigade's registration is cancelled, the city is to make alternative arrangements in respect of the brigade area but does not specify what

those arrangements might be.

Part four relates to the organisation and maintenance of fire brigades and outlines the duties of each role such as the chief bush fire control officer's responsibility in maintaining, replacing and upkeeping all brigade protective clothing, equipment and appliances.

The fifth part of the document concerns administration and covers clauses to do with suspensions and terminations of appointed positions as well as bushfire meetings.

The final part of the new local law is a general section that states in addition to funding made available through emergency services grants, the city may provide further funding depending on the assessment of budget priorities for the year.

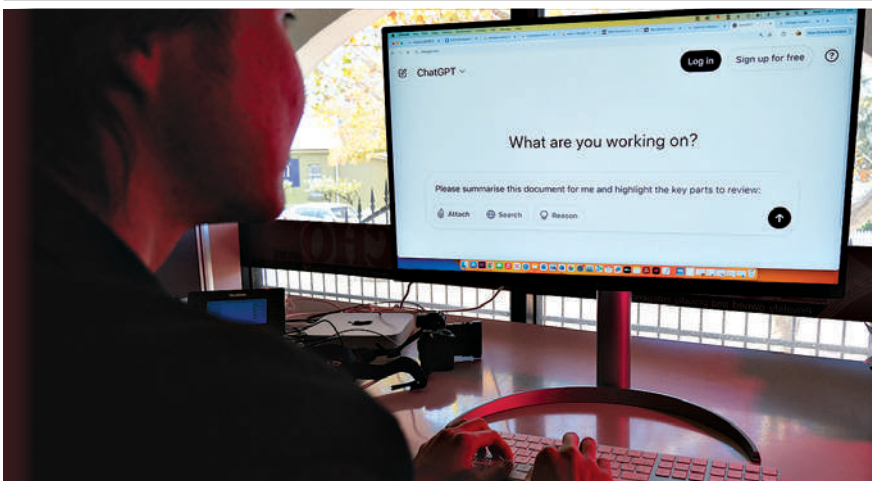
The city's meeting minutes state the chief bush fire control officer and the bush fire advisory committee were consulted and have endorsed the draft local law.

The City of Kalamunda said on their official Facebook account that they acknowledged there had been recent media attention around volunteer compensation.

"However, it's important to note that this matter is separate and not related to the local law currently being proposed," they said.

Feedback on the new local law may be submitted in person, through email at enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au or via the Engage Kalamunda portal.

Comments will close by 5pm on July 25.



Mundaring adopts new AI policy

The Shire of Mundaring adopted a new AI policy to reap the benefits of the technology while mitigating against the risks associated. Picture: Cindy Cartojano

CINDY CARTOJANO

SHIRE of Mundaring says its new artificial intelligence (AI) policy will realise the potential benefits of the technology and help mitigate against the risks relating to its use.

The policy, which was passed at the May council meeting, was informed by the state government's eight principles which guided the public sector's use of AI.

The principles are human, social and environmental wellbeing, human centred values, fairness, privacy protection and security, reliability and safety, transparency, explainability and contestability, accountability and accuracy.

"The generative AI tools must be used as a starting point only and must not replace the human decision-making process," the policy stated.

At the May council meeting

Chidlow resident Christian Stegner asked how the shire would protect confidential information from hackers and third parties.

Mr Stegner's question was taken on notice.

East ward councillor John Daw reiterated Mr Stegner's sentiment when he asked for the item to be deferred to the July council meeting.

"It just arises a few concerns about how lightweight the policy really is," Cr Daw said.

"I don't think we've really delved into it, perhaps as much as it probably deserves.

"I think this is a really complicated area of law."

Cr Daw's request to defer the motion to July was denied.

In response to Cr Daw and Mr Stegner's question, Central ward councillor Prapti Mehta said the issue of privacy was adequately addressed under section 4.1.4 of

the draft policy.

"If we do not have a policy, if we deferred a policy to a later stage, it would be wrong," Cr Mehta said.

"Policies can be interrogated and modified as required, but at this point in time, I think it's very important to have this in place so that staff can go about doing their jobs."

City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson said the city's use of AI was governed through a management practice which guided staff on the responsible and ethical use of the technology.

Mrs Richardson said the city's management practice was consistent with state and commonwealth legislation.

"It takes into consideration both the potential benefits of AI and its practical implications, including transparency and data privacy," she said.

Mrs Richardson said the city was currently exploring various ways of using AI through data analysis, service improvements and efficiency gains.

The city's online chatbot was one of the various ways it used AI.

She said since its introduction in 2023, it had helped track trending topics and peak enquiry periods, which informed planning across the organisation.

Mrs Richardson said the employment rate at the city was not affected by the use of AI.

"At the City of Swan, AI can add value to the many services we offer, complementing the work of city staff rather than replacing them."

Echo News asked the city what it thought about the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) warning that the grid's stability could be threatened unless data centres' power use was managed

but the city did not provide a response.

Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas said city staff used the AI model Microsoft 365 Copilot in their day-to-day admin tasks.

"Copilot only uses the information staff already have permission to access," Ms Thomas said.

"It works within our secure Microsoft environment."

Ms Thomas did not clarify whether they had encountered any challenges due to the use of AI but said their focus was on making sure staff understood how to use AI effectively and responsibly.

In response to the AEMO's warning, Ms Thomas said the city supported sustainable technology use.

"(We) are always looking for ways to reduce our environmental impact."

The shire has been contacted for comment.

Kalamunda to advocate for High Wycombe South plan

GUANHAO CHENG

HIGH Wycombe South is a decade-long planning project for the City of Kalamunda and last month, council resolved to advocate for securing \$42 million in funding to establish critical infrastructure.

The city's advocacy messaging strategy argues that the development area, situated in Metronet's East High Wycombe precinct, will be pivotal in unlocking the full potential of Metronet's rail and town centre revitalisation project.

"Currently, Metronet East High Wycombe is a transport-oriented precinct without a local resident base, leading to the underutilisation of key public assets such as High Wycombe train station," it states.

"The challenge is clear: residential development in the precinct is not viable without targeted government investment in essential infrastructure, including roads, parks, and drainage.

"The prohibitive cost of these critical infrastructure components impact the viability of development in the area, despite the precinct being best placed of all locations in Perth to establish a significant housing supply."

City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas said the High Wycombe South precinct needed infrastructure funding in order to unlock its potential to deliver thousands of homes near the new Metronet station.

"High Wycombe South is a key opportunity to deliver 2400 much-needed homes near the new Metronet station and further support 8000 additional homes in the surrounding region," she said.

"The city is advocating for critical infrastructure funding such as roads, drainage, and public open space to unlock this land for development.

"A successful High Wycombe South project will help address Perth's housing shortage and support Metronet's vision of transit-oriented developments that will ultimately turn a train station into a thriving, well-connected community."

Ms Thomas said the planning in High Wycombe South was a 10-year-old project and the city was eager to progress the area.

"Planning for this precinct has spanned more than a decade," she said.

"Challenges have included the need for coordinated infrastructure investment, complex land ownership arrangements, and the cost of development outpacing financial feasibility without gov-



The City of Kalamunda have passed a motion to advocate for \$42 million to build critical infrastructure in the High Wycombe South development area.

ernment support.

"The city has remained committed to progressing the area and is now calling on state and federal partners to help bring it to life."

During the May meeting, North West Ward councillor and deputy mayor Dylan O'Connor said High Wycombe South would live or die by the state's activity in the area.

"The fact is that infrastructure is needed and we need enabling infrastructure to be paid for and funded by the state government to be able to get this place to move.

"It's out there – the state government needs to listen and respond."

North Ward councillor David Modolo said the best solution is for state and federal governments to fully fund the necessary infrastructure up front.

"While I support this proposal and the approach, we do need to send a message to state and federal governments," he said.

"They need to think beyond this \$42m figure – treat it as a bare bones minimum.

"Our advocacy plan is telling us this area is in desperate need of help.

"Developers can't afford \$42m to bring the state government's dream of residential infill to life.

"And I can tell you right now, the City of Kalamunda doesn't have \$42m laying around to do it itself."

The motion was moved by Cr David Modolo, seconded by Cr O'Connor and passed unanimously.



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Ellenbrook Secondary College VET and tech HOLA Barbara Woulfe with principal Peter Havel and seven 2025 VETiS competitors. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

Ellenbrook students to show their WorkSkills in Brisbane

GUANHAO CHENG

ELLENBROOK Secondary College will be competing in a national trade skills and vocational education showcase in Brisbane from June 12-14.

With nine vocational education and training in schools (VETiS) competitors this year, Ellenbrook Secondary College (ESC) will have the biggest contingent of the 30 VETiS competitors that form TeamWA.

The ESC VETiS representatives are Archie Babich competing in the automotive category, Noah Babich, Brooke Elmer and Kayla Vanos in tourism, Connor Clarke in wall and floor tiling, Kye Clarke and Christian Lehman in carpentry, with Kashvi Panchal and Hope Paito in business services.

They will be completing challenges in their area of study in front of an audience at the Brisbane Convention Centre, providing a test of their skills in a simulated real-world environment.

The VETiS space gives students a chance to shine outside of the ATAR pathways and

provides employment opportunities by connecting with industry through events such as WorldSkills.

ESC vocational education and training head of learning area Barbara Woulfe said a previous student stood out as a success story after turning a new leaf in life through VETiS.

"We had an Indigenous student, one of our first Indigenous students that wasn't on a very good pathway, and we managed to turn him around for building construction," she said.

"He was a tiler who went to a regional competition, won gold at the regional, then went to nationals, won gold at nationals and now has a very strong partnership with a very large tiling company."

Former ESC VETiS student and WorldSkills national champion Mervyn Abraham won gold in the 2023 wall and floor tiling category as reported in Gold for Ellenbrook Secondary students in WorldSkills competition (Echo News, September 1, 2023).

Mr Abraham was going through a tough time during his final year, and his school attendance was low at the time but with the en-

couragement and support of family, friends, and ESC staff he felt an urge to do better.

"At that time, while I was going to school, I was going through something that I'd never gone through," Mr Abraham said.

"I kind of just slipped away and hanged around people that were not good for me and didn't really see what was going on and what I was like because I was smoking weed for the first time and I've never done it before, so I was doing it pretty bad.

"I didn't have (that many) people (who knew because) I didn't really like sharing it at the time – it was hidden away.

"It kind of made me lazy and it made me doze off and slip away.

"That's when I had to stop because I realised what I was actually doing and what was happening to me.

"I've always been in school, going to school and all that, so it was kind of different for me because I was avoiding school and I was just going down a path.

"I know I had to make a choice, and I had to make a decision and I just stuck to it.

"I wanted the best for myself and, especially the people around me that were showing me and wanting the best for me – that helped a lot as well.

"I had to pull my head back in."

Former TAFE lecturer Ron Simeon was Mr Abraham's wall and floor tiling lecturer and recalled the day the student's strength became apparent.

Mr Simeon was teaching a tiling class when he complimented Mr Abraham's work for his improvement since the previous week's lesson, only to be informed that the student was absent.

"I said, 'Mate, you've improved so much since last week – that's bloody good, I'm loving that,' and he goes, 'I wasn't here'," Mr Simeon said.

"I went, 'So that's your first attempt?' and he said yes and I said, 'That's it, you're in WorldSkills'.

"He said, 'Ronnie, if you're in it, I'm in it – I won't let you down'.

"He attended every one of my classes from that time on and he never missed a day."

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Aveley students set for national skills show

TWO Aveley Secondary College students are preparing to represent Western Australia at the 2025 WorldSkills National Championships and Skills Show, the nation's biggest celebration of vocational education and training.

From June 12-14 all eyes will be on Brisbane as the country's most talented young apprentices, trainees and students compete for national titles and potentially a place on Team Australia.

Aveley students Ava Smith (hospitality) and Ellie Loo (bricklaying) both earned gold medals at the 2024 regional competition, securing their spots on TeamWA.

Now, the Year 12 students will travel to Brisbane to showcase their exceptional skills on the national stage.

Ava said she felt so lucky to be heading to Brisbane for the WorkSkills competition.

"It's such an amazing opportunity. I've built a skill set and developed a lifetime of knowledge, and I know this experience will open doors for me in the future," she said.

"Travelling across the country with other competitors from Team WA who share the same passion has been so exciting and has really helped me grow more confident and independent."

Ellie said she was really excited about the competition and the whole experience.

"It's such a great opportunity for my future career, and honestly, I couldn't have done it without the support from Mr Imrie and Aveley Secondary College."

The stakes are high, not only are Ava and Ellie competing for national recognition, but also for a chance to join Team Australia and represent the country at the WorldSkills International Competition in Shanghai in 2026.

The college is incredibly proud of Ava, Ellie, and seven other students who were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals at the 2024 regional competition.



Ellie Loo and Ava Smith are ready.



Opposition health spokeswoman Libby Mettam with Gidgegannup resident Derek Baxter and his wife.

Midland cancer patients ignored: Mettam

CANCER patients in Perth's eastern and northern suburbs are being ignored by the state government, according to Opposition health spokeswoman Libby Mettam.

Earlier this month in parliament Ms Mettam asked the state government why they would not commit to providing oncology radiation services free of charge in Midland and Joondalup.

"The Cook Labor government's steadfast refusal to extend the arrangement to clinics in Midland and Joondalup is leaving cancer patients in the eastern and northern suburbs to travel hours for their daily treatment or pay their own way for private treatment closer to home," she said.

"All Western Australians, no matter where they live, and regardless of their financial circumstances, deserve quality

health care."

Ms Mettam raised the cases of several patients who faced extraordinary daily commutes to access life-saving radiation treatment as a public patient, including one from Gidgegannup.

"When Derek Baxter was diagnosed with a brain tumour this year, he was referred to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH) for surgery," she said.

"Derek has nothing but praise for the doctors and nurses who cared for him and decided to continue his follow-up treatment, which required him to go for radiation five days a week for a minimum of seven weeks, through the public health system.

"However, to access that treatment as a public patient, Derek needs to travel from Gidgegannup, where he lives, to SCGH and return five days a week.

"Because Derek cannot drive while having his treatment, it also means Derek's wife Kate has to accompany him on a two-hour return drive between Gidgegannup and SCGH five days a week."

Ms Mettam said capacity constraints were also pushing out waitlists for treatment at both SCGH and Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH).

"Clinicians are reporting growing wait times at SCGH and FSH for oncology radiation treatment, with many patients not beginning their treatment within the medically recommended time," she said.

"The Cook government needs to stop making excuses, stop blaming the federal government, stop blaming Covid and start efficiently managing our health services, so all Western Australians can get the treatment they need in the time recommended."

Mental health ambulance service grows

THE Ambulance Mental Health Co-Response service is expanding to provide coverage to east, north and south Metropolitan Health Service catchment areas.

The service is operated through a partnership between the Mental Health Commission, Department of Health, St John WA and north, south and east Metropolitan Health Services.

Service expansion means more people experiencing a mental health crisis would be able to access timely crisis care, intervention and support in the right setting.

The service offers virtual triage, assessment and urgent care to Triple Zero (000) callers aged 16 years and above, where mental health is the primary cause for concern, and a mobile response team comprising of dedicated mental health clinicians and paramedics to provide specialised care for people experiencing a mental health emergency in the community.

The mobile response teams previously had access to one fit-for-purpose vehicle, but this commitment from the state government triples this capacity to a total of three vehicles.

The \$7.9 million investment was allocated in the 2024/2025 state Budget.

Mental Health and Health Minister Meredith Hammat said the expansion of the service would provide early intervention across the metropolitan area and help more people experiencing a mental health crisis to receive care in the best setting for them.

"The ambulance co-response service has allowed the state government to help more people, their carers and families access the right care at the right time and in the right place.

"This service is a strong example of collaboration across services and community groups to help ensure appropriate, safe and compassionate support and care for the community."



Nats claim Labor dodging York tip decision inaction

CENTRAL Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter has slammed the state government's continued inaction on the Allawuna Farm landfill proposal near York, using his first grievance in Parliament to demand immediate clarity for the York community after 12 years of delays and growing frustration.

"York doesn't want to become Perth's dumping ground - but Labor continues to sit on the fence," Mr Hunter said.

Despite raising the matter directly in Parliament, Mr Hunter said the response from Assistant Minister Kim Giddens, speaking on behalf of the Minister for Environment, offered "nothing but waffle, warm words and more waiting."

"Labor gave us a history lesson, talked about tree hollows and landfill cell spacing, but couldn't give a straight answer to the only question that matters: When will this be stopped?," he said.

The proposed landfill would see up to 250,000 tonnes of Perth's waste trucked into the Wheatbelt annually, placing enormous strain on local roads, ecosystems and the health and wellbeing of residents.

The proposal has been continuously opposed

by the Shire of York and its residents and has been rejected multiple times by the Wheatbelt Joint Development Assessment Panel.

In 2023, the Environmental Protection Authority's conditional approval triggered 133 formal appeals including from three local shires, numerous business and community groups and the Ballardong Noongar people and led to a parliamentary petition and public protest.

"This proposal would never be allowed in a leafy suburb of Perth. So why is Labor so comfortable dumping Perth's waste in our backyard?" Mr Hunter asked.

The assistant minister advised that a decision may be made "in the second half of the year" - but gave no commitment, no reassurance, and no recognition of the deep community anxiety.

"Labor's own candidate for Central Wheatbelt pledged at a public forum to 'stop the tip' - yet the Cook Government continues to dodge the issue."

"Enough is enough. The community deserves an answer, not another political shrug. If Labor won't stop this tip, I will keep fighting until they do."

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Hemingway & Co
Blues Thursday.
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Highway Mundaring

Fri Jun 13

Settlers House York
John Sloper.
From 5.30pm. Free.
Avon Terrace York

Woodbridge Hotel
Jamm'n.
From 8pm. Free.
50 East St Guildford

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Ben Graham.
6pm-9pm. Free.
4260 Great Eastern
Hwy Mahogany Creek

Parkerville Tavern
James Murphy.
From 5pm. Free.
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

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

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

Sat Jun 14

Parkerville Tavern
Matt Sofoulis.
From 5pm. Free.
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

Woodbridge Hotel
Duality Band.
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
Luke Chandler.
8pm-Late. Free.
25 Old Perth Road
Bassendean

Lyric's Bar
Laneway Bar
Empire Blues Duo.
From 7pm. Free.
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

Sat June 14 cont.

Settlers House York
Oscar Litchfield.
From 12.30pm. Free.
Lez Karski.
From 5.30pm. Free.
Avon Terrace York

Sun Jun 15

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Bill Chidzey.
4pm-7pm. Free.
4260 Great Eastern
Hwy Mahogany Creek

Woodbridge Hotel
Julius Lutero.
From 3pm. Free.
50 East St Guildford

Noble Falls Tavern
Sunday Music
From 1pm-4pm. Free.
2672 Toodyay Road
Gidgegannup

Childlow Tavern
Live music.
12.30pm-3.30pm. Free.
4 Thomas St Chidlow

Lyric's Bar
Laneway Bar
Crash Creole.
From 5pm. Free.
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

Tues Jun 17

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Smooth Groove.
6pm-8.30pm. Free.
4260 Great Eastern
Hwy Mahogany Creek

Woodbridge Hotel
Ravenswing.
From 6.30pm. Free.
50 East St Guildford

Wed Jun 18

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Fenton and Friends
Acoustic open mike
night. 6pm-9pm. Free.
4260 Great Eastern
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ECHO NEWS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

An artistic impression of flora



Stacy Gardoll ready to exhibit.

A SERIES of botanical paintings by Swan View artist Stacy Gardoll will feature in an exhibition entitled *The Flora of Western Australia – an Artistic Impression at the Mundaring Arts Centre gallery two from Saturday, June 21 to Sunday, August 10.*

The art exhibition is a joyous exploration of WA's native flora species, with an emphasis on flowering eucalypts, grevilleas and hakeas and Ms Gardoll's work celebrates the beauty and complexity of nature, bringing a unique blend of theatricality and painterly precision to her botanical paintings.

Her pieces often reflect a deep appreciation for the natural world, inspired by the textures, colours and patterns found in nature, while showcasing a refined artistic voice that continues to evolve and captivate.

"Through my work, I strive to create a connection between the viewer and the subject, inviting the viewer to explore the intricate details of nature's elements," Ms Gardoll said.

"I hope that in the contemplation of my paintings, you will not only witness the beauty of these plants but you will also be moved to appreciate the fragile ecosystems they inhabit."

"Botanical painting, for me, is a deeply personal journey intertwined with a broader call to action. It is a plea for conservation, a celebration of biodiversity, and a reminder of the profound interconnectedness of all living things."

"My paintings are not merely pictures of flowers, they also give the viewer the chance to pause, and to observe the intricacies of nature, and to become lost in the details."

"Through viewing the natural wonders of nature, we are given the opportunity to be still and to feel more connected to nature and its rhythms and cycles. It is only by knowing the world around us that we can truly know ourselves," she said.

Ms Gardoll paints from her home studio in Swan View and is a long-time member of the Mundaring Hills Open Studios group.

She trained in three dimensional design, then in set and costume design at Curtin University, and WAAPA respectively, and spent many years designing and painting large-scale scenery and murals.

This love of painting took on a new passion, with a gradual change to oil painting on a smaller scale and settled on a love for botanical art which had been a hobby for many years.

Ms Gardoll has had numerous group shows, including last year's *Perfectly Still* exhibition with eight other prominent still-life and botanical artists in Fremantle.

She also had two joint exhibitions at the Zig Zag Gallery in Kalamunda, with her friend and renowned bird artist Sally Edmonds.



Some of Stacy's colourful work that will be exhibited.

Acclaimed theatre production comes to Midland



Actor Tim Watts as Alvin Sputnik. Picture: *The Last Great Hunt*

MIDLAND Junction Arts Centre (MJAC) is set to present a theatre performance by *The Last Great Hunt*, an acclaimed and award-winning production company, of *Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer*, by Tim Watts next month.

The one-night-only show to be performed on Wednesday, July 9 from 6pm, is part of MJAC's renewed commitment to live performance, following recent heritage works and upgrades to its 140-seat auditorium.

This internationally celebrated solo performance blends puppetry, animation and music in a heartfelt story of love, loss and quiet heroism.

As Alvin dives into the ocean in search of a new home for humanity, audiences are taken on a visually stunning and emotionally resonant journey.

The production has been well-received by critics:

"An endearing Australian solo show... akin to a theatrical *Wall-E*." – *The New York Times*

"An ingenious and beguiling blend of live action, puppetry, animation, music and film." – *The Guardian (UK)*

While MJAC is best known for its curated visual arts exhibitions and community workshops, it also houses a 140-seat theatre in the heart of Midland.

The centre regularly welcomes com-

munity groups, artists in residence, and local creatives to come together through events, talks and public programs.

Managed by Mundaring Arts Centre Inc with the support of the City of Swan, MJAC is committed to presenting meaningful arts experiences that reflect and engage the community.

"Programming for diverse communities is a rewarding challenge," MAC Inc artistic programs manager Jess Knight said.

"While we can't be everything to everyone, we aim to create a space where all people can access and celebrate creativity at its best. By presenting shows like *Alvin Sputnik*, we're inviting our community to be part of the conversation and to support the arts by purchasing a ticket and showing up."

"The City of Swan and the Shire of Mundaring are home to such a large and diverse community, and they are our most important stakeholders. By buying a ticket and participating in our programs, the community is actively shaping what our future arts programming looks like in Midland."

She said performances like these offer audiences the chance to enjoy a cosy night of live theatre in the comfort of MJAC's recently restored heritage auditorium.

Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer will be performing on Wednesday, July 9 from 6pm at MJAC located at 276 Great Eastern Highway, Midland and is suitable for children aged over ten.

For bookings go to <https://events.humanitix.com/alvin-sputnik-deep-sea-explorer-kpcj6jk>

For more information, visit www.midlandjunctionartscentre.com.au/workshops-and-events



Mayor's message

Kaya everyone,

I hope we're all keeping well wrapped up as we enter the last month of Autumn/Mookaroo.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed feedback on the City of Swan's Strategic Community Plan - whether in person at an event or online through Swan Engage - which will help set our vision, aspirations and objectives for our community over the next 10 years.

Over the 10-week consultation period, we engaged the community with 42 pop-ups and events, speaking with people of all ages, backgrounds and walks of life and gathering a rich mix of ideas, insights and aspirations.

We are now carefully reviewing all the feedback to help shape our next Strategic Community Plan.

I'm delighted that the Ellenbrook Study Hub is now officially open, offering students living in Ellenbrook and surrounding suburbs access to high-quality services much closer to home.

Students can now access high-speed WiFi, hot desks, comfortable study areas, in-person support and guidance, study advice, workshops and social events.

The Ellenbrook Study Hub is open from 6am to 10pm every day, and student support staff are on site during business hours, Monday to Friday. Find out more at www.ellenbrookstudyhub.edu.au.

Finally, a big thank you to employers and jobseekers who participated in our two recent Swan Jobs Expo events in Ellenbrook and Midland on May 29 and June 5.

The events were an important demonstration of the City's commitment to managing a healthy, balanced and expanding local economy by making sure our residents have local employment opportunities.

Until next time,



Tanya Richardson
Mayor, City of Swan



Engage with us



City of Swan 2025/26 Rates update

The City of Swan's proposed differential rates for each rating category for the 2025/26 financial year are now available for inspection and open for comment.

These are available for inspection at the City of Swan Administration

Building, 2 Midland Square, Midland between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday, at all City's Libraries and on the City of Swan's website: www.swan.wa.gov.au/public-notice.

All submissions in writing regarding the proposed differential rates should be submitted online to by 5pm June 19, 2025.

All submissions received will be considered by Council prior to adoption of the 2025/26 budget.

Once Council has considered the submissions for the differential rates, the 2025/26 budget (with or without modification) will be adopted.

swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au/differential-rates

Emu Swamp Reserve Management Plan

The City is reviewing the Emu Swamp Reserve Management Plan 2021 to ensure it reflects current land use changes, environmental priorities, and community expectations.

The primary aim of the management plan is to retain and restore the site's natural remnant vegetation through a structured approach.

What do you value most about Emu Swamp Reserve?

What do you think we should focus on when it comes to managing the reserve?

Have your say to help shape the management plan.

swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au/emu-swamp

What's happening



Sensory Play

Continuing in June is our popular Sensory Play program offering a range of simple and sensory-rich resources to engage and delight young people while developing their understanding and knowledge of the world. Limited availability. Email programs.library@swan.wa.gov.au



Mindful Mondays

Our Mindful Mondays program continues until June 23 at Dayton Family Hub. Enjoy a gentle stroll through the Dayton District Open Space, connecting nature and your surroundings. Unwind with light breathing, a relaxing cup of tea and mindful activities. This program is free, with no registration required. Call **(08) 9207 8530**.



Muso Meetups

Join us at the Old Midland Courthouse to learn new songs and jam with other local musicians.

Some guitars will be available for use, but you are encouraged to bring along your own instruments.

The Meetups are free to attend but please book in as spaces are limited. For all inquiries contact Midland Library on **(08) 9267 9246**.



Play in the Park

Connect with your community, enjoy tailored activities with experienced facilitators and have fun playing with your child. These free sessions, suitable for ages 0-4, run every Tuesday between 10:30am and 12noon at Stratton Community Centre every Tuesday until July 1, 2025. Please pre-book as spaces are limited.

Email programs.library@swan.wa.gov.au

Visit our online event calendar for a full list of upcoming events in the City of Swan.
Go to www.swan.wa.gov.au/events

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Focus on Seniors



Wise up, rise up against elder abuse



It's a difficult topic to talk about, but let's address the elephant in the room. Elder abuse.

Someone you know and care about — a friend, neighbour or relative — could be quietly struggling.

In fact, 1 in 6 older people experience elder abuse, and sadly, around 70% of cases involve someone they trust, often a family member. It can be dismissed as 'my family's always done this', allowing bad practices to become normalised over time. Abusive behaviours can also happen as well-intentioned actions that transform into unhealthy outcomes for the older person involved.

If we are uncomfortable talking about elder abuse, just imagine how lonely and distressing it is for the person experiencing it, not knowing what to do?

During the month of June, support Advocare to raise awareness of elder abuse. Learn more at one of our free information sessions — why it happens, how to recognise it, and what to do to help an older person who might need your help and support. Visit our website 'What's on' section to find a session near you and to access helpful resources and information at www.advocare.org.au

Starting the conversation is a giant, first step.

If you're concerned about yourself or someone else, call the free, confidential Elder Abuse Helpline on 1300 724 679

Wise up,



Personalised and professional service @ Foothills Denture

AT Foothills Denture Clinic, denture repairs can be done while you wait, and denture relines are usually a same day service.

Father and daughter team Malcolm and Raynee McArthur are both dental prosthetists, licensed to make all dentures including part acrylic and metal dentures.

The clinic is a Medibank Private Members Choice Provider and an HBF Members Plus Provider.

Rebates are available from all other health funds and we also deal with Veterans Affairs and offer pensioner discounts.

Special arrangements can be made for country clients to reduce the number of visits.

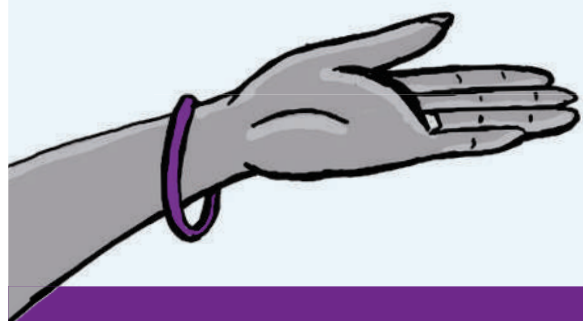
The team are happy to discuss any difficulty or query you may have with your denture — free of charge — and offer a professional service at a reasonable price.

For a free quote call 9250 1733.



Elder Abuse is not OK

Are you concerned for yourself or someone you know?



Elder Abuse Helpline:
1300 724 679

Advocare
Empowering older people in WA

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Focus on Seniors

Mead Physio Group & Exercise Right & Rehab Lead the Way for Seniors in Kalamunda

As the population of Kalamunda and the Perth Hills continues to age gracefully, the need for specialised, compassionate, and evidence-based care has never been greater.

Mead Physio Group and Exercise Right & Rehab are proud to be at the forefront of this movement—offering a diverse range of programs designed to support the health, independence, and vitality of our senior community.

A Holistic Approach to Senior Wellness

With over two decades of experience in allied health, Mead Physio Group understands that aging well means staying active, engaged, and empowered. Their services are built on a foundation of clinical excellence and community connection, offering a suite of programs tailored specifically for older adults:

- **Falls Prevention Programs**
Targeted balance and strength training to reduce injury risk and build confidence.
- **Parkinson's Disease Support – PD Fight Club**
A dynamic boxing-based program to improve mobility, coordination, and quality of life.
- **Osteoporosis Management – ONERO™ Classes**
Scientifically backed exercises proven to improve bone density and reduce fracture risk.

• Diabetes Group Classes

Supervised exercise and education to manage Type 2 Diabetes and improve metabolic health.

• Senior Pilates

Gentle mat and reformer Pilates to enhance core strength, flexibility, and posture.

• “Get Off the Floor” Program

Practical training to build strength and mobility for safe, independent movement.

• “Get Fit for Gardening” Program

Designed for green thumbs, this program helps seniors maintain the strength and stamina needed to enjoy gardening without injury.

• Boxing for Fitness

A fun, high-energy class that boosts cardiovascular health, coordination, and mental sharpness—no experience required.

Why Choose Mead Physio Group?

All programs are led by experienced physiotherapists and exercise physiologists, ensuring every session is safe, effective, and tailored to individual needs. Whether managing a chronic condition, recovering from injury, or simply staying active, Mead Physio Group is here to support your journey.

Located in the heart of Kalamunda, their welcoming studios and clinics are more than just places to exercise—they're vibrant community hubs where friendships are formed, goals are achieved, and lives are transformed.

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Our Specialised Programs

- Hip & Knee Arthritis (GLA:D)
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- Falls Prevention & Parkinson's Disease
- Work Injuries, NDIS & Veterans Affairs
- Complex Back & Chronic Pain
- Mat and Reformer Pilates

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Helping Older Australians Navigate Centrelink

CLAIM SERVICES

- Age Pension Claims.
 - Commonwealth Seniors Health Card and Low Income Card Claims.
 - Home Equity Access Scheme Claim.
- Use your home equity to increase your pension.

NOMINEE SERVICES

- To act on your behalf with Centrelink.
- Keep your Centrelink account up to date to ensure correct payments and avoid debts.

OTHER SERVICES

- General Assistance and Consulting with Centrelink Issues.
- Phone and Email consultations.
- Hourly and half-hourly rate for individual consultations.
- Ongoing management of your Centrelink account.
- Assistance with Bereavement Reviews.

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Focus on Seniors

Roshana Grandton Aged Care: A Place of Respect, Safety and Belonging

AT Roshana Grandton, aged care is more than support - it's about creating a true home where every resident feels safe, valued, and free to live with dignity.

As we acknowledge Elder Abuse Awareness Day, we reaffirm our belief that every older person deserves to be treated with respect, kindness, and care.

Our team is not only focused on providing quality assistance but also committed to protecting the rights, choices, and voices of those who call Roshana Grandton home.

Residents enjoy peaceful garden walks, gentle yoga, and personalised activities that nurture body, mind, and spirit.

Whether through music, art, or shared stories, every day is filled with opportunities for joy, connection, safety, warmth and purpose.

What sets our facility Roshana Grandton apart is our culture of listening where individuality is honoured, choices matter, and families are partners in care.

As part of the Roshana Care Group, with facilities across Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria, and New South Wales, this promise of dignity, wellbeing, and safety extends to all we support in aged care, mental health, home care,



and NDIS services.

At Roshana Grandton, we create a place where life can be lived with confidence, comfort, and trust: *It's Your Life. Your Way. Every Minute. Every Day*

Pension Manager's act on your behalf



Pension Manager
Graham Wilkins

Many people find Centrelink impossible to deal with, and making a claim can be time consuming and difficult to understand.

The rules can be complex and this can result in underpayments, overpayments, suspended payments, or having claims rejected.

Pension Manager is a specialist consultancy dealing exclusively with Centrelink's Older Australians area.

We act on behalf of customers to make claims for Age Pension and Health Cards. Another very popular claim amongst Older Australians is the Home Equity Access Scheme. This allows

you to use the equity in your home to increase the pension payment by up to 150%. It's similar to a reverse mortgage but the interest rate is much more attractive (3.95%) and you don't have to make any repayments until the house is sold.

Some of the things we've achieved for customers include correcting their assessment and increasing the payment, and getting part pensions and health cards for people who didn't realise they were eligible, including people still working and self-employed people.

Call Graham on 1800 339 300 for an obligation free chat.

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So, if you want to know more about our services and arranging a funeral, have a look around our website, or contact us on 1800 65 35 95 (Free Call).

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Upcoming Events

• **Friendship Group** meets at Ellenbrook Community Centre, High Point Boulevard, Ellenbrook each Wednesday from 1pm to 4pm for indoor bowls, afternoon tea, a good laugh and a friendly chat. All welcome. For more information call Sheila on 0402 973 307.

• **The Rosehill Ladies Golf Club** meets each Tuesday at 8am at Hillview Public Golf Club, Kalamunda Road, Maida Vale. The season runs from March to November. For more information call Roz on 0419 915 623 or Julia on 0419 954 106.

• **Midland Men's Shed Social Tuesday** is held every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am in the Baptist Church Hall, Bellevue. Call Kevin on 0417 961 971. For workshop inquiries call 0411 833 055.

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 community needs. Call Cathy on 0460 777 557 or email cwa.midland@outlook.com

• **Mahogany Creek Art and Craft Group** meets weekly on Wednesdays 9.30am to 12.30pm during school terms at the Mahogany Creek Hall on Jacoby Street. Everyone brings along their art or craft to work on in a friendly social group with tea and coffee provided. For more information, call Mary 0431 201 814 or Jan 6279 4031.

• **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 when possible with examples for sale. You can check their Facebook page for current events. For more information call Richard on 0422 181 200.

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



Shinny is a four-year-old rottweiler who has always just been the only dog and lived with one owner. She is very sweet and is a protector. She needs someone who understands the breed. She is sterilised, vaccinated and micro-chipped. Costs apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

Read between the lines

by Pastor Ian Kirk



New Life!

Last weekend we were in the Wheatbelt to help bless some local churches. As we drove along, it was so lovely seeing 'new life'.

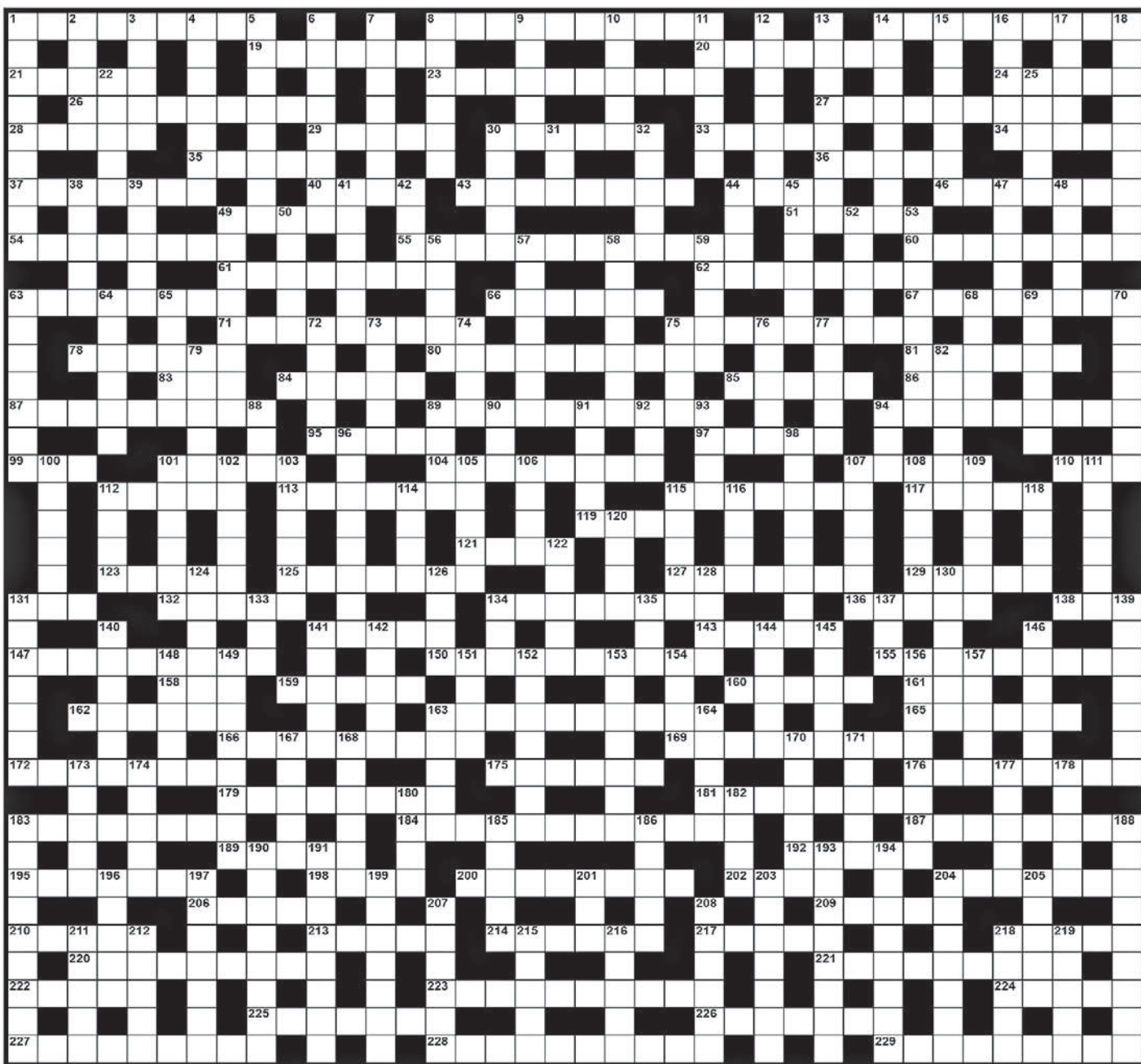
Two months earlier, when we were driving through the same countryside, it was barren after a long dry spell. Back then, the farmers were beginning seeding. They seeded into very dry paddocks, with the hope of rain coming to make the seed germinate. It was that dry that they were creating dust clouds as they seeded.

The rain didn't come in May and things became serious in regard to the crops. But then some recent rain fell, and it has caused the seed to sprout and for the countryside to be transformed. We also saw, as we drove along, lots of lambs, from newborns to month olds, skipping about – full of 'new life'.

Jesus taught about new life; not in the sense of crops sprouting and lambs skipping about, but in regard to having new life spiritually. He called it 'fullness of life' in John 10:10 "I have come that they might have life, and life in all its fullness".

Jesus accomplished this by dying on a cross bearing our sins so that we could be forgiven and be made right with God. When we turn to Jesus and trust in Him we come into relationship with God and experience fullness of life or 'new life'; which will culminate into eternal life. How good it is to experience this 'new life' in Jesus.

ECHO Mind Boggler Crossword 1221



ACROSS

- 1 Country flyer (4,5)
8 Submarine lookouts (10)
14 Explain fully (9)
19 Everlasting (7)
20 Refrain from (7)
21 Bind together (5)
23 Shares (10)
24 A food additive (5)
26 Cattleman's accessory (9)
27 Type of tree (9)
28 Character (5)
29 Face of cut jewel (5)
30 Whirl around (6)
33 Collect in a bundle (5)
34 Plain seat (5)
35 More unusual (5)
36 Foreign (5)
37 Arguments (7)
40 Leave out (4)
43 Wild horses (8)
44 Take a chance (4)
46 Lockjaw (7)
49 Proverb (5)
51 Signs of crying (5)
54 Innkeeper (8)
55 Construction design (12)
60 Cheap jewellery (8)
61 Type of coffee (8)
62 A poisonous shrub (8)
63 Angelic (8)
66 Summon by gesture (6)
67 A hitman (8)
71 Earned medals (9)
75 Affected deeply (9)
78 Architectural style (6)
80 Helpful people (bib) (10)
81 River cleaning craft (6)
83 A snare (3)
84 A type of herb (5)
85 Monastery head (5)
86 Sheltered side (3)
87 Long appendages (9)
89 Remote, untouched land (10)
94 Reckless from despair (9)
95 Outmoded (5)
97 Girl's name (5)
99 A beam (3)
101 Mends clothes (5)
104 Set free (8)
107 Very bad (5)
110 Make lace (3)
112 A coronet (5)
113 Takes into custody (7)
115 Precious stone (7)
117 Ages (5)
119 Circle of light (4)
121 Return sound (4)
123 Stringed instrument (5)

- 125 Royal seats (7)
127 Germ-free (7)
129 Vast expanse (5)
131 A paddle (3)
132 Sports (5)
134 Blood stain marks (8)
136 A devil (5)
138 Flammable substance (3)
141 A brown pigment (5)
143 Of highest degree (5)
147 Tease (9)
150 Lawful (10)
155 Bad times (9)
158 Paintings etc (3)
159 Thighbone (5)
160 Small stream (5)
161 A charged atom (3)
162 Purity (6)
163 Hopeful (10)
165 Aussie city (6)
166 All of us (9)
169 Tiny red beetles (9)
172 Camaraderie (8)
175 Layers (6)
176 Rival (8)
179 ... da Vinci (8)
181 Nearer the equator (8)
183 Light up again (8)
184 Knowledge reference tome (12)
187 Impassioned (8)
189 Grow larger (5)
192 Refinement (5)
195 A cure-all (7)
198 Looks over (4)
200 Enough (8)
202 Actual existence (4)
204 Car frame (7)
206 Tunes etc (5)
209 A direction (5)
210 Famous racecourse (5)
213 Count up (5)
214 Body of water (6)
217 Elude (5)
218 Large number (5)
220 Bridal chest (9)
221 Hair on eyelid (9)
222 Man's name (bib) (5)
223 Trying new things (10)
224 A decree (5)
225 Lack of energy (7)
226 Joins ropes (7)
227 Flowering plant (9)
228 Vanishes (10)
229 A Queen's name (9)

DOWN

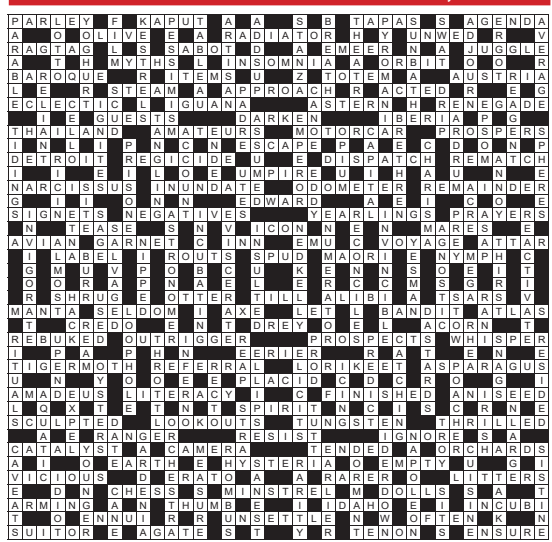
- 1 A yellow flower (9)
2 Melting snow (5)
3 Cuban currency (5)
4 Securable cupboards (7)
5 Tied up as horse (8)
6 Children's game (8)
7 Small dumpling (7)
8 Meshes hair (6)
9 Elephant tusk (5)
10 Easily seen (5)

- 11 Parade in dance (6)
12 A natural disaster (7)
13 One named for another (8)
14 Inner portion (8)
15 Touching (7)
16 Perfumed flowers (5)
17 Large animal (abb) (5)
18 Vine supports (9)
22 Stashes away (5)
25 Historic Middle East city (5)
30 Waist (5)
31 Crash into (3)
32 Put up (5)
38 Stroll (5)
39 Japanese verse form (5)
41 Falling star (6)
42 Afternoon receptions (4)
44 Angler's item (4)
45 Attack from the air (6)
47 Pacific island nation (5)
48 Turnips (Scot) (5)
49 Personal tale (8)
50 Jellied meat meal (5)
52 Sth American mountains (5)
53 Stand astride (8)
56 Actors' parts (5)
57 North Atlantic country (7)
58 Cubed toast piece (7)
59 Wanders (5)
63 Part of a bigger club (7)
64 Perches (6)
65 Untamed horse (5)
68 Racing gamble (5)
69 Sweet (6)
70 Fail to care for (7)
72 Admit (3,2)
73 Beasts of burden (5)
74 Spanish painter (4)
75 Australian singing group (4)
76 Jewish teacher (5)
77 Sleeper's noise (5)
79 Underground room (6)
82 Save from danger (6)
88 A vice (3)
89 Raised skin (4)
90 High ball (3)
91 Boxer's punch distance (5)
92 Supplement (3)
93 Hindu garment (4)
94 Moisture (3)
96 Flying (8)
98 Casino attendant (8)
100 Type of wattle (6)
101 Intrepid (6)
102 Haphazard (6)
103 Holy people (6)
105 Small islands (5)
106 Carve in metal (4)
107 Loved (6)

- 108 A measure of depth (6)
109 Unfasten (6)
111 Fleet of ships (6)
112 Mausoleum (4)
114 A graceful bird (4)
115 Wet thoroughly (5)
116 Wheel shaft (4)
118 Woven, with twirls (4)
120 A relative (4)
122 Young owl (5)
124 Australian stork (6)
126 Amongst others (lat) (2,2)
128 Authentic (4)
130 Group of ships (6)
131 Most favourable (7)
133 Day before (3)
134 Droop (3)
135 A beverage (3)
137 Period of time (3)
139 Hairdresser (7)
140 Australian speech (coll) (6)
141 Bullock (5)
142 Measure the depth (5)
144 Late (5)
145 Condiment (5)
146 Behind a ship (6)
148 Door lock (5)
149 Church spires (8)
151 Catch sight of (4)
152 Very foolish (7)
153 Stumble (7)
154 Hindmost part (4)
156 Melt in water (8)
157 Finish (3,2)
163 Ancient theatre (5)
164 Thorny plants (5)
167 Flee to marry (5)

- 168 Annual (6)
170 Avoidance road (6)
171 Stony (5)
173 A memento (5)
174 Of sound (5)
177 Final Greek letter (5)
178 Fencing weapons (5)
180 Lairs (4)
182 Garden tool (4)
183 Refill (9)
185 Sing Swiss style (5)
186 Singer, ... John (5)
188 Big game (4,5)
190 A climbing shrub (8)
191 Educational speeches (8)
193 Preference to act (8)
194 Generosity (8)
196 Ancient Greek assembly (5)
197 Entertaining (7)
199 Joins the military (7)
201 Unidentified flying object (init) (3)
203 Diggers tools (7)
204 Dry Tuscan wine (7)
205 Stitched (5)
207 A large number of (6)
208 Stroke lovingly (6)
211 Stolid in manner (5)
212 Type of coffee (5)
215 An odour (5)
216 Uncouth (5)
218 Ancient kingdom (5)
219 Private remark (5)

Crossword Solution 1220 from 6 June, 2025



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Swan Districts hold onto third spot



Swan Districts remain in third place on the WAFLW ladder despite a loss to Subiaco. Picture: Bartucciottto Photography/P1 Photomedia

CHRIS PIKE

SWAN Districts remain in third position on the WAFLW ladder despite a loss in round 10 to the top side Subiaco.

The black-and-whites had been on a five-game winning streak before losing to the other unbeaten team, Claremont, the previous week, and the challenges continued against the Lions.

Swan Districts competed hard but in the end Subiaco claimed a 5.10 (40) to 3.1 (19) victory on their home ground to maintain top spot.

The loss gives the Swans a 6-3 record and keeps them a game clear of fourth placed West Perth.

Swan Districts' goals on the day were kicked by Taylah Edwards, Adi Griffith and Emily McGuire.

Bella Edgley also racked up 24 possessions for the black-and-whites, Luka Davis 15, Indiana West 14, Tamzyn Beros 14, Jemma Sly 13, Demi Liddle 13, Sienna Gerardi 12, Emma Humphries 12, Kyah Chirichilli 12 and Summer Ajduk 12.

Swan Districts were attempting to knock off the league-leaders but it was Subiaco who made the better start with the opening two goals before the Swans got on the board thanks to Griffith just before quarter-time.

There were just two scores in the second quarter and they were both goals firstly to Subiaco from Chloe Shearing before Edwards responded for Swan Districts to bring the half-time deficit back to nine points.

Subiaco then had the only five scoring shots of the third quarter but they were all behinds with their lead 14 points by three quarter-time.

The Lions pushed their lead out to 22 points in the fourth term with a goal to Jorja Schell before Swans responded courtesy of McGuire only for Subiaco to end up securing the 21-point win to maintain their hold on top spot in the WAFL Women's competition.

West Coast Fever's Aryang part of defensive duo

WEST Coast Fever led from start to finish in a display which sees them cement second place on the Suncorp Super Netball ladder after nine rounds.

Goal shooter Jhaniele Fowler-Nembhard led the charge for Fever with 71 goals while Jordan Cransberg was influential in the centre with 112 Nissan net points including two gains and an intercept.

The game started with the much anticipated shootout between Fowler-Nembhard and the

Swifts Grace Nweke, before Fever were able to break the goal-for-goal play with the first gain.

From there, Fever were able to control the quarter.

After leading by a goal at the start of power five, Fever capitalised on missed supershots from the hosts and a team defensive effort from Sunday Aryang of Midland and Kadie-Ann Dehaney.

The defensive duo were on fire, combining for three gains, three deflections and two re-

bounds for the quarter, which Fever won 22-16.

The Swifts scored the first goals of the second quarter before the goal-for-goal battle resumed.

By the time of power five, Fever who had secured goals from turnover, held a seven-goal lead.

Despite two supershots from Housby, Fever capitalised on missed supershots to extend their lead to seven at the main break with the score 39-32.

The hosts again started the

next quarter better than Fever, scoring the first three goals.

As the quarter ebbed and flowed, Alice Teague-Neeld remained constant for Fever.

Her eight feeds, seven goal assists and composure ensured Fever turned the scoreboard over.

Fever held a four-goal lead at the start of power five and maintained it, while Olivia Wilkinson (two) and Housby (three) had a supershot battle.

At the end of the third quarter the score was 59-55.

Dehaney pulled in a massive gain in the opening stages of the final quarter as Fever extended their lead to six with the first two goals on the quarter.

Fever were able to control the tempo of the contest and won ball which they converted into goals to lead by eight goals at the start of power five.

A lead they extended to 10 goals earlier in the final five minutes of the match and not even two supershots from Housby could reign the visitors' lead.

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It comes with two parking bays, with the undercover bay opening up to a low maintenance undercover courtyard which is ideal for hosting weekend barbecues or gatherings with friends and family.

Next to the courtyard is a patch of greenery suitable for keeping pets and kids entertained or it could be transformed into a relaxation space with a garden.

Inside the home the living area, kitchen and bathroom are tiled while the bedrooms are carpeted.

The practical kitchen – well-lit by a window with a view of the courtyard – is fitted with plenty of storage and seamlessly flows to the dining area.

The home's main bedroom comes with a split-system air-conditioner and a ceiling fan ideal for keeping cool on warmer days.

It features a three-panelled wardrobe, suitable for those who like to keep an organised room.

The remaining two bedrooms are fitted with a wardrobe and comfortably fit a single bed.

The white tiled bathroom comes with a framed shower to the right and a bathtub on the far wall.

It is fitted with a double-door vanity, ideal for storing cleaning supplies or miscellaneous items.

The current strata fees amount to \$491 per quarter.

Address: 4/43 Chesterton Road, Bassendean

Price: From \$499,000

Agency: Real Estate Plus

For more information contact Edward Harfouche on 0409 004 424

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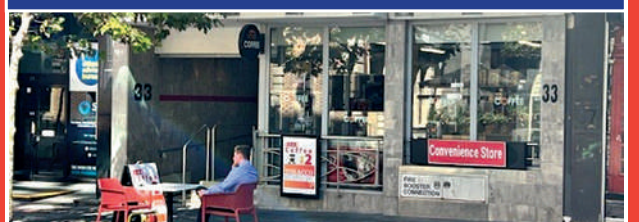
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Event Date: Saturday, 26th July 2025

Price: \$150 per person

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Starter

Roast Cauliflower Soup
Welsh Rarebit

Main (Choice of):

Beef Short Rib, Mushrooms, Mash, Red Wine Jus
Barramundi, Roast Capsicum and Tomato

Dessert

Sticky Toffee Pudding with Vanilla Ice Cream

Drinks

Available for pre-order via the ticketing website.

BOOKING INFORMATION

To secure a spot at this exciting event and pre-order drinks, guests should book via the official ticketing website. Online booking ensures guests can select their meal and reserve their space.

Step into the glamorous world of 1929 London, where the latest and most exclusive drinking club, **GATSBYS**, is about to make its grand debut in Mayfair.

This groundbreaking establishment is the first to welcome women members, and it's already sparking quite the buzz! **GATSBYS** is set to become the city's most coveted hotspot.

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