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Free laundry for the needy

Orange Sky volunteers in partnership with St Martins Uniting Church now offer free laundry services for the homeless in Forrestfield.

PG 6



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YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say:
editorial@echo-news.com

Station high rise no concern

Dear Echo News,
G Ross of Swan View seems concerned about high rise housing adjacent to the multi-level carpark and bus station development.

Depends, where the residential zone is going to be, and how high? ...and that will be up to the City of Swan and the Development WA Planning office surely?

And for the not so smug residents they will be happy to have somewhere to live as renters or owners close to all services, transport and shops.

Yet I doubt they will be more than nine stories high max with four/five storied units too.

Perth's young architectural profession and city planners are very creative.

North facing balconies two bedroom and one bedroom please, build to rent maybe opposite the car yard on Great Eastern Highway, and some trees for sound and shade protection across from the new bus station in Victoria Road with maybe an Uber or taxi drop off rank next to the Buzz Buzz, and in that shopping centre private road too, as well as at the new railway station.

The old railway station car park was a bit of a walk in the hot sun before.

A windy miserable place in winter for the past fifty years hey?

Behind the times of a more discerning public.

The next big question is what will become of

the old railway station?

Another Yagan Square sort of place between some more so called high rise towers of G Ross next to the coal lake nearby.

Maybe eventually some tourist shops a la cafe alfresco too on the old station site.

Pretty ordinary design project for the chosen architectural practices.

A competition maybe. What do you reckon G Ross of Swan View?

**R Wood
Midland**

Stop State Bill

Dear Echo News,

Every West Australian should be alarmed that legislation of this kind is being advanced in our state.

Thought for the day

"It's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it." - **Lena Horne**

Premier Roger Cook's rhetoric about 'industrial FOMO' disguises the true intent of this bill which hands sweeping powers to the Premier to override the very safeguards that protect our environment, our communities, and our democracy.

This is not 'development'.

It is a power grab that places corporate and foreign interests above the people of WA.

Decisions would be made behind closed doors, protections stripped away, and scrutiny bypassed.

West Australians should remember the WA Inc era of the 1980s, when Brian Burke and his col-

leagues pursued back-room deals that eroded accountability, undermined our democratic process, and damaged public trust.

This bill risks legitimising the same double standards under the guise of 'development'.

We cannot afford to repeat history by concentrating unchecked power in the hands of one Premier.

**ST Johns
Stoneville**

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.

From the net...

Echo News social media comments

In response to **Alcoa removes Perth Hills from their exploration area:**

Thank you *Echo Newspaper* and Bibbul Ngarma Aboriginal Association - a great first step to protecting all of our drinking water catchments.
- **South West Wildlife Learning and Discovery Network**

Thank you to *Echo Newspaper* for supporting our local community and covering this important issue.
- **Bibbul Ngarma Aboriginal Association**

Alcoa are still mining in our other drinking water catchments - Serpentine, North Dandalup and South Dandalup. These forests provide drinking water for Perth and the whole southwest region. Strip mining in drinking water catchments is a disaster. The risks are enormous and the consequences could be catastrophic. The state's own drinking water provider, the Water Corporation, has warned that contamination of our drinking water is certain if Alcoa's expansion continues. It's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when. And when disaster strikes, it will affect hundreds of thousands of people and cost millions, if not billions of dollars. Please support us to stand together to protect our water and our health.
- **Jarrahdale Forest Protectors Inc**

In response to **Final York tip decision now with SAT:**

Quite apart from and on top of the clear and present trend of WA Labor wilfully ignoring the will of the voters/the people they are elected to represent, how much extra will this tack on to our waste services fees and how will it impact collection services? I would imagine the rubbish truck that empties our bins right now, when full, only has to drive the shorter distance to Red Hill to unload before getting back to work. If the government forces those trucks to tip at York instead, every load suddenly means a round trip of more than 150 kilometres. That's hours of extra driving, far more fuel, and much more wear and tear on the trucks. Because each truck can only collect a certain number of bins before it must unload, the longer trip would mean fewer collections per day and the need for more trucks and drivers just to keep up. All of those extra costs, fuel, wages, maintenance, and extra vehicles won't disappear; the likely will get passed straight back to households through higher waste service charges. In simple terms, York could turn local rubbish collection into a long haul trucking job, and that inefficiency makes it a hidden cost risk for every resident who pays rates.
- **D Hanley**



Due to lack of space,
the crossword will not
be running in this
week's edition.

We apologise for any
inconvenience.

Please check our website
for the crossword and last
week's solution.

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EMRC immobilisation plant proposal gets EPA tick

GUANHAO CHENG

SWAN residents have until next Friday to appeal the approval of a proposal to construct and operate a toxic waste treatment plant in the City of Swan.

The Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) is proposing to construct and operate an immobilisation plant at the Red Hill waste management facility to treat the residue generated from waste to energy plants that incinerate rubbish to create energy.

This residue produced from the waste to energy process is known as air pollution control residue (APCr).

As reported in, *Red Hill to take incinerator residue* (Echo News, January 30) EMRC is also proposing to construct a dedicated landfill for disposal of the treated toxic waste, at the same facility.

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has recommended ministerial approval of the proposal with conditions in a report they published on November 21.

In order to go forward with the proposal, the EPA recommended the EMRC ensured the development did not exceed 201ha, and that the immobilisation plant could process a maximum of 50,000 tons of APCr.

The EMRC were also told to submit an environmental performance report to the EPA chief executive officer, who is currently Darren Walsh, every three years.

The reports had to contain information on regulatory approvals and permits that were in place for transport and disposal of waste, on air quality measurements and any exceedances, and how well the landfills were containing the materials.

The EMRC is also being requested to report on and monitor the toxic residue's ability to spread through contact with liquid in the landfill once it's been processed into a less harmful form designed to encapsulate it.



Red Hill waste management facility is the proposed site for a toxic waste processing plant and a landfill for storing the processed waste. Picture: EMRC

This process is known as immobilisation and is the purpose of the plant being proposed to be developed at the Red Hill facility while the specialised landfill that is to be used for the processed waste is simultaneously constructed.

According to the document, it's expected the immobilisation plant would be completed before the mono-cell, which is a special type of landfill that only contains one type of waste.

In the interim, the treated residue will be disposed in a Class IV stage 2 cell and as part of the conditions, the EMRC are required to undertake annual audits to assess how effectively the toxic waste was being contained.

These assessments include looking at the placement and potential mixing of waste within the cell, how much liquid was being contaminated with the material and to what extent, and also the integrity of the lining system.



Doves at Perth Wildlife Hospital being treated for the unsolved neurological paralysis syndrome.

Unsolved bird paralysis disease escalates in Perth's east metro

BRAYDEN MOULD

WILDLIFE hospitals in Perth's eastern suburbs and surrounding areas have confirmed an alarming increase in admissions of birds, suffering from an unidentified neurological paralysis syndrome in recent weeks.

As previously reported in *Wildlife centres record spike in bird paralysis disease* (Echo News, March 14) magpies were the main species affected by black-and-white bird (BWB) disease.

While magpies remain the primary species affected, further investigation has confirmed that the neurological disorder is now impacting a broader suite of native species including doves.

Perth Wildlife Hospital general manager, Yasmine Hunter, said staff had seen hundreds of cases at their hospital in recent months, with more than 40 cases referred in the past five weeks.

"At this point we are still not sure what the cause of the paralysis is or where it is coming from," she said.

Ms Hunter reported that patients have been coming in from areas across the east metro including Malaga, Ellenbrook, and Kalamunda.

"Tracking locations of where the birds are found hasn't been fruitful, we've noticed they've been coming from all different areas with no obvious trend in location," she said.

While researchers believe the cause could potentially be a toxin, Ms Hunter does not believe that to be the case.

"There is no evidence to support the idea of a toxin causing this paralysis, and at this point we just

aren't sure what the cause could be."

She said that if the number of cases continues to increase a huge strain could be put on local wildlife hospitals, who are no closer to solving the mysterious spread.

"It's been a huge drain on our resources unfortunately," she said.

"Setting up a quarantine, treating them in intensive care, a number of supportive therapies – we just aren't able to keep up."

Perth Wildlife Hospital and other Perth organisations are working with researchers from Murdoch University and the University of Western Australia to conduct tests to find a diagnosis.

"We are continually sending off cases for testing but so far all notable diseases have been ruled out," Ms Hunter said.

"With magpie paralysis being a recent trend, it's concerning that we're now seeing clinical signs in doves and other wild birds."

"The recovery of the birds is just as strange, some die as a result while others mysteriously recover."

"At the moment, we're prioritising supportive therapies: keeping them warm and safe, feeding them food and water, but... it doesn't solve the root problem."

A DPIRD spokesperson has said the department is aware of the outbreak and are currently looking into it.

"The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has received reports from a client in the City of Swan," they said.

"(We) are testing samples for reportable disease, and initial results are expected this week."

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The WA Christmas tree, stealing the show (and water!)



A *Nuytsia floribunda* flowering in Perth bushland, a close view of the characteristic golden yellow blooms.

Christmas is just around the corner, and that means the glorious Western Australian Christmas tree, or moodjar in Noongar (*Nuytsia floribunda*), are in bloom! Not only are they our state's most iconic summer-flowering tree, but they're one of the botanical world's most fascinating survivalists!

A tree like no other

The WA Christmas tree is found exclusively in the south-west corner of Western Australia, from Geraldton to Esperance. Growing up to 10 meters tall, it's a member of the mistletoe family (Loranthaceae) and holds the remarkable distinction of being the world's largest hemiparasitic plant. From late November through January, these trees put on a stunning display, with masses of vibrant orange-yellow flowers that can be spotted from a distance across the landscape.

However, the real show happens underground. The Christmas tree's roots can send out specialised structures called haustoria that seek out and tap into the roots of neighbouring plants, stealing their water and nutrients. They are indiscriminate in their parasitism, grasses, shrubs, even other trees become unwilling hosts. There are stories of road crews encountering Christmas trees trying to parasitise underground cables, with their root attachments causing significant damage!

Despite this vampiric lifestyle, the Christmas tree produces its own leaves and photosynthesises like any normal tree. Meaning it is a hemiparasite (only partially parasitic). These parasitic adaptations allow it to access water during WA's notoriously dry summers, and extract nutrients, in an environment of nutrient-poor, sandy soils that dominate the region.

So these holidays, why not jump in the car, or go for a bushwalk and see if you can spot some of these incredible plants found nowhere else in the world.

Wishing you a very merry Christmas from the Backyard Buddies team!



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Kalamunda supports new Forrestfield housing



GUANHAO CHENG

CITY of Kalamunda unanimously voted to support a scheme amendment rezoning the density coding to allow for more housing in Forrestfield to be developed by Satterley.

Taylor Burrell Barnett Planning principal Jarrod Ross presented to council at their most recent ordinary council meeting, supporting local planning scheme (LPS) amendment 116.

LPS amendment 116 seeks to recode the Dawson's Nursery land from R15 to R40, allowing for higher density housing developments.

Mr Ross confirmed Satterley now owns the land where Dawson's Nursery used to be.

Mr Ross said that in March he noted the site was one of the remaining genuine infill opportunities in the area and a more contemporary medium density coding such as R40 is appropriate to provide the best outcome for what is a well-located land parcel supporting the city's housing infill objectives.

"Recognising that there's some concern amongst council regarding the R40 density coding that was raised at the agenda briefing forum, I have provided an additional memorandum and supporting information which hopefully elected members have had time to review," Mr Ross said.

Mr Ross said there was broad support for the proposal from government agencies and only three public objections.

He said residents mainly raised concerns with construction management, potential traffic impacts, and the integration of new residents and not with the density coding.

"These are common and well understood matters in infill development regardless of what coding would be applied," he said.

"Importantly, each of these issues is well con-

sidered by the existing state and local planning policies and will be carefully managed throughout the subdivision and development stages."

Mr Ross said it was important to note the memo he provided council included an indicative development principles plan, but it was not a final concept.

"It's our current thinking and an initial draft to illustrate how the site might develop showing key considerations of open space, interface design, road and pedestrian connections and a mixture of housing types," he said.

"I'll reiterate R40 is the maximum coding that we are proposing.

"It does not mean that the whole site will be developed at that density.

"The development concept plan that we've provided shows that the built form, the residential development is intended to be graduated and balanced ranging between R25 and R40 which is consistent with the established development patterns in the local area."

Mr Ross said the range of dwelling types and lot sizes was a significant strength of the proposal from a commercial and community perspective.

Cr Giardina asked how wide the roads were as he found it difficult to get through some streets that were coded R40.

"I struggled to get through some of the streets where there were cars parked either side of the road," he said.

"Are we going to have the same problem down here in Forrestfield in some of these developments that you're trying to do?"

Mr Ross said the width of roads in new subdivisions were determined by a state policy called liveable neighbourhoods which analyses the volume of traffic that's going down a road and considers its function. **Cont. p18**

Midland women's centre secures \$37k tech funds

BRAYDEN MOULD

A KEY local welfare organisation, the ERICA Women's Centre, has secured a vital \$37,000 funding injection after Midland MLA Steve Catania honoured a pre-election commitment.

The funding was used to fund a complete upgrade on the centre's essential technology.

ERICA Women's Centre, formerly named Midland Women's Health Care Place, is a welfare organisation that provides comfortable, caring, and inclusive services for women aged 16 and over.

Chief executive officer Linda Malone outlined the essential services the organisation provides.

"We provide one-on-one counselling for women aged 16 and above," she said.

"We support women in working through some of their challenges, depending on their life circumstances. This can range from women who have just had a baby or are recently pregnant, to dealing with anxiety, depression, life changes, stress, or divorce."

Ms Malone said she and the rest of the staff at ERICA are profoundly grateful for the support that Mr Catania provided.

"We're very grateful, we're thrilled to be able to have this as part of an election promise, because obviously getting that ongoing support is... vital to our service delivery.

"Without his ongoing support and from other supporters in the community, not-for-profit agencies such as ourselves would struggle to survive.

"We're doing our best to support the community, but without (funding) it makes it difficult for us to continue to evolve and deliver the best services we can."

The funds will specifically address technology shortfalls, enabling the centre to upgrade everyday equipment like laptops and tablets.

Ms Malone stressed the importance of this investment, noting that strong technology is fundamental to protecting their clients.

"New computers and technology are one of those things that outwardly no one gets to see the benefit,



Trudi Guagliardo with chief executive officer Linda Malone in front of ERICA signage.

but they provide an essential service for what we need. It is something that is vital for our visitors," she said.

"Cybersecurity, privacy, confidentiality... if you don't have the right technology, you can't provide an adequate service for the most vulnerable women in our community."

Mr Catania said he was grateful for the work that ERICA does for the community.

"I'm proud to have delivered on my \$37,000 election commitment to ERICA Women's Centre," he said.

"This funding has enabled ERICA to upgrade essential technology such as laptops and tablets, helping their team work more effectively and efficiently to assist women in our community.

"ERICA provides vital services including crisis support, counselling, workshops, and empowerment programs that make a real difference for women and families in Midland and the eastern region.

"When we invest in organisations like ERICA, we invest in stronger, safer communities, and I'm pleased to see this commitment supporting invaluable work that they do."

East metro radiation oncology petition gains traction

GUANHAO CHENG

A PARLIAMENTARY petition to make cancer treatment services more accessible in the eastern suburbs will be open to signatures until December 8.

Currently, patients from Midland, Kalamunda, Wooroloo, York and surrounds must travel to Rockingham and Mandurah to access state funded cancer treatment with no out-of-pocket costs.

The petition asks for the legislative council to call on state government to correct the lack of access, establish public access to existing Midland facilities through funding, partnerships or other means, and provide a clear timeline to implement these changes.

As of December 3, the petition garnered 2390 signatures.

It forms part of a larger push that has been ongoing for more than a year to improve access to affordable cancer treatments for eastern suburb residents.

Last year, *Call to action for Midland cancer treatment* (Echo News, August 23) reported that Midland and Swan Hills have been identified and highlighted as an area of need and focus for radiation oncology services according to Icon Cancer Centre Midland's chief executive officer Colin La Galia.

In March of this year, the Australian Medical Association of WA also called on both federal and state governments to help boost access as Midland cancer patients relied on Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Nedlands for fully public radiation therapy without out-of-pocket costs as reported in *AMA calls for Midland radiation* (Echo News, March 14).

Guildford resident and retired long-time physician Bob Langlands said he was fortunate to be able to afford private care when he was diagnosed with lung cancer but worries about the patients who can't.



A petition to bring publicly funded free radiation treatments to Midland will no longer accept signatures after December 8.

"It would be a real issue for many people facing a challenging threat of having developed cancer and this being the preferred treatment modality," he said.

"For me, four sessions over 10 days or so was not a big deal.

"I could have gone to Sir Charles Gairdner, but for some of my former patients, they're having daily treatments for weeks or even months.

"And that can be really tough in terms of tracking in from as far as Northam and beyond.

"Depending on the therapy regime, you're very much out of pocket, you know, several thousand dollars out of pocket.

"Medicare supported the bulk of the cost for my therapy, but I was still around about \$4000 out of pocket.

"That wasn't an issue for me, but for

many people that would be prohibitive.

"I would hope that if the state government can stump up the additional support funding, then individuals are not having to track all the way into Charlie's, Mandurah or Rockingham to get their therapy.

"I mean, why shouldn't we, in the eastern suburbs, be getting the same deal as they're getting down there?"

Kalamunda MLA Adam Hort, who is the principal petitioner, said a modern radiation oncology centre already existed in Midland but just needed state support to make treatment free and accessible.

"That's why this petition matters," he said.

"No one fighting for their life should have to battle a punishing commute because the government won't fund services in the eastern suburbs."

Andrew Reserve land sale is going ahead

BRAYDEN MOULD

DESPITE community opposition lodged during public consultation, the City of Kalamunda has moved forward with the controversial sale of two public-use lots next to Andrew Reserve.

The lots on Urch and McRae roads, used by locals as access points and informal open space to Andrew Reserve, were officially recommended for sale at November's ordinary council meeting in a unanimous vote eight to one.

Sixteen public submissions were made as part of the community's input into the divestment, with the city reporting 12 of those submissions did not support the proposal.

The divestment report presented to council acknowledged the potential for procedural issues in the timing of advertising compared to open consultation and could be further improved.

"The timing of the public consultation and council deliberations create the perception that council has given... approval for the disposal of land prior to the community having an opportunity to formally consider the proposal," the report stated.

"There is an opportunity to increase the level of community engagement and transparency to build on the statutory process established under (the local government act)."

As reported in *Controversial land sale ignites Kalamunda dispute* (Echo News, October 24) the city had begun advertising the land including placing a 'For Sale' sign on the lot before community consultation had concluded.

Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas moved the motion, which authorised the chief executive officer to execute a contract of sale for each property, which was seconded by North Ward councillor Josh Clarke.

Cr Clarke, speaking for the motion, said that while the council has listened to residents' concerns, the city has met its obligation under the local government act.

"I do acknowledge some public sentiment around the process in which they felt the cart was leading the horse," he said.

"But I am confident having read the officer's recommendations, that we have done things the right way."



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Orange Sky offers free laundry service for the disadvantaged

MIKE PEETERS

ORANGE Sky Australia has partnered with St Martin's Church in Forrestfield to provide a free laundry service for people experiencing homelessness and other hardships.

Orange Sky is the world's first free mobile laundry and shower service and was established in Brisbane in 2014.

It now operates more than 400 regular shifts in 54 service locations across Australia, supported by a team of over 4000 volunteers.

Orange Sky senior operations specialist Lisa Sprlyan said their mission was to positively connect communities by offering free laundry and genuine conversation to people experiencing homelessness, hardship, isolation or loneliness.

"No one deserves to go without essentials - clean clothes, a hot shower and a safe place to sleep," Ms Sprlyan said.

"However, rising costs are increasingly forcing everyday Australians to choose between living essentials, bills and rent, and people who may have never thought they would be struggling financially are turning to us for help.

"We're excited to be partnering with St Martins Uniting Church, who identified a real need for our service in the local community.

"Every Thursday from 1pm to 3pm, our team is onsite for anyone who'd like to drop by, whether it's to use our free laundry, enjoy a sausage sizzle, or simply share a chat and a cuppa, everyone is welcome."

If you or anyone you know could use this service, they are invited to come down to the church carpark at 57 Hale Road, Forrestfield.

For more information contact Orange Sky on www.orangesky.org.au/use-our-service/



Orange Sky volunteers Karen, Lisa and George at Forrestfield.



Orange Sky provides a much needed service for disadvantaged people.

eye on crime

Bullsbrook bushfire under investigation

STRIKE Force Vulcan officers are seeking public assistance as they investigate a fire that occurred in Bullsbrook on Friday, November 28.

About 1.05pm, police responded to reports of a bushfire on the side of Tonkin Highway in Bullsbrook.

Emergency services attended, and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services extinguished the fire.

There were no reports of injury.

During inquiries, police located a burnt-out Subaru Forester within the scene.

Officers wish to speak with the owner of the vehicle, as they may be able to assist with the investigation.

Police are treating the fire as suspicious, and the investigation re-



mains ongoing.

Anyone with any information or footage in relation to this incident, or the owner of the burnt-out vehicle, is asked to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report online via www.crimestopperswa.com.au

All reports can be made anonymously.

Rewards of up to \$25,000 are available for information that leads to the identification and conviction of an arsonist.



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

Man faces The Vines armed robbery charges

MIDLAND detectives have charged a 28-year-old man with several offences following an alleged incident in The Vines on Monday, November 17.

It is alleged that about 3.35pm, the man attended a home on Portmar-nock Drive in The Vines in relation to an electric scooter listing on an online marketplace.

When two occupants - a teenager and a man in his 60s - spoke with him outside the house and queried whether the money he presented was genuine, it is alleged he attempted to start the scooter.

It is further alleged that when the

man in his 60s intervened, the man used a taser on him, striking him in the face and hand.

Police will allege that upon sighting a police vehicle, the man released the scooter and fled on foot, entering an elderly woman's garage before being arrested a short time later on a nearby street.

The 28-year-old man has been charged with attempted aggravated armed robbery, aggravated assault occasioning bodily harm, aggravated home burglary and stealing.

He appeared in Midland Magistrates Court Tuesday, November 18 to reappear on December 30.



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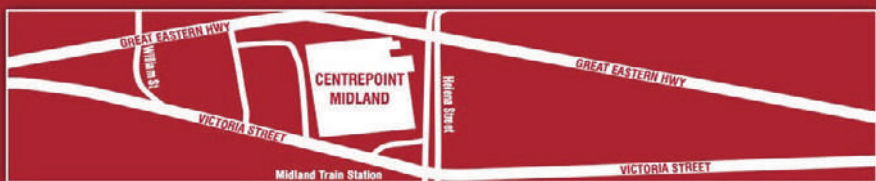
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Resident petitions for stronger Kalamunda tree retention

GUANHAO CHENG

KALAMUNDA residents have again asked the city for stronger tree protection at the November Kalamunda council meeting, with resident Hannah Lill submitting questions and a petition.

Ms Lill said a boundary tree at Sanderson Road shops appeared to have “succumbed to pressures of the development.”

She asked if a tree protection plan had been followed and asked about compliance at the approved McDonald’s development.

The city confirmed the two significant Marri trees were being kept under a protection plan.

“What can community members do if they note behaviour that appears the plan is not being followed?” Ms Lill said.

Acting development director Regan Travers said the Sanderson Road matter would be taken on notice and confirmed a private arborist must oversee the McDonald’s works.

“Residents can report any concerns so officers can investigate,” he said.

Ms Lill asked council to provide the delayed timeline for the draft future forest policy.

She said she submitted a petition calling the draft policy “woefully inadequate” for allowing continued destruction of trees on residential-use land.

Ms Lill criticised the policy for relying too much on replanting instead of retention.

“In a city known for its forest-edge location... we should be aiming for innovative, effective tree protection,” she said.

Her comments follow from a saga of continued calls to reinstate tree retention policies.

It began when Kalamunda councillors voted six to three in February 2024 to revoke local planning policy 33 tree retention.

Supporters of scrapping the policy at the time included all councillors except council-

lors Kathy Ritchie, Lisa Cooper and Brooke O’Donnell.

Cr Ritchie warned the move risked preventable tree loss and motioned for a six-month review in 2024, but the motion was lost as the decision to bin the policy was passed.

After that, council resolved to adopt WALGA’s tree retention model “within weeks” but by the 2025 annual electors meeting, residents were still waiting.

“We are supposed to be the home in the forest,” resident Michelle Bunn said.

“Not weeks later, but almost a year and no action has been taken.”

Calls for a significant tree register also came back when the register was first proposed in 1999.

Nature Reserves Preservation Group president Steve Gates said the lack of a register left heritage trees unprotected.

Mayor Thomas said the idea could be considered in the next planning scheme review.

Council adopted the draft future forest policy for advertising in July 2025, describing it as a balanced instrument focused on canopy outcomes.

But residents said the broadened exemptions weakened it.

Officers confirmed councillors directed them to avoid “the bias towards tree retention” in the old policy.

Gooseberry Hill resident Victoria Laurie warned the changes could let developers “remove trees after approvals were granted.”

By October, tree retention concerns were again raised in relation to High Wycombe’s Brae Road subdivision.

Resident Kelly McDonald said verge trees once shown as retained were later cleared.

“My 50-year-old eucalyptus... has been approved for removal,” she said.

She argued drilling beneath the roots could save the tree.

Ms Thomas said alternatives like boring underneath the tree to preserve it were ex-



The Town of Bassendean recently celebrated their one year anniversary of adopting the WALGA tree retention policy.

explored but were not feasible due to site constraints.

“In this case, the Western Australian Planning Commission approved the subdivision in the Stewart and Brae Road area, which required new underground services such as water and sewer connections,” she said at the time.

“To allow this essential infrastructure to be installed safely and efficiently, the city agreed to the removal of a small number of verge trees, including a mature eucalyptus along Brae Road.”

Ms McDonald said she didn’t agree that only a small number were removed.

“There were 35 trees removed just from this one side of the Stewart Road verge,” she said.

“The Jacaranda tree referred to as relocated was also chopped down along with another Jacaranda tree.

“I predict there will be more tree losses in Sultana Road West when works commence there.”

Meanwhile, a Bassendean resident was fined \$17,000 this week for removing trees on private property after the Town of Bassendean in late November celebrated the one-year anniversary of adopting their tree retention and provision policy.

Bassendean was the first local government in the state to adopt the model policy developed by the Western Australian Local Government Association.

Town of Bassendean Mayor Kath Hamilton said the town’s commitment to tree protection reflects strong community support.

“Trees quietly improve our quality of life,” she said.

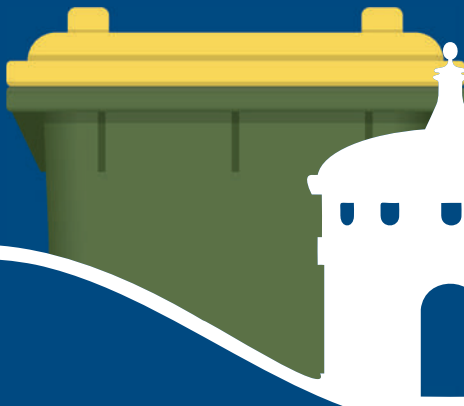
“They shade our streets, clean our air, reduce stormwater runoff, and even boost property values. **Cont. p18.**

Bin collection changes for public holidays

If your normal bin day is:	Place your bins out on:
Thursday 25 December	Friday 26 December
Friday 26 December	Saturday 27 December

If your normal bin day is:	Place your bins out on:
Thursday 1 January	Friday 2 January
Friday 2 January	Saturday 3 January

Alongside the above date changes, Shire of Mundaring is excited to be trialling an extra general waste collection for residents over the festive period. Scan the QR code to find out more.



Ballajura Primary School secures funding for Aboriginal school mural



Amy McGuire and Ballajura students (centre). Previous artwork designed by Amy McGuire and Bunja Artistry. Pictures: Brayden Mould and Bunja Artistry

BRAYDEN MOULD

BALLAJURA Primary School is set to undertake a significant cultural project with the design and creation of a large-scale school mural focused on Whadjuk Noongar culture, following the successful acquisition of state government funding through the Partnership Acceptance Learning Sharing (PALS) program.

The school is one of sixteen across the state celebrating the grants that collectively total nearly \$79,000 in Term 3 funding, aimed at strengthening cultural understanding in WA schools.

Associate Principal Siobhan Jones expressed her excitement, calling the mural a new frontier in the school's cultural development.

"We're just beginning our deeply important culturally responsive journey," she said.

"Winning the PALS grant allows us to make a meaningful first step in strengthening our understanding of Whadjuk Noongar culture, and ensuring it's respectfully reflected in our school."

The school has commissioned Aboriginal artist Amy McGuire of Bunja Artistry to guide the project.

"We're honoured to be working with Amy, whose knowledge and creativity will help guide this important work with authenticity and care – and that's the most important thing is the authenticity," Ms Jones said.

The planned mural will be developed through an extensive consultation process, giving students, parents, and teachers the opportunity to be involved in the decision-making process, with the goal of making it reflective of the school community.

"This isn't just for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids," Ms Jones said. "This is for the whole school community - we want it to reflect that we all come from very different places but that we all belong here at Ballajura."

"We learn on Whadjuk Boodja, so I think it's important that we recognise the land in which we learn and live."

Artist Amy McGuire said the mural will be designed with input from the entire school community

"We're going to run a workshop soon and get some feedback from the kids on what they might want to include, because it's their story at the end of the day," she said.

"I want my art to reflect that, so it has a deeper meaning and significance to the school and the people here."

Ms McGuire also plans to draw on her own heritage as a Noongar woman in combination with the input received from the school community.

"I put a lot of things in there that are significant to not only the land or the people, but also things that represent me and the people I do the piece for," she said.

"It'll be a bit of a combination of everything, but definitely based around culture and knowledge."

The Jewellery Centre MUNDARING

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An exciting new chapter for "The Jewellery Centre Mundaring"
A personal Message from Carol and Bob Claxton

Dear Valued Friends and Customers,

We want to share with you some personal news directly, which contains a touch of sadness but a lot of EXCITEMENT too.

Many of you would be aware of two things, Firstly that Carol has not been enjoying the best of health for the past year or so, and I need to be spending more time at home with her in the future, and Secondly, I am getting older by the day and can feel it!

We have enjoyed many fabulous years' operating our jewellery business in Mundaring and naturally we will be saddened by not being here too often in the future but will have the memories of you all to enjoy.

But, we have some fantastic news to share with you.
Our very long search for the right people to take over our business and look after our valued friends and customers has ended with a **Magnificent result** by introducing to you **Melody and Chris Winspear**, who have now taken over the reigns of the business and are currently exciting the staff by sharing their plans for the long term future of **The Jewellery Centre Mundaring.**

Chris is a well educated jewellery manufacturer with tremendous knowledge of our industry and has excellent skills in the manufacturing systems that are now used in modern day jewellery design and making, which he openly shares with all those who would show interest. Understandably all our existing staff members are eagerly ready to enjoy working with Chris and Mel and share their inevitable future success.

One of Chris's first **new introductions** is **PERSONALISED ENGRAVING**, Yes! At last you say.

Melody is a really lovely lady who has ably supported Chris in their previous business ventures with her excellent bookkeeping skills and obvious people skills, which she will be sharing with the staff in serving our customers in the shop in the coming years, much in the same enjoyable way that Carol did alongside our staff ladies.

Carol and I are eternally grateful to have been able to share our years in Mundaring with you – our valued customer-friends and also to have shared a wonderful working relationship with all our staff. It has been Very Special and I will enjoy working with Chris and Mel and the staff until Christmas and possibly, fleetingly, even more time in 2026?

Our love and best wishes to you all.
Bob and Carol.

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- ✓ Modelling respectful behaviour to your family, friends and colleagues.
- ✓ Sharing campaign messaging on social media.



16 Days in WA | 🔍

Learn more about how to play
your part in stopping family and
domestic violence.

#16DaysinWA

#PlayYourPart



Midland mental health centre open throughout the holidays

Christmas and New Year can sometimes be lonely and stressful, but a mental health service in the Midland community will be open throughout to welcome anyone who'd like to come in for a free chat.

Open from 10am – 8pm every day throughout the holidays, Midland Medicare Mental Health Centre offers mental health and emotional support to people 18 years and over who are concerned about their mental or emotional health, or struggling with loneliness, grief or stress.

Community members can simply walk in to chat to someone straight away, or make an appointment for counselling. No referral is needed and all services are provided at no cost.

The service also supports families, friends and carers of people experiencing mental health concerns.

According to acting manager Natalie Wo, the extended opening hours at Midland Medicare Mental Health Centre are part of an effort to break down barriers to people seeking mental health and emotional support when they need it.

“We know that 43 per cent of Australians will experience mental health challenges at some point in their life,” said Natalie, “and the time leading up to and throughout Christmas and New Year can sometimes be really stressful.

“At the same time, many community mental health providers are closed or have reduced hours,” she said.

“This can lead to more people visiting after-hours GPs and emergency departments.

“We’ll be here every single day throughout this time, so people can get the free mental health and emotional support they need, when they need it, even if it’s on a weekend or public holiday,” Natalie said.

Medicare Mental Health Centres are designed as friendly, welcoming environments with a range of mental health professionals on hand to provide advice and support for all people aged 18 and over.

Midland Medicare Mental Health Centre is located at 23 Old Great Northern Hwy, Midland.

Find out more at wapha.org.au/mmhc or call 1800 595 212.

Indigo Junction receives \$3.7m boost

GUANHAO CHENG

INDIGO Junction has received a \$3.7 million boost to build a new refuge to provide crisis accommodation and support for women and children in Midland.

The new funding for Midland is aimed to provide five new crisis accommodation units and support for women and children, allowing them time to heal, recover and thrive as they start to build a new future for themselves.

The funding adds on to Indigo Junction’s existing suite of services to help provide sanctuary to women experiencing family and domestic violence such as their Koolkuna Women’s Refuge.

The announcement comes two weeks after sector leaders gathered in Midland to discuss priorities in ending youth homelessness in the state as reported in *State homelessness sector leaders gather in Midland* (Echo News, November 21).

In *New Midland youth accommodation* (Echo News, May 2), Indigo Junction was also making use of a \$5.7m funding boost to build 20 single-occupant rooms through the state’s community housing new build grant program.

For the youth crisis transitional housing project, Indigo Junction also received an injection of more than \$423,000 help pay for electrical infrastructure costs.

The foundations for their Yaakiny youth accommodation were completed in August with the project scheduled for completion in June 2026.



Indigo Junction’s Yaakiny youth accommodation is under construction and is one of many Midland projects aimed at providing crisis support. Picture: Facebook

Other recent developments in the space for people experiencing family and domestic violence include the safe phone initiative which received a new donation point in Midland in September.

Donated mobile phones are repurposed into untraceable phones that can be distributed for free through registered shelters, police stations, hospitals and frontline agencies such as Indigo Junction as reported in *Safe Phone initiative for our domestic violence survivors* (Echo News, September 5).

Most recently, Indigo Junction has come on board as an agency partner organisation to distribute the safe phones.

In August, Indigo Junction said during the past year 44 per

cent of clients they supported were safely rehoused or moved into long-term accommodation such as private rentals, community housing or transitional housing.

The remaining clients were either engaged in support services, in temporary accommodation or in less stable housing situations.

At the beginning of the year, Indigo Junction also received \$356,000 to expand their domestic violence advocacy service over two years.

This allowed the organisation to provide specialised family and domestic violence (FDV) counselling services from within Indigo Junction instead of directing them to multiple agencies or providers they didn’t know.

</

Discover Swan View



Nido Early School's Doors are Open to Swan View Families

At Nido Early School, we believe every day shapes a child's future. From the first smile to the first big idea, we make these moments count. Our approach, inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy, empowers children to learn through play, exploration and connection.

We're excited to bring this approach to life at our recently opened Nido Early School Swan View. Here, our passionate team, including Diploma and Certificate III educators and an Early Childhood Teacher with a Graduate Diploma, create environments where children feel safe, respected, and inspired to learn. Our educators listen deeply and observe thoughtfully, shaping experiences that respond to children's interests and encourage exploration.

"We prioritise child safety and wellbeing, ensuring that every child's voice is heard and their rights are respected," says Casey-Lee Dawson, Executive Service Manager. "I believe a sense of belonging and trust lays the foundation for all learning and I take pride in building meaningful relationships with families, children and my team."

For our youngest learners - 6 weeks to 3 years

The first three years of life are a time of rapid growth and discovery. Our educators create calm, nurturing spaces where children feel safe and secure as they explore the world through their senses, forming strong bonds and engaging in gentle, responsive play.

As toddlers begin to experiment and imagine, we support their independence and social development through movement, art, and role-play. Play develops from independent moments to shared experiences, where children start noticing and engaging with others.

The Nido Curriculum - Ages 3 to 6 years

Our kindy program is guided by the Reggio Emilia philosophy and the Nido Curriculum, which has been developed in collaboration with educators, families, and the broader community to support intentional, child-focused learning. Children aged three to six engage in play-based educational experiences that build on their ideas, questions, and creativity. They investigate concepts around nature, community, and sustainability while developing problem-solving, communication and critical thinking skills. Over time, play turns into teamwork and children learn to cooperate and build friendships while creating together.

What families can expect

Just as our curriculum nurtures wonder and independence, our family experience ensures every child and every family feels supported and connected throughout their journey.

Our learning spaces are open and inviting, giving children room to explore, create and work together. Meals are freshly prepared by our on-site chef in the dedicated cucina, supporting healthy habits and shared experiences. Our programs are enriched with incursions, community engagement, and nature-based learning experiences. Families can also look forward to regular gatherings and community events, helping to build strong, lasting relationships.

To support families, Nido Early School Swan View offers flexible care hours from 6:30am to 6:30pm, with complimentary Huggies nappies, water wipes, sunscreen, and bedding.

Book your today

Come and see what we do every day at Nido Early School Swan View to support your child's early learning journey. Visit nido.edu.au/swanview to book your tour.

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tour today**

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nido.edu.au/swanview**





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- All art materials (paints, brushes and a take-home canvas)
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<p>NZ HOKIE FILLETS FROZEN 6.8KG CARTON \$14.95/kg CARTON BUYS</p>	<p>Humpty Doo Barramundi medium Whole \$18.95/kg</p>	<p>Tender Southern Cleaned Squid Tubes \$22.95/kg</p>	<p>Alaskan Jumbo Cooked King Crab Legs</p>	<p>Wild Alaskan Salmon Portions landing weekly</p>	<p>LAST OF THE SEASON SHARKBAY FROZEN RAW KING PRAWN CUTLETS \$49.95/kg</p>
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In November 2023, the Albanese Labor Government made the largest investment in bulk billing in Medicare history. It's already bearing fruit; along with lowering the costs of prescriptions by more than a quarter of a billion dollars.

The Midland Medicare Urgent Care Clinic at North Street Medical Centre opened in December 2023. In one year, more than 10,000 people received vital care which, in turn, helped relieve the burden on hospital emergency departments.



Picture: Guan hao Cheng

The Clinic is fully bulk-billed, and it's open 7 days a week – from 8am to 8pm.

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



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



The Perth Sky Sculpture Park is set to become a new creative landmark for the Perth Hills.

Perth Sky Sculpture Park calls for art

A BOLD new chapter for contemporary sculpture in Western Australia has commenced following the official launch of the Perth Sky Sculpture Park.

Announcing its Vision and an Acquisitive Awards prize pool of \$150,000 – supported by the City of Kalamunda through its Percent-for-art Public Art Reserve – Perth Sky and its inaugural biennial exhibition is aiming to attract artists from across WA, the nation, and around the globe to submit expressions of interest. Submissions will open to artists later this month.

The project will transform the historic Perth Observatory in the Bickley Valley – already renowned for Astrotourism – into an expanded destination for contemporary sculpture and nature-based tourism.

Set to open in spring next year, Perth Sky Sculpture Park is a community-driven initiative that will feature contemporary artworks integrated into the region's striking natural landscape in the observatory's surroundings.

The curatorial vision for the Perth Sky Sculpture Park champions experimentation and artistic courage.

Rather than adhering to a single theme, it offers artists the opportunity to present bold, innovative work in a dramatic bushland setting complemented by minimalist architecture and heritage Observatory domes.

Perth Sky Sculpture Park chair and head curator Johannes Pannekoek said the park's aim is simple but ambitious: to create a permanent, not-for-profit sculpture park that fosters dialogue between con-

temporary art, science and nature.

"By placing artworks within this extraordinary landscape, we complement the Observatory's night-time activity and enrich its daytime experience," Mr Pannekoek said.

"Our curatorial team is committed to creative risk-taking and working with artists who push the boundaries of form and meaning. Through a major biennial exhibition and an evolving collection, we aim to build a nationally significant cultural destination here in the Perth Hills."

City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas said the city was incredibly proud to support the initiative, including a \$150,000 commitment to establish the Perth Sky Acquisitive Awards.

"These awards will recognise artistic excellence, with award-winning sculptures being placed in the public realm across the city for generations to enjoy."

When complete, the sculpture park's approximately 1.5-kilometre trail will wind through native bushland, offering an immersive experience where art and environment converge.

Visitors may find themselves walking beside telescope domes and sculptures, discovering hidden installations between trees, or glimpsing a kangaroo or quenda along the way.

Perth Sky Sculpture Park creative director Sandra Tinari said the park was conceived as a place of connection - to each other and to the land.

"Perth Sky is being developed as a unique cultural experience for Western Australia - a place where contemporary

art, nature and the observatory's long tradition of inspiring curiosity come together.

"Surrounded by native bushland and framed by the clear, open skies of the Perth Hills, the sculpture park will offer visitors an opportunity to slow down and reconnect with the environment, with creativity and with one another."

"By inviting people to explore art in this landscape, we hope to cultivate deeper community engagement, nurture creative exploration and provide moments of reflection and renewed wonder."

Opening in spring next year during the Noongar season of Kambarang, the inaugural Perth Sky Sculpture Park Biennial will be an accessible, family-friendly attraction inviting locals and visitors to explore art in a relaxed outdoor setting where creativity and community meet.

"Later this year, we'll release an open call to artists from across WA, Australia and overseas," Mr Pannekoek said.

"Artists may submit new works inspired by this place, or propose previously exhibited pieces that deserve a long-term home. A curatorial panel will select works across scale and form - from standalone and suspended sculptures to ephemeral installations, and projections onto the observatory's domes and walls."

"We're seeking work that is bold, innovative and beautifully resolved - art that feels at home beneath this expansive Western Australian sky."

Follow the journey and support the creation of this exciting new arts destination via Facebook and Instagram: @perthskysculpture

New Mundaring anthology is full of creative stories

THE latest anthology from the Mundaring creative writing group will be launched on Friday, December 12 at the Lazy Corner.

The 2025 anthology is a softcover book full of entertaining stories for a wide range of readers and is the sixth volume to be published by the group.

Illustrated with drawings and photographs, it includes poetry, biography, fantasy, children's stories, magic, science fiction and personal experiences.

Group chairperson Lawrence Marshall said the anthology evolved from written pieces brought in each week by the group members.

"Some of the content includes feedback by group members and some of it is what we call 'writing for therapy,'" he said.

"For example, one of our group members is a Vietnam veteran."

Mr Marshall said the content was both biographical and fictional, including one submission entitled, 'What if covid had continued?'

The creative writing group began more than 17 years ago and still has one member from that time," he said.

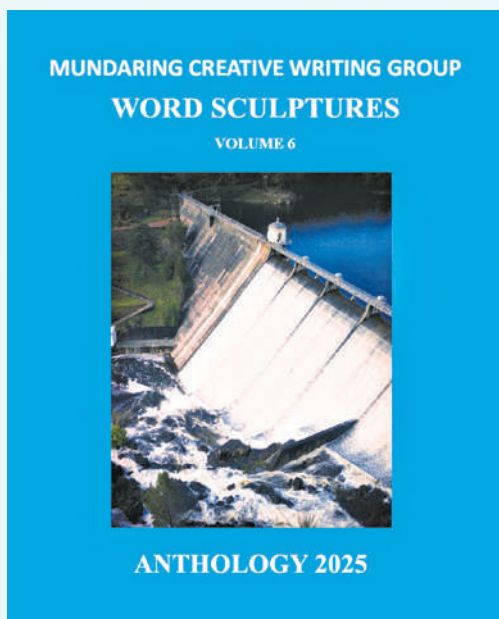
"All of the writers live locally and the book contains 204 pages and costs \$25."

The book launch is from 9.30am to 12pm at the Lazy Corner, shop 9, Mundaring Village Shopping Centre, Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring (eftpos facilities are available).

Copies can also be purchased from the Mundaring Adult Learning Centre, 3 Craigie Place, Mundaring before December 19.

The Mundaring creative writing group meets every Friday at 9.15am at the adult learning centre.

For more information, contact Mr Marshall on 0438 926 827.



The anthology front cover features Mundaring Weir in overflow. (Picture: WA Water Corporation)

ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

Your local Gig Guide

Fri December 5

Settlers House York
Oscar Litchfield
From 5pm. Free.
125 Avon Terrace
York

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Charlie Scott
6pm-9pm. Free.
4260 Great Eastern Hwy

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

Lyric's Bar Laneway Bar
Will Stoker and
The Embers.
From 7.30pm. Free.
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

Woodbridge Hotel
Touche.
From 8pm. Free.
50 East St Guildford

7th Ave Bar & Bistro
Nostalgia.
From 8pm. Free.
74 Helena Street
Midland

Sat December 6

Settlers House York
Graeme Fisher
From 5.30pm. Free.
125 Avon Terrace
York

Parkerville Tavern
Rhay Rom and Chantel
From 6pm. Free.
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

Hemingway & Co
Acoustic Saturday
From 7pm-9pm. Free.
6/7095 Great Eastern
Highway Mundaring

Lyric's Bar
Steve Hensby Band
From 7.30pm
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

Sat December 9. Cont

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Jonny P's Hills Chrissy
Knees Up
6pm-9pm. Free.
4260 Great Eastern Hwy

Sun December 7

Woodbridge Hotel
Kane Cahill
From 3pm. Free.
50 East St Guildford

7th Ave Bar & Bistro
Anthony Adams
From 12-3pm. Free.
74 Helena Street
Midland

Childlow Tavern
Live Music.
12.30-3.30pm. Free.
4 Thomas Street
Childlow

Lyric's Bar Laneway Bar
Coda + Imposter
Syndrome
From 5pm. Free.
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Jazz Elements
4pm-7pm. Free.
4260 Great Eastern Hwy

Tues December 9

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

Woodbridge Hotel
Ravenswing.
From 6pm. Free.
50 East St Guildford

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Smooth Groove.
4pm-7pm. Free.
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Kalamunda View

News from your City | December 2025



Mayor's MESSAGE

The festive season is almost upon us, and with the commencement of the Birak season come our hot summer months.

As we enter this special time of year, there is so much to celebrate in the beautiful City of Kalamunda!

With the end of school fast approaching, our popular School's Out Pool Party is back for 2025! Cool off and celebrate the end of the school year! Students under 18 can enjoy discounted entry for just \$10. Get your tickets before they sell out at <https://www.trybooking.com/DHNGN>.

The Christmas Festival offers a variety of family-friendly festive events, made possible through City funding to ensure our community enjoys a season full of fun and cheer. **For more information, visit www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/christmas-festival.**

As we head into the festive season, please note there will be adjusted opening hours for facilities across the City, including the transfer station, libraries, and recreation centre. **Visit www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/christmas-hours-2025-26.**

In exciting news, the City is launching the Kalamunda Readers Festival – the first festival celebrating literature and the arts! Featuring a huge line-up of 19 popular fiction authors and illustrators, including local West Australian stars, this event is guaranteed to ignite inspiration and joy for book lovers, aspiring writers, and illustrators alike. Tickets are now available – the perfect Christmas gift for the book lovers in your life. For more information visit www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/kalamunda-readers-festival.

On a more serious note, we have now entered the Prohibited Burning Season. During this period, no burning is allowed, and all signs of fire should be reported to 000. This is a good time to review your bushfire plan and keep your family and property safe. To stay up to date on alerts and warnings, visit www.emergency.wa.gov.au.

Stay safe, stay cool, and I look forward to celebrating our beautiful community with you this festive season!

Mayor Margaret Thomas JP

Have Your Say

Join the conversation and contribute to matters happening in your City.

Scan the QR code for more or visit engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au



Ordinary Council Meeting
6:30pm, Tuesday 9 December
Administration Centre, Council Chambers

Visit kalamunda.wa.gov.au to view the Agenda

SCHOOLS OUT POOL PARTY!

CELEBRATE THE END OF SCHOOL

18 DECEMBER 2025



Celebrate the end of the school year at our annual School's Out Pool Party at Kalamunda Water Park!

There will be plenty of fun for everyone, including unlimited water slide rides, chillout zone, music/DJ to keep the vibes high and photobooth fun!

- \$10 discounted entry for under 18s
- \$15 adults (18+), or \$3 spectator fee

Beat the queue! Get your tickets at <https://www.trybooking.com/DHNGN>



Kalamunda Readers Festival

20 - 22 March 2026

Join us for tales, talks and thoughts at the new Kalamunda Readers Festival!

CITY LAUNCHES NEW READERS FESTIVAL

The City is set to unlock creativity, inspiration, and storytelling magic at the first Kalamunda Readers Festival, taking place from 20–22 March 2026.

Showcasing a huge line-up of 19 popular fiction authors and illustrators, including local West Australian stars such as Michael Trant, Rachael Johns, Sara Foster, Gabriel Evans, James Foley, Kate Emery, Renée Trembl, Madeline Te Whiu, Juliet Marillier, Emily Paull, Stefanie Koens, Stephen B. Platt, Tamara Moss, Sasha Wasley and many more.

Tickets for the festival are now on sale - the perfect Christmas gift for the book lovers, aspiring writers or illustrators in your life!



www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/kalamunda-readers-festival

CHIRRIGER KWILLA

EXHIBITION DATES |

6 DECEMBER 2025–4 JANUARY 2026



This intergenerational exhibition brings together celebrated Noongar artist Peter Farmer Snr and his son Peter Farmer Jr, presenting new works on canvas created especially for this show.

At its heart are the artists' deeply personal connections to their ancestral totems – the Chirriger (Blue Wren) and the Kwilla (Great White Shark) – alongside the element totem Kaarl (Fire). Totems are guides connecting us to culture, language, and lineage.

This exhibition is proudly supported by the WA Government's Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (CITS).



Find out more
kalamunda.wa.gov.au/gallery

CELEBRATE THE Festive Season In Kalamunda!

The Christmas Festival promises something for everyone, with events designed to bring joy, creativity, and holiday spirit to all.

Scan for more information



City of Kalamunda * CHRISTMAS + NEW YEAR

Opening Hours 2025–2026 *

View our city opening hours by visiting kalamunda.wa.gov.au or scan the QR code



Additional Bin Collections over the holidays

During the weeks starting 22 and 29 December, all three bins will be collected. Collection day may shift due to public holidays.



Prohibited Burning
1 December 2025 – 31 March 2026
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Contact Us

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Read between the lines

by Pastor Ian Kirk

Found Out

While my wife Colleen recovers from total knee replacement surgery, I went for a stroll through Kings Park the other day. It was a beautiful sunny day; and it was so nice walking along the bush tracks, seeing a few remaining wildflowers, and coming across open areas where I beheld beautiful well-kept lawns and lakes.

On one track, I came across a beehive. It was in the hollow of an old dead tree trunk. I could come right up to the hive, without the bees attacking me - as long as I didn't disturb the hive.

I remember a story about a beehive involving my brother John when he was young. Some of his mates decided to throw some rocks at it. They managed to hit it, and you wouldn't believe what happened next! Although the 'rock throwers' were some distance away, the bees found them out and stung them multiple times - including my brother. No matter how fast they ran, the bees found them. It reminds me of that saying: "Your sins will find you out".

But it's not just a saying - it's a solemn reality when it comes to meeting God one day. That's why I'm so glad Jesus came into our world; as we remember at Christmas time. The angel said to Joseph "You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save us from our sins". When we trust in Jesus, we are forgiven and our "sins will not find us out".

ECHO NEWS

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Employment



CEO Recruitment Selection Panel Expression of Interest

The Shire of York is recruiting for a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). In accordance with Section 8(3)(b) of Schedule 2 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, the Selection Panel recruiting the CEO must include an Independent Member. Expressions of Interest are sought from suitably qualified and experienced individuals to be an Independent Member on the Selection Panel.

Further information is available on the Shire's website www.york.wa.gov.au. Interested candidates are to complete the Expressions of Interest form and submit it to the Shire by no later than **4pm on Monday 22 December 2025**. Responses are to be addressed to the **CEO Selection Panel** and can be lodged via email to records@york.wa.gov.au (preferred). Hand-delivered or posted submissions will also be accepted and can be sent to 1 Joaquina Street or PO Box 22 YORK WA 6302.

Further information may be obtained from Vanessa Green, Council & Executive Support Officer via P: 08 9641 0500 or E: vanessa.green@york.wa.gov.au.

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Kalamunda supports new housing in Forrestfield

From p4

"Generally speaking, in these types of new estates a road would be 15m wide and that would accommodate the road carriageway and embedded parking in addition to the footpath and the like," he said.

Mr Ross said although it wasn't mandated that interface lots, meaning lots at the edge of the estate, would be mandated to be R25 to 30, it would be the logical and highly likely outcome.

"The lots interfacing with the bush forever side will have a necessary setback because of the bushfire considerations," he said.

"Generally, an R40 lot will be accommodated with an area of higher amenity so it will be adjacent to public open space to offset the smaller lot size.

"Those lots realistically aren't going to sell and they're also going to provide what is a very inconsistent streetscape because of what's on the opposite side - it's going to appear disjointed from an estate perspective.

"So, it's highly, highly unlikely that that would even be proposed even though we are not proposing to mandate it."

Cr Giardina asked about how treed the area would be and Mr Ross said landscaping plans weren't on hand at the time, but developers were very aware of the council's desire to see the area treed.

"There absolutely is the intention for street tree planting along all the streets," Mr Ross said.

Councillor David Modolo spoke in support of the zoning to accommodate the estate's density demands.

"In a housing crisis, we do desperately need residential zone land, and this location in Forrestfield would be a wonderful place to live," Cr Modolo said.

City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas said she supported the motion and Kalamunda was lucky to have a developer of Satterley's calibre looking to provide new housing in Forrestfield.

"We've heard from (Mr Ross) that the bulk of the estate will be R25 to R30," she said.

"We heard that the three objections weren't about density, and I believe they'll do a really beautiful development because the market suggests what they need to do.

"It won't sell if it's not right."

Resident petitions for stronger Kalamunda tree retention

From p7.

"Our community has told us that protecting and growing our tree canopy is a priority.

"Trees are a long-term investment in the health and wellbeing of our town, and we're proud to be setting the standard with a policy that protects trees in both public and private spaces."

The Bassendean town policy considers a tree regulated if it is over 8m tall, has canopy wider than 6m and a trunk circumference of 1.5m or more and is not listed as a weed species by the state or local weed registers.

However, it is worth noting that as of 2024, according to the state government's urban tree canopy dashboard, Kalamunda's canopy cover exceeding 3m for street blocks were at 34 per cent, 26 per cent for roads, 35 per cent for parks and 33 per cent for other areas.

In comparison, Bassendean's canopy cover exceeding 3m for street blocks were at 10 per cent, 14 per cent for roads, 25 per cent for parks and 10 per cent for other areas.

A free service for non-profit organisations

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ECHO Notice Board

Upcoming Events

- **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 on 0431 201 814 or Jan on 6279 4031.
- **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.

- **The Mundaring Garden Club** is resuming activities on Tuesday, February 10 at Church of Christ venue, 1470 Stonerville Road, Mundaring, at 9.45am. Come along and join in the quiz and a cuppa as a guest. For more information call Teresa on 0438 021 374 or visit www.mundaringgardenclub.com.au
- **The Kalamunda Lapidary Club** at 3 Recre-

ation Road, Kalamunda is a club dedicated to collecting, polishing and creating 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 each month where possible with examples for sale. You can check their Facebook page for current events. For more information call Richard on 0422 181 200.

- **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 Cathy on 0460 777 557 or email cwa.midland@outlook.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

Gemma is a three-year-old boxer. She is good with kids and loves going on walks and being part of a family. Gemma is good company for a retired couple. She is sterilised, vaccinated, and microchipped. Costs apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

Midland Guildford female side highlights

JOSHUA MCKENZIE

AS the senior male sides began two-day matches last weekend for Midland Guildford Cricket Club, the focus was on the female sides and the T20 matches that they played.

It was a double-header of matches for the female A grade as they played Wanneroo and Perth.

After winning the toss and batting first against Wanneroo, the side were 5-19 before a partnership between Kelsi Brennan, with 39 runs not out from 41 balls, and Lily-May Lyndon, with 23 not out from 45, helped them reach 5-84 from their 20 overs.

The bowling effort was highlighted by Georgie Manek taking 3-10 from three overs, but it wasn't enough as they lost by four wickets.

In the second match, they won the toss against Perth and chose to bowl first.

Manek had the most wickets again with 2-17 from four overs as the side restricted their opponents to 5-125 from 20 overs.

The run chase was dominated by captain Veronica Keen who top scored with an unbeaten 68 runs from 67 balls.

The side chased down the target with three wickets to spare and four balls remaining.

The female B grade faced Subiaco Floreat in their match and were unable to chase down the target of 140 for victory.

They reached 4-126 from their 20 overs with Justine Hayward-Janney top scoring with 62 from 45, but they fell short by 13 runs.

It was a dominant victory for the Female U17 against Rockingham Mandurah as they scored 3-172 from their 20 overs.

Georgia Baker, with 60 from 53, and Kaitlyn Magistro, 53 from 30, shared a 97-run partnership in the innings.

In the bowling innings, Pippa Meaden took 3-14 from four overs and the side restricted their opposition to 7-71 to secure a 101-run win.

The female U14 also played Rockingham Mandurah in their match, and they also won



The female U17 team continue their streak of dominant victories at the most recent MGCC round.

by a comfortable margin.

They posted 3-153 in the first innings with Millicent Baker, with 50 from 49, and Shanaya Singh Chauhan, with 52 not out from 55, both posting half-centuries.

They managed to restrict their opponents to 4-78 in the run chase, winning the match by 75 runs.

The club will look to continue with these positive results in the upcoming round of matches this weekend.



An Ellenbrook Secondary College student using a volleyball court.

Sports funding opens up more facilities to the community

MIKE PEETERS

ELLENBROOK Secondary College has received \$50,000 of sports funding for sea container storage, outdoor beach volleyball goal posts, grandstand seating, earthworks and turfing, and lock upgrades for gates.

The funding is being used in conjunction with Volleyball WA and is part of round three of the state government's \$10 million community use of school sporting facilities (CUSF) program.

A college spokesperson said the joint grant with Volleyball WA would help open up the school's facilities to more children in the community, while enhancing the facilities available.

"At this stage, the funds have not been fully spent. We have ordered the sea container and are currently waiting for its delivery," they said.

"Regarding the volleyball area, the remaining funds

will be used to resurface the ground."

A Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport spokesperson said the program helped build stronger, more active communities by boosting participation in grassroots sport, while ensuring school facilities were used to their full potential.

Under the funding program's third round, \$1.4 million in grants have been awarded to 33 schools across 10 sporting codes, providing upgrades for local infrastructure, sport equipment, and school resources.

It is supported by \$332m in the 2025-26 state budget for sports infrastructure projects across the state.

The next round of CUSF funding will open in Term 1, 2026.

For more information, go to the community use of school sporting facilities program webpage on the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport's website.

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The home has been refreshed in recent years, giving it a neat and welcoming feel.

The neutral greys of the living room's walls and curtains provide a blank canvas where renovators and new owners can freely decorate and add their own splashes of colour to make it their own.

The kitchen has also been updated, providing a tidy, functional space that's ready to enjoy or further enhance down the track.

The window above the kitchen sink offers a view overlooking the backyard and ducts overhead help to keep the air in the cooking area fresh and circulating.

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Bedrooms, like the living room, are painted with

neutral greys and invite decoration from its new inhabitants.

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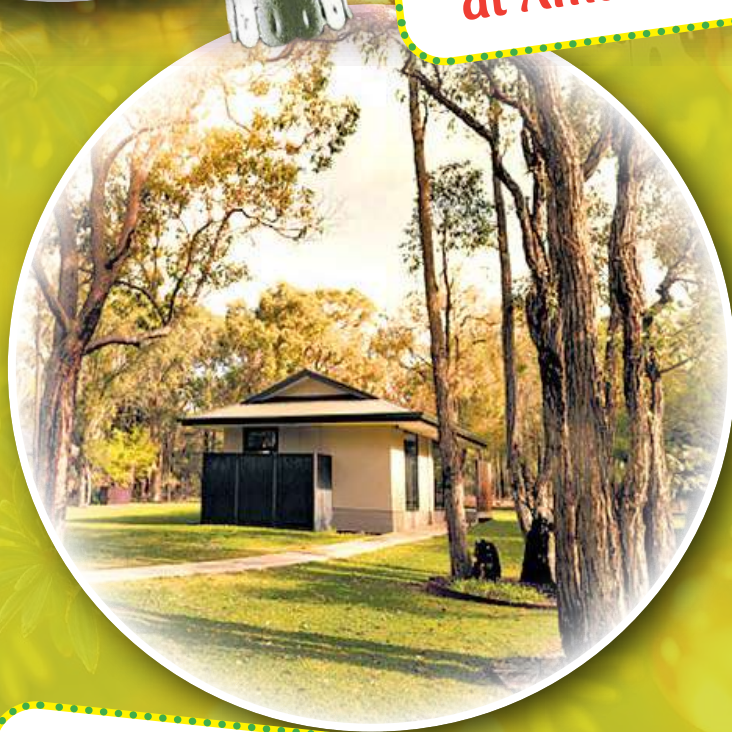
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