

Friday, January 23, 2026



Authorised by S.Catania 34/6 Keane St, Midland WA 6056

VOL.43 NO.1946

Local Business Supporting Local People

Mural  
to boost  
youth

P6



Frustration  
with closure  
plans

P10



Hyper  
to return to  
Midland

P15



## Illegal dumping in Gidge

Residents are demanding action over illegal dumping along Toodyay Road, where refrigerators, couches, tyres and household rubbish are being left in plain view.

PG 3

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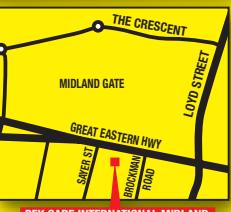
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**GIDGEGANNUP RESIDENTS SAY ILLEGAL DUMPING HAS REACHED CRISIS POINT WITH DUMPED RUBBISH LEFT ON ROADSIDES FOR MONTHS, WITH RUBBISH GROWING**

**RESIDENTS ARE FRUSTRATED AT THE LACK OF ACTION FROM THE CITY OF SWAN.**

## ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say:  
[editorial@echo-news.com](mailto:editorial@echo-news.com)

### Thanks for the help

**Dear Echo News,**

My name is David Howell and I live in Parkerville and I was walking across Great Eastern Highway opposite Seaborne Street, and I fell over and hit my head on the pavement.

Within two minutes six people and two police officers came to help me.

I want to sincerely thank all of them for their help in making sure I was okay.

**D Howell**  
Parkerville

there is/are some impairment with many vehicle operators thus they should not be on the road.

Many fail to stop at Scott Street hence the number of near misses and incidents.

Please drive in a safe and courteous and careful manner.

You might be the next incident.

**E Smith**  
Glen Forrest

### Trucks needed to deliver

**Dear Echo News,**

Has Mr Hughes any idea of the traffic that uses the Great Eastern highway through Midland and the heavy vehicles that are required to deliver goods to the businesses along this route?

Thankfully, Main Roads also recognise the issue with the railway station requiring this access for buses and drop offs.

You only have to look at the disaster which is now Clayton Street to see how to really cause major traffic snarl ups.

I think we need to leave well alone, until we don't need road transport at all.

**Is that the future?**  
**N Mclean**  
Mundaring

### Glyphosate spraying a concern

**Dear Echo News,**

On January 9 about 10.30am in the morning I observed the spraying at the High Wycombe train station precinct in high winds, of deadly glyphosate, well-known as a carcinogenic chemical and banned in many countries.

Many motorists fail to stop at stop signs.

With modern vehicles there is a thing called cruise control.

Why not use instead of ignoring the accepted guidelines?

I often wonder if

### Thought for the day

"Life's meaning is not in following someone else, it is in the unfolding of one's own self. It is not a process of becoming like someone else, it is to be oneself." – Osho

Unusually, the sprayer walked within less than a meter of three girls sitting on the steel seats (near the 277/276 bus stop).

He had the nozzle down and was apparently spraying into cracks (with no evidence of any plant life) as he passed them.

The sprayer at this time had a sign on display and then came back on the other side.

The sign reads: "Caution Glyphosate being applied. Avoid contact with this area whilst the sign is displayed."

How is one to "avoid contact" when the spray can easily be carried in high winds, and the sprayer intrudes where people are sitting?

Two sprayers then continued to spray plants further away.

Many people would consider this a dangerous activity and to come so close to children it is doubly so.

I think the nature of the activity should be discontinued.

This is the third time I have had to draw attention to irresponsible spraying in high winds of carcinogenic sprays in Kalamunda City.

About seven years ago I advised Minister Day of spraying in high winds using a swinging spraying apparatus from a truck driving outside St Barnabas Anglican Church in Kalamunda as my wife, with intensive asthma, was walking right beside it.

A few years ago a truck sprayed glyphosate in our street.

The City of Kalamunda and the WA Department of Health

should show greater interest in dangerous chemical spraying.

**P Limb**  
Kalamunda

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**K Hartnett**  
Salvation Army  
Moneycare

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# Gidgegannup residents demand action over illegal dumping

BRAYDEN MOULD

**FRUSTRATION** is piling in Gidgegannup as residents claim illegal dumping along Toodyay Road has reached a break point, with rubbish left on the roadside for months, in what residents describe as a lack of action from the City of Swan.

Toodyay Road, often described as the gateway to the Avon Valley, has been plagued by repeated incidents of dumped waste, including refrigerators, couches, tyres, and general household rubbish.

Gidgegannup resident Sue Adams said reports to the city have been largely ignored, claiming the problem has been effectively handballed to neighbours to clean up themselves.

"It's gotten so bad my kids play spotto with the rubbish on the way home from school," she said.

"They shout out when they see the couch, the refrigerator, or the pile of tyres as we drive past.

"An elderly gentleman I know waited eight months for the city to clean up the pile of garbage, only to get sick of waiting and ended up cleaning it up himself."

Residents believe the surge in illegal dumping is linked to the costs to dump at the nearby Red Hill Waste Management Facility, which can cost upwards of \$50 just to dispose of rubbish.

"A lot of people are saying it's because of the high fees at Red Hill," Ms Adams said.

"They try and do the right thing and dump it legally, but when they find out the cost, they choose to avoid paying the bill and just dump it along the road on the way home instead."



Refrigerators, couches, and tyres are all items being dumped along the roadside.

## Kalamunda's three headed High Wycombe challenges

GUANHAO CHENG

THE City of Kalamunda faces three separate planning challenges in High Wycombe centred on Sultana Road West land-use conflicts, the delivery of a Metronet station, and more recent rezoning concerns at Hatch Court.

The city said it wanted to emphasise that while the challenges were all located in High Wycombe, they arose from different decisions made at different times and should not be treated as a single planning problem.

*Echo News* has a look back at the history of the area and how planning priority changes caused unforeseen consequences for High Wycombe residents living between residential and industrial zones.

One of the longest-running issues is where industrial and residential zoning meet along Sultana Road West, which has been a source of reported negative quality-of-life impacts for residents for many years.

As reported in *Sultana Road West residents' buffer concerns remain* (*Echo News*, January 16), City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas said the situation was the result of planning transitions over time rather than a single decision by the council.



High Wycombe South. Picture: City of Kalamunda.

The city said land in High Wycombe South, adjacent to Sultana Road West, was originally planned and zoned for industrial use under earlier state and local planning frameworks.

Before 2010, expectations around buffers and separation distances were guided by policies that predated current interface and environmental standards, with roads and lot boundaries often relied on for separation.

Between 2010 and 2014, planning for the Forrestfield-High Wycombe Industrial Area continued, and the city planned for additional industrial development in its local planning strategy.

Changes were introduced with its consequences on resident's amenities becoming apparent later, when in the same period, the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) progressed planning changes affecting High Wycombe South.

This was in response to major state infrastructure announcements related to the Forrestfield Airport Link.

In 2014, land north of Sultana Road West which was originally intended for light industrial use began transitioning toward higher-density residential outcomes, to fit state government infill and urban consolidation goals.

Cont. p18

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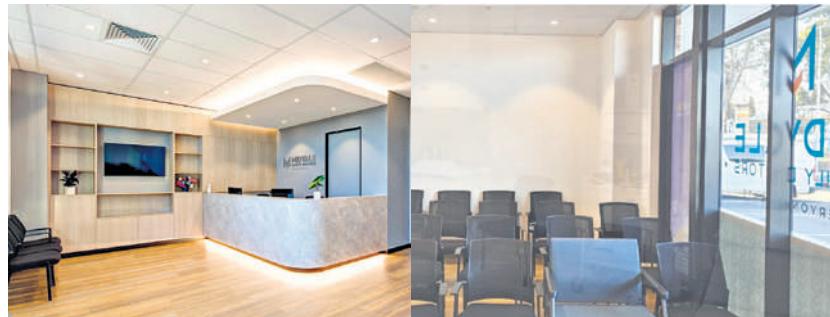


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## Perth Hills family holds 150th Weston gravesite anniversary



Family members of baby Francis commemorating the 150th anniversary.

#### BRAYDEN MOULD

DEEP within the bushland of the Perth Hills, the descendants of one of the region's earliest pioneering families gathered on Sunday to honour a life that lasted only two days, but created a legacy spanning 150 years.

On January 18, more than 40 family members assembled at the Weston grave in Carmel to commemorate the anniversary of young Francis Weston's passing.

The gathering served as a reflection on a lineage that has remained connected to the gravesite for more than 15 decades.

The first child of Richard and Mary Weston, Francis was born on January 17, 1876 at the Mason and Bird Timber Mill where his father worked as a carpenter and wheelwright.

The infant survived only two days before passing away on January 19, leading to his father – an Irish convict who arrived in 1864 – to hand craft a coffin, jarrah headstone, and picket fence for a burial site in the forest.

A descendant of the original Weston family, Marilyn Rollings said the 150th anniversary marked a significant milestone for the family.

"We usually hold small ceremonies every few years, but this one was a particularly important occasion," she said.

"More than 40 people attended, including local residents, family members from the Perth metro area, family from Busselton, and one relative who travelled from Victoria especially for the gathering."

The grave has been looked after by the family since the infant's death, with Richard Weston tending to the grave until 1922, after which his son Gregory maintained the site for the next 40 years.

This tradition was continued by Gregory's son Neil, whose daughters Jill Della-Franca, and Marilyn Rollings have now assumed the responsibility of looking after the gravesite.

"My grandfather looked after the grave, then it was my father, and now it has passed to my generation," Ms Rollings said.

While the site was placed on the state heritage register in 2009, Ms Rollings credited the family's ongoing devotion for its continued preservation.

"Nothing really changed after 2009, but the family has made sure to look after it, to keep it maintained and safe," she said.

"We ended up building an outer fence around it to protect it, and we regularly clean it and repair any damage."

The ceremony included a display of historical items relating to the Weston family and early settlement of the Perth Hills.

Attendees also shared a reading from a book containing a poem written in 1982 by a Walliston school student, which commemorated baby Francis and his brief life.

According to the heritage council of Western Australia the gravesite is a lasting example of an earlier time in Perth's history.

"Weston Grave is one of the few remaining pieces of physical evidence of the Mason and Bird Timber Mill's existence," the heritage report said.

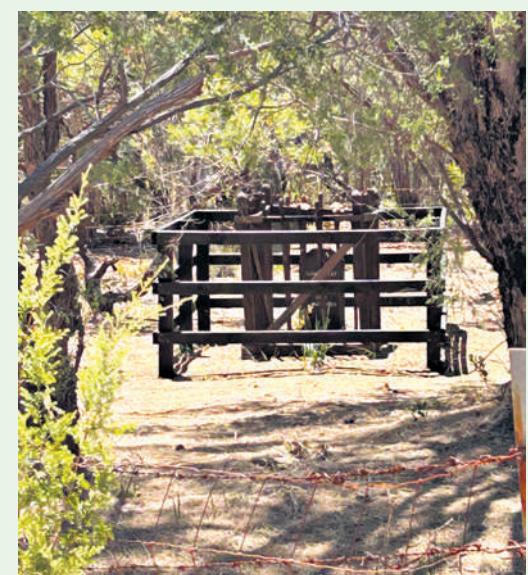
"Richard and Mary Weston were one of a few handful of pioneering families to settle in the area, and descendants still remain in the Darling Ranges today."



Memorabilia about the gravesite.



101 year old Mollie Weston with daughters Marilyn Rollings and Jill Della-Franca at the family reunion.



The heritage listed little grave of Francis Weston.

# Tobacco crimes in eastern suburbs predicted two years prior

GUANHAO CHENG

**SUPERMARKET** proprietor Ben Heptinstall said the situation facing retailers in Perth's eastern suburbs reflected warnings he made more than two years ago, with illegal tobacco sales increasingly displacing legitimate businesses.

"To put it bluntly, everything I said back in 2023 has come true, and I think it's going to get worse before it gets any better," he said.

Mr Heptinstall said he is part of a national tobacco committee alongside retailers and industry leaders and observed crackdowns in other states forced criminal activity west where laws were more lax.

"Queensland and NSW have introduced tough laws, so the activity shifts," he said.

"Right now, we're seeing Victoria and South Australia pick up that market, and it's only logical to understand WA is becoming increasingly exposed because we don't have the laws to stop it."

As reported in *Concerns cigarette and vape black market growing* (Echo News, September 15, 2023), Mr Heptinstall previously warned violence associated with the illicit tobacco trade would eventually reach Western Australia.

Mr Heptinstall said cost-of-living pressures were pushing otherwise law-abiding residents into the illegal market.

"When people can buy a pack of smokes for half the price, I completely understand why they're being pushed to do it," he said.

"Consumers slowly moved from legitimate retailers to the black market, and now it's completely out of control and violent."

He said retailers were increasingly

fearful of being pressured into selling illicit tobacco.

"Retailers are absolutely feeling unsafe," he said.

Mr Heptinstall said he was uncertain that recent enforcement changes announced by the state government would be enough on their own.

"They're making millions of dollars," he said.

"A few-thousand-dollar fine is not a deterrent when businesses can reopen after prosecution."

The comments follow a January 18 announcement by the state government outlining new measures to crack down on illegal tobacco operations across the state.

The measures include appointing senior Police Superintendent Steve Post in the Department of Health to lead tobacco compliance operations, expanding inspector numbers and drafting changes to the Tobacco Products Control Act to allow tougher penalties and store closures.

Premier Roger Cook said the illegal tobacco trade was being driven by organised crime and required a whole-of-government response.

Police Minister Reece Whitby said buying cheap illegal cigarettes was directly funding serious and organised crime.

Mr Heptinstall said meaningful consultation with retailers would be critical if the new laws were to have a real impact on the ground.

"Without that input, I'm not confident the legislation will address what retailers in communities like ours are already dealing with," he said.

A state government spokesperson said they would draw inspiration from other states' measures.

"Drafting effective legislation is complex... it will be introduced to parliament as soon as possible," they said.



The eastern suburbs' retailers have been victim to a rise in illicit tobacco related crimes. Picture: Brayden Mould

"As part of the drafting process, we look to other states to see what measures are having the greatest impact on this illicit market."

Hasluck MP Tania Lawrence said more inspectors, stronger penalties and the ability to shut down rogue stores in WA will make a real difference for communities that want safer streets.

"State enforcement only works if it's backed by strong federal action" she said.

"I can assure our community that our governments are not looking the other way."

Ms Lawrence said federal government was also stopping illegal tobacco at the border, cracking down on imports and investing \$345 million in enforcement.

## Happy Australia Day!

Wishing everyone a happy and safe celebration, and a big welcome to our newest Australians.

Today we celebrate the diversity, opportunity, and shared values that make our community strong.

**Tania Lawrence MP**  
Member for Hasluck

Tania Lawrence MP  
 @tanialawrencemp

[tanialawrence.com.au](http://tanialawrence.com.au)  
 2/257 Great Eastern Hwy, Midland, WA 6056

Authorised by T. Lawrence, ALP, 2/257 Great Eastern Highway Midland WA 6056



Previous work by lead Northam mural artist Alex 'Sugar' Kinneen.

## Northam mural boosts Indigenous youth wellbeing and participation

GUANHAO CHENG

NORTHAM is set to receive a new public mural as part of a mental health push involving creative activities that boost the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth.

The mural to be painted at 6 Wellington Street will begin works on January 26, led by lead artist Alex Kinneen, known as Sugar.

The mural is part of the state government-funded Stay Strong, Look After You and Your Mob campaign, inviting young Aboriginal people to work alongside an experienced artist to create large-scale public artworks carrying messages of self-care, resilience and community connection.

Mental Health Minister Meredith Hammat said the campaign promoted wellbeing not only through the murals' public messages, but through the creative process itself.

"This important campaign promotes the social and emotional wellbeing of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders through the

artwork's public messaging, and through the creative process," she said.

Northam is already known for murals that celebrate community stories, characters and heritage, with colourful artworks transforming everyday streets into shared cultural spaces for locals and visitors alike.

The addition of the wellbeing-focused mural continues that tradition, using public art to bring meaningful messages into the heart of the town.

Ms Hammat said the initiative was designed to take young people offline following the introduction of the social media ban for children under 16.

"This campaign takes young people offline to create and engage with something meaningful in a public space," she said.

By working alongside experienced local artists, young people are encouraged to express themselves through art while contributing to a permanent feature within their community.

"By working with an experienced

artist in each of the locations, young people can experience the benefits of expressing themselves through art and, hopefully, be inspired by what they can achieve," Ms Hammat said.

The Northam mural forms part of a broader statewide rollout, with murals also being painted in Karratha, Geraldton, Perth and Albany.

The campaign aims to inspire young people to look after themselves and their mob, while engaging Elders, community groups and health professionals who support Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing.

The Northam mural will feature a theme promoting positive communication and "yarning with someone you trust" according to Made You Look director Will Clark.

"(Alex) designed the mural based on all the feedback from the Indigenous kids (from Northam), and hopefully during the process, the kids can come down and help install the mural," he said.

## Success Hill drainage project almost finished

GUANHAO CHENG

A LONG-running drainage project at Success Hill Reserve is nearing completion, with the Town of Bassendean confirming works are expected to finish within the next two to three weeks.

The Success Hill drainage diversion project is intended to permanently manage surface water runoff from an upstream residential catchment and replace a temporary drainage pipe at the foreshore.

Installation of a high-density polyethylene pipe along Eighth Avenue was completed before the Christmas break, with crews now installing a concrete pipe along Anzac Terrace.

The town said once pipe installation is complete, tidy-up and reinstatement works would begin at Kelly Park and Success Hill Reserve, with verges along Seventh Avenue and Eighth Avenue returned as closely as possible to their pre-construction condition.

Traffic management remains in place on Eighth Avenue and Anzac Terrace, with the town thanking residents and park users for their patience while the works are carried out.

The current design follows community concern raised in mid-2025 about an earlier

proposal that would have significantly altered the topography of Success Hill Reserve.

Friends of Success Hill Reserve member Jane Bremmer had warned the original concept would reduce public open space and pose risks to a registered Aboriginal heritage site.

She welcomed the revised approach when construction began in November.

"(I'm) so glad that the Town of Bassendean agreed that the original plans needed a rethink and chose this option instead of a plan that would have changed the entire topography of this place, risking cultural heritage and further damage to this registered sacred site that has already suffered so much historically," she said.

Ms Bremmer previously said the earlier design would convert part of the southern grassy area of the reserve into an above-ground stormwater sump, reducing recreation space and affecting how families and Noongar community members use the area.

Following discussion at an ordinary council meeting, the town decided not to proceed with that plan.

"A great leap forward for the preservation of this sacred site and precious public open space," Ms Bremmer said.

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# Swan residents call for synthetic turf ban in effort to beat the heat

BRAYDEN MOULD

PRESSURE is mounting on the City of Swan to join the growing list of Perth councils outlawing synthetic turf to protect tree canopy and combat the rising urban heat island (UHI) effect felt in residential neighbourhoods.

The call for change follows successful bans in Fremantle, Victoria Park, and Subiaco, where artificial grass has been restricted to protect public health and the environment.

Local resident Catherine Dixon claims the installation of plastic lawns ruins local aesthetics while driving up temperatures in residential neighbourhoods.

"Synthetic turf has been documented to reach temperatures over double or triple the air temperature," Ms Dixon said.

"They're significantly hotter than natural grass, concrete, and asphalt which can put people at risk of burns and heat-related illnesses.

"Not to mention houses that have artificial grass (almost always) have nearly zero trees."

The City of Swan's own urban forest plan confirms that an increase in a neighbourhood's heat can affect people's health alongside the health of native wildlife that live in the area.

"The EPA has noted that heat-wave related deaths in Perth could more than double by 2050 as a result of the UHI effect and climate change," the 2022 report said.

"Green corridors and streetscapes are critical in supporting biodiversity, and mitigating heat as (Perth's) population approaches 3.5 million by 2050."

Ms Dixon argues the city should completely ban the use of synthetic turf and switch to alternative natural grass, plants and trees.

"The trend in new developments installing fake grass is not helping our heat island or tree canopy," she said.

"It looks ugly, weeds still grow, it fades in colour, it doesn't hold its shape, and it smells."

"It's time for the City of Swan to join the list and ban its use."



Synthetic turf temperatures can reach more than double or triple the temperature of the air.

City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson confirmed that while the city hasn't yet pursued a total ban, they remain firmly opposed to the trend of replacing natural surfaces with synthetic turf.

"While the City of Swan does not currently ban the use of synthetic turf on verges, it is discouraged," she said.

"Waterwise verges with native plants and mulch increase water efficiency and stormwater infiltration, creating a cooling effect, and provide habitat for local wildlife."

"Additionally, the greening of verges can be beneficial for human health and wellbeing, improving aesthetics and saving money."

"Residents who plan to install synthetic turf must obtain permission from the city."

# Lupinosis warning for livestock

WHEATBELT livestock producers with lupin stubbles are urged to monitor flocks for signs of the liver disease, lupinosis, following widespread rainfall in November.

There have been several reports of the disease in sheep flocks, particularly in the southern region, where lupin crops are increasingly being sown for grazing as a standing crop.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) field veterinary officer Judy Burson recommended producers check sheep regularly for signs of lupinosis and take prompt action, if the disease is suspected.

"Lupin crops or stubbles are a valuable feed source but need careful management," Dr Burson said.

"Early signs of lupinosis can be subtle and include reduced appetite and loss of condition, disorientation and lethargy when driven, and individuals not keeping up with the mob or staying near water points."

"More severe cases show disorientation, blindness or head pressing behaviour, a hunched appearance and yellowing of the membranes around the eyes and in the mouth."

"Stock showing symptoms should be removed from the paddock immediately and advice sought from a veterinarian to diagnose the illness."

"The earlier action is taken, the less affected the flock or herd will be."

Lupinosis is mainly caused by the consumption of lupin stubble that contains the fungus *Diaporthe toxica* (previously called *Phomopsis leptostromiformis*).

While modern narrow leaf lupin varieties typically have *Phomopsis* resistance, these strains can still develop the disease under suitable conditions.

Dr Burson said affected livestock would need additional care, after they



DPIRD field veterinary officer Dr Judy Burson encourages livestock producers to monitor their animals regularly for signs of the liver disease lupinosis.

have been moved to new paddocks.

"Stock are best moved to a small paddock, with plenty of shade and water for a couple of weeks," she said.

"Provide quality hay with small amounts of oats, if needed, but not lupins, as the damaged liver is unable to process a high protein diet."

"It can take up to six months for some animals to fully recover."

Professional diagnosis by a veterinarian is recommended, as lupinosis symptoms can be similar to other diseases, including diseases exotic to Australia.

Subsidies under the Significant Disease Investigation Program may be available for investigations to aid early detection.

Details on lupinosis identification and management are available on the DPIRD website at <https://www.dpird.wa.gov.au/lupinosis>

## Back To School

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# Inaugural urban greening strategy released by the state government



Community, local school and government projects all play an important part in the new strategy.

THE state government has released the first ever urban greening strategy for Perth and Peel aiming to combat urban heat, strengthen climate resilience, support health and well-being, and enhance biodiversity and access to nature.

It also recognises the contribution schools and community groups can make to increasing the tree canopy, from growing micro-forests on school sites to planting in local recreation areas, civic spaces, and verges.

To encourage urban greening projects aligned with the strategy, the Cook government will soon launch a new Let's Grow grants program and the first Let's Grow action plan.

Round one of the Let's Grow grants will fund schools and community groups to deliver urban greening projects that focus on boosting tree canopy.

The strategy and Let's Grow grants will drive progress towards the government's commitment to increase Perth's tree canopy cover to 30 per cent by 2040, and plant one million trees by 2035.

These measures build on state government funding already underway including the \$6.9 million Treebates incentive and the \$7.2m Tree Recovery Program.

The strategy will also deliver urban greening awareness and foster strong collaboration to ensure a shared vision towards better outcomes.

It has been shaped by extensive research and consultation, including with the leaders of the Danjoo Koortliny Walking Togeth-



The recently released Urban Greening Strategy.

er project.

Planning and Lands Minister John Carey said the government had worked extensively to develop the first ever urban greening strategy for Perth and Peel, while making significant investments to boost urban canopy.

"In line with this government's commitment to delivering housing and essential infrastructure, the strategy provides a co-ordinated, practical approach to ensure trees, plants, and green spaces are integrated into our neighbourhoods as they evolve.

"This new strategy supports our efforts to boost urban canopy including changes to the residential codes to incentivise tree retention, the Treebates incentive, and the Tree Recovery program."

Environment Minister Matthew Swinbourn said around the world, urban greening is being adopted as a response to global challenges like climate change and biodiversity loss.

"The Urban Greening Strategy reinforces the need to grow tree canopy and vegetation to shade and cool our neighbourhoods and improve community wellbeing.

"But more than just planting trees, urban greening helps protect and enhance the natural world that sustains us all. We all need to work together to create a city that is climate-resilient and nature-rich for generations to come."

For further details on Let's Grow, visit [www.wa.gov.au/lets-grow](http://www.wa.gov.au/lets-grow) or to go directly to the strategy go to [www.wa.gov.au/media/158553/download?inline](http://www.wa.gov.au/media/158553/download?inline)

## WALGA offers strategy support

WESTERN Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) has thrown its support behind the state government's finalisation of the Urban Greening Strategy for the Perth and Peel regions.

The strategy details how the state government plans to enhance tree canopy and create more greenspaces across the Perth and Peel regions and recognises green infrastructure as a key element in building cool, resilient and leafy suburbs and towns.

The Urban Greening Strategy also includes an Urban Greening Grant Program for community groups and schools to support local governments with their public realm planting programs.

WALGA president Karen Chappel said the association had been at the forefront of advocacy efforts in calling for measures to increase urban canopy across the state for many years.

"The release of the strategy represents important progress and WALGA looks forward to working with the state government to see its implementation across government and more importantly across our communities," Mrs Chappel said.

"We are particularly pleased the state government has established an ambitious target to increase tree canopy across Perth and Peel to 30 per cent by 2040, which corresponds with WALGA's advocacy.

"WALGA's 2026-27 State Budget submission calls on the state government to invest \$40 million over 10 years from 2026-27, to expand the Urban Canopy Grant Program, including for urban areas across the state," Mrs Chappel said.

"These important initiatives would create cooler urban areas and more green spaces, improved health and wellbeing and increased biodiversity.

"Building and maintaining a healthy, resilient and diverse urban forest requires coordinated action by state and local governments, land-owners, industry and the community.

"It is important that growing WA's tree canopy sees a continued effort in retaining trees on private land."



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## Bibbulmun Track Foundation welcomes new chief executive

BIBBULMUN Track Foundation has appointed Su-Mita Hill as its new chief executive officer who aims to ensure the needs of walkers, volunteers and supporters continue to sit at the heart of the foundation's work.

Ms Hill brings extensive experience in community outreach and partnership development, supported by a background in law and climate science.

She has a long-standing personal connection to the Bibbulmun Track and Western Australia's wild places.

As a passionate and experienced hiker and camper, Ms Hill believes time in nature plays a vital role in wellbeing, personal growth and belonging, while highlighting the shared responsibility to care for the environments that make these experiences possible.

Her relationship with the track began early, spending her first overnight experience at Ball Creek campsite with her father at the age of five.

In 2019 she completed an end-to-end journey from Kalamunda to Albany, which along with other walks across WA and overseas have shaped her belief in the role the Bibbulmun Track plays in community connection, conservation awareness and education.

She is passionate about education and creating opportunities for people of all ages to engage with the track in meaningful ways and hopes to draw on her experience in STEM education and outreach to help cultivate opportunities for citizen science and deeper learning across the Bibbulmun Track community.

Bibbulmun Track Foundation chair Dr Kathleen Broderick said the board is looking forward to working with her as the foundation continues its important work.

"Su-Mita brings both strong strategic capability and a deep personal understanding of what the track means to people. Her passion for community, connection and care aligns closely with the values of the foundation. We are very much looking forward to working with her to ensure the Bibbulmun Track continues to be protected, celebrated and supported for generations to come."



Newly appointed Bibbulmun Track Foundation CEO Su-Mita Hill.

# For future generations

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR WA'S FISHING COMMUNITY

To help recover stocks of spawning dhufish, pink snapper, and red emperor, urgent action is needed with stronger measures up and down our coast.

The recovery closure for boat-based recreational demersal fishing in the West Coast Zone (Kalbarri to Augusta) will be extended until Spring 2027.

Commercial demersal fishing in this zone will end permanently, and charter fishing will not be permitted between Lancelin and Mandurah.

Recreational and commercial fishing for demersals will remain open in all other regions with additional management measures introduced.

## WHAT DO THE REFORMS MEAN?

After the recovery period, the West Coast Zone will become an **exclusive** recreational fishing zone, meaning more fish in the water and a stronger future for WA's recreational fishing community.

## CAN I STILL GO FISHING?

Yes. Recreational fishing for other fish species like Mahi Mahi, Mackerel, Yellowtail Kingfish and Tuna is still permitted.

**Everyone needs to play their part for WA's future generations of fishers.**



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### PILBARA

**Recreational and charter** remain open  
**Commercial** 50% catch reduction from 1 January 2026

### KIMBERLEY

**Recreational and charter** remain open  
**Commercial** 50% catch reduction from 1 January 2026

### GASCOYNE

**Recreational, charter and commercial** remain open

### WEST COAST

**Recreational** boat-based fishing closed until Spring 2027  
**Charter** closed in metro area  
**Commercial** permanently closed from 1 January 2026

### SOUTH COAST

**Recreational and charter** remain open  
**Commercial** 50% catch reduction from 1 January 2026

# The Vines members frustrated by closure plans

GUANHAO CHENG

THE Vines Golf and Country Club members have been left uncertain about the future of The Vines after receiving a letter about the Lakes Course's closure from February 18 this year.

The closure will apply to both members and the public and is intended to enable construction of a 14-hole short course across Lakes 1 to 8.

The Vines club members said they were not provided with updated design details or information on future user arrangements associated with the proposed short course.

Questions were also raised about continued online advertising of on-site facilities that will no longer be available once construction begins.

The short course forms part of a broader redevelopment proposal for The Vines site first outlined by the owners in June 2021.

That proposal was constrained by planning requirements for several years, limiting the scope of development.

In September 2025, approval was granted to amend The Vines Structure Plan, allowing residential development on land previously used for golf as reported in *Swan Valley residents rally against development (Echo News, November 28, 2025)*.

As part of that approval, sections of the existing course are being removed from golf use.

In response to the proposed changes, club members conducted an opinion survey overseen by the Vines Residents and Ratepayers Association (VRRA).

The survey attracted 216 responses, with 85 per cent of respondents identifying as core golf members.

Survey results indicated 92 per cent opposed the proposed short course.

Eighty-five per cent opposed the existing Ellenbrook holes 3 to 11 configuration, and 87 per cent opposed the proposed new driving range location.

Five per cent of respondents supported all three elements.

The survey also indicated dissatisfaction with current course conditions.

Some respondents indicated they would not renew their memberships, citing concerns that the proposed changes would not improve the golfing experience.

Members raised concerns that residential development on former golf land may permanently alter the purpose and



A boy preparing to drive a shot down The Vines' driving range. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

safety of the site.

Some said the changes differed from earlier statements that redevelopment would secure the long-term future of golf at The Vines.

Concerns about club governance have also been raised since 2021.

Members claim opportunities for discussion were limited at annual and special general meetings.

It has been alleged that motions questioning redevelopment plans were unable to proceed.

Members also claim some individuals were censured or suspended following disputes related to the redevelopment.

Concerns were raised about voting arrangements, including the use of additional voting rights by the owner's representative.

Members say these arrangements prevented motions relating to redevelopment from advancing.

VRRA vice chair Dixon Lowe said the survey reflected declining confidence among club members.

"Total membership has fallen by over 40 per cent from 1,800, before 2021, and the club's ranking has dropped from second nationally, to barely inside the top 100," he said.

"Golfers are leaving because the course no longer meets their expectations for quality, amenity and challenge."

Mr Lowe said commencement of the short course would limit future opportunities to return the site to a full 18-hole course.

He said the changes would reduce public and tourist access to the members' course to two days per week.

Members said they were concerned about the long-term direction of the club and the future of golf at the site.

The owners previously stated the redevelopment would maintain The Vines as an international-standard golfing facility.

Members say the approved structure plan amendments have led them to question that commitment.

Further details on final design, governance arrangements and long-term public access are yet to be released.

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## Woodbridge primary develops worm farm with state funding

BRAYDEN MOULD

WOODBRIDGE Primary School is set to welcome thousands of new wriggly residents after being named a successful recipient of the latest round of the Cook government's WasteSorted school grants program.

The school is among 55 Western Australian institutions sharing more than \$150,000 to fund innovative projects aimed at reducing landfill and protecting the state's biodiversity.

The funding boost will allow Woodbridge to expand its existing sustainability program by installing a high-capacity worm farm system constructed from a recycled fridge.

Woodbridge Primary's kitchen garden coordinator Jean Muthukumaraswamy said the funding is a much-needed addition to the school's current system.

"We found that we are filling our compost cones fast, so we are keen to distribute some of this waste to a worm farm," she said.

"For the first time, we can start recycling our school canteen's fruit and vegetable scraps by using them in our new worm farm, which will be fantastic."

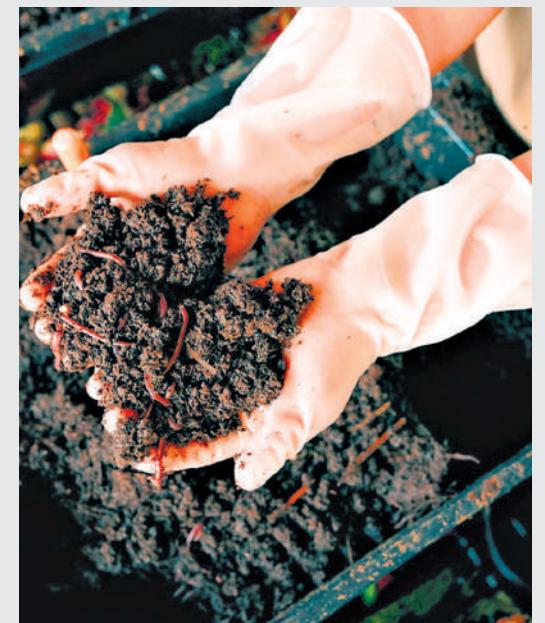
The new system will provide a critical solution for the school's organic waste, which has steadily increased since the school introduced specialised green collection bins in every classroom back in 2024.

To manage the influx of waste, the school has developed a student leadership model through its Waste Wise Warrior program.

"After our staff attended WasteSorted PD sessions, we established a sustainability committee and conducted a waste audit with students to highlight how much food waste we were producing," Ms Muthukumaraswamy said.

"We have different roles including waste management mentors, waste data wizards, and the waste compost crew."

"Once the new worm farm is ready, we will introduce a group of responsible students to



The new worm farm will be made from a recycled fridge helping the school reduce its organic waste.

participate, who will be named the Worm Squad and will be responsible for its management for the rest of the year.

"They'll be very excited to take on another challenge."

State environment minister Matthew Swinburne highlighted the importance of the school-led initiatives in developing lifelong environmental habits.

"I commend our local schools for driving positive change across Western Australia through innovative education programs," he said.

"Waste management is a shared responsibility, and small changes in everyday behaviour can lead to big reductions in landfill and improvements in our resource recovery."



ADVERTISING FEATURE

# MAKING A Difference



**Sign the petition today!**

Help save the Midland Station Clock



## The new Midland Station is on track for delivery!

It's hard to believe almost a year has passed since we were elected to Parliament. As first-time members, it's been a real privilege to represent this community and get on with delivering our commitments.

Next month, we'll welcome the opening of the new Midland Station, one of the most significant pieces of infrastructure Midland has seen in years.

This transformative project also

marks the completion of METRONET and will play a major role in Midland's continued revitalisation, improving connectivity for passengers and supporting local jobs, business activity, and future growth.

Before we get there, some critical works are still required, including the demolition of the current station. This will mean disruptions over the coming weeks.

Rail replacement buses will operate

between the new Midland Bus Interchange and Bassendean during the partial shutdown starting this Thursday 22 January, before the line reopens on 22 February 2026.

One last thing, there's still time to join the fight to save the Midland Station clock! Add your name to the petition today to help save an iconic piece of Midland.

See you on the 22nd to celebrate our new station!

**Be involved in our exclusive advertising features**

## January 2026

**Focus on Seniors**

30 JANUARY 2026

## February 2026

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**Healthy Living**

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**by Mark Goddard**

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[www.kalamunda-district.bridge-club.org](http://www.kalamunda-district.bridge-club.org)

ECHO190125S

## Why Hearing Health Matters with Matthew from Bloom Hearing Specialists

Hearing loss is more common than many people realise and often develops gradually, making it easy to miss. When left untreated, it can affect communication, relationships, mental well-being, and personal safety. Research also links hearing loss to social isolation, cognitive decline, and an increased risk of falls.

At Bloom Hearing Specialists, we're committed to supporting your hearing health at every stage of life. Just like regular dental or vision checks, hearing assessments should be part of maintaining overall wellbeing. Early detection helps you stay connected, independent, and confident.

Matthew, your local hearing specialist, answers some common questions.

*Is missing conversations a sign I need a hearing test?*

Yes. Difficulty hearing in noisy environments, asking people to repeat themselves, or turning the TV up louder than usual are early signs. A hearing test is quick, painless,



and often free.

*Do hearing aids mean I'm getting old?*

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*Is financial support available?*

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## New era for aged care in Australia begins



THE federal government has delivered the biggest aged care reforms in a generation, with the Aged Care Act 2024 and the new Support at Home program now in place.

These once-in-a-generation changes enshrine the rights of older Australians in law and create a system designed to deliver safe, dignified and high-quality care for an ageing population.

The reforms respond to 58 recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, which exposed a system defined by one word: neglect.

At the heart of the new Act is a commitment to empower older Australians with choice and control over their lives and the care they receive, while setting the system up to handle the challenges Australia will face as our population ages, and the community's expectations of aged care evolve.

Above all, Australians want to stay in their homes longer. The new \$4.3 billion Support at Home program delivers a higher level of care keeping them connected to the people and places they love.

To meet growing demand, Labor will deliver 83,000 Support at Home places by the end of this financial year.

For those who need residential care, the new Act puts older Australians at the centre of decision-making. Residential care places will now be assigned directly to individuals, giving people the

ability to choose the home that best suits them – and the freedom to move if their needs change.

From 1 November, every provider will be registered under a new regulatory model and required to meet strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards—so every older person receives nothing short of the best care.

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission now has stronger powers to ensure providers comply with their obligations and act in the interests of older Australians.

This milestone reflects many years of collaboration and consultation with older people, providers, family members, advocates, workers and nurses across the sector to achieve reforms.

Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said with the reforms the government was no longer just patching up a broken system.

"We are fulfilling a promise to deliver dignity, choice and respect to every person who has spent their life contributing to their community and our country. The Albanese government delivered reforms that will take better care of our loved ones."

"For decades, too many older Australians faced a system that treated them as passive recipients of care. Now we place them at the very heart of a rights-based system where their voice matters, where quality is non-negotiable and people can age with purpose and joy."

For more information, visit [www.health.gov.au/our-work/aged-care-act](http://www.health.gov.au/our-work/aged-care-act)



## Essential life skills for children

THE Helen O'Grady Drama Academy is proud to declare that their self-development drama programme has been preparing children and teens for life since 1979 – still prevalent in guiding our youth of today!

The prime aim of their International Programme is to give children ongoing confidence and skill in verbal communication, a vital ability in today's fast changing world of technology in which our children are now immersed.

Learning to be able to communicate effectively with others allows children to find their own path through anxiety, school pressures, friendships, family

changes and navigating challenges with a positive mindset.

Children love our classes and parents love the results says Helen O'Grady Drama Academy principal Merylena Sulak.

"We are very proud of our programme which covers a wide variety skills that incorporate speech training, creative movement, improvisation, script work, performance techniques and much more," she said.

"Drama not only gives children and teenagers an opportunity to express themselves in a fun, safe environment but also enables them to practise everyday life skills such as leadership, discussion and negotiation."

Weekly classes are held for

5 to 8-year-olds, 9 to 12-year-olds, and 12 to 18-year-olds.

There are five studios operating in the eastern suburbs area: Swan View, Kalamunda, Guildford Homeschool, Mundaring and Dianella.

Enrolments are now open for Term 1, 2026. Although many of their classes fill very quickly before the term has even started!

They also offer Drama clubs and incursions in liaison with your school, Child-care Centre or Homeschool Co-Op. Call Merylena on 9378 4332 or 0490 808 206, visit [www.helenogrady.net.au](http://www.helenogrady.net.au) or email [merylena.sulak@helenogrady.net.au](mailto:merylena.sulak@helenogrady.net.au) for



## Learn to play bridge at Kalamunda District Bridge Club

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

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

Bridge is played at our clubhouse in Ledger Road, Gooseberry Hill, 5 days of the week. We are a friendly club with players at all levels of bridge. We usually offer beginner lessons twice a year, the next one will start on Friday 6th February and conclude Friday 27th March 2026, with an Open Day happening on Thursday 29th January 2026, from 12.00 – 2.00pm. We have occasional lectures from visiting experts and run a variety of competitions catering to all levels of bridge.

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



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



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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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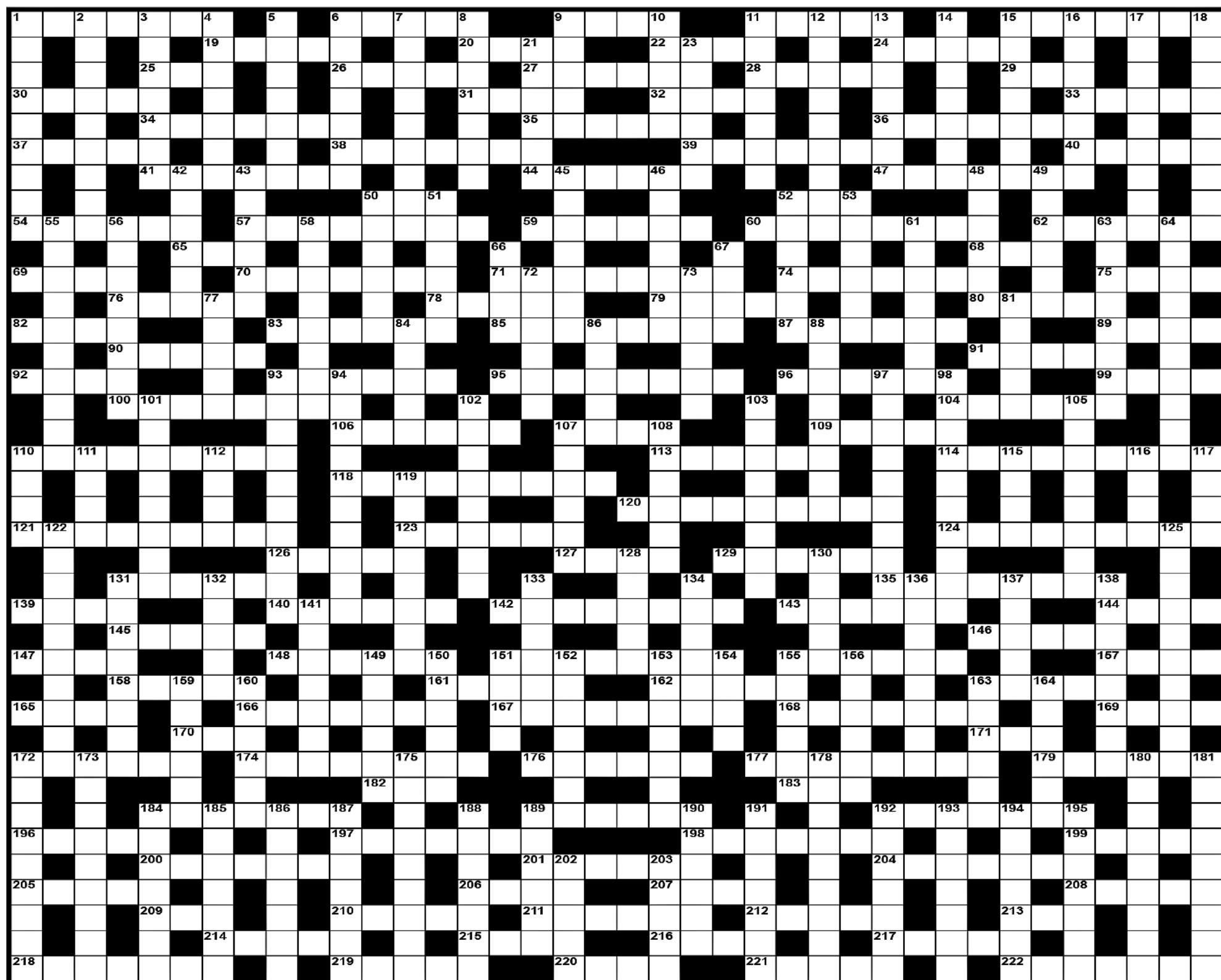
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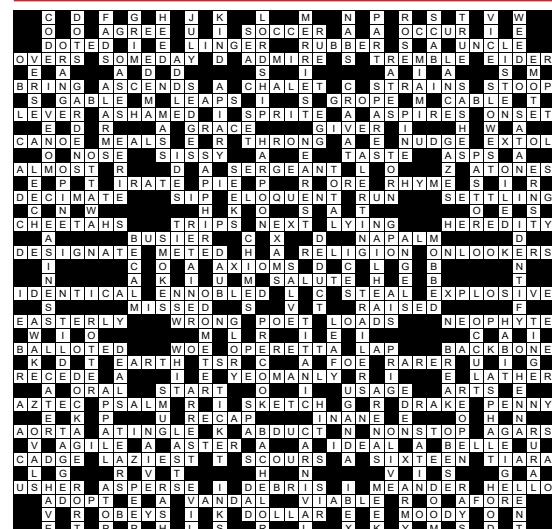
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 99 Rainbow goddess  
 100 Fit again  
 104 Prawn  
 106 Throws  
 107 Department (abb)  
 109 Jellied garnish  
 110 Relating to progenitors  
 113 Look forward to  
 114 Three under par  
 118 A gathering  
 120 Ascended (7,2)  
 121 Lifts  
 123 Roof-like shelter  
 124 TV broadcasts  
 126 Experience  
 127 ... Khayyam  
 129 One who adds up  
 131 Abut on  
 135 Conduct like that of a knight-errant  
 139 Firm coat of covering  
 140 Packing material  
 142 Where opium comes from (3,5)  
 143 Current conductors

144 So be it  
 145 Rot  
 146 At right angles to the keel  
 147 High-pitched flute  
 148 Emphasise  
 149 Walrus teeth  
 150 Playing cards  
 151 Moderately  
 152 Female cat  
 153 Larry ... ,  
 harmonica player  
 154 Walrus teeth  
 155 Playing cards  
 156 Female cat  
 157 Larry ... ,  
 harmonica player  
 158 Bird enclosures  
 159 Walrus teeth  
 160 Playing cards  
 161 Moderately  
 162 Female cat  
 163 Larry ... ,  
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 183 Larry ... ,  
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 211 Larry ... ,  
 harmonica player  
 212 Walrus teeth  
 213 Playing cards  
 214 Female cat  
 215 Larry ... ,  
 harmonica player  
 216 Walrus teeth  
 217 Playing cards  
 218 Female cat  
 219 Larry ... ,  
 harmonica player  
 220 Walrus teeth  
 221 Playing cards  
 222 Female cat

## DOWN

1 One who goes on an errand  
 2 The universe  
 3 Pursued  
 4 Distinctive  
 5 Vindicate  
 6 Invented  
 7 Land projection  
 8 Bear witness  
 9 Mountain tops  
 10 Covered with foliage  
 11 Elongate  
 12 Savoury  
 13 Genealogical bigots  
 14 Give advice  
 15 Reading desk  
 16 Mocks  
 17 Competent  
 18 Honed  
 19 Infirm  
 20 Undertones  
 21 Liaison  
 22 Stylish  
 23 Gladden  
 24 Ancient Peruvian  
 25 A pair  
 26 Banish  
 27 Pitcher  
 28 Expected times of arrival (init)  
 29 Originate  
 30 Lean  
 31 A rest  
 32 Former Russian emperor  
 33 Grasps  
 34 Those who rent  
 35 Golfer's attendant  
 36 Apportionment  
 37 Enrol  
 38 Plunders  
 39 Burrowing rodent  
 40 Runway  
 41 Chief points  
 42 A flock  
 43 Egg on  
 44 Whinnies  
 45 Consuming food  
 46 Flowed back  
 47 Below  
 48 Takes pleasure in cutting instrument  
 49 Put a price on  
 50 Leasing by a tenant to another  
 51 Things said  
 52 Not ready  
 53 Moving staircases  
 54 Facing where the sun rises  
 55 Land measurement (imp)  
 56 Grotto  
 57 Nevada city  
 58 Dance  
 59 Likelihood  
 60 Soapy water  
 61 Hires  
 62 Lawful  
 63 Place of worship  
 64 End  
 65 Bridle straps  
 66 Appendix  
 67 Appendix  
 68 Exercises  
 69 Edible marine bivalve mollusc  
 70 Stylish  
 71 Gladden  
 72 Whined  
 73 Astonish greatly  
 74 Glassy substance  
 75 A type of sound reproduction  
 76 Opposed to  
 77 Vexation  
 78 Peninsula  
 79 Classify  
 80 A town in SW Western Australia  
 81 Equal shares  
 82 A person who looks after another person  
 83 Dolts  
 84 Axioms  
 85 Loosen  
 86 Galleries  
 87 A colourless gas  
 88 Monstrous  
 89 Within  
 90 Bullseye  
 91 Huts  
 92 External nose opening  
 93 Atheist  
 94 Tomb  
 95 Lifeless  
 96 Memorised  
 97 Fervent  
 98 Godly  
 99 Make pseudo-medieval  
 100 Keeps under control  
 101 Altered  
 102 Lover  
 103 Unbeliever  
 104 Loiters  
 105 A stronghold  
 106 Within  
 107 Bullseye  
 108 Huts  
 109 External nose opening  
 110 Axioms  
 111 Loosen  
 112 Galleries  
 113 A colourless gas  
 114 Axioms  
 115 Loosen  
 116 Galleries  
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 221 Galleries  
 222 Axioms

## Crossword Solution 1251 from 16 January, 2026



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Hyper to return to Midland in March

AFTER a sold-out, double-capacity festival in 2025, Hyper returns to Midland on Saturday, March 21 with a line-up curated for all-ages music fans.

This year's line-up is led by Hockey Dad, Rum Jungle, Mia Wray, Lyric, The Tullamarines and supported by an exciting selection of rising local stars, including Lazy Haze, Birdland, Edie, About Yesterday, Solstice, Lily Rawson, Broken Pedal and 3fifteen.

Hyper is Western Australia's longest running all-ages, alcohol-free and youth-led music festival, giving young people and families access to a genuine festival experience on their doorstep.

For many attendees, it's a first festival. For others, it's a chance to see major artists in a setting that's welcoming, accessible and built with young people in mind.

City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson said Hyper has grown into an event that people across Perth look forward to each year, and it was fantastic to see it return after such a strong 2025.

"Hyper reflects the creativity, energy and commitment of young people, and we're proud to see it take place here in Midland. At just \$35, Hyper 2026 offers one of the best-value festival tickets in the country."

This low price is made possible by the incredible dedication of the young volunteers who curate, plan, and deliver the festival each year.

Their curation and the youth-led process has helped Hyper build a reputation for line-ups that feel current, considered and connected to how young people engage with live music.

The Hyper team has a stellar reputation for programming up-and-coming alongside established favourites, with past line-ups featuring acts like Spacey Jane, Ball Park Music, San Cisco, Ruby Fields and a whole cast of other breakout stars, triple j Hottest



Hyper 2026 is expected to be bigger than ever. Picture: Lizzie Wilkie Photography

100 legends and local heroes.

Hyper 2026 pairs a stacked live music program with a silent disco, carnival rides, artist signings, mini-golf, market stalls and a wide range of gourmet food vans, offering something for music fans, families and first-time festival-goers alike.

Hailing from the coastal alleyways of a steel city, Rum Jungle brings gritty alt-rock anthems, heartfelt ballads, and everything in between - songs that capture a magnetic, introspective, and hyper-reflective state of mind.

Rum Jungle have quickly built a global fanbase, leading to sold-out shows across the UK, Europe, and Australia.

Mia Wray is an Australian singer-songwriter known for emotionally direct songwriting and powerful live performances. She released her debut album *hi, it's nice to meet me in 2024*, earning strong support

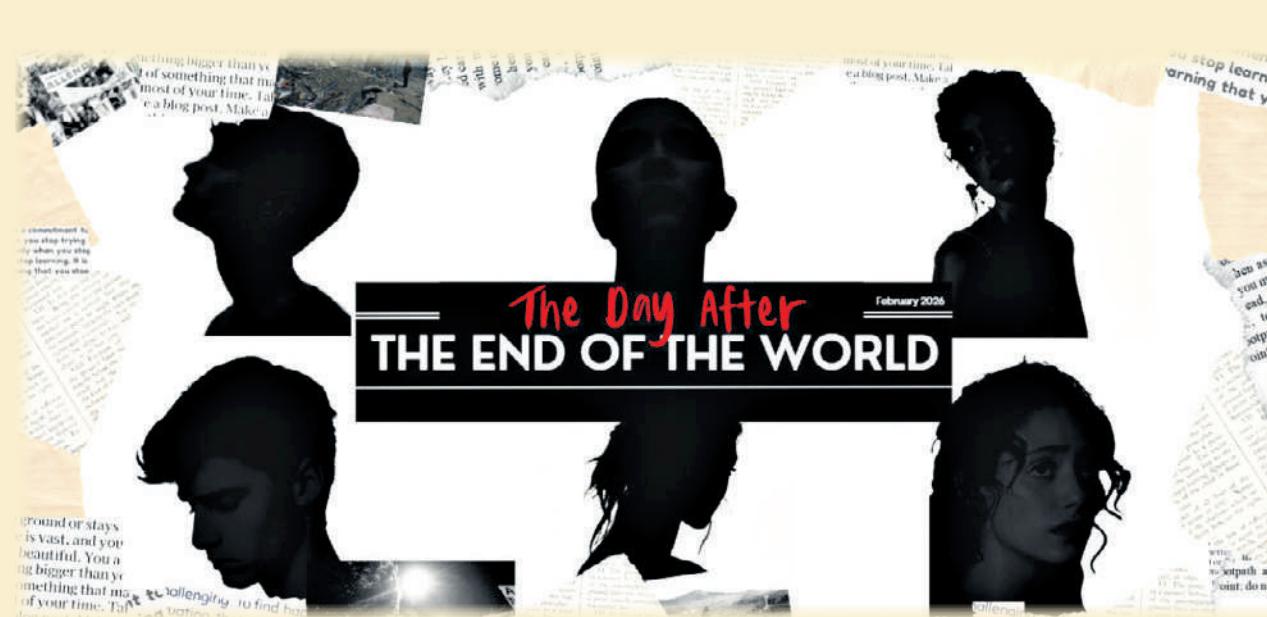
from triple j, BBC Radio 1 and Elton John.

She has toured extensively in Australia and internationally, sharing stages with artists including Maisie Peters, DMA's and Vance Joy. Her music blends raw vulnerability with pop sensibility, connecting deeply with audiences at both intimate shows and major festivals.

Hyper will be held at the LoCale event space and Weeip Park in the New Junction precinct, at the corner of Cale Street and The Crescent in Midland.

Presented by the City of Swan and supported by triple j and Edith Cowan University, Hyper is an all-ages event that is drug, smoke and alcohol-free. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

For more information, check out [www.hyperfest.com.au](http://www.hyperfest.com.au) or [www.facebook.com/HyperFestival](http://www.facebook.com/HyperFestival)



The production will begin at 7pm on January 27 and 28, and February 1. Picture: Fringe World

## Fringe World theatre production comes to Midland

UWA's University Dramatic Society (UDS) is set to premiere a new original work in Midland, *The Day After The End of the World*, as part of the 2026 Fringe World Festival.

Written and directed by student theatre-maker Maya Djurdjevic, the production will be staged at the Midland Junction Arts Centre for three nights only on January 27, 28 and February 1.

This play explores the nature of human connection when a group of characters find their lives upended following a conclusive global announcement the world is about to end.

In what they believe are their final hours, the characters are forced to strip away their social masks and confront the truths they have spent years avoiding, from romantic confessions to desperate attempts at family reconciliations.

When the sun rises the following morning and the world remains intact, the characters are forced to navigate the

permanent social and personal consequences of their prior admissions.

The 90-minute drama starts at 7pm and is housed in the venue's auditorium, offering an intimate setting for the high-stakes character study.

As the oldest independent theatre company in Western Australia, established in 1917, UDS provides university students with professional opportunities to produce and perform original works.

The production marks a significant entry in the society's 109th year of operation, and showcases the creative output of current UWA students.

The performance is recommended for audiences aged 15 and over, as the script contains frequent coarse language and mature themes regarding mental health and grief.

For ticket pricing and further information, visit <https://www.midlandjunctionartscentre.com.au/fringe-2026>

## ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

### Your local Gig Guide

**Fri January 23**

**Settlers House York**  
Nick Childs  
From 6pm  
Free  
125 Avon Terrace York

**Lyric's Bar**

Skeleoke  
From 7pm  
22 Lyric Lane Maylands

**Woodbridge Hotel**

Loose Endz  
From 8pm  
Free  
50 East St Guildford

**Parkerville Tavern**

Andrew Winton  
From 6pm  
Free  
50 East St Guildford

**Childlow Tavern**  
Live Music  
12.30pm – 3.30pm  
Free  
4 Thomas St Chidlow

**Mahogany Inn & Distillery**

Oscar Cedric Gomes  
6pm-9pm  
Free  
4260 Great Eastern Hwy  
Mahogany Creek

**Sun January 25**

**Parkerville Tavern**  
Tod Johnstone and PeaceLove  
From 4pm, Free  
6 Owen Road  
Parkerville

**Mahogany Inn & Distillery**  
Coastal Drift Trio  
5pm-8pm, Free  
4260 Great Eastern Hwy  
Mahogany Creek

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

**Childlow Tavern**  
Live Music  
12.30pm – 3.30pm  
Free  
4 Thomas St Chidlow

**Tues January 27**

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

**Sat January 24**

**Settlers House York**  
The Jukes of York  
From 6pm  
Free  
125 Avon Terrace York

**Lyric's Bar**

Uranium Dog, The Manbergs, Almost Forever and Kenny Drives  
From 7.30pm  
22 Lyric Lane Maylands

**Wed January 28**

**Childlow Tavern**  
Musso Jam Night with Brett Hardwick  
7.30pm till late, Free  
4 Thomas St Chidlow

**7th Ave Bar and Bistro**

Karaoke Night  
From 8.30pm  
Free  
74 Helena Street Midland

**Mahogany Inn & Distillery**

House Grooves  
Presented by Fenton Wilde  
6pm-9pm, Free  
4260 Great Eastern Hwy  
Mahogany Creek

**Woodbridge Hotel**

Touche  
From 8pm  
Free  
50 East St Guildford

**Thur January 29**

**Woodbridge Hotel**  
Ravenswing  
From 7pm  
Free  
50 East St Guildford

### Promote your event



SCAN ME

ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

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**ECHO NEWS**



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**Read between the lines**  
 by Pastor Ian Kirk

## The Leak

We were in Newcastle recently to attend my nephew's wedding; David and Cara's wedding, at Stanley House on the banks of Fullerton Cove. After having a lovely time, we arrived back home, late at night, only to find water in our hallway, toilet and bathroom.

We couldn't determine where it was coming from - mind you, we were very tired. Since we were heading off the next morning for a holiday in Albany, we turned the water off. When we came back, we put the water back on, and the leak returned.

Where was the leak coming from? A leak can often be hard to find. Well, Colleen could hear a faint hissing sound in our family bathroom. I opened the vanity cupboard and there was water everywhere. After clearing the vanity, I was surprised to find an inspection plate right at the back. As I undid it, water came pouring out. I could see some copper pipes, and that's where the leak was. The leak was found and fixed - and the damage will soon be repaired.

As I think of that leak and the damage done, I am reminded of what we can be like. From our hearts, we can 'leak' out bad words and attitudes, and do damage. There is one who knows how to help us. His name is Jesus Christ. He died for our sins so that we could be forgiven, and repairs our heart so that good may flow from it.

## ECHO NEWS

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#### The suitable applicant must:

- Be a team player with a friendly personality.
- Be capable of writing a full range of articles, from news stories, feature profiles, advertorials and through to all types of reviews.
- Have the ability to source their own stories and get to the heart of the local area so local knowledge of our distribution areas would be an advantage.
- Have good communication skills, creativity and knowledge of media law is strongly desired.
- Attend 'out of hours' council/shire meetings, industry events and business functions.
- Have a valid driver's licence and a reliable vehicle.
- Be capable of working to tight weekly deadlines is an essential component of this position.

#### Desired but not essential:

- Knowledge of 'InDesign' would be advantageous.
- A background in suburban newspapers would be viewed favorably.

#### In return the successful candidate will be offered:

- A salary commensurate with experience.
- Excellent working environment.

**The closing date for all applications is 5pm  
Wednesday 4th February 2026 with the successful  
applicant to start ASAP.**

**Please email your resume with a covering letter to:  
General Manager / Editor Peter Lewis  
E: peter.lewis@echo-news.com  
All applications will be treated with the  
strictest confidence.**

## Employment



The Echo Newspaper is looking for a

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**Please email your resume with a covering letter to:**

**General Manager / Editor Peter Lewis  
E: peter.lewis@echo-news.com  
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Ian Mac's whipper snipping, chain sawing and weeding. Small tree lopping jobs 0426 211 137.

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#### GLEN FORREST:

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Railway Pde

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Hardey Rd

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City of Kalamunda

Railway Rd

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12 Canning Road

#### KALAMUNDA CENTRO

S/Centre

39 Railway Rd

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7 Williams St

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# Even split of wins and losses for Midland Guildford sides

JOSHUA MCKENZIE

THE senior male sides for Midland Guildford Cricket Club completed their first two-day match of the new year last weekend, while several other teams also produced good performances in other matches.

The opponents for the senior male teams were Wanneroo.

After winning the toss and bowling first, the male 1st grade were led by Hudson Knight, with three wickets for 69 runs, as the opposition posted 9-364.

The run chase was highlighted by Max Bittner scoring his maiden 1st grade century with 110 runs not out from 155 balls, with support from Hayden Kain who scored 53 from 136.

The match ended in a 105 run defeat as the side was bowled out for 259 runs.

It was a better result for the male 2nd grade after they won the toss and bowled first, as they bowled out their opponents for 162.

Josh Chitty was the standout performer taking 7-68 in the first innings, before taking 4-77 in the second innings to finish the match with 11 wickets.

The run chase was led by Hayden Collins as he scored 97 from 205 to help the team secure the victory.

The male 3rd grade match ended in a draw. Will Shackles, with 4-63, and Hunter Wills, with 79 from 148, were the standout performers for the side.

Despite the efforts of Matthew Hampson, with 4-53 and 49 from 95, and Lucas Walker, with 82 from 132, the male 4th grade were beaten by 19 runs in their match.

The female B grade were beaten by 31 runs, while the female U17 had a dominant victory against Wanneroo as they won by 127 runs.

Alyssa Tremlett scored 83 from 58 to help lead the side to a commanding total of 7-223 in the first innings.

It was a comprehensive bowling display from the side as they dismissed their opponents for just 96 in the win.

The male U14 were narrowly beaten by Bay-swater Morley, while the male U13 secured a thrilling win by just three runs.

Thomas Foster scored 52 from 76 to help the side reach 5-168, before they restricted their opponents to 5-165 in the run chase.

There were some positive results for a number of the teams and it will be another important round of fixtures as it gets closer to the end of the season.



The Midland Guildford cricket club's female U17 were the standouts during this round, winning with a dominant 127-run victory over Wanneroo.

## Kalamunda's three headed High Wycombe challenge

From p3

The city said these decisions were made within the state planning system, with local government acting primarily as a referral and implementation authority.

From 2014 to 2016, residential zoning progressed alongside existing industrial uses that had been lawfully approved under earlier planning frameworks.

Some of those industrial operations continue today, operating under approvals granted before detailed residential planning was finalised.

As residential development increased, concerns emerged about noise, light, odour and traffic impacts from nearby industrial activity.

By 2016, Sultana Road West was identified as the interface between industrial land and future residential areas, with planning controls applied at the subdivision stage.

Despite those controls, residents increasingly questioned whether buffer distances were adequate and where responsibility for mitigation sat.

The city said it responded to enquiries using information available at the time, while also noting that some decisions and records were held by state agencies.

Between 2020 and 2024, residents sought greater clarity about the planning history and redevelopment potential of the area, prompting broader discussions about infrastructure, land values and long-term outcomes.

In parallel, a second challenge emerged with state government plans for a Metronet station in High Wycombe.

To support transport-oriented development, land originally planned for industrial use was rezoned for residential purposes, increasing the proximity between homes and existing industrial operations.

The city said this rezoning, driven by state planning priorities, intensified the interface issues now experienced by residents.

In 2024 and 2025, concerns were formally raised at council meetings, prompting the chair of the WAPC to request a joint approach between the city and the state government.

A state-led working group was then established to address interface concerns along Sultana Road West.

The city has said it continues to advocate for state assistance, including infrastructure investment and planning changes, to improve outcomes for High Wycombe South.

The third issue, raised more recently, relates to rezoning concerns at Hatch Court, which the city has identified as a separate planning matter despite its location within High Wycombe.

The city said it is working with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to clarify responsibilities and explore future options.

While acknowledging resident frustration, the city said any response must be lawful, evidence-based and consistent with the planning framework.

The city has described the situation as a legacy planning issue requiring long-term collaboration between local and state government rather than an immediate solution.

City of Kalamunda officers said the planning timeline would be made publicly available online to provide clarity for residents.

## ECHO Notice Board

### Upcoming Events

• Kalamunda Youth Swing Band gives young musicians the opportunity to rehearse and play in a band. Rehearsals are Monday afternoon during school term. For more information call musical director Leah on 0432 973 395.

• The Ellenbrook Friendship Group meets each Wednesday at the Community Centre, 27 Maffina

Parade, Ellenbrook from 1pm to 4pm. All welcome to make new friends or just have a chat. Enjoy indoor bowls, afternoon tea and the occasional outing. For more information call Sheila on 0402 973 307.

• The Swan Woodturners Association of WA meets every Tuesday at 1pm for a 1.30pm start at the Caversham Memorial Hall, 7847 West Swan Road, Caversham for men and women of all ages interested in learning the

art of woodturning. Woodturning demonstrations are undertaken each week with demonstrations also displayed on large TV screens. Competitions are held for those members eager to improve their skill level. For more visit woodturnerswa.org.au and then go to Swan Woodturners Group or contact the convenor on 0476 178 002.

• The Gidgegannup Men's Shed at Ian Stannard Pavilion, Gidgegannup Showgrounds, 2171

Toodyay Road, Gidgegannup is a community-based men's shed providing opportunities for men and women to work on projects of their own, join in shed activities and tasks, or just share time, recreation and fellowship with other members. For more information email president@gidgegannupmensshed.org.au or visit gidgegannupmensshed.org.au

• Midland Men's Shed Social Tuesday is every Tuesday from 9.30am

to 11.30am in the Baptist Church Hall, Bellevue. Our workshop at 34 Swan Avenue Midvale is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8am to 11am. Call Andy on 0419 921 805.

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.

A free service for non-profit organisations  
9374 6666  
editorial@echo-news.com



### Woofer of the week

Sally is a three-year-old staffordshire bull terrier cross. She is a sweet dog and her family has returned to the UK and couldn't take her with them. Sally gets along with cats and other dogs. She is sterilised, microchipped, and vaccinated. Costs Apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.



## Local Real Estate



### Viveash home with French provincial flair

THIS 244sqm Viveash home blends the elegance of French Provincial décor with the practicality of an Australian farmhouse.

The classic detailing, natural textures and a warm, enduring palette are complemented by fire-rated materials and a layout ideally suited to Australian rural living.

A front lawn and a white paved driveway lead up to the garage doors and red-brick walls of this three-bedroom, two-bathroom home.

Inside, the style of the home shines through in spaces such as the living room and the kitchen.

The living room has a cathedral ceiling with lights that sit flush against it, blending modern fixtures with a classic architectural design feel.

This is complemented by the fireplace in the same area, paired with a wall patterned with reclaimed wooden planks that evoke a rural atmosphere.

Complementing this wall are floor to ceiling windows, along with the sliding glass backyard door letting in plenty of natural light.

The feature walls with the weathered wooden accents can also be seen in the kitchen, where there is a sleek stovetop and marble kitchen island with an inbuilt sink.

Next to this is a spacious butler's pantry with room and power point access to fit and run a refrigerator.

In the City of Swan, where the city meets the country, new buyers can have peace of mind

knowing this six-year-old property was built to a modern bushfire attack level rating of 12.5 meaning it is resistant to ember attack.

It has a reinforced concrete honeycomb slab, insulated brick walls, ceiling insulation and glazing applied to windows and doors.

The previous owners have also personalised the home by installing both a garden shed and double height shed with gated access to the adjacent street, a fully furnished media room with a projector for a home theatre experience and new air-conditioners.

An above-ground lap pool and spa have also been newly installed, along with an outdoor fire pit and jarrah floors inside.

The home also has a solar and gas hot water system that's powered by the 20 solar panels that have been installed.

With an extensive list of cosmetic and safety features and broad lifestyle appeal, this is a modern home with old-school flair set at the doorstep of the city and countryside's boundary line.

Address:  
15 Stewartby Crescent, Viveash  
Price: From \$1,250,000  
Agency: Real Estate Plus  
For more information contact  
Samantha Appel on  
0474 232 091



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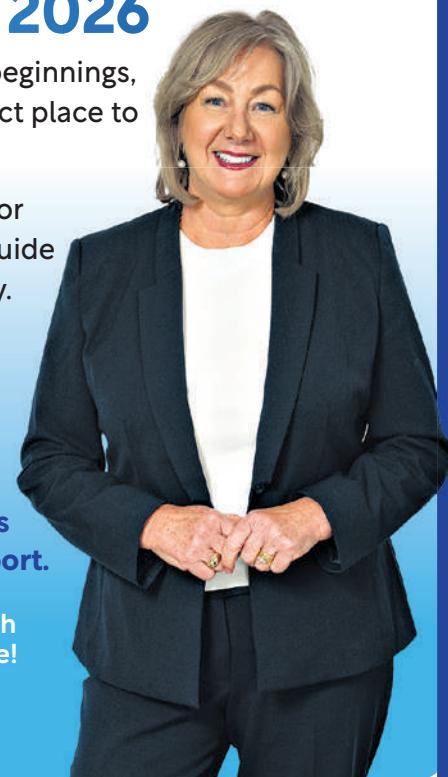
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Samantha  
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Edward  
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### SWAN VIEW



**\$689,000**

**OPEN SUNDAY  
25 JANUARY  
11.00AM-11.30AM**

**7 Gladstone Avenue**

- 850 sqm
- Three bedrooms, one bathroom
- Lovingly renovated by its family of four
- Ideal for first-home buyers, investors or renovators

Zoned R40, the block offers subdivision potential if amalgamated with neighbouring 5 Gladstone Avenue. A combined 1,773sqm may allow for up to eight units (STCA, subject to Shire of Mundaring approvals).

Samantha  
0474 232 091  
Midland  
(08) 9274 5000

### MIDVALE



**FROM \$729,000**

**OPEN SUNDAY  
25 JANUARY  
12.30PM-1.00PM**  
**26 Moir Place**

- Well-kept brick three bedroom, one bathroom home
- 683sqm block
- Comfortable living area with split system a/c
- Ceiling fans to bedrooms
- Covered outdoor area
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- Multiple garden sheds one with power.
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Edward  
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