

ECHO NEWS

SINCE 1985

NEWS

Friday, February 20, 2026

STEVE CATANIA
MEMBER FOR MIDLAND

08 9274 8811
midland@mp.wa.gov.au
www.stevecatania.com.au
SteveCataniaMLA



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

Local Business Supporting Local People

VOL.43 NO.1950

Gidgegannup Men's Shed open



P4

Heatwaves changing WA's ringtail possum



P10

Bumper crops in Swan Valley



P7



Picture: City of Swan/Kia Bako-Kirkpatrick

Chinese New Year

The Swan Chinese New Year festival and community market was a great success, bringing together more than 1300 people of many races and cultures.

PG 11

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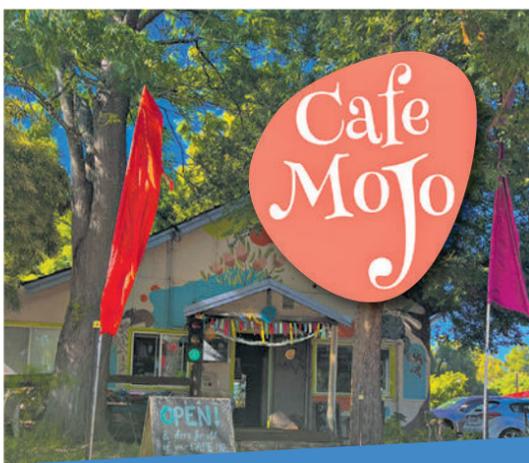
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EXTREME HEAT IS FORCING WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUM TO CUT BACK ON FEEDING AND VITAL ACTIVITY, NEW RESEARCH SHOWS HOW VULNERABLE THIS ENDANGERED SPECIES IS WHEN TEMPERATURES CLIMB.

ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say!
editorial@echo-news.com

No tree no nest no birds

Dear Echo News,
What pleasure to find a perfect nest by a tiny bird in a tall tree!

Weebills are Australia's tiniest birds that flit through the treetops.

In Kalamunda they love marri trees and build dangling nests shaped like balloons with a neat single entrance.

I just found a nest hidden among the white marri blossom in a mature tree in my backyard. It held chicks swaying in the wind.

The nest and bird — and the future of the weebill species — relies on keeping habitat.

Recently a dozen mature marri trees were cut down in local residents' backyards — now there'll be no bird, no nest, no tree.

The City of Kalamunda so far refuses to follow other councils in protecting trees, having abolished their own previously good policy.

Time to act, councillors, for all our sakes.

V Laurie
Gooseberry Hill

Kalamunda lacks tree policy

Dear Echo News,
The annual electors meeting in the City of Kalamunda has a long record of electors asking for more environmental action, and the city completely failing to deliver.

This year's meeting was no different - five of the nine residents who spoke expressed concern about the city's inaction on tree protection.

They asked when the city would provide the results of the Future Forest policy public consultation, which closed nearly four months ago. They asked for the

provision of annual canopy data, as stipulated in the 2023 urban forest strategy.

And there were questions about the city's commitment to mandating best practice tree protection measures on development sites - remembering that a 300+ year-old marri tree standing on the development site on the corner of Canning and Heath Roads depends on that protection.

We still have no current tree protection policy in place, so the chainsaws keep running and blocks continue to be razed from front to back.

It even appears that street trees on council verges can be cut down at residents' discretion - with the city apparently powerless to control this.

This at a time when the state government is telling councils to introduce their own tree protection policies to address a poor 22 per cent cover — Perth has the nation's lowest tree canopy.

Having attended yet another electors' meeting, many of us can only conclude that in the City of Kalamunda's case, greed, convenience and the interests of developers are being prioritised over the voices of rate-payers and voters.

H Lill
Kalamunda Tree Canopy Advocates

Time to replenish fish stocks

Dear Echo News,
Considering how many decades it took for the timber industry to wake up and realise that clearfelling native timber forests was a losing game, and start rehabilitation/replanting of the denuded ground, I'd suggest that the fishing industry take a leaf from the pages of history, and rather than

just indiscriminately strip mining the ocean, it should look to its own future, and the future of the ocean generally, and attempt to replenish the vanishing fish stocks.

I feel that they would garner more sympathy that way.

KG Blake
Lesmurdie

Midland station safety

Dear Echo News,
Like many in our area, I have seen the media coverage promoting the Midland station as a modern, state-of-the-art facility that represents progress and investment in our community.

It certainly looks impressive.

However, appearance means very little when safety and accessibility are not adequately addressed.

Last week, my 16-year-old daughter was indecently assaulted at the Midland train station.

At the time of the incident, there was not a single transit guard present. We immediately reported it to the Midland police.

My daughter is neurodivergent and vulnerable. I made the decision - in good faith - to allow her to use public transport, trusting that a newly built, heavily promoted station would have appropriate safeguards in place to protect young people.

That trust has been deeply shaken.

If this station is being showcased as a flagship development for Midland, then it must also be held to flagship standards of safety.

This includes visible and consistently present transit officers, active monitoring and rapid response capability, clear reporting pathways for vulnerable passengers and demon-

Thought for the day

"Pessimists calculate the odds. Optimists believe they can overcome them."

— Ted Koppel

strable safety planning for young people and people with disability.

A station can look modern and polished, but without a strong and visible security presence, it is not safe.

And when it is not safe, it is not accessible - particularly for young, neurodivergent, elderly, or otherwise vulnerable members of our community.

Name withheld
Red Hill

No focus on trees

Dear Echo News,
I absolutely support the letter in last week's edition *Kalamunda AGM focus on trees* (Letters, Feb 13) about our council not reading the room when it comes to trees.

I was appalled recently, to see yet another bush block near us completely stripped of all its trees within one day.

It's the second such case in our neighbourhood within a period of about six months.

Where is our council in this?

Missing in action, apparently.

This wanton destruction is happening on their watch.

The beautiful trees that characterise our city are vanishing before our eyes and with them our birds and other creatures whose lives depend on those trees.

Our home in the forest is being destroyed by human stupidity and greed.

Apparently, our tree policy was scrapped because of 'perverse outcomes'.

I will put to you that this is a perverse outcome of not having a proper tree policy.

J Gerber
Kalamunda

INSIDE

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P14 Crossword



FEATURE P12-13

What's your view?

Email editorial @ echo-news.com and let us know.

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.

ECHO News

ADDRESS:
Unit 4/9 The Avenue
Midland WA 6056

Phone: **9374 6666**

GENERAL MANAGER / EDITOR

Peter W Lewis 9374 6605
peter.lewis@echo-news.com

ADVERTISING
sales@echo-news.com

Karon McCracken 9374 6610

EDITORIAL
editorial@echo-news.com
Guanhao Cheng 9374 6602
Mike Peeters 9374 6601
Brayden Mould 9374 6603

PRODUCTION
production@echo-news.com
Liz Rowlands 9374 6613
Maja Pietranik 9374 6613

ACCOUNTS
accounts@echo-news.com
Caprice Harries 9374 6604

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Swan council report error questioned

GUANHAO CHENG

AN error in a City of Swan officer report has sparked questions about the proposed North Ellenbrook West locality, with concerns raised over incorrect zoning information presented to councillors.

The February 11 ordinary council meeting item was about giving a name to a new suburb area named North Ellenbrook West.

While most of the area fell within the North Ellenbrook West district structure plan (DSP), three additional properties, Lots 108, 1452 and part of Lot 101, were also included within the proposed locality boundary despite not forming part of the DSP.

Resident Jan Zeck told council the report inferred that three parcels of land had already been rezoned for future urban and public open space use.

"I had doubts about the zoning of these lots," she said.

Ms Zeck said confirmation from the city's manager of statutory planning showed the lots were still zoned general rural, were never the subject of a rezoning action and were not included in Amendment 1 to the structure plan.

This meant they were not rezoned for urban development, with Ms Zeck claiming the report gave the opposite impression.

"How did this situation eventuate?" she said.

City of Swan planning and development executive director Leon Van der Linde said the land to the east of the DSP was never part of the planning for the area.



Swan resident Jan Zeck is scrutinising the quality of reports provided to council members and used to base decisions on. Picture: Anita McInnes

He said references to the lots being included in Amendment 1 came from documentation submitted by the proponents of the locality name change.

"That information comes from the proponents," he said.

When asked why the lots were included within the proposed locality boundary, Mr Van der Linde said the inclusion was put forward by the developers and their reasons were "known to them".

Ms Zeck said the issue went beyond the naming of a

suburb.

"The council along with the residents and ratepayers of the city rely on reports to council being accurate, comprehensive and truthful," she said.

"If part of the information before councillors is incorrect, that is no basis for sound decision-making."

She questioned how councillors and the community could "trust and rely on the information that the city is presenting" and asked whether the item would be withdrawn and corrected.

Ms Zeck also raised environmental concerns relating to the properties and said environmental issues were frequently incompletely addressed in planning reports.

She said officers should not "cherry pick" which issues are included in reports and needed to ensure balanced and comprehensive assessments, particularly where biodiversity and black cockatoo habitat may be affected.

"City officers' responsibility is to provide accurate, comprehensive and balanced information to council and not just regurgitate proponents material," Ms Zeck said.

Councillor Catalano also voiced concerns about the standard of information presented to council, noting councillors rely on officer reports to base their decisions.

Mr Van der Linde told council it was open to councillors to recommend excluding land from the proposed locality boundary if they determined it necessary.

No formal motion to withdraw the item was moved at the meeting.

The City of Swan was contacted for comment.

Hatch Court precinct road access to be reviewed

BRAYDEN MOULD

FOLLOWING significant community backlash, the City of Kalamunda has moved to remove a controversial road alignment from the draft Local Planning Policy 35 (LPP35) regarding the proposed Hatch Court light industrial precinct.

As previously reported in High Wycombe residents mobilise over Hatch Court industry concerns (Echo News, January 9) the community has maintained a focused opposition to the proposed road exiting the industrial area, citing potential congestion issues and increased industrial traffic through the area.

As part of the development report for LPP35 brought to council at the agenda briefing forum on February 10, the recommendation to remove the visual representation of the road from the policy was formally presented.

"The inclusion of the future road alignment... has created a perception amongst affected residents that the location of the road has been established through LPP35," the report said.

"The access scenario involving a potential connection to Kalamunda Road has been investigated, including consideration of the need for significant intersection upgrades such as traffic signals or a roundabout.

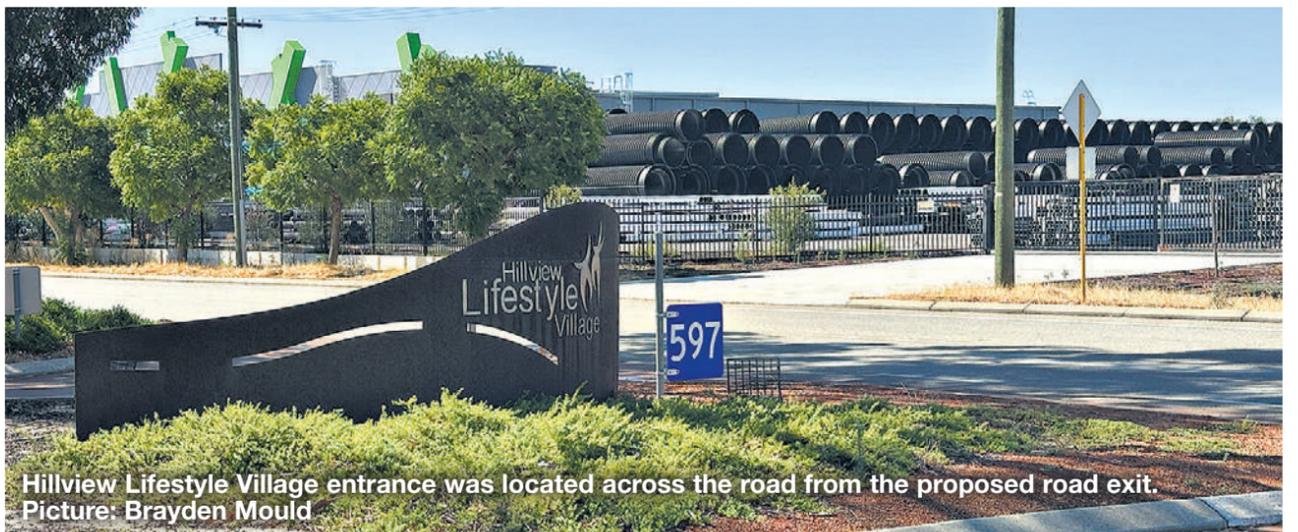
"No final decisions about road locations have been made."

Hillview Lifestyle Village resident Graeme Owens said the community's opposition against the road connection has been made apparent to the council.

"As a result of our campaign the photo of the (light industrial precinct) has been altered to avoid further confusion," he said.

"A total of 45 submissions were received to the LPP35, with 40 not supporting the proposal, four providing comments, and one non objection.

"The petition from the Lifestyle Village comprising 200 signatures objecting to the proposal was also sent to the council.



Hillview Lifestyle Village entrance was located across the road from the proposed road exit. Picture: Brayden Mould

"We've left the council members in no doubt of our opposition to a Kalamunda Road exit."

While the potential connecting road between Adelaide Street and Kalamunda Road is under review, the council is still weighing options for future access into the planned precinct.

City of Kalamunda strategic planning manager Chris Lodge said at the February meeting that the city was exploring other scenarios for access and movement including a potential cul-de-sac connecting to Adelaide Street.

"There are several options being explored and we do need to take it through that deliberative process with council and the community to determine the preferred pathway," he said.

"But there are other ways of managing access beyond a cul-de-sac, and it is worth noting it's not the preferred approach

from a state policy perspective to have it in an industrial context.

"But it's one of the lead options being considered for the structure plan."

Mr Owens said that while the removal of the road from the plans was a win for Hillview and other High Wycombe residents there is still a need to maintain vigilance for the future of the precinct.

"The Local Structure Plan is being prepared for council and will be finalised in late June," he said.

"It is this document that will recommend the traffic flow to, from, and within the precinct.

"This is the document we as a community need to watch, so I have asked to be kept informed by the city as it is developed."

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Gidgegannup Men's Shed officially opened

GUANHAO CHENG

THE Gidgegannup Men's Shed (GMS) officially opened on February 15, five years and 14 days after a fire devastated Gidgegannup and surrounds.

More than 80 people attended the morning celebration including members, councillors from the City of Swan and Swan Hills MLA Michelle Maynard.

Chairman Andrew Ryan Brine said the opening was the result of years of determination.

"The GMS new shed project team, our committee and members have worked hard over the past five years to bring us to this very special event and the official opening of this amazing community facility," Mr Brine said.

"It's hard to believe that it was five years and 14 days that Gidge and surrounds was decimated by fire."

Mr Brine said rebuilding after the bushfires had been very hard but a single act of kindness became the turning point for him.

"It's very hard to come back from something so final as this but for me there was one event that helped me turn this despair and trauma around and allow me to start the process to rebuild," he said.

Mr Brine said weeks after the fire, he returned to his burnt property for the first time.

"I was walking around the fire break inspecting my property when an old ute pulled up on the side of the road and a young guy got out and approached the burnt down fence," he said.

"He said g'day and told me he had just driven up from down south and had bought his tools and chainsaw to see if he could help anyone and asked if there was anything that I needed help with.

"I thought for a moment and said that a couple of large trees had fallen over the driveway.

"He said he had to get some fuel and got back in his ute and drove off.

"A week later when I returned to the property, I found that the driveway had been cleared, and all the timber was cut and stacked along it.

"I never saw or heard from the young man again," he said.

"This one random selfless act and this capacity of people to have compassion for others was the inspiration, the



Gidgegannup Men's Shed opened after more than five years after the first shed was lost to a fire.

turning point for me to start the process to rebuild.

"The GMS was founded on this compassion, this ability to help others in need and is I believe one of the main reasons that we are here today in this amazing facility."

The new site includes a 100sqm trailer shed housing a mobile milling operation and fencing trailer, and a main shed of just under 500sqm – about seven times larger than the previous Ian Stannard Pavilion space at the showgrounds.

The facility features meeting areas, a kitchenette, office space and workshop zones, as well as rainwater tanks capable of storing 150,000L for operational use and emergency access.

Lotterieswest contributed \$578,000 to the build as reported in *New workshop for Gidge Men's Shed* (Echo News, February 28, 2025).

The shed additionally raised about \$80,000 through fundraising and support from Bendigo Bank, Commonwealth Bank, Rotary and other groups.

Members coordinated contractors and fit-out works themselves, drawing on expertise within their ranks, including project managers, an architect, accountants and experienced builders.

"We are however more than just a men's shed," Mr Brine said.

"We have matured into a shed for both men and women and evolved into a community hub.

"We are not just the usual woodworking and metal work but have extended our operations to include a book club, art group, music group, milling team, mosaics and community interaction through our guest speaker program."

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Ballajura store among targets in illicit tobacco attacks

AN 18-year-old man has been charged over alleged offences at a tobacco store in Ballajura as part of a statewide police operation targeting the illicit cigarette and vape trade.

The WA Police established Taskforce Maverick on November 24, 2025 in response to offences linked to the sale and supply of illegal tobacco and e-cigarette products.

Police allege the Gosnells man was involved in three separate incidents at tobacco stores in Ballajura, Beechboro and Rockingham.

He has been charged with one count of aggravated burglary, one count of criminal damage by fire and two counts of criminal damage or destruction of property.

Bail was refused and he is due to appear before the Perth Magistrates Court on

March 13.

Police said the investigation forms part of a broader effort to disrupt organised crime groups involved in importing and distributing illicit tobacco products.

Since Taskforce Maverick was formed, 19 people have been charged with a total of 65 offences.

In a separate operation on February 6, detectives from the Serious and Organised Crime Division executed a search warrant at a unit on Focal Way in Bayswater.

Officers seized more than 3.9 million cigarettes, 3900 vapes and 288 kilograms of loose tobacco, which police estimate has a retail value of about \$4.5 million.

Also on February 6, a 15-year-old from Belmont was arrested following an alleged evade police incident in a stolen Toyota Hilux intercepted on Phoenix Road in Bibra Lake.

He has been charged with aggravated armed robbery, stealing a motor vehicle, reckless driving to escape police pursuit, aggravated fail to stop, no authority to drive, possession of an edged weapon, two counts of criminal damage and two counts of conspiracy to commit an indictable offence.

He was remanded in custody and is due to appear before the Perth Children's Court on February 20.

A 17-year-old from Queens Park and a 23-year-old from Clarkson have also been charged in relation to the Rockingham matter.

Detective Superintendent Rob Scantlebury said the taskforce remained focused on disrupting serious organised crime groups.

"Public safety isn't optional - it's the standard our community deserves," he said.

Investigations are ongoing.



Tobacco related crimes have been on the rise with the police response continuing to mount. Picture: Brayden Mould

Tough new tobacco laws introduced to Parliament

THE Cook government is introducing tough new laws to stamp out the dangerous illicit tobacco and vape trade.

Amendments to the Tobacco Products Control Act 2006 will see WA have some of the strongest penalties in Australia.

The changes will significantly strengthen compliance and enforcement options and ensure Western Australia's laws are robust and responsive to the evolving illegal tobacco and vape trade.

Under the proposed legislation changes, the maximum penalty for possession of a large commercial quantity of illicit tobacco and vaping products will be \$4.2 million for an individual or \$21m for a company, and 15 years imprisonment.

Store closure orders of up to 90 days will also be introduced, ensuring businesses supplying illegal products will not be able to operate while investigations take place.

Western Australia's orders will be amongst the toughest in the nation and provide compliance officers with a key enforcement mechanism to shut down businesses found to be selling illicit tobacco and vaping products.

This Bill is Tranche 1 of a multi-stage approach to reforms, with Tranche 2 further tightening licencing, and introducing

long term closures of up to 12 months.

The Cook government will continue using every available measure to disrupt illegal tobacco and vape supply and the proposed new laws will provide timely additional powers for the expanded Tobacco and Vape Compliance Unit.

Premier Roger Cook said keeping Western Australians safe was his government's priority.

"Let me be very clear: these tobacco thugs must be stopped.

"New legislation being introduced this week will help crush the dangerous illegal tobacco and vape trade - and drive criminals out of business.

"The changes are in addition to a range of new measures, including our newly expanded compliance unit which has already seen an increase in seizures of illicit products.

"Our government is committed to continuing to update tobacco control legislation - to protect Western Australians from these harmful products and to strengthen enforcement measures."

Health Minister Meredith Hammat said the dangerous trade had absolutely no place in Western Australia.

"We've looked at what is working in other jurisdictions, and how we can replicate and expand on that to ensure our laws

keep Western Australians safe.

"Our changes will significantly strengthen enforcement now and enable a strong state-wide response from WA Health's expanded tobacco and vape compliance unit.

"We're prioritising community safety now with these new laws, and I look forward to introducing further measures focused on public health, licencing and administrative matters in the second tranche of amendments later this year."

Police Minister Reece Whitby said over the summer multiple businesses were targeted by organised crime networks - and police were doing everything they can to bring them down.

Clarification of minutes

In last week's story, *Northam cannabis facility and data mining centre*, (Echo News February 13), it was stated that 'according to council minutes the facility will produce pharmaceutical grade medicinal cannabis under licence'. That should have read, 'according to Development Assessment Panel (DAP) minutes'.



Brooklane to host BUILD-A-BEAR WORKSHOP

28th February

The Build-A-Bear workshop is coming to Brooklane Shopping Centre offering hands-on fun for kids and parents, and a creative and affordable way to make lasting memories on Saturday, February 28.

During this special pop-up event kids can enjoy hands on sessions where they create their very own personalised furry friends - making this an unforgettable experience!

The day features seven interactive sessions from 8.30am-5.00pm giving families flexibility to plan their day.

Children can choose and personalise their own bear providing a perfect weekend activity and fun for kids aged over three.

These affordable workshops cost only \$8 and include a bear plus full participation.

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Saturday 28th February
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New Glen Forrest pump track completed

THE Glen Forrest pump track is complete and ready to ride, delivering a bold, high-octane space for action, movement and connection in the heart of the hills community.

Located beside Morgan John Morgan Park, the \$370,000 jump track is the result of extensive community involvement, shaped by local riders, residents and the Glen Forrest Residents and Ratepayers Association (GFRRA) from the earliest stages of planning through to delivery.

Designed as a fast, flowing and technically challenging jump track, the final outcome reflects strong community feedback calling for a more dynamic riding experience.

Featuring big jumps, rollers and progressive lines, the track caters to confident riders looking for speed, airtime and skill development, while remaining grounded in safety and progression.

The project was delivered by Common Ground Trails, the team behind the popular Darlington Pump Track, with funding support from the state government through the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF).

As part of the build, material reuse was incorporated into the project, with some of the dirt used to form the jumps sourced from the Brown Park Oval carpark redevelopment.

Shire president Paige McNeil said the jump track reflected the energy, creativity and determination of the Glen Forrest com-

munity.

“This track is fast, fun and full of life, just like the young people and families who helped shape it,” she said.

“It’s a place to ride hard, learn new skills and spend time together outdoors.

“We’re proud to deliver a facility that our community asked for and helped design.”

Throughout the design process, the shire worked closely with the GFRRA, local riders and nearby residents to ensure the track responded to community expectations and suited its bushland setting.

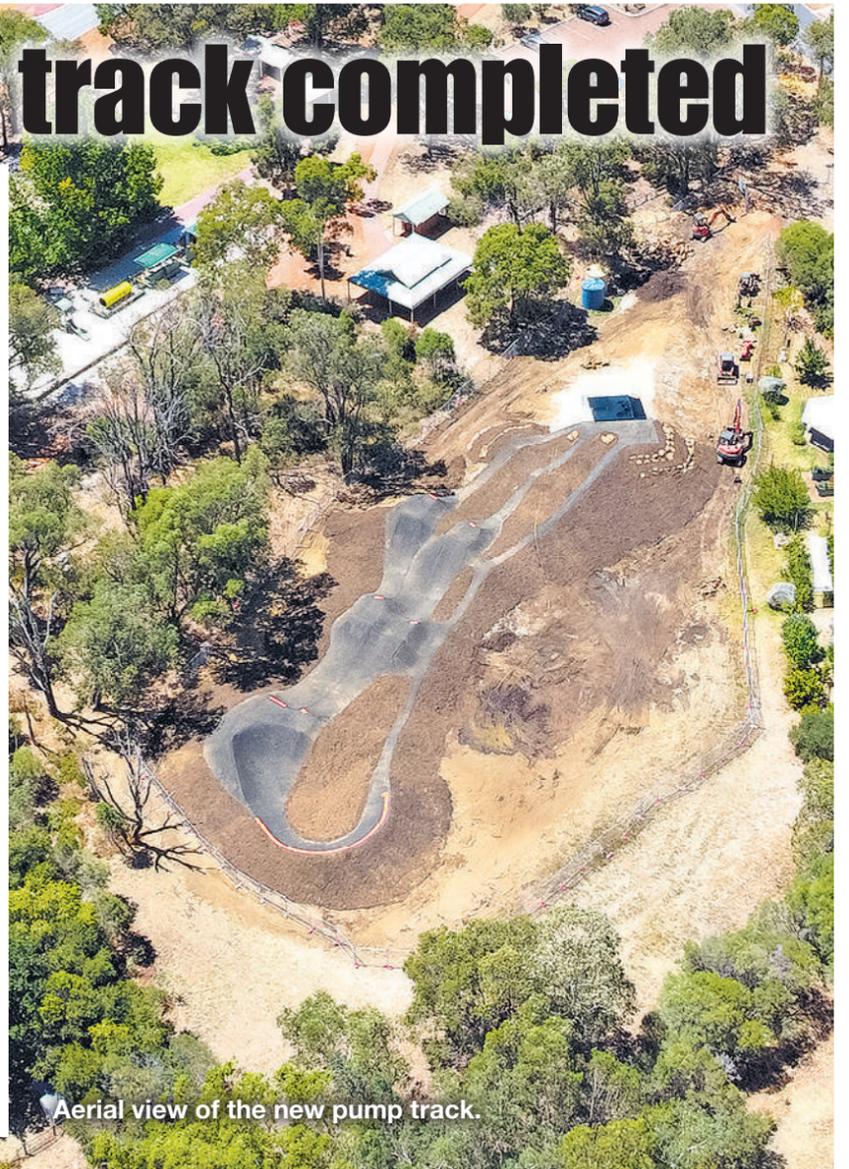
The Glen Forrest jump track will officially open on Saturday, February 21 with a community launch event from 5pm to 7pm.

The event will feature local rider demonstrations, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, food and music, celebrating the delivery of the latest Shire of Mundaring community project.

Community members are invited to attend, watch local talent in action and experience the jump track firsthand.

The Glen Forrest jump track is another example of the Shire of Mundaring working in partnership with its community to deliver vibrant, active spaces that support healthy lifestyles and local connection.

This project forms part of the state government’s PlayOn WA initiative aiming to deliver 2030 community sport and recreation infrastructure items across the state by 2030.



Aerial view of the new pump track.



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Brighter future for Parkerville Oval



Parkerville Oval’s new lights will allow more flexible access times for the park and night-time sports.

SHIRE of Mundaring council have committed \$446,065 to deliver the Parkerville Oval lighting upgrade project.

The decision aligns with the Mundaring council plan and its focus on delivering practical projects that strengthen local sport and community life.

The upgrade will see new night lighting installed at Parkerville Oval, meaning football and cricket teams will be able to train and play games at night, creating more flexibility during busy seasons.

Participation in local sport across the Shire of Mundaring continues to grow, and improved lighting will help meet community demand for enhanced facilities and allow more teams to use the grounds safely and effectively.

The shire also acknowledges the generous support of a private investor who has contributed to enhancing the lighting outcome.

This contribution has helped lift the standard of the project and deliver greater long-term benefit to the sporting community.

The project follows the successful lighting upgrade at Brown Park in Swan View, which has been well received by players, volunteers and families.

Shire of Mundaring President Paige McNeil said the decision reflected strong community advocacy and council’s commitment to investing in local pri-

orities.

“Our football and cricket clubs have been strong advocates for better lighting at Parkerville Oval, and council has listened,” she said.

“We know participation in sport is growing across our Shire, and our community expects facilities that keep pace with that growth.

“By committing \$446,065 to this upgrade, we are delivering on the projects outlined in our council plan and supporting the volunteers, families and young people who make our local clubs so special.”

Parkerville Demons junior football club president Taryn Shinnick said the upgrade will make a meaningful difference to the club and its members.

“This is incredibly exciting for our players, volunteers and supporters,” she said.

“Being able to train and play under quality lights opens up new possibilities for our club.

“It will help us manage our growing numbers, create more opportunities for juniors, and strengthen our presence in the hills.

“We’re grateful for the shire’s support and can’t wait to see Parkerville Oval lit up and ready for night cricket.”

Further information, including timing of works and installation updates, will be shared as the project progresses.

Bumper crop signals strong Swan Valley vintage

MIKE PEETERS

THE consensus from Swan Valley wine producers is that this year's vintage will be a bumper crop.

With most wineries already well into harvesting their white wine varieties, Garbin Estate winemaker Adam Garbin said they expected to harvest about 65 tonnes of fruit this year from their Swan Valley and Gingin wineries.

"We are even up to harvesting our first parcel of fruit for the red wines at the moment and thanks to the cool nights and a mild spring and summer so far, things are progressing nicely for this time of year."

Sandalford Wines chief executive officer Grant Brinklow said it was fortunate for the vintage that the summer heat had not been like a blast furnace so far and they had already harvested their Swan Valley fruit.

"According to the head winemaker, it is looking like some of the best fruit he has seen for years."

He added he was expecting some great wines to be available in May, including chenin blanc, verdelho and rose.

Nikola Estate chief winemaker Damian Hutton said the cooler start to the growing season had really helped the harvest and they were also expecting a bumper vintage with no crop damage or disease.

"I expect the rose and chenin blanc varieties in particular to age well," he said.

Upper Reach handcrafted wines winemaker Lauren Pileggi said the slightly later start to vintage this year was partly due to the wet winter, cooler spring and a mild start to summer.

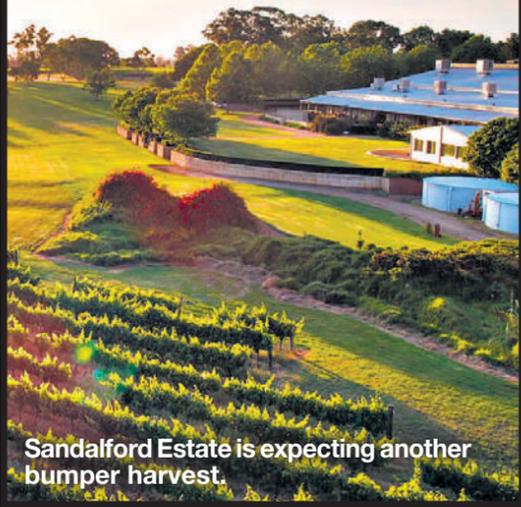
"This season, we've had quite beneficial weather leading to better quality grapes," Ms Pileggi said.

"This has given the vines a longer growing season and with the mild start to summer, the grapes are ripening a little slower."

Ms Pileggi, who is also the Swan Valley Winemaker's Association president, said a longer ripening period meant the grapes and resulting wine would have more intense flavours and complex characteristics.

"I'm definitely really looking forward to this year's Swan Valley wine show to see all the new 2026 white wines," she said.

Garbin Estate winemaker Adam Garbin with some of the red wine harvest.



Sandalford Estate is expecting another bumper harvest.

Grain industry harvest record

WA's valuable grains industry has delivered a 27.352 million-tonne harvest, the largest on record.

The record harvest builds on the successive gains in recent years, making the grains industry the largest contributor to the state's agriculture sector and a valuable export earner.

"The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has played a key role in this achievement, working alongside growers and industry partners to produce more grain from less rain in a drying climate," a government spokesperson said.

DPIRD research collaborations have advanced soils, agronomy, crop genetics, and farming systems research and development to lift yield potential and overcome challenges to grain quality.

Crop production in WA has transformed over the past three decades, with the adoption of minimum tillage, soil amelioration practices, crop diversification, and variable rate technology contributing to improvements in water and nutrient use efficiency.

Agriculture and Food Minister Jackie Jarvis said the grains industry's achievement was remarkable, and demonstrated how sustained innovation, technology, and productivity-focused research had equipped growers to improve crop performance and capitalise on favourable seasons at scale.

"The enduring collaboration between DPIRD, growers, and industry has lifted yields to levels that could not have been imagined 30 years ago."

"The Cook government continues to build on this legacy, supporting next-generation R&D that keeps WA's grains industry internationally competitive."



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FREE ice cream	Market & community stalls	

Hunter slams govt freight rail network funding delay

The Cook Labor government has dealt a major blow to regional WA by excluding the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSFN) from its state infrastructure investment shortlist, according to Central Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter.

He said the decision now threatens federal funding and delays to critical regional road upgrades.

Mr Hunter said the decision puts hundreds of kilometres of planned Wheatbelt road improvements at risk, including key freight routes relied upon by farmers, truck drivers and regional communities across the Central Wheatbelt.

“This is one of the most effective and collaborative regional freight programs WA has ever seen and the Cook government has chosen to walk away from it,” he said.

“The state contribution required was modest, but the return for regional WA is enormous. Instead, the government has put federal funding and years of momentum at risk.”

Since 2019, the WSFN has delivered approximately 450 kilometres of upgraded secondary freight roads, built to higher safety and durability standards, improving productivity and reducing freight costs for farmers, particularly in areas with limited rail access.

The program’s business case sought \$28 million per year in federal funding, supported by a state co-contribution of approximately \$4.7m annually, less than seven per cent of the total investment, alongside contributions from local governments.

Mr Hunter said the timing could not be worse, with freight volumes increasing and the Wheatbelt already recording the highest road trauma rates in Western Australia.



Central Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter.

“These roads are about safety as much as productivity,” he said.

“Bigger harvests, more trucks and more tourists are all sharing the same roads. The WSFN directly addresses those risks.”

He warned that if funding gaps persist, the program could stall entirely, risking the loss of years of planning and the unprecedented cooperation between 42 local governments across the Wheatbelt.

“That level of collaboration does not happen by accident,” Mr Hunter said.

“If the Cook government lets this program stall, it may never be restarted.”

Mr Hunter called on Treasurer and Transport Minister Rita Saffioti to urgently reinstate the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network on the state’s priority infrastructure list.

“Regional WA has done the work. Local governments have stepped up. The Commonwealth is ready to invest,” he said.

“It’s time for the state government to stop sidelining the regions and come to the table.”



Attendees at a previous Ladies Connect event.

Ladies Connect builds confidence and community

THE Swan Chamber of Commerce’s (SCC) Ladies Connect event will be back on February 27 as a platform for connection, collaboration and confidence-building among women in business across the Swan region.

Ladies Connect is an initiative of SCC that brings together female members, business owners and community leaders for a structured yet welcoming networking event designed to foster genuine relationships.

AES Equipment Solutions senior marketing and communications advisor Jenalyn Despi said she keeps returning because of the authenticity of the connections formed.

“This lunch gathering is really valuable for female business leaders and professionals because it helps us connect and expand our network,” she said.

“But more than that, I appreciate the genuine connection, the authenticity and the friendships that are built even after the event.”

Ms Despi, a Midland resident, said what made the event special was the sense of belonging it fostered. “I came from a different background, I’m Asian, so at first I was hesitant,” she said.

“But they were so welcoming and approachable. It added to my confidence and made me realise I can build connections and continue attending because of their genuine smiles.”

Former SCC board member and past women’s network coordinator Josie Daniele said the event

originally grew from a desire to create opportunities for women to network in the same way men traditionally had.

“The essence of the ladies’ lunch is about growing business and meeting new people who become part of your network,” she said.

“It’s primarily lunch as everybody’s got something to talk about and as a result of that, you tap into valuable networks for a whole range of reasons.”

Ms Daniele said she had seen real outcomes from those connections, including work experience placements for her students and employment opportunities created through introductions at chamber events.

“It’s about giving and, hopefully, receiving when you need it,” she said.

While the event typically includes short presentations or guest speakers, the heart of Ladies Connect lies in the informal conversations around the table.

Ms Despi said each event left her feeling empowered and supported.

“For me, this ladies lunch is more than a meal,” she said.

“I consider it a venue for me to grow professionally and personally.”

The February 27 event will be held from 11am to 2pm at the Commercial Bar and Kitchen in Midland.

Bookings can be made through the SCC website.

Parents urged to check teen immunisations

PARENTS and guardians are being encouraged to ensure their teenagers are up to date with their vaccinations, as part of an adolescent immunisation campaign.

The campaign - which will run from February to November this year - aims to support the uptake of free, school-based vaccinations for year 7 and year 10 students across the state.

Under the National Immunisation Program, students in year 7 are offered the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and a diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis booster, while students in year 10 are offered the meningococcal ACWY vaccine.

The campaign urges parents and carers to complete online consent forms, which are required for school-based immunisation to occur.

Vaccination during adolescence plays an important role in protecting young people from serious and preventable diseases, including cancers caused by HPV, whooping cough, and life-threatening meningococ-

cal disease.

For students who miss their school clinics, additional vaccination opportunities are available through participating pharmacies, general practitioners, community immunisation clinics, and Aboriginal medical services.

Ensuring adolescents are vaccinated at the recommended age helps protect their health now and into adulthood, while also supporting broader community protection.

It forms part of the state government’s commitment to keeping Western Australians well in the short and long-term.

Preventative Health Minister Sabine Winton said adolescent vaccination is one of the most effective ways to protect young Western Australians from serious disease, both now and later in life.

For more information about adolescent vaccines and consent forms, visit www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/articles/a_e/adolescent-immunisation

eye on crime

Man charged over obscene public acts

MIDLAND Police have charged a 41-year-old man after an alleged incident that occurred in Bellevue on Sunday, February 8.

It will be alleged about 8.15pm, the man committed an alleged obscene act whilst at a bus stop at the intersection of Clayton and Henkin Streets.

The 41-year-old man from Wooroloo has been charged with ‘Obscene Acts in Public’ and appeared in court on February 9.

He has been remanded in custody to next appear before the Midland Magistrates Court on February 16 where he was received bail to reappear before the court on Tuesday, March 24.

The investigation is ongoing and officers wish to speak to anyone who saw any suspicious person or suspicious activity in the below areas around the times listed.

- About 6pm on Clianthus Way, Koongamia.
- About 6.20pm on Banjine Road, Koongamia.
- About 7.40pm near the intersection Croydon Street near Ruby Street, Bellevue.

Anyone with any information relating to these incidents, is urged to contact Crime Stoppers online at www.crimestopperswa.com.au or by calling 1800 333 000.

Reports can be made anonymously.

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

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Heatwaves changing behaviour of WA's western ringtail possum

EXTREME heat is forcing Western Australia's critically endangered western ringtail possum (Ngwayir) to cut back on vital activity and feeding, new research shows.

During the summer of 2024–25, which included several heatwaves, the research team monitored ten western ringtail possums living in woodlands near Perth.

Each animal wore a lightweight collar fitted with motion sensors to record activity levels.

The study found that on very hot days (above 40°C), nocturnal activity declined by up to 43 per cent in males and 31 per cent in females, compared with cooler days (around 27°C).

"What really stood out was that the biggest drop in activity happened early in the evening, when western ringtail possums usually do most of their feeding," said Murdoch University PhD candidate and zoologist Roy Teale.

"That's concerning, because it suggests they're missing critical foraging opportunities on the hottest days, which can lead to weight loss and lower energy levels."

Mr Teale said those changes could potentially translate to lower rates of reproduction and survivability.

"During one of the heatwaves, we lost a collared possum that likely died from heat stress, and another was found showing clear signs of overheating such as panting, shaking and licking its paws," he said.

"It highlights just how vulnerable this species is when temperatures climb."

The western ringtail possum is listed as critically endangered by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, and it was recently believed that the species had declined by more than 80 per cent in ten years to an estimated population size of around 3400 mature individuals.

However, last year, Mr Teale led one of the largest and most rigorous wildlife surveys ever done for the species, surveying 41 sites over 1200km of transects across the Southern Swan Coastal Plain, Southern Forests and South Coast.

Researchers estimate they counted about 21,800 possums in total, nearly seven times higher than previous estimates.

"One encouraging finding from my earlier research



A technical officer with a western ringtail possum. Picture: DBCA

was that western ringtail possum numbers are far higher than we previously believed," Mr Teale said.

"But higher numbers don't mean the species is safe. With climate change driving more frequent and intense heatwaves, our latest findings show new risks emerging that could still threaten the species' long term survival."

Lead author on the study and DBCA research scientist Harry Moore, recommended that future climate vulnerability assessments needed to move beyond counting deaths.

"Our results show that it's not enough to look at whether animals survive heatwaves — we also need to understand what heat is costing them," he said.

"Protecting cooling habitat like large trees, canopy cover and natural hollows, and factoring behavioural stress into climate risk planning, will be critical as extreme heat becomes more frequent."

The study, a collaboration between the Western Aus-



A western ringtail possum showing signs of heat stress. Picture: DBCA

tralia Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), Murdoch University, the University of Western Australia and Biota Environmental Sciences, examined how extreme but non-lethal heat affects ringtail possum behaviour — an area poorly understood by scientists.

The paper, *Sublethal effects of extreme heat on a critically endangered marsupial*, is available in the journal *Pacific Conservation Biology* at www.connectsci.au

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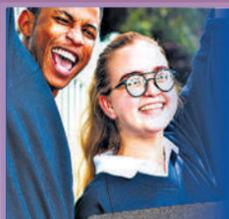
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The creek crossing was built over Boyagerring Brook. Picture: Gera Kazakov

Land titles must show Aboriginal heritage say agricultural bodies

WA's peak agricultural bodies are demanding that the government make immediate changes to ensure existing and new Aboriginal heritage sites are shown on the Certificate of Title for all properties.

The call comes ahead of a Supreme Court appeal by Toodyay farmer Tony Maddox who was charged for repairing a creek crossing on his property against the Aboriginal Heritage Act, despite not being told a "site" had been declared on his land.

WAFarmers President Steve McGuire said the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's (DPLH) register of Aboriginal Heritage contains more than 15,000 entries, many of which are on private property.

"The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Committee (ACHC) meets every two weeks and regularly adds new sites to the register without notifying property owners that they have a new encumbrance on their land," Mr McGuire said.

"What we learned from the Tony Maddox case is that the DPLH doesn't always write to property owners when their land is being considered for a new site, doesn't publish the agenda or minutes of the ACHC and doesn't notify anyone when a new

site is declared.

"The fact is, there are many property owners who simply don't know it is illegal to do a number of things on their land because they've never been told it is a declared site."

Pastoralists and Graziers Association (PGA) spokesman Tony Seabrook said having a site on your land is a serious encumbrance.

"The laws need to change but the fact is, right now it is an offence if your dog or livestock enters the boundary of a registered site — even if it's on your property," Mr Seabrook said.

"Other regulations say you need ministerial approval to disturb the surface of the ground, dig a hole, cut your grass or remove any part of a tree that you own, even if it's dead."

"The Tony Maddox case proves having a registered site on your land is a liability."

"It is astonishing that someone can buy land in WA and not be forewarned that the property comes with the encumbrance of containing a registered Aboriginal heritage site."

"The government must ensure registered sites appear on the Certificate of Title so buyers can understand the risks of the property they are considering," Mr Seabrook concluded.

Chinese New Year festival highlights multiculturalism

MIKE PEETERS

LAST Saturday's Swan Chinese New Year festival and community market was a great success, bringing together more than 1300 people of many races and cultures.

The free event at Weeip Park in Midland was organised by Chinese Dance Australia in collaboration with the City of Swan, Swan Rotary Club and Chaos Theory Events.

The Midland area has always been proudly diverse and multicultural with more than a third of people born overseas.

Activities included Chinese dancing, music and stage performances to celebrate the Year of the Horse, and cultural performances including lion dances.

There was also Chinese lantern-making with free family activities including face painting as well as food trucks and market stalls.

City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson congratulated the organisers for their dedication and hard work.

"One of the privileges of being mayor of the City of Swan is the opportunity to experience all the wonderful cultural connections our community enjoys," Ms Richardson said.

She said the community event celebrated Chinese culture while creating meaningful opportunities for local community connection, bringing together residents from Midland and surrounding areas.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate both our Chinese community and the broader Swan community," Ms Richardson said.

"Events like today are incredibly important to ensure our communities are represented and acknowledged.

"Today's celebration also highlights the role of young people in strengthening community resilience and cultural continuity."



Left to right: Dancers from Chinese Dance Australia, the Yaolin Kung Fu Association lion dance, the WA folk dance troupe, and Chinese Dance Australia dancers performing the Xinjiang dance. Centre: Eagle Eye dance team. Pictures: City of Swan/Kia Bako-Kirkpatrick



Bullsbrook residents are frustrated over repeated power outages.

Bullsbrook community anger over repeated power outages

ESCALATING frustration in Bullsbrook over repeated power outages shows the issue can no longer be dismissed as routine says MLC Anthony Spagnolo.

Mr Spagnolo visited Bullsbrook alongside Liberals leader Basil Zempilas and colleagues Steve Thomas MLC and Phil Twiss MLC meeting with local business operators, residents and attending a community listening session and the Bullsbrook Residents and Ratepayers Association meeting of around 100 residents.

"There have been 16 outages in February alone," Mr Spagnolo said.

"During the heatwave in the first two days of the month, more than 2000 households were left without power, with around 900 homes without electricity for up to 20 hours."

Mr Spagnolo said residents consistently described the toll the outages are taking on families and small businesses.

"Families spoke about sleepless nights in extreme heat and children left distressed when the power cuts out," he said.

"Local businesses have raised concerns about lost trade, spoiled stock and the inability to operate with any certainty."

Serious health concerns have also been raised, particularly for medically vulnerable residents.

One local family caring for a quadriplegic son has spent around \$20,000 on backup systems to manage the risk of outages during 40 degree heat, with only limited cooling available during blackouts.

"No family should have to spend tens of thousands of dollars just to keep essential medical equipment and basic cooling running," Mr Spagnolo said.

Mr Spagnolo said he has also been contacted directly by residents who have lost hundreds of dollars in food, suffered lost wages and felt forced to install costly generators and battery systems simply to protect their homes.

"The minister's office has indicated that recent outages are being treated as an operational matter," he said.

"Given the frequency and impact of disruptions in Bullsbrook, residents have raised concerns about whether this approach is providing sufficient oversight and accountability."

Mr Spagnolo said reliable power is fundamental infrastructure, not an optional extra.

"When power fails repeatedly in the middle of summer, it affects health, livelihoods and basic day to day living," he said.

"Bullsbrook residents deserve clear answers, meaningful compensation for demonstrated losses and a plan to strengthen local infrastructure so this does not continue."

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The coaches bring practical expertise, assessing appliances to identify opportunities for savings. They understand local conditions, Perth's intense summer heat and the unique needs of specific properties.

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energy bills in plain language, and follow up to ensure families feel supported.

"We're part of this community too," Tierney added. "When our neighbours thrive, we all benefit."

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AVVVA Toodyay Swap Meet March 2026

THE 2026 Toodyay Swap Meet and classic car display is again at the Toodyay Showgrounds on Toodyay Street on Sunday, March 15 from 7am to midday.

The annual swap meeting is organised by the Northam-based Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association of WA (AVVVA) which was formed in 1985 and held annual swap meets in the town from 2002 until 2024.

The 2025 swap meet was the first AVVVA one held in nearby town of Toodyay.

Many new AVVVA club members live in the Toodyay region and from all over the Avon Valley, with some 280 vehicles listed on the WA Transport's concessional licence system.

At the 2025 swap meet there were 130 sellers, 2000 public and 60 classic cars on display.

Veteran and Vintage cars parts (pre-1930) are

becoming very rare but now more of the classic car parts are now seen at these swap meets.

Time has moved on and 1960's cars are now seen as the best choice for a new generation of classic car enthusiasts for cars over 25-years-old.

However, sometimes that rare 1920's part is seen or even a whole 1920's vintage car is seen up for sale.

Car and petrol station memorabilia are also very popular, with old petrol bowers fetching high prices as collectables, along with craft and hobby items, so something for everyone.

Gates for the sellers open at 6am and public gates from 7am.

Further details are available at <https://avvva.wildapricot.org/> or email fsi93402@bigpond.net.au or phone 0429 608 876.

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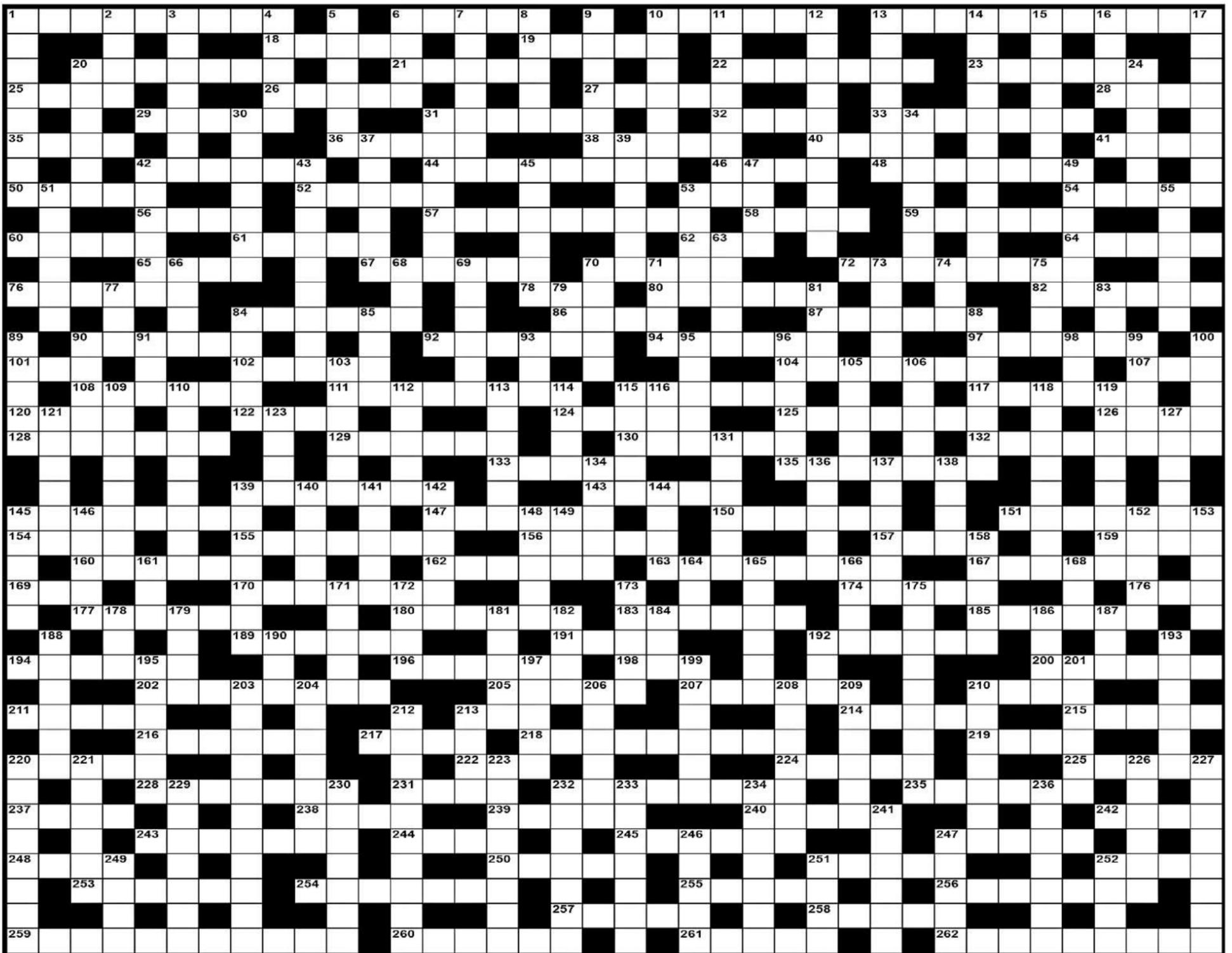
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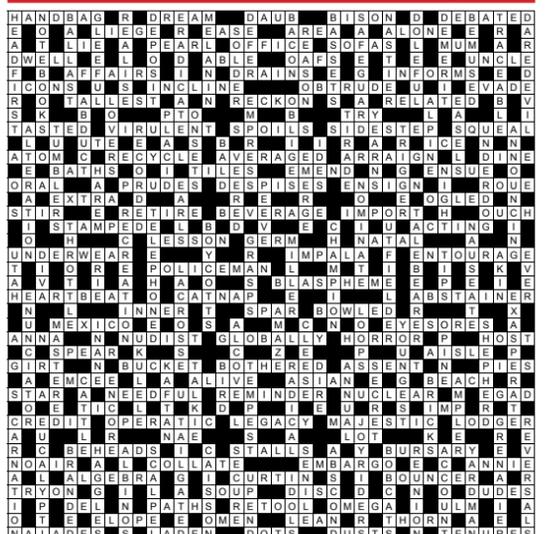
Mind Boggler Crossword

1256



- | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 82 Ahead | 183 Above all | 259 Trespasser (coll) | 79 Compass point | 165 Soothed | 204 Oriental |
| 1 Accomplished | 84 Maximum | 185 Bravest | 260 Venom | 81 Disfigure | 166 Sicilian volcano | 206 Comment |
| 6 Implanted | 86 Hindu garment | 189 Conundrum | 261 Refinement | 83 Pale | 171 Wrath | 208 Takes in food |
| 10 Funnel | 87 Bewitches | 191 Leave out | 262 Curtness | 84 Brown pigment | 172 Vehement | 209 Look briefly |
| 13 An enlightener | 90 Plaster base | 192 Portrays | DOWN | 85 Leguminous plant | 173 Austrian river | 210 Wine bottles |
| 18 Mythological giant | 92 Miner | 194 Stylish | 1 Ships warnings | 88 Resilient | 175 Protein-forming acid | 212 Rickety vehicle |
| 19 Surpass | 94 Part of the eye | 196 Tiler | 2 Convulsions | 89 Moves quickly | 176 Pillaged | 213 Carry on the person |
| 20 Flummoxed | 97 Spruces up | 198 Kelly, bushranger | 3 Narrow | 90 Whole range | 178 Apple seed | 220 Expecting |
| 21 Pivots | 101 US espionage agency (init) | 200 Loitered | 4 Sidestep | 91 Hotel (coll) | 179 Police informer (coll) | 221 Disinherit (3,3) |
| 22 Equilateral parallelogram | 102 Exchange words | 202 Betting coups (coll) | 5 Sight | 93 Wildebeest | 181 Sprightly | 222 Understands |
| 23 Threadbare | 104 Creature (US coll) | 205 Prefix meaning within | 6 A drawback | 95 Excessively fat | 182 Classify | 226 In one piece |
| 25 Tinged | 107 Go wrong | 207 Helping | 7 Pedestrians | 96 Reverberated | 184 Consumed | 227 Reservations |
| 26 Departing | 108 Portable | 210 Ran away | 8 Writing tables | 98 Extension (abb) | 186 Masculine | 229 Seafarer |
| 27 Tipster (coll) | 111 Greedy | 211 Earn | 9 Blamed | 99 Dark brown ink | 187 Slump | 230 Liberator |
| 28 Dingy | 115 Raised anchor | 213 Trinitrotoluene (init) | 10 Plodded | 100 Frock | 188 Bets | 232 Wing flap |
| 29 Put aside | 117 Part of the foot | 214 Provincial | 11 Imitated | 103 Soak | 190 Religious sister | 233 Elastic |
| 31 Brutes | 120 Thrash | 215 Daily record | 12 Anonymously | 105 Bury | 192 A play on words | 234 Sea inlet |
| 32 Eggshaped | 122 Fury | 216 Fends off | 13 Strikes gently | 106 Topsy (coll) | 193 Funeral vehicle | 236 Heads (coll) |
| 33 Home ground | 124 Abodes | 217 Corona | 14 Flesheating | 109 Stupidly | 195 Housing development | 241 A thrashing |
| 35 Cavort | 125 Eightsided thing | 218 Running riot | 15 Luggage | 110 Over and above (2,6) | 197 Access | 246 Coats with gold |
| 36 More recent | 126 Bites | 219 Land measurement (imp) | 16 Seasoned | 112 Rector | 199 Risk | 247 Pass into law |
| 38 Drive out | 128 Colonist | 220 WA racecourse | 17 Headlong | 113 Choice | 201 Vipers | 249 Dossier |
| 40 Biblical garden | 129 Most delightful | 222 Endeavour | 20 Sailor | 114 Footwear | 203 Apprehension | 251 Unit of computer information |
| 41 Bogeyman | 130 Overhanging | 224 Dingo, TV host | 24 Stiletto | 115 Saunter | | 252 Astound |
| 42 Off course | 132 Highranking officers | 225 Ploys | 30 Canberra NRL team | 116 Very small | | |
| 44 Moved up | 133 Paragon | 228 Authorise | 31 Unshaven | 118 Receives excess ultraviolet rays | | |
| 46 Slackens | 135 Womans name | 231 Woody plant | 34 Yearly publications | 119 Enhanced | | |
| 48 Ball game | 139 Dairyfarm worker | 232 Blood vessels | 37 A demand by applause | 121 Harvester | | |
| 50 A tendon | 143 Units of inheritance | 235 Inundates | 39 Joked | 123 As well | | |
| 52 Runner | 145 Graveyard | 237 Social insects | 42 Arouse | 127 Serene | | |
| 53 Bother | 147 Park employee | 238 Sway | 43 Artisans | 131 Paper hankie | | |
| 54 Deserves | 150 Escutcheon | 239 Similar | 45 Plenty | 134 Concur | | |
| 56 Church recess | 151 Primitive | 240 Modified iron | 47 A blessing | 136 Vast expanse | | |
| 57 Furnished | 154 Spoken | 242 At a distance | 49 Blush | 137 Somewhat elderly | | |
| 58 Painting medium | 155 Condense | 243 Jails | 51 Rush in | 138 Own | | |
| 59 Proliferate | 156 Intestinal division | 244 Wicked | 53 Farewell | 139 Potent poison | | |
| 60 Energetic | 157 Covered the cake | 245 Evenings | 55 Authorised official | 140 Most unfavourable | | |
| 61 Jockey | 159 Rotary current | 247 Legally hinder | 63 Direct | 141 Tribal chief | | |
| 62 Charged atom | 160 Muscle globulin | 248 Fop (coll) | 66 WWII alliance | 142 Fancied | | |
| 64 Obligations | 162 Illdisposed | 250 Concepts | 68 Negation | 144 Deprived of feeling | | |
| 65 Takes food | 163 Straight stretches | 251 Pig meat | 69 Type of curry | 145 Does ones hair | | |
| 67 Culminating | 167 Dwell | 252 Spank | 70 In pieces | 146 Ballroom dance | | |
| 70 Larry, harmonica player | 169 Babys protective clothing | 253 One betrothed | 71 Secular | 148 Young ladies | | |
| 72 Bad treatment | 170 Meantime | 254 Tunnels | 73 Not fitted | 149 Ernie, champion golfer | | |
| 76 Egyptian stone figure | 174 Trio | 255 Frondescent | 74 Charles, pioneer aviator | 152 Proficient | | |
| 78 Currently informed (coll) | 176 Hawaiian dish | 256 Expertise | 75 Vanished | 153 Sneering faultfinder | | |
| 80 Sounds | 177 Unlocked | 257 Gave the glad eye | 77 Freezing | 158 Sediment | | |
| | 180 Anxiety | 258 Stimulant | | 161 Native metal | | |
| | | | | 164 Hebrew judge | | |

Crossword Solution 1255 from 13 February, 2026



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Tran-sitations explored at MJAC exhibition

TRAN-SITATIONS by Jon Tarry, a poetic exploration of mass transit in a constantly moving world will be showcased at the latest exhibition by the Midland Junction Arts Centre (MJAC).

Through sculptural installation, photography and sound, Tarry invites us to experience how technology and material alter perception.

Jon Tarry's practice is grounded in the convergence of art and architecture in relation to the environment.

He creates art as a way of testing ideas, delivering innovative projects in drawing, film, sculpture, sound and architecture across the globe.

Tarry holds a Bachelor of Fine Art, a Masters and PhD in architecture and has undertaken innumerable public and private commissions while presenting 38 solo exhibitions across Australia, North America, Europe and the Middle East.

For more than a decade, he has sought to create new understanding, sharing his knowledge in China and America as a visiting professor and as an associate professor in the School of Design and Arts at University of WA, lecturing in art history, art in the environment, future making, drawing, art practice and design and research in geopolitical art practice.

Tarry now devotes his time to his arts practice, creating artworks from prosaic materials and structures - elevating them to conceptual, performance and sound works that blur the line between music and visual art.

Tran-sitations explores transitions and transit through space, time, movement - searching for connection in the external world. With extant, adapted and new works, the exhibition contrasts materials and methods, investigating how perception and viewpoints are altered by technology in a world that is constantly changing.

From rail to sky, Osaka and Copenhagen to Midland, his sculptures, photographs and sonic art explore ways of seeing, hearing, knowing and unknowing.

The exhibition is composed of several groups of works which operate in different ways; photographic records juxtapose mediums and perception, sculptural installation reference transitions, baggage, movement and mobility, an immersive soundscape takes viewers on a journey, and



Jon Tarry, *Eight minutes in Midland, 2025*, archival digital print. Image courtesy of the artist.

sculptural maps offer a point of connection to the world.

'Eight minutes to Osaka' and the complementary work 'Eight minutes in Midland', not only compare observations and experience of transit in different places but also juxtapose digital and analogue techniques to investigate how the associated experience is perceived.

'Eight minutes to Osaka' presents the urban landscape from a high-speed train using digital photography with full frame distortion. Compared to 'Eight minutes in Midland' which observes the Midland rail line from a fixed point using the analogue or 'Jurassic' pinhole camera and film.

While both methods record a moment or delay in time.

"The camera sees things differently. Digital is often presented like scans or data, but can still get it wrong sometimes. Analogue has a quality and character that digital doesn't have, [but] digital is as fallible as the pinhole camera," Tarry said.

"Just as photography didn't make painting redundant... artists keep old technologies alive by finding creative possibilities in things that have been superseded, like Pinhole technology. One medium is no better than the other, they simply present a different point of view or interpretation."

Tarry is well known for his combination of traditional mediums with new technologies.

His 'Sonic Pen' performances combine drawing with a high level of music complexity to forge connections between visual art and sound.

Performed all over the world, often in collaboration with musicians such as Dom Mariani, Joel Quartermain and Jon Stockman, a continuous loop responds to the nuance of each performer.

Tarry's investigation into shifting points of view and connection is also present in his sculptural work, for example, his airport aerial views and ground markings are a form of land art, the runway acting as a physical point of connection to the world.

Through experimentation in technologies, mediums and techniques, this is something Tarry continues to do. Each group of works in Tran-sitations compare, contrast and blend technologies to challenge traditional ways of creating, seeing and hearing, revealing shared points of connection and that the journey is part of life's continuous momentum.

Tran-sitations will be open and free to the public from Sunday, February 22 to Sunday, April 1 in the West Gallery at MJAC.

New Midland station opening celebration

THIS Sunday, February 22 the brand-new Midland Station precinct will transform into a vibrant festival ground for the 'Meet Me at Midland' community celebration event.

Running from 9am to 1pm, the event will officially launch the station's opening with a program of free, family-friendly entertainment.

The musical centrepiece will feature an opening performance by cover band Johnny Law & the Pistol Packin' Daddies at 9.30am.

The band is set to deliver a high-energy, roots-driven concert of music covers with a performance sound that reflects the golden age of folk, country, and rock 'n' roll.

Beyond the main stage, attendees can enjoy a traditional free sausage sizzle and ice cream while navigating a variety of market and community stalls.

A dedicated animal farm and professional face painting will be situated for children to enjoy, ensuring the morning is packed with activities for all ages.

The event will also feature a diverse range of food trucks and roaming entertainers to round out the festive atmosphere across the new precinct.

The day's rail schedule kicks off with the first train to Midland Station



Johnny Law & the Pistol Packin' Daddies will begin the celebration with a performance of vintage folk and country covers.

leaving Perth Station at 9.11am, while the first service departing Midland for Perth will leave at 9.34am.

For people interested in the area's deep industrial roots, special guided walking tours of the nearby historic Railway Work-

shops will be held throughout the day.

With the combination of vintage root rhythms and a large program of free entertainment, this Sunday promises to be a high-energy introduction to Midland's newest landmark.

ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

Your local Gig Guide

Fri February 20

Lyric's Bar
Matt Angell Duo
From 7pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane Maylands

Woodbridge Hotel
Breezin
From 8pm, Free
50 East St Guildford

Parkerville Tavern
Leslie Hinton
Entertainment
From 6pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Robert Hinton
6pm - 9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Sat February 21

Lyric's Bar
Darryl and the Devil
From 7pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane Maylands

Parkerville Tavern
Rhay Rom & Chantel
From 6pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

Woodbridge Hotel
Touché
From 8pm, Free
50 East St Guildford

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Shane Turner
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Hemingway and Co.
Kyra Bee & Geoff
7pm to 9pm, Free
7095 Great Eastern
Highway Mundaring

Sun February 22

Parkerville Tavern
Tod Johnston and
PeaceLove
From 3pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville



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& GIG GUIDE

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OPTION 3 Free Text Listing

Contact Peter for more information
on 9374 6605 or

peter.lewis@echo-news.com

www.echonewspaper.com.au

ECHO NEWS

Sunday Feb. 22 cont.

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Funkoustic
5pm-8pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Woodbridge Hotel
Briann Finn
From 3pm, Free
50 East St Guildford

Lyric's Bar
Elysia Jazz Duo
From 5pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane Maylands

Childlow Tavern
Live Music
12.30 - 3.30pm, Free
4 Thomas St Childlow

Tues February 24

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

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

Hemingway and Co
Gypsy Jazz Tuesday
7pm to 9pm, Free
7095 Great Eastern
Highway Mundaring

Wed February 25

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery

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

Thur February 26

Lyric's Bar
Nathan Cavaleri with
Finn Pearson
From 7pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane Maylands

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Read between the lines

by Pastor Ian Kirk



A Very Hot Day

Last weekend we were at Matilda Bay, enjoying our annual picnic with the kids and families of our church. It was a lovely mild day, with the bay looking so nice, with swans swimming in the shallows, and with yachts sailing in the background.

We go most years, but this year I was reminded of when we were there on Saturday, February 23, 1991. That particular day was not a mild day. At 9.30am the temperature was already 40 degrees Celsius, on its way to 46.2 degrees - setting a new record for Perth's maximum temperature (which hasn't been eclipsed).

After experiencing the heat at Matilda Bay, we then went home to get ready for a wedding at our church; back then, our building had no air-conditioning. We knew the bride, but the groom had only arrived in Perth a week beforehand - from a cold UK. The groom, in a full suit, roasted in the unbearable heat. But the heat didn't phase them - and they're still married today.

We can go through unbearable and trying times in life; where the 'heat' of difficult circumstances damages our relationships. But there is one relationship that will endure forever, and that's the one we can have with God when we put our faith in Jesus Christ. That's because Jesus will never let go of us and will help us in all of life. He died on a cross to save us and will bring us home to heaven.

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF PERMANENT ROAD CLOSURE PORTION OF UNCONSTRUCTED ROAD HARTUNG LANE, MUNDARING

Pursuant to s.58 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*, notice is hereby given that the Shire of Mundaring proposes to permanently close a portion of unconstructed road reserve within the Mundaring Shopping Precinct known as Hartung Lane, Mundaring.

The closure is proposed to address a long-standing boundary misalignment involving encroachment of the constructed road onto private land, and a portion of the dedicated road reserve that has been used for private parking purposes.

Following closure, it is intended that the closed road reserve be disposed of and amalgamated into Lot 100 on DP064143 and Lot 29 on DP22865 pursuant to s.87 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*.

A plan depicting the area of road reserve intended to be permanently closed can be viewed at www.mundaring.wa.gov.au or the Shire office.

Enquires can be directed to Dee Roberts, Property Management Officer on 9290 6710.

Written submissions for consideration by Shire of Mundaring regarding this proposed road closure should be addressed to

Road Closure, Hartung Lane, Mundaring
Chief Executive Officer,
Shire of Mundaring,
7000 Great Eastern Highway,
MUNDARING WA 6073

or by emailing shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au to be received up to 4.30pm, Monday 30 March 2026

Jason Whiteaker
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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President's Cup winners Caversham Crusaders. Pictures: Chris Thomas

Caversham takes home the President's Cup

DAVID PEASE

IN last Sunday's grand final in the Perth Swan Cricket Association, the top side of the two-day competition Swan View Cricket Club hosted top one-day side Caversham Dayton Cricket Club at Brown Park for the President's Cup.

In what was anticipated to be a close match it did not disappoint with many ups and downs as both sides fought for ascendancy.

Swan View won the toss and elected to bat and was in early trouble at 3 for 8 in the second over with Amit Nain claiming two wickets in two balls.

Caversham maintained the pressure and when Lindsay Nattey had claimed three more wickets, Swan View was in big trouble at just 7 for 49 in the 14th over of the 40 over match.

Swan View captain Matt Parnham was joined by 17-year-old young gun Alan Antony and the two batsmen went about trying to set a defendable score for the home side.

Antony would be the next batsman to go for 30 adding 63 with his captain before Parnham also departed for 47, leaving Swan View 9 for 124.

With one wicket remaining Leon Ottobrinio joined his son Ben and it was the younger Ottobrinio who led the way, finishing with 42 not out and dragging his side to 9 for 170 off his team's 40 overs.

Lindsay Nattey was the pick of the bowlers for Caversham with 3 for 29 off his 8 overs.

Caversham started their innings cautiously and when both openers had been dismissed were 2 for 37 after 13 overs.

Gaganpreet Singh would get the innings moving for the visitors scoring 55 off 56 balls, but his dismissal opened the door for the home team with Chris Wollaston claiming three

wickets and 14-year-old Tanveer Chauvan claiming another two, Caversham was looking a little shaky at 7 for 125.

With 11 overs still remaining and needing 46 runs for victory it was the mature heads of Sandeep Brar (35 not out) and Manjinder Singh (16 not out) who were able to guide their team home for their first President's Cup win.

The victory was great redemption for Caversham after they lost the Tuesday T20 Final a few weeks earlier and disappointment for Swan View who were going for back-to-back President Cup flags.

Gaganpreet Singh was named man of the match for his match winning 55.



Man of the match Gaganpreet Singh.

ECHO Notice Board

A free service for non-profit organisations

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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 Lawn Tennis Club** meets for social tennis 9am every Wednesday and Saturday at 21 Patterson Drive, Middle Swan. All ages and standards of play welcome, and they have senior and junior teams that compete in Tennis West pen-

- nants. For more information email play-tennis@midland.tennis.com.au
- **The Kalamunda Bowls Club** is hosting their first Sundowner of 2026 on Friday, February 20, from 5pm to 7.30pm at 18 Kalamunda Road, Kalamunda. Hang out with the best community and meet local business owners in a relaxed environment over a beer and a bowl. To book tickets visit www.kalamundachamber.com/event-directory
- **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.

Woofers of the week



Mishka is a seven-year-old chow chow and due to her owners ill health needs a new home. She is well behaved and needs an owner familiar with the breed. Mishka is sterilised, vaccinated, and microchipped. Costs apply. Please contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

ECHO Local Real Estate

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High Wycombe a top grower in rental prices

HIGH Wycombe saw some of the strongest growth in weekly house rent and sale prices in January, according to the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia (REIWA).

REIWA data showed High Wycombe's median weekly house rent price grew 3.1 per cent to \$750, while its median house sale price rose 1.3 per cent to \$778,000.

Brabham and Ballajura were also among the fastest-selling suburbs in Perth during January, with houses in Brabham selling in a median of five days and Ballajura in six days.

The median dwelling rent across Perth rose to \$720 per week in January, 2.9 per cent higher than December 2025 and 7.5 per cent higher than the same time last year.

The median weekly rent for houses rose to \$725, a 3.6 per cent increase over the month, while the median weekly rent for units rose to \$690, up 1.5 per cent.

REIWA president Suzanne Brown said it was fairly common to see strong shifts in rent prices in January, but it was a timely reminder about the state of the rental market.

"The WA rental market experienced several years of crisis conditions following a mass exodus of investors after the lifting of the COVID rental moratoriums in 2021," she said.

"Our modelling shows nearly 20,000 properties, or 8.4

per cent of rental stock, were removed from the market.

"The rental market has shown some improvement over the past 18 months however we are not out of the woods.

"We cannot afford to be complacent about actions that might lead to another decline in supply and negatively affect the delicate state of the rental market.

"We know another review of the Residential Tenancies Act is coming up, and there are again growing calls for removing no grounds terminations.

"We also know investors are sensitive to legislative change and are capable of leaving the market if they feel conditions are unfavourable."

Perth's median house sale price reached a new record of \$855,000 in January, a 1.8 per cent increase on December and 13.2 per cent higher than a year ago.

The median unit sale price also rose 17.6 per cent over the year to a record \$600,000.

Ms Brown said this week's interest rate rise was not expected to significantly slow price growth, with the market continuing to be driven by the ongoing imbalance between supply and demand.

Listings for sale across Perth rose to 2444 in January, following the record low of 1881 at the end of December 2025, though this was still 50 per cent lower than January 2025.



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