

ECHO NEWS

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Friday, February 27, 2026



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Local Business Supporting Local People VOL. 43 NO. 1951



Walkway distance under scrutiny

P7



Avon Valley Black Dog ride

P8



Binar receives boost

P9



Picture: Andrew Tinning

Karla Bidi Listening

An interactive light and sound installation drew visitors to Woodbridge Riverside Park as part of the Perth Festival.

PG 6

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RESIDENTS CONTINUE TO RAISE CONCERNS OF THE WALKING DISTANCE BETWEEN THE NEW MULTI STOREY CARPARK AND THE NEW MIDLAND TRAIN STATION, ARGUING IT DISADVANTAGES THE ELDERLY AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say:
editorial@echo-news.com

Thought for the day

“Opportunities are usually disguised as hard work, so most people don’t recognise them.”

– Ann Landers

Bassendean post box 150th

Dear Echo News,
As a lover of history, I love living in Bassendean which is one of Perth’s oldest pioneering towns.

This year is the 150th anniversary of our heritage red pillar post box which has been continuously used since 1876.

The reason this pillar box was state heritage listed was to see that it remained in situ and not imprisoned in some dusty old museum.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for Perth’s ‘oldest’ red pillar post box (VR 1868) despite my best efforts.

This box was located at the front entrance of our zoo for many many years until it was removed and put in a shed at the rear of the zoo for a couple of decades.

In 2015 I wrote to the director of Perth Zoo and asked if I could

purchase the pillar box, renovate and paint with a view to approaching Bassendean town council and having the box placed outside our library on crown land for all to admire and utilise and also have it state heritage listed.

Unfortunately, as a result of my enquiry Australia Post retrieved this rare piece of WA history from the zoo shed, renovated it and placed it in the confines of a commercial building in Northbridge where it remains today!

What a huge disappointment it is not on the street for all to enjoy.

**G Coleman
Bassendean**

Tobacco laws are welcomed

Dear Echo News,
Cancer Council WA welcomes the Cook government’s amendment Bill to strengthen

Western Australia’s tobacco and vape laws.

This announcement reminds us that, to be effective, tobacco control must have continued political commitment and sustained investment – a comprehensive approach requires strong legislation, effective enforcement, public education, and accessible quit support to all work together.

These proposed amendments to the Tobacco Products Control Act 2006 will provide strong deterrence to businesses that supply illicit tobacco and vapes, including significant penalties and closure powers.

Given the urgency of the issue, Cancer Council WA hopes to see the Bill progress quickly through Parliament.

We also look forward to hearing more about the second tranche of amendments later this year, addressing public health issues and tobacco retail licencing.

We hope together these amendments will help bring WA’s tobacco legislation back up to speed and ensure it remains responsive to emerging challenges.

There’s never been a better time to quit

— and free support is available.

People who smoke and vape can visit makesmokinghistory.tips for practical advice, new ways to quit, and to create a free quit plan.

Young people who want to quit vaping can visit cleartheair.org.au for quit tips, the “Am I Addicted?” quiz, and practical support to help them break free for good.

**Melissa Ledger
Cancer
Prevention and
Research Director**

Emergency care plan chuckles

Dear Echo News,
I must say the widespread advice to ‘create or revise your emergency care plan’ sounds good.

Unfortunately, this makes me laugh.

If we get fair warning of a fire we will grab a few things (we already have most of them packed or accessible), get in the car and get out by turning left or right, according to which seems the safest.

By this time, or soon after, power may be

turned off and, hence, we would have no bore water.

If the fire comes in the middle of the night, we would hope to be notified in time to jump into the car and get out as fast as possible.

Because not only would the electricity and water be cut off, if a single big tree branch falls across our driveway we have no way out.

The ditch alongside our road is so rough and deep I doubt if we two elderly people could cross it on foot and certainly not by car.

Maybe one day, when the area is burned out, the City of Kalamunda, albeit too late, will actually decide to remove the deadwood and at least some of the trees where safety is a concern.

**B Buchanan
Walliston**

The Echo reserves the right to edit letters for length, legal reasons or clarity. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Echo. All letters must contain the author’s full name, address and phone number for verification purposes.

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While the PTA talks the talk commuters walk the walk

COMMERCIAL Bar and Kitchen owner Kevin Bartholomew has poked fun at the 500 metre distance from the carpark to the new Midland train station with a large banner.

“The distance the Transport Department promotes between the station and the new car park is 270m. While that figure works in glossy brochures, a commuter measures from stepping off the train to reaching their vehicle.

“The distance from platform two to the centre of the ground level of the new car park is 511.6m - much of it along a shared path with bus loading points. A further 100m or more

applies if parked at the western end or on an upper level,” Mr Bartholomew said.

“While the Public Transport Authority (PTA) talks the talk, the local community has to walk the walk,” he said.

“This project reflects a broader pattern of neglecting community concerns raised throughout the design process, including the construction of the dangerous new level crossing at Railway Parade and Cale Street, as well as unresolved environmental and safety concerns.

“For three years we have raised issues directly with the PTA and the Deputy Premier’s office. The communication has

been one-way.

“The banner was our light-hearted way of reassuring people undertaking the Bourke and Wills trek from the car park to the station that there is a welcoming place to relax and recover just 100m away.”



Swan biodiversity plan approved with conditions

GUANHAO CHENG

CONCERNS about the City of Swan's biodiversity commitments were a public question time focus at the February ordinary council meeting.

The City of Swan initially adopted its current Local Biodiversity Strategy in 2015 and was due for review and the new draft is the third edition of the document.

Swan resident Bill Carroll said residents had consultation sessions in November last year, and since then there have been initiatives that have been deferred.

"It just seems to be dragging on," he said.

Mr Carroll said the city's tree preservation scheme and fauna protection scheme, formerly the kangaroo protection scheme, were measures that should sit clearly within a broader biodiversity framework.

"We now have a black cockatoo action plan which seems to be going ahead," he said.

"But those three issues should really come under the biodiversity action plan."

City of Swan planning and development executive director Leon Van der Linde said the city's environmental policies operate under a layered structure.

"It is necessary to understand that the city's framework in terms of environmental preservation, the umbrella of this framework is the sustainable environmental strategy," he said.

"The biodiversity plan is an action plan that pulls some of that together.

"You're 100 per cent right, everything is not under one document (and) we need to read these documents together."

Mr Carroll asked whether the biodiversity action plan would extend to land controlled by other government agencies.

"Will this plan be enforced over land controlled by Main Roads, Department of

Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), Waters and Rivers?" he said.

Mr Van der Linde said implementation would involve collaboration.

"In terms of the action plan, there's a requirement to further collaborate with other agencies in addition to further collaboration with private landowners, developers and members of the public that that are involved," he said.

Mr Carroll also asked if there would be consultation with Whadjuk Noongar Elders.

City of Swan chief executive officer Stephen Cain said a separate Aboriginal cultural heritage plan was currently in development.

"We're also required to produce an Aboriginal cultural heritage plan," he said.

"That's a separate document that covers the whole of the city and deals in detail with all Aboriginal protection issues, and we're currently engaging with the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation on that plan."

Mr Cain said staff couldn't recommend allocation of funds to a particular initiative until there was an overarching strategic objective.

"There are recommendations as part of which will sit in this year's budget," he said.

"Some of it deals with staff (as) it's no good adopting an action plan if you don't have anyone to actually do any work on it."

Swan Valley Ratepayers and Residents Association president Humphrey Boogaardt said the Shire of Mundaring had a budget a quarter of the size of the City of Swan's and was able to produce a 124-page biodiversity strategy document with a comprehensive action plan.

"The City of Swan's biodiversity action plan misses lots of points that are made in Mundaring's," he said.

Mr Boogaardt said he believed the city



City of Swan have adopted the biodiversity action plan 2024, after a back and forth in council. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

didn't have a strategy for biodiversity as well and asked what the public was meant to make of this.

Mr Van der Linde said the city needed to resource a framework which required adopting a plan which will need to come back to council for cost considerations.

During the voting process, Cr Jennifer Catalano moved for the council to request revisions including measurable goals and broader stakeholder involvement but lost the vote 6/8.

"Urban tree policy should refer to the Biodiversity Action Plan and not the other way around so that verges and parks are plant-

ed with local species to become Ecological Linkages," she said.

"(We should recognise) that mapping provided currently is deficient and unusable."

Cr Rod Henderson also made an amendment to clarify actions proposed under the new plan were not binding under the state and national legislative framework which was carried.

The council resolved 8/6 to adopt the Local Biodiversity Action Plan as attached but with conditions.

The full adopted biodiversity action plan may be accessed on the City of Swan website.



The 28m tree had stood at the Darlington Tennis Club for over 100 years.

Darlington tree removal sparks tree canopy concern

BRAYDEN MOULD

THE recent removal of a century-old tree in Darlington has left residents calling on the Shire of Mundaring for increased transparency in the process of removing established trees.

The 28m maritime pine, a landmark at the Darlington Tennis Club for more than a century, was removed earlier this month following a risk assessment presented to council that identified root instability and a potential falling risk for pedestrians.

Darlington resident and arborist at Bowden Tree Consultancy, Brad Bowden said the community was stunned at the decision to remove the established tree.

"The Darlington community has suffered a devastating loss after removing one of its oldest known residents," he said.

"It's resulted in a loss of amenity, loss of canopy, loss of history, and loss of foraging and night roost habitat for threatened fauna."

Mr Bowden said there is a need for increased communication from the council to residents when significant landmarks like the maritime pine are required to be removed.

"The council is responsible for notifying the community when a development proposal such as a new building, change of land use, or rezoning requires public comment," he said.

"How about they notify the local community

when removal of a high-value tree is proposed."

As the shire currently develops its Local Planning Scheme 5 to reinforce environmental safeguards for private land as reported in *Calls for stronger tree protection in Mundaring* (Echo News, October 31 2025), Mr Bowden warns that losing established public trees undermines those efforts.

"Perth is facing a tree canopy crisis, and if we want liveable suburbs as more heatwaves become the norm, we need to retain and expand our tree cover," he said.

When contacted for comment, the Shire of Mundaring said the removal followed a report from an independent arborist which confirmed issues with the tree's structural integrity.

"Although the tree appeared healthy above ground, the assessment identified an unacceptable level of risk in a highly trafficked pedestrian area," a council spokesperson said.

"The Darlington Progress Association was informed of the arborist's findings prior to removal and after making their own enquiries supported the decision.

"Public safety must remain the shire's primary consideration when managing trees on public land, and tree removal is always the last resort.

"The shire has worked collaboratively with local groups for many years to support additional planting and remains committed to protecting the canopy across the region."

Shape our Aquatic Future

We're reviewing our aquatic facilities and planning for the future. **Whether you use them or not, we want your input.**

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All aboard the Midland line

THE new Metronet Midland Station was officially opened on Sunday, marking a historic milestone in the transformation of Perth's public transport network.

The state-of-the-art station is closer to key destinations like the Midland Health Campus and Midland Gate shopping centre, and features a 24/7 pedestrian overpass, new public spaces, a 12-stand bus interchange and a multi-storey car park.

Jointly funded by the Albanese and Cook governments, the new Midland Station delivers a modern, accessible facility for those living, visiting and working in Midland.

It is located to the east of the old station and has been designed to reflect the area's Noongar culture and landscape, as well as its industrial heritage: set against the backdrop of the Midland Railway Workshops.

Works on the new station began in July 2023 and included the relocation of the level crossing from Helena Street to Cale Street, as well as the demolition of the 57-year-old station.

The iconic Midland Station clock was carefully preserved during the works following a community campaign and has now been reinstated on the walls of the new station.

The new bus interchange delivered as part of the project, is now fully operational with 12 bus stands, toilets and customer service facilities.

The interchange was built with community designed artwork across the canopy panels, undertaken by local artists in collaboration with local non-profit organisation Indigo Junction.

Since January 2025, a new five storey car park has provided more than 800 spaces for local commuters, and features security cameras, lifts, duress alarms and provision for future electric car charging stations.

Regular passenger services will see trains operating every 12 minutes during peak and every 15 minutes off peak.

Passengers will pay no more than \$2.80

using a SmartRider with autoloan or \$3.50 using contactless payments to travel anywhere on the network with the new 'go anywhere fare'.

More than 250 local jobs were supported during the project, with 16 Aboriginal businesses awarded contracts of more than \$50,000 to deliver the works.

The new station has been awarded a 6 Star Green Star Design rating by the Green Building Council of Australia - the highest possible rating, recognised internationally as demonstrating 'World Leadership' in sustainability.

Premier Roger Cook said the opening of the new Midland station marks the final commitment delivered under WA Labor's 2017 Metronet vision.

"My government is committed to delivering quality infrastructure all over Western Australia, to support a high quality of life no matter where they live through Metronet and world-class public transport.

"As part of Metronet, we have delivered 72km of new passenger rail, and 23 new stations - it has transformed Perth and the way we get around.

"I want to acknowledge and recognise the thousands of workers who have brought this vision to a reality."

Midland MLA Steve Catania said as someone who lives and works in Midland, he was incredibly proud to see this spectacular new station open to our community.

"This project is a major leap forward in Midland's renewal, creating the foundation for a revitalised public realm that strengthens our role as the epicentre of the eastern region.

"Relocating the station closer to the town



Deputy Premier Rita Saffioti, Midland MLA Steve Catania, Hasluck MP Tania Lawrence and Premier Roger Cook. Inset: Crowds converge for the official opening.



centre and hospital has not only improved connectivity to essential services, but has also created new opportunities for development that will deliver long-lasting benefits for our community and local economy."

Transport Minister Rita Saffioti said the opening the new Midland station was a huge moment for the local community and a historic milestone in the transformation of WA's public transport network.

"Metronet has been a game-changer for our city, delivering world-class public transport infrastructure that will service Western Australians for generations to come.

"It has made travel more accessible and affordable, generated thousands of local jobs and is driving new residential and commercial development right across our suburbs.

"This incredible station has brought new vibrancy to the heart of Midland, delivering a better-connected, modern public transport hub to support this growing community.

"We recognise that delivering a project of this scale has meant periods of disruption, and I again thank the Midland community for their patience throughout the process."

Hasluck MP Tania Lawrence said it was big projects like this more than \$400 million Metronet Midland Station that remind us just how important it is to have people around with the skills and training to bring these plans into being.

"Employing 250 people locally along with Indigenous businesses has meant that the wider community benefited from this project, not just those of us catching the train and bus.

"It's beautifully designed and the build quality is superb, a legacy to the skills of all the workers and it will be enjoyed for generations to come. Fantastic we could save and incorporate the original clock, too."

Twilight tunes

FREE Twilight Music Event
Live at Mundaring Sculpture Park

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Family event - all welcome.
Bring a picnic rug or low-back chairs.

Alcohol & drug free | No pets
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Swan against Hepburn East rezoning

GUANHAO CHENG

SWAN council opposed a proposed Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) amendment to rezone land at Hepburn East from regional open space and rural, water protection to urban.

The amendment applies to approximately 111ha in Cullacabardee and is before the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC).

Cr Jennifer Catalano moved that council not endorse the amendment, citing concerns about water protection and environmental impact.

“The lots are located on the Gnaragara mound aquifer within priority one public drinking water source area,” she said.

Cr Catalano said she had concerns about hydrology and drainage, referencing flooding issues experienced in other developing suburbs.

“It makes me wonder if the world has gone crazy to suggest building more urban (zoning) over priority one drinking water catchment,” she said.

“The area is priority one for a good reason because good quantity and quality rain water percolates down through the sandy soil layers into the Gnaragara aquifer and across to the Bennett Brook.

“Experience in the growth corridor to the east of Whiteman Park has taught us that change in hydrology changes everything.

“It results in future flooding in urban areas, it turns creeks and streams into disgusting drains full of weeds and less water stored in the aquifer.”



Councillor Jennifer Catalano said the priority one water source should be a key reason to reject the proposal to rezone the area.

She said the mapping indicated threatened ecological communities and wetlands within the amendment area.

“Without water, there is no life and no people,” she said.

“Build for housing today and without water in the future it will be an abandoned, treeless, empty wasteland.

“We cannot leave that dystopian future for those who follow us, therefore, this rezoning should never be approved ever.”

The motion to recommend the WAPC not endorse the amendment was put to a recorded vote and carried.



Small businesses have been complaining about heavy handed fees that they say are ineffective as the real problem persists.

Council adopts trolley fee waiver

GUANHAO CHENG

SHOPPING trolley collection fees for certified small retailers were waived during the February Swan council meeting following a six-month trial.

The item considered the results of the trial program, which aimed to support smaller businesses while maintaining enforcement measures for major retailers.

Cr Rashelle Predovnik moved that council permanently adopt the waiver and continue targeted enforcement against high volume trolley offenders.

“The data from the trial is very clear,” she said.

“Small retailers account for just 3 per cent of abandoned trolleys and the overwhelming majority, almost 90 per cent, come from major retail chains.

“The fee waiver has had a small impact on the overall trolley numbers but it has provided fairness and support for genuinely small locally owned businesses.

“Its enforcement is about changing behaviour where the problem sits and our focus should remain on the big operators not the corner IGA.”

The officer report confirmed that IGA Midland and IGA Ballajura together accounted for roughly 3 per cent of trolley collections during the trial period.



Cr Rod Henderson seconded the motion and said compliance efforts should focus on larger operators.

“Coles and Woolies does need to be ramped up,” he said.

Cr Bowman questioned the consistency of applying different fee arrangements.

“You’ve got two different systems for different businesses,” he said.

“You don’t have some people can go through a red light and some people can’t.

“This is a local law and it should be all people getting treated the same, all businesses getting treated the same.”

Despite opposition, council carried the motion 8/5, formally adopting the waiver policy for certified small retailers while maintaining enforcement requirements for major retailers, and resolving to return a report after 12 months for review.



SHARE YOUR KALAVISION

The City of Kalamunda is developing its Council Plan to guide decision making for the next decade.

Tell us what you love about the City, what’s missing, and what you’d like more of.

Together we can create a KalaVision our community can be proud of.

Scan the QR code or go to engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au to learn more.

Consultation closes midnight **Friday 3 April 2026**.



Complete the survey and go into the draw to win one of five \$100 dollar gift cards

engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au

Have Your Say!

Light installation draws visitors to Woodbridge Riverside Park

AN interactive light and sound installation drew visitors to Woodbridge Riverside Park as part of the Perth Festival, an annual arts and cultural festival held across the city.

The installation, Karla Bidi Listening, was an open-air experience co-created by First Nations artists with guidance from Noongar Elder Vivienne 'Binyarn' Hansen.

Set along the Swan River, the installation combined light and sound with the natural surroundings to create an immersive experience for the community.

A local resident described the display as an "ethereal combination of light and sound", with families and visitors stopping to take in the display.

The installation was held on two evenings, February 17 and February 24, at Woodbridge Riverside Park, attracting visitors to the area.

A young visitor takes in the Karla Bidi Listening light installation at Woodbridge Riverside Park. Picture: Andrew Tinning



Jeff Galloway's 2017 Ford Mustang GT at the Variety WA Creative Car Cruise. Picture: Jeff Galloway

Helena Valley driver continues years of fundraising for Variety WA charity

A HELENA Valley man who has raised more than \$1 million for children's charity Variety WA is preparing to take part in this year's Creative Car Cruise.

Jeff Galloway will join the four-day Great Southern Cruise XV from Thursday, March 5 to Sunday, March 8, travelling through regional Western Australia to raise funds and support local communities.

Mr Galloway said his involvement with Variety WA began more than 30 years ago.

"In 1992, I sponsored a Bash car - an old Holden EK station wagon," he said.

"The following year, I was invited to join the crew, and I've been involved ever since."

Over the years, Mr Galloway has taken part in numerous fundraising events, including the Variety Bash, 4WD challenges and Creative Car Cruises.

"Overall, I've completed 17 Bashes, 10 4WD events and seven Creative Car Cruises," he said.

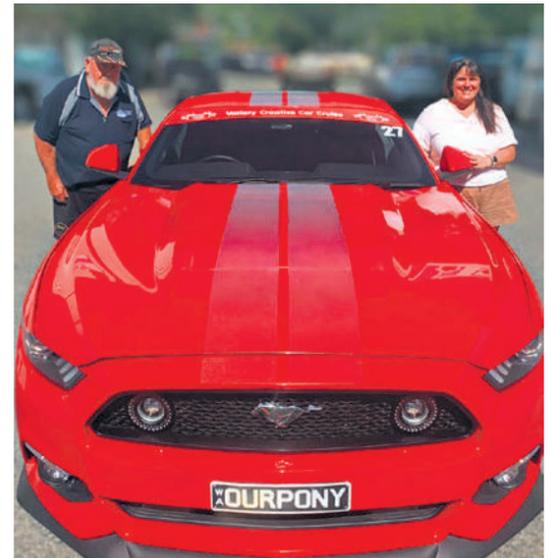
"I'd estimate we have raised over \$1 million over the various events we have taken part in."

This year, Mr Galloway will drive his 2017 Ford Mustang GT alongside his daughter, Kym Galloway, continuing a strong family involvement in the charity.

"I continue to take part in these events because I've supported Variety and the kids of Western Australia since 1992," he said.

"I believe in giving back to a community that has supported me for many years."

The Creative Car Cruise, organised by Variety WA, sees participants travel through regional towns while raising funds to support children and families in need.



Jeff Galloway and his daughter Kym Galloway with their 2017 Ford Mustang GT ahead of the Variety WA Creative Car Cruise. Picture: Jeff Galloway

Virtual Emergency Department healthcare expanded for kids

THE WA Virtual Emergency Department (WAVED) WAVEDkids service is now available for emergency healthcare five days a week.

The Cook government launched WAVEDkids last year and has already facilitated more than 700 consultations.

Of those consultations, 87 per cent of children were able to remain at home, without the need to attend a physical emergency department.

WAVEDkids have expanded from operating three days a week to be open five days - Monday to Friday from 10.30am to 8pm.

The service is available state-wide and will continue expanding in a staged approach to meet demand for paediatric care.

The WA Virtual Emergency Department (WAVED) for adults continues to connect patients with experienced emergency clinicians for virtual telehealth medical consultations every day from 8am to 10pm.

Health Minister Meredith Hammat said the WAVEDkids service had been extremely popular with WA families, and expanding the service to five days a week will be welcomed.

"This expansion ensures families have a safe and convenient alternative when their child is in need of urgent healthcare.

"Of the more than 722 consultations that have been completed by the WAVEDkids service, at least 630 cases resulted in a child being able to safely stay home rather than travel to a physical emergency department for further treatment.

"I know the service has been particularly useful for parents in rural and remote WA, who've been able to dial in and receive emergency healthcare advice for



The WAVEDkids virtual ED service has been expanded to five days a week.

their sick child from home.

"It's through investments like WAVEDkids that we're increasing access to the healthcare Western Australians need when they need it."

To access WAVED or WAVEDkids, Western Australians can call 1800 Medicare (1800 633 422) or Healthdirect on 1800 022 222. Their case will be assessed and if appropriate, they will be referred to the relevant service for expert advice.

This gives patients the option of receiving the care they need at their home or care setting, rather than waiting in an emergency department.

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Midland station to carpark distance is under scrutiny



Residents are calling for solutions to improve the walk from the new carpark to Midland station. Picture: Midland and Districts Historical Society Inc.

GUANHAO CHENG

MIDLAND residents are bringing renewed scrutiny to the distance between the newly opened Midland station and the carpark as commuters experience the 500m walk.

Midland resident and long-time train commuter Amanda Brown said the community had been very vocal about the long, unsheltered walk from the carpark to the station since it opened.

"I've got serious respiratory issues, I would not be able to walk the distance from the train station and the carpark," she said.

"Many that I've spoken to have said it's a long way to walk, which is a problem for older commuters and people with disabilities.

"I've been a long-time train commuter since 2012 and am used to coming home at night after a hospital night shift.

"At Royal Perth Hospital, you also have a carpark but there's a cart that nurses can take to their car for safety reasons.

"I think if Metronet provided a courtesy cart, it would be an innovative and compassionate step toward the right direction."

Commercial Bar and Kitchen publican Kevin Bartholomew said he was happy the development was completed but wished the residents in the area were listened to more.

"People are happy for more investment and infrastructure in the area and it's terrific for Midland, but it would be nice if they listened to the community voice more when building," he said.

People with Disabilities WA chief executive officer Kat Johns said accessible design should be proactively built into any new public infrastructure, including train stations.

"Accessibility-integrated design features are important for any train station as they let members of the disability and wider community access our train lines," she said.

"It's a shame the refreshed Metronet Midland Station has such a long distance between the parking and its main platform.

"We recommend state and local governments think about accessibility and inclusion early on in the design process for all new bus and train station projects."

Last year, as reported in *Station shelter not on the books* (Echo News, August 8, 2025) shelter from the carpark to the station was not under consideration despite concerns about the uncovered walkway.

The Public Transport Authority (PTA) said the carpark met disability standards and will install rest stops in coming months.

"To help those who find the distance... challenging, rest stops with seating will be placed every 60m along the route," a spokesperson said.

"(The carpark has) more than 800 parking bays including 20 ACROD bays. There are three (ACROD) parking bays closer to the station – two on Railway Parade and one on Yelverton Drive.

"The location of the (car park) was chosen after careful planning to make the best use of available land, reduce impacts on local roads, and ensure the new bus interchange works efficiently."

Swan \$5K illegal dumping fine

A MAN has been handed a \$5000 fine after being convicted of multiple littering offences and abandoning shopping trolleys in South Guildford.

The conviction follows an increase in illegal dumping reports in South Guildford, prompting City of Swan community safety rangers to deploy a mobile security camera tower to monitor the area.

Footage captured during the investigation showed the individual on three separate occasions pushing shopping trolleys loaded with various materials and abandoning both the items and the trolleys on a verge without approval.

City Waste Services was required to clean up multiple piles of rubbish, including broken bicycle parts, household furniture, and other assorted items.

The offender was charged with several littering offences and offences relating to the abandonment of shopping trolleys.

After failing to appear in court, the man was convicted in their absence.

The court imposed a \$5000 fine, ordered payment of the city's legal costs of \$1646, and clean-up costs of \$2617, bringing the total amount imposed by the Court to \$9264.

The outcome sends a clear message that illegal dumping will not be tolerated.

The introduction of local laws relating to the dumping of shopping trolleys also carry significant



Illegal dumping in the City of Swan.

penalties.

The City of Swan's reduce illegal dumping (RID) program encourages resident reporting, and offers free waste disposal options and provides community education workshops.

Key initiatives include two annual bulk verge collections, access to the Red Hill Waste Management Facility and recycling centres in Bullsbrook and Malaga.

Residents can report illegal dumping at www.swan.wa.gov.au/waste-and-sustainability/littering-and-illegal-dumping

Swan free tree and plant giveaway

APPLICATIONS are now open for the City of Swan's annual free trees and plants giveaway, offering residents the opportunity to collect a free pack of native seedlings.

The program has expanded over the last few years to include rural and urban residents, giving everyone an opportunity to increase the city's urban canopy.

Different seedlings will be distributed based on the size of each resident's property, with applicants required to confirm whether they fit into an urban or rural category.

Urban residents living on a property smaller than 4000sqm are eligible for one pre-prepared urban

pack, which includes a mix of native plants suitable for smaller properties.

Rural residents living on a property larger than 4000sqm or larger are eligible to choose one option from five pre-prepared rural packs, each containing a mix of rural plants suited to different property characteristics and growing conditions.

Applications are open until Friday, March 27 and residents are encouraged to apply early to avoid missing out.

For more information and to apply go to www.swan.wa.gov.au/waste-and-sustainability/free-trees-and-plants-giveaway



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Black Dog Ride coordinator Wes Sutton secures mascot Winston ready for the annual fundraiser.

Riders gear up for Avon Valley's Black Dog Ride

MOTORCYCLISTS will depart from Kalamunda Agricultural Hall on Sunday, March 15 for the Avon Valley Black Dog Ride, raising awareness of depression and suicide prevention.

The annual event is part of a nationwide initiative run by Black Dog Ride, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to raising awareness of mental health issues and supporting suicide prevention across Australia.

More than 100 riders took part in last year's Avon Valley ride, and organisers are hoping to attract even more participants in 2026.

"It would be great to see even more riders get involved this year," coordinator Gayle Nelson said.

This year's ride will depart from the Kalamunda Agricultural Hall

at 9.45am, with Mayor Margaret Thomas set to officially open the event, before travelling through the Avon Valley and finishing at the Grass Valley Tavern.

Black Dog Ride events are held nationwide on the third Sunday in March, with thousands of riders taking part to help start conversations around mental health and suicide prevention.

Riders can register via the official website at blackdogride.org.au.

For more information about the Avon Valley ride, contact coordinator Wes Sutton at avonvalley@blackdogride.org.au.

If you or someone you know needs support, contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 or Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636.



Stirk Park in Kalamunda. Picture: Daniel Holmes

Stirk Park's skate park safety concerns raised

DANIEL HOLMES

SAFETY concerns have been raised about the Stirk Park skate area in Kalamunda, with a resident warning children could be at risk from nearby traffic.

At a City of Kalamunda council meeting, Paulls Valley resident Meta Parker questioned whether additional safety measures were needed to prevent children from entering Elizabeth Street from the skate area.

Ms Parker suggested a physical barrier, such as a log, could help stop children scooting directly onto the road.

Stirk Park is a popular community space featuring a skate area, playground and open parkland, regularly used by families and young people.

The skate area is located near Elizabeth Street, raising concerns about the potential for children to move from the path onto the road.

In response, the City of Kalamunda said its design team would investigate options to improve safety in the area.

"The design team will investigate some conceptual options to see whether improved delineation or other safety measures can be



The Stirk Park skate area near Elizabeth Street, where safety concerns have been raised about children moving between the path and nearby traffic. Picture: Daniel Holmes.

implemented to reduce risk in this area," the city said.

The city also noted that speed reduction treatments are planned for Elizabeth Street following the installation of new lighting in the area.

New permaculture program helping local gardens thrive

WEST Swan-based GFS Perth has launched an exciting new permaculture program to help community gardens become more permaculture-informed, locally led and sustainably run.

According to Permaculture Partnerships' coordinator Shona Easton-Gomez the new program aims to support and establish gardens from concept through to a functioning community space, while offering step-by-step support where gardens need a reset.

"The program's current pilot site is Swan View community garden based at Swan View Uniting Church where a growing local team is building simple systems, shared leadership and a welcoming space that grows food, skills, and connection," Ms Easton-Gomez said.

"The program's first monthly busy bee kicked off on February 15 with community members pitching in to map the garden, identifying existing infrastructure and plants, and helping shape priorities for the coming season," she said.

"The morning included a garden tour, hands-on garden mapping and a relaxed colouring station with tea, coffee and biscuits shared along the way."

Ms Easton-Gomez said busy bees were held at 10.45am on the third Sunday of each month at Swan View Uniting Church, 82 Gladstone Avenue, Swan View.

"All ages and abilities are welcome, whether you're a keen gardener, a curious beginner, or simply looking for a friendly local way to connect," she said.



Permaculture Partnerships' coordinator Shona Easton-Gomez and GFS Perth chief executive officer Alison Gilchrist get ready to lead the year's first busy bee.

"As interest and momentum grows, additional events and weekly volunteer opportunities will be added."

GFS Perth is one of Western Australia's oldest not-for-profit organisations proudly supporting generations of women and their families since 1888.

For more information go to: permaculture@gfsperth.com.au

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Developers called for Midland rail workshops

THE transformation of Midland's rail workshops into a vibrant urban regeneration precinct is moving full speed ahead, with DevelopmentWA calling for developers to submit proposals for the final two heritage listed workshop sites.

Set within the Midland Health and Knowledge Precinct, Workshop 2 (1.23ha) and Workshop 3 (1.47ha), which once supported Midland's railway industry, offer flexible development opportunities including mixed-use offerings, performing arts, creative industries, hospitality, and potential residential uses.

Workshop 2 can accommodate a two-storey development within the building footprint, while workshop 3 has allowances to develop up to eight storeys, enabling innovative designs that combine warehouse-style commercial spaces with potential residential extensions.

The offers invited period for the workshops of the Railway Precinct closes on April 30, and interested applicants are encouraged to submit via Tenderlink.

This is the latest release to further bolster Midland's growing community and regeneration.

DevelopmentWA has already released two 1400sqm grouped housing sites late last year.



Development opportunities are available for two heritage listed workshop sites.

Lots 928 and 929 are located 500m from the new Midland Train Station and permit up to eight storeys, increasing the residential offerings to support the Health and Knowledge Precinct expansion.

In addition, two sites in the Midland Metronet precinct will be the location of two developments that form part of Develop-

mentWA's 14 build-to-rent apartment development program, which will provide up to 1146 new homes across the Perth metropolitan area.

Located either side of the rail line near the new Midland Station, the Woodbridge and Midland developments will provide 176 apartments, comprising of 140 affordable and

36 social, one and two-bedroom homes, increasing housing availability in the area.

Woodbridge is on track to start construction in March and Midland late 2026.

Midland's urban renewal project, underway since 2000, continues to transform the city centre and revitalise the gateway to the Swan Valley and Perth Hills, with more than \$1 billion in combined government and private investment.

The vision is to create a thriving city that attracts busi-

nesses, residents and tourists to Perth's eastern corridor.

Planning and Lands and Housing and Works Minister John Carey said the government was creating a vibrant centre, right in the heart of Midland and featuring all the amenity and transport the community expects to see in a world-class Health and Knowledge Precinct.

"The workshops are unique and rare, and this opportunity is the last of its kind. The unique historical workshops are now poised to be transformed into dynamic spaces that contribute to the precinct's growing commercial and hospitality hub.

"We are working hard to expand residential options. These latest releases build on the medium density momentum we have already started and will ultimately increase housing in a town residents will be proud to call home."

More information on the grouped housing site opportunities can be found at developmentwa.com.au/projects/redevelopment/metronet-east-midland/overview



Founder Adam Desmond (right) has been helping create a sporting community that also acts as an extended family since 2011. Picture: Binar Futures

Binar receives \$1.8 million boost

GUANHAO CHENG

COMMUNITY organisation Binar Futures has received a \$1.8 million injection to help sustain the culturally secure program uplifting Aboriginal youth through sport.

Binar, meaning meteor in Noongar language, uses basketball as an entry point to connect young people with cultural learning, homework support, health initiatives and leadership development.

Each year, Binar Futures engages thousands of young people across metropolitan, regional, and remote Western Australia through integrated sports-based programs that improve participation, wellbeing, health, education and community connection.

The funding will go towards helping the organisation provide their services for more participants.

It comes on the back of a major boost in January of last year to boost assets and provide sporting facilities for their programs.

Binar's mission at a larger scale (Echo News, January 17, 2025) reported the organisation was being supported to provide a \$12.5m Bellevue community sporting hub to facilitate programs.

Binar began in 2011 as one Midland basketball team of six Indigenous youths supported by founder Adam Desmond.

Since then, the organisation has grown to include over 1800 young people, 78 per cent of whom are Aboriginal, involved in the Perth Metro area and surrounds.

Since its inception, Binar has also grown to become a support system and extended family to its members, according to the Binar website.

Premier Roger Cook said the grant would give Binar the operational foundations to continue

growing and producing positive community outcomes.

"Binar Futures is an outstanding example of Aboriginal-led leadership creating real and lasting change for young people, families, and communities across Western Australia, using sport as a powerful connector to engage young people," he said.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Don Punch said the program left a real impact on Indigenous youth.

"Binar Futures is helping to change young lives by giving Aboriginal youth a place to feel proud, supported and connected, where their strengths are recognised and their futures are filled with possibility," he said.

"By backing organisations such as Binar, we are helping young people access programs and supports that will empower them to dream big and walk strong."

As reported in *Stories of sport and community at final 2025 talk* (Echo News, December 11, 2025), Binar became the first Aboriginal-led club accepted into the WA Basketball League in 2025.

According to Mr Desmond, many of the young people who started with Binar are now coaching and helping others. Mr Desmond said young leaders in Binar are given responsibility early.

"Often people think if they're young they can't do it, or they'll be a good leader when they're older," he said.

"Sometimes we can tokenistically say, 'Oh, they're a whatever leader in our group,' but actually giving them responsibilities and allowing them to fail – that's part of it.

"I think giving them opportunity to fail and be there for support so they know that they can is how you build up young leaders."



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Firefighters continue push for better work conditions

GUANHAO CHENG

THE United Professional Firefighters Union of Western Australia (UPFUWA) are continuing to ask the state government for a better negotiation deal.

The union said they presented clear, detailed data, and additional anecdotal evidence from firefighters to state government in a bid for better wages and conditions.

They were reportedly told their facts were incorrect and the budget didn't have the capacity to address the state of the service.

Although the state government provided a second pay offer near the end of 2025, the union rejected it demanding better wages and conditions.

The UPFUWA said their counter-offer was also rejected in its entirety.

"For the first time in its history, the union has initiated the Enterprise Order process, which will see a long, costly and drawn-out fight in the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC), where (the union's) claims will be independently reviewed," they said in a statement.

UPFUWA secretary John Marsh said the state's firefighters have had their pleas for help rejected and been labelled ungrateful by the government.

"We came to them with facts, data and evidence," he said.

"They rejected all of it while refusing to justify how and why there's no room in the budget for this crisis."

"They'll find tens of millions to fight us, but nothing to help us."

"This government is playing on our biggest fear. They're waiting on a tragedy as a wakeup call, and we don't want to say, 'we told you so'."

"We've been left with no choice but to make this historic move, and we're committed to supporting the brave, hardworking people this government has chosen



The United Professional Firefighters Union of Western Australia gathered at Parliament House to push for better work conditions for the profession.

to gaslight and ignore."

In *Fireys fight for better pay* (Echo News, October 10, 2025), it was reported firefighters were waiting 67 days for a response to the union's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement counter-offer from July 25.

The UPFUWA have been documenting staffing crisis reports with Malaga station reporting trucks being off-line 87 times according to the union.

The union also reported the Kiara fire station had been offline, on restricted duties or closed 26 times and Midland station had been unavailable or operating below safe staff profile 37 times, with a recent restricted duties occurrence resulting in the crew not being available for a traffic crash just 2km from their station.

Ellenbrook fire station was also unavailable 11 times according to the union.

"The career fire and rescue service is currently in a staffing crisis with hundreds more firefighters required to run the service properly," the union said in a post to social media.

"Wages have also not kept up with CPI, experiencing actual wage reductions, and not maintaining contact with other public sector employees who have barely kept up with CPI themselves."

"To be clear, the WA career fire and rescue service, and therefore the WA community, has not benefited from an appropriate increase in staffing numbers."

"A staffing crisis currently exists."

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The Darlington Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade will use grant funding to improve communications and safety on the fireground. Picture: Darlington Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Darlington brigade to boost communications with funds

THE Darlington Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade will use state government grant funding to improve communications and safety for firefighters on the fireground.

The brigade is among 43 across WA to receive funding through Western Power's bushfire volunteers grants program supporting volunteer crews with equipment and training.

The brigade will use the funding to purchase a Cel-fi unit, a mobile network booster designed to improve access to mobile phone and data coverage in areas with weak or no signal.

Darlington Volunteer Bushfire Brigade publicity officer Ricky Harvey said the upgrade would significantly improve operations and safety.

"The Western Power grant money is a huge boost for our volunteers' safety and operational capability," he said.

"The Cel-fi unit gives us better access to mobile signals for communications, especially when crews are at risk or quick access to information is required, and we can work more effectively on the

fireground."

Mr Harvey said improved coverage would also support the increasing use of technology during incidents.

"We are using more and more technology at fires, and better access to mobile data improves our use of mapping, hazard locations, vehicle tracking, and fire behaviour, all in real time," he said.

The Darlington brigade has about 90 members, including around 55 operational firefighters and 10 trainees.

Stoneville Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade is also among those to receive funding through the program, including Muchea Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade in Chittering, and Malebell and Talbot Brook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades in York.

Emergency Services Minister Paul Papalia said volunteer bushfire brigades played a critical role in protecting communities.

"Our volunteer bushfire brigades are at the heart of community safety across Western Australia," he said.

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Jen Kerr of the Friends of Sculpture Park West and Glen Park Reserve volunteers Russell Lagdon, Craig Jackson and former volunteer Phil Jackson.

Hills' groups benefit from latest environment grants

MIKE PEETERS

IN the latest round of Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) grants, Darlington's Friends of Glen Park Reserve received \$10,056 for regeneration and weed control maintenance within the reserve.

The group is one of 21 community organisations awarded almost \$275,000 in grants to deliver 46 river restoration projects to protect and enhance the Swan Canning catchments.

The SALP awards were announced earlier this month and are a joint initiative of Alcoa of Australia, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and the Burswood Park Board, delivered by Perth NRM.

Friends of Glen Park Reserve coordinator Leonie Campbell said the group had applied and been successful for five SALP grants over the years.

"This year, the money will be spent mostly on chemical weed control, plants

and summer watering in February and March next year," Ms Campbell said.

"We have also been revegetating the banks of Nyaania Creek which is a tributary to Helena River, hence we are a member of the Helena River Catchment Group.

"In the last five years we have planted reeds such as *Juncus subsecundus* in or on the banks.

"We have also planted endemic plants to the area slightly upland from the creek to stop erosion."

Friends of Sculpture Park West also received \$8200 for their bio sculpture project at Sculpture Park in Mundaring.

Group coordinator Jen Kerr said the project involved the preparation of a plot at the Guger Street end of the park to showcase some of the beautiful wildflowers, as well as weeding and planting in preparation for community days.

"This is what I call the cultural end of the park which I believe, doesn't always get the attention it deserves," Ms Kerr said.

In other awards, Friends of the Bennett Brook at Whiteman Park received nearly \$20,000 to improve biodiversity and water quality in the Bennett Brook Reserve.

The Gingin Brook Catchment Group was also awarded \$18,045 to support the recovery of Carnaby's Black Cockatoo habitat in Lennard's Brook following a bushfire.

Other groups to receive funding included the Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group (\$4082), the Lower Helena Association (\$17,188) and the Friends of John Forrest National Park (\$14,700).

Since its inception in 1998, SALP has provided more than \$11 million in funding to community groups, who in turn have delivered more than 1776 restoration projects, engaging thousands of volunteers and contributing over 260,000 work hours.

Applications for the 2027 SALP round are now open, with community groups encouraged to apply.

For more information visit: <https://www.perthnrm.com/>

Aussie teens turning to AI chat for help

IF your child is being bullied, or you're a young person experiencing bullying, you don't have to deal with it alone.

The national anti-bullying organisation Dolly's Dream last week launched 13 DOLLY - a confidential support line and web chat.

The service connects kids, teens and parents directly to a qualified Kids Helpline or ParentLine counsellor.

Its launch comes as new Dolly's Dream polling suggests some young Aussies are seeking emotional support from unqualified sources like AI chatbots.

A Dolly's Dream Instagram poll of 374 Australian parents conducted this month revealed 65 per cent said their child uses AI tools. Of the young AI users, 92 per cent were aged 13-20, while 3 per cent were under 9 years old and 26 per cent confirmed their child used AI for help when feeling sad.

Dolly's Dream head Sally Sweeney said the launch of 13 DOLLY came at a time when more young people were using AI in Australia.

"We know that kids and teens are turning to AI for help, and while it will always give a response, AI can't offer the safety or qualified guidance of a human counsellor.

"13 DOLLY provides that vital, real connection and that's why we've created a web chat service alongside our phone line, so kids and teens can contact us anytime, in the way many are currently turning to AI.

"But the big difference is that when they use 13 DOLLY, they'll actually be chatting with a qualified counsellor, who is ready to listen and trained to help.

"Our message to kids is clear. If you're getting bullied, please turn to a human at 13 DOLLY, not an algorithm."

To access support call 13 DOLLY (13 36 559) or for a web chat search 13 DOLLY or visit the Dolly's Dream website at www.dollysdream.org.au

School principals at breaking point



GUANHAO CHENG

A NATIONAL study revealed more than half of school principals surveyed said they experienced abuse and harassment at work, and the state principals' federation leader says the findings resonate in WA.

In response to *Echo News* questions, Principals Federation of Western Australia (PFWA) president Kya Graves said the national study was relevant to WA principals who reported similar experiences.

"PFWA can confirm what the research has identified as growing levels of violence, distress and social volatility, placing principals under 'extreme and often invisible' pressure," she said.

"Many principals reported assault, threats, and critical incidents requiring crisis management.

"The profession is experiencing a school leadership recruitment and retention crisis, heavily driven by stress and unmanaged emotional demands.

"The surge documented in the national data is highly relevant to WA principals and reflects patterns already observed across the state."

The new national research explores and puts to light the growing violence being experienced by principals in Australian public schools.

According to the report, government school principals and schools are being held solely responsible for educating the majority of the most disadvantaged students in Australian society, without adequate funding, services and system support.

This has been identified as a major factor in the escalation of violence in schools.

Lead Monash researcher Jane Wilkinson said

Australia ranks in the bottom third of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) when it comes to equity in schools.

"Decades of underfunding of our government schools means that public-school principals are the proverbial canaries in the coalmine," she said.

"Public school principals are expected to educate our most disadvantaged students without adequate funding, frontline services, or support."

Principals from across Australia told researchers that they felt at risk and "hated going to work".

One principal reported that they were assaulted by a parent while another "had a recurring dream that (they were) shot in the head" as a result of the trauma they were experiencing.

Ms Graves said the PFWA strongly supported principals facing harassment, threats, or violence.

"To improve safety and wellbeing in the event of harassment or violence, PFWA recommends (principals) report all incidents immediately to the Department of Education and ensure they are formally documented," she said.

"Request a risk assessment and safety plan, especially where there is repeated or escalating behaviour from parents, students, or community members.

"Seek support early, including psychological support, debriefing services, and union representation during difficult interactions.

"Do not manage violent or high-risk situations alone and ensure there is adequate staffing, supervision, and leadership coverage at all times.

"Engage PFWA for advocacy, particularly where departmental processes or responses have been insufficient."

PUBLIC NOTICE



In accordance with section 3.58(3) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the City proposes to enter into a short-term disposition of property by way of lease to Kzemos Australia Pty Ltd (ACN 644 946 261) (Proponent) for part of Reserve 50554 (Jorgensen Park) for 15 weeks, commencing 6 April 2026 and terminating on 20 July 2026, with an option to extend until 31 August 2026 (the duration).

Purpose of the lease is to provide exclusive use of a portion of Jorgensen Park (appx. 15Ha) for the purpose of a ticketed, public event.

A market value for the relevant portion of Jorgensen Park proposed to be leased to the Proponent, conducted on 20 February 2026, is \$150,000. The consideration to be received by the City from the Proponent is est. \$230,000.

Submissions on the proposed disposition by way of lease are able to be made to the City in writing or via email no later than **Friday 13 March 2026**, addressed to -

Chief Executive Officer

City of Kalamunda

PO Box 42

KALAMUNDA WA 6926

Or by email to enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au

Nathan Ritchie
A/Chief Executive Officer

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Visit thefwc.org.au/energyahead to sign up or scan the QR code below:




midlas
building resilience

MAKING A Difference

Personalised and professional services at Foothills Denture Clinic

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

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

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

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

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

The team are happy to discuss any difficulty



or query you may have with your denture – free of charge – and offer a professional service at a reasonable price.

For a free quote call 9250 1733.

Bulk Billing Open 7 days



I'm thrilled to announce that the new Mundaring Medicare Urgent Care Clinic is now open!

As a long-time nurse, health has always been my number one priority. Most of my career was spent as a remote area nurse and nursing educator, and some of you may know me from my time as a GP nurse at Helena Valley Medical Centre.

I know how important it is to receive urgent treatment when you need it, without worrying about cost.

That's why I'm so pleased to deliver on my election promise to open a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic at 3 Mundaring Weir Road, Mundaring.

The clinic provides walk-in care for urgent but non-life-threatening conditions, such as sprains, strains and fever.

- Fully bulk-billed
- Open seven days a week
- 8.00 am–8.00 pm Monday to Friday
- 9.00 am–7.00 pm on weekends and public holidays
- Plenty of parking along Craig Street
- You can reach the clinic on (08) 9463 7600

This new service means people in the Hills and beyond can access urgent care close to home while easing pressure on local hospitals.

Meet the local coaches helping Midland families save energy



Last Thursday's Energy Ahead launch in Midland showed just how committed local organisations are to helping households manage rising energy costs.

Representatives from community services, local government, and support agencies came together to learn about Energy Ahead and how they can help families access free energy coaching. The session gave a firsthand look at how the program identifies what's driving a household's energy use and provide simple, low-cost tips to reduce bills.

Many community organisations expressed enthusiasm about referring families, knowing that personalised coaching and free energy-saving items can make all the difference.

Midlas CEO Angie Perkins said the turnout shows how strongly the community is working together to support local households. "When people in our community connect, get to know each other and form relationships, everyone benefits. This program makes an instant difference whilst making long term change. I'm so excited to have this program accessible right in the heart of the community".

To learn more about Energy Ahead or book free energy coaching, visit thefwc.org.au/energyahead or call (08) 6253 3500.



ADVERTISING
FEATURE

MAKING A Difference



The New Midland Station has arrived!

The new Midland Station is here and with it comes a defining moment in our community story. Last Sunday, thousands gathered with us to celebrate the official opening of the brand-new station by the Premier, Hon Roger Cook MLA and Deputy Premier Hon Rita Saffioti MLA.

As the final piece of METRONET, this project marks a historic milestone in the transformation of Western Australia's public transport network and for those who live and work in Midland, the opening is deeply personal.

The new station is not simply a transport hub. It is a gateway for community, connecting families to opportunity, workers to employment, students to education, and visitors to our growing city centre. With improved accessibility, modern facilities and safer design, the new station will ensure Midland remains a vibrant and inclusive destination for all.

Relocating the station closer to the town centre and hospital has strengthened access to essential services while creating new opportu-



nities for residential and commercial development. It lays the foundation for a revitalised public space and reinforces Midland's role as the epicentre of the eastern region.

Infrastructure shapes community. When we invest in public transport, we invest in sustainability, growth and equity. Midland now moves into the future, connected, revitalised and ready for the next chapter.

Steve Catania MLA, Member for Midland. Hon Klasey Hirst MLC, Member of the Legislative Council.

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On the trail

What's happening in the Shire

February 2026



From the President

Delivering positive outcomes for our community is at the heart of everything we do, and I'm excited to share what we're achieving together.

We 'Turned on the Lights' at Brown Park in Swan View, marking a new era for evening sport. The modern LED system boosts visibility, safety, and energy efficiency, enabling local clubs to train and compete after dark. Council also endorsed the tender to kick-start lighting upgrades at Parkerville Oval, continuing our commitment to quality facilities supporting a healthy, active community.

The Glen Forrest Jump Track is officially open! Inspired by local design ideas, it's already become a vibrant hub for riders of all ages. I'm incredibly proud of the Glen Forrest Residents & Ratepayers Group, who championed the project from the start, with valuable support from the Glen Forrest Community Garden. Together, we've created a welcoming space where young people can build confidence and connect.

We also welcomed Emergency Services Minister Papalia to the Darlington Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade for a debrief following the recent bushfires. Thanks to a \$3.9 million commitment from Trish Cook MP, six brigades across the Shire will receive much needed upgrades, including improved changerooms to support our growing number of female volunteers.

These projects show what community groups and the Shire can achieve together, backed by funding from State and Federal governments.

Paige McNeil
Shire President



Sport4All comes to the Hills



Shire of Mundaring is proud to partner with Dylan Alcott's co-founded organisation Get Skilled Access to deliver Sport4All – a new initiative to create more inclusive and accessible sporting opportunities across our community.

Sport4All, which is supported by the Australian Government and the Australian Sports Commission, is designed to support schools, sporting clubs and community groups to better include people of all abilities in sport and recreation. Through tailored training, resources and practical guidance, the program helps build confidence and capability so that everyone can participate, feel welcome and enjoy the benefits of being active.

Come along to our launch event on 25 March to learn how your community group or club can help ensure that sport in the Shire is for everyone of all abilities.

Meet our new Sport4All Inclusion Coach Michael



Meet Michael Bourgault du Coudray, our Sport4All Inclusion Coach working with Shire of Mundaring.

Michael brings lived experience to the role, living with autism, hearing and processing impairments, a learning disability and chronic femoroacetabular impingement. After discovering swimming three years ago, he is now an elite national athlete preparing for the Australian Open Swimming Championships and Commonwealth Games Trials.

Passionate about breaking down barriers, Michael is committed to helping local clubs and schools become welcoming, inclusive spaces where no one is left behind.

Read Michael's full story



08 March

Great Cocky Count Workshop

10am • Civic Area, Shire Admin Building

Join the Great Cocky Count, WA's largest Black-Cockatoo survey, with insights from Simon Cherriman and guests from Kaarakin.



Scan QR code or visit mundaring.wa.gov.au/events

13 March

Sonic 3: Summertime Cinema

4pm to 9pm • Mount Helena Primary School

Enjoy 'Sonic 3' at Summertime Cinema with twilight markets, free face painting, food vans, bean bags and music.



Scan QR code or visit mundaring.wa.gov.au/events

26 March

Sport4All Program Launch Breakfast

7am • Mundaring Arena

Join us at Mundaring Arena to launch Sport4All with Get Skilled Access, promoting more inclusive community sport.



Scan QR code or visit mundaring.wa.gov.au/events

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



The event will host a number of family-friendly entertainment as eventgoers learn about sustainability and environmental protection. Picture: Whiteman Park.

EnviroFEST returns to Whiteman Park

ENVIROFEST will return to Whiteman Park on Saturday, March 21 marking the fifteenth anniversary of the region's flagship public environmental education event.

The free festival, running from 10am to 3pm at Village West, will bring together a diverse range of community groups, environmental professionals, and sustainable producers to showcase eco-friendly products and services.

This year's program will return to the event's core focus on the importance of trees to both human and environmental health.

Educational sessions will specifically address the necessity of increasing

urban tree cover and the importance of providing essential backyard habitats for native wildlife.

Attendees can engage with live birds of prey and reptile displays while interacting with rewilding experts to learn how to support local species.

The event will coincide with International Day of Forests as the Whiteman Park team give eventgoers the opportunity to explore and learn about specific tree species that support local fauna.

A number of talks are planned throughout the day by key organisations, including Trillion Trees, Carnaby's Crusaders, and Perth NRM.

A variety of market stalls and eco-ac-

tivities will offer a range of sustainable solutions to help residents improve environmental conservation efforts in their own homes.

The day promises to be an event for all ages as a number of kid-friendly programs have been organised, including nature-based eco-crafts and free face painting.

The festival will provide a unique opportunity for families to connect with environmental experts while discovering practical ways to live more sustainably.

For more information about the event visit www.whitemanpark.com.au/whats-on/envirofest

Midland stories to feature in new anthology launch



Swan Writer in Residence 2024 cohort Bianca Breen, Lakshmi Kanchi, Chris Bell, Nina Dakin, Lisa Collyer and Bec Bowman.

A NEW anthology showcasing stories inspired by Midland will be launched at the Old Midland Courthouse on Friday, March 6 as part of the City of Swan's Writers in Residence program.

The publication, Junction, features a collection of poems, prose, comics and free verse created by six writers during a two-month residency at the Courthouse Studio in 2024.

Writers Lakshmi Kanchi, Chris Bell, Lisa Collyer, Bianca Breen, Bec Bowman and Nina Dakin drew on the people, places and history of Midland to shape the works included in the anthol-

ogy. City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson said the project highlighted the value of creativity within the community.

"This anthology reflects the diverse voices and experiences of our residents and visiting writers alike," she said.

"It is a celebration of how art can flourish when nurtured by a supportive, engaged community."

The Writers in Residence program provides local and visiting creatives with dedicated space to develop their work while engaging with the Midland community.

The book launch will be held at

6:30pm at the Old Midland Courthouse and will include a one-hour panel discussion with the contributing writers, facilitated by Dr Robert Wood from the Centre for Stories.

The discussion will explore how community engagement can "ignite new ideas and influence creative writing".

The anthology has been published by City of Swan Libraries as part of its ongoing efforts to support local arts and storytelling.

The free event is open to the public, with attendees encouraged to register through the City of Swan.

ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

Your local Gig Guide

Fri February 27

Lyric's Bar
Steve Hensby Duo
From 7pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

Woodbridge Hotel
Goodstock
From 8pm, Free
50 East Street, Guildford

Parkerville Tavern
Matt Sofoulis
Entertainment
From 6pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

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

Settlers House York
Oscar Litchfield
From 6pm
Free
125 Avon Terrace, York

Hemingway and Co.
Karaoke Night
8pm-10pm
Free
7095 Great Eastern Hwy
Mundaring

Sat February 28

Lyric's Bar
Rosemary & Tim
From 7pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane Maylands

Parkerville Tavern
Coastal Drift
From 6pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Lush in Boots
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Settlers House York
Karaoke Night
From 6pm
Free
125 Avon Terrace
York

Sun March 1

Lyric's Bar
Steve Poltz
From 6pm
22 Lyric Lane Maylands

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

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

Settlers House York
Lez Karski
From 12pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace, York

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

Mon March 2

Parkerville Tavern
Andrew Winton
From 1pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

Imperial Homestead
Live Music with Davey
"Redsaxguy" Sparrow
From 11.30am, Free
83 Avon Terrace, York

Tues March 3

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

Wed March 4

Childlow Tavern
Muso Jam Night
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

Promote your event



SCAN ME

ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

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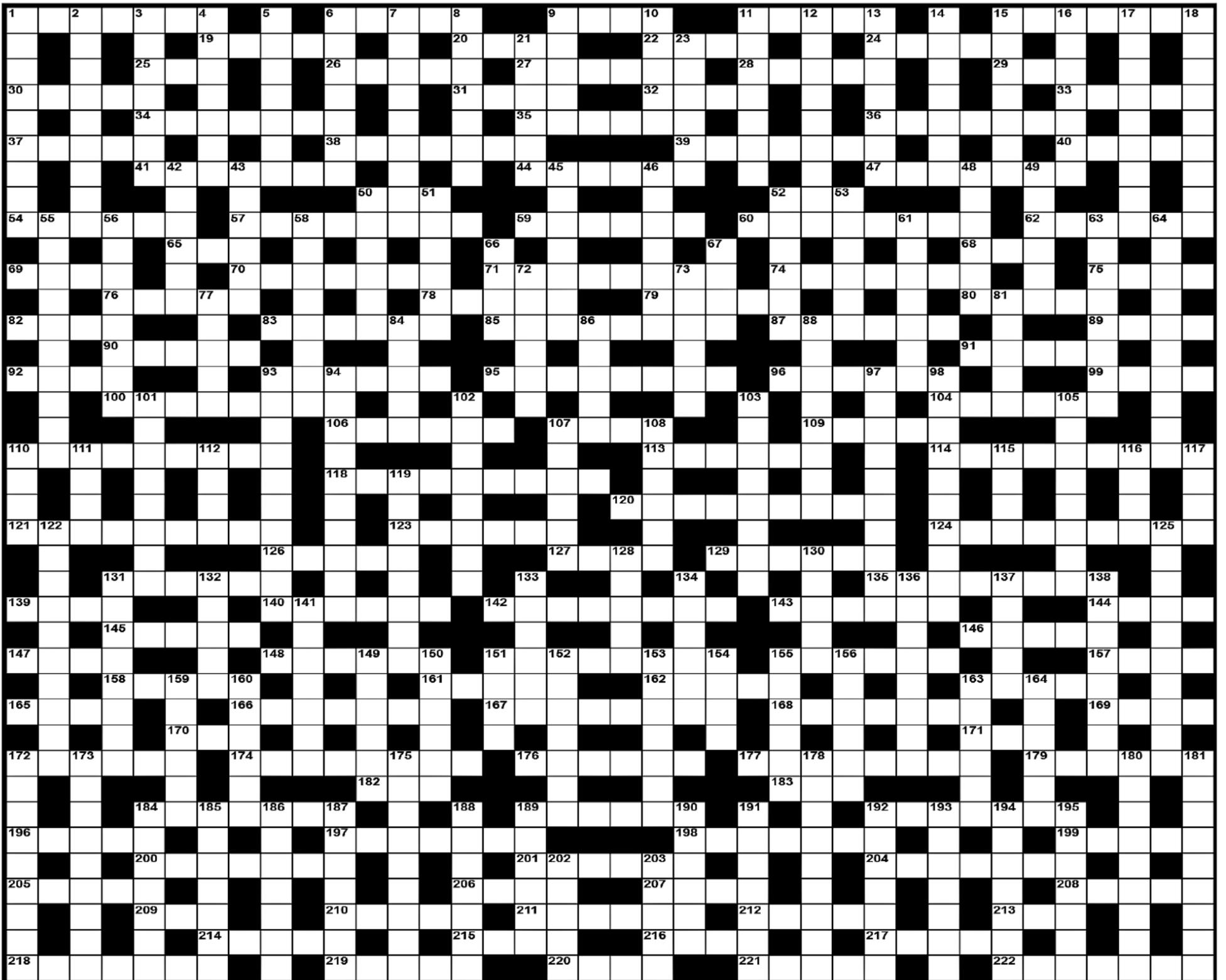
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ECHO NEWS



Mind Boggler Crossword

1257



- ACROSS**
- 1 A few
 - 6 Lateral parts
 - 9 Ship's bed
 - 11 Footwear
 - 15 Factory sirens
 - 19 Not active
 - 20 Encourage
 - 22 Spoilsport
 - 24 A bend
 - 25 Hotel
 - 26 Plays around
 - 27 A share
 - 28 Inside part
 - 29 A donkey
 - 30 Downpours
 - 31 Group of horses
 - 32 Eroded
 - 33 A learner
 - 34 In perfect manner
 - 35 Isolated land
 - 36 Chair a meeting
 - 37 Gigantic person
 - 38 Number printed
 - 39 Hermit
 - 40 More attractive
 - 41 Hang down
 - 44 Pieces left over
 - 47 Merit
 - 50 For each
 - 52 Plead
 - 54 Cut roughly
 - 57 Dealt with
 - 59 Stomach enzyme
 - 60 Blessed
 - 62 Heel over (naut)
 - 65 Aged
 - 68 Girl's name
 - 69 Pace
 - 70 Nuisance plant
 - 71 High Churchmen
 - 74 Can be heard
 - 75 Turn aside
 - 76 Group of chasers
 - 78 Faint
 - 79 Build
 - 80 Part of a play
 - 82 Slight pain
 - 83 Facade
 - 85 Shredded
 - 87 Treat
 - 89 Putrefies
 - 90 Large book
 - 91 Put together
 - 92 Church recess
 - 93 Edible seed
 - 95 Referee
 - 96 Interfere with
 - 99 Lugs
 - 100 Kitchen
 - 104 Quiet period
 - 106 Type of dog
 - 107 Small ball
 - 109 Pay one-tenth
 - 110 Lay waste
 - 113 Trial
 - 114 Lost as a friend
 - 118 Started up
 - 120 Grows larger
 - 121 Egyptian queen
 - 123 Spread a rumour
 - 124 Lack of use
 - 126 Lines
 - 127 Hurried
 - 129 Sound system
 - 131 Give help
 - 135 Became thinner
 - 139 Look after
 - 140 Loving
 - 142 Prising with a pole
 - 143 Grips
 - 144 Level
 - 145 Seductive women
 - 146 Rigid
 - 147 Travel document
 - 148 Metal joiner
 - 151 Ghosts
 - 155 The rest
 - 157 Female sheep
 - 158 Grand in family
 - 161 Land measures
 - 162 Comes closer
 - 163 Coronet
 - 165 A powder
 - 166 Wanting
 - 167 Ammunition stores
 - 168 Idle chatter
 - 169 Unearths
 - 170 As well
 - 171 Behind
 - 172 Not often
 - 174 Outer pieces
 - 176 Groups of lions
 - 177 Dead
 - 179 Strain
 - 182 Turf
 - 183 To this time
 - 184 Attribute
 - 189 Lubricant
 - 192 Says again
 - 196 Manages
 - 197 Break into atoms
 - 198 Lessen
 - 199 Lady of Troy
 - 200 Deadly foods
 - 201 Crewed
 - 204 A singer
 - 205 Horse's sound
 - 206 Young lady
 - 207 Untruthful person
 - 208 Panorama
 - 209 High mountain
 - 210 Boredom
 - 211 Natural in location
 - 212 Teach
 - 213 Owing
 - 214 One defeated
 - 215 Prance around
 - 216 Small island
 - 217 The ones here
 - 218 Give as due
 - 219 Facial parts
 - 220 Sailors (coll)
 - 221 Considers
 - 222 Scatters
 - 51 A meal
 - 52 Air in body
 - 53 Place of plants
 - 55 Look forward to
 - 56 Occurred
 - 58 Singer
 - 61 Dopes horses
 - 63 Bad times
 - 64 Place of voters
 - 66 A dot
 - 67 Utilised
 - 72 Wandered
 - 73 Before this
 - 77 Farm buildings
 - 81 Comedian
 - 84 Add up
 - 86 Two times
 - 88 Biblical followers
 - 93 Went through
 - 94 Set task
 - 97 Pieces added
 - 98 Money controllers
 - 101 Remodelled
 - 102 More joyful
 - 103 Principles
 - 105 Remove germs
 - 107 Loses blood
 - 108 Knocked over
 - 110 Music record
 - 111 Windmill blade
 - 112 Mine slope
 - 115 Sicknesses
 - 116 Melody
 - 117 Follows closely
 - 119 Rubbish
 - 122 Truthful
 - 125 Rulers
 - 128 Type of bird
 - 130 Ignited again
 - 131 Went forward
 - 132 Force on
 - 133 Tie up an animal
 - 134 Teeth covering
 - 136 Gives approval
 - 137 Part of a target
 - 138 Guard
 - 141 Be greedy
 - 149 Golf shots
 - 150 Tattered
 - 151 Make orison
 - 152 One giving confidence
 - 153 Wild asses
 - 154 Waist band
 - 155 Sea eagle
 - 156 Head guard
 - 159 Charges with fault
 - 160 Make loved
 - 163 Baby bed
 - 164 Beginning
 - 172 Band for a saddle
 - 173 Some illumination
 - 175 Droning tones
 - 178 Enjoy greatly
 - 180 A pen
 - 181 Normal behaviour
 - 184 Road surfacing
 - 185 Maim
 - 186 Love greatly
 - 187 Oriental
 - 188 Sack
 - 189 Star sign
 - 190 Whirlpools
 - 191 Gushed out
 - 192 Takes exception to
 - 193 Flowers
 - 194 Given as reward
 - 195 Digger's tools
 - 202 Change to suit
 - 203 Singer Presley
- DOWN**
- 1 Hiding away
 - 2 Types
 - 3 Dried grapes
 - 4 Doorway beams
 - 5 Knock back
 - 6 Wandered off
 - 7 Makes a devil of
 - 8 Keep up
 - 9 Rays
 - 10 Recognised
 - 11 Removed pelt
 - 12 Brought about
 - 13 Scratched
 - 14 Cattle drivers
 - 15 More weighty
 - 16 Crude
 - 17 Get rid of
 - 18 Narrow-minded
 - 21 Cereals
 - 23 Battery poles
 - 42 Unfastens
 - 43 Small pool
 - 45 Mild
 - 46 Type-setter
 - 48 Gives special quality
 - 49 Leave empty
 - 50 Thick soup

Crossword Solution 1256 from 20 February, 2026

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by Pastor Ian Kirk

Mangoes and Rats



We have two mango trees in our backyard. They were grown by my dad from a seed. Now they stand fully grown and they bear lots of fruit each year.

We love mangoes - nothing like mango and ice-cream. But we are not the only ones that love them - rats do too. I often have to bait before the mangoes ripen. But once the fruit is ready, no bait can lure the rats away from our sweet-tasting mangoes. The evidence that rats have been eating my mangoes is that I find a seed on the ground, with no flesh remaining.

Rats - what a nuisance. When they enter your yard, they eat your fruit, they enter into your roof space and do damage, and they gnaw at things and destroy it.

Rats remind me of something else that has entered into our space and wrecked things. It's our sin; the things we say and do that hurt and harm others, that destroy and damage this beautiful world and the people God has made.

We might think of a criminal's damaging behaviour, but we have all sinned and damaged ourselves and others. The God, who made us and this beautiful world, should root us out. But instead, in His love, God sent His Son to save us from the consequences of our sins, and to bring us back to Himself - if we would turn to Jesus. Then we are enabled to live a life that blesses others.

Indemnity and Warranty

ECHO NEWSPAPER

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When an individual or other legal entity ("the Customer") requests Echo Newspaper ("Echo") to place an advertisement in this Newspaper, they agree to be bound by the following terms and conditions:

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Jeff Overton
0483 858 603.
EC14844

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Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF LAND
Notice of proposed lease of land section 3.58 of the Local Government Act 1995
Property: Suite 14, Stafford Court, 8 Stafford Street, Midland WA 6056
Lessee: Rhys Gregory Trevor FALL
Annual rental amount: \$5235.50 per annum (pa) + variable outgoings + GST
Valuation: \$5236.00 per annum (pa) + variable outgoings + GST
Purpose: Commercial office
Term: One (1) Year
Submissions in writing and addressed to the undersigned may be lodged on or before, **Monday March 16, 2026.**

Stephen Cain
Chief Executive Officer
City of Swan
PO Box 196, Midland, 6936




TOWN OF Bassendean Public Notice Disposal of Property

In accordance with Section 3.58(3) of the Local Government Act 1995, the Town of Bassendean hereby gives notice of its intention to dispose of 28-30 Wilson Street, Bassendean, WA, 6054.

Buyer of Property: Little Willows Corner Pty Ltd (Lots 22-23)
Next Chapta Pty Ltd as trustee for the KLFC Family Trust (Lots 24-25)
Related party buyer of Business/Service (Approved Provider): Cha Cha Cha Group Pty Ltd
Purchase Price: \$2,525,000
Market Value: \$2,525,000

Submissions: Written submissions in relation to this proposed disposal may be lodged with the Town by **4:00pm Friday 13 March 2026.**

Submissions should be made online at:
www.bassendean.wa.gov.au/forms/public-notice-disposal-of-property/150

Or addressed to:
Chief Executive Officer
35 Old Perth Road (PO Box 87)
Bassendean WA 6054

Or emailed to:
mail@bassendean.wa.gov.au
Cameron Woods
Chief Executive Officer



Employment

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JUNIOR ADVERTISING SALESPERSON

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We are a small, privately owned and independent newspaper looking for an energetic and vibrant person to join our team.

The successful applicant will have:

- A current "C" class drivers licence and reliable vehicle.
- A smart appearance with a strong commitment to customer service and the ability to develop and implement successful sales strategies, including digital, by building and maintaining long lasting client relationships.
- Strong negotiation verbal and written skills with excellent presentation and a professional phone manner is a must.

This position is Monday-Friday and offers a salary package, including a commission structure with a weekly car allowance.

Please email your resume with a cover letter to:

General Manager / Editor Peter Lewis
E: **peter.lewis@echo-news.com**

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Gardener/Maintenance

A position suitable for a semi-retired person 3-4 hours a week to help on a semi-rural property in Wattle Grove. Phone 0401 109 000.

Gardening

Bilby's Garden Services
Weed, Prune, Mow & Slash. Free Quotes 0416 855 335.



Gutter Cleaning

Gutter cleaning & solar panel cleaning. Jason 0421 455 546.

Painting

Painting & Property Maintenance. 0477 660 703. Local.

Steve Gregory painting service. Mobile 0417 926 027. Reg # 5098.

Regrouting

Bathroom Regrouting. Call Andrew 0413 158 763.

Solar Services

Solar Panel Cleaning with Anti Mould & Solar Wax Treatment. 0421 455 546.



Wanted to Buy

MEDALS and Militaria bought by genuine local collector top prices paid 0407 982 215.

Window Cleaning

Tatania's Window Cleaning. Tracks. Frames & Fly screens. 0467 282 127.



Upcoming Events

- **The Kalamunda Ladies Probus Club** meets on the second Thursday of each month at St Barnabas Church Hall, Railway Road, Kalamunda (entry off Spring Road) at 9am for 9.30am start. They have morning tea and a guest speaker at each meeting and a monthly bus outing to different interesting places. Socially they meet for coffee monthly and lunch also monthly at different venues in the area. Probus is a social club for retirees who enjoy life. For more information call Trish on 0468 309 823 or Juliette on 9293 4438.
- **Mundaring Garden Club** meets every second Tuesday of the month at Mundaring Church of Christ, 1470 Stoneville Road, Mundaring. The annual program includes guest speakers who present on a variety of topics, workshops and outings to nurseries and gardens. Presentations are followed by morning tea in the club café. For more information call membership on 0413 358 085.
- **The Mundaring Country Women's Association** meets every second Wednesday at 1pm at the CWA Centre (Sculpture Park) in Jacoby Street, Mundaring for a craft and social afternoon. Take your craft ideas to share on your favourite craft or hobby. Visitors are always welcome anytime to have a cuppa and a chat. For more information call Marg on 0417 956 628.
- **Midland Ascension Craft Group** meets in the parish hall 17 Spring Park Road, Midland every Tuesday of school term from 1pm to 3pm. All most welcome to join for a chat, cuppa, any craft and sometimes a guest speaker. For more information call

- 0433 265 683.
- **Mundaring Community Men's Shed** at 1 Morilla Road continues its 2026 Speakers' Circle program at 10.30am on Tuesday, March 10 with a talk on understanding diabetes and reducing your risk from Diabetes WA. For more information call Ross on 0433 211 949.
- **Swan Districts Senior Citizens Association** is hosting a free music concert at Midland Town Hall on Thursday, March 12 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm. The event will be hosted by Patrick O'Hooligan who will present a great solo singing performance and encourages listeners to get involved with some sing-a-long songs. To register attendance visit www.trybooking.com/DJOVL
- **Hovea Residents & Ratepayers Association** general meeting will be held in the Parkerville Oval Pavillion, Seaborne Street, Parkerville, on Wednesday March 4 commencing at 6.30pm. Andrew Wallace, a local insect expert will show and tell his collection of bugs and insects in the hills. For more information call Max at annapurna2@bigpond.com
- **CWA Kalamunda** meets on the second Friday of each month at 10am on Central Road, Kalamunda behind Aldi, look for the blue tree. Go along to join in the fun and meet new

- friends.
 - **Woodbridge Ratepayers Association** will hold its 2026 annual general meeting on Sunday, March 8, at Hazelmere Hall, Lot 9963, West Parade, Hazelmere. Doors open at 2pm with the meeting starting at 2.30pm and concluding by 4.30pm. Trillion Trees will be the guest speaker. All current members and other interested Woodbridge ratepayers are encouraged to attend. Membership is only \$5 per annum. For more information call Greg on 0400 602 504, or Simon on 0418 904 804.
 - **Midland Friendly Garden Club** meets at 9.30am on alternating Thursdays at Bruce Douglas Pavillion, Brown Park, Salisbury Road, Swan View. The next meeting will take place on March 5. Our guest speaker will be Margot Tobin, Western Australian branch head of the Mediterranean Garden Society who will be talking about how to transform your garden into a mediterranean garden. For more information call Jenny on 0424 553 002, or Barbara on 0482 935 686.
- 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

Batman is an eight-month-old Kelpie cross. He is not the best around smaller kids as he tries to round them up but he will be ok with older kids. He is sterilised, micro-chipped, and vaccinated. Costs apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

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Left: Brothers Dane and Koen Breznikar celebrate at Maydena Bike Park after strong performances at the Red Bull Hardline and Gravity Fest. Right: One of the Breznikar brothers in action at Maydena Bike Park in Tasmania during the Red Bull Hardline and Gravity Fest.

Hills' brothers strike gold in Tasmania

TWO Hovea mountain biking brothers have struck gold in Tasmania, combining for seven wins from eight races at a national competition.

Dane and Koen Breznikar impressed at the Red Bull Hardline and Gravity Fest at Maydena Bike Park, competing in a mix of enduro and downhill events against riders from across Australia.

Ten-year-old Dane delivered a perfect performance, winning all four of his races to claim four gold medals.

Older brother Koen also excelled, winning three of his four races, with a crash in wet and muddy conditions leaving him in fifth place in his remaining event.

The strong results follow on from the brothers' success at the Cannonball Festival in Thredbo last year, where they also claimed multiple medals.

Koen said the challenging Tasmanian conditions made the races even more rewarding.

"We raced in all weather conditions over there, but the downhill races were the wettest and muddiest," he said.

"The trails are steep and challenging, and the wet weather just adds another element."

Dane said racing in Tasmania offered a very different experience to Western Australia.

"There are no trails like it here in WA, with real mountains and high elevation," he said.

"I loved racing the different tracks and felt pumped to do so well against the locals."

The brothers said their improvement over the past year has come down to their mindset and their commitment to training.

"Having a good mindset, determination and passion for the sport has helped us improve," they said.

"We've trained a lot throughout the year and are grateful for the support from our parents."

The pair were recently awarded the Mundaring Shire Youth Sports Travel Grant, which has helped support their interstate competition.

They are also backed by Glen Forest bike shop Hillside Cycles, which has supported their development in the sport.

The brothers plan to compete in WA enduro and downhill events this year, with hopes of returning to national competitions and eventually racing overseas.

Do you, your club or sports team have a sports story to share?

Contact the editorial sports team on 9374 6666 or email editorial@echo-news.com

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Local Real Estate

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Rural & Country

Recent data shows Ellenbrook among top sales suburbs

ELLENBROOK was among Perth's top performing suburbs for sales last week as overall transactions across the metropolitan area rose 17.1 per cent.

According to the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia (REIWA) market snapshot for the week ending February 22, members reported 884 sales transactions, with house sales up 25.6 per cent on the previous week.

Ellenbrook recorded 10 sales, placing it equal third alongside Innaloo and Perth, while Byford and East Perth led the way with 13 and 11 sales respectively.

In Ellenbrook, median house prices have grown 14.4 per cent over the past year to reach \$755,000, with rental prices up 1.4 per cent to a median of \$700 per week.

Houses in the suburb are moving quickly, with a median time on market of eight days, compared to 11 days for units.

Based on settled sales, the upper quartile price in Ellenbrook sits at \$850,000, while the lower quartile is \$685,000.

Nearby suburbs have also experienced strong annual growth, with Aveyley up 15 per cent, Bullsbrook up 15.8 per cent and Henley Brook up

11.2 per cent.

In the rental market, there were 1,920 properties available for rent across Perth last week, similar to the week prior.

REIWA members reported 617 properties leased, down 15.6 per cent on the previous week.

Ellenbrook's average online views per property for sale were 85 over the past 14 days, compared to a Perth average of 120, reflecting consistent buyer interest in the growing north-eastern suburb.

Unit sales across Perth were up 6 per cent compared to the previous week, while land sales dropped 11.6 per cent.

The highest recorded sale price last week was \$2.56 million in Alfred Cove, while the lowest was \$515,000 in Medina.

There were 2781 properties listed for sale across Perth at the end of last week which is 2.6 per cent higher than the week prior.

House listings increased 2.4 per cent, unit listings rose 1.9 per cent and vacant land listings climbed 5.2 per cent.

Despite the weekly rise, total properties for sale were 45.3 per cent lower than levels seen a year ago, although up 16.2 per cent compared to four weeks ago according to REIWA.



SOLD

Let us give you a helping hand with your real estate sales.

Contact the Echo sales team on 9374 6666 or email: sales@echo-news.com

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THE GOOD FRIDAY SEAFOOD FEAST 3rd April



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A generous plateau of:

- Whole WA Shark Bay prawns
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- WA Scallops on the half shell, nduja crumb, preserved lemon
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- Shark Bay prawns, garlic cream sauce
- WA Pink snapper ceviche with citrus and herbs
- Mussels in harissa sugo

Served with:

Marie Rose sauce • Fresh sourdough
Parmesan & oregano fries • Lemon

\$150 per person*
no public holiday surcharge

Indulgence Add-Ons

Elevate your plateau:

- 10gr Caviar, blini, creme fraiche - \$85
- Half Crayfish tail, mornay - \$55
- WA Blue Swimmer Crab roll - \$20 each

Add a Beverage Pairing Option

Corymbia Chenin Blanc by glass \$14
Moet & Chandon Champagne bottle \$145

EASTER SUNDAY MENU 5th April



ENTRÉES

- Hand-Tied Burrata - Roast persimmon, toasted hazelnut
- Kingfish Crudo - Chilli and coriander dressing
- Scotch Eggs - Truffled aioli, sautéed wild mushroom

MAINS

- Slow-Cooked Lamb Shoulder - Pickled qukes, red wine jus, fried rosemary, mash potato
- Pan-Fried Salmon - Coconut curry velouté, mussels, samphire
- Miso Eggplant - Harissa sugo, black rice salad, pomegranate

DESSERTS

- Carrot Cake - Whipped mascarpone, lemon curd, pecan praline
- Baked Chocolate Tart - Cherry compote, vanilla ice cream
- Lemon Meringue Tart - Miso banana caramel

2 courses \$95pp
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