



A satellite image screenshot with zones of trees that were removed outlined in red.

Tree buffer gone

Despite strong opposition in Hazelmere, the development assessment panel approved applications to turn two lots into a storage and transport depot. **PG 3**

Picture: Guanhao Cheng

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ECHO Celebrations



Historic roadside burger café Alfred's Kitchen is celebrating 80 years of operation this year.

Guildford institution Alfred's Kitchen turns 80



Alfred's Kitchen staff Aaneke Kotua, Chris Densmore, Kaylee Nelligan, David Maclachlan, Lisa Best and Kaylee Gale at the counter.

STARTING off as just a caravan in 1946, Guildford's historic roadside burger café Alfred's Kitchen has gone from strength to strength.

Owner Neil Lawrence - who has been running the popular eatery with his wife Jenny for 40 years - said although he has handed the reins over to his son Daniel he still takes a keen interest in the place.

"We are really having a double celebration this year as it is 80 years since Alfred's first started and 40 years since we took it over," Mr Lawrence said.

"Alfred's Kitchen is named after its founder Frederick Alfred Cook, an English migrant who originally wanted to call it King Alfred's."

"The word 'king' had to be dropped as there was of course already a king in England, so it became Alfred's Kitchen."

"We think the place was first established about May 1946 not long after WWII when the government was offering an early version of a 'pop up' licence to encourage small businesses."

"We have had the same manager Lisa here for nearly 29 years and I am pretty sure this is the oldest roadside café in WA as well as the second oldest in Australia after Harry's Café de Wheels in Sydney."

Over the years, Alfred's Kitchen has become a Perth institution with people flocking there for some of the best burgers and hotdogs in WA, as well as to try their famous pea and ham soup.

Mr Lawrence said they had tried to stick to the same recipe for their burgers as when Alfred's first started, using traditional homemade ingredients of beef patty, egg, bacon, cheese, lettuce and tomato.

Swan View resident Greg Morris said he had been going to Alfred's for years and particularly enjoyed the steakburger, which he reckons is the best in Perth.

"As a vintage car buff with a particular interest in Riley cars I have



Long time manager Lisa Best serving up some of Alfred's delicious burgers.



Customers enjoy keeping warm by the winter firepit.

been there many times with other vintage car owners to soak up the old-style atmosphere and enjoy the amazing range of food," Mr Morris said.

He said he particularly liked going along in winter when there was a roaring fire in the courtyard firepit and an amazing atmosphere.

Over the years, the premises has grown significantly with a large 1906 vintage railway carriage installed in 2016 providing comfortable seating for those wanting to dine in.

Mr Lawrence said although there were no plans for a massive celebration this year, 80th anniversary mugs were available on their Facebook page and they had not ruled out some sort of commemoration event in the future.

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Hazelmere lot applications approved by DAP

GUANHAO CHENG

THE Metro Outer Development Assessment Panel (MODAP) on Wednesday approved the development of two lots in Hazelmere for storage and transport depot purposes despite fierce community opposition.

A petition with more than 1200 signatures opposing the industrial development of the two adjacent lots, 38 and 1101, raised concerns about worsening traffic.

“The routing of heavy trucks through our urban neighbourhoods poses a threat to our amenity, safety, quality of life, and local traffic conditions,” the petition said.

“The increased traffic from heavy-duty vehicles would lead to noise pollution and increased wear and tear on our roads.

“More concerning is the potential safety hazards this could pose to pedestrians, particularly children and the elderly, who are most at risk from increased vehicular movement.”

Hazelmere resident Randal Swick, who lived near the proposed development and began the petition, said the application failed on planning grounds as the traffic impact assessment relied on outdated information that didn’t account for the worsening traffic.

“The data comes from 2021,” he said.

“Since then, there’s been changes in the traffic in Bushmead, Guildford, Rosehill Waters and Military Road’s clogging has just become more serious.”

City of Swan chief executive officer Stephen Cain said the city was aware of the traffic concerns of Hazelmere residents.

“The city is aware of the concerns of Hazelmere residents with respect to the truck traffic entailed by the proposed development of lot 38,” he said.

“The city’s assessment will recommend certain upgrades to Stirling Crescent and road intersections to accommodate the proposed additional traffic.

“While the landowners have cleared across several lots, the vegetation removal did not require approval under the city’s

local planning scheme (LPS) 17.”

Hazelmere trees cleared (Echo News, September 12, 2025) reported a dense collection of trees populating 4.5ha of land on Stirling Crescent were reduced to splintered heaps.

This scene sat across from Hazelmere’s Trillion Trees facility dedicated to ecological conservation and restoration.

“Those trees were planted by Western Power in order to satisfy community concerns in regard to the substation that they built on the eastern side of that land,” Mr Swick said.

“Given that there was an agreement to plant those trees to shield everybody off the eyesore, I can’t understand how they had legal authority to remove them.

“At least not without an alternative, an agreement by the relevant authority to have an alternative shield put in place.”

Mr Cain said he could confirm the trees were originally a buffer for Western Power but was not part of the approval process for their terminal.

“The trees on lot 38 were planted for the purposes of a buffer to Western Power infrastructure but this was not a requirement of the planning approval issued by the WA Planning Commission,” he said.

The applicant Rise Urban did note that all submissions received during their 14-day public consultation period were objections.

Western Power also advised on January 9 that they did not support the proposal as it didn’t comply with the registered standard easement conditions under the energy operators act.

“The proposed land use activities to these sites intensifies the existing service of the transmission corridor from the Guildford Terminal and Hazelmere substation, providing no certainty to the level of protection to maintain safety and unconstrained access, limiting the impact of development to Western Power network assets,” they said.

“In the absence of development plans showing the locations of the proposed storage units, ensuring the clearance of the easement and safety areas cannot be determined. In addition,



Mounds of chips where trees once stood on lots 38 and 1101 which have been cleared for industrial use. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

storage units on the subject sites would obstruct access to Western Power’s transmission lines for maintenance and necessary works to occur.”

The subject land is zoned industrial under the metropolitan region scheme and general industrial with a restricted use notation under the City of Swan’s LPS17.

Calls for review of the City of Swan’s planning department

GUANHAO CHENG

A MOTION unanimously passed at the most recent City of Swan annual electors’ meeting called for an independent review of the city’s planning department.

Swan resident and former parliamentarian Gavan Troy successfully moved a motion calling on the city to acknowledge concerns about the planning staff’s interpretation and response on planning issues.

“We therefore request that a detailed review be undertaken by an independent agency to the city’s planning department,” he said.

“Such a review shall be an all-encompassing review that considers town planning considerations undertaken through the City of Swan over the past six years with particular reference to matters concerning The Vines locality.”

Mr Troy, a resident of the Vines, said he had seen planning laws and approvals be misused in the case of The Vines where pressures were mounting to develop the golf-course into lots for housing.

“This was not its intended purpose which it gained approval for,” he said.

“Long ago, when state government invested public money into the land to develop a world-class facility for golf, it was to be a huge tourism draw and was funded with public money.”

In an interview with *Echo News*, Mr Troy said former City of Swan, then Shire of Swan, director of planning Eric Lumsden was one of the finest planners he had ever met and a planner with a broadbased background was sorely needed to provide a holistic approach to planning.

“Since Eric passed, there’s been bias towards planners from development backgrounds,” he said.

“There’s an imbalance where too many planners from infill development backgrounds are getting into decision-making positions and unnecessary sacrifices of our amenity are being made to fuel short-term housing targets.

“The problem is Swan isn’t looking at their own policies.

“If they had broadbased planners, you wouldn’t have this problem.”

Mr Troy said he had been trying to contact Minister John Carey’s office for a discussion on development matters but was stonewalled.

The Minister for Planning’s office has been contacted for comment.

Mr Troy said he didn’t understand why earlier council reports and decisions to not support the development of the Vines were not respected by council staff.

“This inquiry should consider in detail how the advancement of the community interest in town planning process within council’s control can be en-



Swan resident Gavan Troy says The Vines has exemplified planning failings unnecessarily sacrificing amenity for profit. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

hanced, but also where appropriate provide comment and advice on the current planning framework being applied by the state agencies and the interrelationship between council and those state agencies under that framework,” he said.

Vines Residents and Ratepayers Association (VRRA) vice chair Dixon Lowe also spoke at the meeting in support of the motion.

“Our support for the motion is based on our deep concern with the planning officer’s report for amendment 9 to ODP37,” he said.

“The community has two reasonable expectations of its local government.

“First, a full and independent planning assessment, and second, an accurate acknowledgement of stakeholder contributions.

“Unfortunately, the planning officer’s report did not meet either of these expectations.

Mr Lowe said decision makers were therefore being asked to approve a major structural change without the information required to understand its consequences.

“Secondly, the treatment of stakeholder submissions was unacceptable,” he said.

“The VRRA submission, a detailed evidence-based document, was withheld from councillors until the day of their meeting for the decision.

“The explanation offered was that our concerns were adequately represented in the report.

“They clearly were not.”

Mr Troy said council members were elected to represent the people and not developers and it was up to them to hold accountable city planners who might be acting in the interests of others.

“There needs to be a review of how the mechanisms in the planning world work,” he said.

“Housing is overruling sound planning.”

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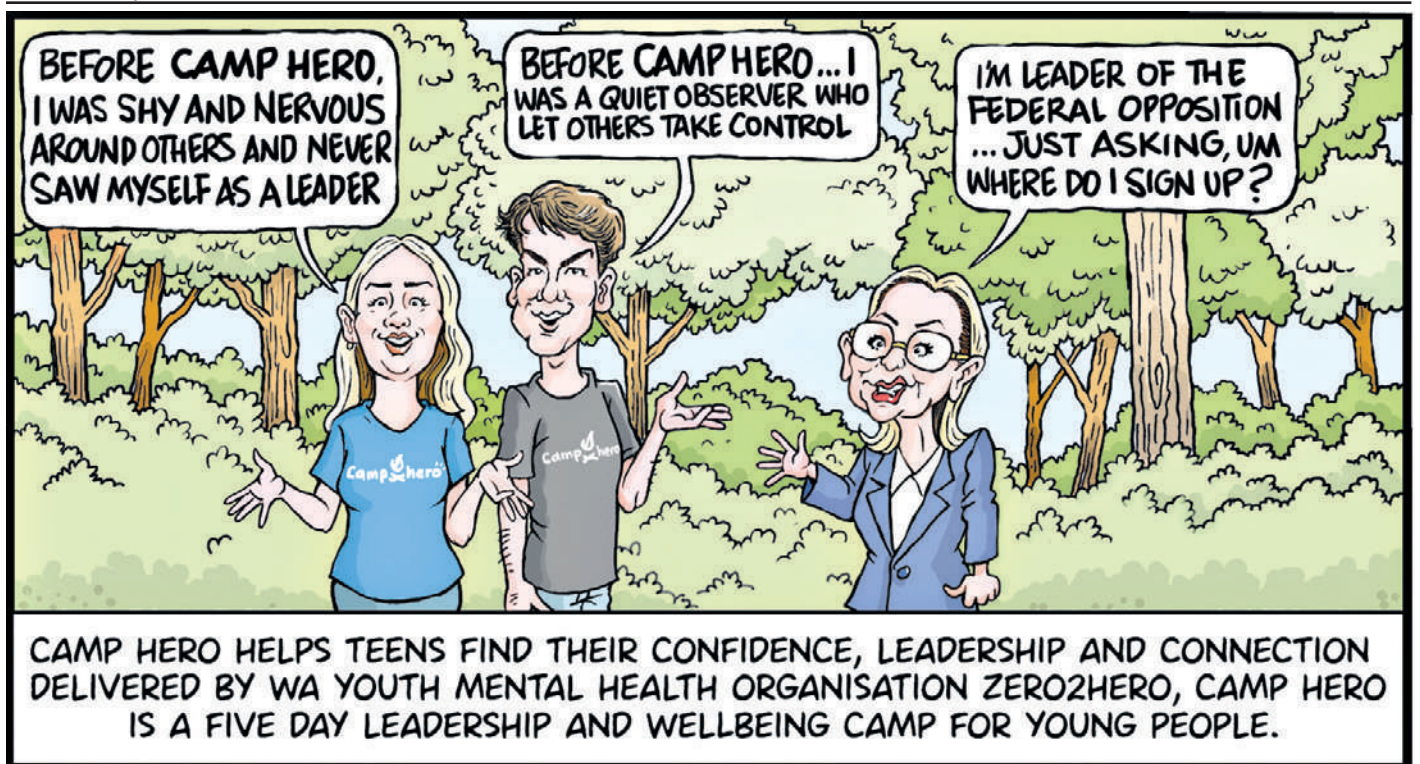


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Case for artificial lawns

Dear Echo News,

Catherine Dixon needs to talk to people who have artificial lawn around their homes. She obviously has little knowledge of it.

Yes, it can get warmer than normal grass during the day, but that is a limited time.

At least it retains its pleasant, clean look, indicating that the owners care about the appearance of their home for themselves and their neighbours.

It does not smell! If it is put down correctly, it may shrink a little in places, but not really noticeable.

A few weeds do come up around the outer edges and are easily removed.

It does not look ugly, just the opposite, far better than all the houses that leave the front of their homes looking like deserted country with dry earth and weeds all over.

I have always believed that councils should create a law that allows them to go in and clean up the fronts of homes and charge the owner who is too lazy to do it.

Far better than having suburbs looking like totally neglected slum areas.

My last house had artificial lawns in the front and around the back, with built-in putting greens that the kids loved.

When the 'grass' was a bit hot, they simply wore sandals. No problem!

Sometimes, poor quality material can fade, but I found that when that happened it was covered by warranty and replaced. (I had it done.)

I like trees, but the problem you have in

Thought for the day

"Always and never are two words you should always remember never to use."

– Wendell Johnson

Drivers and trolleys

Dear Echo News,

While on a regular visit to Midland, my wife and I were able to get the Echo News and there were two items I wish to comment about in the January edition.

Firstly, suggestions on reducing the pedestrian fatalities.

No matter what the police and Main Roads do they will continue to happen.

There is nothing wrong with the roads, it is the way the road users drive on them.

They are not listening to what the police are telling them.

Accidents will continue until road users change their attitude in the way they drive.

Secondly, shopping trolleys being dumped.

Supermarkets supply them to customers as a courtesy.

On the east coast, Cairns in particular, at IGA and Woolies their trolleys cannot go past the checkout.

From that point customers must transfer their items to their own bags or fold up trolleys: problem solved of dumped trolleys.

F Cherry
 South Lake

Planning in High Wycombe

Dear Echo News,

I am writing in response to the article by Guan hao Cheng Kalamunda's three headed High Wycombe challenges (Echo News, Jan 23) about planning

in High Wycombe.

I have tried for many years to raise issues about development along the Darling Scarp - which has the oldest, most rare and diverse ecosystems.

I am particularly concerned about the frameworks used to make planning decisions, which are only focused on acquiring land for industry and development.

These frameworks preclude decisions about the health and wellbeing of community and environment, and about the development of economic systems that directly benefit the local community.

Planning consultations I have attended have consistently silenced many.

What happens after community 'consultations' remains unseen, and I have recently written to government and requested more information about this.

No reply so far.

For a future to exist that is not on fire we have no alternative but to return to a coordinated planning system that provides for housing (and development) and the environment.

The mess in High Wycombe is the outcome of an ad hoc planning process with little thought for the consequences to the wellbeing of community and environment.

I also mention the development of areas designated conservation that are more and more frequently destroyed for housing.

The most recent of these is Cambridge Reserve in Forrestfield.

E Kahlo
 Forrestfield

Change the date

Dear Echo News,

I get frustrated when I see that nothing is being done to make Australia Day a day all about Australia itself, not a day of white invasion, or any other clash of races.

Australia Day is now all about multi-cultural Australia, not any invasion.

So, I see no reason not to change the date to one that will be accepted by all, especially Australia's first inhabitants, Aboriginals.

From all historical research reports, Aboriginals have been in Australia for over 50,000 years, so why does the government not give them the right to choose a day in which they would be happy.

There was no calendar then, so no way of knowing just when the Aboriginals arrived here, but that does not matter.

All that matters is that we have an "Australia Day" that accepts all people, regardless of race, and says that Australia is our great country!

You only have to look at all the different races that have just been granted Australian citizenship to see just what a great multi-cultural country Australia has become.

It is time the media, who have enormous power, started to put pressure on the government to make the change. We do not want to continue to see our Aboriginal people upset about the terrible suffering they had to contend with in the early 'invasion' days.

S Oliver
 Ellenbrook

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.

Mundaring GP Super Clinic to operate urgent care clinic

PETER W LEWIS

MUNDARING GP Super Clinic will operate the Mundaring Medicare urgent care clinic to be located at 3 Mundaring Weir Road and expected to open by mid-February and be fully bulk billed.

The clinic will be open seven days a week operating extended hours and is expected to ease pressure on the St John of God Midland Public Hospital emergency department, where around 30 percent of presentations in 2024-25 were for semi-urgent or non-urgent conditions.

Renovations are currently underway in the neighbouring premises of the super clinic where the new urgent care clinic will open, and when completed the two clinics will be connected.

The Mundaring clinic will join the existing network of 11 Medicare urgent care clinics operating across Western Australia which have seen more than 260,500 presentations since the first site opened in June 2023.

Bullwinkel MP Trish Cook said she was proud to be part of a government that is

strengthening Medicare and delivering real cost-of-living relief for the people of Bullwinkel.

“The new Mundaring urgent care clinic will deliver fully bulk billed urgent care that is accessible to everyone in our community, not just those who can afford it,” she said.

“As a nurse, I know how important it is to have access to urgent healthcare close to home and this clinic will make a tangible difference to the family budget and ensure that medical attention is available when it’s needed most.”

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Albanese government is getting on with the job of delivering more Medicare urgent care clinics for people in Western Australia.

“The new clinic in Mundaring will be open seven days a week, extended hours and most importantly it will be fully bulk billed.

“This clinic will take pressure off the local hospitals, including St John of God Midland Public Hospital, and will fill an important gap in services across extended hours and over the weekend.”



MLC Kasey Hirst, Carol Wright, Carol Pontague, Amanda Baldisseri, Dr Charity Low, and Bullwinkel MP Trish Cook at the Mundaring GP Super Clinic.

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Strike Force Vulcan investigates Ellenbrook fire

STRIKE Force Vulcan officers are seeking the public’s assistance for information as they investigate the circumstances surrounding last week’s bushfire that occurred in Ellenbrook on Thursday, January 29.

About 3.05pm, police and Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) were advised of a large bushfire in the vicinity of Broadway and Elmina Avenue.

The fire quickly spread and threatened

homes and lives with approximately 15 hectares of bushland being burnt in the fire.

According to DFES 75 crews had been called in to fight the blaze, with multiple waterbombers assisting from the air.

The cause of the fire is believed to have been started by a cigarette butt, and anyone with any information is requested to contact Crime Stoppers either online at www.crimestopperswa.com.au or by calling 1800 333 000.

Reports can be made anonymously.

Anyone with any CCTV, mobile phone, or dash-cam vision taken in the area of this fire, can upload the vision direct to investigators via the link: <https://wapf.au.evidence.com/axon/community-request/public/vulcan>

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

Midland families struggling to cover back-to-school costs

AS children across WA returned to classrooms this week, Vinnies WA has been seeing a surge in calls for help to cover back-to-school costs as families grapple with the rising costs of living, with Midland being one of the places of highest demand.

Since late last year, Vinnies’ Emergency Relief call centre has been inundated with calls from parents seeking help to cover the cost of school essentials, with more than half the callers being single parents with dependent children.

Vinnies WA community engagement services director Andrew York said the spike in calls highlights the growing financial struggles for WA families who are unable to cover their child’s education costs, including school bags, uniforms, lunchboxes and stationery.

“Too many children start the school year without basics like uniforms, stationery or even enough food,” Mr York said.

“This is reflected in our community, and we’re seeing this across several of our emergency relief locations, which are run by our volunteer members, who have seen a notable increase in requests for school-related support,” Mr York said.

At the start of each year, Vinnies WA launches its back-to-school program which provides around 1000 WA students with backpacks filled with school essentials such as stationery, lunchboxes, and drink bottles.

The program also provides help to cover uniform costs and assistance with buying essentials from retailers like Officeworks, Big W and Kmart.

“At Vinnies, we believe no child should go without,” Vinnies WA chief executive officer Ann Curran said.

“Every child in WA should have the opportunity to access a good education, without the burden of financial stress, and by providing support to struggling families, we look to make their lives that little bit easier.”

Running parallel to the emergency relief support, Vinnies WA concurrently runs a back-to-school appeal, which calls for the WA community to dig deep and donate to struggling WA families



Vinnies WA CEO Ann Curran and Community Engagement Services director Andrew York with 16 school bags filled with essential supplies, which will be donated to school children in need.

who can’t afford to provide school essentials for their child.

“Rising living costs are forcing families to make impossible choices,” Ms Curran said.

“Your donation to our appeal helps provide essential school items and nutritious meals, giving children the confidence to learn and belong. And that is where we can make a real difference to peoples’ lives.”

Last year, the appeal raised around \$100,000 for WA school children in need, and it’s hoped that even more can be raised this year.

People can donate to Vinnies’ appeal at www.vinnies.org.au/WA

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Swan illegal dumping offenders face court



Illegal dumping in the City of Swan.

CITY of Swan is urging the community to dispose of waste responsibly after a large-scale illegal dumping incident in Swan View resulted in penalties for two individuals.

In June 2025, city rangers responded to a report of an extensive pile of waste dumped in Swan View. The dumped materials covered an area approximately 30m long and included a wide range of hazardous items, creating a serious public safety risk.

The location of the dumping, at the cul de sac end of a residential street frequently used by children, heightened the danger to the community.

The presence of sharp building materials, pressurised cylinders, and unsecured refrigerators posed significant risks.

The clean-up operation required specialised equipment and significant city resources, and a total of three tonnes of waste were removed

at a direct cost to the city.

Following an investigation by city rangers, the materials were traced back to former occupants of a nearby property who were charged under the Litter Act 1979 (WA).

The matter was heard at the Midland Magistrates Court in January 2026. Neither of the accused appeared, and both were convicted in their absence.

The court imposed a penalty of \$800 on each offender in addition to being ordered to pay the city's clean up costs of \$2469 each, and the city's legal costs of \$678 each.

In total, \$7894 was ordered to be paid to the city.

"The City of Swan welcomes the outcome, which reinforces that illegal dumping is a serious offence with significant consequences. Ensuring a safe and clean environment for all residents remains a priority, and the community is encouraged to report any incidents of illegal dumping to the city," a spokesperson said.



A 'no dumping' sign is the only deterrent on site to stop illegal dumping.

Dumping crisis continues in Swan

BRAYDEN MOULD

SWAN residents say illegal dumping has reached a breaking point on Roe Highway as piles of household waste and hazardous asbestos roofing are left to rot along the main thoroughfare.

The makeshift tip, located at a truck lay-by along the highway, has transformed from an eyesore to a public health hazard, as scattered furniture, clothing, and drawers have now bled into the neighbouring nature reserve.

But it is the recent addition of broken asbestos sheeting that has set the community on edge.

Swan resident Ashley King, who frequents the area for exercise, said the site was growing at an alarming rate while authorities remain idle.

"The rubbish piling up and left to decompose along the major road is just terrible," he said.

"I've contacted Main Roads a number of times about the issue, but it seems to just fall on deaf ears.

"It is sad to see a few people not take pride in their environment and ruin it for other residents, dumping rubbish wherever they think is convenient."

Mr King said he was alarmed seeing the asbestos lying nearby to an Aboriginal community, as the release of fibres can pose a threat to pedestrians, wildlife, and the environment.

"The pile of asbestos roofing just sitting there is

particularly dangerous, especially to people walking by like I do," he said.

"What if kids from the nearby community went exploring and came across it? We shouldn't have to live with it; the buck stops with Main Roads."

Mr King said that while Main Roads has implemented designated signage to try and stop the dumping, the current measures are insufficient and alternative solutions are needed.

"There's a 'no dumping' sign in the middle of the area with rubbish just piled up around it, obviously the solution Main Roads thought of is just not working," he said.

"The community deserves a proper response from Main Roads about what they are planning to do about this."

As reported in *Gidgegannup residents demand action over illegal dumping* (Echo News, January 23) similar frustrations were shared by Gidgegannup residents who blamed high costs at the waste management facility at Red Hill for a surge of dumping along Toodyay Road.

For residents living in the eastern metropolitan region looking to dump asbestos at the waste management facility, they can expect to pay \$120 per tonne of asbestos waste.

Main Roads have confirmed they are investigating the matter.

Brown Park lights shine on



The lights have been turned on at Brown Park Oval.

BROWN Park is now set to come alive after dark, with the Shire of Mundaring officially switching on new LED lighting at the Brown Park upper oval.

The lights were officially switched on during a community lights-on event on Thursday, January 29 where local sporting clubs and community groups gathered to celebrate the milestone together.

Midland MLA Steve Catania joined Shire President Paige McNeil, and councillors Woods, Cicchini, Strutt and Heptinstall at the event, marking the completion of an upgrade that will significantly expand how and when the oval can be used.

The project includes four high-performance, energy-efficient LED floodlights designed to deliver strong, even lighting across the oval.

The upgrade improves safety, visibility and access, and opens new opportunities for evening training, matches and informal recreation.

President McNeil said the new lights will make a real difference to how the community uses the oval.

"This upgrade changes what's possible at Brown Park and reflects the shire's focus on practical improvements shaped by community feedback" she said.

"The new lights mean people can train, play and spend time outdoors later into the evening, while feeling safe and confident using the space.

"Our community told us they wanted lighting to enhance how the park is used, and this is a great example of the shire delivering on community feedback."

Local sporting clubs have welcomed the upgrade saying the new lighting will support participation, flexibility and growth.

Swan View Cricket Club president David Pease said the upgrade was a game changer for the club.

"This has been a project we've been looking forward to for a very long time, I'm looking forward to coming down and watching the footy boys play in the winter and for our cricket teams we can keep all our juniors at the one club where we want to play."

Swan View Football Club president Darren Rullo thanked the shire for making sure the clubs were part of the project as it came to fruition.

"There's so many people before us who wanted the facilities we're now getting at Brown Park, the lights, the car park, it's just the start of something that's going to get bigger and bigger."

Cont. p17

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Ellenbrook Community Centre opens its doors

THE official opening of the \$9 million Ellenbrook Community Centre on Saturday, January 31 marks the final milestone of the eagerly awaited facility set to become the community heart of one of the City of Swan's fastest-growing suburbs.

The centre will bring diverse groups together within a central, purpose-built facility providing extra function, activity and workshop spaces designed to accommodate a wide range of community uses.

"The project has been community-driven, shaped by local needs and aspirations," a spokesperson said.

"The Men's Shed will benefit significantly from expanded and purpose-designed workshop facilities, including dedicated spaces for woodwork and metalwork.

"These improvements will also support associated arts and skills-based programs such as stained glass and photography, enabling greater participation and skills development across the community."

Hasluck MP Tania Lawrence said she was delighted to see the project reach its conclusion.

"The Ellenbrook Community Centre will serve not only Ellenbrook but also its neighbouring, fast-developing communities," she said.

"This is a shared space for so many of our wonderful local groups. It is another great example of different levels of government coming together to serve the needs of our growing communities."

Deputy Premier and West Swan MLA Rita Saffioti said she was looking forward to seeing the centre become a major focus for community-based activities in the rapidly



Cutting a ribbon to mark the official opening are City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson, Hasluck MP Tania Lawrence, Swan Hills MLA Michelle Maynard, and Lotterywest general manager Lorna Pritchard.

growing region.

"Facilities such as the centre perform an essential role in bringing communities closer together," she said.

City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson said the milestone is a proud moment for the city.

"This is a hugely exciting day for Ellenbrook. We are proud to be delivering on our promise to provide a modern, accessible community space for residents to call their own," she said.

The \$9m project was made possible by \$3.5m funding from the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety, \$2m from the federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, \$2m from Lotterywest, and \$1.5m from the City of Swan.

Supporting the development and construction phases of the project were Castle Projects, Site Architecture, and Hodge Collard Preston Architects.

Camp Hero helping our eastern suburbs teens



Mundaring Christian College graduate Luke Jones and Swan Christian College student Asha Winsor both recommend the Camp Hero experience.

TWO eastern suburbs students are encouraging local teens to apply for a youth leadership camp, after crediting the experience with helping them build confidence, resilience and a stronger sense of purpose in their schools and communities.

Delivered by WA youth mental health organisation zero2hero, Camp Hero is a fully funded, five-day leadership and wellbeing camp for young people aged 15 - 18.

Research shows around 80 per cent of young Australians are more likely to seek support from a peer than a parent, teacher or professional.

Camp Hero equips emerging leaders with the skills to look after their own wellbeing, but also recognise when a mate might be struggling, listen without judgement, offer safe support, and know when and how to escalate concerns.

Swan Christian College student Asha Winsor attended Camp Hero after feeling unsure of her place at school and in her community.

"I was shy and nervous around others and never saw myself as a leader. I didn't think people would listen to my ideas because I didn't have the confidence to speak up," she said.

That mindset shifted during the camp.

"At Camp Hero, I learned what it really means to be a good leader. I realised that helping others, whether with mental health or everyday challenges, is something I'm really passionate about," she said.

After returning home, Asha applied to become a leader at her school's trade centre.

"Not only was I accepted, but the school created a whole new role for me, trade centre service captain, focused on helping others and working with charitable organisations," she said.

Asha said the experience also had a noticeable impact beyond school.

"My family has noticed how much happier and more confident I am. I'm more comfortable meeting new people and getting involved,"

Cont. p17

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FREE ice cream	Market & community stalls	

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Mundaring recognises heroes at citizenship awards



Members of the Jane Brook Catchment Group, Will Pether, Marjorie Moyle and Joan Quinn receive their Shire of Mundaring awards.

SHIRE of Mundaring welcomed new Australian citizens and celebrated outstanding local volunteers at its annual Citizenship and Community Awards ceremony held at Boya Community Centre on Australia Day.

Thirty new Australians from 12 countries were officially welcomed into the community, alongside the recognition of three residents and a community group whose dedication and service have made a lasting impact across the shire.

Citizen awards were presented acknowledging contributions that strengthen community connection, inclusion and sustainability with Joan Quinn and Majorie Moyle receiving the inspirational volunteer award, William Pether the young citizen of the year and Jane Brook Catchment Group receiving the long service award.

Shire President Paige McNeil said the ceremony provides a meaningful opportunity to both welcome new citizens and acknowledge those who give their time and energy to supporting others.

"Australia Day provides an opportunity to reflect on what brings us together as a community," President McNeil said.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have passionate volunteers and community leaders

who go above and beyond to make Shire of Mundaring such a connected, inclusive and caring place to live.

"I congratulate Joan Quinn, Marjorie Moyle, Will Pether and Jane Brook Catchment Group and on their well-deserved recognition. Their generosity, leadership and commitment truly reflect the spirit of our community."

For more than a decade, Joan Quinn has helped shape Mount Helena into the connected and community-driven place it is today.

As Mount Helena Residents and Ratepayers Progress Association president she has encouraged people of all ages to get involved, share ideas and take pride in their town.

She stepped into leadership at a time when the association needed new direction bringing energy, warmth and a strong focus on working together.

Under her guidance, the group has become a trusted voice for the community and a champion for local projects.

Her support for young people has been especially important and she led community efforts to upgrade the Mount Helena Skate Park, delivering new facilities that young people now enjoy every day.

She has also been a strong advocate for

local sport helping secure improvements at Elsie Austin Oval, including new accessible changerooms with the upgrades supporting all abilities players, girls' and juniors' teams, and the broader Mount Helena community.

Her passion for local heritage has helped reconnect residents with places that matter and she has worked to restore the WWI Lion Mill honour roll, revive the ANZAC Day service and support the Mount Helena Swim Club.

For more than forty years, Marjorie Moyle has been a much-loved and dependable presence in the Mundaring and Eastern Hills community.

She has devoted decades to the Country Women's Association, serving as treasurer of the Mundaring branch for 40 years and remaining an active member for 49 years.

She has also guided and supported generations of young athletes in her roles in the Eastern Hills Little Athletics including club manager, coach and life member and also helping to re-establish the Mundaring Little Athletics Club and coaching across several local clubs for many years.

Her service extends beyond sport and in 2024 she received two Hasluck volunteer of the year awards and also supported the Firefighters School in Stoneville by preparing

lunches for volunteers since 2015.

Will Pether has been a proud part of the Stoneville Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade since he was 15.

He qualified as a firefighter a year later and has been showing up for his community ever since giving his time generously.

He has completed all required training, built strong skills and is always ready to lend a hand, no matter the task.

Brigade members describe him as respectful, reliable and a great person to work with.

The Jane Brook Catchment Group has been caring for the local environment for more than 25 years protecting the natural beauty of the catchment.

The group began in 1989 as the Bugle Tree Creek - Jane Brook Protection Society and became the Jane Brook Catchment Group in 1998.

Since then, volunteers have restored bushland, improved habitat and shared their knowledge across the community.

Members apply for and manage grants, lead restoration projects and support the Railway Heritage Trail and nearby wildlife corridors and run displays, lead bushwalks and work together with other environmental groups to build local understanding and stewardship.

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Shire of Mundaring President Paige McNeil presenting awards to statue-naming winner Cam Barratt and nominee Jannina. Picture: Rebecca De Vries

Bilgoman diving lady officially named Billie

THE Bilgoman diving lady has been a symbol of summer in the Perth Hills for over 40 years and has finally received an official name after community voted on more than 200 name submissions.

The diving lady was named Billie on January 30 at the Bilgoman wave rave party which saw around 220 attendants participating.

Other contenders were Bindi, meaning butterfly in Noongar language and Hilda, meaning warrior in German and a homage to the Perth Hills.

Shire of Mundaring President Paige McNeil said the diving lady has been a much-loved local landmark for a long time, but she never had an official name.

"The decision to formally name her was about recognising her place in our community story.

"Over the years, the sculpture has taken on meaning for many locals and naming her reflects that sense of connection rather than changing what she represents.

"It helps ensure the story of the artwork is docu-

mented and can be passed on, rather than remaining informal or assumed."

Swan View resident Cam Barratt said the name was inspired by the Bilgoman itself.

"The logical choice was the female version of Bill as it's the Bilgoman aquatic centre," he said.

"We've been going up and down the hill for many years and we'd always see her.

"She's a symbol of surf lifesaving, which I don't want to take away from, but naming her Billie also has special meaning for me."

Mr Barratt said his close friend named Billy who was diagnosed with motor neurone disease (MND) was also partial inspiration for the name.

"I think about Billie being about community and impact, and I think about Billy too and the effect MND has on not just the victims but their families.

"Having that sense of community is important.

"It'd be great if there was more awareness out there about MND.

"Because of that, Billie has an extra layer of special of meaning for me."



Artist's impression of the completed Swan Active Ellenbrook.

Construction begins at Swan Active Ellenbrook

CONSTRUCTION has begun at the site of the \$145 million Swan Active Ellenbrook project which is expected to open at the end of 2027.

Waterslides, pools and spas, a fitness centre, gym, wellness rooms and sports hall, plus outdoor amenities such as BBQs and picnic areas, are all included in the scope of the community-driven project.

The centre will incorporate state of the art sustainability initiatives, including a large solar array and environmentally friendly landscaping in outdoor areas.

The federal government has committed \$30m to the project while the state government has committed a further \$20m.

Hasluck MP Tania Lawrence said the commencement of construction marked a huge step forward for the Ellenbrook community.

“Swan Active Ellenbrook will be a place where families come together and our whole community can enjoy a healthier, more active lifestyle.

“I’m incredibly proud that the Albanese Labor government is investing in this project, which will deliver long-lasting benefits for one of the fastest-growing areas in our country.”

Swan Hills MLA Michelle Maynard said Swan Active Ellenbrook will soon be bringing multiple benefits to a fast-growing community.

“As the local member, I’m pleased to see this centre open and ready to support local groups and

community activities in Ellenbrook,” she said.

City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson said support from the state and federal governments had been invaluable in bringing the project to life.

“It’s a perfect example of what can be achieved by three levels of government – federal, state and local – working together for the benefit of the community.

“I am delighted to be here at this very important moment and thrilled to see the great progress made towards delivering our promise to the people of Ellenbrook,” she said.

Deputy Premier and West Swan MLA Rita Saffioti said she was delighted to see the project reach another significant milestone.

“This is an important day for everyone in Ellenbrook, with this fantastic community asset moving nearer to completion,” she said.

Federal Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Minister Catherine King noted that it was cooperation between all three levels of government that would deliver the project.

“Building this facility is also building a stronger community and supporting better health outcomes for the people who live here,” she said.

“With not only pools, slides and a barbeque, Swan Active Ellenbrook will be a centre for community connection, activity and fun for years to come.”

Swan City Youth Service gets \$20K funding boost

SWAN City Youth Service (SCYS) has received a \$20,000 funding boost to support vital equipment and maintenance upgrades that will strengthen the organisation’s day to day operations.

The funding was an election commitment from Midland MLA Steve Catania and has been invested in practical infrastructure improvements, including new storage cabinets and laptops for staff to improve efficiency, support frontline workers, and enhance SCYS’s ability to deliver services to young people across the community.

SCYS provides essential support to young people facing disadvantage, including counselling, outreach, case management and access to safe, supportive spaces and works directly with young people experiencing instability, disengagement or personal crisis, helping them build pathways toward stability and independence.

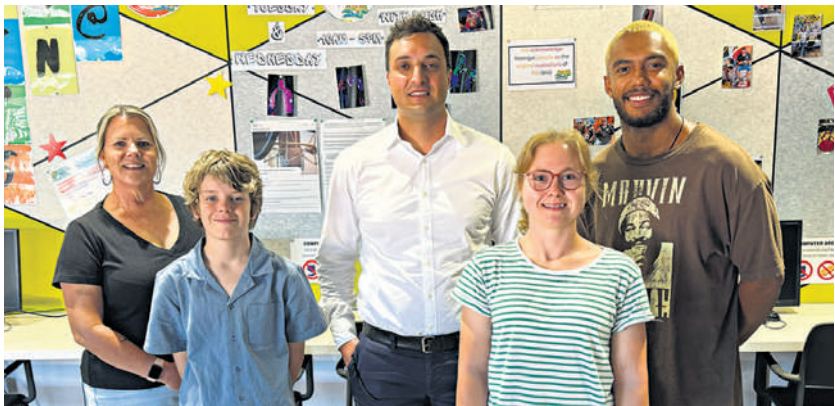
The delivery of the commitment reflects a focus on ensuring community organisations have the resources they need to operate effectively and continue supporting vulnerable young people across the region.

Mr Catania said the Swan City Youth Service does valuable work with young people who often need support the most.

“They are on the ground every day, providing real help and that’s something I value deeply. This commitment was always intended to deliver practical improvements, and I’m pleased to see it now supporting staff with the equipment they need to do their jobs effectively.”

Swan City Youth Service chief executive officer Rachel Robertson said the funding had made a real difference for her team.

“Having reliable equipment and properly fitted storage allows our staff to work more efficiently and focus on what matters most, supporting young people in our community.”



Steve Catania at the Swan City Youth Service.

Young people encouraged to apply for Youth Parliament



Caitlyn Cox (Caversham), Jaeger Peters (Bassendean), Tomas Dwyer (Lesmurdie), Yusr Kadhem (Ballajura), Nevaeh Pekan (Woodbridge) and Merryn Hodgson (Brigadoon) all took part in the 2025 Y WA Youth Parliament program and recommend the experience.

MIKE PEETERS

APPLICATIONS are now open for the Y WA’s (formerly YMCA) Youth Parliament, with young people from across WA encouraged to take part in one of the state’s leading youth leadership and civic engagement programs.

Now in its 31st year, the non-partisan Youth Parliament program empowers young people to have a voice in Parliament and their local communities, while providing a unique opportunity to engage directly with the democratic process.

It also helps participants to develop leadership, advocacy and public speaking skills.

The four-month program is open to young people aged 15 to 25 from Perth metropolitan and regional Western Australia.

Participants are selected to represent electorates across the state with youth members coming together to identify and debate issues impacting young West Australians.

By doing so, they build meaningful connections and develop skills to create real social change.

Y WA Chief Executive Officer Dr Tim McDonald said participants gained a hands-on insight into the Australian political system by researching key issues, drafting youth-focused legislation, and debating bills in a parliamentary setting.

“Young West Australians have powerful ideas and perspectives,” Dr McDonald said.

“This program creates a space for them to learn, connect and lead and to be taken seriously in decision-making processes.

“Throughout the program, participants act as youth members with each representing a Western Australian electorate.”

The program culminates in July 2026, when youth members attend Parliament House and participate in a formal parliamentary debate in the chamber.

Following the sittings, all bills are presented to members of the state government and opposition, as well as the Governor of Western Australia, the Lord Mayor of Perth and the WA Department for Communities.

Over the past three decades, Youth Parliament has demonstrated its impact, with several youth-developed bills later reflected in state legislation.

Previous Youth Parliament bills have addressed issues including coercive control, environmental sustainability, housing affordability, health access, education, and youth justice, often years before similar reforms were introduced by government.

The Y WA Youth Parliament welcomes applications from young people of all genders, abilities, cultures, religions and sexual orientations.

Applications for the 2026 Y WA Youth Parliament close on February 19, 2026.

To apply or find out more, visit <https://forms.office.com/r/DAJfqSizYF>

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Kalamunda View

News from your City | February 2026



Mayor's MESSAGE

As we transition from Birak to Bunuru, this season has certainly made itself felt, with the New Year's Day bushfire coming far too close to home for many in our community.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the City's Community Safety team, and all partnering agencies for their swift and coordinated response to the recent fires. On behalf of our community, we are truly grateful for your dedication and hard work.

The recent heatwave and local fire activity serve as an important reminder for us all to stay prepared throughout the bushfire season. This includes keeping properties well maintained and ensuring you have a clear and up-to-date bushfire plan in place.

As the school year begins, there is so much happening for residents of all ages across the beautiful City of Kalamunda. Our Term programs have now resumed at our Recreation Centres and Libraries, offering a wide range of activities—from language classes and educational workshops to social groups and sporting programs. There really is something for everyone.

We also have some exciting events on the horizon, including the much-loved return of the Sunset Series. In partnership with local schools, movie screenings will be held at a variety of convenient locations across the City. To view the full program, visit www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/sunset.

And don't forget, the Kalamunda Readers Festival is just around the corner! The City's first-ever literary festival will showcase renowned West Australian authors including Rachael Johns, Sara Foster, Michael Trant and many more. With author talks, panel discussions and workshops spanning crime and mystery, romantasy, and children's fiction, it's an event not to be missed. Get your tickets at www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/kalamunda-readers-festival.

Enjoy the last golden weeks of summer, and I look forward to seeing you out and about in the City of Kalamunda.

Mayor Margaret Thomas JP

Have Your Say

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

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



SEE YOU UNDER THE STARS! SUNSET SERIES RETURNS FOR 2026



Experience the magic of outdoor movies this summer! In partnership with local schools, the 2026 Sunset Series is coming to a variety of locations in the City of Kalamunda!

With 5 screenings coming up this February and March, these FREE events bring together community and provides valuable fundraising opportunities for schools.

View the full line-up at www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/sunset



COUNTDOWN TO THE READER'S FESTIVAL!

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

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

Tickets for the festival are now on sale - Tickets are going fast, so hurry and secure your spot before it's too late!

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



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS AND NEW AUSTRALIANS

The City celebrated community spirit and new beginnings by welcoming 61 new Australian citizens and 12 children from 24 countries, while also honouring three outstanding Community Citizen of the Year Award recipients.

Congratulations to our 2026 award recipients:

- **Taynan Lilydale,**
Young Community Citizen of the Year
- **Amandah-Kayte Lead,**
Community Citizen of the Year
- **Kalamunda Rotary,**
Active Citizenship Award

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Community Funding Program

OPEN NOW

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6:30pm, Tuesday 10 February
Ordinary Council Meeting
6:30pm, Tuesday 24 February
Administration Centre, Council Chambers

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

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Building a better and fairer education system in Hasluck



This week, the hustle and bustle of school life returns for another year. Whether you are a parent juggling school pick-ups and drop-offs, a teacher working hard to give our kids the best possible education, or a student adjusting to new studies, I wish everyone a successful 2026 school year.

As your representative in the Albanese Labor Government, I am excited for

what's ahead.

The Better and Fairer Schools Agreement is the largest new investment in public education every by an Australian Government, representing an additional \$16.5 billion this decade and \$49 billion the decade after.

Most importantly, this funding will translate into real support in classrooms for the students who need it most, in

Hasluck and across the nation. Practical reforms like early phonics and numeracy checks, alongside evidence led tutoring, will help ensure that every child has access to high quality education, regardless of their circumstances.

I am proud to be part of a government that delivers for Hasluck schools, and I once again look to visiting as many as I can throughout the year.

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Valentine's Day



Celebrate Love This Valentine's Day at Amaroo



This Valentine's Day, escape the everyday and celebrate love in true Perth Hills style — surrounded by towering gums, fresh country air and the kind of quiet luxury that instantly slows your heart-beat.

Amaroo Retreat & Spa is a five-star, adults-only retreat nestled in the bushland of Mount Helena, just 45 minutes from Perth. Proudly, we offer an experience that feels both elevated and deeply grounded in nature.

Whether you're gifting a romantic night away, a day of spa indulgence, or an unforgettable dining experience, Amaroo is where special moments become lasting memories.

Luxury Chalet Accommodation

Feel a million miles away the moment you arrive. Our private luxury chalets are designed for relaxation and reconnection — complete with the tranquillity of the Perth Hills, comfort in every detail, and your very own outdoor spa bath.

Wake to birdsong. Wander the bush trails. Share breakfast at The Lounge. Then spend the day exactly as you wish: a couples massage, a long lunch, cocktails by the pool, or simply reading with a glass of wine while nature does the rest.

The Day Spa

Our onsite Day Spa is a sanctuary in the forest — offering a complete reset from the pace of daily life. Choose from a menu of deeply relaxing treatments including massage, facials, body scrubs and wraps,

with options suitable for both men and women.

It's the kind of gift that says: you deserve to be looked after.

The Lounge at Amaroo

Dining at The Lounge is an experience in itself — semi-fine dining with a menu inspired by the region, crafted by our award-winning team of chefs and paired with a beautifully curated wine list and signature cocktails.

With warm service, bushland views and live entertainment every Friday and Saturday night, The Lounge is your new favourite local escape — and you don't need to be staying overnight to enjoy it.

Gift Vouchers Available

Not sure what to choose? An Amaroo gift voucher is the perfect Valentine's Day gift — offering complete flexibility across luxury accommodation, the Day Spa, and dining at The Lounge.

Valentine's Day Degustation — \$120pp

Celebrate with a romantic long lunch in the hills, featuring a five-course degustation menu with a complimentary glass of bubbles on arrival, paired with the atmosphere of live acoustic music.

\$120 per person

Add matching wines for each course for \$40 per person

Purchase Gift Vouchers online or to book your table for two call (08) 6244 4800 or email reservations@amaroo retreat.com.au



Valentine's Day

*Lunch & Dinner at Amaroo Retreat & Spa
An intimate five-course dining experience crafted for
romance, indulgence and connection.*

SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2026

LUNCH | 11:30am - 2:30pm - A long, indulgent lunch surrounded by nature

DINNER | 5:30pm - Late - A once-a-year evening of romance and atmosphere

THE EXPERIENCE

FIRST

LOCALLY BAKED SOURDOUGH
Dukkah • Olive Oil • Balsamic

SECOND

LOBSTER ROLL
House-Made Milk Bun • Citrus • Fennel

THIRD

HAND-TIED BURRATA
Roast Stone Fruit • Prosciutto • Hazelnut

FORTH

RIBEYE STEAK - Chimichurri • Red Wine Jus
OR
SALMON EN PAPILOTE - Salmon Baked In Parchment
Tomato • Brandy Butter Fettuccine • Mussels • Clams

Served With

Crispy Kipfler Potatoes - Crème Fraiche • Lemon
Chargrilled Broccolini - Confit Garlic • Black Pepper

DESSERT COURSE

A CHOCOLATE FINALE TO SHARE
Baked Chocolate Tart • Miso Banana • Peanut Brittle
Milk Chocolate Crème Brûlée • Malt Milk Biscuit
Whipped White Chocolate • Honeycomb • Orange

\$120 PER PERSON

Includes a complimentary glass of bubbly on arrival

OPTIONAL WINE PAIRING

Perfectly matched to each course

\$40 PER PERSON

PLEASE NOTE:

*This is a share menu.
Dishes are designed
to be enjoyed
together.*

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

*Limited availability – Valentine's Day
sells out every year!*

(08) 6244 4800

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1200 Alison Street, Mt Helena

www.amaroo retreat.com.au



amaroo
RETREAT & SPA

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day, also called St. Valentine's Day, holiday (February 14) when lovers express their affection with greetings and gifts. Formal messages, or valentines, appeared in the 1500s, and by the late 1700s commercially printed cards were being used.

The first commercial valentines in the United States were printed in the mid-1800s. Valentines commonly depict Cupid, the Roman god of love, along with hearts, traditionally the seat of emotion.

Traditional gifts include candy and flowers, particularly red roses, a symbol of beauty and love.

— BRIANNA

Thoughtful gestures for the day of love

Valentine's Day doesn't have to be about grand gestures or mass-produced gifts. Sometimes, the most meaningful expressions of love are the ones already waiting quietly at home.

At The Jewellery Centre in Mundaring, Valentine's Day is about stories — the ones carried in heirloom rings, unworn necklaces, and pieces that once meant something, but no longer fit life today. With experienced jewellers working on site every day, these forgotten treasures are carefully transformed into custom designs made for now.

For long-term couples and partners who've shared years together, re-designing jewellery can be a deeply personal way to mark a milestone. An old ring can become a new symbol of commitment. A family piece can be reshaped into something modern, wearable, and full of meaning — without losing its history.

This Valentine's Day, more people are choosing thoughtful craftsmanship over off-the-shelf jewellery. They're choosing to sit down with a local jeweller, talk through memories, and create something that simply can't be replicated.

Proudly part of the Mundaring community, The Jewellery Centre believes jewellery should reflect the life you've built together — not just the moment it was bought.

Because the most beautiful gifts aren't rushed.

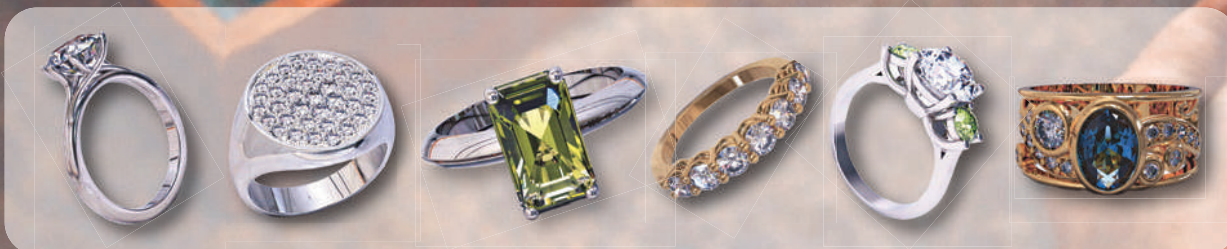


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Mall, MUNDARING

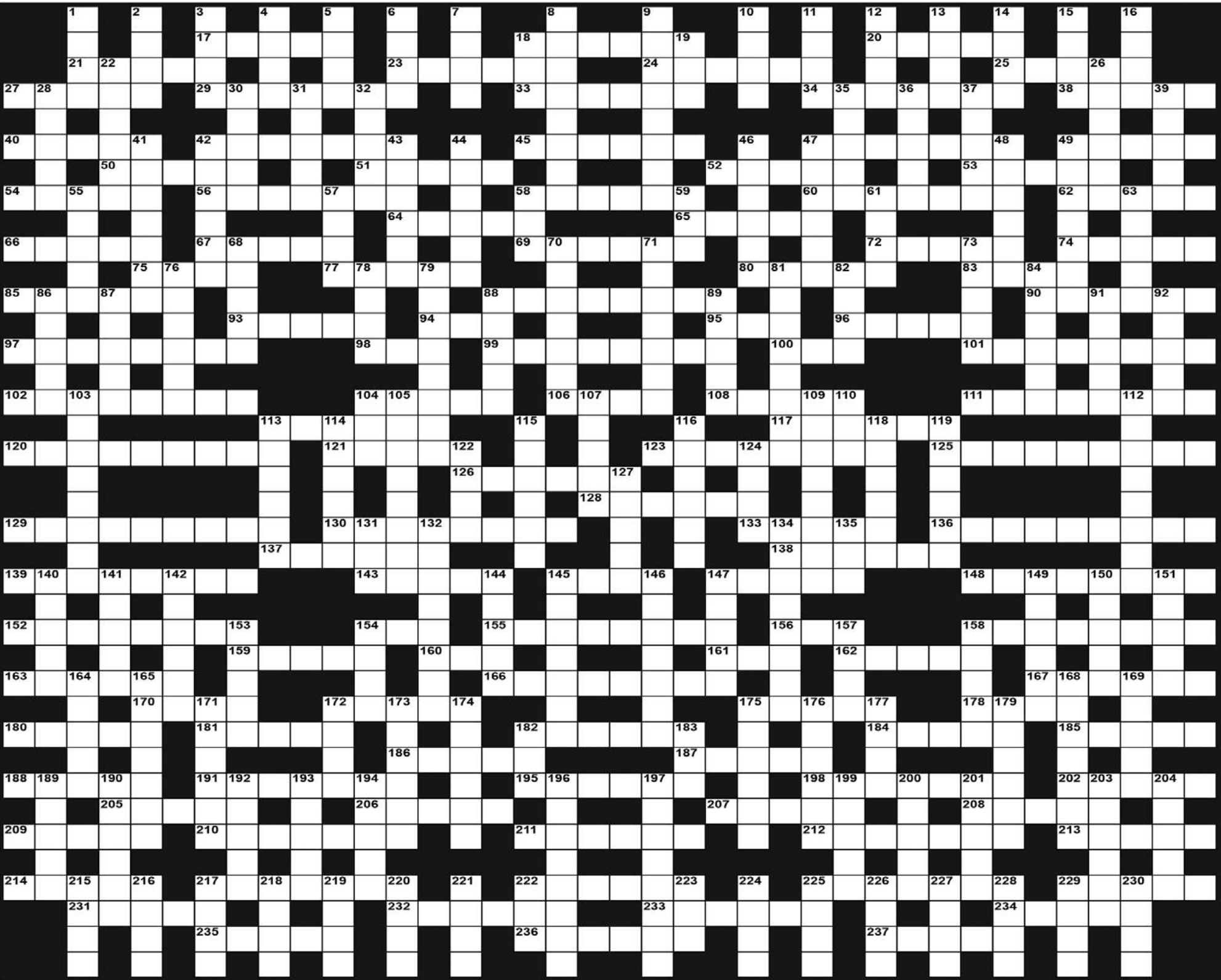
The
**Jewellery
Centre**





Mind Boggler Crossword

1254

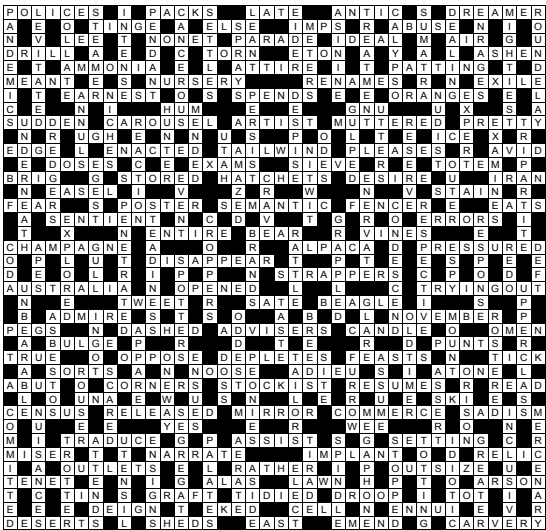


- ACROSS**

17 Fireplace
18 Church passages
20 Small weight
21 A basket
23 Insolent remark
24 Leaves of manuscript
25 Come to a point
27 Woody plants
29 Simplest
33 Carved
34 Fuel carrying ships
38 Lateral parts
40 Speak off-the-cuff
42 Type of wine
45 Fashion moves
47 Holds back
49 Ocean predator
50 Army officer
51 Keep away from
52 Drinking bout
53 Range
54 Fight against
56 Back part
58 Snakes
60 Apprentice
62 Rub out
64 Stirs roughly
65 Nimble
66 Coconut product
67 Insect young
69 Cute-looking
72 Piece to swing on
74 Kitchen furniture
75 Graded player
77 Has a spell
80 Joint in carpentry
83 Employer
85 Checks ledgers
88 Callers
90 Hole maker
93 A stunt
94 Anger
- 95 Tree resin
96 Cause of fever
97 Steepest
98 Ungodly act
99 Pest
100 Fish eggs
101 Proof in court
102 Thought likely
104 Sly looks
106 Border
108 A flat dish
111 Burnt bodies
113 Choose
117 Person of learning
120 Meaningful
121 Came up
123 Called together
125 Become countrified
126 Ill feeling
128 Church officers
129 Hardship
130 Syrian city
133 Water holders
136 Gave
137 Make spirits
138 Social importance
139 Visit often
143 Brilliance
145 Eager
147 Intoxicated
148 Meal courses
152 Setbacks
154 A rod
155 Speak with
156 Reserved (abb)
158 Reels
159 Finish
160 Type
161 Wing-like part
162 A cluster
163 Harsh
166 A police officer
167 Knife etc
170 Operatic air
- 172 Male animals
175 Long-legged bird
178 At what time
180 Vine fruit
181 Room
182 Worked out
184 Silly
185 Leaks slowly
186 Waste meat
187 Explain again
188 A game
191 Kitchen tool
195 Quite wintry
198 Looked after
202 Catarrh
205 Raised bank
206 Over-supplies
207 Ocean reef growth
208 Close to the edge
209 An engine
210 Speaks foolishly
211 Speak strongly for
212 Took small bites
213 Hop kilns
214 Scatter
217 Rotten flesh
222 Trading place
225 Ungrateful person
229 Measure of length
231 Give a speech
232 Group of ships
233 Radio receiver wire
234 Forays
235 Sudden push
236 Strangest
237 Not important
- DOWN**

1 A cord
2 Roman dates
3 Horrid
4 Inner selves
5 Used to be
6 Leave
- 7 Endure
8 Made a mess
9 A guard
10 A bird
11 A direction
12 Type of siren
13 Betting pool
14 Favourites
15 Fruit seeds
16 An enclosure
18 Alcoholic drink
19 Lump of wet dirt
22 Rule of government
26 One of two
28 Raised ground
30 Love
31 Girl's name
32 Selling of goods
35 Arabian chief
36 Uniform colour
37 Wash out
39 Works for
41 Ship stabiliser
42 Spirits of people
43 Turns inside out
44 Allows in
46 Mouth fluid
47 Uncover
48 Panoramas
49 A phantom
55 Two-legged animal
57 Bellow
58 A viper
59 Cunning
61 Slight pain
63 Book of pictures
68 Change to suit
70 Rest
71 Defeat utterly
73 Assumed appearance
76 Good reputation
78 Types of deer
- 79 Cheap jewellery
81 Grow larger
82 Split
84 Type of fur
86 Theatre guide
87 Thoughts
88 A planet
89 Slumber
91 Sporting ground
92 Master of ceremonies
103 Make easier
104 For each
105 Of budgets etc
107 Waltz etc
109 Geometric lines
110 First woman
112 Bullock driver
113 Maroon
114 Old landowners
115 Dye
116 Wants badly
118 Change to suit
119 Top cards
122 Large birds
124 Very large
127 Speak indistinctly
131 Dined
132 Attracting
134 Position seeker
135 Girl's name
140 Old magistrate
141 A line of people
142 Christian festival
144 Small nails
145 Relatives
146 Tell stories
147 Look after
149 Way of standing
150 A grass disease
151 Brief
153 Piece left over
154 Defeat
157 Wound mark
158 Stream of fish eggs
- 164 Manservant
165 Cattle breeder
168 Endure
169 Offal
171 Sent out
172 Stitches
173 Coral islands
174 Security
175 Portion
176 Parent-less child
177 An oven
179 Went first
182 A gnome
183 Arid
189 Call off action
190 Nearer
192 Ó firma (dry land)
193 At no time
194 Ice house
196 Outlaw
197 Trial run (4,4)
- 199 Foreign
200 Ban
201 Occurrence
203 Quite warm
204 Set free
215 Was aboard
216 Need badly
217 Prison room
218 Circle
219 Decorated a cake
220 Body of church
221 In amongst
222 Trouble
223 To this time
224 Tie up
225 Sicknesses
226 Sport
227 Female relative
228 Goes wrong
229 A herb
230 Olden ruler

Crossword Solution 1254 from 30 January, 2026



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Kinetica Circus acrobatics to perform in Midland centre

MIDLAND is set to transform into a vibrant outdoor big top as the community gathers for an evening of world-class circus entertainment and family-friendly fun.

On Friday, February 6 the Locale event space at 37 The Crescent, Midland will host a major showcase headlined by the Kinetica Circus Youth Performance Troupe.

The event, which will run from 5.30pm to 8pm will see the troupe anchor the afternoon with a showcase of aerial feats and ground-based acrobatics in an afternoon of outside circus entertainment.

Kinetica's troupe consists of performers aged 7 to 17 that train in displays of aerial silks, hoops, trapezes, and aerial hammocks, alongside grounded feats of basic tumbling, juggling, and hula hooping.

Before the acrobats begin their performance, the City of Swan libraries will set the tone with an early story time session, and interactive children's activities organised by the Midland Junction Arts Centre.

The energy won't dip for a moment, as the performers will also take on the roles of roving entertainers and MCs of the evening, keeping laughter flowing well into the evening.

The event is free to the public and residents are encouraged to



The event is free to the public and event-goers are encouraged to arrive early to secure a prime viewing spot.

arrive early, secure a prime viewing spot, and soak up the afternoon atmosphere of what promises to be a community highlight on the local calendar.

Three February exhibitions at Ellenbrook Arts

ELLENBROOK Arts will be hosting three exhibitions on February 20, featuring collective and solo exhibitions at their three distinct galleries.

Gallery one will be hosting artist Tron Tonneson's recent works which draw on his training and experience across a range of media.

According to organisers, the art demonstrates intuition and discipline, blending abstraction with lived experience.

It also invites viewers to reflect and peel back the layers of meaning under the surface, gesture and structure.

Gallery two will be an exhibition called A Quiet Place by Harry Lee and is a curated solo exhibition celebrating the vibrant colour, natural beauty and living character of West Australian land and sea.

The pieces invite viewers into moments of calm where landscapes and seascapes come alive through expressive brushstrokes.

The third gallery is a collective exhibition of insect-inspired art called Small Wonders.

This collective exhibition will showcase artists exploring the beauty, complexity and quiet power of insects through a range of media.

There will be paintings, sculptures, photographs and other forms aiming to reveal the delicate details and astonish with bold interpretations.

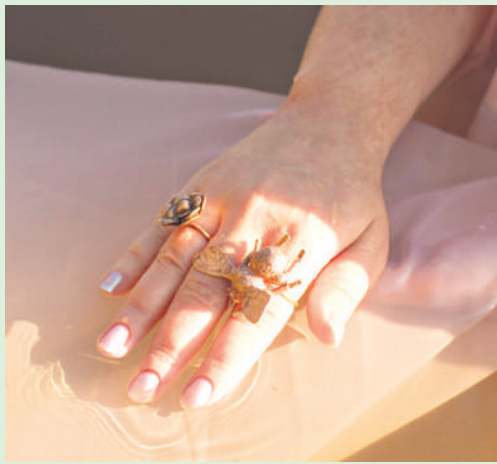
It's an invitation to slow down, look closer and rediscover the extraordinary in the insect life.

Small Wonders will be a non-competitive community art exhibition encouraging authentic creative expression and inclusion by removing financial and prize-driven barriers.

Ellenbrook Arts received more than 80 entries for their Small Wonders exhibition which they said highlighted how open, theme-led spaces foster participation, connection, and a richer, more representative creative community.



Judy Rogers 'Bug 1'.



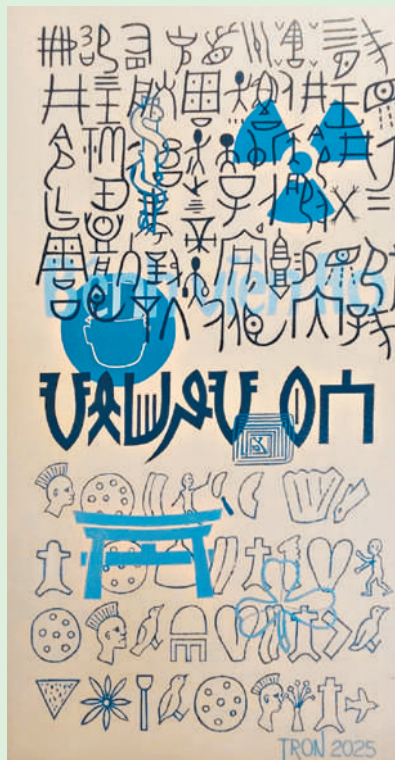
Paige Laundry 'The Bee'.



Ai Chen Lee 'Preying Mantis'.



Rachael Robertson 'Wandering Wasps'.



Tron 'SST Sticker'.

ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

Your local Gig Guide

Fri February 6

Lyric's Bar
Crash Creole
From 7pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane Maylands

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

Parkerville Tavern
Matty A
From 6pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Nathan Gaunt
6pm - 9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Sat February 7

Lyric's Bar
Furniture
From 7pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane Maylands

Parkerville Tavern
Intangible
From 6pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

Woodbridge Hotel
Filtered Replay
From 8pm, Free
50 East St Guildford

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Solo Music Festival
1pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Sun February 8

Parkerville Tavern
Slim Jim & PHATTS Inc
From 3pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville



Sunday Feb. 8 cont.

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Bill Chidgzev and the Longshot Trio
5pm-8pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

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

Lyric's Bar
The Pick-Me-Ups
From 5pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane Maylands

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

Tues February 10

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 February 11

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

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

Thur February 12

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

Promote your event



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ENTERTAINMENT
& GIG GUIDE

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Read between the lines

by Pastor Ian Kirk

Good Deeds

Colleen and I noticed that our neighbour's cocos palm needed attention. One of the seed pods had opened and flowered, and a number of leaves needed removing. We asked our neighbour, an elderly Greek lady who lived on her own, if we could do this. She agreed, and I jumped to it - as it involved a chainsaw.

I put up a ladder and used a small chainsaw on the end of an extension pole to take out the pod that had flowered - as there were heaps of bees buzzing around it. The bees were a bit upset when their prized cocos flower fell to the ground - but they didn't sting me. Then I removed the other pods and old leaves. It was lovely doing a good deed for our elderly neighbour, and to ensure that no nuts formed from the cocos flower - creating a tripping hazard for our dear neighbour.

It's nice doing good deeds; of course, good deeds are essential in getting to heaven - well, so I thought for many years. Until I realised that no amount of good deeds will ever get us to heaven, because they don't make up for our wrongs. Just as one hole sinks a boat, one sin sinks us.

That's why Jesus came and died for us on a cross, paying the penalty for our sins so that we could be forgiven, and be permitted to go to heaven - if we would believe in Him.

ECHO NEWS

Indemnity and Warranty

ECHO NEWSPAPER
CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE
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:

1. Echo, at its sole discretion, may decline to publish any advertisement requested by a Customer. If Echo decides not to publish a particular advertisement, there is no obligation on Echo to disclose the reasons for its decision, and Echo will not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned to the Customer as a result of the decision.
2. Echo will not be liable for any loss or damage caused to a Customer as a result of delay or as a result of Echo failing to place a requested advertisement or publishing an advertisement containing an error or omission.
3. Echo may, at its sole discretion, decide to refund a Customer a portion of the cost of the advertisement if it forms the view that the error was not attributable to the Customer and the Customer notifies Echo of the error or omission before 5.00pm on the day the advertisement first appears in the Newspaper.
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5. The Customer warrants that publication of the requested advertisement/s will not contravene any laws, whether statutory, equitable or otherwise, and agrees to wholly indemnify Echo (and its employees and agents) against all expenses, loss and damage arising directly or indirectly from the publication of the advertisement/s.

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Video Transfers to USB starting from \$45 - 6393 7298.

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LITL Electrical
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Gardener

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

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Weed, Prune, Mow & Slash. Free Quotes 0416 855 335.



Gutter Cleaning

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

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ALL YOUR NEEDS - external / internal painting & roof painting, high pressure cleaning & odd jobs & gyprock repairs - call Markus today - 0433 958 025.



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Mobile Hairdresser. Phone Lorraine 0412 291 055.

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Slashing, mowing, wool buying, firebreaks & property cleanups. Ian 0458 510 048.

Lawn Mowing

Tony's Lawnmowing, Handyman & Firewood. Cheap rates. Midland & Surrounding Areas. 0431 831 948.

Painting

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

AAA PAINTING INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
For very competitive prices and old fashioned service ph Nathan on 0409 247 293 (Reg. No. 6605).

Painting & Property Maintenance. 0477 660 703. Local.



Regrouting

Bathroom Regrouting. Call Andrew 0413 158 763.

Solar Services

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



Wanted

Semi-retired or student, required 2 hours twice weekly to water gardens, blow vac, whipper snip & tidy garden areas. Hours to suit, Midland, Brown Park area. Phone 08 9294 4705.

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.



Employment



The Echo Newspaper is looking to fill the following position

CADET JOURNALIST - DIGITAL CONTENT CREATOR

A part-time position Tuesday-Thursday, with hours negotiable, now exists for an innovative, self-confident, reliable Journalist to join the Echo News editorial team.

Essential criteria includes:

- A formal journalism qualification or equivalent grading.
- Photographic skills.
- Ability to build relationships with industry sources and communicate effectively with people from grass roots level through to senior industry management.
- Be able to write and post social media content.

The suitable applicant must:

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

Desired but not essential:

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

In return the successful candidate will be offered:

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

The closing date for all applications is 5pm, Wednesday 18th February 2026 with the successful applicant to start ASAP.

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.

Public Notice



WAPC

Western Australian Planning Commission

Have your say

Residential Apartments (Social and Affordable Housing), Bassendean

The Western Australian Planning Commission is seeking public comment on a development application for construction of a nine-storey building consisting of 73 apartments, one incidental office, and parking with 54 standard car bays and 46 bicycle bays at Lot 9664 (No 1) Park Lane, Bassendean.

The application can be viewed at haveyoursay.dph.wa.gov.au/bassendeanapartments or in person by appointment at the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Level 2, 140 William Street, Perth. Contact metrocentralplanning@dph.wa.gov.au or at 6551 8002 for an appointment.

Submissions can be made online or posted to: Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Metro Central North team, Locked Bag 2506, Perth WA 6001.

Submissions close **27 February 2026**. Late submissions may not be accepted.

DOLPH_29310

ECHO Notice Board

Upcoming Events

- **Midland CWA** meets at the Midland Railway Yards Blacksmith Lane (West) Midland on the third Wednesday of each month at 10am. CWA flags are displayed on Yelverton Drive, Midland on meeting days. CWA offers a diverse range of interests and each branch works to meet local community needs. Call Cathy on 0460 777 557 or email cwa.midland@outlook.com
- **Mahogany Creek Art and Craft Group** meets weekly on Wednesdays 9.30am to 12.30pm during school terms at the Mahogany Creek Hall on Jacoby Street. Everyone brings along their art or craft to work on in a friendly social group with tea and coffee provided. For more information call Mary on 0431 201 814 or Jan on 6279 4031.
- **The Rosehill Ladies Golf Club** meets each Tuesday at 8am at Hillview Public Golf Club, Kalamunda Road, Maida Vale. The season runs from March to November. For more information call Roz on 0419 915 623 or Julia on 0419 954 106.

- **The Kalamunda Lapidary Club** at 3 Recreation Road, Kalamunda is a club dedicated to collecting, polishing and creating jewellery from natural gem stones and Australian minerals and crystals which they collect in the field. They have an open day on the first Saturday of each month where possible with examples for sale. You can check their Facebook page for current events. For more information call Richard on 0422 181 200.
- **The Swan Guildford Historical Society** will host speaker Celia Miller at St Matthew's Hall, Stirling Square, Guildford on February 9 at 7.30pm. She will be speaking on the saga of Captain Francis Whitfield, a resident magistrate and veteran of the Napoleonic Wars who accepted land grants in the Swan River Colony in lieu of a military pension.
- **The Kalamunda Combined Probosc Club** will be meeting on Wednesday, February 11 at 10am at St Swithuns Church Hall, 195 Lesmurdie Road. The speaker for this month will be Tony Fareso who will

talk on his career in the navy from a very young age and becoming a naval photographer. For more information call Don on 0439 970 038.

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



Didgy is an 18-month-old Jack Russell. He is the sweetest little dog that absolutely loves kids and is great with chickens and other livestock. He is sterilised, micro-chipped, and vaccinated. Costs Apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

Brown Park's lights shine on

From p6

Mr Catania said the project highlighted the value of investing in local sporting infrastructure.

"This is a great outcome for the local community, particularly for football and cricket clubs that rely on quality facilities. Importantly, this is the state government working very closely with the Shire of Mundaring, contributing \$199,354 for this important part of the Brown Park master plan."

The project was supported by funding from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, along with \$40,000 from Cricket Australia and \$6000 from the Swan View Cricket Club. The remaining cost of the \$508,769 project was funded by the Shire of Mundaring.

The lighting upgrade is part of the shire's broader Brown Park master plan, which guides staged improvements across the precinct to meet the evolving needs of the Swan View and broader community.

Camp Hero helping our eastern suburbs teens

From p7

I feel like I'm making a difference for other young people in my community."

Camp Hero also inspired Asha to apply for Year 12 leadership and continue volunteering with zero2hero, with hopes of pursuing a future career in youth mental health education.

Mundaring Christian College graduate Luke Jones said Camp Hero helped him step out of his comfort zone and find confidence in being heard.

"Before Camp Hero, I was a quiet observer who let others take control," Luke said.

"The experience was eye-opening. It gave me the confidence to engage, speak up and take on situations I would have avoided before."

A memorable teamwork challenge left a lasting impression.

"We were building rafts to cross a river when it started pouring with rain, but everyone just laughed and kept going. It was like we all just forgot about everything else and were completely in the moment, happy to be together, rain and all."

"I felt this incredible sense of peace. My feet were in the mud, the trees were dancing in the wind, I could hear little rustles in the bushes. It was a powerful reminder of how amazing it feels to just be present, with no worries or stresses."

Since returning home, Luke said the skills he learned have carried into everyday life.

"I'm more willing to speak up in class, take leadership roles and connect with people I wouldn't have before," he said.

"Camp Hero helped me become more understanding, patient and confident in myself."

Both students agree the camp offers something rare for young people and encourages other teens to apply.

"It's a chance to step away from routine, try new things and connect with people who want to make a difference," Luke said.

"You discover strengths you didn't even know you had."

Asha's message to young people considering applying is simple.

"Just do it," she said.

"Even if you're nervous, everyone is there for the same reason. You'll form lifelong bonds and learn things that won't just change your life, but the lives of the people you'll help in the future."

Applications for Camp Hero leadership's April programs are open until February 15 for young people aged 15-18.

zero2hero is a WA-based youth mental health charity on a mission to empower young people to positively manage their mental health and support others.

Through school programs, leadership camps, and large-scale community events, zero2hero equips thousands of young Western Australians each year with the tools to speak up, stand up, and seek help.

Since 2013, zero2hero has impacted more than 250,000 young people, reaching metropolitan, regional and remote communities across the state.

To learn more or apply, visit www.zero2hero.com.au



Discover our digital edition online

www.echonepaper.com.au

Table tennis tour serves up Mundaring Arena excitement



Mundaring Shire President Paige McNeil with TTA male and female winners.

THE recent 2026 Table Tennis Australia (TTA) Western Australia Tour brought a weekend of high-energy table tennis competition to Mundaring Arena attracting players and spectators from around Australia and New Caledonia.

The national-level event, held on Saturday and Sunday, January 17-18 was open to all age groups from under-11s through to open and para classifications, and showcased fast-paced singles competition with matches livestreamed for fans unable to attend in person.

Shire of Mundaring President Paige McNeil said the shire was proud to support such a dynamic sporting event in the heart of the community.

"We were thrilled to welcome the TTA Tour to Mundaring, bringing outstanding competition and energy to our arena," President McNeil said.

"It was wonderful to see players of all ages and abilities enjoying the sport, and to witness our community come together to celebrate their skill and sportsmanship."

Table Tennis Australia also praised the venue and community support throughout the weekend.

"The Mundaring Arena was a fantastic host venue for the WA leg of the TTA Tour," national events manager

Plenty of table tennis action at Mundaring.

Ryan Wiegand said.

"The support from the Shire of Mundaring and the local community helped create a welcoming and professional environment for players of all ages and abilities, and we look forward to returning in the future."

The Mundaring stop formed part of Table Tennis Australia's 2026 national competition calendar, offering competitive opportunities for athletes at all levels and contributing to the growth of the sport across Western Australia.

Mundaring Arena continues to host a range of sporting and community events throughout the year, providing spaces that support active lifestyles and community connection.

You can keep across upcoming Arena events at www.mundaring.wa.gov.au/events/



The Perth Brazilian jiu-jitsu group pictured at the Mubadala Arena Abu Dhabi UAE last year.

Ellenbrook jiu-jitsu junior champ looks to the future

MIKE PEETERS

AFTER a successful result in the world Brazilian jiu-jitsu championships in Abu Dhabi last year, 10-year-old Ellenbrook boy Jarrah Blackmore is heading back to the Gulf state later this year with the intention to win.

"Jarrah ended up coming ninth in the world championships out of 70-plus kids in his division in Abu Dhabi last year," his father Gordon Blackmore said.

He said the Perth Martial Arts Centre took 11 kids and four adults to Abu Dhabi in November last year.

"The adult competitors also had great success with William Dias (world champion), Reece Bowyer and Juliano Lutz (top 10), and Rasheed Magar (top 20)," Mr Blackmore said.

"The other kids competing in Abu Dhabi were Thiago Dias (top 10), Tahlia Casella, Liana Casella and Korra Oneroa-Evans (world champions), Chanel Casella (third place), Lucas Planel (second place), Amiel Safaniev (top 10), Aiden Carullo (top 10), Kaiya Regan (top 10) and Kora Regan (top 10)."

As reported in *Grappling for Gold*, *Echo News*, October 24, 2024, Jarrah has spent the past couple of years with his eyes firmly focused on the world championship prize.

Mr Blackmore said Jarrah was the highest ranked indigenous boy in the AJP federation in 2025 and came third in the Pan Pacific Titles in Melbourne.

"Jarrah also did well in other competitions winning the WA Gi State Titles, the Malaysian No GI Nationals and the Singapore Gi and No Gi Nationals that year," he said.

Jarrah's trainer in Malaga is Perth Martial Arts Centre head coach William Dias, a Brazilian jiu-jitsu multiple world champion.

There is also another Perth Martial Arts Centre in Ellenbrook under Paulo Dias, a multiple world champion in Capoeira.

ECHO Local Real Estate

**Residential
Commercial
Rural & Country**

The new eastern suburbs members of the \$1m club

A NUMBER of Perth Hills and Swan suburbs have joined the Perth million-dollar suburb club due to rising median house sale prices.

Bushmead, Lesmurdie and Glen Forrest have now newly risen to the \$1 million median sale mark.

Homes in those suburbs are selling at a median price of about \$1.07m, \$1.05m and \$1.01m respectively.

They form part of the 32 suburbs that joined Perth's million-dollar club in 2025, taking the total number of suburbs with a median house sale price of \$1m or more to 126.

Other suburbs in the eastern suburbs area already in the \$1m sale range included Gooseberry Hill, West Swan, Darlington, The Vines and Guildford.

REIWA President Suzanne Brown said the large increase in the number of suburbs with a \$1m median house sale price was not surprising.

"Typically, we only see a handful of new entrants to the \$1m club each year," she said.

"However, the Perth property market recorded another 12 months of very strong price

growth, which saw the median house sale price for Greater Perth rise 13.3 per cent in 2025.

"This follows 25.0 per cent growth in 2024, when a record 37 suburbs joined the \$1m club, 34 of which were new entrants.

"If Perth property prices increase as expected over 2026, we could easily see the \$1m club reach 150 suburbs at the end of the year."

According to REIWA sales data, six suburbs have exited the \$1m club since the end of 2024.

Karawara, Carmel, and Bickley saw their median house sale price fall below \$1m by the end of 2025.

Mariginiup, Hovea and Millendon also dropped off the list as they had no qualifying sales recorded in 2025.

Samson was the top performer among the new entrants, with its median house sale price increasing 40.5 per cent to \$1,250,000.

Brentwood was the next best performing newcomer, with 37.1 per cent annual growth, followed by Serpentine with up 36.8 per cent, Roleystone up 26.3 per cent and Maylands up 23.1 per cent.



I Remember When...

Do you remember when it was so hot in the summer you had to sleep outside on the back lawn or in the passage at home with the front door open, hoping a breeze would come in. I grew up in a fibro home my dad built in the fifties and, like many people who lived around the Midland areas in the sixties, there were plenty the same. A standard house with a lounge at the front and a kitchen meals area, with two main bedrooms. On the verandah there was an enclosed section. This enclosed area would be used as another room to sleep in, called a sleep-out, with louvre windows. The other end would be the bathroom, sometimes with toilet and laundry; otherwise, they were outside. The laundry was more often called the wash house, and there was an outside dunny. On a hot night it wasn't uncommon to see people's front doors open, trying to cool their homes down, or them sitting on their front verandah if they had one, just sitting there in the hope of being cooler. Often you'd see the dad watering the lawn or garden in the hope of creating a cooler area to sit. Most people only had a fan at best, or the old water coolers, and at best an in-the-wall air conditioner only in the lounge area, which was pretty loud. Mind you, there were still plenty of people who had a wood-burning Metters stove as well, so the kitchen was certainly maintaining the heat in the house. Mind you, kids would be playing in the street sometimes till late, so it was quite a community affair. Many didn't have a tele, so you would hear the odd radio going in the background. Back then you also had to eventually go inside as the streetlights would go out, so the street was pitch black. Wow, no internet, no television — how we survived. Most dads would walk around in shorts and a singlet while watering the lawn, and you would see the odd smoke light up and glow in the dark. Interaction between neighbours was quite common and most conversations were about "what a stinker it had been". As kids we would go for a walk around saying hi to everyone as we walked along, and ran past the neighbours we didn't want to chat with.



Milton Rendell – CEO
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