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Parkerville artist honoured

Parkerville resident Sue Starcken was recognised for her contributions to the state's arts landscape by the WA Women's Hall of Fame. Picture: Karen Wheatland

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ECHO Celebrations



About 80 descendants of Leone Conti gathered at La Fattoria in Pickering Brook on February 21 to mark 100 years since his arrival in Western Australia.

Hills pioneer family marks century since Sicilian migration

A HILLS family whose roots stretch back to early orchard settlement in Pickering Brook and Walliston has marked 100 years since its patriarch first arrived in Western Australia.

About 80 descendants of Leone Conti gathered at La Fattoria in Pickering Brook on February 21 to commemorate a century since he migrated from Sicily in 1926.

Mr Conti arrived at Fremantle Port aboard the ship Palermo in February 1926, travelling alone in search of opportunity. He had earlier spent time in America before returning to Sicily and deciding to migrate to Australia.

Five years later, after saving enough money, he sent for his wife Maria Fasolo and their five children. They arrived in April 1931 aboard the ship Remo. A sixth child, Emilio, was later born in Western Australia.

Granddaughter Grace Conti said the reunion was deliberately held at La Fattoria because of its connection to the original orchard established by the family.

"The orchard was started by Leone's daughter Leuzza and her husband Leone Radice," Ms Conti said.

"The property remains in the family and is now operated as La Fattoria Winery by their descendants."

Ms Conti said the gathering was both a celebration and a reflection on the hardships faced by the first generation.

"Grandad arrived alone and worked hard to bring the family out," she said.

"They came from rural Sicily to what was then sandy, undeveloped land in Wanneroo. They worked the soil, grew tomatoes, potatoes and cabbages, kept cows and pigs and built a life from scratch."

After initially settling in Wanneroo, members of the Conti family later moved to the Perth Hills, establishing orchards in Pickering Brook and Walliston. Several branches of the family became closely associated with the development of fruit-growing in the region.

One of Leone's sons, Michele 'Mick' Conti, became a prominent community figure in the hills. Mick Conti Park in Lesmurdie was named in his honour in August 1999 in recognition of his contributions to the local community and the San Leone Association.

Archival material displayed at the reunion included immigration records, early photographs of orchard life, newspaper clippings and a detailed family tree compiled for a major reunion in 1996 that attracted about 250 relatives from across Australia.

Ms Conti said earlier reunions documented four generations, but the family now spans six generations in Western Australia.

"This reunion included grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Leone and Maria," she said.

"It's remarkable to see how one decision in 1926 has shaped so many lives."

Family stories shared at the event included accounts of the long sea voyage to Australia, with five young children travelling in difficult conditions without modern comforts.

One written account described the children exploring the ship's deck under canvas covers protecting passengers from the southern sun during the crossing.

"Grandma must have been beside herself," the memoir reads.

Ms Conti said preserving those stories was an important part of the reunion.

"Our grandparents came through wars, economic hardship and migration to a completely new country," she said.

"They had strong family values and integrated successfully into Australian life."

The Conti family's influence extended beyond agriculture, with descendants now working across a broad range of professions including business, education, public service and hospitality.

The La Fattoria property, which hosted the reunion, remains a reminder of the family's agricultural beginnings and its long-standing connection to the Perth Hills.

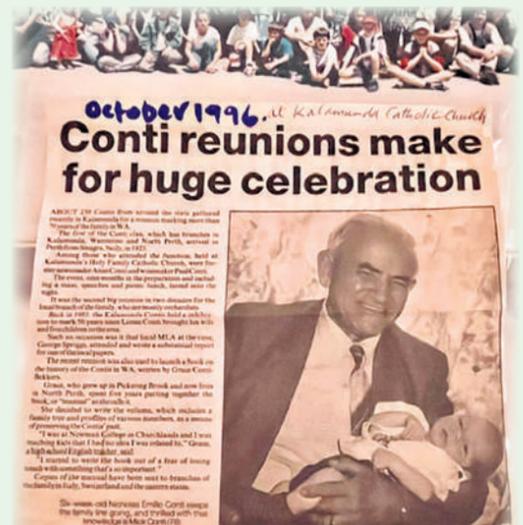
Ms Conti said plans were already being discussed for a larger gathering in future years to include all extended branches of the family.

"This year marked 100 years since Grandad arrived," she said.

"It's a milestone we're very proud of."



An early photograph of members of the Conti family after settling in Western Australia.



A 1996 newspaper article documenting a major Conti family reunion held in Kalamunda.

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City of Swan backs planning department review

GUANHAO CHENG

THE City of Swan voted 13-2 to support an independent review of their planners' application of state planning framework.

The resolution follows a motion passed at the city's annual electors' meeting where residents voted unanimously for an independent review of the planning department.

The motion asked for planning decisions from the past six years to be examined.

At the meeting, councillor Rod Henderson said the issue affected more than just The Vines.

Residents said they felt their concerns were not always properly considered when development proposals were assessed.

At an agenda forum on March 4, representatives from 10 community groups spoke in support of the motion.

Groups included Swan Communities Environmental Alliance, Bullsbrook Residents and Ratepayers Association, and Swan Valley Ratepayers and Residents Association.

Community groups raised concerns about environmental impacts, drainage problems, infrastructure pressure and how public submissions are recorded.

Vines Residents and Ratepayers Association vice chair Dixon Lowe said concerns extended to the entirety of the Swan Valley and was a wider issue.

"Our support for the motion is based on our deep concern with the planning officer's report for Amendment No.9 to Outline Development Plan 37," Mr Lowe said.

The amendment allows parts of The Vines golf course to be redeveloped for housing and a new driving range.

"It is not simply that we disagree with the recommendation. It fails to meet the basic standards required under the planning regulations."

Mr Lowe said residents expect proper planning assessments and accurate recording of community submissions.

"The community has two reasonable expectations of its local government: a full planning assessment and



Community representatives, who moved the motion for the independent review of the City of Swan's planning department, entering city chambers for the March ordinary meeting.

accurate acknowledgement of stakeholder contributions," he said.

However, councillors will also consider advice from city planning staff recommending the motion not be supported.

A City of Swan staff report says planning assessments follow the Planning and Development Act 2005.

"The city's planning staff prepare reports for council and other decision makers within the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2005," the report states.

The report said planning decisions over the past six years did not show disregard for planning rules or com-

munity input.

"The historical record... does not demonstrate a disregard for the regulatory requirements, nor community input," the report states.

City staff also say residents who believed planning laws were not followed can contact the Minister for Planning.

Under section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, the minister could review complaints and refer matters to the State Administrative Tribunal.

Residents said an independent review would improve transparency and restore community trust in the planning process.



Parked cars line Amherst Road in Woodbridge, where residents say commuter parking is narrowing the street and creating safety concerns. Picture: Daniel Holmes.

Residents push for parking limits on Amherst Road

DANIEL HOLMES

WOODBIDGE residents have raised safety concerns about commuter parking along Amherst Road near Midland train station.

Resident Amy Taylor said vehicles parked along the street regularly narrowed the road to a single lane, creating visibility issues for motorists and pedestrians.

"This is a known, daily and predictable issue that consistently reduces Amherst Road to a single lane," she said.

She said the situation was particularly concerning for children and families using the pedestrian underpass to access Midland station.

"The issue does not lie with individual vehicles lawfully parking on the street, but with the cumulative effect of that parking narrowing the roadway and creating a dangerous environment," she said.

Ms Taylor said residents had raised the issue with the City of Swan and proposed time-limited parking restrictions as a possible solution.

"A targeted, low-cost solution such as time-limited parking would improve safety, restore two-

way traffic flow and encourage use of existing parking infrastructure," she said.

The concerns come despite the opening of a multi-storey car park near Midland station.

Ms Taylor said commuter parking on surrounding streets had not improved.

"Residents continue to experience the same unsafe conditions daily, with no measurable improvement," she said.

In an email response to residents, the City of Swan said there were currently no plans to introduce further parking restrictions along Amherst Road or Chatham Road.

The city said relatively low traffic volumes and crash data did not justify additional road modifications or parking controls.

The City of Swan said it would continue to monitor parking behaviour in the area and encouraged residents to report specific issues through the Snap Send Solve app or by contacting the council.

Ms Taylor said residents hoped the issue would be addressed before a serious incident occurred.

"Waiting for an incident to justify intervention is not an acceptable approach to community safety," she said.

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UMM...THEY'RE COUNTING US AGAIN... I MIGHT FLY AROUND AND GET COUNTED A FEW MORE TIMES, HOW FUNNY!!

HANG ON BOB!! I THINK THE COUNTING IS IMPORTANT... SO DON'T MESS AROUND

BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA IS MAKING A FINAL CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN THE 2026 GREAT COCKY COUNT, THE LARGEST SINGLE SURVEY OF BLACK COCKATOOS IN WA, THE COUNT WILL TAKE PLACE AT SUNSET ON SUNDAY 12TH APRIL.

ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say: editorial@echo-news.com

Attack on our green spaces

Dear Echo News,
Let me get this straight – Kalamunda council is entertaining the idea of agreeing to a long-term lease by a commercial organisation over Jorgensen Park, a place used weekly by hundreds of Kalamunda residents for the purpose of free enjoyment of nature?

A park that is expressly managed for regional recreation and is designated by the City of Kalamunda as a “reserve with high biodiversity value” (COK Local Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2043).

In flagrant disregard of this, a private company may be allowed to excise 15ha of the park for up to 20 weeks, charge entry fees and profit from that exclusive use. In other words, the very opposite of free recreation.

This is a fundamental attack on our green spaces, and on people’s right to enjoy our local environment.

The city has given the public a disgracefully short period to respond.

Even more cynically, the most fundamental information is being withheld from that same public because the city has signed a non-disclosure agreement.

So, we are being asked to comment on an event for which we have not been provided with the most fundamental information.

No description of the event, no cost breakdowns, no environmental assessments or other relevant matters on which to base that opinion.

No answers to the potential adverse impact on the bush environment, the bushfire risk, traffic and access problems, noise and inconvenience to local residents living nearby, and the inevitable costs that will be incurred by the city before, during and after this protracted for-profit event.

This is undemocratic, sinister and very likely contestable in law.

I have vanishing confidence in the current crop of Kalamunda councillors (with the exception of deputy Mayor Kathy Ritchie) to act in the interests of the majority of ratepayers and residents.

Do they understand that the city’s statutory role is that of trustee and steward of our public reserve land?

I am at a loss to understand how any self-respecting councillor thinks that they are serving the community by selling commercial access to public recreation land for a period of up to five months.

It creates a monstrous precedent and should be rejected.

**V Laurie
Gooseberry Hill**

Bellevue station promise

Dear Echo News,
Premier Roger Cook and Transport Minister Rita Saffioti were rightfully proud in their new Midland station opening remarks.

It is an impressive building and adds significantly to several others now evident to Midland’s skyline as a critical community centre.

But one must ponder, yet again – why is Midland the last of Metronet’s projects and how does it stand up to closer examination.

Recently Armadale, the home territory of the Transport Minister, gained a new station with a raised line, garden areas and removal of several level crossings plus a network extension to Byford.

Again, worthy results and wonderful outcomes for both Armadale and Byford.

Well done minister and government on the finalisation of the Metronet Projects.

But, one must ask – what happened to the Metronet promise of a Bellevue Station?

Back to Midland and some broader observations. How is the glaring omission of an all-weather pedestrian

Thought for the day

“Presence is when you’re no longer waiting for the next moment, believing that the next moment will be more fulfilling than this one.”

- Eckhart Tolle

way between the multi storey parking facility and the station get overlooked?

Are we not expected with current building standards to cater for aged commuters and adverse weather conditions?

Is a moving platform, à la an airport variation, too much for Midland?

Did the official party note the freight trains passing through?

One, an eastern state freight train, with planned extensions in the length thereof, the time taken passing through level crossings when that can be readily overcome with the freight line route realignment avoiding Midland town and the disruption now caused to vehicle traffic.

Apart from a verbal response from the Transport Minister to a 2024 city request for an overall review of the road network and rail network within Midland town being a “No”, without explanation or written response, followed by an attempt by council staff to delete the issue from council’s list of priority projects last year.

One can forecast the minister’s reply, if it ever arrives – the cost of a deviation is too expensive.

Well that simply reveals a lack of understanding of the extent of eastern states rail network expenditure on both passenger and freight lines, where country towns obtain extensive relief.

Can I be bold enough to suggest that Midland deserves a better outcome from the City of Swan, the state government and the federal government – it may

have been historically a Labor seat, but is that a fair and just reason for past failings when stronger representation is being called for?

**G Troy
The Vines**

Basso childcare concerns

Dear Echo News,
The Town of Bassendean has called a special meeting to consider selling the Wind in the Willows childcare service and property.

What concerns many residents is not simply the future of the service, but the process used to reach this point.

Rather than undertaking genuine community consultation, the town has relied on the statutory minimum of 14 days’ public notice to dispose of the property.

Whether or not people believe a local government should operate a childcare service is beside the point.

A long-standing community asset is proposed to be sold after a buyer has already been identified and a price agreed.

Decisions of this scale should not rely on the bare minimum process.

The community deserves the opportunity to be properly informed, consulted, and heard before assets built over generations are sold.

**Rudyard
Local parent**

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

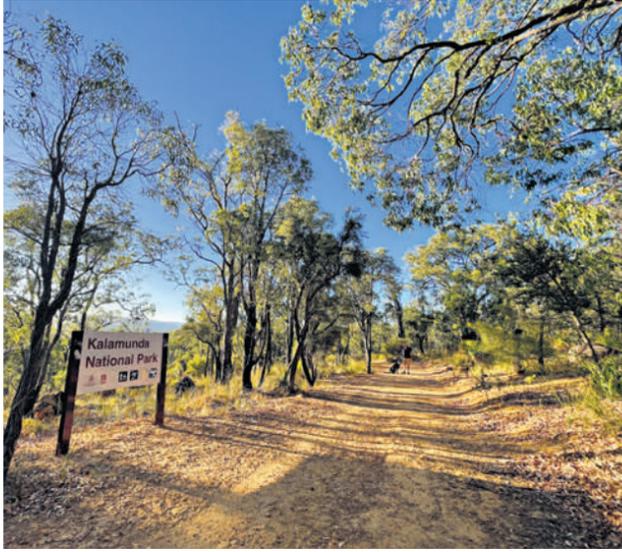


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Kalamunda residents call for Jorgensen Park transparency



The proposed 15ha lease area is dominated by rocky and uneven slopes, bordered directly by Kalamunda National Park.

BRAYDEN MOULD

A HIGH-stakes standoff is developing between the City of Kalamunda and local residents over a proposed 15ha concert event at Jorgensen Park, with community members arguing the city is using a non-disclosure agreement to bypass public oversight.

The proposal, which would see a significant portion of the Class A Reserve fenced off for up to five months, is currently under negotiation with proponent Kzemos Australia for a large-scale touring production.

Kalamunda resident Toni Warden said the lack of information has left the community in the dark and raised serious questions regarding public disclosures.

“How can you ask the public to make a comment on something that affects a public owned property without giving any information about what it involves?” Ms Warden said.

“The fencing plan shows a significant area that will have a high impact on valuable native vegetation, animals, while cutting off regular users from a popularly used area.

“Residents aren’t given any information before they’re

expected to make a submission for or against the proposal.”

Ms Warden argued the scale of the undertaking should have triggered a longer public consultation process, so the community could have their say.

“The proposal lends itself more towards a six-week public consultation and the publishing of a business plan so that the community members can make a better judgment around what is actually being proposed,” she said.

The event would take place from early April to July 31, with further options to extend until August 31.

Ms Warden warned that the production, which is officially advertised as a ticketed concert event, could have an impact on local flora and fauna through the introduction of high-intensity artificial elements.

“It will need strobing lights, it will need loud sound for the production, and there’s the worries around what’s going to be happening to animals and the general well-being of the marsupials and birds,” Ms Warden said.

City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas said the city’s decision to keep specific information confidential is a temporary measure until the lease is finalised.

“At this stage, the City of Kalamunda is bound by a con-

fidentiality agreement, and the lease remains in a proposed state,” she said.

“As a result, information relating to a future event application is not yet available.

“Should the lease be granted and the event proposal progresses, the city will follow all required statutory processes and will engage with the relevant state agencies where appropriate.”

Mayor Thomas said detailed reports on the event’s impact on the community would be produced as the project moves forward.

“More detailed information regarding matters such as event scale, environmental assessments, traffic and safety planning, and financial arrangements would only become available if a formal event application is submitted for assessment.

“We appreciate the community’s interest and will keep the community informed as the process progresses.”

Public consultation on the proposal is open until Friday, March 13 and residents are encouraged to submit questions or comments about the lease agreement to the city via email at enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au

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Parkerville artist honoured in WA Women's Hall of Fame

GUANHAO CHENG

PARKERVILLE resident and printmaker Sue Starcken says she was surprised to learn she would be inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame but is honoured to be part of a group working to improve the world through collaboration and ideas.

"Well it was a big surprise and at first I just thought they'd made a mistake," she said.

"But they said that was quite a common reaction and it showed a lot of people often doubted themselves.

"What it means to me is to be a part of an organisation that is helping to make the world a better place hopefully, addressing issues we have in the world and ways to improve on those things."

Although art had always been part of her life, Ms Starcken originally pursued a very different career, working as a dental therapist in WA schools before eventually returning to university to study art while raising a young family.

"As a kid I was always drawing and reading and I've always loved art but I came from a home that thought art was a luxury, it wasn't something that you could make a career of," she said.

"My parents were very against me pursuing art as a career so I chose my previous path as it allowed me to look after myself but art was always on the backburner.

"Eventually, I decided to go back to university and that was my new start in life."

She said her previous profession unexpectedly helped shape the meticulous approach needed for printmaking.

"I work as a printmaker primarily and I always say that working in children's mouths was like working in the smallest art gallery that you could find because it was a gallery of teeth," Ms Starcken said.

"I had to be really meticulous and very aware of tiny details so that set me up for the printmaking which demands the same kind of qualities."

Ms Starcken said art was ultimately about communication and exploring ideas in ways that words sometimes could not.

"Art to me is a way of communicating ideas, facts or fictions, entertainment or serious political ideas," she said.

"Art is able to communicate in a way that fits into a space word can't."

During her time at Edith Cowan University she was also



Parkerville resident Sue Starcken was recognised for her contributions to the state's arts landscape by the WA Women's Hall of Fame.

part of a group that helped develop a partnership between the university and members of state parliament that led to the artists-in-residence program.

"It was satisfying creating a team that did something really good for the arts for the visual arts," she said.

She also steered one of the collaborations that led to the creation of the Young Originals program which showcases and celebrates excellence in art from public schools.

One of the most memorable moments of her career came through a cultural exchange with Cuban artists who stayed in Parkerville before hosting a reciprocal exhibition in Ha-

vana.

"They spoke no English but their paintings and their prints were all about communicating political ideas and cultural ideas," she said.

"They were talking through their art to those of us that didn't speak Spanish."

Reflecting on her career, Ms Starcken said if she could offer advice to her younger self it would be to take more chances.

"I've always been quite a cautious person but I would tell myself to be bolder and take more risks," she said.

Citizen Connectors

Citizen Connector Training
Connecting People and Community

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10am - 12:30pm
Boya Community Centre
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Helena Valley

Free Event

With morning tea

Citizen Connectors support the wellbeing of others through conversations and encouraging social and caregiving networks.

This workshop will help you develop the skills to become a Citizen Connector, offering 'signpost' conversations with family, colleagues, and others in the community, including those with life-changing illnesses, carers and those who are grieving.

Limited places, call 9290 6678 or scan the QR code to register

Proposed new data centre comes under fire

An artist's impression of the proposed data centre.

MIKE PEETERS

THE City of Swan is calling for community feedback for a proposed three-storey data centre to be built at Hazelmere.

The city received an application to use Lots 14 and 15 Stirling Crescent, Hazelmere for the data centre and is seeking public consultation by Friday, March 20.

The three-storey facility will be 23.5m high with a floor area of 14,883sqm and a 2.4m high black galvanised steel fence running around the perimeter of the site.

Hazelmere resident Randal Swick said he was unhappy with the process and lack of time given by the city for community consultation.

"When I first checked the website link there was only limited information available and although there is now more detailed information there the cut off time for feedback is very short," Mr Swick said.

"Residents need time to go through this information, to seek professional advice and to do research. This is not possible with such a short cut-off date."

He said he was also concerned about where the water would come from for such a large facility, as data centres were notorious for their high water and energy use.

"Data centres generate a lot of heat through their exhaust stacks and therefore require extensive cooling," Mr Swick said.

The data centre proposal follows the recent approval by the Metro Outer Development Assessment Panel (MODAP) to develop two other lots in Stirling Crescent for storage and transport depot purposes despite fierce community opposition as reported in *Hazelmere lot applications approved by DAP* (Echo News, February 6).

Trillion Trees chief executive officer Mark Hullett said their organisation, which is also located in Stirling Crescent, had a range of concerns about the impacts of the development on the environment,

local amenity, traffic, pollution and safety.

"This area of Hazelmere is currently rural and residential, with many established trees and the Helena River providing habitat for wildlife and canopy to cool our suburbs in a warming climate," he said.

"There is also a wide range of threatened and protected wildlife including snake necked turtles and black cockatoos here that rely on the natural landscape for survival."

He said the junction of Stirling Crescent and Amherst Road was narrow and located on the outside of an elbow.

"It is not possible for heavy vehicles servicing the data centre to safely navigate the junction without crossing the centre line, putting small vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists at grave risk.

"There is no footpath on this part of Stirling Crescent and the road is narrow, so any increase in traffic would also put our vulnerable volunteers and students from the Helena River Waldorf School at great risk as they walk or cycle."

A Helena River Waldorf School spokesperson said they were particularly concerned about the proposal for numerous onsite generators.

"These generators may produce significant noise, emissions, and heavy vehicle movements during testing or operation.

"These are impacts that could affect the health, wellbeing, and learning environment of young children."

He said that a facility of this scale and industrial nature sat very uneasily alongside a school environment, where children require calm, safe, and healthy surroundings in order to learn and develop.

"The City of Swan has treated the school with absolute disregard in terms of any of the recent planning applications," the spokesperson said.

"There has been no consideration at all of the impact on the school and the children in our community," he said.

To give feedback go to swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au/da-62026-data-centre

World renowned sculptor explores the Swan Valley



Midland MLA Steve Catania, Tourism Minister Reece Whitby, artist Artur Bordalo and Swan Hills MLA Michelle Maynard. Picture: FORM Building a State of Creativity.

INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed Portuguese street artist Artur Bordalo was in the Swan Valley this week to explore a range of locations for the state government's new \$2.2 million sculpture trail installation.

Bordalo is globally renowned for his large-scale wildlife sculptures created from reclaimed materials.

His visit was to assess potential sites for the trail and meet with the Tourism Minister Reece Whitby, local MPs and Traditional Owners.

The Swan Valley sculpture trail will feature a series of landmark outdoor artworks celebrating the area's natural environment, culture and character.

The trail is being delivered in partnership with WA arts organisation FORM Building a State of Creativity.

Bordalo is exploring a range of locations across the valley to shape the creative direction of the trail, focusing on the stories of country and WA's unique wildlife, while creating a new drawcard tourism experience that supports local businesses and jobs.

The trail aims to grow the state's tourism sector and diversify the economy by making it more creative and vibrant.

Midland MLA Steve Catania said it was fantastic to see the state government investing in a project that will bring more visitors through the Midland electorate.

"From Caversham and West Swan through to Guildford and Woodbridge, a sculpture trail of this scale will naturally draw tourists into our local cafés, wineries, small businesses and heritage areas," Mr Catania said.

"I'm grateful for this commitment and for the opportunity it creates to showcase the unique character of our community.

"With thoughtful planning and local input, this project will no doubt deliver real cultural and economic benefits for residents and businesses alike."

Swan Hills MLA Michelle Maynard said the trail was about sharing the beauty of the Swan Valley with more visitors from across WA and beyond.

"This investment creates another reason for peo-

ple to explore the valley, supporting our local artists, family-run businesses, cafés, wineries and tourism operators along the way," Mrs Maynard said.

"Tourism plays a vital role in our local economy. When more people visit, local jobs are supported and our whole community benefits.

"I'm proud to back a project that celebrates our creative spirit while showcasing the unique landscapes and experiences that make Swan Hills so special."

West Swan MLA Rita Saffioti said the Swan Valley sculpture trail would further cement the region's reputation as one of Western Australia's go-to tourist destinations.

"This investment will bring more visitors to the Swan Valley supporting our small businesses, tourism operators, hospitality venues, and local artists," Mrs Saffioti said.

"I look forward to seeing the trail take shape which will deliver long-term cultural and economic benefits for the community."

Tourism Minister Reece Whitby said the Swan Valley sculpture trail was a key election commitment.

"It demonstrates the Cook government's dedication to delivering world-class tourism and cultural experiences that diversify our local economy and create vibrant communities providing a boost to local businesses and local jobs.

"Artur Bordalo's work will celebrate Perth's unique landscapes and wildlife, highlight the cultural stories of Country, and provide a vibrant new attraction that draws visitors from across Australia and beyond.

"Supporting cultural tourism is about more than art - it's about creating opportunities for businesses, engaging local communities, and showcasing the best of Western Australia to the world.

"It's fantastic to have Bordalo here early in the process, walking on Country and engaging with local communities.

"His visit will help shape the creative vision over the coming months, ensuring the artworks reflect the character of the Swan Valley."

Swan Valley Visitor Centre is voted best in the nation

THE Swan Valley Visitor Centre has further cemented its position as the very best of Australia's 500 tourism centres with a second consecutive win at the Qantas National Tourism Awards held last Friday.

The annual awards are the premier event for celebrating innovation, dedication and success across Australia's \$213 billion tourism industry.

The awards saw the Swan Valley Visitor Centre again being honoured with the gold award in the visitor information services category.

City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson said the award recognised the outstanding contribution of local tourism businesses and the wider community for their vital role in supporting WA's visitor economy.

"It's wonderful to see our dedication to the best possible visitor service recognised with another win in this important category," she said.

"It's a tribute not only to our hard-working staff, but all those businesses who work hard to consolidate the Swan Valley as one of the premier tourist destinations in the whole of Australia."



It's smiles all round as City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson displays the visitor information services gold award trophy with councillors and staff.

Established in 1984, the Australian Tourism Awards were introduced to celebrate and showcase significant achievements in the tourism industry.

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RSPCA seeks info regarding West Swan sheep knife attack

RSPCA WA is appealing to the public for information about a knife attack on two sheep on West Swan Road, West Swan on Wednesday, February 25.

The subsequent RSPCA WA investigation has so far failed to yield any strong leads which General Inspector Jeanne-Marie Ward has described as frustrating.

“All the available CCTV footage from the area where the attacks happened has been viewed and none shows an identifiable vehicle or person,” she said.

“Nor has anyone been able to share unusual activity they may have seen or heard at the relevant time.

“I’m hoping there is someone out there who saw a car or person in the area that didn’t belong and remembers something distinctive or different, or perhaps the perpetrator has talked about their crime to a friend or family member.”

The owner of the sheep was with the animals before going inside for dinner at around 6pm.

When he went back into the paddock around 20 minutes later, he saw one of his sheep with a cut so large its internal organs were hanging out and another that had a long, straight cut.

There were no objects in the paddock that could have caused the injuries which appear to have been made



with a blade and were not consistent with a dog attack.

A corner of the barbed wire paddock fence was later discovered to have been twisted together, likely as a way for the offender to enter the property.

Inspector Ward said sadly, the owner had to euthanise both sheep due to the extent of their injuries.

“There are around 20 sheep on the property, and they are visible from the road,” she said.

“The owner claims someone had tried to steal sheep from the same paddock around two years ago but unfortunately there is no further detail than that.

“These sheep would have suffered pain and shock from such a brutal attack, and I urge anyone with information to come forward.”

Reports can be made to the RSPCA WA Cruelty Hotline by calling 1300 CRUELTY (1300 278 358) or online at rspcawa.org.au Please quote job number 220865.



Harmony Week celebrates cultural diversity and inclusion across Australia. Picture: Harmony Week Campaign.

Hills groups celebrate Harmony Week

DANIEL HOLMES

SCHOOLS, libraries and community groups across the Perth Hills and Swan Valley will take part in Harmony Week celebrations from March 16 to 22.

Harmony Week celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity while promoting inclusion, respect and a sense of belonging.

The week includes Harmony Day on March 21, when people are encouraged to wear orange to show support for cultural diversity and social harmony.

Local schools across the Perth Hills are expected to mark the week with activities including cultural food days, classroom discussions and storytelling.

Libraries and community centres across the region will also host displays and activities recognising the many cultures that make up the local community.

The City of Kalamunda will mark Harmony Week with a series of workshops aimed at supporting culturally and linguistically diverse residents.

Sessions will cover topics including family law, mediation and tenant rights, with the aim of helping residents better understand local services and support networks.

The City of Swan will also celebrate the week with a harmony family day at Ellenbrook community library on Saturday March 28.

The event will feature activities including henna art workshops, world music and children’s craft activities designed to highlight different cultures.

Harmony Week is celebrated nationally each year and encourages communities to learn about different cultures and traditions.

According to the federal government, more than half of Australians were either born overseas or have at least one parent born overseas.

Organisers say the week provides an opportunity for communities to reflect on the importance of respect and understanding.

Harmony Week also coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21.

Celebrations aim to bring people together and recognise the cultural diversity that forms part of everyday life in Australian communities.



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cso4@mundaring.wa.gov.au (08) 9290 6683



St Stephens market day on again



The St Stephens Anglican Church market day is always a popular event.

MIKE PEETERS

THE St Stephens Anglican Church in Forrestfield-Wattle Grove held its first monthly market day for 2026 last month.

Church warden Cheryl Connolly said 11 visitors from the Peter Anderton Day Centre in Forrestfield came by for morning tea and to browse the market stalls.

“The consensus by all is that they had a fantastic time - even finding some bargains in the ladies’ fashion department - and will certainly visit us again,” Ms Connolly said.

“Market day has been held on the last Friday of the month for nearly 20 years.

“But with these changing times of low church attendance it is harder to muster the volunteers we need to keep this going. “It requires a lot of manpower

as we have to set up and pack away each month in our church hall which is part of the same building as our church.”

She said the church took December and January off each year so the monthly market day ran from February to November.

Market stalls included bric a brac, ladies’ fashions, cakes, jams, pickles, a plant stall, books, china, kitchenwares and Devonshire cream teas or coffee.

All goods were donated by parishioners or their friends.

Ms Connolly said the respite day care centres for seniors found the market days a wonderful experience.

“All funds raised are put into general revenue and help support the Kalamunda Youthcare Chaplaincy and schools in the Kalamunda area, and especially the school packs program,” Ms Connolly said.



“We have also been involved in providing school packs for needy children in local schools in the City of Kalamunda for more than 40 years.”



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MRS amendment progresses despite opposition

GUANHAO CHENG

A PLANNING change to prepare about 493ha of rural Bullsbrook land for future residential development, schools and public spaces has been approved by the governor despite community opposition.

This latest update comes on the back of months of ongoing reports of development impacts in the Swan Valley leading to a rise in flooding reports as reported in *Infiltration not a feasible strategy: SCEA vice chair* (Echo News, October 31, 2025).

The change, Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) amendment 1411 (complex), has now been tabled in both houses of parliament where it may be disallowed by either house, or will otherwise come into effect.

The land it refers to is the North Ellenbrook East area, which is north of Ellenbrook, east of Tonkin Highway, west of Railway Parade and south of rural land, and is 5.5kms from the Ellenbrook rail station for easy future public transport access.

During the amendment's advertisement period, 43 submissions were received with 22 objections, six supportive submissions and 17 general comments and others.

Main issues raised in submissions included environmental concerns, negative amenity impacts, and a push to zone urban deferred into urban zoning.

According to the amendment report, the land is currently used for a range of rural and rural-residential land uses, including small-scale hobby farms, horse keeping and limited cattle grazing.

Swan Communities Environmental Alliance (SCEA) vice chair Jan Zeck said vigilance is needed as development continues.

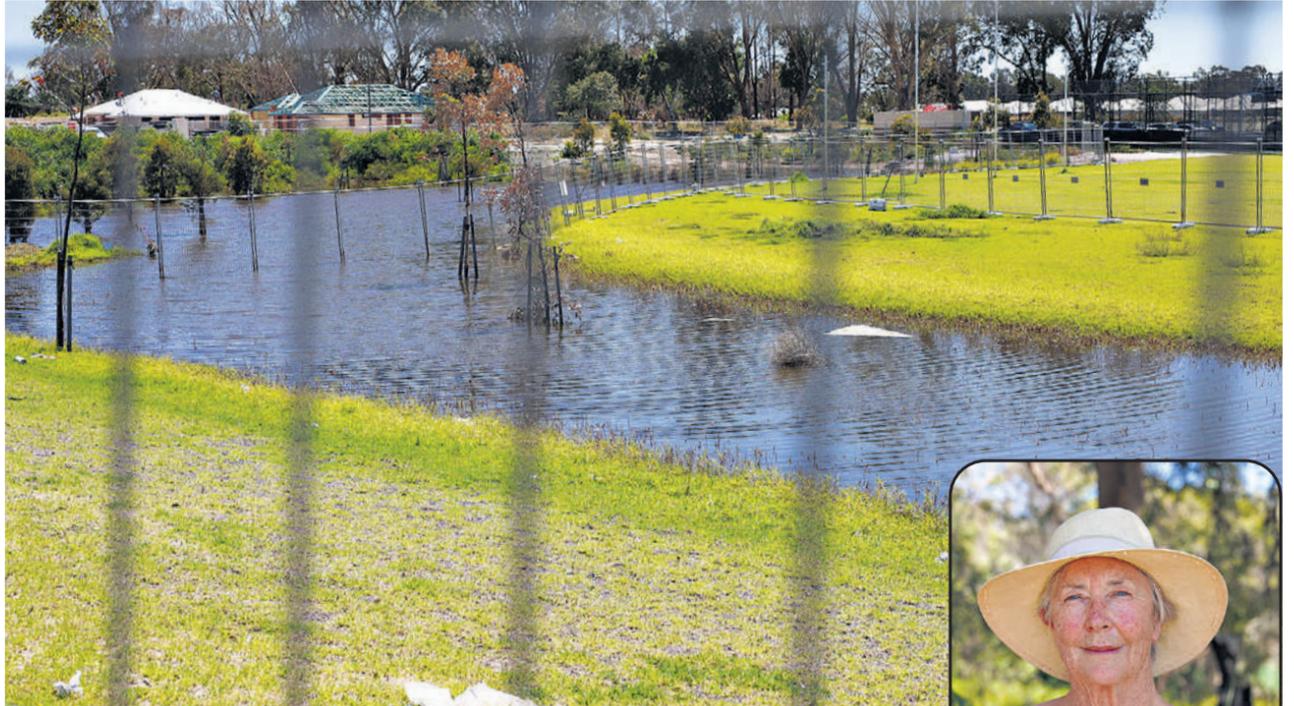
"We have warned people in the North Ellenbrook area that they need to start monitoring now before any development occurs," she said.

"They need to get some baseline information because you cannot rely on what the consultants have put together because obviously in our area, it didn't stack up.

"They did not foresee the problems that we are having now so you cannot rely on that."

Ms Zeck said residents who were concerned and wanted to take action needed to collect baseline information for groundwater levels.

"They need to go out and photograph all the vegetation that's there now and they need to do that twice a year at the



The WA Planning Commission has dismissed objections from community members such as Jan Zeck which were raised during deputations.

end of summer and end of winter.

"They need to go through all of the documents to get some understanding of what the water strategies are and how they work because the problems that we have here like building tree pits or about filling the land and then expecting that vegetation and waterways will operate in the same way that they did before will never happen.

"Once the land is filled with sand, the water table rises to such an extent that the hydrology is changed which means that nothing lives in the same environment as it did in the past."

Ms Zeck presented a deputation on February 25 to the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) about the flooding and groundwater problems linked to development near the Swan Valley and North Ellenbrook East area.

She said the sand over clay soils in the area meant water couldn't drain properly and environmental assessment of the site showed about a quarter of the site already had groundwater at or above ground level.

"North Ellenbrook East is located on duplex soils," she said.

"The same geology exists in the southern Swan growth corridor but the difference is this site is much wetter.

"We are already seeing significant problems in the south with rising groundwater inundation and flooding associated with development in both new urban and adjacent properties."

The previous version aimed to rezone about 504ha but was modified following submissions and a revision.

Presented by City of Swan

ALTONE COMES ALIVE!

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Saturday, March 21, 3-9pm

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0008CL-26

HAVE YOUR SAY

GUILDFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL – PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The School is seeking community input to inform planning for the future use of its properties at Lots 23 and 86 Terrace Road, Guildford.

Planning will guide future use of these Terrace Road properties, currently used for student parking and disused sports courts, for potential residential development that respects Guildford's heritage and scale.

Revenue generated will be reinvested into improved school facilities, including the development of a new Sports and Aquatic Centre, offering contemporary infrastructure to replace ageing assets and enhance opportunities for students, alumni and community sporting clubs.

Community Engagement:

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Department of Energy and Economic Diversification



ADVERTISING FEATURE

Healthy Living

Why Time in Nature Matters for Children's Wellbeing

IN a world where children spend increasing amounts of time indoors and on screens, educators are placing renewed focus on the role nature plays in supporting young people's wellbeing.

Research continues to show that time spent outdoors helps children develop confidence, resilience and strong social connections, while also supporting physical health and emotional balance. Experiences that allow children to explore, take appropriate risks and work collaboratively can play an important role in healthy development.

Outdoor learning programs are increasingly being recognised as a powerful way to support this growth. By stepping beyond the traditional classroom, students engage in challenge, reflection and teamwork while building independence and perseverance.

At Guildford Grammar School, outdoor learning forms an important part of the student experience. The School's 78-hectare campus on the banks of the Swan River provides a unique natural setting



for programs such as the Preparatory School's Bush School and other outdoor learning experiences.

Through time spent learning in nature, students develop resilience, confidence and a strong sense of connection to their environment and to one another.

Free Energy Audit Kits Helping WA Households Cut Bills

WITH cost-of-living pressures continuing to affect households across Western Australia, practical solutions that help families reduce everyday expenses are more important than ever.

A simple but effective tool available to residents of Perth's eastern region, the Avon Valley and communities across WA are free-to-loan energy audit kits from Switch Your Thinking, supported by Energy Policy WA within the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification.

Available at 130 libraries and Community Resource Centres, the kits give residents the ability to understand how their homes use energy and water. Each kit

includes a thermal imaging camera to detect draughts and insulation gaps, a plug-in energy monitor to measure appliance running costs, a basin-flow measuring cup to test water use, and a thermometer for checking room, fridge and freezer temperatures.

A detailed 36-page guide walks households through eight simple tests, helping identify practical ways to cut waste and lower bills.

At a time when every dollar counts, empowering households with knowledge and tools to reduce energy and water use is a smart step toward easing cost-of-living pressures while also building more sustainable homes.



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Forest red-tailed black cockatoos.
Photo: Keith Lightbody.



Time running out for Great Cocky Count

TIME is running out to be part of the Great Cocky Count with registrations ending on Sunday, March 22.

BirdLife Australia is making a final call for volunteers to join the 2026 Great Cocky Count - the largest single survey of black-cockatoos in WA - taking place at sunset on Sunday, April 12.

Great Cocky Count coordinator Merryn Pryor has been counting black cockatoos at dusk for years.

She knows the conspicuous calls that signal their approach towards a roost site, and the way even experienced volunteers hold their breath and start counting. She also knows what the numbers have been telling her.

"Numbers of Baudin's black cockatoos have declined by 90 per cent over the last few decades," Ms Pryor said.

"Every year we do this survey; we're not just collecting data - we're bearing witness to what's happening to these birds. And right now, they need every person we can get out there to help monitor them and identify critical habitat."

The survey is straightforward. Volunteers stand near known roost sites - tall trees where cockatoos gather to sleep - and count the birds as they fly in at dusk.

Counters are needed at sites from Chapman Valley in the north to Esperance along the south coast.

What those volunteers are counting has never been more precarious.

All three species monitored by the Great Cocky Count are in serious decline.

Baudin's black cockatoo is classified as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Carnaby's black cockatoo is listed as endangered under state and federal legislation, while Forest red-tailed black cockatoos are listed as vulnerable.

The Great Cocky Count is one of the primary tools scientists and conservationists use to track whether populations are stabilising - or still falling.

The count started as a focused Perth survey for Carnaby's black cockatoos and has grown over two decades into a region-wide citizen science event, now covering sites right across south-western WA, and focusing on all three black-cockatoo species.

The annual snapshot of black-cockatoo populations feeds directly into advocacy for habitat protection and land-use planning.

BirdLife Australia is also asking the community to report any roost sites they know about before the count.

"A roost site is an area with tall trees where black cockatoos congregate at dusk to sleep overnight," Ms Pryor said.

"They can be in remnant bushland, urban parks, or private properties. If you know of one in your area, please tell us - it could be added to this year's survey."

The Great Cocky Count is supported by funding from the state government's NRM Program.

Registrations close Sunday, March 22 and can be made at <https://birdlife.org.au/events/great-cocky-count>

Swan View building prosecution prompts insurance reminder

SWAN View building practitioner Shane Alexander Lynn has been fined \$12,000 for two home building contract offences, prompting the building regulator to remind consumers to check that home indemnity insurance (HII) is in place before making payments for residential building work valued at more than \$20,000.

Armadales Magistrates Court was told Mr Lynn's company, CASM Construction Pty Ltd (BC103190, expired), now in liquidation, was contracted in 2024 to renovate the kitchen, bathroom, ensuite and laundry of a Rossmoyne house.

As the project value exceeded \$20,000 the builder was legally required to take out an HII policy before starting work or seeking payments.

HII protects owners against financial loss if a builder cannot complete or rectify building work due to insolvency or other specific circumstances.

The court heard that Mr Lynn, on behalf of CASM, started work and received money without ever obtaining an HII certificate for the Rossmoyne project.

CASM, through Mr Lynn, also sought and received progress payments of more than \$53,000 for tiling work when the company had not purchased or installed any tiles.

Mr Lynn pleaded guilty to breaching the Home Building Contracts Act 1991 and was fined \$7000

for the HII offence and \$5000 for the unjustified progress payments.

At sentencing on January 23, Magistrate Joe Randazzo also ordered Mr Lynn to pay \$676.50 in costs.

He acknowledged Mr Lynn had experienced personal difficulties but noted he should understand contractual matters after 30 years in the industry.

Magistrate Randazzo described the offences as "serious" and recognised that people entering building contracts could be vulnerable.

Building Commissioner Phil Payne said the case clearly showed why builders must uphold their responsibilities under home building contract laws.

"It is unacceptable for builders to disregard HII requirements and to take money before carrying out the corresponding work," Mr Payne said.

"Company directors should also take note that they will still be held accountable even if their business is insolvent.

"I encourage consumers to thoroughly read the building contract, ensure HII is in place for residential building work over \$20,000, and only pay for goods or services when they are provided."

To confirm the validity of a HII certificate, homeowners can search QBE's Builders Warranty Insurance Certificate Register.

Fuel shortage putting farmers at risk: Hunter

PETER W LEWIS

SHADOW Minister for Agriculture and Food and Central Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter has raised serious concerns about a growing diesel shortage that is already forcing some Western Australian farming operations to stop work.

The Gull York Roadhouse has been out of diesel since Sunday with the town's only other petrol station Smith's Shell being forced to put a 50-litre limit on its dwindling remaining supplies with the timing of its next delivery unknown.

A handwritten sign on its bowers states "There is a 50L limit of fuel per customer - as it is unknown when or if we will get another delivery - thank you for understanding".

The nearest fuel available is in Northam about 35km away.

Restrictions of 25L of fuel per customer have already been imposed in other rural areas with many service stations already running completely dry.

Mr Hunter said farmers across regional WA were reporting that diesel deliveries had been halted, with some told supply may not resume for up to six weeks.

"I have spoken directly with farmers who have been told there is simply no diesel available and that deliveries could be delayed for weeks," Mr Hunter said.

"Some operations have already ceased because they cannot get the fuel they need to run their machinery.

"This should alarm every Western Australian."

Mr Hunter said WA agriculture is highly seasonal and delays of even a

few weeks can have devastating consequences for production.

"Western Australia delivered a record grain harvest in 2025, but that success means nothing if farmers cannot access fuel to plant, spray and harvest their crops in 2026," he said.

"Our farming seasons do not wait for bureaucrats or supply chains to catch up. If farmers miss their window, the production is lost for the year."

Mr Hunter said diesel was the backbone of the entire agricultural supply chain.

"No diesel means no tractors in paddocks, no trucks moving grain and no food reaching processors and supermarket shelves," he said.

"This is not just a farming issue. This is a food security issue."

Mr Hunter also questioned why both the State and Federal Labor governments had failed to prioritise fuel supply for Australia's food producers.

"Where are the WA and Federal Labor governments in all of this?" he said.

"At a time when global instability is putting pressure on fuel supply, Australian farmers should be at the front of the queue, not left wondering if their tanks will run dry.

"Our farmers feed the nation and drive billions into the economy, yet right now they are being told there is no diesel available for weeks."

Mr Hunter called on both governments to urgently intervene and ensure fuel supply is prioritised for Western Australian agriculture.

"If this is not resolved quickly, it will not just be farmers who feel the impact. Every Australian will see it in higher food prices and shortages on supermarket shelves," he said.

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March fly held in hand. Most likely from the genus *Scaptia*, or possibly *Copidapha*. (MyPestGuide® Reporter, 284687)

Shoo fly, don't bite me

There are over 6,400 formally described species of fly in Australia, but the number of species in total is estimated at around 30,000.

Their roles in the ecosystem are diverse and overwhelmingly beneficial. It's in domestic or farm settings where some really become a nuisance. Thankfully (and proportionally), there are only a few, commonly encountered flies that bite us! Within these species, it's near exclusively the females who bite, using the blood they obtain as a source of protein for developing eggs.

Meet the culprits

March flies (family: Tabanidae), also called horse flies, comprise 200+ species. They are large (6-25mm) flies with prominent eyes. Found throughout Australia, they live around freshwater creeks, intertidal estuaries and mangroves. Breeding in damp soil, rotting vegetation, sand and rot holes in trees. They are most active on calm, sunny days throughout the warmer months.

Stable flies (*Stomoxys calcitrans*, family: Muscidae) are slightly smaller than a house fly (generally 5-7mm). Found throughout Perth's Swan Coastal Plain, they breed in moist organic material such as manure, compost, grass clippings, and vegetable waste. They are a serious pest of livestock and most active late spring through autumn.

Biting midges (family: Ceratopogonidae), often called "sandflies," are tiny insects (1-3mm). Of the 200+ species in this family, most belong to the genus *Culicoides*. They are present in many coastal and inland areas of WA, commonly near sandy estuarine and foreshore areas, and mangrove swamps in tropical and sub-tropical parts of the State. They are most active at dawn and dusk.

Shoo fly!

Managing biting flies is incredibly difficult. The easiest way to protect yourself is to wear long, loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing. Include head nets where fly numbers are high. Inspect your property for breeding sources and manage organic material, compost and manure to reduce fly breeding sources.

The WA Department of Health has good information on March flies, sand flies, as well as mosquitoes – how to protect yourself, including the use of repellents, and managing bites. Alternatively, contact your local government's Environmental Health officer for the latest advice. For information on stable fly, look at our website <https://www.dpir.wa.gov.au/stablefly> for management advice.



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The Town of Bassendean's Jubilee Reserve is set for an upgrade as council supports the proposed changes.

Jubilee Reserve clubrooms refurbishments endorsed

THE Town of Bassendean has backed the concept plans to upgrade the Jubilee Reserve clubrooms aiming to provide major refurbishments to Stan Moses Pavilion and the Bassendean Caledonians soccer club.

Jubilee Reserve, located in Eden Hill, is a 12.75ha district sports reserve which comprises 11ha of grass spaces marked into six separate fields for senior and junior sports.

Town of Bassendean Mayor Kathryn Hamilton said the move was a step toward completing the Jubilee Reserve master plan.

"Endorsing the concept plans brings us closer to completing the final major elements of the Jubilee Reserve Master Plan and delivering long-term benefits for the whole community," she said.

Impacted sporting clubs have been engaged throughout the project and previewed the concept plans ahead of the most recent council meeting, with unanimous agreement on the chosen options.

The town undertook extensive discussions with around 16,000 community members.

The results indicated that the Town of Bassendean is valued

for its sense of community, history, natural environment, and accessibility according to the town's master plan document.

A community online survey also identified what the community value most about Jubilee Reserve.

The most common themes among respondents were the large open spaces and playing fields, natural environment and birdlife, large shady trees, history of onsite sporting clubs, the ability to play multiple sports simultaneously, accessibility and the sense of community.

The upgrade will take inspiration from case studies such as Piara Waters sports and community centre and Harrisdale sportsclub and community centre in Armadale, and Honeywood Pavilion in Kwinana.

Redevelopment of the pavilions will address the final major project identified in the Jubilee Reserve master plan, with additional complementary works to continue through future budget cycles.

The concept plans include all-abilities access, improved storage, and enhanced viewing areas for Stan Moses Pavilion,

new community meeting and activity spaces, modern unisex changerooms, upgraded public toilets and extension of the soccer clubrooms.

Construction of the new pavilion and clubrooms is anticipated to start in 2027.

The redevelopment is supported by \$2.6 million of federal funding being delivered under the major and local community infrastructure program, \$2.6m from the state government and a contribution of more than \$2m from the Town of Bassendean.

The town has committed \$1.6m to reticulation and lighting upgrades at the reserve, supported by a \$570,000 grant from the Department of Creative Industries Tourism and Sport.

The irrigation upgrade will aim to see the installation of a new automatic system to replace ageing infrastructure, while the new LED floodlights will aim to reduce energy use, improve lighting quality, and provide more reliable facilities for clubs and the community.

This project is part of the state government's PlayOn WA, which is an initiative aiming to deliver community infrastructure across WA by 2030.

Program aiming to curb harmful online influence

THE Cook government is funding a new education program which aims to curb the influence of pornography on young people's understanding of consent, sex, and relationships by giving them the skills to recognise harmful online content.

Research shows that early exposure to pornography can negatively influence young people's attitudes and practices about gender roles, identities, and relationships.

A 2024 survey by Our Watch found that the average age of exposure to pornography was around 13 years for both boys and girls.

The program called The Gist will be delivered by the Burnet Institute via a \$150,000 grant allocated through the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future Program.

The program has been developed by a team of public health researchers and educators to respond to the needs of young people.

The Gist provides information about sex, relationships, and gender norms in the context of online pornography. It encourages critical discussion to help young people identify and challenge harmful messages.

Topics include consent, healthy relationships, how pornography differs from real life, sexting, camming and other sex-tech interactions, sextortion, deep-



fakes, artificial intelligence-generated porn, gender and sexuality diversity, as well as safe sex.

It will be delivered in youth and education settings via workshops by trained educators, complemented by an online platform that provides additional resources.

Women Minister Simone McGurk said the innovative program had been developed through co-design research and aims to curb the influence of pornography on young people by giving them the skills to recognise and critically challenge harmful content.

"A 2024 survey by Our Watch found that the average age of exposure to pornography was around 13 years for both boys and girls," she said.

"It is crucial we give young people alternative information about sex and relationships in the context of online pornography and other media."

For further information go to www.thegist.org.au

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Altone Comes Alive will be marking its fifteenth year as a cultural celebration in the community. Picture: City of Swan



Altone Comes Alive festival returns

THE Altone Comes Alive festival officially returns to the Altone Park Oval on Saturday, March 21, marking 15 years of dedicated community celebration in Beechboro.

The event will serve as a focal point for this year's Harmony Week, providing a vibrant platform for multicultural performances and meaningful social connection.

Scheduled to run from 3pm to 9pm, the festivities are expected to offer a comprehensive program of live entertainment at 332 Benara Road.

Attendees can expect a wide selection of international food trucks alongside various community information and market stalls.

Carnival rides, inflatables, and games will also be scattered

around the event for free and fun entertainment.

Visitors can also enjoy a range of interactive experiences including a cuddly animal farm, a reptile display, and professional face painting services.

Additional activities like mini-golf and henna tattoos will also be available throughout the afternoon for participants of all ages.

The landmark fifteenth anniversary of Altone Comes Alive promises to be an unforgettable day of unity and high-quality entertainment for the Beechboro community.

Whether you are exploring the stalls, enjoying performances and carnival rides, or simply soaking up the festive atmosphere, the event remains a premier way to celebrate Harmony Week.



The event will have many multicultural performances.



Carnival rides will add to the festival.

Irish spirit returns to Perth Hills for St Patrick's Day

DANIEL HOLMES

PUBS and venues across the Perth Hills are preparing to celebrate St Patrick's Day this week with live music, themed food and plenty of green decorations.

The annual celebration takes place on March 17 and honours St Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

In Carmel, Masonmill will host a St Patrick's Day celebration on Sunday featuring Irish dancers, live Irish music and themed food and drinks. The venue includes an Irish-style village beer garden, with replica shopfronts and signage designed to resemble a traditional Irish street.

The event will also feature themed cocktails, traditional food including beef and Guinness pies and a best dressed competition.

Other Perth Hills venues including Parkerville Tavern and Mahogany Inn & Distillery are also expected to mark the occasion with live music and themed celebrations across the weekend.

Closer to Midland, the Woodbridge Hotel will also be among the venues hosting St Patrick's Day festivities.

Many celebrations will feature Irish-inspired food, traditional music and the familiar sight of patrons wearing green.

St Patrick's Day began as a religious feast day in Ireland honouring St Patrick, who is credited with bringing Christianity to the country during the fifth century.

Over time the day developed into a broader celebration of Irish culture and heritage.

Today St Patrick's Day is celebrated around the world with

parades, music and cultural festivals.

Cities across Ireland host major events each year, while communities internationally mark the occasion in their own way.

In Australia the day is widely celebrated in pubs, clubs and community venues.

Many people across the Perth Hills are expected to mark the occasion by attending events or simply wearing green on the day.



Masonmill's Irish-style village beer garden in Carmel.

ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

Your local Gig Guide

Fri March 13

Lyric's Bar
Matt Cahill Combo
From 7pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Oscar Cedric Gomes
6pm - 9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Sat March 14

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

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

Woodbridge Hotel
Loose Endz
From 8pm
Free
50 East St Guildford

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Bill Chidzey
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Sun March 15

Settlers House York
Vivian G
12pm-3pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace, York

Parkerville Tavern
Benny Mayhem Band
From 3pm, Free
6 Owen Road,
Parkerville



Sunday Mar. 15 cont.

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

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

Chidlow Tavern
The Carnaby Blue Band
12.30 - 3.30pm, Free
4 Thomas St Chidlow

Tues March 17

Woodbridge Hotel
Ravenswing
From 4pm, Free
50 East St Guildford

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

Wed March 18

Chidlow Tavern
Muso Jam Night
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 March 19

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Neil Adams
5.30pm-8.30pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Woodbridge Hotel
The Pointy Heads
From 6pm, Free
50 East St Guildford

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ple in their time of need, noting that the trust a family places in her to guide them and care for their loved one is a profound honour.

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We are immensely proud to serve our local communities and remain humbled by the trust families place in our hands. Every life deserves to be remembered in a significant and personal way, and it is our privilege to help you find that perfect tribute.

Let our strength help you find yours. Learn more at: <https://www.mareenapurslowefunerals.com.au/locations/perth/midland/>



SLW Transport finds its transport industry niche

SLW Transport, owned and operated by Shane and Leanne Willcox, started in 2008 with a vision - Shane's dream was to have his own transport company.

Based in High Wycombe, the husband and wife team believe they have found their niche in the big transport industry.

The long-standing company provides service to many customers throughout Perth and regional areas throughout the state, with the occasional trip East.

"We specialise in side loaders and deliver both import and export containers along with fuel tanks, ISOs and multiple container deliveries," Shane said.

"Heavy Haulage is also a service we provide delivering to the resource sector.

"With the constant challenges we face within the transport industry, we seek to learn and find better ways SLW Transport can excel.

"We pride ourselves with the service we provide, and have an open door policy and transparency within our workplace.



"We place value towards our people and love working alongside them daily."

No job is too big or too small so please call for a quote and a chat with Shane and Leanne. Stay blessed.



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Forrestfield Hawks Cricket Club 50th anniversary celebration

FORRESTFIELD Cricket Club will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on Friday, April 10 at Burswood on Swan from 6.30pm to 11.30pm.

To celebrate the milestone event, the Forrestfield Cricket Club cordially invites, past players, members and their families to come and celebrate this tremendous occasion.

The night will include dinner and drinks and will honour the history of the club.

This is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and relive and share memories from the old days!

Founded in 1976, the Forrestfield Cricket Club has maintained a proud history of on-field success and local community spirit at their home of Hartfield Park.

Since inception, the Forrestfield Cricket Club has won more than 20 Senior Men's competition flags across A,B,C and E grade competitions across multiple different districts, with the Hawks seeing many strong competitors and quality characters come through the doors.

Over the last decade, the Forrestfield Cricket Club has embarked on journey to bring senior women's cricket competitions to Forrestfield.

What started out as one social cricket side all the way back in 2018 playing in the Sunset Scorchers competition held in Carlisle, it quickly

gained momentum - inspiring more women to get involved.

This enthusiasm and continued popularity in women's cricket allowed them to create their own Sunset Scorchers competition in 2021 - featuring more than 85 women each season since its inception.

In 2023, in response to growing interest in female participation in cricket, the Forrestfield Cricket Club entered its first women's team in the Perth Scorchers Women's League - a community club based, T20 competition played across the Perth Metropolitan Area every Sunday Afternoon.

This has been followed up by the inclusion of an additional two Forrestfield Cricket Club sides in the PSWL since - a true testament to the club's 'Family First Culture'.

Join the club in celebrating a legacy of success and an exciting future at the Forrestfield Cricket Club.

Up the Hawks!



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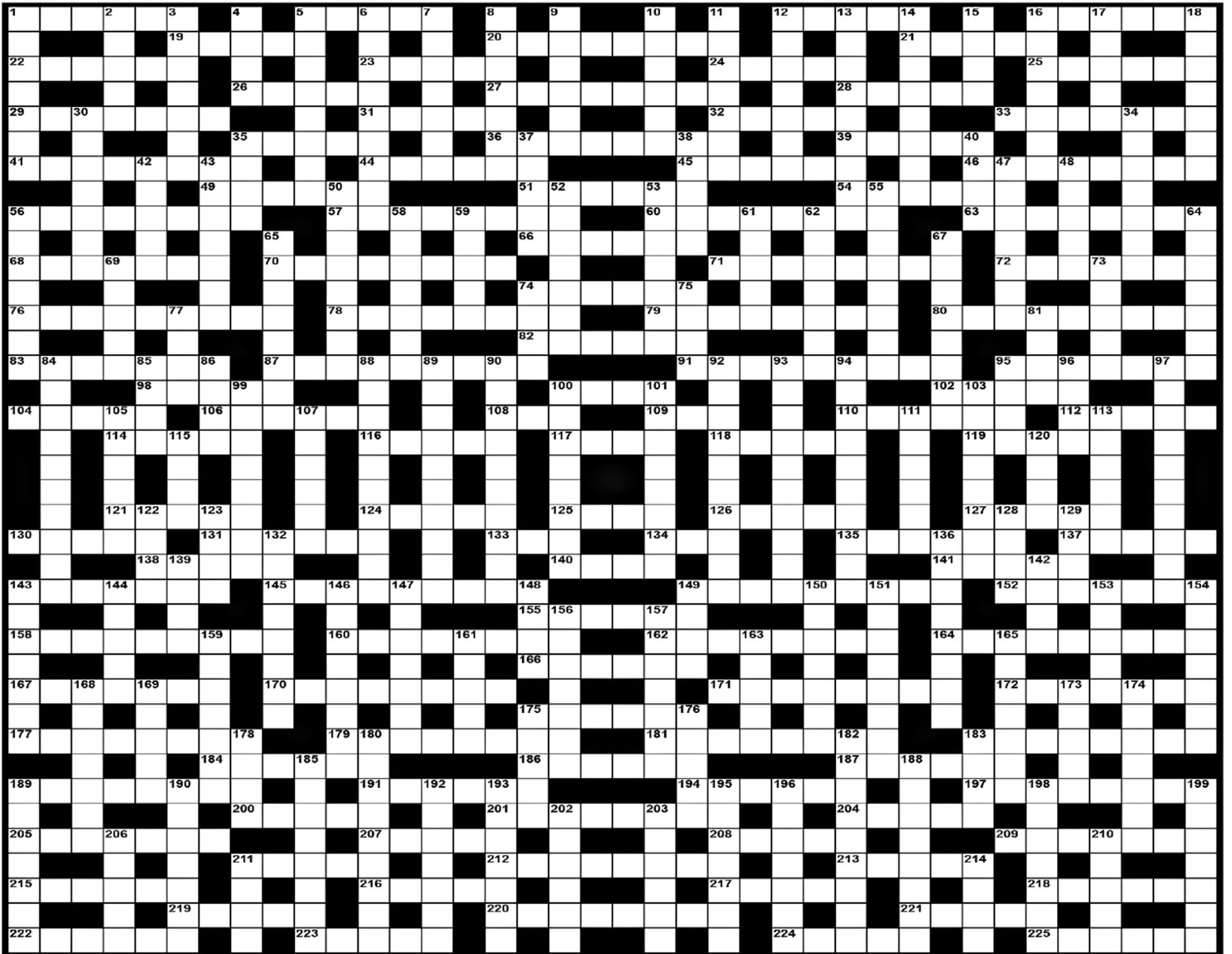
CONTACT US AT FORRESTFIELDHAWKS@GMAIL.COM 0435 894 825





Mind Boggler Crossword

1259



ACROSS

- 1 Compelled
- 5 Ricefield
- 12 Blocks of sugar
- 16 Message conveyors
- 19 Keen
- 20 Adoring one
- 21 Yellowish brown
- 22 Make more dense
- 23 Ulcers
- 24 Tests (abb)
- 25 Wise person
- 26 Entrances
- 27 Wanton deeds
- 28 Of sea movement
- 29 Go back
- 31 Open to view
- 32 Bury
- 33 Nonbeliever
- 35 Ordinary
- 36 Meddled with
- 39 Elephant tusk
- 41 Lethargic
- 44 Result
- 45 Brought up
- 46 Cunningly
- 49 Least
- 51 Former horse attendant
- 54 Large kingdom
- 56 Expects
- 57 Impatient
- 60 Sing
- 63 Move from position
- 66 One of two
- 68 Look over
- 70 Casual (4-4)
- 71 Arrangement
- 72 Wandered off
- 74 One who keeps position
- 76 Spoke very loudly
- 78 Teleprinter

- 79 Better
- 80 Funds official
- 82 Makes usable
- 83 Perched
- 87 Quilt filling
- 91 Raised on high
- 95 Take delivery of
- 98 Architectural line
- 100 Of this type
- 102 Annoyed
- 104 Ladle
- 106 Risky
- 108 Veil
- 109 Sharp tool
- 110 Underground shaft
- 112 Took in fluid
- 114 Shelf
- 116 Rout out
- 117 Arabian chief
- 118 Bring on
- 119 Protecting bank
- 121 Large bird
- 124 Make law
- 126 Pleating
- 127 Public house
- 130 Agitates
- 131 Fit for tilling
- 133 Sick
- 134 Type of bath
- 135 Beginner
- 137 Narrow openings
- 138 Puffs
- 140 Clumps of dirt
- 141 Effusion of serous fluid
- 143 Passed over
- 145 Having eyes turned in (5-4)
- 149 Kept on
- 152 Cup supports
- 155 Sprinter
- 158 Unconfirmed

- (3,6)
- 160 Apparitions
- 162 Reveller
- 164 A coloured egg
- 166 Faintly
- 167 Gives out
- 170 Made bigger
- 171 Legal declaration
- 172 Unsettled
- 175 Celestial being
- 177 Float in the air
- 179 Teases
- 181 Guesses
- 183 Camera picture
- 184 Oily fruit
- 186 Catches sight of
- 187 Observing
- 189 Cricket's sandshoe crushers
- 191 Walk cautiously
- 194 Man of learning
- 197 Attributed
- 200 Famous English composer
- 201 Highways
- 204 Give second report
- 205 Short break
- 207 Withdrawn
- 208 Hooded jacket
- 209 Doorman
- 211 Prank
- 212 Reverse explosion
- 213 Look after sick
- 215 Numb
- 216 Accustom
- 217 Regretting
- 218 Layers
- 219 Float aimlessly
- 220 Advents
- 221 Make glad
- 222 Pages
- 223 Use power

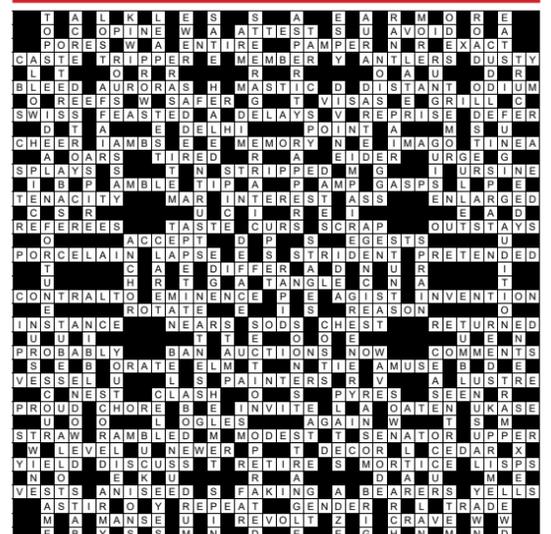
- 224 Finished
 - 225 Group of six
- DOWN**
- 1 In a league
 - 2 Prance around
 - 3 Having toothed margin
 - 4 Agape
 - 5 Stick out
 - 6 Licentious
 - 7 Bowled at cricket
 - 8 Italian dish
 - 9 Base
 - 10 An old hand
 - 11 Sit in charge
 - 12 Rattling noise
 - 13 Stands astride
 - 14 Hard soap
 - 15 First murder victim
 - 16 Look after
 - 17 Hard work
 - 18 Severely
 - 30 Hanging ornaments
 - 34 Vacation
 - 35 Employs
 - 37 Make up for
 - 38 Mistake
 - 40 Pen
 - 42 Insect pest
 - 43 Ore refinery
 - 47 Send out again
 - 48 One who stores papers
 - 50 Ran fast
 - 52 Stiffly formal
 - 53 Highest mountain
 - 55 Took dimensions
 - 56 Artist
 - 58 In table form
 - 59 Legal
 - 61 Nimble
 - 62 Impressed letters

- 64 Sign back of
- 65 Happiness
- 67 Great confusion (coll) (4,4)
- 69 Sharp pains
- 73 Blue as the sky
- 74 Stretch over
- 75 Hurry
- 77 Old jug
- 81 Aid in crime
- 84 Pendulum egg
- 85 Narrow cloth
- 86 Narcotic
- 88 Type of trees
- 89 Can be taken off
- 90 Cold weather
- 92 Remove completely
- 93 Sights
- 94 From the outside
- 95 Hacking cough
- 96 Give over
- 97 Defender of claim
- 99 Not well-trained
- 100 Printing aids
- 101 Severity
- 103 Greatly enjoyed
- 105 A musical
- 107 Assurance
- 111 Irritate
- 113 Sell again
- 115 Bell sound
- 120 Singlet
- 122 Snakes
- 123 Settle
- 128 Minerals
- 129 Jacob's elder twin
- 132 Climbed
- 136 Aust bushranger (3,5)
- 139 Of the air
- 142 Type of whisky
- 143 In the middle
- 144 Tasty

- 146 Self-indulgent
- 147 Sheep worker
- 148 Tied with
- 149 Entreat
- 150 Centres
- 151 Slow-moving reptile
- 153 Insertion mark
- 154 Propose as suitable
- 156 Of no value
- 157 Cover completely
- 159 Caller
- 161 In that place
- 163 Hall for drama
- 165 Leaps up
- 168 Workers
- 173 First-class
- 174 Hinder
- 175 Direct
- 176 Wanton female

- 178 Otherwise
- 180 Exclude from society
- 182 Not friends
- 183 Break suddenly
- 185 Live passively
- 188 Partnered
- 189 Long paces
- 190 Stretches
- 192 Goods made
- 193 Unusual
- 195 Slander
- 196 Flying company
- 198 Baby beds
- 199 Asleep
- 202 Return presentation
- 203 Beast
- 206 Chaplain
- 210 Mingle with
- 211 Dry
- 214 Time periods

Crossword Solution 1258 from 6 March, 2026



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Read between the lines



by Pastor Ian Kirk

Motor Museums
In May 2022, while on holidays in South Australia, Colleen and I travelled from the quaint German town of Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills to the Barossa Valley. Along the way we dropped into the small town of Birdwood and saw a big old mill.

On the front of the mill was a sign that read "National Motor Museum". We decided to go in and were blown away by the massive car and bike collection. I couldn't believe this national museum was in a small country town in the middle of nowhere.

This weekend we saw our own impressive motor museum, located in Whiteman Park. It too is impressive with some very old cars, as well as the F1 car Daniel Ricciardo drove to victory in his maiden win - the 2014 Canadian Grand Prix.

Cars are phenomenal works of art. I remember growing up appreciating them. I marvel at the complexities of a motor and the engineering exquisiteness of carburetors, turbo chargers and transmissions.

We all know that a car doesn't come about by random acts, or by time and chance. People design and engineer them. It's the same for us; we're no accident. We've been made by an awesome Creator God. Colleen's favourite psalm, Psalm 139, informs us that we've been fearfully and wonderfully made.

Amazingly, we can know the God who made us. In love, He sent His Son Jesus into our world to reveal God to us and to reconcile us back to Himself.

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Upcoming Events

• **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.

• **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

• **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 in-

formation call Roz on 0419 915 623 or Julia on 0419 954 106.

• **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.

• **Midland Friendly Garden Club** meets at 9.30am on alternate Thursdays at Bruce Douglas Pavilion, Brown Park, Salisbury

Road, Swan View. The next meeting will take place on March 19. The guest speaker will be Lyn Chambers from Tulips with a Difference from Boyup Brook, who will be talking about Autumn and Spring bulbs with a possibility of purchase. For more information call Jenny on 0424 553 002 or Barbara 0482 935 686.

• **The Really Really Free Market** will be hosted again on Sunday, March 29, outside Mechanics Hall, 20 Meadow Street, Guildford. The market will begin at 9am and wraps up at 10am sharp. Bring your unwanted items to give

away and take what you need or want. For more information visit The Really Really Free Market's Facebook event.

• **Stoneville Voluntary Bushfire Brigade** will hold their Annual General Meeting at 7.00pm on Monday, May 18. It will be held at Stoneville Fire Station, Bentley Street, Stoneville. For more information email secretary@stoneville.bfb.asn.au

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



Sassy is a four-year-old boxer-staffy cross who is good with kids. Sterilised, vaccinated and microchipped Costs apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

Midland Guildford closes out season with wins

JOSHUA MCKENZIE

IT was a strong finish to the season for Midland Guildford Cricket Club with some outstanding performances in the matches completed last weekend.

The senior male sides played against Gosnells and closed out their season going four for four.

The male 1st grade played at home and were sent into bat first by their opposition.

Keaton Critchell led the side with 82 runs from 103 balls in his return, while Hudson Knight also posted a half-century in the innings of 325 all out.

Knight featured once more in the second innings with his figures of 5-90 from 29 overs being the key to the team securing a 55 run victory.

It was a strong outing for the male 2nd grade with even contributions from all bowlers helping restrict their opponents to 171 all out.

The run chase was dominated by Kelly Jones who posted an unbeaten 101 from 149 in the dominant six wicket victory.

After winning the toss and batting first, the male 3rd grade team posted a score of 256 after half-centuries to Clayton Thomas, with 60 from 86, and Tom Alderson, with 51 from 59.

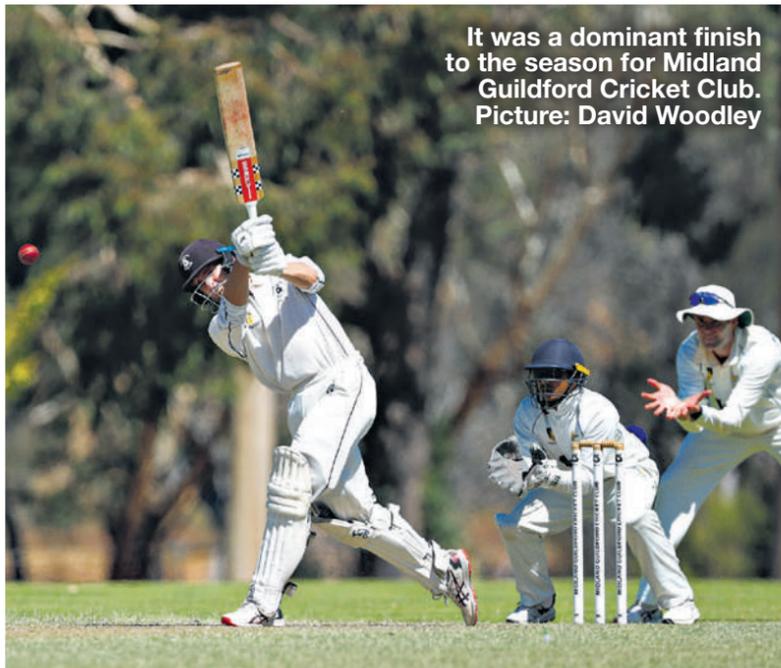
A strong bowling performance saw the side dismiss their opponents for 102 in a comprehensive victory.

The male 4th grade side reached 274 after losing the toss and batting first in their match.

Thomas Baker was the key batsman with 101 from 202, with Haydn Lucas also posting a half-century in the innings.

The bowling attack was highlighted by Dylan Clements taking 5-81 from 27 overs to help the side bowl out their opposition for 237 and secure a 37 run win.

It was an eight wicket defeat for the female A grade against Subiaco Floreat, while the female B grade finished



It was a dominant finish to the season for Midland Guildford Cricket Club. Picture: David Woodley

their season with a five wicket victory after chasing down the target of 148 set by South Perth.

Kelsi Brennan was the standout performer in the run chase with 88 not out from 96 in the victory.

The male U17 defeated Gosnells in their final game of the regular season with Cooper Neill top scoring with 87 from 110 in the total of 238 all out.

Sam Hayward took 4-28 from ten overs to help limit the opposition to 174 all out in the 64 run victory for the team.

It was a dominant display from the female U17 after they bowled out Joondalup for just 35 runs and then chased the target easily with eight wickets remaining.

A number of players finished their seasons with some outstanding displays in a year that has featured numerous individual accomplishments for Midland Guildford Cricket Club.

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

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A driveway leads up to a single, two car garage with secure internal access to keep family vehicles secure and sheltered.

Two big beautiful wooden doors welcome guests into the clean and bright inside of the house where the character of the building shines through.

A big, carpeted living space is just off to the right of the entrance with a curtained window letting in ample natural light and the option for privacy.

Perfect for a living room or TV room, potential buyers can envision a space well-suited to creating a place right next to the front door to immediately lay down the day's burdens and unwind.

A step separates a portion of the room and leads to a door to the kitchen and dining area.

Here, well-maintained cabinetry curves around the wall and extends out past the wall holding the kitchen shelves.

The natural wooden textures and the design of the cabinetry add to the character of

the home and is set in an exposed limestone hued brick wall.

A fireplace sits in a corner facing the kitchen and opposite to it is a step flowing to an open wooden floor area attached to the backyard door.

There are two bathrooms designed for everyday family convenience just past this area with two sinks in front of the wide bathroom mirror.

Further into the house are four bedrooms including a private master suite with ensuite.

A laundry room flows into the backyard area and the large rear garden, ideal for people with green thumbs.

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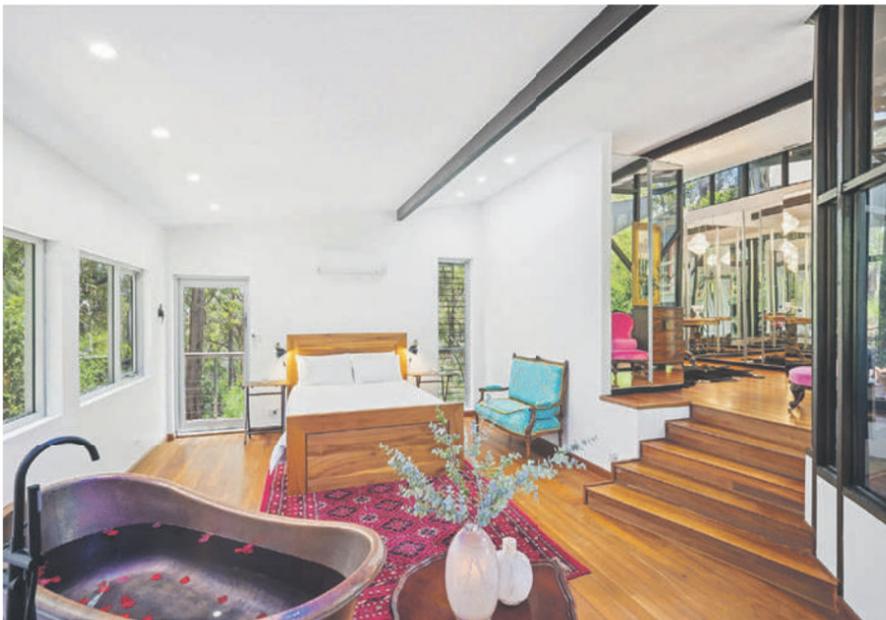
77 Litchfield Promenade, Jane Brook	\$3,250,000	445 Strettle Road, Glen Forrest	\$1,725,000
3 Gooseberry Retreat, Jane Brook	\$2,250,000	1190 Walker Street, Mundaring	\$2,200,000
210 Holmes Road, Forrestfield	\$2,200,000	165 Stanhope Road, Bickley	\$2,500,000
163 Urch Road, Roleystone	\$2,075,000	140 Rickard Road, Glen Forrest	\$1,660,000
2 Water Street, Guildford	\$2,050,000	52 Zamia Road, Gooseberry Hill	\$1,601,000
7 Stone Crescent, Darlington	\$2,525,000	40 Zamia Road, Gooseberry Hill	\$1,750,000
108 Weir Road, Baskerville	\$5,180,000	300 Mills Road, Darlington	\$1,800,000
70 Broadway Road, Bickley	\$2,150,000	47 Stone Crescent, Darlington	\$1,950,000
31 Schmitt Road, Kalamunda	\$2,000,000	130 Rookwood Street, Henley Brook	\$2,680,000
51 Tarbenian Way, Brigadoon	\$1,500,000	43 Lionel Road, Darlington	\$1,650,000
990 Jordan Road, Chidlow	\$2,350,000	370 Pechey Road, Swan View	\$1,550,000
28 Nangkita Road, Kalamunda	\$1,825,000	31 Schmitt Road, Kalamunda	\$2,000,000
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300 Aldersyde Road, Bickley	\$1,800,000	1315 Coulston Road, Boya	\$1,620,000
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22 Tathra Place, Jane Brook	\$3,420,000	230 Mathieson Road, Chidlow	\$1,610,000
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