

ECHO NEWS

SINCE 1985

NEWS

Friday, March 20, 2026

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Local Business Supporting Local People

VOL.43 NO.1954

Hills Nannas march for forests

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Indigenous healing service

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Picture: Supplied

Save Wind in the Willows

Parents have questioned the proposed sale of the Wind in the Willows childcare centre to a private buyer by the Town of Bassendean for about \$2.5 million.

P3

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EASTER DAY FAMILY SERVICE
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THE HILLS NANNAS FOR NATIVE FORESTS ARE RALLYING FOR THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR FORESTS ON SUNDAY MARCH 22 AT FORREST PLACE PERTH, THE NANNAS ARE ASKING ATTENDEES TO BRING A BLACK OR RED UMBRELLA TO MAKE A GIANT BLACK COCKATOO AND MARCH THROUGH PERTH.

ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say:
editorial@echo-news.com

Thanks from the Contis

Dear Echo News,
Thank you for publishing and to the reporter who wrote the recent article on the Conti Family Reunion.

It came as a wonderful surprise as my brother only this afternoon brought me a copy of the Echo edition in which it features.

I will treasure it

Thought for the day

“Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.”

- John F. Kennedy

along with previous articles to display at our 2031 reunion.

G Conti
Perth Hills

St John criticism challenged

Dear Echo News,
Hearing on the TV news the criticism of St John of God Hospital in Midland, I could not help but write about my current experience with them.

I understand that they can get overloaded at times – that is understandable – but there is no question that they do everything they can.

Only a week ago I woke to find my wife in a very bad way, only semi-conscious and barely breathing.

Fortunately, when I called 000 for an ambulance, there was one only five minutes away.

They quickly worked on her, and the indication I got when they were putting her in the ambulance, was that I had to be prepared that she may not make it alive to the hospital.

Thanks to the paramedics and St John of God Hospital, by the time I was able to get in there, she was breathing again and knew what was going on.

I can only say that the great and constant care she received (and is still receiving) from St John of God Ambulance and St John of God Hospital, Midland, is the reason she is still alive and recovering well.

They have my greatest respect and thanks for what they have done – and are continually doing.

S Oliver
Ellenbrook

Jorgensen Park use concerns

Dear Echo News,
A large number of City of Kalamunda residents are rightfully concerned about a recent public notice ‘Short-term disposition of property by way of lease’ - impacting a portion of Jorgensen Park.

My key concerns centre around the lengthy list of unacceptable impacts to the natural environment, on and adjacent to the proposed site.

Likely removal of trees and vegetation to accommodate fencing and access, parking implications, spread of dieback, disturbance to wildlife feeding and breeding, impacts of fencing on transient wildlife, trampling of vegetation, litter, noise, light and sound pollution are all factors that will directly impact both nearby residents and wildlife residents of the park.

No certainty as to the extent and scale of these impacts is provided.

Whilst I understand some commercial information would be sensitive and hence may need to be withheld, I fail to see how transparency on these impacts and the city’s justification that they can be managed appropriately can’t be shared.

The community is left in a position to speculate what these proposed events will entail, and if the possibility of it involving a Harry Potter Forbidden Forest Experience eventuates – it is abundantly clear that this event has very little to

do with “showcasing the natural environment” – as currently asserted in the city’s detailed response.

Whilst I understand that the city is looking to diversify revenue - the local community expects this to be done in a way that protects, preserves, and enhances our natural areas rather than destroys them.

Alternate venues should be sought - where sensitive native vegetation is not at risk.

Such venues include landscaped parks, showgrounds or outdoor entertainment venues.

H Lill
Kalamunda Tree Canopy Advocates

Builders rubbish concerns

Dear Echo News,
I am writing to raise serious concerns about the ongoing rubbish problem created by builders and their contractors across the City of Swan.

Construction sites throughout our city are consistently leaving behind litter including empty cement bags, plastic straps, food packaging, bottles, coffee cups, and PVC piping.

This rubbish does not stay on site — it blows down the streets and into bushland, drains, and onto neighbouring properties.

This was made very clear to me on Clean Up Australia Day, when I spent half my day collecting rubbish that originated from nearby building sites in Dayton.

It is frustrating that community members are left to clean up the mess that the construction industry creates.

I’ve spoken to the site supervisor and they say they have spoken

to the contractors.

While some building companies do provide bins on site, some contractors simply do not use them.

The problem is widespread and ongoing.

The City of Swan has issued infringements, yet builders and contractors continue to disregard their obligations.

Fines alone are clearly not working as a deterrent.

Also, there are lazy people dumping rubbish on building sites instead of taking their rubbish to the tip.

I call on the City of Swan, local builders, and their contractors to take meaningful action.

Our streets, drains, and bushland deserve better.

C Dixon
Swan

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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Drawn on Tuesday 31st March



Brigadoon residents puzzled by lot development

GUANHAO CHENG

BRIGADOON residents have raised concerns about development approval for a tiny lot on Boulonnais Drive, citing concerns about bushfire risk and a lack of local planning strategy compliance.

Brigadoon resident Matthew Amino said it came as a surprise one morning when a contractor from Corrib Developments walked down a main driveway to his parent's residence and informed him the driveway couldn't be used anymore.

"What he was saying was that our vehicles are now stuck inside our block," he said.

"This triangle piece of land (Lot 9009, Boulonnais Drive) has, for 30 years, been fenced off and a part of my parents' property.

"They had even planted many trees on the triangle block. The moment we were told we can no longer use the driveway any more, trucks and machinery came in.

"The locals blocked them from entering but the police were called (and) we were told to move on.

"They then smashed down (most) of the trees and vegetation on site."

Mr Amino said the parcel of land was always understood by his family and by the original developer to be an 'orphan' piece of land created when the original road alignment in Brigadoon was altered because the bend in the road was considered too severe.

"At that time, the small residual piece was to be amalgamated into my parents' property or otherwise absorbed at a later stage of subdivision," he said.

"It was never presented to us, or to the community, as a developable, stand-alone house lot.

"Despite that understanding, earthmoving machinery recently entered and began clearing the parcel without any



Development of Lot 9009 Boulonnais Drive has begun and neighbouring resident Matthew Amino said it came as a complete surprise.

neighbour consultation, which is how we became aware that a separate certificate of title has been created for this sliver of land, and the City of Swan has issued approvals for a single house on it."

Mr Amino said that the current separate title was the result of an administrative error and was in conflict with the city's own planning laws.

"The land is within special rural zone 3 Brigadoon/Baskerville, precinct 1 under local planning scheme (LPS) 17," he said.



"The minimum lot size in this precinct is around 4ha. Lot 9009 is about 1775sqm."

City of Swan chief executive officer Stephen Cain said the parcel of land that became Lot 9009 was part of a balance of title lot from the 1980s. **Cont. p16**

Bassendean parents question confidential sale of childcare centre

DANIEL HOLMES

PARENTS in Bassendean are raising concerns about the Town of Bassendean's proposed sale of its long-standing Wind in the Willows childcare centre, saying the decision has progressed with limited consultation and transparency.

The town notified families on February 25 of its intention to sell the council-run childcare service and land at 28 Wilson Street to a pre-selected private buyer for about \$2.5 million.

Wind in the Willows has operated as a council-run not-for-profit childcare centre for more than 40 years and provides early childhood education and care for children aged zero to three.

The town has also indicated the potential closure of its Ashfield Wind in the Willows service, which provides care for children aged three to five.

Parents representing about 107 families have questioned how the de-

cision was reached and why the community was not consulted earlier.

Resident and parent Emma Barrington said the announcement came as a surprise to families.

"As parents, we feel completely blindsided by this process," Ms Barrington said.

"Wind in the Willows has been a trusted community childcare service for more than 40 years, and many families specifically chose it because it is council-run and not-for-profit.

"We are not necessarily opposed to discussing the future of the service, but the community deserves a transparent process and genuine consultation before any final decision is

made."

Parents say they have been unable to understand the rationale behind the proposed sale because discussions between council and the prospective buyer were conducted confidentially.

Questions raised by families include when the centre began operating at a loss, when discussions

with the buyer began and why an open expression-of-interest process was not undertaken.

Some parents have also questioned whether the minimum 14-day consultation period required under the Local Government Act is sufficient for the proposed sale of a long-standing community service. **Cont. p16**



Residents rally outside the Town of Bassendean in February against the proposed sale of Wind in the Willows childcare centre.



Wind in the Willows childcare centre

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New \$7.9m Midland Aboriginal health clinic



Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service Chairperson Nathan Riley at the new Midland clinic.

Patient Rodney Cox and Dr Vinisha Rajadurai.

A NEW purpose-built health clinic in Midland is set to significantly expand access to culturally safe care for Aboriginal people, as population growth and rising demand place increasing pressure on services in Perth's east.

Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service (Derbarl Yerrigan) opened its new \$7.9 million Midland clinic this week, funded through the federal government's Closing the Gap Plan and with support from the Minderoo Foundation, delivering a major uplift in capacity to address chronic disease, mental health and preventive care.

The facility more than doubles the size of the existing clinic, expanding from five to 10 consulting rooms, alongside new treatment areas, social and emotional wellbeing spaces and future dental suites.

The expansion comes as Midland experiences rapid growth, with the Aboriginal population in the City of Swan now estimated at almost 4,900 people - more than three times the metropolitan average proportion.

The existing clinic has struggled to keep pace, currently seeing around 50 patients a day and providing close to 12,000 episodes of care annually, while turning away an average of 10 patients daily due to limited space.

Derbarl Yerrigan chairperson Nathan Riley said the new clinic was a critical investment in closing the gap in health outcomes for Aboriginal people.

"We are seeing increasing demand for services, par-

ticularly around chronic disease and social and emotional wellbeing, and our existing clinic has simply not been able to keep up," Mr Riley said.

"This new Midland clinic is about breaking down the barriers to accessing care and providing accessible, culturally secure, wrap-around care that supports people at every stage of life."

The new clinic has been designed as a full-circle health hub, bringing together primary care, specialist services and social and emotional wellbeing support under one roof.

Services include GP care, chronic disease management, preventive health checks, immunisations, pathology, podiatry, eye health and visiting specialists, with plans to expand into dental services.

The clinic aims to reduce pressure on tertiary services by focusing on prevention and early intervention, supporting better long-term health outcomes and reducing avoidable hospital admissions.

Mr Riley said culturally safe care was central to improving engagement and health outcomes.

"We know that when people feel safe, respected and understood, they are more likely to access care earlier and more often," he said.

"Our model of care is grounded in culture, connection and community. That's what drives better health outcomes."

The clinic's design was shaped through a cultural im-

mersion process, with workshops involving community members, Elders and staff to ensure the space reflects local culture and identity.

Features include natural materials, Noongar language signage, a yarning circle within the reception area and family-friendly spaces designed to create a welcoming, non-clinical environment.

Located in Midland (traditionally known as Mandjan-up), the clinic sits within an area of deep cultural significance for Noongar people, long recognised as a place of gathering, connection and community.

Mr Riley said the new facility would strengthen that role, providing not just health care, but a trusted place for the community.

"This clinic is more than a building - it's a place where our community can come together, feel safe and receive the care they need," he said.

"It reflects what culturally secure, community-led health care should look like."

The Midland clinic is expected to significantly increase capacity, reducing unmet demand and allowing more Aboriginal families to access services closer to home, without needing to travel into the city.

Derbarl Yerrigan is one of the leading providers of Aboriginal health care in metropolitan WA, delivering culturally secure services that support the physical, social, emotional and cultural wellbeing of Aboriginal people.



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Riverbank Estate director Eric Lembo (right) at a trade event in Japan promoting Swan Valley wines.

Swan Valley winery eyes Japan market following trade mission

DANIEL HOLMES

A SWAN Valley winery is looking to build international connections after taking part in a state government-backed trade mission to Japan earlier this month.

Riverbank Estate was among Western Australian agrifood and beverage businesses showcased at trade events in South Korea and Japan, including FOODEX Japan in Tokyo.

Riverbank Estate proprietor and director Eric Lembo said the experience provided exposure to international markets and industry networks.

"It was a really amazing exposure to the Japanese culture, especially their beverage industry, which is what we specialise in," he said.

Mr Lembo said the visit marked the beginning of longer-term opportunities rather than immediate export outcomes.

"With Japan, it's all about building relationships," he said.

"It's not something that can happen overnight... there needs to be a few more visits to establish any sort of foundation."

Mr Lembo said Riverbank Estate and Swan Valley wines were introduced to hundreds of potential importers and buyers during the visit.

"It was an opportunity to expose Swan Valley wines to hundreds of Japanese importers and exporters," he said.

"I was able to educate them on where the Swan Valley is, its history, and the warm-climate varieties we specialise in."

He said Japan and other Asian markets were important due to their proximity to Western Australia and growing interest in wine.

"They've traditionally been exposed to French and Italian wines, but now they're becoming more educated about Australian wine," he said.

"The more we get our wines out internationally, the more the Swan Valley is recognised."

Agriculture and Food Minister Jackie Jarvis said the trade missions aimed to help local businesses expand into key markets.

"These missions are a great platform for WA businesses to promote products while establishing commercial supply relationships," she said.

"WA is well placed to satisfy these markets, with close proximity to Asia and short shipping times."

The state government said Japan and South Korea remain key export markets for Western Australian agrifood products, with demand for premium goods continuing to grow.

DBCA: Concrete water tank replacements not feasible

POLICE continue to search for the thieves who stole three water tanks supplying much needed drinking water to hikers walking the historic Bibbulmun Track.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) will now spend \$8000 replacing these tanks.

Parks and Wildlife Service WA has already replaced one of the missing tanks but Swan Regional Manager Benson Todd said in an ABC radio interview that the situation was sad and had an impact on many walkers who relied on the water.

"These huts are fairly remote, and vehicle access is through locked gates, so it's very disappointing to discover the tanks have been stolen," he said on the Friday morning program.

"A fair amount of effort has clearly gone into it. They've been quite determined to take this infrastructure, which is important for hikers."

According to Great Walks, the Bibbulmun Track features 49 campsites positioned roughly 10 to 25km apart, typically representing a full day's walk between stops.

Each campsite is equipped with a rainwater tank, a three-sided shelter, a pedestal pit toilet, picnic tables and designated tent areas for walkers travelling the long-distance trail.

The Western Walking Club said the theft highlighted the vulnerability of the track's infrastructure.

Commentors online have questioned whether this was a first on the Bibbulmun track and asked if concrete tanks were a viable solution for thefts.

In response to *Echo News* questions about previous occurrences and strategies on deterring future theft, a DBCA spokesperson said it was a first in a decade and concrete tanks weren't feasible.



The three 4500L capacity tanks were stolen from their locations on the remote Bibbulmun track huts.

"There have been no other reported incidents of water tanks being stolen from Bibbulmun Track huts in the Perth Hills in the last ten years," they said.

"The cost and logistical challenges of installing concrete water tanks would be too great, partly due to the remote location of the Bibbulmun Track huts.

"Concrete tanks can also be prone to leaks, so are no longer a feasible option."

The thefts have been reported to WA Police and anyone with information is asked to contact Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

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Hills Nannas rally for forests



Hills Nannas for Native Forests are encouraging people to join them for the national 'March for Forests' this Sunday.

HILLS Nannas for Native Forests are rallying for the national 'March for Forests' on Sunday, March 22 at Forrest Place, Perth at 10am and are encouraging people to join them.

Long-term nanna, Wesley Huber is urging people to do it for the grandkids.

"If we don't save the forest, it will be a tragedy for future generations so everyone should bring a friend so we can double our numbers," she said.

Attendees are asked to bring a black or red umbrella to make a giant black cockatoo and march through Boorloo/Perth to help save the jarrah forest, as part of the many 'March in March for Forests' events happening around the country.

Event organiser Paddy Cullen said Alcoa wanted to massively expand bauxite mining in the jarrah forest for aluminium, and under pressure from Donald Trump, Australia has also agreed to mine bauxite in the forest for gallium used in US missiles.

"Scientists say the expansion of bauxite mining would destroy the homes of three species of black cockatoos which are all threatened with extinction and many other species in the most biodiverse temperate forest in the world," she said.

"According to the Water Corp, this would be 'a certainty' to contaminate our water supply in large parts of the metro area and the south west. They say this would cost billions of dollars to repair, and the damage would be intergenerational.

"The government says Alcoa has been illegally clearing forests for years, but instead of taking them to court, has given them a free pass to keep clearing and says it is in the national interest. They have said they must spend \$55 million on remediation instead of going to court, but scientists say restoration is impossible."

She said 59,000 people made submissions to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to stop the expansion of bauxite mining.

"Now we need feet on the street (and umbrellas) to back that message and get the EPA and government back on track to save the forest," she said.

"Mining must be phased out of the forest with a fair transition for workers in the same way as we ended forest logging in 2024.

"We are hoping a thousand people will join us and make a difference."

For further information go to bit.ly/March-for-forests-PERTH



Anthony Spagnolo MLC, WA Liberal leader Basil Zempilas, Kalamunda MLA Adam Hort, Icon state manager Colin La Galia and Icon radiation therapy manager Tim Gosling.

Midland cancer treatment push with petition gaining momentum

THE case for radiation oncology services in Midland continues to grow, with strong community support and renewed attention following a visit to the Icon Cancer Centre by WA Liberal leader Basil Zempilas last week.

Anthony Spagnolo MLC said the visit highlighted the ongoing inequity faced by cancer patients living in the eastern suburbs, Perth Hills and Wheatbelt, many of whom must travel long distances for treatment or face significant out-of-pocket costs.

"People battling cancer should not have to endure long daily journeys across the city simply to receive essential treatment," Mr Spagnolo said.

"For many patients, radiation therapy involves weeks of consecutive appointments. When you are already dealing with fatigue and the emotional toll of cancer, that level of travel can be extremely difficult," he said.

A petition led by Kalamunda MLA Adam Hort and Mr

Spagnolo calling for radiation oncology services to be made accessible in Midland has gained strong community backing, with more than 2400 signatures collected.

Mr Hort said the strong response to the petition shows the depth of concern across Midland and the hills.

Mr Spagnolo said the petition has now been formally tabled in the Legislative Council and will be referred to the relevant government minister for consideration.

Community members are encouraged to contact the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs, as well as writing to the Minister for Health to share their experiences.

"The committee needs to hear from the people living this reality," Mr Spagnolo said.

"Patients, carers, doctors and nurses who understand the challenges of travelling long distances for treatment can help decision makers understand why access

to radiation oncology services in Midland matters.

"The next step is for the government to respond and explain how it intends to address this clear inequity in access to radiation oncology services," he said.

Mr Spagnolo said suitable facilities already exist in Midland and could be used to provide treatment closer to home if appropriate funding or partnership arrangements were established.

"The infrastructure is already there," he said.

Mr Zempilas said the situation demonstrates a failure by the government to prioritise essential services.

"We are calling on the Cook Labor government to fund radiation oncology services in Midland so patients in our community can receive treatment closer to home," Mr Zempilas said.

"This is about fairness, about getting the basics right, and ensuring no cancer patient is disadvantaged simply because of where they live," he said.

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"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ & thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31

Bin Collection Update over the Easter Holidays

Over the Easter period, there will be a change to bin collection dates.

If your usual bin day is on Fridays, your bin will be collected on Saturday 4 April instead.

There will be no changes to collections for Easter Monday or ANZAC Day Public Holidays.

For more information, please refer to the Find My Bin Day tool on our website or the Waste & Recycling Guide.



Find out more:
kalamunda.wa.gov.au/waste



North Swan vollies call for owl protection

GUANHAO CHENG

NORTH Swan volunteers are calling on the community to find spare hardware to donate in an effort to help owls return to the Bullsbrook area.

The North Swan Landcare Group and the Bullsbrook Community Men's Shed have joined forces with resident landowners to build owl nesting boxes for installation across suitable properties in the area.

The initiative aims to provide safe nesting spaces for owl species in the area whose populations have been steadily declining.

North Swan Landcare (NSL) volunteers said the project highlighted what was possible when groups in the area collaborated.

"Both the Men's Shed and NSL are community organisations powered by volunteers," an NSL spokesperson said.

"Projects like this not only help the environment but also bring people together.

"We are always keen to welcome new members who want to get involved."

Owls are natural predators to rodents and play a role in the ecosystem as population controllers but their numbers have fallen across the district according to NSL.

Volunteers said the decline was largely due to the removal of natural tree hollows through land clearing and the widespread use of toxic rodenticides.

There has already been expert criticism against the lax laws surrounding the use of lethal rodenticides with hills wildlife treatment centre staff saying the new restrictions didn't go far enough according to *Conservationists critical over tighter rat poison limit* (Echo News, January 9).

Toxins could accumulate in an owl's body when they hunted and consumed rodents that had been ingesting the poison, and the outcome was often fatal.

"Without suitable nesting sites and with ongoing poisoning risks, owl populations in Swan will struggle to recover," the spokesperson said.

"The nest box program aims to address one part of the problem by creating safe places for owls to breed."

The groups are running a hardware collection drive to gather materials needed to construct the nesting boxes.

Donated items will be reused and repurposed wherever



Owl box technician Geoff Liddle with Bullsbrook Community Men's Shed president Bob Harris, holding the prototype barn owl nesting box they developed to support barn owls in the area.

possible, with groups looking for old wooden broom handles, 50mm or 60mm butt hinges, hardwood timber pieces such as jarrah of about 30cm in length and 18mm thick, 50mm or 60mm bolt latches and small corrugated metal sheets.

"Repurposed materials are perfect," the spokesperson said.

"It's far better for these items to go into building owl homes than ending up in landfill.

"We're encouraging everyone to have a rummage in their shed or workshop."

Donation boxes will be available at their planned locations at Bullsbrook library, Australian Premium Feeds

store in Frigate Way, Bullsbrook and Swan Hills MLA Michelle Maynard's office at 38 Main Street, Ellenbrook.

Ms Maynard said the effort was a great way to support the owl population in the area.

Community members may also bring donations to Paws in the Park Bullsbrook on Friday, March 20 where North Swan Landcare will be hosting a booth.

NSL volunteers said they hoped the project would not only help owls in the area but also inspire residents to become more involved in caring for their local environment.

"This is a simple way people can contribute to restoring owls to our landscape. Every hinge, piece of timber or old broom handle helps create a new home for wildlife."

Conservationists welcome rat poison retail ban move

BRAYDEN MOULD

A PERTH Hills conservationist has hailed a landmark decision to restrict toxic rat poisons as a significant step forward in local wildlife conservation.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has formally recommended a total ban on the retail sale of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs).

The decision marks a significant regulatory shift for these toxic baits, which have been frequently linked to the secondary poisoning of owls, hawks, and other native predators across the Perth Hills after ingesting poisoned rodents.

Under the new recommendation, these lethal chemicals would be classified as restricted products, limiting their use to licensed professionals and removing them entirely from retail shelves.

The update follows a period of heavy criticism from advocates after a previous draft was released suggesting only minor changes to labelling and packaging rather than a full retail ban, as reported in *Conservationists critical over tighter rat poison limit* (Echo News, January 9).

Kanyana Wildlife chief executive officer Danny Shelton said the updated recommendation was an unexpected but welcome addition.

"It really is a positive step and a step in the right direction for conservation," he said.

"Rat baits are dangerous for our wildlife; home-

owners will throw out rat baits without really understanding the potential consequences.

"I am hoping it will have a significant impact and reduce the amount of wildlife we're seeing come in poisoned by secondary poisonings."

Even though the retail ban is being considered a milestone, Mr Shelton cautioned that the move might drive more residents to hire professional services rather than seeking alternative pest control measures.

"The fact they're still going to be available may just push a lot more people to pay pest controllers to come in," he said.

"So, we need to either educate or hope that pest controllers are educated in a way that they only use rat baits responsibly."

Although the decision remains a recommendation awaiting legislation from state and federal governments, some businesses have begun action, with Bunnings announcing it will remove all SGAR products from its shelves by June 30.

"It is really great that Bunnings have now taken that decision on the back of this outcome," Mr Shelton said regarding the announcement.

"It would have been nice if they'd made this decision off their own bats, but it's a great decision for our wildlife and is really welcome.

"I do hope that other businesses follow suit and take them off the shelves so we can try and protect our wildlife a little better than what we have been doing."



Rat bait sold on shelves at Bunnings. Picture: Brayden Mould

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Alcoa changes restrict access by Water Corp

DOCUMENTS obtained by the WA Forest Alliance (WAFA) under Freedom of Information (FOI) reveal that Alcoa's newest mine site changes have made it challenging for Water Corporation inspectors to supervise impacts to drinking water.

The documents show Water Corporation inspectors faced restrictions after Alcoa installed fencing around mine sites in state forests and banned drone use near mining areas, limiting ability to monitor water quality near key areas including Serpentine Dam.

Water Corporation has acknowledged the issues while defending its oversight role.

A spokesperson said the utility continues to work with all stakeholders in the interest of protecting public drinking water sources

and has been forthright in engaging with Alcoa to remedy previous concerns over site access and to ensure data is shared in a timely and comprehensive way.

The corporation provides independent advice to government through the independent technical advisory group under the Alcoa transitional assessment framework, which it describes as "the established mechanism through which agencies share information and consider risks".

Water Corporation said protecting drinking water at its source provided the strongest protection for public water supplies.

The state government has a \$100 million financial guarantee from Alcoa as a contingency against any impact to drinking water sources.



Water Corporation says drones are used for a wide variety of activities like tank inspections, 3D modelling, and catchment surveillance. Picture: Facebook



Koya chair professor Cheryl Kickett-Tucker, centre with community programs staff. The new centre is located on William Street, Midland.

New Midland Indigenous healing service

PETER W LEWIS

KOYA Aboriginal Corporation is currently recruiting for staff following funding for a new Indigenous Healing Service (IHS) for Aboriginal children and young people aged up to 24 years impacted by family violence in the Midland area.

The new service is part of an \$8.2 million package to deliver accessible therapeutic healing services to children and young people affected by family violence.

"Once staffed and established young people will be able to connect through self-referral, community referral, or local services, with support guided by relationships and the pace set by participants. The program will be designed with community, ensuring it is flexible, place-based and culturally responsive," Koya Aboriginal Corporation executive manager operations Grace Hollin said.

"Elders, families and young people will be actively involved in determining service activities," she said.

"We very much welcome the funding, which is for an initial period of two years.

"Koya applied for the funding having seen the significant need in the community through presentations to our suite of community programs, where family and domestic violence is one of the top two presenting issues for children, young people and families."

The IHS model recognises that Aboriginal children, young people and families experience dispro-

portionately high levels of family violence, with devastating impacts on their health and wellbeing.

The Aboriginal led, culturally grounded model of support will include healing activities such as art, storytelling, movement, cultural mentoring and on Country experiences to support recovery and help children and young people feel safe, connected and supported.

"Culture is central to healing, strengthening connections to Country, Elders, identity, family and community, while supporting young people to feel safe, strong and connected," she said.

Koya Aboriginal Corporation is a well-regarded Aboriginal community controlled organisation that provides a wide variety of supports for young Aboriginal people in the north-east and south-west metropolitan area.

Midland MLA Steve Catania said the announcement was fantastic news for Midland.

"Koya Aboriginal Corporation has a track record of doing exceptional work with young people and having them lead this service in our community is a huge win.

"I am very proud of the Cook government for its ongoing investment in Midland and recognising the need for culturally grounded healing services right where they're needed most.

"This commitment will make a real and lasting difference for young Aboriginal people in our community."

Vale Kalamunda wildlife pioneer June Butcher

DANIEL HOLMES

A MUCH-loved Kalamunda community figure and wildlife conservation pioneer has died, aged 90.

June Butcher, who founded the Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre with her husband Lloyd, passed away in Melbourne.

Mrs Butcher was widely known across the Hills for her work caring for injured and orphaned native animals and for decades of service to the community as a district infant health nurse.

Hundreds of hills families remember her dedication to supporting young parents and newborns during her years working in child health services.

Friends recalled her fierce commitment to her patients, with one father recounting how she once challenged hospital staff who tried to prevent her from visiting a mother suffering post-natal depression.

"I have every right to be here. These are my patients," she reportedly told the superintendent.

Mrs Butcher's passion for wildlife eventually led to the creation of Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, which began in the late 1970s when she and her husband started caring for injured animals from their home in Gooseberry Hill.

The operation quickly grew and in 1986 the couple formally established Kanyana, which has since become one of Western Australia's leading wildlife rehabilitation organisations.

Today the centre in Lesmurdie cares for thousands of injured, sick and orphaned native animals each year and is supported by hundreds of volunteers.

Mrs Butcher's contributions to conservation and community service were widely recognised.

She was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2002 for her work in wildlife conservation and captive breeding programs for threatened species.

She was also a national finalist for Senior Australian of the Year in 2010 and received several environmental and volunteer awards recognising her leadership and dedication.

Through Kanyana, Mrs Butcher helped establish breeding programs for threatened species such as bilbies and Western barred bandicoots while also educating the public about wildlife care and conservation.



June Butcher and her beloved Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.

Friends say her passion for wildlife and commitment to helping others leaves a lasting legacy in the Perth Hills community.

A celebration of June Butcher's life will be held at Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre at 10.30am on March 28.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for donations to be made to Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.

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Properly maintained firebreaks play a vital role in bushfire prevention.

Swan bush fire hazard fine

AN individual has been handed an \$1800 fine after being convicted of offences related to non-compliance with the City of Swan annual fire hazard reduction notice, as issued under the Bush Fires Act 1954 (WA).

The city submitted that the property was significantly overgrown with dead and dry vegetation, particularly along the external boundaries where there should have been firebreaks, and around the dwelling and outbuildings.

The Midland Magistrates Court imposed a fine of \$1800 and ordered the offender to pay the city's costs of \$2500, with fines and costs totalling \$4300.

The outcome sends a clear message

to property owners to ensure action is taken annually to comply with the annual fire hazard reduction notice.

Failure to comply increases the fire risk for the entire community and can carry significant penalties, as demonstrated by this case.

"The City of Swan conducts annual inspections of fire prone properties, with more than 90 per cent found compliant on first inspection. This demonstrates the broader community's strong commitment to reducing bushfire risk," a spokesperson said.

To find out more about bushfire prevention and preparedness: <https://www.swan.wa.gov.au/services-and-community/emergency-management>



Hour of Power speakers Steve Thomas and Robyn Hixon with the Swan Chamber's Leanne and Shane Willcox.

Chamber talks on unshakeable mindset and continual growth

THE Swan Chamber of Commerce March Hour of Power featured speakers Steve Thomas and Robyn Hixon sharing stories about keeping a positive attitude and growing from failure.

Mrs Hixon, a field officer at Mates in Construction, said the invitation to speak was itself a lesson in underestimating yourself.

"I was quite shocked I got asked to speak because there are always such incredible speakers with amazing businesses and huge achievements and I honestly thought, 'Well, what have I got to offer this room?'" she said.

"But power can mean many things and my power wasn't in my job title, bank balances or business empires – my power was being myself."

Growing up the eldest of seven on a council estate in England, Mrs Hixon said she had an abundance of love despite the economic hardship.

Academic life wasn't a good fit and she was later diagnosed with ADHD so she entered the trades and discovered a love for working with her hands. She was saving to travel when, at 25, she received a stage 3 cervical cancer diagnosis.

"Cancer doesn't just disappear when the treatment ends," she said.

"It changes the way you see everything."

The experience became a turning point.

After confessing to a friend that she felt she'd wasted her life and had no talents or direction, she

received words that stayed with her.

"He actually said, 'You've got one of the rarest talents and skills there is – your care factor, the way you are with people, your love, your kindness, your understanding, and it's a skill many don't have'."

She encouraged anyone feeling lost to recognise that every job, mistake and experience is building something.

"Don't underestimate your power," she said.

Mr Thomas, director of Train and Retain, echoed that message through his own story of losing a bricklaying business and rebuilding through mentorship.

His company's apprentice retention rate sits at 70-75 per cent which he said is well above the national 50 per cent and he credits it to a simple philosophy.

"Number one is to look after your people and the rest will just fall into place," he said.

"Other labour companies might have a sink or swim mentality with their staff, but we always have a dedicated field officer and I'm still hands-on myself."

"We turn up to site every day, we live on the sites, we're there as pastoral care for all our people and if people who work for us have any problems, they'll come to us."

"Don't be greedy, be persistent and just always turn up."

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Info sought on Midvale Molotov cocktail incident

SPECIALIST Arson Squad officers continue to seek the public's assistance for information in relation to a house fire that occurred in Midvale on Saturday, August 9, 2025.

About 2am, WA Police and Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) responded to reports of a fire at a residence on Wellarton Street, Midvale.

A group of approximately five people were seen in the area around the time of the fire, and it is believed one person in the group threw a Molotov cocktail type item through a bedroom window of the home, igniting furnishings.

A woman and three children were sleeping in the room at the time.

One child sustained minor burns and received medical treatment.

The group was last seen running down Wellarton Street.

Anyone with any information or further vision relating to this fire, is urged to contact Crime Stoppers online at www.crimestopperswa.com.au or by phone on 1800 333 000.

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

Stratton man copper theft charges

FORRESTFIELD Police, with assistance from Midland detectives, have charged a 36-year-old man in relation to a stealing incident that occurred in Forrestfield on Sunday, March 8.

About 10.30pm, officers while on patrol located a large quantity of copper wire, piled on a footpath on Roe Highway, near the intersection of Sultana Road.

Following inquiries, police identified that the man had allegedly attended the location on two occasions, about 11am on Saturday, March 7 and about 10.30pm on Sunday, March 8, and opened service boxes next to light poles.

It will be alleged the man stole approximately 300 metres of underground insulated electrical copper cabling, with an estimated value of approximately \$7000.

The total estimated cost to repair the lighting is approximately \$50,000.

The 36-year-old man from Stratton was arrested and charged with stealing and criminal damage or destruction of property, and is due to appear be-

fore the Armadale Magistrates Court on April 8.

Forrestfield police acting senior sergeant Tony Signal said the arrest highlighted the significant risks offenders face when targeting critical infrastructure.

"The WA Police Force treats metal theft investigations as a priority. Every report of copper theft is thoroughly examined, with a clear focus on identifying offenders and bringing them before the courts."

"An increasingly advanced range of technology and investigative capabilities – combined with vital information provided by the community – enables us to identify those responsible for incidents like this."

"Anyone considering the theft of metal should be aware that the likelihood of being caught is significant."

"We urge anyone who sees suspicious behaviour in their community, including around service boxes, electrical infrastructure or copper cabling, to contact police on 131 444."

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Ellenbrook Sub Urban Language exhibition

TWELVE suburban artists have used their unique artistic styles and imaginings to express the feelings that arise from their situation and existence in suburbia to be featured in an exhibition at Ellenbrook Arts.

The artists from the Collage Art Group invite audiences to engage with suburbia in layered and thoughtful ways.

From early settlements built around survival to today's complex lifestyle choices, suburbia carries its own language of parks, coastlines, bushland, isolation and community.

As reflected in David Lynch: The Art Life, houses hold unseen stories behind lit or darkened windows and audiences are invited to imagine the scenes that make up a life in these homes.

It presents the idea that people may choose where they live, and it invites viewers to questions whether sub urban undercurrents ultimately shape who they become.

Featuring artists include Alba Cinquini, Anne-Maree Pelusey-Zentner, Carol Rowling, Jenny Demarte, Julie Calabrese, Julie Wilkinson, Kale Miller, Leah Van Lieshout, Marilyn Barrington, Marilyn Davis-Moore, Rosie Manning and Sharron Eves.

Ms Cinquini said these artists have worked in a range of media from pieces in watercolour, acryl-

ic, textiles, organic materials and metal to carvings, installations and projections, and they will be using their range of abilities to explore the idea of suburban life.

"It's all focusing on everyone's artistic practice and what formulates as their main topics," she said.

"There's quite a mixture as some works are decorative abstract expressionism, others draw on travel, graffiti or everyday suburban elements.

"There will be paintings, and 3D works in there as well exploring the topic."

The group traces its origins back to 1985, when a core group of artists studied together at Carine TAFE and began organising trips and exhibitions to develop their practice.

The exhibition also marks the group's first time showing at Ellenbrook Arts, offering a new platform to engage with audiences.

Ms Cinquini said several new works would be on display, alongside select pieces from previous work.

Opening night will be March 27 from 6pm and the exhibition will be running until the end of April 19.

Previous works Walktall by Alba Cinquini and Missed Communication by Anne-Maree Pelusey-Zentner.



The Parkerville children and youth care Midland office.



Parkerville gala fundraiser supports children and families

PARKERVILLE children and youth care is inviting Western Australians to enjoy a night of imagination and impact at the 2026 Parkerville gala fundraiser.

Inspired by the Wizard of Oz - There's No Place Like Home, the gala is next Friday at Fraser's Restaurant in Kings Park.

The night promises to be a fully immersive experience that goes far beyond a traditional fundraiser, and supports the development of Parkerville Grove School - a specialised CARE (curriculum and re-engagement in education) school in the building phase.

Designed as a place where therapeutic support meets education, Parkerville Grove School will support young people aged 12 to 18 (Years 7-12) who have experienced complex trauma from sexual and physical abuse, exposure to family and domestic violence (including witnessing homicides), homelessness, and other

adverse childhood experiences.

Executive chairman Gina Rinehart said Hancock supported Parkerville and the deeply important work it does to help young people work through dreadful traumas in their lives, and to help them to become the best versions of themselves.

"This year's very special event marks 10 years of Hancock getting behind Parkerville's much needed charitable cause, after my earlier personal support," Mrs Rinehart said.

Parkerville children and youth care chief executive officer Kim Brooklyn said Hancock's steadfast support over the past 10 years had been integral to Parkerville's success.

"Their involvement has helped raise more than \$5 million, enabling a variety of educational and therapeutic support services that directly benefit children, young people and their families," Ms

Brooklyn said.

"On the night, guests can enjoy premium dining, live entertainment, exclusive auction items, and an extraordinary, themed experience carefully crafted to delight, inspire, and surprise.

"The gala invites attendees to help bring vital services and spaces to life, from trauma-informed allied health services and therapeutic supports to safe, purpose-built environments where children, young people and families can heal, connect, and thrive."

The event is from 7pm to midnight on Friday, March 27 at Fraser's Restaurant, Kings Park.

Tickets and tables are now available at Parkerville gala at humanitix.com/au/search/au--waa-perth/Parkerville?dates=all

For more information go to: www.parkervillegala.com.au

ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

Your local Gig Guide

Fri March 20

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

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

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

Parkerville Tavern
Charlie Scotts' Honky
Tonk Band
From 6pm, Free
6 Owen Road,
Parkerville

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Matt Sofoulis
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Sat March 21

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

Settlers House York
Lez Karski
From 6pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace
York

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

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

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

Sun March 22

Settlers House York
The Jukes of York
From 11am, Free
125 Avon Terrace York

Lyric's Bar
Long Play Sunday Vinyl
From 4pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane Maylands

Sunday Mar. 22 cont.

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Nathan Gaunt and
James Wilson
5pm-8pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

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

Tues March 24

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

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

Wed March 25

Chidlow Tavern
Muso Jam Night
7.30pm till late, Free
4 Thomas St Chidlow

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
House Grooves
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Wilde

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Thur March 26

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Creek

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Shop our Easter Collection at our Margaret River, Swan Valley and Perth City locations to stock up this season. Our factories in Margaret River and Swan Valley are open every day over Easter, including Good Friday - and if you're lucky, you might catch the Easter Bunny hopping in with free chocolate eggs! Come join the chocolatey fun.

Perth Eid Festival – A Celebration of Experiences, Culture and Faith



THE Perth Eid Festival will be held at Kingfisher Oval in Ballajura on Saturday, March 28 from 12.00pm, bringing the community together in a vibrant celebration that promotes cultural harmony and connection.

Eid-al-Fitr, also known as Eid, is one of the most significant occasions in the Islamic calendar, marking the end of Ramadan — the sacred month of dawn-to-dusk fasting.

It is a time to reflect, share joy, and strengthen the bonds that unite us as a diverse and welcoming society.

Artan Abdi from the Tanzeel Islamic Society and Event Coordinator said the festival welcomes everyone.

“We warmly invite people from all beliefs and cultures to join us in celebrating together. Whether you know someone or not, people greet each other, shake hands, share a hug, and wish one another ‘Eid Mubarak’.”



Supported by the City of Swan and the WA Government, the free event will feature food trucks, children's rides, community stalls, and entertainment for the whole family.



موسسة التنزيل
لتحفيظ القرآن الكريم
TANZEEL ISLAMIC SOCIETY

PERTH EID FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 2026

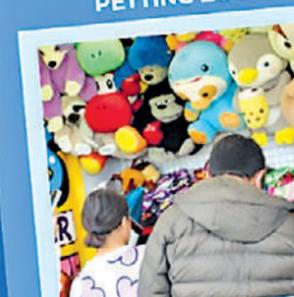
12:00pm - 09:00pm

King Fisher Oval. BALLAJURA
3 Community Mews, Ballajura

Supported by
city of swan



PETTING ZOO



STALLS



RIDES



FACEPAINT

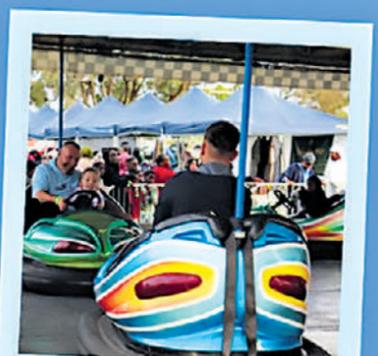


PERTH EID CUP

FREE ENTRY



FOOD



ENTERTAINMENT



GAMES

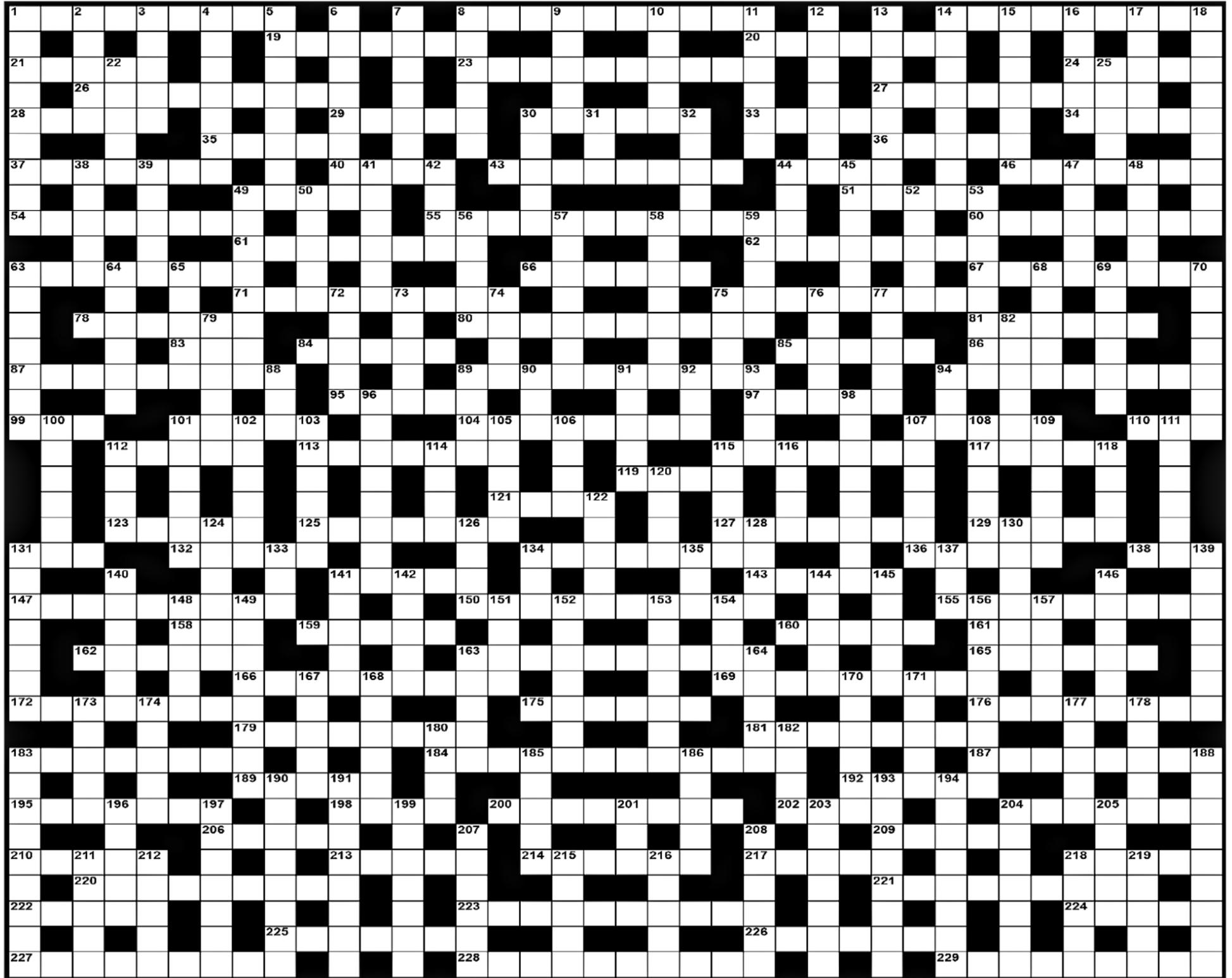
- Multicultural Food
- Thrill Rides and Activities
- Facepainting & Henna Tattoo
- multicultural Stalls and shops
- cultural performances





Mind Boggler Crossword

1260



ACROSS

- 1 Fool
- 8 Shining intermittently
- 14 Exerted force
- 19 Try to equal
- 20 Comprehend
- 21 Circular
- 23 Make ineffective
- 24 Written work
- 26 Not looked after
- 27 Stop natural course of
- 28 Measure of length
- 29 Speedily
- 30 Blood vessel
- 33 Poor areas
- 34 Tier
- 35 Use power
- 36 Wearies
- 37 Let down
- 40 Largest deer
- 43 Direct
- 44 Lake
- 46 Staying power
- 49 Quiet remark
- 51 Wear away
- 54 Lack of humour
- 55 Playing field
- 60 Highway foundations
- 61 Fall out of place
- 62 Ventilating
- 63 Make law
- 66 Read casually
- 67 Fire-resistant building material
- 71 Esteemed
- 75 Share
- 78 Horses
- 80 Turnarounds
- 81 Satirical
- 83 Fish eggs
- 84 Sarcastic
- 85 Gapes
- 86 Animal doctor (abb)

- 87 Thanks
- 89 Mix in breeding
- 94 Biblical city
- 95 de la creme
- 97 Bowling spells
- 99 Without moisture
- 101 Fire component
- 104 Held up
- 107 Turns bad
- 110 Distant
- 112 Annoyed
- 113 Talk foolishly
- 115 Insult
- 117 Slight touch
- 119 Go first
- 121 Monk's hood
- 123 Spirit-lifter
- 125 Printed sheet
- 127 Moral commandment
- 129 Single
- 131 Energy
- 132 Tribal emblem
- 134 Until now
- 136 Bottoms of feet
- 138 Edge of dress
- 141 Search into
- 143 Brag
- 147 Necessary thing
- 150 Drowsiness
- 155 Tying up
- 158 Single
- 159 Sift
- 160 Primary
- 161 Go by air
- 162 Flowering plant
- 163 Made holy
- 165 Tentacle
- 166 Authoritative
- 169 Deep respect
- 172 Persons losing blood
- 175 Sets of steps
- 176 Berate
- 179 Speak theoretically
- 181 Restless person (coll)

- 183 Poke out
- 184 Chemical in plants (5,7)
- 187 Mesh together
- 189 Plant extrusion
- 192 Correct
- 195 Set too much
- 198 Pierce
- 200 Hindrance
- 202 Free from fault
- 204 Renowned
- 206 Metal fastener
- 209 Heart valve
- 210 Vast expanse
- 213 Plants used as fence
- 214 Catches sight of
- 217 Prize
- 218 Old weapon
- 220 Scoop of tournament wins (coll) (5,4)
- 221 Heavier
- 222 Lock of hair
- 223 Erase completely
- 224 Coach
- 225 High level ground
- 226 Holiday places
- 227 Instructions
- 228 Adapted for grasping
- 229 Push between

DOWN

- 1 Confused
- 2 Climb on to
- 3 Shelf
- 4 Came to a point
- 5 Tidiness
- 6 Old-fashioned
- 7 Pillage
- 8 One who wards off
- 9 Prettier
- 10 King
- 11 Oily
- 12 Grazing land
- 13 Churchman

- 14 Annoyed
- 15 Put into words
- 16 Hard metal
- 17 Corroded
- 18 Visionary fancies
- 22 Body fibre
- 25 Fit
- 30 Later on
- 31 Hot drink
- 32 Uncouth person
- 38 Twisted around
- 39 Of the kidneys
- 41 Papal delegate
- 42 Suspicious (coll)
- 44 Method
- 45 Meal
- 47 Become putrid
- 48 Not capable
- 49 Slandered
- 50 Fetters
- 52 Give an opinion
- 53 Causative in grammar
- 56 Diminish gradually
- 57 Things aimed at
- 58 More dangerous
- 59 Large tacks
- 63 Lollid about
- 64 Smart
- 65 Not active
- 68 Thin soup
- 69 Cut into layers
- 70 Speak badly
- 72 Act without logic
- 73 Unit in an organisation
- 74 Antlered animal
- 75 Betting stake
- 76 Give speech
- 77 Repairs
- 79 Twice over
- 82 Come back
- 88 Large tree
- 89 Give over
- 90 Away from home
- 91 Tritite

- 92 Last piece
- 93 Take off
- 94 Interjection of contempt
- 96 Coarse fodder
- 98 Male fowls
- 100 Trick question
- 101 Treat with scorn
- 102 Compulsive user
- 103 Treat dead bodies
- 105 Build
- 106 Make a promise
- 107 Checks in growth
- 108 Handy
- 109 Tendons
- 111 Reach destination
- 112 Smallest member of litter
- 114 Poorly lit
- 115 Take into home
- 116 Shoot a gun
- 118 Helpful
- 120 Otherwise
- 122 Gambling pastime
- 124 Medical application
- 126 Female sheep
- 128 Long gown
- 130 Sting
- 131 Disturb greatly
- 133 Day before
- 134 Droning sound
- 135 Manage
- 137 Choose
- 139 Dominant businessman
- 140 Gag
- 141 Float along
- 142 Sweetheart
- 144 Stay
- 145 Sample
- 146 Passionate
- 148 Find the answer
- 149 Driver of a team
- 151 Precious stone
- 152 Man's neckwear
- 153 Make sure of

- 154 American singer
- 156 Caused to happen
- 157 Scavenging animal
- 163 Very good
- 164 Condescend
- 167 Farm buildings
- 168 Travelling
- 170 Harvester
- 171 Looped rope
- 173 Unevenly edged
- 174 Small missiles
- 177 Marshy ground
- 178 Block of ore
- 180 Stump
- 182 On top of
- 183 Camera for facsimile copies
- 185 Strong rope
- 186 Factories
- 188 Staying power
- 190 Covers completely

- 191 Of an isthmus
- 193 Pest found in granaries
- 194 Flowers of narcissus group
- 196 Bellows
- 197 Dealing
- 199 Cited in argument
- 201 Baba
- 203 Remove clothes
- 204 Most careless
- 205 Highest
- 207 Compensate for
- 208 Unit of current
- 211 Discharge from body
- 212 Of the nose
- 215 Metalworker
- 216 Gains by labour
- 218 Indian instrument
- 219 Rub out

Crossword Solution 1259 from 13 March, 2026

F	O	R	C	E	D	A	P	A	D	D	R	B	S	P	C	U	B	E	S	A	P	A	G	E	R	S
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Read between the lines
by Pastor
Ian Kirk
A Scared Cat



The other day I was working alongside my car on a gate controller, when I heard an object drag behind me. I thought it might be something driven by the wind. Whatever it was, it went under my car.

As I heard further noises, I looked under the car and was shocked to see a scared cat. What I had heard dragging behind me was the cat's retractable lead. As I was wondering what to do, the owner came and I pointed to the cat under the car.

This cat was so scared that it squeezed itself into the front wheel arch so that we couldn't get it. I ended up having to jack the car up. Only then, could the owner get to the cat and finally hold it in her arms.

In English we have the expression 'scaredy-cat'. This cat sure displayed that. But how lovely to see it comforted in the arms of its owner. It made me think of when we are scared and we find comfort in the arms of someone who cares for us.

God's Son Jesus has comforting arms. With arms outstretched He died on the cross to save us from the consequences of our sins. And in life, we can experience His comfort if we would turn to Him and trust in Him. We have recorded in Matthew 11:28 Jesus' kind words: "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."

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

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- Strong negotiation verbal and written skills with excellent presentation and a professional phone manner is a must.

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

Please email your resume with a cover letter to: General Manager / Editor Peter Lewis peter.lewis@echo-news.com

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

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Public Notice

COMMENTS INVITED ON DRAFT LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES

Notice is hereby given that at its Ordinary Council Meeting held on 10 March 2026, the Shire of Mundaring resolved to advertise for public comment the following draft Local Planning Policies (LPP)

- Signage and Advertisements Local Planning Policy
- Exemptions from Requiring Development Approval Local Planning Policy

The purpose of the draft Signage and Advertisements LPP is to define signage and advertisements that are exempt from requiring development approval, establish general requirements applying to signage and advertisements, and provide guidance for the determination of applications for non-exempt signage and advertisements within the Shire of Mundaring.

The purpose of the draft Exemptions from Requiring Development LPP is to exempt certain works which are not already identified within the planning framework as exempt within the Shire of Mundaring.

The draft policies can be viewed on the Shire's website: <https://engage.mundaring.wa.gov.au>.

Printed copies of the draft policies are also available at the following locations:

- Shire of Mundaring Administration Centre (7000 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring)
- Albert Facey Memorial Library (1 Nichol Street, Mundaring)
- Katharine Susannah Prichard Library (119/135 Scott Street, Helena Valley)

Submissions must be made in writing and lodged by **4.00pm on Friday 17 April 2026**. Submissions can be submitted via:

Online: Using the submission form on the Shire's Engage Mundaring website

Post to: Shire of Mundaring, 7000 Great Eastern Highway MUNDARING WA 6073

Email: shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au

Please ensure that your submission clearly identifies which policy it relates to.

Should you have any queries please contact the Shire's Planning Services on 9290 6740 or via shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au.

Jason Whiteaker
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Brigadoon residents puzzled by lot development

From p3
"This balance of title portion predated the current special rural zone provisions and as a parcel of land in this location was already below the 4ha set out in LPS 17 for this precinct of Brigadoon.

"The lot is subject to a planning approval for a single house and has been required to clear some vegetation and to be built to the highest specification of Australian standard as 3959 Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas."

Mr Amino said any single house development on the lot would not be appropriate and is calling for the immediate stoppage of works.

"The locals want to know how this has been allowed," he said.

"PEET never did anything with the lot and did the paperwork for it to be incorporated into my parents' property as they understood it wasn't developable.

"For some reason (the incorporation) was never seen to completion by the WA Planning Commission.

"We are unsure how this has been approved under delegated authority by the City of Swan as the triangle was never its own separate title so could never get built on anyway.

"The community want answers as to how and why it's been approved."

Bassendean parents question confidential sale of childcare centre

From p3
Several residents have lodged freedom of information requests seeking documents related to the decision-making process.

The town has advised those documents will be released and published on its website.

However, the consultation period closed on March 13, meaning the documents will only become available after submissions have already closed.

Community concern has grown since the announcement, with more than 400 electors signing a petition requesting a special meeting of electors to discuss the proposed sale.

A rally was held outside the Town of Bassendean offices on February 27, followed by another demonstration outside the childcare centre on March 5.

A special meeting of electors is scheduled for March 25 and a special council meeting to consider the proposed sale will be held on April 9.

Parents say the centre has strong community value, noting some families have used the service across generations.

The Town of Bassendean said the proposal formed part of a review of council services and that rising operational costs had made the childcare service increasingly difficult to sustain.

"Transitioning the centre to a private provider would allow childcare services to continue while council focused on core responsibilities."

Memorial Service

BUTCHER, June Alma Rosemary (AM)
Freeman of the City of Kalamunda
13.06.1935 – 11.03.2026

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First Darlington Half Marathon.



Runners take part in the 57th Darlington Half Marathon on March 15.

Darlington Half Marathon race draws strong turnout

DANIEL HOLMES

RUNNERS took to the Heritage Trail last Sunday as the Darlington Half Marathon and 8km Fun Run returned to the Perth Hills, attracting close to 700 participants.

The annual event, now in its 57th year, started at Darlington Oval and followed the trail through bushland towards Mundaring before looping back.

West Australian Marathon Club assistant race director Deb Anderson said 542 runners completed the half marathon, while 157 took part in the 8km event.

"It's just a really nice course, and runners like the downhill return to the finish," she said.

The half marathon course followed the heritage trail towards Sculpture Park in Mundaring before returning to Darlington, while the 8km event turned around near Glen Forrest.

Ms Anderson said the course was accessible to a wide range of runners.

"It's not a very technical course, but it's a great run," she said.

The Darlington Half Marathon was first held in 1970 with

fewer than 15 runners and has grown into one of the longest-running community running events in the Perth Hills.

The event has previously been won by Olympian Robert de Castella, who competed in the race in 1980.

The 8km event was introduced in 1986 to encourage broader participation.

Ms Anderson said the event maintained a strong community focus, supported by about 80 volunteers.

"It's a really nice community event," she said.

The event also supported Hannah's House, with the club donating between \$2000 and \$3000 each year to the charity, which provides care for children with complex medical needs.

Organisers said the club contributed more than \$36,000 to charities last year through its events and fundraising activities.

Matt Burton won the men's half marathon in one hour, 14 minutes, 49 seconds, while Ashlee Ritson won the women's race in one hour, 27 minutes, 22 seconds.

In the 8km event, Oli Jameson took out the men's race in 30 minutes, 17 seconds while Jess Byrd was the first female finisher in 30 minutes, 39 seconds.

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Upcoming Events

- **Kalamunda Prostate Cancer Support Group** meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Falls Farm, 41 Cagney Way Lesmurdie from 10am-1pm. For more information call Roy on 9295 2522 or Ray on 0427 095 892.

- **Mundaring CWA** meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10am at the CWA Centre (Sculpture Park), Jacoby Street, Mundaring. There is a general meeting and cuppa with craft and social to follow until 3pm. New members and visitors welcome. For more information call Marg on 0417 956 628.

- **Midland Men's Shed Social Tuesday** is every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am in the Baptist Church Hall, Bellevue. Our workshop at 34 Swan Avenue Midvale is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8am to 11am. Call Andy on 0419 921 805.

- **Midland Lawn Tennis Club** meets for social tennis at 9am every Wednesday and Saturday at 21 Patterson Drive, Middle Swan. All ages and standards of play welcome, and they have senior and junior teams that compete in Tennis West penants. For more information email play-tennis@midlandtennis.com.au.

- **HeadSpace Midland** is hosting a Youth Open Mic Night on Friday, April 10, from 6pm to 9pm at the Crooked Spire in Midland. It is a space where young people can share their stories through music, poetry, rap, spoken word, or any form of creative expression. Anyone aged 16 and above is invited to attend, and young people between age 12-25 are invited to get up on stage and try out expressing themselves artistically.

- **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.

- **Midland Friendly Garden Club** meets at 9.30am on alternate Thursdays at Bruce Douglas Pavilion, Brown Park, Salisbury Road, Swan View. The next meeting is on April 2. For more information call Jenny on 0424 553 002 or Barbara on 0482 935 686.

- **MATES**, now in its fifth year is a free, low key, relaxed and local Men's BBQ in an great outdoor alfresco setting. Focusing mainly on men's health and well-being, this event's main topic is 'Anger Management'. It will be held on Wednesday, March 25 from 6pm to 8pm at 1470 Stoneville Road, Mundaring (Church of Christ).

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



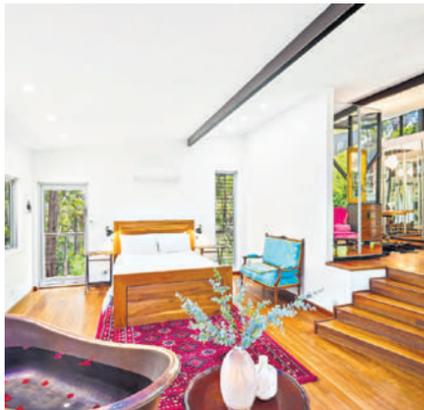
Ned is an eight-month-old wolf-hound cross. He needs a secure fence and has attended dog obedience classes which he needs for his size. Ned is very gentle but a little boisterous and is great with kids. He is sterilised, microchipped, and vaccinated. Costs Apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.



Local Real Estate

Residential
Commercial
Rural & Country

A darling retreat in Darlington



NESTLED amid mature Marri trees on a 5955sqm bush block is a property known as Carnaby's Rest which has a cottage and a studio that offers a combined two bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Within walking distance of the Darlington village, this property reflects the Perth Hills lifestyle, with peace, privacy and bird-song all within easy reach of local heritage walking trails, Swan Valley wineries, the airport and Perth city.

On the property is a Jarrah cottage combining character with contemporary comfort.

It has one bedroom and one bathroom, and was refurbished and modernised in 2021, having been completely rewired and replumbed throughout.

The kitchen is well-sized and designed with a contemporary feel in mind.

A travertine-tiled double shower bathroom with European fittings complements the large



vaulted-ceiling bedroom, fitted with plantation shutters.

Original solid Jarrah floors and cathedral ceilings with exposed beams reflect the cottage's heritage character, while modern Velux skylights draw natural light into the living areas.

Comfort is well catered for year-round, with a reverse cycle split system air-conditioner and a Norwegian wood heater.

A large undercroft utility and laundry room, along with a separate workroom and office, provide practical space for everyday living and remote working.

Outdoors, a large entertaining deck captures treetop views, while full wraparound verandas offer a variety of good sitting areas to read or simply take in the surrounding bush.

Separate to the cottage is a studio offering a

private retreat within the grounds.

Built to complement its natural environment, the studio features full-height silver mirror windows that reflect the forest canopy while maintaining privacy within.

Inside, a mirror-lined, chandelier-lit dressing room with ample wardrobe space sets a refined tone, while the sunken bedroom is centred around an oversized copper double-slipper bath.

A travertine-tiled ensuite with double shower and bidet completes what is a well-appointed separate guest accommodation.

The outdoor amenities are also a boon for the residents at Carnaby's Rest.

A private deck with glass-fenced heated spa provides an alfresco entertaining space, while an outdoor hot and cold shower and a concrete lagoon-style water lily and reed pond add to the property's relaxed lifestyle appeal.

Meandering pathways and tucked-away seating areas throughout the grounds invite exploration, and high-speed internet makes working from here a practical option.

For those with an interest in vehicles or hands-on projects, the property has a remote-controlled four-car garage which sits alongside a separate 85sqm three-phase powered shed and workshop, complete with a 3.5-tonne four-post car hoist and a gym area with rear sliding door access.

The property takes its name from the endangered Carnaby's black cockatoo, which visits the grounds each season to feed on Marri tree nuts.

Kangaroos, bandicoots and possums are frequent visitors, and the canopy supports bird life throughout the year, offering an ongoing connection to Darlington's native landscape.

Address:
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Price: From \$1.95 million
Agency:
The Agency
For more information contact
Patrick Harper on
0413 440 107

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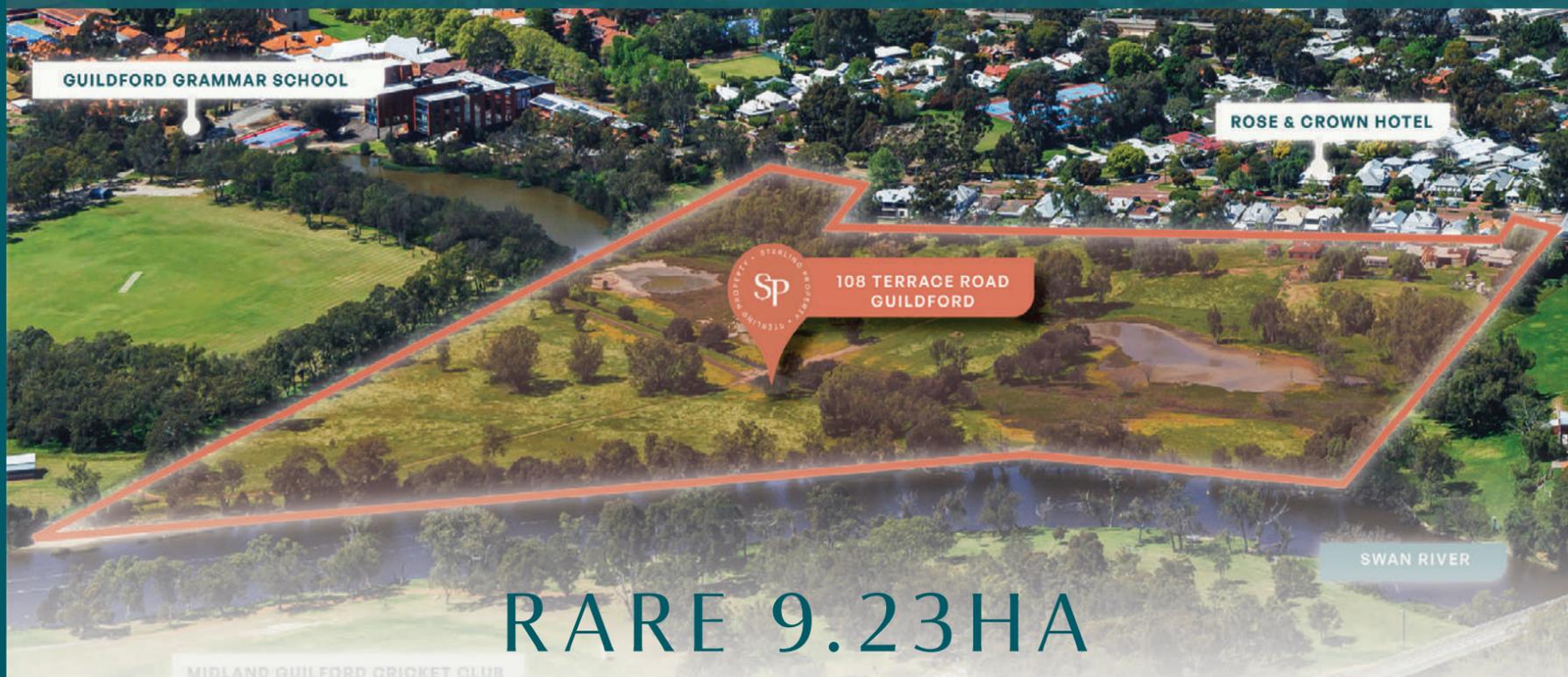
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For further information, contact Sterling Property.

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