

**Artists upset by project handling**  
**P6**

**Bassendean residents after safer street**  
**P3**

**Data centre consultation time extended**  
**P11**

# Hills residents join protest

Picture: Nancye Miles-Tweedie Photography

**Protestors formed a black cockatoo using umbrellas at a rally in Perth calling for an end to mining in jarrah forests.**

**P7**

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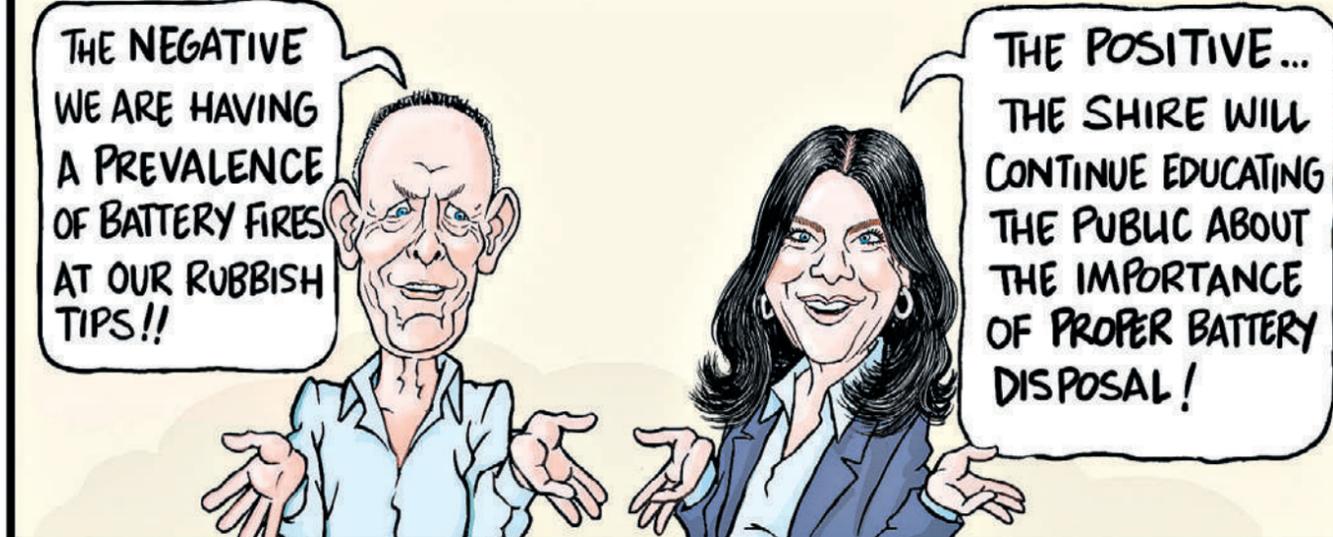
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THE NEGATIVE WE ARE HAVING A PREVALENCE OF BATTERY FIRES AT OUR RUBBISH TIPS!!

THE POSITIVE... THE SHIRE WILL CONTINUE EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER BATTERY DISPOSAL!

THE SHIRE OF CHITTERING HAVE DISCUSSED THE PREVALENCE OF BATTERY FIRES AT THEIR TIPS, COUNCILLOR JOHN CURTIS BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION DURING THE SHIRE'S MARCH MEETING, HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE MELINDA PRINSLOO REPLIED THAT THE SHIRE WOULD CONTINUE EDUCATING THE PUBLIC OF PROPER BATTERY DISPOSAL.

**ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS**

Have your say: [editorial@echo-news.com](mailto:editorial@echo-news.com)

**History turned to trash**

**Dear Echo News,**  
How to turn an iconic piece of WA history into gaudy, showy, tacky trash!  
The West Australian postal service has been in existence since December 1829 shortly after the British settlement of the Swan River Colony.  
A very important and

simple way of communicating domestically and internationally and is something which we all take for granted which is all but superseded these days.  
It is for this reason I think we should educate our younger generation on our historic past.  
Vintage red pillar post boxes are a very important part of our history and should be preserved as close to their original state as possible and it is for this reason WA heritage council has listed four on their inHerit site under 'Red Post Boxes Group'.  
Here in Bassendean, we have the oldest continuously used red pillar post box in WA 'VR1876' which celebrates its 150th anniversary this year and so the reason why Australia Post removed the box and sent to eastern states for 'specialist restoration' so it would look its finest for celebrations and commemorations later in the year which was recently returned.  
All I can say is perhaps Aust Post should stick to delivering letters and parcels as they have not much of a clue about history.  
The pillar box now looks like something you would buy from Temu at Christmas time, crass and artifi-

cial looking, tacky and has lost all of its simple unique authentic historic charm!  
Our red pillar post box is now red, green and an abundance of gaudy gold.  
What an embarrassment!  
West Australian vintage post boxes are small simple and elegant and not showy and tacky like their east coast counterparts.  
Do your homework Australia Post!  
**G Coleman Bassendean**

**Thought for the day**  
"Always and never are two words you should always remember never to use."  
**- Wendell Johnson**

**Hazelmere data centre concerns**

**Dear Echo News,**  
Thank you for your article *Proposed new data centre comes under fire* (Echo News, March 6) alerting the public to the proposed industrial building of a \$600 million data centre facility on the bank of the Helena River in Hazelmere.  
Incredulously this noisy and imposing proposed location is next to a school to the west and an environmentally sensitive area to the north.  
It is the height of an eight-storey residential building and the noise from 64 evaporatively cooled chillers running 24/7 will destroy the amenity of this environmentally and culturally sensitive area.  
It's important to understand that whilst the City of Swan will not be the decision maker for this application, city planning staff prepare a Recommended Authority Report (RAR) for JDAP to consider as part of their determination.  
Therefore, we encourage the public to urge the City of Swan to use their own guidelines to interrogate the enormous scale of this application and to ask our JDAP council rep-

resentatives (councillors Henderson, Zannino and Congerton) to object to this proposal.  
The proposal fails on issues of noise pollution, energy consumption and air pollution, water consumption and waste water, impact on Aboriginal heritage, inconsistency with the Hazelmere Enterprise Area Structure Plan, clearing of mature trees including old growth local native species and being of no benefit to the local community (despite the obvious impacts on the electricity grid, water consumption, noise, the discharge of waste water into a conservation category wetland, clearing of trees and loss of amenity, etc).  
For further info break down please see Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group posts on social media.  
The application is exactly the sort of conflicting land use that the City of Swan's Hazelmere Enterprise Area Structure Plan (HEASP) was designed to avoid.  
The intent of the HEASP is clearly set out on page 1: "HEA Structure Plan seeks to simultaneously facilitate appropriate industrial growth whilst protecting sensitive wetlands, ground and surface water and surrounding residents."  
Section 7.2 "Design Philosophy" includes the following objectives: "Create land use interface that safe guards the quality of life for landowners and surrounding residents" and "Minimise environmental impacts and strengthen ecological links through the locality".  
Also, it has been a

very short time frame for the public to respond to this application; we hope the City of Swan will extend the public consultation period rather than another disastrous development application slipping through to JDAP that the public are unaware of.  
Any member of the public can submit their views to the City of Swan and councillors, and you can make a two minute submission at the JDAP hearing, but by then it will be too late!  
**Francesca Irwin Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group**

*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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# Bassendean residents petition for safer street

GUANHAO CHENG

**LONG-TIME Bassendean resident Manuel Sammut says he is frustrated by the growing prevalence of crime along Old Perth Road and is petitioning for safer streets.**

Mr Sammut made a deputation to the Town of Bassendean council during the ordinary meeting, asking for installation of CCTV cameras, improved street lighting and collaborating with state government for infrastructural upgrades.

The petition requests the installation of fixed security cameras along the stretch of Old Perth Road between Guildford Road and the West Road roundabout due to ongoing issues with antisocial behaviour.

“(These include) vandalism, loitering, aggressive behaviour, and damage to property,” the petition stated.

“These incidents have negatively impacted the safety, wellbeing, and confidence of local residents, business owners, staff, and customers.

“The absence of adequate surveillance has made it increasingly difficult to deter such behaviour or assist authorities in identifying and responding to incidents when they occur.

“The installation of visible security cameras would act as a strong deterrent, improve public safety, support local law enforcement, and help restore confidence in this important commercial and community precinct.”

The petition asks the Town of Bassendean to investigate the feasibility of security cameras along the specified stretch of Old Perth Road, consult with business and stakeholders in the area about best camera placement, and prioritise the project.

There were 34 businesses who signed the petition as of March 16.

Mr Sammut said he felt something had to be done to keep the area he’s called home for many years safe.

“I’ve always been in Bassendean and it’s my old stomping grounds and I’d hate to see its character destroyed,” he said.

“Mum used to buy clothes from the jumble shops, and I’ve known the area my whole life.



**Bassendean residents Manuel and Michael Sammut say the crime on Old Perth Road needs to be reduced however possible. Picture: Guanhao Cheng**

“A lot of people are losing hope and just living with the crime rate but I thought to myself, ‘I have to do something about it.’”

The Town of Bassendean director of community and place Michelle Brennand spoke to the item, as the writer of the report, and recommended the petition be rejected but concerns raised be implemented in their item.

The petition was rejected on grounds that it did not meet the town’s petition criteria; however, this did not mean the petition failed to inform council action.

Ms Brennand’s report called on council to acknowledge the petition and treat it as correspondence worthy of consideration and to accept the report as another path to address the matters raised in the petition.

It proposed a development of a CCTV strategy that would

be subject to approval in the development of the 2026/27 budget.

The locations of the CCTV cameras will be determined by the strategy which will be developed over the coming months.

Mr Sammut said he wanted the Town of Bassendean to understand that his request was for the cameras to be for the surveillance of the public thoroughfare on Old Perth Road for the safety of the public.

“The businesses have their own cameras to look after us and so what we’re asking is for cameras along the street pointed to the public areas,” he said.

“What we need now are cameras that can deter antisocial and criminal behaviour on Old Perth Road for the community.

“That’s the important part and I want to be very clear, because workers on this road right now are scared for their safety and we need something done.”

The report estimated the CCTV rebate scheme would cost the town about \$30,000 to upgrade existing infrastructure and add additional infrastructure.

Mr Sammut was concerned by the time frame suggested by the report and said waiting until the plan could be enacted through the 2026/2027 budget was too late.

During the March 24 meeting, Ms Brennand amended her report to reflect that the 2026/2027 budget time constraint was now removed with the caveat that the town still needed to be in a position to implement their commercial CCTV rebate.

However, the criteria for the CCTV rebate scheme and the related policy are yet to be developed and will be bought back to council for consideration and decision once ready.

In the event the council was in a position to action the rebate, the CCTV installations wouldn’t be immediate as a framework, principles and eligibility criteria still needed to be built by the Town of Bassendean, meaning there is still no definite timeline on a solution yet.

“I want to make sure we get this right,” Mr Sammut said.

“The cameras have to be for the community – we’re not asking for them to be pointed at the businesses, but for people walking on the street to feel and be safer.”

# Kalamunda community stands opposed to public park event

BRAYDEN MOULD

**A NEWLY formed community group is taking a stand against the City of Kalamunda’s proposed commercial lease of Jorgensen Park, concerned the event could push local populations of threatened black cockatoos to the brink of extinction.**

The Jorgensen Park Community Action Group (JPCAG) has launched a campaign to halt the four-to-five-month lease until a full assessment is conducted by the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

The group argues this review is required under the federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity (EPBC) Act 1999, which mandates oversight for any action on Commonwealth land likely to have significant environmental impact.

As reported in *Kalamunda residents call for public park transparency* (Echo News, March 13), a 15ha portion of the park is expected to be used for an undisclosed ticketed event likely to include strobing lights and sounds that could have damaging effects on local wildlife.

JPCAG member Alan Malcom said the community is worried about the event’s impacts on three endangered black cockatoo species, which use the site as a nexus for foraging and roosting.

“When somebody is proposing to take an action that will have a potentially significant impact on endangered species in the area, they have to go through an assessment process,” he said.

“This is outlined in the EPBC, but the council, regarding this issue in the community questions they’ve answered, have stated they don’t think this needs an assessment.

“Our group, respectfully, believes that to be entirely incorrect.”

Mr Malcom said while the immediate disturbances are a concern, the long-term implications for the species’ future reproduction is even more critical.

“The current rate is that they’re only producing 0.6 of a chick every year, which doesn’t even replace one of the adults,” he said.

“Anything that tips the balance between them being healthy enough to breed or not must be considered before something like this event goes ahead.

“Contrary to what people might think, this isn’t about being NIMBY’s, it’s about the effect this could have on a species that needs that area



**Jorgensen Park Community Action Group says the ticketed event could have a significant impact on the local cockatoo population.**

to survive.

“It’s just the wrong place, at the wrong time of year, at the wrong time of day, and for far too long of a duration.”

Data from Birdlife WA from their 2025 Great Cocky Count confirms the 15ha event footprint directly overlaps documented roosting sites for three threatened species: the critically endangered Baudin’s cockatoo, the endangered Carnaby’s cockatoo, and the vulnerable Forest red-tailed black cockatoo.

A public petition against the event on Change.org has recently surpassed 1600 signatures as of March 24.

“There are several levels to this, ranging from neighbours concerned about the noise and disruption, park users worried about losing access for walking and biking, and groups like ours who believe it is wrong because of the impact on endangered species,” he said.

“I know other groups have legitimate concerns, but to me, the danger impacting these threatened species seems to be the most powerful argument against this proposal.”

The action group is calling for the city to commit to a full environmental review before the event goes ahead in April.

“Our aim is to prevent this event from proceeding in this location, because we believe the combined factors of lighting, noise, and duration present a significant impact on endangered species,” Mr Malcom said.

“An assessment on the impact this could have on the cockatoo’s roosting in the area should be done before any future decisions are made.”

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Tree canopy along a High Wycombe street, increases shade and greenery. Picture: Daniel Holmes.

## Perth Hills urged to boost tree canopy

DANIEL HOLMES

**COMMUNITY groups and councils in the Perth Hills are being encouraged to apply for new greening grants of up to \$100,000 aimed at increasing tree canopy and reducing urban heat.**

The state government has opened applications for the Let's Grow grants program, which supports projects such as tree planting in streets, parks, school grounds and other urban spaces.

Planning Minister John Carey said the funding would help improve liveability across Perth and Peel.

"Our \$10 million urban greening commitment provides direct support to projects that will boost tree canopy across Perth and Peel," he said.

Grants ranging from \$500 to \$100,000 are available for small and large projects, with schools, community groups and local governments eligible to apply.

The program focuses on increasing shade and vegetation in built-up areas, with the aim of cooling suburbs and improving local environments, particularly in areas with limited existing

canopy.

Education Minister Sabine Winton said greening projects could also benefit young people.

"Actively greening our schools will give young people a strong connection to nature," she said.

The program is open to groups across the Perth Hills, with councils and community organisations encouraged to consider how the funding could be used to expand canopy in their areas, including planting along streets, in public reserves and around community facilities.

Increasing tree canopy has been identified as a key way to reduce heat in urban areas, improve air quality and enhance the liveability of local communities.

The grants form part of a broader push to increase urban tree cover across Perth and Peel, with projects expected to deliver long-term environmental and community benefits.

Applications can be made online through the state government's Let's Grow grants program website, with details available on the WA government website.

## Kalamunda Show to celebrate 125 years



The Kalamunda Show is expected to be even bigger and better this year.

MIKE PEETERS

**THE Kalamunda Show celebrates its 125th anniversary this year with two massive fireworks displays and an extensive range of stalls, competitions and exhibits to make this event extra special.**

Attractions include sideshows and rides, a log chop competition, animal nursery, alpaca show, sheep dog demonstrations, vintage cars, RAC interactive helicopter display and Armadale reptile display.

The Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre will have a stall as will the City of Kalamunda, and there will be traditional show competitions in crafts, cookery, horticulture, art and photography.

Other clubs and organisations include the machinery preservation club, Kalamunda lapidary club and the 10th light horse regiment.

Popular band Daren Reid and the Soul City Groove will appear on Saturday night with an extensive repertoire of songs for all ages, from classic 60s rock and roll to the 70s disco era, as well as the best of the 80s through to current top 40 hits.

Run by the Kalamunda Agricultural Society and volunteers, the Kalamunda Show has seen a resurgence among the community in recent years, with strong attendances and visitors from outside the district.

The motto of the show is 'Our show - Our community' and chairman Nat Coppin said the show had been fostering community connection since 1898.

"The show was only cancelled during both world wars and during the Covid epidemic," Mr Coppin said.

He said the show was an important cultural cele-

bration providing a vibrant platform for celebrating the diverse cultures within the community.

"It also provides a significant economic boost to the local community while attracting visitors from many surrounding areas," Mr Coppin said.

"The family friendly environment offers a wide range of activities and performances that appeal to all age groups."

He added the show also helped local businesses, vendors and artisans promote their products while demonstrating a commitment to social responsibility and community involvement.

City of Kalamunda mayor Margaret Thomas said the city had a long history of supporting the show through annual sponsorship, year-round maintenance of Kostera Oval and ongoing collaboration with organisers.

"We congratulate the show on reaching its remarkable 125-year milestone - a testament to its enduring place in our community," Mrs Thomas said.

"We are also grateful for the decades of service from former chairman Wayne Garwood whose leadership, advocacy and commitment to youth involvement helped secure the show's future."

"His recognition as Community Citizen of the Year in 2025 reflects the significant and lasting contribution he has made to our community."

The Kalamunda Show continues to bring people together and celebrate the spirit of our Hills community, and the city is proud to support it again this year."

The show opens at 5pm on Friday, April 10 and continues from 10am to 7pm on Saturday, April 11 at Kostera Oval, Kalamunda.

For more information go to: [www.facebook.com/kalamundashow](http://www.facebook.com/kalamundashow)

## Notice of Proposed Local Law

### Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places

Local Government Act 1995 [s. 3.12(3)]

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 [r. 3A]

The Council of the City of Kalamunda resolved on 24 March 2026 to give local public notice of the proposed Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law.

#### Purpose

The purpose of the proposed local law is to provide for the regulation, management and control of activities on thoroughfares and public places throughout the district.

#### Effect

The effect of this local law is that any person being on or in a thoroughfare or a public place in the district must comply with the requirements of the local law.

#### Have your say

A copy of the proposed local law may be inspected at the City of Kalamunda Administration Centre at 2 Railway Road, Kalamunda and City Libraries during normal opening hours. Electronic copies of the proposed local law can be viewed on the City's website at [www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au](http://www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au).

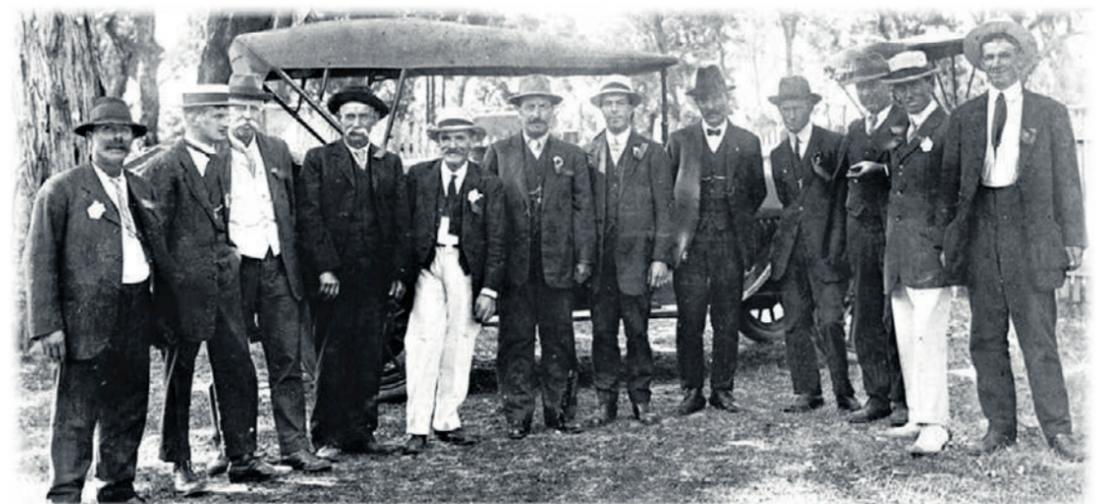
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 In person: Drop-off at 2 Railway Road, Kalamunda  
 Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm

Submissions close 5pm Friday 15 May 2026

Anthony Vuleta  
 Chief Executive Officer



[kalamunda.wa.gov.au](http://kalamunda.wa.gov.au)



An early photo of Kalamunda Horticultural Committee members. The show began as the recognised inaugural function of the Horticultural Society in 1898.



A picnic lunch at the Kalamunda Show in 1903 near the war memorial. The man in the bowler hat is E. Owen of Carmel. Pictures: Kalamunda Agricultural Society.

# Chittering council acknowledges phone towers need upgrading



**GUANHAO CHENG**

**THE Shire of Chittering council unanimously voted to acknowledge the area's telecommunication vulnerabilities when a power outage occurred, resolving to advocate for the community.**

The officer's recommendation was to note the electors' decision that the shire requires backup power for phone towers and the chief executive needed to be instructed to write to the relevant service providers and state and federal representatives to advocate for adequate backup power systems.

Cr Curtis moved and spoke to the motion, supporting the officer's recommendation.

Cr Curtis asked Shire of Chittering chief executive Melinda Prinsloo to explain how the backup power worked in the event of a power outage.

Ms Prinsloo said phone towers, generally did have back-up power.

"If my memory serves it's for six hours and

after that the key infrastructure have generators allocated to them," she said.

"So if the power is out for a longer period for some of the key towers that feed more than one line, they have got generators from the teleco and NBN infrastructure teams to power up those towers."

Cr Curtis asked if the backup power had improved since the storm damage Chittering had had last year which took out all communications.

Ms Prinsloo said it would be difficult to know if it had improved unless put to the test again.

"What typically happens in these cases is that (we are affected by) a storm cell always classified as something that (could not be foreseen).

"In the normal run of winter or summer storms they (the teleco and NBN infrastructure teams) should be able to cope with it.

"It is (usually when) it's a storm cell that's unexpected or an event that's unexpected that puts pressure on the systems."

Cr Curtis expressed some confusion at the

explanation and asked if Shire of Chittering President David Dewar believed the community understood the technicalities.

"I would say they would," Cr Dewar said.

Ms Prinsloo added that the infrastructure was not the shire's responsibility however acknowledged the shire did usually attempt to help community members communicate in the event of a telecommunications infrastructure failure.

"What we can do, and what we (already) do, is invite the community to come into the library, where we have a generator and air conditioning available if it's summer and it's hot," she said.

"We also have community Wi-Fi available for people to stay in contact with their loved ones, so we will promote this more in cases like that because that is a satellite connection (and) not your normal power connection.

"We will be promoting what we do to our community to assist them but other than that, it would be up to people to remain informed with their own service providers."

# Chittering tip fires spark council concern

**GUANHAO CHENG**

**BATTERY fires were a concern for the Shire of Chittering council upon receiving their work health and safety statistics report for February.**

During discussions about the Shire of Chittering's work health and safety report, Councillor John Curtis asked how to combat the prevalence of fires at the shire's landfills.

Muchea Landfill experienced their most recent fire on February 8, according to the report.

Cr Curtis said he noticed the Muchea Landfill site had become an area of focus due to the frequency of fires.

"There had been a couple of fires down at

the Muchea tip," he said.

"I wonder how serious they were."

Shire of Chittering chief executive officer Melinda Prinsloo said the shire had two fires, with one flaring up again.

"They were all in single cells of our tip, so it didn't spread very widely, and we suspect it was due to lithium batteries - small ones that would be in a vape or something," she said.

"Because they don't stop burning until it's all burnt out, it sets the rubble in the area alight.

"However, they were put out quite easily by having the compactor run over them, but some of them reignited later."

Ms Prinsloo said the fire was not widespread, and where the fire was burning larg-

er, air tests were done to ensure the nearby residents weren't at risk at all through air pollution.

"(No) big fires and they were still contained, so not a big issue for us," she said.

Cr Curtis said it seemed a lot of fires had occurred at the tips from batteries and asked if any safety measures could be taken.

"It seems there's a fire every month," he said.

Ms Prinsloo said the battery fire issue would go on for a while.

"The best thing we can do is education, and we will continue to educate the community through Facebook posts and sharing information as to what these small batteries, even if they're very little, can cause," she said.



Councillor John Curtis and Shire of Chittering chief executive officer Melinda Prinsloo.

The council voted unanimously to accept the work health and safety report.

For residents, battery disposal locations closest to them may be found on the Recycle Right website.



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# Swan Valley artists upset by sculpture project handling

GUANHAO CHENG

**A PLAN to bring an internationally acclaimed Portuguese street artist to the Swan Valley to create a government-funded sculpture trail has drawn sharp backlash from some of the region's most established artists.**

The WA Government has committed \$2.2 million to a sculpture trail featuring the work of Artur Bordalo, known internationally as Bordalo II, to be delivered through arts organisation FORM.

Mr Bordalo visited the Swan Valley to explore a range of locations for the project as reported in *World renowned sculptor explores the Swan Valley* (*Echo News*, March 13).

A government spokesperson said it was hoped the project would have the same impact as the Giants of Mandurah, which drew significant visitor numbers to the Peel region, adding there was a strong community tie-in with local artists, businesses and fabricators engaged to assist in the build and installation.

However, Swan Valley sculptor and arts identity Antonio Battistessa, whose studio in the valley spanned 50 years of work with recycled materials, said he and fellow artists were effectively presented with a fait accompli rather than consulted as partners.

"This was not a dialogue, this was a one-way announcement," he said.

"FORM came to me with an olive branch after they've made all the decisions, after they've made a contract.

"We were told we were consulted but the chats I had with FORM weren't anything formal, and then the big decisions were made without us.

"The artists of the valley were not prioritised when the valley has what it takes to make recycled art here and we

can work in any medium you name.

"You don't come to us once you've made the contract."

The state government spokesperson disputed that characterisation, with a spokesperson saying FORM had held multiple individual stakeholder engagement sessions with Swan Valley community members.

"During his recent visit, acclaimed artist Artur Bordalo (Bordalo II) met with Swan Valley Elders, as well as long-standing local Aboriginal tourism operator Dale Tillbrook and other key community members to discuss the work," they said.

"The WA Government will continue to work with the region's artists to deliver opportunities for skill sharing, knowledge transfer, and artistic participation throughout the project and ahead of its launch.

"There is a strong community tie-in with this project, with local artists, businesses and fabricators all being engaged to assist in the build and installation of these sculptures.

"This includes opportunities to contribute to associated activations and programming, and engagement through complementary commissions and creative initiatives linked to the trail."

Mr Battistessa, who said he was a founding member of the Swan Valley Tourist Alliance, said the valley's artists consisted of internationally exhibited sculptors, potters and Aboriginal cultural practitioners who represented a depth of creative heritage the project failed to recognise.

"We are tourism, and we built the original visitor centre with our money," he said.

"Tourism is service and providing an unforgettable experience that

makes everyone feel special, and you have to invest in the place and its people.

"I want to make it clear that it's not about me alone, it's about the Swan Valley community and making sure that we have the voice to tell our story and with our hands."

Swan Valley sculptor Ron Gomboc, who with his wife Terrie operated one of the valley's longest-standing sculpture galleries, wrote to *Echo News* to express similar concerns.

"We find it very disrespectful to local sculptors who are the fabric of local heritage and have been totally ignored, despite the fact they have been full-time sculptors, in some cases, for decades," the Gombocs wrote.

"They did not deserve to be overlooked."

The government said opportunities also existed for local artists to contribute to associated activations, programming and complementary commissions linked to the trail, with the spokesperson describing it as a destination-driving attraction that would boost Swan Valley businesses and jobs.

Mr Battistessa said his preference was a straightforward proper, formal meeting with all stakeholders at the table before decisions were locked in, but felt things had progressed past that point.

"Any person wanting to come and be part of us and work in collaboration can be from anywhere in the world, but invite them to do a masterclass with us," he said.

"Come and see recycling, 50 years of recycling, and let's share and trade perspectives.

"At least put the Swan Valley's voice and decision-making first if you want to represent us."



Swan Valley artist Antonio Battistessa with his sculpture made of recycled parts. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

## Greyhound group seeks new venue for pet adoption days

DANIEL HOLMES

**A GREYHOUND adoption group is seeking a second venue in the Perth Hills as it looks to expand its reach and connect with more potential adopters.**

Retired Four Legged Athletes Perth is currently looking for a community space, business or market where it can hold adoption days and showcase greyhounds available for rehoming.

The group posted in local community pages seeking interest from venues in the Perth Hills and surrounding areas, inviting businesses and organisations to get involved.

Organisers say adoption days allow members of the public to meet retired racing greyhounds in a relaxed setting and learn more about the process of rehoming.

Greyhounds are commonly rehomed through

adoption programs after retiring from racing, with groups across Western Australia working to place dogs into suitable homes.

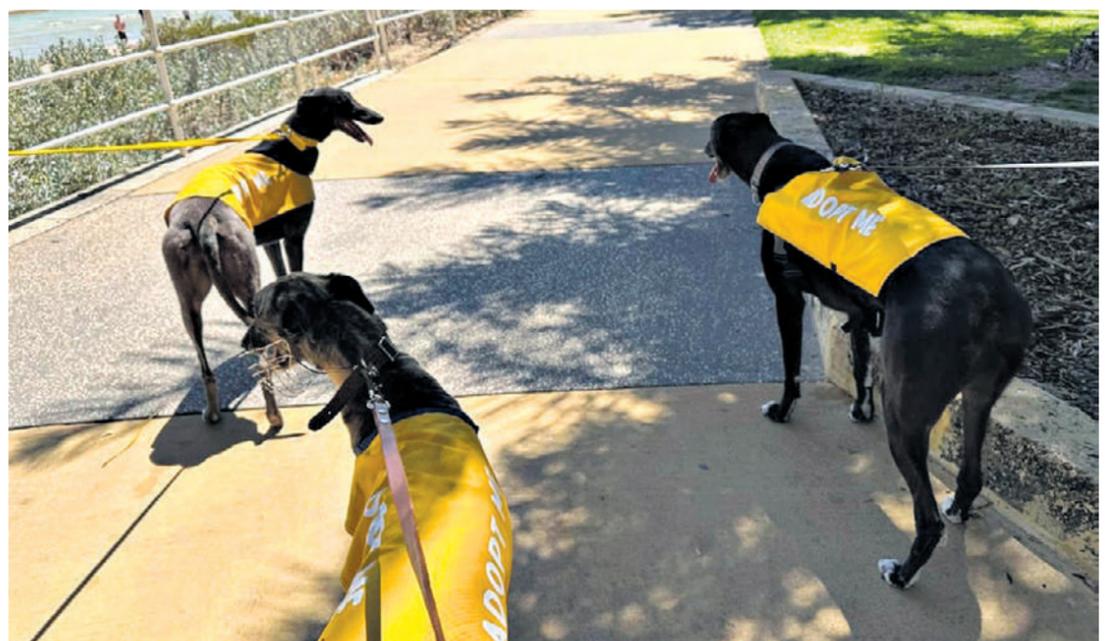
Advocates say the dogs are generally known for their calm nature and can adapt well to a range of living environments, including suburban households.

The organisation said its greyhounds enjoy meeting new people and benefit from regular interaction during public events.

It is now looking to establish an additional location to complement its existing activities and reach more communities, including those in the Perth Hills.

Local markets, community spaces and small businesses are among the types of venues being considered for future adoption days.

Businesses or community groups interested in hosting adoption days can contact Retired Four Legged Athletes Perth through its facebook page.



Greyhounds at a public adoption event, as a Perth-based group looks to expand into the Hills. Picture: Retired Four Legged Athletes Perth facebook.

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Protesters gathered in Perth as part of the March for Forests campaign.

## Perth Hills residents join forest protest

DANIEL HOLMES

**MORE than 3000 people gathered in Perth on Sunday, March 22 for a forest protection protest, with residents from across the Perth Hills among those calling for an end to mining in jarrah forests.**

The march, held in the CBD, formed part of the nationwide March for Forests campaign organised by the Bob Brown Foundation, with rallies held in multiple locations across Australia.

Protest organiser Paddy Cullen said strong support came from eastern suburbs and hills communities, with trains from Midland filled with people travelling into the city to take part.

“The trains were full of people from Midland on Sunday, travelling into Perth to march for the forests,” he said.

Hundreds of participants gathered in a formation representing a black cockatoo before being joined by thousands marching through the city.

The protest focused on concerns about bauxite mining in the Northern Jarrah Forest, which stretches through the Darling Range and borders Perth Hills communities including Mundaring and Kalamunda.

Groups with ties to the Perth Hills were among those taking part, including Jarrah Forest Protectors, who led the march, and Nannas for Native Forests, who joined the opening formation.

Participants used black and red umbrellas to form the shape of a black cockatoo, highlighting concerns about the species and its habitat.

Protest organisers said the Northern Jarrah Forest provides habitat for native species including black cockatoos and supports ecosystems across the region.

The forest also plays a critical role in Perth’s water supply, with catchments in the Darling Range providing drinking water to much of the metropol-

itan area.

Mr Cullen said the campaign aimed to protect what he described as one of the world’s most biodiverse temperate forests.

“We are losing the jarrah forest, the only one of its kind on the planet, as clearing continues for bauxite mining,” he said.

He said the issue also had direct implications for water supplies, with forest catchments playing a key role in Perth’s drinking water.

Local concerns about water security have also been raised by advocacy group Save Perth Hills, particularly around the potential for contamination in dam catchments if mining expands.

The Water Corporation has previously warned contamination risks could arise if mining expands in catchment areas, with concerns about long-term impacts on water quality and the cost of remediation.

Organisers said more than 15,000 people took part in protests nationwide, including at least 3000 in Perth.

Mr Cullen said the turnout reflected growing concern about forest clearing and mining activity.

“The strong showing from across Perth backs the passion of thousands who have called for stronger protections,” he said.

Protest organisers said public pressure is increasing on decision-makers, with calls for greater protection of native forests and stricter limits on clearing and mining activities.

The protest comes as the Environmental Protection Authority considers future decisions on bauxite mining expansion in Western Australia.

While the protest took place in the city, its focus remains closely tied to the Perth Hills, where jarrah forest forms a significant part of the local landscape and water catchment system.

Further decisions on mining activity in jarrah forest areas are expected later this year.

## Hills brigades call for volunteers



Volunteer firefighters from the Chidlow Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade respond to the Beechina bushfire earlier this month. Picture: Chidlow Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.

DANIEL HOLMES

**BUSHFIRE brigades across the Perth Hills are seeking new volunteers as crews prepare for the next fire season following another demanding summer.**

A Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) spokesperson said volunteers play a critical role in emergency response across Western Australia, particularly in bushfire-prone areas such as the Perth Hills.

DFES Commissioner Darren Klemm said “without volunteers, emergency services would be severely stretched. We rely on each and every one of them to keep our communities safe.”

A DFES spokesperson said local crews responded to a number of incidents over summer, including recent fires in areas such as Beechina, highlighting the ongoing need for trained volunteers.

“Volunteer firefighters are often among the first to respond to bushfires, particularly in semi-rural areas where access can be challenging and conditions can change quickly,” the spokesperson said.

Brigades in the Shire of Mundaring, City of Kal-

amunda and surrounding hills communities rely heavily on volunteers to respond to fires, assist with hazard reduction and support emergency efforts throughout the year.

In the Perth Hills, brigades typically begin recruiting after summer, with training for new volunteers starting in April as crews prepare for the next bushfire season.

Volunteers undertake training in fire response, equipment use and safety procedures.

“Not all roles involve active firefighting, with support roles such as communications, logistics and incident management also essential during emergency responses,” a DFES spokesperson said.

A DFES volunteer said the hills community depended heavily on local crews.

“Our community is at high risk of bushfire, it’s a great way to give back and contribute,” he said.

DFES said maintaining volunteer numbers outside of peak fire season was critical, with brigades preparing year-round for future incidents.

Residents interested in volunteering can contact their local brigade or visit the DFES website for more information.

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## Hills Wildflower Society workshop



Wildflowers in WaterUps wicking pots. Picture Rachel Green

**IF you ever wanted to know more about how to grow beautiful local wildflowers in pots then a workshop by the Eastern Hills branch of the Wildflower Society will be of interest.**

The workshop will be held on Saturday, April 18 from 10am to 12pm at the Octagonal Hall, 52 McGlew Road, Glen Forrest.

Local wildflowers can make beautiful pot plants, whatever size of garden or space you have.

Learn how to grow them, the types of pots to choose and which plants grow best at this highly interactive, informative and fun talk with local plant and bird enthusiasts Rachel and Mike Green.

While the couple only have a small garden in the Perth Hills they supplement it with more than 190 pots including 76 wicking pots and grow glorious displays of local wildflowers and plants in them.

Their garden featured on ABC TV's Gardening Australia in August 2025 and in an eight-page spread in Gardening Australia magazine in September.

Their flowers are that good! "We grow local wildflowers and have had the most success by using wicking pots which have water at the bottom so the plants can suck up water whenever they want it," Mrs Green said.

"I have found that by putting water meters in them I don't ever have to guess when the pots need filling and thus we don't waste water. The flowers are beautiful and grow better in those than in the garden."

Attendees will discover where to get the plants, the best pots available and where to place them, gain tips on watering, fertilising, propagating and even slug management, and learn what plants or seeds would be good to purchase at the Eastern Hills branch plant sale in May.

All this is supported by beautiful and inspiring photographs and local plant examples, and even a wicking pot demonstration.

Cost is \$15 or \$10 for Wildflower Society members and to book go to <https://events.humanitix.com/growing-beautiful-wildflowers-in-pots> or email [pamela.riordan@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.riordan@gmail.com)



Bushland damaged by the Beechina fire, which has renewed focus on bushfire preparedness in the Perth Hills. Picture: Daniel Holmes.

## Beechina bushfire highlights ongoing risk in Perth Hills

**THE recent Beechina bushfire has highlighted ongoing bushfire risk across the Perth Hills, after a blaze threatened homes in the Shire of Mundaring.**

The fire burned through bushland and prompted emergency warnings as crews worked to contain it, with residents told there was a possible threat to lives and homes as conditions changed.

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) District Officer Shaun Champ said the fire was accidentally ignited by machinery about 2.15pm on Wednesday, March 11.

Authorities later downgraded the alert level, with the fire brought under control.

Volunteer bushfire brigades were among those responding to the incident, with crews working in challenging conditions.

The blaze also had a significant environmental impact, with about three million bees killed after 50 hives were destroyed.

In a statement shared online, the Shire of Mundaring said it had been in contact with affected residents to check on their wellbeing and offer support where practical.

"We understand this has been a difficult time

for those impacted and our thoughts are with the community," the shire said.

The shire also described the incident as "a timely reminder to stay informed and prepared".

DFES continues to urge residents in bushfire-prone areas, including the Perth Hills, to prepare their properties and have a bushfire survival plan in place.

Emergency warnings issued during the fire advised residents to stay alert, monitor conditions and be ready to act if the situation worsened.

The Perth Hills is considered a high-risk bushfire area, with dense vegetation and steep terrain contributing to fire behaviour.

DFES advises residents to reduce fuel around their homes, maintain firebreaks and stay informed through official channels during emergencies.

The environmental impact of the Beechina blaze has also drawn attention, with beekeeper Dave Leyland, whose hives were destroyed in the fire, saying the loss would impact the beekeeping and pollination industry.

DFES and the Shire of Mundaring continue to assess the impact of the blaze.

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## New law to protect retail workers closer

**LEGISLATION to tackle retail crime by better protecting retail workers from violent and aggressive behaviour is closer to becoming law after it was recently passed by the Legislative Assembly.**

The legislation is part of the Cook government's election commitment to tackle retail crime and introduce additional measures to protect retail workers and shoppers from violent and aggressive individuals.

The Retail Barring Orders Bill 2025 will give employers, shopping centre owners, and unions the power to apply to the courts to ban individuals from shops and shopping centres.

A Retail Barring Order (RBO) can last up to two years for adults and one year for children.

Penalties of up to five years imprisonment for serious or persistent RBO breaches will apply.

The retail barring order legislation is part of a broader package of reforms including laws introduced in 2024 creating the new offence of assaulting a retail worker.

Between July 2024 and mid-February 2026, there have been 534 convictions recorded for the new retail assaults offence.

The legislation, which will now move to the Legislative Council, includes safeguards to ensure people subject to barring orders can still access essential services and groceries.

Attorney General Dr Tony Buti said the retail sector currently employs about 138,000 people which represents more than 8 per cent of the state's workforce.

"WA's retail sector plays a vital role in the economy and community but its workforce can be vulnerable, and we are determined to give

them better protections.

"This law will provide an enforceable way for threatening and violent people to be banned from entering retail premises."

Police Minister Reece Whitby said retail workers deserve to feel safe at work and these new retail barring orders give police stronger powers to deal with people who threaten or assault staff and ensure repeat offenders face serious consequences.

"These laws send a clear message that violence in our shops will not be tolerated and provides police the additional tools to tackle retail crime and help keep workers, shoppers and the community safe."



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# Kindness counts for charity worker and pageant finalist



Ms Perovic with RSPCA WA chief development officer Carol Morfitt at RSPCA Midland.

MIKE PEETERS

**OVER** the past few months, schoolgirl and charity worker Alexis Perovic (13) has been working with RSPCA Midland to donate bedding, towels, blankets, toys, bowls and pet food to support animals in need.

Ms Perovic said she was keen to share her mission and learn more about the organisation's vital work.

After a recent meeting with RSPCA WA chief development officer Carol Morfitt, Ms Perovic said her resolve to continue advocating for animal welfare and supporting the RSPCA was even stronger.

Ms Perovic's mother Illona Perovic said her daughter's fundraising platform Kindness Counts championed the importance of everyday kindness, emotional wellbeing, and connection.

"Through her Kindness Counts website, Alexis' mission is to inspire young people

to choose kindness, support one another and help build communities where everyone feels seen, valued, and included," Mrs Perovic said.

"As a junior Miss Australia Galaxy national finalist, Ms Perovic will join the inaugural junior finalist group in May when she travels to Sydney to represent Western Australia.

"By taking part, she aims to secure a place on the international stage in San Antonio, Texas, where she hopes to carry her message of kindness and youth empowerment even further."

Founded in 2011, Australia Galaxy Pageants has provided a platform for more than 570 girls and women to become the best versions of themselves through confidence-building, community involvement, advocacy, charity fundraising and personal development opportunities.

Mrs Perovic said Alexis' commitment to the Australia Galaxy Pageants motto 'be

the best version of you' reflected not only her personal growth, but also her passion for encouraging other young people to lead with compassion, courage and authenticity.

"Through Kindness Counts Alexis hopes to spark a ripple effect one act of kindness at a time," she said.

"Her message is simple but deeply resonant - kindness is a choice we can all make every single day - and her commitment to service is already remarkable.

"Over the past few months, Alexis has completed more than 150 hours of volunteering, supporting a wide range of charities and community organisations."

She said Alexis was also deeply passionate about youth mental health advocacy and committed to raising awareness, reducing stigma, and helping young people feel seen, supported, and empowered.

For more information go to: [www.kindnesscountshub.com](http://www.kindnesscountshub.com)

# Swan View resident's home battery impact

SWAN View resident Greg Ross says his experience with a home battery system has been surprising while cautioning others to weigh up the full costs before making the switch.

Mr Ross said he and his wife had initially ruled out installing a battery due to the upfront expense, despite already having a solar system in place.

"We'd thought about getting a battery, but thought... it'll be 10 years before we can make money up on it," he said.

However, when the government incentives and interest-free financing became available, the couple began to reconsider.

"Suddenly, to get the battery for

half price... and interest-free started to make a lot of sense," he said.

The system was installed in December and has since reduced the household's electricity costs significantly, with Mr Ross estimating their summer power bills have dropped from between \$550 and \$700 to about \$200.

"So, we've wiped \$500 off the bill," he said.

He said a key benefit had been learning to better manage energy use through the system's monitoring app.

"It really is an education tool... you think, my God, do we need to turn that on now?" he said.

The household has shifted energy-heavy activities such as running the dishwasher and washing machine

to daylight hours, when solar generation is highest.

However, Mr Ross stressed the savings should not be overstated, particularly for households financing their system.

"You must add in the repayment cost of your battery," he said.

"If your bill reads \$2.57, you've got to add \$180 to that... then you know really where you are."

He also said the system was not designed to eliminate grid reliance entirely.

"Our intention was never to be completely off-grid," he said.

Performance can also vary with seasonal conditions, with less solar generation in winter and higher reliance on the grid during peak air-conditioning use.

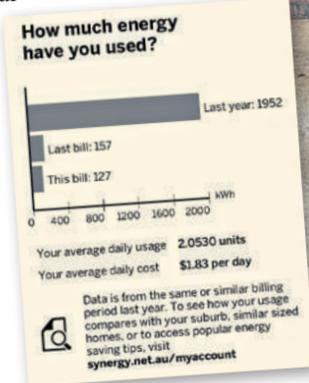
Despite this, Mr Ross said the battery proved its value during a seven-hour power outage, where the household continued to operate with minimal disruption.

"It literally... had no effect on us, none," he said.

While he described the investment as a no-brainer in his case, Mr Ross encouraged others to carefully assess their own usage and expectations before committing.



MLA Amber Jade Sanderson, Swan View resident Ann Aschenbrenner-Ross, Midland MLA Steve Catania and Swan View resident Greg Ross.



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# Former builder penalised over Mundaring and Ashfield homes

THE State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) has reprimanded a former building company and fined its director \$40,000 for conduct that led to defective work on an Ashfield property, a cancelled contract on a Mundaring home and invalid insurance for both.

Scheaar Developments Pty Ltd (BC102427, expired) and Paramjeet Singh Khaira (BP14537, expired) participated in SAT mediation for disciplinary matters under the Building Services Registration Act 2011 related to two projects in Mundaring and Ashfield.

Scheaar, formerly based in Canning Vale, is now in liquidation.

According to agreed facts, Scheaar was contracted in December 2020 to build a house at the Mundaring property, but it used the name of another builder to apply for home indemnity insurance (HII).

Scheaar did not have access to HII, which is compulsory for home building projects valued at more than \$20,000 to protect homeowners if the builder cannot complete or rectify work under certain circumstances.

When the Mundaring homeowner twice queried why the HII certificate named a different builder, Mr Khaira cancelled the contract due to "unpleasant" dealings with the client, who consequently missed out on government building grants.

Also in December 2020, Scheaar was engaged to build a house at an Ashfield property. Without the client's knowledge, Mr Khaira arranged for another contractor to be named as the builder on successful applications for a building permit and HII.

In November 2022, part of the Ashfield house's second-storey wall collapsed and damaged the neighbour's roof.

An investigation on behalf of the Building Commissioner identified significant structural defects and materials and methods that did not meet the required standards.

Because the HII certificate named a different builder, the Ashfield client was unable to make a claim on this insurance.

According to the agreed facts, the company engaged in misleading or deceptive conduct by obtaining HII in another builder's name for both projects, and harsh conduct when it cancelled the Mundaring contract.

Scheaar and Mr Khaira, as the company's nominated supervisor, also both failed to ensure the Ashfield building services were properly managed and supervised.

Building Commissioner Phil Payne welcomed the significant penalty.

"This is a reminder that contracted builders and their nominated supervisors cannot offload their significant responsibilities," Mr Payne said.

"Although the parties no longer hold building registration, their past conduct was unacceptable.

"Without valid home indemnity insurance, homeowners are left financially exposed, and I commend the client for raising the discrepancy with the builder.

"Consumers should receive a copy of the HII certificate and ensure the builder's details are correct across the contract, building permit and insurance documents."

# City of Swan extends data centre consultation time

MIKE PEETERS

**FOLLOWING significant public opposition, including a petition signed by more than 1300 people, the City of Swan has extended the cut-off date for public submissions on a proposed new data centre by 10 days until 5pm on Monday, March 30.**

The centre, to be built on Lots 14 and 15 Stirling Crescent, Hazelmere has attracted condemnation from many local environmental and community groups due to the proposal's short consultation time.

City of Swan chief executive officer Stephen Cain said that at the request of the community and noting the extensive public interest in this application, the city had negotiated with the applicants an extension of the public consultation period.

He added the application was currently undergoing assessment.

Guildford Association president Christine Hughes said the community was concerned the rush on this development application would result in it avoiding the level of scrutiny needed.

"The Development Assessment Panel (DAP) are unlikely to have the skills in all areas to be able to comment," Mrs Hughes said.

"Submissions will no doubt cover multiple issues and the community is grateful for the extra days granted by the city.

"The process largely avoids real public scrutiny and certainly the voice of the elected councillors.

"I also note the city's own website Swan Engage does not list some of the most contentious issues such as the 88 diesel generators necessary to run the proposed centre, but it does mention two bicycle bays and two ACROD bays."

Mrs Hughes cited the proposed centre's close proximity to the Helena River Waldorf School and the Helena River floodplain as major problems.

"Both sites carry registration with Aboriginal Cultural Heritage notations (ACH 3758 & 4006 respectively)," Mrs Hughes said.

"The proposal is for a 23.5m tall building, which equates to an eight-storey residential living height and occupies most of the sites operating 24 hours a day.

"The rear of the development backs onto the Helena River flood plain and can be expected to have a significant impact on wildlife, black cockatoo habitat and risk of contamination of the waterway, particularly in the event of fire or diesel spillage.

"Emissions are also a major concern as this is a 120megawatt data centre with very high water demand.

"The proponents do discuss ultimately building



View of the western/generator façade of the proposed data centre.

a dedicated substation to provide for its energy needs."

The Blackadder Woodbridge catchment group's Francesca Irwin said it was important to understand that whilst the City of Swan will not be the decision maker for this application, city planning staff prepare a Recommended Authority Report (RAR) for JDAP to consider as part of their determination.

"Therefore, we encourage the public to urge the City of Swan to use their own guidelines to interrogate the enormous scale of this application and to ask our JDAP council representatives (councillors Henderson, Zannino and Congerton) to object to this proposal," Mrs Irwin said.

Lower Helena Association chair Marilena Stimpfl said while she accepted that data centres were essential infrastructure and powered our digital economy, what was in dispute here was where they should be built and whether this proposal has been properly defined and assessed.

"For a facility of this scale, water demand could reach tens to hundreds of millions of litres per year," Dr Stimpfl said.

"Despite this, the application provides no clear water source, no quantified demand and no defined wastewater or trade water strategy.

"Data centres also typically need to store enough diesel fuel onsite to operate for 72 hours on diesel

generation, perhaps longer depending on contracts.

"I estimate that at full design load with 88 generators of at least 2MVA capacity, it would equate to a fuel burn rate of about 460L per hour per unit.

"With 88 units at capacity that would be equivalent to about 2.9 million litres of diesel over 72 hours."

Dr Stimpfl said this was an engineering estimate because the report identified 88 generators and a 120 MW load but did not state the generator rating or actual fuel storage design.

Executive director and principal environmental scientist of the Bibbul Ngarma Aboriginal Association Francesca Flynn said the proposal was missing essential cultural, environmental, hydrological and engi-

neering information, making it incapable of proper technical assessment.

She said it was also a high-risk proposal as the site was not connected to the sewer network and the nearest Water Corporation sewer main was a high duty bypass main that could not service the development.

In the story, *Proposed new data centre comes under fire* (Echo News, March 13) concerns were raised by residents over the short public consultation period.

Further details of the data centre proposal can be found at: <https://swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au/da-62026-data-centre>

Anyone wishing to sign the petition to reject the data centre can go to:

[www.change.org/p/reject-the-helena-river-data-centre-development](http://www.change.org/p/reject-the-helena-river-data-centre-development)

## Chittering pauses remediation of Muchea contaminated land

GUANHAO CHENG

**A MOTION not to continue the remediation of Lot 7 Muchea East Road has been passed by Shire of Chittering council as part of a saga dating back to 2009 searching for ways to activate the unused land.**

The motion was an officer recommendation not to proceed with remediation on the lot as the estimated cost did not guarantee increase in commercial value of the land and that the site was not considered to pose safety risks as it is currently inaccessible to the public.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) have also advised the shire was not obliged to undertake remediation of the land until such time that some form of development or use is proposed which would require it.

The officer recommendation was moved by Shire of Chittering deputy president Mary Angus and seconded by councillor Kylie Hughes, with both speaking in support, though Cr Angus said the decision came with some reservations.

"This plot of land has been coming back before council for nearly 20 years," she said.

The lot sits as a 3.7ha parcel of land in the freehold ownership of the Shire of Chittering and was a historical gravel quarry as well as a site for the disposal of green waste.

Cr Angus said the site's current classification as contaminated meant it had no real value in its designated use as parks, recreation and green space.

"I feel that we do have an obligation to the community to not leave it contaminated and locked behind a gate and barb wire fencing for eternity," she said.

Cr Angus said there was no statutory obligation



Shire of Chittering Deputy President Mary Angus and Councillor Kylie Hughes.

to remediate at the current stage however delaying action would only increase costs over time.

Councillor Hughes said the decision was straightforward from a financial standpoint, pointing to the significant uncertainty in remediation costings.

"Should we spend approximately \$100,000, which could be potentially up to \$980,000 given the huge variance in the quotes that we've received, when there's no immediate opportunity to recoup the investment and no pressing community need for that land to be developed or unsold at this time," she said.

Cr Angus replied and said she hoped the future for the lot did not involve further disuse.

"It would be really sad to find that in another 20 years it's still behind a barbed wire fence and a locked-up gate," she said.

The remediation could be revisited in the future if the site would be needed for a commercial proposal or any other purpose.



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sion (Age Pension – Single, or Couple).

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For a full explanation and obligation free assessment of this or any Centrelink Age Pension or Health Card claim, please contact Graham on 0418 944 344.



Pension Manager Graham Wilkins

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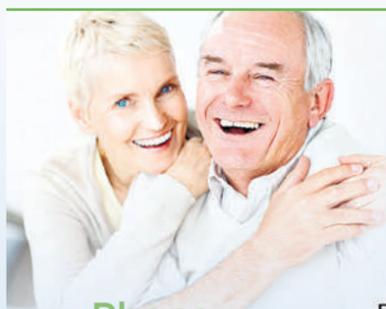
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Cultural identity exhibition hosted at Zig Zag Gallery

KALAMUNDA'S Zig Zag Gallery is currently hosting a captivating exploration of cultural identity and ancestral memory through an exhibition of the evocative work of Natalie de Rozario.

Titled 'A Bag of Rice for a Saturday Child', the exhibition draws from personal family archives, heirlooms, and oral histories to weave together a compelling narrative of migration.

Through a diverse collection of paintings, photographs, and installations, de Rozario examines how the stories of our ancestors continue to live on and transform through our own modern experiences.

The exhibition centres on themes of resilience and ritual, inviting the local community to reflect on how we honor those who have passed and how their legacies shape our daily lives.

De Rozario is a highly regarded figure in the Western Australian art scene, most notably recognised as a finalist in the 2023 Lester Art Prize.

Her impressive career also includes winning the City of Canning Resident Art Award, and the City of Gosnells Work on Paper Award in 2022.

Beyond her studio practice, the artist is a dedicated advocate for social and environmental causes, having produced several fundraising exhibitions for bushfire relief and international aid.

The Zig Zag Gallery at 50 Railway Road, Kalamunda is hosting the exhibition daily until April 6.

Visitors can attend between 9am and 4pm on weekdays, or from 10am to 4pm on weekends.



Natalie de Rozario in front of her artwork at the exhibition. Picture: Natalie de Rozario



Placed, Charcoal on paper, 2023



Sisters, Charcoal on paper, 2026



## Bilgoman swim for mental health

A 24-hour community swim at Bilgoman Swimming Pool, hosted by local charity ROAR Inc will take place this weekend Saturday and Sunday, March 28-29 in Darlington to raise funds for youth mental health programs.

Participants from Hillside CrossFit, Emma, Di and Connie, will take on the challenge of swimming continuously for 24 hours.

Each swimmer will complete 20-minute rotations every hour across the full duration of the event.

The challenge builds on last year's effort, where swimmers braved severe weather conditions and raised \$12,590 to fund two school programs and support 13 young people through after-school initiatives.

This year, the team is aiming to raise \$15,900, enough to fund three school in-

tervention programs supporting around 60 young people in the Shire of Mundaring.

Community members are encouraged to attend, show their support, and get involved.

Spectator entry is free, with opportunities to swim alongside participants, take part in fitness challenges, and enjoy food and activities throughout the day.

Shire of Mundaring President Paige McNeil said the event highlights the strength of local partnerships and the impact of community-led initiatives.

"Our community continues to come together to support initiatives that make a real difference for young people," she said.

"This event shows the positive impact of connection, physical activity and community in supporting wellbeing."

ROAR Inc founder Kate Kendrick said the organisation's work focuses on building resilience and positive mindset in young people.

"Our young people practice acts of kindness and learn to think with positivity and optimism, challenging existing belief systems and spreading happiness to those in their sphere," she said.

"So, by extension, helping ROAR Inc ultimately helps the Shire of Mundaring thrive.

"This is the power of community, and this is how we make the world better."

The shire is supporting the event through sponsorship and by providing access to Bilgoman Swimming Pool for participants and spectators.

For more information about the event, visit [www.roar.org.au/24-hour-swim-2026](http://www.roar.org.au/24-hour-swim-2026)

## ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

### Your local Gig Guide

**Fri March 27**

**Lyric's Bar**  
Dave Lawrence  
From 7pm, Free  
22 Lyric Lane  
Maylands

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

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

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

**Sat March 28**

**Lyric's Bar**  
Lyric's Laneway Party  
From 7.30pm, Free  
22 Lyric Lane Maylands

**Parkerville Tavern**  
Claudia Tipp  
From 6pm, Free  
6 Owen Road,  
Parkerville

**Woodbridge Hotel**  
She Said  
From 8pm, Free  
50 East St Guildford

**Mahogany Inn & Distillery**  
Table for Two  
6pm-9pm, Free  
4260 Great Eastern Hwy  
Mahogany Creek

**Sun March 29**

**Woodbridge Hotel**  
Ryan Matthew  
From 3pm, Free  
50 East Street Guildford

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

**Parkerville Tavern**  
Another Fine Mess  
From 3pm, Free  
6 Owen Road,  
Parkerville

**Sunday Mar. 29 cont.**

**Mahogany Inn & Distillery**  
Rhay Rom and Chantel  
5pm-8pm, Free  
4260 Great Eastern Hwy  
Mahogany Creek

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

**Tues March 31**

**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 April 1**

**Hemingway and Co**  
Lion Mill wine night  
6.30pm-8.30pm  
Free  
Great Eastern Hwy  
Mundaring

**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 April 2**

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



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**ECHO NEWS**

# On the trail

What's happening in the Shire

March 2026



## From the President

This month Council progressed several motions put forward by our community at the Annual Electors Meeting. Council has supported the development of a communications plan to improve how the Shire informs and engages with the community during local planning strategy reviews and processes. Council also discussed community concerns about feral pests such as foxes and rabbits. The Shire will explore ways to provide clearer information and guidance to residents through our communication channels.

Excitingly, Council has approved a new electronic scoreboard for Brown Park. Funding for the project comes through a collaboration between the Shire, Community Bank Mundaring and a Telstra Footy Country Grant. I'd like to acknowledge the strong advocacy from Swan View Cricket and Football Clubs. This project shows what can be achieved when local clubs, community partners and the Shire work together.

The Shire is currently seeking community feedback on the Brown Park Master Plan, which will guide how the precinct evolves in the years ahead. I encourage you to review the concepts and share your feedback.

School holiday fun is also on the way as we celebrate Youth Week WA in April, recognising the positive contributions of young people in our community. Free activities including cooking classes and henna workshops will be on offer.

With Easter around the corner, I wish everyone a happy long weekend and hope you enjoy an egg or two!

**Paige McNeil**  
Shire President



## Youth voices to help shape the Hills



Shire of Mundaring is proud to introduce its newly established Mundaring Youth Group – a dynamic team of 11 young local leaders passionate about shaping the future of youth engagement across the Shire.

Comprised of young people aged 12 - 25 years, the Mundaring Youth Group has been created to represent the opinions and aspirations of young people at a local government level and to advocate on their behalf. The group provides a direct connection between young people, their families, community organisations, Shire staff and Council, helping encourage and create youth participation and engagement opportunities.

Members will also provide advice and recommendations on issues affecting young people and help raise awareness of youth initiatives and events.

"Being part of the Mundaring Youth Group is a great way to make a real difference in our community and have our voices heard," said group member Samantha.

We're excited to see the ideas and energy this inspiring group will bring to the Shire.

## Creating a shared place at Brown Park

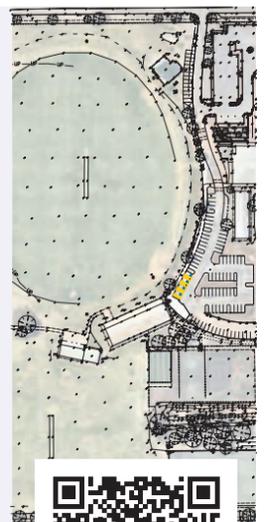
Shire of Mundaring is inviting the community to help shape the future of Brown Park, with concept plans for the Master Plan now open for feedback.

The plan sets out a long-term vision to guide improvements across the precinct, ensuring it continues to meet the needs of local sporting clubs, families and the wider community. Residents are encouraged to review the designs

and share their ideas to help inform the next stage.

Recent upgrades, including new LED lighting and improved car parking, are already enhancing safety, access and usability, with more improvements planned.

**Have your say by viewing the concept plans and providing feedback via the QR code.**



15 April

### Citizen Connectors Training

10am • Boya Community Centre

Support the wellbeing of others by engaging in compassionate conversations and encouraging social and caregiving networks.



Scan QR code or visit [mundaring.wa.gov.au/events](http://mundaring.wa.gov.au/events)

17 April

### Youth Cooking Workshop

10am to 1pm • Swan View Youth Centre

If you're a foodie and want to learn more about food sustainability, improve your cooking skills, and finish off with a delicious meal.



Scan QR code or visit [mundaring.wa.gov.au/events](http://mundaring.wa.gov.au/events)

18 April

### Visible Mending

2pm • Shire of Mundaring

Learn to extend the life of your clothing by incorporating hand stitching techniques like appliqué, embroidery, and sashiko into repairs.



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# Easter Services



Church of the Epiphany  
11 Mann Street, Mundaring.



Anglican Parish of Mundaring  
T: 9291 4054

## Easter Services 2026

Anglican Church Mundaring

<p><b>PALM SUNDAY SERVICE</b> MARCH 29 AT 10AM Bishop Kate residing</p>	<p><b>HOLY WEEK MEDITATIONS</b> MARCH 30, 31 APRIL 1 AT 6PM</p>
---	---

<p><b>GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE</b> A solemn and reflective service APRIL 3 AT 10AM</p>	<p><b>EASTER DAY DAWN SERVICE</b> APRIL 5 AT 5.30AM</p>
---	---

**EASTER DAY FAMILY SERVICE**  
APRIL 5 AT 9.30AM  
ALL WELCOME



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**Easter at Evangel Church**  
Good Friday Service – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 9.30am  
Easter Sunday Resurrection Day – 5<sup>th</sup> April 10am  
Guest speaker at both services – Colin Hart  
Welcome to the Good News  
**CHRIST IS RISEN**  
All welcome - Evangel Church  
6 Padbury Terrace, Midland. Enquiries 0423 985 417

**Easter Tridium**

2 <sup>nd</sup> April Holy Thursday	7.00 pm – Mass of the Lord's Supper, Divine Mercy Shrine
3 <sup>rd</sup> April Good Friday	11.00 am – Outdoor Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy Shrine 10.30 pm-2.15 pm – Confessions 2.30 pm – Solemn Ceremony of the Lord's Passion, Divine Mercy Shrine
5 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday	9.30 am – Divine Mercy Shrine

Phone 9571 8068 <https://divinemerceshrine.com.au/>  
Divine Mercy Shrine: 34 Santa Gertrudis Dr, Lower Chittering

**Sacred Heart Church**  
Coolgardie St, Mundaring & Wilcox St, Chidlow

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

The Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: Sacred Heart Mundaring @ 7.00pm  
Followed by 1 hour of adoration

**Good Friday**  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April Stations of the Cross  
At Sacred Heart Mundaring @ 10.00am  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April The Passion of the Lord  
At Sacred Heart Mundaring 3.00pm

**Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday**  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April The Easter Vigil Mass at Mundaring 7.00pm  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April Morning Mass at Chidlow 7.30  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April Morning Mass at Mundaring 9.30am *All welcome*

**Uniting Church**  
Kalamunda  Forreestfield

Welcome to our Easter Services

**Holy Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
7.30 pm - Tenebrae Service  
at St Martin's Uniting Church, Forreestfield

**Good Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
10 am - Kalamunda Uniting Church

**Easter Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
9 am - St Martin's Uniting Church, Forreestfield  
8 am & 10 am - Kalamunda Uniting Church

**St Martin's Foothills**  
57-59 Hale Rd, Forreestfield



**Kalamunda**  
Cnr Heath Rd & Brooks St, Kalamunda

Church Office Ph 92571154

**JESUS DIED SO WE MIGHT HAVE LIFE!**



**RESURRECTION SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

**Grace Baptist Church**

**Regular Services:**  
Sunday School (All Ages) 9.30am  
Family Worship 10.30am  
Midweek Prayer Meeting: 7.00pm

**Meeting at:**  
Brown Park Community Centre,  
Salisbury Rd, Swan View

**Evening Worship:**  
3pm at Woodlake Community Centre, Ellenbrook

**Pastor: Graham Thomas**  
Ph: 0425 354 159 [gbcmidland.org.au](http://gbcmidland.org.au)

**Holy Week & Easter Services**  
Anglican Parish of Kalamunda-Lesmurdie

St Barnabas Church – 40 Railway Road, Kalamunda  
St Swithun's Church – 195 Lesmurdie Road, Lesmurdie

**Maundy Thursday – April 2**

- 9am: Mass at St Swithun's
- 6pm: Fish & chips meal in St Barnabas Hall (book by email to [admin@kalamundaanglicans.org.au](mailto:admin@kalamundaanglicans.org.au)), then 7pm Mass

**Good Friday – April 3**

- 9am: Stations of the Cross with Antecomunion at St Barnabas
- 3pm: Vespers at St Swithun's with Veneration of the Cross

**Holy Saturday – April 4**

- 3pm: Vespers with Flowering of the Cross at St Swithun's

**Easter Sunday – April 5**

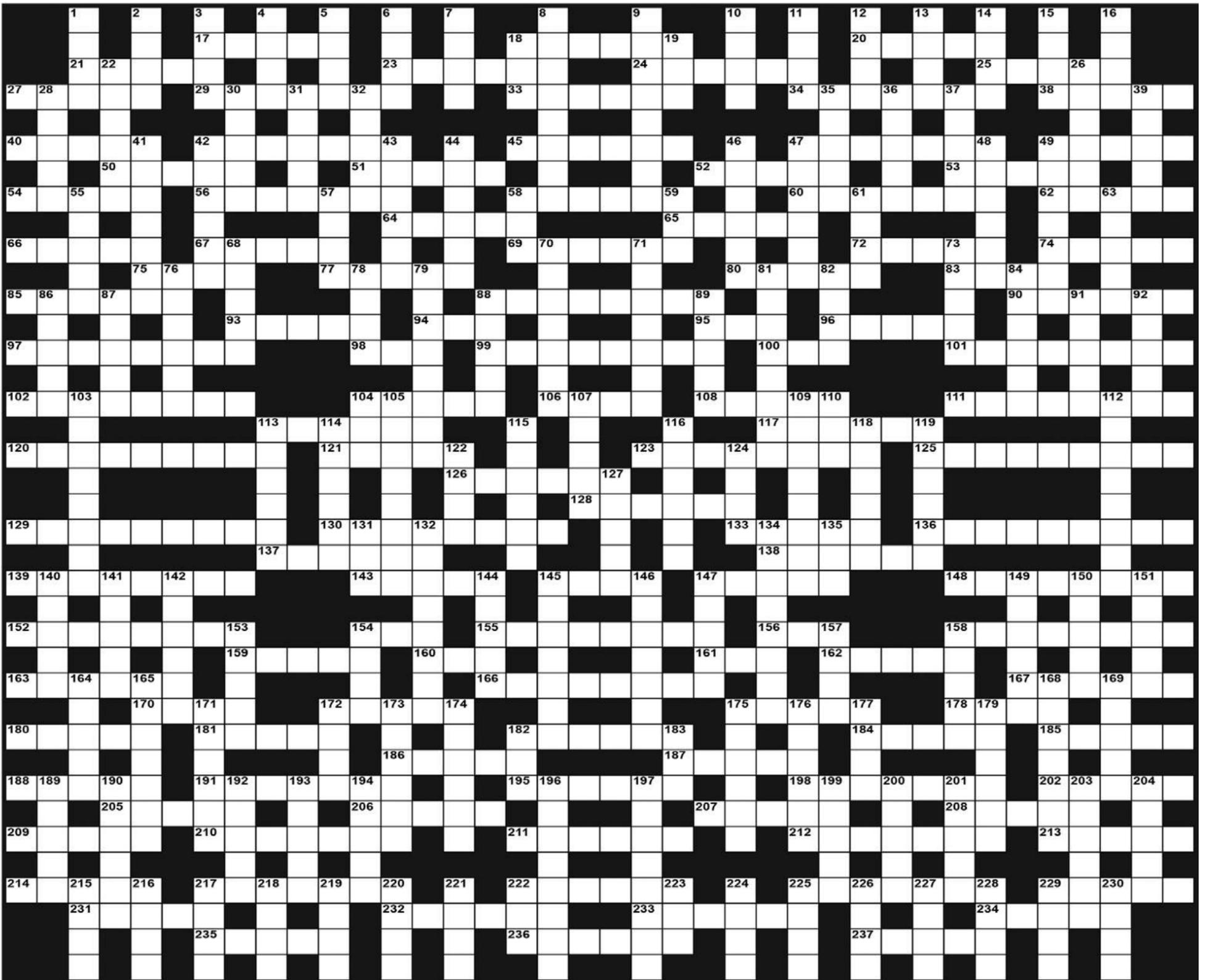
- 6am: The Great Vigil of Easter at St Barnabas
- 9am: Easter Mass at St Swithun's
- 10.30am: Easter Mass at St Barnabas





# Mind Boggler Crossword

1261



**ACROSS**

- 17 Employment
- 18 Fretting
- 20 Heroic
- 21 Female horses
- 23 Whirlpools
- 24 Rescuing
- 25 Unworldly
- 27 Picture puzzle
- 29 Taught
- 33 Goes by
- 34 Leave hanging
- 38 Attend to
- 40 A fish type
- 42 Weakness
- 45 Foolish actions
- 47 Turns back to
- 49 Long-legged bird
- 50 Men
- 51 Before time
- 52 Shelter
- 53 Top class
- 54 Present to
- 56 Relies
- 58 Some foliage
- 60 Unfavourable
- 62 Totalled
- 64 Taut
- 65 Desert resort
- 66 Mean dwelling
- 67 Smallest amount
- 69 Destroys
- 72 Neck of mutton
- 74 The ones indicated
- 75 Compass
- 77 Types
- 80 Set of nine singers
- 83 Trade
- 85 Except when
- 88 Over-satisfied
- 90 A nation
- 93 Social gathering
- 94 Large tree
- 95 An instrument (coll)

- 96 Pastoral poem
- 97 Full
- 98 Word of agreement
- 99 Vents
- 100 Small gutter
- 101 Strength used
- 102 Lessened
- 104 Joking play
- 106 Weakens
- 108 Young man
- 111 Chosen
- 113 Horse events
- 117 Harvested
- 120 Bridal chest
- 121 Flooded
- 123 Sing to
- 125 Living place
- 126 Monastery person
- 128 Checked copy
- 129 Type of pasta
- 130 Going into
- 133 Drinking party
- 136 Putting to work
- 137 Life's work
- 138 Dread
- 139 Ghosts
- 143 Top card
- 145 Type of cheese
- 147 Form
- 148 US legislative body
- 152 Melt
- 154 Small drink
- 155 Interim
- 156 Do better than
- 158 Found out
- 159 Body organ
- 160 Devil
- 161 Sticky stuff (coll)
- 162 Senior to
- 163 Adore greatly
- 166 Drench
- 167 Windpipe
- 170 Impel
- 172 Plants

- 175 Guide
- 178 Look closely
- 180 Play guitar
- 181 Wear away
- 182 Orison
- 184 Many times
- 185 Creates
- 186 Higher place
- 187 A willow
- 188 Agave fibre
- 191 Fish-eating birds
- 195 Chatted (coll)
- 198 European country
- 202 Fools
- 205 Outcast
- 206 Listened to
- 207 Seethes
- 208 Useless piece
- 209 Drops down
- 210 Spins around
- 211 Deed
- 212 Death
- 213 Palatable
- 214 Light brown
- 217 Back side
- 222 Cattle food
- 225 House and lands
- 229 Executives (coll)
- 231 A measure
- 232 Nearer
- 233 Small waterway
- 234 A memento
- 235 Representative
- 236 Keep back
- 237 Come together

**DOWN**

- 1 Hair-tidier
- 2 Ventilates
- 3 Sign of disuse
- 4 Hop kiln
- 5 Stare rudely
- 6 Looked over
- 7 Seed covers

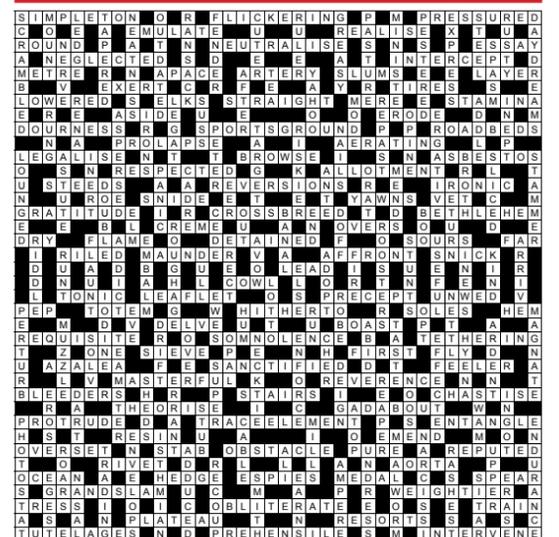
- 8 Tragedy
- 9 Lost position
- 10 Agony
- 11 Body limbs
- 12 Flows back
- 13 Set aside
- 14 Transmit
- 15 Wading bird
- 16 Prophet
- 18 Vigour
- 19 Hot air
- 22 A season
- 26 Settled interest
- 28 A mistake
- 30 Legal decree
- 31 Give a speech
- 32 Relented
- 35 Overturn
- 36 A portion
- 37 Memos
- 39 Poetry
- 41 Gossips
- 42 Decorations
- 43 Christian festival
- 44 Growing things
- 46 Churchman
- 47 Cause
- 48 Speak rudely (coll)
- 49 Frighten
- 55 Metal block
- 57 Hard-shelled fruit
- 58 Not many
- 59 Call for help (abb)
- 61 Huge
- 63 Sag
- 68 Musical work
- 70 Withdraws
- 71 Kitchen boilers
- 73 Mix up
- 76 Agreement
- 78 Do as told
- 79 Enter illegally
- 81 Upset
- 82 Give out

- 84 Ask for help
- 86 Looped rope
- 87 Send away
- 88 Hit with hand
- 89 Powdery
- 91 Of the eye
- 92 Untied
- 103 Body gland
- 104 Church seat
- 105 A sportscar
- 107 Sharp
- 109 Crying result
- 110 Owned
- 112 Written work
- 113 Of the country
- 114 Ballet exponent
- 115 Limb support
- 116 Higher classed
- 118 Annoy
- 119 Smart in dress
- 122 Part of a day
- 124 Finishes
- 127 Official order
- 131 Snare
- 132 Sudden blowout
- 134 Apparitions
- 135 Before (arch)
- 140 Self-possession
- 141 Social group
- 142 Paint spreader
- 144 Aerating devices
- 145 Praise
- 146 Enliven
- 147 Surrounding in war
- 149 A stinging bush
- 150 Happen again
- 151 Severe
- 153 Church officer
- 154 Factual
- 157 Skin vent
- 158 Hang loosely
- 164 A fever
- 165 Creases
- 168 Groups of warships

- 169 Country bumpkin
- 171 Sex
- 172 A festival
- 173 Awakens
- 174 Excellent
- 175 Total agreement
- 176 A messenger
- 177 Steals from
- 179 Enmesh
- 182 Snoop
- 183 Shaft
- 189 A copy
- 190 Make a charge
- 192 Came up
- 193 Copy
- 194 Flightless birds
- 196 Moored
- 197 Profound
- 199 Employers
- 200 Greek letter

- 201 Distribute
- 203 Not shining
- 204 Screw
- 215 Prayer leader
- 216 Carve
- 217 Amount of paper
- 218 Competes
- 219 Ceremony
- 220 Resound
- 221 Clasp
- 222 Gave food to
- 223 Hurry
- 224 Responsibility
- 225 Ardour
- 226 Domesticated
- 227 Time in office
- 228 A pace
- 229 Body covering
- 230 Inside

**Crossword Solution 1260 from 20 March, 2026**



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## Read between the lines

by Pastor Ian Kirk

### Sky Phenomenons



Recently we saw our youngest daughter Heidi and her family in Tasmania (as they do a lap year around Australia). While with them on the Tasman Peninsula, we were blessed to see a stunning display of the Southern Lights (also known as the Aurora Australis).

The Southern Lights are absolutely spectacular with vibrant hues of green, pink and purple, and columns of light shining high above the southern horizon. With no moon and a clear sky, we saw something truly amazing and memorable. The Southern Lights (like the Northern Lights) are a natural phenomenon caused by solar wind particles, especially from solar flares, colliding with the earth's magnetic field.

Let me now refer to something that wasn't natural in the sky, as we approach Easter. There wasn't a flash of colour, but a darkness in the middle of the day when Jesus died on a cross. The Gospel accounts record a three-hour darkness from 12pm to 3pm; a darkness that was unnatural. It couldn't have been a solar eclipse - that only lasts for 7.5 minutes. It was an act of God!

Why did this happen? It occurred as a visual picture of what was happening to Jesus on the cross. God placed on His Son our sin and darkness, and Jesus willingly paid the punishment for our wrongs with His life. He did this, so that we could be forgiven of our sins and be granted eternal life - if we would turn to Him and trust in Him.

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## Public Notice

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**PROPOSED ACTIVITIES IN THOROUGHFARES AND PUBLIC PLACES AND TRADING LOCAL LAW 2026**

The City of Swan proposes to make the City of Swan Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading Local Law 2026 in accordance with section 3.12 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The purpose of this local law is to provide for the regulation, control and management of activities on local government property throughout the district.

The effect of this local law is to establish the requirements with which any persons, using or on, thoroughfares or local government property, or wanting to trade on local government property within the district, must comply.

You can view a copy of the proposed local law at the City's Administration Centre, 2 Midland Square, Midland or any of the City's libraries.

To have your say on the proposed local law, send a submission to the CEO by Monday, May 18, 2026.

By providing your submission, you acknowledge that the City of Swan will publish your suburb and submissions in the Schedule of Submissions within the publicly available agenda and minutes for the

July 8 Ordinary Council Meeting. The City of Swan will provide you with updates on the progress of the proposed local law and its adoption via email.

Submissions should include your name, address and the reference Proposed Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading Local Law 2026. Submissions can be made online at [swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au](http://swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au). If you require an alternative submission format, please contact the City on (08) 9267 9267.

For queries, please contact the City on the number above or email [swan@swan.wa.gov.au](mailto:swan@swan.wa.gov.au).

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



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

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 General Manager / Editor Peter Lewis  
 E: [peter.lewis@echo-news.com](mailto:peter.lewis@echo-news.com)

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

# ECHO Notice Board

## Upcoming Events

- **Kalamunda Youth Swing Band** gives young musicians the opportunity to rehearse and play in a band. Rehearsals are Monday afternoon during school term. For more information call musical director Leah on 0432 973 395.
- **The Ellenbrook Friendship Group** meets each Wednesday at the Community Centre, 27 Maffina Parade, Ellenbrook from 1pm to 4pm. All welcome to make new friends or just have a chat. Enjoy indoor bowls, afternoon tea and the occasional outing. For more information call Sheila on 0402 973 307.
- **The Swan Woodturners Association of WA** meets every Tuesday at 1pm for a 1.30pm start at the Caversham Memorial Hall, 7847 West Swan Road, Caversham for men and women of all ages interested

- in learning the art of woodturning. Woodturning demonstrations are undertaken each week with demonstrations also displayed on large TV screens. Competitions are held for those members eager to improve their skill level. For more information visit [woodturnerswa.org.au](http://woodturnerswa.org.au) and then go to Swan Woodturners Group or contact the convenor on 0476 178 002.
- **The Gidgegannup Men's Shed** at Ian Stannard Pavilion, Gidgegannup Showgrounds, 2171 Toodyay Road, Gidgegannup is a community-based men's shed providing opportunities for men and women to work on projects of their own, join in shed activities and tasks, or just share time, recreation and fellowship with other members. For more information email [president@gidgegannupmensshed.org.au](mailto:president@gidgegannupmensshed.org.au) or visit [gidgegannupmensshed.org.au](http://gidgegannupmensshed.org.au)
- **Midland Friendly Garden Club** meets at 9.30am on alternate Thursdays at Bruce

- Douglas Pavillion, Brown Park, Salisbury Road, Swan View. The next meeting will take place on April 2. Our guest speaker will be Nick Clayton from Mineral Magic who will introduce us to a mineral that is millions of years old and improves our soils, plant growth and water retention. Visitors and new members are always welcomed. For more information call Jenny 0424 553 002 or Barbara 0482 935 686.
  - **Hills Mature Age Singles Sociable Group** meet fortnightly on Wednesdays for an 11.30am lunch at the Woodbridge Hotel, Guildford. The next lunch will be on April 1. No fees and a fun day out, come join us and make a new friend. For more information text Mike on 0467 526 078.
- Noticeboard is for non-profits and community groups advertising free/low cost events/programs. Entries must be emailed to [editorial@echo-news.com](mailto:editorial@echo-news.com) two weeks before the event.**

A free service for non-profit organisations  
**9374 6666**  
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## Woofers of the week



King is a six-year-old white german shepherd. Due to ill health his owner can no longer take care of him. King is an inside dog and is rather spoiled. He is sterilised, microchipped, and vaccinated. Costs Apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.



Left: Chayse Moir at the U15 national cricket championships in Bunbury last month. Right: The U15 WA team

## Junior cricketer makes his mark for the state

**LESMURDIE** cricketer Chayse Moir has been selected in the WA U15 state cricket squad for the second year in a row, marking a significant milestone in his junior cricket career.

Moir has now represented WA for three of the past four years, a great achievement for a junior cricketer.

Moir said he was incredibly grateful for the support from his coaches, club and the local cricket community.

WA competed in the U15 national championships in Bunbury from February 22 to 27, playing six matches

against all other states and winning five of their six games.

Their only loss came against the ACT and WA finished second overall, narrowly missing out by 0.075 behind Victoria.

At the championships Moir was named vice captain for the tournament and he had an outstanding tournament as wicketkeeper.

"I just focused on doing my job behind the stumps and supporting the bowlers as much as I could," Moir said. "It means a lot to represent WA and

wear the baggy yellow and black."

Moir's previous appearances include the U12 national championships in Darwin (2023) and U15 national championships in Adelaide (2025).

Moir also plays club cricket for Lesmurdie-Mazenod and represents Perth in the U15 premier cricket competition.

He has played 4th grade in the WACA men's competition, competed in the Century Championship league tournaments in Melbourne and Queensland, and played in the WACA U15 talent carnival.



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## Homes selling above their asking price

**PERTH** home sellers are increasingly achieving more than their asking price, with new data showing the trend has reached record levels.

Real Estate Institute of Western Australia (REIWA) figures revealed that in the final three months of 2025, only 9.9 per cent of houses sold for less than their advertised price.

REIWA president Suzanne Brown said the result was unprecedented.

"Discounting levels did not reach these lows during the last two booms," she said.

"During 2013 and 2014, 44.3 per cent and 46.3 per cent of houses respectively sold for less than their listed price.

"During the 2006 boom, the level of discounting was 49.0 per cent."

The current market conditions are being driven by low housing supply and strong buyer demand.

New listings fell below the long-term average in the second half of 2025, while buyer numbers remained high.

Homes were selling in as little as eight days in September and October, marking record-low selling times.

Ms Brown said when demand outweighs supply, prices are pushed higher.

On average, houses sold for 6.5 per

cent more than their asking price during the quarter.

For a home listed at \$700,000, this equates to a sale price of about \$745,500.

Ms Brown said this was the strongest result on record, surpassing the 2006 boom where homes sold for an average of 3.2 per cent above asking price.

She said even during the strong 2013-14 market, homes generally sold slightly below their advertised price.

"This really is a very unique time in the market," she said.

However, she warned sellers not to expect the same outcome in every case.

"Every sale is different, and this average shouldn't create an expectation from sellers," she said.

Ms Brown also addressed concerns about underquoting, where properties are advertised below their expected sale price.

"While current market dynamics will see the majority of houses sell at or over the listed price, I remind people that underquoting is illegal," she said.

"If anyone has genuine evidence an agent has deliberately underquoted the price of a property, I would ask them to report the agent to Consumer Protection."



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Apr  
1

### Little Crafty Kids Morning

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