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VOL.43 NO.1952

Wattle Grove South rezoning



P3

Meaningful exercise for cancer survivor



P8

International Women's Day Midland



P9



Picture: Guanhao Cheng

Celebrating 100 years

Guildford resident Michael Buzza at one of the state's most peculiar museums with his most recent taxidermy project involving preserving black cockatoos.

PG 11

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ECHO Celebrations



Arthur Santoro at Music Mart, marking the end of a 50-year career in the local music industry. Pictures: Daniel Holmes

Music Mart stalwart retires after 50 years in the industry

A MIDLAND music identity has called time on a career spanning more than five decades, retiring from Music Mart as the long-running business enters a new chapter under new ownership.

Arthur Santoro has retired after 50 years with Music Mart, where he has worked as both an employee and former owner, becoming a familiar face in the local music scene.

Reflecting on his final days at the shop, Mr Santoro said it was a mix of emotions.

"It's a bit sad, but I'm happy as well," he said. "It's a happy sort of feeling."

A professional drummer, Mr Santoro began playing in the late 1960s and quickly built a career performing across Perth.

"I started when I was about 17, and by 18 or 19 I was playing weddings and shows," he said.

"I was doing six nights a week at one stage, and then moved on to cabaret shows and touring acts."

Over the years, he performed alongside a wide range of musicians, developing a reputation for his ability to read music and adapt to different styles.

"That was my favourite part, working with different acts," he said.

"You'd get handed the music and just have to play - that was my strength."

Mr Santoro said the music industry and retail environment had changed significantly during his time at Music Mart.

"The biggest change has been technology," he said.

"When I started, we ran the shop with a cheque book. Now everything is computers - you can't run a business without it."

He said despite the changes, the shop's connection to the community had remained constant.

"It's been a consistent, happy job," he said. "You get to talk to people, be around music - it's a good environment."

Mr Santoro said working with customers and supporting the local music community had been one of the most rewarding parts of his career.

"I'd like to think people remember me as someone who gave back to the community," he said.

"That's what it's all about."

While stepping away from the shop, Mr Santoro said he had no plans to slow down, with music still a big part of his life.

"I'll keep practising and playing," he said.

"I'm not the sort of person to sit around - I've always been active."

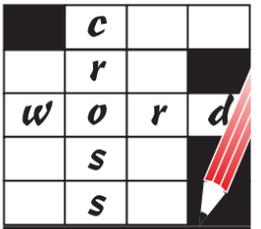


Music Mart has always had a great range of instruments.



Inside the Music Mart store where Arthur, who is also a professional drummer, has worked since 1975.

INSIDE



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Wattle Grove South rezoning opposition continues

GUANHAO CHENG

RESIDENTS opposing the proposed Wattle Grove South (WGS) urban development are scrutinising the City of Kalamunda's treatment of developers.

WGS resident Charles Dornan said three separate engagement processes conducted over several years showed consistent community opposition to urban rezoning of WGS' rural-residential area.

"I draw attention to three separate consultation outcomes concerning Wattle Grove South and to pose the question as to whether these outcomes will genuinely be reflected in subsequent planning decisions by the City of Kalamunda," he said.

Mr Dornan said the concept plan consultation received 145 submissions opposing the proposal and only two submissions supporting it.

"That level of opposition could not have been clearer," he said.

More recently, a 2025 Wattle Grove South insight survey also found strong community resistance to urban rezoning.

According to the survey results, 77.6 per cent of respondents opposed the proposal.

Freedom of information (FOI) material relating to the advertised Wattle Grove South structure plan revealed a similar outcome.

Mr Dornan said the documents showed 86 submissions opposed or did not support the structure plan, while 25 supported it and 16 were neutral or comment only.

After removing duplicate submissions, Mr Dornan said this equated to about 77.5 per cent opposition and 22.5 per cent support.

"When three separate engagement processes conducted years apart and in different formats produce almost identical results, the pattern is unmistakable," he said.

"This is sustained and consistent community opposition."

City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret

Thomas said the city was finalising their structure plan report for the next meeting.

"Submissions and responses will be published in their entirety, with only personal details of submitters being removed," she said.

Mr Dornan said documents obtained under FOI also raised questions about how the consultation process had been handled.

He said the documents indicated the City of Kalamunda provided the developer with raw data from the insight survey while declining to publish those results to the broader community before advertising the structure plan.

The documents also suggested the structure plan was advertised before the Western Australian Planning Commission had formally required it under the Metropolitan Region Scheme amendment process and before the Minister for the Environment had determined environmental considerations.

Mr Dornan said several external government agencies had identified environmental and infrastructure concerns.

Wattle Grove resident Beverley Dornan said the correspondence suggested a close relationship between the developer and the city's planning administration.

Echo News is not suggesting the relationship between the City of Kalamunda and the developers is illegal.

"One of the extraordinary things we saw when we received the FOI results was how close the relationship appeared between the developer and the City of Kalamunda planning team," Mrs Dornan said.

"The developer provided a draft letter for the city to send to a public sector agency indicating support for Wattle Grove South rezoning before councillors had even ruled on the structure plan."

Mrs Dornan said residents had also raised concerns about the timing of the structure plan consultation.

"At the time the structure plan was adver-



Wattle Grove South residents are opposing rezoning of rural areas which they say are biodiverse homes to animals such as bandicoots.

tised it was still under consideration by the Environmental Protection Authority and the Western Australian Planning Commission had not authorised the advertising," she said.

Residents have opposed urbanisation of the area for environmental as well as planning reasons.

Mrs Dornan said Wattle Grove South formed part of an environmentally significant landscape connected to the Brixton Street wetlands.

"The hydroplane that feeds the Greater Brixton Street wetlands runs underneath the proposed development area," she said.

"That water maintains a very fragile wetland ecosystem that supports significant biodiversity."

She said residents also feared rezoning would remove environmental safeguards that currently apply to rural land.

"Rural zoning means the Environmental Protection Act applies to clearing native vegetation," she said.

"If land is rezoned for urban development, that protection no longer applies and devel-

opers can clear vegetation without having to seek that same level of approval."

Mrs Dornan said the area supported black cockatoos, bandicoots and other threatened species as well as extensive tree canopy.

"Most residents want to retain the rural zoning because it is such an environmentally sensitive area," she said.

"There is nowhere else quite like it." Mr Dornan said Wattle Grove South is an established rural-residential area whose residents deliberately chose that lifestyle.

"From 145 objections to the Urban Concept Plan, to 77 per cent opposition in the Insight Survey, to 77.5 per cent opposition in structure plan submissions, the message has been consistent," he said.

"The WGS community wishes to remain rural and does not support wall-to-wall housing in the environmentally sensitive foothills."

Mrs Dornan said residents had been raising concerns about the proposal for several years.

"We feel like we have been in a David and Goliath battle," she said.

The Vines short course construction concerns

GUANHAO CHENG

THE Vines residents and other golf members have raised concerns after construction began on a new 14-hole short course at The Vines golf resort.

The Vines Residents and Ratepayers Association vice chairman Dixon Lowe said work began on February 18 on the short course across holes one to eight of the former Lakes course.

Mr Lowe said a recent survey of golfers showed strong opposition to the project.

"The recent golf survey result showed 92 per cent of the 216 responders opposed the 14-hole course construction on Lakes one to eight," he said.

Members also raised concerns about the loss of access to part of the course.

"Golfers using Lakes one to nine no longer have access to that portion and are uncertain what alternatives will be offered," Mr Lowe said.

The association said legal advice had been obtained suggesting the decision may breach the resort golf club's constitution and management agreement.

Mr Lowe said the opinion related to the owners' unilateral decision to construct the course and the absence of consultation with members.

He said some members had asked the residents association to raise the issue publicly because they feared being suspended from the club if they spoke out.

"This is the view of golf members who have requested a response via the Vines Residents and Ratepayers Association to avoid suspension from the resort golf club for speaking out," he said.

Mr Lowe said residents were also concerned about vegetation clearing during construction.

Complaints about clearing were submitted to the City of Swan and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

"The Vines, as an international standard golfing facility, now appears to have been completely overturned by the international owners, with significant social impacts and irreversible loss to Perth's historic Swan Valley," he said.

City of Swan chief executive officer Stephen



Ongoing construction of the new 14-hole short course at The Vines.

Cain said the city could confirm it had received complaints and understood construction of the short course had commenced.

"The city understands that The Vines WA Pty Ltd have commenced the implementation of their short course and that this remains opposed by many residents of The Vines," he said.

He said the city had also investigated vegetation clearing on part of the course.

"Last week the city responded to complaints of vegetation clearing on one of the fairways, not associated with the short course," Mr Cain said.

"This investigation is still underway."

The Vines Resort Club chairman Ray Jordan said construction of the short course was expected to be completed later this year or early next year and that the project formed part of the broader redevelopment of the resort by the owner Vines WA Pty Ltd.

"The short course forms part of the broader redevelopment of The Vines," he said.

"The 18-hole championship course will continue to operate as usual for all members."



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE WELCOMED THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO PROGRESS THE CAT AMENDMENT BILLS, WHICH WILL ALLOW LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE AND ENFORCE LOCAL LAWS TO CAT CONTAINMENT.

ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say: editorial@echo-news.com

Thought for the day

"A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort."
 - **Herm Albright**

Midland assets stripped

Dear Echo News,
 On Wednesday, February 11 City of Swan councillors accepted the city officer's recommendation and voted down a

motion by Cr Howlett to conduct a standard project management review of the Midland Oval redevelopment project (aka the New Junction).

On Tuesday, February 17, The West Australian advertised a City of Swan proposed sale of \$650 per m2 of Midland Oval, about half of what the land is worth.

When the 2011 Midland Oval redevelopment masterplan (MORM) revealed plans to extend Midland Gate Shopping Centre onto Midland Oval land the community protested at length, including at two special electors' meetings where the Town Hall was full of locals explaining why Midland should retain its only real Public Open Space.

However, council maintained the MORM with justification of 'commercialisation'.

This has obviously failed; Midland Gate very quickly lost interest in this idea, the land acquired has become devalued, and we now see repeated examples where land purchased by the city at \$1000/sqm or more, is being offered for sale at half price or less.

The oval's 5.5ha public park being carved up for sale was used for football, soccer, cycling, bowling, tennis and croquet was worth about \$55 million.

It is being sold off for a fraction of this amount, and Midland can never recover its greatest public asset, its Public Open Space.

The cost for all this land carving and a grid of new roads across Midland Oval already exceeds \$50m.

Other assets have been pointlessly destroyed.

Midland is being as-

set-stripped whilst the new City of Swan suburbs are being provided with ample community facilities, plenty of parks and ovals, with 10 per cent Public Open Space (POS), supported by the votes of councillors who live in those areas.

Why won't the City of Swan review this project?

Is it because a review would reveal that their commercialisation needs a new direction and show the original MORM has been outgrown by changes in retail and business infrastructure direction?

Does Midland really still need its only real parkland destroyed?

Do Midland ratepayers still have to watch their prime asset destroyed?

P Irwin
Midland Society Inc

Aged care services needed

Dear Echo News,

At a time when there is a well-known shortage of residential aged care beds in the City of Swan to meet the needs of our ageing local community, the state government has failed to keep its numerous promises to have the decommissioned Swan District Hospital placed on the open market to attract a buyer from the aged care sector.

Armed with the results of a study commissioned by the City of Swan in 2015 which revealed there would be a shortfall of 1150 residential aged care beds by 2036 if no new facilities were built, I and members of the City of Swan Community Care Services Advisory Committee commenced to actively lobby the newly elected Labor state government to make underutilised vacant land available to the aged care sector.

In written replies to our correspondence, both Cook and Saffioti, their respective chiefs of staff and senior policy advisors came back to us saying they were fully committed to having the hospital site rezoned to "special purpose use" which would allow for the building of new residential aged care facilities among other things, and further that they and staff at the lands divestment unit were working on plans to place the site on the open market to attract a buyer from the aged care sector.

With the appointment of Ben Wyatt to the position of Minister for Lands, I wrote to him seeking his assurances that the promises made by his ministerial colleagues would be honoured.

In a written reply from Minister Wyatt, dated March 13, 2019, he wrote an expression of interest will be undertaken for the Swan District Hospital site following an application being lodged with the City of Swan to rezone the site.

He said the rezoning will allow for the future redevelopment to include residential aged care, among other uses and eventual marketing for the site will identify the government's commitment to making suitable land available for aged care development and will encourage proposals incorporating aged care to be submitted.

Having received that advice from Minister Wyatt, supported by the other numerous promises and commitments made by his ministerial colleagues, we assumed that the site would soon be placed on the open market for sale.

Sadly, all that changed when I received a further letter signed by Ben Wyatt dated September 11, 2020 in which he thanked me for the previous letter and said the

former Swan District Hospital had been committed to the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), as part of the Native Title settlement, on the basis that it seeks to deliver a residential aged care outcome on a portion of the site.

When I sought further information (in writing) on why the minister had set aside all the previous promises to see an aged care facility built of the hospital site, he did not respond to the questions I asked.

We also later learnt that there was no record held at the Land's Department that the SWALSC would be obliged to deliver some form of residential aged care if they accepted ownership of the site.

While neither I nor members of our committee are opposed to state government including ownership of crown land in the greater state-wide Native Title Settlement Plan, we cannot understand why the old hospital site was included given that it comprises just 10ha in size compared with the total land in the settlement plan being some 320,000 hectares.

Furthermore, there are some 14 plus substantial buildings still standing on the site which will eventually have to be demolished at some considerable expense.

We are also told there could be contamination in the soil which will add to the expense if the site is to ever be developed.

So much for planning for the needs of our local ageing community in the City of Swan.

R Carey
South Guildford

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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Local governments closer to cat law reform

PETER W LEWIS

LOCAL government authorities have welcomed the state government decision to progress the Cat Amendment (Local Laws) Bill, empowering councils to make and enforce local laws regarding cat containment.

If adopted the reforms will enable local governments to implement cat containment measures that reflect local needs and community expectations, with councils currently hamstrung in what they can enforce.

Through the bill, local governments will be able to implement local laws that include restricting cats to their owners' premises, prohibiting cats from all public areas, or introducing cat curfews.

Shire of Mundaring President Paige McNeil said council supported the proposed changes to the Cat Act.

"In late 2024, council resolved to review our 'keeping of cats' local law in response to strong community feedback about the protection of native fauna. Since that time, council has been advocating to the state government for legislative changes that would allow local governments to better reflect community expectations in their local laws," she said.

"Once the legislative changes are passed, council will undertake a formal review of our 'keeping of cats' local law. This process will include community consultation to ensure any future approach reflects the views of our residents.

"Our community cares deeply about protecting native wildlife and preserving the unique natural environment that makes the shire such a special place to live."

City of Swan chief executive officer Stephen Cain said if council is supportive of the draft local law, public feedback will then be requested.

"The updated local law will consider the

recent state government announcement providing local governments' opportunity to strengthen local rules related to cat containment.

"The city currently manages a free cat trap program for residents who have ongoing concerns related to cats on their private property."

In 2025 the city received 451 requests for service under this program.

Shire of York acting chief executive officer Alina Behan welcomed the state government's review of the Cat Act and the opportunity for local governments to provide feedback.

"We recognise the impact that roaming and uncontained cats can have on native wildlife and the broader natural environment, particularly in regional areas," she said.

"Like many local governments, we manage ongoing complaints relating to stray and wandering cats and look forward to contributing practical, on-the-ground insights to help shape balanced and workable legislation."

Town of Bassendean chief executive officer Cameron Woods said the town was committed to encouraging responsible cat ownership and supporting measures that protect native wildlife.

"We already undertake a range of education initiatives to help residents understand the benefits of keeping cats indoors or otherwise safely contained to their property," he said.

Mr Woods said indoor cats are generally healthier, live longer, and are far less likely to harm local wildlife or become a nuisance in the community.

"Under our existing cat local law 2021, the town has four designated cat prohibited areas - Bindaring Park, Point Reserve, Sandy Beach Reserve, and Success Hill Reserve. Cats found within these areas may be seized and impounded, and their



Roaming pet cats kill millions of birds, reptiles and small mammals.

owners may incur penalties.

"These protections help safeguard the sensitive habitats and native species that make our local environment unique. If the state government's Cat Amendment (Local Laws) Bill is passed the town will explore amending its existing cat local law to include additional cat containment laws that protect wildlife and promote responsible pet ownership.

"Enforcement of any additional responsibilities would be managed using our existing ranger services workforce, who deal with the impounding of animals and engage with residents to resolve cat-related nuisance issues.

"At the same time, we will continue to prioritise education and practical support for our community, including information on safe cat enclosures, keeping cats indoors, and reducing the risks associated with roaming."

City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas said the city encouraged responsible cat ownership, with the 'control of cats' local law 2023 requiring the registration, microchipping, and sterilisation of cats.

"The city encourages all residents to practise responsible cat ownership and rec-

ommends that cats be contained on their property for the safety of both the animals and native wildlife."

Local Government Minister Hannah Beazley said in progressing cat containment local laws, local governments will also be able to consider transition arrangements for existing outdoor cat owners and are encouraged to continue to explore other strategies and initiatives to support outdoor cat owners with the implementation of the local laws.

"If passed, the bill will empower individual councils to engage with their communities on how they approach cat containment and then make local laws which reflect the needs of their community."

Public consultation is also underway on the statutory review of the Cat Act 2011.

Written submissions are invited on domestic cat management topics, including registration, enforcement and compliance, sterilisation, microchipping, breeding, and limits on the number of cats owned.

The proposed amendments will result in better protection for Western Australian wildlife, with roaming pet cats estimated to kill millions of birds, reptiles, and small mammals each year.

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Long wait for sheep grants

OPPOSITION Agriculture spokesperson and Central Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter MP says the Cook Labor government has left Western Australian farmers waiting more than four months for funding under the sheep industry supply chain capacity program.

The commonwealth-funded program, administered by the state government, opened on 27 August 2025 and closed on 22 October 2025.

A total of 266 applications were lodged, yet only 45 projects were approved; and no payments have reached successful applicants.

Mr Hunter said the oversubscription demonstrated how urgently the sheep industry needed investment.

“The fact that 266 applications resulted in just 45 approvals shows a sector desperate for processing and supply chain capacity,” Mr Hunter said.

“Businesses did exactly what was asked of them, spent time and money preparing applications and were assessed, yet not one dollar has landed in their accounts.

“This is commonwealth money.

Labor’s only responsibility was to administer the program, but the funding is still sitting idle while regional businesses wait.”

Mr Hunter said the delay was damaging confidence as producers consider flock numbers and future investment.

“Farmers make decisions based on seasons, not press conferences. Holding up these grants undermines confidence across the entire sheep industry,” he said.

Mr Hunter welcomed the opening of round two on February 27 but said key questions remained.

“Is Minister Saffioti putting any state funding on the table for the next round or is this once again solely commonwealth funded?” he said.

“Will applicants who already went through the process be forced to reapply, or will the government recognise the work they have already done?”

Mr Hunter called on the Cook government to immediately issue agreements and payments to successful applicants.

“Regional WA needs delivery, not delay,” he said.

Cockatoo centre receives bird flu grants



Federal member for Bullwinkel Trish Cook with Kloe Foster of the Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre discussing the federal funding.

THE Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre in Martin has received \$7100 to ramp up its H5 bird flu preparedness.

The funding will directly support the endangered Baudin’s and Carnaby’s black cockatoos and be used for a range of activities including assistance with disseminating a biosecurity plan for staff and providing additional staff uniforms to limit disease spread.

The funds are part of the Zoo and Aquarium Association’s second funding round of \$1.9 million supporting 26 threatened species across 21 facilities, including the Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre.

This money is backed by a \$5m Australian government grant to prepare vital populations of threatened native species for a potential outbreak.

It is also part of the government’s broader \$100m investment to prepare for H5 bird flu, including \$35.9m for environment measures.

“From eastern quolls and the New Holland mouse to the helmeted honeyeater and Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle, across the country critical populations of native species are being safeguarded,”

an association spokesperson said.

“While Australia is currently free from the serious and contagious H5 bird flu, this strain is causing mass mortalities in birds and some types of mammals overseas.

“Options for direct action to protect threatened species in the wild from a potential outbreak are limited, so protecting captive species populations is a crucial investment.”

Environment and Water Minister Senator Murray Watt said Australia remained the only continent free from H5 bird flu, highlighting the importance and urgency of the work currently underway across the country to prepare our most at-risk species and priority biodiversity.

“This funding will allow facilities to undertake critical preparations, such as installing wild bird preventions on enclosures, upgrading veterinary equipment and undertaking biosecurity training for staff,” Mr Watt said.

“This funding builds on the substantial investments already made by the Albanese Labor government in protecting and recovering threatened biodiversity.”



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Online Access Health WA launched

THE state government has launched Access Health WA - a new website making it easier for Western Australians to access the healthcare they need, when they need it.

Access Health WA is designed to ensure all health options are in one accessible location including 14 bulk billed Urgent Care Clinics (UCCs) providing free treatment for urgent, non-life-threatening conditions, WA’s Virtual Emergency Department for adults and children, with specialist doctors and nurses available via a secure video call when referred, General Practitioners (GPs) with an increase in bulk-billing practices, extended operating hours, expanded scope of practice for pharmacists, including prescribing for urinary tract infections and oral contraception resupply and 1800MEDICARE service, replacing Healthdirect, as the go to 24/7 free telephone helpline.

Premier Roger Cook said providing information about the range of healthcare choices available meant people can access the medical treatment they need, when they need it.

“The new Access Health WA website empowers our community with the information they need

to choose the right care option for them and their families.

“The expansion of Medicare Urgent Care Clinics in WA means more people can access local and free treatment for urgent, non-life-threatening conditions such as minor burns and sprains.

“WA has more healthcare choices than ever before; we have expanded the WA Virtual Emergency Department, we’re making additional treatments available from trained pharmacists.”

Health Minister Meredith Hammat said the new Access Health WA website provided clear information and easy tools to help people navigate the health system and choose the most convenient and appropriate care for their health needs.

“There are a growing number of healthcare options available in our communities, close to where people live, and this website will help link Western Australians to those services.

“If you’re unsure about a symptom, need guidance after hours, or want help deciding what to do next, head to the website to find the right option for you.”

To visit the website, visit the following link www.access.health.wa.gov.au

Primary industries economic overview captures sector's significance to WA

WA's primary industries' significant contribution to the state economy has been captured in a new publication, now available online.

The WA Primary Industries 2023-24 Economic Overview was prepared by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

The comprehensive report features valuable production and trade data, as well as useful insights into industry trends across the State's agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture industries.

The overview is an invaluable reference document for industry, government and community planning, as well as a resource for potential entrepreneurs and trade partners.

DPIRD Primary Industries Development Deputy Director General Cec McConnell said the WA Primary Industries 2023-24 Economic Overview provided a definitive snapshot of the sector's impact.

"This publication is a valuable guide that clearly demonstrates WA's primary industries' capacity to deliver high value, nutritious, ethically and sustainably produced products for consumers at home and abroad," she said.

"It features the latest statistics from trusted sources, complemented by objective commentary to assist stakeholders throughout the primary industries supply chain to make informed decisions.

"DPRID continues to play an integral role supporting WA's agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and food businesses to capitalise on global demand, while helping to protect and grow the sector."

The gross value of production from WA's agrifood, fibre, forestry and fisheries industries grew from about \$10 billion in 2019-20 to more than \$11b in 2023-24, following exceptional growing seasons in 2021-22 and 2022-23 which delivered record grain crops.

Agriculture continues to be the State's second largest export industry – behind the resources sector – with products destined for



The grains industry has made a phenomenal contribution to the state economy.

more than 120 international markets.

Total primary industries exports increased by more than 50 per cent to just over \$13b in the four years to 2023-24, led by strong demand for cereals, canola and meat and livestock.

WA was Australia's biggest cereals exporter in 2023-24 – with almost half the national share – and cereals was the state's largest primary industries export, accounting for more than 50 per cent of total exports, worth more than \$7b.

Canola exports came in second at around 20 per cent, followed by meat and livestock with around 10 per cent share of all exports.

The value of horticulture production increased over the previous four years, driven by fruit and amenity products, while wool, dairy, fisheries and apiculture remained largely stable. Recent data shows aquaculture production also grew in 2023-24.

WA's largest primary industries export markets are China and Japan, while there has been a notable increase in demand from nearby south east Asian countries.

High international demand for sheep and beef protein continues, driven mainly by China, Indonesia, the United States and Israel, while much of WA's seafood is destined for premium markets in China and other parts of Asia.

eye on crime

Stratton grievous bodily harm charges

MIDLAND detectives have charged a juvenile in relation to a serious incident that occurred in Stratton on Saturday, February 28.

It will be alleged about midnight, the accused male drove a grey Holden Commodore sedan to a home on Tatlock Way.

A physical altercation occurred in the driveway, during which the accused allegedly accelerated towards the victim, pushing him into the wall of a house before driving away from the scene.

Emergency services, including St John WA, attended and located a 17-year-old male victim with life threat-

ening injuries.

He was conveyed to Royal Perth Hospital for treatment.

The alleged driver later attended Midland Police Station, where he was arrested and taken into custody.

A 17-year-old male from High Wycombe has been charged with one count each of grievous bodily harm and criminal damage or destruction of property.

He has been remanded in custody and appeared before the Perth Children's Court on Wednesday, March 4 where he was again remanded in custody to appear before the Perth Children's Court on Wednesday, April 15.

Koondoola child abuse squad investigation

CHILD Abuse Squad detectives are seeking public assistance for information as they investigate the suspicious approach of a child in Koondoola on Saturday, February 28.

About 5.10pm, the victim was playing basketball at Butterworth Reserve on Butterworth Avenue, in the company of an unknown male who tried to lead him away from the area.

The victim attempted to seek assistance from a group of people nearby.

The victim walked towards Waddington Crescent where he was followed a short distance through a laneway onto Gabell Way, before he managed to run away.

The man is described as approximately 18-years-old, of slim build with dark skin and short, curly black hair.

He was wearing a white T-shirt, shorts and black sneakers, with ear buds in his ears.

Investigators are seeking anyone with mobile phone, CCTV or dash cam footage from the area between 4.30pm and 5.30pm to upload their vision via this community portal at <https://wapf.au.evidence.com/axon/community-request-public/280226213515267>

Anyone with any information relating to this incident, or who saw the male in the vicinity of Butterworth Reserve, Waddington Crescent or Gabell Way, is urged to contact Crime Stoppers either online via www.crimestopperswa.com.au or by calling 1800 333 000. Reports to Crime Stoppers can remain anonymous.

Child Abuse Squad detectives urge parents, carers, and community members to remain alert when children are in public places such as aquatic centres, playgrounds, and sporting venues.

Close supervision and simple safety conversations can help reduce risk.

Police want anyone with information regarding the above incidents to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or you can make a report online at www.crimestopperswa.com.au



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Free exercise course is a life-changer for Parkerville breast cancer survivor

WHEN 65-year-old Parkerville breast cancer survivor Anne Clohessy signed up for a Cancer Council WA Life Now exercise class in August 2025, it had been years since she had set foot inside a gym.

Twelve weeks later, she had gained 2.1 kilograms of muscle, built the confidence to train independently, and discovered a new part of her identity.



Parkerville breast cancer survivor Anne Clohessy working out at the gym.

Now Ms Clohessy is encouraging people living with cancer and their carers to join Cancer Council WA's Life Now program, offering free in-person and online courses starting April 2026.

"The exercise course has literally been life-changing for me," Ms Clohessy said.

"I had very little experience with gyms or exercise programs and I was really daunted by the idea of joining one.

"The course gave me real, measurable results that showed me this wasn't just helping emotionally, it was changing my body and my health for the better. It gave me the confidence to exercise safely, to use equipment properly, and to challenge myself in ways I never thought I could.

"Before my cancer diagnosis, I hardly exercised at all. Now it's part of my weekly routine and part of my identity."

The Life Now program provides a range of courses designed to support wellbeing during cancer treatment and recovery.

Participants can explore exercise, meditation, mindfulness, mindful art, Tai Chi, and yoga, with classes available across Western Australia and online to

suit all needs and locations.

Cancer Council WA Life Now program coordinator Annika English said the purpose of the program is to introduce mind-body practices in a safe and supportive environment and to empower people to manage their own physical and mental wellbeing.

"Our evidence-based Life Now courses offer physiological, psychological, and social support to people like Anne affected by cancer and their primary carers," she said.

"We know that people with cancer who exercise regularly have fewer and milder side effects from their treatments."

Applications are essential and eligibility criteria applies. For more information on Life Now courses go to www.cancerwa.asn.au/get-involved/event-calendar or to apply via the online application form go to www.cancerwa.asn.au/cancer-support/get-support/emotional-physical-wellbeing/life-now-exercise-and-meditative-courses/life-now-program/

You can also email 'subscribe' to lifenow@cancerwa.asn.au for regular updates and information or call 13 11 20 to speak with a cancer nurse.



Parkerville resident Anne Clohessy recommends the Life Now program.

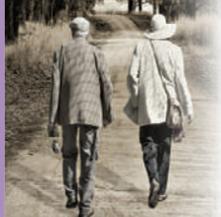
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DPIRD shed offering practical support to Woolorama visitors

A PACKED program of research, technology and practical tools to support farm businesses across the state is on offer in the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) shed at this year's Wagin Woolorama from March 6 and 7.

Visitors can explore interactive displays and speak directly with DPIRD specialists across a range of areas, including livestock management advice, climate resilience, biosecurity and pest control.

Sheep producers will have the opportunity to learn about DPIRD's research into feedbase solutions to reduce methane emissions, an area of growing importance for productivity and sustainability.

Livestock development officer Katherine Davies said for the latest in sheep management DPIRD experts will be available to talk through condition scoring techniques, seasonal decision-support tools and other practical resources including confinement feeding and making the most of electronic identification (eID).

"The popular GreenFeed in-paddock methane-measuring machine returns this year with live demonstrations outside the shed, giving producers the opportunity to see the technology in action and learn about the links between feed on offer, productivity and methane," Ms Davies said.

"Staff will also be on hand to discuss the worm vaccine lab research program, where there will be a chance to win free worm egg count tests. We are also offering free farm water testing for pH and salinity throughout the event."

DPIRD's livestock biosecurity team will be available to provide details on the rollout of eID for



Visitors are encouraged to visit the sheep and goat eID display in the DPIRD shed at Wagin Woolorama.

sheep and goats, including the extended tag incentive payment scheme.

Visitors can talk to DPIRD veterinarians and take home on-farm biosecurity resources to help reduce the risk of emergency animal diseases entering their property, including foot-and-mouth disease, lumpy skin disease and avian influenza.

Principal field veterinary officer Anna Erickson said visitors to the DPIRD shed were invited to take part in a short 'spot the biosecurity risk' quiz for a chance to win a power washer each day.

"The biosecurity quiz will highlight the daily activities of livestock farming that could allow an emergency animal disease or other disease onto the property and how to prevent it," Dr Erickson said.

"With the ongoing spread of foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease in Indonesia and H5 avian influenza edging closer to Australia, there has never been a better time for WA producers to review their on-farm biosecurity."

The WaterSmart Farms team will provide an overview and case studies of the projects, helping to find additional groundwater sources for farmers and agricultural industries.

DPIRD's aquaculture team will be making its first appearance at the Woolorama, sharing updates on research and fish restocking programs in lakes and rivers across regional WA, while the Fisheries team will provide information on recreational fishing, rock fishing safety and the SharkSmart WA app.

DPIRD's carbon farming and bioenergy team will be ready to answer carbon farming-related questions and have a range of resources providing independent guidance to landholders considering carbon farming.

Farm owners will be encouraged to update their farm contact details at the popular DPIRD mapping display. Every farm checked will go in the draw to win a laminated A0 farm aerial map of their property.

The DPIRD display will be at Site 626, Kitchener Street, Wagin.

International Women's Day in Midland

GUANHAO CHENG

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day in Midland was celebrated by a coming together of leaders and a sharing of stories on how to balance the scales in society.

Women in leadership roles gathered at ERICA Women's Centre in Midland on Wednesday to share stories of strength and becoming.

Stratton resident and Noongar Elder Di Ryder presented the Welcome to Country and shared stories of her mother's involvement in creating a sense of family and home.

"My inspirational mum, Josephine, along with my dad Bill, influenced my life and showed me that with strong work ethics, mutual respect, and commitment to family, culture and community, you can achieve anything you set your mind to," she said.

"Mum supplemented the household with a veggie garden, fruit trees, chickens and anything else she could manage to help keep the family going.

"Mum cooked everything from scratch like curries, soups, jams, marmalades, cakes and biscuits.

"She made ginger beer and pickled vegetables, and she sewed clothes for the younger kids and in those days everything was done by hand.

"I only have one child and I can't even imagine what it would be like as a mum with 11 kids but mum coped."

Ms Ryder was inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame in 2024 for her community service and promoting reconciliation as reported in Stratton resident recognised in *WA Women's Hall of Fame (Echo News, March 9, 2024)*.

Despite Ms Ryder's own list of achievements as a Medal of the Order of Australia and a NAIDOC Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, she said her mother was a main motivating force in her life.

"Mum passed away in 2006, but the values



ERICA Women's Centre was the hub for leaders to gather and celebrate International Women's Day in Midland. Picture: Guanhao Cheng



she gave us have stayed with all of her children," she said.

"She devoted her life to her family and she is the most inspirational woman I know.

"I still aspire to be like her and face life head on with courage and resilience and to make the most of every opportunity."

Ms Ryder said the values passed down by her parents shaped her life and achievements, including 20 years of service in the Army and recognition for her volunteer work.

"We can't do anything without our community supporting us," she said.

"We're only as good as the people around us."

Key speaker Petal Ashmole Winstanley said balancing the scales in society would require courage and speaking up.

"Use your voice and speak your truth," she said.

"Virginia Giuffre has single-handedly put Jeffrey Epstein away and this is a woman that spoke her truth.

"She was silenced for so long and she spoke for the women before us, the women after us, for all of us.

"And another is Julia Gillard who famously said, 'I will not be lectured by this man – not now, not ever'.

"She had been told in our parliament that

she was deliberately barren.

"This is shaming and it appals me, and she was told she was not fit for leadership because she was childless and unmarried.

"She survived but it is passed down.

"We've got to educate our boys, our young men on good role modelling on how we treat each other – how women treat men, how men treat women so there's a better understanding.

"This is the role of every adult, not just parents, but to enable those young men to treat us equally and fairly with respect and care and love."

Cont. p17



Parkerville Children and Youth Care CEO Kim Brooklyn.

Improving outcomes for vulnerable youth

WHEN it comes to improving outcomes for some of society's most vulnerable people – such as children and young people affected by family and domestic violence (FDV) including sexual and physical abuse – Parkerville Children and Youth Care chief executive officer Kim Brooklyn is a strong believer in elevating the voices of those most impacted by adversity.

Mrs Brooklyn, a 35-year veteran of the community services sector, said children and young people suffering from trauma and abuse often don't disclose what they're going through, are likely to be experiencing many types of adversity, and that a coordinated, multi-faceted and multi-agency approach – one that has child-centred responses at its core – was the most effective way to establish meaningful change.

"As an underlying force, FDV shapes much of what children show us, even when it's not the issue bringing them to our front door. And when we fail to see it as the main driver, we end up chasing the symptoms," Mrs Brooklyn said.

"This invisibility has consequences. Children don't get the responses they need. Families don't get the support that could create safety and healing. And we, as a system, keep responding in fragments to lives that are whole."

Breaking the cycle of family and domestic violence was a key theme for Parkerville at this week's National Family Safety Summit in Perth.

The charity's adverse childhood experiences scale data highlights that out of 1056 children and young people, 445 (42 per cent) have experienced the impact of family and domestic violence.

The same children are also dealing with a range of adverse experiences: 65 per cent are also experiencing emotional abuse, 58 per cent are living with financial insecurity, 55 per cent are experiencing emotional neglect, 49 per cent are dealing with housing insecurity, 48 per cent are experiencing physical abuse, 31 per cent are living with food insecurity, and 43 per cent have also experienced sexual abuse.

"This tells us children are living inside a complex ecology of adversity and hardship where a lot of areas are connected. And this is why siloed, single-issue responses don't work as well as they could," Mrs Brooklyn said.

"Our data tells us we can't address FDV without addressing housing. We can't support a child's mental health without understanding the financial stress and food insecurity their family is managing.

"We can't intervene on educational disengagement without recognising the exhaustion that comes from chronic hypervigilance. Children don't live their lives in service silos. They can't separate these parts of their experience. If we're serious about keeping them safe and supporting them to thrive, neither can we.

Cont. p17

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Kalamunda View

News from your City | March 2026



Mayor's MESSAGE

With cooler weather around the corner, we have many exciting initiatives and events coming up in the City of Kalamunda.

We're currently seeking KalaVisionaries—community members who want to share what they love about where they live, work or play, and what they would like to see more of. Your feedback will help shape the City's Council Plan, a 10-year blueprint guiding Council decisions, from how we invest rates to how we care for the environment, support local businesses, and keep our community safe. You can have your say through our online survey, at pop-up sessions with City staff, or by registering for our World Café. To share your KalaVision, visit engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/council-plan-2026. Comments close at midnight on Friday 3 April 2026.

March also brings Harmony Week, celebrating the diversity within our community and promoting inclusiveness, respect and belonging. The City is hosting a range of events supporting our Culturally and Linguistically Diverse community. Details are available at kalamunda.wa.gov.au/events.

Across the City, you may notice a number of works underway, including road resurfacing, footpath renewals and the upcoming Elizabeth Street/Railway Road roundabout project. Please check our website for updates, plan ahead for a smooth journey, and thank you for your patience as we complete these essential works.

If you're seeking literary inspiration, tickets are still available for our first Kalamunda Readers Festival. With authors spanning crime, thriller, mystery, romantasy and children's literature, there is something for everyone. Visit kalamunda.wa.gov.au/kalamunda-readers-festival for more information.

As Easter approaches, please note that bin collections on the public holiday may be affected, and some facilities will have reduced opening hours. Visit kalamunda.wa.gov.au/news/easter-2026 for details.

Stay safe, and I look forward to seeing you out and about in our beautiful City of Kalamunda.

Mayor Margaret Thomas JP



Community Funding Program

Closes 31 March 2026

Public Agenda Briefing Forum
6:30pm, Tuesday 10 March
Ordinary Council Meeting
6:30pm, Tuesday 24 March
Administration Centre, Council Chambers

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

KALAVISION NOW OPEN! FOR COUNCIL PLAN CONSULTATION

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Plus everyone who completes a survey, goes into a random draw for a chance to win one of five gift cards valued at \$100 (T&Cs apply).



Submissions close 3 April 2026.



HARMONY WEEK 2026 - EVERYONE BELONGS

Harmony Week (16–22 March) celebrates the rich diversity of our community and the importance of inclusiveness, respect and belonging.

The City of Kalamunda is hosting free Harmony Week events and workshops designed to support and empower our culturally and linguistically diverse community. The program includes a series of educational legal workshops covering divorce, tenant rights, mediation, restraining orders and accessing government services.

The week will conclude with a free vibrant event on Sunday 22 March 2026. More details to come! Visit www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/harmony-week for more details.



UPCOMING WORKS IN THE CITY OF KALAMUNDA

Across the City, essential works are underway, including road resurfacing, footpath upgrades and the Elizabeth Street/Railway Road roundabout project.

Check our website for updates, plan ahead, and thank you for your patience as we improve our roads and pathways.



Kalamunda Readers Festival

20 - 22 March

Tickets on sale now!



EARLY YEARS WORKSHOPS WITH KAREN YOUNG

In collaboration with psychologist Karen Young, the City is offering free workshops exploring the neuroscience behind early childhood development. Perfect for early-years professionals, teachers, service providers and parents, these sessions deliver practical, research-based insights to support children's growth and wellbeing.



Workshops are free, but bookings are essential.



Bin Collection Update over the Easter Holidays

If your usual bin day is on a Friday, your bin collection will be Saturday 4 April instead. There are no changes to collection for Easter Monday or ANZAC Day Public Holidays.

Prohibited Burning
1 December 2025 – 31 March 2026
No burning allowed.
Report all signs of fire to 000

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Guildford museum building marks 100 years

GUANHAO CHENG

AN historic Guildford building that now houses one of the state's most peculiar museums will this week celebrate a century since its first opening.

The building that now contains the Guildford Museum of Natural History, also known as the Academy of Taxidermy, turns 100 on March 9, marking a full century since its construction in 1926.

Guildford taxidermist Michael Buzza has called the museum home for the past 21 years and has maintained, expanded and showcased the museum and its displays since its opening in 2005.

Mr Buzza said the museum was an interesting and unlikely meeting of taxidermy and an opportunity in Guildford.

Though his bookings are full with clients all over the world, the conditions for taxidermy weren't ideal in a hot country like Australia and yet it was here his passion became a lifelong devotion.

"There're almost 400,000 taxidermists in America but hardly any in Australia," Mr Buzza said.

"It's not a good climate, but I've always had a soft spot for Guildford because my family is from here and that's why we settled here.

"Although, I've moved 48 times, my grandfather on my mum's side went to school at the Guildford Primary School and we've always been in the area.

"I can always remember coming down to Perth on the weekends and dad would say, '4000 sheep on a farm can look after themselves but we have to drive all the way back to Perth to feed Michael's birds'.

"Guildford was always the last bit of the journey separating them and so we had a soft spot for it.

"That and once my own home got too crowded from taxidermy, my mum found a chance to buy this lovely old building in the paper."

The story of the building has become intertwined with the work of Mr Buzza and his wife Lara Buzza who has also been keeping the museum maintained for many years.

Mrs Buzza said visitors were often surprised by the size of the space in the building once they entered but she enjoyed it that way.

"Everybody says when you walk in, it's so much bigger," she said.

"Probably because after visiting antique shops, they're expecting everything to be tiny and small inside.

"They stop at the entrance with the curtain and I tell them there's much more, and when they open the curtain they go, 'wow'.

"Here, magic is happening and we prefer it this way rather than the opposite where people come with huge expectations and are disappointed – this way, it's a surprise."

Mr Buzza said becoming the custodian of such a historic space has been both a privilege and a responsibility.

"This building is still largely the same as it was when I first purchased it from the Slovenian Club," he said.

"It hasn't gone through too many changes, and it's been well looked after."

The building originally opened on March 9, 1926 as the Regent Theatre, which was a theatre, gallery and two shops designed by noted Perth theatre architect Samuel Rosenthal.

It was built for owner and manager George Hall in an art deco style and was a significant social and



Guildford resident Michael Buzza says taxidermy has been a tool to process grief for some people and a way to capture their pets in a moment in time. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

entertainment centre in Guildford.

According to the Swan Express in March 1929, the Tuesday, March 9 evening of the opening was a rainy one but that didn't stop audiences from filing in.

"Despite the rain on Tuesday evening, the seating accommodation for 700 at the Regent Theatre, Guildford, was almost filled," the newspaper reported.

"The theatre is a handsome brick structure of imposing appearance brilliantly lighted by large globes under the awning.

"The attractive appearance of white walls and polished jarrah, together with symmetrical designs of wall and ceilings, will please all."

According to the report, the opening night featured live musical accompaniment with Miss Huey performing as a pianist and conductor alongside her sisters Bernice and Viola on violin and banjo.

Audiences even experienced an early style of 3D cinema, wearing blue and red lensed glasses.

"One almost winced when the lariat swung near one's head, or a missile came straight for one's eye," they wrote.

The theatre closed 40 years later in 1966 and was hired out for bingo and social events and in this period was renamed after renowned aviators as Garne Hall by the Royal Air Force Association of WA.

Then, in 1974, it was purchased by the Slovenian Club whose stewardship led it to be named The Slovenian Hall until its eventual purchase in 2005 by Mr Buzza.

Today, the hall continues to expand and change with new taxidermy pieces switched in and out.

"The most recent project of mine was three black cockatoos," Mr Buzza said.

"Sometimes people have this idea in their mind of taxidermists and see me as a gun-happy type that like to go hunting and killing animals, but I've always worked off roadkill and animals that died

from natural causes.

"It's a chance to preserve an animal as a specimen or a memory for people – we've had people bring in their pets that we've taxidermised and I've bought little pet toys and stands to capture a moment in time.

"Taxi means move and derm means skin, and that's all we do."

Mrs Buzza said she was also glad to be able to call the historical building home and treasured Guildford's ability to keep heritage alive.

"Sometimes people come in with mixed feelings and think, 'Oh, he's

a hunter,' but I explain what's actually going on here and that taxidermy doesn't mean destroying nature.

"Sometimes the children ask, 'do the animals come to life?' and I tell them all the time that after midnight, I hear some noises while I'm upstairs, but I never come down to disturb their party."

Mrs Buzza said the magic that those stories spark in their imaginations and stays with the visitors was one of her favourite memories of being part of the building's 100 years of history.

Farm owner fined \$22K over unsafe wool press machinery

A FARM owner from Katrine, near Northam, has been fined \$22,000 and ordered to pay \$4861 in costs over unsafe controls on a wool press.

Wayne Bradley Ashworth pleaded guilty to failing to provide and maintain a safe work environment and was fined in the Northam Magistrates Court late last month.

In January 2022, a farm manager was using the wool press to compress fleeces into cubic wool packs.

He had just ejected a full wool pack from the machine when, by an unknown means, the press activated while his upper body was between the press plate and the body of the machine, resulting in a fatal neck injury.

The prosecution did not allege that the machinery safety issue caused the fatality.

At the time of the incident, the wool press was more than 30 years old and did not have controls installed that required the use of both hands to protect against the risk of inadvertent activation by the

operator.

When the press plate was in its fully raised position, the unguarded area between the press plate and the body of the wool press (the pinch point) was exposed to the operator.

WorkSafe Commissioner Sally North said risks of a person being caught in machinery must be identified and controlled.

"The wool press involved in this incident exposed the operator to the risk of having a body part crushed, with the added hazard of the emergency stop controls placed out of reach," Ms North said.

"This case presents an important reminder to all workplaces with machinery of the importance of checking that controls meet contemporary standards."

WorkSafe has a code of practice 'Safeguarding of machinery and plant' available on its website which outlines the hazards associated with machinery and practical ways to comply with work health and safety laws.

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**Wednesday, 25 March 2026
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www.sbcl.wa.edu.au

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

The World of EDUCATION

Mazenod College Turns 60 – Moments of Grace

Founded in 1966 by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Mazenod College began with just 31 students as a Catholic boys' school grounded in the spirit of St Eugene de Mazenod.

From humble beginnings, the College has grown to educate more than 900 boys, sustained by the dedication of the Oblates, staff, and generations of local and regional families.

A significant milestone came in 1967 with the establishment of the Boarding residence, extending access to students from regional and remote Western Australia and strengthening the College's reach and impact.

In 2026, Mazenod College celebrates its 60th Anniversary, marking six decades of faith, service, and holistic education. This year also heralds a new chapter with the appointment of its first female Principal, Mrs Sabrina Hughes.



MAZENOD COLLEGE

Set on 8.9 hectares in the scenic Lesmurdie Hills overlooking Perth, the College provides a spacious, purpose-built environment designed to support the holistic development of every student. Surrounded by natural beauty, the campus fosters both reflection and growth.

More than a school, Mazenod is a vibrant community committed to honouring the traditions and unique pathways of boys' education. Students benefit from a comprehensive program spanning academics, sport, the Creative and Performing Arts, service, and personal development. Senior pathways offer tailored guidance toward university, TAFE, or employment.

At its heart, Mazenod remains dedicated to ensuring every boy is known, valued, and empowered to achieve his personal best, continuing the proud Oblate tradition in Western Australia.

St Brigid's College – Lighting The Way In Education

At St Brigid's College, our students are at the heart of all we do. Here, they grow with a sense of belonging, confidence and happiness and thrive in a holistic environment of learning and living.

Our curriculum nurtures the development of the whole person in a Christ-centred environment firmly based on the Catholic tradition. We know that the biggest impact of a child's learning journey is their teacher and at St Brigid's you can be assured that your child will receive the best opportunities in their education and growth.

Our Primary School caters for students from Pre-Kindergarten through to Year 6 and is co-educational. Primary students have ready access to educational facilities such as science and computer laboratories, the Performing Arts Centre, swimming pool, tennis courts, ovals and gymnasium.

Secondary students are encouraged to pursue their personal excellence in a nurturing and supportive environment. Interpersonal and self-management skills are a focus as our students grow into independent, responsible life learners who are both good at learning and good at life.



Our students, teachers and parents, work in partnership to develop our learning and teaching programmes, ensuring that each of the nine learning areas address essential knowledge and skill. Guided by our vision for learning, we light the way for every student to be confident, critical thinkers, who are empowered to illuminate the path ahead. We guide our students to take ownership of their learning, to make purposeful contributions, respond positively to challenges and opportunities, to be creative, imaginative and to always support and collaborate with each other.

St Brigid's currently has limited placements available in Years 7 for 2026 and across selected year groups from Pre Kindy to Year 12. If you would like to find out more about the College and enrolments, join us on a College Tour or contact our Registrar, Patty Majko at majko.patty@st-brigid.wa.edu.au or on 9290 4237.

Our next College tour will be held on Wednesday, 25 March, 2026 at 9am, bookings can be made here <https://sbcl.wa.edu.au/tours-and-open-days/>

Simple ways Midland families are cutting energy costs

Many households are unaware of the small habits quietly driving up their energy bills.

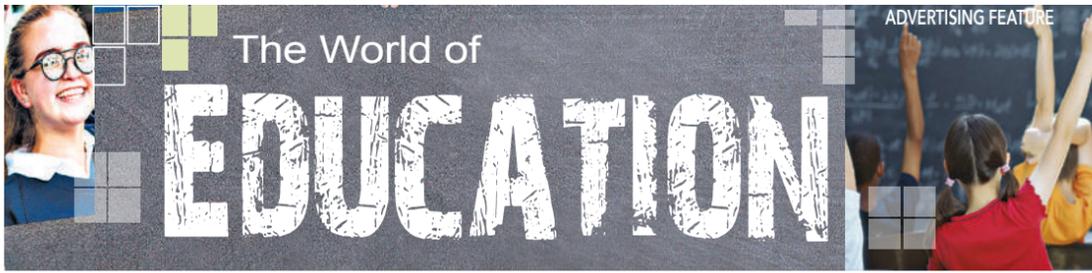
Energy coaches from Midlas are working with local families to identify where energy is being wasted — and the fixes are often straightforward.



Simple switches like replacing five incandescent bulbs with LEDs saves around \$10 per bill, while turning your air conditioner up by just one degree in summer reduces running costs by around 10 percent. A heated throw costs as little as 3 cents per hour to run, compared to significantly more for a full room heater. Checking refrigerator door seals and running the dishwasher one less time per week can also add up to real savings over time.

"Once families understand where their energy is going, they're empowered to make changes that suit their lifestyle," says Midas CEO Angie Perkins.

The free Energy Ahead program supports eligible Synergy customers with personalised energy coaching and complimentary energy-saving items. To find out more or book a free in-home visit, go to thefwc.org.au/energyahead or call (08) 6253 3500.



Building the Engineers of Tomorrow — Today

Governor Stirling Senior High School's Specialist Engineering Program Opens Doors to the Future.

Governor Stirling Senior High School is shaping the future of STEM education in Western Australia with its newly enhanced Approved Specialist Engineering Program — now housed in a state-of-the-art STEM and Engineering facility that sets a new benchmark for secondary education in the region.

The newly completed facility is purpose-built to inspire creativity and hands-on problem-solving. Featuring modern workstations, advanced machinery, and flexible collaborative zones, students work in an industry-style environment equipped with advanced CAD software, 3D printing systems, robotics platforms, and CNC equipment. From concept to prototype, everything students need is under one roof.

The program is built around practical, project-based learning. Students tackle genuine engineering challenges — designing and testing solar-powered vehicles, constructing load-bearing bridge structures, coding autonomous robotics systems, building renewable energy prototypes, and producing precision components through 3D printing and CAD. These experiences build teamwork, critical thinking, and resilience that carry well beyond the classroom, opening pathways into electrical, mechanical, civil, chemical, and environmental engineering careers.

Leading the program is Mr David Scuderi, Head of Department for Technologies and Specialist Engineering Program Coordinator. A Level 3 classroom teacher, Mr Scuderi has received both the Leadership in Technology Education Award and the Excellence in Engineering Related Subjects Award from Engineers Australia. He has secured numerous education grants and contributed extensively to curriculum development at the state level. Supported by a team of highly qualified specialist teachers with deep industry expertise, the program ensures every student is supported, challenged, and inspired — whether their dream is to become a robotics engineer, an industrial designer, or simply to discover a passion for how the world is built.



el 3 classroom teacher, Mr Scuderi has received both the Leadership in Technology Education Award and the Excellence in Engineering Related Subjects Award from Engineers Australia. He has secured numerous education grants and contributed extensively to curriculum development at the state level. Supported by a team of highly qualified specialist teachers with deep industry expertise, the program ensures every student is supported, challenged, and inspired — whether their dream is to become a robotics engineer, an industrial designer, or simply to discover a passion for how the world is built.

Enrolments Now Open for 2027

Applications are now open for Year 7 students commencing in 2027. Students currently in Year 5 and Year 6 are invited to apply, with entry determined through a selection process. For more information, visit the school's website. Don't miss this opportunity to give your child access to one of Western Australia's finest specialist programs.



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To learn more, we invite you to attend our Parent Information Evening—simply scan the QR code to reserve your place.

Applications can be submitted online at govo.wa.edu.au. For further information, please contact us on (08) 6274 0300. 25 Third Avenue, Woodbridge WA 6056



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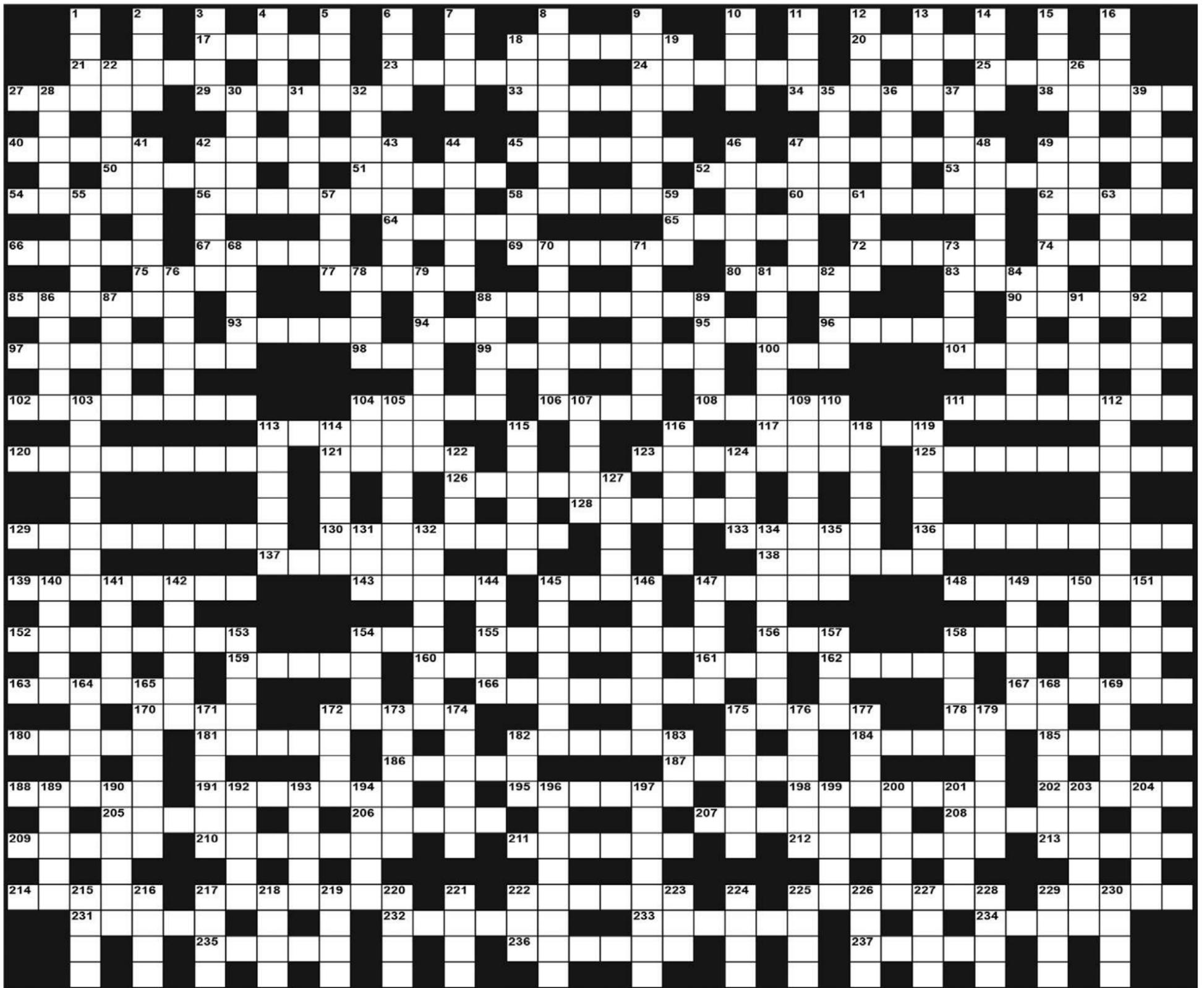
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Mind Boggler Crossword

1258



ACROSS

- 17 Give opinion
- 18 State as truth
- 20 Miss seeing
- 21 Skin openings
- 23 Complete
- 24 Treat lavishly
- 25 Precise
- 27 Social group
- 29 Traveller
- 33 One in club
- 34 Deer horns
- 38 Powdery
- 40 Lose blood
- 42 Bands of sky colours
- 45 Type of gum
- 47 Far off
- 49 Hatred
- 50 Pulls jerkily
- 51 More secure
- 52 Travel documents
- 53 Metal frame
- 54 From Switzerland
- 56 Ate lavishly
- 58 Keeps waiting
- 60 Repeat a theme
- 62 Give way to
- 64 Indian city
- 65 Show direction
- 66 Praise loudly
- 67 Metrical feet
- 69 Thing recalled
- 72 Mature insect
- 74 Foot disease
- 75 Paddles
- 77 Weary
- 80 A duck
- 83 Egg on
- 85 Spreads widely
- 88 Made bare
- 90 Of bears
- 93 Walk casually
- 94 A hint
- 95 Current strength

- 96 Struggles for breath
- 97 Perseverance
- 98 Damage
- 99 Attract attention
- 100 A donkey
- 101 Made bigger
- 102 Match adjudicators
- 104 Sample
- 106 Dogs
- 108 Morsel
- 111 Lasts longer
- 113 Take for granted
- 117 Brings from body
- 120 White earthenware
- 121 Slight error
- 123 Loud
- 125 Shammed
- 126 Disagree
- 128 Mesh
- 129 Singer
- 130 Protrusion
- 133 Lease pasture
- 136 A creation
- 137 Spin around
- 138 Cause
- 139 An example
- 143 Comes closer
- 145 Lumps of earth
- 147 Large box
- 148 Came back
- 152 Most likely
- 154 Prohibit
- 155 Sales for bidders
- 156 This time
- 158 Remarks
- 159 Give speech
- 160 A tree
- 161 Make a knot
- 162 Entertain
- 163 A ship
- 166 Artists
- 167 Sheen
- 170 Birds home
- 172 Go against

- 175 Funeral fires
- 178 Noticed
- 180 Very satisfied
- 181 A task
- 182 Ask in
- 184 Of oats
- 185 Papal decree
- 186 Leers at
- 187 Once more
- 188 Dried grass stalks
- 191 Wandered around
- 195 Humble
- 198 Parliamentarian
- 202 Higher level
- 205 Even
- 206 More modern
- 207 House decoration
- 208 Rub of tree
- 209 Cede
- 210 Talk over
- 211 Go back
- 212 Joint in carpentry
- 213 Talks indistinctly
- 214 Singlets
- 217 A herb
- 222 Pretending
- 225 Carriers
- 229 Shouts
- 231 Moving
- 232 Say again
- 233 Sex
- 234 Commerce
- 235 Ministers home
- 236 Rise in opposition
- 237 Greatly desire

DOWN

- 1 Betterers
- 2 Ground measurement
- 3 Missing
- 4 A New Zealand bird
- 5 Jump
- 6 Pitcher

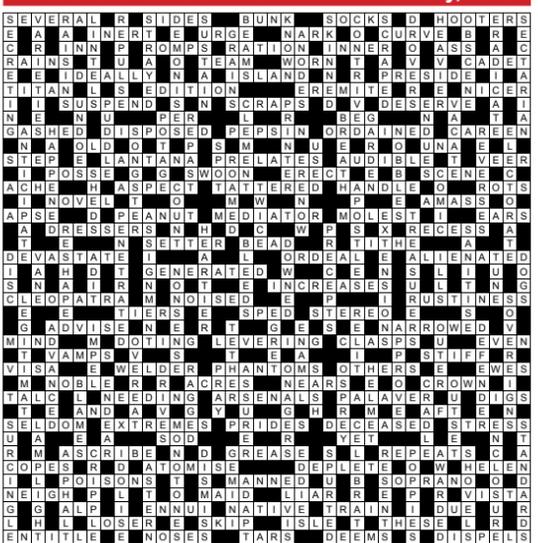
- 7 Satisfy
- 8 Cabin class on ship
- 9 Harshness
- 10 See
- 11 Radiance
- 12 Talk wildly
- 13 Extra
- 14 Verses
- 15 Highway
- 16 Consumes
- 18 Body part
- 19 Pitch
- 22 Water creatures
- 26 Nestle into
- 28 Give permission
- 30 Awaken
- 31 Fronts of boats
- 32 Rub out
- 35 Din
- 36 Afterwards
- 37 Ladder steps
- 39 Period of peace
- 41 Ruin
- 42 Romantic interlude
- 43 More sorrowful
- 44 Cured
- 46 Blessed
- 47 Ran quickly
- 48 A shiver
- 49 Senior person
- 55 A doctrine
- 57 Try out
- 58 Hard to see
- 59 Secret agent
- 61 A couple
- 63 Plant organisms
- 68 Test metal
- 70 Irregular
- 71 Types of dancers
- 73 Pretence
- 76 Hope to attain
- 78 Single thing
- 79 Gives as security
- 81 Damaged in body

- 82 Ova
- 84 Throat
- 86 A portion
- 87 Slander
- 88 A herb
- 89 Times
- 91 Small fish
- 92 In need
- 103 Amounts of luck
- 104 Hot drink
- 105 Wish for food
- 107 Overturn
- 109 Representatives
- 110 A sty
- 112 Test for an actor
- 113 Moor
- 114 Type of wine
- 115 Spoil appearance of
- 116 Puts on a show
- 118 Pranks
- 119 Damage to a joint
- 122 Rim
- 124 Thought
- 127 Fast
- 131 Male person
- 132 Tidy appearance
- 134 Foliage
- 135 Took a seat
- 140 Tend the sick
- 141 Pipes
- 142 Small bite
- 144 Brand
- 145 A separate part
- 146 First to occur
- 147 Prices
- 149 Fall clumsily
- 150 Waterside plants
- 151 Go into
- 153 Young man
- 154 A signal
- 157 Salute with hand
- 158 Stop
- 164 Wash thoroughly
- 165 Given as gift

- 168 Strange
- 169 Walk heavily
- 171 Scratched
- 172 Prison room
- 173 Dwellings
- 174 Head protector
- 175 Flat dishes
- 176 Kidnap for gain
- 177 Spread with seed
- 179 Meal course
- 182 A doctrine
- 183 Corrode
- 189 Strong cord
- 190 Shares out
- 192 Foreign
- 193 Male animals
- 194 Follow on
- 196 Worked with
- 197 Choke
- 199 Wear away

- 200 Type of boy
- 201 Happen
- 203 Prepared to fire
- 204 Send away
- 215 Identical
- 216 Pierced
- 217 Armed group
- 218 Charged particles
- 219 Organs of sight
- 220 Large container
- 221 Reel
- 222 Distant
- 223 Obtain
- 224 Woodwork tool
- 225 Type of vessel
- 226 Curved structure
- 227 Ardour
- 228 Stalk of plant
- 229 Gape
- 230 Crude

Crossword Solution 1257 from 27 February, 2026



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Free concert celebrates all things Irish

WITH St Patrick's Day just around the corner, the Swan Districts Senior Citizens Association (SDSCA) is holding a free lunchtime concert featuring Irish singer and entertainer Patrick O'Hooligan on Thursday March 12.

O'Hooligan (aka Fred Rea) will make you smile with jokes, songs and stories from the Emerald Isle and Australia.

With his ever ready guitar and easy-going approach, O'Hooligan quickly gets his audience involved in singalongs, as well as providing an excellent solo singing performance.

Presented in his unique style his performance will appeal to everyone, even if you're not Irish.

His songs range from Irish classics like Galway Bay and I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen to Australian staples such as Waltzing Matilda and Home Among the Gum Trees.

O'Hooligan will also tell a few jokes and yarns about his old days in Ireland.

SDSCA special projects officer Caroline McCarthy said the group put on a concert once a month as part of the SDSCA's Thursday activities.

"We wanted to open this one up to seniors in the community and hopefully get them to attend future events too," she said.

Founded in 1966, the SDSCA is a not-for-profit organisation focused on providing social interactions and outings for people over 55.

Operating from the Bellevue Baptist Church three times a week, the group runs three separate clubs: indoor bowls, bingo and the Sunshine social club.

The free concert is on March 12 at Midland Town Hall from 12.30pm to 1.30pm and is supported by the City of Swan.

Please register your attendance at www.trybooking.com/DJOVL

For more information about SDSCA and how to become a member go to www.sdsca.org.au



Patrick O'Hooligan (aka Fred Rea) will provide a true Irish flavour at the concert.

Year 11 art exhibition supports volunteer camp

PARKERVILLE Steiner College students will host their very own art auction and sale at Bellevue Cottage on Saturday, March 14 featuring works from students and other talented local artists.

Year 11 coordinator Robyn Smith said sales would be donated to the college's upcoming volunteering camp to the Kimberley later this year.

There will also be raffles, live music, food, drink and games with all proceeds going towards the camp funds.

"Alongside its community impact, the event also presents a valuable opportunity for student skill growth, leadership development and real-world enterprise experience," Ms Smith said.

"The students will be responsible for running every aspect of the art auction and sale, supported by teachers, families, and local businesses, including the owner of Bellevue Cottage, the incredible Larrece Lucas.

"The event gives teenagers the powerful opportunity to get out into the wider world and see for themselves that they have the ability to make a lasting difference in the lives of others."

Ms Smith said the art sale would feature award winning works by renowned artist John Ned Kelly, sculptor Scott Mitchell and more, as well as the wonderfully talented students of Parkerville Steiner College.

The event runs from 5.30pm to 7pm on March 14 at Bellevue Cottage, 78 Wilkins Street, Bellevue for one night only.

For information contact the college on 6158 6738.



A huge variety of art from students, professional artists and community members will be on sale at the Parkerville Steiner College art auction and sale.

ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

Your local Gig Guide

Fri March 6

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

Woodbridge Hotel
Next Level
From 8pm, Free
50 East Street, Guildford

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Charlie Scott
6pm - 9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

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

Sat March 7

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

Parkerville Tavern
Shane Turner
From 6pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

Woodbridge Hotel
Touche
From 8pm
Free
50 East St Guildford

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Damien Wicks
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Settlers House York
Graeme Fisher
From 6pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace
York

Sun March 8

Lyric's Bar
Harry Manx
From 5pm
22 Lyric Lane Maylands

Sun March 7 cont.

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Live Music
5pm-8pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Woodbridge Hotel
Stu McKay
From 3pm, Free
50 East St Guildford

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

Chidlow Tavern
Oscar Litchfield
12.30 - 3.30pm, Free
4 Thomas St Chidlow

Tues March 10

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

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

Wed March 11

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

Thur March 12

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
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4260 Great Eastern Hwy
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Read between the lines
 by Pastor Ian Kirk
Symphony under the Stars



Last weekend we had a spectacular evening listening to the Hills Symphony Orchestra play under the stars on the grounds of the Perth Observatory in Bickley. What a perfect evening without clouds, with the stars shining and with the moon and Jupiter visible in the night sky.

Before and after the concert, and during the intermission, we were encouraged to see the night sky through the telescopes at the Perth observatory. We saw the bands of Jupiter and its moons, our moon's craters and mountain ranges, as well as nebulae and galaxies. Seeing the heavens through the various telescopes made me think of the opening words of Psalm 19 "The heavens declare the glory of God".

Back on earth, it was so delightful to hear near 40 people play their instruments with the Hills Symphony Orchestra, as they played classical pieces and music from movies. It made me appreciate the glory and wonder of humans in regard to what we can do, from playing music to building telescopes. Truly, we are remarkable! That's because, as the first chapter in the Bible puts it, we have been made in the image of God.

Here's something else that's amazing. The God who knows every star by name, knows each of us by name. We matter to Him. That's why He sent His Son Jesus to reveal God's love for us and to rescue us from the consequences of our sins - if we would believe in Jesus.

ECHO NEWS

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Public Notice

Grants Selection Committee Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the above meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 March 2026 at 5pm for the purpose of assessing applications for the Shire's Community-wide Event and Significant Milestone Event Grants.

The meeting will be held in the Council Chamber at Shire of Mundaring, 7000 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring.



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Bathroom Regrouting. Call Andrew 0413 158 763.

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International Women's Day held in Midland

From p9

Midland based MLC Klasey Hirst said she wanted women to learn how to manage their financial independence as, drawing on her past as a banking professional, she had seen too many harrowing stories play out from a traditional home income structure and a lack of a safety net.

"(Some women) have not been supported to understand investment options that help them up," she said.

"My mother herself, when she was forced into retirement in 2018, due to business closure, had only \$40,000 of superannuation because she had been away for a long time when she had kids and only worked part time for most of her life.

"I've seen far too often what happens when women are cut out of the banking and it does still happen too often.

"One story is when a woman's husband died, there was no will and they were a well educated, well experienced couple that lived in Subiaco.

"She was only a signature on one account and she had an additional card and a credit card.

"They had hundreds of thousands of dollars in property and there was no

will.

"She came in thinking she was going to get access to all the money and left with less.

"We took the credit card off her and she had no income - just nothing.

"It was harrowing to watch people go through that but I've seen it happen many times and it's truly heartbreaking.

"It always made me think, 'only if', but that's the difference made by making sure you're added as a signatory and being educated on how banking worked."



Midland chief executive officer Angie Perkins speaking.

Improving outcomes for our vulnerable youth

From p9

"FDV weaves itself into a child's developmental story and can shape how they form relationships, understand safety, learn, and move through the world."

To help break the cycle of family and domestic violence, Parkerville is building a way of working that ensures every practitioner is equipped to see, understand and respond to the ways FDV shapes a child's life.

The Parkerville model includes embedding FDV specialists in every service area, investing in evidence-based training, creating a shared language for FDV and child and parent safety, and using data in new ways to make visible what's been hidden - helping frontline practitioners make sense of the complexity that each case presents.

Mrs Brooklyn said there is still work to be done.

"Most children who've experienced

family and domestic violence are still living at home with their families. Their healing isn't separate from their mum's healing - it's deeply connected to it.

"These mothers are doing the impossible: trying to create safety, stability and nurturing spaces for their children whilst they're still carrying the impact of violence directed at them.

"If we genuinely want to break cycles of violence, we need to see mothers in their full context - as women and as parents. That means building responses that recognise both mothers and children have been harmed and both need support to heal - not treating them as separate issues, but as deeply connected.

"This is the work Parkerville is doing. And this is how meaningful change becomes possible - child by child, family by family, system by system."

ECHO Notice Board

A free service for non-profit organisations

9374 6666

editorial@echo-news.com

- **The Kalamunda Ladies Probus Club** meets on the second Thursday of each month at St Barnabas Church Hall, Railway Road, Kalamunda (entry off Spring Road) at 9am for 9.30am start. They have morning tea and a guest speaker at each meeting and a monthly bus outing to different interesting places. Socially they meet for coffee monthly and lunch also monthly at different venues in the area. Probus is a social club for retirees who enjoy life. For more information call Trish on 0468 309 823 or Juliette on 9293 4438.
- **CWA Kalamunda** meets on the second Friday of each month at 10am on Central Road, Kalamunda behind Aldi, look for the blue tree. Go along to join in the fun and meet new friends.
- **Mundaring Garden Club** meets every second Tuesday of the month at Mundaring Church of Christ, 1470 Stoneville Road, Mundaring. The annual program

includes guest speakers who present on a variety of topics, workshops and outings to nurseries and gardens. Presentations are followed by morning tea in the club café. For more information call membership on 0413 358 085.

- **The Mundaring Country Women's Association** meets every second Wednesday at 1pm at the CWA Centre (Sculpture Park) in Jacoby Street, Mundaring for a craft and social afternoon. Take your craft ideas to share on your favourite craft or hobby. Visitors are always welcome anytime to have a cuppa and a chat. For more information call Marg on 0417 956 628.
- **Midland Ascension Craft Group** meets in the parish hall 17 Spring Park Road, Midland every Tuesday of school term from 1pm to 3pm. All most welcome to join for a chat, cuppa, any craft and sometimes a guest speaker. For more information call 0433 265 683.

- **57th Darlington Half Marathon and 8km Fun Run** will be held on Sunday, March 15 from 7am to 11am. Runners will start at Darlington Oval, follow the Heritage Trail to Sculpture Park in Mundaring and return, with 8km runners turning at Train Park in Glen Forrest. There will be no road closures, but motorists and cyclists are asked to be mindful of participants at crossings. All runners receive a finisher's medal and light breakfast. Part proceeds support Hannah's House. For registration or volunteer information visit www.wamc.org.au.
- **Midland Lawn Tennis Club** meets for social tennis at 9am on Wednesdays and Saturdays. All ages and standards are welcome, with senior and junior teams competing in Tennis West pennants. The club also offers an active junior program run by new coach Jak. Come along to 21 Patterson Drive, Middle Swan and have a hit. For more information visit

www.midlandtennis.com.au or email playtennis@midlandtennis.com.au.

- **Kalamunda Speakers Rostrum Club** will host the inaugural Kalamunda Poetry Slam on Monday, March 23. Rostrum Public Speaking members from across Perth will compete for the Poetry Slam Trophy. Non-members are welcome to attend the evening of poetry readings and recitals. For tickets and further details visit rostrumclubsofwa.wildapricot.org/events.
- **Nature Reserves Preservation Group** will hold its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, March 25 at 6pm at the Kalamunda Hotel, 43 Railway Road Kalamunda.

Noticeboard is for non-profits and community groups advertising free/low cost events/programs. Entries must be emailed to editorial@echo-news.com two weeks before the event.

Woofers of the week



Spike is a six-year-old jack russell, his previous owners have a new baby and Spike has his nose out of joint as he is not used to babies and thinks he should be the the one in the pram. Sterilised, vaccinated and microchipped Costs apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

Hills and Swan fighters bound for Bangkok

GUANHAO CHENG

A GROUP of Hills and Midland Muay Thai fighters are testing their skills in Thailand in March for the World Muay Thai Federation Championships.

Kalamunda Kickboxing athletes Marcus Allen, Asher Crosby, Jacob McKechnie, Lincoln Byers, Luca Barry and Destiny Blandford are among competitors heading to Bangkok as part of a large South Pacific team.

Joining them will be Midland fighters Ashraf Farawah and Shell Read from Mad Dog Martial Arts.

World Muay Thai Federation South Pacific president Murray McKechnie said the tournament would run from March 10 to 20 and bring together competitors from dozens of countries.

"We have approximately 170 people from Australia heading over, and another 30 from New Zealand, Samoa and Tonga joining the South Pacific group," he said.

"It's approximately going to be 40 to 50 countries from around the world converging on Bangkok."

The championships will be held at Nimibutr Stadium, an indoor arena in the Thai capital capable of holding thousands of spectators.

Mr McKechnie said the team had been preparing intensely for the opportunity.

"Everyone's been training really hard, putting in long days and long hours to get themselves ready to compete," he said.

The 2026 trip will mark the third year the South Pacific team has attended the championships, with participation growing rapidly.

"Our first year we had 50 athletes, coaches and spectators," he said.

"Last year we had 83, and this year



Fighters from Midland and the hills are preparing to represent Australian Muay Thai next month.



we've got about 220 people coming across."

The Midland fighters said the opportunity to fight at the birthplace of the sport was an honour.

"To experience Muay Thai competition in Thailand is definitely something I've always wanted to do since I started fighting," Farawah said.

Read said the prospect seemed surreal and she cherished the people supporting her on the journey.

"My two daughters and my dad have been at every single fight, even making the trip to Thailand to continue backing me," she said.

"Competing in the birthplace of the sport feels like stepping into the source."

"There's so much history there and it means a lot to experience that side of the culture now as a fighter."

According to Mr McKechnie, Western Australia and Queensland have long been among Australia's strongest regions for Muay Thai, with the sport continuing

to grow in popularity nationally.

While the Thai fighters remain the benchmark in their national sport, Mr McKechnie said Australian competitors were proving increasingly competitive.

"As far as Australia goes, we're very competitive and we're in the top third of the stronger countries," he said.

You learn different techniques and different ways to score points every year."

Beyond medals, Mr McKechnie said the event provided a powerful cultural exchange for young athletes.

Many junior competitors returned home with international friendships after meeting fighters from countries such as Mexico, Spain and England.

"One of the things I didn't expect was the friendships that formed," he said.

"A lot of these kids are still chatting to each other around the world."

He recalled a moment from last year's championships when Australian supporters cheered on a smaller Indian team whose athlete had won gold.

"We had probably 80 to 100 Australians there cheering for India," he said.

"They turned and bowed to us afterwards because they were so grateful for the support."

Mr McKechnie said Muay Thai taught important values for young competitors.

"Respect, integrity and honour are the main ones," he said.

"These kids are training four or five times a week, and they know they're representing their club and their country."

The Midland fighters echoed the sentiment and said they hoped their journey would inspire young people in the area.

"Work hard in everything you do, even if it's not training related, and stay focused," Farawah said.

Read said to strive to be a good person doing what you want to do.

"Build a strong mind and back yourself," she said.

"Most of the important decisions in my life have started with, 'This terrifies me... so I'm probably meant to do it.'"

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The wide driveway leads up to a large,

cream, double remote lock-up garage door which helps keep vehicles sheltered from the elements and safely parked under cover.

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bedrooms include built-in robes, two storerooms for extra storage and a functional laundry positioned off the kitchen area.

Centre of the house is the kitchen space which forms a hub overlooking the living area and alfresco beyond.

This cooking space has soft grey cabinetry that is paired with lots of bench space and a breakfast bar for casual meals.

It has a built-in oven, gas cooktop and dishwasher for all cooking needs while a window above the sink allows direct view of the backyard patio.

A shoppers' entrance connects directly from the garage helping make everyday living convenient.

Sliding doors beside the kitchen area extend out into a paved, undercover area creating a sheltered space that can be used for an outdoor entertainment space.

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I Remember When...



Do you remember when you found out the local news through the local papers, and the afternoon papers kept you up to date with the daily news? It seems like a million years ago, but I was once a paperboy, like many young boys in the sixties and seventies. This was usually the after-school job you had once you turned twelve. Some kids usually just made letterbox deliveries, but many of us had a round which was based on the closing hours of local businesses and factories. Others were posted along the highway, usually outside the local pub, and if there were traffic lights you would run up and down the line selling papers. Around Guildford, the main paperboy rounds were Wigmores (Westrac), Douglas Jones (Ross Salvage), Stirling Arms Hotel, Guildford Hotel, and The Woodbridge Hotel. My route was Douglas Jones (which was a woodyard and hardware store), then I went across the road to Peerless Flour Mills, and then I did all the shops along Terrace Road. These shops were a mixture of car yards, and Brown's Auctions was one of the shops. Halbert's and John Green were the car yards. There was the corner grocery store, which is now the liquor store, that was a combination of grocery, butcher, and liquor shop. Next door was a large two-storey home as well. Halbert's was where my grandfather's bakery had been, Rendell and Sons, which was open from 1922 to 1963. On our Monday to Friday paper round we were selling the *Daily News*, which cost five cents. At the weekend we used to sell the *Weekend Sports*, which was mainly sold through the local pubs and had the latest sports results. The guys who did the pub runs got the best tips, especially if their customer had a few drinks that day or had a win on the races at the TAB next door to the Stirling Arms. Imagine these young kids riding their bikes, selling more than a hundred newspapers, which they carried in a sack on the handlebars of their bikes, wearing their red caps.



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