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VOL.43 NO.1960

Kalamunda's dog poo bag shortage

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Satterley reopening bid rejected

P3



Pipeline riders set for big finish

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Citizen science event

Walliabup Wildlife Warriors and citizen scientist Ian Barlow will host a community event in Woodbridge supporting turtle population growth.

P15

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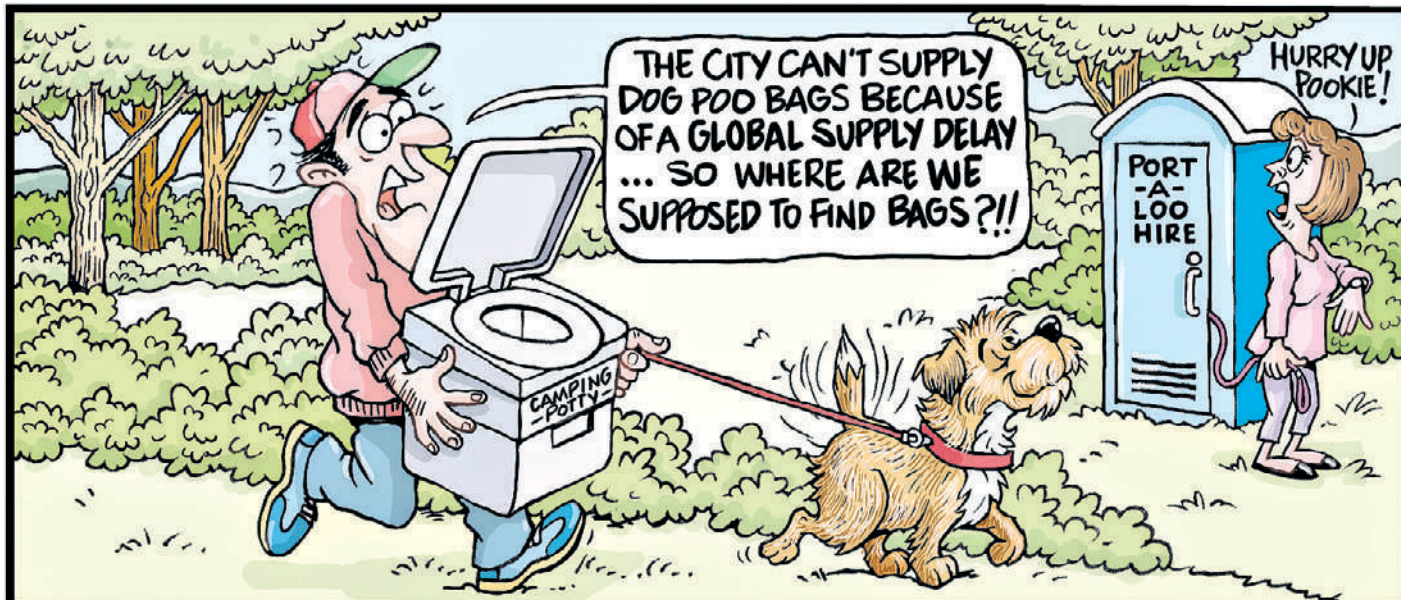
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THE CITY OF KALAMUNDA HAS RUN OUT OF DOG POO BAGS BECAUSE OF GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN DELAYS ... THE CITY ORDERED THREE MILLION BAGS EARLIER THIS YEAR WHICH HAS BEEN DELAYED, DOG WALKERS ARE ADVISED TO SUPPLY THEIR OWN BAGS.

ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say: editorial@echo-news.com

Thought for the day

"You always pass failure on the way to success."
- Mickey Rooney

Leave park for black cockatoos

Dear Echo News,
An evening event, likely to comprise extensive lighting, sound and evening visitation, is being considered to be held at Jorgensen Park this winter.

This reserve is known to have critical roosting habitat for all three species of black cockatoos.

Black cockatoos, who on a normal evening, would be safely positioned high in the branches of the marri trees, in peace and darkness.

Our city is considering hosting this evening event, which will shatter that darkness, that peace and that safety, for over four months.

The three black cockatoo species, all listed as endangered or vulnerable, are already under immense pressure due to habitat loss for housing, vehicle strikes, and competition for remaining roosting trees.

To think we would prioritise hosting this event at a known roosting location, purely so that individuals can experience one night of highly commercialised stimulation, with the short-term wow factor at lights and sounds, followed by privileged opportunity to purchase overpriced, generic souvenirs, all to the benefit of a sizeable commercial entity.

Are we really as a species this in need of entertainment and stimulation, that the interests of our endangered fauna slips quite

so far down the list? It's quite clear there is only one winner from this venture, and it sure isn't our resident black cockatoos.
H Lill
Kalamunda

Bridge removal concerns

Dear Echo News,
I would like to make you aware of a dangerous situation that exists and lack of safe access by people on shop riders, in wheelchairs, mums pushing prams and other pedestrians to the Hawaiian Shopping Centre in Forrestfield.

In April 2022, after years of meetings, the Woodlupine Brook in Forrestfield between Strelitzia Avenue and Woolworth Drive had a lot of work done to realign the flow of the brook to prevent more erosion and the possible loss of large marri trees.

During this work the City of Kalamunda decided to remove the pedestrian stone bridge near Strelitzia Avenue, which they deemed was unsafe with replacement costing \$35,000.

This bridge was used a lot by people accessing the shopping centre from the Hale Road area while students on their bikes used it to pedal to the two colleges on Hawtin Road.

Unfortunately, the city ran out of money to replace the bridge. We now have the dangerous situation where people use the very steep road into the shopping centre that is used by big delivery trucks and numerous cars.

This is just an accident waiting to happen!

Unfortunately, the cost of replacing the bridge has now blown out to \$265,000.

I have contacted the City of Kalamunda numerous times regarding the bridge and have always been told that it is on the waiting list.

I have been in contact with the local member for Forrestfield Stephen Price and recently had a meeting by the brook with MP Phil Twiss and Liberal leader Basil Zempilas and representatives from the local Bendigo Bank.

They are all very supportive of replacing the bridge but are expecting the City of Kalamunda to show commitment and lead the funding!

I am very concerned for the safety of the citizens!

H Pember
Forrestfield

Join the weed fight

Dear Echo News,
Gardeners have the right to plant many things, but will they accept the responsibility to catch them when they run away?

Flinders Range Wattle (FRW) is a devastating weed invading bush reserves and verges throughout the Perth Hills.

This prolific tree rapidly takes over good bush, outcompeting everything and allowing nothing to grow underneath due to its allelopathic properties.

When a mature FRW dies or is removed you get years of dense seedlings — but they're all Flinders as the native seed bank is long gone.

Over the last couple of decades Friends volunteers have removed 192,000 woody weeds

from John Forrest National Park, including 9000 Flinders Range wattles.

If it catches alight, especially when green, the intense heat has to be experienced to be believed.

It almost explodes and is a major fire hazard.

Become a gardener on a massive scale - join a volunteer Bushcare Friends group to learn how to control this and other environmental weeds.

See mixmargaret.com/bushcare or phone the Mundaring Shire.

MD Jones
Hovea

Thanks for the article

Dear Echo News,
Thank you for your glowing sports article, published in the Echo on April 24 outlining my achievements as a swimmer in the recent Masters State Short-Course Championships at the Mandurah Aquatic Centre.

The event gave 200 swimmers, in four-year age brackets (from 18 years) the opportunity to set and break records.

I cannot let the sensationalism of a 96-year-old swimmer cloud out the achievements of our local club Maida Vale Masters inaugurated in 1979 is just six years older than the Echo.

Club secretary and National Association executive Lynne Duncan officiated, club president Andrea Williams held the microphone (quite a tongue-twisting effort naming eight swimmers and their clubs in a short-time frame of a 25m pool) as well as, taking three seconds off the previous record and becoming the new state record winner for 200 freestyle.

Along with her husband, senior club coach Gwyn also taking 1.9 seconds off and setting a new state breast-stroke record while club coach Lesley Hart gained runner-up winner in her age group.

With only 8 club members competing, Maida Vale Masters finished in 7th place from 26 participating clubs.

Like our only privately-owned, independent local Echo, we have a proud history and I thank your advertising clients for supporting the Echo's publication.

If longevity means anything, I wish you 96-years of continuing success.

G McGough
Maida Vale

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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Satterley Nth Stoneville appeal reopening bid rejected

BRAYDEN MOULD

A LAST-minute bid by Satterley Property Group to reopen its North Stoneville appeal case has been rejected by the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) blocking the introduction of a by-law model that would have restricted vegetation planting on residential properties.

As reported in *Satterley seeks last-minute reopening of North Stoneville appeal* (*Echo News*, April 10), the developer proposed a survey strata arrangement requiring potential homeowners to adhere to by-laws mandating the management of vegetation to maintain specific fuel loads.

The application sought to reopen the appeal case, to introduce the model as part of Satterley's existing appeal material.

In the written decision against the reopening, SAT deputy president Henry Jackson highlighted the complexities of introducing such a model at the conclusion of a multi-year appeals process.

"The structure plan proposed by Satterley for the site can reasonably be described as 'extraordinary'," he said.

"It covers 534 hectares, proposed 1001 lots to accommodate 2803 people, includes two schools and will be staged over a very lengthy period of time.

"To propose a survey strata subdivision in the context of those parameters is, equally extraordinary. That is not to say it could not be done, but such an approach appears to be unprecedented."

While acknowledging the model might solve certain fire safety hurdles, he cautioned it would likely create unforeseen problems.

"While the survey strata subdivision might overcome

the difficulties identified with restrictive covenants regarding the maintenance of vegetation in a low threat state, it may well raise other difficulties which, at present, remain unidentified or unexplored," he said.

"For these, and other reasons, the leave to reopen should be refused."

Welcoming the ruling, Shire of Mundaring President Paige McNeil affirmed the council's long-standing opposition to the development.

"The shire welcomes the SAT's decision not to reopen the North Stoneville appeal and looks forward to the final determination from SAT," she said.

"Council, on behalf of the Shire of Mundaring community, have consistently opposed the North Stoneville townsite Structure Plan 34, as proposed by Satterley Property Group, and this position remains unchanged."

SPH chair Debra Bishop added that the decision was a significant victory for a community by years of procedural delays.

"We must remember, this community has waited for a decision, while Satterley has had a decade in the shire, six years in SAT," she said.

"This including three years' in private mediation and three more years preparing and delivering amended plans – all of which resulted in solid rejections by the WAPC, DFES, the Shire of Mundaring, and our community.

"The SAT is correct in saying our community requires a decision on the fate of North Stoneville, minus any further delays. Enough is enough."

The SAT is now deliberating on the original evidence presented during the 2025 hearings, with the final determination on the North Stoneville appeal expected later this year.



The SAT appeal decision is expected to be released later this year. Picture: Save Perth Hills.

Extra Midland hospital beds for winter

PETER W LEWIS

AN additional 60 hospital beds will come online over the coming winter months with funding allocated through the state Budget 2026-27 to bring additional beds at St John of God Midland.

The additional 60 beds and three surgical theatres at St John of God Midland will change over from private to public when the separate St John of God Midland Private Hospital opens.

The new private hospital is due to open in August, coinciding with the transition of the existing private hospital beds and theatres to the public hospital in late August 2026.

A St John of God Health Care spokesperson said the health provider supported any expansion of capacity at Midland Public Hospital and remained committed to working with government to meet the region's growing demand for public health services.

"Construction of our new standalone St John of God Midland Private Hospital, within the historic Midland Workshops on Watertank Way, is progressing well and remains on track to open in August this year," the spokesperson said.

"The new hospital will significantly improve local access to private hospital care for residents in Midland and surrounding suburbs, including the Perth hills and out to the Wheatbelt.

"It will double the number of private hospital beds and

offer an expanded range of medical and surgical services, including interventional cardiology, which will be a first for the region.

"This purpose built new private hospital will bring care closer to home, strengthening private health capability locally and ensuring a seamless transition of private services from the current St John of God Midland public and private hospitals."

Premier Roger Cook said his government was focused on ensuring all Western Australians can access the healthcare they need, when they need it, by delivering for health and hospitals through the budget.

"By winter, we would have added more than 1000 hospital beds to our public system since 2021 and increased the number of doctors and nurses in our health system by 36 per cent.

"With this funding in state Budget 2026-27, we're locking in more beds and more jobs, delivering more hospital capacity."

Health Minister Meredith Hammat said this was a significant boost to hospital capacity in the growing eastern and northern corridors.

"This funding is about making sure those beds are commissioned, staffed, and available to patients as quickly as possible.

"These beds are in addition to the 200 the Cook Labor government made available to public patients this year through the 2026 Winter Strategy."



Artist's impression of the new St John of God Midland private hospital.

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Guildford Post Office restoration under review

BRAYDEN MOULD

THE Guildford Post Office has been part of the Guildford streetscape for 139 years, and it is now the subject of a major restorative proposal set to transform the 19th-century landmark into a modern restaurant and heritage space.

The application will be determined by the Metro Outer Joint Development Assessment Panel following the submission of a responsible authority report by the City of Swan.

The proposed vision for the site includes both formal and semi-formal dining spaces, a dedicated coffee window, and a proposed carpark at the rear of the building with seven parking bays.

Guildford Association president Christine Hughes said the building is a major landmark within the town's historical corridor and finding a modern use for the site helps preserve it for future generations.

"It sits in a street that holds our most intact, post-European settlement buildings," she said.

"It is obviously hugely important that a heritage building of the standard and status that this one (has) does have a useful purpose."

The Stirling Street site is currently listed on the state heritage list, with the application outlining restorative works that intend to preserve the building's original 1887 façade while integrating the new commercial facilities.

"The new owners have been quite proactive in informing themselves

and making contact with people in the community like our organisation," Ms Hughes said.

"I think the work that they've done so far is clearly of a very high standard. Additions to heritage places should always try and be subservient to the heritage building on site.

"The community does greatly value the investment they have made to date in coming up with the best solution to ensure the longevity of that building."

Despite the positive investment the proposed restaurant is expected to bring to the community, Ms Hughes noted that the proposal must still address logistical challenges expected to occur as a result of the restoration.

"Parking puts a very heavy footprint on the town, as when most of these buildings were built there was no provisions made for cars," she said.

"They are hoping the parking bays would be sufficient, but they don't seem to have included staff parking into the calculation.

"The parking is probably the biggest thing we need to overcome regarding the restoration, but we will certainly work with the applicant in improving the parking in the town, so it doesn't get worse."

The City of Swan is currently seeking public comment on the proposal until May 11, to assist in the preparation of their report

Residents wishing to submit public comment are encouraged to visit www.swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au/da-4042026-restaurant-guildford-post-office



Artist's impression of the proposed Guildford Post Office renovations.

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



Climate change workshops were recently held in Albany. Picture: ClimAdapt/Albany Business Centre.

SBDC climate ready workshop at Caversham

OPERATORS across tourism, hospitality, events and agriculture are among the industries being urged to take part in a series of 'climate ready' workshops with the first metropolitan event to take place in Caversham next week.

The Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) is facilitating the forums to give operators insight and tools to prepare for extreme weather events and the adverse impacts they have on business activity.

Businesses in tourism, hospitality and agriculture are sectors often the hardest hit when severe weather strikes, but impacts including building damage, supply chain disruption and staff safety can hit every sector.

The workshops will offer advice for both new and established businesses on how to plan ahead, reduce risk and keep trading during disruptions.

SBDC Commissioner and chief executive officer Saj Abdoolakhan said the sessions are about giving small business owners practical tools they can actually use.

"Extreme weather is becoming more frequent

and more disruptive, and small businesses are often the ones feeling it first," he said.

"This is about helping business owners think ahead - what they can put in place now to protect their business, their staff and their income when something goes wrong."

Topics will include understanding potential climate impacts for the participant's region, risk planning specific to their business, emergency preparedness, and ways to minimise downtime after a major weather event.

Each attendee will walk away with a documented climate adaption plan to help protect their business operations, assets and staff.

The program follows a broader push by the state government to support small businesses as they adapt to a changing climate.

The first metropolitan Climate Ready workshop will be held in Caversham on Wednesday, May 6 from 1pm to 5pm at the Caversham Community Centre.

More sessions will be announced across the state soon at www.smallbusiness.wa.gov.au/climate-ready

Barkers Bridge reduced to single lane

GUANHAO CHENG

BARKERS Bridge in Guildford has been reduced to single-lane traffic, with commuters facing delays as structural concerns are being assessed.

Temporary traffic lights were installed on April 17, with the City of Swan saying the change was needed to maintain safety while the bridge is investigated.

The bridge is now operating under traffic control, with only one direction of travel permitted at a time.

Echo News visited the site outside of peak hour traffic on Wednesday to see cars lined up past the roundabout on Stirling Square.

Drivers using the route have reported slower travel times, particularly during peak periods, with queues forming on either side of the crossing.

City of Swan councillor Rod Henderson said he'd heard from residents in his ward who were complaining about the long commute times in the already traffic-heavy Guildford area.

"It's a heritage listed bridge so it's valued by the community and one of the considera-

tions that go into its repair is how to repair it while retaining the heritage aspect," he said.

"I have heard it may have been a problem with its pylons, and you wouldn't want to put weight on it before it's been thoroughly assessed.

"The city will need an engineering report done and, in the meantime, the key thing for residents to know is that there are alternate routes to their destinations that can and should be taken at this time."

The City of Swan said the issue was identified during routine inspections by Main Roads, with further assessment now underway to determine the extent of required repairs.

A specialist consultant has been engaged to assess the structure, with repair works to be planned following the outcome of that process.

At this stage, there is no confirmed timeline for when full access will be restored.

The city said the duration of the disruption would depend on engineering findings, contractor availability and weather conditions.

For commuters, the uncertainty has added to frustration, with the bridge forming part



Traffic coming into Guildford shared a lane with outgoing traffic awaiting a red light as bridge integrity was being assessed. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

of a key local connection.

Motorists are being encouraged to allow extra travel time or consider alternative routes where possible while traffic management remains in place.

The City of Swan said its priority was to keep the bridge open where it is safe to do so while planning for necessary works.

Main Roads has been contacted for comment.

Funding boost for Northam events

GUANHAO CHENG

THE Shire of Northam has locked in three years of funding for some of its biggest community events, giving organisers greater certainty ahead of future planning cycles.

At its April 22 ordinary council meeting, councillors approved a range of annual grants to support events across Northam, Wundowie and Bakers Hill, in the realms of agriculture, arts, commemorations and community celebrations.

More than 10 events and organisations were included in the funding

package.

Multi-year funding allows organisers to plan venues, bookings and sponsorship earlier.

Among the largest allocations is up to \$25,000 a year for the Wundowie Iron Festival.

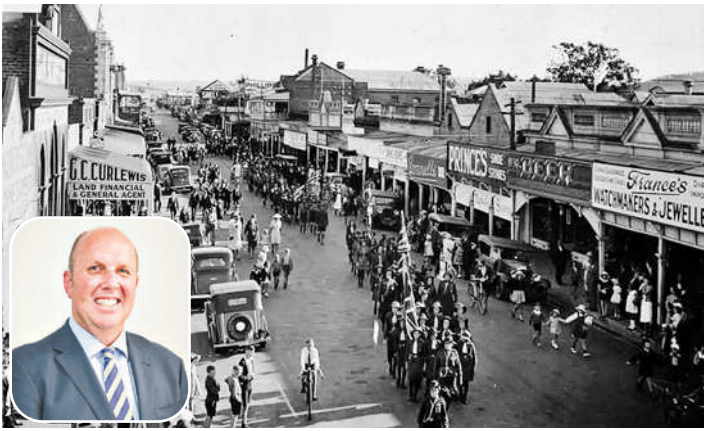
According to the Wundowie Progress Association, Wundowie was the birthplace of WA's iron ore industry and the iron festival looked to celebrate its heritage.

This funding was paired alongside up to \$15,000 annually for the Northam Agricultural Society to deliver the shire's signature farmers show.

Festive and community events were also strongly supported, with funding up to \$15,000 set aside for Carols in the Park, up to \$7500 for the Bakers Hill Community Christmas Fair and Australia Day celebrations in both Wundowie and Bakers Hill.

Support for ANZAC Day services was included through funding for the Northam RSL sub-branch, while the arts sector will benefit from up to \$6000 of continued backing for the Northam Art Prize and Killick Art Awards, alongside a large-cast production by the Northam Theatre Group.

Cont. p17



Northam residents gathering in the street for an Anzac Parade in 1938. Picture: Lost Northam. Inset: Shire of Northam President Chris Antonio.

Spoil mum this

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70 Railway Parade, Midland

Bassendean to receive padel courts

TOWN of Bassendean council has endorsed the establishment of a dedicated committee to help deliver padel courts at BIC (Bassendean Improvement Committee) Reserve.

Padel is one of the world's fastest-growing sports and is a doubles-only racquet sport often described as a mix of tennis and squash played on a smaller enclosed court with glass walls.

The proposal forms part of the town's efforts to activate BIC reserve and encourage greater recreational use and community interaction to further enhance the Bassendean town centre.

At the April 28 ordinary council meeting, a motion passed supporting the creation of a committee of council and staff members to assess shortlisted proposals received through a recent expression of interest (EOI) process.

The EOI process attracted three competitive submissions, all proposing to design, build, fund and operate padel courts alongside the existing tennis court facilities.

The committee will play a key role in selecting a preferred operator and enabling the delivery of high-quality, fully funded padel courts.

According to the Town of Bassendean, the initiative is expected to deliver new sporting opportunities for the community at no cost to the town, while generating a commercial return that can be reinvested back into local facilities and services.

Planned to be positioned alongside the Bassendean tennis club and bowling club, the padel courts are expected to attract new users, spectators and visitors to the area.

The committee of council will now progress shortlisting, site visits and community engagement considerations before making a recommendation to council.



The Town of Bassendean is set to receive new padel courts with a committee to be formed to progress the plan.

Once this work is complete, the committee will be disbanded.

The sport's accessible nature that is suited for all ages and promotes social interaction has meant the sport has rapidly grown in Australia.

According to the International Padel Federation, the sport originated in 1969 in Acapulco, Mexico.

The inventor Enrique Corcuera was a tennis enthusiast but did not have enough space to build a full-size tennis court in his backyard, forcing him to work within his constraints.

He then created a smaller court measuring 20m by 10m, enclosed by 3m walls with a tennis net in the centre.

From its origins in Mexico, the sport spread to Spain and Argentina in the early 70s and by 2025 more than 90,000 people played in Australia, in a 50 per cent increase from 2024.



Fleming Reserve skate park in High Wycombe, where riders and parents are calling for upgrades to the BMX jumps and skate facilities. Picture: Daniel Holmes

Petition calls for upgrade to Fleming Reserve skate park

DANIEL HOLMES

A PETITION calling for upgrades to the jumps at Fleming Reserve Skate Park in High Wycombe is now at 300 signatures, with local riders and parents raising concerns about safety and the condition of the facility.

The Change.org petition, started by local resident Nathan Creber, is urging the City of Kalamunda to repair and upgrade the BMX jumps, claiming the current ramps are outdated, poorly maintained and creating unnecessary risks for young riders.

Mr Creber said the issue was personal, with his son regularly using the park for BMX riding.

"My son is an avid BMX rider and spends numerous hours at Fleming Reserve Skate Park in High Wycombe," he wrote in the petition.

"It's disheartening to witness him and countless others face unnecessary risks because the jumps are outdated and poorly maintained."

He said his son had suffered crashes that could have been avoided if the facilities were safer and

better maintained.

The petition argues worn ramps no longer meet modern safety standards and says neglecting the facility risks pushing young riders to practice in unsafe locations such as roads and car parks.

Mr Creber said the issue was not just about maintenance, but about providing a safe recreational space for local children and families.

"This isn't just about maintaining a park; it's about ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our community's children who rely on this space for recreation and skill-building," he wrote.

The petition also calls for upgrades that would make the skate park more accessible for riders of all ages and skill levels, while creating a stronger community space for families and young people.

Supporters say improved facilities could also help attract more visitors, events and competitions to the area.

Fleming Reserve is one of the City of Kalamunda's main skate and BMX facilities and regularly attracts riders from across the eastern suburbs.

Protest halts work at Alcoa Huntly mine

DANIEL HOLMES

DIRECT action at Alcoa's Huntly mine near Jarrahdale halted operations for about three hours earlier in April, as protesters escalated pressure over ongoing clearing in the Northern Jarrah Forest.

A group of 16 activists entered the site on April 13 and stopped work near an active clearing area, with organisers claiming it was the first direct action to halt mining operations there since the 1970s.

The protest followed the federal government's February decision to grant Alcoa an 18-month exemption allowing mining to continue while environmental assessments proceed, despite the company agreeing to pay an unprecedented \$55 million over unlawful clearing in the Northern Jarrah Forest.

The federal government said the enforceable undertaking related to clearing between 2019 and 2025 of known habitat for nationally protected species, including black cockatoo habitat, without seeking approvals under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

The issue remains relevant to Perth Hills readers because of concerns around jarrah forest clearing and potential impacts on drinking water catchments, with local residents also joining the March for Forests rally in March opposing continued clearing in the forest.

Spokesperson Vicky Kerfoot said the Jarrahdale community had been raising concerns for decades.

"The Jarrahdale community has lived with Alcoa for more than 65 years. We have tried everything to stop Alcoa's destruction, negotiation with governments, and with the company itself, but nothing has worked," she said.

"Enough is enough. The jarrah forests cannot wait any longer, so why should we?"

Alcoa confirmed operations near the Huntly Bauxite Mine were suspended as a safety precau-



Activists at Alcoa's Huntly mine during a protest that halted operations for three hours. Picture: End Forest Mining / Facebook

tion after people were observed trespassing near active operations.

"By illegally entering an active mine site without permission or suitable escort arrangements in place, these people have put their own safety and that of our workforce at serious risk," an Alcoa Australia spokesperson said.

Alcoa said some claims made by protesters were "untrue and misleading" and said it only mines in areas that have previously been logged. The company also said it conducts pre-mining surveys to protect black cockatoo nesting habitat and has not negatively impacted Perth's drinking water supply.

However, internal Water Corporation documents released earlier this year showed concerns over limited site access and warned Alcoa's mining expansion posed a heightened risk to Perth's drinking water catchments, particularly near Serpentine Dam.

Alcoa remains under investigation over alleged breaches involving mining too close to significant jarrah trees used as black cockatoo habitat, and federal documents show the unlawful clearing issue had been under review for years before the February agreement.

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Kalamunda dog poo bag shortage



Dog waste bags have been restocked after Kalamunda announced a shortage earlier in April due to a global supply issue.

GLOBAL supply chain disruptions have resulted in a shortage of dog waste bags in Kalamunda, with the council reaching out to neighbouring cities for assistance.

The City of Kalamunda took to social media earlier this month to announce that they'd had an influx of enquiries about bag dispensers around the city that were empty.

The city said the shortage was being felt across the state and although a big order of around three million bags was placed earlier in the year and scheduled to arrive in March, global shipping delays threw timelines off-track.

Since April 10, the city had been sourcing bags from other councils, grabbing supplies from alternative suppliers, including commercial retailers such as Bunnings and placing interim orders wherever possible.

City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas said the order of three million bags had to be cancelled because it wasn't able to be delivered in a reasonable timeframe.

"Like many local governments across the state, the City of Kalamunda has been affected by an ongoing shortage of dog poo bags," she said.

"The city moved quickly to source an alternative supplier and has already received a pallet of 192,000 bags within a week, with a further delivery due in around 45 days.

"All of the city's dog bins have now been restocked and will continue to be serviced on schedule.

"We thank our community for their patience and understanding, and we appreciate dog owners continuing to do the right thing while we work through these broader supply challenges."



The Shire of Mundaring says the Urban Canopy Grant Program had fulfilled its objectives and the shire is committed to ongoing tree canopy efforts.

Mundaring continues tree canopy expansion efforts

THE Shire of Mundaring says work to grow and protect tree canopy across the district is continuing through a range of local and state initiatives, alongside previously completed grant-funded projects.

According to the shire, the Urban Canopy Grant Program has concluded, with no remaining trees allocated under that funding stream.

The shire said the program delivered its intended outcomes, including targeted planting to increase canopy cover in areas identified as lacking vegetation, bringing it to its natural end.

The grant funding supported the growth of new canopy in targeted suburbs.

Previous programs such as the Urban Greening Grant Program targeted Greenmount and Swan View, where additional canopy was needed, contributing to local shade, cooling and habitat outcomes.

The shire said the Urban Canopy Grant Program formed part of a broader, ongoing approach to urban greening, which continues through planting programs, street tree management and environmental initiatives across both public and private land.

It said canopy work includes the planting and maintenance of street trees, management of reserves and support for residents to establish vegetation on their own properties.

Community-based initiatives also play a role, with residents encouraged to participate in planting and landcare activities aimed at improving local biodiversity and long-term canopy cover.

The shire also clarified that several tree-related initiatives currently operating in the area serve different purposes and are managed separately.

Management of the polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB), a pest impacting tree health across parts of Perth, is led at a state level, with the Shire of Mundaring supporting response efforts and ongoing landscape management.

Separate to this, state-led rebate programs provide support for replacement trees where removals have occurred under biosecurity management, including assistance with planting and establishment.

The shire said these programs operate alongside its own local planting and maintenance work rather than replacing it.

It said maintaining and expanding tree canopy remains an ongoing priority, supported through planning measures, on-ground works and coordination with state agencies.

The shire said a combined approach across different programs and levels of government was important to support canopy protection, recovery and long-term environmental resilience across Mundaring.

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Residents urged to prepare for winter storm season

DANIEL HOLMES

LOCAL councils are preparing stormwater systems and drainage networks ahead of winter, with residents across Perth's eastern suburbs being encouraged to prepare their homes for severe weather during the colder months.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) says simple preparation before winter can help reduce storm damage and avoid unnecessary emergency callouts when severe weather arrives.

Between April and October last year, state emergency service volunteers responded to 1395 calls for assistance across WA, with most involving roof damage, fallen trees and water entering homes and businesses.

DFES Deputy Commissioner Craig Waters said many of those incidents could have been prevented with better preparation before storms arrived.

"Don't get caught off guard when the weather turns," he said.

"If household and business owners haven't done so, use this weekend to take the few simple steps to get your properties ready for the severe weather."

Mr Waters said clearing gutters, trimming loose branches and securing outdoor furniture such as trampolines, tables and bins could help reduce damage during strong winds.

A City of Kalamunda spokesperson said there are known areas across the district that regularly require attention during winter, particularly where fallen trees, blocked drains and stormwater issues

can affect roads and local infrastructure.

The spokesperson said preparation ahead of winter includes monitoring drainage concerns, tree maintenance and responding to known trouble spots during periods of severe weather.

The City of Swan's website reports crews are carrying out drainage maintenance ahead of winter rainfalls to help manage stormwater and protect roads, footpaths and public spaces.

A city spokesperson said drainage preparation helps reduce pressure on roads and pathways, prevents water pooling and helps avoid larger issues such as flooding across the growing local government area.

A Shire of Northam spokesperson also said it had known flooding hotspots and areas with the potential for fallen trees and infrastructure damage, with staff preparing those locations ahead of major storm events.

The spokesperson said preparation work included inspecting and clearing stormwater drains, preparing crews and equipment for fallen trees and debris, securing key facilities and maintaining communication with emergency services.

Residents are also being encouraged to download the Emergency WA app and set watch zones for their home, school and workplace to stay updated during severe weather.

Flooding during severe weather highlights the risks of blocked drains and storm damage as councils prepare for the colder months.
Picture: Jackson Flindell / The West Australian



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High Wycombe train station development

STAGE 1 civil works are now underway near the High Wycombe Station, progressing the Metronet East vision with a new precinct being developed by DevelopmentWA to meet the state government's housing diversity and affordability goals

The 10.64 hectare parcel within the broader 61ha area immediately east of High Wycombe train station, along Sultana Road West, is being developed by DevelopmentWA into a vibrant new precinct.

The land parcel is planned to deliver well located housing, complemented by a community and recreational hub and mixed-use spaces that meet local needs while generating employment and economic opportunities for the wider region.

Stage 1 civil works include construction of a new central connector road linking the High Wycombe train station and Milner Road, together with the installation of key services needed to support residential development and the future proposed High Wycombe Community Hub.

The appointed contractor is RJ Vincent, with the first stage anticipated for completion in early 2027.

The High Wycombe Project Area forms part of Metronet East, which encompasses precincts around the new High Wycombe, Midland and Bayswater stations.

Forrestfield MLA Stephen Price said the new

High Wycombe station has been transformative for the area.

"I'm proud to be part of a government that is building on the success of the station, ensuring the surrounding area is well-served for locals and provides more housing choice."

Planning and Lands Minister John Carey said the project will deliver substantial benefits to Perth's growing eastern corridor with more housing, leisure and job opportunities right near a new Metronet station.

"Through DevelopmentWA, our government is delivering a 10.64 hectare infill development surrounding the High Wycombe train station.

"It will drive activation, support a proposed community hub, and provide new housing opportunities for the area."

Transport Minister Rita Saffioti said Metronet was unlocking opportunities for new housing and creating new communities around stations.

"The start of civil works at High Wycombe is a major milestone and shows how we're turning that vision into reality.

"We're creating more opportunities for people to live close to public transport, with better access to jobs, services and community facilities."

To learn more about the project, visit www.developmentwa.com.au/projects/redevelopment/metronet-east-high-wycombe/overview



Map of the High Wycombe redevelopment area.

Discover our digital edition online

www.echonewspaper.com.au

Fire truck staffing shortages

MIKE PEETERS

FIRE station staffing shortages has reached chronic levels according to new figures recently released in state Parliament.

Kalamunda volunteer fire and rescue captain Tony Moiler said although his brigade was currently well staffed he could sympathise with the career firefighters who were doing it tough.

He said he was aware of their staffing issues and that some of them were not doing overtime because of current staffing claims.

"I have also talked to some of the volunteers who have gone on to become career firefighters and they have told me the morale among career firefighters is at rock bottom," he said.

Mr Moiler said the importance of having efficient and well-staffed firefighting units could not be overstated.

"Firefighting is an essential service where we are 'here and now' reactive. You can't put things on hold and in many cases it can be a life and death situation."

The Parliament figures revealed more than 100 fire trucks around the metropolitan area are out of action due to chronic staffing shortages.

Opposition emergency services minister Rob Horstman MLC said these trucks weren't offline due to mechanical faults but were lying idle simply because there were not enough firefighters to crew them.

"Every day, more appliances are being placed on restricted duty because there is no one available to man them," Mr Horstman said.

"That is a direct result of an



More than 100 fire trucks around the metro area are out of action due to chronic staffing shortages.

ongoing staffing crisis across the firefighting workforce.

"This is a clear red flag. When fire trucks can't be deployed, communities are left exposed and the risk to public safety increases."

He said that instead of ignoring the warnings the government should listen to frontline experts and urgently address workforce shortages before this becomes a full-blown emergency.

A Department of Fire and Emergency (DFES) spokesperson said there were currently no vacancies at the Midland career fire and rescue service station.

"In 2024 the state government provided \$23 million to fund an additional 60 career firefighters over the following three years," they said.

"Half of that cohort have already gone through trainee firefighter school. Last year 84 firefighters graduated from the trainee school - the biggest number of recruits in 55 years."

When questioned in Parliament, the government said that

between January 1 and March 17, 2026 a total of 104 appliances were designated as 'appliances on restricted duty' (AORD) across 74 shifts, with one appliance sidelined for as many as 47 shifts.

While DFES describes AORD as a method to 'adjust response options and manage resources', Mr Horstman has said it effectively means fire trucks are offline and unable to respond.

"Communities across the state are being unknowingly left in a precarious position when local fire resources are reduced or unable to respond due to unsafe staffing levels," he said.

United Professional Firefighters Union of WA secretary John Marsh said the reality facing firefighters was far more severe than suggested.

"Firstly, the situation is significantly worse than the reported figures indicate," Mr Marsh said.

"These figures require further scrutiny and members report the consequences are much, much worse."

More than 80 riders from the Pipeline Challenge will arrive at the Parkerville Tavern on Sunday.



Pipeline riders set for big Parkerville finish

RIDERS of the Big Yellow Pipeline Challenge will roll into the Perth Hills on Sunday, May 3 greeted by cheering families, live music and a vibrant community celebration at the Parkerville Tavern.

From around 11am, approximately 100 participants, including more than 80 riders and support crew, will begin crossing the finish line after completing either the full five-day, the over 600km journey from Kalgoorlie or the one-day, 65km ride from Bakers Hill along the iconic Kep Track.

The finish line event promises to be a high-energy and emotional celebration, as riders who have spent five days tackling rugged terrain, long distances and challenging climbs are reunited with loved ones.

With live music, a buzzing crowd and a strong sense of achievement in the air, the Parkerville Tavern will transform into a fitting finale for one of Western Australia's most meaningful endurance events.

The final day of the challenge is no easy ride. After days on the bike, participants push through the picturesque farmland of Grass

Valley before joining the Kep Track at Bakers Hill and tackling the demanding climbs of the Perth Hills.

It's a tough but rewarding finish, with sweeping descents and the promise of a memorable welcome at the end. Beyond the physical challenge, every kilometre ridden helps raise critical funds for the Youth Futures Nest Program, which supports young parents and their babies experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

Sponsor Big Yellow chief executive officer Mitch Wallace said the finish line represents more than just the end of a ride.

"This is where the impact of the Big Yellow Pipeline Challenge really comes to life. Seeing riders come in after five days on the road, being welcomed by their families and the community - it's incredibly powerful," Mr Wallace said.

"Every rider crossing that line has helped raise vital funds and awareness for young parents doing it tough. It's a moment of celebration, but also a reminder of why we ride."

Youth Futures chief executive

officer Michelle Jenkins said the funds raised through the event were critical to sustaining the Nest Program which is vital in supporting young parents and their babies with safe accommodation, food and tailored support.

"For many of the young families we work with, the Nest Program is life changing. Events like Pipeline ensure we can continue to provide a safe place to stay and help them build a better future," she said.

Since launching in 2015, the Big Yellow Pipeline Challenge has brought together hundreds of riders and raised more than \$1.5 million, directly supporting vulnerable young families across the state.

In 2025, Nest supported 97 young parents and children, helping to stabilise families and break cycles of poverty and intergenerational disadvantage.

However, the Nest was unable to meet the needs of every young family who reached out and across the year, 56 young parents seeking outreach support and 163 young parents seeking accommodation could not be supported due to capacity constraints.

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Kalamunda View

News from your City | May 2026



Mayor's MESSAGE

As the seasons turn, Kalamunda truly comes into its own. There's something special about this time of year – cooler days, fresh air, and the pristine beauty of the Perth Hills.

With May and June also marking the peak of storm season, it's a timely reminder to be storm ready. Storms can arrive quickly and affect very local areas, so a little preparation goes a long way. Checking your roof and gutters, trimming overhanging branches, securing loose items and planning for pets or power outages can make all the difference. I encourage you to visit the DFES website for practical tips to help keep your household safe.

Staying informed is just as important as staying prepared. That's why we've launched **KalaExplained**, a new short video series that breaks down how your local government works – from council decisions to rates and responsibilities – in clear, simple language. New episodes are released weekly, and I hope you'll take a look.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at our recent **KalaValue** information sessions. These open conversations about local finances and services were thoughtful, respectful and truly appreciated. If you couldn't attend, the online recording is now available on our website.

Looking after our community also means looking after our health. During National Heart Health Awareness Week, Hartfield Park Recreation Centre is offering complimentary body composition scans and blood pressure checks. There's also a wonderful opportunity to hear from nutrition and gut health expert Natalie Woodman at Kalamunda Library, exploring the powerful connection between gut health and overall wellbeing.

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

Mayor Margaret Thomas JP

Have Your Say

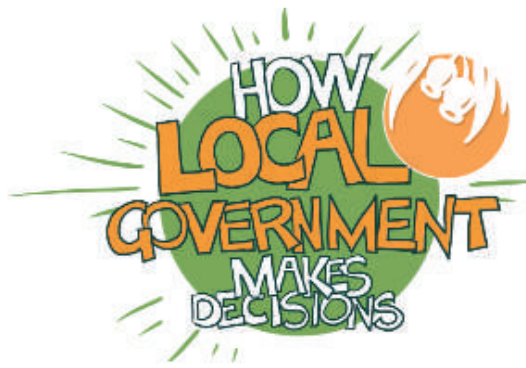
Join the conversation and contribute to matters happening in your City.

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



KALAEPLAINED

LIFTING THE LID ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Curious how local government really works? The City of Kalamunda has launched KalaExplained – a new short video series breaking down council decisions, rates and roles in clear, simple language. New episodes released weekly.

Scan the QR code to learn more.



KalaValue Workshops



KALAVALE

UNDERSTANDING CITY FUNDING AND SERVICES

The City of Kalamunda recently welcomed residents to a series of KalaValue information sessions, creating space for open, friendly conversations about local finances and services.

More than 30 residents attended three face to face workshops, with many others joining online. For those who couldn't attend, the recording of the online session can be viewed by scanning the QR code below.



HEART WEEK

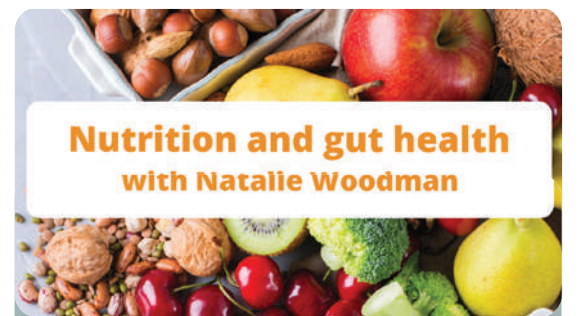
4 - 10 May

HEART HEALTH WEEK @ THE REC CENTRE

To mark National Heart Health Awareness Week (4-10 May), Hartfield Park Recreation Centre is offering free body composition scans and blood pressure checks on 6 and 8 May. In just 20 minutes, gain valuable insights into your health with services normally worth more than \$80. Sessions run morning and afternoon, but places are limited. Bookings are essential – contact the friendly team at Hartfield Park to secure your spot.



Nutrition and gut health with Natalie Woodman



NUTRITION AND GUT HEALTH WORKSHOP

Is your gut the key to better health? Discover how what's living inside you can influence everything from immunity to mood and skin.

Join internationally recognised nutrition and gut health expert Natalie Woodman for an eye opening talk on the science of the gut microbiome, at Kalamunda Library on Tuesday 26 May, 10-11am.

Tickets \$10 via www.trybooking.com/DKLG1.



Ready for Storm Season?

What's your plan for storm season? Here's some helpful tips:

- Clear your gutters
- Trim branches on your property
- Secure loose items
- Have your exit plan ready

Public Agenda Briefing Forum

6:30pm, Tuesday 12 May

Ordinary Council Meeting

6:30pm, Tuesday 26 May

Administration Centre, Council Chambers

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

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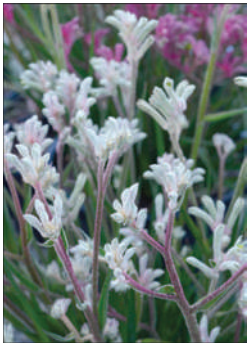


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Everlastings for Mum

THE start of May, with the beautiful autumn rain, is the perfect time to plant WA Everlasting Daisies (*Rhodanthe chlorocephala*).

Planting early in the season gives you tall strong flower stems, but these annuals can be planted all the way through to August if you prefer!

We recommend mixing the seeds with some Soil Improver, and spreading on an area of cleared, weed-free ground.

Water in well or plant just before rain and before you know it, the seeds will germinate and start to grow. The flowers can be cut late winter to early spring and kept in a vase for many weeks.



Or if you prefer you can hang them and dry them out for an everlasting display of cut dried flowers.

For more tips on growing Everlastings, have a look on our website for the info sheet, or pop in for a chat with our team.

The Everlasting Daisy seed packs make a wonderful present for Mum, bringing joy for many months into winter and spring!

Happy Mother's Day from all of us at Zanthorrea!

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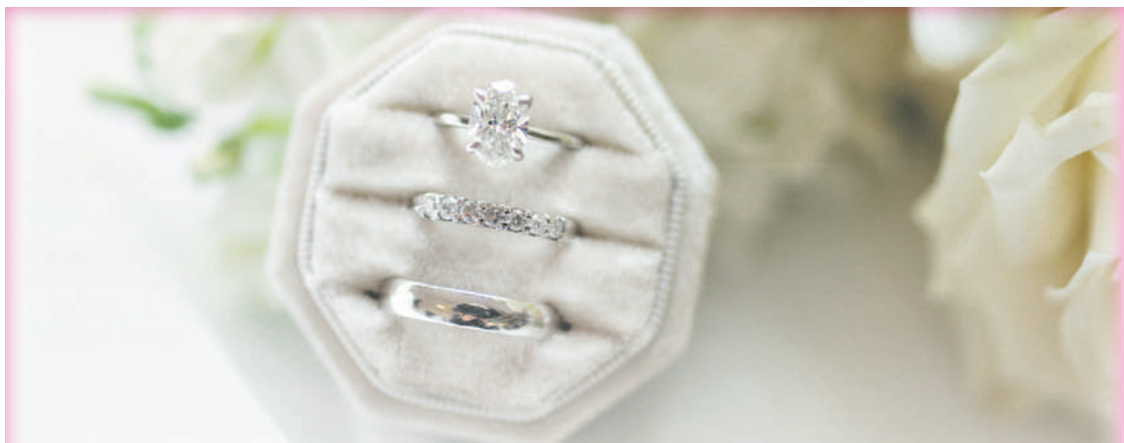
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*Spoil your Mum this Mother's Day
Sunday 10th May* ♡ ♡



Gift Mum Something Special at The Jewellery Centre Mundaring

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

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

Creating something special for Mum can be a deeply personal way to show how important they are. An old piece of jewellery can be-

come a new symbol of significance. A family piece can be reshaped into something modern, wearable, and full of meaning — without losing its history.

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

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

Because the most beautiful gifts aren't rushed.



Kapurn: Skin – Supporting Skin & Women's Health in Our Community

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ance.

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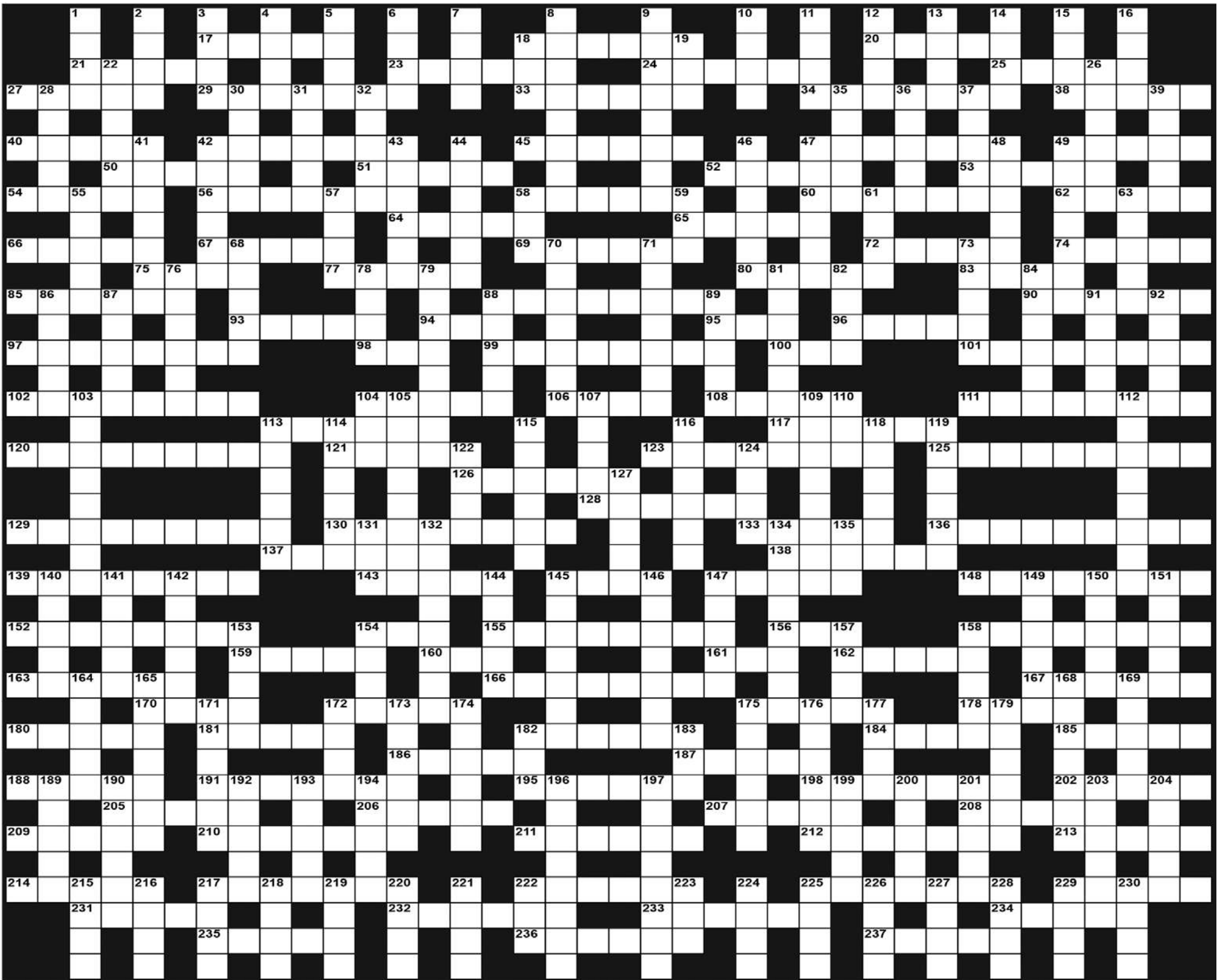
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Mind Boggler Crossword

1266



ACROSS

- 17 Employment
- 18 Survivor
- 20 Nimble
- 21 Stately house
- 23 Sent away
- 24 Ventilating
- 25 Quickly
- 27 Paces
- 29 Slim
- 33 Widen
- 34 Ceded
- 38 Courage
- 40 Drops down
- 42 Call on again
- 45 Hurry up
- 47 Aspersions
- 49 Young ladies
- 50 Type of duck
- 51 Fixes ills
- 52 Social group
- 53 Nostrils
- 54 Bread ingredient
- 56 Agrees to
- 58 Cease
- 60 Is present at
- 62 Warms up
- 64 Sift
- 65 Different one
- 66 Courageous
- 67 Outside part
- 69 Wiggle around
- 72 Something more
- 74 Comes closer
- 75 Talk wildly
- 77 Leg joints
- 80 Powdery
- 83 Ardour
- 85 Bosom
- 88 Gave a performance
- 90 Life's work
- 93 Bring from body
- 94 A reptile
- 95 Aged

- 96 A colour
- 97 Make plans for
- 98 Slide on ice
- 99 Rascal
- 100 Girl's name
- 101 Orders
- 102 Turned back into
- 104 Type of beaver
- 106 Daybreak
- 108 Brilliance
- 111 Kitchen container
- 113 Placid
- 117 Coldest
- 120 An objector
- 121 Turn away
- 123 Amends
- 125 Recalls
- 126 Purpose
- 128 Occupancy
- 129 Made run evenly
- 130 Sight of land
- 133 A fop
- 136 Turned to stone
- 137 System of sound
- 138 Inactive state
- 139 Onlooker
- 143 Chemical compound
- 145 Killed
- 147 An easy victim (coll)
- 148 Strife
- 152 Defeat
- 154 Fish eggs
- 155 Dockyard ramps
- 156 Utilise
- 158 Begging
- 159 Way to cook
- 160 Regret
- 161 Historic time
- 162 Of the moon
- 163 Crude speech
- 166 As one
- 167 Mark in garment
- 170 English school

- 172 Grown-up
- 175 Type of tree
- 178 Resound
- 180 Poisonous snake
- 181 Those colouring
- 182 Esteem
- 184 A bluish gas
- 185 Small part in play
- 186 Ill (coll)
- 187 Large expanse of water
- 188 Wireless
- 191 Let dog loose
- 195 Most senior
- 198 In the middle
- 202 Consumed
- 205 A shop
- 206 Scraps
- 207 Custom
- 208 Small projectiles
- 209 Grade
- 210 Very important
- 211 Buccaneer
- 212 More fortunate
- 213 Garden tool
- 214 Precipitous
- 217 Smash
- 222 A guard
- 225 Having feelings
- 229 Gets bigger
- 231 Change to suit
- 232 Horse attendant
- 233 Give air
- 234 With less moisture
- 235 Give a speech
- 236 Beliefs
- 237 Thick

DOWN

- 1 Play
- 2 Possesses
- 3 Belonging to us
- 4 Titled lady
- 5 Action

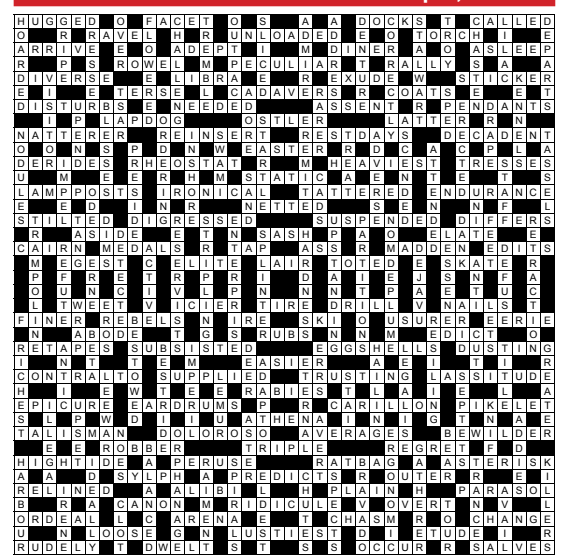
- 6 Large pitcher
- 7 Way out
- 8 Make sacred
- 9 Disperses
- 10 Leak slowly
- 11 A revel
- 12 Part of church
- 13 Drawn
- 14 Passed on
- 15 Asian country
- 16 Always
- 18 A colour
- 19 Make a knot
- 22 Fruit
- 26 Reddish colour
- 28 Slight sign
- 30 Ogles
- 31 Unworldly
- 32 Throw out
- 35 Small bay
- 36 Older weapon
- 37 Correct
- 39 Manservant
- 41 Artists models
- 42 Cause
- 43 Small battle
- 44 Rest period
- 46 Belted up
- 47 Begins
- 48 A knave
- 49 Place of holy torment
- 55 Stun
- 57 Spoilsport (coll)
- 58 Night moisture
- 59 Part of foot
- 61 A low playing card
- 63 Ease off
- 68 Speak
- 70 Went back on word
- 71 Sparring weapon
- 73 A memento
- 76 Give evidence
- 78 Catches
- 79 Make sour

- 81 Be beneath
- 82 Acquire
- 84 Mental awareness
- 86 Scope
- 87 Old-womanish
- 88 Enmesh
- 89 Avoid
- 91 Lots of paper
- 92 To put on
- 103 Traces
- 104 Accelerate motor
- 105 Windflowers
- 107 Representative
- 109 Stories
- 110 Small bird
- 112 Learned document
- 113 Is on one's feet
- 114 Untidy mob
- 115 Useless
- 116 Round and fatty
- 118 Written works
- 119 Walks heavily
- 122 Slight argument
- 124 Waterside plant
- 127 Tight
- 131 Exist
- 132 A wading bird
- 134 Amazes
- 135 Part of week
- 140 Sloping joint
- 141 Weird
- 142 A flower
- 144 Set type again
- 145 Roofing material
- 146 Climate
- 147 Stiff question
- 149 Oration
- 150 Raised ground
- 151 Chants
- 153 Hardwood
- 154 Tear apart
- 157 Otherwise
- 158 Dress feathers
- 164 Sink into
- 165 Fanatical people

- 168 Space missiles
- 169 Allow
- 171 Smells
- 172 A continent
- 173 Result
- 174 A boring tool
- 175 Sportsgrounds
- 176 Writing implement
- 177 Middy
- 179 Underground room
- 182 A cereal
- 183 Small mark
- 189 Share out
- 190 Sent out
- 192 Under (poet)
- 193 Legal decree
- 194 In later time
- 196 Waited idly
- 197 Soak
- 199 Musical work

- 200 Inhales, in a way
- 201 Smart
- 203 Hope to reach
- 204 Donate
- 215 Singly
- 216 Track
- 217 Halt
- 218 Word of sorrow
- 219 Pour down
- 220 Tiers
- 221 Agitate
- 222 Group
- 223 Word of agreement
- 224 Silly
- 225 Posted
- 226 Facial part
- 227 Hurts
- 228 Whirlpool
- 229 Present
- 230 Spoken

Crossword Solution 1265 from 24 April, 2026



ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

Quilting exhibition to be held at MJAC

WEST Australian Quilters Association (WAQA) returns to Midland Junction Arts Centre's (MJAC) galleries to premiere the 15th edition of the biennial, juried contemporary quilting exhibition *Stitched and Bound*.

Stitched and Bound is WAQA's contemporary quilting exhibition, featuring a range of innovative textile work being produced by Western Australian artists who challenge the traditional concept of the 'quilt' medium.

The biennial was inaugurated with the *The Razor's Edge* exhibition held in Fremantle in 1995 as an opportunity for local textile artists to present works outside the traditional confines, using more adventurous ideas, materials and methods.

Though the name has changed, the exhibition remains one of the leading exhibitions of contemporary quilts in Australia.

Presented across the East, West and Hallway Galleries at MJAC the 2026 exhibition marks the 15th edition of *Stitched and Bound*, with 50 works by 43 artists.

After premiering at MJAC, the exhibition will embark on a regional tour to galleries in Katanning, Geraldton and Carnarvon.

The works exhibited are the result of a juried assessment from three independent industry professionals with backgrounds as contemporary quilters and textile artists, curators and educators.

To qualify for exhibition, works must be composed of at least two layers held together with stitching or tying filaments to be considered a 'quilt', however artists are encouraged to push the boundaries of the medium through the use of unconventional materials, ideas and techniques, and focus on telling a story or making a personal statement.

Each entry is assessed on artistic merit, innovation and the standard of design and execution.

Alongside the *Stitched and Bound* exhibition, MJAC's CoLab space transforms into a creative textile hub as twelve contemporary quilt artists work in residence.

Janice Blight, Julie Devereux, Margery Goodall, Janine Judge, Jocelyne

Leith, Virginia O'Keeffe, Linda Penny, Tiu Stojanovic, Linda Stokes, Louise Wells, Anne Williams and Mo Woltersdorf invite the public to visit as they work on their own projects and share their creative practices.

Supported by Handcrafters House Midland, visitors are welcomed to drop in to discuss the artist's processes, learn various sewing techniques and take part in a range of free drop-in activities.

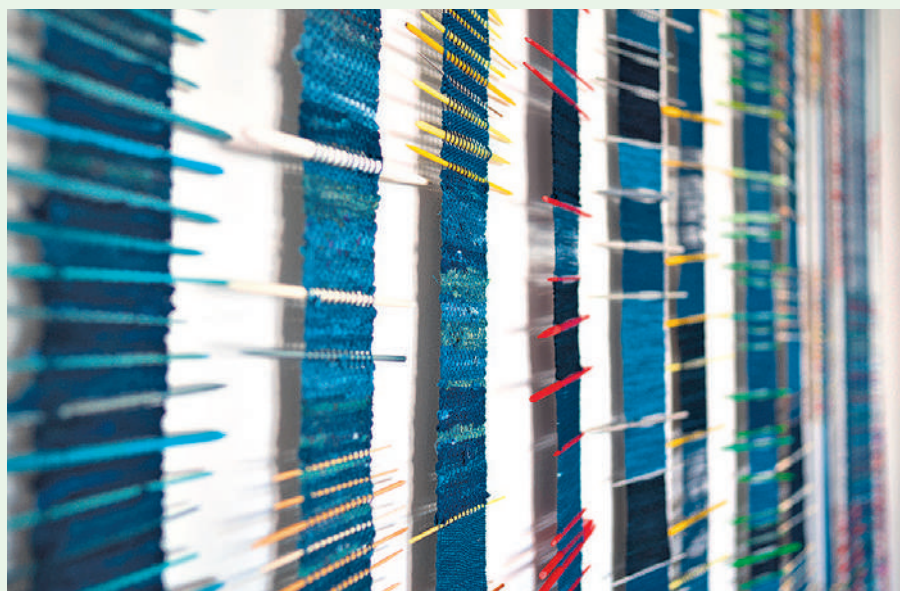
Visit the residency page on the MJAC website to find out more about each artist and when they will be in residence.

With a range of works and artists to discover in both the exhibition and artist in residence program, the exhibition is a wonderful opportunity for visitors to immerse themselves in the varied and intriguing world of contemporary quilting.

Stitched and Bound will be open and free to the public from Saturday, May 2 to Sunday, June 28.

For more information about what is on offer and to book, please visit the MJAC website.

<https://www.midlandjunctionartscene.com.au/workshops-and-events>



Louise Wells, *Mrs Millett's York Colour Palette (detail)*, 2024, indigo dyed vintage crochet cotton, recycled knitting needles. Picture: Josh Wells.



Robyn Clout, *Perception (detail)*, 2026, cotton fabric, cut improvisational, cotton thread, cotton/poly batting. Picture: Robyn Clout

Woodbridge turtle spotting science event



Ian Barlow (left) will be joined by co-hosts Walliabup Wildlife Warriors (right) to present a citizen science event on supporting turtle population growth.

THE Walliabup Wildlife Warriors and citizen scientist Ian Barlow will host a community event at Coal Dam Park in Woodbridge, showing how residents can take part in turtle habitat conservation.

The Turtles in Celebrations, Turtles in Love event will run from 10am to 1pm on Sunday, May 3 highlighting the site's role as an urban wetland supporting Swan's biodiversity and turtle populations.

Coal Dam Park, a former railway dam behind the old Midland train station, has evolved into a small but significant wildlife refuge.

Its permanent water and surrounding vegetation make it an important habitat for native species, particularly freshwater turtles which rely on stable wetlands for breeding and nesting.

Using publicly accessible tools such

as TurtleSAT, participants will be guided through how to record turtle sightings, monitor habitat conditions and contribute to broader conservation efforts.

The platform allows users to log data that can assist researchers and environmental groups in tracking turtle distribution and health across Western Australia.

As reported in *Southwest long neck turtle admissions increasing* (*Echo News*, November 14, 2025) turtle sightings logged by citizen scientists can help build a population map that help turtles with their survival rates.

Locations such as the City of Kalamunda are a blind spot for turtle data as much of its wetland system is on private property, but Mr Barlow said citizen science could help fill the gaps in knowledge.

Returning to Swan, Mr Barlow said sea-

sonal conditions had created a strong opportunity for turtle activity at the Woodbridge site.

He said there was a chance of a breeding congregation, with turtles gathering in numbers as part of their natural reproductive cycle, offering visitors a rare chance to observe this behaviour up close.

Beyond observation, the event will also focus on practical actions residents can take, including habitat protection, reducing human impact on wetlands and supporting local bushland initiatives.

The session is open to all ages and aims to encourage community involvement in environmental stewardship in urban ecosystems.

To register interest, a link to the event may be accessed through tinurl.com/4fkpuwkd

ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

Your local Gig Guide

Fri May 1

Settlers House York
Graeme Fisher
From 5.30pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace York

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

Parkerville Tavern
Kevin Curran
From 5.30pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

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

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

Sat May 2

Settlers House York
Jukes of York
From 5.30pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace, York

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

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Claudia Tripp
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Sun May 3

Settlers House York
The Jukes of York
12pm-3pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace, York

Sunday May. 3 cont.

Woodbridge Hotel
Kane Cahill
From 3pm, Free
50 East St, Guildford

Chidlow Tavern
Monthly Jam Session
12.30pm-3.30pm, Free
4 Thomas St, Chidlow

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Fenton
4pm-7pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Tues May 5

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

Wed May 6

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Acoustic Open
Mic Night
Presented by Fenton
and Friends
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Mahogany Creek

Thur May 7

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

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

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Public Notice



Government of Western Australia
 Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure
 Office of Major Infrastructure Delivery

Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914

Department of Housing and Works has made application for a licence under s5C to take 203 000 kilolitres/annum for the irrigation of playing fields and public open space at Lot 811 Drumpellier Dr Whiteman.

People who are interested in the application, may make a written submission within 15 days of this publication to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, **7 Ellam Street Victoria Park Western Australia 6100**, quoting **DWERVT20292**.

If you object to the proposal, you must in your submission specify what actions, if any, would overcome your objections. General enquiries to Swan Avon Region on **6250 8000**.

OMID_TBC

Funding boost for Northam events

From p5.

The Killick Art Awards had a funding reduction from \$3000 to \$2000 on the request of the Avon Valley Arts Society so that the Northam Art Prize could be prioritised.

The agreements, endorsed unanimously by council, will run from the 2026-27 financial year and aim to provide stability for organisers managing large-scale, volunteer-driven events.

By committing funding over multiple years, the shire is looking to reduce uncertainty for groups that rely on annual grants to plan ahead, secure sponsorship and coordinate volunteers.

The decision follows recommendations from the community grants assessment committee, which reviewed applications earlier this month.

While individual allocations varied in size, the funding package aimed to support long-established events and smaller community initiatives.

Read between the lines

By Pastor Ian Kirk



Storms and Settledness

Over the Anzac Day long weekend, we had our annual Busselton church camp. Colleen and I arrived a day earlier, and we experienced stormy weather; thunderstorms and heavy rain.

The next day, the normally quiet waters of Geographe Bay were still stirred up. When we went to Canal Rocks, we saw huge waves rolling in from the Indian Ocean, going straight over the outer rocks. But at the end of the camp, after rain in the morning, the afternoon fined up, and we were blessed with a magnificent sunset reflecting off the still waters of Geographe Bay.

Life can be like that. You can go through stormy times, feeling tossed about by life's circumstances - like sea billows dumping you in the surf. At other times, you can enjoy peaceful times, like walking along a gently flowing river. But whatever situation we go through, we can know a settledness, if we would put our faith and trust in God's Son Jesus Christ.

A well-known hymn puts it like this: "When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul."

The man, Horatio Spafford, who wrote the hymn lost his son to scarlet fever, his business to the Great Chicago fire in 1871, and four daughters in a terrible shipping accident. But his genuine faith in Jesus got him through and brought a settledness to his soul.

Employment



The Echo Newspaper is looking to fill the following position

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

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

Please email your resume with a cover letter to: General Manager / Editor Peter Lewis E: peter.lewis@echo-news.com
All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

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ECHO Notice Board

Upcoming Events

• **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.

• **Lesmurdie Arts and Crafts Annual Exhibiton** will be hosted on Saturday ,May 2 and Sunday, May 3 at Kalamunda Agricultural Hall, Canning Road, Kalamunda from 10am to 4pm. Members will be exhibiting a variety of work including woodwork, fused glass, photography, stained glass, painting, pottery, textiles, fibre arts, and more. For more information call Jenny on 0422 912 923.

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



Bessie is a four-year-old kelpie cross, She is a good watch dog but can be timid around children. Ideally, Bessie would be best suited for a retired, active couple with no cats. She is sterilised, vaccinated, and microchipped. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

Chidlow defeat Mt Helena in HFA round three



BRIAN PALLISTER

THE Chidlow Cougars proved too strong for the Mt Helena Lions in their round three clash.

Chidlow's Kaden Bonsak and Adam McKinlay both scored goals in quick succession.

When the ball did get into the Lion's forward line it was rebounded out by Steven Scorer and the high marking Luke Elliott.

Bo and Zac Read battled hard in their backline pushing back against the continuous Cougars forward entries.

Charlie Read has assumed an on ball role this season and has offered much needed strength around the contests, by the first break Chidlow had opened a 20-point lead.

The Cougars continued to control most of the play during the second quarter.

Finton Kirwan cleared the ball out of a centre to the hard leading Kaden Bonsak.

He in turn delivered the ball to Adam McKinlay who converted his kick at goal.

Chidlow was starting to pull away with winners in most positions extending their lead to 49 points at the main break.

Mt Helena needed to get more involved if they wanted to be competitive in the second half.

Brendan Agnew and Daniel Bulla started to pick up more possessions around the ground getting the ball forward to where Rohan Murphy marked strongly then scored a much needed goal for the Lions.

Chidlow had minimally extended their lead by five points as the two teams changed ends to commence the last quarter.

Mt Helena hit the ground running as Michael Hine found Ryan Schwagerreit with a pin-point pass, he in turn passed the ball to Charlie Read who then delivered the ball to Jess Cartwright who goaled.

Suddenly the Lions were doing the things that coach Matt Sofoulis had been asking for.

The Lions started to show what they were capable of playing with more consistency.

Both teams went goal for goal for the remainder of the game, as both scored four goals and four behinds each.

Kaden Bonsak finished off a well-balanced game with his sixth goal while Adam McKinlay converted his fifth.

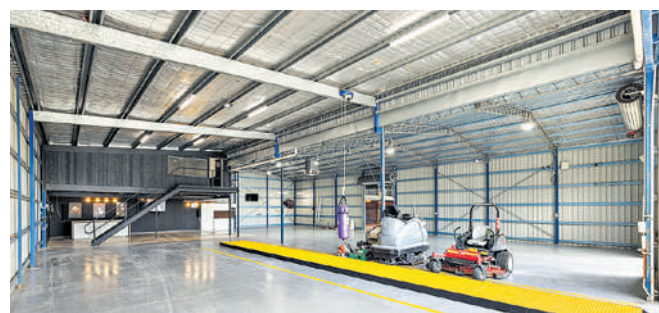
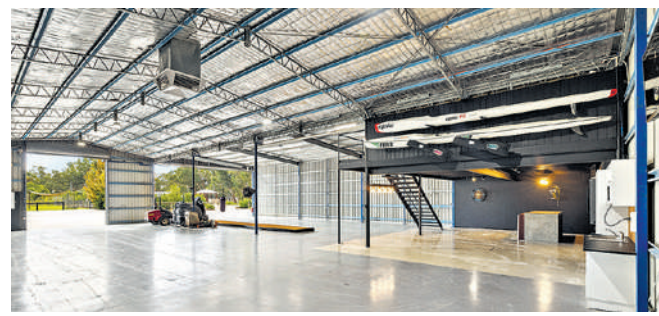
The round ended with a score of 17.11 (113) for Chidlow, defeating Mt Helena's 8.11 (59) score.



The Chidlow Cougars proved too formidable for the Mt Helena Lions at the round three HFA clash.

ECHO Local Real Estate

**Residential
Commercial
Rural & Country**



Horse haven with standout shed

THIS Herne Hill lifestyle property offers a blend of rural living and high-capacity workspace, set on a generous parcel of pasture with a winter creek and strong bore water supply.

The two-bedroom, one-bathroom cottage has been recently renovated, balancing modern updates with its original character.

Inside, the home is functional and comfortable, while outside, wraparound verandas provide a practical vantage point to take in the surrounding landscape.

The property is well suited to buyers looking for an equine lifestyle, with fully irrigated paddocks and a floodlit dressage arena already in place.

The layout allows for easy movement of horses across the block, while fencing and water access support ongoing care and maintenance.

A defining feature of the property is the approximately 650sqm shed and workshop.

Built for scale, the structure has capacity for up to 22 vehicles, making it suitable for collectors, trades or buyers needing significant storage.

The shed is equipped with three-phase power and includes a mezzanine level, adding usable space on top of the already spacious open floor area.

Within the shed, a partitioned office provides a quieter area for administrative work, while additional features such as a mechanics pit, bathroom facilities and a bar area help cater to work and leisure.

The wider property includes extensive hardstand parking and secure gated entry, supported by CCTV for added peace of mind.

A backup generator is also installed, ensuring continuity of power when required.

The property sits in Herne Hill within the Swan Valley, placing wineries, breweries and local produce outlets within easy reach.

Buyers can immerse themselves in the area's rural character and accessibility, offering a lifestyle setting without being disconnected from metropolitan conveniences.

The combination of established equine infrastructure, a renovated home and a large-scale workshop makes this property a practical option for buyers seeking both lifestyle and utility.

This Herne Hill property presents as a ready-to-use setup rather than a project, appealing to those looking to move straight into a semi-rural environment without the extra work required.

Address: 118 Lefroy Avenue, Herne Hill
Price: From \$2.49 million
Agency: The Agency
For more information contact
Patrick Harper on 0413 440 107

I Remember When...



Do you remember as a kid growing up how simple things were?

For me growing up in Guildford you knew your neighbor's as you usually played with the kids in your street and surrounding streets.

As you walked around you bump into a friend or like many of us did you would call over to a friend's home and knock on the door and ask if your friend could come out to play. I must have worn a path across the road to my best friend's home they were the Di Marco's who lived across from me at number 9, I lived at 8 Bertie Street.

Quite often the night before you would make plans or go and call in to other friends' homes and knock on the door and ask if they could come out to play. This way you met all your friends' parents and they got to know you as well and trust was built.

The thing about being a kid is then you had to use your imagination and much of that varied depending on who you were hanging out with on the day. So when you walked the streets with your bare feet or rode your bike with no helmet you would see evidence of what kids had been doing for example could have been a hop scotch squares drawn on the footpath

amazing what you can create with a piece of chalk and a couple of rocks.

If you were walking along with your mate you might bump into some other boys suddenly because one of you had a tennis ball with you would find a wooden picket next minute you have a test match on.

Couple of girls might stop and sit on the fence and watch or climb a tree for a better view. Sometimes your match may be interrupted by a car coming down the street as you were playing on the road, hit the ball over the fence was six and out and you had to fetch it because you hit over the grumpy neighbor's fence.

Any park or oval was a paradise you could create anything on kick a footy just run around. Time was decided by the sun many of us would leave home in the morning and go home when it started to get dark.

There was plenty of trust within the neighborhood that kept an eye on you collectively. All day running around in the sun or rain having simple fun saying hi to all you saw and being shy around those you didn't know.

Funny time management seemed better, no rushing we knew where we were going and why simple fun and spending time with your mates.



**Milton Rendell – CEO
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STRATA TITLED BOTTLE SHOP WITHIN SHOPPING COMPLEX - 346SQM 5/21 Dance Drive

- First time offered in 20+ years
- Middle Swan Shopping Centre, 21 Dance Drive
- Buy whole complex or Lot 5
- 5 strata units | 4 leased
- Established tenants incl. bottle shop, food outlets
- General Commercial zoning – flexible uses (STCA)
- Land: 2,649sqm | Building: 586sqm
- Triple road access
- Immediate income stream

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MIDDLE SWAN FROM \$380,000 (GOING CONCERN)



STRATA TITLED PIZZA SHOP WITHIN SHOPPING COMPLEX - 60SQM 3/21 Dance Drive

- First time offered in 20+ years – rare investment
- Middle Swan Shopping Centre, 21 Dance Drive
- Option to buy entire complex or Lot 3
- 5 strata units | flexible investment
- High-growth location with strong tenant mix
- 4 of 5 tenancies leased
- Tenants include bottle shop & general store, food outlets
- General Commercial zoning – wide range of uses (STCA)
- Land 2,649sqm, Building 586sqm

**Mike
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MIDDLE SWAN EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



ENTIRE SHOPPING CENTRE - ALREADY STRATA TITLED 21 Dance Drive

- 1st time offered in 20+ years – rare invest. opp.
- Middle Swan Shopping Centre (City of Swan)
- Buy 1 strata lot or secure entire complex (5 units)
- 4 tenancies leased + 1 vacant (value-add opp.)
- Strong tenant mix incl. bottle shop, general store & food outlets
- General Commercial zoning – flexible uses & development potential (STCA)
- Land: 2,648sqm | Building: 586sqm | Access from 3 roads
- Est. income ~\$180,000 p.a. | Outgoings ~\$34,000 (tenant paid)

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31 Killara Place,
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Inspection Times

Please contact Patrick Harper to arrange an appointment.



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Inspection Times
Open Sunday. Please contact Patrick Harper for time.



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