

ECHO NEWS

SINCE 1985

Friday, April 10, 2026

Barkers
Bedding & Mobility

See our specials on the back page

Perth's most trusted brand for more than 50 years

OPENING HOURS: Monday-Friday: 9.30am-5pm
NEW LOCATION 321 Great Eastern Hwy, Midvale.
Call 1300 BARKERS (227 537)

Local Business Supporting Local People

VOL.43 NO.1957



Kalamunda group to host native forest talk

P11



Iconic Guildford Hotel changes hands

P5



Satterley seeks reopening of appeal

P3



Bassendean joins tree festival

The Town of Bassendean has organised a series of free community events starting this weekend as part of the WA Tree Festival.

P5

TREE AESTHETICS

PERTH HILLS NEWEST SOIL CENTRE

Sand • Soils • Gravels • Mulches • Firewood

THE BEST HEAT COMES FROM WOOD!

Prepare for winter now BEAT THE RUSH!

SCAN HERE TO SHOP NOW!

- Pick-up or delivery options available
- Competitive prices
- Wholesale prices on selected products
- Still Perth Hills preferred Tree Service company

Call us now 9250 6599

Opening Hours
8am-4.30pm Monday-Friday
Lot 10 Talbot Road Hazelmere
(ENTRY OFF MIDLAND ROAD)

office@treeaesthetics.com.au www.treeaesthetics.com.au



FUEL PRICES GOT YOU DOWN? TAKE AN E-BIKE TO WORK AND SAVE SOME MONEY!

EazyBIKES AUSTRALIA

1/12 FARRALL ROAD, MIDVALE, WA 6056
www.eazybikes.com.au
08 6270 1450

Kalamunda Funeral Company
JUST give us a call. No Fuss, No Frills.



Just Cremations
17 Canning Rd, Kalamunda 1800 65 35 95



12TH APRIL 2026

9.00AM TO 2.00PM
MUNDARING ARENA



THE BIGGEST INDOOR ARTISAN MARKET IN THE HILLS!

Discover WA's finest handmade talent under one roof – woodwork, pottery, jewellery, clothing, toys, art, wine, gin, and gourmet treats!

Support Local Creatives:

- Curated art, jewellery, clothing & accessories
- Stunning pottery & woodwork
- 'MINI PHAMS' youth vendors (18 & under)

Enjoy music, delicious food, and a vibrant community atmosphere – all in cool, air-conditioned comfort.

Indoor event – no dogs allowed.



Perth Hills' #1 choice for artisan buyers & sellers – see what makes it so special!

Always in front!



Read the latest news online at www.echonepaper.com.au

Your **FREE** Local Weekly newspaper is also available from local outlets or subscribe **NOW** to get **Echo News** emailed direct to your inbox.



Subscribe Now

9374 6666
sales@echo-news.com
editorial@echo-news.com
Suite 4, 9 The Avenue, Midland

ECHO Celebrations

Curtain falls on Midvale costume institution after 20 years



Plenty of choice at Costumes in the Valley.

FOR 20 years, Costumes in the Valley has been part of how Midvale celebrates.

FROM school productions to Halloween, Christmas and themed parties, generations of locals have walked through its doors to become someone else for a night.

Now, the Hooley Road shop will close, ending a two-decade run built on family, creativity and a focus on bringing joy to others.

Owner Meg Bell said that thread had always been at the centre of what she did.

"I enjoy working with children and they always make you laugh," she said.

"I've been doing children's entertainment for 28 years."

That same approach carried into the shop, which began as a partnership between Ms Bell and her mother Glen Strawbridge.

"It was designed as her retirement plan but she suddenly passed away seven years ago so things changed then."

Ms Bell said her mother's contribution shaped the store in ways customers still recognised.

"She made the most beautiful gowns for people, she's amazing," she said.

"Most of them were made by her."

"I had a lot of people coming in going where's the other lady with the dark hair."

From its early days operating out of a home to its long-term base in Midvale, the business grew into a steady presence in the community.

Ms Bell said the store moved through the same cycles each year as customers returned for different occasions.

"It just rolls from one season into the next," she said.

"It leads straight into Easter so you get all your Easter bunnies, from Easter bunnies it kicks to Medieval so all your Medieval festivals start from about May onwards and then that leads into Halloween, Melbourne Cup and then Christmas and then New Year's Eve parties.

"Halloween's crazy busy."

She said trends would shift, but the demand for costumes and the experience of coming into the shop remained consistent.

"One minute 60s and 70s was everything and then the next minute as soon as Great Gatsby came out, the 1920s has been popular ever since."

Over time, the store also became a fallback for customers let down elsewhere.

"They want to come in, they want to see what they're buying, they want to feel it, they want to make sure what it actually looks like in the picture," she said.

Despite remaining a strong business, Ms Bell said the decision to close came down to capacity.

"It's been fantastic really and is still a very profitable business," she said.



Glen Strawbridge and Meg Bell during earlier times of the business.

"It's a shame we've had to close it but I have three other businesses and a part-time job and I just can't keep up with all of them so that would be the one that has to go."

For Ms Bell, continuing the shop after her mother's passing had been both meaningful and demanding.

"It's been seven years where I've been juggling three businesses and this one just takes up too much time."

Across those years, the store became part of people's milestones, from childhood parties to community events.

To mark its end, Costumes in the Valley is holding a full closing down sale, with costumes, accessories and shop fittings available.

The business began as a mother and daughter venture, created as a joyful retirement project.

What started as a practical idea quickly grew into a thriving and much-loved local costume destination.

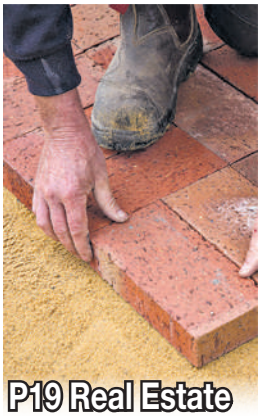
After years of dedication, Ms Bell said she has made the difficult decision to close this chapter and that it was a final chance for the community to visit.

"I just want to thank everyone, thank you everyone for supporting us over the years, thank everyone for their compassion when Glen did pass away and please come out and support us one more time," she said.

INSIDE

	c		
	r		
w	o	r	d
	s		
	s		

P16 Crossword



ADVERTISING FEATURE

Healthy Living

FEATURE P14

REGULAR FEATURES

Letters	4
Entertainment	15
Crossword	16
Trades.....	17
Noticeboard	18
Classifieds.....	18
Sport.....	19
Real Estate	19

ECHO News

ADDRESS:
Unit 4/9 The Avenue
Midland WA 6056

Phone: **9374 6666**

GENERAL MANAGER / EDITOR

Peter W Lewis 9374 6605
peter.lewis@echo-news.com

ADVERTISING
sales@echo-news.com
Karon McCracken 9374 6610

EDITORIAL
editorial@echo-news.com
Guanhao Cheng 9374 6602
Mike Peeters 9374 6601
Brayden Mould 9374 6603
Daniel Holmes 9374 6603

PRODUCTION
production@echo-news.com
Liz Rowlands 9374 6613
Maja Pietranik 9374 6613
Brody Pettit 9374 6613

ACCOUNTS
accounts@echo-news.com
Caprice Harries 9374 6604

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Wednesday:
9.00am – 5pm
Thursday:
9.00am – 4pm
Closed Friday
Closed: Weekends & Public Holidays

Satterley seeks last-minute reopening of North Stoneville appeal

BRAYDEN MOULD

SATTERLEY Property Group has launched a last-minute bid to reopen its North Stoneville townsite appeal before the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT), seeking to introduce a management model that would restrict future residents from planting trees on their property.

As reported in *North Stoneville SAT hearings conclude* (Echo News, January 9), hearings on the North Stoneville development appeal concluded in early January with all parties waiting for the tribunal's decision, expected to come in later in the year.

The request to reopen the appeal was heard last Wednesday, April 1 where Satterley requested the judge consider the implementation of a survey strata across the majority of the 535-hectare Perth Hills site.

The request seeks to include the strata arrangement as an option to secure a low bushfire risk classification, as part of Satterley's tribunal appeal material for the proposed townsite.

Under the proposal, North Stoneville homeowners would be required to enter into a strata agreement and adhere to by-laws mandating the ongoing management of vegetation on private properties.

The move would potentially prohibit approximately 3000 future residents from planting certain trees and vegetation to ensure fuel loads are managed in the case of a bushfire.

The Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and the Shire of Mundaring joined community group Save Perth Hills (SPH) in formal opposition to reopen-



Residents protesting at a Save Perth Hills Rally against North Stoneville. Picture: Erin Littlehill Photography

ing the appeal.

A total of 73 grounds for objection were lodged, including concerns that a survey strata had never been applied to an urban estate of this scale for fire management in Western Australia.

SPH chair Debra Bishop said the group opposed reopening the case to hear arguments surrounding the survey strata, noting the community had been waiting 35 years for a resolution.

"This strata idea means residents would need to sign up, pay for a strata arrangement and agree to a strata by-law to main-

tain, in perpetuity, Satterley's required 'low bushfire risk level' that's needed to get the proposed North Stoneville townsite approved," she said.

"This approach is a striking contradiction to Satterley's North Stoneville promotional material, which, since 2018, has emphasised the concept of promising to protect and respect the unique environment, and retaining the local character of the Perth Hills.

"Now Satterley wants to ban thousands of future hills' residents from planting anything deemed to potentially increase the

inherent bushfire risks.

"Save Perth Hills fears this would mean moonscaping an area larger than Kings Park to be forever devoid of hills' environmental amenity, shading, cooling, and habitat-providing trees and vegetation."

Echo News put questions to Satterley about what this restriction would entail including what types of plants would be restricted and how it would be enforced, but the developer declined to comment.

The tribunal is currently considering the reopen request and is expected to deliver a decision in late April.

Environmental group appeals Alcoa licence over mercury risk



Alcoa's Wagerup alumina refinery in Western Australia. An appeal has been lodged over its licence with concerns raised about mercury emissions. Picture: Alcoa

DANIEL HOLMES

A LEADING environmental group has lodged an appeal against a state government decision to approve a revised licence for Alcoa's Wagerup alumina refinery, citing concerns over rising mercury emissions and potential impacts on nearby ecosystems.

The Conservation Council of WA (CCWA) has challenged the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER) decision, arguing environmental and public health risks have not been adequately addressed.

The refinery, located about 120km south of Perth, sits near jarrah forest and habitat supporting threatened species including black cockatoos and numbats.

A recent licence review found mercury emissions from the refinery have increased since 2023, with about 400kg released in 2025 - nearly double 2022 levels.

CCWA executive director Matt Roberts said the increase raised serious concerns about both the operator and the regulator.

"It seems Alcoa has seen increased mercury emissions from the Wagerup refinery for at least three years, with no action taken to remedy that,"

he said.

"This raises serious questions about our state regulator's capacity to effectively hold the miner to account."

Mr Roberts said the spike in emissions was not identified through compliance reporting but instead through the National Pollutant Inventory.

Alcoa has attributed the increase to higher mercury levels in ore and issues with condenser performance.

However, CCWA disputes this explanation, warning mercury — a toxic substance that can accumulate in soil, water and wildlife — poses a long-term risk to surrounding ecosystems.

The group also raised concerns about limited environmental monitoring, particularly in areas supporting threatened species within a 2km radius of the refinery.

The appeal argues the decision report failed to fully consider cumulative environmental impacts and calls for stricter monitoring and emission controls.

A DWER spokesperson said the licence extension had been referred to the Office of the Appeals Convenor and it would be inappropriate to comment while the process was ongoing.

Alcoa has been contacted for comment.



RESIDENTIAL • RURAL • COMMERCIAL



Colorbond®

(08) 6394 5020

UNIT 2, 18 WANDEARA CRESCENT, MUNDARING

WWW.THESHEDCOMPANY.COM.AU

PERTH HILLS EVENTS PRESENTS
Gourmet in The Park



19TH APRIL 2026
 10.00AM TO 3.00PM **PHE**
 PERTH HILLS EVENTS

MORGAN JOHN MORGAN RESERVE, GLEN FORREST

Join us for a day of delicious indulgence and relaxed outdoor fun!


- Gourmet Food & Drinks
- Artisan Market
- Live Entertainment & Family Fun

Tips for a Great Day
What to Bring: Picnic rugs, camp chairs, and your appetite!
Parking: Available on nearby side streets.
Dietary Needs: Many vendors offer gluten-free and dietary-friendly options.

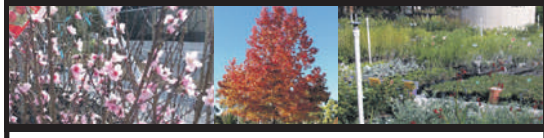


Misty Ridge Plant Farm

16 Brown Road, Wundowie
 Specialising in Australian Flowering & Climate Native Plants



WHOLESALE TO THE PUBLIC




HUGE SELECTION OF NATIVE VARIETIES AND SIZES, INCLUDING LARGE RANGE OF CLIMATE NATIVE PROTEAS.

LARGE RANGE OF DECIDUOUS TREES AND FRUIT TREES NOW AVAILABLE.

ALL PLANTS GROWN ON SITE WITH EXPERT ADVICE.

OPEN: MON-FRI - 9:30AM-2:15PM
 SAT, SUN, PUBLIC HOL - 8:30AM-4:30PM

Ph: 08 9572 7145
 Mob: 0427 387 686
 www.mistyridgeplantfarm.com



THE WATER CORPORATION'S CAMPAIGN "WASTING BUCKETLOADS" IS TO REMIND THE PUBLIC HOW MUCH WATER IS LOST WITH BAD HABITS LIKE OVERWATERING GARDENS, REMINDING HOUSEHOLDS TO STICK WITH THEIR TWICE WEEKLY WATERING DAYS.

ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS Have your say: editorial@echo-news.com

Thought for the day
 "Thoughts are overrated. Intuition is underrated."
 - Maxime Legace

Ammonium nitrate tankers

Dear Echo News,
 When returning home from Perth to the hills recently I have on several occasions found myself behind tankers carrying ammonium nitrate slurry, or trucks and trailers loaded with ammonium nitrate.

Huge explosions can occur when for instance brakes overheated on a trailer as at Cosmo Newbury in November 2022, or when crashes occurred as on the Mitchell Highway (2014) and Bruce Highway (2024) in Queensland.

If such an accident occurred in Midland or Mundaring or any built up area, the damage would be enormous and there could be a considerable death toll.

I believe it is current practice when an ammonium nitrate carrying vehicle catches fire to make no attempt to extinguish the fire but to evacuate the area.

Ammonium nitrate is an extremely powerful explosive that is much more sensitive to detonation than military explosives like RDX or TNT.

As electric vehicles are becoming more common and high currents and burning batteries could be involved.

The chance of an explosion after such a crash would probably be greatly increased.

There have been many ammonium ni-

trate explosions worldwide some equivalent to a low yield nuclear weapon, (Beirut 2020, Texas City 1947, Tianjin China 2015) producing hundreds of deaths.

Considering the distinct possibility and devastating effects of ammonium nitrate explosions I can't see how the manufacture or transport of this chemical through populated areas is permitted.

Crashes and overheating brakes can occur anywhere and anytime. It is pure good fortune that the accidents that have occurred in Australia have been in remote areas.

Currently ammonium nitrate is manufactured at Kwinana and at Wubin in WA.

The Kwinana plant plans to expand production to 580,000 tonnes per annum.

It would be possible to manufacture this explosive near to its point of use, and as a matter of public safety the WA Government should ensure that this happens.

K Pratley Chidlow

Vegetation turned to stone

Dear Echo News,
 I grew up in Beechboro bordered to the north by bush and wildlife.

I accept that where we built our house in 1993 was once bush and I encourage people to view a time lapse on Google Earth of this shire and the surrounds

to watch the majority of the native vegetation turned to stone over the last 40 years.

One thing an ignorant person can't stand is another ignorant person.

Maybe the only thing that can stop our parasitic spread is to run out of fuel?

Do they have electric bulldozers yet?

Why don't we create a potent identity for ourselves by recycling our existing structures and investing in rapid revegetation?

Isn't that why every man and his dog loves Bridgetown?

God bless Guildford, just try and mess with their heritage.

The hottest band on the planet this month actually bothered to come here and while being heckled by bogans about New York he said, "Perth's not that great."

Maybe paying someone from Portugal to build a \$2.2 million sculpture trail will change his mind?

He could come and shoot his music videos at Perth Film Studios.

He better be quick if he wants to see a real kangaroo though because that thin shelf of adjacent pastoral land is classified as, 'strategic and underutilised'.

If you're wondering where the joeys formerly huddling under developers' billboards in the diminishing paddocks of Whiteman went, you can cut straight through this landscape on the new Ellenbrook line.

We'd obviously have to pause our feeds of American pop culture for three minutes.

Chris Swan

Wattle Grove South plan

Dear Echo News,
 At its March 24 meeting, the City of Kalamunda Council voted to support an urban Structure Plan over approximately 126ha of environmentally sensitive foothills land in Wattle Grove South - despite around 77 per cent of community submissions opposing the proposal.

The decision did not occur in isolation.

It follows a series of actions that point to a consistent and concerning shift away from the values that have long defined this community.

Residents will recall the earlier revocation of local planning policy 33 (tree canopy policy) - a policy that recognised the importance of preserving Kalamunda's unique environmental assets.

A council decision to support the urbanisation of environmentally sensitive Maida Vale South, also raised significant concerns about cumulative environmental impacts and the loss of valued landscape.

More recently, the council has considered proposals involving the use of Jorgensen Park, a public asset known to contain nationally threatened species, for private commercial purposes.

Taken together, these decisions reveal a clear pattern.

Time and again, proposals affecting environmentally sensitive land are being advanced by the City of Kala-

munda despite strong community opposition and unresolved environmental concerns.

The message from the community has been consistent over many years: the natural environment is not a secondary consideration - it is central to the identity and liveability of the City of Kalamunda.

Yet the recent decision on Wattle Grove South suggests that this message has not been adequately reflected in council's decision-making, with the notable exception of deputy Mayor Kathy Ritchie, who consistently demonstrates a principled and well-informed commitment to environmental protection and sound planning.

Urbanisation of areas identified only for 'investigation' is not inevitable. It is a choice - one that must be justified through proper assessment of environmental, infrastructure and community factors.

When that process is brought into question, and when overwhelming community opposition appears to carry limited weight, it is reasonable to ask whether council remains aligned with the community it represents.

Kalamunda residents have always placed a high value on protecting the natural environment that makes this area unique.

Council decisions should reflect that.

At present, many in the community are left wondering whether they do.

M Ryan
Wattle Grove

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.

Discover our digital edition online
 www.echonepaper.com.au



Iconic Guildford Hotel changes hands

THE Guildford Hotel has been an institution in the area for 140 years so when owners Luke and Domenic Martino decided to put it up for sale, they wanted it to go the right person.

“Because of our long association with the hotel we both had mixed emotions about selling but I feel we are entrusting the hotel to a terrific family,” Luke Martino said.

His comments came after the recent announcement that WA billionaire Leonie Baldock has bought the iconic hotel for \$17.1 million.

Mr Martino said he believed the new owners had the capacity to take the hotel to the next level and he was very comfortable with the sale.

Mrs Baldock is the granddaughter of late mining magnate Peter Wright and one of Australia’s richest people.

Mr Wright built up a huge fortune after he established a mining partnership with mining mogul Gina Rinehart’s father Lang Hancock in the 1950s.

Luke and Domenic Martino are director and chairman respectively of the national consulting firm Indian Ocean Group and have owned the Guildford Hotel for nearly 20 years.

One of their biggest challenges was restoring the heritage-listed building after it was extensively damaged by fire in 2008.

The fire could have meant the end of the structure itself as the first floor of the hotel was gutted.

Despite this setback and with



The Guildford Hotel has been sold to billionaire mining heiress Leonie Baldock.

the 1886-built hotel sitting empty for years the local community did not give up the fight, waging a ferocious campaign to save the building.

With the extensive restoration work completed in May 2016 the Martino brothers’ dream of a fully restored hotel finally came to fruition and the historic pub was returned to its former glory.

The current hotel operator is the Australian Venue Company which has leased the venue until 2042.

The hotel’s large corner site at 159-161 James Street is not without its controversy with plans for a five-storey development on the block at the rear of the hotel already approved.

The total land area comprises more than 5000 square metres of

land leaving the option open for a significant shopping centre or other retail tenancy.

As previously reported in Lack of parking for Guildford Hotel expansion, (Echo News July 18, 2023), residents expressed concern about redevelopment and a possible extension at the back of the hotel.

Adjacent to the Guildford Hotel at 163 James Street, the historic Vaudeville Theatre has recently been transformed into The Hall: a casual beer hall and expanded beer garden featuring a \$2.8m renovation that opened in July 2024.

In response to questions from Echo News, a City of Swan spokesperson said, “The city is not able to comment on this matter.”

Concerns raised over removal of verge trees in High Wycombe development

DANIEL HOLMES

RESIDENTS have raised concerns about the removal of verge trees as part of a development in High Wycombe, questioning when replacement planting will take place.

The issue was raised during public question time at a recent City of Kalamunda council meeting, where residents asked about the loss of established trees and the timeframe for their replacement.

Community members expressed concern about reduced canopy cover in the area, including the loss of shade and impacts on the streetscape.

Questions were also raised about how long it would take for replacement trees to grow and restore the area’s tree cover.

In response, the City of Kalamunda advised that responsibility for verge trees in subdivision areas typically sits with the developer and is managed through subdivision approval conditions.

The city said requirements for replanting are generally included as part of those approvals, with planting carried out at different stages of the development process.

It also noted that tree establishment can take time, depending on the species planted and local site conditions.

The development forms part of ongoing subdivision activity in High Wycombe, where works have included the removal of existing vegetation.

Residents’ concerns highlight broader community interest in maintaining tree canopy and streetscape amenity as development continues in the area.

Bassendean celebrates WA Tree Festival

THE Town of Bassendean has organised a series of community events for the WA Tree Festival running from Saturday April 11 to May 10.

Events include a free movie screening, night fauna walks, tree-theme rhyme and story time workshops as well as subsidised trees for residents.

A community celebration of trees in urban areas and beyond, the tree festival is delivered through local and regional councils including the Town of Bassendean.

Bassendean chief executive officer Cameron Woods said the town had organised several free and low-cost events.

“These include a free outdoor screening of The Lorax on Sunday April 12, interactive fauna night walks at Bindaring Wetland (April 16) and Mary Crescent Reserve (May 10), and tree-themed early-years programming at the Bassendean Library,” Mr Woods said.

“This includes Djeran Trees rhymetime (April 29) and Djeran Trees storytime (April 30).”

Early release plant vouchers will also be available at the Bassendean Markets on April 26.

“General sales for plants to residents and trees to residents vouchers open on April 28 giving residents access to subsidised native, waterwise plants and trees to plant at home.

“Through the plants to residents program resi-



dents can purchase up to 20 native plants at just \$1 each supporting water-efficient gardens and greener neighbourhoods.

“The newer trees to residents program allows residents to purchase up to five trees per property at \$5 per tree, helping grow local canopy cover.”

He said trees provided a range of benefits, including cooling our homes, streets and the environment and providing shade and habitat.

“They also help to clean the air and improve mental and physical health, including reducing heat-related illnesses during heat waves,” Mr Woods said.

“Streets with trees also increase the amenity and economic value of our homes, streets, and reserves, as homes on tree-lined streets are worth an average of \$16,000 more than homes on streets without trees.”

Visit the Bassendean WA Tree Festival page for more information at www.bassendean.wa.gov.au/tree-festival-2026.aspx

You can make it here



There is high demand for essential care workers here in WA and many ways to start a meaningful career. TAFE students can get skills that matter and be job-ready fast in free and low fee courses. You can make it at TAFE.

Learn more at tafe.wa.edu.au



ABS AUTO MIDLAND

Our family-owned business proudly services the Midland community, delivering honest advice, reliable workmanship, and quality automotive servicing at fair, competitive prices.

Book your service today!



(08) 6161 4636

absautomidland.com.au

Kalamunda resident returns for the Kalgoorlie-Perth pipeline charity ride

BRAYDEN MOULD

HUNDREDS of kilometres of rugged terrain and five days of endurance are challenges Kalamunda resident Dave Edwards is expected to overcome in the Big Yellow Pipeline Challenge later this month.

Mr Edwards will join fellow cyclists from April 29 to May 3, to ride more than 600km along the historic Golden Pipeline from Kalgoorlie to Perth.

The event raises important funds for Youth Futures' Nest Program, which supports parents aged 16 to 25 who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The Nest Program provides young families with stable accommodation, food, and tailored support services.

A Kalamunda resident for 30 years, Mr Edwards said the mission behind the ride is what motivates him to return for his third year as a rider.

"We heard it was a great cause, and being part of the mining community, the ride from Kalgoorlie along the pipeline really resonated with us.

"I don't think many people realise that if a child

is born without a partner support, and without a fixed address, that baby becomes a ward of the state.

"I think that's abysmal, so a group of us decided to ride and raise money for the Nest Program and Youth Futures."

He first became involved in 2024 after a colleague introduced him to the initiative, but his involvement deepened in 2025 when the event was at risk of being cancelled due to lack of funding.

"The CEO of Big Yellow Mining, Mitch Wallace, came to me and we just knew we had to step up, so we took the whole event on, organising it all and making sure it went ahead," he said.

"That's how Big Yellow Mining became the principal sponsor."

In 2024 and 2025, Mr Edwards raised \$11,000 each year and hopes to reach that same goal again this month with the support of the community and his two sons, who also live in Kalamunda.

He credited the Kalamunda community, family, and business associates for their consistent support in hitting those targets.

"Once they hear about the Nest Program and how these mums and babies can become displaced, they are all on board to donate," he said.

While the physical demands of the 600km journey are significant, Mr Edwards said the experience remains a yearly highlight.

"The best part of the ride is the camaraderie," he said.

"It's the company you're in on the road, yarning in the evenings and settling into tents for the night.

"It's a great concept for an even greater cause and, and I'm really proud to be a part of it."

Dave Edwards will be completing his third ride of the annual challenge, riding more than 600km from Kalgoorlie to Perth.



KIMBO'S Fashions
MIDLAND & WILLETTON

Come say Hi, we would love to see you!

FIND THE PERFECT OUTFIT

perfect WEDDING ATTIRE

WE SHOWCASE OUR FASHION TO RETIREMENT VILLAGES Enquire today!

GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

You can find us at
MIDLAND 9274 0429
1 OLD GREAT NORTHERN HWY | OPEN 6 DAYS
WILLETTON 9259 1698
UNIT 2 / 11 AUGUSTA STREET | OPEN 6 DAYS

Like us on Facebook

PIPS FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES & MAY NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE IN STORE



Residents are being connected to scheme water as new pipeline infrastructure is rolled out in Bullsbrook. Picture: Water Corporation

Bullsbrook residents begin connection to scheme water after years of PFAS concerns

DANIEL HOLMES

BULLSBROOK residents affected by PFAS contamination are beginning to be connected to scheme water, marking a significant step forward in a long-running issue in the area.

The contamination, linked to historic firefighting foam use at RAAF Base Pearce, has impacted local groundwater for years, with some residents relying on bottled water as a result.

More than 200 properties across the area are expected to be connected to the new scheme water network as part of the project.

Recent updates indicate some properties are now being connected, following years of planning, community consultation and construction.

As previously reported in *Update on Bullsbrook scheme water* (Echo News, May 9, 2025) the project has involved extensive infrastructure works,

including more than 8km of pipeline installed in West Bullsbrook, along with further construction in South Bullsbrook.

Earlier works included pipeline installation along Railway Parade and Almeria Parade, as well as construction in higher-density residential areas.

The project forms part of a broader response to PFAS contamination identified in 2018, when investigations found elevated levels in some local water sources.

The connection to scheme water is expected to provide a long-term safe drinking water supply for affected residents.

However, the issue has been ongoing for several years, with residents previously raising concerns about delays and the length of time taken to deliver a permanent solution.

Further connections are expected to roll out across Bullsbrook in the coming months.

Bibbulmun Track considered for heritage listing



The Bibbulmun Track passes through bushland between Kalamunda and Albany and is being considered for heritage listing. Picture: Slower Hiking

DANIEL HOLMES

THE Bibbulmun Track could receive formal heritage recognition, with a nomination lodged to have the long-distance walking trail included on the state register of heritage places.

Stretching from Kalamunda to Albany, the track runs for about 1000km and passes through the Perth Hills, making it a well-known feature for local walkers and visitors.

The nomination is being assessed by the WA Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) with information gathered from councils along the route as part of the process.

If the track is added to the state register of heritage places, it would be formally recognised for its cultural, environmental and social significance, with future developments

along the route subject to additional consideration.

The nomination will be assessed by the Heritage Council of Western Australia, which will make a recommendation to the state government on whether the track should be included on the register.

The Bibbulmun Track travels through a mix of forest, national parks and reserves, and includes a network of campsites used by hikers completing sections of the trail.

The track attracts tens of thousands of users each year and is widely regarded as one of Australia's premier long-distance walking trails, maintained through a partnership between government agencies and volunteer groups.

A DPLH spokesperson said the heritage council received the nomination in August 2025 and has endorsed it for assessment.

Electors meeting set for Jorgensen Park lease

DANIEL HOLMES

CITY of Kalamunda residents will have the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed lease of Jorgensen Park at a special electors meeting later this month.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16 at 6.30pm and will focus on the city's proposal to lease part of the park for a commercial event.

The meeting follows questions raised by residents during public question time at the March 24 council meeting, where community members sought further information about the proposal, including the nature of the event and its potential impact on the park.

As previously reported in *Kalamunda community opposes public park event* (*Echo News*, March 27), the proposal involves a portion of the Class A reserve being used for a ticketed event, with concerns raised about

potential impacts on local wildlife and the surrounding area.

The proposal is under negotiation with event proponent Kzemos Australia.

In response the city has advised the lease agreement and any future event approvals would be considered through separate processes.

Electors meetings provide a formal opportunity for residents to ask questions, raise concerns and put forward motions for council to consider.

While motions carried at an electors meeting are not binding, they must be formally considered by council.

The proposed lease of Jorgensen Park has attracted ongoing community interest, with residents raising concerns about environmental, operational and community impacts.

Electors meetings are held under the local government act and allow residents to put forward motions for council to consider, as



Jorgensen Park is the subject of a proposed lease to host a commercial event, with a special electors meeting set for April 16. Picture: City of Kalamunda

well as ask questions about local issues, as in a council meeting's public question time.

Any motions carried at the meeting are not binding but must be formally considered by

council at a subsequent meeting.

Further details about the electors meeting are available on the City of Kalamunda website.



DEMERSAL FISHING RECOVERY REFORMS
For future generations

There's still a whole ocean of fun out there.

Demersal fishing will reopen exclusively for recreational fishers from Kalbarri to Augusta from spring next year. Until then, you can still enjoy time out on the water with family and friends by fishing for plenty of other species, or fish from the shore.

🔍 Search Fishing Futures WA



Wundowie denied cheap medicines says Hunter

CENTRAL Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter has slammed the federal Labor government after it rejected approval for the Wundowie Pharmacy to dispense Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines, leaving locals without access to affordable prescriptions.

Mr Hunter said the decision flies in the face of federal Labor's election promise of "cheaper medicines" and has left a vulnerable regional community behind.

"I recently met with the Wundowie community and heard firsthand just how important it is for locals to access affordable medicines close to home," Mr Hunter said.

"Federal Labor promised cheaper medicines, but when Wundowie asked for access to the PBS, they were told no."

Mr Hunter said he has written directly to federal Health minister Mark Butler demanding the decision be reconsidered and that Wundowie be granted access to PBS-subsidised medicines.

"This is a growing regional centre with limited public transport and a significant number of residents who simply cannot travel to access essential healthcare," he said.

"Expecting people to drive along a major freight route just to access affordable prescriptions is unreasonable and unsafe."

Mr Hunter said the decision also undermines a significant local investment, with Wundowie Pharmacy owner investing close to \$1 million to establish a fully operational pharmacy to serve the community.

"This pharmacy was built in good



Central Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter.

faith to support local patients, provide vaccinations and chronic disease care, and create local jobs. Without PBS access, its future is now under threat."

Mr Hunter has also called on the local federal Labor MP to stand up for the Wundowie community and fight for a reversal of the decision.

"Silence from the local Federal Labor MP is not good enough.

"This community deserves a strong voice and real action.

"This decision discriminates against a low socio-economic, regional community and denies them the same access to affordable medicines that city residents take for granted."

Mr Hunter said he will continue to advocate for Wundowie until the federal government delivers fair access to the PBS.

"Cheaper medicines should not depend on your postcode."



Guests at the celebration at the Bilgoman Aquatic Centre. Picture: Alex Bissett

A celebration of history of the Bilgoman Well

MOST Hills residents, especially those in the Shire of Mundaring, will be very familiar with the Bilgoman Aquatic Centre near the top of the hill going up the Great Eastern Highway towards Glen Forrest.

Not so many, though, will know about a very interesting, but much older, aquatic feature that is located in the bush about 100 metres west of the swimming pool.

In 1846, the government of the Swan River Colony was taking steps to open up the interior of Western Australia by building a road east from the Swan Valley.

The assistant government surveyor Philip Chauncy was supervising the work, which included identifying sources of water to serve those working or travelling on the new road and their draft animals.

One of these was in an area of marshy land, known by the local Aboriginal people as 'Bilgoman' or 'tea tree watering place, where he directed a well to be dug 14 feet through white pipe clay'.

Some 14 years later, when the government had gangs of convicts working on the road, they needed secure accommodation for their, doubtless rather unenthusiastic, workforce. One of these little

groups of huts was built near the Bilgoman Well.

For the next 20 years, the huts and the well were regularly used but, once the railway had been constructed to York in 1885, they ceased to be of practical value except as a recreational place for Darlington residents.

The walls of the huts, being made of earth bricks, gradually wasted away and, by the 1940s, the bush took over the whole area.

When it was decided to restore the well and its surrounds as a project to celebrate the Australian Bicentenary in 1988, long-time local resident, schoolteacher, and amateur historian Ron Mitchell was called upon to find the well again, and it was renovated and signs and paths installed.

There then followed another period of gradual degradation and lack of public awareness until FOBWE (Friends of Bilgoman Well) was formed in 2022.

Since then, the well site has been tidied up, signs repaired, and paths cleared, and numerous endemic native plants dug in every year.

Most recently, informative signs, similar to those on the Darlington Heritage Trail have been put in place, and new rustic

benches have been installed at the well and overlooking the site of the convict ruins for visitors to sit on while they contemplate this historic rustic scene.

To mark this next stage in the life of the Bilgoman Well, FOBWE recently organised a brief celebration at the Bilgoman Aquatic Centre and down at the well itself to give the many people and organisations who have helped there over the years a chance to meet each other and see the results of their work.

It was a very jovial occasion, with the gathering addressed by Darlington History Group chair Lyn Myles, Mundaring Shire President Paige McNeil, and Hannah Dyer, a director of the Bendigo Community Bank that funded the cost of the most recent developments around the well.

There was even at least one person there, very long-time Darlington resident Sally Herzfeld, who could remember playing around the ruins as a small child!

Everybody agreed that it was a job well worth doing and committed themselves to further efforts over the years to ensure that this important historical site is looked after and well known to the local community and the general public.

EPA approves Malaga to Pinjar power line



Western Power has commenced seed collection works aimed at securing stock to rehabilitate locations along Clean Energy Link transmission upgrade sites.

A PROPOSAL to provide additional electricity to Perth's north via a new transmission line has been recommended for approval by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), subject to conditions to avoid and protect native vegetation.

The Northern Terminal to Neerabup Terminal 330kV Transmission Line is a Western Power proposal to construct a 29-kilometre dual circuit link between Malaga and Pinjar.

The recently published EPA report outlines the key elements of the proposal as 74 steel lattice towers, dual circuit conductor, maintenance and access tracks, and expansion of the Northern and Neerabup terminal substations.

The proposal intends to reinforce the North Region transmission network and provide additional capacity to connect large-scale renewable energy facilities.

EPA Chair Darren Walsh said the development's location parallel to the existing 330kV transmission line, and the selection of infrastructure corridors that reduced the extent of clearing meant the proposal met the EPA's objectives for flora and vegetation.

"During this assessment the EPA was also cognisant of the proponent's willingness to respond to our feedback and incorporate additional mitigations and offsets," he said.

"By applying further specialised construction and installation methods, the proponent was able to nearly halve the extent of vegetation clearing.

"And the majority of low vegetation would be retained which in turn means that a large proportion of fauna habitat values would be maintained, including primary foraging species for black cockatoos."

Cont. p18.

SKIDS SWIMWEAR

CHLORINE RESISTANT • UPF 50+
ALL the Family • ALL Year Round

FOR THE ADULTS

- Swimwear for ladies & men right through to 7XL
- Famous Lycra brands
- Hats, towels and bags etc
- Ladies' leisurewear

SUN PROTECTION FOR ALL THE FAMILY

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES
so you can...
TRY IT ON, GET THE FIT RIGHT and HAVE IT NOW !!

KIDS STUFF

- Rashies & bathers (inc plain black, navy)
- Goggles and accessories
- Sunnies and hats

NEW FUNKYS ARE HERE!!
Ask for FREE GIFT

ALL THE FAMILY

NEW PRINTS UP TO 6XL

GOWNS FROM SPEEDO, MOOMOO KIDS, BACK BEACH & RAPPCO

SALE
SUMMER & WINTER SPECIALS
....up to 50% OFF

HATS, BAGS & TOWELS

MADE IN PERTH

SUMMER & WINTER LEISURE

PERIOD 1PCE + BRIEFS

ONE PIECES & SEPARATES

LEG SUITS

161 HIGH ROAD, WILLETTON 9354 4124

MON- FRI 10-4 SAT 9-1

Feedback called for draft Bassendean precinct plan

THE Town of Bassendean has prepared a draft precinct structure plan focusing on land around the Bassendean and Success Hill train stations and the surrounding town centre.

The draft document is available for the community to review and provide feedback on a range of areas including land use, built form, movement, open space and infrastructure.

Setting out a clear framework for future development, the draft plan is a long-term planning document that guides how an area can change and grow.

According to a spokesperson, it builds on earlier planning work and community input to help ensure future development is well planned, coordinated and reflects local values.

"The plan does not approve individual developments but simply provides the rules and direction that future planning decisions will need to follow," they said.

"The draft plan also considers how the area can support a mix of homes, shops, services and jobs, improve walking, cycling and connections to public transport and strengthen the character and identity of the area.

"It will also deliver high-quality public spaces and streets and manage growth to benefit the whole community."

Residents can provide feedback until Friday, May 8 by making a submission online or by printed hard copy.

The full draft precinct structure plan is available at www.bassendean.wa.gov.au



The Town of Bassendean draft precinct structure plan will help guide the town's future planning.



BOOK IN NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

UPCOMING EVENTS

at Amaroo Retreat & Spa

"Feed Me"
A SHARED DINING EXPERIENCE
THURSDAYS ONLY
COMMENCING APRIL 16

\$69 per person

- House made focaccia, olive oil DF/NF
- Chargrilled octopus, chorizo, potato, citrus GF/NF/DF
- Crispy pork belly, gochujang, sweetcorn GFO/NF/DF
- WA Donnybrook Pink Sirloin steak, peppercorn sauce, watercress GF/NF/DFO
- Sous vide chicken breast, ricotta & lemon myrtle, garlic cream sauce, mash GF/NF
- Amaroo salad, ranch dressing, pickled onion GF/NF/V/VGO
- Shoestring fries, aioli GF/NF/DF/VG
- Chocolate mousse, cherries, flourless chocolate cake, crystallised chocolate V/NF/GF
- Peach Compote, polenta sponge, whipped cr me fraiche GF/V

eye on crime

Aveley man charged over Ellenbrook wounding

MIDLAND Detectives have charged a 22-year-old man in relation to an incident that occurred in Ellenbrook on Thursday, March 26.

About 7pm, police will allege an altercation occurred involving several individuals on Main Street in Ellenbrook, outside a shopping centre.

During the altercation, it will be alleged the accused stabbed the 31-year-old male victim.

Emergency services attended the scene, and the victim was conveyed to Royal Perth Hospital by St John WA for treatment of serious injuries sustained.

The 22-year-old man from Aveley was arrested and charged with one count of 'Grievous Bodily Harm'.

He is due to appear before the Midland Magistrates Court on Tuesday, April 21.

Ballajura armed robbery under investigation

MIDLAND detectives are continuing to appeal for public assistance as they investigate an armed robbery and aggravated burglary incident which occurred in Ballajura on Thursday, March 26.

About 2.20pm, police received a report that two unknown males had forced entry into a residence on Luton Close. Once inside, the males attempted to steal personal belongings.

During the incident, the 19-year-old female occupant was punched in the face, and the 19-year-old male occupant was threatened with what appeared to be a machete.

The males then fled the property in the vehicle pictured - a blue Ford Falcon sedan bearing no registration plates.

The female sustained facial injuries and attended hospital to receive medical treatment. Both males are described as being aged in their 20s and were wearing yellow hi-vis clothing.

One male was of slim build, had tattoos on his neck and was bald, and the second male was of solid build with brown hair.

Anyone with any information or footage re-

garding this incident or this vehicle of interest is asked to contact Crime Stoppers online via www.crimestopperswa.com.au or by calling 1800 333 000.

Reports can remain anonymous. Any relevant dash cam, mobile phone or CCTV footage can be uploaded directly to investigators via this link: <https://wapf.au.evidence.com/axon/communityrequest/public/ballajurarobberyburglaryon26march2026>



Vehicle of interest in Ballajura armed robbery investigation.

Wundowie officers investigate serious crash

WUNDOWIE officers from the major crash investigation section are investigating a serious crash that occurred in Wundowie on Monday, March 23.

About 6.15am, a blue Toyota Camry sedan travelling north and a white Kia Cerato hatchback travelling south on Great Eastern Highway in Wundowie were involved in a collision.

The 46-year-old female driver of the Kia received serious injuries and was airlifted to Royal Perth Hospital for treatment.

The 21-year-old female driver of the Toyota received serious injuries and was conveyed by

St John WA to Royal Perth Hospital for treatment.

Major crash investigators are conducting an examination of the scene and are appealing for any witnesses to contact Crime Stoppers at www.crimestopperswa.com.au or on 1800 333 000.

Information can be provided anonymously. Dash-cam or mobile phone vision relating to this crash can be uploaded directly to investigators via this link: <https://wapf.au.evidence.com/axon/community-request/public/carvcarwundowie23032026>

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



RECONNECT & RECHARGE
Art & Lunch Experience

APRIL 18 | MAY 30 | JUNE 20

UNLEASH YOUR INNER ARTIST! CRAFT YOUR VERY OWN MASTERPIECE THEN SETTLE IN FOR A DELICIOUS TWO-COURSE LUNCH.

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW:

~ \$135 per person

Art session kicks off at 10:30am and flows through to 11:45am



High Tea in the Hills

MAY 23 | JUNE 13

A LUXURIOUS AFTERNOON EXPERIENCE BLENDING DECADENT FLAVOURS, SPARKLING WINE, AND BUSHLAND SERENITY.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.

~ \$79pp – includes all food, one drink & hot beverage.

~ \$114pp – includes all food, unlimited drinks & hot beverage for two hours

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL / LIMITED AVAILABILITY

(08) 6244 4800

RESERVATIONS@AMAROORETREAT.COM.AU

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS

AMAROORETREAT.COM.AU

1200 ALISON STREET, MT HELENA

Bus stop upgrades underway across Kalamunda

DANIEL HOLMES

UPGRADES to 74 bus stops across the City of Kalamunda are underway as part of a statewide accessibility program.

The Public Transport Authority has begun works across suburbs including High Wycombe, Forresterfield, Maida Vale, Lesmurdie, Gooseberry Hill and Kalamunda.

The upgrades aim to improve accessibility and make public transport easier to use for a wider range of passengers, including people with mobility aids, seniors, parents with prams and those with vision impairment.

Improvements include level boarding areas, tactile ground surface indicators, better connections to footpaths and upgraded bus stop poles and information modules.

The works are being carried out across

March and April, with nearby residents notified ahead of time to minimise disruption.

The program forms part of broader efforts to ensure bus stops meet national accessibility standards and improve connections between residential areas and public transport.

Some residents have welcomed the upgrades, while others have called for additional features such as shelters and seating.

Community members raised concerns on social media about exposure to weather at certain stops, particularly for school students and older residents.

Bus stops across Kalamunda suburbs are being upgraded to improve accessibility and connections for public transport users. Picture: Supplied



Comments sought on Mundaring draft policies



Residents are being invited to comment on draft planning policies that will guide future development across the Shire of Mundaring. Picture: Shire of Mundaring

DANIEL HOLMES

RESIDENTS in the Shire of Mundaring are being invited to have their say on two draft local planning policies now open for public comment.

The draft policies relate to signage and advertisements, and exemptions from requiring development approval, and form part of the shire's planning framework to guide how land is used and developed across the area.

The proposed signage and advertisements policy sets out which signs are exempt from development approval and provides guidance for assessing applications for non-exempt signage.

The exemptions policy outlines certain works that would not require development approval under the planning framework.

Local planning policies sit alongside the shire's planning scheme and help shape

decisions on new developments, including how buildings are designed, how land is subdivided and how projects fit within existing neighbourhoods.

They can also influence how environmental factors are managed, such as vegetation retention, bushfire considerations and the protection of natural landscapes.

The shire is seeking community feedback before the policies are finalised, giving residents, landowners and developers the opportunity to review the proposals and make submissions.

Submissions must be made in writing by 4pm on April 17 and can be lodged online via the Shire of Mundaring's Engage platform, by post or by email to shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au.

The consultation process allows the community to help shape future planning decisions and ensure local priorities are reflected in the final policies.



SLW TRANSPORT
PTY LTD



**SLW Transport
is family
owned
& operated**





**You need
it moved
just ask!**

Prime Movers

Rigid Courier Utes

Side Loaders

**Single Trailers –
Triple Road Trains**

Oversize Haulage

**Mine & Construction
Site Projects**

**Wharf Pick-ups &
Deliveries**





Phone: 0438 774 201




130a Milner Rd, HIGH WYCOMBE WA 6057

Eradication effort underway to stop Qfly



Residents are asked to look for and report Queensland fruit fly pictured below.

THE Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is responding to the detection of Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) in Perth's southern suburbs.

The damaging fruit pest was detected in the department's Qfly surveillance traps in the Como and South Perth area, providing a vital early warning to activate the state's eradication efforts.

DPIRD officers will be inspecting street trees and trees on residential and commercial properties in the area and applying a registered organic bait that is designed to attract and kill the pest.

Qfly is one of the world's worst fruit pests which infests a wide range of fruits and some fruiting vegetables including tomato, chilli and capsicum. Qfly is present in other parts of Australia but is not established in WA.

DPIRD chief plant biosecurity officer Vincent Lanoiselet said a quarantine area and measures would be declared to help stop the pest from spreading. Further information will be provided for impacted landholders to support the eradication effort.

As a general rule, ripening and fallen fruit and fruiting vegetables should be disposed of by solarising to kill any potential Qfly maggots.

This means securing fruit in a black plastic bag in the sun before placing in the general waste bin, not the food organics, garden organics (FOGO) bin.

Dr Lanoiselet said DPIRD had successfully eradicated 10 previous outbreaks of Qfly in Perth



including the most recent infestation of the pest in Willagee and surrounding suburbs last year.

"The tremendous support of the community and industry has been critical to the success of these eradication campaigns," Dr Lanoiselet said.

"The community is encouraged to look for and report suspect Qfly, which are six to eight millimetres long, with a red-brownish torso and yellow patches, dark brown abdomen and clear wings.

"Reports of suspected Qfly, including maggots in fruit and especially tomato, chilli and capsicum, can be made via the MyPestGuide Reporter app or DPIRD's Pest and Disease Information Service at padis@dpiird.wa.gov.au."

More information about Qfly is available from the DPIRD website www.dpiird.wa.gov.au/qfly



Bauxite mining operations near Mt Solus, along Albany Highway, are among issues to be discussed at a Kalamunda talk on native forests. Picture: Jason Fowler

Kalamunda group will host native forest talk

DANIEL HOLMES

A KALAMUNDA based environmental group is inviting the community to a public talk on prescribed burning and mining in Western Australia's native forests.

The Nature Reserves Preservation Group (NRP) Bushcarers will host the event on Wednesday, April 22 at 6pm at the Kalamunda Hotel.

The group, which has been advocating for the Kalamunda environment for more than 30 years, said the session would focus on issues affecting native forests across the Perth Hills and south-west region.

The event comes amid ongoing debate in Western Australia over prescribed burning practices and mining activity in native forests.

Campaign manager for the WA Forest Alliance Jason Fowler will speak about the impacts of logging, prescribed burning and bauxite mining on native ecosystems.

The presentation will focus on issues affecting jarrah forests around Kalamunda, including current mining activity, future expansion plans and bushfire management practices.

The WA Forest Alliance is a network of conservation groups focused on protecting native

forests across the state.

NRP secretary Steve Gates said the event aimed to inform the community about environmental issues affecting native forests.

Mr Gates said the group hoped the session would encourage greater community awareness and discussion about the future of native forests in Western Australia.

The talk will be held upstairs at the Kalamunda Hotel and is open to the public.

Residents interested in attending can contact Mr Fowler at jason.fowler@wafa.org.au or on 0487 806 385 for more information.

Local groups receive funding for river restoration projects

DANIEL HOLMES

SEVERAL community groups in the Perth Hills have received funding as part of the latest round of Community Rivercare grants.

Fourteen volunteer groups shared more than \$655,000 through round nine of the program, which supports projects aimed at improving the health of waterways across the Swan Canning catchment.

Among the successful recipients were local groups including the Jane Brook Catchment Group, Friends of Jorgensen Park and Friends of Banyowla Clifton Hills.

Projects funded through the program include foreshore revegetation, weed control and erosion prevention works along local waterways.

The Jane Brook Catchment Group will under-

take restoration works along sections of Jane Brook, while Friends of Jorgensen Park will continue bank stabilisation efforts as part of a living stream project.

Other projects across the catchment will focus on improving habitat and supporting natural regeneration in areas affected by degradation.

Environment Minister Matthew Swinbourn said the grants would help protect waterways for future generations.

"Each project funded through the Community Rivercare Program contributes to a healthier, more resilient Swan Canning catchment," he said.

The program, now in its ninth year, supports community-led environmental projects and aims to improve the long-term health of the Swan and Canning river systems.



Funding will support projects to improve waterways across the Perth Hills, including Jane Brook. Picture: Travis Hayto



70 Years of Caring for the Hills
Mead Medical | Est. 1956

Celebrating 70 Years of Care

For 70 years, Mead Medical has been part of the fabric of the Perth Hills community. Generations of families have trusted us with their care, and we are proud to continue that legacy today.

With clinics in Kalamunda and our new purpose-built facility in Maida Vale, we are committed to providing accessible, high-quality healthcare close to home.

As our community grows, so do we. We are pleased to welcome new GPs to the practice and expand our services to better support both long-standing and new patients.

Welcoming new patients and continuing to support families across generations.

What We Offer

- ✓ Experienced GP team
- ✓ New Maida Vale Clinic
- ✓ Kalamunda clinic
- ✓ Family-focused care

Convenient Appointments

- ✓ Weekdays until 7pm
- ✓ Weekends and public holidays (Kalamunda)
- ✓ Saturday mornings (Maida Vale)



MEADMEDICAL
EST. 1956

Kalamunda:

37 Elizabeth Street, Kalamunda

Maida Vale:

6/31 Maida Vale Road, Maida Vale

Phone:

08 9293 4455

(both clinics)

Caring for our community – now and into the future.



Culture and connection celebrated at Altone Comes Alive

ANOTHER unforgettable mix of fun, culture and connection burst into life when Altone Comes Alive recently returned to Beechboro.

Hosted by the City of Swan and aligning with Harmony Week, this much-loved annual event celebrated the incredible diversity and unity of the community – bringing together people of all ages and backgrounds for a vibrant day out.

This year, Altone Comes Alive drew an incredible turnout of more than 5000 people - an even bigger attendance than last year's event.

The free, family-friendly event offered something for everyone, with live entertainment, a bustling marketplace of community stalls, and delicious food trucks showcasing flavours from around the world.

Kids and families enjoyed free festival rides, face painting, henna tattoos, bouncing castles, mini golf, and so much more.

A designated space beneath the main marquee provided wheelchair users with a comfortable view of the exceptional perfor-

mances with access provisions including a dedicated drop-off area and matting to allow easy entry to the much-loved Harmony Week celebration.

For those seeking a moment of calm, a chill-out zone away from the lively festivities further enhanced the event's inclusivity.

A dedicated prayer room was available for those observing Ramadan, providing a quiet space away from the main stage to breakfast and pray.

City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson said the event was a fantastic way for the community to connect and embrace multiculturalism.

"As this year's event confirmed, Altone Comes Alive continues to build on its reputation at the heart of what Harmony Week is all about – bringing our community together to celebrate arts, food and culture in a fun, welcoming atmosphere," she said.

"The beautiful diversity of experiences in this accessible and inclusive event was a showcase of all that's best in our community."



There was plenty of culture and entertainment at the recent Altone Comes Alive event.



**SUPPORT US
SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO
SUPPORT YOU**

When you purchase from one of our advertisers let them know you saw their ad in *The Echo*

ECHO
NEWS

Local Business Supporting Local People

www.echonewspaper.com.au

Grants strengthen cultural learning and reconciliation



The Binar dance crew perform at Swan View Primary School.

FIVE local schools have received funding from the state government's latest round of Partnership Acceptance Learning Sharing (PALS) grants.

Open to all WA primary and secondary schools as well as Department of Education-funded kindergartens, the program empowers reconciliation through education by delivering initiatives that strengthen Aboriginal cultural learning.

In the latest round, \$192,667 was shared between 41 WA schools with Swan View primary school receiving \$4100, the Australian Islamic College \$5000, Chidlow PS \$4000, Aveley North PS \$5000 and Ballajura Community College \$5000.

Swan View PS corporate services manager Vanya Thomas said this year they were inviting the Binar dance crew to the school and holding a morning tea for their Indigenous families.

"We will also have rotating activities for the students during the day," she said.

Australian Islamic College chief executive officer Abdullah Khan said they had used the grant to recently engage in a shared learning experience with Whadjuk man Justin Martin.

"An Aboriginal artwork specialist from Djurandi Dreaming, Justin's traditional lands span the Perth metropolitan region and a large part of the mid-west of Western Australia, making him part of both

the Noongar and Yamatji nations," Mr Khan said.

"As Muslims, we are reminded of the deep connection between people and their land through the Arabic proverb, 'Love of one's homeland is part of faith'.

"This shared value reminds us to honour, respect and care for the lands we live on and the rich histories they hold."

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Don Punch said the PALS program was administered by the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport and gave schools the opportunity to learn directly from Aboriginal knowledge holders and communities, helping students better understand the cultural heritage that shapes Western Australia.

"These projects allow students to connect with country, language, stories and artistic traditions in meaningful ways while building respectful partnerships with local Aboriginal people," Mr Punch said.

"The WA government is proud to support schools across metropolitan and regional WA as they continue to strengthen cultural learning and advance reconciliation."

For more information on the PALS program go to [www.cits.wa.gov.au/funding/creative-industries-funding/partnership-acceptance-learning-sharing-\(pals\)](http://www.cits.wa.gov.au/funding/creative-industries-funding/partnership-acceptance-learning-sharing-(pals))

Young Western Australians share their views on social media ban

MARKING three months since the Australian Government introduced its social media ban for children under 16, the Commissioner for Children and Young People has released insights on the issue from an online consultation of more than 100 young Western Australians.

'What Young People Said: Youth consultation on the social media ban' summarises feedback from 120 young people aged 9 to 17 who responded to the Commissioner's DigiMe voices, an online platform where young people can create an avatar and answer a topical question.

Over a four-month period from October 2025 to January 2026, young people expressed complex and sometimes conflicting views about the ban. While many acknowledged the intent to improve online safety, the majority opposed the ban in its current form.

Key findings included:

- widespread concern about losing connection with friends and family.
- strong feedback that the age threshold of 16 is too high, with many suggesting 13 or 14.
- significant concerns from regional and remote young people about increased isolation.
- serious impacts for LGBTQIA+ young people who rely on online communities for support.
- concerns about privacy and data security linked to age-verification processes.
- calls for stronger digital literacy education and greater platform accountability.

What Young People Said

Youth consultation on the social media ban



The publication provides recommendations informed directly by young people's feedback, including strengthening youth participation in digital decision-making and exploring proportionate, graduated approaches rather than blanket restrictions.

Commissioner for Children and Young People Dr Jacqueline McGowan-Jones said young people understand both the risks and the benefits of social media.

"They want to be safe online but they also want to stay connected, supported and heard," Dr McGowan-Jones said.

"Many young people told us they felt decisions were made about them, without them. This report makes clear they are capable of thoughtful,

balanced and practical contributions to policy discussions.

"For some young people, particularly those in regional and remote communities and those who identify as LGBTQIA+, online spaces are not simply entertainment, they are places of belonging, identity and support and the ban places them at risk of losing their support and information networks.

"If we are serious about protecting children and young people, we must involve them in designing the solutions to these issues."

Read 'What Young People Said: Youth consultation on the social media ban' at www.cyp.wa.gov.au/our-work/what-young-people-said-youth-consultation-on-the-social-media-ban/

Fuel crisis hitting breaking point for farmers: Hunter

OPPOSITION Agriculture and Food spokesperson and Central Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter says Western Australia is facing a full blown fuel crisis, and farmers are being left in the dark.

New data from more than 700 primary producers shows fuel supply is falling short of demand by millions of litres across regional Western Australia, with the most significant gaps in the grain growing regions.

"Time is critical and running out. The Cook Labor government must intervene immediately and redirect supply to farmers as a matter of absolute urgency. The Premier has the power to act — and he must.

"Farmers are being forced to delay spraying, stop deep ripping and scale back cropping programs altogether, just weeks out from seeding. Others are being told deliveries could take weeks or may not come at all," Mr Hunter said.

"Livestock producers are now raising serious concerns about their ability to pump water and feed stock. Mr Hunter said it's no longer just a fuel supply issue, it is a direct threat to food production, regional

jobs and the Western Australian economy.

"What is most concerning is that the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC, is completely missing in action. There has been no media statement, no social media communication, and no certainty provided to Western Australia's second largest industry.

"The Opposition has requested a briefing, but so far it has been met with silence.

"Farmers are not being told when fuel is coming, how much they will receive, or whether they will receive anything at all. That level of uncertainty is unacceptable at the most critical time of the year."

Mr Hunter said the government must urgently step up.

"There must be clear prioritisation of fuel to primary producers, freight and essential services, immediate transparency around supply levels and delivery timeframes, and proper coordination so farmers can plan with confidence.

"Time is running out. If this is not resolved quickly, the consequences will be felt well beyond the farm gate, with impacts on food supply, grocery prices and the broader economy."



WA, we're wasting bucketloads

Part of the Water Corporations campaign to reduce watering.

Stick to twice weekly watering: Water Corp

AS summer-like conditions persist into autumn, Water Corporation is reminding households across suburban Perth of the importance of sticking to their twice weekly watering days.

Water Corporation's new campaign 'Wasting Bucketloads' uses the familiar household item to help people visualise how much water is lost through bad habits, like overwatering gardens.

The campaign was launched last month in response to data showing Perth's household water use reached a decade high level in 2023/24, reversing a nearly 20 per cent decline since the mid-2000s.

Less than 50 years ago, Perth averaged 420 billion litres of streamflow into its dams annually.

Since then, rainfall has declined nearly 20 per cent, resulting in an 80 per cent drop in streamflow and reduced groundwater recharge.

Water Corporation manager demand delivery Damien Postma said desalination is helping sustain Perth's water supply but it's not a licence to waste this vital resource.

"In fact, we need to be more waterwise than ever," Mr Postma said.

"Perth once received reliable rainfall throughout the year, but the shoulder seasons of autumn and spring are now routinely recording below-average falls."

More than 30 per cent of household water use occurs in the garden, yet the research showed one in five people don't know their watering days.

As highlighted through the 'Wasting Bucketloads' campaign, using sprinklers just one extra day a week uses about 3132 litres of water a month — the equivalent of 348 bucketloads.

"We need to get back to the waterwise basics by sticking to the watering roster, fixing leaks around the home and limiting showers to no more than four minutes. And once rain is forecast, turn off your sprinklers so nature can do the work," Mr Postma said.

"Western Australians overwhelmingly do the right thing but with demand rising and rainfall continuing to decline, it's essential we keep living the waterwise message every day.

"Seemingly small waterwise changes at a household level make a huge difference across the community and help ensure collective water security into the future."

As part of the campaign, a unique mobile advertisement filled with blue buckets will travel through Perth, providing a visual reminder of the amount of water lost each month through wasting water.

For other ways to stay waterwise visit www.watercorporation.com.au/waterwise

Now Available!!

Hello, Neo.



Order a New MacBook Neo 13" Apple's Latest Arrival on the Scene

Prices Start at \$899 or \$1099

Order New MacBook Air M5

Prices Start at \$1799 (for 13") \$2199 (for 15")

New iPad Airs and M5 MacBooks also available.

Order One at Macs4u and arrange free data transfer and training

Financing Your New Mac?

Get one with Studio19 Rental's Help

6 to 36 month rental or buy at any time) *Prices may vary

• New \$899 MacBook Neo A18 - from \$39 per month*

• New \$1799 MacBook Air M5 - from \$77 per month*

• New \$2699 MacBook Pro M5 - from \$116 per month*

Looking For Refurb or Used visit restorationmac.com.au



Macs4u.com.au

Celebrating 23 years of retail in Midland

269 Gt Eastern Hwy Midland WA 6056

08 9274 7111 0410 501 441

info@macs4u.com.au

Apple Authorised Reseller

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Healthy Living



SMILE @ Foothills Denture Clinic



- ✓ New full dentures & partial dentures
- ✓ New implant retained over dentures
- ✓ Denture repairs & relines
- ✓ Sports mouthguards



DENTAL PROSTHETISTS



Phone
9250 1733
for an appointment

SHOP 4, 16 THE AVENUE, MIDLAND
www.foothillsdenture.com.au

We also deal with Veterans' Affairs and all health funds through HICAPS |

Personalised & professional services at Foothills Denture Clinic

AT Foothills Denture Clinic, denture repairs can be done while you wait, and denture relines are usually a same day service.

Father and daughter team Malcolm and Raynee McArthur are both dental prosthetists, licensed to make all dentures including part acrylic and metal dentures.

The clinic is a Medibank Private Members Choice Provider and an HBF Members Plus Provider.

Rebates are available from all other health funds and we also deal with Veterans Affairs and offer pensioner discounts.

Special arrangements can be made for country clients to reduce the number of visits.

The team are happy to discuss any difficulty or query you may have with your denture – free of charge – and offer a professional service at a reasonable price.

For a free quote call 9250 1733.

Why Hearing Health Matters with Emman from Bloom Hearing Specialists

Hearing loss is more common than many people realise and often develops gradually, making it easy to miss.

When left untreated, it can affect communication, relationships, mental wellbeing, and personal safety. Research also links hearing loss to social isolation, cognitive decline, and an increased risk of falls.

At Bloom Hearing Specialists, we're committed to supporting your hearing health at every stage of life. Just like regular dental or vision checks, hearing assessments should be part of maintaining overall wellbeing. Early detection helps you stay connected, independent, and confident.

Emman, your local hearing specialist, answers some common questions.

Is missing conversations a sign I need a hearing test?

Yes. Difficulty hearing in noisy environments, asking people to repeat themselves, or turning the TV up louder than usual are early signs. A hearing test is quick, painless, and often free.

Do hearing aids mean I'm getting old?

Not at all. Hearing aids help you stay engaged and connected. We take time to understand your lifestyle before recommending any solutions.

Is financial support available?

You may be eligible for funding through the



Emman Tandoc

Hearing Services Program or other options, and we'll guide you through the process.

Why wait? Book your free hearing check today. Call 1800 554 964 or visit Emman at your local Bloom Hearing Specialists store today.

bloom
Hearing Specialists

NO ONE ELSE HEARS THE WAY YOU DO

Book Your Free Hearing Check Today

BLOOM HEARING SPECIALISTS

1800 554 968

We Listen to The Way You Hear

Be involved in our exclusive advertising features



Keep it Local

17 APRIL 2026



ANZAC DAY Feature

17 APRIL 2026

ECHO NEWS

Call Karon on 9374 6610 or email karon.m@echo-news.com
www.echonepaper.com.au

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

40 years of hills history captured in art showcase



Philippa O'Brien, Hovea, 1986, acrylic on canvas, left. Mac Betts, Helena River in Flood, 1986 oil on canvas, centre. Hans Arkeveld, North Sea Trawler, 1987, wood, fabric, print, right. Picture: Rebecca Mansell

CELEBRATING 40 years of artistic expression, the Shire of Mundaring is presenting a selection of artworks acquired between 1986 and 2026 responding to the natural and cultivated environment of the Perth Hills.

The exhibition, titled 'Marks for Mundaring', showcases works from local artists who have documented the artistic and cultural shifts of the Shire of Mundaring.

Featuring prominent artists such as Mac Betts, Philippa O'Brien, Robert Birch, Nicholas Compton, and Hans Arkeveld, the event highlights the region's creative evolution from acquiring the first piece of art four decades ago to today.

The collection explores deep-rooted themes of place, ownership, and belong-

ing with the local landscape.

The title itself, Marks for Mundaring, pays homage to a series of quilted banners created by the community in 1985.

The banners were created for the inaugural Shire of Mundaring Invitation Craft exhibition, which eventually led to the first acquisitions' exhibition in 1986.

Since then, the partnership between the Shire of Mundaring and the Mundaring Arts Centre has supported dozens of local craftspeople and painters.

Alongside the established collection, visitors can view the archival ephemera and publications that offer a behind-the-scenes look at the shire's cultural history.

For those looking to support the local art scene directly, new works by partici-

pating collection artists will be available for purchase.

To celebrate the 40-year milestone, the gallery is hosting an exhibition floor talk involving several of the featured creators.

Tickets for the talk are \$5 and provides a unique chance for the public to learn about the motivations behind the work while engaging with the artists who shaped the Perth Hills artistic identity.

The exhibition will be hosted at the Mundaring Arts Centre at 7190 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring from Saturday, April 11 to Sunday, June 14.

For more information on the exhibition and the subsequent floor talk, visit www.mundaringartscentre.com.au/workshops-and-events

Plenty to see at York Heritage Weekend



Maggie's Delight Bush Band will be performing at the Imperial Homestead.

THIS year's York Heritage Weekend will be held from Friday, April 24 to Monday, April 27 kicking off on the Friday at 6pm with a family concert in Avon Park.

The concert will feature local artists, so bring a picnic and chair and enjoy on the banks of the Avon River.

The festival will commemorate Anzac Day country style with the dawn service from 6am on stunning Mount Brown followed by the gunfire breakfast and Anzac service.

The York Town Hall displays open at 12 midday along with a talk by renowned historian Richard Offen on the history of photography.

Sunday is 'Family Day' starting with Sunday at Sandalwood including a Blues breakfast concert by Kerry B Ryan with tickets available at Humanitix.

It will be a full day with talks, displays and the amazing ride of the Penny Farthings along the Terrace, as well as the Mad Tatters Morris Dancers.

Children can make pizzas for lunch for

the family at the Imperial Homestead or make a beeline for the CWA for a delicious Devonshire cream.

To round off the day Maggie's Delight Bush Band is at the Imperial Homestead starting at 6pm.

There is no cover charge so grab something from their extensive menu and then kick up your heels and have some fun.

On Monday attendees can join the bus tour to Greenhills, with tickets at Humanitix at \$20, which includes morning tea. Meet the new owners, hear their plans and tell tall tales of when this lovely building was a rowdy pub!

There will also be a fascinating talk on the restoration of a 1917 federation home by AJ and Sarah of Lilly Pilly Design at the Town Hall, which includes morning tea.

It will be the last chance to tour the displays and then have fun dressing up in the upstairs 'boudoir' and taking some fun photos

Visit Settlers Tavern to grab some lunch and discover the stories around



There is also a chance for dress ups at the York Town Hall.



Historic bikes will be on show over the weekend.

the Amana plane crash in June 1950 that happened close to York and resulted in the total loss of life of all on board.

So much to do, most events are free but make sure you have some cash for donations and raffles.

The full printed programme is available from the York Visitor Centre.

Any enquiries call 0418936214 or info@yorkheritageweekend.com.au

ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

Your local Gig Guide

Fri April 10

Settlers House York
Nathan Ward
From 5.30pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace, York

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
TJ O'Donovan
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

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

Sun April 12

Settlers House York
Back Verandah Band
From 5.30pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace, York

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

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Big Chidgzev and The Longshot Trio
4pm-7pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Sat April 11

Settlers House York
Graeme Fisher
12pm-3pm
The Jukes of York
From 5.30pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace, York

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

Hemingway and Co
Primal Vinyl at Hemingway
7pm-9pm, Free
7095 Great Eastern Highway
Mundaring

Lyric's Bar
The Pick-Me-Ups
From 7pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Brett Hardwick
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Chidlow Tavern

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

Tues April 14

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

Wed April 15

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
House Grooves
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Thur April 16

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

Promote your event



SCAN ME
ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

OPTION 1 Large Display Banner

Linking directly to your website or ticketing outlet. \$100 p/w

OPTION 2 Half Display Banner

Linking directly to your website or ticketing outlet. \$50 p/w

OPTION 3 Free Text Listing

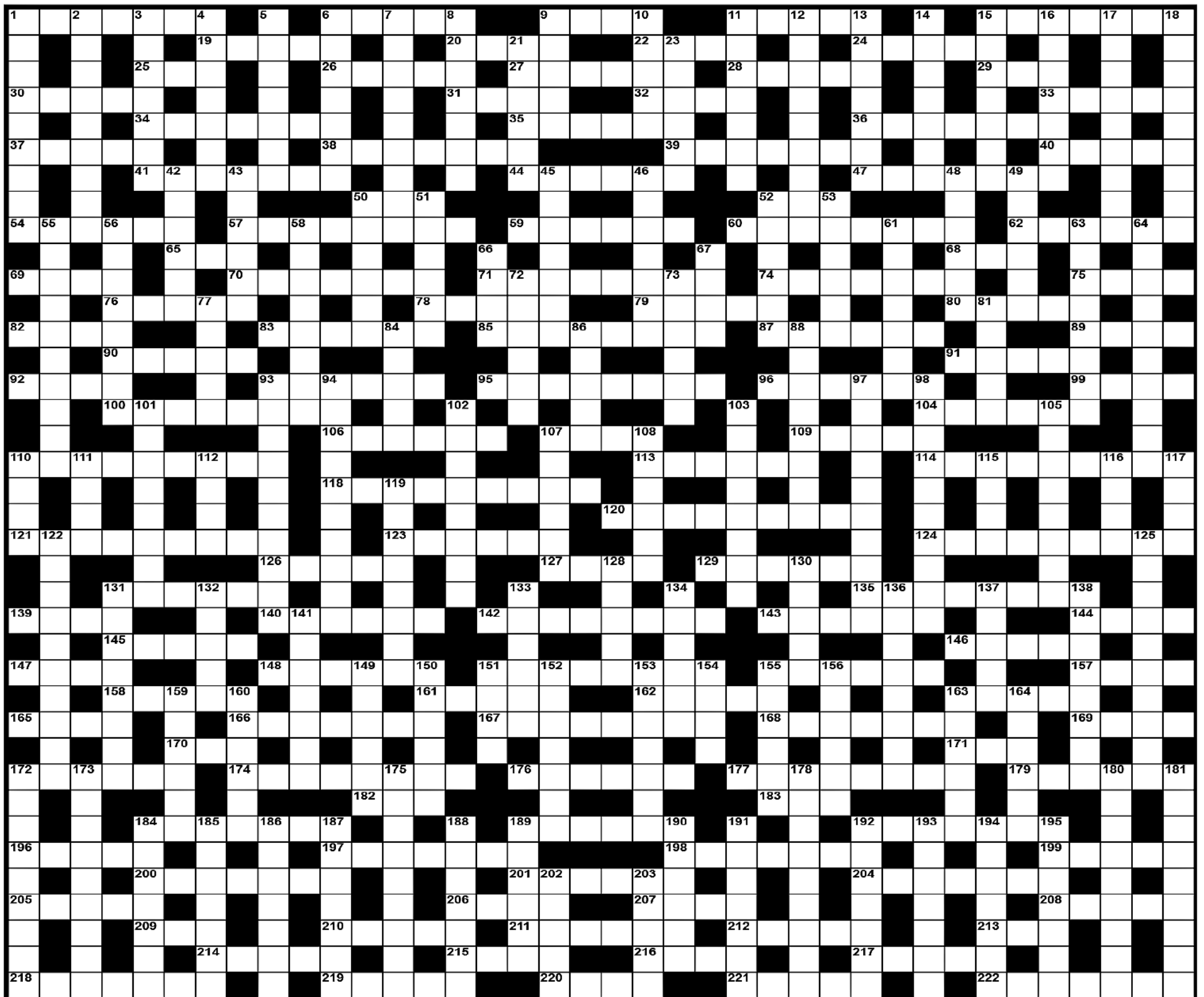
Contact Peter for more information
on 9374 6605 or peter.lewis@echo-news.com
www.echonepaper.com.au

ECHO NEWS



Mind Boggler Crossword

1263



- ACROSS**
- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Mobile home | 75 Pleased | 146 Dishonest | 212 Lieutenant (abb) | 55 Works performed | 138 Ship cabin type | 180 Hand-crafted objects |
| 6 Outlay | 76 Ancient king | 147 Aspire to | 213 A draw | 56 Stern behaviour | 141 Of lights in sky | 181 Favoured in |
| 9 Thin plant | 78 Mediterranean island | 148 Roughen | 214 String | 58 Talked idly | 149 Dwellings | 182 tournament |
| 11 Do well | 79 Smells | 151 Make again | 215 Price | 61 Musical instruments | 150 Builds | 184 A few |
| 15 Young tree | 80 Abyss | 155 Guard | 216 Of the mouth | 63 Late drink | 151 Grate | 185 Removes from position |
| 19 Turn outwards | 82 Soreness | 157 Olden garden | 217 Keep away from | 64 Act of being in charge | 152 Wine cup | 186 Stupid |
| 20 Not moving | 83 Small | 158 More pleasant | 218 Enigmas | 66 Decorates cakes | 153 A flower | 187 Giving off perfume |
| 22 Hearing organs | 85 Strains | 162 At no time | 219 Lived | 67 Utilised | 154 Level | 188 Look after |
| 24 Give opinion | 87 Medical procedure | 163 Go inside | 220 Listen to | 72 Speaks | 155 Weasel-like animal | 189 Hymns |
| 25 Musical instrument (abb) | 89 Pour | 165 Posted | 221 Positions | 73 Appeared to be | 156 Small wheel | 190 Piece of bacon |
| 26 Betting monies | 90 Written work at school | 166 Finished (3,4) | 222 Not in use | 77 Frighten | 159 Play around | 191 Remembers |
| 27 Choosing | 91 Of the city | 167 Remain at place (4,4) | DOWN | 81 Small parts | 160 Turned sour | 192 Gives an account of |
| 28 Of sound | 92 Fail to see | 168 A pungent condiment | 1 Packed together | 84 Afterwards | 163 Checked copy | 193 Fleet commander |
| 29 A cereal | 93 Deserves | 169 A type of wine | 2 Performed again | 86 The atmosphere | 164 Lumber | 194 Celebrated |
| 30 Of punishment | 95 Without parents | 170 A trailer | 3 Jumped with a pole | 88 Give medicine to | 172 Onlooker | 195 Wooden pins |
| 31 A tube | 96 Give help | 171 Doctrine | 4 Sewing aids | 93 Interfering | 173 Removed clothes | 202 Demise |
| 32 Dimension | 99 Church recess | 172 Artist's room | 5 Full | 94 Calling on again | 175 Bad dream | 203 Wrongdoing |
| 33 Hot gaseous air | 100 Mad rush | 174 Water speeds | 6 Began | 97 Very unusual | 178 Attention given | |
| 34 Highest | 104 Accident | 176 Sleep aid | 7 Rib steak | 98 Made sour | | |
| 35 Levelling tools | 106 Energetic | 177 Money from investment | 8 Show in public | 101 A pattern | | |
| 36 Makes a mess | 107 Small boat | 179 Bosom | 9 Push back | 102 Pacific | | |
| 37 Hidden store | 109 Scale | 182 Sister (abb) | 10 Thick | 103 Refuse entry to (5,3) | | |
| 38 Secluded country | 110 Assessed | 183 Make a mistake | 11 Essential part | 105 Took in charge | | |
| 39 Tangible | 113 Small crown | 184 Learns about | 12 Plans for | 107 Gave sure evidence | | |
| 40 Consumed | 114 Intrude into region | 185 Annoy | 13 An enchantress | 108 Stress | | |
| 41 Stretch | 118 Choice | 189 Scanners | 14 A crest | 110 Long tale | | |
| 44 Speaks slowly | 120 Act for | 196 Arc | 15 A snake | 111 Time in office | | |
| 47 Alleged | 121 Directional aids | 197 Agrees with | 16 Ironed clothes | 112 Strong little boats | | |
| 50 It is (abb) | 123 Given in a vow | 198 Normal | 17 Putting into another | 115 Roman garment | | |
| 52 For each | 124 Making of a rule | 199 Retains | 18 Start to grow | 116 One time only | | |
| 54 A pamphlet | 126 Oily fruit | 200 A trace | 21 Cut shorter | 117 Send out | | |
| 57 Machine expert | 127 Powder | 201 Loves | 23 Leases pasture | 119 Made even | | |
| 59 Holy | 129 Uproar | 204 Calculate | 42 Incursion | 122 All-powerful | | |
| 60 Puts aside | 131 Make amends | 205 Church passage | 43 Fashion moves | 125 Shorter books | | |
| 62 Enmesh | 135 To sheltered side | 206 Story | 45 Play noisily | 128 Backbone | | |
| 65 Possess | 139 A citrus fruit | 207 Flightless bird | 46 Waits around | 130 Breaks open | | |
| 68 Girl's name | 140 Swallow | 208 Interlace | 48 Not praised | 131 Felt sorry about | | |
| 69 Half (pfx) | 142 Sane | 209 Coastal indentation | 49 Bring on | 132 Rub out | | |
| 70 Scorn | 143 Climb up | 210 Commerce | 50 Uninjured | 133 Discover | | |
| 71 Attractive looks | 144 A line | 211 Ripe | 51 Spiritual meeting | 134 Roof worker | | |
| 74 Mythical creature | 145 Type of nut | | 52 Read over | 136 Give energy to | | |
| | | | 53 Purify | 137 Once more | | |

Crossword Solution 1262 from 3 April, 2026

```

CRAVES L RERUN T S W R SALAD O PESTILE
H T TWINE E O ACTIVATE A A RIDGE E L
RUNNER V S GRUEL A Z VALES E E RATTLE
O E A EXTRA G LANGUAGE I TEARS S U M
MISSING R IN ANGE C E NEEDS D DISPUTE
E P C SPOON T SHEEPDOG N TUEIS S N N
SORRIEST O IN SITU TEETER U OUTRIGHT
I C HITMAN LAVISH AILING O U
LONGHAIR EGGSHHELL LETSDOWN GLITTERS
OG O N O R R O SLICER P P V S T O N I
DUSTRAG BEARABLE O E REVERENT ERRATUM
G R L S T N E SWAMP S L N S R S M
INSOLVENT UNDAITE EARLIEST EXTENSIVE
N O A A O L EDGERS R E S T E R
GETPAST CONNECTUP HILLSIDES BUTTERS
N PEARL T O N E TCH N O M BERRIE E
STUBS SEEING L DOG ACT S PUDDLE SALTS
E LEEKS N HALVE GEAR ENTER R EDITS R
R E V T S T E R W D R W O T P C T T
P N E O T M G S H E N E V V H E R E
I N O E D E D E R W I C S G L A R R
FIRST PEPPER OPT ELL G SPRANG OLDER
S C REDO E V R EYED L H O STREW R
FETCHES CHASTENED MYSTERIES EASIEST
L H N K B R OPPOSE R T U R O E
ATTENTIVE ROADSTER HANDSOME REASSERTS
C W N T O T W SOCKET R T M T I A A T
CAUSTIC ENGINEER C A PARTISAN MESSAGE
I N O E D E D E R W I C S G L A R R
DRINKING THEATRES ELONGATE SEALIONS
C E SETTEE ASSIST IDIOTS V U
FLOUNDER R REPAIST OILING N ASPERSET
A R U MOOSE A THINKING N HOVER L E I
CONVENE U FALSE C N NIGHT E PARADES
A T N CANTO A LEONARDO E NARKS C P S
DIMPLE L C RATTLE N O RANGE T P ALPINE
E E RAILS D E ALTERNATE U S E GREY A N
STAREIS P DISCIS R C D D EASED V ENLIST
    
```

ECHO Trades & Services

9374 6666
classifieds@echo-news.com
www.echonepaper.com.au

Bobcats

BOBCAT - TRUCK EXCAVATOR ROCKBREAKER

- Bobcat works, Earthworks & Truck Hire
- Driveways - Removals / Prep / Construct
- Excavation / Trenches / Drainage / Soakwells
- Shed & Tank Pads / Rockbreaking & more ...

Reliable Service **DAVE 0417 096 614**
DW Cartage & Earthworks

MIDLAND BOBCAT HIRE
BOBCATS, 8 & 12 TON TIPPERS, MINI EXCAVATORS

Free no obligation quotes and advice

Russell & Lynn Edwards
Owner/Operator
Russell: 0417 957 597
russlynn4@bigpond.com

Carpentry

MORGAN CARPENTRY & MAINTENANCE SERVICES FREE QUOTE

ALL ASPECTS OF CARPENTRY & MAINTENANCE WORK

- 15yrs commercial & residential experience • Insured
- Fully qualified, professional & reliable • No call out fee
- Full police clearance • Pensioners discount

Call Kevin **0450 538 596**
www.morgancarpentry.com.au e:kidd.morgan@hotmail.com

CARPENTER/CABINET MAKER

Sash Window Repairs / Renovations, Kitchens, Laundries, Robes & Vanities made and fitted. Doors, Frames & Architraves. Skirting & Shelving. 40 years experience.

NO JOB TOO SMALL. Call Terry
0401 743 027 / 9295 0797
telcocarpentry@bigpond.com

Ceilings

CA INSTALLATIONS

- Ceilings & Walls • All Facets of Ceiling Work
- Domestic & Commercial • Office Partitioning

All Reno Work Local and Loyal
0409 953 369

CEILING & WALL RESTORATION

ALL SMALL JOBS
ALL REPAIRS & NEW ADDITIONS
23 YEARS EXPERIENCE
9295 2041 OR 0402 270 688

Concrete

TIGER CONCRETE

FREE QUOTES • NO MESS NO FUSS
Quality work, all types of concreting

Bobcat and Truck
Mike 0407 989 927

B.C. CONCRETE DESIGN

Cracked Pea Gravel/Exposed Aggregate
Crossovers • Shed Floors • Drives
House Extensions • Patios
Bobcat & Truck
Call Anytime **0457 611 348**

SUNJICH'S CONCRETE

- Bobcat - Truck and Compaction
- From Prep to Completion

FREE Quotes All Areas
Call Zeljko **0417 902 301**

Electrical

Mrs Fixit! EC007258

Female Electrical Contractor
Free Quotes & No Call Out Fees

TV / ANTENNAS • LIGHTS • POWER POINTS
SAFETY SWITCHES / RCD'S • SMOKE DETECTORS
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE • HOT WATER SYSTEMS

Seniors / Pensioners / HCC Discounts
MARDI GLADWELL 0430 035 345

Andrews Electrical Systems Pty Ltd

Established 25 years • High Quality Guaranteed

- Residential • Electrical Installations
- Commercial • Electrical Maintenance
- Industrial • Air Conditioning
- Telephone and TV
- CCTV and Data

Call Andrew **0420 956 432**
Email: andrewsesperth@gmail.com

Gardening

All Areas

FULL-BLOWN Garden Maintenance
ABN: 77 592 171 029

- ✓ Rubbish Removal
- ✓ Mulching
- ✓ Lawn Mowing
- ✓ Planting / Weeding
- ✓ Pruning / Hedging
- ✓ Yard clean ups
- ✓ Ride on mowing
- ✓ Spraying
- ✓ Bush fire ready clean ups

FULLY INSURED
FREE QUOTES

Damien 0431 011 369
www.full-blowngarden.com

Gutter Cleaning

Bobtail Gardens Gutter Cleaning

Gutter Vac Services

- Fully insured, registered business
- Fully self contained vac truck
- All waste removed from your property
- Obligation free quotes, Senior discounts

Phone Phil **0429 179 577**

Limestone

Michael's Stonework Servicing All Areas

Limestone & Coffee Rock
Small Retaining Walls, Steps, Pillars, Stone Pitching, Garden Beds

For a **FREE** quote & reliable service call:
0427 190 273

Painting

WA COMPANY PAINTING

REPAIRS • INTERIOR • EXTERIOR

CALL TREV **0414 289 145**
WWW.PERTHPAINTING.COM
DISC. AVAILABLE PERTH PAINTING CONTRACTORS REG 6173

Pest Control

Mal's Pest & Weed Services Free Quotes

- Servicing the Hills and surround for 30 years
- Specialising in termite treatments & inspections

Call Sean **0417 905 708**

Plastering

EASTERN HILLS PLASTERING
ABN 69 373 874 693

All Aspects of Plastering - Concrete Skim Coating - Acrylic Texture Finish - Renovations

30 YEARS EXPERIENCE FREE QUOTES
TONY 0406 675 211
easternhillsplastering@outlook.com

"Lets keep local people in work"

ECHO NEWS

Plumbing

LOCAL PLUMBER PL9956

Same Day Service

Blocked Drain, Taps, Toilets

Burst Pipes, Hot Water

Same Day Emergencies 24hrs

9468 2581

NO CALL OUT* + SENIOR DISCOUNT

Your Best Local Plumber!

Plumbing

Local Plumber
Same Day Service
Hot Water Expert

- Upfront Prices
- Pensioners Save
- Drains, Taps, Toilets
- Burst Pipes, Gas

\$0 Call Out*

Emergency Plumbing 24hrs
6118 6368
PL9956 *conditions apply

Hi I'm Local
In Your Area
Hot Water Expert

- ✓ Senior Discounts
- ✓ Upfront Pricing
- ✓ Fast Plumber
- ✓ Drains, Taps, Toilets

\$0 Call Out*

Plumbing Emergencies 24/7
6244 3226
*conditions apply PL9956

The Tap Doctor

FOR ALL PLUMBING & GAS

- Taps • Burst Pipes
- Toilets • Leak Detection
- Hot Water Systems • Blocked Drains

Call Today **1300 655 827**

Our Service Will Amaze You
www.thetapdoctor.com

Reticulation

Reticulation
0433 366 655

Roofing

ROOF TILE REPAIRS

For all your Roof Tile Repairs

Contact David for a free quote on
0413 240 203 or 9255 4003

Specialising in: Leak Repairs • Gutter Clean
• Tiling • Re-ridging • Re-pointing

All Competitions Terms & Conditions

- The prizes are not transferable and there will be no obligation on Echo Newspaper ("Echo") to substitute or exchange prizes or part thereof for cash.
- Echo accepts no liability for personal injury, illness, death or any loss whatsoever arising directly or indirectly from the prizes awarded in these competitions.
- A member of Echo management will draw the winners. The Echo staff member's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Echo management, employees and their immediate families may not enter the competition.
- Competition entries must arrive at Suite 4, 9 The Avenue, Midland ("Echo's Office"), posted to PO Box 317, Midland WA 6936 or emailed to specified email address by the competition's specified closing date. Entries arriving after this time will not be accepted.
- Competition end date may be extended at Echo's discretion.

Roofing

AMC ROOFING

Specialising in
All Tiled Roofing
New Roofs
Maintenance & Repairs

Free Quotes - Aaron Carter
Mob: 0417 930 817

RIDGE CAP KING

TILED ROOF RESTORATIONS
0447 234 603

Call Kieren today for a free quote
admin@ridgecapking.com.au

AR Specialist Roofing

Solutions for all your roofing needs including

- roof restoration • gutters
- leaks • downpipes • sheeting
- custom flashings • roof cleaning
- PATIO BUILDING

Call Andrew
0408 192 021
arspecialistroofing@gmail.com

Tree Services

TLC Tree Services has merged with

Payne's Tree Services

FREE QUOTES AND ADVICE

- MULCHING • LAND CLEARING
- STUMP GRINDING
- TREE LOPPING

Call Clint on **0455 132 014**
paynestreeservices.com.au

HILLS TREE SOLUTIONS

For all your Tree Lopping and Stumpgrinding Needs

- Locally owned & operated • Call 24/7
- Fully Insured • Cheapest Prices Guaranteed
- Horizon Power Accredited • Servicing All Areas

CALL 9295 6511 OR 0414 438 610

Helping people manage trees for over 30 years

CPD TREES ARBORISTS

Michael Byrne Dip. Arboriculture
0411 750 342
www.cpdtrees.com.au
arborist@cpdtrees.com.au

ASK ABOUT OUR **GREAT PRICES** FOR TRADES

Read between the lines

by Pastor **Ian Kirk**

Three Days

The oldest bridge in Australia that is still currently in use is in the quaint town of Richmond, north-east of Hobart. This picturesque, English looking, sandstone bridge over the Coal River was built in 1823 by convicts. With its arches and buttresses, it has stood against floods and fires to keep the link open between Hobart and the northern agricultural regions.

There's another bridge not far away, over the Derwent River, in Hobart. It is huge: 1.4km long and 60m high. Opened in March 1965, it stood supreme until the 5th January 1975, when its centre spans collapsed after a ship struck a pylon. Sadly, several cars plunged 60m, killing their occupants. The disaster split the city in half, forcing commuters to make a 50-km detour via another bridge. Bridges are critically important for connecting us and getting us from one side to the other.

We have just celebrated Easter, and in many ways, what Jesus did on the cross was the building of a bridge. We cannot connect with God as we are, and we won't get to heaven, no matter how good we are or how religious we are; that's because we have all sinned against God. But when Jesus died on the cross for us, bearing the punishment of our sins, He did this so that we could be forgiven and be connected to God, and one day be with Him in heaven - if we believe in Jesus. The cross is our bridge to God.

ECHO NEWS

Indemnity and Warranty

ECHO NEWSPAPER CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

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

- Echo, at its sole discretion, may decline to publish any advertisement requested by a Customer. If Echo decides not to publish a particular advertisement, there is no obligation on Echo to disclose the reasons for its decision, and Echo will not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned to the Customer as a result of the decision.
- Echo will not be liable for any loss or damage caused to a Customer as a result of delay or as a result of Echo failing to place a requested advertisement or publishing an advertisement containing an error or omission.
- Echo may, at its sole discretion, decide to refund a Customer a portion of the cost of the advertisement if it forms the view that the error was not attributable to the Customer and the Customer notifies Echo of the error or omission before 5.00pm on the day the advertisement first appears in the Newspaper.
- Complaints concerning the accuracy of any invoice must be notified to Echo within 30 days from the end of the month in which the advertisement was published, after which time the Customer forfeits any rights it may have had to challenge the invoices.
- The Customer warrants that publication of the requested advertisement/s will not contravene any laws, whether statutory, equitable or otherwise, and agrees to wholly indemnify Echo (and its employees and agents) against all expenses, loss and damage arising directly or indirectly from the publication of the advertisement/s.

ECHO Classifieds

9374 6666
 classifieds@echo-news.com
 www.echonepaper.com.au

Bookkeeping

BLISS BOOKKEEPING
 Stress-free Bookkeeping, BAS and Payroll solutions. Simple, clear and reliable support for your business. Ready for peace of mind? Book your free 20-min consult: **0413 794 460**
 info@blissbookkeeping.com.au
 www.blissbookkeeping.com.au

Cleaning

For all aspects of domestic tasking contact Ally - 0426 543 733.

Custom Video & DVD Solutions

Video Transfers to USB starting from \$45 - 6393 7298.

Drainage

SEPTIC TANKS PUMPED.
 Blocked drains. Septic tanks repaired. Leach drains renewed and repaired. Storm water drains. Gas/Elec hot water installs. Same day. Pensioner discount. Call Trevor 0419 773 111.

Electrician

LITL Electrical
 All types of electrical work & air conditioning.
Jeff Overton
 0483 858 603.
 EC14844

Firewood

Get your firewood now.
 Dry split & delivered 4 x 7 trailer load \$255.00. 0452 541 069.

Gardening

Ian Mac's whipper snipping, chain sawing and weeding. Small tree lopping jobs. 0426 211 137.

Gutter Cleaning

Gutter cleaning & solar panel cleaning. Jason 0421 455 546.

Handyman

ALL YOUR NEEDS - external / internal painting & roof painting, high pressure cleaning & odd jobs & gyprock repairs - call Markus today - 0433 958 025.

Handyman

WILLIS BUILDING & MAINTENANCE SERVICE. Specialising in all house maintenance, pergolas, decking, verandas, painting and carpentry. 0487 093 355.



Hobby Farm Services

Slashing, mowing, wool buying, firebreaks & property cleanups. Ian 0458 510 048.

Lawn Mowing

Tony's Lawnmowing, Handyman & Firewood. Cheap rates. Midland & Surrounding Areas. 0431 831 948.



Painting

For all your painting needs. Call Markus today - 0433 958 025.

Steve Gregory painting service. Mobile 0417 926 027. Reg # 5098.



Plumbing

MASTERS PLUMBINGAS
 All Plumbing & Gas work, Blockages, Hot water units, Leaks, Renovations, Burst pipes. 24/7 Emergency Service. NO CALL OUT FEE
 David: 0416 644 191.
 PL-9554 GF-011284



Public Notice

CITY OF SWAN
DAP FORM 1 - RESTAURANT - GUILDFORD POST OFFICE
LOT 194 (NO.24) STIRLING STREET GUILDFORD

The City of Swan has received a proposal for the above land. Any interested persons are invited to view the documentation at the City of Swan Administration Centre, 2 Midland Square, MIDLAND between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday or on the City's website: <https://swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au/planning>

Should you wish to comment on this proposal you may do so via the Online Feedback Form available on the City's website on or before **11 May 2026**.

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

Employment

ECHO NEWS
 Privately owned & proudly independent

The Echo Newspaper is looking to fill the following position

JUNIOR ADVERTISING SALESPERSON

If you enjoy meeting new people and have an outgoing personality, then this is the job for you

We are a small, privately owned and independent newspaper looking for an energetic and vibrant person to join our team. The successful applicant will have:

- A current "C" class drivers licence and reliable vehicle.
- A smart appearance with a strong commitment to customer service and the ability to develop and implement successful sales strategies, including digital, by building and maintaining long lasting client relationships.
- 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.

Regrouting

Bathroom Regrouting. Call Andrew 0413 158 763.

Roofing

Repair all leaks. Roof painting & coatings. Call Markus - 0433 958 025.

Roof Repairs

Roof leaks, gutter cleaning, solar panel cleaning, roof cleaning. 0421 455 546.

Solar Services

Solar Panel Cleaning with Anti Mould & Solar Wax Treatment. 0421 455 546.

Wanted to Buy

MEDALS and Militaria bought by genuine local collector top prices paid 0407 982 215.



Window Cleaning

Clean-View Window Cleaning. Domestic or commercial. 0497 111 676.

Tatania's Window Cleaning. Tracks. Frames & Fly screens. 0467 282 127.



ECHO NEWS
 Discover our digital edition online
www.echonepaper.com.au

EPA approves Malaga to Pinjar power line

From p8.
 The EPA's recommended conditions also included offsets on land owned by the proponent, as well as restoration of sites nearby that contained Banksia Woodlands and suitable foraging habitat and nesting trees for black cockatoos.

The EPA is of the view that rehabilitation and protection of the properties in perpetuity can provide a significant improvement to the ecological values of the site and surrounding environment.

"The declining availability of suitable land that provides high quality habitat for offsets, together with the increasingly fragmented ecosystems of the Swan Coastal Plain, means that the piecemeal acquisition of land as offsets for individual proposals is unlikely to be a sustainable regional strategy for black cockatoos.

"The EPA has previously advised that there should be greater emphasis on rehabilitation and restoration of degraded areas within close proximity of the impacted area to increase or improve the habitat available for the Carnaby's cockatoo.

"During this assessment the proponent followed this EPA advice and identified an additional offset site suitable for restoration efforts to improve connectivity between water and foraging resources for black cockatoos."

The EPA's report to the Minister for the Environment is still open for a public appeal period, closing April 16. Appeals should be directed to the Office of the Appeals Convenor.

The Minister for Environment will make the final decision on the proposal. EPA Report 1804 can be found on the EPA website.

125th Kalamunda Show Colouring-in Competition Winner!

Orlando, aged 7

ORLANDO WON A 2-DAY FAMILY PASS VALUED AT \$70!

ECHO Notice Board

A free service for non-profit organisations
9374 6666
editorial@echo-news.com

Upcoming Events

- **Midland CWA** meets at the Midland Railway Yards Blacksmith Lane (West) Midland on the third Wednesday of each month at 10am. CWA flags are displayed on Yelverton Drive, Midland on meeting days. CWA offers a diverse range of interests and each branch works to meet local community needs. Call Cathy on 0460 777 557 or email cwa.midland@outlook.com
- **Mahogany Creek Art and Craft Group** meets weekly on Wednesdays 9.30am to 12.30pm during school terms at the Mahogany Creek Hall on Jacoby Street. Everyone brings along

their art or craft to work on in a friendly social group with tea and coffee provided. For more information call Mary on 0431 201 814 or Jan on 6279 4031.

- **The Rosehill Ladies Golf Club** meets each Tuesday at 8am at Hillview Public Golf Club, Kalamunda Road, Maida Vale. The season runs from March to November. For more information call Roz on 0419 915 623 or Julia on 0419 954 106.
- **The Kalamunda Lapidary Club** at 3 Recreation Road, Kalamunda is a club dedicated to collecting, polishing and creating jewellery from natural gem stones and Australian minerals and crystals which they collect in the field. They have an open day on the first Saturday of each

month where possible with examples for sale. You can check their Facebook page for current events. For more information call Richard on 0422 181 200.

- **Midland Friendly Garden Club** meets at 9.30am on alternate Thursdays at Bruce Douglas Pavillion, Brown Park, Salisbury Road, Swan View. The next meeting will take place on April 16. Our guest speaker will be Judy Franklin from Daily Living Products who will introduce us to the variety of aides for elderly and disabled people. For more information call Jenny on 0424 553 002 or Barbara on 0482 935 686.
- **The Kalamunda Ladies Probus Club** meets monthly on the second Thursday of each month

at Jack Healey Centre, Mead Street Kalamunda at 9.00am for a 9.30am start. We have morning tea and a guest speaker at each meeting and a monthly bus outing to different interesting places. Socially we meet for coffee once a month and lunch also monthly at different venues in the area. Probus is a social club for retirees who enjoy life. For more information contact President Trish on 0468 309 823 or Membership Officer Juliette on 9293 4438.

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

Magic is a six-year-old typical jack russell. She lost her eye as a pup but copes just fine without it. Magic is always busy, is house trained, and extremely loving. Potential owners must have a fully fenced yard as she has a tendency to escape. Magic is sterilised, vaccinated, and microchipped. Costs Apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

Swan Districts Jehb O'Donohue and Josh Cipro. Picture: Blake Parry/The Sports Photo



Swans battle bravely in first round match

CHRIS PIKE

SWAN Districts took the challenge up to the reigning WAFL Men's premiers South Fremantle on Good Friday at Steel Blue Oval and despite the end result, there was plenty to like to open the 2026 season.

It was a significant challenge for the Swans to start the new season hosting the reigning premiers at Steel Blue Oval, especially with the decidedly new-look and youthful team they are bringing into 2026.

Despite the six-point margin midway through the third quarter South Fremantle ended up finishing strongly, with Swan Districts losing the season-opening match by 16.12 (108) to 9.9 (63) despite the encouraging signs.

Jiah Reidy worked hard as a pressure forward on the day for Swan Districts to lay eight tackles and ended up kicking two goals from his 11 possessions.

Jackson McLachlan also kicked two goals for the black-and-whites to go with 22 disposals, five marks, five inside-50 entries and four tackles.

Captain Jesse Turner started the season in brilliant fashion racking up 38 possessions with seven tackles and a goal with Max Chipper gathering 24 disposals, Josh Cipro 24, Zane Trew 22, Jarvis Pina 20 and Brad Lynch 18.

Of the new faces, Clint Hinchliffe made his long-awaited WAFL debut and was impressive with 22 possessions and five marks, while Caleb Ernst had 16 touches and 12 hit outs, Jez Rigoni 14 disposals and three tackles, Kade Chalcraft 10

possessions and a goal, and Zach Provest eight disposals and four marks.

It took just over five minutes for Trey Ruscoe to start the season for South Fremantle with a goal but Swan Districts quickly responded thanks to captain Jesse Turner.

Ed Graham kicked truly to put South Fremantle back on top and Jordan Boullineau kicked two in quick succession to push the reigning premiers out to a 20-point lead before Kade Chalcraft opened his Swan Districts career with a goal.

The Bulldogs were leading by 12 points at quarter-time before Roan O'Hehir and Jackson McLachlan kicked a goal for their respective teams to open the second stanza.

Consecutive Swans goals from Jehb O'Donohue and Max Chipper had the home team back within seven points, and by half-time it was a tight contest with South Fremantle only holding a five-point advantage.

It took more than 10 minutes for the first goal of the second half which went the way of South Fremantle thanks to Ruscoe before Boullineau added another, but the Swans hit back with two quick goals from Jiah Reidy and Josh Cipro to get within six points.

The Bulldogs again hit back leading into three quarter-time with goals to Ruscoe and Mitch Geier to hold a 19-point lead.

The game was back on to start the final quarter with a goal to McLachlan to make it a 13-point margin again, but the Bulldogs took control from there with five of the last six goals of the contest for the eventual season-opening 45-point victory.

Swan United kick off premier division in season opener



Liam Merrigan of Swan United (left). Picture: Colin Feilen

BEN KELLY

IN their first game of the season in the Football West Belt Up amateur soccer premier division Swan United drew 0-0 against Ballajura AFC at Kingfisher Park.

Swan United coach Lee Taylor said although he was disappointed his team didn't take the three points, he had to give Ballajura a lot of credit.

"They adjusted the way they play and changed their shape after the night series and they got their reward," he said.

"We still created some good chances in both halves but ultimately, we were not clinical enough in front of goal."

Both sides had their chances with Lucais King and Daniel Clarkson going close for the hosts, before Vishal Amunugama hit the cross bar in the second half for the visitors.

Swan pressed late looking for the winner, but they were thwarted by a great save from Andrew Craster to deny Liam Merrigan from six yards out with a couple of minutes left.

Swan United president Ben Kelly said the club was firmly focused on returning to the state league, with a strong commitment to developing local talent and keeping players within the community.

"Our goal is to get back into the state league so our local kids can compete at a high standard while staying close to home," he said.

"We're building a strong, sustainable club with a fantastic junior base coming through."

With continued support from the Swan Italian Club and the wider local community, Mr Kelly is confident the club is on the right path.

"Swan United has a proud history, and with our backing, there's no reason we can't get the club back to where it belongs," he said.

He said spots were still available in the ladies and men's senior/social team. For more information please email: admin@swanunitedfc.com

Swan United will hold its first home game of the season on Sunday, April 12 at 3pm with members and supporters invited to attend a pre-game presentation.


**Residential
Commercial
Rural & Country**

Building delays keep pressure on Perth market as rents rise

RISING construction costs linked to global oil prices are expected to sustain pressure on Perth's housing market, with impacts already evident in suburbs including Midland, Kalamunda, Brabham and Woodvale.

The Real Estate Institute of Western Australia (REIWA) said supply disruptions tied to conflict in the Middle East were delaying builds and pushing more buyers and renters toward established homes.

REIWA deputy president Rob Mandanici said higher oil prices were already impacting the sector.

"Rising oil prices are already putting upward pressure on building costs and are also causing delays in the supply of materials," he said.

Mr Mandanici said delays in construction would keep more people in the rental market longer, increasing demand without a matching lift in supply.

"We are particularly concerned for the rental market and tenants," he said.

Across Perth, the median dwelling rent rose 1.4 per cent in March to \$720 per week, while house rents increased 2.8 per cent to \$740 per week.

Rental supply remains constrained, with 1870 properties listed at the end of March, down 11.1 per cent compared to the same time last year.

Homes are leasing quickly, with a median leasing time of 15 days, and as little as five days in suburbs such as Woodvale.

Mr Mandanici said the situation reflected pandemic-era conditions, when reduced rental supply drove sharp increases in prices.

"Our modelling estimates nearly 20,000 rental properties were removed from the market," he said.

"That saw rent prices soar and vacancy rates plummet across the state."

On the sales side, Perth's median house

price rose 1.1 per cent in March to \$880,000, with continued growth recorded in suburbs including Brabham and Kalamunda.

Unit prices also increased, with Midland among the suburbs recording gains over the month.

Homes continue to sell quickly, with houses taking a median of nine days and units eight days, despite a seasonal rise in listings.

Mr Mandanici said while some buyers may delay decisions due to uncertainty around fuel prices, inflation and interest rates, demand remained strong.

"Problems in the delivery of new homes will maintain the focus on established homes," he said.

With population growth continuing and building constraints persisting, pressure on both rental and sales markets is expected to remain in the months ahead.



"Personal service,
professional advice,
at the right price!"

Mobility in Style

Sleep well. Live well. Great life.

"Locals
Supporting
Locals"

Adjustable Base with/without Massage Including Choice of WA Made Genuine Orthopaedic Mattress

Key Features:

- Head and Foot Raise
- Programmable Memory Positions
- Zero Gravity, Anti Snore
- HiLo@Trendelenburg functions
- One Touch Flat Button & a Torch
- Wireless Remote Control
- Massage with 3 different Modes and a Timer
- Backup Battery
- Adjustable Legs
- 10 Year Warranty + 2 year Electrical Warranty

20% OFF
Selected
Mattresses and Bases



Walkers

20% OFF
Selected
Walkers

Lift Chairs

Our Lift Chair Recliners provide an ultimate performance in style, designed to be functional and fashionable and part of your home decor.

Key Features:

- 2 motors
- Massage and Heat
- Fabric or Leather
- Lumber Support and Headrest
- 2 year Electrical Warranty



NOW from \$1099

The Pathrider 140XL Scooter

Powerful, precise, & stylish.

Key Features:

- Full suspension
- Hydraulic brakes
- LED Lights
- Available in Red, Yellow & Silver



\$5999

FREE IN-HOME TRIAL. RENT TRIAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR NDIS CLIENTS.



NDIS Registered Provider

FREE DELIVERY PERTH METRO
FREE INSTALLATION AND REMOVAL
OF OLD MATTRESS

CALL US ON
1300 BARKERS (227 537)

<https://barkersbeddingandmobility.com.au/>

Follow us on
Interest Free and
Lay-by options
available.
T&C's Apply.

OPENING HOURS:
Monday-Friday:
9.30am-5pm

NEW LOCATION
321 Great Eastern Hwy, Midvale
Opposite Clark Rubber.

Barkers
Bedding & Mobility

Perth's most trusted brand
for more than 50 years

GOMMES SHOES

"Fitting quality footwear for the entire family"

SHOP 4
58 THE CRESCENT MIDLAND
(OPPOSITE MIDLAND GATE,
NEXT DOOR TO POST OFFICE)
PHONE 9250 1448

20% OFF
OUR FAVOURITE BRAND

Cabello
COMFORT



GOMMES
SHOES

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER

Cabello
COMFORT