

ECHO NEWS

SINCE 1985

NEWS

Friday, April 17, 2026

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Local Business Supporting Local People

VOL.43 NO.1958

Dropping into danger at skatepark



P7

Community support for Grapes on Swan



P5

Volunteer of the year Ken Stranger



P11



Business fights for survival

The Macri family fruit business is fighting for survival after a two-year planning battle with the City of Swan has left their fruit shed facing permanent closure. **P3**

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ECHO Celebrations

Singing High Wycombe Chinese chef retires after 35 years



Camellia Chinese Restaurant is closing their doors for the final time this week after decades of service in the hills.

A HIGH Wycombe institution is set to close its doors after 35 years of serving the community, marking the end of an era for one of the suburb's longest-running eateries.

Camellia Chinese Restaurant, located along Kalamunda Road, has been a familiar fixture for generations of diners and takeaway regulars, with its closure bringing an end to its continuous service since 1991.

The restaurant has built a reputation over decades for its consistent, affordable Chinese cuisine and friendly service, becoming a staple for families, workers and long-time residents in and around High Wycombe.

Long-time patron Michael Mavrack, who has been visiting the restaurant for close to 30 years, said what made Camellia special was how little it had changed.

"Nothing has changed and that's the thing about it," he said.

"The furnishings, the chairs, the paintings on the wall – nothing."

He said the restaurant's décor was iconic, with mirrored wall tiles that reflected the room into infinity which was a detail that has stayed with him across decades of visits.

The menu has proven equally timeless for patrons.

Mr Mavrack said his family kept coming back for the combination chow mein, the satay, the barbecue duck and the Peking-style pork chops which were dishes he said the community would sorely miss.

Many patrons have praised the restaurant for its enduring quality and often reflected with a sense of nostalgia.

Some noted that they had returned after many years to find the same familiar flavours and service still intact.

The chef Stephen Chan is known to his customers as the singing chef after taking singing lessons and practicing whilst cooking.

Diners could often hear him singing while cooking and he would serenade the guests at the dining table towards the end of an evening.

On special occasions, diners would ask him to sing at their table, and he was happy to oblige, performing the songs he had learned at his lessons rather than the standard happy birthday fare.

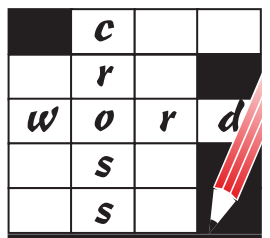
Mr Chan is understood to be retiring, with the closure bringing an end to a remarkable three and a half decades of service to the High Wycombe community.

Date of closure: as from 20th April

Dear Customers, I wish to advise that after operating a successful business in High Wycombe for 35 years, it is time to embrace retirement. I would like to thank you for your patronage and support over the lengthy period of time, please continue your support to this up coming exciting new vibrant restaurant venue.
 Best Wishes and THANK YOU
 Love from
 Stephen Chan



INSIDE



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P22 Sport

ADVERTISING FEATURE

ANZAC DAY 2026

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

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Community continues Swan planning review push

GUANHAO CHENG

A MONTH on from the March council resolution to support an independent review of their planners' application of state planning framework, residents are calling for faster action.

At the April 8 council meeting, The Vines resident and former Labor minister Gavan Troy said multiple community organisations across the City of Swan were concerned with a lack of action on the planning review by council administration.

He said the worries concerned several steps that needed to happen before the review could even begin, meaning every day of delay ate into time needed to finish it by September.

"One, the establishment of a council committee, two, the determination of the terms of reference by that committee," he said.

Mr Troy said he didn't believe the second step was an appropriate role for City of Swan staff as the review concerned their performance and could pose a conflict of interest.

"Three, public advertisement of the task, four, interview and selection of the external party, (and) five, briefing of the selected external party," he said.

"Thus, every delay in undertaking the foregoing steps is a significant intrusion on the actual time available to conduct the review.

"One can understand the reluctance of staff to willingly participate in a review of their own performance by an external party, particularly with the terms of reference issue.

"We therefore offer a draft listing of the terms of reference developed within our group that establishes the minimal requirements expected of such a review."

Mr Troy outlined five expectations from the community groups.

He said the groups expected the review to check whether the City of Swan's planning department has been following the state's planning rules properly especially for the inland northeast area around Swan, which he says has different needs to the coastal suburbs closer to the city.

This comes after months of new reports from long-time residents of extensive and severe flooding across properties in Swan that previously did not have the issue.

Swan Valley flooding issues need govt intervention says Spagnolo (Echo News, April 3) reported Guildford-based MLC Anthony Spagnolo wrote to the premier calling for state action on the ongoing flooding issues affecting Swan Valley landowners.

Swan Communities Environmental Alliance vice chair Jan Zeck had toured the Dayton area and surrounds with *Echo News* to show the extent of persistent flooding back in October, 2025.

Ms Zeck said the Swan Valley's predicament was a result of not considering the type of soil developers were building on top of and the lack of a unified masterplan for how the drainage would work.

The sandy clay soil type meant water could not seep deep enough to allow infiltration to direct water away effectively, leading to raised water tables and persistent flooding.

Infiltration not a feasible strategy: SCEA vice chair (Echo News, October 31, 2025) reported the unmanaged flooding issues would incur costs down the line for ratepayers as it would damage infrastructure.

Reports from The Vines also recorded residents unhappy with how housing requirements were overruling "sound planning" as reported in *Calls for review of the*



Development in Dayton where high groundwater submerges an NBN box.

City of Swan's planning department (Echo News, February 6).

"The prime requirement of this review is to undertake an independent examination and assessment of the City of Swan's planning process, procedures, report preparations, and delegations of authority within the planning framework of the state," Mr Troy said.

"The review must give appropriate attention to the written word and intent of the state's planning framework and not be deterred by the interpretations of state-appointed personnel serving the state planning agencies.

"The review will... consider the distinct

inland aspect of the northeast metropolitan area.

"The review will provide advice on possible additional considerations that should lead to improved planning outcomes.

"The review and subsequent report will consider the performance of the City of Swan's planning department from January 1, 2020 up to one month prior to the completion date of the review report.

"(We expect) to have the review adequately addressed by September and provide time for full council consideration in December."

City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson thanked Mr Troy for his statement to council.



The Macri family has been running the fruit shed business for over two years.

Gidge family fruit business fights for survival

BRAYDEN MOULD

A GIDGEGANNUP family is fighting for survival after a two-year planning battle with the City of Swan has left Macri's Fruit Shed facing permanent closure.

Macri's Fruit Shed owner John Macri purchased the property nearly three decades ago to fulfill a dream of owning an orchard, with the venture over time growing into the popular family shop.

The small business provides its own fresh produce alongside goods sourced from other farmers to the Gidgegannup community.

Macri's Fruit Shed faced a critical impasse when they were informed that selling produce from outside sources was prohibited under current land use laws.

Under the Western Australian planning framework, rural properties are restricted to selling only what is grown directly on-site.

Daughter of John Macri, Tahlia Macri, said the family had spent 18 months and tens of thousands of dollars on specialist reports to apply for a tourism facility land use exception.

"We spent thousands and thousands of dollars developing plans at the request of the city, bushfire management plans, parking plans..." she said.

"A few days before we were to submit our application documents, our planner rang us up and let us know the city had made an amendment to their document, voiding the tourism exception, saying it no longer exists, and we couldn't apply for it anymore.

"Our bill for the reports is \$30,000 and we're not even going to end up with a shop... we've been set up to fail from the beginning."

The Gidgegannup community has rallied behind

the family business, with a community led petition urging the city to help Macri's Fruit Shed find a viable path to stay open.

The petition has gathered more than 2120 signatures as of April 14.

Mrs Macri said the alternative pathway proposed by the city - rezoning the five-acre property from rural to retail commercial category - is a financial burden the family simply cannot carry.

"They said we had to apply for a rezoning to become a shop, which would cost over \$100,000. Plus, the property - which is our family home - would be required to pay commercial rates," she said.

"We're just a tiny, community shop, there is nothing in that which could be viable for us. We don't want a free handout; we just want to be taken seriously."

City of Swan chief executive officer Stephen Cain said the city is seeking to support Macri's Fruit Shed to remain open, while ensuring compliance with the state planning framework.

"The state government gazetted Local Planning Scheme Amendment 231 on December 16, 2025, which removed the tourist facilities land use category and introduced new definitions," he said.

"These changes have altered how integrated rural tourism activities can be assessed and the city will work with Macri's Fruit Shed to explore available pathways within the updated scheme."

"The city remains committed to assisting local business to navigate regulatory changes, with the aim of supporting their continued operation and contribution to the local community and economy."

Residents can sign the petition at www.change.org/p/save-macri-s-fruit-shed-support-local

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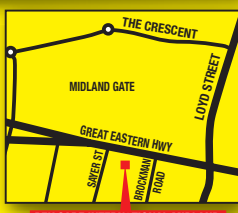
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PROPOSED ANIMALS, NUISANCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH LOCAL LAW 2026

The City of Swan proposes to make the City of Swan Animals, Nuisance and Public Health Local Law 2026 in accordance with section 3.12 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The purpose of this Local Law is to provide for the regulation, control and management of animals, nuisances and public health as part of the local government's function to provide the good government of persons within its district and to enhance the quality of life of its citizens.

The effect of this Local Law is to establish where appropriate standards and requirements regarding the matters referred to here, and to provide enforcement powers and review rights.

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

To have your say on the proposed local law, send a submission to the CEO by Tuesday, June 2, 2026.

By providing your submission, you acknowledge that the City of Swan will publish your suburb and submission in the Schedule of Submissions within the publicly available agenda and minutes for the July 8, 2026, Ordinary Council Meeting. The City of Swan will provide you with updates on the progress of the proposed local law and its adoption via email.

Submissions should include your name, address and the reference Proposed Animals, Nuisance and Public Health Local Law 2026. Submissions can be made online at swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au. If you require an alternative submission format, please contact the City on (08) 9267 9267.

For queries, please contact the City on the number above or email swan@swan.wa.gov.au.

Stephen Cain
 Chief Executive Officer
 City of Swan
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MACRIS FRUIT SHED

A GIDGEGANNUP FAMILY AFTER A TWO YEAR PLANNING BATTLE WITH THE CITY OF SWAN HAS LEFT THEIR FRUIT SHED FACING CLOSURE, THE SMALL FRUIT SHOP PROVIDES FRESH PRODUCE TO THE GIDGEGANNUP COMMUNITY.

ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say: editorial@echo-news.com

Long walk to Midland Station

Dear Echo News,
 Having made the nine-minute walk from the car park to Midland station for the first time I wonder how my wife who has recently had a joint replacement and all those like her are going to cope?

There is one disabled bay outside the station but because of the high curb you need a 4WD to access it.

Where are the bays like the old station had for parents to pick up their kids coming home in the dark?

The new bus port is just environmental vandalism.

Gone are our 60 to 100-year-old trees which provided shade on our old walk to the station.

What happened to the 30 per cent tree cover we were supposed to have which can reduce temperatures by 5 degrees in summer?

And still there is no EV charging in an oil crisis.

\$417 million and growing?

Let's hope it's not too late for our local politicians to get some action.

Dr C Hughes
 Midland

Democracy dead in planning

Dear Echo News,
 The state government is to be condemned for excluding local elected representation in planning decisions, now largely determined by Development Assessment Panels (DAP).

Even the limited local government contribution has been removed from elected

members and placed solely in the hands of the CEO's delegate.

Not only is the state government obsessed with fast tracking development at any cost, it has in the process scooped up the natural ground of the Liberals and silenced opposition.

And when a concerned community wants to be heard?

Take a day off work, head into town, and be a granted two minutes to express your views, irrespective of the complexity or scale of the proposal.

It's dismissive, demeaning and disgraceful.

The developer/applicant on the other hand are not timed or constrained at DAP.

I believe that the CEO's delegate has no accountability to community - so evident in the recent DAP transport storage approved in Stirling Crescent Hazelmere.

The City of Swan has a policy requiring 10 per cent of the development site to be landscaped, and on the Eric Street frontage, a policy requirement of 6m of landscaped setback as a visual buffer.

But the CEO's delegate granted concessions to the developer and halved both those requirements.

Longstanding residents of Eric Street, who for forty years have looked over powerlines, pasture and wild geese will now be confronted with hectares of bitumen, hundreds of vehicles glinting in the sun and not a tree in sight.

Giving up more than 2300sq metres of potential landscaping to facilitate another 100 vehicles on site.

Hard to believe a city staffer would be so indifferent to the well-being of residents.

Whose interests are they employed to serve?

And noteworthy, the applicant only required two parking bays for staff so no great offset in local employment opportunities then!

And now this community confronts another planning disaster of a data centre on the banks of the Mandoon Bilya (Helena River) and next to a school.

Big thanks to the *Echo News* for giving us a voice, because the state government is certainly not.

But be assured we won't give up.

Christine Hughes
 Woodbridge

Wattle fuel fire concerns

Dear Echo News,
 Even in a fuel crisis, most of us would not tolerate an ever-growing row of fuel tanks under powerlines on the road verge outside our house?

Yet many road verges in the Shire of Mundaring have equally volatile/flammable introduced Flinders Range wattles (FRW), and under powerlines, providing an ever-growing vector for an explosive landscape fire.

In Riley Road for example, a tree service coppicing dense stands of FRW's under power lines in response to my frustrated; "Cut 'em to the ground and glyphosate 'em" was "We're not allowed to do that!"

How dangerous to leave FRW's, and so wasteful of scarce resources, with houses less than 20m away up a steep slope behind?

Having raised the issue at the past two Shire of Mundaring annual electors' meetings we are yet to hear if the shire, Western

Thought for the day

"I never learned anything when I was talking."
 - Larry King

Power and adjoining landowners have begun to work together to reduce FRW's (fuel tanks) on road verges across the shire.
J&R Greenwood
 Stoneville

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.

From the net...

Echo News social media comments

In response to Iconic Guildford Hotel changes hand:

Did you know AVC have not a single drop of Swan Valley Wines on their Wine list? The Swan Valley wine region is on the door step of Guildford, our visitor centre is located in Guildford and is effectively the start of the trail into the Swan Valley. It would be nice for locals to see that the venue cares about the area they do business in by stocking the local wines in the area. 27 out of 41 of their wines on their website wine list are from over east or another country, and of these 0 are from the Swan Valley. If the new owners could have a word to them about this, that would be most appreciated. And if you personally visit the Guildford Hotel, make sure to #letthemknow!

Swan Valley Tourism Alliance

In response to Bullsbrook get scheme water after PFAS saga:

Is the only reason this is happening because of the new residential developments that the government want to build in Bullsbrook now? Existing residents and farmers have been ignored for years. What about their health surveillance? You can put in clean water but the PFAS contamination remains.

J Bremmer

In response to EPA approves Malaga to Pinjar power line:

We really need to ensure proper environmental assessments, monitoring and reporting with immediate consequences takes place as Western Power now uses expansion of renewables to disseminate the native bushlands. Our EPA is a toothless tiger paper flapping as it holds hands in this government. DBCA, which is underfunded and under resourced, Water Corporation and Metronet have evidenced based history of their disregard for trees. Hazelmere, Stirling Crescent was one minute a black cockatoo and phascogale habitat and crushed mulch the next. What else would locals expect? All done on computer minus true local coordinated knowledge. Not even a site visit. "Tick, flick, not our problem".

L Deering

Grapes on Swan receives community support



Evidence of the damage at Grapes on Swan after a pick-your-own event that was cut short. Picture: Facebook

FOLLOWING damages to stock during the Easter weekend, leading to 400kg of pomegranate destroyed, the community have rallied around Grapes on Swan in support.

Grapes on Swan owner Dennis Kljuce told ABC News' Geraldine Mellet that the pick-your-own event had to be cut short due to the amount of fruit damage suffered.

The business sold fruit other than the grapes which the business was named after and Mr Kljuce said families were picking unripe fruit and discarding it in the vineyard, or allowing their children to go unsupervised on premises.

"By the end of the day, I had a look around and couldn't believe that 300kg to 400kg were wasted," he said on the program.

"I did catch some adults, also kids, but mainly kids not being policed by parents so they were letting them run wild... and they're picking fruit that is not ripe

"I don't know what's happened to be honest and we get it even with our grapes."

Mr Kljuce said he'd been running pick-your-own events for about eight years and that the sultanas were also devastated earlier in the year.

"We don't mind people sampling fruit, you've got to

taste it," he said.

"But people think because we're not a supermarket, they can do whatever they want basically.

"The property is 12 acres and the rows are 250m long, you could never (install) CCTV.

"At the end of the day, this is our livelihoods and this is what we do for a living.

"Just respect the property and we only get one chance a year between the birds, the diseases and the rain, and let alone now with the crisis of diesel."

Grapes on Swan also took to Facebook to share the news that due to the damages, the rest of the crops were to be sold pre-picked.

"Moving forward, these will be pre-picked by us and available to purchase at our tent," they said.

"We had a large percentage of our crop destroyed by people picking pomegranates and then throwing them on the floor.

"We also had people sitting and consuming these behind our large trees, where they thought they couldn't be seen.

"Additionally, we had people picking mandarins and limes which weren't even ready yet and throwing them on the ground.

"Due to this and the extreme loss, both financially and the clean-up we've now been left with, pick-your-own pomegranates will not be happening again."

A day after the message went live on social media, Grapes on Swan provided an update.

"Thank you to the overwhelming support received by our beautiful community since yesterday's post," they said.

"We have now sold out of what was left of our pomegranates, so we will be closed for the remainder of the Easter long weekend."

Grapes on Swan has been operating as a family-run vineyard in Henley Brook for more than 30 years.

The community were quick to call out the behaviour and share their sympathy with the family business.

"How terribly sad that people should abuse your trust so blatantly," one commentator said.

"I would have thought to pick your own fruit would be a privilege, not a right.

"So disappointing when a few ruins something for others," another said.

Mr Kljuce said the destroyed stock was a loss and the pomegranates and fruit in the pictures shared to social media were used as feed for livestock and chickens.

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Pretty but problematic – Spring bulbs



Chinchinchee invading bushland, Arum lily with its distinctive flowers and the highly invasive pink gladiolus.

Choosing spring colour wisely

Autumn is the time to choose and plant our spring bulbs, and gardeners have never had more choice! Local nurseries, garden centres, weekend markets, online retailers, and those irresistible full-colour catalogues. But before you fill your trolley, there are a few things worth knowing. Some popular bulbs are surprisingly toxic to people and animals; others have escaped gardens entirely and are now serious environmental weeds. When it comes to bulbs a little knowledge goes a long way.

Invasive bulbs

Around two-thirds of weeds in Australia were deliberately introduced as garden plants or fodder crops. The south-west of WA has a Mediterranean-type climate, which means plants from South Africa and other Mediterranean regions grow exceptionally well here, sometimes too well!

Several common bulbs can escape from gardens and invade bushland, outcompeting native plants. Plants to be cautious about include Freesia, Watsonia, Sparaxis and some Gladiolus, particularly older varieties.

Toxic bulbs

Cape tulips (*Moraea spp.*) were introduced in the 1800s; they are now widespread, established weeds. It's their toxic glycosides that are responsible for livestock poisoning.

Chinchinchee (*Ornithogalum thyrsoides*) is toxic to livestock and dogs; it's known to cause gastrointestinal illness and blindness in cattle. Found at a few locations in the south-west of WA, it's one to avoid.

Arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*) is beautiful but extremely invasive, and toxic to all livestock, pets and humans. It has colonised thousands of hectares in south-west WA

Tips for safe plantings

- Choose non-invasive, non-toxic species where possible.
- Store bulbs safely, away from children and pets, and label anything in the fridge.
- Never dump garden waste in bushland or farmland – a single discarded bulb can establish a new weed population.



If you suspect poisoning

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Canning Road is among the routes proposed for upgrades as part of a \$5 million funding submission by the City of Kalamunda. Picture: Supplied

Kalamunda seeking \$5m for major road upgrades

DANIEL HOLMES

THE City of Kalamunda is seeking more than \$5 million in external funding to deliver two major road upgrades aimed at improving safety and traffic flow across key routes.

Council is applying through the Metropolitan Regional Roads Group (MRRG) for works on Canning Road and the Welshpool Road East-Lewis Road intersection, with construction funding targeted for the 2027/2028 financial year.

Mayor Margaret Thomas said the projects were part of the city's long-term transport planning and designed to address ongoing issues on heavily used roads.

"These projects are strongly aligned with our long-term transport planning and are focused on improving safety, easing congestion and supporting the efficient movement of people and goods," she said.

Design and service relocation planning for both projects is already underway, with construction to be delivered in stages if funding is approved.

The city said staging the works would help minimise disruption to residents and road users, with advance notice to be provided ahead of any construction.

The upgrades are expected to improve road conditions, increase traffic capacity, and enhance overall network efficiency, particularly on routes that carry significant traffic volumes.

Both Canning Road and the Welshpool Road East-Lewis Road intersection have been identified as key regional connections, with the proposed works aiming to address long-standing safety concerns and improve reliability for commuters.

The MRRG program provides funding support for projects that improve road safety and performance, with local governments required to seek council endorsement before submitting applications.

If successful, the city would receive funding for up to two-thirds of the total project costs, with the remaining amount to be covered by council.

Council will consider endorsing the funding application as part of its upcoming decision-making process.

Kalamunda development raises concerns over tree management

DANIEL HOLMES

CONCERNS about transparency around tree management at a Kalamunda development site were raised during public question time at a recent City of Kalamunda meeting.

A resident asked how tree removal and replacement were being managed, and what information was being provided to the community about those decisions.

In response, the city said tree management at development sites is generally the responsibility of the developer and is managed through subdivision approval conditions.

The city said replanting requirements are typically 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 species selection and site conditions.

The exchange highlighted questions around how the process is communicated to residents, particularly in areas where development involves the removal of existing vegetation.



Residents raised concerns about transparency around tree management at a Kalamunda development site during public question time. Picture: Supplied

The development forms part of ongoing subdivision activity in the Kalamunda area, where clearing can occur as land is prepared for new housing.

Verge trees are commonly addressed through planning conditions, with developers required to meet council requirements before final approvals are granted.

The City of Kalamunda has been contacted for further comment.

Future of Kalamunda Water Park under review

DANIEL HOLMES

THE City of Kalamunda is reviewing the future of its water park as part of a broader asset management plan aimed at guiding upgrades and long-term maintenance of council facilities.

The plan will help determine how the facility is managed into the future, including identifying maintenance priorities, potential upgrades, and long-term funding requirements.

Asset management plans are used by local governments to ensure infrastructure remains safe, functional, and fit for purpose, while also helping councils plan for renewal and replacement as facilities age.

The water park is a popular recreational space, particularly during the warmer months, attracting families and young children from across the Kalamunda area.

As part of the review, the city is considering the condition of existing infrastructure and how the facility can continue to meet community needs over time.

While no specific upgrade works have been confirmed, the plan is expected to guide future decision-making around the site.

The review comes as councils across WA face in-



The City of Kalamunda is reviewing the future of its water park under a new asset management plan. Picture: Kalamunda Water Park

creasing pressure to maintain ageing community infrastructure while balancing budget constraints and competing priorities.

Water-based play areas require ongoing maintenance to ensure safety standards are met, including the upkeep of surfaces, equipment, and water systems.

The City of Kalamunda said it is continuing to work through enquiries relating to the water park, with further details expected once the review process is finalised.



Ellenbrook skatepark users are calling for upgrades, with concerns raised about safety and deteriorating conditions. Pictures: Daniel Holmes

Dropping into danger at Ellenbrook skatepark

DANIEL HOLMES

A PETITION to upgrade Ellenbrook skatepark from its current state is gaining traction with local skaters raising concerns around safety hazards in the park.

The petition, started by local resident Ethan Kickett, has attracted more than 170 supporters, with calls for a full upgrade or urgent repairs to the park.

Mr Kickett said feedback from local users pushed him to launch the petition calling for upgrades.

"Having visited other skateparks in Perth, I noticed the stark contrast in the condition of Ellenbrook skatepark compared to others," he said.

During a visit to the skatepark by *Echo News* this week multiple cracks and uneven concrete were visible throughout the park, with sections appearing to have been roughly patched or filled.

In some areas, the surface had broken away entirely, leaving exposed gaps and loose material.

The two drink fountains around the park were broken, and had been sealed off for an unknown amount of time.

Within 20 minutes at the park, this reporter observed several falls, with young riders pointing to the damaged surface and slippery bowl as the cause.

Mr Kickett said the worst of the damage was in the park's main bowl.

"The main issue is safety, particularly in the bowl. It's damaged and near unrideable," he said.

He said uneven surfaces and worn infrastructure were increasing the risk of injury.

"The coping is damaged, the surface is uneven and bumpy which makes it easier to fall and injure yourself."

Zael Mehew, 13, who has been using the park for about six months, said little had been done to maintain or improve the facility.

"Nothing's really been fixed," he said.

"If somebody does graffiti over the bowl, it just gets painted over instead of cleaned... it leaves a horrible residue."

Ari Brooks, 14, who has been visiting the park for more than a year, said the condition of the park had steadily declined.

"There's a bunch of holes everywhere," he said.

"There's not really much to do because everything's been worn down... the council refuses to fix anything and just uses cheaper methods."

The boys said the build-up of paint in the bowl had made the surface slippery, increasing the risk of falls.

They pointed to Bayswater skatepark as an example of better maintenance, where graffiti is removed using specialised cleaners rather than painted over.

"It's more expensive, but it doesn't leave residue and keeps it clean," Ari said.

Mr Kickett said he hoped the petition would lead to action from the City of Swan.

"At the very least I'd like to see fixes to current damages like fixing cracks, coping and the bowl surface," he said.

The petition calls on the City of Swan to repair damaged surfaces and eliminate safety hazards, deliver a full redesign and modernisation of the skatepark and expand the size and capacity of the facility to reflect population growth.



Local riders Zael Mehew, 13, and Ari Brooks, 14, say the condition of Ellenbrook skatepark has worsened and is becoming unsafe.



Cracks, worn surfaces and patchwork repairs at Ellenbrook skatepark have raised safety concerns among local riders.

The petitioners are also requesting the introduction of new features that cater to skateboarding, BMX, scooters, and emerging trends and improvement to the layout and flow to meet contemporary skatepark standards and ongoing maintenance to preserve the park long-term.

The Ellenbrook skatepark was constructed in approximately 2009. At that time, the population of Ellenbrook was around 10,000-11,000 residents (based on 2006-2011 census data). Today, the population has grown to more than 24,600 residents as of the 2021 Census.

This represents more than a doubling of the population since the skatepark was originally built.

The City of Swan was contacted for comment but was unable to respond before deadline.

The petition can be signed at www.change.org/p/repair-upgrade-and-expand-ellenbrook-skatepark-now or the Ellenbrook skatepark petition on Facebook.

Stoneville triple fatality crash investigation

MAJOR crash investigation officers are investigating a fatal crash that occurred in Stoneville on Saturday, April 11.

About 8.55am, a black Holden Monaro HQ travelling south on Stoneville Road left the road and collided with a tree.

The 58-year-old male driver and two 62-year-old male passengers received critical injuries and died at the scene.

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

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/serious-crash-stoneville-110426>

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New Midland social housing apartments

THE Cook government has completed the acquisition of 16 new social housing apartments in Midland, delivering new homes in Perth's east for Western Australians in need.

The \$6.089 million acquisition has been purpose-built to meet the needs of a diverse range of households.

Residents will benefit from proximity to essential services including public transport, shopping and recreational amenities.

The completed development in Ferguson Street comprises of 12 two-bedroom and four one-bedroom apartments in a two-storey complex.

The development also features communal open space and covered parking for residents and visitors.

All dwellings have been designed to meet liveable housing standards, including silver level accessibility for ground floor apartments.

Midland MLA Steve Catania said the development will increase housing supply in a well connected part of Midland, close to public transport, schools, shops, and essential services.

"It's fantastic to see that these homes are accessible and fit for purpose, with liveable housing design standards that will support a wide range of tenants."

Housing and Works Minister John Carey said he introduced the call for submissions process to accelerate the supply of social housing by establishing a dedicated pathway for industry to approach government with projects that could deliver more homes for Western Australians



Midland MLA Steve Catania with Housing and Works Minister John Carey outside the new Midland social housing apartments.

in need.

"These 16 homes in Midland will soon provide safe, secure housing for people in Perth's growing eastern corridor.

"It's part of our record \$6.3 billion housing and homelessness spend since 2021, with thousands more social and affordable homes in the pipeline."

Delivered in partnership with Aloj Developments, the Midland project was sourced through the state government's Call for Submissions process.

The process invites industry to bring forward proposals that accelerate the delivery of social and affordable housing.

Darlington parents children's hospice dream coming true

AFTER 27 years, Darlington parents Martin Watson and Jacky Vigurs are about to witness their dream for WA to be home to a children's hospice become a reality.

Their vision was sparked when they visited a children's hospice in Manchester in 1996 with their daughter, Hannah, who was born with a rare condition that required round-the-clock care.

Inspired by that trip, the parents established the Children's Hospice Association in WA in 1999.

In 2008, the organisation became Perth not-for-profit Hannah's House, which provides care, comfort and joy to children with life-limiting and complex conditions, and their families – including free respite care, thanks to their supporters.

"At that children's hospice in Manchester, we experienced a great sense of community," Mr Martin said.

"It was a place where problems and the relentless care of a dependent or sick child could be shared, and friendship and support offered in a practical way, and we knew we needed that in WA, which is what prompted us to set up what is now Hannah's House."

Now, with Sandcastles Children's Hospice (Boodja Mia) in Swanbourne due to be completed this year, the couple said they were very glad the hospice has become a reality.

"Before Hannah died in 2010 at the age of 19, she - like many children with complex needs in WA - was cared for at home full time, with many visits to hospital along the way," Ms Vigurs said.

"While we are so grateful for the support we received and extremely proud of the in-home care Hannah's House delivers, Martin and I always dreamed of having the house to ourselves for short periods while Hannah was comprehensively looked after out of home, but in a place that wasn't a hospital.

"We know many families like ours feel the same, so it's wonderful this hospice will finally provide that option for those who need it during extraordinarily challenging times."

Sandcastles Children's Hospice is being funded by the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation (PCHF) and will be operated by WA's Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS).

Sandcastles, which has been designed to be warm



Martin Watson and Jacky Vigurs.

and welcoming, will have seven home-like guest bedrooms, a bereavement suite, three family suites, therapeutic rooms, a hydrotherapy pool and family spaces. It will also provide outreach and family support services for families across WA.

Hannah's House is working closely with PCHF to deliver family-focused activities and experiences in the hospice.

The hospice, which also provides in-school and in-community support programs, is hosting its annual charity High Tea on Saturday, May 30 at Optus Stadium.

Australian comedian and social media star Tim Collins will MC the afternoon event, while critically acclaimed Kylie impersonator Absolute Kylie will make her debut at the fundraiser.

"The annual Hannah's House High Tea is all about honouring the very special mums and families who care for children with life-limiting and complex medical conditions," Hannah's House chief executive officer Jonine Collins said.

Tickets start from \$90, with proceeds to help families, and are available at www.hannahshouse.org.au/hightea

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DPIRD research scientist Cindy Webster is proud of the department's PestFacts WA e-newsletter, which is celebrating 30 years of delivering crucial information to industry.

PestFacts celebrates 30 years

THIS year's first edition of the PestFacts WA e-newsletter marks 30 years of the valuable grains industry tool.

The popular online publication is essential reading for farmers and consultants to keep up to date with invertebrate pest and disease threats – helping to protect and optimise crop and pasture potential.

This free interactive resource, produced by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) with co-investment from the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) is delivered direct to subscribers and is available on the department's website.

The PestFacts WA e-newsletter is published regularly during the growing season, providing crucial on-ground intelligence from contributors across the Wheatbelt and expert DPIRD information and advice to inform crop management strategies.

It also features information on surveillance techniques, pest and disease identification, and the latest integrated management advice.

The past three decades has seen the PestFacts WA e-newsletter evolve from a paper-based product – originally known as PestFax, which was facsimiled to recipients – to a sophisticated digital product with value added content.

There is now a suite of PestFacts WA products, including the PestFacts WA map of pest and disease occurrences and the PestFacts WA Reporter app for quick paddock pest and disease identification and reporting.

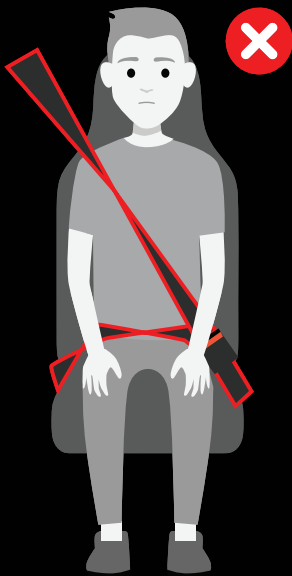
These resources also play a pivotal role as an early warning system to support the State's biosecurity measures.

The service also delivers a volunteer native budworm trapping program, insecticide spray guides, an annual insect and plant disease training course, and seasonal webinars.

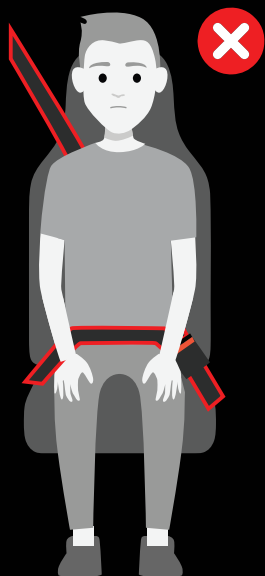
PestFacts WA project lead DPIRD research scientist Cindy Webster said PestFacts had become invaluable, backed by the expertise of DPIRD staff and industry contributions.

Cont. p21.

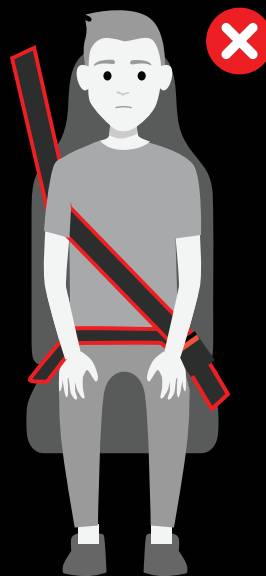
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Kalamunda to weigh up climate advocacy stance

DANIEL HOLMES

THE City of Kalamunda will consider formalising its position on climate change advocacy as part of a broader consultation process led by the WA Local Government Association (WALGA).

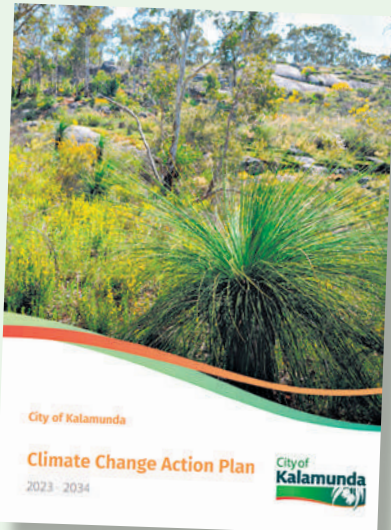
Council is already a signatory to WALGA's climate change declaration and has several existing strategies addressing environmental sustainability, including its climate change action plan 2023-2034.

Mayor Margaret Thomas said adopting WALGA's updated climate change advocacy position would strengthen the city's ability to advocate for greater support from state and federal governments.

"Adopting WALGA's reviewed climate change advocacy position would formalise the city's support for stronger leadership, coordination and funding to assist local governments with emissions reduction and climate adaptation," she said.

The city said climate change presents ongoing risks to the local environment, infrastructure, and economy, and that its current policies already aim to manage those impacts at a local level.

These include the local environment strategy, urban forest strategy, and local biodiversity strategy,



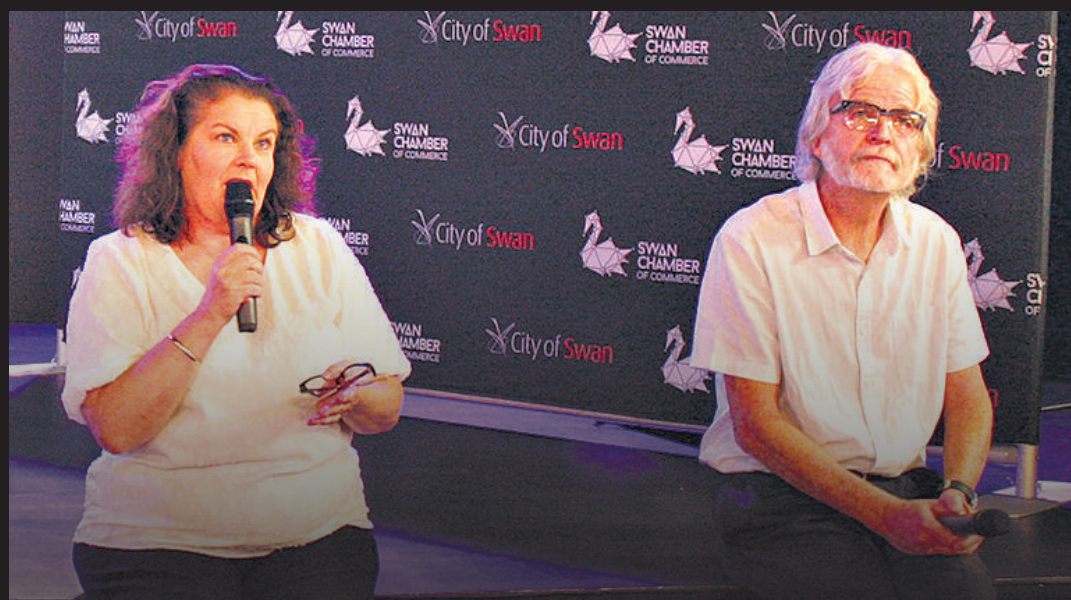
which guide planning and decision-making across the district.

If adopted, the advocacy position would not introduce new regulatory requirements for Kalamunda.

Instead, it would align with existing policies and reinforce the city's long-term commitment to environmental sustainability.

The policy would also support WALGA in advocating for increased funding and coordinated action across different levels of government.

Council will consider its position on the advocacy framework in the coming months as part of the WALGA consultation process.



Hour of Power presenters Linda Malone and Tony Smyth.

Hour of Power highlights importance of teamwork

MIKE PEETERS

APRIL'S Swan Chamber of Commerce's Hour of Power provided some useful tips for businesses while also emphasising the importance of working together.

The event featured ERICA chief executive officer Linda Malone and Midland's 'Man of Commerce' Tony Smyth.

Ms Malone is well known for her work with the ERICA women's centre - a prominent Midland community service and welfare organisation formerly known as Midland's Women's Health Care Place (MWHCP).

The organisation provides comfortable, caring, and inclusive services for women aged 16 and over in Perth's east metropolitan area including affordable one-on-one counselling and a diverse range of programs and workshops.

Mrs Malone said one of her key beliefs was 'every person matters' and that working together as a team was fundamental to success.

"Sometimes it's a bit like eating an elephant," she said.

"You can only eat one part at a time and also need to make sure everyone is eating the same part."

Ms Malone said after so many years in the area she felt she was better at her job now.

"I also believe in the importance of humour and the need to debrief regularly."

A regular Hour of Power speaker, Mr Smyth spoke about some of his business exploits since arriving in Australia from Ireland in 1985.

He said during these 40-plus years he had worked mainly in the hospitality industry, including running Midland's 7th Avenue Bar and Restaurant and the Kalamunda Hotel.

Mr Smyth said one of his most memorable projects involved selling and marketing Pentium motor oil.

"Unfortunately, it turned out a company in the United States also had a motor oil called Pentium so they took us to court to try and force us to stop using the name," Mr Smyth said.

"In the end they settled out of court saving us a potentially very expensive court case."

Mr Smyth, who is well known in the Midland area for his support of vulnerable community members such as seniors, said he also believed in maintaining reasonable pricing.

In fact, his 7th Ave pub was well-known at one time for having the cheapest beer in Perth and is still famous for its old-fashioned service and long-running beer of the month specials.

The next Hour of Power is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13 from 10:30am to 11:30am.

For more information go to www.swan-chamber.org.au/

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How reliable is AI on consumer law?

With Commissioner for Consumer Protection Trish Blake

IT'S not uncommon for people to use AI when they jump online to search for various things these days and while it can be an effective tool in some situations, people do need to be careful when it comes to rules and regulations.

Consumer Protection has been dealing with a few queries recently where consumers have based their complaints on AI, only for AI to give them wrong information about how the Australian Consumer Law (ACL) and other laws apply to their situation.

One example involved a consumer dropping their mobile phone off a boat into the ocean. They managed to collect it, but the phone was badly damaged. AI told them they had the right to a replacement. Similarly, another consumer's child threw their iPad onto the floor and broke the screen and camera. AI advised them they were entitled to a repair.

In both these cases the consumers asked our team to look into the matter. We found there was no breach of the ACL as the damage was caused by misuse, not a manufacturing fault.

Another case involved a complaint about issues in a residential park that related to the sale of a park home. The consumer cited multiple Supreme Court decisions across Australia that allegedly supported

their position that they were entitled to a refund of the purchase price.

Our review found the Supreme Court decisions existed in some cases but had no relevance to consumer goods or residential parks but about issues including health insurance, superannuation and an appeal of a murder conviction. In other instances, we found the cases did not exist and had been created by AI.

While it's always encouraging that people do their own research before contacting Consumer Protection, we would urge you to not rely on AI alone as the answers produced will often be a mix of truth and fiction.

The bottom line for WA consumers is simple: don't assume AI is correct. That information should always be checked against trusted sources to verify claims before you take any action.

Before submitting a complaint to a business or a business owner, or lodging a complaint with us, we encourage you to contact us or check the Consumer Protection website - it's free, accurate and designed to help Western Australian consumers make decisions that work for them, not someone selling a product or service.

If you need advice about your situation, contact Consumer Protection on 1300 30 40 54 or visit consumerprotection.wa.gov.au

Ken no stranger at Perth Observatory

GUANHAO CHENG

FOR more than 11 years, volunteer Ken Stranger has been a part of the Perth Observatory team in Bickley's Korung National Park and has been recognised as its volunteer of the year.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) named Mr Stranger for the honour, acknowledging his contributions of more than 35 hours a week, and broad range of skills.

Mr Stranger supports the observatory from governance to finance, ICT troubleshooting and technical maintenance, training and educating school groups.

Mr Stranger said recognition was never the main motivation for him, rather it was the joy of fixing things and helping facilitate room for wonder.

"We're such an insignificant part on a large rock that's floating through space and it's incomprehensible what is out there and what it's part of," he said.

"What you can actually see is just awesome... some of the things I have seen are absolutely stunning.

"You always feel a sense of wonder if you're looking out there... it's just hard to comprehend."

Mr Stranger said his start at the observatory remained his strength throughout all this time.

"Whilst I've never been heavily involved in astronomy, I had an interest in astronomy and I thought, well maybe this is a place I could come and be of use or learn something," he said.

"I found out fairly quickly I knew nothing about astronomy and so because of my technical background, I actually fell into a technical role up here which basically involves just fixing things mechanically and electronically.

"There's a lot of electronics involved which is a passion of mine.

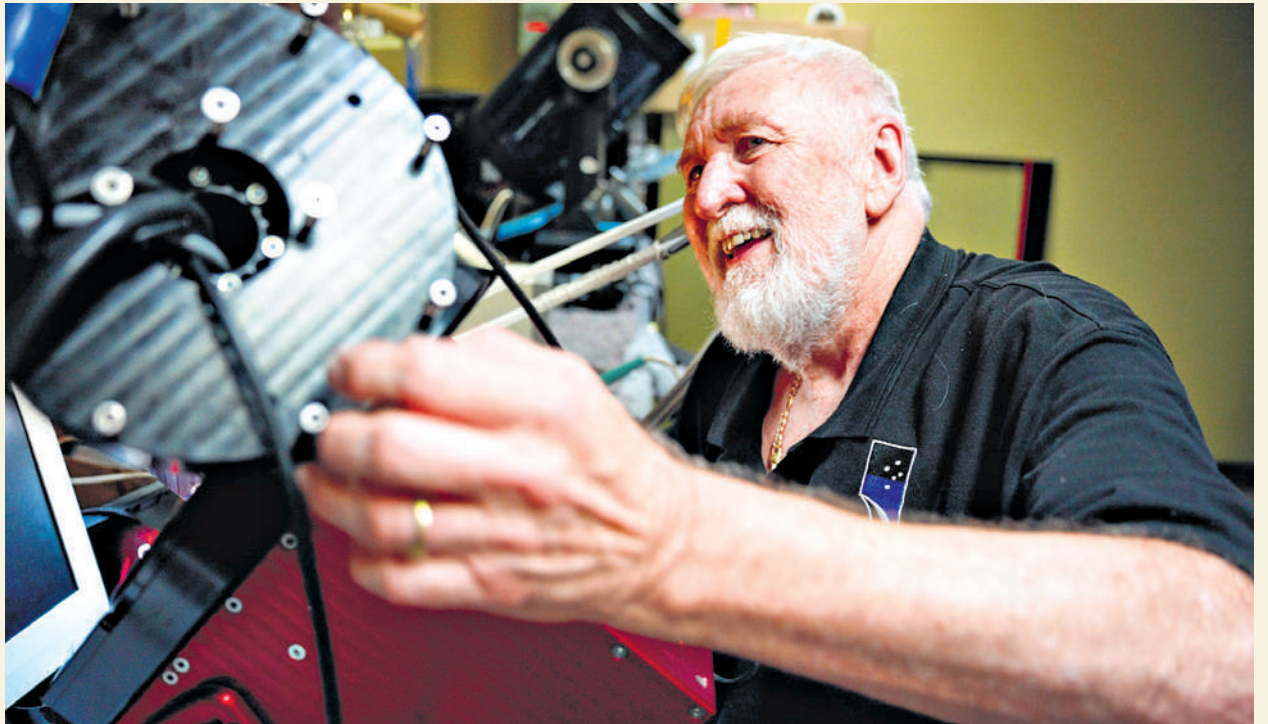
"My biggest reward for what I do is actually taking a problem and fixing it and seeing an end result."

Perth Observatory tour administrator Matt Woods said the recognition was well deserved.

"Ken keeps all the telescopes running and keeps the place in order through his role of caretaker," he said.

"Ken and I joined the Volunteer Group in the same intake back in 2014.

"On several occasions, we've thought telescopes have



Volunteer of the year Ken Stranger has been a stalwart at the observatory, ensuring the site's tools are fully functional. Picture: DBCA

died and can't be fixed.

"Ken has been able work the problem to bring them back to life.

"Even Lazarus would be impressed.

"It's a big achievement, we're very lucky to have him and the telescopes are as well."

Perth Observatory volunteer engagement officer Nadia Maslen said she nominated Mr Stranger because of his dedication to the team.

"(He dedicates) his weekends, his night times," she said.

"Ken's contribution underpins everything from Night Sky Tours to our ICT systems.

"His oversight of facilities, technical expertise and ICT support ensures our infrastructure remains safe, compli-

ant and fully operational."

Ms Maslen also said she appreciated his ability to keep the workplace atmosphere light-hearted while also being able to take work seriously when needed.

"He is funny (and) he can have a joke," she said.

"There is always some good-natured banter around him, which helps create a warm and enjoyable environment for everyone.

"With me personally, Ken has always been incredibly accommodating (and) no matter how busy he is, he will pause what he is working on to help me with what I need to do my job.

"My first impression of Ken was a softly spoken, gentle giant, and nothing has changed since that day over four years ago."



Bassendean RSL site proposal progresses

GUANHAO CHENG

DISCUSSIONS between the Town of Bassendean and RSL WA over the future of a vacant Guildford Road site have progressed with redevelopment opportunities being explored.

Since mid-2025, the town and RSL WA have been in discussions about potentially amalgamating the town's 179 Guildford Road site with the adjacent existing 10 Kenny Street RSL property.

The Guildford Road site has historically been leased to the sub-branch for informal outdoor use and contains no approved permanent structures.

An original three-year lease that began in 2022 expired in June 2025, but the town has effectively extended the lease at no ongoing cost to the sub-branch while long-term options are explored.

The proposal to amalgamate presents an opportunity for future redevelopment that could deliver veteran housing alongside new, purpose-built ground floor clubrooms for the Bassendean sub-branch.

In January 2026, RSL WA signed a letter of intent with the Town of Bassendean outlining key principles under consideration.

These include a proposal to sell the Guildford Road site to RSL WA at a reduced price, pending council approval.

They also include the town's in-principle support for combining the two sites into a single development.

The town has also indicated support for advocacy for state and federal funding to assist with delivery of veteran housing.

RSL WA has undertaken due diligence and developed a business case, which is scheduled to be considered by its board in May.

A final decision is yet to come.

Bassendean mayor Kathryn Hamilton said the update reflected steady progress and a shared commitment to community benefit.

"We are proud to continue working alongside RSL WA on an opportunity that has the potential to deliver real benefits for veterans and the broader Bassendean community," she said.

"Discussions remain ongoing, and any future development will be subject to appropriate planning processes and community engagement."

RSL WA chief executive Stephen Barton said RSL WA appreciated the collaborative approach taken by the town.

"Our focus remains on finding a sustainable, long-term solution that supports veterans, respects the local community and ensures a strong future for the Bassendean sub-branch," he said.

"We value the town's continued cooperation as this work progresses and take this opportunity to thank the town for their continued support, particularly in respect to funding annual RSL services and maintaining the Bassendean memorial to such a high standard."

If the proposal proceeds, the Town of Bassendean and RSL WA will continue working together to support delivery of veteran housing and new clubrooms.

This includes planning temporary accommodation options for the sub-branch during construction if required.

Any relocation is unlikely to be required until after ANZAC Day 2027.

The town said the community will be updated as matters progress and before any statutory planning processes commence.

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Your local Gig Guide

Fri April 17

Settlers House York
Oscar Litchfield
From 5.30pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace, York

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

Chidlow Tavern
Hootenanny
12.30pm-3.30pm, Free
4 Thomas St, Chidlow

Parkerville Tavern
Rhay Rhom & Chantel
From 6pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Robert Hinton
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Lyric's Bar
Howie and Dave
From 7pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

Sat April 18

Settlers House York
John Sloper
12pm-3pm
Back Verandah Band
From 5.30pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace, York

Imperial Homestead
Kim Anning Trio
From 6.30pm, Free
83 Avon Terrace, York

Parkerville Tavern
David Sanders
From 6pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

Hemingway and Co
Nico Wayne Toussant
7pm-9pm, Free
7095 Great Eastern
Highway Mundaring

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

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Nathan Gaunt & Howie Morgan
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Sun April 19

Settlers House York
Vivian G
12.30pm-3pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace, York

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

Chidlow Tavern
Company of Wolves
12.30pm-3.30pm, Free
4 Thomas St, Chidlow

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Mel and Fenton
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Parkerville Tavern
Leslie Hinton
Entertainment
From 3pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

Tues April 21

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

Wed April 22

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

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

Thur April 23

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Rachelle Coba
7-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek



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ECHO NEWS

ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

Northam's annual motorsport event will return this month with vintage cars to race the streets and fun for the family. Picture: Shire of Northam



Northam Motorsport festival returns

THE Northam Motor Sport Festival is back this year on Sunday, April 26 and will ignite the atmosphere with the sound of engines as vintage cars roll into the streets for a series of races.

Classic racing cars will take over the streets of Northam, competing in regularity time trials along a purpose-built street circuit.

Regularity rallies are car competitions where drivers follow a set course and try to drive at exactly the right speed and is a battle of precision.

Whoever finishes the circuit closest to the target time wins.

The event will feature the Northam Flying 50 regularity rally on Wednesday and a hillclimb race up Mount Ommanney on Monday.

Other event activities and attractions on the day include the Northam Boule-

vard Arcade Alley, face painting, a bouncy castle, Harley Davidson stunt riders, and live music by the band Another Fine Mess.

Carnival rides, food trucks, markets, local shops and eateries make up for the paid entertainment and attractions.

Every year, the Shire of Northam and the Vintage Sports Car Club of Western Australia collaborate to celebrate the joy of racing.

As one of the only remaining around-the-town style events in Australia, the festival offers a unique opportunity for families and petrol-heads alike to see classic cars in action.

Visitors will be taking part in a long-held Northam tradition that makes up its identity associated with vintage racing.

According to the shire's website, Northam has a long history with horse-

power both mechanical and biological.

In 1863, thoroughbred horse racing began in Northam and almost a century later, the first round the houses motor racing event was held in Northam in 1952.

The tradition lasted until the late 1950s when the original street racing era was phased out but returned just before the turn of the millennium in 1999, officially revived as the Northam Flying 50.

From there, the tradition continued on to present day where each March or April typically heralded the two-day event's return, drawing crowds of more than 5000 enthusiasts and families.

Some roads will be closed during the events.

To find out which roads are affected, check Northam's road report page at northam.wa.gov.au/roadreport/

Exhibition exploring modern Aboriginal life

ELLENBROOK Arts will be hosting artworks by Martu artist Curtis Taylor exploring identity, perception and experiences of racism, offering insight into contemporary Aboriginal life.

Mr Taylor's sculptures of dogs are homage to camp dogs from remote communities and will be a focus of his Untitled 2 exhibition.

Mr Taylor grew up between the remote Aboriginal communities of Bidyadanga in the Kimberley and Parnngurr in the Pilbara and comes from a strong line of cultural leaders.

His grandparents Wokka Taylor and Kanu Nancy Taylor passed down traditional Martu knowledge and stories that continue to shape his work today.

Mr Taylor grew up listening to the jukurrpa, the stories of his Elders, being spoken, sung and painted.

He chose film as a medium to pursue alongside his other works as a way of carrying those stories forward, drawn to

its power to be shared and kept for future generations.

Raised between the desert and Perth, Mr Taylor navigated both traditional Martu knowledge and a Western education.

The two worlds continue to inform everything he creates.

His practice spans film, sculpture, painting and installation, and explores what it means to be Martu in the modern world.

Central to his work is storytelling in his community's language of Martu Wangka which he uses to preserve culture and connect with younger generations.

His work has been exhibited at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney, Fremantle Arts Centre and Furtherfield Gallery in London.

Mr Taylor has also been part of landmark cultural projects celebrating the strength and continuity of Martu culture.

His newest exhibition Untitled 2 comes to Ellenbrook Arts as an insightful peek

into the role and symbolism of camp dogs found in remote Aboriginal communities.

The exhibition will hold its opening night at 6pm on April 24 and while free, registration is necessary.

Attendance may be registered at tinyurl.com/fuv3h4w4



An assortment of Martu artist Curtis Taylor's previous works.



ANZAC DAY 2026

Saturday 25th April

THE ODE OF REMEMBRANCE

They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning
We will remember them



ECHO
NEWS

Echo News pays tribute to those who served and paid the supreme sacrifice.

Unit 4/9 The Avenue Midland WA
Phone: 9374 6666

ANZAC DAY 2026

Lest we forget



Community members are invited to attend the following ANZAC Day services.

INAUGURAL ANZAC YOUTH PARADE AND SERVICE – Chidlow, Village Green
Cnr Old Northam and Thomas Road
TUESDAY 21 APRIL, 11.00 am

GREENMOUNT – Blackboy Hill Commemorative Site

Innamincka Road
FRIDAY 24 APRIL, Sunset service at 5.30pm
SATURDAY 25 APRIL, Dawn service at 6.15am

CHIDLOW - Village Green
Cnr Old Northam and Thomas Road
SATURDAY 25 APRIL, 7.30am gunfire breakfast, 9.30am march-off, 9:40am service

MT HELENA - Elsie Austin Pavilion
21 Chidlow Street
SATURDAY 25 APRIL, 11.30am march off, 11.40am service followed by morning tea and historical display

MUNDARING – Memorial Garden
Great Eastern Highway
SATURDAY 25 APRIL, 2.45pm march-off (from Mann Street), 3pm service

For more details please contact:
Shire of Mundaring, Kirstie - 9290 6604



Anzac Day 2026

Lest we forget.

TANIA LAWRENCE

Member for Hasluck

Labor





On Anzac Day, we honour all who have served and continue to serve.

The electorate of Bullwinkel, named after Vivian Bullwinkel, reflects the courage and valour of all who wear our nation's uniform.

Lest we forget.

Trish Cook MP

Federal member for **Bullwinkel**

Local Nurse

2/14-16 Mead Street, Kalamunda WA 6076

(08) 7079 0480

trishcookmp

trish.cook.mp@aph.gov.au

Trish Cook MP

Authorised by T.Cook, Australian Labor Party (WA Branch), 2/14-16 Mead Street Kalamunda, Perth WA 6076

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BELLEVUE RSL ANZAC SERVICES

BLACKBOY HILL MEMORIAL INNAMINKA ROAD, GREENMOUNT

- **Friday 24th April Sunset Service starts at 5.15pm**
- **Saturday 25th April Dawn Service starts 6.15am**

March and Commemorative Service

- **March at 12pm from Bellevue Hall**
- **Commemorative Service at 12.15pm
2 Purton Place Bellevue**



Enquiries 0490 501 177

Email: BellevueRSL@gmail.com



Saturday 25th April



2026 ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION EVENTS

HOSTED BY KALAMUNDA RSL SUB-BRANCH

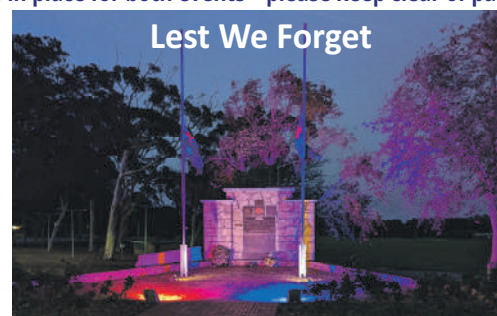
ANZAC COMMEMORATION MARCH & SERVICE SATURDAY 18th APRIL @ 11:00am

Assemble from 10:30 (Memorial Walk Stirk Park).
Travelling from Stirk Park, up Canning Rd to
Kalamunda War Memorial, Kostera Oval



ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE SATURDAY 25TH APRIL @ 05:45am

Kalamunda War Memorial, Kostera Oval
Followed by Gunfire Breakfast (Takeaway Egg & Bacon Roll on sale)
Road closures in place for both events - please keep clear of paths & driveways



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More information: www.kalamundarsl.org.au & Facebook



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Lest we forget.

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Member for Midland

Michelle Maynard MLA
Member for Swan Hills

Stephen Price MLA
Member for Forrestfield

Hon Klasey Hirst MLC
Member of the Legislative Council

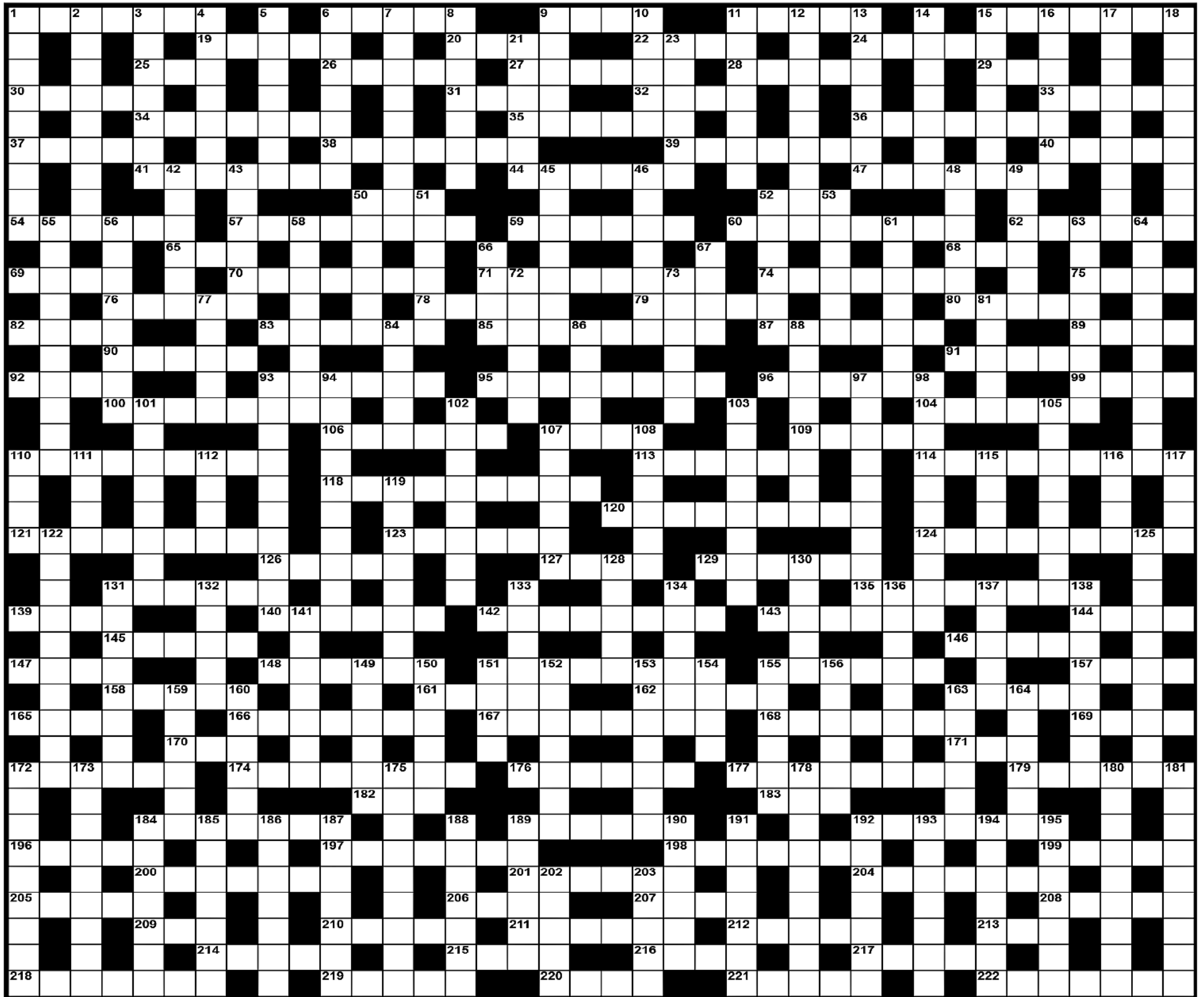
Hon Parwinder Kaur MLC
Member of the Legislative Council

Hon Samantha Rowe MLC
Member of the Legislative Council



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

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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
MISLING R INANIE C E NEEDS O DISPUTE
E P G SPOON T SHEEPDOG N TUEIS S N N
SORRIEST O INSITU TEETER U OUTRIGHT
I C HITMAN LAVISH AILING O U
LONGHAIR EGGHELL 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 SWAMPS 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 I
P N E O T M G S H E N E V V H E R E
I N O E D E DEERIVE W C S G L A R R
FIRST PEPPER OPT ELL G SPRANG OLDER
S C REDO E V REYED L H O STREW R
FETCHES CHASTENED MYSTERIES EASIESI
L H N K B R OPPOSE R T U R O E
ATTENTIVE ROADSTER HANDSOME REASSERIS
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 DEERIVE W 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 RALISE D E ALLENATE U S E GREY A N
STAREIS P DISCIS R C D D EASED V ENLIST
    
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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Keep it Local

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Introducing Students to Cultural Awareness



BESIDES running the Ballajura Community Garden, Community Connecting Youth Inc (CCY) works towards introducing students to cultural awareness and the importance of respect of oneself and others.

As such they have created two Story/Yarning sections within the garden so senior community members and young people can interact in a safe and sharing environment where not only food and growing skills are shared but people's life stories as well.

CCY also facilitates the Police Rangers unit at the Ballajura Community College which is now open to all young people from within the district and last year, with the support from the City of Swan organised, their first gunfire breakfast.

Another initiative is the Living Art Garden Program which includes tactile exercises such as garden work, building garden beds from recycled materials, as well as creative artwork where students become involved in designing and painting murals throughout the garden.

The wall mural and major projects have been supported by deputy Premier Rita Saffioti and federal Cowan MP Dr Ann Aly who have made possible grants and will view the ground mosaic produced by young people over the Christmas holidays.

CCY are also involved in facilitating the annual Ballajura Community Fair which will be held on October 18 and the annual National Aboriginal and Torres Island Children's Day on August 4, and have reintroduced the 'Big Quiz' which is held on the last Saturday in August.

Major sponsors and partners for these events are, the City of Swan, Ballajura Community College along with our Patrons Wally and Kym Edwards and John and Wendy Gardner.

The organisation promotes the garden projects through their Facebook pages that include, CCY, Sully Mesiti, Ballajura Community Garden, Rotary Club of Ballajura Malaga and the Ballajura Community College.

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PELICAN PARADE

11am - 3pm

LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

DATES TO SAVE

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL ANZAC DAY Dawn Ceremony & Gunfire Breakfast
Sponsored by City of Swan, Ballajura Community College & CCY Inc.

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL - Artisan Sunday Markets
Last Sunday of the Month @ the Pelican Parade school entrance

TUESDAY 4TH AUGUST - National Aboriginal and Torres Island Children's Day

SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST - BIG QUIZ - BCC Gym

SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER - Ballajura Community Fair



Funds from these projects and programmes are utilised to support programmes within our community. If you would like to support or sponsor one of these FREE Community Activities please contact our CEO S Mesiti - smesiticcyinc@gmail.com

WA's MOST EXCITING & ENTERTAINING COLONIAL FESTIVAL!
Live Entertainment, Markets, and Much More!"

MOONDYNE FESTIVAL

Celebrating History, Culture, and Fun



Sunday 3rd May 2026

In Toodyay, WA

www.moodynefestival.com.au

<https://www.facebook.com/Moodynefestival/>



ADVERTISING FEATURE

Keep it Local

42nd Annual Toodyay Moondyne Festival

TOODYAY will celebrate its 42nd Moondyne Festival stepping back in time to celebrate the life and times of the iconic Avon Valley bushranger Moondyne Joe by bringing his escapades and mock trials

to life on Sunday, May 3 from 9am to 4pm on Stirling Terrace.

The festival is the state's premier colonial festival, first held in 1984 to celebrate the life and times of Moondyne Joe (Joseph Bolitho Johns), and starts with an opening ceremony at 10am where locals and guests are encouraged to dress in 19th century costumes for a colourful procession down the main street.

Some period costumes are available for loan by emailing moodynecommittee@gmail.com

Cheer on Joe's gang and the floozies, coppers, swaggie and town crier as Joe is chased by the coppers, tried by a kangaroo court, convicted by a corrupt judge and escapes with the assistance of local people and his gang who all love the WA equivalent of Ned Kelly or Robin Hood.

As well as the street entertainment, there will be more than 90 variety and food stalls, displays, performances and demonstrations, the 10th Light Horse display, Barn Baby's Animal Farm, Western Australian Reptile Park, vintage motor vehicles and bikes, and rides on the horse and cart or mini train.

Local Toodyay artists will be playing as well as the Pioneers Bush Band, Jarrah Celts, Darren Gillis and Paul Davis Entertainment, Avon-Fun Dance Club and The Black Chooks.

Festival goers can listen to bush poets, and Australia's early settler's folk music that will include Irish, Scottish, Italian and English music performed by various entertainers along with the popular Royal Australian Navy Band, the Coast-



al Scottish Pipe Band and Toodyay Community Singers.

The festival follows through the main town site to the beautiful Duidgee Park resting on the banks of the Avon River where patrons can watch the horse works, hot air balloon display and have a go at making clay animals.

Events include log chopping, blacksmithing, bush poetry, stilt walkers, horse and cart rides, reptile display, historical tools restoration, and of course the ever-popular Swaggie Camp or visit Stirling Park for amusement rides for the kids, while a visit to Moondyne Joe's cell at the old Newcastle Gaol Museum is a must do.

The mini train ride at Duidgee Park is always a highlight of the day with the event packed full of family fun and kids' entertainment including stilt walkers, carnival, face painting, petting zoo and clay modelling.

Entry is free however a gold coin donation on entry would be greatly appreciated.

For more information and to view the events program visit www.moodynefestival.com.au or Face Book <https://www.facebook.com/Moodynefestival>

ANZAC DAY

Lest we forget



BALLAJURA DAWN SERVICE

6.00am, April 25

Peace Park, Ballajura Community College

A gunfire breakfast will be served following the service.

Let us come together as a community to reflect, remember, and honour the courage, sacrifice, and legacy of all those who have served.



Supported by
City of Swan



ADVERTISING FEATURE

Keep it Local

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Ballajura Peace Park Honours Service and Community Spirit



THE Ballajura Memorial Peace Park stands as a lasting reminder of the sacrifices and commitment of servicemen and women, offering a place of reflection and remembrance for the community.

Developed through a strong partnership between the WA State and Federal Governments, the City of Swan, the RSL Association of WA, Ballajura Community College, and the wider community, the Peace Park was officially opened on 3 May 2006.

This year, the Ballajura RSL Sub-Branch has undertaken significant refurbishment works, including the renewal of seven memorial panels, twelve poppy panels, and eight veteran benches. The initiative has been led by Peter and Avril Clark, whose personal connection

brings deep meaning to the project. One of the benches honours their son, Pte Jamie Clark, who lost his life in 2005 while serving in the Australian Army in the Solomon Islands. Supported by Bruce Ince and funded through the City of Swan Community Grants Program, the project ensures the site is preserved with dignity for future generations.

Each ANZAC Day, the Ballajura RSL Sub-Branch hosts a Dawn Service at the Peace Park, attracting over 2,000 attendees. The service is supported by Ballajura Community College's Police Ranger Unit. Following the service, a traditional Gunfire Breakfast—introduced last year—is provided by Community Connect Youth Inc and the Ballajura Community Garden, bringing the community together in shared remembrance and connection.

Swan District Rotary Club calls for new members

THE Rotary Club of Swan Districts Inc is looking for more members to continue its efforts to support hundreds of charitable organisations, both locally, Australia wide and overseas.

"Having been actively involved in the area continuously since its charter in June 1949, due to its aging membership it is now facing the prospect of ceasing to exist," President Adrian Clement said.

"This will be a sad day for all the charities we continue to support, and we are actively seeking new members to continue this important fundraising work.

"As an incentive to get involved and join we are offering free membership for a year, so come along to a no obligation meeting and see what we are all about," he said.

The club also has a very strong active group of Rotaryannes made up of wives, and partners of the Rotary members.

Since 1979 they have raised and donated a significant sum for charities including Wheelchairs for Kids, Shelter Boxes, Handicamp, Blood Bank, Guide Dogs, Flying Doctor, Fred Hollows Foundation, Shalom House, Stitches of Hope, Cancer Research, Valley Church Shoe Boxes, and Swan City Youth.

In that time the Swan Districts Rotary Club has raised more than \$86,135.

They also help fund the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and training program along with the Rotary Youth Program of



Enrichment which is a weekend leadership camp for kids aged 14-17.

Both awards and their respective training programs are designed to build confidence, teamwork and personal development.

The Swan Districts Rotary Club has also been instrumental in the establishment of new clubs in Moora (1958), Kalamunda (1962), Mundaring (1971), Midland (1985) and the Swan Valley (1993).

The club meets on the first, second and fourth Wednesdays at the South Guildford Community Room, Waterhall Shopping Centre, 9 Waterhall Road at 5pm for a 5.30pm start, and finish promptly at 6.30pm.

For further information go to their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/swan.districts.7> or, contact President Adrian Clement on 0400 223 290, or email: adrian.clement@westrac.com.au

Do you want to make the world a better place?

The Rotary Club of Swan Districts Inc can help you achieve these goals. Having been actively involved in the area continuously since its Charter on 28th June 1949, it has supported hundreds of charitable organisations, both locally, Australia wide and overseas.

However, due to its aging membership it is now facing the prospect of handing back its Charter and ceasing to exist. This will be a sad day for all the charities it continues to support today.

We need your support – our local community – to continue our support for locally, Australia wide and overseas needy charities.

To find out more, no obligation of any description, the readers of *Echo News* are invited to come along to our meeting and see for yourselves what Rotary International Worldwide is all about.

Swan Districts Rotary Club Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/swan.districts.7>
 or contact President Adrian 0400 223 290
 email adrian.clement@westrac.com.au

We meet on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at:
 The South Guildford Community Room
 Waterhall Shopping Centre
 9 Waterhall Road
 South Guildford WA 6055
 5.00pm for 5.30pm start - finish promptly at 6.30pm

As an incentive to get involved we are offering free membership for a year, so come along for a no obligation meeting and see what we are all about!

UNITE FOR GOOD



Thanks to Kay and her amazing charity - Stitches of Hope, our club donated 60 sleeping bags to Dreambuilders Care. This is what we do – making the world a better place – with Stitches of Hope.

The club also has a very strong active group of Rotaryannes made up of partners of the Rotary Members.

Since 1979 they have raised and donated a significant sum for charities:

- Wheelchair for Kids • Shelter Boxes • Handicamp
- Blood Bank • Guide Dogs • Flying Doctors
- Fred Hollows Foundation • Shalom House
- Stitches of Hope • Cancer Research
- Valley Church Shoe Boxes and Swan City Youth.

All in all, a total of \$86,135 to date!

We also established new clubs where a need was seen:
 26/9/1958 – Moora, 27/6/1962 – Kalamunda, 7/1/1971 – Mundaring,
 14/6/1985 – Midland and 9/6/1993 – Swan Valley.

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Notice is hereby given of the City of Swan's intent to request the Minister for Lands to dedicate Lot's 832 and 835 on DP 410677 Drumpellier Drive, Bennett Springs as road, under section 56 of the Land Administration Act 1997.

A plan showing the location of the portion of land can be inspected online at swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au, at the City's Administration Centre, Morrison Road, Midland, or at any of the City's libraries, during office hours.

Prior to Council considering this matter, submissions from the public are sought. Anyone wishing to object to, support or otherwise comment on this proposal may do so by lodging a submission online via swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au or addressed and mailed to the undersigned, City of Swan, PO Box 196, Midland, 6936, on or before Monday, May 18, 2026.

Stephen Cain
 Chief Executive Officer
 City of Swan
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PestFacts celebrates 30 years

Cont. p8

“The sudden appearance of large number of insect pests or a plant disease can lead to major production losses within a short period of time, impacting industry and growers’ margins,” she said.

“The PestFacts WA alert system forewarns growers of current or imminent pest and diseases, enabling rapid and effective management to minimise grain and pasture production losses.

“Over the past 30 years, the PestFacts WA service has received more than 50,000 reports.

“It has played an integral role helping detect new insect pest and plant disease occurrences in WA, such as the Russian wheat aphid in the Esperance port zone in 2020.

“At the heart of the PestFacts WA service is its amazing staff and contributors, without whom the resource would not be as impactful as it is – for which we are truly grateful.

“I encourage the PestFacts WA community to continue to keep a watchful eye for pests and diseases

this season and to send in reports of their observations.

“If you’re unsure what you have found, you can request identification from our experienced staff.”

GRDC Manager Regulation and Biosecurity Jeevan Khurana said GRDC had played a key role in supporting Pest Facts WA to ensure growers have access to credible, timely pest and disease intelligence that supports on farm decision making.

“Through this current investment, GRDC is strengthening the integration of surveillance, diagnostics and communications,” Dr Khurana said.

“This will help the service to continue to deliver seasonal threat information, respond to emerging risks and maintain strong local capability within a nationally connected framework.”

To find out more about the PestFacts WA suite of products and sign up to receive the PestFacts WA e-newsletter visit www.dprd.wa.gov.au/online-tools/pest-facts-wa/

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Refurbished soccer grandstand renamed the Len Dundo stand



MIKE PEETERS

SWAN United FC has renamed its grandstand the Len Dundo stand in a special ceremony held last Sunday at the Swan Italian Sporting Club in Middle Swan.

The ceremony took place just before the club's first home game of the Football West amateur premier division season against Hamersley Rovers which resulted in a 1-1 draw and was attended by many distinguished guests.

Mr Dundo said he was surprised and pleased to see some of his old team mates from Olympic Kingsway at the event.

Born in Midland in 1946 Mr Dundo enjoyed a remarkable 22-year playing career in the top flight of WA football and remains one of the leading goal scorers in the history of the game in this state.

He began his footballing career playing for Swan Valley in the WA first division back in the early 1960s before joining Inglewood Kiev in 1971.

In 1976 he moved to Olympic Kingsway where he won two state championships.

Mr Dundo finished his playing career with Osborne Park Galeb in 1983 and topped the league goalscoring charts seven times in 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977,

1978 and 1980.

He was also selected 18 times for the WA state team, inducted into the football Hall of Fame (WA Hall of Champions) in 1996 and named among WA's top 100 players in 2004.

Swan United FC president Ben Kelly said Mr Dundo went on to become coach of Swan IC (now known as Swan United) and remains heavily involved with the club as a groundsman.

“Len rarely misses a game and everyone



Swan Italian Club's Cos Coniglio, Swan United president Ben Kelly, City of Swan mayor Tanya Richardson, Len Dundo, Swan Italian Club president Jason Russo and Midland MLA Steve Catania in front of the new Len Dundo stand.

at this club and in the football community wish him the warmest congratulations while also recognising him as someone who has contributed so much to football in this state.”

On a personal level, Mr Kelly said Dundo was known for his cheeky personality and exceptional skill on the ball.

“Also, despite his record-breaking domestic success Len was seen as very unlucky not to be selected for the Australian national team during his prime.”

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Midland fighters return from Thailand with gold medals

TWO Midland Muay Thai fighters have returned from Thailand with gold medals and a swag of accolades after competing at the World Muay Thai Federation Championships in Bangkok.

Mad Dog Martial Arts fighters Ashraf Farawah and Shell Read travelled to Thailand in March as part of a 220-strong South Pacific team and both came home champions.

Farawah went undefeated across three bouts against top-level opponents, claiming gold in his division before being voted Australia and South Pacific Adult Fighter of the Tournament which is one of the competition's most prestigious individual honours.

Coach Slade Hutcheson said Farawah was in complete control throughout.

“Cool, calm, and picking people apart like it was light work,” he said.

“Every fight he looked sharp, controlled, and a step ahead. Absolute clinic.”

Read's campaign was equally impressive.

She secured a strong win against an Indian opponent to earn a medal in her division, before stepping up for a special bout against a Russian competitor which was a challenge she met with characteristic determination.

“If you've followed her journey, you know she's had a hard run,” Mr Hutcheson said.

“But every single time she gets back up and gets back to work.

“No excuses, just grit, heart, and consistency.”

Read also embraced the cultural experience of Thailand, receiving a traditional Sak Yant tattoo and blessing at a temple during the trip.

Prior to departing in March, Read said competing in the birthplace of the sport felt like stepping into the source.

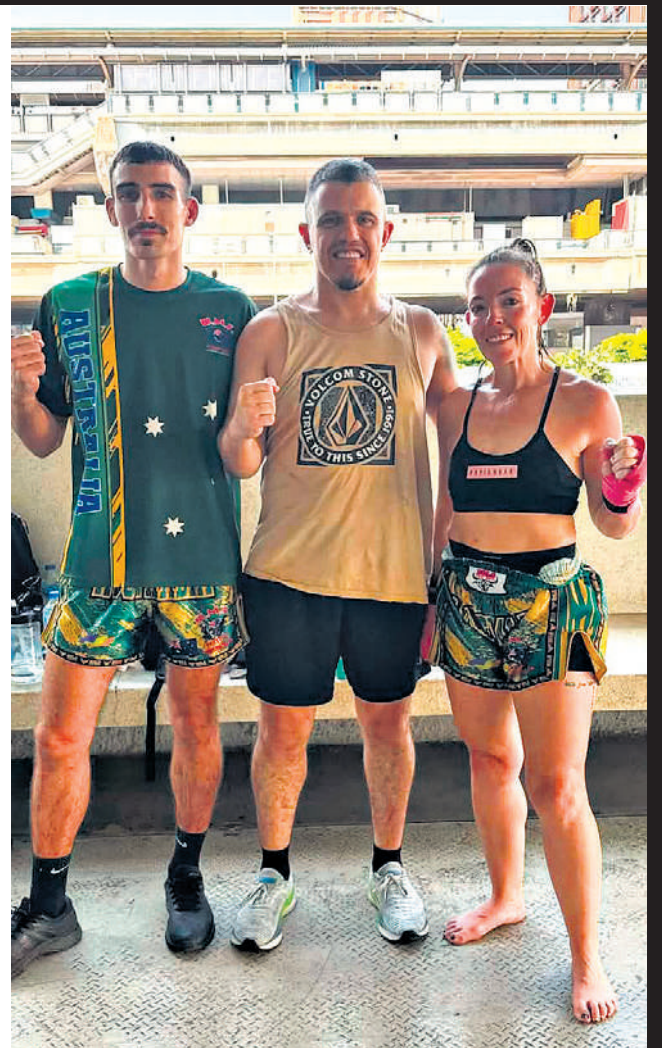
“There's so much history there and it means a lot to experience that side of the culture now as a fighter,” she said.

Farawah had echoed the sentiment, saying competing in Thailand was something he had always wanted to do since taking up the sport.

Hutcheson said the trip was one he wouldn't forget.

“New country, big stage, and serious talent everywhere,” he said.

“Our crew didn't just show up – we made noise.”



Midland Muay Thai fighters Ashraf Farawah and Shell Read with coach Slade Hutcheson.

Both fighters were praised for representing their gym, their team and themselves with pride, humility and respect throughout the championships.

ECHO Local Real Estate

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Ellenbrook a top sales suburb in April

ACCORDING to the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia (REIWA), Ellenbrook is part of the top five selling suburbs for the first week of April.

While sales transactions in Perth last week were down 10.2 per cent on the previous week, Ellenbrook landed the second-place spot with 12 sales.

Topping the chart was Baldivis with 16 sales, while Morley tied with Ellenbrook's 12, and Perth and Scarborough both selling 10.

REIWA's April snapshot reported 794 property sales during the first week of April which they say is pointing to early signs of moderation due to the consistent sales, but a slowing of pace compared to earlier last year.

There were 3279 properties for sale in Perth at the end of April's first week, which is 2.3 per cent lower than the previous week.

According to REIWA, this can be attributed to house listings decreasing 3.9 per cent compared to the week prior and unit listings decreasing 4.6 per cent.

However, listings for vacant land increased 14.2 per cent.

Ellenbrook remains in growth with 15.4 per cent sales price growth according to REIWA as of this week.

Ellenbrook's house median sales price was at \$785,000 as of early April and rental prices also experienced a 1.4 per cent growth, climbing to \$710 per week.

Units in Ellenbrook were sold at a median price of \$541,000, while vacant land was priced at a median value of \$468,500,



jumping from the median of \$250,000 in 2025.

While sales price growth in Ellenbrook didn't exceed the 19.4 per cent growth of Bullsbrook, it is outgrowing the nearby Henley Brook at 14.3 per cent, Aveyley at 10.2 per cent and The Vines at 1.6 per cent.

Houses in Ellenbrook sold in seven days and units sold in four days despite suburb

interest level being lower than the Perth average as determined by the views on available residential properties for sale within the most recent fortnight.

Ellenbrook remains a younger suburb according to REIWA, with 87.5 per cent of residents being less than 50 years old and more than half of that cohort even younger than 35.



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- Family-friendly layout
- A large rear garden
- A colourful, separate studio and workshop/shed w/3-phase power

Samantha
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Midland
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Mike
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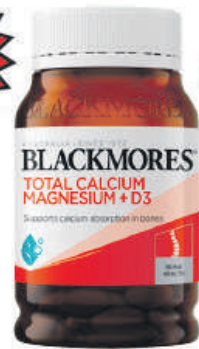
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