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Authorised by S.Catania 34/6 Keane St, Midland WA 6056

### Feral fox activity in Kalamunda

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### Music program nurturing new artists

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### Contaminants found in fill soil by residents

P3



Picture: Guanhao Cheng

# DAP decision coming

City of Swan recommends refusal of the proposed Hazelmere data centre ahead of Tuesday's DAP decision while residents' concerns remain. P3

Signs in image: NO GIANT DATA CENTRE HERE, DON'T SUCK THE RIVER DRY!, SAY NO Noisy Data Centre, DON'T DESTROY OUR PEACEFUL SCHOOL!, NEXT SCHOOL FIND OTHER

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OH! I WOULDN'T WORRY ...IT SEEMS THEY ARE AFTER FERAL FOXES, NOT FOXES WITH CLASS AND REFINEMENT... LIKE OURSELVES!

PEST CONTROL OF FERAL FOXES HAS BEGUN IN KALAMUNDA TO PROTECT LOCAL NATIVE SPECIES FROM ATTACKS AND DISEASE, AFTER A NOTED INCREASE IN FOX ACTIVITY WAS RECORDED.

**ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS**

Have your say:  
editorial@echo-news.com

**DAP opinions endorsed**

**Dear Echo News,**  
The Darlington Ratepayers and Residents Association (DRRA) endorse the opinions expressed in two recent letters (*Democracy dead in planning*, April 17 and *DAP failing our democracy*, April 24).

Darlington residents saw at first hand the workings of DAP when, without visiting the site and against strong opposition from local residents, a unanimous Mundaring Council vote, and concern from teachers at Darlington Primary School – DAP approved a childcare centre opposite the school and at the entry to a narrow cul-de-sac identified by Mundaring Shire as an 'entrapment road' in a bushfire.

With a weighted panel of three external planners to two local council representatives, DAP has garnered a reputation for riding roughshod over community wishes and local council decisions – and this slow death of democracy in planning decisions continues.

Concerns around the certain increase in traffic in an already congested area and the obvious flaws in the bushfire management plan that were identified by the community to the DAP panel were unheard.

At the DAP hearing, the DRRA representative read a Department of Fire and Emergency Services statement that "introducing a facility that hosts vulnerable community members into a bushfire prone area increases their risk of exposure to the hazard of bushfire" and "any assessment of risk should take into account not only the risk to the occupier but the aggregated risk to the broader community through the introduction of such a

**Thought for the day**

"Failure is success if we learn from it."  
– Malcolm Forbes

facility".

It made no difference to the DAP decision that residents consider is one of the most dangerous to be made in relation to our village.

Given the bushfire evacuation plan Briscola has in place, we wonder if DAP or Briscola Pty Ltd had pause for thought given the two fires in quick succession that put Darlington at risk this summer and necessitated residents choose to leave their homes, and the resulting difficulties in evacuation that residents experienced.

**Karen Gray**  
DRRA chair

**Hospital demolition by neglect**

**Dear Echo News,**  
Swan districts hospital - what a disgrace that a functioning hospital was closed, when everyone knows we need hospitals.

The money wasted on so called security should have been spent on refurbishment for use as aged care facility for the aging population of the Midland and surrounding Swan Valley area or even as a hospital.

I hear there is asbestos in the facility and maybe money wasted on security could have been spent on remediation - it would have gone a long way.

With all the staff, patients and visitors that have been through the facility is there any statistics on those that have acquired asbestos related diseases?

Probably more chance of contracting disease now due to the vandalism that has gone on there.

**B Bates**  
Millendon

**Rezone land back to rural**

**Dear Echo News,**

Thank you to the *Echo* for bringing hills residents up-to-date with the protracted saga of the Satterley Property Group/Anglican Diocese attempt to urbanise the Perth Hills – because we know that, given the church's landholdings across the hills, the proposed North Stoneville township, if approved, would mean the beginning of the end of the Perth Hills as we know them.

Your report *Satterley Nth Stoneville appeal reopening bid rejected* (*Echo News*, May 1) outlined the State Administrative Tribunal's rejection of Satterley's bid to reopen its North Stoneville appeal by proposing a township-wide strata arrangement restricting what could be planted across 534 hectares and 1001 lots.

Thank goodness SAT's Henry Jackson rightly acknowledged such a model as "unprecedented" and "extraordinary", thus injecting some much-needed sanity into a saga that has gone on for far too long.

You have to ask how many chances (and over how many years) does the WA Government allow a developer to propose/amend/delay/tweak/seek to reopen its appeal against a much-rejected structure plan?

How many more taxpayer dollars need to be sunk into reaching a determination on a proposal that goes against best-practice planning and has already been comprehensively rejected, multiple times, by the WA Planning Commission, Department

of Fire and Emergency Services, the Shire of Mundaring and the Perth Hills community.

Now is the time for the state government to do the right thing by the Perth Hills community and government agencies that have invested far too much time in opposing an unworkable, inappropriate proposal (six years in SAT, a decade in the Shire of Mundaring).

The state government needs to rezone this land back to rural residential – as requested by the Shire of Mundaring and Save Perth Hills.

In doing so, the land would align with surrounding properties and could be appropriately developed.

**T Wiltshire**  
Darlington

**Long live Harry Potter**

**Dear Echo News,**

I have enough negative views about this Jorgensen Park event, which commenced its life as a golf course.

Those of you who are against this event, do you realise how much harm you are inducing on our community, because your self-interests, no respect to fellow community members, and your refusal to go with the times.

Little do you care about our future viability and the opportunities for our youth to find local employment, and for business to prosper.

Due to state governments negative attitude on subdivision up here, how are we able to prosper with the prospect of limited realises of vacant land?

Tourism, it's that simple, and this is a golden opportunity to show case as to what we can offer.

Just imagine the tourist dollars that will be injected into our com-

munity and help support our struggling business (just look at all the vacant shops) but not just during this event. But people who have never come up here, may come up again to see our uniqueness: Stirk Park, our cafes and craft shops, not to mention our hiking trails though our wondrous forests.

We have so much to offer, we just need to be found out, and this is our time to rise and shine.

If you don't like all of this, Wundowie, is nice and secluded, I am sure you will be welcomed.

Long live Harry Potter, and may the force be with you.

**R Furfaro**  
Kalamunda

*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.*

**ECHO News**

Due to lack of space, the crossword will not be running in this week's edition. We apologise for any inconvenience. Please check our website for the crossword and last week's solution.

**ECHO News**

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Other contaminants such as glass and plastic has been found in the fill soil by residents.

## Asbestos find ignites new tension over Harry Potter experience trail

BRAYDEN MOULD

**THE discovery of hazardous asbestos in fill soil has become the latest flashpoint in the growing community opposition to the City of Kalamunda's decision to lease Jorgensen Park for a commercial Harry Potter experience trail.**

The presence of the material has raised urgent public safety concerns just weeks before the event's scheduled opening.

Kalamunda resident Toni Warden, who coordinated the collection and testing of the samples with other locals, said the physical evidence directly contradicts official assurances.

"Despite the city's claims that the fill soil is completely safe, the material is visibly contaminated with plastic, glass, metal and other debris," Ms Warden said.

"We found two pieces of what looked to be asbestos, one directly on the walking trail and another just outside the fencing, so we decided to seek a formal laboratory analysis," she said.

Laboratory results from Lifetree Environmental confirmed the presence of both Chrysotile and Amosite asbestos in the samples gathered.

"Jorgensen Park isn't a generic piece of land; it is a priority one catchment area that flows directly into the Helena River," Ms Warden said.

"It also houses 27 endangered species; the city's lack of urgency regarding these contamination risks is deeply concerning given the ecological sensitivity of the site."

Mayor Margaret Thomas defended the city's procurement process and maintained that the soil had been vetted by professionals.

"The material used onsite was sourced through normal industry channels from a reputable supplier and had undergone testing and acceptance processes prior to placement," she said.

"Following concerns raised by community members, additional investigations and testing were undertaken.

"Based on information currently available, the response from relevant authorities has been precautionary and proportionate, with no direction to cease works or remove material from site.

"The city continues to work with relevant authorities and independent specialists regarding the material and any required management actions."

Ms Warden expressed frustration that the city had questioned the validity of the findings without reviewing the documentation commissioned.

"I openly invited the city to make direct contact, I documented every detail, exactly where each sample was found, the specific dates and times of collection, and the names of the witnesses present, yet the city has made no effort to review this evidence."

"To date, no such engagement has occurred, despite the city questioning the provenance of the material."

The Harry Potter: A Forbidden Forest Experience is expected to open June 12 and run seven days a week.

## Hantavirus infected will quarantine in Bullsbrook



An aerial shot of the Bullsbrook quarantine facility. Picture: Multiplex

GUANHAO CHENG

**BULLSBROOK'S long inactive quarantine facility will soon be put to use for six passengers who were onboard the MV Hondius cruise ship during a hantavirus outbreak.**

As reported in *Labor's latest prison plan comes under fire* (Echo News, April 24), the \$400 million facility has idled since its completion in 2022 with latest plans looking to turn it to a prison.

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said on Tuesday although there were other facilities around the country, Perth was always going to be the first port of call for the returning flight for the passengers.

He said though there was a facility in Brisbane and Melbourne, whether future responses to infection cases will rely on Perth will depend on the most convenient place for people to enter Australia again.

"But Perth was always going to be

the first port of call, which is why as the national government... we took the view that it was a national responsibility to find a national solution to this challenge," he said.

"Western Australia or WA Health staff will not be involved in the care and support of these passengers while they are at Bullsbrook.

"Bullsbrook will be staffed in medical terms by staff from the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre.

"This is a federal centre... set up in 2002 in response to the Bali bombing tragedy.

"It has very high experience in dealing with infectious disease emergencies.

"Staff are in the process of being deployed from Darwin to look after the five Australians and the single New Zealander who will be at Bullsbrook over the course of (three weeks)."

Cont. p17.

## Hazelmere data centre decision due next week

GUANHAO CHENG

**THE City of Swan has released their Responsible Authority Report (RAR) recommending refusal of the proposed data centre, but residents say they are concerned approval may be given despite the recommendation.**

With the Metro Outer Development Assessment Panel (MODAP) decision to be made on Tuesday next week, residents said they were hoping for an assessment that seriously considered the locality of the proposal.

Swan residents Randal Swick and Lindsay Baxter drove around Perth to visit the various data centres that were already established.

"Standing there on the city street, you could definitely hear the vibrations, and this is only a part of the size of the one proposed for Hazelmere," Ms Baxter, a former state urban planner and data centre opponent, said.

"The community is gravely concerned about the data centre's approval and its proximity to the Helena River.

"We certainly think planning processes here need to catch up to the reality of these applications because as with the data centre being built in Northam, we also don't think a warehouse is an appropriate classification for a data centre.

"New South Wales has identified what these data centres are and have changed their definitions for it.



Hazelmere resident and mechanical engineer Randal Swick (left) says the city's report missed key planning points for why the proposal should be rejected. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

"Now we need to catch up."

Mr Swick, who is a mechanical engineer, said the City of Swan's opposition appeared to rest only on noise, rather than the broader planning issues of size, scale, amenity, fuel storage, power infrastructure, heat rejection, emissions, environmental impact and proximity to sensitive land uses.

Cont. p17.

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## Swan based youth music program nurturing new artists

GUANHAO CHENG

SWAN City Youth Service (SCYS) has established itself as a third place for many young people in Swan and beyond looking for a place to connect and find direction outside of home and school, and music has long been baked in as a method for self-discovery.

Most recently, the Strange Times project presented by Community Arts Network (CAN) in partnership with SCYS was able to help a group of emerging music makers star in their own music video.

Using music tracks that they wrote and recorded with SCYS music program facilitator Te Hiiritanga Wepiha, also known as Rush, the young emerging artists attended workshops with Sydney-based filmmaker Johnathon Karalis, also known as Johnny Yayo, to learn how to create and edit a music video of themselves performing their track.

Mr Wepiha has been a mentor inside the state's Unit 18 youth detention centre, helping young people in Banksia Hill Detention Centre find a way to use music as therapy and now leads the music program at SCYS.

These young artists, many of whom normally face barriers to accessing arts programs, learned how to capture footage using the cameras on their own smart phones with gorilla grip tripods, and skills such as storyboarding their ideas for their music video, different camera techniques and shots, creative direction and performance in front of the camera.

The young creatives also had the opportunity to record their performance with Mr Karalis as their cinematographer.

The footage they shot themselves



Filmmaker Johnathon Karalis (front) with participants Kalia Atawhai, Rafferty Bacon, Jackson Brown, Jentzen Mastingly and Robbie Cameron. Picture: Halim Mellick

was then used for their B-roll, a second story that is woven between the performance shots to create thematic layers within the clip.

With their footage recorded, the group moved onto the next phase of the project which was editing.

Assisted by local photographer and filmmaker Halim Mellick, participants learnt to use a free version of DaVinci Resolve, which is a professional video editing software.

The young artists then worked with videographer Peter Cheng, to create the final cut of their music video.

Swan graphic artist and business owner Adam Sugiarto and CAN Marketing Manager Rebecca Lyon Augustus then helped guide the participants through

design and branding workshops.

The resulting music videos offer a window into the lives of the young creators.

Layered montages range from dark and gritty to sunny and gentle, complementing songs that are densely packed with poetry and beats.

"It's been inspiring," project participant Jackson Brown said.

"We're just having, like, the time of our lives, trying to portray something."

Strange Times was presented in partnership with SCYS and supported by the Creativity and Wellbeing for Young People Pilot Program, a joint initiative by the WA Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport and Health-way.

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SES volunteers hard at work in the hills area.

## WOW day celebrates work of SES volunteers

THE annual Wear Orange Wednesday (WOW) day will be held on Wednesday, May 20 to acknowledge and thank State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers around the state.

To celebrate the day buildings and art displays across WA will light up orange and the public are encouraged to wear a splash of orange to acknowledge SES volunteers.

Mundaring SES local manager Rod Potter said WOW day was celebrated at different eastern metropolitan units each year and would be at the Bayswater SES unit this year.

"Mundaring SES was the first unit to initiate this round-robin WOW day," Mr Potter said.

"WOW day is a great way to highlight the need for support in our communities.

"It also helps local volunteers understand the hills environment and the challenges we face in terms of fires, local flooding, storms and searches."

Mr Potter encouraged people to prepare for

storms and flooding as winter approached.

"Keep gutters clean, keep trees away from homes, check for leaking roofs and make sure your insurance is up to date," he said.

"We were very busy at the beginning of the year with the storms that came through.

"Mundaring SES volunteers also provide logistical support during bushfires, repair homes which suffer major storm damage and assist authorities with missing person searches."

Shire of Mundaring president Paige McNeil said SES volunteers were at the heart of emergency preparedness and response.

"The Shire of Mundaring is proud of the dedication and commitment shown by our SES volunteers," Mrs Paige said.

"WOW Day is an important opportunity to acknowledge the contribution they make across the Perth Hills."

For more information go to: [www.mundaring.org.au](http://www.mundaring.org.au)

# Feral fox activity in Kalamunda

GUANHAO CHENG

**AN increase in feral fox activity in the City of Kalamunda has prompted the city to co-ordinate a targeted control program with a state agency.**

The program is being run with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) to protect the area's biodiversity including several priority native species vulnerable to predation.

Suburbs subject to work in the program are Gooseberry Hill, Lesmurdie, Pickering Brook and Forrestfield.

These operations will occur within DBCA managed lands including Railway Heritage Trail Reserve, Gooseberry Hill National Park, Gooseberry Hill Recreation Park, Pomeroy Road Reserve, Valencia Road Reserve and Pioneer Park.

The department has engaged a licensed pest management contractor to undertake all control activities.

City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas said foxes were an established declared pest whose negative impacts include predation on iconic native species or spreading diseases like parvo virus and mange.

"An annual fox control program aims to reduce fox numbers when seasonally appropriate to reduce these negative impacts," she said.

"Running this program now gives us the best chance to protect those native species before the impact becomes more serious.

"This kind of targeted, preventative control is an important part of looking after our natural areas."

The program commenced in mid-April and will continue based on monitoring results and seasonal conditions.

Ms Thomas said success of the program will be measured by a reduction in fox activity and follow-up checks conducted by DBCA.

"As with fox control programs conducted in previous years, safety is a top priority," she said.

"All activities will take place on DBCA-man-



**Feral foxes pose a risk to native species in the Perth Hills by carrying diseases and through predation.**

aged land and the work will be carried out by a fully licensed contractor under strict controls.

"We'll continue to keep the community informed and make sure there's always a City of Kalamunda contact available while the program is underway."

A DBCA spokesperson said the department's main involvement with the City of Kalamunda's fox control program is authorising the fox trap and shoot program on DBCA-managed land.

"DBCA works with local governments to provide advice on feral animal control and, where possible, aligns its own operations with those undertaken by local governments to maximise effectiveness," they said.

"This coordinated approach allows collaborative and effective management across bushland reserves."

For more information visit [www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au](http://www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au) or phone the City of Kalamunda on 9257 9999 or email [enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au)



**Controlled burning in the City of Swan.**

## Swan volunteer bushfire brigades undertake largest managed burn

**SWAN volunteer bushfire brigades last week conducted the largest hazard reduction burn ever undertaken by the City of Swan's bushfire services.**

The strategic tenure blind burn in the Avon Valley, encompassed approximately 350 hectares across multiple land tenures, including Australian Wildlife Conservancy's Paruna Wildlife Sanctuary, private landholdings, and City of Swan land.

A tenure blind burn is where a burn is planned and carried out based on landscape risk and fuel loads, rather than the ownership (tenure) of the land.

It treats public land - for example, national parks - as private property and council land as a single, cohesive area to maximise bushfire protection for communities and infrastructure.

The concept was a key recommendation of the 2011 Perth Hills Bushfires Inquiry.

City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richard-

son said the burn was of high strategic value, not just to the city but also to the state.

"Conducting the hazard reduction burn across multiple tenure as a single, cohesive area maximises the strategic protection for communities, environment and infrastructure," she said.

"The east-west rail corridor traverses through the Avon Valley. It is the sole rail line connecting Western Australia with the eastern states and significant amounts of food and materials are transported through the corridor into WA each day.

"Extended disruption to the east-west rail corridor could quickly cause statewide and national logistical challenges.

"The burn will also protect pristine Avon Valley ecosystems by reducing the risk for large devastating landscape fires.

"Taking risk-reduction action now to protect these vital assets is a priority for the City of Swan."

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Wattle Grove community dog park has won the Metropolitan and Peel category at the 2026 WA placemaking awards. Picture: Daniel Holmes

## Wattle Grove Dog Park recognised with award

DANIEL HOLMES

THE City of Kalamunda has been recognised at the state government's 2026 placemaking awards, winning the metropolitan and Peel category for the Wattle Grove community dog park.

The award was announced as part of the Local Government Place Innovation awards, with the City of Kalamunda selected as one of three winners from 15 applications across the state.

"The Wattle Grove community dog park was recognised for its community-led design and focus on accessibility, creating a space aimed at encouraging social connection between residents and their pets," a City of Kalamunda spokesperson said.

The project was shaped through consultation with local residents and dog owners, helping deliver a park tailored to the needs of the community.

Features of the park include separate fenced areas for large and small dogs, agility and play equipment, shaded seating, water stations and open green space designed to support recreation and community interaction.

The state government said the awards recognised innovative placemaking projects that improve public spaces and strengthen community wellbeing across Western Australia.

The city spokesperson said the award reflected the strong community input behind the project and highlighted the importance of creating welcoming and inclusive public spaces for residents.

Other winners included the Shire of Dardanup for the Eaton foreshore precinct in the regional category and the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley for the Kununurra town centre revitalisation project in the remote category.

The WA placemaking initiative celebrates projects that enhance local identity, liveability and community connection across the state.

## Eastern Hills girl supports 65 Roses Day fundraiser

DANIEL HOLMES

PERTH Hills nine-year-old Norah Bashford is helping raise awareness for cystic fibrosis (CF) ahead of this year's 65 Roses Day fundraiser.

Norah, who lives with cystic fibrosis, will join her family in selling around 300 roses as part of the annual fundraiser supporting Cystic Fibrosis WA.

Her mother Nyssa Woodward said Norah and her twin brother Cole would sell roses at Norah's local school on May 28, while family members would also help distribute roses through workplaces including Australia Post.

More than 400 West Australians live with cystic fibrosis, a genetic condition that mainly affects the lungs and digestive system.

Nyssa said Norah's health had improved significantly in recent months after a difficult period where her lung function had declined.

"We just had a review and it has been the best her lung function has been for a long time," she said.

"Swimming lessons and physical activity have really helped pick her back up."

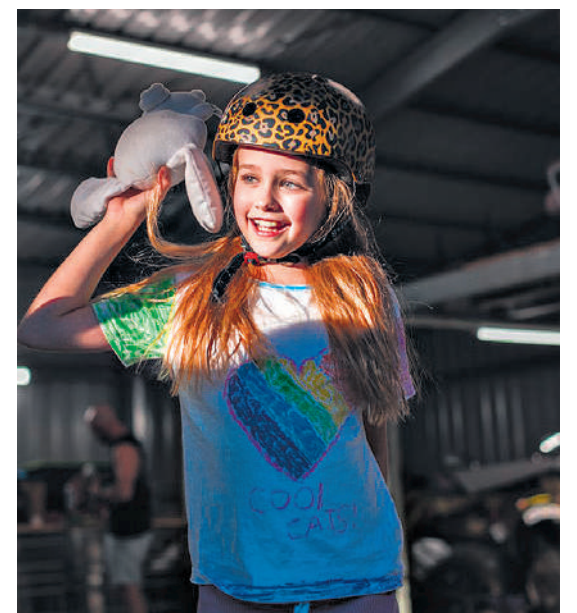
Nyssa said Norah was currently taking modulator therapy drug Trikafta and was expected to begin transitioning to a newer treatment, Alyftrek, in coming weeks.

Despite the improvements, managing CF remains a daily challenge.

Norah completes physiotherapy sessions morning and night, uses a nebuliser daily and takes around 30 tablets each day, including vitamins, salt tablets and medication to aid digestion.

Nyssa said Norah had become increasingly confident managing the condition herself.

"She can have sleepovers now and she is quite



Perth Hills nine-year-old Norah Bashford is helping raise awareness for cystic fibrosis ahead of 65 Roses Day. Picture: Supplied

proud of showing her friends how easily she can take all her medications," she said.

This year marks the 18th annual 65 Roses Day fundraiser in WA, with organisers hoping to sell 28,000 roses across the state.

Cystic Fibrosis WA chief executive Lisa Bayakly said advances in treatment had transformed the outlook for many people living with CF.

Cont. p17.

# Lloyd Street bridge delays continue amidst concerns

DANIEL HOLMES

CONCERNS over delays to the long-planned Lloyd Street bridge and extension project are continuing to frustrate residents and businesses, with the state government confirming heritage and environmental issues are still preventing the project from moving forward.

The Lloyd Street bridge over the Helena River was placed on hold in 2022 following concerns raised by traditional owners and local environmental groups about the project's impact on heritage sites and the surrounding environment.

A Main Roads WA spokesperson said the state government was continuing to work with traditional owners, environmental groups and the City of Swan on the bridge design.

"This engagement is ongoing and we recognise the importance of the bridge to the broader community and are seeking to move the project forward as soon as practicably possible," the spokesperson said.

The Lloyd Street extension is considered a key part of broader road upgrades in the area, with the proposed Roe Highway and Great Eastern Highway bypass interchange unable to proceed until the Lloyd Street connection is completed.



Barriers remain in place at the proposed Lloyd Street bridge extension site. Picture: Daniel Holmes

Main Roads said the Lloyd Street connection to Great Eastern Highway bypass and Abernethy Road must be operational before substantive work on the Roe Highway interchange can begin.

Local businesses and residents have continued to raise concerns about the lack of progress and growing traffic pressure in Midland and surrounding areas.

In correspondence provided to *Echo News*, Kalamunda MLA Adam Hort said the project had been tied up in extended heritage and environmental assessment processes for several years.

Mr Hort said consultation on the project was ongoing and there was currently no firm timeline for construction to proceed.

"It has also been in planning since at least 2021, and it is clear that planning now needs to translate into delivery," he said.

"Heritage engagement is important, but it cannot become an open-ended process. The community deserves certainty."

A Main Roads spokesperson said specific delivery timeframes would only be considered once heritage and environmental concerns were resolved.

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Members of the Midland Infrastructure, Planning and Transport Working Group.



## Midland cross-agency working group to address long-standing congestion

A CROSS agency working group, established late last year, will coordinate planning, transport and infrastructure delivery in Midland and surrounds.

The group is progressing work to address long standing congestion and safety pressures in one of WA's fastest growing strategic centres.

Convened by Midland MLA Steve Catania, the Midland Infrastructure, Planning and Transport Working Group brings together key stakeholders, including the City of Swan, Main Roads WA, Public Transport Authority, DevelopmentWA and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to align priorities, sequencing, and technical work.

The group has met regularly to focus on key road and rail constraints, project dependencies, short and long-term safety measures, and the data required to support an accelerated review of the Midland Activity Centre Structure Plan (MACP).

The coordinated approach is already informing work on critical hot-spots, including safety at Great Eastern Highway and Lloyd Street, progression of the Victoria and Cale Street black spot safety treatments, and sequencing implications associated with the Lloyd Street Bridge, Great Eastern Highway bypass and surrounding city road network upgrades.

It also includes the integration of rail, bus,

walking and cycling nodes and networks and updated traffic modelling and technical studies to underpin the MACP review.

The City of Swan has commenced technical studies as part of the accelerated structure plan review, including economic, infrastructure servicing, transport, and heritage assessments.

These studies will guide land use, transport and infrastructure decisions to ensure that growth is managed in an evidence based way.

The working group will provide a new single forum for agencies to identify risks early, clarify funded and unfunded components, and align delivery timeframes to reduce unnecessary disruption for the community.

Midland MLA Steve Catania said Midland was growing quickly, and the challenges it faces can't be solved by agencies working in isolation.

"One of my top priorities as the Member for Midland, dictated by feedback from the community, has been to work closely with stakeholders on improving our transport infrastructure," Mr Catania said.

"By aligning priorities across agencies going forward, we can improve traffic flow, enhance safety and reduce disruption for our community.

"There is more work ahead, and I remain committed to ensuring Midland grows in a way that is safe, accessible, and well-planned," he said.

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# Polly needs a permit!



Parrots and cockatoos make captivating pets, but their ownership comes with serious responsibilities. Left to right: Sulphur-crested cockatoos, Alexandrine parakeet and Indian Ringneck parakeets.

Colourful, cheeky and engaging, it's easy to see why bird lovers are drawn to keeping parrots and cockatoos as pets. Many Western Australians are unaware, that a number of these birds are declared pests under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act), meaning their uncontrolled presence in the wild can cause significant agricultural, economic, and environmental damage. For this reason, keeping exotic birds as pets is strictly regulated in WA. Owners must obtain the appropriate permits and meet mandatory enclosure requirements.

## Obtaining a permit

From December 2025, the administration of restricted keeping permits for regulated birds transferred from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). All permit applications are now handled by DPIRD's Invasive Species and Environment Biosecurity Permit and Compliance Team. Current permits are valid until their stated expiry date. When it is time to renew, or for new applications, the process has been updated:

- Permit duration has increased to 5 years.
- Application fee is \$76.67 (cost recovery basis).
- Inspections may be required for new or renewal applications at \$72.68 (cost recovery basis).

Be aware! Regulated birds imported or travelling with you into WA also need an import permit to enter. Visit the DPIRD website ([dpiird.wa.gov.au](http://dpiird.wa.gov.au)) for more information, or Google: 'DPIRD Invasive species permits'. To contact the Permits team directly: [RKApplications@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:RKApplications@dpiird.wa.gov.au) or **08 9368 3393**.

## A serious matter

Despite mandatory double-door entry systems and secure enclosure requirements, escapes do happen. Deliberate releases, although illegal, occur too. Even a small number of escaped birds can mark the beginning of a much larger problem. Parrots and cockatoos are intelligent, adaptable, and capable of establishing feral populations surprisingly quickly, as the unfortunate history of the rainbow lorikeet in Perth has demonstrated.

If you see an escaped pet bird or birds that look out of place, record the location, time, and a description of the bird (or take a photo if possible) and report it to the MyPestGuide team OR, PaDIS. See footer for details.



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# State Budget 2026-27



## Budget allocates \$61m to Toodyay Road upgrades

**THE state Budget includes \$61 million to complete upgrades to Toodyay Road and a further \$2m towards planning and pre-construction activities to improve access to Swan Christian College on Great Northern Highway.**

A joint \$1.1 billion investment by the Albanese and Cook Labor governments will also deliver critical upgrades to Anketell Road between Leath and Abercrombie Roads.

The transformational road upgrades will improve freight efficiency and safety for all road users, as well as support the construction and future operation of the new Westport container terminal and productivity across the wider Western Trade Coast.

The Budget will improve the state's road network with \$3.6b committed for regional roads over the next four years.

The 2026-27 state Budget includes investment to progress a range of critical road projects across WA, including, \$127.4m to replace priority timber bridges across regional WA, a \$113.5m boost for the Main Roads maintenance program, and \$7.5m towards the safer local roads and infrastructure program for new and expanded heavy vehicle rest areas.

The government is also continuing its investment in WA's world-class public transport network, so it remains affordable and accessible right across the State.

The Budget includes \$139m for public transport infrastructure, including \$68m for further upgrades to electric bus depots to support the state's growing fleet, and \$3m to undertake project definition for upgrades to support improved connectivity and access at McIver Station and the Royal Perth Hospital precinct.

## Budget boost for Wheatbelt region

**THE Wheatbelt region will benefit from the 2026-27 state Budget through initiatives to help unlock and deliver more land supply, build thousands of homes, and help first home buyers get into the market.**

This will include \$1.6 billion for the construction and refurbishment of more than 1800 social and affordable dwellings, 500 homes for first home buyers, land acquisition, and maintenance and participation in the Commonwealth's 100,000 Homes for First Home Buyers program, supporting the delivery of 11,000 dwellings over eight years reserved exclusively for first home buyers.

There will also be a \$50 million top-up to the Regional Housing Support Fund, increasing the fund's value to \$75m.

Other initiatives include \$2 million to support ongoing negotiations and due diligence on the state's freight rail buyback proposal, more funding for lower fee and free fee TAFE in Northam, \$33.1m contribution to the nationally co-ordinated fuel excise relief program, and a further \$4.5m for the deferral of heavy vehicle fee increases, supporting industry in the Wheatbelt, \$18m to deliver

Aboriginal tourism initiatives and \$1.4m to deliver a second round of the small business growth grants.

A number of investments include \$294m additional investment in regional health infrastructure, \$214m for an uplift to WA Health's state-wide maintenance programs including \$143m for additional investment in medical equipment and imaging replacement, \$68.6m for the WA Country Health Service to maintain regional palliative care, renal care, cancer and eye services, and continued support programs.

Quality infrastructure and services will also be supported through the Budget with \$61m to be invested in upgrades to Toodyay Road and a number of timber bridges to be replaced as part of the \$127.4m regional bridge replacement program.

The Budget has also allocated \$61.4m to continue the Target 120 early intervention program for young people coming into repeated contact with WA Police, including Northam, \$52.9m to establish a regional water source fund and \$24.7m to continue biosecurity and animal disease preparedness activities.

## Extra \$4.7b boost to housing

**HOUSING is a key priority in this year's state Budget, with a focus on boosting supply, helping young people and families purchase their first home and alleviating pressures in the rental market.**

The Budget delivers an additional \$4.7b billion investment in housing with residential land supply being boosted with \$1.3b in land development and power, water, and other enabling infrastructure.

This includes \$694 million for DevelopmentWA to develop residential land to create thousands of new lots across the state and activate Metronet station precincts including Midland, Ellenbrook, Woodbridge and Bassendean, along with \$522m for power and water infrastructure to unlock 83,200 lots as part of the Housing Enabling Infrastructure Fund.

The Woodbridge build-to-rent development, located close to the new Midland Station, will deliver 56 one and two-bedroom apartments of

which 44 will be affordable and 12 will be social homes.

The Budget continues significant investment in social and affordable housing with an additional \$1.5b, including more than \$1b of new investment under the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) partnership between the state and federal governments to deliver an additional 1426 social and affordable homes and \$452m to deliver a further 165 social housing dwellings, refurbish 215 houses, support land acquisitions, and undertake maintenance for WA's 45,000 social homes.

The government is funding targeted initiatives and tax relief to help more first home buyers get into the market, including \$375m to deliver 500 affordable dwellings to be targeted specifically to first home buyers with a shared equity component, and a \$250m pre-sale guarantee to unlock more than 1000 new apartments and townhouses through Keystart.

## Cost-of-living relief to families

**THE state Budget will deliver more than \$1 billion in cost-of-living support for WA families this year, including a new \$100 fuel support payment to assist drivers with the rise in fuel costs.**

The package will see families with two children receive more than \$2100 a year, and up to \$3600 for families with two children in concessions in total assistance.

The Budget will deliver real relief to those who need it most and will include assistance for families, commuters, renters, carers, regional

communities, and vulnerable Western Australians.

The Budget includes \$124 million to continue low-fee and fee-free TAFE in 2027, \$51.6m for the passenger transport subsidy scheme, \$51m for energy bill relief measures, \$33.7m to make free Sunday travel permanent across the public transport network, \$36.4m to continue free public transport for school students, half price Transwa fares, \$5.5m to extend the \$300 KidSport vouchers and \$1.5m for the low-income pet sterilisation program.



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# Get ready for the annual Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day



The Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day is back and will once again provide a great program of entertainment, education and enchantment at the Gidgegannup Showgrounds on Sunday, May 24 from 9am to 4pm.

The Field Day is a vibrant annual event that celebrates and promotes the rural industry in the Perth Hills bringing together farmers, producers, and the local community.

The day offers a rich program of engaging and educational talks and demonstrations, with this year's theme, 'Paddock to Plate' highlighting the journey of food from farm to table, showcasing sustainable practices, local produce, and the people behind it all.

Families are at the heart of the event, with a wide range of free, hands-on activities designed especially for young people.

Kids can explore the Bendigo Bank Discovery Trail, enjoy live shows, try potting plants, learn how to make worm farms, and get creative with free craft activities.

There's also free face painting, a Punch and Judy show, performances by the Wadumbah Dancers and Mad Tatters Morris Dancers, and plenty of friendly animals to meet, touch, and learn about - making it a fun, interactive, and educational experience for all ages.

Adding to the excitement, the event

features the Honey Festival and the Alpaca Expo, offering unique opportunities to learn more about these fascinating industries.

The WA Mounted Games will run throughout the day in the arena, providing fast-paced, action-packed entertainment for visitors.

The Slow Food movement will also be part of the event, creating delicious dishes from locally sourced produce and hosting inspiring talks on how families can embrace a slower, more mindful approach to food.

There will be a wide variety of stalls to explore, ranging from tractors and farming equipment to local wine and gin makers.

With plenty of delicious food and entertainment on offer, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Visitors can also learn how to create food-friendly gardens and discover new ways to cook and enjoy fresh, locally grown produce.

Entry fee \$15 per adult, 16 yrs and under free, with free parking and entertainment. Pay at the gate or online.

Check the programme out at [www.gidgegannup.info](http://www.gidgegannup.info)

Online tickets are available from Megatix <https://megatix.com.au/events/gidgegannup-small-farm-field-day?source=home>

We look forward to seeing you there!

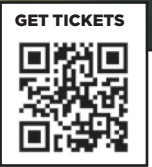


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# ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

## Re/place to examine navigation of new territory



Artists Diane Keating and Nadia Rasheed are now exhibiting works at the Zig Zag Gallery exploring the navigation of new territories. Pictures: Zig Zag Gallery

**THE Zig Zag Gallery in Kalamunda is exploring how physical and emotional journeys reshape artistic identity through its Re/place exhibition.**

Artists Nadia Rasheed and Diane Keating are featuring their artworks exploring ideas of transformative journeys through multiple media such as printmaking and ceramics.

Ms Rasheed's work has in the past explored humanity and her place in Australia as a first-generation Australian with a Palestinian-German background.

She probes the meaning behind the pain through her printmaking and painting and has held past exhibitions that inspected the heartbreak and inter-generational trauma inflicted by war.

Symbolism guides her work which features a multimedia approach merging printmaking concepts and design

with brush techniques and paint.

Ravens often feature as a motif across her works as she builds a world illustrating her inner cosmology and the ideas of travel and what it means to be displaced.

Ms Keating has also featured birds as a prominent subject in her works with pieces such as 'Flyaway' which is displayed in the City of Melville.

Ms Keating is a textile artist and designer, born and raised in Cork, and a graduate of CIT Crawford College of Art and Design.

She aims for her work to elicit emotions across the spectrum, looking to delight, confuse, excite, attract and overwhelm in equal measure.

Her previous exhibition titled Host featured 50 facemasks, made from digitally printed fabric and a thermochromic pigmented material panel.

The heat from breathing with the facemask on would then change what the artwork looks like, highlighting the connection between bodies and textiles.

Both artists have an interest in exploring change within the context of human experience and have produced art that commented on humanitarian crises.

The exhibition held its opening night on May 8 and their works will be available at the Zig Zag Gallery until May 31.

The Zig Zag Gallery is located in the Zig Zag Cultural Centre at 50 Railway Road, Kalamunda.

The gallery opens at 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday and from 10am to 4pm on weekends.

For more information, call 9257 9998 or email [zzgallery@kalamunda.wa.gov.au](mailto:zzgallery@kalamunda.wa.gov.au)

## Hills Choir celebrates 40 years of music in the Perth Hills

DANIEL HOLMES

**THE Hills Choir is celebrating 40 years of music and community in the Perth Hills, with two special events planned to mark the milestone anniversary.**

Founded in 1986 with just six women rehearsing in a private home in Mundaring, the choir has grown into a long-running community group made up of singers aged from 16 to 92.

Choir president Jon Hope said the anniversary celebrations would reflect both the history of the choir and its connection to the hills community over the past four decades.

The celebrations will begin with a short documentary screening on Saturday, May 16 at the Uniting Church in Mundaring, featuring live performances from choir members and guest artists.

The choir will then hold its 40th anniversary concert on Sunday, June 14 at the Eastern Hills Senior High School auditorium in Mt Helena.

Under the direction of musical director Storme Reeves and past conductors, the concert will feature a mix of sacred, secular and modern choral music alongside guest performers.

The choir said it had performed at countless community events, festivals and concerts across the hills since its first public performance at a Maundy Thursday service in the Mundaring Shire Council Chambers.

Over the years rehearsals have been held at venues including Mundaring Primary School and the Mundaring Uniting Church, where the choir still rehearses today.

While originally formed as a small women's choir, the group has evolved into a mixed community choir singing four-part har-



The Hills Choir is celebrating 40 years of music in the Perth Hills with a documentary screening and anniversary concert. Picture: Supplied

mony across a broad repertoire.

The Hills Choir also acknowledged the continued support of the Shire of Mundaring, the Bendigo Community Bank Mundaring and local community organisations.

Tickets for the anniversary concert are available online at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1565226>

More information about the choir and anniversary events can be found through the Hills Choir website <http://hillschoir.org.au/>

## ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

### Your local Gig Guide

#### Fri May 15

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

**Woodbridge Hotel**  
Blue City Wailers  
From 8pm, Free  
50 East St, Guildford

**Parkerville Tavern**  
Stewart Herbertson  
From 5.30pm, Free  
6 Owen Road  
Parkerville

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

**Lyric's Bar**  
Jacobin Ceasar Band  
From 7.30pm, Free  
22 Lyric Lane  
Maylands

#### Sat May 16

**Settlers House York**  
John Sloper  
12pm-3pm, Free  
125 Avon Terrace, York

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

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

#### Sun May 17

**Woodbridge Hotel**  
Cillian Geaney  
From 3pm, Free  
50 East St, Guildford

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

#### Sun May 17 Cont.

**Chidlow Tavern**  
The Lowdown  
12.30pm-3.30pm, Free  
4 Thomas St Chidlow

**Mahogany Inn & Distillery**  
Robert Hinton  
4pm-7pm, Free  
4260 Great Eastern Hwy  
Mahogany Creek

#### Tues May 19

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

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

#### Wed May 20

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

**Mahogany Inn & Distillery**  
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**ECHO** NEWS

ADVERTISING FEATURE

# Support Local

## Swan District Rotary Club renews call for members

**THE Rotary Club of Swan Districts Inc, which was established in June 1949, is still looking for more members to continue its efforts to support hundreds of charitable organisations, both locally, Australia wide and overseas.**

With dwindling membership, the club desperately needs more members and support and is offering free membership for a year and also encourages the involvement of wives and partners of Rotary members, also known as Rotaryannes.

Without an increase in members many charities that benefit from club fundraising activities will no longer be supported.

The list of charities it has supported over the years is long and worthy, and some of these include \$3000 per year to Australian Rotary Health, \$2000 per year to the Rotary Foundation, ongoing sponsorship for participants to the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) and training program and the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) which is a weekend leadership camp for kids aged 14-17.

They also donated about \$50,000 of medical equipment to Swan Districts Hospital and more than \$115,000 since 2023 to the Rotary International Foundation to aid in the fight against Polio, along with donations towards burn victims from Indonesia treated at Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH).

The club also provides on-going sponsorship for participants to the National Science Summer School and for young people to attend the Rotary Handicamp at Point Walter, and monetary support for

students to attend yearly National Youth Science Forum at ANU in Canberra.

Midland youth are also beneficiaries with continuing support for the Midland Youth Complex and support for the Swan City Youth Centre.

Local community groups also benefit from loans of the Rotary BBQ Trailer, and the club supports emergency aqua boxes and the supply of shade sails for the Mental Health section of Swan Districts Hospital.

The club has also donated bicycles to Cambodian school children to enable them to access school, supported Japanese exchange students, sponsored the education of two underprivileged Indonesian children, provided a gopher scooter to a severely handicapped person and two horizontal wheelchairs for children to PMH along with donations to aid the establishment of the School of Medicine at UWA.

Swan Districts Rotary Club has supplied a food distribution trailer to Food Bank and continues to support the Red Cross, Salvation Army, TAFE, and the Livingstone Foundation.

They assist with furniture at the Parkerville Children's Home, Paint your Heart

**We need your support**



Out which helps to paint the homes of pensioners and has helped to establish the Swan Frail Aged Homes in Morrison Road, the Midland Red Cross Collection Centre at Centrepoint Midland and the Midland Senior Citizens Centre.

The also provide outings in Midland at the Perth Zoo for children from Parkerville Children's Home and a Christmas party for children from The Blind School Maylands.

Other groups to have benefitted are Gerard Neesham's Clontarf Football Academy for Aboriginal Youth with the donation of computer equipment, Darlington Skateboard Complex, sporting equipment to the Midvale Junior Football Club after a fire.

Local schools have also benefited including \$4000 annually to Sports Challenge Australia for Guildford Primary School, a garden project, as well as other items and awards.

Without more members all these groups will miss out.

So, if you want to get involved see the Swan Districts Rotary Club Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/swan.districts.7> or contact President Adrian Clement on 0400 223 290 or email: [clement@westrac.com.au](mailto:clement@westrac.com.au)

## Zigi PM: One visit. Fewer problems

**Zigi Property Maintenance provides professional and reliable property maintenance services for homes, rental properties, rural properties and real estate agencies throughout Mooliabeenee and surrounding areas within an 80km radius.**

We specialise in gutter cleaning, pressure cleaning, garden and outdoor work, solar panel cleaning, property resets, rubbish removal and general property maintenance. Our goal is to provide high-quality services that help keep properties clean, well-maintained and professionally presented throughout the year.

As a local family-operated business, we focus on honest communication, reliability, attention to detail and professional workmanship. Whether it is a one-off service or ongoing property support, we work closely with homeowners, landlords and real estate agencies to deliver practical and effective solutions tailored to each property's needs.

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PROFESSIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE SERVICES WITHIN AN 80KM RADIUS OF MOOLIABEENE.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

# Support Local

## Guildford Medieval Fayre

Sunday, May 17th 10am-4pm

Lilac Hill Park, West Swan Road, Caversham

Following last year's success, the event has outgrown its previous location at Stirling Square. Relocating to Lilac Hill Park, just five minutes away, provides a fantastic new venue, allowing organisers to offer you even more to see, do, and explore.

Expect a vibrant atmosphere inspired by the creativity and community spirit of the Medieval era. Whether you're a history enthusiast or curious about past eras, there is something for everyone.

Discover a vibrant world where knights, minstrels, merchants, and creators come alive, inviting you to experience adventures and creativity.

- Knights in Combat – Knights in shiny armour showcase their skill, strength, and Medieval chivalry.
- Live music, dance and wandering minstrels.
- Crafts, hobbies, and trades – demos throughout the day.
- Hands-on activities for all ages and abilities.
- 130+ Market Stalls.



Dogs ON LEASHES WELCOME!

- Discover Medieval-inspired and handcrafted artisan wares from local artisans and creators.
- Enjoy fabulous food and lively medieval music and dance performances.

### Getting to and from the event

#### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Make use of public transport. Catch the train to Guildford. Shuttle Service to and from the venue.

- Taylor Park (parking available), West Swan Road, Caversham to Lilac Hill Park.
- Guildford Train Station to Lilac Hill Park.
- Lilac Hill is within a short walk of the train station and Kings Meadows Polo Grounds.

It's also only a 7 minute Cycle to Lilac Hill via the Cycle Path.

#### PARKING

Plan ahead of time. Restricted access to Barkers Bridge, Guildford, during the event; delays expected. Drivers are encouraged to allow extra travel time and use alternative routes

- Kings Meadows Polo Grounds, Helena Street, Guildford.
- Lilac Hill Park, Taylah Reserve, West Swan Road.

For more details visit [www.facebook.com/share/1BBNHuLBxV](http://www.facebook.com/share/1BBNHuLBxV)

## Guildford Medieval Fayre

Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup> 10am - 4pm

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## 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.

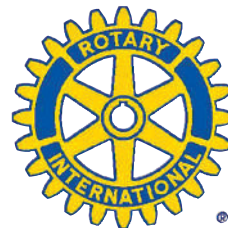
To find out more, no obligation of any description, the readers of *Echo News* are invited to come along to our meeting and see for yourselves what Rotary International Worldwide is all about.

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](mailto:adrian.clement@westrac.com.au)

We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

# Support Local

## Dust Off Your Boots for the Swan Valley Show



**Famed for its rolling vineyards, award winning wines, and scenic landscapes that hug the winding banks of the Swan River – the Swan Valley has it all.**

To celebrate the Valley's rural roots, the City of Swan is proud to add a new community event to the calendar – the Swan Valley Show.

On Saturday, May 23, 2026, the WA State Equestrian Centre in Brigadoon will be transformed into a bustling country hub, filled with experiences the whole family will love. With free entry and a packed program of live entertainment across the day, there's plenty of reasons to dust off your boots and swing on by.

"The show is going to be a fantastic opportunity to showcase what the Swan Valley offers for residents and visitors alike," said City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson.

"We're looking forward to celebrating everything that makes the Swan Valley special. That includes everything from world-class local wines and delicious produce, to unique tourism experiences for all the family," she said.

Visitors can expect a full line-up of first-class live entertainment across the day, with the show running from 11am to 6pm. Acts include tributes to country superstars Luke Combs, Morgan Wallen, Dolly Parton – and Perth's own country-loving icon, Emily Joy.

Thrill-seekers will love the Hardwired motorbike stunts and the monster truck rides taking place throughout the day. Try your hand at line dancing with Boots 'n' Boot Slappin, who are hosting a class and a demonstration.

Visitors can watch gravity-defying showjumping

championships, while fans of rural skills can see timber come to life with woodcarving demonstrations. There's plenty more action to experience with amusement rides, show bags and farm animals to cuddle up with.

Sample some of the Swan Valley's finest drops and take home an array of gourmet treats from local producers or browse the market stalls for a one-of-a-kind find. Footy fans aren't forgotten – watch the West Coast Eagles game on the big screen with a licensed bar area and food trucks catering for all appetites.

This vibrant country event will reimagine the classic agricultural experience in spectacular style with a unique twist that only the Swan Valley can provide.

"We're incredibly proud to be bringing the Swan Valley Show to life," said Mayor Richardson.

Visit [swanvalley.com.au/show](http://swanvalley.com.au/show) for more information.

# SWAN VALLEY Show

## SATURDAY, MAY 23 2026, 11AM-6PM

### WA State Equestrian Centre, Cathedral Ave, Brigadoon

FREE FAMILY EVENT



For more information visit [swanvalley.com.au/show](http://swanvalley.com.au/show)

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

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General Manager / Editor Peter Lewis  
 E: peter.lewis@echo-news.com

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## Public Notice

The Annual General Meeting for Kalamunda Rangers Inc will be held on Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 7:30pm at the Maida Vale Netball Court clubrooms.

## Regrouting

Bathroom Regrouting. Call Andrew 0413 158 763.

## Roofing

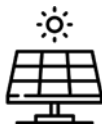
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## Roof Repairs

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## Solar Services

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## Wanted to Buy

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

## Window Cleaning

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



# Hantavirus infected will quarantine in Bullsbrook

From p3.

Bullsbrook resident and community group administrator Colin Butland said there was a lot of discussion in the community about the Bullsbrook quarantine facility once news of the plans for quarantine broke.

"Let's remember something important, this facility was built for quarantine purposes," he said.

"Whether people agree with it or not, that is its role.

"I know there's fear, frustration, anger, and a lot of memories from the COVID years being brought back up.

"I understand that, but panic and division won't help our community.

"Strong communities don't run from difficult situations.

"We face them head on, stay informed, and look after each other while doing it."

The state's chief health officer Clare Huppatz said the quarantine arrangements would mean the rare illness presents no risk to the community.

"WA Health will continue to monitor the situation and provide appropriate support and public health advice," she said.

"This is a very rare disease, with human-to-human transmission rarer still."

According to WA Health, hantavirus is spread by inhalation of contaminated rodent droppings and is not easily transmitted between people.

# Hazelmere data centre decision due next week

From p3.

"Despite these issues, the city's recommendation appears to rely largely on conditions that the DAP could impose if it were minded to approve the application," he said.

"The City of Swan RAR reaches the correct broad outcome by recommending refusal, however, it does so on an unduly narrow and incomplete basis."

Mr Swick said the RAR should have identified multiple additional and independent grounds justifying refusal, rather than confining the recommendation to reject on noise grounds alone.

"(This includes) the amount of diesel fuel to be stored on site, despite the proposal including 88 backup generators," he said.

"(There is also) the proposed 120MW substation, which would be more than four times the size of the existing Hazelmere substation across the road, yet appears to have no detailed plans whatsoever."

Mr Swick said the claim that city staff would expect no surrounding properties would be affected by heat emissions by the centre ignored that air-conditioning and cooling systems did not make heat disappear.

"They move heat from inside the building to outside the building," he said.

"The heat generated by the computing equipment must be expelled, and in this case it is expelled into the local environment."

"The claim that the surrounding areas won't be affected by heat, because the data centre is air-conditioned, is unsubstantiated by any facts.

"The facility will emit about 120MW of heat which is a tremendous amount and the effect on the local area must be studied to know its effect."

Helena River catchment group deputy chair Louise Stelfox is calling on MODAP members to visit the site before deciding.

"Given the sensitive location of this proposal, adjacent to a school and 40m from a river corridor, I consider that it's vital that MODAP members visit the site prior to considering the application," she said.

"Has a site meeting been scheduled for this DAP development application?"

Ms Baxter said an answer from DAP confirmed no formal site visit was scheduled however they said individual members could investigate.

Ms Stelfox said the community hoped to see a full appendix of 1829 community objections received via Swan Engage in the City of Swan's RAR to MODAP but were disappointed it was missing.

"The panel (uses this) as the basis for their determination," Trillion Trees coordinator Kate Herren said.

"This development will be just 200m from our community nursery and Mandoon Bilya Restoration Project.

"On Tuesday 19 May 2026 (at 9.30am), a five person panel will consider the development application at the City of Swan council chambers in Midland."

# Eastern Hills girl supports 65 Roses Day fundraiser

From p6.

"Five years ago, only a few West Australians had compassionate access to new-era treatments," she said.

"Now, around 80 per cent of our community are benefiting from them."

Ms Bayakly said funds raised through 65 Roses Day helped provide support services, advocacy and resources for people living with cystic fibrosis and their families.

Rose stalls will operate across WA on Friday, May 29, including at Midland Gate.

More information about the fundraiser can be found at <https://fundraise.cfwa.org.au/event/65-roses-day-2026/home>

# Read between the lines

By Pastor Ian Kirk

## The Fall



I love taking scenic landscape photos. But sometimes, in wanting to take a good photo, I can put myself into interesting situations; like recently at the Golden Valley tree park near Balingup.

It was a partly cloudy day, and I was waiting for the sun to come out, as it brings out the vibrancy of the yellow, orange and red autumn leaves. Suddenly it did, and I could see a good place to take a photo.

The place was up on a bank. I ran toward it to have some momentum to get up it. Little did I know that the grass near the bank was not grass. As I came to it, my legs went straight down into it - knee-deep mud beneath a thin covering of green. Not only that, but I went straight over, doing a face-plant. I had mud everywhere. What a sight I was. Colleen had a good laugh and I went to find a place to clean myself up.

What a state I was in; covered in mud. Life can be like that too. We can fall into all sorts of bad situations, through sin and bad choices, and "be in the mud". I am so grateful for Jesus who can cleanse us of sin and restore us from our bad situations by His grace. In 1 John 1:9 we read "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

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Ahead of the Belt Up round, the Mundaring Roos delivered a dominant performance, outscoring the Pickering Brook Hawks in round five.

# Mundaring defeats Pickering Brook in HFA round five

**BRIAN PALLISTER**

**PICKERING Brook Hawks won the first centre clearance after a good tap from Jackson Shilling.**

The ball fell to the back of the marking contest where Tristan Lilleyman scooped up the loose ball and kicked a goal.

The game then turned into an arm wrestle as the ball moved back and forth between the half-forward lines.

Mundaring's Dylan O'Loughlen managed to kick the ball forward to the hard-running Kyle Tenardi, who kicked accurately off his left.

The Roos' Clayton Thomas was proving elusive across his half-forward line, drifting up as far as the wing before sneaking back to score another goal.

At the next centre contest Jackson Shilling managed to find Ben Bowness who in turn picked out Mitchell

Johnston, allowing him to convert from the set shot.

The quarter-time siren sounded with the Roo's holding a 10-point lead.

Mundaring's Oli Aitken became more competitive in the ruck, allowing Sateki A'Vard to pick up the loose ball.

He handballed out to Braeden Hilgert who hit up the hard-leading Sam Butler.

From there the Roos were away on the scoreboard, going on to kick eight goals for the quarter to the Hawks' one.

Roos' Robert Di Salvio was finding too much space, picking up multiple possessions.

The Roos were both dominant and accurate, opening up a 54-point lead by the main break.

The Roos continued to dominate after the break, posting five goals from their 12 kicks at goal while the Hawk's could only manage two behinds.

In a blow for the Hawks, Mitchell Shilling came off with

a recurring hamstring injury, leaving them without their most experienced defender.

Josh Vellinga and William Nutall battled away in his absence as Mundaring continued to drive the ball forward.

The Hawks were more competitive in the last quarter, posting three goals to Mundaring's six.

Hawks Mitchell Johnston and Tristan Lilleyman kicked another goal each while at the other end Kyle Tenardi and Clayton Thomas closed out their games with five goals each while Sam Butler finished with three.

The game finished with a win for Mundaring who scored 22.17(149) to Pickering Brook's 6.6(42)

This weekend is the Belt Up round, held each year by Country Football WA leagues and associations to raise and promote seatbelt awareness.

It serves as a reminder that everyone is encouraged to stay safe in vehicles and belt up.

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

## Upcoming Events

• **Kalamunda Prostate Cancer Support Group** meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Falls Farm, 41 Cagney Way, Lesmurdie from 10am to 1pm. For more information call Roy on 9295 2522 or Ray on 0427 095 892.

• **Mundaring CWA** meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10am at the CWA Centre (Sculpture Park), Jacoby Street, Mundaring. There is a general meeting and cuppa with craft and social to follow until 3pm. New members and visitors welcome. For more information call Marg on 0417 956 628.

• **Midland Men's Shed Social Tuesday** is every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am in the Baptist Church Hall, Bellevue. Our workshop at 34 Swan Avenue, Midvale is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8am to 11am. Call Andy on 0419 921 805.

• **Midland Lawn Tennis Club** meets for social tennis 9am every Wednesday and Saturday at 21 Patterson Drive, Middle Swan. All ages and standards of play welcome, and they have senior and junior teams that compete in Tennis West pen-

nants. For more information email [playtennis@midlandtennis.com.au](mailto:playtennis@midlandtennis.com.au)

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

## Woofers of the week



Gigi is a three-year-old poodle cross Ihasa apso. Her owners new partner is sadly allergic to dogs. Gigi is very friendly and will need regular grooming. She is very sweet and kind. Gigi is sterilised, vaccinated, and micro-chipped. Costs Apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.



# Do you, your club or sports team have a sports story to share?

Contact the editorial sports team on **9374 6666** or email [editorial@echo-news.com](mailto:editorial@echo-news.com)



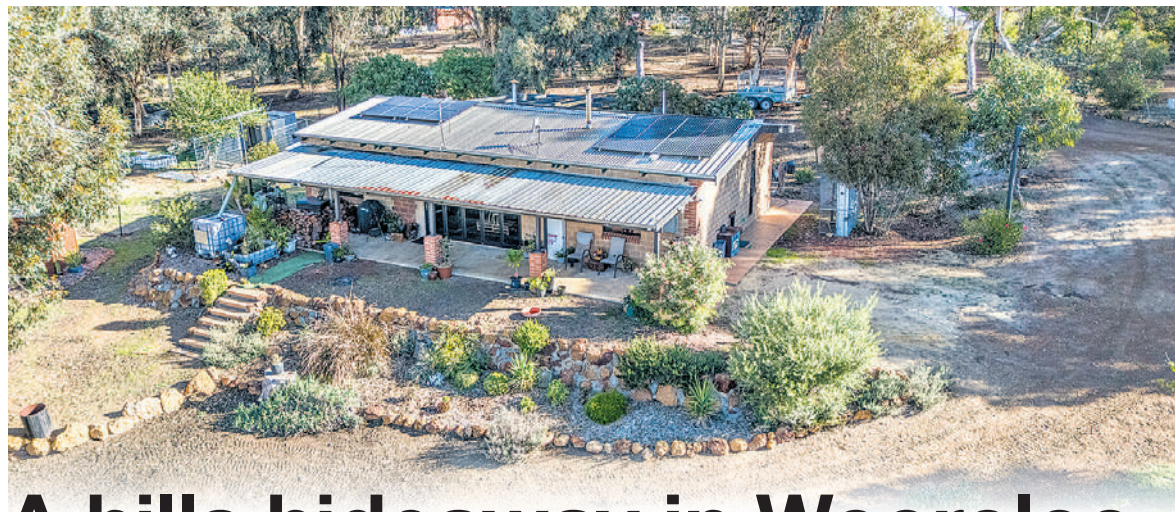
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# ECHO Local Real Estate

**Residential  
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## A hills hideaway in Wooroloo

**TUCKED** away in a peaceful and private setting, this unique rural retreat offers the perfect opportunity to escape the rush and enjoy space, nature, and a slower pace of life.

Set on a generous 10.72ha block, prospective buyers will be immersed in a treed landscape with a tidy garden and plenty of open hillside space.

The cottage-style home on the property has three bedrooms and one bathroom and is surrounded by a wonderful blend of usable land and natural bush, featuring multiple paddocks, a productive orchard area, Jarrah and gum forest, two dams, a freshwater stream, and established wetlands.

Large bifold doors hinge and fold in on themselves, stacking to one side to open up and connect the central family room to the expansive yard, letting in lots of light and fresh air.

The interior is modern and elegant with white tiling and flush ceiling lights that accompany the pendant lights that dangle down and add character to the rooms.

The stone benchtops in the country-style kitchen match the colour of the curtains and the floors, giving

ing a hardy natural charm that complements the sleek white and modern drawers and cabinetry.

Again, bifold doors in the kitchen give a large entry and exit way that connects the outside landscape to the inside area.

The main home is connected to scheme water and features a full solar system with battery storage.

A wood fire heater keeps the home warm and cosy through winter.

Outside, the property offers excellent versatility with two storage sheds, a rustic timber outbuilding, and a large multi-use American-style A-frame shed.

Sit back on the front porch with a tea or fine wine and take in the sweeping north-easterly outlook and natural surrounds.

The property has two dams, a freshwater stream and established wetlands, multiple fenced paddocks with new gates, scheme water, an orchard, and natural bushland.

Whether you are looking for a quiet lifestyle property, room for a few animals, or simply your own piece of the countryside, this expansive Wooroloo property is ready to be made yours.



Address: 720 Stanwix Place, Wooroloo

Price: From \$1,100,000

Agency: Real Estate Plus

For more information contact Milton Rendell on 9274 5000

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- Whether you're an investor, developer, admirer of architecture, design enthusiast, or seek space and a quality lifestyle home, this property has it all. The R20/40 - 1912sqm block
- 3 bedrooms plus an activity/study room (or four total, including a connected room)
  - BIW & space for custom storage in the primary
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Samantha  
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**64 Great Northern Highway**

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- R20
- As Is Condition
- Development potential

This three bedroom one bathroom 1930's built home is the perfect buy. It can be modernised, personalised, extended and landscaped. It has extensive water, termite and structural damage, so renovation work would be extensive, but not inconceivable.

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