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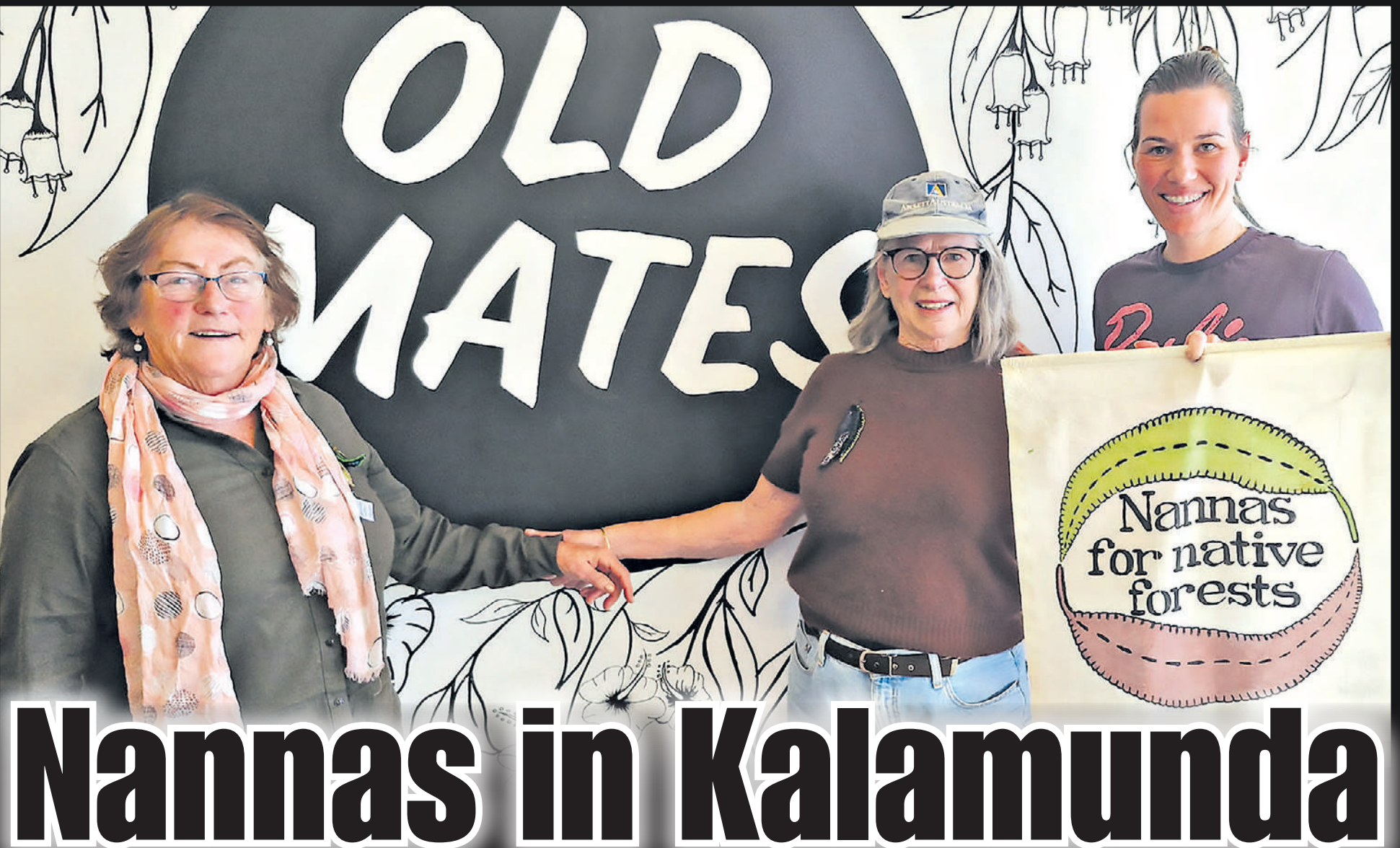
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**ECHO** Celebrations



Life members, state and federal MPs, and representatives from the Shire of Mundaring all attended the May 3 anniversary celebrations.

## Mundaring Firefighters School marks 30 years of volunteer training

**BRAYDEN MOULD**

**EARLIER** this month, staff and life members joined representatives from the Shire of Mundaring and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Mundaring Firefighters School.

The May 3 gathering marked three decades of operation for an institution built on the motto 'Volunteers Training Volunteers'.

School chairperson Neil Hawkins reflected on the milestone and the facility's role in the region's safety.

"Aside from the Forrestfield Training Academy run by DFES, we are the only place where there is a regularly scheduled calendar of training courses throughout the year that people can book into," he said.

"We are also the only 100 per cent volunteer-run, accredited training academy certainly in the state, and we're fairly certain in Australia, for this type of training."

The school was founded in response to Western Australia's fragmented training landscape prior to the 1980's.

During that period, the Bushfires Board provided only basic information, forcing local brigades to train their own units and creating large skill discrepancies across the state.

By the late 1980's, the board introduced 12 standard modules, but brigades still had to compete for limited placements at their Kensington headquarters.

Local volunteers John Duff, Eric Rose, Merv Potts, John Allen, and Doug Monk decided to establish a professional, and accessible local structure.

They created administrative positions, policies, and procedures required for a high-level firefighting school and sought support from the Shire of Mundaring.

The shire granted its backing in 1996, forming the school under the Brigade Training Officers committee.

Mr Hawkins noted that the founder's foresight laid the groundwork for today's firefighting standards.

"By bringing it together and working as a group across the whole of the shire, they ensured that we had the same training provided by all our volunteers," he said.

"That has obviously been maintained and grown over the last 30 years, allowing us to ensure consistency and the highest quality of training."

The school initially operated out of various fire sheds before moving to the disused Hillston Anglican Boys Farm in Stoneville in



1996, the old Stoneville Hall in 1999, and its current home at the former Stoneville Playgroup building in 2022.

Mr Hawkins recalled the early days in Stoneville looked quite different from today's strict safety standards.

"Hot fire training used to be setting fire to things in the old pig shed, which we certainly couldn't get away with now," he said.

The school remains a highly visible part of the community, as Mr Hawkins recalled a recent training session at Chidlow Oval, where local children from the adjacent BMX track turned a hot day into an impromptu celebration by riding through the water spray.

"As soon as we started spraying water, all the kids started racing across riding their bikes through the rain we were creating with the hose," he said.

"Much to the consternation of their mothers because they were getting wet... but everybody got dirty, everybody got wet, and everybody had a whale of a time."

Over its 30-year history, the school has trained more than 9000 students, significantly boosting regional emergency response capabilities.

Mr Hawkins thanked the Shire of Mundaring for providing a major events grant for the anniversary celebration and acknowledged DFES and the Bushfire Centre of Excellence for donating vital material, props, and equipment.

"Whilst we're completely volunteer-run and organised, we couldn't really do it without the support of the shire and DFES," he said.

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**P16 Crossword**



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# Lone tree saved from destruction on Alexander Drive



**GUANHAO CHENG**

**BALLAJURA resident Viola Marrapodi says she was devastated after discovering a row of mature trees along Alexander Drive being bulldozed despite her understanding they were meant to be protected.**

Ms Marrapodi said she was walking along Alexander Drive in Ballajura when she noticed heavy machinery clearing vegetation near a development site.

"These trees had been approved by City of Swan Council to be protected by any development and there be a distance of 10m to any building," she said.

"There were about 20 trees in all and have been there for at least 30 years.

"By the time I was aware that these trees were being bulldozed down at least half had already gone.

"When I asked the driver to stop bulldozing any more as they were not to be touched, he advised me to go to the council."

Ms Marrapodi said she immediately contacted the City of Swan and lodged a report about the clearing works.

According to Ms Marrapodi, work crews were instructed to stop work later that afternoon.

"City of Swan have advised that they will send an arborist to try and hopefully save it," she said.

"Out of such a beautiful row of trees, this is the last one standing.

"Its lower limbs have been broken off, the earth around its base has been dug out but thankfully the roots seem to be intact."

Ms Marrapodi had also recently raised environmental and planning concerns directly with the City of Swan during public question time at a council meeting the night before the bulldozing, including issues relating to vegetation management, bushfire buffer zones and nearby development near Emu Swamp reserve.

During the meeting, Ms Marrapodi questioned city staff about subdivision approvals,

bushfire management planning and environmental protections relating to nearby land at Paradise Keys.

She said the loss of the Alexander Drive trees had upset local residents and raised broader concerns about the protection of mature vegetation during development works.

"People don't realise how quickly these established trees can disappear," she said.

"You cannot replace 30 years of growth overnight.

"Once these trees are gone, the shade, habitat and character they provide to the area is gone too."

Ms Marrapodi said she hoped the remaining tree could still be saved and wanted stronger protections and oversight around vegetation clearing in future developments.

"I have been following this aged care development for more than seven years and have been fighting for the protection of Emu Swamp Reserve by making sure that all guidelines of building in a fire prone zone are adhered to," she said.

"I am deeply concerned that if this destruction is allowed to continue Emu Swamp Reserve... will be destroyed.

"Right now, there's just a lonely little tree I was able to save and its just standing there by itself along the road.

"I hope it can be saved.

"I want to be perfectly clear I am not against aged care development or Paradise Quays, in fact, I'm at an age where it would benefit me, but we must make sure we do right by Emu Swamp so that our grandchildren can enjoy it too.

"I'm aware that me going against their development works makes me look like I'm against aged care altogether, which is not the case at all.

"I think the location that the aged care is proposed in is fine but there are buffer zones and other guidelines I don't believe are being followed and more people in the area should be vigilant of whether developers are following the rules."

Ballajura resident Viola Marrapodi says she had to stand next to the tree to halt works before the City of Swan ordered works to stop, saving a lone tree. Pictures: Guanhao Cheng

## Swan planning review committee formed

**GUANHAO CHENG**

**THE City of Swan has formally established a Planning Process Review Committee and allocated \$50,000 towards an independent review of the city's planning processes.**

As reported in *Swan council backs planning department review* (Echo News, March 13), the city voted to support an independent review of their planners' application of the state planning framework.

The motion was unanimously supported during the council meeting.

The committee was endorsed at the May 13 ordinary council meeting after debate around how committee members were selected and what the review should ultimately examine.

Councillor Rod Henderson moved the motion to establish the committee, appoint its members and allocate funding from savings in the 2025-26 budget for an independent professional to undertake the review.

City of Swan deputy mayor and Swan Valley/Gidgegannup ward councillor Charlie Zannino was named the Planning Process Review Committee (PPRC) chair and presiding member.

Councillors Henderson, Cate McCullough, Evia Aringo, and Sarah Howlett will join Cr Zannino on the PPRC.

*Echo News* understands Cr Jennifer Catalano was added to the committee by an amendment.

Cr Henderson said the review responded directly to concerns raised by the community.

"This is something that our community has asked for," he said.

"It's very important that we have an opportunity to do this."

The review stems from a motion raised at the city's annual electors meeting earlier this year, where residents called for an independent examination of planning processes and decision-making.

The Vines Residents and Ratepayers Association vice-chairman Dixon Lowe delivered a deputation on behalf of the association and other community groups in the lead-up to the May 13 meeting.

Mr Lowe congratulated council and staff for progressing the review and urged the city not to delay the process.

The deputation also linked the review to the WA parliamentary select committee into Land Development and Planning, arguing planning concerns in The Vines had been oversimplified.



The City of Swan has formed its planning review committee and councillor Charlie Zannino has been appointed chair.

"The stereotyping of community concerns into 'dislike of change', or about 'lost views' is a failure to represent the complexity of The Vines planning challenges," Mr Lowe said.

Cr Catalano questioned the fairness of the committee selection process and said she had not been properly consulted despite having planning experience.

Cr Ian Johnson also questioned the process, saying previous committee appointments had historically involved councillors voting from a broader list of nominees and that he would like to see that process reinstated.

City of Swan chief executive officer Stephen Cain told council the city was following the statutory process and said councillors not already serving on another committee had the right to nominate themselves.

Following discussion, councillor Johnson successfully moved an amendment adding councillor Catalano to the committee.

The motion was ultimately carried.

According to the adopted terms of reference, the committee will oversee the review process, assist in setting its scope and make recommendations back to council by December 2026.

Cr Henderson said the review would focus on high-level issues.

"The committee will have a good balance from the names that have been put forward, and I appreciate that members have taken the opportunity and will put their time into getting an outcome that is good for everyone across the city," he said.

"It's a multi-tiered committee in terms of how we look at high level issues. We won't be looking at the barking dog down the street.

"We'll be looking at the high-level things and I think that it's all about the structure at the top end."

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**FIVE YOUNG EASTERN SUBURBS REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO TAKE PART IN THE YWA'S 2026 YOUTH PARLIAMENT PROGRAM JOINING 59 OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE STATE.**

## ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say:  
[editorial@echo-news.com](mailto:editorial@echo-news.com)

### Swan dog parks not an option

**Dear Echo News,**  
What a difference a postcode makes.

The City of Kalamunda provides two first class off leash dog exercise areas for residents, the latest of which has justly won an award.

Here in the City of Swan, we can't even get consideration given to a dog park proposal.

The residents of the City of Kalamunda are far better served by a smaller, interested council involved with the community, than older suburb residents of the City of Swan.

Further proof that bigger is not best.

**G Ross**  
**Swan View**

### No benefits from Harry at night

**Dear Echo News,**

In response to the recent letter from R Furfaro *Long Live Harry Potter* (May 15) I wholeheartedly agree that the City of Kalamunda needs tourism to help showcase our wonderful area.

But while I am sure that many people will have fun at the Harry Potter event, it won't have the benefits R Furfaro suggests.

The Harry Potter event is occurring at night, when many of Kalamunda's interesting shops and wineries are closed.

So, no benefits there. People will not be able to see the gorgeous scenery, because it will be dark.

So, no thinking "Wow, this is so pretty here, I think I will come another day and have lunch, a shopping trip, a walk or a winery visit".

The event will have its own food and liquor licence (so our local restaurants and pubs are

unlikely to benefit, especially since people will largely be bussed from an orchard in Walliston), and we have very few overnight stay options here (so no benefit to hospitality there).

So, the best we can expect is some short-term employment for people working to prepare and staff the event.

I think our council has been taken in by the proponent who would have touted the amazing tourism benefits.

They put a nondisclosure agreement on the proposal to prevent widespread discussion and analysis, and the council thought they would be getting a whole lot of 'free' promotion of the area from a big company.

But who is really going to make money?

The proponent, that's who, they will make their money and leave and they will not be at all bothered by what they leave behind.

Which will be a reserve in which the many creatures who live there will have had weeks of disturbance, fear and starvation.

There will be a terrible effect on the wild-life and environment of Jorgensen Park, and the bush environment is one of the key points of difference that Kalamunda has, a bit of country right near Perth.

To my mind, tourism in the area could be much better served by the promotion of daytime events and things which run for an extended period - a stellar example is the Giants in Mandurah.

These encourage people to visit in the day, walk through a variety of habitats (estuary, beach, bush) and actually be able to see what is in Mandurah.

They are spread out, so people spend a long time in the area, and make repeat trips to be able to see them all.

Along the way, they

buy some lunch, stop for a coffee, fill up at the servo, visit the shops.

So much smarter.

We do have some great things going on in Kalamunda - we have the monthly art markets, the weekly farmers markets, the gardening shows, the Bickley Harvest Festival, and open studio events.

These are all things which encourage people to visit the area, see what is actually here, spend money, and have a good explore.

However, there is no really consolidated way of these events being promoted.

There is signage in the area, but how do people living elsewhere find out about them?

These days, there are so many channels through social media, TV, radio and traditional print, it is very difficult to get advertising and promotional material out to the public at large.

Maybe the council should start thinking about well thought out tourism promotion instead of trying to rely on a large international company which does not have our interests at heart.

**H Sanders**  
**Kalamunda**

### Harry event a comedy

**Dear Echo News,**

The lease of Jorgensen Park, a popular public recreational park, to a profit-driven entertainment company would be comical if it weren't so depressing.

And the bleak comedy goes on.

As *Echo News* reported (May 8) City of Kalamunda staff confirmed in a public council meeting that they had signed a lease over Jorgensen Park for the (likely \$100 per ticket) Harry Potter event.

This was surprising news to the 180 people who, days earlier, had

### Thought for the day

"If you are going through hell, keep going."  
- Winston Churchill

turned up to a specially convened electors meeting and unanimously passed seven motions against it, all carefully argued.

Many had spent hours researching the issue, because the Kalamunda councillors they'd elected couldn't tell them anything.

Extraordinarily, every councillor had agreed - some perhaps reluctantly - to sign a non-disclosure agreement to protect a commercial entity the city was negotiating with.

The surprises went on.

Council meeting attendees' asked the most pressing question - for how many nights each week are local residents going to endure the disruption of paying crowds, nighttime noise and massive lighting until 11pm?

A city staffer replied she couldn't answer, because the city is still negotiating to reduce the proponent's wish for five nights to possibly fewer nights.

Still negotiating on the most vitally important issue affecting its own residents yet they've already signed the lease?

You've got to be kidding.

The staffer didn't mention that the same Harry Potter event in Victoria ran over seven nights a week during school holidays.

Another revelation came - that the city at this late stage is conducting its own environmental report.

This comes after they fast-tracked their lease approval based on an environmental report supplied by the private company, the beneficiary, but not available to the public.

You couldn't make this sort of thing up.

The day after that council meeting, cy-

clone fences went up in Jorgensen Park barring nature-lovers, bird watchers and dog-walkers from entering the main part of their own city-managed park.

Trucks began bringing recycled waste into Jorgensen's conservation/recreation public reserve, which is located in a Priority 1 water catchment area.

The consternation increased when a few individuals picked up samples of the waste.

One resident paid for it to be tested, and it was friable asbestos material.

When a Department of Water and Environmental Regulation employee attended, he also found an asbestos sample, but the resident was told such a small amount was not enough to trigger concern.

The city mayor Margaret Thomas publicly responded that the fill "had been tested with no asbestos identified" and that "if any risk is identified, appropriate action will be taken immediately."

The city then continued spreading the recycled land fill waste around and crushing it with a rolling machine.

Soon thousands of nightly fee-paying patrons will be walking the crushed pathways - the company is aiming for up to 100,000 visitors.

This would be funny if it weren't so deeply disturbing.

Watch for the next bizarre episode, brought to you by the City of Kalamunda and its councillors.

**V Laurie**  
**Gooseberry Hill**

*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.*

# Hazelmere data centre application withdrawn

MIKE PEETERS

**AFTER overwhelming community opposition, the much-criticised Hazelmere data centre application has been withdrawn by Sydney-based data centre company GreenSquareDC.**

The withdrawal came after a City of Swan council review of the proposed development attracted almost 1900 public submissions.

At a May 13 council meeting before the withdrawal announcement councillors had voted 11-2 in favour of mayor Tania Richardson providing a deputation against the proposal at the JDAP meeting on May 19.

On Thursday, May 14 the council released its responsible authority report into the centre in which council staff recommended rejecting the proposal.

The data centre was to have been built alongside the Helena River and next door to the Helena River Waldorf School.

Over the past couple of months, residents have hit out at the continued insistence by GreenSquareDC that the proposal was suitably located, *Proposed new data centre comes under fire*, (*Echo News*, March 12).

They also criticised the City of Swan for allowing the application to proceed so far without the knowledge of the community.

Hasluck MP Tanya Lawrence said she was notified on May 14 by GreenSquareDC that the company had decided to formally withdraw the application.

"Local residents came to me with serious concerns about this proposal and as their representative I formally raised those concerns with the WA ministers for water, energy and the environment," Ms Lawrence said.

"I engaged with the proponent to further discuss my community's concerns, and I was advised that they had decided to withdraw the application."

Bibbul Ngarma executive director Francesca Flynn said they were relieved the strength of the local community had come together to protect the river and each other.

"We are so relieved to be able to stop working so hard on this and get back to our number one priority of caring for the river," Ms Flynn said.

"The Mandoon Bilya (Helena River) is central to our work through our BoorYul-Bah-Bilya (BBB) Program, a long-term river restoration program.

"BBB is developing a new model for community-led river catchment management to mark the 2029 Perth bicentenary.

"Our BBB Rangers are working with schools and community groups to restore the lower river as part of our vision to establish the Mandoon Bilya Riverpark as a key Bicentenary initiative.

"This proposal was so inappropriate that it's difficult to identify a less suitable location.

"It is approximately 40m from the river channel, adjacent to a conservation wetland, located on two Aboriginal heritage sites, next to a primary school and in close proximity to private residences.

"We hope that in the future, data centre providers will engage genuinely and openly with the community and seek their input and involvement in decisions that impact them, including identification of the most appropriate sites for their facilities."

City of Swan councillor Sarah Howlett said while she was pleased the proposal had not gone ahead, she was still concerned about WA's current classification of data centres as 'warehouses' for land purposes, which did not accurately reflect their function or operational demands.

"Unlike traditional warehouses which store physical goods, data centres are purpose-built for the electronic storage and processing of information and require sub-



Residents in Swan say they are relieved GreenSquareDC chose to withdraw their application as they considered the data centre placement next to a school and recovering river inappropriate. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

stantially higher power densities."

Ms Howlett said continuing to categorise data centres as 'warehouses' overlooked the scale of resources they require, misrepresented their true function and failed to recognise the importance of strategically locating them within industrial areas that can support grid stability.

GreenSquareDC chief executive officer Charles Penny said the decision to withdraw the application had not been made lightly and the company continued to believe the proposed development was an appropriate use.

He said the key issue that had emerged

through the assessment process related to the acoustic assessment criteria and operational assumptions sought in relation to the facility's emergency back up generators.

"Specifically, GreenSquareDC have been required to assess generator operations under a scenario involving 100 percent load during full emergency conditions with the EPA (noise) regulations 1997 remaining silent on the frequency of noise emission events.

"In our view this creates an unrealistic and impractical benchmark for the operation of modern-day data centres," Mr Penny said.

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# Nannas for Native Forests to open in Kalamunda

GUANHAO CHENG

A NEW Kalamunda branch of environmental advocacy and education group Nannas for Native Forests is forming as community concern continues around the protection of tree canopy and the Perth Hills' natural environment.

The Kalamunda branch will hold their inaugural meetup at 10.30am this Sunday, May 24 at Old Mates Cafe located at 23 Haynes Street in Kalamunda.

The group will join a growing network of volunteers across the state focused on environmental advocacy, forest protection and community education, with members regularly attending rallies, public talks and awareness campaigns.

Long-time member Wesley Huber said she encouraged others to take part by joining the Kalamunda branch and said people of all ages are welcome.

"We welcome everyone who wants to use craftism to send a message about the importance of our jarrah forests and natural surroundings," she said.

"We use craftism during our meetings by sewing gum tree leaves and using that as a symbol of our forests.

"We'll send them out to politicians and other people in the area, and sometimes you can even see them wearing them in parliament.

"They're a conversation starter too, because sometimes people see them and go, 'Oh, what does that leaf stand for,' and it's a good way to remind people what matters.

"We're a well-loved group and people of all ages are welcome to join us whether to craft leaves or to sit in and learn more about the environment."

Nannas for Native Forests describes itself as a grassroots movement of community members advocating for the protection of WA's native forests, particularly the northern jarrah forest system.

The organisation has become known for its colourful public demonstrations, handmade banners and intergenerational environmental activism.



The Nannas for Native Forests will hold their Kalamunda branch inaugural meeting this Sunday morning, May 24.

The movement has campaigned on issues including native forest logging, mining expansion, prescribed burning practices and black cockatoo habitat protection.

In the Perth Hills and eastern suburbs, members have increasingly engaged with local environmental concerns linked to tree canopy loss, bushland protection and mining impacts within jarrah forest catchments.

The new Kalamunda branch is expected to work alongside existing supporters already involved in broader forest protection campaigns.

Ms Huber said the group encouraged residents of all ages and backgrounds to become involved in local environmental advocacy.

"Everyone can do something," she said.

Recent community discussions in Kalamunda have included debate around urban tree canopy retention and bushland management.

Environmental groups across the hills region have also continued advocating around native forest management and mining expansion proposals through public information sessions and community talks.

The Kalamunda branch hopes to build local participation through community events, information sharing and environmental advocacy focused on protecting native ecosystems in the Perth Hills and wider WA landscape.

More information on the new branch can be found through [tinyurl.com/ye7e-jt7x](https://tinyurl.com/ye7e-jt7x)

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Perth Hills online safety educator Paris McNeil has been nominated for a 2026 7NEWS Young Achiever Award. Picture: Supplied

## Swan View educator nominated for youth award

DANIEL HOLMES

SWAN View online safety educator Paris McNeil has been nominated for a 2026 7NEWS Young Achiever Award for her work helping young people navigate Australia's social media ban and broader digital challenges.

Ms McNeil was nominated in the Garlett Group Create Change Award category, which recognises young Western Australians creating a positive and lasting social impact through advocacy, education, and community initiatives.

The 26-year-old works as an online safety educator and youth engagement specialist, focusing on helping students, parents and schools better understand the rapidly changing digital world.

Ms McNeil has identified a major gap in public understanding when Australia announced its under-16 social media ban in 2024, with many young people and families unsure how the restrictions would work or what they would mean in practice.

Drawing on her legal background and experience working with young people, she shifted away from a traditional legal career to focus on translating complex digital policy into practical education sessions and resources.

Her work has included delivering dedicated education sessions across Western Australia explaining how the social media ban would operate, why

it had been introduced and how students could prepare.

Ms McNeil has delivered more than 100 hours of social media ban education during 2025, reaching more than 12,000 students, parents, teachers, youth workers, local governments and community organisations across WA.

Regional communities were also a focus, with Ms McNeil travelling to areas including Albany and Kojonup to ensure young people outside metropolitan areas had access to the same education opportunities.

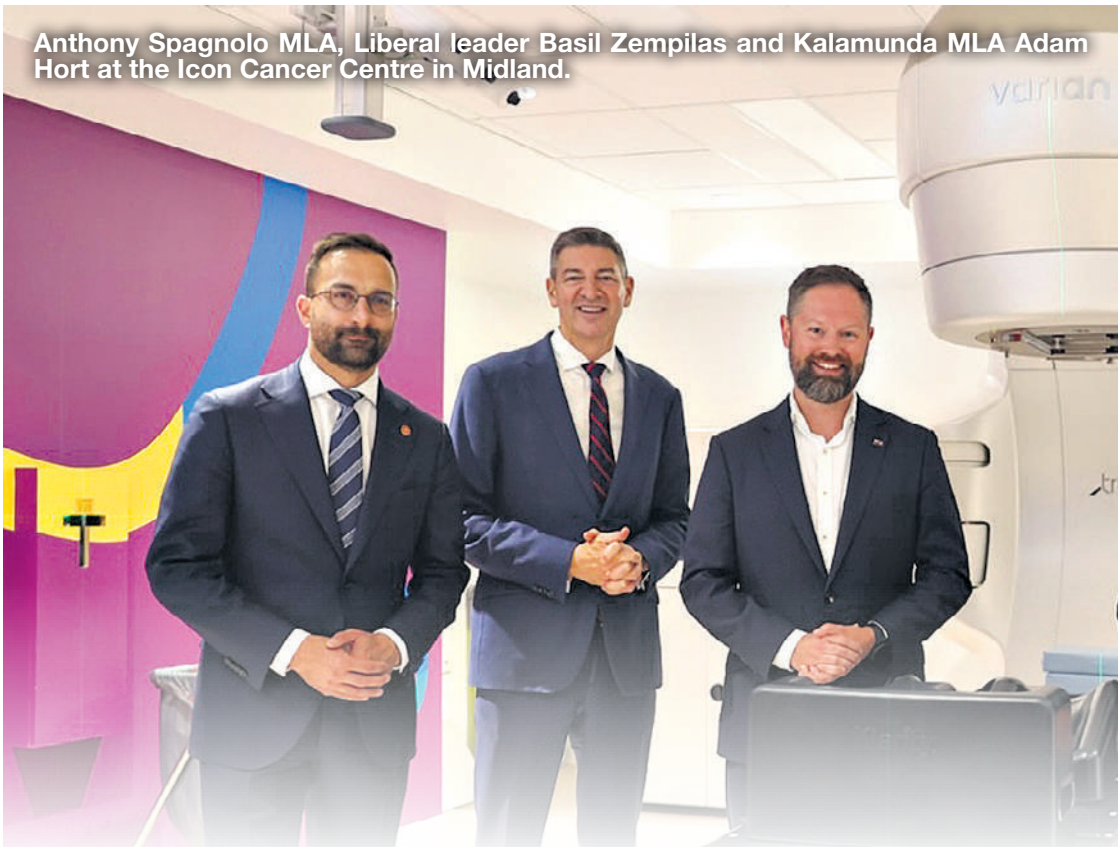
Her programs have since expanded beyond the social media ban to broader digital wellbeing issues including artificial intelligence, deepfakes and misinformation.

She has also undertaken public advocacy work, including more than 20 appearances across radio, print and television discussing online safety and support for young people during the rollout of the social media restrictions.

Ms McNeil's workshops focused on practical advice and open discussion, allowing students to voice frustrations and concerns while helping them better understand the changes affecting them online.

The 7NEWS Young Achiever Awards recognise the achievements of Western Australians aged 29 and under across a range of categories.

Anthony Spagnolo MLA, Liberal leader Basil Zempilas and Kalamunda MLA Adam Hort at the Icon Cancer Centre in Midland.



## Spagnolo Midland Hospital expansion delay claims are rejected by Lawrence

PETER W LEWIS

**THE long-promised expansion of Midland Hospital will not be complete until after 2030, with the federal government allocation of funding falling \$40 million short of what was promised during the election campaign, claims Guildford-based MLC Anthony Spagnolo.**

“The funding shortfall means Midland families face years more waiting for critical health infrastructure as pressure on the local hospital system continues to grow,” Mr Spagnolo said.

Hasluck MP Tania Lawrence rejected Mr Spagnolo’s claims.

“The entire \$200m federal funding commitment has been provisioned for in the (federal) Budget. Mr Spagnolo is incorrect in his comment claiming a \$40m funding shortfall,” she said.

“I expect he took the information from a wrongly reported article by The West which was subsequently corrected. The funds are being provided over the forward estimates, including the out year, in accordance with the request by the West Australian government.”

Mr Spagnolo maintained the delay was deeply disappointing for families across Midland, the eastern suburbs, the Perth Hills and the Wheatbelt, communities already experiencing strain on local health services.

“The local community is once again being asked to wait for health services it desperately needs,” Mr Spagnolo said.

“People are already experiencing the pressure on Midland Hospital, through ambulance ramping, longer wait times and the strain placed on frontline health workers.

Mr Spagnolo said Midland MLA Steve Catania needed to explain why the community was being asked to settle for less than what was promised.

“They were quick to promote this project during the election campaign, but the reality is the expansion will not be completed until after 2030,” he said.

Mr Catania said as the state member for Midland he was very proud of the commitment WA Labor has made to expand Midland Hospital.

“The redevelopment of the St John of God Mid-

land Public Hospital will expand capacity to meet the needs of patients in Perth’s growing eastern suburbs and the wider Wheatbelt region.

“We are continuing with detailed planning for this project and construction is expected to start next year.

“The attempts by Anthony Spagnolo and the Liberals to feign concern for the eastern suburbs on this project is truly astonishing.

“Neither the state nor federal Liberal parties made a single commitment to improve Midland Hospital when they had the opportunity at the 2025 elections.

“An additional 60 beds and three surgical theatres at St John of God Midland will also transition to the public health system in August,” Mr Catania said.

Mr Spagnolo said the Midland Hospital delay was compounded by the continued lack of radiation oncology services in the local area, forcing cancer patients to travel across Perth for treatment.

“Cancer patients in Midland and surrounding communities are still being forced to travel across the city for radiation treatment,” he said.

“For people already dealing with the physical and emotional toll of cancer, that travel places even more pressure on patients and families.”

Mr Spagnolo said a petition led with Kalamunda MLA Adam Hort calling for radiation oncology services in Midland had attracted more than 2400 signatures and been formally tabled in the Legislative Council.

“That level of community support shows just how strongly local families feel about this issue. People are not asking for special treatment — they are asking for fair access to essential healthcare closer to home,” he said.

Mr Spagnolo said Midland’s growing population deserved timely investment in health infrastructure, not repeated announcements and delayed delivery.

“Health services must keep pace with population growth, and in Midland that simply has not happened,” he said.

“These problems will not solve themselves, and the community deserves a clear plan and real delivery.”

## New residential lots for Henley Brook

**HENLEY Brook is among four sites to benefit from the delivery of more than 200 residential lots to the market as part of the state government’s housing diversity pipeline (HDP).**

The single-stage development in Henley Brook will comprise of 19 residential lots, along with 59 in Huntingdale, 115 in Orelia and 11 in Alexander Heights.

Development across all four sites is expected to commence next year.

The HDP program is focused on bringing underutilised government land to market for housing, working with industry to accelerate delivery and increase housing diversity in locations close

to existing services and infrastructure.

Planning and Lands Minister John Carey said the government was continuing to identify opportunities to deliver more housing and rental supply, including by unlocking underutilised government land.

“In partnership with industry, these four sites will add more housing in established suburbs, close to services and existing infrastructure.

“Our government is also unlocking new land by funding water and power connections to support industry to deliver infill by helping to cover headworks via the \$120 million Infrastructure Development Fund.”

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# Friends of The Vines working to restore environment

GUANHAO CHENG

SINCE the formation of Friends of The Vines bushland group three years ago, volunteers have worked closely with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and the City of Swan to restore bushland, parkland and wetlands.

Footpaths have been cleared to improve visual appearance and safety so residents and visitors may walk through high value native bushland, populated with rare plants and trees, along with wildlife, including critically endangered cockatoos.

Cockatoos have been recorded visiting nest boxes installed and funded by donations from the Vines Residents and Ratepayers Association.

Thousands of seedlings have been planted to begin the process of areas that have historically become degraded.

Many of the seedlings that were planted were harvested as seeds from the reserves, ensuring authentic genetic stock, and giving them the best chance of success.

Firebreaks obstructions have been cleared and have been recognised by the DBCA as helping to reduce the impacts of the recent wildfires in the Maralla Road Reserve.

Fire risk has been a particular concern expressed by residents with the group's actions hoping to address the risk.

Volunteers, with the aid of a \$10,000 state government grant, have purchased significant equipment, enabling teams to take on a long-term project for reducing the fire risk to the reserves and properties by removing dead trees bordering areas of reserves and by replanting seedlings.

Equipment purchased by the group includes electric chainsaws, safety equipment and a woodchipper, enabling volunteers to cut dead trees and mulch them.

The wood chippings are then used to help prepare the area for future planting by improving the soil, suppressing weeds and increasing water retention.

Friends of The Vines bushlands cofounder Rob Bradbury said using the chipper also helped reduce the risks of pests spreading.

"When you use a chipper, then instead of having to haul out trees and parts of trees that may have pests inside, those trees and tree parts can stay in place," he said.

"In the case of the shot-hole borer where the spread is managed by stopping infected wood from being moved



The Friends of The Vines bushland group is encouraging anyone interested in keeping parks and reserves healthy to get involved.

around, this is one way to get around that.

"It also has a bunch of other benefits and helps stop the area from drying out which in turn helps reduce fire risk."

In Autumn, the group is working with the DBCA to eradicate weeds, repair fences damaged by bushfire, repairing firebreaks and plant new seedlings in Maralla Road Reserve.

The fencing is being repaired to keep kangaroos from disturbing the seedlings with about 110m of new fencing being put up as of Tuesday, May 19 and the rest to be completed ahead of seedling planting.

The Friends of The Vines bushland group is open to new volunteers joining with residents and interested people being able to register their interest through vinesresidentsassociation@gmail.com or the Friends of The Vines bushland Facebook group.

"Sometimes the government gets a lot of the blame

for things in the area not looking how they should, and sometimes that comes to departments not being resourced enough to fix all the reserves in the metro area," Mr Bradbury said.

"We can stand there and say, 'the council should do this and that'.

"But that costs us in rates and the friends group was created because we understood that and wanted to do something about the area if others couldn't afford a rate rise.

"It gets a bunch of people out working together, it's fun, it's constructive, you have a laugh with good company and you can look back and say to yourself you've made a difference.

"Once you do that, there's a sense of pride and ownership about the place you've created and it tends to be kept nicer going forward too."

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## Artists with Bassendean roots behind new sculpture

GUANHAO CHENG

A PLAYFUL new Town of Bassendean public artwork celebrating friendship and local wildlife will soon bring colour, character and creativity to Palmerston Square Reserve.

Titled Friends Rock!, the artwork features a motorbike frog and a tawny frogmouth waving hello to each other on large rocks stacked atop each other.

The characters celebrate local fauna commonly found in Bassendean parks and backyards, while reflecting the reserve's role as a much-loved gathering place for families.

Created by artists Amy Perejuan-Capone and Penny Min Ferguson, Friends Rock! draws on the artists' personal connections to Bassendean and Lockridge, as well as their shared childhood experiences growing up among the area's natural environment.

Ms Perejuan-Capone was a former Lockridge Senior High School student who began exhibiting at the Art Gallery of Western Australia through an artwork done for school in Year 12.

She has since gone on to work worldwide with sculptures in Australia and overseas, with a portfolio that includes humour and moments of solemn reflection.

Ms Ferguson is a graphic designer who specialises in ceramics, painting, fine jewellery and textiles and has extensive experience capturing the charm of children's storybook style illustrations.

Ms Ferguson is known as Min Pin and her work has been exhibited and published both domestically and internationally and has also collaborated with various clients including Woolworths, Samsung, Melbourne Museum, The National Gallery of Victoria, Halcyon Nights and Penguin, among others.

Planned to stand at about 1.2m tall, the work combines rugged natural boulders with vibrant colours, painted finishes and multi-textured forms. The sculpture's appearance and material selection draws inspiration from the area's waterways with iron-oxide stained rock being used for the rocks the two animals will perch on.

The artists said the sculptural installation was a celebration of the natural areas in Bassendean and the friendships that form in the town.

"Friends Rock! is a unique sculptural installation capturing a moment of joyous camaraderie



The concept design aims to celebrate friendships forming in the Town of Bassendean and the enduring nature of bonds created in a shared place.

between, two well-known local characters, the wise yet goofy tawny frogmouth and the raucous but shy motorbike frog," they said.

"Each species was specially chosen to represent us as friends and our contrasting personalities.

"Our sculpture celebrates life in Bassendean by highlighting the everlasting friendships fostered in the area.

"Situated in Palmerston Square, a site of personal significance to us and a hub for local families, the work acts as a mirror to the community.

"Every element is designed to make the viewer grin as much as we did (while) creating it.

"Amy's traditional bronze frog contrasts with the contemporary style of Penny's owl (which are) distinct critters that prove you can be different and still be best friends. The contrast between the rugged, ancient permanence of the natural boulder, the vibrant colours, and the multi-textured animals reflects the enduring nature of friendship."

Mayor Kath Hamilton said Friends Rock! captured the spirit of Bassendean perfectly.

"This artwork is joyful, a little quirky and also proudly local, just like our community," she said.

"Palmerston Square Reserve is already a favourite place for families, and Friends Rock! will add another reason to stop, smile and spend time together."

Installation of the sculpture is expected by September with the project fully funded through the developer, requiring no municipal funding.

The sculpture marks the first of five planned public artworks across the Town of Bassendean, with future installations proposed for Anzac Terrace Reserve, Collier Road, Park Estate Reserve and Success Hill Reserve.



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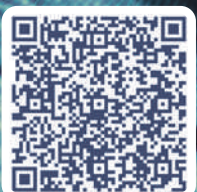
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# BNAA receives grant to restore Helena River

GUANHAO CHENG

**HAZELMERE'S Helena River is set for a major environmental revival after the Bibbul Ngarma Aboriginal Association (BNAA) secured a \$96,940 Community Rivercare grant to restore part of the lower Helena River catchment.**

Awarded through the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), the funding will support restoration works along the Mandoon Bilya (Helena River) through Hazelmere as part of BNAA's BoorYul-Bah-Bilya (BBB) program.

The project will focus on weed removal, foreshore revegetation, erosion control and water quality improvements along a section of river which the BNAA said had long been overlooked despite its environmental and cultural significance.

BNAA executive director Francesca Flynn said the funding would help strengthen a broader community-led vision for restoring the lower river corridor ahead of the 2029 Perth Bicentenary.

"BBB is developing a new model for community-led river catchment management to mark the 2029 Perth Bicentenary," Ms Flynn said.

"Our BBB Rangers are working with schools and community groups to restore the lower river as part of our vision to establish the Mandoon Bilya Riverpark as a key Bicentenary initiative."

Supported by the National Indigenous Australians Agency, the BBB Rangers

team will work alongside volunteers and other Swan organisations during the restoration effort.

The Mandoon Bilya Riverpark proposal aims to reconnect stretches of the lower Helena River through Guildford, Woodbridge, Hazelmere, Bellevue and Helena Valley, linking the Swan River to the Darling Scarp and Perth Hills through restored river corridors and tree-lined walk and cycle trails.

Ms Flynn said the program improves river health and also reconnected people with waterways that had become increasingly disconnected from suburban life.

"While this stretch of river is highly degraded, it remains a significant freshwater ecosystem with big potential for restoration and community connection," she said.

BNAA chairperson and Noongar Elder Walter McGuire said caring for the river was part of Aboriginal peoples' cultural responsibility.

"The Noongar people, my people, have lived on this land for millennia," he said.

"It is our role and responsibility to care for this environment, including the Mandoon Bilya, as the First People of this Land."



The lower Mandoon Bilya (Helena River). Picture: Emily Fenner-Wilson

Mr McGuire said the BBB Program was helping restore both the landscape and people's connection to it.

"BBB is reconnecting the magical essence that this land has for all peoples," he said.

"This environment is our family, we are part of it and it is part of us... the land, rivers, springs, hills, night sky, daytime sky, sun, moon, stars, rain, lightning, thunder, freshwater, oxygen, clouds, wind, all flora

and fauna."

BNAA recently welcomed the withdrawal of a proposed Hazelmere data centre development near the river, after raising concerns about its potential impact on long-term restoration outcomes and the surrounding landscape.

Ms Flynn said the association was now eager to refocus its efforts on environmental rehabilitation and community collaboration along the river corridor.

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# Midland in high demand for emergency support

PETER W LEWIS

**OVER** the past year a growing number of Midland residents have turned to Vinnies WA for emergency support with an overwhelming demand for food, clothing and living essentials and fuel amid mounting cost-of-living pressures.

Midland recorded the second highest demand for emergency support with 1885 enquiries for assistance since July last year, behind Rockingham with 2057 enquiries.

Between January and April this year, Vinnies WA recorded an 18 per cent increase in the volume of calls to its emergency relief call lines, compared to the same period last year.

Food remained the most requested form of emergency relief support, accounting for 65 per cent of all assistance provided, followed by clothing and living essentials (11 per cent), petrol (5 per cent) and help to pay bills (4 per cent).

The new figures paint a stark picture of the people who are increasingly reaching out for help with basic needs.

Vinnies WA Midland Support Centre president Cath Denton said demand is growing in Midland.

"We're seeing a lot more new clients not just recurring clients, and a lot of people we see are single mothers who are just trying to hold everything together. They're often asking for food or even petrol vouchers to get their kids to school or to doctor appointments," she said.

"We are also seeing clients who are falling behind in their rent and need support with payments.

"Lately, we've also seen a lot of people who are sleeping rough in the local area come in and ask for food or blankets."

She said many people were right on the edge, and they're really struggling.

"Life has just got too much for them, and with the cold weather, they're freezing cold and they're just looking for help," Mrs Denton said.

"We're getting a lot of requests for bedding and blankets."

Worryingly, the number of employed West Australians provided with support jumped by 25 per cent compared to the same period last year, with 14 per cent of people supported for the first time.

Figures also revealed 70 per cent of people supported were women, one in three were aged between 40 and 50 and one in three were single parents with children.



Vinnies Midland Conference president Cath Denton.

Vinnies WA chief executive officer Ann Curran said the figures reflected the growing reality that hardship was no longer isolated to people experiencing entrenched disadvantage.

"We are hearing from more people who never would have imagined they would need to ask for help; from working families, single parents, people juggling rent, bills and groceries, and many who are simply one payslip away from crisis," she said.

"Heading into winter, many people are forced to make difficult decisions, and often this means choosing between heating their homes, putting food on the table or paying their rent.

"We know the colder months place enormous pressure on households already doing it tough, which is why our Vinnies Winter Appeal is critical to so many WA families right now."

Overall, Vinnies WA received a total of 38,711 emergency relief calls since July last year.

Ms Curran said the organisation was increasingly supporting people experiencing financial stress for the first time in their lives.

"The Vinnies Winter Appeal helps ensure we can continue providing practical support including food assistance, help with bills, clothing and fuel, as well as funding our vital homelessness services to people who need it most," Ms Curran said.

To donate to the Vinnies Winter Appeal or to seek urgent support, visit [www.vinnies.org.au/wa](http://www.vinnies.org.au/wa).



The Glen Brook elevated walkway is now open for public access. Picture: DBCA

## Glen Brook elevated walkway opens

**PROGRESS** continues to be made on the transformation of Western Australia's first national park, with the John Forrest National Park Glen Brook elevated walkway opening for public access on the weekend.

The striking, 250-metre-long steel and timber structure was fabricated and installed by local company Advantesting Civil Engineers, who were also recently awarded the \$2.1 million contract to build a new amenities plaza next to the recently completed West Ridge carpark.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) project manager Paul Chauvel said that with construction about to commence on the West Ridge amenities plaza, the Glen Brook elevated walkway will initially only be accessible from the eastern end.

"The walkway can be accessed via a newly installed ramp and access trail on the eastern side, providing visitors a unique, elevated perspective of the park and sweeping views over Glen Brook and the surrounding granite outcrops," Mr Chauvel said.

"This is an exciting milestone in the

park's rejuvenation, delivering a visually striking attraction that provides a different and exciting way for park visitors to view and experience the surrounding landscape."

Once the John Forrest National Park rejuvenation project is complete, the walkway will connect the West Ridge carpark to the future park hub, providing an enjoyable walking and cycling link between these two key visitor areas.

Mr Chauvel said construction of the West Ridge amenities plaza is expected to commence in coming weeks and be completed early in 2027.

"The new plaza will create a welcoming entry point for visitors and will include toilets, landscaped gathering areas with seating, a sheltered main trailhead, bike racks and a bike maintenance station," he said.

"Accessible paths and safety lighting will link the new amenities building to the carpark and elevated walkway."

For the latest updates on the John Forrest National Park improvement project, visit: [www.dca.wa.gov.au/johnforrestimprovementproject](http://www.dca.wa.gov.au/johnforrestimprovementproject)

## Business and community focus at Hour of Power



Speakers Ben Heptinstall (centre left) and Kevin Bailey (centre right) with Hour of Power facilitators Shane and Leanne Willcox. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

GUANHAO CHENG

**BUSINESS ownership, leadership and community involvement were key themes explored at the Swan Chamber of Commerce's May Hour of Power with Mundaring councillor Ben Heptinstall and former Swan mayor Kevin Bailey.**

Mr Heptinstall reflected on his progression from supermarket employee to owner of four IGA stores and a bottle shop while discussing his first year in local government.

"I'm sort of more of a doer than sort of standing up in the public spotlight," he said.

"But more recently, getting involved in politics, I've realised to be in the public realm, you really do need to be able to stand up and say, 'Hey, this is me, this is what we're doing, this is what needs to happen in our community.'"

Mr Heptinstall said his interest in business began early while attending swap meets with his parents in Mundaring.

"I'd go around and I'd buy stuff at the swap meet," he said.

"I'd take it back to my stall and I'd sell it for a profit at my stall."

After leaving school, he spent a decade working at Coles before purchasing his first IGA store in Gos-

nells with his wife in 2010.

Mr Heptinstall said learning the operational side of business was easier than adapting to the administrative responsibilities of ownership.

"I had to learn all that, how to use MYOB," he said.

"I learned it all myself."

As his businesses expanded, he said building stronger management teams allowed him to spend more time focusing on broader strategy and community involvement.

"You don't want to be working in your businesses," he said.

"You want your business to be working for you."

Mr Heptinstall said supporting local organisations had become a major focus, with his stores now backing 17 community groups.


"It's very important when you're in business to be giving back to your local community," he said.

"Because after all, they're the ones that are supporting you."

Cost-of-living pressures and affordable groceries were also discussed extensively during the session.

"One of my big focus points is trying to reduce the cost of groceries to our local community," Mr Heptinstall said.

Cont. p18.




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# App upgrades will support primary industries and emergency services

A SIGNIFICANT upgrade of a valuable weather decision-making tool will boost Western Australia's primary industries businesses, as well as emergency services.

The state government's Weather Stations app has been revitalised, with improved functionality, data analysis, device sharing, and alerts now available across all mobile device platforms.

Content from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (DPIRD) popular Weather Stations webpage is now captured on the app, plus a host of additional features.

The refresh includes a map of 191 weather stations across Western Australia with real-time weather data, including temperature, humidity, rainfall, wind speed and direction, soil temperature, dew point, and more.

Radar imagery can now be overlaid on the interactive map, which will be particularly useful for landholders to inform sowing, spraying and harvest decisions, as well as livestock management.

The dashboard from the online version is now included on the app, which can be customised and synchronised across devices.

Historical information can be downloaded via the dashboard, according to minute, hourly, daily, monthly, and yearly requirements - either as a table or a chart.

The Weather Stations app is also a valuable tool for emergency services to use in the event of a fire, storm, or cyclone, as well as consultants, scientists, and the community.

The easy-to-use app incorporates 'how to' videos and tips to help users get the most out of the free digital re-



source.

Agriculture and Food Minister Jackie Jarvis said the upgraded Weather Stations app will provide fast, reliable, location-specific weather intelligence from across Western Australia.

"The valuable information delivered by the app will help users to act sooner, plan with more confidence, and rely on a single trusted source for weather insights - all from the palm of their hands," she said.

"I encourage everyone to check out the new version of the app and see how it can benefit you and your business."

"This initiative demonstrates how the Cook Labor government is making diverse investments to back our primary industries and create practical tools that support business productivity and community resilience across the state."

The DPIRD Weather Stations app can be downloaded on Apple and Android devices.

For more information on the app, the Weather Stations online resource, and climate tools, visit [www.dpird.wa.gov.au/weather](http://www.dpird.wa.gov.au/weather)



Youth Parliamentarians Ashton Barton, Liam Cruzana, Merryn Hodgson, Qi Shen Goh and Yusr Kadhem at their first training session.

# Future leaders stepping up for youth parliament

MIKE PEETERS

**FIVE young eastern suburbs representatives have been selected to take part in the Y WA's 2026 youth parliament program joining 59 young people from across the state.**

Hand-picked through a competitive application process the cohort reflects a diverse cross-section of young Western Australians.

Liam Cruzana from Forrestfield is representing the Forrestfield electorate as a youth parliamentarian and sitting on the jobs, trade and commerce committee.

Mr Cruzana said he believed it was important for young people to be part of a larger platform to voice their concerns.

"I am passionate about politics and hope to use this opportunity to learn more about the process in making legislation," Mr Cruzana said.

"Fortunately, through the Y WA youth parliament program I am being given the opportunity to do this."

He said he was particularly interested in the treasury as economics was his favourite subject.

"I believe many of the issues facing me and my

peers are caused by factors relating to the economy. "Additionally, I am interested in foreign relations as I believe one of the best ways to get stronger as a nation is by reaching out and fostering healthy diplomatic relations."

Mr Cruzana said participating in the program would allow him to collaborate with other youth members to push for changes that are important to their generation.

"I also hope to inspire my peers and younger people to become more engaged in politics."

He said it was important for young people to have a voice and particularly in politics.

"As people living in this state and country it is one of our main responsibilities to be informed and educated about our politics and to raise concerns about what we think is important in our community," he said.

"Through the Y WA youth parliament program I believe it allows us to be heard by the state government."

The other eastern suburbs youth parliament representatives include Ashton Barton from Kalamunda, Merryn Hodgson from Brigadoon, Qi Shen Goh from Midvale and Yusr Kadhem from Ballajura.



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# New book shares letters from WA woman's life across Northam, Onslow and Parkerville



Author Judy Taylor provided archival photographs alongside material used in her new social history book, *Nancy's Letters*. Pictures: Supplied.

DANIEL HOLMES

**A NEW book built around decades of personal letters is offering a glimpse into life in regional Western Australia through the eyes of a woman who lived and worked across Northam, Onslow and Parkerville during the mid-20th century.**

Nancy's Letters, written by West Australian author and researcher Judy Taylor, is a narrative non-fiction social history based on letters written by her mother, Nancy Withnell Taylor, to a pen pal in New York between 1929 and the 1960s.

Dr Taylor, who grew up in Parkerville, said the collection captured both everyday life and major historical events experienced by West Australians during the period.

The book includes Nancy Taylor's recollections of working at the Spencer's Brook Post Office near Northam, travelling alone as a young woman to work in Onslow, and life on pastoral stations in the Pilbara.

It also details her later years establishing a poul-

try farm in Parkerville, fostering a child and serving as president of the Country Women's Association.

Dr Taylor said the letters reflected changing social attitudes and regional life across WA during the mid-20th century, while also highlighting perspectives and experiences that were often left undocumented at the time.

"These writings give a story of the social issues of the day but also there are silences about events experienced by other West Australians, notably First Nations people," she said.

The book also includes letters written home by Nancy Taylor's brothers while they were prisoners of war during World War II.

Dr Taylor said many men from Northam and the Wheatbelt area shared similar wartime experiences within the same battalion.

Nancy's Letters was published earlier this year through Leschenault Press and is available online and through the State Library of Western Australia.

The book is listed for \$29.95 on Amazon, and \$46.57 from Dymocks for paperbacks.

# Midland midwife named overall winner at WA Nursing and Midwifery Awards

A PASSION for ensuring Aboriginal women and families feel safe, supported and empowered throughout pregnancy and birth has seen Midland midwife Jodee Hollingsworth take the top honour at the 2026 WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards.

The St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospital midwife was named winner of Excellence in Aboriginal Health and the overall winner of the awards.

A proud Noongar woman, Ms Hollingsworth was recognised for her extraordinary leadership and commitment to culturally safe maternity care for Aboriginal women and families.

Her own experience receiving culturally safe maternity care inspired her to pursue a career in midwifery.

After joining St John of God Midland in 2022, her impact was quickly recognised with her appointment to the Moort Boodjari Mia (Family Pregnancy House) coordinator role within just 10 months.

Recognising that birthing on Country remains out of reach for many Aboriginal women living within the Midland catchment, Ms Hollingsworth set out to what she describes as “the next best thing” providing antenatal and postnatal care on Country.

Her vision led to the creation of the Moort Boodjari Mia Outreach Van, a landmark initiative which brings maternity care directly into community and helps to overcome barriers such as transport and access to appointments.

Through partnerships with the St John of God Foundation, Channel 7 Telethon Trust, the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation and Wen Giving, she helped secure more than \$1.5 million to purchase, fit-out and staff the



Midland midwife Jodee Hollingsworth has been named the overall winner of the 2026 WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards. Photo: Matt Biocich

outreach van.

In congratulating Ms Hollingsworth on her outstanding recognition, St John of God Health Care chief nursing officer Janet Jones said being recognised among every nurse and midwife working across Western Australia’s public and private health sectors is an extraordinary achievement – and a first for a St John of God Health Care nurse or midwife.

“Jodee is an exceptional midwife whose leadership, compassion and vision are changing the experience of maternity care for Aboriginal women and families,” she said.

“In true Jodee fashion, she was incredibly humble and genuinely shocked to receive the award. But this recognition is truly deserved. Her commitment to culturally safe care and improving outcomes for women, babies and families continues to make a profound difference in our community.”

Ms Hollingsworth hopes her story will inspire future generations of Aboriginal health pro-

fessionals.

“In my eyes, I’m just a girl from Balga who had a dream,” she said.

“I am still taking in the honour of being awarded WANMEA’s Midwife of the Year 2026 and Excellence in Aboriginal Health Awards, but this recognition is not a journey walked alone. It stands on the shoulders of so many people who have worked alongside, guided, supported and inspired me along the way, along with those who have challenged me.

“To the midwives who cared for me during my own pregnancies, thank you for showing me the power of kindness, safety and woman-centred care. You helped plant the seed of what would become my life’s passion.”

Congratulations also go to St John of God Health Care midwife Felicity Anderson who was named a finalist in the Excellence in Midwifery category and nurse Leanne Campion recognised as a finalist in the Excellence in Enrolled Nursing category.

## eye on crime

### Gidgegannup fatal major crash investigation

MAJOR crash investigation section officers are seeking the public’s assistance for information following a fatal crash that occurred in Gidgegannup during the early hours of Sunday, May 10.

About 2.15am, a black Toyota Land Cruiser was travelling in a westerly direction on Lilydale Road when, near the intersection of Toodyay Road, the vehicle left the road and struck a tree.

The driver of the vehicle, a man in his 20s, sustained critical injuries in the crash and died at the scene.

Major crash investigators are urging anyone

who saw the crash, or who saw the black Toyota Land Cruiser travelling in the area prior to the crash, to contact Crime Stoppers online at [www.crimestopperswa.com.au](http://www.crimestopperswa.com.au) or by calling 1800 333 000.

Anyone with dash-cam or mobile phone vision relating to this crash is asked to upload the vision directly to investigators via this link: <https://wapf.au.evidence.com/axon/community-request/public/mcis2026-114>

If you or anyone you know has been affected by a road crash, contact Road Trauma Support WA on 1300 004 814.

### Man arrested after 2025 Midvale house fire

ARSON squad officers have charged a man as part of their ongoing investigation into a house fire that occurred in Midvale on Saturday, August 9, 2025.

About 2am, WA Police and Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) responded to reports of a fire at a residence on Wellarton Street.

It will be alleged the accused man was one of four individuals involved in the incident, during which Molotov cocktails were thrown through a bedroom window of the home, igniting furnishings inside.

A woman and three children were sleeping in the room at the time and one child sustained minor burns and received medical treatment.

A 41-year-old man from Middle Swan was charged with criminal damage by fire, and committing an unlawful act or omission with intent to harm (endangering life, health or safety of any person).

He is due to appear before the Midland Magistrates Court on June 9.

The investigation is ongoing and investigators urge anyone with any information or vision relating to this fire, to contact Crime Stoppers online at [www.crimestopperswa.com.au](http://www.crimestopperswa.com.au) or by phone on 1800 333 000.

Rewards of up to \$25,000 are available for information that leads to the identification and conviction of an arsonist.

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Dome  
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47 Newburn Rd
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- Crabbs IGA**  
12 Canning Road
- Kalamunda Centro S/Centre**  
39 Railway Rd
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- Kalamunda Newsagency**  
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123 Canning Rd
- Jack Healey Centre**  
21 Mead St
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5/21 Jinda Rd
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IGA Lesmurdie  
241 Lesmurdie Rd
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5895 Great Eastern Hwy
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Hill View Public Golf Course  
350 Kalamunda Rd
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Unit 2/31 Maida Vale Rd
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Baptistcare  
1A North St
- Centrepoint S/Centre**  
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- Crooked Spire**  
71 Victoria Street
- Echo News Office**  
4/9 The Avenue
- Greg's Discount Drug Store**  
243 Great Eastern Hwy
- IGA Supermarket**  
295 Great Eastern Hwy
- Midland Library**  
45 Helena Street
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- Real Estate Plus**  
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- Swan Valley Fresh Markets**  
Cnr Morrison Rd & Keane St
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16/27 Old Great Northern Hwy
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139 Morrison Rd
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  - Commonwealth Seniors Health Card and Low Income Card Claims.
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- Complex Claim management for self-employed people with ABNs, businesses, companies, trusts, and self-managed super funds.

### NOMINEE SERVICES

- To act on your behalf with Centrelink.
- Keep your Centrelink account up to date to ensure correct payments and avoid debts. Annual management plans or fee for service.

### OTHER SERVICES

- General Assistance and Consulting with Centrelink Issues.
  - Phone and Email consultations.
- Hourly and half-hourly rate for individual consultations.
  - Ongoing management of your Centrelink account.
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Pension Manager prepares the claim and then manages it throughout the process until finalization. We ensure your waiting time is as short

as possible and your payment is correct.

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  - Home Equity Access Scheme claims
  - Centrelink account maintenance
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- Call or email Graham for an obligation free chat. Phone: 0418 944 344  
 Email: gwilkins@pensionmanager.com.au



Pension Manager  
Graham Wilkins

## Discover new dimensions of wellness

Looking for a fun way to stay active, connected and inspired this winter? Shire of Mundaring is launching a new seven-week Wellbeing program designed to support healthy ageing and help older adults live independently for longer in the communities they love.

Developed by Connect Village Hub, the evidence-based program is grounded in the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Framework, promoting environments where older people are respected, included and supported to thrive.

Running Tuesdays from 9.30am to 11.30am between 23 June and 4 August in Swan View, each session will focus on one of the seven dimensions of wellness — emotional, intellectual, physical, vocational, social, spiritual, and environmental, as outlined by the International Council on Active Ageing.



Recognising that wellbeing is shaped by physical health, social connection, lifelong learning, purpose and a sense of belonging, the program aims to foster inclusion, promote active participation, build stronger community connections, and create opportunities for learning and engagement.

If you would like to meet others and learn new skills to support your health and wellbeing, register your interest by calling 9290 6678.

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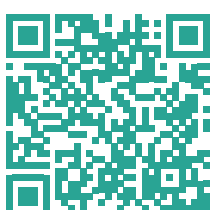
# 7-Week Wellbeing Program

FREE EVENT

**Tuesdays, 23 Jun – 4 Aug**  
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Each week will focus on a theme of the 7 dimensions of wellness, morning tea included.

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# ARTS ENTERTAINMENT



Some of the art submissions from the 2025 Kalamunda Art Awards. Photo: Zig Zag Gallery.

## Zig Zag Gallery marks 15 years with Art Gala

**THE City of Kalamunda's art scene is preparing for a major milestone celebration as the Zig Zag Gallery hosts its anniversary Art Gala and annual Art Award Exhibition, marking 15 years since the cultural hub first opened its doors.**

Since its founding, the venue has established itself as a cornerstone of the Perth Hills creative community, having hosted more than 180 exhibitions and showcased the work of more than 300 artists across its 15-year history.

The inaugural Zig Zag Gallery Art Gala will celebrate this rich history by featuring artists from across the venue's decade and a half long run, alongside the invitation of new artists to help celebrate all things creative in the City of Kalamunda.

The gallery will also host its annual Kalamunda Art Awards, an exhibition highlighting creative excellence across a diverse range of artistic media and themes.

The competitive exhibition provides a prominent platform

for selected artists to display their work, offer pieces for sale to the public, and vie for recognition across several distinct judged prize categories.

While finalists compete for official accolades - including targeted awards for painting, sculpture, and environmentally focused works - gallery visitors will have the opportunity to directly engage with the event by casting their votes for the People's Choice Award.

The celebration kicks off with the gala's opening night at 6pm on Saturday, June 6.

Following the opening, the public will have three weeks to view the local talent on display, with the exhibition running from June 6 until June 28.

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

The gallery is open from 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday, and from 10am to 4pm on weekends.

## Gidgestock music festival on again

**TICKETS are on sale for the annual Gidgestock fundraising music festival which runs from October 9 to 11.**

Festival goers can enjoy a weekend of campfires, rustic camping and nights dancing under the stars.

All of the musicians donate their time as do the stage crew and a large group of volunteers who, together with the sponsors, make the event possible.

The venue too is donated by hosts Steve and Jo Mitcham who open the gates of their property for the festival weekend.

Steve and Jo's 50-acre property in Gidgegannup has a beautiful natural amphitheatre which has been enhanced significantly over the years by their son-in-law Paul Claxton.

The Mitchams said people can wake up to the call of the kookaburras and enjoy fine fellowship and great music.

"Gidgestock continues to be a highlight of the Western Australian music festival scene," they said.

"Come for a day or stay for the weekend and enjoy the truly unique Gidgestock experience!"

"The event is family friendly with many activities over the weekend to keep the kids occupied, from bush art to cuddly animals and much more.

"Market stalls and the fabulous Kookaburra boutique for preloved clothing will also keep the adults entertained."

Gates open at noon on Friday, October 9 with early entry options available so come early to secure a fabulous spot and enjoy the atmosphere.



This year marks the 11th annual Gidgestock music festival.

There will be a variety of market stalls, food and coffee vans, however alcohol is BYO only.

Last year's headliners included 46 Brigade, Moonlighters, Dr Soul, Coastal Drift, Brothers in Arms and Chain Reaction.

Music is from 5pm to 10pm on Friday, 9am to midnight on Saturday and from 8am on Sunday until the festival closes at 12 midday.

Festival goers are permitted to set up their camp spot up to three days early for

a small fee.

All profits go to the West Gidgegannup volunteer fire services, Leukaemia Foundation, Parkerville Children and Youth Care, Shalom House and the Callum and Jake Robinson Foundation.

Major sponsors include Lightning Brick Pavers, Bendigo Bank, Cortez, BOS Civil, Zenith Music, Phoenix Motors, Bladon WA and ABM Landscaping.

Tickets are available for purchase at [niurl.com/yf3zzbbt](http://niurl.com/yf3zzbbt)

## ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

### Your local Gig Guide

#### Fri May 22

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

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

**Parkerville Tavern**  
Ben Graham  
From 5.30pm, Free  
6 Owen Road  
Parkerville

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

**Lyric's Bar**  
Howie & Dave  
From 7.00pm, Free  
22 Lyric Lane  
Maylands

#### Sat May 23

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

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

**Parkerville Tavern**  
Shane Turner  
From 5.30pm, Free  
6 Owen Road  
Parkerville

**Lyric's Bar**  
Darryl & the Devil  
From 7pm, Free  
22 Lyric Lane  
Maylands

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

#### Sun May 24

**Settlers House York**  
Rozzi & Gabi  
12pm-3pm, Free  
125 Avon Terrace York

#### Sun May 24 Cont.

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

**Lyric's Bar**  
The Lost Quays  
From 5pm, Free  
22 Lyric Lane  
Maylands

**Chidlow Tavern**  
Blue Minou  
12.30pm-3.30pm, Free  
4 Thomas St Chidlow

**Mahogany Inn & Distillery**  
Rhay Rom & Chantel  
4pm-7pm, Free  
4260 Great Eastern Hwy  
Mahogany Creek

#### Tues May 26

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

#### Wed May 27

**Chidlow Tavern**  
Muso Jam Night  
7pm till late, Free  
4 Thomas St, Chidlow

**Mahogany Inn & Distillery**  
Acoustic Open  
Mic Night  
Presented by Fenton  
and Friends  
6pm-9pm, Free  
4260 Great Eastern Hwy  
Mahogany Creek

#### Thur May 28

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

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

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## Read between the lines

by Pastor Ian Kirk

### Deep-Rooted



At my mum's place the other day, I removed a half-dead Poinsettia. I had persevered with it over time, using wetta-soil to get water to its roots, and fertilizing it. But nothing changed. When I dug it out, it became apparent why it had been dying. Its roots were shallow. It was so easy to dig out.

Recently, my brother John and I dug out the stump of a large coral tree to make way for our new church playground. This was anything but easy. The tree, before it was cut down, was large and healthy, with a magnificent display of flowers in season, and with vibrant green leaves in summer. It took us half a day to get the stump out, as the roots went deep into the water table.

In Psalm 1:3 we are encouraged to be like a healthy tree deeply rooted into streams of water: "like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season, and whose leaf does not wither."

In life, what are the "streams of water" that we are to be deeply rooted in. Psalm 1 tells us it's God's Word. Jesus, God's Son, said to come to Him by faith, so that we might receive "living water" that gives spiritual life and health. John 7:37-38 "If anyone is thirsty, let them come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scriptures tells us, 'from their innermost being shall flow rivers of living water'."

## ECHO NEWS

### Indemnity and Warranty

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

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

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## Ceiling Repairs

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**Modern Tree House** Chalet style apartment for rent with amazing views in Perth Hills. Suit working person/s. Ref req. Ring 0411 445 190 for info.

## Gardening

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

## Garage Sale

**HUGE GARAGE SALE**  
5 Chapman Street, Bassendean. This weekend: May 23rd & 24th. 0450 353 101. Everything must go: Racks of clothes, furniture, Kitchenware, bric-a-brac. Anything and everything. **CHEAP.**

## Gutter Cleaning

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

## Handyman

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

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## Hobby Farm Services

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## Lawn Mowing

**Ride on mowing services** in the Hills area. Ph 0400 365 887.



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

**Painting & Property Maintenance.** 0477 660 703. Local.



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## Raffle Results

### Swan Bowling and Recreation Club

#### NOTICE OF RAFFLE RESULTS

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  - 2<sup>nd</sup> 0487 R. Zeplin
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> 1531 S. Scheffler
  - 4<sup>th</sup> 0057 L. Hunter
  - 5<sup>th</sup> 1619 K. Harris
  - 6<sup>th</sup> 1256 S. Foster
  - 7<sup>th</sup> 0088 G. Parker
  - 8<sup>th</sup> 1706 R. Engelen
  - 9<sup>th</sup> 1096 G. Alexa
  - 10<sup>th</sup> 1005 T. Douglas
- Swanbowlingclub@bigpond.com

## Regrouting

**Bathroom Regrouting.** Call Andrew 0413 158 763.

## Roofing

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

## Roof Repairs

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

## Solar Services

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

## Wanted to Buy

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

## Window Cleaning

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

## Public Notice

### PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY BARRIER CLOSURE OF A ROAD - PORTION OF DIANE AVENUE, HENLEY BROOK

Notice of Request for temporary barrier closure of a road - portion of Diane Avenue, Henley Brook is hereby given in accordance with section 3.50 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The closure is required to facilitate the civil works for Henley Brook Stage 11 including reconstruction of Diane Avenue, underground service installations and associated excavations. The proposed closure period is for a 40-week duration commencing June 24, 2026, with completion expected by March 31, 2027.

A plan showing the location of the road proposed to be closed can be inspected online at <https://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.

Submissions may be lodged in writing at <https://swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au>, via email to [assetmanagement@swan.wa.gov.au](mailto:assetmanagement@swan.wa.gov.au), or addressed to the undersigned, City of Swan, PO Box 196, Midland, WA 6936, by close of business Friday, June 12, 2026.

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



### PUBLIC NOTICE PROPOSED WASTE LOCAL LAW 2026

The City of Swan proposes to make the City of Swan Waste 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 waste services, including the use and control of receptacles for the deposit and collection of waste, conducted by or on behalf of the City of Swan.

The effect of this local law is to ensure sufficient provision of regulation, control and management of waste services.

You can view a copy of the proposed local law at the City's Administration Centre, 2 Midland Square, Midland, at any of the City's libraries or via [www.swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au](http://www.swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au).

To have your say on the proposed local law, send a submission to the CEO by Monday, July 6, 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 August 12, 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 can be made online at [www.swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au](http://www.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](mailto:swan@swan.wa.gov.au).

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



## Business and community focus at Hour of Power

From p11.

Reflecting on his transition into local government, Mr Heptinstall said the pace of council processes had been one of the biggest adjustments from private business.

"My biggest shock was how long it takes to do anything," he said.

"And I understand dealing with public funds requires a different process compared to your own money.

"It's definitely been a bit of a learning curve."

Despite the adjustment, he said the role had broadened his understanding of differing community perspectives.

"You're never going to please everyone," he said. "But it's important that you can openly discuss what you think the right pathway is."

Mr Bailey also reflected on his unconventional career path spanning transport management, horse training, business ownership and more than 16 years in local government.

Raised in Wheatbelt towns before moving to the Northern Territory as a child, Mr Bailey described an adventurous upbringing before later attending boarding school in Perth.

"I had to learn to defend myself," he said.

"I had to learn to negotiate my way out of situations because I was born with a smart mouth, slow feet, and a brain that often didn't keep up."

Mr Bailey later established his own transport business while serving in local government before becoming mayor of the City of Swan in 2017.

During the discussion, he said modern leadership styles was concerning and encouraged attendees to make decisions confidently.

"There is no such thing as a wrong decision," he said.

"At the time you make it, it's the right decision based on the information you have had."

"A big problem today is too many leaders tell you what you want to hear and not what you need to hear."

"You need to tell people what they need to hear." Mr Bailey also said community contribution was important.

"If you're successful and your business is going well, give back," he said.

"It doesn't cost you a lot to make the world we live in and the community we live in a better place."

"A part of local government that's different from state is how close we are to the people."

"We live among them, work among them and see them out in the community."

Mr Bailey said that was the strength of local government and the key to building key connections and keeping communication open.

During a question-and-answer session, both speakers discussed communication, leadership and staying connected to community concerns.

"My biggest piece of advice to everyone in this room is don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone," Mr Heptinstall said.

"Try new things, meet new people and build new relationships because today's conversations and connections become tomorrow's opportunity."

## Employment



The Echo Newspaper is looking to fill the following position

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We are a small, privately owned and independent newspaper looking for an energetic and vibrant person to join our team.

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

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

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

## Upcoming Events

- **Kalamunda Youth Swing Band** gives young musicians the opportunity to rehearse and play in a band. Rehearsals are Monday afternoon during school term. For more information call musical director Leah on 0432 973 395.
- **The Gidgegannup Men's Shed** at Ian Stannard Pavilion, Gidgegannup Showgrounds, 2171 Toodyay Road, Gidgegannup is a community-based men's shed providing opportunities for men and women to work on projects of their own, join in shed activities and tasks, or just share time, recreation

and fellowship with other members. For more information email [president@gidgegannupmensshed.org.au](mailto:president@gidgegannupmensshed.org.au) or visit [gidgegannupmensshed.org.au](http://gidgegannupmensshed.org.au)

- **The Ellenbrook Friendship Group** meets each Wednesday at the Community Centre, 27 Maffina Parade, Ellenbrook from 1pm to 4pm. All welcome to make new friends or just have a chat. Enjoy indoor bowls, afternoon tea and the occasional outing. For more information call Sheila on 0402 973 307.
- **The Swan Woodturners Association of WA** meets every Tuesday at 1pm for a 1.30pm start at the Caversham Memorial Hall, 7847

West Swan Road, Caversham for men and women of all ages interested in learning the art of woodturning. Woodturning demonstrations are undertaken each week with demonstrations also displayed on large TV screens. Competitions are held for those members eager to improve their skill level. For more visit [woodturnerswa.org.au](http://woodturnerswa.org.au) and then go to Swan Woodturners Group or contact the convenor on 0476 178 002.

**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



Gemma is a five-year-old boxer cross. She is good with kids but doesn't like cats very much. Gemma is sterilised, vaccinated, and microchipped. Costs Apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.



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## ECHO Notice Board

## Lions continue improvement despite Tigers loss

**BRIAN PALLISTER**

**MT HELENA** continued to show signs of improvement despite falling to the Midland Tigers in round six of the Hills Football Association competition.

The Lions went down 18.15 (123) to Midland's 8.7 (55) but produced patches of consistent football against a Tigers side continuing to build fitness and cohesion early in the 2026 season.

Midland Tigers forward Niklas Geracitano opened strongly with an early goal.

Tigers player Shannon Coyne returned after FIFO commitments, while teammate Hamish Duncan delivered a precise centre clearance to Charlie Read, who found Midland forward Clem Cook for another major.

Cook proved a focal point in the Mt Helena Lions forward structure throughout the afternoon, helping ease some of the scoring burden carried by Lions player Ryan Watters across recent seasons.

Mt Helena built a 14-point lead at quarter-time before the Midland Tigers worked their way back into the contest.

Midland pair Charlie Read and Ryan Schwager combined strongly through the middle, driving the ball forward and creating opportunities for Tigers



Mt Helena Lion Blake Elzer being awarded the Belt-up round football.

players Blade Elzer and Julian Maturo to gain repeat possessions deep inside the attacking 50.

Maturo capitalised on several entries, finishing with three goals for the game.

The Lions shared their scoring across all four quarters in a balanced offensive display, while Midland continued to show improvement com-

pared to the teams' earlier meeting this season.

Following the match, both sides were addressed by the umpires on the importance of wearing seatbelts as part of the Belt Up football round initiative.

The game ball was presented to Blake Elzer from the Mt Helena Football Club.

**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 Commercial Rural & Country

### Rare find offers flexibility in Midland



**THIS Midland property combines mid-century jarrah character with future potential on a substantial 1912sqm block close to shops, schools and transport links.**

Set on an R20/40-zoned site, the four-bedroom, one-bathroom home presents opportunities for families, investors or buyers seeking redevelopment potential in a growing area.

The solid double brick and clay tile residence has retained many of its original features while benefiting from recent renovations.

Inside, generous living spaces are complemented by jarrah floorboards, jarrah roof framing and classic timber windows that reflect the home's enduring craftsmanship and charm.

Built-in wardrobes feature in the minor bedrooms while the primary bedroom includes custom storage solutions.

A flexible floor plan allows the activity or study room to function as a fourth bedroom through its

connected layout.

The bathroom retains its original tiling and bathtub, blending nostalgic character with practical functionality.

Outside, the expansive block offers space for families to enjoy a quieter suburban lifestyle while also presenting scope for future development or extension.

The property also includes established gardens and open outdoor space, with the large block providing flexibility for a range of future uses.

The property is positioned on a quiet street near Midland Gate Shopping Centre, public transport, parks, Midland TAFE and a range of primary and secondary schools.

**Address: 5 Fawell Street, Midland**  
**Price: Expressions of interest**  
**Agency: Real Estate Plus**  
For more information contact **Samantha Appel on 0474 232 091.**



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**Phone Jan 0409 918 876**

**6 Belfry Road, Gungahlin**  
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**Phone Jan 0409 918 876**

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**Phone Anthony 0418 911 387**

**110B Drummond Street, Bedford**  
**OPEN SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> May 1.30pm to 2.30pm**

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