

ECHO NEWS

SINCE 1985

Friday, June 19, 2026

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Local Business Supporting Local People

VOL.43 NO.1967

Jorgensen
Park event
addressed

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Pauline Hanson
faces Midland
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City of Swan
tree policy
questioned

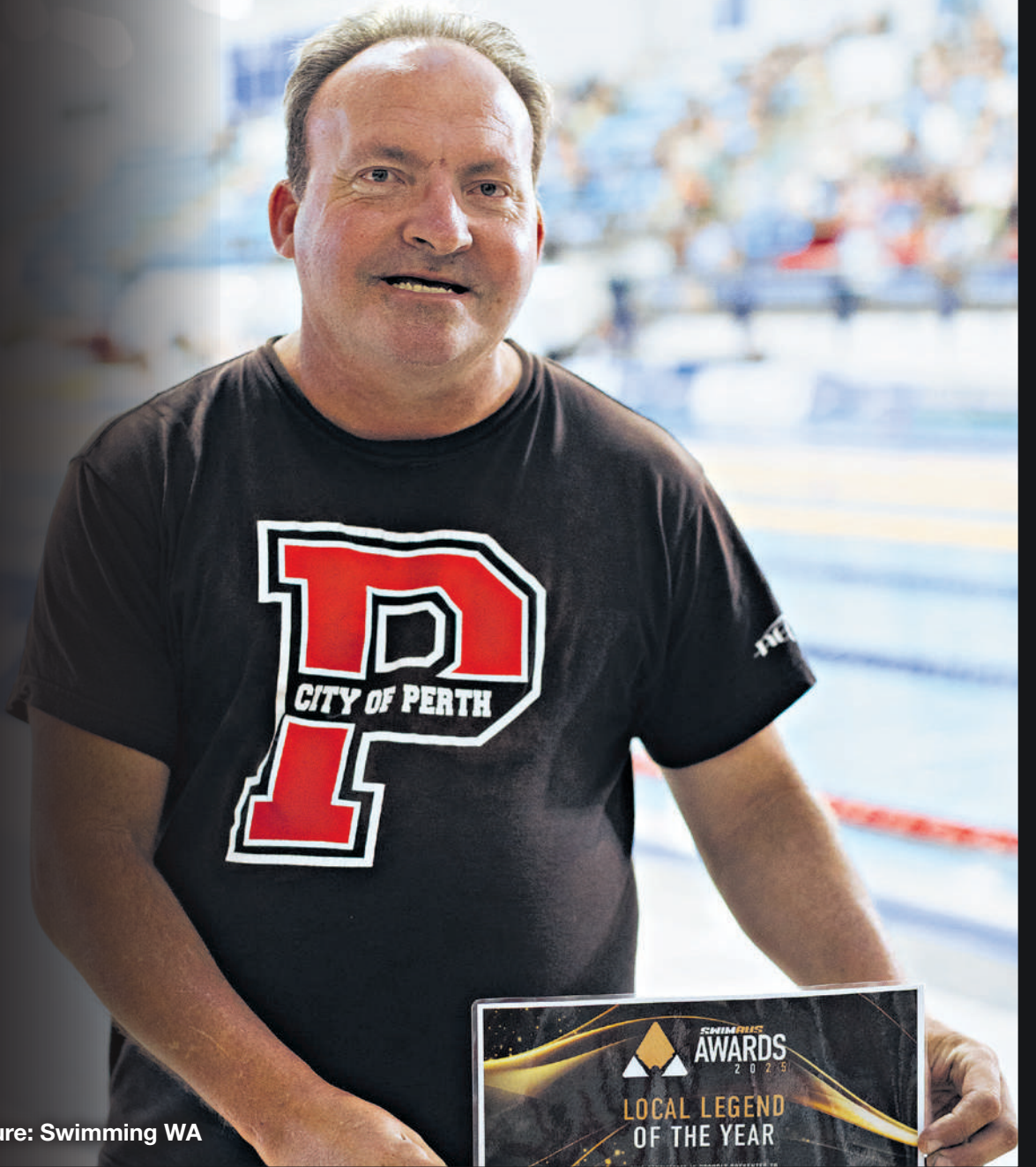
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Joshua goes for Guinness World Record

Gold medallist Joshua Hofer has visited all three Swan Active centres as part of his challenge. **P4**

Picture: Swimming WA



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ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

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Open letter to Minister

To WA Small Business Minister Jackie Jarvis.

Minister, My family own and operate a small family business in Midland, WA.

Small business has long been referred to as "the backbone of the Australian economy". It's no secret many are now struggling.

So, how come "small business" did not appear once in the WA Treasurer's 2026-27 Budget speech on May 7?

Not once. The deputy Premier spoke about households, housing, health, transport, construction, manufacturing and infrastructure.

But she did not mention small business once.

I then visited your WA Small Business Development Corporation website to see what support or direction was being offered to small business after the state Budget.

There is no mention of the state Budget on the website, nor any new WA small business initiatives.

In fact, if one types "budget" into the website, the first page fills with articles explaining "What the federal Budget means for small business".

Meanwhile, pressures on small business continue growing.

State and federal governments are now extending extra public holiday penalty rates onto weekends.

Bank card surcharges are being removed. Fuel levies, delivery fees and supplier surcharges continue piling up alongside insurance increases, utilities and rising public holiday labour costs.

And eventually, all of it ends up in the same place: the small business

sponge. Even the WA Budget's so-called "Small Business Growth Grants" total just \$1.4 million. Is this seriously to be shared across 250,000 WA small businesses?

Having attempted to access this grant myself for equipment needed for Coeliac Australia certification, I can say the process appeared designed to be impossible to navigate, something effectively confirmed on the program help line. Eventually, even I gave up.

It feels like modern small business policy exists more in media releases and websites than in the operating environment small businesses face every day.

Minister, if small business is "the backbone of the Australian economy", why is it missing from the conversation?

Given the WA Budget delivered a \$3.5 billion surplus while WA still maintains the highest payroll tax rate in Australia, why was no payroll tax relief offered to small business?

Also, given there is not one new measure for small business in the recent WA Budget, and that small business relies on you as its representative within state government, what initiatives did you and your department put forward that were not implemented by the Premier in the May 7 state Budget?

And in your role as the West Australian steward of the National Small Business Strategy where you can formally lobby the federal government on policy, what were you advocating for us behind closed doors federally?

After reading this draft, my 10-year-old son Adam simply said to me, "Can't stand up without a backbone."

Kevin Bartholomew Commercial Bar and Kitchen Midland

Memories of the perch

Dear Echo News, I found the article 'Extinct' fish found in the Helena River (Echo News, May 29) about the rare pygmy perch very interesting.

In the mid and late '50s, as youngsters, we would fish in the pools, you could call them bilabongs, in the Helena River from the bridge on Military Road through to Quebec Street, West Midland.

I remember the perch used to be in large numbers.

There was also another fish we called long toms and they were about 150mm long and 5mm round.

I don't know what we did with them, probably kept them in jars.

I do remember both species were very plentiful and very easy to catch.

Glad to see the perch are still surviving although rare.

Hopefully the other species are still around.

M Warnock Stoneville

Kalamunda Future Forest

Dear Echo News, City of Kalamunda's draft Future Forest policy is back before council this month.

The overwhelming feedback provided through the public consultation appears to have been overlooked and the policy still provides an exemption in full for tree removal on 'residential use land'.

Meaning the majestic marri and jarrah trees amongst our residential blocks will have no protection under this policy, unless their proposed removal is the consequence of a subdivision or development.

Thought for the day

"Never look down on anyone unless you are helping them up."

Even then, the policy provides little incentive for retention, offering replanting and offset payments as a suitable canopy safeguard - a concept flawed when you consider the many years it takes for a newly planted specimen to provide the shade, amenity and habitat value of its 100+ year old ancestors.

We urge councillors to request additional amendments - if approved as is, the consequence of this draft Future Forest policy will mean continued loss of mature trees on residential land and a greater cost burden on the city to replant on public land if our canopy target is to be achieved.

Will the lasting legacy of this council be an era where our suburbs are turned into treeless, characterless, urban heat sinks? Or will these councillors be the proud architects of a new era in which the value of mature trees in our home in the forest is recognised and meaningfully protected?

Thank you C Dornan, Wattle Grove (Echo News, June 12) for highlighting the blatant disregard of Kalamunda councillors to do what local residents elected them for.

Didn't they get the message when over 59,000 submissions were received opposing Alcoa's bauxite mining in our beautiful jarrah forests?

Yes, the Harry deba-

cle is just another environmental cock up.

The ugly high plastic barriers in Jorgensen Park are a disgrace and will severely restrict the movement of wildlife which relies on this park to be a safe haven.

I appeal to families, if you want your children to see magnificent sights at night-time, do a tour of Kanyana Wildlife.

The entrance fee goes towards rehabilitating wildlife which has been saved from the destructive claws of incompetent councils and developers, all approving destruction for monetary gains.

R Le Serve 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.

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North Ellenbrook East DSP passed amid concerns

GUANHAO CHENG

THE North Ellenbrook East district structure plan (NEEDSP) was approved at council despite serious concerns about environmental impact and future flooding being brought up during debate.

Councillor Jennifer Catalano spoke against the motion and cited community concerns about endangering wildlife, imposte to be borne by ratepayers and the potential of flooding.

"It is clear the majority of the area of the NEEDSP area is a floodway," she said.

"Most of the area already has a high water-table and is prone to flooding.

"We've already seen the slow unfolding disaster throughout the Swan Valley south of Ellenbrook from the infilling of wetlands in the growth corridor for the suburbs from Caversham to Henley Brook.

"We've seen how changes in hydrology have caused flooding in the new suburbs and rising groundwater on the adjacent rural land of the Swan Valley, rendering the land useless for agriculture as it turns agricultural land into wetlands, turns creeks into drains and what were wetlands into compensation basins and sumps where fringing vegetation is drowned as algal bloom and pollution intensifies

"By now everyone from the state government to the council know the drainage strategy will fail because of the soil types, high water table and volume of water.

"So, the question is, 'Who is going to wear the costs of the damage to land livelihoods and property if this district structure plan continues?'

"It definitely should not be the City of

Swan ratepayers, and my job here tonight is to warn you on behalf of them."

Cr Catalano said that apart from the flood risks, council already were of the same opinion that regional open space categorisation was still needed to make sure state infrastructure costs didn't need to be paid by ratepayers.

She said the environmental impacts and disturbance to roosting areas for cockatoos and western swamp tortoise habitats were also concerns held by the community.

Cr Catalano moved a motion to note the amendment and advise the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) that the NEEDSP should be abandoned, but it was lost.

Councillor Sarah Howlett then moved for council to adopt the officer's recommendation but with additional points that strengthened protection of wetland environments and roosting areas for cockatoos.

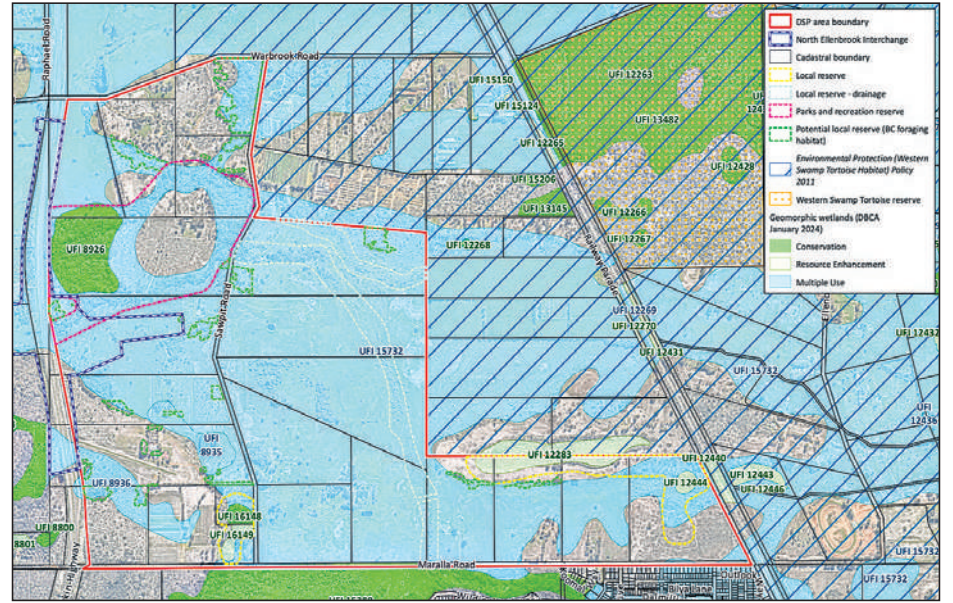
Cr Howlett said the entire roost needed to be protected and removal of trees in the area would impact the day and night roost.

"Whilst I have amended this motion to correctly apply the mapping to the roosting sites and the alignment of the reserves and wetlands, I echo the comments made earlier by Cr Catalano," she said.

"I want to add my concern that city staff have not viewed nor assessed three documents on which the EPA based its decision to not formally assess the Metropolitan Regional Scheme amendment 1411.

"These documents include the ecohydrological impact assessment 2023, the updated groundwater modelling report and the updated environmental assessment report 2023.

"Given the known issues with ground-



The City of Swan said it was clear on its position any state infrastructure costs should be borne by the state and not City of Swan ratepayers.

water arising from the Dayton development, it concerns me greatly that the city has not requested these documents nor raised it in the officer's recommendation

"Should we really be voting tonight without this information having been viewed by the officers informing their recommendation tonight?"

"(My motion) is to ensure that the true extent of the protection is afforded to the black cockatoo roosts and the waterways which is hugely important to the landowner and also to the environment.

"The NEEDSP, if it remains as it is, will deliver the same groundwater and flood-

ing issues that are currently being experienced in the southern areas of Dayton and this will be the responsibility of the city in years to come."

In light of this information, Cr Howlett voted against her own motion, with support from Cr Catalano, however the motion was carried with council set to note amendment 1 to the NEEDSP and advise the WAPC of council's position.

The resolution included the new points about modified wetland and reserve boundaries however concerns about future hydrological impacts wasn't directly addressed.

Midland psychiatric hostel is permanently approved

GUANHAO CHENG

COUNCIL members at the City of Swan voted to remove time limitations on care service provider Roshana operating in Midland, granting it permanent approval while concerns remain.

Roshana was granted approval back in August 19, 2024 for a period of 12 months and received a renewal of approval in 2025.

The newest application by Roshana was for the removal of the operating time limit allowing approval of the use in a permanent manner, and the removal of quarterly meetings.

The quarterly meetings were a requirement for Roshana to meet with the city and community representatives for review of operational performance.

The council received seven submissions about the newest application during public consultation with four objections, two non-objections and one in support but with conditions.

According to council reports, two of the objections raised concerns about potential for anti-social behaviour, with a client of the facility having been seen walking around the community flailing arms and talking to themselves which was argued to degrade the nearby amenity and the perceived safety of the area.

The remaining two rejections did not support the removal of quarterly meetings between Roshana, as they believed it provided important oversight and acted as a mechanism to ensure accountability by the service providers.

One submission noted that on occasion where anti-social behaviour was observed, care provider staff worked quickly to resolve it.

The non-objection submissions supported the application and commented that the service was needed in the community.

City staff recommended approval of the newest application but suggested the quarterly meetings be changed into a meeting every six months for two years.

Councillor Aaron Bowman raised concerns about its history of approvals ahead of the latest application.

"This is incremental planning by stealth," he said.

"Five of the buildings have six or seven bed-



Roshana in Midland.

rooms, in addition, each includes a quiet room.

"I can't think of many seven-bedroom town houses built in Midland (and) you would not be able to rent it out to seven different people as this would be classed as a lodging house (or) boarding house.

"Six town houses were... I understand completed towards early 2024.

"(In) mid 2024 a temporary approval for a psychiatric hospital was granted by this council.

"The deputation in the leadup to this was (the applicants) had to urgently get out of their Bentley property as it needed to be developed (and) this never occurred.

"Once approved permanently, there's not much the City of Swan can do with future issues, complaints, etcetera.

"Remember councillors, this original approval was based on the patients having nowhere urgently to go and we were then told this perhaps may not have been correct

"We gave an additional 12 months (and) everyone was clear that upon expiration of the approval, the use must cease.

"I am strongly against the permanent approval of this psychiatric hostel in this residential area and again this incremental planning by stealth."

The application was approved 9-4 with permanent operation times and the required meetings between Roshana, the city and community changed to every six months for a period of two years.

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CAMILA EGUSQUIZA SANTA CRUZ
PARALYMPIC gold medallist Joshua Hofer "The Hoff" recently visited all three Swan Active centres as part of his challenge to set a Guinness World Record by swimming 400m freestyle at 30 metro centres in three months. Swan Active centres – Midland, Ballajura and Beechboro – were amongst the first in Mr Hofer's journey. From May 30, he spent a week at the centres and completed his laps on June 6 at Ballajura. A City of Swan spokesperson said it was an honour to have Mr Hofer at the

centres. "We're delighted to have hosted Josh at all three of our Swan Active centres as part of his incredible challenge," the spokesperson said. "We loved watching him power through laps with great determination and skill." Mr Hofer won his first gold medals at the age of 17 at the 1991 Special Olympics World Games in Minneapolis. In 1992, he competed at the Paralympic Games for persons with mental handicap in Madrid, where he won five gold, four silver, and two bronze medals. The following year he was awarded

the Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to sport. The spokesperson said it was an exciting experience for everyone to witness Mr Hofer in the water. "Huge congratulations to Josh. It's an amazing achievement in the making," they said. "We are cheering him on every step of the way and can't wait to see him smash that world record." Earlier this year, Mr Hofer set a record by swimming at 33 metro clubs in just four months. The current record attempt is set to be completed at the end of September.

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Open studio art exhibition supports our local artists



MIKE PEETERS

KALAMUNDA based arts organisation Studioworks is holding an open studio art exhibition this weekend to support local artists at Hayward Studio in Kalamunda.

Event organiser Liam Hurley said a portion of the proceeds from the event would go towards the work of the Zonta House Refuge Association, assisting victims of family and domestic violence.

The inaugural event features works by local artists Chris Oxberry, George Hayward, Helen Hayward, and Jo Warburton.

"At the event you can explore a diverse collection of contemporary art and connect with the creators behind the pieces," Mr Hurley said.

The open studio is on Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21 from 10am to 4pm each day at Hayward Studio, 96 Cothelstone Road, Kalamunda.

For more information go to <https://tinyurl.com/5xubh3dx>



Some of the works on display at the open studio this weekend.



The use of Jorgensen Park has been a point of concern for residents since the event was announced back in March. Inset: Animal Justice Party MLC Amanda Dorn.

Jorgensen Park event addressed in state parliament

BRAYDEN MOULD

A RECENT address to the Legislative Assembly has drawn renewed attention to the ongoing debate surrounding wildlife protection at Kalamunda's Jorgensen Park, prior to the opening of the controversial Harry Potter event last week.

Speaking to state parliament on June 10, Animal Justice Party MLC Amanda Dorn raised a number of community concerns regarding the nighttime transformation of the Kalamunda bushland.

"This represents another example of wildlife being disregarded for commercial entertainment," she said in her address.

"Jorgensen Park has never been a site for commercial events. It is used by people who cherish the magic of the natural surroundings to enjoy dog and bushwalking, spotting wildflowers and birdwatching, as well as mountain biking and running."

During her address, Ms Dorn questioned the regulatory framework behind the event's approval.

"It is difficult to understand how, after considering the significant impact of this event, a decision was made by the EPA that this proposal was actually not significant, and did not require referral for an environmental impact assessment," she said.

"Locals are opposing it because they understand that conservation land should exist first and foremost for conservation, not as a commercial stage set at the expense of all the wildlife that lives there."

In response to conservation concerns, independent environmental assessments were conducted by both the City of Kalamunda and the event proponent, with the latter concluding the project was unlikely to have long-term impacts, as reported in *Kalamunda finalises lease for Harry Potter event* (Echo News, May 8).

The Harry Potter event officially opened on June 12 and will run until next month, with the last advertised date on July 12.

The event has injected new urgency into a broader debate over environmental policy, with Ms Dorn citing the event as an example why an independent Office of Ani-

mal Protection is needed – a current parliamentary petition which has drawn 928 signatures as of June 16.

"The concerns raised by residents are not only about this specific event; they reflect a broader frustration that decisions affecting animals and wildlife are often made without an independent body whose primary responsibility is to advocate for animal welfare and wildlife protection," she said.

"In this case, residents believe conservation and wildlife concerns were outweighed by commercial considerations, despite the presence of threatened species and extensive community concerns.

"When decisions are being made that could affect endangered wildlife and sensitive habitats, there should be an independent authority able to assess those impacts solely from the perspective of animal welfare and protection.

"This is why I continue to encourage Western Australians to support the petition to establish an independent Office of Animal Protection, because wildlife cannot speak for themselves, and too often their interests are treated as secondary to other considerations."

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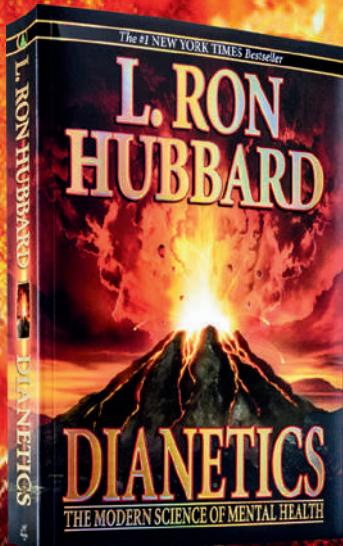
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WHAT CAUSES TENSION IN A RELATIONSHIP?

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Bassendean proposes new Reconciliation Action Plan



According to the 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics, 399 people identified themselves as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in the Town of Bassendean. Picture: Supplied.

CAMILA EGUSQUIZA SANTA CRUZ

THE Town of Bassendean has drafted a new Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and is currently asking for community feedback.

This is the town's third RAP and it is meant to last until 2031.

According to the town, the past RAPs delivered tangible outcomes such as cultural training for employees, a review of the purchasing policy to support Aboriginal businesses, consultation with Traditional Owners and local Elders to discuss Aboriginal heritage site conservation and dual naming, art events, and additional resources to the library to preserve Aboriginal material.

The proposed new plan continues this work through four key outcomes: Authentic engagement and relationship building, increasing staff and community understanding of Noongar history and culture, enhancing cultural visibility in public spaces and programs, and commitment to continuous improvement.

Town of Bassendean chief executive officer Cameron Woods said the new RAP seeks to ensure the town's actions are practical, locally relevant and achievable.

"The plan is intended to provide a strategic framework for council to continue building meaningful relationships, promoting respect and creating opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples," he said.

The draft was informed by consultation

across online surveys, community and staff workshops, and one-on-one stakeholder discussions.

"Feedback was received from a range of local stakeholders, including residents, First Nations people, local schools, community groups, sporting clubs and Aboriginal organisations," Mr Woods said.

"The online survey received 47 responses, with 21 per cent of respondents identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and 14 people participated in community workshops."

Mr Woods said the town recognises the importance of community feedback.

"Reconciliation must be informed by local voices and lived experience," he said.

"The consultation process helped identify priorities such as cultural awareness training, community events and celebrations, support for local Aboriginal businesses where practicable, and opportunities to increase First Nations art, signage and cultural visibility across the town."

The town is now seeking for community feedback on the draft plan.

"Feedback received through this stage will be reviewed and considered, and amendments may be made to strengthen the final document, improve clarity, and ensure it reflects community input before it is presented to council for final adoption," Mr Woods said.

Residents will be able to provide feedback until Wednesday, July 8.

Aftercare to provide suicide support

THE Cook Labor government has launched an Aftercare services program to support people discharged from hospital and emergency departments following a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis.

The Aftercare service, delivered in partnership with WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA), will provide an interim safety net, psychosocial support and will co-ordinate access and transition into longer-term supports.

Research shows people discharged from hospital after a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis are at significantly higher risk of further mental health challenges, including repeat attempts.

Aftercare aims to reduce the risk of repeated suicidal attempts, providing prompt follow up post-discharge from hospital, and ongoing face-to-face support for up to three months to

support recovery.

Aftercare referral sites will work in partnership with service providers Neami National in the metropolitan area to facilitate engagement and recovery for people engaged with the program.

Mental Health Minister Meredith Hammat said the period following a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis can be incredibly challenging and no one should face it alone.

"The Aftercare service provides vital care and support during the crucial transition phase from hospital to community," she said.

"Everyone has a part to play in suicide prevention, which is why the state government is working closely with WAPHA and non-government organisations to implement the Aftercare program."



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Libs supporting Swan Valley residents on flooding crisis



Opposition leader Basil Zempilas and Liberal MLC Anthony Spagnolo meet with Swan Valley residents affected by ongoing flooding problems.

OPPOSITION leader Basil Zempilas and Liberal MLC Anthony Spagnolo have met with Swan Valley residents affected by ongoing flooding and drainage problems, calling on the Cook Labor government to stop passing the buck and take action.

During a visit to West Swan, Mr Zempilas and Mr Spagnolo heard firsthand from residents who say years of poor drainage planning have left properties inundated, productive farmland unusable and families facing significant financial losses.

Mr Spagnolo said residents were frustrated by the lack of action from local MP Rita Saffioti and the state government.

“Residents feel they are being ignored while the problem continues to get worse,” he said.

“We met landowners who have lost productive land, seen water sitting on their properties for months and spent thousands of dollars dealing with a problem they did not create.

“People are tired of responsibility being shifted between agencies and levels of government. They want answers and they want action.”

Mr Zempilas said the scale of the problem was impossible to ignore.

“What I saw in West Swan was deeply concerning,” he said.

“These are families who have invested their lives into their properties and deserve better than years of uncertainty and government inaction.

“The community has identified practical solutions. What is missing is leadership.”

Mr Spagnolo said residents had consistently raised concerns about drainage planning, groundwater management and a lack of coordination across government.

“In March I wrote to the Premier calling for a coordinated response and a full investigation into the causes of this flooding,” he said.

“Residents are entitled to know what is driving these impacts, who is responsible and what will be done to fix the problem.

“The community is not asking for miracles. They are asking the state government to work with local stakeholders, including the City of Swan, and finally deliver a solution to an issue that has been allowed to drag on for far too long.”

Swan Chamber breakfast fundraiser with Lib leader

THE June 19 Swan Chamber of Commerce business breakfast will continue the theme of leadership not politics, with guest speaker Basil Zempilas speaking about visionary leadership.

This networking experience will bring together industry leaders, employers and local high schools in Perth’s eastern corridor for a chance to connect and build together.

The breakfast event is also part of a fundraiser for Thrive Integration which is a program aimed at reducing recidivism by giving ex-prisoners a chance at finding meaningful employment.

Founder and ex-police officer Chris Bown first started the program after growing disillusioned in the task force from the rotating door of prisoners being arrested and re-arrested.

The program has since transformed participants from ex-prisoners into leading hands at Hanssen construction and is continuing to expand its range of employment opportunities.

The fundraiser will be a first of its kind looking to help support the efforts of reintegrating prisoners into a productive workforce and breaking the cycle of criminal offending.

The event will run from 7am to 9am and provide businesses the chance to connect to a larger network of students and community members ready for meaningful employment.

For any further details or how you can get involved by becoming an event partner, contact chief executive officer Tom Smilovitis direct on 0407 866 555.

Registration is essential and may be accessed via tinyurl.com/mrymbzu7



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Pauline Hanson faces Midland business crowd

GUANHAO CHENG

ONE Nation leader Pauline Hanson shared the story of her upbringing, business experience, political clashes and time in prison during a Swan Chamber of Commerce Hour of Power event that drew one of the largest crowds in the series' history.

More than 200 people attended the event at Crooked Spire Coffee Midland, where organisers said the focus was on leadership rather than politics.

It was a detour from the Swan Chamber's regular Hour of Power talks with an extended time limit for one of the nation's most controversial figures.

Before the event began, Swan Chamber president Mike Match said Ms Hanson was a polarising figure and the chamber previously debated whether to invite her.

"The Swan Chamber, we don't endorse any political views," he said.

"This is not an endorsement of Pauline, but this is someone who has garnered a lot of attention."

The event followed a One Nation fundraising sundowner at the same venue the previous evening, which attracted protesters who marched along Victoria Street.

During a 30-minute address and question-and-answer session, Ms Hanson spoke extensively about her early life and the challenges she faced before entering politics.

Born in Brisbane, Ms Hanson told the audience she was one of seven children and grew up above her parents' cafe, where she began working at age 12.

She described her father as a hardworking small business owner who worked long hours and made many of the products sold through the family business himself.

"He worked 106 hours a week for 25 years," she said.

Ms Hanson said the experience instilled a strong work ethic and an appreciation for small business.

After leaving school at 15, she worked clerical jobs while helping in the family business at night.

She married young, had her first child at 17 and later helped establish a potato chip processing business with her parents but later sold it.

Following the breakdown of her first marriage, Ms Hanson worked in hospitality on the Gold Coast before meet-



Protestors opposing One Nation's appearance in Midland the evening before the Hour of Power. Picture: Cameron Mitchell

ing her second husband and helping establish a plumbing business in Ipswich.

She told the audience she experienced domestic violence during that relationship and eventually found herself raising children as a single mother.

Seeking a way to support her family, Ms Hanson purchased a rundown fish and chip shop and spent years building it into a successful small business.

"I worked that business six days a week, by myself," she said.

The business would later become an unlikely tourist attraction after her election to federal parliament in 1996, with Ms Hanson recalling visitors stopping by simply to see the shop owned by the newly elected MP.

Ms Hanson said her political beginnings were in local government after becoming frustrated with what she saw as waste and poor accountability within council operations.

She recounted questioning council spending decisions and advocating for greater scrutiny of how public funds were used.

She then contested the federal seat of Oxley, initially as a Liberal candidate before being disendorsed following controversy surrounding comments she had made about immigration and equality.

Rather than withdraw, Ms Hanson ran as an independent and won the seat.

Reflecting on her arrival in Canberra, Ms Hanson said her maiden speech to parliament became one of the defining moments of her career.

She told attendees she had rejected an earlier draft prepared by an adviser because it did not reflect her own views.

"I'm the member for Oxley, not you, this is my maiden speech," she said.

Ms Hanson said she rewrote much of the speech herself, drawing on her own experiences and concerns about Australia's future.

She also addressed one of the most controversial elements of that speech, her warning that Australia risked being "swamped by Asians", a phrase that attracted widespread criticism and remains closely associated with her political career.

Ms Hanson said she was "not anti-Asian" and argued the comment had been based on immigration projections she had been given at the time.

"These people have given so much to this country, have become Australians, embraced me and what I stand for," she said.

Asked by *Echo News* whether her vision for Australia's future included a multicultural Australia, Ms Hanson said Australia was "multiracial" but people



Swan Chamber of Commerce president Mike Match and One Nation leader Pauline Hanson. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

should identify primarily as Australians rather than by ethnic background.

"We are multiracial, from people with different racial backgrounds, but at the end of the day, we must be Australians," she said.

"I don't want to see Vietnamese Australian, Chinese Australian, whatever, we are Australians."

The comments drew applause from the audience.

While Ms Hanson repeatedly referred to migrants embracing the "Australian way of life", she did not further define what that phrase meant during the discussion.

The most emotional moments of the event came when she reflected on her imprisonment in 2003 after being convicted of electoral fraud offences.

Ms Hanson served 11 weeks in prison before the convictions were overturned on appeal.

She said she was "absolutely devastated" by the guilty verdict.

"It was a very hard time for me and it was a very hard time for my children," she said.

Ms Hanson became visibly emotional while recalling how her son remained outside the prison because he wanted to stay close to her.

"Don't keep living in the past," she said.

"Acknowledge what's happened and move on with your life."

Throughout the event Ms Hanson repeatedly returned to the theme of leadership, encouraging attendees to remain focused on their goals despite criticism and setbacks.

She said leaders needed conviction and a willingness to withstand public attacks.

"Put yourself up on a pedestal," she said.

"The only one that can pull you down is yourself."

Asked how she had coped with decades of criticism and controversy, Ms Hanson said she remained focused on what she wanted to achieve rather than other people's opinions.

Attendants approached *Echo News* following the event and expressed a varied view of the proceedings.

The event drew mixed reception from the Midland business crowd with some appreciating the candour of the visit while others remained opposed to Ms Hanson's views and previous remarks on race and policy.

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Artists impressions of the new AvonWest industrial subdivision.



New Northam hub delayed until late 2027

MIKE PEETERS

THE opening of the new AvonWest logistics and enterprise hub on Great Eastern Highway, Northam has been delayed until the end of 2027.

Developers say the delay is due to fuel spikes and broader economic inflation as well as challenging bulk earthworks, which have directly impacted construction and slowed the pace of on-site development.

Despite this, planning continues and they are now preparing for the next phase of activity on site.

Procon Developments Australia corporate affairs and business development director and former Nationals leader and Central Wheatbelt MLA Mia Davies, said the hub will prioritise sustainability and the responsible use of power and water.

“The \$500 million, 62ha hub will be a modern industrial precinct with integrated renewable energy and wastewater recycling infrastructure built from the ground up,” she said.

“The estate will operate off grid with no

connection to the south west interconnected system and be powered by 100 per cent renewable energy.

“In addition, an innovative on-site treatment system will collect and treat wastewater.

“Water harvesting is designed into the estate to ensure all rooftop stormwater is captured for use (for flushing toilets to industry use) ultimately reducing reliance on potable water supplies.”

She said the AvonWest hub would accommodate a wide range of businesses, from logistics and manufacturing through to technology-enabled and digital industries.

In the article *Northam data centre development concerns remain* (Echo News, May 8), Clean Up Northam Community member Amber Balfour-Cunningham disputed the building of a new data centre at AvonWest.

She said the Shire of Northam had defined light industry as an industry which would not adversely affect the amenity of the locality and not impose an undue load on any existing or proposed essential services or utilities.

Ms Balfour-Cunningham questioned if this definition was appropriate for a 9m tall data centre stated as being used for cryptocurrency mining.

Ms Davies said Procon understood people had a keen interest in the businesses that would be located at AvonWest, particularly as they related to emerging industries.

“With an abundance of renewable power and sustainable water management built in, the estate is capable of hosting digital processing facilities or businesses that rely heavily on these capabilities,” she said.

“Modern logistics facilities, distribution centres and advanced manufacturing operations all rely heavily on digital systems, automation and data processing to operate efficiently.

“Digital processing facilities can include data centres, cloud services, artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, financial technology and cryptocurrency mining.

“These technologies support everything from banking, freight, logistics, agriculture, healthcare, education and government ser-

vices; they underpin our everyday life and economy.

“The important question is how and where these facilities are located and AvonWest has been thoughtfully designed to address the issues of power, water use and appropriate zoning.”

Another important part of the subdivision is the planned truck terminal.

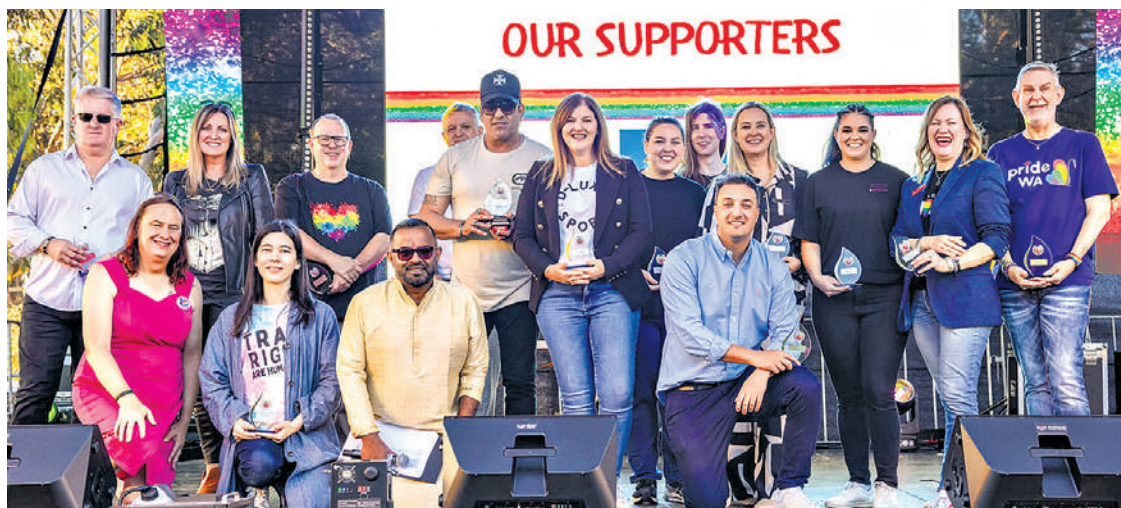
Procon Developments managing director Leon Key said AvonWest is designed to reduce road train turnaround times, support just-in-time distribution models, and streamline supply chain efficiencies by avoiding cross-docking in metropolitan Perth.

“The precinct is expected to increase speed to market by up to 48 hours - a significant improvement for road train drivers and logistics companies,” he said.

“At the moment, truck drivers lose two to three days moving goods in and out of Perth from arriving at the road train assembly area in Northam.

“This is inefficient and affects the cost of goods - AvonWest will change that.”

Pride in Swan receives two grants



Pride in Swan was formed in 2024. Picture: Supplied

CAMILA EGUSQUIZA SANTA CRUZ

PRIDE in Swan has received a tier one \$10,000 grant and a tier two \$25,000 grant from the state government, as part of the 2025-26 LGBTIQA+ Inclusion Grants program.

Pride in Swan chair Jeanene Williams said the tier one grant will fund activities for the general community.

“The \$10,000 grant is to support people north and east of the Perth CBD – the Midland and Ellenbrook areas and up to Joondalup,” Ms Williams said.

“This will fund our community gatherings where people can come and make friends.

“In the past, we’ve had parents of trans people come along to these gatherings for a bit of advice.”

The tier two grant was awarded to develop the ‘Living The Rainbow: Creating space for every colour to shine’ project.

“This is specifically to support the multicultural community, particularly migrants that may come from countries where being gay is criminalised,” Ms Williams said.

“A lot of migrants who come over face a very high level of stigma and discrimination within their own community and outside.

“The purpose of this project is to give those people a safe place to connect with others like themselves where they can access support, coffee catch-ups, those sort of things, but in a private area where

they don’t have to worry about being seen.”

Pride in Swan is also planning to use the grant to launch community services in the Midland, Ellenbrook and Joondalup areas.

“We’ll run at least two social events per month like the free curry night we put on last year open to the public,” Ms Williams said.

“We are also looking to continue our partnerships with other organisations to deliver in-depth support that they can’t get through government services.”

Ms Williams said this will help fill a gap in the community.

“In Perth, there’s a lot of support if you’re in the CBD, but there’s very little once you get out of the city,” she said.

“And there’s hardly anybody who provides services for LGBTIQA+SB people of colour.”

Last year, the organisation ran a multicultural-focused Pride celebration in October at Stirling Square in Guildford that attracted 2000 attendees.

Ms Williams hopes their events will continue to be popular with the community.

“It’s been really great the amount of support that we’ve got from everybody,” she said.

“We run quite a few things around Ellenbrook and Midland, and the general public, the councils and the government have all been really supportive.

“It’s been really great to see just the amount of support and the love that we’ve gotten from the community as a whole.”

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Mundaring deputy president receives WALGA merit award

SHIRE of Mundaring deputy president Luke Ellery has been given a merit award for his contributions to the shire, community commitment and strategic thinking through his engineering background.

Cr Ellery received his award at the 2026 Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) local government honours awards event.

The WALGA merit award recognised notable contributions and service to WALGA, local government and the broader local government sector, while also acknowledging leadership and ongoing participation within the sector.

A lifelong hills resident raising a fourth generation of locals, Cr Ellery was elected to council in 2021 and currently serves as deputy president.

Shire of Mundaring President Paige McNeil congratulated Cr Ellery on the achievement.

“Council is delighted to see Deputy President Luke Ellery recognised through a WALGA Merit Award,” she said.

“Luke brings professionalism, integrity and a genuine commitment to serving the community.

“His engineering background, strategic thinking and passion for sustainable outcomes make him a valuable contributor both at the council table and within the wider local government sector.

“This recognition is well deserved and reflects the contribution he continues to make on behalf of our community.”

As a sustainability engineer working to deliver water infrastructure in financially, socially, and environmentally responsible manner, Cr Ellery brings technical expertise and a strong focus on sustainability, environmental stewardship and long-term planning to his role on council.

Cr Ellery said he was honoured to receive the award.

“I am humbled to represent the place I love and to be acknowledged for doing so,” he said.

“I’d especially like to recognise my wife, who often supports me with such care, President McNeil,



Shire of Mundaring deputy president Luke Ellery says he was excited to see the shire flourish.

who leads with wisdom, and council, who all care deeply for our community.”

“It is an honour to seek the good of a city, and I am excited to continue to serve to see our shire flourish.”

As reported in *Third-generation hills boy to re-nominate* (Echo News, August 8, 2025) Cr Ellery worked as an engineering consultant in the energy space for seven years.

In that role, he was involved in front-end engineering which required him to assess how to achieve the best economic outcomes that were also sustainable.

Back then he said an insight from that role showed him what was economically better was sometimes also environmentally better, and the two metrics weren’t always in opposition.

Swan Coastal Plain pasture project



DPIRD senior development officer Dave Rogers demonstrates how to use sampling equipment at a DIY soil sampling field day near Albany.

PASTURE growers on the Swan Coastal Plain are encouraged to participate in a valuable soils project to improve fertiliser use, protect waterways and boost business performance.

This is the second year of the initiative, which last season attracted 63 participants between Ellenbrook and Condingup.

Expressions of Interest are now open to beef, dairy and sheep producers who receive more than 550mm annual rainfall to participate in the Soils – New Horizons project, delivered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

The three year project – co-funded by the Western Australian and Australian Governments – complements the Healthy Estuaries WA program, and also includes the south coast and south west capturing a wide area north to Jurien Bay, inland to Darkan and Boyup Brook and east of Esperance.

The project provides training, subsidised soil testing and tools to assist landholders to better understand soil nutrient requirements and make evidence-based fertiliser decisions.

DPIRD senior research scientist Simon Clarendon said the initiative delivered practical information that could be applied immediately to help participants save time and money, while supporting the environment.

“Applying only the nutrients that are required can improve production, profitability and reduce the risk of loss of nutrients to the environment,” he said.

“Soils – New Horizons equips growers with the knowledge and tools to understand the nutrient soil nutrient status and production system requirements, as well as how to integrate soil testing into

on-farm decision making.

“The first cohort of participants highly valued the opportunity to gain practical soil knowledge and fertiliser recommendations, taking the guesswork out of on-farm nutrient management while seeing some likely savings in their fertiliser budget.

“Participants’ feedback was very encouraging, reinforcing how this program helps farming operations become more sustainable and profitable, while having a positive environmental impact.”

Demonstration trials have been established on collaborators’ properties at Gingin and Kentdale, near Denmark, to investigate potassium and sulphur constraints to pasture – building on last year’s trials at DPIRD’s Manjimup Horticultural Research Institute.

Project researchers are also deep soil sampling to 30cm between Gingin and Esperance to better understand the extent and severity of subsoil constraints in pasture-based production systems, including subsoil acidity and aluminium toxicity.

This information will be used to better understand how pasture production may be limited by these subsoil constraints, which can restrict root growth and reduce nutrient uptake.

The Soils – New Horizons project is part of a bilateral partnership between the Australian Government and the Western Australian Government, delivered by DPIRD with additional funding from Healthy Estuaries WA.

To find out more and register an Expression of Interest to participate in the project visit the ‘Whole farm nutrient mapping for high rainfall pastures’ DPIRD webpage or email nutrientmapping@dpird.wa.gov.au. Expressions of interest close at 11.59pm on Wednesday, July 22.

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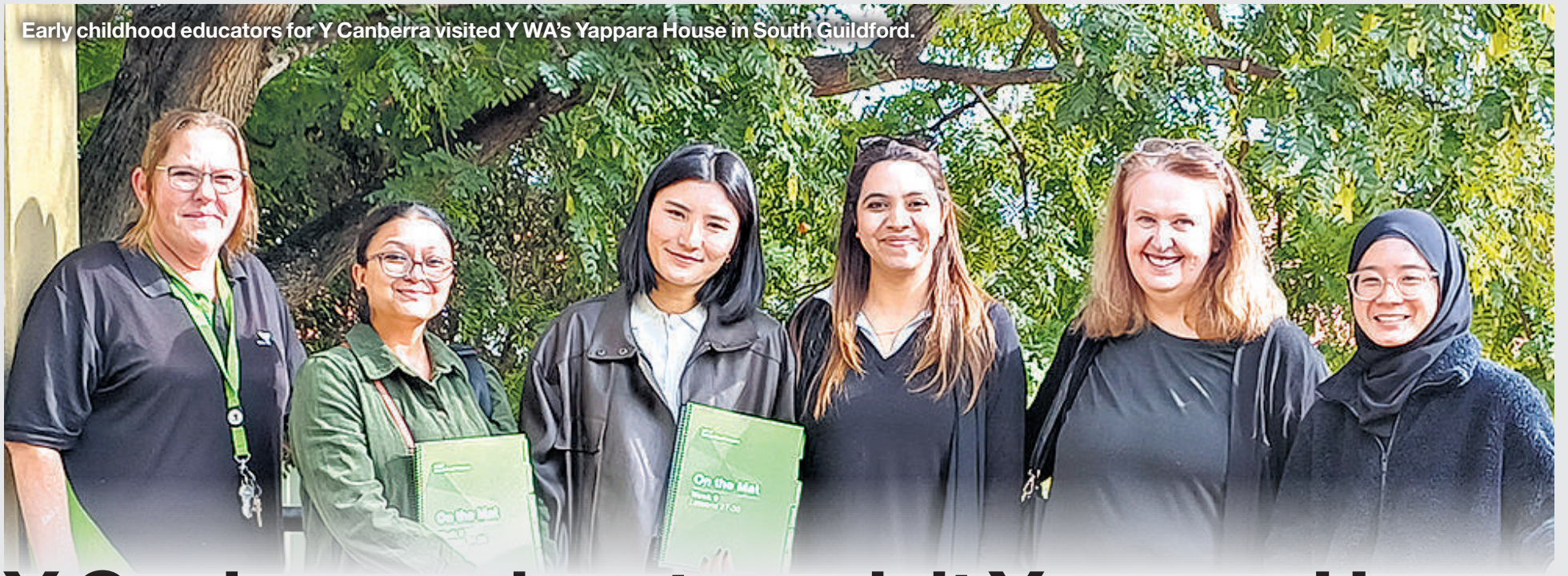
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Early childhood educators for Y Canberra visited Y WA's Yappara House in South Guildford.



Y Canberra educators visit Yappara House

FOUR early childhood educators from Y Canberra have travelled to Perth to gain first-hand experience of the Y WA's successful School Ready Program, including a visit to WA's Yappara House Early Learning Centre in South Guildford.

The visit also provided an opportunity for the team to undertake specialised training with the Y WA's literacy specialist Renee Chakaodza, building their understanding of the evidence-informed approach that underpins School Ready and the assessment tools used to monitor children's development.

Developed by the Y WA, School Ready is designed to support children aged three to five years to develop the foundational skills they need to thrive when they transition to formal schooling.

While maintaining a focus on play-based learning, the program also includes intentional teaching experiences to strengthen children's literacy, language, social-emotional and numeracy development.

Y WA chief executive officer Dr Tim McDonald said it was exciting to see the impact of the program extending beyond Western Australia.

"School Ready was developed to ensure children have the strongest possible foundations before they begin school, and it is incredibly rewarding to see other Y ELCs recognising the value of that work," Dr McDonald said.

"The visit from Y Canberra demonstrates a shared commitment to improving outcomes for young children and creating opportunities for educators across Australia to learn from one another. We look forward to supporting their implementation journey and continuing to share knowledge, resources and insights."

Ms Chakaodza said the literacy and language component of School Ready was designed to build the critical skills children need before formal reading instruction begins.

"Early childhood is a crucial period for language development and literacy learning," she said.

"Through purposeful, engaging and play-based experiences, School Ready helps children develop key skills such as phonological awareness, vocabulary, listening comprehension and narrative skills. These are the building blocks that support later reading success and lifelong learning."

"It has been wonderful to welcome the Y Canberra team into our centres and share practical strategies that can help deliver positive outcomes for children across the country."

The Canberra educators also visited the Y WA's East Cannington and Westminster early learning centres ahead of plans to introduce the initiative across three Y ELCs later this year.

Canberra Centres introducing the School Ready initiative are Strathnairn Early Learning Centre, who will introduce the initiative this year, and Kambah Early Learning Centre and Gungahlin Early Learning Centre, who will introduce School Ready in 2027.



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Tip passes are no longer required to access the Muchea landfill. Picture: Supplied

Muchea landfill litter escaping concerns

CAMILA EGUSQUIZA SANTA CRUZ

CHITTING Residents and Ratepayers Association have expressed concerns regarding litter escaping from the Muchea Landfill and Recycling Centre into surrounding areas.

The landfill is operated by the Shire of Chittering and offers residents free disposal of general household waste, bulk household waste and recyclables.

Chittering Residents and Ratepayers member Mark Campbell said they became aware of litter escaping six weeks ago when a resident contacted them through Facebook.

"They are a business owner, so they know how important it is to the shire to keep their place of business clean," Mr Campbell said.

"But then, when they go to the area – when we all go there – we can see that there is rubbish all over the fences and across the road."

Mr Campbell said the association has expressed their disappointment to the shire and are awaiting a response.

"A lot of where the rubbish has been blown is industrial area and vacant land, but it still negatively impacts the people driving up and down the shire," he said.

"It's not a good look. Luckily most of it is light stuff and not heavy items that could cause accidents on the road, but it could still startle someone in the dark."

"I compare it to the one in Gingin and that one is well maintained with no rubbish on the outside." Mr Campbell believes poor management is at the heart of the issue.

"The staff at the tip can only work with the resources and directions they are provided," he said. "It needs to be properly maintained so there's no rubbish floating around."

According to the Shire of Chittering's website, residents who do not live within a compulsory waste collection area can take their bins to the Muchea or Bindoon landfills.

"They actually have to take their wheelie bins and dump a bit at times," Mr Campbell said.

"And obviously, we don't have bulk pick up so if you want to get rid of big items we can do it free of charge there."

"So the landfill is a valuable and required service. We appreciate that it costs us through our rates and that's why we want to see better maintenance."

Echo News reached out to the Shire of Chittering for comment.

Guildford musician spotlights disability

GUANHAO CHENG

GUILDFORD singer-songwriter Calida Sari is using music to give a voice to people living with invisible disabilities, chronic illness and neurodivergence through her latest album project, Songs for the Invisible.

The Guildford-raised musician is releasing the album gradually throughout 2026, drawing on her experiences living with fibromyalgia, chronic migraines, ADHD and autism.

For Ms Sari, songwriting was always a way to digest emotions and help communicate it with others.

"Music and writing songs have always been, for me, like free therapy," she said.

"It's a way to work through what I'm thinking about and what I'm experiencing at the time."

While the subject matters explored were deeply personal, Ms Sari said she hoped the songs could also help others feel less isolated.

She said many people who connected with her work online were women living with chronic illness or invisible disabilities looking for others with similar experiences.

"The people that I've spoken to so far, who are disabled as well, have really liked it and like what I'm doing and the reasons why I'm doing it," she said.

"I'm hoping it's just going to slowly spread."

The album marked a return to music after a lengthy hiatus as Ms Sari stopped performing live at 26 and spent almost two decades away from the stage before returning to songwriting and recording in late 2024.

At the time, she had not yet been diagnosed with autism and struggled to understand why she repeatedly experienced burnout.

"I couldn't work out why I kept burning out and not being able to do what everyone else seemed to be able to do around me," she said.

Receiving diagnoses for autism and ADHD in her early 40s helped explain decades of challenges.

"Every aspect of my life made sense," she said.

"It was like all the puzzle pieces fell into place."

Today, unpredictable pain meant live performances were no longer possible.

Ms Sari said her experience with fibromyalgia affected not only her pain levels but also her muscle strength, dexterity and vocal cords.

"There'll be some days where my body just refuses to work properly," she said.

"So, staying at home and recording around those disabilities is really the only way that I can make music."

Ms Sari said much of her time was spent managing social media, creating online profiles, uploading music to various platforms and contacting radio presenters in the hope of

gaining exposure.

"It's a lot of hard grinding work of just emailing, emailing, emailing, follow-up emails," she said.

Despite the challenges, she has found encouragement through community radio and disability-focused audiences who embraced the album's message.

Beyond the music, Ms Sari said greater awareness could improve understanding of invisible disabilities and chronic illness.

She said receiving autism and ADHD diagnoses later in life helped explain years of burnout, career changes and struggles that previously made little sense.

"A huge amount made sense," she said.

"It was amazing. I just wish I'd been able to get the diagnosis earlier."

One of the songs on the album, Not Today Satan, explores the daily realities of living with chronic pain and the temptations that could accompany long-term suffering.

When asked by *Echo News*, she said a lyric from the song stood out as one of her favourites.

"Not today, Satan, not today, but you make it damn hard to look the other way," she said.

Ms Sari said the line reflected the constant battle many people with chronic pain face as they search for relief while trying to avoid unhealthy coping mechanisms.

"You've really got to stand up for yourself against yourself as well," she said.



Singer-songwriter Calida Sari said more awareness was needed to change the perceptions surrounding invisible disabilities.

Raised in Guildford, where her parents have lived for about 50 years, Ms Sari said she hopes *Songs for the Invisible* will help bring conversations about disability, chronic illness and resilience into the open.

"Any kind of art is a great communication tool," she said.

"Particularly if you've got really strong messages behind it."

City of Swan tree policy protection questioned

GUANHAO CHENG

DURING public question time at the City of Swan's most recent ordinary council meeting, the city's seriousness about protecting trees was scrutinised by community members.

Ballajura resident Viola Marrapodi appeared in council to ask about the 10 trees that were removed along Alexander Drive as reported in *Trees felled on Alexander Drive were approved: Swan* (*Echo News*, May 29).

City of Swan statutory planning manager Philip Russell assured Ms Marrapodi that approvals were given and Fairway were not in breach by removing the trees along the street despite being planted by the city.

"The trees were not protected by any planning mechanism or planning provision that required them to be retained," he said.

"The developer applied lawfully for their removal and was granted consent.

"We understand that aggrieves some in the community understandably, they were large trees and mature, but there's been no offense."

Ms Marrapodi asked the city if they would demand the developer of Paradise Quays replace the trees that were destroyed.

Mr Russell said he was pleased to say the developer had expressed they would oblige.

"The city is open to work with Mr Burke for appropriate species of replanted trees in appropriate locations," he said.

"Whilst some might view that that won't replace that which was lost, it can go some way towards reinstating some mature trees within the site."

Guildford Association member Christine Hughes also asked why 10 trees were removed in Guildford a few months ago and asked for the rationale behind a retrospective development approval.

Mr Russell replied and said it was important to be specific about terms used such as retrospective development approval and that the city did prosecute breaches as ordinary for a local government.

"The position that the city has had with respect to when to prosecute for breaches of the scheme is a long-held position and one I'm pleased to say is at the foundation of reasonable local government in Western Australia," he said.

Speaking to *Echo News* after the meeting, Ms Hughes said her concern was not limited to the removal of individual trees but what she viewed as a broader question around the use of retrospective development applications after protected trees had already been removed.

Ms Hughes said she wanted to understand what authority or guidelines were relied upon when a retrospective application was invited rather than



Residents from Guildford and Ballajura raised questions about tree protection in Swan at the latest council meeting.

other compliance or enforcement options being pursued.

She argued that once a mature tree had been removed, the original asset could not be restored and questioned whether retrospective approvals weakened the intent of existing tree protection measures.

Ms Hughes said she believed the issue would become increasingly important as the city progressed work on a proposed significant tree register, which is intended to identify and recognise trees of particular environmental, historical or community value.

She also questioned whether the focus on native species alone adequately reflected the value of long-established trees in urban areas, citing mature sugar gums and Moreton Bay figs as examples of significant trees that contributed to canopy cover and local character despite not being native to Western Australia.

Ms Hughes pointed to differences in tree canopy across the city, saying established suburbs such as Guildford and Woodbridge retained comparatively high levels of canopy cover while newer suburbs such as Dayton and Ellenbrook had significantly less.

"I think we have both a state and a national commitment to urban canopy protection," she said.

"Either we're serious about it or we're not."

St John of God Private Hospital chemo

PRIVATE patients with a cancer diagnosis who require surgery may have their procedure performed at St John of God Midland Private Hospital which will partner with the Icon Cancer Centre Midland for radiation therapy and chemotherapy.

In *St John of God Private Hospital close to opening*, (*Echo News*, June 12), it was said that patients could

access chemotherapy at the private hospital.

This is incorrect as chemotherapy is not a service provided at the hospital.

Instead, St John of God Midland Private Hospital has partnered with the Icon Cancer Centre to deliver chemotherapy and radiation therapy at Icon Cancer Centre's premises adjacent to the new hospital.



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Save the dates: The Big Quiz & Ballajura Fair



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Our vision is to provide pathways to better lives for children and young people, today, tomorrow, and beyond.

The work we do largely depends on the efforts of volunteers and the contributions of businesses like yours that are committed to making a difference to the future of these children and young people.

CCY Inc. is currently refurbishing a sea container to create a kitchen to accommodate for morning teas, lunches and refreshments for Community Members attending the Community Garden and a work experience area for young people volunteering at the Garden.

Further Art Programmes are planned for students

- Sunday June 28 – ARTISAN MARKETS**
- Tuesday August 4 – NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES ISLAND CHILDREN'S DAY**
- Saturday August 29 – THE BIG QUIZ**
- Sunday October 18 – BALLAJURA FAIR**

and community members attending the Garden with a mural and several other art pieces including panels depicting the Aboriginal Six Seasons.

Ongoing support and materials are required to commence the second phase of the Community Garden development, with further raised garden beds and soils required.

CCY are also involved in facilitating the annual National Aboriginal and Torres Island Children's Day on August 4 and have reintroduced the 'Big Quiz' which is on Saturday August 29th. Plus the annual Ballajura Community Fair which will be held on October 18.

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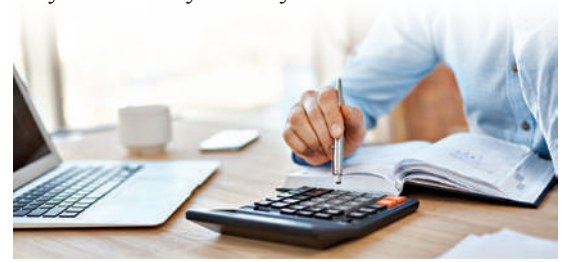
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SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER - Ballajura Community Fair

PELICAN PARADE
11am - 3pm

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ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

Creating Space at Mundaring Arts Centre

MUNDARING Arts Centre Inc invites audiences to explore the artistic process as an act of survival, defiance and self-care in *Creating Space*, presented by the SICK AF Collective.

Bringing together artists living with illness, disability, chronic pain, and caregiving responsibilities, this exhibition reveals how artmaking can become a way to navigate daily life, reclaim agency, and create moments of care and connection.

Spanning textiles, photography, writing, jewellery, installation, and mixed media, *Creating Space* shares deeply personal experiences through works shaped by adaptation, persistence and lived experience.

Rather than hiding the process, the exhibition embraces it – with notes, fragments, repetitions, and evolving works sitting alongside finished pieces to reveal the realities behind creative practice.

Following the collective's previous exhibitions SICK AF and THE STORM, this project focuses on what it means to continue making through uncertainty and limitation.

Here, creativity is not presented as an escape from hardship, but as something essential – a practical and meaningful way of moving through the world.

Each artist's unique experience of disability, illness, recovery, or caregiving shapes and informs their creative outcomes.

While some works present as powerful forms of visual activism, others redefine creativity as an act of faith, collective care, adaptation or quiet reflection.

Across the exhibition processes of recovery, negotiation, resilience, and stillness emerge through deeply personal approaches to making, united by a shared interrogation into creativity as a means of survival, connection and self-determination.

At the heart of the exhibition is the belief that healing is not separate from creativity but embedded within the act of making itself.

Through intimate and honest works, the artists challenge ideas around productivity, wellness and what creative practice can look like when shaped by changing



Amanda Alderson, *Making*, 2024. Picture: Brad Coleman



Claire B Bushby working at her studio desk during her artist residency at the City of Stirling, *Star Swamp Bushlands*. Picture: SOCO Studios

bodies, energy and circumstances.

Audiences are invited to engage with the exhibition through reflective prompts, workshops and participatory experiences that extend beyond the gallery walls, encouraging visitors to consider the role creativity plays in their own lives.

Participating artists include Amanda Alderson, Nadeen Brown, Claire B

Bushby, Brad Coleman, Lucinda Crimson, Catherine Higham, Shayne O'Donnell, and Annamaria Weldon.

Creating Space is on display at Mundaring Arts Centre, 7190 Great Eastern Highway, from June 28 until August 23.

For further information and Public Program details, visit the website www.mundaringartscentre.com.au

Midwinter collection at Juniper Galleries



Left: Annette Wiguna, *River Flow*, acrylic and oil pastel on canvas. Right: Brian Plank, *Goshawk*, recycled materials. Inset: Jenny Kerr, *Pinched Landscape Track North*, ceramic.

A DIVERSE collection of contemporary Australian art will take centre stage in the Perth Hills this month with the launch of the Midwinter group exhibition at Juniper Galleries.

The showcase will feature a wide array of mediums, including paintings, sculptures, ceramics, and glassware, from a curated lineup of local creators.

Exhibiting artists have explored a variety of seasonal themes for the collection, ranging from stormy weather to indoor comforts.

The gallery will host a public preview of the exhibition on Saturday, June 20 from 10am to 5pm.

The official opening of the exhibition is scheduled for the winter solstice on Sunday, June 21, commencing at 1pm.

Perth jazz singer and performer Ali Bodycoat alongside local artist Ben Bulla will formally open the exhibition with live music.

Guests attending the opening event will be able to view the artworks while enjoying mulled wine by an outdoor firepit.

The exhibition is scheduled to run until the end of July, with public viewing hours from 10am to 5pm on weekends, and weekday visits available by appointment.

Guests can visit Juniper Galleries at 41a Dalry Road, Darlington.

ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

Your local Gig Guide

Fri June 19

Chidlow Tavern
Hill-Billy Hootenanny
From 6pm, Free
4 Thomas St Chidlow

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

Parkerville Tavern
Matt Sofoulis
From 5.30pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Table for Two
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

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

Sat June 20

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

Lyric's Bar
Gianni Petta/Ridge
Moss Duo
From 7pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Lush in boots
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Sun June 21

Settlers House York
Graeme Fisher
12pm-3pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace York

Sun June 21 Cont.

Parkerville Tavern
Cherry Cola
From 3pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

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

Chidlow Tavern
Nothin Fancy
12.30pm-3.30pm, Free
4 Thomas St Chidlow

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

Tues June 23

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

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

Wed June 24

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
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Night Presented by
Fenton and Friends
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Thur June 25

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
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ECHO NEWS

ECHO Mind Boggler Crossword 1273

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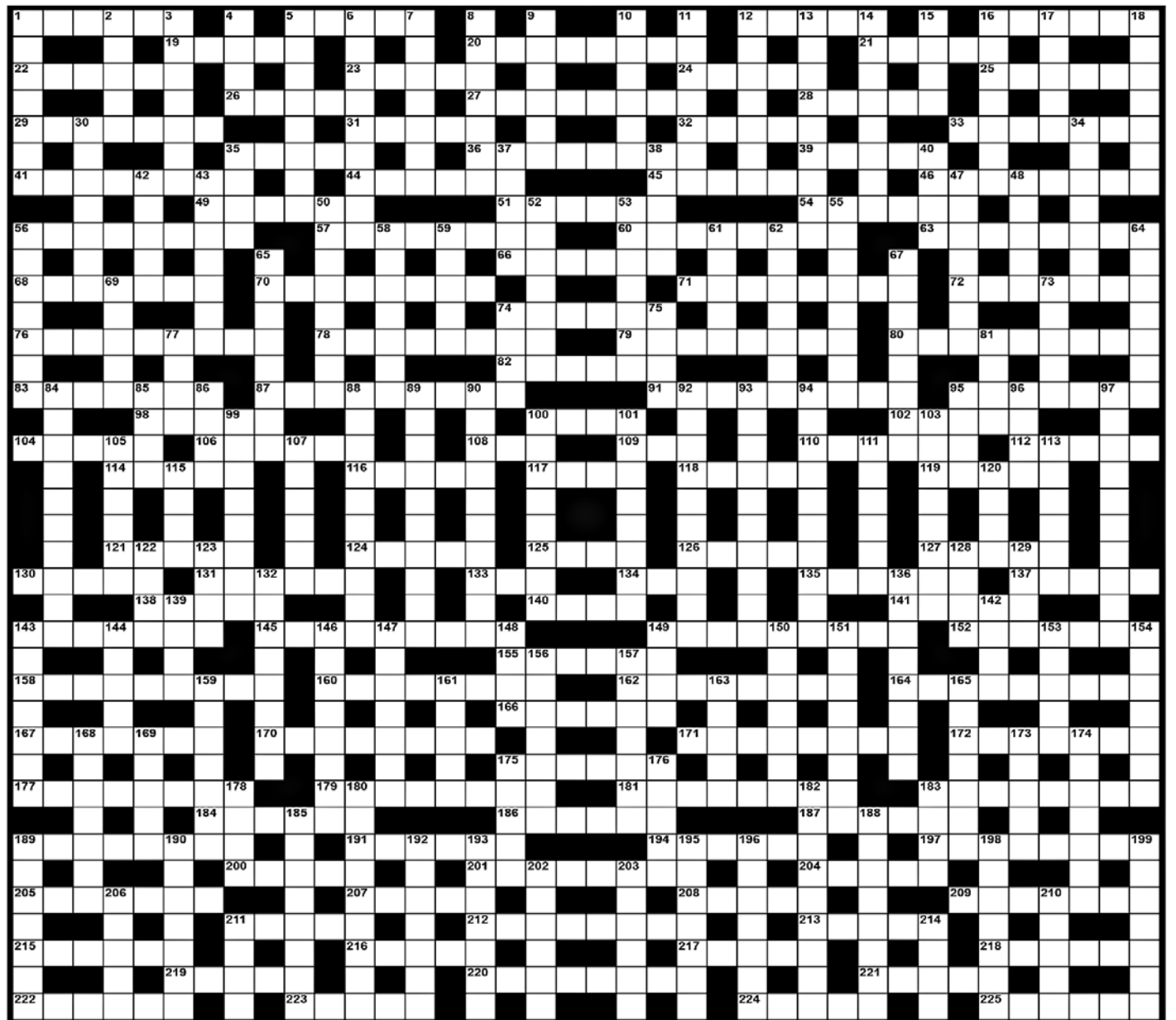
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email: mosso.franklin@gmail.com

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ACROSS

- 1 A season
- 5 A cereal
- 12 Plant bulbs
- 16 Colleague
- 19 Sleeping gas
- 20 Determined in speech
- 21 Complete
- 22 Court documents
- 23 Deep abyss
- 24 Circular
- 25 Anger greatly
- 26 Prickly plants
- 27 Dependence
- 28 Hurried
- 29 Light breezes
- 31 Din
- 32 Stun
- 33 Experience
- 35 Give speech
- 36 African burrowing mammal
- 39 Smelt bad
- 41 Strained
- 44 As a substitute
- 45 Flowers
- 46 Finally happening
- 49 Thin covering
- 51 Annoys
- 54 Come forth
- 56 Defeats
- 57 The order of termites etc
- 60 Make the most of
- 63 Grabbed
- 66 Types of antelope
- 68 Meal course
- 70 List to be followed
- 71 Distinct from others
- 72 High country
- 74 A dog
- 76 Being unused (5,4)
- 78 Clumsy
- 79 Tester
- 80 Waterside worker
- 82 Hope to attain
- 83 Waking
- 87 Told wrongly
- 91 Prison terms
- 95 Echo
- 98 Unworldly
- 100 Run quickly
- 102 In that place
- 104 Fermenting agent
- 106 Harass
- 108 Cooked delicacy
- 109 Behind at sea
- 110 European country
- 112 Top class
- 114 Public house

- 116 Old bailiff
- 117 Type of matting
- 118 Strong cords
- 119 Class
- 121 Consumed
- 124 Hang down
- 125 Comfort
- 126 Small crown
- 127 Choose
- 130 Loved ones
- 131 Moving
- 133 Religious sister
- 134 Slide on ice
- 135 Intrude on
- 137 Scavenging animal
- 138 Asian country
- 140 Points
- 141 Fibre from yucca plant
- 143 Crime against a nation
- 145 Owns
- 149 Turning inwards
- 152 Residue from sawmills
- 155 Seem
- 158 Remembrance pillars
- 160 One from Katmandu
- 162 Book writer
- 164 Speaking indistinctly
- 166 Place of bliss
- 167 Abates
- 170 Happened again
- 171 Marching command (4,4)
- 172 Young hare
- 175 Handgun
- 177 Active modern types
- 179 Root vegetables
- 181 Music of the night
- 183 In believable manner
- 184 Was eager to go
- 186 Displayed
- 187 Smells
- 189 Declare void
- 191 Result
- 194 A waiter
- 197 Lures in
- 200 Foot lever
- 201 Slanders
- 204 Way to get in
- 205 Talk about
- 207 Wideawake
- 208 Common
- 209 In one piece
- 211 Dexterity
- 212 Of the sea

- 213 Unspoken
- 215 Part of the eye
- 216 Fireplace
- 217 A dog
- 218 Characteristics
- 219 Lively dance
- 220 A laxative
- 221 Corner
- 222 Sly behaviour
- 223 Pulls roughly
- 224 Oldest member
- 225 Appal

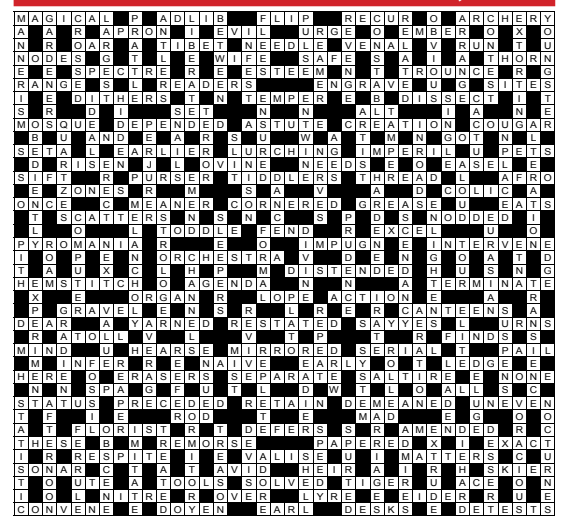
DOWN

- 1 Types of dances
- 2 Educate
- 3 Holiday places
- 4 Fashionable
- 5 Destroyed material
- 6 Causes to happen
- 7 Lingers
- 8 Gorge oneself
- 9 Wrath
- 10 Organ rupture
- 11 Long thin marks
- 12 Nerve
- 13 Makes up for a wrong
- 14 Defensive enclosure
- 15 Breeding establishment
- 16 Thoroughly clean
- 17 Equine animal
- 18 Type of herb
- 30 Forgives
- 34 Make more coarse
- 35 Poems
- 37 Skyblue
- 38 Grates
- 40 Beer containers
- 42 Char
- 43 Turned inside out
- 47 Dare
- 48 Of birth
- 50 A decade last century
- 52 Poor mattresses
- 53 Young child
- 55 Transiently brilliant
- 56 Small fish
- 58 Unused piece left
- 59 A flower
- 61 Local language
- 62 Stir up
- 64 Stretch
- 65 Respected
- 67 Keeps going
- 69 Nasal cavity
- 73 Of sound
- 74 Type of nail
- 75 Former partners
- 77 Scottish island

- 81 Turn off course
- 84 Type of slap
- 85 Inside
- 86 Scoff
- 88 Yields
- 89 Goes in turn
- 90 Something gone through
- 92 Act of removal
- 93 Abstinence from alcohol
- 94 Child attendants
- 95 Back part
- 96 Selected player
- 97 Healthy foods
- 99 Courage
- 100 Out of style
- 101 Density
- 103 Title of respect
- 105 Digging tool
- 107 Starsign
- 111 Excellent (coll) (4-2)
- 113 Lightness of mind
- 115 Diplomacy
- 120 With ability
- 122 Queries
- 123 Work for
- 128 Allows
- 129 Masticate
- 132 Designed fabric
- 136 A salve
- 139 Seep out
- 142 Final
- 143 Places of worship
- 144 Touches on
- 146 An easy job
- 147 Died out
- 148 Window part

- 149 Press clothes
- 150 Celebrate noisily
- 151 Pushed in roughly
- 153 Funeral march
- 154 Tensely
- 156 Ill-tempered
- 157 Type of flower
- 159 Part of nose
- 161 Vegetables
- 163 Cast out
- 165 Highest
- 168 Slender pieces of wood
- 169 Keen
- 173 Faceguard
- 174 Girl's name
- 175 Nuisances
- 176 Set down firmly
- 178 Pace
- 180 High praise
- 182 Unimportant person
- 183 Disturbance
- 185 Secret place
- 188 Eye specialist
- 189 Commanded
- 190 Cheeky type
- 192 Speaks rudely to
- 193 Porridge ingredient
- 195 Faces
- 196 Presided over
- 198 Ran slowly
- 199 Please fully
- 202 Separated
- 203 An arachnid
- 206 Felony
- 210 Enjoys games
- 211 Arrive
- 214 Pulls strongly

Crossword Solution 1272 from 12 June, 2026



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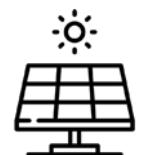


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Why not announce it in the Echo? Call 9374 6666 to share your special news.

Public Notice

ADOPTION OF LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES

Notice is hereby given for public information that the Shire of Mundaring, at its Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 9 June 2026, resolved to adopt the following:

- Exemptions from Requiring Development Approval Local Planning Policy; and
- Signage and Advertisements Local Planning Policy.

A copy of the adopted policies can be viewed on the Shire's website: www.mundaring.wa.gov.au.

Should you have any queries please contact the Shire's Planning Services on 9290 6740 or via shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au.

Jason Whiteaker
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Employment



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E: peter.lewis@echo-news.com
All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

ECHO Notice Board

A free service for non-profit organisations

9374 6666
editorial@echo-news.com

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 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 and then go to Swan Woodturners Group or contact the convenor on 0476 178 002.

- 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 or visit gidgegannupmensshed.org.au
- Swan Valley Community Centre** is 50 years old this year, running from 1976 to 2026. All past members, tutors, commit-

tee members and friends are welcome to join. The celebration will take place on June 27 at Baskerville Hall between 10am and 2pm, 129 Memorial Ave, Baskerville. For more information and to RSVP email enquiries@swanvalleycommunitycentre.com

- Midland Friendly Garden Club** meets at 9.30am on alternate Thursdays at Bruce Douglas Pavilion, Brown Park, Salisbury Road, Swan View. The next meeting will take place on June 25. Our guest speaker will be Talitha Huston author of the book Birds of Perth Hills, who will be talking about her studies and love of birds. For more information call Jenny on 0424 553 002 or Barbara on 0482 935 686.

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

Woofers of the week



Cherry is about 10-weeks-old. We aren't sure of her breed but we suspect she is a staffy cross. She is as cute as a button and super smart. Cherry is vaccinated and microchipped, but she is too young to be sterilised. Costs Apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

Several teams walked away with a dominant lead on the scoreboard.



Rainy clashes in HFA round nine

LAST week saw dominant victories over the rainy weekend with good results for the Mt Helena, Mundaring and Chidlow teams.

Mt Helena Lions faced off against the Pickering Brook Hawks with the Lions winning in convincing fashion.

The match ended with a 10.10 (70) score for the Lions and a 2.10 (22) final result for the Hawks.

Chidlow Cougars dominated with a 73-point lead by the end of their game against Gidgegannup Bulldogs.

Cougars Steven Schorer, Jake Forman and Max Daniels were all named best players of the match with the former two also counting among the goal scorers during the game.

In the end, it was a 2.5 (17) game for Gidgegannup and 11.24 (90) as the final score for Chidlow.

Mundaring and Midland faced off against

each other in round nine with Mundaring leaving victorious.

The match finished up with 5.1 (31) for Midland Tigers and 12.18 (90) for Mundaring Roos.

The best players were named as Robert Di Salvio, Sateki A'Vard, and Dylan O'Loghlen for Mundaring and Niklas Geracitano, Denver Roberts and Shannon Coyne for Midland.

This week is Think Mental Health round as a part of the CFWA awareness month designed to highlight awareness around the issues of suicide.

HFA is encouraging players and supporters to check in on others and help them get through tough times.

Talking, listening, helping seek help from experts and support lines or doing an activity together are all methods for supporting others being promoted during the Think Mental Health round.



Mt Helena Lions were triumphant against the Pickering Brook Hawks.

Lesmurdie BMX riders to compete in world championships

Hills BMX competitor Lily Carne (8).



MIKE PEETERS

FOURTEEN riders from the Hills BMX club in Lesmurdie will head to Queensland in July to compete in the UCI BMX racing world championships at the Brisbane SX international BMX centre.

Hills BMX treasurer Melissa Carne said 19 Hills BMX riders took part in the national championships in Shepparton, Victoria in April resulting in 14 riders qualifying.

"The world championships run from July 17 to 25 inside the Sleeman Sports Complex in Chandler, Queensland," Ms Carne said.

"Thousands of elite riders from around the world will battle it out representing all ages, from eight to 50 plus."

She said club competitors included Lily Carne (8-girls), Stella McMurray (9-girls), Taj Carr (14-boys), Bria Kane (14-girls), Myles Davies (15-boys), Sophie Pilton (15-girls), Jamie Gill (25-29 men's), Mitchell Clements (25-29 men), Bryce Lane (25-29

men), Christopher Lathwell (30-34 men), Jonathan Carr (45-49 men's cruiser), Bradley Lane (50+ men's cruiser), and Toni Gill (50+ women's cruiser).

"It is also expected Jordan Calum from the Hills BMX Club will go as part of the Elite Australia team, although the full elite team is yet to be announced."

Ms Carne said qualifying for the BMX world championships was an incredible achievement and reflected the dedication and hard work, determination and countless hours of training that each rider had put in throughout the season.

"Representing Australia at a world championship is a dream for many athletes and having so many Hills BMX riders qualify is something the whole community can celebrate."

To help raise funds for the trip the club is organising a fundraiser on Sunday, June 28 in Lesmurdie with a cake stall and sausage sizzle - all are welcome.

For more information go to hillsbmxclub@live.com.au

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Beyond the blue and black colour scheme of the home's facade, visitors may walk inside to discover a three-bedroom one-bathroom layout.

The bright and airy living area at the front of the home is part of an open plan space which flows directly into the connected kitchen area.

The kitchen's cabinetry is up to date with ovens and a microwave sitting flush against the range of cupboards that form a neat grey wall complementing the rest of the space's neutral-coloured layout.

A stone benchtop provides a comfortable workspace to prepare meals and entertain guests, connecting seamlessly to the five-burner stovetop and just behind it is the sink with a recessed bottom allowing space

for a dishwasher.

Slatted windows above the sink bench allow in controlled amounts of light and circular lights sit almost flush against the ceiling, adding to its modern aesthetic.

The kitchen's black tapware helps provide striking visual character to the cooking and cleaning area.

The laundry is seamless and workable which makes daily chores a breeze.

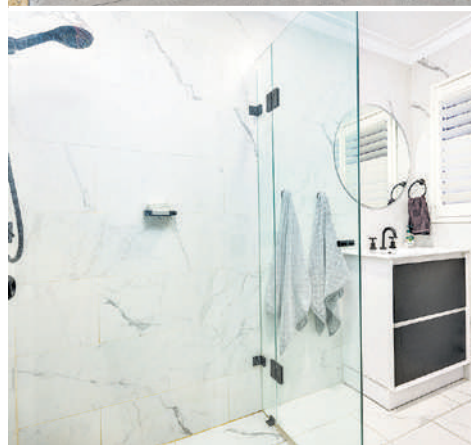
The bathroom, as with most of the home has been renovated, and the home has updated electrical and lighting throughout.

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