

ECHO NEWS

SINCE 1985

Friday, July 10, 2026

Hon Anthony **SPAGNOLO** M.L.C.
MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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Local Business Supporting Local People

VOL.43 NO.1970

Young Binar athlete fundraiser

P13



Northam petition calls for transparency

P10



Facial recognition trial targets Swan LICE

P5



Saving No 1 Pump Station

The National Trust of Australia (WA) is receiving \$41,800 to address urgent conservation issues for the historic building at the foot of Mundaring Weir. **P8**

GET SET. GO.

St John Urgent Care.
Shorter waits. X-ray on site.



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Thank you for supporting local!

Read between the lines

By Pastor Ian Kirk

A Time to Reflect



During the week, it was the fifth anniversary of my dad's passing. It's important to have time to reflect on the life of someone significant to you. Dad was a good dad. He encouraged me in sport, he himself being a top sportsman. He also encouraged me in study, gave me a sense of adventure and a love for gardening. Above all, dad taught me that family is important.

Each year, I go with my wife Colleen and my mum to Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park where dad's ashes have been placed. We put a few plastic flowers in the ground near his plaque. As we do that, I see on his plaque the words "in the arms of Jesus". These words bring comfort to my soul. Dad is "in the arms of Jesus" – in heaven.

A number of years ago, before he died, dad came to personally put his faith in Jesus, calling on Him to save him from his sins and to give him the hope of heaven. Before that, dad, a church goer all his life, thought that going to church and being a good person would get you into heaven. But no amount of church attendance will get you there; and no one is good enough – we have all sinned. That's why Jesus died for us on the cross.

Through Jesus, and only through Him, can we go to heaven. I am so grateful that dad is "safe in the arms of Jesus".

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ECHO Celebrations



60 YEARS

The club recently received a grant from Kalamunda Rotary to improve its facilities and better support its rising membership. Picture: Kalamunda Lapidary Club

Kalamunda Lapidary Club turns 60

CAMILA EGUSQUIZA SANTA CRUZ

FOUNDED in 1966, the Kalamunda Lapidary Club is celebrating six decades of cutting and polishing stones, minerals and gemstones into decorative items.

Club president Danny McManus said this was a big achievement for all the members.

"We've been here for 60 years, so it's quite a milestone for us," he said.

"It's good to know that we managed to keep the club alive all that time."

To celebrate, the club will create a special showcase at its annual exhibition.

"Our exhibition in September is held over a weekend, where people come to look at our work, buy rocks and admire what we do, so we're planning to try and showcase some of our past history then," Mr McManus said.

"We've got a five-head stamp mill copy that was made way back in the 70s for a Perth mining exhibition. We've had it in storage for a long time, so we are getting it refurbished now.

"Also, in the 70s, we did a display at the Old Mill in South Perth, and we've still got some of those items, which we'll put together again so we can show people what we did back in the earlier days of our club."

Mr McManus said the club had many achievements throughout the years.

"A few of our members used to show their stuff at the Perth Royal Show and many of them won prizes and competitions," he said.

"We also used to have a jamboree, which was an Australia-wide gathering of all lapidary clubs. It used to happen in Western Australia every so often, and we won the top club in Australia back in the 70s."

The club now has between 60 to 70 members, who frequent the clubroom throughout the week at Kostera Reserve.

"On Tuesday, we do silversmithing, where I teach people to make silver jewellery, and on Wednesday, it's the rock room day, where people make cabochons (polished gemstones) and other things – some people are making chess boards and different items out of our stones," Mr McManus said.

"And then Thursday night, we have an open night for people to come in after work from 7pm to 10pm, and Saturday we're open from 10am to 4pm."

Vice-president Joe Houldsworth said anyone is free to join the club.

"We've got a lot of younger members coming through. I don't know why, but we're very pleased," he said.

"In this day and age, a lot of clubs and organisations have difficulty attracting new and younger members, but for some reason, we have been able to attract different age groups.

"There are people that live quite close and are totally unaware of the club. And yet, we have members that come from far and wide and travel an awful lot, while some locals are oblivious to it."

Mr McManus hopes more young people con-

tinue to be interested in the club.

"The main hope is that the club attracts a lot more young members who can take over because some of our members are getting old," he said.

"Quite a few of our members are in their late 60s and up to their 80s, so we want young people who can take an interest, carry the flag and keep going with the fun of lapidary."



Members searching for precious stones.

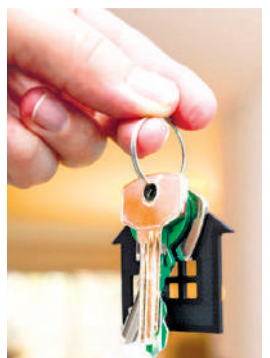
INSIDE

c			
r			
w	o	r	d
s			
s			

P16 Crossword



P19 Sport



P19 Real Estate

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Healthy Living

FEATURE P15

REGULAR FEATURES

Letters	4
Entertainment	14
Crossword	16
Trades	17
Classifieds	18
Noticeboard	18
Sport	19
Real Estate	19

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Kalamunda council rejects future forest policy



Kalamunda has been without a formal tree retention policy since the original guidelines were scrapped in 2024.

BRAYDEN MOULD

CITY of Kalamunda's two-year tree retention policy vacuum will continue after council voted 6-3 to reject the proposed local planning policy 33: Future Forest framework late last month.

The framework, which was debated at a public agenda briefing forum on June 9, faced its final vote at the ordinary council meeting on June 23.

During the proceedings, the chamber received a deputation from internationally recognised botanist Professor Kingsley Dixon, who urged elected members to implement the tree protection framework.

"We owe it to the future generations that same promise that John Forrest gave in 1895, that future generations will look back and see the decisions of today in the light of a protected, healthy tree canopy," he said.

Cr Modolo, speaking to council, put forth an alternate motion to reject the Future Forest policy stating that voting for a flawed policy could do more damage

than good.

"The debate tonight is not about whether trees matter, of course they do, and canopy matters, and biodiversity matters," he said.

"The real question is, are we prepared to accept a flawed policy by way of regulating private land, or are we determined to get this right.

"The former LPP33 fell over because it became difficult to administer, difficult to understand, difficult to apply, and difficult for ordinary people to navigate.

"If we are going to impact people's land we need to get it right."

The final decision has furthered the policy gap in the municipality since the original guidelines were rescinded in early 2024, as reported in *Applause as Kalamunda bins tree retention policy* (*Echo News*, March 1, 2024).

Kalamunda Tree Canopy Advocates member Hannah Lill said the complete rejecting of the framework leaves the community with no regulatory outcomes after months of preparation.

"Essentially, 16 months of time was spent doing that process with the input of councillors, and they ended up providing no support for the policy at all," she said.

Nature Reserves Preservation Group member Sue Dowson agreed the administrative process has been deeply exhausting for community members.

"It really is heartbreaking for us as a community to watch what feels like a charade," she said.

"To have to build all the momentum of protest and try and urge people to speak up and then go to a meeting where so simply, it's rejected on the basis of it's not good enough."

The trajectory of Kalamunda's urban canopy cover is expected to become clearer later this year when the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage release its updated tree canopy cover dashboard

"The data that's going to come out at the end of the year will be transparent and it will really enable us to see the true scale of what's happened with our canopy cover over this period of a policy vacuum," Ms Lill said.

Swan a top business hotspot

PETER W LEWIS

THE City of Swan has emerged as one of the top three leading business growth hotspots driving a wave of small business activity over the past five years in Western Australia.

More than 3000 new businesses were added in Swan over that period.

Perth's northern and south-eastern corridors are leading the way with Wanneroo and Stirling taking the top two spots followed by Swan, Gosnells and Canning.

New figures commissioned and released by the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) show more than 30,000 new sole traders and small businesses were established across WA between 2020 and 2025, with many of the state's fastest-growing population centres leading the charge.

The City of Wanneroo recorded the largest increase, adding 3080 businesses over the five-year period, followed by Stirling (+3,060), Swan (+3,050), Gosnells (+2,920) and Canning (+2,250).

Together, the five local government areas accounted for almost half of all new small business growth across Western Australia.

WA Small Business Commissioner Saj Abdoolakhan, said the figures highlighted the close relationship between population growth and business creation.

"These are some of the fastest-growing communities in Western Australia and they're attracting young families, skilled workers and migrants who all need homes, services and infrastructure," Mr Abdoolakhan said.

"When new suburbs emerge and populations grow, demand follows for everything from builders and electricians to healthcare providers, childcare operators to retailers, real estate agents and technology services.

"This new research demonstrates that many of WA's entrepreneurs are choosing to create their own businesses in the communities where

they live, contributing to the local economy and providing essential services to the community."

The growth comes as Western Australia continues to experience strong population growth driven by interstate and overseas migration, with the state forecast to grow from around 3.1 million people today to 3.6 million by 2036.

The data shows WA counted more sole traders in several industries since 2019, outpacing national growth in many sectors such as transport, postal and warehousing (+56%), other services (+48%) and administrative and support services (+44%), highlighting the growing demand for flexible, specialised and contract-based work.

Mr Abdoolakhan said the demographic trends point to continued opportunities for small business operators over the coming decade.

"Small businesses remain the backbone of our economy and these figures show there is no shortage of opportunity for people willing to back themselves and start a business," he said.

"The good news is they don't have to do it alone. The SBDC provides advice and support to help small business owners navigate everything from planning and finance to growth and expansion – and we want them to know they can turn to us at any stage of their business journey."

The SBDC's state government-funded services include free one to one business advisory services, practical business skills workshops, free business resources, dispute resolution and more, helping entrepreneurs start, grow and adapt their businesses.

Western Australia is now home to almost 258,000 small businesses and sole traders, representing 97 per cent of all businesses operating across the State.

The cities of Armadale, Cockburn, Rockingham, Belmont, Bayswater, Perth and Kwinana round out the top 12 local government areas for business growth.



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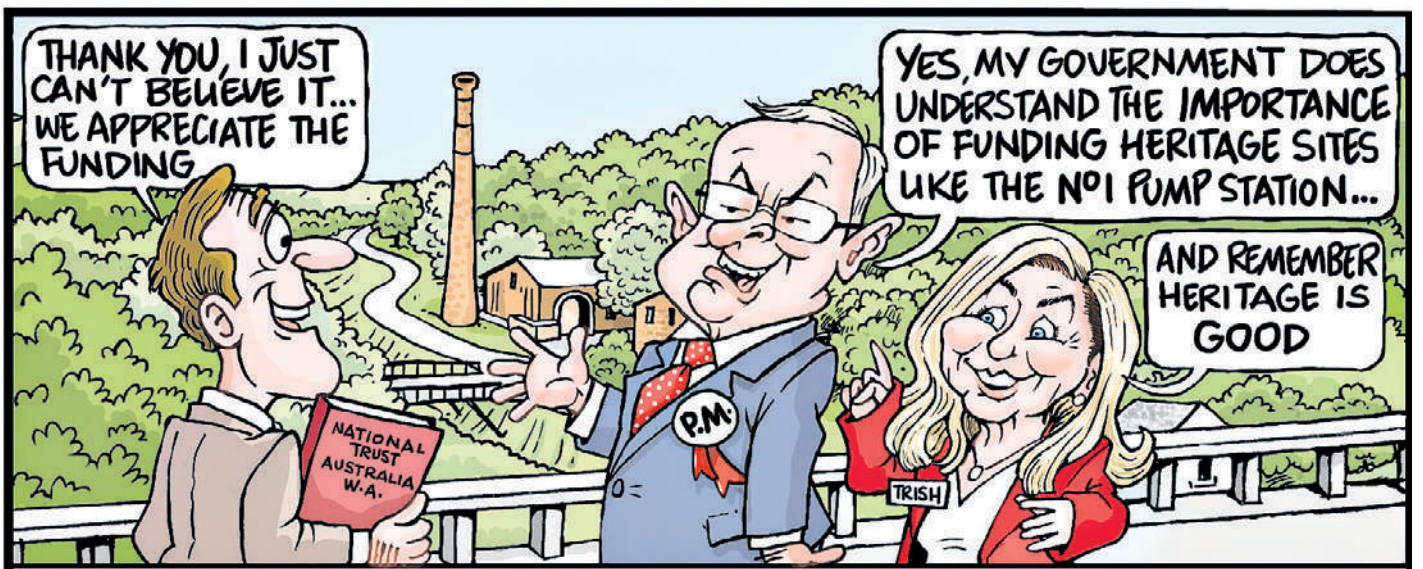
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THE ALBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOCATED FUNDING TO PROTECT AND TO CONSERVE ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE SITES, THE NUMBER 1 PUMP STATION AT MUNDARING WEIR.

ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say:
editorial@echo-news.com

**Future
Forests
farce**

Dear Echo News,

In 2023, after years of work between a community advisory group and Kalamunda city officers, a groundbreaking tree retention policy was adopted in a majority vote.

In 2024, in a motion moved at a council meeting only a year after implementation, Cr Modolo sought to revoke the policy – no opportunity for amendment, just abolish.

Cr Modolo argued it was too poorly written to be implemented consistently by city officers; that land holders only seek to remove trees they really need to.

Additionally, WALGA were developing a tree protection policy that could be quickly adopted to fill the policy void left by the revocation.

Early 2025, a special electors' meeting of the community passed a motion urging the city to adopt the WALGA tree retention policy, now fully developed and being implemented by others.

Late 2025 the city put out for comment a draft 'Future Forests' policy.

This policy's goal was not to protect existing mature trees, but a framework for how they should be replaced once felled.

148 responses from community resulted and 80 per cent agreed the city must do more to encourage tree planting and protection of trees

on private land.

Many raised concerns about lacking protection for existing significant trees compared to WALGA's policy.

Currently 10 of 30 councils in Perth have used WALGA's model policy as a basis for tree retention with others currently adopting it.

At the June council meeting, councillors Ritchie, Cooper and Bilich argued, using well laid out logic, why mature trees must be protected to maintain our "home in the forest".

Professor Kingsley Dixon AO, internationally esteemed botanist, also explained the importance of protecting canopy and policy's ability to protect on public and private land.

Multiple individu-

Thought for the day

"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything." - George Bernard Shaw

als, community groups (including NRPNG and KTCA) asked questions, presented deputations, proposals and statements.

Cr Modolo again argued the policy is too vague to implement; trees on private land do not need protection even though the latest state government modeling shows the city's tree canopy has fallen in the two-year policy void.

His motion passed three against, five for.

The next time you see a mature tree being cut down, remember that in 2023 we were trail blazers protecting

trees; now and in the last 28 months, there is a policy vacuum with no protection.

Remember the councillors that voted against protection despite overwhelming community feedback asking more be done.

Our thanks to councillors who tried to implement majority community views.

**Sue Dowson
Nature Reserve
Preservation Group**

The Echo reserves the right to edit letters for length, legal reasons or clarity. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Echo. All letters must contain the author's full name, address and phone number for verification purposes.

From the net...

Echo News social media comments

In response to Midland speed limit review open for public comment:

Guildford would be a far better place to implement this, with all the tourists, cafes, pubs and specialty shops.

G Roseby

Why? The speed is already at a snail pace due to congestion, maybe complete the bridge on Lloyd Street.

M Healy

In response to Libs join fight to save Macri's

Enjoyable shopping with fresh stuff and lovely people! Surely fixing the mess can't be hard, councils are supposed to look after ratepayers not make life difficult!

L Zinenko

Chalice Mining miscellaneous licence

Chalice Mining is planning to apply for a miscellaneous licence later this year for its proposed infrastructure corridors that traverse Chittering properties.

In *Infrastructure corridor concern in Chittering* (Echo News, July 3), it was said that Chalice Mining had already applied for a miscellaneous licence under the Mining Act 1978 (WA).

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Don't lose your consumer rights in the spin cycle

With Commissioner for Consumer Protection Trish Blake

White goods and televisions account for the majority of household goods complaints received by Consumer Protection. People rely on these items every day, and when something goes wrong it's a major disruption and can leave you out of pocket.

Think about the food that could spoil when a fridge stops working, or the extra money needed for a laundromat when the washing machine breaks down.

The last thing you need is the retailer not understanding their obligations under the Australian Consumer Law (ACL) when your fridge, washer, dishwasher, dryer or TV breaks down.

You are entitled to a refund, repair or replacement if there is an issue with your item. The remedy you're entitled to will depend on whether the issue is major or minor.

A major fault might include a product that is unsafe, significantly different from its description, or unable to perform its intended purpose. In these cases, you can generally choose between a refund or replacement.

For minor faults, businesses may choose to repair the item within a reasonable timeframe. However, a series of minor faults may become

a major fault, and you get to choose the remedy.

For example, one person came to Consumer Protection about their washer-dryer combo that stopped working again after multiple repairs by the retailer. They were refusing to refund the consumer for this major failure.

A quick reminder to their staff about their obligations under the ACL meant the customer received the full refund they were entitled to.

Many people mistakenly believe that once a manufacturer's warranty expires, they are not entitled to a remedy. This isn't true. Your consumer rights under the ACL don't end when the warranty does, in fact they continue long after. You should expect the item you bought to last for a reasonable period of time.

In another recent complaint, a consumer reported that their high-end fridge had stopped working after two years and the retailer was refusing to repair it as it was "out of warranty".

Anyone would reasonably expect a fridge to last longer than two years and when the retailer was advised of this, they agreed to fix the fridge under their ACL obligations.

To lodge a complaint go to consumerprotection.wa.gov.au

Facial recognition trial targets Swan



WA Police trial facial recognition cameras, mounted to marked police cars in public spaces.

BRAYDEN MOULD

WA Police has concluded the first week of its overt live facial recognition (OLFR) technology trial, deploying mobile scanning units to high-traffic hotspots in Perth's north-east including Midland Gate Shopping Centre and Ellenbrook Train Station.

The first week, running from June 22 to June 28, scanned 131,478 faces across Perth and generated 33 alerts to identify high-risk individuals and missing persons.

The cameras, found mounted on marked police cars in public spaces, automatically pixelate unlisted civilian faces in real time and then later deletes data so no ongoing public records are maintained.

During the first day of deployment at Midland Gate Shopping Centre, the technology flagged a 40-year-old man wanted in connection with a physical assault at an electronic repair store inside the shopping centre that had occurred one day prior.

According to police, the man had allegedly entered the retail store on Sunday, June 21 where he verbally threatened a staff member and knocked him unconscious before fleeing.

Stationed officers intercepted and arrested the suspect on Monday, June 22 charging him with assault with intent to rob, stealing, and two counts of breaching protective bail conditions.

For the greater metro area, the public scanning resulted in a further 18 total apprehensions, including 16 with active outstanding warrants.

The alerts also identified, 21 registered sex offenders, two persons who required welfare checks, and it also resulted in one false positive.

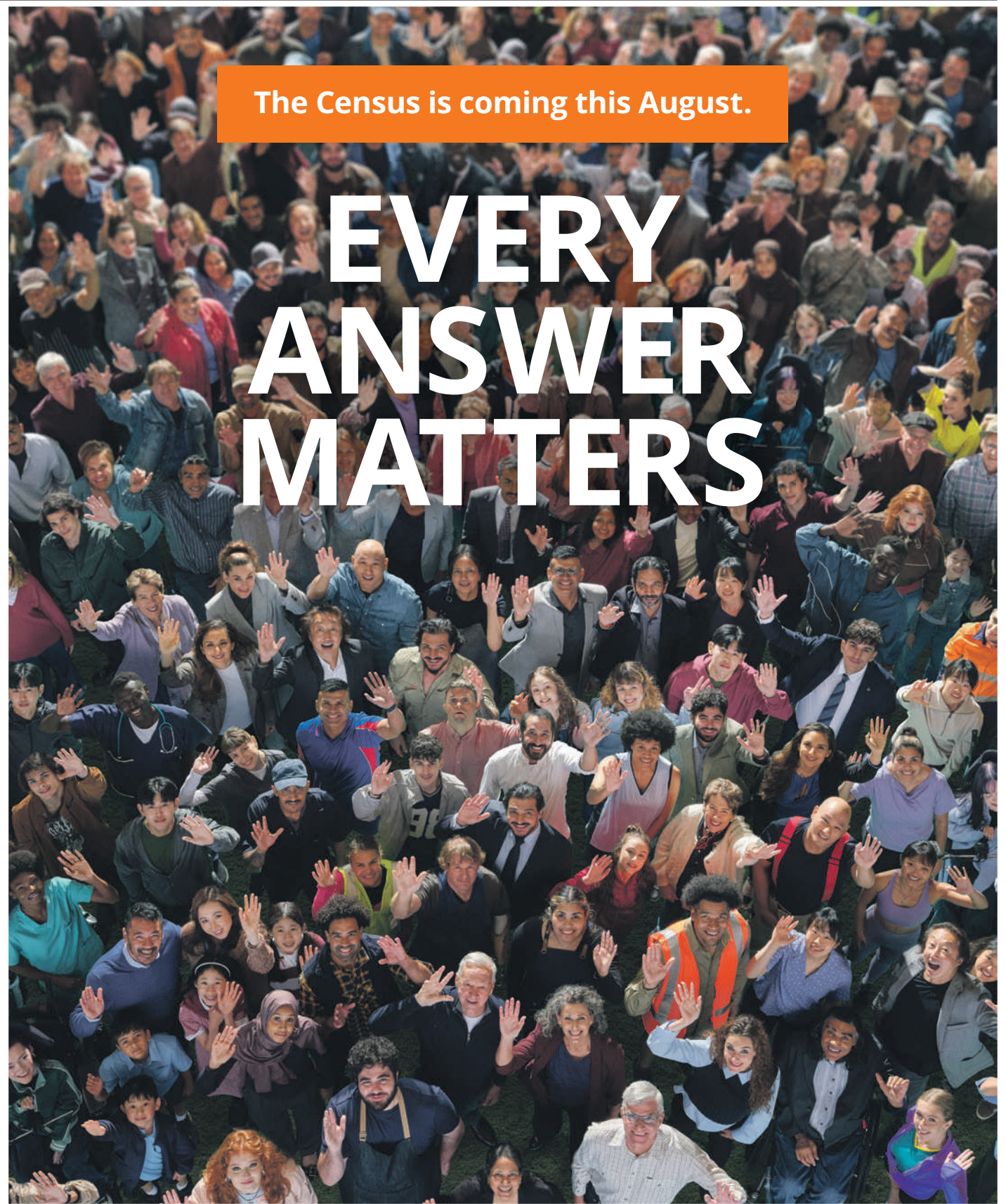
The mobile units continue to rotate through various suburbs around the Perth metro area including Claremont, Joondalup, and Armadale, as police evaluate the technology's long-term integration into community policing.

Addressing the community concerns about public tracking, WA Police Commissioner Col Blanch said the initiative focuses on using modern technology responsibly to ensure safety while allowing the vast majority of people to go about their day with impact.

"Live facial recognition is about protecting people, not watching people. It is another tool to help police find the right people, at the right time, for the right reasons," Mr Blanch said.

"This technology is the way forward when it comes to supporting frontline policing.

"It'll help to get high-risk offenders off the streets sooner and reunite vulnerable people with safety and care more quickly," he said.



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Census night - Tuesday 11 August

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IGA Helena Valley

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HERNE HILL:

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Lottery Centre**

777 Gt Northern Hwy

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HIGH WYCOMBE:**High Wycombe****Village Shopping**

Kalamunda Rd

Newburn**Newsagency**

47 Newburn Rd

The Village Supa IGA

120 Wittenoom St

KALAMUNDA:**City of Kalamunda**

Railway Rd

Crabbs IGA

12 Canning Road

Kalamunda Centro**S/Centre**

39 Railway Rd

Kalamunda Library

7 Williams St

Kalamunda**Newsagency**

Haynes St

Nightingales**Pharmacy**

123 Canning Rd

Jack Healey Centre

21 Mead St

KOONGAMIA:**Koongamia Store**

5/21 Jinda Rd

LESMURDIE:**IGA Lesmurdie**

241 Lesmurdie Rd

**Sanderson Road S/
Centre**

Sanderson Rd

MAHOGANY CREEK:**Begonia Pets**

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MAIDA VALE:**Hill View Public Golf
Course**

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Maida Vale IGA

Unit 2/31 Maida Vale
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MIDLAND:**Baptistcare**

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45 Helena Street

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Markets**

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Keane St

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The Ritz Cafe

16/27 Old Great
Northern Hwy

MT HELENA:**IGA Mt Helena**

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MUNDARING:**Brookwood Realty**

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Rd

Coles Supermarket

Great Eastern Hwy

Hills Fresh

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Mundaring**Newsagency**

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Hwy

**Mundaring Village
Shopping Centre**

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**Mundaring Visitors
Centre**

7225 Great Eastern
Hwy

Shire of Mundaring

7000 Great Eastern
Hwy

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Store**

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SAWYERS VALLEY:**Atlas Fuel**

10895 Great Eastern
Hwy

Caltex Service Station

96 Great Eastern Hwy

SOUTH GUILDFORD:**IGA Waterhall**

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Market**

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Centre**

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SWAN VIEW:**IGA Swan View**

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THE LAKES**The Lakes
Roadhouse**

Great Eastern
Highway

UPPER SWAN:**Vibe Roadhouse**

1447 Great Northern
Hwy

WOOROLOO:**Wooroloo Liquor
& General Store**

3775 Government Rd

YORK:**York Co-op**

Avon Terrace

Castle Hotel

Avon Terrace

Malaga made electric articulated bus rollout



Volgren Operations Manager WA Peter McCrory with Premier Roger Cook and deputy Premier Rita Saffioti.

IN a first for Australia, Transperth will introduce two Malaga made electric articulated 'bendy' buses to its fleet.

The buses are the first of their kind in Australia and are being built at Volgren's Malaga facility, with the first unveiled last week.

The 18-metre buses are around six metres longer than a standard Transperth bus and can carry about 105 seated and standing passengers, compared to about 80 on a standard bus.

The two articulated buses will begin testing on routes in Perth's northern suburbs in the coming weeks and are expected to enter service around August, providing increased capacity for passengers on some of the network's busiest corridors.

The buses can recharge in approximately four hours and form part of Transperth's growing electric fleet, which includes more than 150 electric buses, with around 11 new electric buses entering service each month.

Local electric bus manufacturing is a key part of the Cook Labor government's Made in WA plan to diversify the economy and grow local jobs.

More than 100 local jobs, including 15 apprentices, are supported at Volgren's Malaga facility – with battery electric buses exclusively produced and delivered for public transport across Western Australia.

Transperth's diesel and compressed natural gas bus fleet will gradually be phased out as they reach their end of service life.

The last diesel Transperth bus was manufactured more than a year ago, with every new addition to the Transperth fleet since being a locally built electric bus.

Shifting bus manufacturing to fully electric fol-

lows on from a \$250 million program jointly funded by the Australian and WA governments to deliver an initial 130 electric buses and associated infrastructure and bus depot upgrades.

Upgrades to accommodate EV charging infrastructure have already been completed at the Malaga depot and Elizabeth Quay Bus Station, with work underway on a new EV bus depot in Bayswater and upgrades at the Karrinyup and Jandakot depots.

Premier Roger Cook said the Australian-first locally made articulated buses was another way his government was prioritising the diversification of WA's economy.

"We can keep WA the strongest economy in the nation, by making more things here and develop a skilled and productive workforce.

"More than 100 local jobs, including 15 apprentices, are supported here at Volgren's Malaga facility, working to make Transperth's fleet greener and be part of the energy transition."

Transport Minister Rita Saffioti said the government was proud to be leading the nation with the roll out of the first locally made electric 'bendy' buses – made right here in WA.

"These two new buses build on our growing electric bus fleet, with 11 new electric buses entering service each month.

"Building electric buses locally is a key part of our government's plan to diversify our economy and generate long-term jobs for Western Australians.

"The transition to locally made electric buses is keeping our economy strong while delivering a greener, cleaner public transport network for the future."

EMRC appoints Liew as new CEO

EASTERN Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) has appointed Hua Jer Liew as its new chief executive officer, a position he has acted in over the past nine months.

"Jer brings a wealth of experience, having served as acting chief executive officer since September last year, where he has demonstrated strong, capable leadership as well as ensured stability and continuity during a period of transition," EMRC chair Cr Filomena Piffaretti said.

Cr Piffaretti expressed council's confidence in Mr Liew's leadership, governance acumen, and operational expertise, which are considered vital for steering the organisation.

"His longstanding commitment to the organisation is reflected in his tenure as chief financial officer and director corporate services since 2010, where he has played a pivotal role in strengthening the EMRC's financial position and corporate operations," he said.

He said council's decision to appoint Mr Liew acknowledges not only his significant contribution over many years but also his clear vision for the future.

"His deep organisational knowledge, combined with his strategic leadership capabilities, positions him well to guide the EMRC into its next chapter," he said.

Mr Liew said his focus will be on maintaining safe, reliable and compliant operations, supported by strong environmental, financial and governance discipline.

"I look forward to working closely with council, our member councils, our dedicated staff and stakeholders to build shared priorities, strengthen performance and deliver positive outcomes for the communities we serve," Mr Liew said.

"As the sector evolves, EMRC will continue to progress practical and sustainable resource recovery outcomes in a disciplined and measured way, pro-



Hua Jer Liew is EMRC's new chief executive officer.

tecting service reliability while building a credible and affordable pathway forward."

Mr Liew is an experienced executive with over two decades of leadership across local government, ASX-listed organisations, and strategic consulting.

During his time at EMRC, he has delivered significant improvements in financial performance and organisational capability, including strengthening reporting frameworks and enhancing risk management systems.

He possesses a Bachelor of Commerce as well as a Master of Business Administration degree and is a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA).

Indigo Junction funding to assist FDV survivors

MIDLAND domestic violence support provider Indigo Junction will receive a funding boost as part of a \$3.8 million state government package aimed at expanding counselling and advocacy services for victim-survivors across Western Australia.

Indigo Junction is one of 10 community organisations sharing in \$3.2m over two years to increase access to family and domestic violence counselling and advocacy services, while a further \$600,000 has been allocated to regional helpline provider DVassist.

Midland MLA Steve Catania said the funding would help organisations such as Indigo Junction respond to growing demand by increasing their capacity to support women and children affected by family and domestic violence.

"Family and domestic violence counselling and advocacy services like those provided by Indigo Junction assist adults, young people and children to find solutions to both practical and personal problems that have arisen where family and domestic violence has occurred or is likely to occur," he said.

"This additional funding boosts capacity in this crucial service group and will enable organisations to employ

more qualified counselling and advocacy staff to meet demand and provide timely support to women and children."

Mr Catania said he had seen the impact family and domestic violence had on the Midland community during his time as the local member.

"As the Member for Midland, I hear from people who have been affected by family and domestic violence and I see the impact of the work of local organisations like Indigo Junction," he said.

"What stands out is that domestic violence is often hidden and complex, and many victim-survivors require support over a long period of time to feel safe and rebuild their lives.

"Indigo Junction's work reinforces the importance of early support and compassion. If we want to change outcomes, we need to recognise the warning signs and ensure people know where to go for help."

Mr Catania thanked Indigo Junction for its work supporting victim-survivors in the Midland community.

"This funding ensures services like Indigo Junction can continue to support victim-survivors in accessing safe and compassionate support close to home," he said.



Indigo Junction chief executive officer Sharon Gough speaking about the funding.

Canola genetics research paving the way to new and improved varieties



DPIRD research scientist Rosemary Smith and the department's team are working on three genetics projects to lay foundations for improved canola yields.

THREE genetic research projects are underway, which will lay sound foundations to develop new high performance, resilient canola varieties.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is leading a frost project and collaborating with its NSW counterpart on acidic soils and biomass conversion research, all backed by Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) co-investment.

Canola is Australia's third largest crop by value and the most important break crop for cereals, producing oil for human consumption, as well as plant material for biodiesel production and animal feed.

The 'Reducing the frost sensitivity of canola in Australia' project aims to identify frost tolerant germplasm that will help boost the yield of crops subject to frost conditions by more than four per cent.

DPIRD research scientist Brenton Leske said the project would assess the genetic diversity of

Australian and international open pollinated and hybrid varieties.

"This research will help develop a complete understanding of where the greatest frost effects are to improve screening for canola frost tolerance," Dr Leske said.

"Trials will be undertaken in multiple frost prone areas across Australia to develop more frost tolerant varieties."

The 'Development of genetic selection tools for improved canola acid soils tolerance' research objective is to expand the area suitable for canola production and increase yields by 1.5 per cent.

Department research scientist Rosemary Smith said developing varieties with acid soils tolerance could be an effective means of overcoming the constraint.

"The first phase of this work, undertaken by NSW DPIRD, will identify the genes and genomic regions associated with acid soils tolerance, which will test candidate lines under a

range of Australian conditions," Ms Smith said.

"The project team will develop screening methods to be made available to canola breeders and pre-breeding entities, validated by glasshouse and field trials.


"The end result will enable the development of high yielding canola varieties with improved acid soil tolerance for targeted production."

The 'Determining source to sink relationships in canola and identifying exploitable genetic diversity' project aims to identify the traits that increase and stabilise the conversion of canola biomass to grain yield.

The research will deliver valuable information on traits that influence the ratio between yield and biomass – known as the Harvest Index – and the interactions between them.

This includes physiological traits such as plant emergence, shoot biomass, flowering, plant height, stem carbohydrates and plant nitrogen.

For more information on these projects visit the GRDC website.



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Swan Harmony Choir celebrates its long community association



Recent performances by the Swan Harmony Singers.

MIKE PEETERS

FOR almost three decades, the Swan Harmony Choir has been a familiar part of the Midland cultural scene.

Now based at the historic Old Midland Courthouse, the choir was founded in Guildford in 1997 with a notice placed by Swan councillor Margaret Kidson in *Echo News* on May 17 inviting locals to come and sing.

Over the years, the choir (now known as the Swan Harmony Singers), has continued its long association with *Echo News* and returns to its original birthplace at the Mechanics' Institute in Guildford later this month for a members only homecoming rehearsal and history showcase.

Swan Harmony Singers' spokesperson Katherine Powell said there would be a special unveiling of the original, hand painted advertising banner carrying the *Echo News* logo from 1997 at the rehearsal, such is the choir's long connection with this newspaper.

Around 40 members currently make up the main choir supported by a smaller ensemble known as the Cygnets, with both groups performing throughout the year at concerts, festivals and community events.

Under the musical direction of Richard Braham, the singers perform a varied repertoire that includes jazz, pop, swing, folk songs and modern favourites.

The mix of styles ensures there is something for every audience while providing singers with an enjoyable musical challenge.

"What sets the Swan Harmony Singers apart is their welcoming atmosphere," said Ms Powell.

"While some members read music, newcomers don't need formal musical training to become involved.

"Instead, enthusiasm, commitment and a love of singing are the only real requirements."

The singers also enjoy strong community support through partnerships with

the City of Swan, Midland Public Library and the Community Bank Mundaring.

Ms Powell said weekly rehearsals were held on Tuesday evenings with prospective members invited to attend and experience the choir before joining.

She also issued a callout to any readers who may have interacted with the choir or been involved with it over the years.

"We are writing a book on the choir's history ahead of our 30th anniversary in 2027 and would love to hear from anyone involved with the choir over that time," she said.

Ms Powell said they would especially like to hear from anyone involved in the 1998 FINA world swimming championships in Perth where the Swan Harmony Choir performed as part of a 600-voice massed choir for the opening.

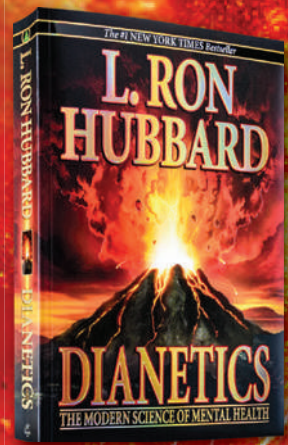
"Our next public concert is in October and we are always looking for new members," she said.

For more information go to: www.swanharmonysingers.net.au



The original May 1997 founding banner featuring *Echo News*.

Can I improve my mental health?



Read Page 13

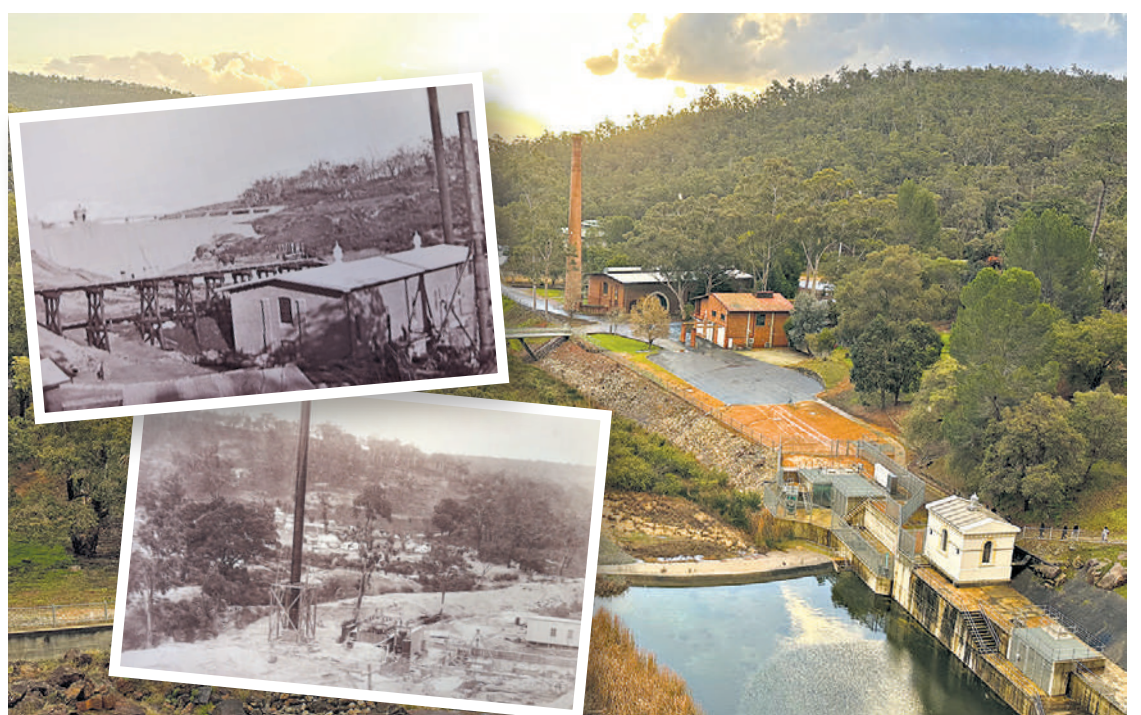


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Federal funding has been given to the historic Mundaring No 1 Pump Station. (Inset) Historical shots of the pump station circa 1901.

Funding for Mundaring's No 1 pump station

THE Albanese government has allocated funding to protect and conserve one of Australia's most significant industrial heritage sites, the No 1 Pump Station in Mindingin at the foot of Mundaring Weir.

The pump station is significant as it is the first of eight steam-powered stations that pumped water from the Perth Hills 560 km inland to the Kalgoorlie Goldfields – an internationally recognised engineering feat.

Under Round 8 of the Australian Heritage Grants program, the National Trust of Australia (WA) is receiving \$41,800 to address urgent conservation issues for the historic building, guided by an updated conservation management plan, so visitors can continue to access the site and appreciate its heritage values.

The funding forms part of the Albanese government's ongoing commitment to protect, repair and manage Australia's nationally significant heritage

places.

Australia is home to 126 outstanding Indigenous, natural and historic sites on the national heritage list, and the government is working with communities across the country to preserve these places for future generations and ensure the stories they tell continue to be shared.

Bullwinkel MP Trish Cook said the pump station was a hidden gem of history right here in Bullwinkel.

"This funding is warmly welcomed by our community, who embrace the unique heritage of the Mundaring Weir," she said.

"Every day, families and visitors come to Mundaring Weir to connect with our history. This investment from the Albanese government ensures the pump station remains a safe, vibrant and accessible place where people can continue to learn about the incredible stories that shaped our region."

KADS Theatre vandalism increasing



KADS Theatre had some of their chairs stolen during outdoor functions. Pictures: Camila Egusquiza Santa Cruz

CAMILA EGUSQUIZA SANTA CRUZ

MEMBERS of KADS Theatre are concerned about a rise in vandalism at the theatre's veranda.

Originally built as a church in 1928 the theatre is a heritage-listed building owned by the City of Kalamunda.

KADS Theatre president Fi Livings said the vandalism has caused significant damage to the veranda.

"Basically, what they've done is they've set fires on the veranda, smoked cigarettes and put the butts through the gaps of the veranda floor and burnt the wood floor," she said.

"They've put ice cream all over the windows and every day there's rubbish.

"Now we're having tables and chairs taken from other areas of the mall and put on the veranda.

"They've put holes in the roof, torn down blinds, broken the balustrade, which we had to get fixed two or three times, and the back door, where the scene dock is, has been broken a couple of times."

The theatre is run by volunteers, who have to devote a lot of their time to maintenance.

"Audiences don't really see it because we make sure it's clean and tidy before they come, but it's a lot of work every day," Ms Livings said.

"It died down for about a year and then in the last 18 months, it's ramped up again really badly."

Ms Livings said they have contacted the police and the city to assist with the issue.

"They came and said there's not really anything they can do as we have no footage of the vandalism," she said.

"We asked (the city) if we could put security cameras in, get some CCTV and they said, no, we couldn't.

"I would like to enclose that whole veranda and make it secured so not everyone can get into it. But for starters, I just would like to get CCTV going so we've got something that we can actually show the police when it happens."

A spokesperson from the City of Kalamunda said that the city is aware of reports of vandalism and takes incidents of this nature seriously.

"As the owner of this heritage-listed facility, the city has been liaising with KADS Theatre to understand the issues being experienced and will increase routine ranger patrols of the area where operationally possible, while continuing to work with WA Police regarding any reported anti-social behaviour," the spokesperson said.

"The installation of CCTV at the site has been considered previously; however, there are currently no plans to install CCTV.

"The use of CCTV is assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account factors such as effectiveness, operational requirements, privacy considerations and the circumstances of each location."

For Ms Livings, preserving the theatre is important for the community.

"We've got people who've been coming to the theatre for 30 years to see shows," she said.

"We really want to preserve it. We've done so much work on the inside - new carpets, new stage floor, new lighting. It's just the outside that's pretty abysmal."

Shared pathway for Herne Hill

CAMILA EGUSQUIZA SANTA CRUZ

HERNE Hill residents are advocating for a shared pathway along Great Northern Highway between Barrett Street and Haddrill Road.

Shared pathways run from the Great Northern Highway intersections with Reid and Roe highways up to Barrett Street, but after Barrett Street there is no pedestrian path for about 4km.

Herne Hill resident Jackie Alderton said walking in that area could be dangerous.

"It's a busy highway that chucks oversized loads of everything that travels down there," she said.

"There's no safe place for anyone to walk, and it's a tourist district.

"There are also schools in the area and if kids are walking to school, how are they doing that safely?"

Ms Alderton said the community had supported her advocacy and saw the pathway as a positive investment.

"Everyone is in favour of it and has commented on the lack of a shared pathway and safe passage from one end of Great Northern Highway to the other, especially because we are in the Swan Valley wine region."

Ms Alderton and other residents initially contacted City of Swan about this, but were then notified by a council member that the responsibility for Great Northern Highway rests with Main Roads WA.

"The state government said they are improving safety near other schools," Ms Alderton said.

"They are doing road and pedestrian upgrades, so it would be great if they could extend that to this area."



Residents say the lack of a shared pathway along this section of Great Northern Highway is a safety concern. Picture: Camila Egusquiza Santa Cruz

"I understand things take time but if they commit to making changes and making it safer, the commitment alone will be a good start."

As documented in *Potential rat-run concerns along GNH* (Echo News, February 6, 2025), Main Roads brought the speed limit down from 80km/h to 70km/h in that area.

Ms Alderton recently contacted Swan Hills MLA Michelle Maynard, and hopes to receive a response soon.

"You should be able to walk between the wineries, particularly if you've been drinking. They don't want you driving, do they? You can even be fined for riding a bike while drunk, so why wouldn't they want you walking?" Ms Alderton said.

Echo News reached out to Main Roads WA for comment.

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Northam petition calls for data centre transparency

GUANHAO CHENG

NORTHAM residents submitted a petition to the shire calling for greater transparency around a proposed cryptocurrency mining facility as they urge a planning framework review.

At its June 17 ordinary council meeting, councillors unanimously voted to receive the petition and refer it to chief executive officer Debbie Terelinck for consideration.

Organiser Amber Balfour-Cunningham said the petition sought greater public reporting, policy review and community engagement rather than asking council to oppose the proposal.

“The petition does not ask council to prejudge the issue,” she said.

“It asks council to provide the community with clear information and to consider whether the current planning framework adequately deals with data centres, crypto mining server centres, or similar intensive technology infrastructure.”

The petition requests council prepare a public report identifying approved, proposed and publicly known data centre developments, hold a community information forum, review its planning processes and write to the planning minister seeking amendments to planning legislation where public consultation would be required for major data centre developments.”

Ms Balfour-Cunningham said the term “data centre” was being used in its ordinary public sense to describe facilities housing computer servers, including those used for cryptocurrency mining.

She said although the proposed development at 239 Yilgarn Avenue had been approved as a warehouse or storage use under the local planning framework, development assessment documents for another proposal at the site referred to a “crypto mining server centre”.

“The concern is not only the planning label applied to the approval, but the actual nature, scale, servicing requirements and community impacts of this type of facility,” she said.

Ms Balfour-Cunningham said residents wanted an open and balanced public meeting where the community could better understand what had been approved, what infrastructure might be required and how similar proposals



Artists' impression of the AvonWest subdivision - a potential data centre site. Picture: Procon Developments

would be managed in future.

She said issues such as electricity demand, noise, cooling requirements, emergency management and cumulative impacts warranted further public discussion.

“The community is not asking council to be anti-development,” she said.

“It’s asking council to make sure the development is properly assessed and supported by an appropriate planning framework.”

Earlier in the meeting, Mrs Terelinck said the development application related to the storage of servers for cryptocurrency mining and had therefore been approved as a warehouse under the planning framework.

She also said that monitoring power and water usage was not a planning consideration under the legislation

governing the application.

The officer report noted that receiving the petition did not determine the planning issues raised and that the matter would instead be considered administratively following referral to the chief executive officer.

The petition’s receipt comes on the back of months of scrutiny by Ms Balfour-Cunningham over what the new centre would mean for the region.

As reported in *Northam industrial hub opening delayed* (*Echo News*, June 19), the new AvonWest logistics and enterprise hub isn’t scheduled to open until the end of 2027.

In the report, Procon Developments Australia corporate affairs and business development director Mia Davies said the site’s design incorporated water harvesting so it could reduce its reliance on potable water supplies in the area.

School canteen funding assists primary schools

MIKE PEETERS

AVELEY and Ballajura primary schools are among 97 public schools around WA to benefit from the first round of the state government’s supporting school canteens program.

Applications for the small funding stream were for projects up to \$50,000 with first round recipients sharing in more than \$2.3 million of funding.

The funding will support practical improvements including new equipment and minor infrastructure upgrades to better serve their school communities.

Aveley Primary School principal Natalie Bracegirdle said the school was excited to announce its funding success, which provided an opportunity to further enhance the healthy food options available to their students and families.

“Working in partnership with our dedicated P&C who proudly operate our school canteen, the grant will support improvements that expand our range of fresh, nutritious and affordable menu options while strengthening the long-term sustainability of the service,” Ms Bracegirdle said.

“Healthy eating plays an important role in student wellbeing, helping children stay energised, focused and ready to learn.

“The enhanced menu will also provide greater convenience for busy families by offering quality recess and lunch choices that students enjoy.

“We are looking forward to working with the P&C to implement these exciting improvements over the coming months.”

Ballajura Community College acting principal Jason Tomlinson said the college intended to use the funding to purchase two large commercial display fridges and two large commercial freezers for their canteen.

“The canteen is operated by an external provider and provides students and staff with a wide range of food options five days a week,” Mr Tomlinson said.

“This funding will enable us to further enhance an already well-established service by increasing refrigeration and freezer capacity and supporting



Student Amir Al Attar, parent Kate Nordahl, Kim Pieri (canteen manager) and student Ruby Pinder.

our ability to continue meeting the needs of our students.

“Once installed, the new equipment will replace a display fridge currently on loan from the college’s hospitality learning area, allowing it to be returned for student use.

“The additional freezer capacity will also support the canteen in storing a greater range and quantity of healthy food options and improve the efficiency and sustainability of the canteen’s operation.

“This will ensure students continue to have access to nutritious, affordable food throughout the school day.”

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Midland abattoir demolition disappointment



The former administration and stores building at the Midland abattoir was constructed in 1948 and is now facing demolition. Picture: Midland and Districts Historical Society.

CAMILA EGUSQUIZA SANTA CRUZ

MIDLAND and Districts Historical Society and local residents are disappointed that demolition has begun at the former Midland abattoir in Bellevue.

The abattoir began operations between 1914 and 1915 and became a major employer for many locals in the area until its closure in 1981.

Midland and Districts Historical Society chair Matt Pavlinovich said the site is an important part of Midland's history.

"Throughout its time, it had thousands of employees, and it served its purpose for the state's meat industry," he said.

"There was another abattoir near Fremantle then, but our one in Midland was a lot larger and employed a lot more people, so that's why we feel that something needs to be left of it since it was there for such a long time."

The site was later purchased by Brickworks.

"Brickworks had Austral Bricks there, but it shut down in 2022 and a year later they withdrew (manufacturing) from WA. So, this land for them is now surplus and they just want to get rid of it," Mr Pavlinovich said.

"They've fenced everything up and demolition signs are being put up.

"They haven't demolished the office (building) yet, but all the factories are being cleared as we speak."

In 1948, the former administration and stores building was constructed, and when the abattoir closed in 1981, it was one of the few buildings that remained and was used as an administration and sales office.

"In 2024, we lodged an application with the State Heritage Office of WA, asking for the office building to be assessed and for it to be put on the state heritage list," Mr Pavlinovich said.

"They came back and told us that though it had

some cultural significance, it did not warrant an assessment of the building and that it was unlikely to meet the threshold for entry on the state heritage list."

The building was later assessed by an independent consultant as part of the City of Swan local heritage survey (LHS) in 2026.

According to the City of Swan's April ordinary council meeting agenda, the building was assigned an advertised LHS category 2 and a recommended LHS category 4.

An advertised category is released for public consultation and provides land holders, local residents and stakeholders the opportunity to give feedback or object to the advertised category.

While the recommended category reflects the assessment made by heritage consultants and council staff after considering submissions.

"Being a category 1 or 2 is sufficient enough to include it on the state heritage list, not just the local council one," Mr Pavlinovich said.

He said the demolition was costing the community a piece of Midland's history and that he was disappointed alternatives did not appear to have been explored.

"Considering this land is zoned industrial with possible commercial use, it could have easily been kept, and it could have been re-adapted for something else like an office space," he said.

"If there isn't anything left, all we're going to be able to tell the story of is through photographs.

"Other than that, it's just going to be wiped off the map like it never existed, which is sad."

The current owners have the property for sale.

Mr Pavlinovich hopes future owners consider the site's historical significance.

"I hope in the future that the site's history is interpreted, whether through public art, signage or another form of interpretation, to recognise what was on the site for so long, and the contribution it made to Midland and WA."

eye on crime



Ellenbrook vehicle fire investigation continues

MIDLAND detectives are appealing for public assistance as they continue to investigate a vehicle fire that occurred in Ellenbrook on Sunday, May 31.

About 9.40pm, an unknown person poured an accelerant onto a black Toyota Hilux parked on Maffina Parade and set it on fire.

Department of Fire and Emergency Services personnel attended and extinguished the blaze.

No injuries were reported.

As inquiries continue, investigators are appealing for anyone who was in the vicinity of

Maffina Parade between 9.00pm and 10.00pm and may have seen any suspicious persons, vehicles or activity to contact Crime Stoppers via www.crimestopperswa.com.au or by calling 1800 333 000. Reports can be made anonymously.

Anyone with CCTV, dash-cam or mobile phone vision from around the time of the incident can upload the footage directly to investigators via the following link: <https://wapf.au.evidence.com/axon/community-request/public/310526214518603>

Midland serious crash is under investigation

OFFICERS from the major crash investigation section are investigating a serious crash that occurred in Midland on Saturday, July 4.

About 4.40pm, an unknown male riding a bicycle on the footpath of Morrison Road and a 64-year-old female walking across Mathoura Street were involved in a collision.

The 64-year-old woman sustained serious injuries as a result of the collision and was conveyed by ambulance to St John of God Midland Hospital, before being transferred to Royal Perth Hospital for further medical treatment.

The unknown male stopped to render assistance before riding away prior to the arrival of emergency services.

Inquiries to locate the male are ongoing.

Major crash officers examined the scene and are appealing for witnesses, or anyone with dash-cam footage, who saw a cyclist riding on the incorrect side of Morrison Road near Mathoura Street, Midland at the time of the incident.

Officers would also like to speak to the male driver of a Landcruiser Prado that stopped at the scene and spoke to the unknown male rider shortly after the incident.

Anyone with information is urged to report to Crime Stoppers via www.crimestopperswa.com

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





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Notice of Making of Local Law



Local Government Act 1995 [s. 3.12(6)]

The Council of the City of Kalamunda resolved on 23 June 2026 to make the Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law 2026.

The local law has been published in the Government Gazette on 7 July 2026 and comes into operation on Tuesday, 21 July 2026.

Purpose

The purpose of the local law is to provide for the regulation, management and control of activities on thoroughfares and public places throughout the district.

Effect

The effect of this local law is that any person being on or in a thoroughfare or a public place in the district must comply with the requirements of the local law.

The local law is published on the City's website: www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au and can be inspected at the City of Kalamunda Administration Centre at 2 Railway Road, Kalamunda and City libraries during normal opening hours.

**Anthony Vuleta
Chief Executive Officer**



Bullsbrook horse owner to pay over \$125k for animal cruelty

A 61-year-old Bullsbrook man has been fined \$28,000 and banned from being in charge of an animal for 10 years after being found guilty of animal cruelty for starving six horses and leaving two of them to also suffer untreated health issues.

He was also found guilty of failing to comply with a written direction notice and for twice giving an RSPCA WA inspector false information.

In addition to the fines, the offender has also been ordered to pay \$98,299 in care and legal costs.

The Armadale Magistrates Court heard an RSPCA WA inspector attended a property in Kenwick in June 2024 after receiving a cruelty report about the thoroughbreds.

She found them in very poor body condition; there was no food or hay available and minimal grass.

The offender was issued a written direction notice to provide the horses with proper and sufficient food which he failed to comply with.

He also gave the inspector false information during her investigation namely saying he had moved them to a property with lots of natural grass; that they were receiving constant hay and pellets and all looked much better, and by sending what he claimed were current photos of the horses looking in reasonable body condition but that were, in fact, taken much earlier.

Further information received led RSPCA WA inspectors to attend a second Kenwick

property where they found all six horses emaciated with the outline of their ribs, hips, spine and pelvis bones visible.

There wasn't any hay or feed available, and the paddock was completely dry with no roughage available.

The six horses were seized and taken to Baldivis Vet Hospital where examinations revealed varying conditions including extreme emaciation, lice infestation, a high worm burden, dehydration, overgrown hooves, and liver disease as a result of eating toxic plants, something the examining vet said horses do in high amounts when there is little alternative food available.

One of the horses was humanely euthanised when his liver disease did not respond to treatment.

A second horse, who had failed to thrive in foster care, was euthanised in March this year after suffering a major seizure, possibly from the continued impact of her liver disease. The others have recovered in foster care.

In sentencing, magistrate Mark Millington said the offender's assertion that the horses were not underweight was "fanciful" and "bordering on delusional", later adding, "from what I've seen throughout the trial is that [the offender] struggles with the truth".

"The state of the horses are a disgrace... it is disgusting," he said.

RSPCA WA inspector manager Kylie Green said this was a shocking case of neglect.



A Bullsbrook horse owner has been convicted of animal cruelty and ordered to pay more than \$125,000.

"This offender was given the knowledge and opportunity to make sure his horses were healthy, but he chose to ignore it and lied to the inspector while the horses continued to suffer," she said.

"It is difficult to comprehend someone going to such lengths to hide the truth of the appalling state of their animals rather than caring for them properly."

The maximum penalty for a conviction of animal cruelty is a \$50,000 fine and five years in prison. The maximum penalty for each of the other convictions is \$20,000 and one year in prison.

The RSPCA relies on the community to report incidents of suspected cruelty and neglect. Report cruelty on 1300 CRUELTY (1300 278 358) or at rspcawa.org.au

Forum profiles the latest buzz on native fly pollination study

A NEW research project that builds on pioneering trials confirming native flies could be used as alternative pollinators of horticulture crops was profiled at the recent WA Avocado Grower regional forum in Manjimup last week.

The project will examine pathways to manage native fly crop pollination – helping future proof Australian horticulture production, in the face of declining honey bee populations and biosecurity threats.

The work expands on the initial 'Managing flies for crop pollination' project, led by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) together with a range of collaborative partners, backed by Hort Innovation co-investment.

Four of the most promising native fly species for commercial pollination will be examined, including the drone fly (*Eristalis tenax*), golden native drone fly (*Eristalinus punctulatus*), western blue-bodied blowfly (*Calliphora dubia*) and European blue-bottle blowfly (*C. vicina*).

Scientists will evaluate the risk, costs and benefits, as well as explore potential partners and options for large scale rearing and deployment of native flies for horticultural pollination.

The new five-year project is led by commercial applied research and seed technology provider SeedPurity and includes collaborators from the University of New England and DPIRD.

DPIRD research scientist David Cook said a key component of the WA research was to examine methodologies and technology to rear native fly populations for managed release.

"Our team will investigate deployment and retention strategies to keep flies in the target crop, such as sterilisation and the deployment of slow-release lures, which will be developed in collaboration with the WA ChemCentre," Dr Cook said.

"The WA research will also examine diet options to match fly size with flower development to optimise pollination, as smaller adults cost less to feed and do not disperse as far.

"We will also look at modifying orchard habitats to attract and sustain a wider variety of flies and other insect pollinating species, including border plantings, interrow plantings and artificial ponds to aid the development of hover fly larvae on farm."

Sterile flies will be used in the research to mitigate any potential risks and to evaluate environmental impacts associated with releasing commercially reared native flies.

While the previous research proved native flies could successfully pollinate avocados, cherries and vegetable seeds, this new research will be extended to evaluate their performance in apple and pear orchards.

The project will also examine native fly pollina-



DPIRD research scientist Dr David Cook is building on WA research that confirmed native flies showed potential as an effective alternative for horticulture pollination.

tion potential in crops grown under cover, such as netting, which does not typically favour bee foraging and pollination.

Dr Cook said the native flies pollination option offered significant logistical flexibility for commercial use, with numbers quickly scalable in just 10 to 14 days from egg to adult, as well as cost benefits.

"DPIRD's work revealed an economic advantage of employing native flies for pollination, with the cost of rearing one million blow flies just one-quarter the cost of supplying one million honey bees in hives," he said.

"We anticipate the fly numbers released will be upped to twice that of bees, which still makes them an economically viable option."

The WA research is already underway, with pilot fly rearing facilities established at DPIRD's Jandakot site, as well as a commercial rearing facility in Tasmania.

Pollination is vital to the success of many fruit and vegetable crops, with pollination-dependant crops in Australia worth almost \$6 billion per year.

Hort Innovation R&D general manager Anthony Kachenko said pollination underpins Australia's horticulture production and protecting it is critical.

"Pollination is fundamental to the productivity and profitability of Australia's horticulture industries," Dr Kachenko said.

"This research highlights the role native flies could play as part of a broader, multi-pronged approach to safeguarding pollination, helping give growers more options to manage risk now and into the future."

For more information on the role of flies as pollinators of horticulture crops visit dpiird.wa.gov.au and search for 'native flies', while details on the 'Managing flies for crop pollination' project is available on the Hort Innovation website.

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Young Binar athlete fundraiser



Christine Blurton (right) plays for Binar Futures' XXCEL League on Thursdays. Picture: Binar Futures

CAMILA EGUSQUIZA SANTA CRUZ

MIDLAND basketball player Christine Blurton is raising money to attend the Asia Pacific Cup in Singapore.

Ms Blurton will represent Midland-based not-for-profit Indigenous youth organisation Binar at the tournament.

The 15-year-old was selected to participate in the event based on her strong leadership qualities and commitment.

"I found out about it when I was down at basketball," Ms Blurton said.

"It was told to me secretly then as it is invite only. I was just very shocked.

"And because I couldn't tell anyone yet, I had to try and like hold my reaction in, but as soon as I got home, I was just so happy."

Ms Blurton's mother, Melody Bolton, said the family was excited about the opportunity, but their current financial situation was making it difficult to afford the trip.

"I didn't realise how much it would be. We have to pay for the flights, food and other travel

arrangements such as getting Christine a passport," Ms Bolton said.

Ms Bolton started a GoFundMe campaign online for her daughter and is hoping to raise \$3200.

Ms Blurton is hoping this opportunity will open doors for her future.

"I'm hoping that it would help me grow," she said.

"I really want to work for Binar in the future as a mentor.

"I really want to help the younger kids through coaching or helping them refine their skills."

Ms Bolton said she hoped their journey could inspire others to pursue similar opportunities.

"Christine and I don't come from a particularly well-off family, so I hope people can see us and see that it is possible - that they can aspire to do things like this themselves and stick with it because eventually it will pay off."

The Asia Pacific Cup will take place in October and will feature teams from 17 countries.

Donations to support Ms Blurton's attendance can be made via <https://gofund.me/4cd5eab83>



H5 bird flu has been detected in Perth for the first time as a giant petrel was presumed positive on July 6.

Northam bird flu vigilance urged

THE Shire of Northam community is asked to assist with surveillance for H5 bird flu.

No cases have been identified in the area to date, but residents who see sick or dead birds or marine mammals should avoid them and not handle them.

Residents are encouraged to record and take photos or a video and report to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Northam residents are being encouraged to take steps to keep pets away from wildlife, including preventing cats from roaming and keeping dogs on leads in wildlife areas.

Residents that own, care for, or work with birds, are being advised to prevent wild birds from mingling with your birds and accessing their feed and water, keep pens, aviaries, feeders and equipment clean, and wash hands thoroughly with soap before and after handling birds.

More information about H5 bird flu is available at birdflu.gov.au

As of July 6, Australia has had six detections of H5 bird flu in wild birds confirmed by CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP).

There are four confirmed in WA, but there is no evidence of any mass mortality and the risk to human health remains low according to the Centre for Disease Control (CDC).

Information released by the CDC said there was no vaccine available, and people should take steps to prevent bird flu.

According to the CDC, preventative steps include getting an annual flu vaccination which does not protect against bird flu infection but reduces the risk of getting sick with human flu and bird flu at the same time.

The risk of common human flu viruses and bird flu viruses mixing to create a more dangerous influenza virus also reduces after vaccination, according to the centre.

The centre also advised thoroughly cooking meat and eggs before eating, regularly checking the health advice on Smartraveller for anyone travelling overseas and alerting health professionals if symptoms arise within 10 days of contact with sick or dead birds while abroad.

General enquiries about H5 bird flu can be emailed to H5birdflu@dpird.wa.gov.au



Merri Creek management committee's litter clean-up event won an award last year.

Nominations closing for landcare awards

TIME is running out to recognise community landcare champions with less than a month remaining until nominations close for the 2026 State and Territory Landcare Awards.

Landcare Australia is calling on communities to shine a light on the local people and groups making a real difference to the health of our land, water and environment.

Who in your community deserves recognition?

It could be a farmer improving soil health and biodiversity on their property, a volunteer who's spent years restoring a local reserve, a landcare, bushcare or rivercare group making a difference, a Traditional Owner or First Nations organisation caring for Country, a teacher inspiring students through environment projects, or a young person leading positive change in their community.

Many landcarers do this work quietly and consistently, often over many years, so a nomination is a simple but powerful way to say their work matters.

The awards celebrate the people helping create a more resilient future for Australia.

Anyone can put forward a nomination — whether it's for yourself, someone you know, or a group doing great things in your community.

Landcare Australia chief executive officer Dr Shane Norrish said every community has people who turn up, get their hands dirty and keep going because they care deeply about the environment around them.

"All it takes is one nomination for someone to be recognised for their efforts. This isn't just about saying thank you, a landcare award can help elevate people's voices, strengthen their mission and open doors to new opportunities.

"Nominating is quick, free and incredibly impactful."

Nominations close Friday, July 31.

For more information or to nominate please go to www.landcareaustralia.org.au/awards

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Fri July 10

Settlers House York
Nick Childs
From 5pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace, York

Woodbridge Hotel
Deadly Woodbines
From 8pm, Free
50 East St, Guildford

Parkerville Tavern
Kevin Curran
From 5.30pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

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

Sat July 11

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

Parkerville Tavern
Claudia Tripp
From 5.30pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

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

Sun July 12

Settlers House York
Back Verandah Band
12pm-3pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace, York

Parkerville Tavern
Jump the Gun Duo
From 3pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

Woodbridge Hotel
Briann Finn
From 3pm, Free
50 East St, Guildford

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

Sun July 12 Cont.

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Coastal Drift Trio
4pm-7pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Tues July 14

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

Parkerville Tavern
Next Generation Karaoke
From 3pm, Free
6 Owen Road
Parkerville

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

Wed July 15

Chidlow Tavern
Wednesday Night Jam Session
From 7pm, 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

Thu July 16

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Neil Adams
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ECHO NEWS

ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

Swan celebrates NAIDOC week in style

MIKE PEETERS

THE fifth annual Brabham NAIDOC family fun day is on Saturday July 11 at Honeycomb Park in Brabham.

This year's theme is '50 Years of Deadly' and marks the milestone 50th anniversary of the annual event.

There will be a vibrant program including Welcome to Country, a smoking ceremony, flag raising, traditional dance performances, live entertainment, cultural workshops, community stalls, children's activities, interactive cultural experiences and bush tucker tastings.

According to City of Swan co-organiser Karen Hayden, the event will offer many meaningful opportunities for the community to engage with and celebrate Aboriginal culture.

"There is also free coffee and ice cream for the first 100 people attending and entertainment including the Aboriginal dance group Midn Marr, a Noongar phrase that translates to 'dreaming' in English," Ms Hayden said.

"Led by Neil Coyne the group ac-



This year marks the milestone 50th anniversary of NAIDOC.

tively performs and teaches Noongar culture, language, and dance to schools, colleges and the wider community.

"The Brett Dimer band will also perform some country favourites and there will be local Aboriginal groups with pop up stalls."

Supported by Karlup Aboriginal Corporation, Indigo Junction, the City

of Swan, Peet Limited and local community organisations, the free event will recognise the strength, resilience, achievements and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples.

The all ages event is on Saturday, July 11 from 10am to 2pm at Honeycomb Park, Sideslip Street, Brabham.

For more information go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yc42rwe2>



Cosplayers showcasing their homemade character costumes on stage. Pictures: Swan Settlers Markets.

Anime in the Valley returns to Herne Hill

SWAN Settlers Market in Herne Hill will host the upcoming Anime in the Valley weekend event, serving as a gathering for fans of Japanese animation, manga, and pop culture.

The two-day event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12 with operating hours running from 10am to 4pm.

The free-entry event will accommodate an audience of fans, from long-term enthusiasts and hobbyists to casual observers and local families looking for weekend entertainment.

Throughout the venue, attendees will find a diverse marketplace featuring specialised vendors, independent artists, and local collectors selling an array of retail items.

Prospective buyers will be able to purchase an assortment of merchandise on display, including anime collectables, imported Japanese goods, handmade crafts, artistic prints, and various fandom apparel.

Sunday's itinerary features live musical performances from local artists, who will perform covers of popular songs from well-known anime series.

Sunday will also host the official cosplay competition, with cosplayers invited to dress up and compete in a public showcase of fabricated or assembled costumes.

Registration for the competition is free and available on the day, with the official judging and stage presentations scheduled to commence at 2pm.

Entrants will compete for three distinct official titles, in-



cluding the best in showdown award, the runner-up placement, and the special judges choice award.

The costume competition is open to participants of all experience levels, welcoming both veteran costume makers and first-time entrants.

Attendees are encouraged to dress as their favourite anime character, though wearing a costume is entirely optional.

To attend, visitors are encouraged to visit Swan Settlers Markets located at 124 Lennard Street, Herne Hill.

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Enrolments now open at Parkerville Grove

Enrolments are now open for Parkerville Grove School, a specialist secondary school in Parkerville opening Term 3, 2026.

Delivered by Parkerville Children and Youth Care through Parkerville Therapeutic Education Services, the school has been designed for young people in Years 7 to 10 whose learning has been disrupted by trauma or significant adversity. The school offers a calm, predictable and supportive environment where safety and wellbeing come first.

Using a healing-first therapeutic education model, the school recognises that young people learn best when they feel safe, connected and understood. Small class sizes, consistent routines and strong relationships help students rebuild confidence and re-engage with learning at their own pace.

Foundation Principal Alice Alibrandi said emotional and physical safety are central to the school's approach.

"When young people feel safe and supported,



they can begin to reconnect with learning," Ms Alibrandi said.

In 2026, the school has capacity for up to 60 students, with enrolments considered on the ability of the school to meet the educational, wellbeing and therapeutic needs of each young person.

Further information about eligibility and the enrolment process, is available at: www.parkervillegroveschool.wa.edu.au

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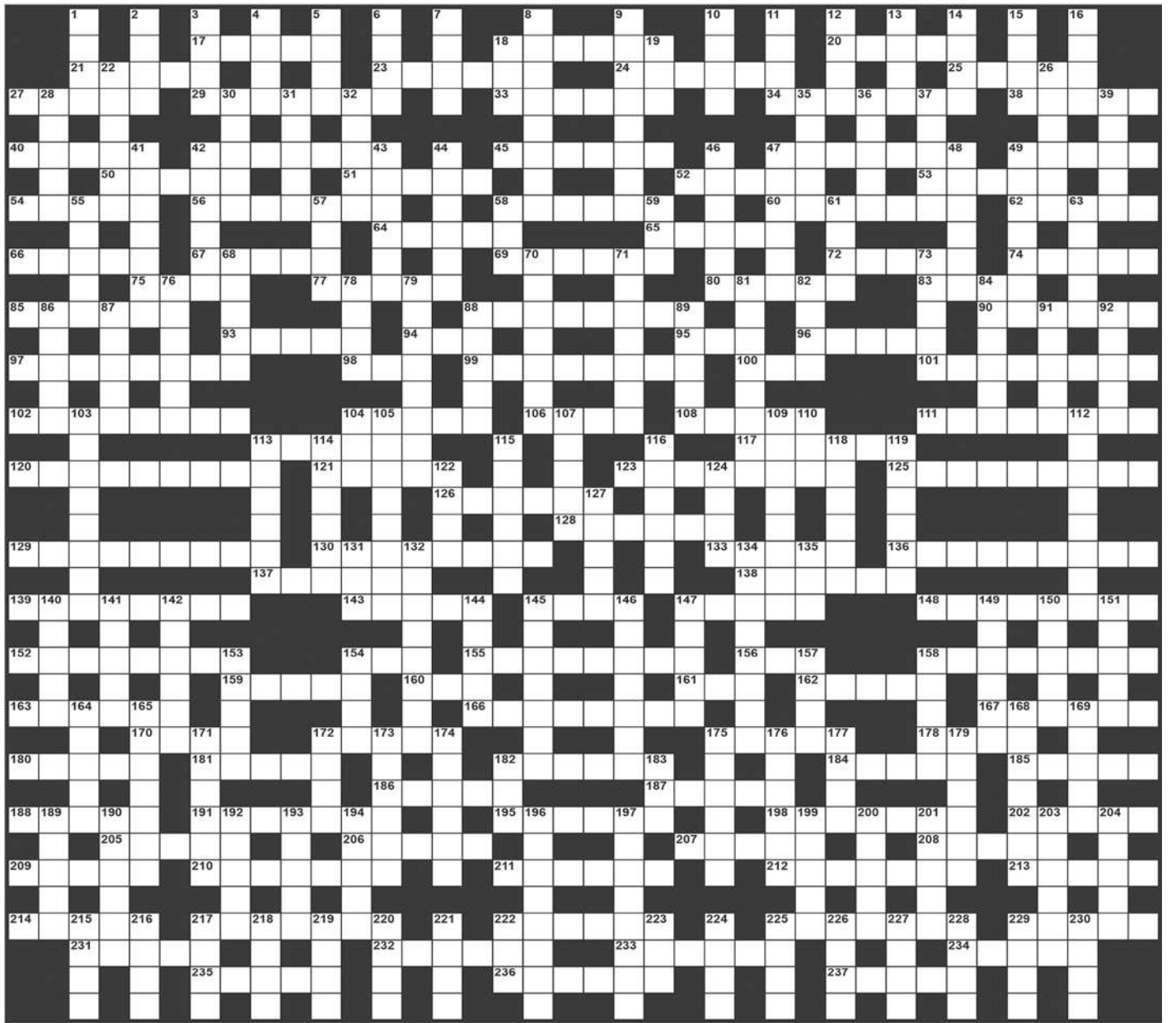
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ACROSS	128 Dope horses	236 Copied	92 A mistake	169 A duck
17 Improper	129 Friendly	237 A fruit	103 Of all the people	171 Like a lout
18 Safe	130 Orders away (5,3)		104 Small vegetable	172 Unbound
20 Enjoy a party	133 Turns around	DOWN	105 Decreased	173 Exact copies
21 Goes off course	136 Amazed	1 Lively dance	107 Sing softly	174 A roofed gallery
23 A sheepdog	137 Sound system	2 Employed	109 Late in the day	175 Sops
24 Deep gulch	138 Newspaper man	3 A defeat	110 Ready	176 Comes up
25 Separate	139 Fall to pieces	4 Article	112 Thrust out	177 Acid to taste
27 Mix in	143 Develop	5 Factual	113 Drives back	179 Beginning
29 Tastes	145 Diplomacy	6 Writing fluids	114 Satisfy	182 Historic time
33 Well-behaved	147 Apprentice	7 Prison room	115 Back of neck	183 Pitch
34 Paid in full	148 Gave money back	8 Without equal	116 Attack plane	189 Higher
38 Oozes out	152 Menace	9 Took in charge	118 Most recent	190 Undid
40 Distinctive figure	154 A club	10 Single part	119 Make loved	192 Stop
42 Buccaneers	155 Good spirits	11 Dregs	122 Soap froth	193 Emblem
45 Take out	156 Droop	12 Run slowly	124 Cooked tarts	194 Of kidneys
47 Bemused	158 Very drowsy	13 Sinful	127 Theme for talks	196 Praises highly
49 Tender	159 Wear off	14 Pleased	131 Before	197 Given germs
50 Small watercraft	160 Price charged	15 Word of sorrow	132 Having reservations	199 Send away
51 Lines	161 Small drink	16 Memo	134 Stand for statue etc	200 Large wild cat
52 Beg	162 Messenger	18 Drink slowly	135 Louse egg	201 A happening
53 A silk fabric	163 Rents	19 A lug	140 Earth compound	203 Scanner
54 Even	166 Gets to know	22 Lure	141 Looks rudely	204 Bowling spells
56 Release grip	167 Retained	26 A jacket	142 Type of carbonate	215 Mountain lake
58 Former currency	170 An attempt	28 Slack	144 Keen	216 Bellow
60 Having plenty	172 Ornamental edging	30 Foreign	145 Painful labour	217 Depend
62 Rub off	175 Explosion	31 Oyster stone	146 Locks of hair	218 Pledges
64 Test depth	178 Sit for picture	32 Pitchers	147 Fees	219 Light-headed
65 Courage	180 Open to view	35 Ooze out	149 Well renowned	220 Pierce with knife
66 Lovely lady	181 A flower	36 Of ocean movement	150 Cut in a stick	221 Mesh wools
67 Turn inside out	182 Senior	37 Throw out	151 Artist's stand	222 Painting
69 Bidding	184 Farewell	39 Looks secretly	153 Bird homes	223 Stashed away
72 Piece of poor meat	185 Shove	41 Wavers	154 Alcoholic drink	224 Aid in crime
74 Book of maps	186 Boring tool	42 Pursued the lips	157 Spaces	225 Chair etc
75 Was on board	187 Legal defence	43 Lithe	158 Tell tales (Scot)	226 Headgear
77 Girl's name	188 Pacific Islands group	44 Mystify	164 Nautical direction	227 Arbour
80 Skins	191 Mass of frozen water	46 Turn over soil	165 River mouth	228 Round
83 Nuisance	195 Romantic interlude	47 Branded	168 Neck ornament	229 Burial place
85 Body part	198 Comes down	48 Clean harbour bottom		230 Tear
88 Gives over	202 Small projectile			
90 One in charge	205 Nonverse			
93 List of figures	206 Weird			
94 Take action against	207 Phone message			
95 Favourite	208 Old author			
96 Tangle	209 One over par (golf)			
97 Takes away breath	210 Makes tougher			
98 Outfit	211 Wine container			
99 Sham	212 A vest			
100 Self importance	213 Records			
101 For all time	214 Measuring device			
102 Is made of	217 Uncovers			
104 Appeals	222 Add to another			
106 Drifting cloud	225 Hide away			
108 Birds of peace	229 Brief in speech			
111 Buyers	231 Cherish			
113 Indian currency	232 Time in office			
117 Make pay-back	233 Quality of sound			
120 Stoppage in play	234 A task			
121 Endures	235 Put down			
123 Full				
125 Steered				
126 Dig out				

Midland Men's Shed




Midland Men's Shed provides a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment where men can connect, learn new skills and work on meaningful projects with like minded men.

Members might choose to participate in metal working, wood working, paint pictures, make music with the Rockin'Shedders or learn 3D printing in our superb workshop. This is all there for you if you wish to join in.

We meet every weekday morning to socialise, drink coffee or tea together and make a few friends.

We welcome new members!

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Public Notice

CITY OF SWAN
PROPOSED EARTHWORKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REMEDIATION OF CONTAMINATED SITE
LOT 20 ADELAIDE STREET, HAZELMERE WA 6055

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

Should you wish to comment on this proposal you may do so via the Online Feedback Form available on the City's website on or before **7 August 2026**.

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



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Public Notice

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RFNSA: 6068002
2. In summary, this upgrade will comprise of:
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 - Installation, relocation and removal of ancillary equipment, including but not limited to RRUs, mast head amplifiers (MHAs), mounts, feeders, cabling, combiners and other associated equipment; and
3. We invite you to provide your feedback or request further information by contacting us at: Russell Carman
 Optus.submissions@servicestream.com.au, 0447 240 015 or by post to: Service Stream (Wireless) Level 5, 655 Collins Street, Docklands VIC 3008 by **5pm Tuesday 28 July 2026**.
4. For more information, please visit www.rfnsa.com.au/6068002



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Upcoming Events

- **Kalamunda Prostate Cancer Support** Group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Falls Farm, 41 Cagney Way Lesmurdie from 10am-1pm. For more information call Roy 9295 2522 or Ray 0427 095 892.
- **Mundaring CWA** meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10am at the CWA Centre (Sculpture Park), Jacoby Street, Mundaring. There is a general meeting and cuppa with craft and social to follow until 3pm. New members and visitors welcome. For more information call Marg on 0417 956 628.
- **Midland Men's Shed** Social Tuesday is every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am in the Baptist Church Hall, Bellevue. Our workshop at 34 Swan Avenue Midvale is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8am to 11am. Call Andy on 0419 921 805.

- **Midland Lawn Tennis Club** meets for social tennis at 9am every Wednesday and Saturday at 21 Patterson Drive, Middle Swan. All ages and standards of play welcome, and they have senior and junior teams that compete in Tennis West pennants. For more information email playtennis@midlandtennis.com.au
 - **The Highland Highnesses Red Hat Group** meet monthly at the Kalamunda Uniting Church Hall. We are a joyful sisterhood of women who meet for lunch, laughter, theatre outings, bus trips, celebrations and adventures. If you are ready to add more fun, friendship and fabulousness to your life join us. For more information call Kerry on 0411 227 814.
- 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



Sheba is a three-year-old rottweiler. She is best suited for a one dog home as she doesn't get along with other dogs or cats. She is a very good guard dog. Sheba is sterilised, vaccinated, and microchipped. Costs Apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

40-point lead for Mundaring in round 12



Mundaring secured a victory by the final siren, after a tight back-and-forth first half.

BRIAN PALLISTER

MUNDARING Roos have recorded a 40-point victory over the Mt Helena Lions 10.20 (90) to 6.14 (50), in the Lions' first match back on their home ground after months of changeroom rebuilds.

The visitors were spearheaded by their returning full-forward in Austin Thomas, who controlled the scoring with his nine goals.

Even with several forced behinds, both teams were plagued with accuracy issues and missed set shots on goal throughout the day.

Both teams had early difficulties converting in front of a goal, managing a meager three-goal return from 14 combined attempts between them.

The Lions capitalised just enough to take a slender five-point break in the first quarter.

The second quarter progressed in the same vein as the first, although Mundaring swung the lead back into their favour as the term went on.

Roo Dylan O'Lughlen rebounded several of the Lions' forward entries, kicking the ball back into the centre where teammate Sam Butler marked and in turn spotted up Kyle Tenardi

deep in the Roos' forward line.

At the end of the second quarter, Mundaring had moved out to an 11-point lead.

Lion Matt Ellwood moved back into defense to help teammate Marshall Hearne, who was under the pump from the continuous Roo entries.

Lion Chase Brydson teamed with Aiden Beaman to get the ball forward for the Lions to score their only third-quarter goal.

The last quarter saw Thomas score all four of Mundaring's goals to seal the match.

At the final siren, it was the Roos by 40 points, but both teams will be looking forward to regaining key players from injury after the general bye as they work towards finals when they could again lock horns.

The Hills Football Association's general bye is held this coming weekend as a combined squad of 30 players, plus coaches and support staff, take part in the Nutrien AG Country Football Carnival from July 10 to 12.

Over 600 of the state's best country footballers will be competing in the three-day, three-division carnival, and full fixtures have been posted on the HFA's Facebook page.



Swan United players huddle after the game.

Swan United win close contest

AFTER three straight defeats, Swan United FC overcame Ballajura AFC 3-2 in their recent Belt Up amateur premier division soccer clash.

The round 12, first-team fixture was closely contested at the Swan Italian Sporting Club in Francis Street, Middle Swan.

"We have been on a tough run the last few weeks so pleased to come away with the win," Swan United coach Lee Taylor said.

"It wasn't a great performance but the most important thing was picking up the three points and moving on from the last few defeats

"We have a lot to improve on but with players returning over the next few weeks our performances should improve."

The hosts were in front after 14 minutes when John Monter-

osso raced on to a Thomas White through ball and finished neatly past the oncoming goalkeeper.

United doubled their lead midway through the second half when good work on the right side by Cameron Anderson saw him cut the ball back to Liam Merigan who finished with aplomb.

But Ballajura found a lifeline four minutes later with Shohab Shujai on target.

Swan regained their two-goal advantage 12 minutes from time when White was brought down by the keeper and the referee pointed to the spot.

Monterosso stepped up and made no mistake from the resulting penalty.

Daniel Clarkson did pull one back for Ballajura late on to make it a tense final few minutes, but Swan held firm to take the points.

ECHO Local Real Estate

Residential
Commercial
Rural & Country

More than 6000 homes for sale in Perth

THE number of properties advertised for sale in Perth surpassed 6000 at the end of June, according to the latest data from Real Estate Institute of WA (REIWA).

This was 14.8 per cent higher than at the end of May, and 58.3 per cent higher than a year ago.

It is the first time active listings have been more than 6000 at the end of a month since April 2023.

REIWA President Suzanne Brown said the rise was due to an increase in new listings over the past few months and a softening of demand.

"The number of new listings in June is on par with the five-year average for this month, which is positive after the shortage of listings seen earlier this year," she said.

"With properties coming to market in reasonable numbers since the end of March, the supply side of the supply and demand equation has improved.

"We have also seen a noticeable change to demand in the wake of the federal budget and the back and forth over the taxation legislation.

"Despite there being more properties on the market, sales activity decreased in June, more so than you would expect at this time of year.

"Our members have reported a decline in enquiry from potential investors (and) I have also seen a reduction in activity from first home buyers, the very people this legislation is aiming to help.

"Now that the taxation policies have passed federal parliament and we have more certainty, it will be interesting to see if market activity picks up in the coming months."

Ms Brown said consumer sentiment and three interest rate rises were also impacting market activity.

"The interest rate rises have reduced buyers' borrowing capacity and therefore how much they can spend when purchas-

ing a home.

"They are also concerned about the impact of further rate rises on mortgage affordability, so are being much more prudent with their finances," she said.

"You also can't ignore the role consumer sentiment is playing. The uncertainty around the ongoing conflict with Iran is impacting some people's decisions to sell and buy. In addition, whenever there is major change to housing-related policy, similar to what happens around an election, we often see a lull in market activity."

According to REIWA data, Darlington was one of the suburbs that saw the greatest percentage increase (up 122.2 per cent) in new house listings from the March quarter to the June quarter alongside Warwick which is up 140 per cent, Gwelup up 128.6 per cent, Huntingdale up 126.3 per cent, and Kallaroo up 125 per cent.

Perth property prices rose again in June, but at a lower rate than in previous months.

The median house sale price rose 1.1 per cent over the month to \$930,000.

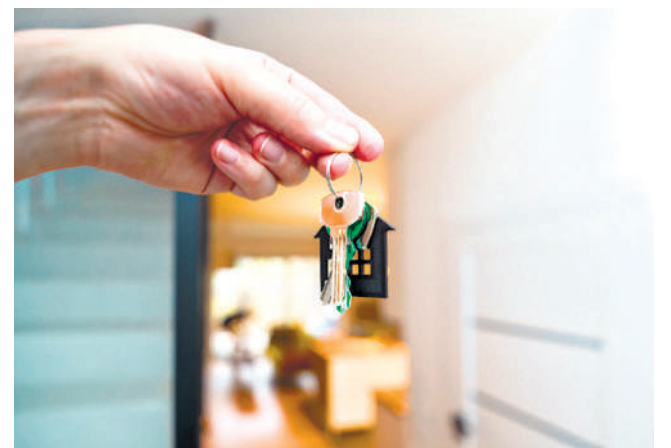
This was 16.3 per cent higher year-on-year.

The median unit sale price increased 1.5 per cent in June and 21.8 per cent over the year to \$670,000.

Ms Brown said the changes in market conditions had seen the rate of price growth slow and it was likely to slow further in the coming months.

"The changes in the market mean sellers are going to have to adjust their expectations and price their property for today's market, not what they might have received a few months ago," she said.

"We have seen the number of sellers discounting their houses increase from one in 10 in the March quarter to three in 10 in June, and sellers are receiving fewer offers.



REIWA data shows Darlington ranks as one of the top growing suburbs for house listings in the March to June quarter.

The median weekly rent for houses remained unchanged at \$750 but was 10.3 per cent higher than a year ago.

The median weekly rent for units was also stable at \$700 which was 5.3 per cent higher than June 2025.

The median dwelling rent declined 0.7 per cent over the month to \$725 per week, however, this was 6.6 per cent higher than the same time last year.

Ms Brown said the Perth market had yet to see the full repercussions of the federal budget's taxation changes.

"While many have chosen to remain in the market for now, we are finding potential investors are very hesitant to purchase a rental property," she said.

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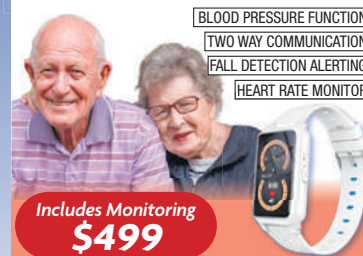
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