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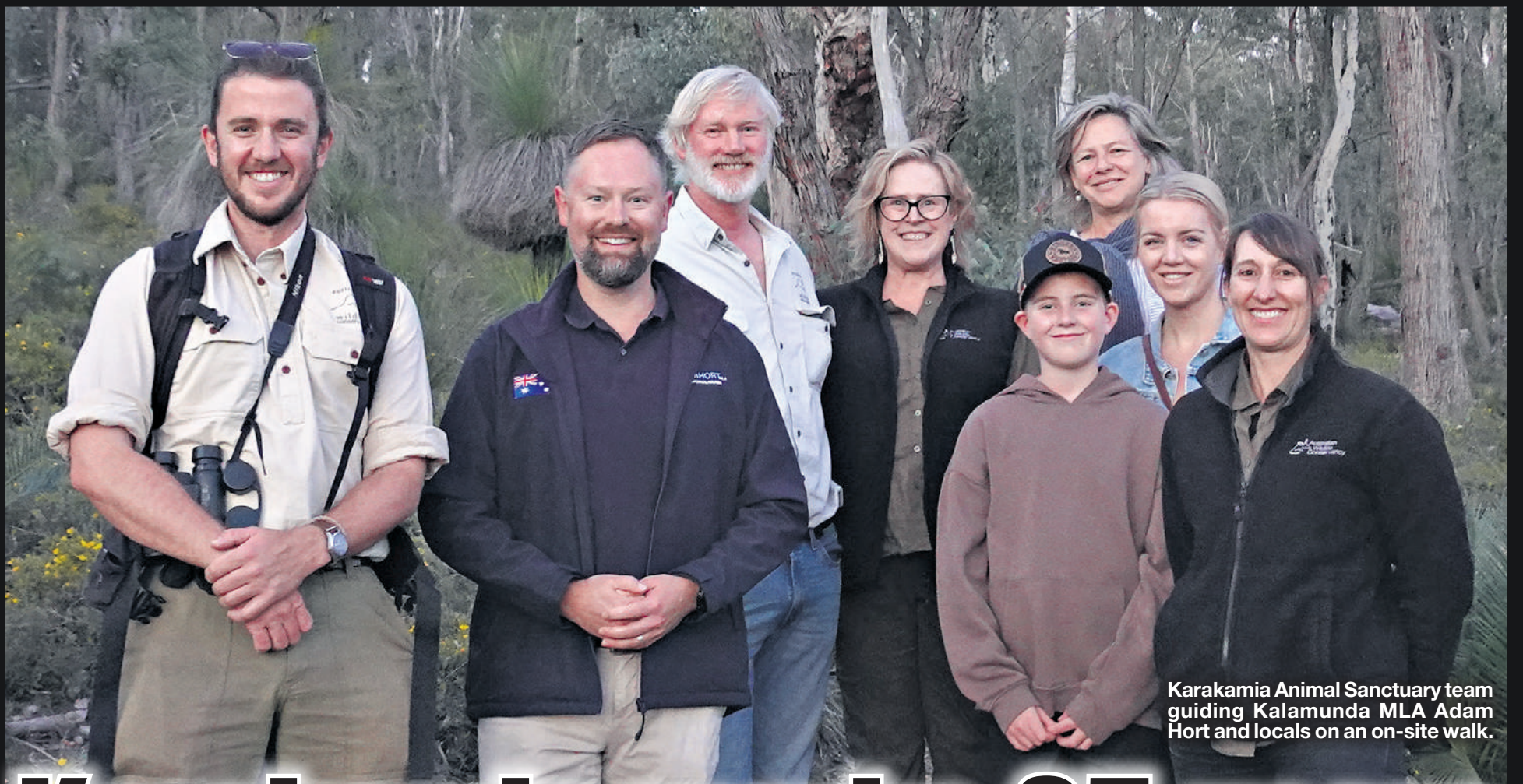
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WA training award winners

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Swan Valley petition for fireworks ban

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Karakamia Animal Sanctuary team guiding Kalamunda MLA Adam Hort and locals on an on-site walk.

Karakamia marks 35 years

Chidlow's Karakamia Animal Sanctuary recently marked 35 years in the Perth Hills doing conservation work protecting threatened species.

P8

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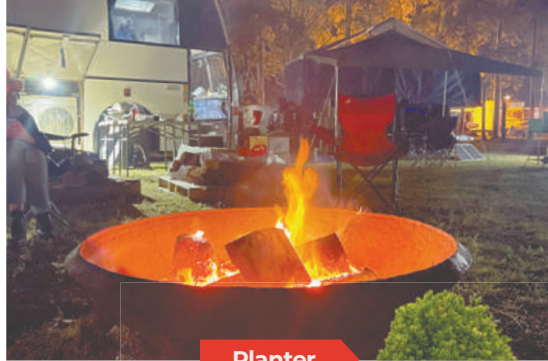
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ECHO

YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say:
editorial@echo-news.com

Thought for the day

"How people treat you is their karma; how you react is yours."

— Wayne W Dyer

Swan ward councillor review

Dear Echo News,
I write regarding the review of the Swan ward boundaries and representation.

We are grateful to the *Echo News* for its continuing coverage of issues of importance to our district.

The proposed review has raised considerable concern for the Midland-Guildford Ward given the City of Swan's draft proposal would reduce elected representation from three to two councillors.

Further, while the city's draft, intended to go forward to community consultation, provided options for boundary and representation changes — all excluded the option to retain three councillors.

That exclusion directs a predetermined outcome.

Several councillors have also raised concerns that some councillors participated in the drafting of options, while others were excluded.

That is potentially a serious abuse of process and if it occurred, the community can have little confidence in what is truly driving urgency around these changes.

The ward has 12 suburbs, sharing a cohesive base, community of interest and the sub-regional centre of Midland.

To reduce representation, several suburbs

in the northeast of the ward would be moved to other wards.

That could fracture long standing connections established over decades.

The city has no pressing need to review boundaries as it is not formally required for at least another five years.

Further, the conclusions of staff are purportedly based on projected population but had no regard to the state government's plans to intensify density in older suburbs.

Changes to minimum lot sizes will result in more subdivisions and infill residential development, particularly in our ward where historically lot sizes were much greater than more recent developments, together with the intensified residential development around transport hubs, already evident in Midland.

All options should be on the table.

The ward has complex elements, large commercial and industrial developments, major road and bridge infrastructure plans and a large residential community.

A demand too great for just two councillors.
Christine Hughes
Chairperson
Guildford Association

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 *Shire calls for speed limit reduction on Sawyers Road*

If they really want to limit deaths from speeding you need an average speed zone like the one going south from Bunbury.

It's the only way people slow down.

But the factors should be studied first rather than jumping to conclusions.

H Lovelock

The current speed limit is inappropriate for the limited sightlines, people accessing the road from side roads and private driveways.

It is also unsafe for pedestrians and other users of the heritage trail, which crosses the road at a s-bend.

It is a road with crests and curves, which, as the comments attest to, people love doing 80km/hr on, making it a dangerous road.

There are numerous accidents each year on this road.

Most of these are minor and unreported but some are fatal.

K Driver

In response to *Mundaring Seniors celebrate 55 years of friendship, community and service*

Well done! We need our seniors!

D Arnold

Thanks *Echo* newspaper for sharing our story.

L Biddle

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Know your rights before you spring into fitness

With Commissioner for Consumer Protection Trish Blake

THE sun is beginning to shine, and you might be thinking about your fitness goals or being a bit more active.

In WA, fitness service providers must follow the mandatory Fitness Industry Code of Practice which also covers personal trainers, group exercise and any other fitness services.

Remember that you should not feel pressured into signing up on the spot.

Fitness service providers are not allowed to use high pressure sales tactics on potential or returning clients.

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You should be able to get this information without having to sit through a sales pitch

It is also a good idea to look beyond the headline price. Check the total cost of the membership, how long you are committing for, what happens when the initial term ends and whether there are any additional fees.

After first signing-up, the code gives you a seven-day cooling off period.

You can cancel a fitness membership by giving written notice, including by email. A business cannot insist that you cancel in person or make you use a particular form.

Any notice period must be no more than 30 days, and the business must confirm your cancellation request in writing within seven days.

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Petition calling for fireworks ban in the Swan Valley

CAMILA EGUSQUIZA SANTA CRUZ

THE City of Swan council received a petition calling for fireworks to be prohibited across the Swan Valley and surrounds at its September ordinary council meeting.

Petition creator Nina Rosetta said she created the petition after experiencing two fireworks incidents within two weeks.

The first occurred on July 25.

"There was a loud banging and crashing sound and I looked out and could see my horses running around really scared as well as my heavily pregnant goats, so I ran down there and could see the fireworks. I grabbed the animals and tried to keep them safe, but I got knocked over," Ms Rosetta said.

"It was just really shocking and the problem with fireworks is that you're so busy dealing with it at the time that the next day you don't know where the fireworks came from. I didn't know where to go to ask questions – why did this happen and why weren't we notified?"

The second incident occurred on August 8, but Ms Rosetta was notified in advance and managed to evacuate with her animals in time.

Ms Rosetta was not notified about the first display because it involved close-proximity fireworks.

The Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) regulates fireworks and is responsible for issuing fireworks event permits, while local governments provide endorsements and comments as part of the assessment process.

Close-proximity fireworks do not require approval from LGIRS or the local government, and organisers are not required to notify nearby residents. Organisers are only required to notify the relevant local fire authority at least seven days before the event.

LGIRS describes close-proximity fireworks as being designed to be used safely at short distances indoors or outdoors and regulates their use through its code of practice.

The petition has received a lot of support from other Swan Valley residents, who have expressed concerns about the impact fireworks have on wildlife, farm animals, pets and people sensitive to noise like those with PTSD.

The conversation around prohibiting fireworks in the Swan Valley is not new.

In February, a resident proposed a motion at the City of Swan's annual meeting of electors to prohibit fireworks in Swan Valley rural and rural residential areas and adjacent noise impact corridors.



Farm animals and wildlife in and near Nina Rosetta's property in the Swan Valley.

The motion was taken to council on March 11, when the city said:

"The City of Swan is not the approving authority for fireworks event permits. The city's role... is to provide comments and recommended conditions on fireworks event permit applications, which may include lodging an objection where appropriate."

The fireworks events policy (POL-C-131) gives the city specific criteria for deciding whether to support a fireworks event and does not apply to close-proximity fireworks.

Under this policy, the city considers factors including previous issues associated with the venue, applicant, event coordinator or fireworks operator, the duration and finishing time of displays, and the number of fireworks events held at a premises.

The city can also consider previous displays at different premises if they have affected similar geographical areas.

A City of Swan spokesperson said that because the approving agency for firework event permits is LGIRS, it is not possible to completely ban fireworks displays within its boundaries.

"The city's existing fireworks policy is currently under review. The reviewed version will be presented at a council briefing session in early 2027 and is then likely to be advertised for public consultation. It will then be presented to council for adoption at a future ordinary council meeting," they said.

Ms Rosetta believes that prohibiting fireworks in the Swan Valley can mitigate the impact caused by all types of fireworks.

"My dream scenario would be that there's immediately a better communication system put in place where we are notified. That would be fantastic in the interim while they finalise and work out how to navigate through this," she said.

She also believes education is important.

"If we educate our community as to why fireworks are so harmful to people and wildlife, then they might go, 'you know, I don't want to do fireworks. I'm going to scare those beautiful baby swans that I saw or those nice animals that we all love'."

Ms Rosetta's petition can be viewed at <https://www.change.org/p/stop-fireworks-in-the-swan-valley>

Guildford car wash allowed around the clock operation

GUANHAO CHENG

A GUILDFORD car wash will be allowed to operate around the clock after Swan councillors rejected an attempt to impose a 7pm closing time during a robust debate about heritage, amenity and business.

The drive-through car wash proposed in Guildford sits on light industrial-zoned land.

Midland/Guildford ward councillor Sarah Howlett moved an alternate motion which would have allowed the business to operate from 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 7pm on Sundays and public holidays.

Ms Howlett said it was imperative that preservation of Guildford's unique character is maintained.

"The reason for my motion is to address the amenity concerns that a 24/7 car wash business could have on the neighbouring residents to ensure compliance with the Guildford-Mandoon heritage area local planning policy in relation to illuminated signage," she said.

Pearce ward councillor Cate McCullough then moved to remove the operating-hour restriction.

Cr McCullough said she agreed with all other points raised by Cr Howlett but felt the hours of operation restriction wasn't necessary as the officer's report determined noise wasn't an issue.

"There is no other car washes subjected to these time frames," she said.

"It's a business and I think Cr Congerton's questions alluded to what makes a business viable.

"This is Guildford (and) it's (known for) the famous planes, trains and automobiles.

"The noise from the car wash which is not a problem according to the officer's report is probably the least of anybody's problems."

Cr Bowman spoke in support of Cr McCullough's amendment to Cr Howlett's motion.

"Having gone and visited the site and then thought about all the other car washes in the City of Swan, I couldn't find any that we've restricted the hours of operation," he said.

"I sent an email to staff, and they confirmed that they have none that they're aware of on record.

"Is it reasonable to put these restrictions on this

business?"

Whiteman ward councillor Mel Congerton supported removing the restriction, and said the applicant had proposed a 24-hour operation and imposing a 7pm closing time would significantly reduce its potential operating hours without an analysis of the commercial impact.

"In a stroke of a pen, it is 50 per cent of his operating revenue now discounted," he said.

Cr Congerton said tradespeople, taxi drivers and rideshare drivers were among those who could have reason to use a car wash later at night.

City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson said she moved to Guildford for its heritage and said approving a car wash did not mean council also needed to allow it to operate 24 hours a day.

Concerns were raised about nearby residents, including shift workers trying to sleep, as well as the possibility of vehicles gathering at the site late at night.

The mayor also distinguished existing noise from planes and trains from that created by approving a new round-the-clock business.

Cr McCullough said an important point to be aware of was its light industrial zoning, where a car wash application was a permitted use.

The amendment removing the operating-hour restriction was carried 8-5.

Councillors then clashed over another aspect of the proposal when Altone ward councillor Jennifer Catalano moved to require marri trees to be included in the development's landscaping.

She said mature marris took decades to grow and were important for black cockatoo survival.

"I have to raise this time and time again because if I don't raise it, council forgets all about the fact that we are living in a natural environment," Cr Catalano said.

The marri amendment was tied 6-6 before being defeated by the mayor's casting vote.

Midland/Guildford ward councillor Rashelle Predovnik later moved an amendment broadening a condition to require lighting and signage to comply with standards governing obtrusive lighting.

That amendment was carried before council approved the development.





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The borer does not move far on its own but can spread through human movement.



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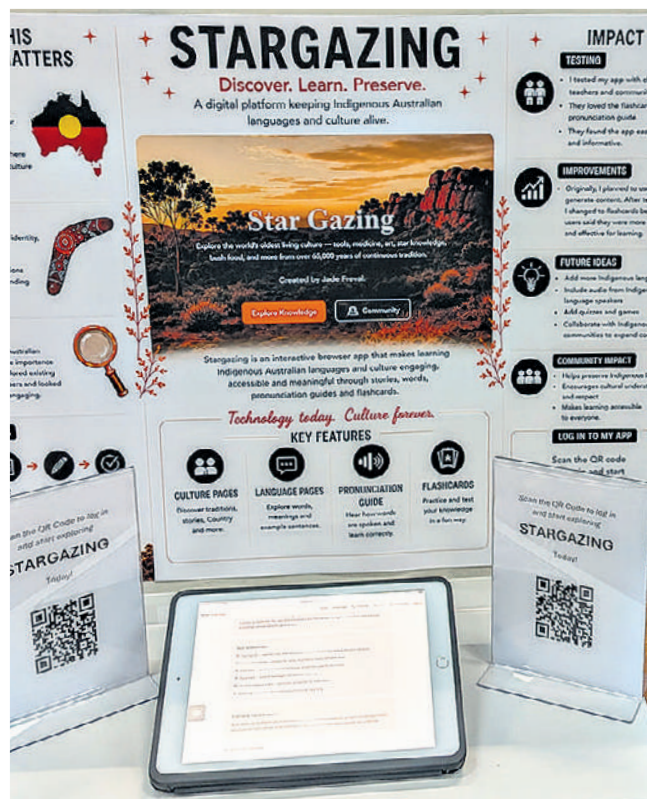
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Woodlupine Primary School student Jade Freval claimed first place in the Year 6 category at the Darling Range Learning Community STEM Expo.

Woodlupine student takes first place at inaugural STEM Expo

WOODLUPINE Primary School student Jade Freval has claimed first place in the Year 6 category at the inaugural Darling Range Learning Community STEM Expo.

Jade received the award for developing an innovative Aboriginal language web application combining technology, creativity and cultural learning to produce a digital solution with a meaningful connection to the community.

She was one of five Woodlupine Primary School students selected to represent the school at the event.

All five students confidently presented their individual projects and explained the ideas, research and development behind their work.

The theme of the 2026 Expo was 'Ideas That Grow: Start small. Think big. Make a difference' and students from Years 5 to 8 were challenged to identify a real-world problem and develop an original STEM-based solution that could benefit their community.

The projects required students to identify a problem, research possible solutions, plan, test and refine their ideas and could include physical prototypes, working models or digital solutions.

Projects were assessed on the clarity and originality of the idea, evidence of design and development, application of STEM knowledge, potential community impact and the student's ability to communicate their work.

Jade's Aboriginal language web application impressed the judging panel and earned her the Year 6 trophy and a selection of prizes.

A spokesperson said the school was extremely proud of Jade's achievement and the efforts of all five participating students for their creativity, commitment and outstanding contribution to the expo.

"Our students represented Woodlupine with confidence, enthusiasm and pride. They were able to explain what they had created, the problem they wanted to address and how their ideas could make a positive difference," they said.

"The Expo gave our students a genuine opportunity to think creatively, solve problems and share their learning with a wider audience. Jade's achievement was an outstanding result and wonderful recognition of the thought, effort and innovation behind her project."

Woodlupine Primary School congratulates Jade Freval and the school's four other representatives for their creativity, commitment and outstanding contribution to the Expo.

Construction is set to commence on Midland's Crosslinks Community Hub



AI generated Crosslinks Midland Community Hub concept render. Picture: Crosslinks

AFTER years of planning and collaboration, construction is about to begin on the new Crosslinks Community Hub in Midland.

Since receiving a grant from Lotterywest earlier in the year, Crosslinks has appointed REAL (WA) as the builder.

It is expected that construction will take approximately nine months.

Crosslinks chief executive officer Dawn McAleenan said the milestone was an exciting step towards creating a welcoming space for people with disability and the wider community.

"The community hub is about much more than renovating a building," Ms McAleenan said.

"We're creating a place where people can connect, organisations can work together and our community can more easily access services, resources and opportunities."

The hub will bring organisations, services and resources together, making it easier to collaborate, share resources and help people find the right support for them.

"It has taken a community to get this far, which feels very fitting for a project that is all about community," Ms McAleenan said.

"Now comes the exciting part – watching it become a reality."

Lotterywest is the project's major supporter, alongside the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation and the City of Swan.

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Swan ward review faces revocation bid

GUANHAO CHENG

FIVE City of Swan councillors seek to halt the release of the city's ward boundary discussion paper amid questions about how its four options were developed.

During the August meeting, councillors Jennifer Catalano, Nav Kaur, Ian Johnson, Sarah Howlett and Rashelle Predovnik were in favour of a pause on the boundary review.

However, the pause was not adopted due to majority against.

A special council meeting will be held next week to consider partially revoking the council's August decision to not pause the Ward Boundary and Representation Review.

Midland/Guildford ward councillor Rashelle Predovnik said the move followed concerns raised with her after the August meeting about the number of options presented and councillor involvement in developing or shaping them.

The review's four options are:

- Looking at possibly removing the ward system and transition to a district-wide representation model.
- Retaining five wards but substantially realigning ward boundaries and councillor allocations with a focus at increasing Whiteman ward representation.
- Retain five wards but reducing from 14 to 12 councillors which saves about \$113,000 annually but results in greater elector loads per councillor and greater fragmentation.
- Retain five wards and largely preserving the current structure, however may require another review as Whiteman ward grows.

The City of Swan is a band one local government with a district population

of 75,000.

This means the city may have a minimum of eight councillors or a maximum of 14 councillors plus a popularly elected mayor.

At that meeting Cr Predovnik unsuccessfully moved to add two further options to the four contained in the discussion paper.

She later supported releasing the paper for public consultation but said conversations after the meeting prompted her to reconsider the process.

"I had conversations with community leaders (after the meeting) and those conversations alerted me to a perception of bias: they questioned the limited amount of options in the discussion paper and the level of councillor involvement in creating or shaping options," she said.

Whiteman ward councillor Mel Congerton said the review was never intended to be divisive and was simply a process the city needed to undertake before presenting the outcome to the Local Government Advisory Board.

He said he was familiar with the process after Whiteman ward previously underwent a review which resulted in its representation being reduced from three councillors to two.

Cr Congerton described the exercise as "number crunching" to bring representation within the required variation and said the Whiteman community had not suffered because of its reduction in councillor numbers.

Cr Predovnik said she subsequently reviewed the process and wrote to City of Swan chief executive officer Stephen Cain on August 26.

She raised questions about how the four options were selected, why other options were not included and how perceived conflicts of interest should be

managed in a review affecting councillor numbers and ward boundaries.

Cr Predovnik said four other councillors supporting the revocation agreed a short pause would allow those issues to be examined before consultation began.

She said city staff had also told her in an emailed response that seven councillors had requested and received access to data "to develop their own options if they wished".

Cr Predovnik said the response did not identify the seven councillors, what options they may have worked on or whether any councillor-developed concepts contributed to the four options ultimately included in the discussion paper.

She said no councillors made declarations during debate on the item at the August meeting.

"My concern is that if consultation proceeds without clarity on these matters it will affect the perceived independence and transparency of the review," she said.

The city's special meeting agenda includes an impact statement responding to the proposed revocation.

Cr Predovnik rejected the position that governance questions could be addressed while consultation proceeded.

"The issues I raised relate to how the ward options were developed including how councillor involvement was managed and the process followed to select options," she said.

"Saying these issues can be 'explained later' overlooks the fact they influenced how the ward options were created in the first place.

"The short pause was requested to protect the integrity of the process.

"There is no genuine urgency in the timeline, yet the city continues to push the process forward as though there is."



Midland/Guildford ward councillors Ian Johnson, Rashelle Predovnik and Sarah Howlett at the Midland town hall are calling for a more transparent ward review process.



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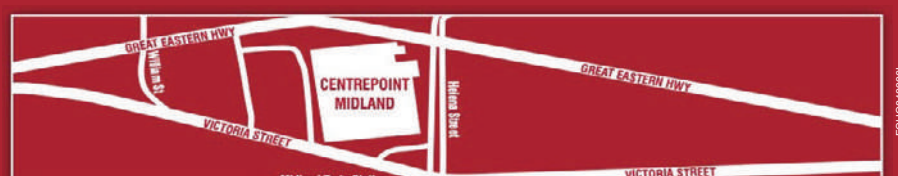
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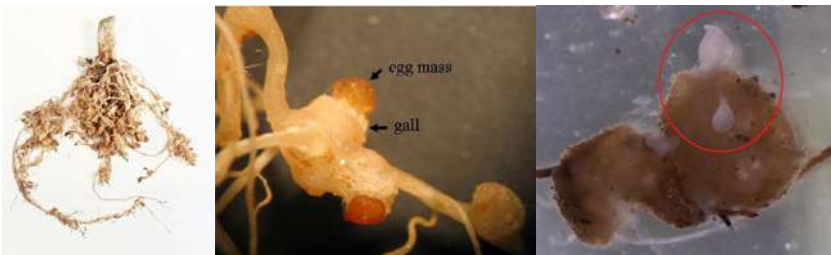
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On the lookout for: Guava root-knot nematode (GRKN)



Left to right: severely galled and knotted roots, closeup of gall and egg mass, white swollen females, juvenile root-knot nematode

Guava root-knot nematode (GRKN), *Meloidogyne enterolobii*, is a highly damaging exotic species of root-knot nematode which was first detected in Australia in the Northern Territory and subsequently parts of Queensland in late 2022. Reports from overseas are that it is highly infectious and polyphagous, meaning that it can feed on or utilize a wide variety of different hosts.

Nematodes are microscopic worm-like creatures. GRKN looks very similar to other more common root-knot nematode species and is difficult to distinguish morphologically. It is best confirmed by molecular testing.

GRKN has not yet been detected in Western Australia and is a declared pest under section 12 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*. Surveillance programs are in place to monitor area freedom.

What plants can it affect?

Tropical species such as guava, banana, ginger, cotton and papaya.

Vegetables such potato, tomato, pumpkin, beans, cucumber, zucchini, capsicum and more.

Ornamental plants and some weed species are also known to be hosts.

Risk of entry into WA

Quarantine Western Australia (QWA) regularly intercepts plant material being illegally brought into WA from GRKN positive states.

Worse still, much of the smuggled produce tends to be fruit, vegetables and propagatable material from home gardens which represents a high risk for transporting GRKN.

How can it spread?

Movement of infested seedlings, plants, soil, irrigation water and equipment.

Root-knot nematode females are sedentary and produce large numbers of eggs. Juveniles migrate in the soil to roots of susceptible hosts.

What to look for

Significant galls or knots in the plant root system which disrupt growth and yield.

Severely deformed tubers and rhizomes e.g. potatoes, sweet potatoes and ginger.

What to do if you suspect GRKN?

Take photos and record details (e.g. host, location) and report suspect GRKN through MyPestGuide® Reporter or DPIRD's Pest and Disease Information Service (08) 9368 3080 or padis@dpiird.wa.gov.au



Report your observations

MyPestGuide® Reporter via app or
[online mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au](https://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au)

Pest and Disease Information Service
(08) 9368 3080 | padis@dpiird.wa.gov.au



Marliissa White and Breanna Zoethout at the awards night.

Two local winners at WA training awards

CAMILA EGUSQUIZA SANTA CRUZ

MARLISSA White from The Vines and Breanna Zoethout from Wattle Grove have won in their respective categories at the WA training awards.

Ms White was named the WA School-based Apprentice of the Year for her work while completing her traineeship and Certificate II in Automotive Services Technology.

She said winning the award made her very emotional.

"It just really made me think about my traineeship and how hard it was to work from the beginning, from not knowing what I wanted to do to now – starting an apprenticeship next year with Westrac," she said.

Ms White hopes her win can inspire other women.

"I hope to encourage other women who are scared to go into a male-dominated industry and get them into the workforce," she said.

"I want to encourage them to do a school-based traineeship, especially if they want to get experience and understand what industry they want to go into in the future."

Ms Zoethout was named the WA Vocational Student of the Year for her training at South Metropolitan TAFE while completing a Diploma of Events Management.

"It's honestly pretty incredible. It was very unexpected and a bit of a shock – to have been selected as the winner was very cool and I'm quite honoured," she said.

Ms Zoethout said she chose to train in events because she believes it's an industry that brings people together and creates shared experiences that extend beyond the event itself.

She hopes the award will open doors for her in the future.

"But even if it doesn't bring myself a million and one opportunities, I hope that it can at least inspire a few people to choose to study at TAFE and show that they don't have to study straight after school to be successful," she said.

"That's my main message – you can wait and it'll be there for you and you can still find success out of it."

As mentioned in *Five local finalists in WA training awards* (Echo News, September 4), the WA training awards recognise outstanding achievement in the vocational education and training sector.

Glen Forrest writer is shortlisted for prestigious Hungerford Award

CAMILA EGUSQUIZA SANTA CRUZ

GLEN Forrest writer David Harris has been shortlisted for Fremantle Press' Hungerford Award and is in the running to win a \$15,000 cash prize, a publishing contract and a fellowship for his novel Moments in Dust.

The Hungerford Award is Western Australia's most prestigious literary award for an unpublished manuscript by an unpublished writer and is now in its 35th year.

Mr Harris said being shortlisted felt very significant to him.

"It feels like an acknowledgement of the work I've been quietly building," he said.

"It's also meaningful because the Hungerford has a history of recognising emerging Western Australian writers, which means my name gets to be mentioned alongside theirs!"

Mr Harris won his first writing competition in 2019 with the City of Armadale and later went on to win the Best Australian Yarn in 2022 and was again shortlisted in 2024.

In 2025 he was selected for the Writing WA Emerging Writers Program, and earlier this year he was shortlisted for the Furphy Literary Award.

His recent novel Moments in Dust is about two best friends who leave Kalgoorlie to head into the far north of Western Australia to work on a cattle station.

"At least, that's what happens," he said.

"What it's about, is toxic friendship, generational trauma, survivorship, and the reasons why young men struggle to become men in truth."

Mr Harris said he tried to strip away any exposition and let the words and actions of the characters speak for themselves.

"(This) somehow left the world feeling more visceral. It came slowly, but it came honestly, and the end result is something I'm really proud of," he said.



David Harris' work is often based in the landscapes of Australia.

"I began to write it when I finally stopped trying to think of what might get me published, and instead just wrote something that was compelling to me."

The winner of the Hungerford Award will be announced on Friday, October 16 at the Walyalup Civic Centre from 6pm to 8.30pm.

General admission is free and tickets are available at <https://events.humanitix.com/hungerfordaward>

Native habitat risk in eastern corridor



Mature tree stump left from clearing done for the Northam-Pithara Road widening project. Picture: Brett Loney

A CONSERVATION Council of WA (CCWA) spokesperson says more than 158ha of eastern corridor wildlife habitat is at risk of being cleared across Swan, the Perth Hills and the Avon Valley.

According to data from the CCWA, the main areas under assessment included 143ha of land in Swan, 2.44ha in Kalamunda and 24ha in Mundaring.

Chittering, Toodyay and Goomalling also had 0.086ha, 0.5ha and 4.5ha of land being assessed for developments.

A CCWA spokesperson said even relatively small areas of clearing can contribute to the fragmentation and loss of habitat corridors.

"Habitat fragmentation occurs when large expanses of habitat are broken into smaller, isolated patches," they said.

"Maintaining ecological corridors that connect these larger patches of habitat is crucial for protecting threatened species.

"When development puts these corridors at risk, the resulting fragmentation can have a devastating impact on the native plants and wildlife that depend on them."

The spokesperson said the Wheatbelt had less than 30 per cent remnant vegetation cover, which made remaining eucalyptus woodlands particularly

significant.

"Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Wheatbelt are recognised as a critically endangered threatened ecological community under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act," they said.

"This critical habitat is increasingly being put at risk by development and infrastructure projects, including the widening of the Northam-Pithara Road and the Western Power transmission line, which was approved to clear 100ha in March 2026.

"When individual projects are assessed without adequate consideration of their cumulative impact or the broader landscape in which they occur, the scale of their impact can be misleading.

"What may seem like a relatively small area in isolation can be an important link between larger areas of remnant vegetation."

The spokesperson said National Threatened Species Day at the beginning of September was a reminder of the impacts of habitat clearing on wildlife wellbeing.

"Extinctions are not the result of a lack of warning," they said.

"They are the consequence of decades of missed opportunities by all levels of government to act before it was too late."



Midn Marr Dreaming Dance Group performing during a previous Midland NAIDOC event. Picture: Ben Riches

Midland NAIDOC needs support

ORGANISERS for the growing Midland NAIDOC celebration are calling on community support and sponsorship to deliver the event the community has come to expect.

Scheduled for October 6, the event has about 100 stallholders involved and an Indigo Junction spokesperson said it was shaping up to be the biggest Midland NAIDOC event to date.

"(About) 3500 people attended last year, and we are expecting a similar or larger crowd this year," they said.

"We currently have around 100 stallholders confirmed, compared with 65 last year. This year's event includes additional stalls, expanded entertainment and a larger event area."

The spokesperson said while the response from the community and stallholders has been positive, the cost of putting on an event of this scale continued to grow.

"The total cost of delivering this year's event is expected to reach (about) \$75,000," they said.

"Increased costs include expanded entertainment, additional stalls and event equipment, extra audio requirements for the larger event area, in-

creased security and additional catering.

"If further funding is not secured, we may need to reduce some of the free children's entertainment and food truck options, and consider introducing stallholder fees for future events."

The spokesperson said groups in the area came together to make the event possible each year, strengthening the bonds in the community.

Local businesses and community members can contribute through financial sponsorship or in-kind support, including goods, services and event resources.

Anyone interested in supporting the event can contact the Midland NAIDOC email address via naidocmidland@indigojunction.org.au

"Midland NAIDOC is an important opportunity for our community to come together, celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and recognise the strength, history and contribution of First Nations people in our local area," the spokesperson said.

"It is about connection, pride and creating a welcoming space where the community can celebrate together."



Green Waste and Hard Waste Collection

Check your collection week for green waste and hard waste. Visit the Shire of Mundaring website for more information about waste collected in verge collections and how to place items on your verge.

Scan QR to check collection dates

mundaring.wa.gov.au

Chidlow animal sanctuary looking ahead

GUANHAO CHENG

CHIDLOW'S Karakamia Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS) recently marked 35 years of conservation work in the hills and invited *Echo News* to see the work being done in the area.

The anniversary recently coincided with the rediscovery of the Western pygmy possum at the sanctuary, which hadn't been seen since it was first captured at KWS in 1999.

Australian Wildlife Conservancy's (AWC) story began at Karakamia in 1991, when founder Martin Copley purchased the Perth Hills property for conservation.

An AWC spokesperson said the organisation was continuing to look for ways to strengthen its conservation work by building connections with the community.

"AWC is always looking for opportunities to... create meaningful opportunities for people to engage with our sanctuaries," they said.

"We're excited about the future and encourage people to stay tuned for updates as our work continues to grow and evolve."

Kalamunda MLA Adam Hort joined in on the visit to KWS this week to see the sanctuary and its conservation work firsthand.

Mr Hort said KWS was something residents should be incredibly proud to have in the Perth Hills.

"Walking through the sanctuary and seeing our native wildlife in such a protected environment really brings home just how special this place is," he said.

As night descended, woylies, wallabies and a brush-tailed phascogale appeared along the trail while the landscape shifted between granite outcrops, riparian habitat and wandoo woodland.

Diggings throughout the sanctuary showed the role played by native animals searching for insects, roots and underground fungi.

AWC field ecologist guide Owen Cumming said digging animals helped turn organic matter into the soil, cycle nutrients and improve water penetration.

Small depressions could also collect leaf litter and moisture and provide favourable conditions for germination.

"The foundation of that is the healthy landscapes and the habitat that is suitable for them to begin with," he said.



Karakamia Wildlife Sanctuary field ecologist guide Owen Cumming explains trapping for conservation purposes during a guided tour.

"We do need to be looking after these places that provide that ecosystem health and services from the ground up. Otherwise, conservation of wildlife isn't possible."

The sanctuary's future also sits alongside an unresolved planning issue on neighbouring land.

As reported in *Mundaring votes to recommend SP 82 refusal* (*Echo News*, November 21, 2025) Australian Wildlife Conservancy raised concerns about structure plan 82 when it returned to the Shire of Mundaring last year.

AWC administration and operations support officer

Mimi Scully asked the shire whether building envelopes and associated access roads at the northern end of the proposed development could be removed because that section abutted Karakamia.

The shire then voted to recommend the WA Planning Commission refuse SP82, with a decision still pending.

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Dreambuilders Care's op shop first birthday

CAMILA EGUSQUIZA SANTA CRUZ

LOW-cost and free food Midland supermarket Dreambuilders Care is celebrating one year of its community-funded op shop.

Dreambuilders Care chief executive officer Ursula Dixon said the op shop was first opened to generate more revenue for the adjacent supermarket.

"Everything we sell in the op shop comes back into the supermarket and community meals to serve that part of our community that's really struggling to put food on the table," she said.

"The op shop is like a traditional old-school op shop with everything from electric mowers to beautiful old-school cabinets to a piano."

Ms Dixon said demand for discounted and free food has increased.

"Most people engage with us because they are struggling with food. Our community meal space is serving 78 guests four nights a week on average, and our breakfast is now seeing over 150 guests on Thursday mornings," she said.

Ms Dixon also said the supermarket and op shop have an average of 85 visits daily, which can put pressure on the volunteers.

"Some of the challenges we have are really good challenges like the amount of donations we get – we don't know where to put them all – so we're stacking them on top of each other," she said.

"But then there are gaps in our volunteer roster, which we need to have all the donations sorted. Typically, in this space, as much as we have the most amazing donations, we do get stuff that we simply can't sell and getting them recycled takes time."

Ms Dixon said seeing the community come together was a highlight.

"There's so much goodness in people from donations to volunteering to purchasing things from us, sometimes because they need them, sometimes because they are trying to help us."

Dreambuilders Care is currently applying for a grant.



Dreambuilders Care's op shop at 334-336 Great Eastern Hwy, Midland.

"We have a grant application at the moment for a cold room, because we're just coming into summer, and we need somewhere bigger to store fruit and veg, so that we can offer really good fruit and veg every day to our community without it going off," Ms Dixon said.

"Food insecurity is our focus and everything we do is around serving that in our community, making sure that people can be confident to get some food when they need it. And so, seeing an increase in that, we're hoping that we get this grant."

People can get involved with Dreambuilders Care at <https://www.dreambuilderscare.org.au/> or by calling 0411 736 770.

Back to basics for Swan business award winners

GUANHAO CHENG

SWAN business award winners have shared the lessons behind their success, from asking for help and finding their own path to simply having the courage to show up.

Three recent Swan Chamber of Commerce award recipients spoke at the chamber's September Hour of Power event.

Snap Printing Midland owner Deborah Whitburn, Johnson Property Corp property consultant Tessa Johnson and Oceania Film director AJ Jayalath spoke about their personal and professional journeys.

Ms Whitburn said her path into printing began when she was 19, unemployed and unsure what she wanted to do.

The Salvation Army put her through a computer course before offering her the chance to try working with a printing press.

"Not knowing where you're going is not a bad thing," she said.

"Not taking the opportunity is a bad thing because at some point you'll learn something, as long as you have a takeaway from it, then you've benefitted."

She was later placed with Snap Printing in West Perth, attended Snap training school and became one of the few women working as printers at the time.

Nine years ago, Ms Whitburn became a business owner herself and said transitioning from worker to boss had taught her the importance of relying on others.

"My biggest lesson has been, ask for help," she said.

"I don't have all the answers, but a lot of people around me do."

Young Professional of the Year winner Ms Johnson said she had initially resisted entering real estate despite growing up surrounded by family members working in the industry.

After leaving warehouse management, she began studying real estate before taking a three-year break, including six months of solo travel through Europe.

She later worked in hospitality before returning to her studies and entering property on her own terms.

"The difference was this time, it felt like it was my choice," she said.

"I came back to property because I decided it suited me, not simply because it was what my family did."

Ms Johnson said she had also learned not to measure her progress against the milestones of others.

"I'm learning that someone else's timeline doesn't



Swan Chamber of Commerce award winners at the September Hour of Power sharing their stories and lessons learned. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

necessarily need to be mine," she said.

"For me, getting back to basics is paying attention to the things that have always been there, people, community, adventure, animals, connection, and the confidence to keep choosing my own path."

Oceania Film director AJ Jayalath said he arrived in Australia from Sri Lanka at 17 before eventually leaving his original studies to pursue film at Edith Cowan University.

Mr Jayalath said one of his most important business lessons was the value of consistently showing up, even when doing so was uncomfortable.

He recalled attending a Swan Chamber networking event about four years ago, feeling out of place and leaving after only 10 minutes.

On the drive home, he questioned why he had spent about 80 minutes travelling only to leave almost immediately.

"If you feel uncomfortable, just put up with it next time," he said.

"It's okay (to) make a mistake and fail once. Let's just try it again and fail again. Do it until you get it right."

Mr Jayalath said his approach to business was now based on incremental improvement rather than attempting to transform everything at once.

"It's all about, for us, being practical and pragmatic," he said.

"If you can consistently execute every day, you get your goal."

Canola research helps develop more frost resistant varieties

GENETIC research is underway to help breed new canola varieties with improved frost resistance.

Canola is a highly valuable break crop worth an estimated \$2.7 billion per annum in Western Australia, which requires significant inputs to achieve yield potential – elevating the crop's financial risk when sown in frost prone environments.

The 'Reducing the frost sensitivity of Canola in Australia' project will screen existing and novel Australian and international canola lines to identify genetic material that can set viable pods under frost conditions.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) research scientist Brenton Leske said the project aimed to deliver a stepwise change to frost management and canola production.

"Canola is particularly sensitive to frost damage at the flowering, pod development and pod filling stages," Dr Leske said.

"This project includes two years of field trials to determine the level of genetic diversity for frost resistance, which can be used to breed new canola varieties with improved frost resistance."

"The field trials include a spatial grid of multiple temperature sensors to measure air temperature throughout the crop canopy to get a complete understanding of where the greatest frost effects are. Interactions between air temperature, frost damage and plant height will also be explored to relate these to yield loss due to frost."

Through this research, a robust screening method for suitable canola germplasm will be developed, along with two hybrid offspring populations with differing frost sensitivity for future research.

Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) genetic technologies oilseeds manager Allison Pearson said frost can have a significant impact on canola yields, creating added risk for



DPIRD research scientist Dr Brenton Leske is leading research to advance new canola varieties with improved frost resistance.

growers who have invested in establishing and managing the crop.

"By identifying canola germplasm with improved tolerance to frost damage, this investment will provide plant breeders with valuable new tools to develop varieties better suited to Australia's frost prone grain growing regions," Dr Pearson said.

"Ultimately, the project is about giving growers greater confidence to grow canola in frost prone regions, with new varieties better equipped to maintain yield when frost strikes."

DPIRD is leading the national project, with GRDC co-investment, which includes the South Australian Research and Development Institute, and NSW DPIRD.

For more information on frost identification, tools and support and crop management visit the DPIRD website and use the search term frost.

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Screen industry careers in the spotlight



There was plenty to see and do at the Perth Film Studios Open Days. Centre: Creative Industries Minister Simone McGurk with actors performing over the two days.

A NEW campaign promoting Western Australian screen industry career pathways was launched last week at the Perth Film Studios Careers Day in Whiteman.

More than 15,000 Western Australians attended the Open Days over September 11 and 12 to discover how stories are brought to life on screen and were wowed by immersive experiences, entertainment, activities, demonstrations, and hands-on workshops.

The Careers in Screen campaign aims to drive growth in WA's screen industry workforce by creating greater visibility of education and training pathways and raising awareness about the breadth of careers in screen and encouraging people to pursue those opportunities.

The new campaign is part of the WA Screen Industry Workforce Development Strategy: 2026-2034 which is supported by \$11.2 million in funding over four years to accelerate growth in WA's screen industry workforce, skills and industry capacity.

A creative careers website and WA careers in screen guide identifying the variety of pathways into the industry, outlining the diversity of roles and promoting training and skills development opportunities, will be key components of the awareness campaign.

Coinciding with the Perth Film Studios Careers Day, the

campaign launch will initially target secondary students considering VET and tertiary training programs in the coming years, as well as tertiary and TAFE students and graduates considering entering the industry.

The diverse range of career pathways being promoted includes creative roles as well as trades such as electricians, riggers and carpenters, production office needs in finance, accounting and HR, as well as events, logistics, management and leadership skills.

Creative Industries Minister Simone McGurk said with the Perth Film Studio now open for business the government is building pathways to meet the increasing production demands of WA's screen industry and support the state's growing pipeline of productions.

"There is a breadth of careers in screen, and we want to provide opportunities for Western Australians to be part of this growing local industry.

"Careers in Screen will encourage students and recent graduates to develop skills and pursue careers in our local screen industry and play a part in the development of the future creative content and stories that will entertain audiences around the world."

Skills and Training Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson said she wanted Western Australians to be skilled up and ready

to take on the opportunities of our growing screen industry.

"These are interesting, quality jobs in a sector that is helping to diversify the local economy."

West Swan MLA Rita Saffioti said the Perth Film Studios are an incredible asset for the state that will diversify our economy and unlock exciting new career opportunities for Western Australians.

"This campaign is about putting a spotlight on the many training and career pathways already available in WA for young people wanting to pursue their dreams in the screen industry.

"Supporting more Western Australians to develop their skills locally will ensure we have the workforce needed for our state to become a go-to destination for global screen production."

The dedicated website and guide, which will bring together various resources and links to provide a centralised point of access to a range of resources for people considering a career in the industry, will be delivered in partnership with Creative Industries Training Council FutureNow with input from Screenwest, education and training providers and Perth Film Studios.

For further information go to www.creativecareers.com.au



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Wheatbelt drought resilience plan



WHEATBELT communities have a new long-term roadmap to strengthen drought preparedness and resilience, following the finalisation of the Wheatbelt regional drought resilience plan.

Led by the Wheatbelt Development Commission, the plan was developed over two years in partnership with local governments, industry, Traditional Owners, community representatives and key stakeholders.

Extensive community consultation was supported by technical analysis of the Wheatbelt's drought risks and capacity to adapt to increasingly challenging conditions.

The plan identifies more than 30 priority actions to strengthen water security, support agriculture, build resilient communities and protect the natural environment across the Wheatbelt and will help inform future partnerships, policy and investment throughout the region.

Developed through the regional drought resilience planning program, the initiative is jointly funded by the federal government's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry through the Future Drought Fund and WA's Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

WA Agriculture and Food Minister Jackie Jarvis said drought preparation is essential to maintaining a productive and sustainable Wheatbelt.

"Wheatbelt farmers and communities understand the challenges of dry seasons and a changing climate better than most, and we want to make

sure they are well prepared for the future," she said.

"This plan is about bringing together local knowledge, experience and expertise to identify practical solutions that will strengthen resilience and water security, support agricultural innovation and help primary producers adapt to changing conditions."

Wheatbelt Minister Sabine Winton said the impacts of drought extend well beyond the farm gate, affecting communities, businesses, infrastructure and the environment across the Wheatbelt.

"This plan recognises those wider impacts and provides a co-ordinated approach to strengthening the resilience of the region as a whole.

"It reflects the priorities identified by local communities and will help guide future planning and investment across the Wheatbelt."

Bullwinkel MP Trish Cook said the joint investment from the Future Drought Fund will ensure western Wheatbelt communities have a say in shaping their own future and the resources to adapt.

"It's about being proactive rather than reactive, making sure Bullwinkel's regional towns and beyond have the resilience they need to thrive through tough seasons," she said.

To read the Wheatbelt regional drought resilience plan visit www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/wheatbelt-regional-drought-resilience-plan.pdf

New Kalamunda community health hub



Founding member Shelley Tucker speaking at the Woodlupine community centre. Inset: A recent group meeting in Kalamunda.

A NEW grassroots initiative is bringing the Perth Hills and surrounding communities closer to trusted, local health support, as the People's Health Alliance (PHA) officially establishes its Kalamunda hub.

PHA Kalamunda brings together a diverse network of local health practitioners, including acupuncturists, Bowen therapists, naturopaths, reiki practitioners, spinal flow practitioners, reflexologists, baby sleep consultants, flower essence therapists and more.

"Our mission is to support the local community in exploring complementary health with confidence and curiosity," a spokesperson said.

"We connect people with trusted local practitioners, sharing experience and knowledge so individuals can make safe, informed choices about their wellbeing."

The People's Health Alliance began in the United Kingdom in early 2022 as a non-profit, grassroots community organisation dedicated to building an alternative healthcare model that connects patients with practitioners.

Since then, PHA hubs have formed around the world, and now a dedicated Kalamunda hub is proudly supporting local residents.

The organisation is built on the values of personal responsibility, integrative medicine and preventative care while recognising the essential role of conventional medicine and that holistic approaches can work beautifully alongside it.

"By focusing on prevention and supporting the body's natural ability to heal, the hub aims to move beyond simply treating illness, toward nurturing whole-person wellbeing for individuals and families across the community. At the heart of PHA Kalamunda is a genuine sense of community," the spokesperson said.



The hub is run by a small team of local volunteers who bring a wealth of experience in health, community care and family wellbeing, and who are planning regular appearances at the Kalamunda Farmers' Market.

There are plans to organise local pop-up hubs and other events in the future so residents and practitioners can meet face to face and grow connections.

For those wanting to explore their health and wellness options, PHA Kalamunda offers a 'Find a Practitioner' directory on its website, allowing community members to browse local practitioners and their offerings across suburbs including Kalamunda, Lesmurdie, Maddington, Midvale, Thornlie and Wattle Grove.

The hub also shares free educational content through its 'Wellness Wednesday' video series, introducing different health modalities and practitioners to help build curiosity and confidence around complementary care.

Community members looking for support with their health and wellbeing are encouraged to visit the PHA Kalamunda website to browse the practitioner directory, or to get in touch directly.

Local health practitioners based in Kalamunda or surrounding suburbs who are interested in joining the growing hub are also invited to reach out.

PHA Kalamunda is always seeking new members to help expand the support available to the local community.

For further information go to www.pha-kalamunda.au or email phakalamunda@proton.me

Malvern Springs Primary air con fundraiser

GUILDFORD-based Liberal MLC Anthony Spagnolo has congratulated the Malvern Springs Primary School community following the successful completion of its 100-km Run-raiser for Cool Classrooms.

He has also called on the Cook Labor government to deliver a permanent solution to the school's air-conditioning problems.

Year 2 teacher Keyan Robertson recently completed the 100-km challenge to raise funds towards improving cooling at the Ellenbrook school.

Mr Spagnolo said Mr Robertson and the entire school community deserved enormous credit.

"What Keyan has done for his students is extraordinary. Running 100 km in a day takes incredible commitment, and the way the Malvern Springs community has rallied behind him has been fantastic," Mr Spagnolo said.

"The school community identified a problem, came together and did something about it. They deserve our congratulations and support."

The fundraiser followed years of reported problems with ageing air-conditioning at the school, including faulty units, mould and classrooms reaching temperatures of up to 39 degrees.

Mr Spagnolo said the Education Minister's response to those concerns had been disappointing.

"Labor has governed Western Australia since 2017. Parents do not care which political party installed an air-conditioner 13 years ago. They care that their children are sitting in classrooms that are too hot and they want the problem fixed."



Year 2 teacher Keyan Robertson after completing the 100-km challenge.

"This school has been raising concerns for years. The Minister should be telling families what she is going to do about it, not searching for somebody else to blame."

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Fri September 18

Settlers House York
Nick Childs
5.30pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace, York

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

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

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

Chidlow Tavern
Hill-Billy Hootenanny
From 7pm, Free
4 Thomas St, Chidlow

Sat September 19

Settlers House York
Jukes of York
From 5.30pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace, York

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Brett Hardwick
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Sun September 20

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

Chidlow Tavern
Big Al & the Wolfpack
From 12.30-3.30pm, Free
4 Thomas St, Chidlow

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

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

Sun September 20 cont.

Lyric's Bar
Way Jo Pathways Jam
From 3pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

7th Ave Bar & Bistro
Mick Green
From 12pm-3pm, Free
Seventh Ave, Midland

Tues September 22

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

Woodbridge Hotel
Hills Trad and Irish
Singing Songs
From 6pm, Free
50 East St, Guildford

Hemingway & Co
Jazz Tuesday
From 7pm, Free
7095 Great Eastern
Hwy, Mundaring

Wed September 23

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 September 24

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

Hemingway & Co
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From 7pm, Free
7095 Great Eastern
Hwy, Mundaring

Woodbridge Hotel
The Pointy Heads
From 6pm, Free
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ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

Ellenbrook author explores impacts of war

ELLENBROOK author Christopher Whittaker has turned a lifelong interest in military history into a novel exploring friendship, class and survival during World War I.

Mr Whittaker said his fascination with military history began much earlier, after seeing the 1970 film Waterloo while he was in primary school.

"It was just the majesty and the magnificence of the uniforms and the pomp and ceremony and the tactics," he said.

"It just looked so fantastic."

That interest was encouraged by a high school teacher who taught students about famous battles using maps and board games.

Growing up in Canberra also gave Mr Whittaker opportunities to spend time at the Australian War Memorial.

"I got a real fascination going to the war memorial and I spent many, many hours there," he said.

He later built a small collection of World War I militaria, including medals and a German bayonet.

His book Heidenröslein: The Little Rose on the Heath is about two young German men, Peter Schiller and Günther Klein, from opposite ends of society who find themselves serving together during the war.

Peter was born into a wealthy Prussian family while Günther was a working-class secular Jewish man whose father was an accountant.

The pair eventually find themselves serving in a stormtrooper unit, where Mr Whittaker said some of the traditional barriers between officers and ordinary soldiers began to break down.

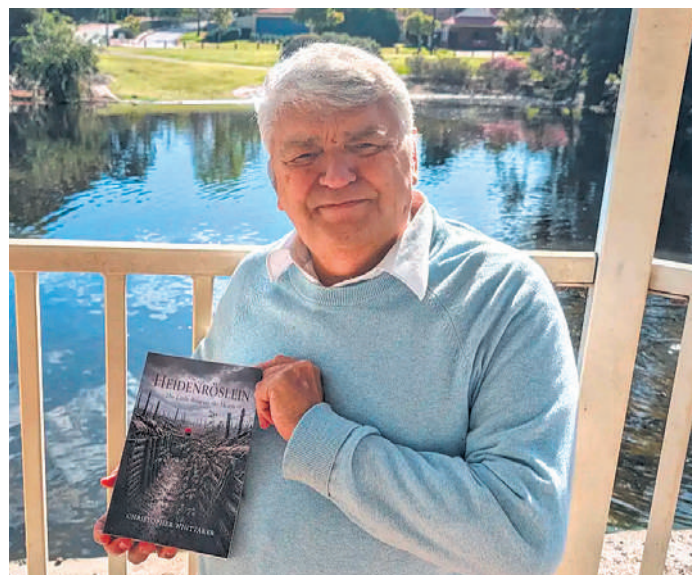
"They both come out at the other end and come back to a Germany that's embroiled in financial collapse," Mr Whittaker said.

"It's about friendship, brotherhood, reclaiming that which is yours, trying to find the ideals that they fought for, things like that."

Mr Whittaker took a long break from writing but said returning and finishing the project gave him a sense of relief.

"It's probably something I haven't felt positive about for a long time," he said.

"I really enjoy it and I really love it... it's quite cathartic, actually."



Ellenbrook author Christopher Whittaker has published a book inspired by his interest in military history.

Echo News reviewed the promotional visual material for the book and put questions to the author about the use of artificial intelligence (AI) during the writing process.

Mr Whittaker said his research involved books, libraries and online searches and he understood why readers and writing groups were increasingly asking authors about AI use.

"I'm very transparent on that," he said.

"Some people are just writing books with AI and that's it."

"A lot of publishing houses are standing up against that and a lot of writing groups are standing up against it too."

"Book clubs that have wanted to show some interest in my work have asked me the same question and it's fine."

Published by Tellwell Talent, the 542-page historical fiction novel was released in July and is available in paperback and ebook formats via tinyurl.com/3tybc44t



Cars from multiple decades will be seen at the Historic vehicle day in Bindoon.

Historic vehicle day in Bindoon

CAMILA EGUSQUIZA SANTA CRUZ

THE Bindoon & Districts Historical Society in association with the Bindoon Farmers Market and the Northern Valleys Art Group is hosting a historic vehicle day this Sunday, September 20 at Bindoon Oval.

The event is a celebration of all things historic, classic and vintage and suitable for the whole family.

Bindoon & Districts Historical Society secretary Chris Waldie said attendees can expect to see around 250 cars.

"We have a huge variety of different cars from Austins to Jaguars to minis and modern vehicles," he said.

"Last year, the oldest car we had was 100 years old, so expect to see very historic vehicles."

Aside from exploring a large collection of classic old cars, motorbikes and trucks, there are plenty of other activities to enjoy including a petting animal farm, market stalls, food and coffee, train rides for children, arts and crafts and a tour of Trinity Church with a courtesy bus to the Brockman Centre included.

There will also be an art display in the hall adjacent to the oval, featuring work by the Northern Valleys Art Group.

At the Brockman Centre visitors can also stop by the Bindoon Museum (managed by the historical society) and see the Bindoon Arts and Crafts' Quilts in Spring.

The event will commence at 9am and finish at 3pm.

Entry is by a gold coin donation.

More information can be found at <https://bindoonmuseum.com/>

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Connect with YOUR COMMUNITY

Arboria Festival comes to Kalamunda



The Arboria Chamber Music Festival has its inaugural weekend on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th October.

Come along to Kalamunda and experience a superb roster of West Australian chamber music talent, including the fabulous soprano Emma Matthews (pictured right), the glorious H.I.P. Company playing replica viols, the hilarity of J.S. Bach's Coffee Cantata with Australian Baroque, and a brand new string quartet work "Celestial Bodies" by award-winning composer Emma Jayakumar (hills resident and Artistic Director), performed by the Darlington Quartet (also pictured) - hot off their recent European tour.

Supported by City of Kalamunda and Lotterywest, festival venues include the Zig Zag Gallery, Seminar Rooms, Kalamunda Library, St Barnabas and Holy Family Churches. Venues are walking distance apart and make it

easy to engage with the wonderful Kalamunda Artisan and Farmer's Markets and Kalamunda hospitality venues.

For kids and families, we have Big Little Ballet's "Little Red" and "The Wonderful World of Mr McGee" all held at the Kalamunda Community Centre (Saturday only). With ample parking, there's limited fuss moving about on festival day.

For all information and tickets go to www.arboriafestival.org.au.



Rooted in community, branching into creativity



Arboria Chamber Music Festival

SAT 3 & SUN 4 OCTOBER

Two days of chamber music, opera, song and creative workshops in the heart of Kalamunda. Also including dedicated children's ballet and music events for the whole family.

FEATURING

Freeze Frame Opera • H.I.P. Company • Rob Zielinski
Australian Baroque • Chimera Ensemble
Soprano Emma Matthews • Darlington Quartet
New compositions by Emma Jayakumar
Big Little Ballet Company & many more!



arboriafestival.org.au @arboriafestival



Participating Venues: Zig Zag Cultural Centre, St Barnabas Anglican Church, Holy Family Catholic Church, Kalamunda Community Centre.



Know a Local Hero?



City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas (left) with the 2026 recipients of Citizen of the Year Awards (l-r) Lisa Beeby (Rotary Kalamunda); Amandah-Kayte Lead (Community Citizen of the Year); and Taynan Lilydale (Young Community Citizen of the Year).

Nominations are now open for the 2027 Community Citizen of the Year Awards

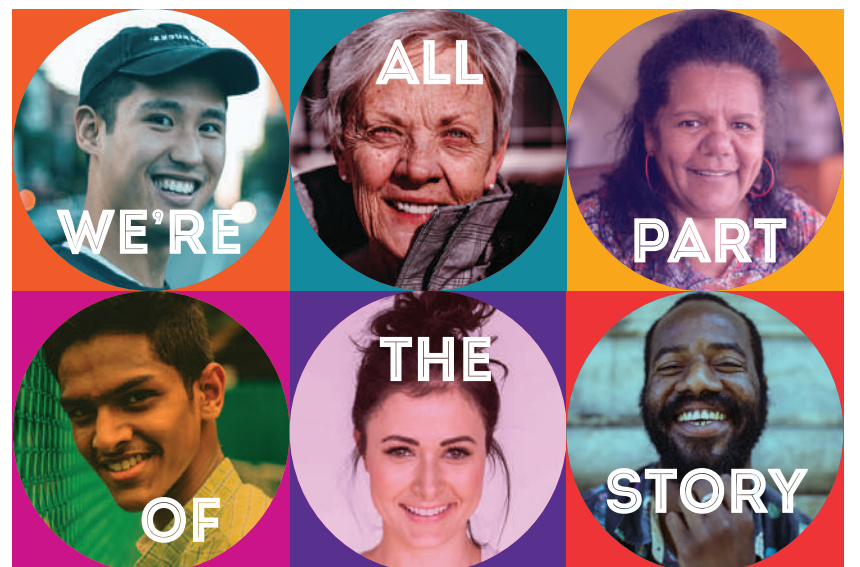
The Community Citizen of the Year Awards give everyone in the City of Kalamunda the opportunity to celebrate the positive impact of individuals, groups and events which help to create an inclusive and connected community.

Whether they are a nominee or recipient, we can all celebrate their outstanding contribution, because we're all part of the story.

Recognising local heroes for more than 20 years, the awards are made up of four categories:

- Community Citizen of the Year (for individuals over 16 years)
- Young Community Citizen of the Year (for individuals aged 16-30 years)
- Senior Community Citizen of the Year (for individuals aged 65 years and over)
- Active Citizenship (for community groups or events)

Nominations for the 2027 Community Citizen of the Year Awards are open until Friday 31 October 2026 and can be submitted at www.citizenshipawards.com.au/nominate



Do you know someone who goes above and beyond for our community?

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Federal Member for Bullwinkel

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



Trish Cook Delivers for the Community

When I was elected last year, I made commitments to this community to deliver important services and infrastructure. I'd like to update you on two exciting project milestones we've reached.

The Albanese Government have announced that a brand-new Early Learning Centre will be built at Greenmount Primary School. This milestone represents the next stage of delivering my \$5 million commitment for an early learning centre in the Shire of Mundaring. The centre will be run by a not-for-profit provider and will create 40 new places for local families!

At Hartfield Park Sports Complex, we have officially opened the upgraded facilities to support local sporting groups. The Forrestfield United Football Club now has; two brand-new unisex changerooms, a secure storeroom and universally accessible toilet. For the Kalamunda Bulldogs Rugby League Club; expanded and modernised clubrooms, new senior change rooms, an umpire's room, toilet, storage and dedicated first aid room. Plus, a much-needed refurbishment of the existing pavilion. I'm proud to have made an election commitment of

\$2.9 million to enable the City of Kalamunda to deliver these modernised facilities.

As your federal MP, I'm honoured to be able to see these plans become a reality. I will always work hard to deliver improved local infrastructure for families across Bullwinkel to enjoy for years to come.



ADVERTISING FEATURE

Connect with YOUR COMMUNITY

The Jewellery Centre - Gifts with a Story to Tell



Meaningful jewellery doesn't have to start with a brand-new purchase. Sometimes, the most special pieces are the ones already waiting quietly at home.

At The Jewellery Centre in Mundaring, jewellery is about stories - the ones carried in heirloom watches, cufflinks, rings, and pieces that once meant something, but no longer fit life today. With experienced jewellers working on site every day, these forgotten treasures can be carefully transformed into custom designs made for now.

Repurposing a piece of jewellery can be a deeply personal way to honour the people, memories and moments that matter most.

An old piece of jewellery or a family watch can become a new symbol of significance - reshaped into something modern, wearable and full of meaning, without losing its history.

More people are choosing thoughtful craftsmanship over off-the-shelf jewellery. They're choosing to sit down with a local jeweller, talk through the story behind a piece, and create something that simply can't be replicated.

Proudly part of the Mundaring community, The Jewellery Centre believes jewellery should reflect the life you've built and the memories you carry - not just the moment it was bought.

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Feature

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Out & About

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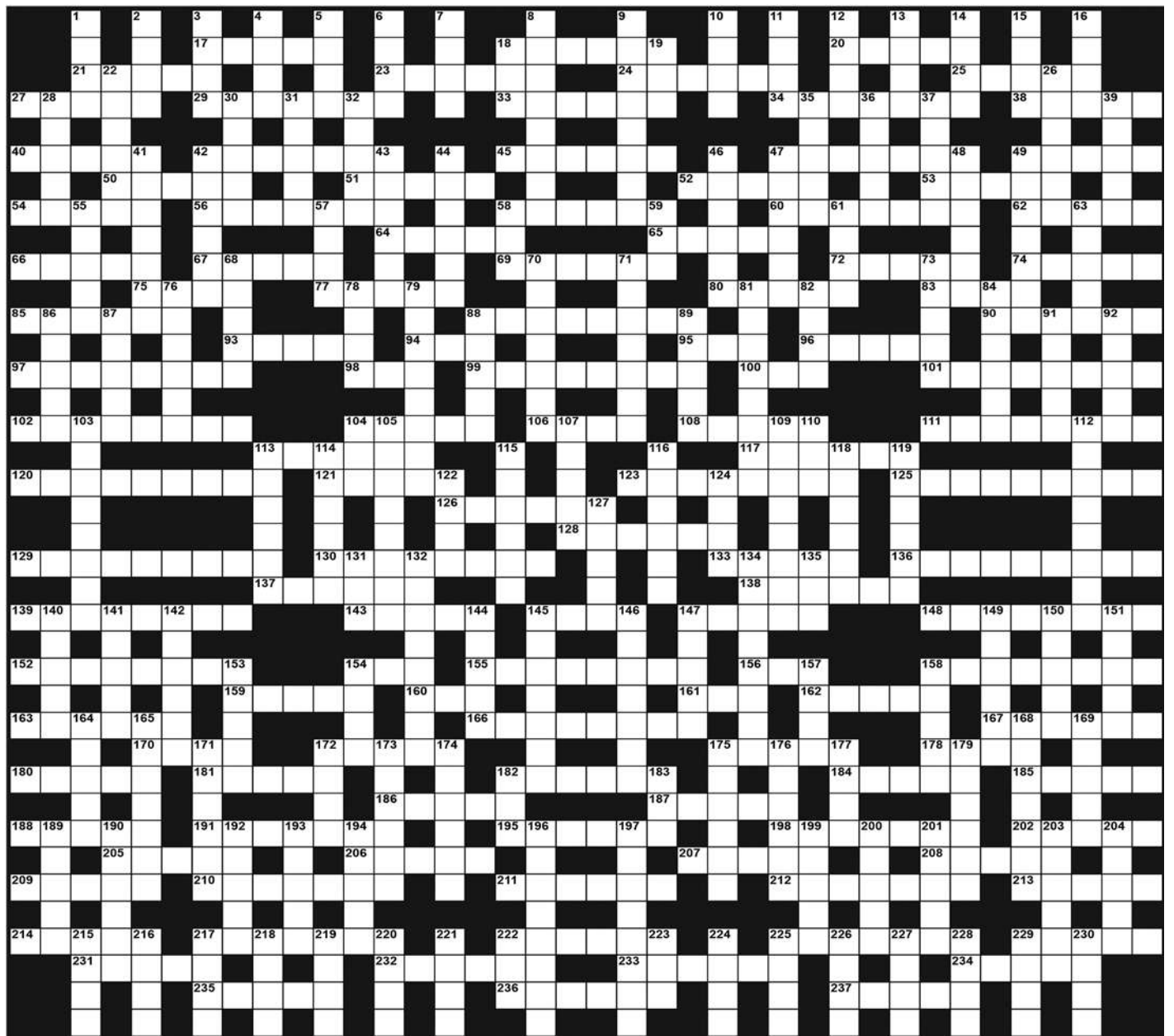
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ECHO

Mind Boggler Crossword

1286



ACROSS

- 17 Moral system
18 A formal request
20 Eccentric
21 Dress feathers
23 Property from a will
24 Cut head off
25 Mesh together
27 Following
29 Came to a point
33 Kitchen container
34 Flat dishes
38 Raised ground
40 Clumps of grass
42 Nimble movement
45 Loose robe
47 Spiritual meetings
49 Comes closer
50 Give an opinion
51 Weird
52 Bite heavily
53 Thighbone
54 Put in reserve
56 Rasps
58 Think highly of
60 Set out singly
62 Awry
64 Biting insect
65 Helpful thing
66 Salute
67 Senior
69 Light behaviour
72 Edge
74 Accomplish
75 A flower
77 Sudden forward move
80 Spiteful
83 Not working
85 Washed the body
88 Worker on machinery
90 Horse groom
93 Competing
94 Charged piece
95 Grassy bristle
96 Rascal
97 Cooked properly (4,4)
98 A tree
99 Fiddling with pencil
100 Female sheep
101 Parliamentarians
102 Strains
104 Grooves on tyres
106 Cosy
108 Amounts sold
111 Shams
113 One's line of work
117 Spoke emotionally
120 Australian tree
121 Seedy plant
123 Be from an earlier period

- 125 Changed position of
126 Type of fish
128 Dried grape
129 Rudimentary
130 Graceful behaviour
133 Organic compound
136 Complaining
137 With more red colour
138 Smooth and slender
139 Very unhappy
143 Written works
145 Walk slowly
147 Money container
148 Walked proudly
152 One living on others
154 Possess
155 Garment for some clergy
156 Group of whales
158 Scales again
159 Get to know
160 Queensland Mount
161 High hill
162 Lively dance
163 Way of standing
166 Most junior
167 Top portion
170 Famous garden
172 Come together
175 Type of offal
178 See
180 Conductor's wand
181 Love
182 Small fight
184 Flooded
185 Tense
186 Give one-tenth
187 Beneath
188 Acting award
191 Small piece of jewellery
195 Three times
198 Said
202 Vows
205 Raised bank
206 Non-resident
207 Slant
208 Blood carriers
209 Mends the body
210 Put back in place
211 Limb support
212 Mixes up
213 Garden tool
214 Fish eggs
217 Extremely evil
222 Sounded as a dog
225 Turns back
229 Command
231 Harsh money-lending
232 Beginning
233 Slight sound
234 Sweetheart

- 235 Foot lever
236 Presumed
237 Took illegally

DOWN

- 1 Religious group
2 Prophet
3 Posted
4 Ocean vessel
5 Mark from a wound
6 Vended
7 Omen
8 Type of telescope
9 Drench
10 Drinks slowly
11 Lumps of wet soil
12 Inner self
13 Sore on an eye
14 Stitches
15 Box in practice
16 Cast off
18 Top card
19 Cut shorter
22 A clergyman
26 Snakes
28 Bad mistake
30 Annoyance
31 Brilliance
32 Go inside
35 Skilful
36 Poison
37 Shoals
39 Type of shrub
41 A ghost
42 Corners
43 One always agreeing
44 Centre
46 Selected
47 Hits lustily
48 Leaked slowly
49 Subtle variations
55 Open to view
57 Member of nobility
58 Snake-like fish
59 Possibly will
61 Jealousy
63 Small grassy hill
68 Go away
70 Healthy drinks
71 Pouring
73 Presents
76 Horrible
78 Impel
79 Glows faintly
81 Treated metal
82 Steal
84 Type of seat
86 Wide-awake
87 Cut in equal pieces
88 Completed
89 Storms
91 Name
92 Went wrong
103 Family member

- 104 Light metal
105 Arctic animal
107 At no time
109 Flows from
110 A drunkard
112 Nudism lover
113 Overcome
114 Desks
115 Desire to harm others
116 In agreement
118 Length of lease
119 Clean river bottom
122 Girl's name
124 Sea eagle
127 A dramatic dance
131 Part of mouth
132 Making sound of distress
134 Horse attendant
135 Before (arch)
140 Do in reply
141 Teach
142 Called by name
144 School composition
145 An occupation
146 Motorists
147 Fold in a garment
149 Make up losses
150 Stumbles
151 Push deeply into
153 Type of antelope
154 A single time
157 Small leak
158 Speaks wildly
164 Top room
165 Hearts
168 Large reptiles
169 Metal bar

- 171 Christian festival
172 Timid
173 Tiny sound
174 Meal course
175 Walk as a child
176 Burst inwardly
177 A direction
179 Shelters from sun
182 Put in place
183 A colour
189 Slumber
190 Lets
192 Old magistrate
193 Of birth
194 Works for
196 Said again
197 Dallied
199 Torment
200 Large bird
201 An occurrence
203 Hope to get
204 Plant barrier
215 Distinctive air
216 Lacking feeling
217 A sales gimmick
218 Distinctive female
219 Sicknesses
220 Retain
221 Top player
222 Garden plot
223 A failure
224 Tiny piece
225 Bring up
226 A singlet
227 Part of residence
228 Ice vehicle
229 Completed
230 Shabby

Crossword Solution 1285 from 11 September, 2026

MATURED N SEPTIS OUCH BIRCH U RESIDUE
OR E EGEST R HACK ACHIEVE AFACE T IN
IA GUN U UKASEE OAFISH ARSON C TAR L U
SONAR U T D G LUMP TALC I D O R IDIOM
T S ENDURE T VETTER O L LANYARD G E
EXIT E A EVIDENT GENTILE T C TEMER
NE BADDLED C D STANCE S E SACHETS N A
EN B R CAW E R AND A R C T
DITHER APPALLED SMILED ANTERIOR INHERE
NNA AMPRO O C P V P T B A MOR O E
STUN SEVERED UTENSILS LEA L ROPE
I DREAD S H EMBER CASTLE S DOLLARS
AMPS B ATTEND EASEMENT REEFER C EYED
I OFFALI O S N C X R CHARM S
ADAM T AGENDA REPROVED SPLAYS R ELISE
E DEARE E C R O D P E P TREPAN U
T E I INSUIT ELLS R COPRA I V
PERSPIRES T A X AMOUNT E THEORISES
RI E O T OPIONENTS R DE A E K P A O
A F N A O R U N A CONTENTER M E O V F
CATAONIC UNISON N N ENDOWNMENT
L GENERAL P H C E A E R CATERERS G
REAR L TUSKER MULBERRY COWERS U UPON
G AMITY P S T D O N R SCARF T
HIND OASTUTE RESTYLED MYRIAD H FAIL
A HONS T S AVAST ANOCEAL BEIGE R
ANTE TEACUPS STUDENTS MANAGER RUBS
CN ERA G R T P D T E B G E J M P E L
BETTER STEEPLES GIBBER DEPENDED EDDIES
OU D I STR O R RED A D M E
R R CORSETS S S ASCEND AN STALLED U N
DEBAR E L EVENING OUTGAST L O EXULT
EU ANCIENT R M HOPING T L ALMANAC D T
LILAC I C T A MOAT AGUE T W O G OCEAN
LE KIT T L A THE STROKE SWINE N ERR N E
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- Optus is proposing to install new mobile phone base stations at **619 Ovens Road Talbot WA 6302** (Shire of York).
- In summary, the new mobile sites will comprise of: Installing (3) three new panel antennas and One (1) new 1200mm microwave dish. Installing new ancillary equipment including but not limited to, new cables, new remote radio units as well works within the new outdoor cabinet.
- We invite you to provide your feedback or request further information by contacting us at: <CPS Technology & Infrastructure, 02 9300 1700, submissionsVIC@cpstech.com.au, and Suite 1003, 1 Newland Street Bondi Junction NSW 2022.
- We will accept submissions until **5pm on 12th of October 2026**.
- For more information about the proposals, please visit the RFNSA website at **www.rfnsa.com.au/6302013** by using the direct links provided above.

Employment



The Echo Newspaper is looking to fill the following position

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- A special area will be allocated, where the successful applicant will be required to canvass and service this area, plus have the ability to achieve weekly sales targets.
- A current "C" class drivers licence is required.
- A smart appearance with a strong commitment to customer service and able to develop and implement successful sales strategies.
- Strong negotiation verbal/written skills.

A salary package, including a commission structure with a weekly car allowance, will be provided. If YOU feel you have all the above qualities and are looking for a change, please email your resume with a cover letter to:

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

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Read between the lines

By Pastor Ian Kirk

The Rescue



While in the Glass House Mountains region in south Queensland recently, I attempted to climb two of the peaks. They didn't look too high and difficult; Mount Tibrogargan at 364 metres and Mount Beerwah at 556 metres.

How wrong I was! As I climbed Mount Tibrogargan, I came to a vertical rock section that was about 20 metres high. I did that, but then there was heaps more. Not having proper rock-climbing shoes, I decided it was unwise to continue.

Then I climbed Mount Beerwah, and that was almost the same. There's a 50-metre-high steep rock face that you have to scramble up finding crevices to put your feet in.

When I told my friends we were staying with what I had done, they couldn't believe it. They told me that they are both class 1 climbs for experienced climbers. Every year people die climbing these peaks, and others badly fall and need rescuing.

I was so grateful I didn't fall. But I have fallen in another sense. I have fallen spiritually through sin. The Bible tells us that we all have. We cannot scale the heights ourselves to enter heaven.

But Jesus came to rescue us and to lift us up to heaven. He rescued us by dying on the cross for our sins and rising again. When we put our faith in Him, looking to Him as our Saviour and Lord, calling out to Him to save us, He rescues us. What a rescuer He is!

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Upcoming Events

• **Midland Lawn Tennis Club** advises that due to grass court renovations our social tennis held on Wednesdays at 9am on Saturdays at 1pm has been relocated to Maida Vale Tennis Club, 35 Acacia Road, Maida Vale until Mid-October. Everyone always welcome. 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

• **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.

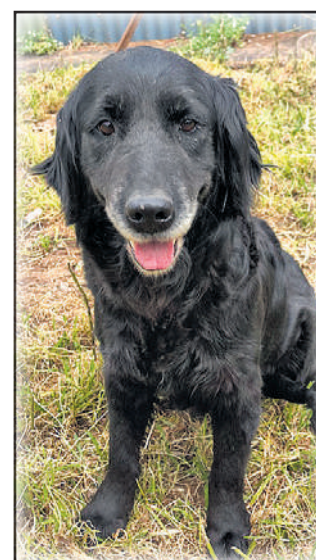
• **Midland Ascension Craft Group** meets in the Parish Hall, 17 Spring Park Road, Midland every Tuesday of school term from 1pm to 3pm. All most welcome to join for a chat, cuppa, any craft and sometimes a guest speaker. For more

information call 0433 265 683.

• **Mahogany Creek Art and Craft Group** meets weekly on Wednesdays 9.30am to 12.30pm during school terms at the Mahogany Creek Hall on Jacoby Street. Everyone brings along their art or craft to work on in a friendly social group with tea and coffee provided. For more information call Mary on 0431 201 814 or Jan on 6279 4031.

• **The Rosehill Ladies Golf Club** meets each Tuesday at 8am at Hillview Public Golf Club, Kalamunda Road, Maida Vale. The season runs from March to November. For more information call Roz on 0419 915 623 or Julia on 0419 954 106.

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

Banjo is a retriever cross and is an older boy at 10 yrs old. He is healthy and friendly with everyone, loves other dogs but is terrified of cats. He is sterilised vaccinated and microchipped. Costs apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

Chidlow dominates grand final



A full strength Chidlow had a huge win over Mundaring as they secured their grand final victory.

BRIAN PALLISTER

CHIDLOW Cougars faced off against the Mundaring Roos for the 2026 hills footy grand final.

The first five minutes saw both teams settling the nerves.

After an early goal each the Cougars slipped into gear.

Chidlow's Steven Schorer collected the loose ball from a centre ball up, he kicked it forward to a leading Adam McKinlay to convert his first of eight goals for the game.

Roos player Clayton Thomas gave Mundaring their start with a goal.

Chidlow continued to push the ball forward, their onballers dominating the centre clearances.

Cougar Matt Mallaby's precision delivery to McKinlay gave him the opportunity to kick another goal.

Another centre clearance deep into the Cougars forward line had Chidlow player Luke Elliott marking the ball just outside the goal square he subsequently handball over to McKinlay and he had another goal.

The scoring trend was momentarily broken when Mundaring's Sam Butler kicked the ball forward to Thomas for him to kick his second goal.

By the first break Chidlow had opened up a 30-point lead.

The Roos battled hard after the break and managed to somewhat slow down the Cougars' scoring rate.

Roos captain Dylan O'Loughlen along with teammates Jay Saverese and Anthony Bailey had their hands full with the spread of Cougars goal kicking options.

Cougars Kaden Bonsack, Jedd Simmons and Nathan Sutton all joined in the goal scoring.

Andrew Freeman managed the Roos' only second quarter goal after a 50m penalty was awarded in their favour.

Even though the Cougars had been reduced to three goals for the quarter they had extended their lead to 45 points at half time.

Chidlow controlled most of the third quarter kicking five goals from 11 attempts.

Clayton Thomas managed the Roos' only goal for the quarter after some strong work from teammate Kyle Tenardi further up the field.

Cougar Jake Forman teamed up with Lukaz Dymek, Finton Kirwan and Shay Pomfret to keep the ball moving forward.

Chidlow's Tim Huntley was ably assisted by Brent Williams rebounding from half back.

Cougar Jedd Simmons marked the ball near the 50m arc, then he did the unexpected.

As the Mundaring player on the mark prepared himself for a kick over his head Simmons sold the perfect candy running around the mark putting himself well within goal scoring distance, capitalising on his bold move.

The Cougars had themselves in a commanding position heading into the last quarter in which they restricted the Roos to one behind, while kicking another six goals.

Mundaring battled hard all day but were overrun by a team determined on reversing last year's grand final loss.

Cougars player Adam McKinlay was the worthy recipient of the Bob Gardiner medal which is awarded to the best and fairest player from the game.

The Cougars marked the end of the Hills Football Association 2026 season with a commanding victory of 21.15 (141) to their opponent's 4.4 (28).



Swan player John Monterosso (in mask).

Swan United player wins golden boot

SWAN ended the season with a win, prevailing 2-1 against Noranda Emerald at the Noranda Sporting Complex.

The Noranda Emerald needed a win and for Wanneroo to slip up in their game to win the league, but they found themselves behind on the half hour.

Good work by Swan defender Josh Appleby on the right saw him ease past two players before cutting the ball back for Thomas White to finish.

They added a second on 70 minutes, a long ball forward to John Monterosso who out muscled the centre back and finished clinically.

Conor Gormley pulled one back for the hosts, but it was too little too late, and to rub salt into the wounds, Darragh Carroll was sent off late.

Swan finished fourth, Monterosso won the golden boot for premier division, and coach Lee Taylor said the season ended well.

"(We made) sure we were aggressive, up for the fight and defensively sound especially after our result last time we played them," he said.

"We have been excellent away from home all season so pleased to finish with another win.

"We have come a long way since January, and we are in a good place to build on this season next year.

"Congratulations to everyone at Wanneroo on winning the league and our own John Monterosso for finishing top goal scorer."

Local Real Estate

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Perth sales listings at three-year peak

REAL Estate Institute of WA (REIWA) says the property for sale listings in Perth have exceeded 7000 for the first time in more than three years.

The number of Perth properties advertised for sale was 7335 at the end of August which was 7.8 per cent higher than July and 146.1 per cent higher than at the end of August 2025.

The last time active listings were over 7000 was at the end of March 2023.

According to REIWA, Bassendean was listed among the top performers for the most median house sale price growth in August with a recorded growth of 1.9 per cent or more over the month.

Midland was also named by REIWA as one of the fastest selling suburbs for houses in August.

Midland homes put to market were sold in about 10 days according to REIWA data.

REIWA president Suzanne Brown said the rise in active listings was a result of an easing of demand and the increase in the time

taken to sell a property.

"Active listings have more than doubled since March," she said.

"Such a strong increase over a relatively short period of time may imply there has been a surge in the number of people looking to sell a home.

"In reality, after a shortage of new listings in late 2025 and early 2026, new listings have mostly returned to long-term average levels.

"As we know, the heat has well and truly come out of the market and the increase in active listings represents an easing in demand, which has led to a decline in sales activity.

"This has been created by a number of factors.

"Three interest rate rises have affected borrowing power and mortgage serviceability. Buyers are understandably being prudent with their spending.

"This has flowed through to price outcomes, with nearly half of all properties sell-



Midland and Bassendean were named by REIWA as some of the top performers for sale speed and price growth in August.

ing for less than the asking price in July."

Ms Brown said changes to taxation policy in the federal budget was another factor.

"This has seen a reduction in both investor and first home buyer activity," she said.

"There is a general feeling that first home buyers are waiting for prices to fall and homes to become more affordable.

"It took five years for Perth's annual me-

dian house sale price to drop 12.8 per cent (or \$70,000) during the extended property downturn.

"At the moment, any falls in prices have been eroded by the increase in interest rates earlier this year."

Houses in Perth sold in a median of 23 days in August, unchanged from July but 12 days slower than a year ago.



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\$119⁹⁹

Save \$85.01 OFF RRP[~]



Viktor & Rolf Spicebomb
EDT 90mL

On Sale Monday 14 September to Sunday 4 October 2026 at participating stores.

▶The save prices listed are calculated from the EDLP (Everyday Low Price) at the time of preparation. ^Savings calculated on recommended retail price notified by the supplier. ~The save prices are calculated from the suppliers RRP (Recommended Retail Price) at the time of preparation and where no such price exists is the retail price found at competing retailers. Pricing in-store prior to the promotion may differ and actual savings may vary. Offers available at Gregs Midland Discount Drug Store in-store while stocks last.

Greg's Midland Discount Drug Store
243 Great Eastern Hwy, Midland WA 6056
Ph: (08) 9274 1455
E: gregsmidland@discountdrugstores.com.au

OPEN 7 DAYS
8:00am - 8:00pm