

Older Adult Health Hub opens

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Crash prompts animal rescue call

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Milner Rd closure draws resident concerns

P3



Volunteer celebrates 20 years

Caversham Wildlife Park volunteer Paula Rathbone celebrates 20 years of dedicated service at the local wildlife facility. **P6**



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ECHO Celebrations



Katharine outside her house, 1940s.

THE Writefree Women's Group, which meets at the Katharine Susannah Prichard (KSP) Writers' Centre in Greenmount, is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year with the launch of its latest anthology *Lustre*, on Sunday, October 25.

The KSP Writers' Centre, founded in 1985, is the oldest writers' centre of its kind in Australia and is located in the former home of Katharine Susannah Prichard at 11 Old York Road, Greenmount.

Katharine, born in Fiji in 1883 to Australian parents, spent time living in Melbourne and England, before settling into the house in Greenmount in 1920 with her war hero husband, Hugo 'Jim' Throssell, VC.

A prolific writer whose work also includes poetry, plays and short stories, she authored the acclaimed novels *Coonardoo*, *Working Bullocks* and *The Goldfields Trilogy* amongst others.

She was also known for being a co-founder of The Communist Party of Australia and was deeply committed to women's causes throughout her life.

Her home is now a hub for both established and emerging writers of every genre, hosting residencies, writing groups, workshops and competitions.

The Writefree Women's Group, founded in 1996, carries on Katharine's legacy of encouraging female voices with members meeting every Wednesday morning to share their work.

Remarkably, one founding member, Jill Southgate, a writer and artist from Mundaring, still regularly attends and has contributed to all the group's anthologies to date, from the first book *The Journey*, published in 1997 to this year's *Lustre*.

She fondly remembers that first meeting with seven women seated around a cosy fire in what had been Katharine's front room.

As well as contributing poems and short stories to the anthologies, she was the facilitator of the group for four years, including when it was featured on Channel Nine's Postcards in 2006,

Writefree Women's Group celebrates 30th anniversary



Jill Southgate featuring *Lustre*.

and has provided the artwork for several of the anthology covers.

"Although members ebb and flow over the years, I still enjoy the stability of the group and can't wait to get my Wednesday fix," Mrs Southgate said.

Lustre, a collection of short stories and poetry, will be launched by Shire of Mundaring President Paige McNeil at the KSP Writers' Centre on Sunday, October 25 at 1.45pm.

Anthologies can be purchased on the day at a cost of \$20 each, but the event is free and includes readings from the book and a delicious afternoon tea.

For further information on writing groups at KSP or copies of the book please contact (08) 9294 1872 or office@kspwriterscentre.com



Katharine's house today.



Interior of KSP Writer's Centre.

INSIDE

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Mundaring backs permanent mining protection push

GUANHAO CHENG

THE Shire of Mundaring has backed calls for permanent mining avoidance zones to protect the Mundaring Weir catchment.

The result is consistent with the shire's position following Alcoa's withdrawal of a proposed exploration drilling in the area.

Council supported Kalamunda MLA Adam Hort's advocacy to the state government for publicly mapped zones protecting the catchment from future exploration, drilling, mining and associated infrastructure.

The proposed protections aimed to give residents greater certainty about where mining activities could occur and address council's concern that other companies could seek access in future.

Mr Hort said the issue was important and personal to him as he grew up in the hills and was raising his own family in the area.

"The hills belongs to so many people in so many different ways," he said.

"It's home to families, growers, local businesses and communities who have built their lives here over generations – we must protect it."

Mr Hort's broader campaign seeks permanent protection across relevant parts of the Perth Hills, including Kalamunda, Mundaring and important water catchments.

He wants the protections to cover investigative drilling, mine pits, mining roads and associated infrastructure, and apply regardless of which company proposes the activities.

Mr Hort said withdrawing immediate exploration plans did not provide the lasting certainty he was seeking for Perth Hills communities.

"I'm incredibly grateful to the Shire of Mundaring for backing this proposal and recognising that this important part of our home deserves lasting protection," he said.

The latest council support follows Alcoa's November 2025 announcement that it would remove potential ex-



Kalamunda MLA Adam Hort and Shire of Mundaring President Paige McNeil back avoidance zones.

ploration areas within Mundaring and other hills local government areas from its proposed plans.

As reported in *Alcoa removes Perth Hills from their exploration area* (Echo News, November 28, 2025) Alcoa announced last year they would no longer conduct exploratory drilling in the Perth Hills, following opposition from the community and its representatives.

Alcoa said the changes followed community and stakeholder feedback, acknowledging the environmental and social importance of the Perth Hills.

The company maintained that exploration drilling was a low-impact activity intended to improve geological

knowledge and did not indicate an intention to mine an area.

Mundaring council's opposition dates back to August 2025, when it unanimously opposed exploration and mining in the Northern Jarrah Forest and requested the catchment's removal from Alcoa's exploration drilling program.

Mr Hort has since written to Premier Roger Cook and State Development Minister David Michael seeking permanent protections.

A timeline for a result on the protections is yet to be established.



Milner Road and Stewart Road intersection facing north.

Milner Road trial closure draws resident concerns

GUANHAO CHENG

HIGH Wycombe residents have questioned the City of Kalamunda's four-week trial closure of Milner Road, raising concerns about consultation, pedestrian safety and emergency access.

The city says the closure to through traffic, north of Stewart Road, is underway to assess the effects of restricting vehicles following community concerns about traffic volumes and heavy trucks associated with nearby development.

High Wycombe resident Domenic Furfaro said people were unhappy with the closure and questioned why the city had acted on a complaint about the Maida Vale Road and Milner Road corner while longstanding concerns elsewhere remained unresolved.

"The residents are not happy with this closure," he said.

Mr Furfaro said residents on Sultana Road had been complaining about industries opposite their homes for 12 years without a resolution.

He also said residential development was proceeding without road and footpath upgrades that would allow residents to walk safely to High Wycombe station.

"Another issue here is that residential development is happening in this area and no roads have been upgraded with footpaths for residents to be able to walk to the train station, they need to walk on the road to get there," he said.

Mr Furfaro also raised concerns about whether closing the road would limit evacuation options during a fire.

High Wycombe resident Eileen Hort said she had

contacted councillors and the chief executive about the closure and wanted more information.

"I have been phoning and emailing every councillor with little or no response," she said.

Ms Hort said residents opposed to the closure should contact the city and its councillors.

She said residents needed to make their objections known to support efforts to raise their concerns.

City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas said the trial had been introduced in response to community concerns about traffic volumes and an increasing number of heavy vehicles linked to construction and development.

"Its purpose is to better understand the impacts of restricting through traffic and to assess the effects on local traffic movements and the surrounding road network," she said.

"Local access, pedestrian access and emergency service access will continue to be maintained."

The city said the temporary closure had been implemented in accordance with relevant legislative and traffic management requirements.

Its response did not specify a start date, identify detour roads or confirm whether a public meeting would be held.

Echo News also asked whether the bridge could remain open to cars while heavy vehicles were restricted, and how additional traffic on residential streets would be managed.

Ms Thomas said community feedback would be an important part of evaluating the trial.

Residents and road users are encouraged to submit their feedback through the online survey on Engage Kalamunda throughout the trial period.

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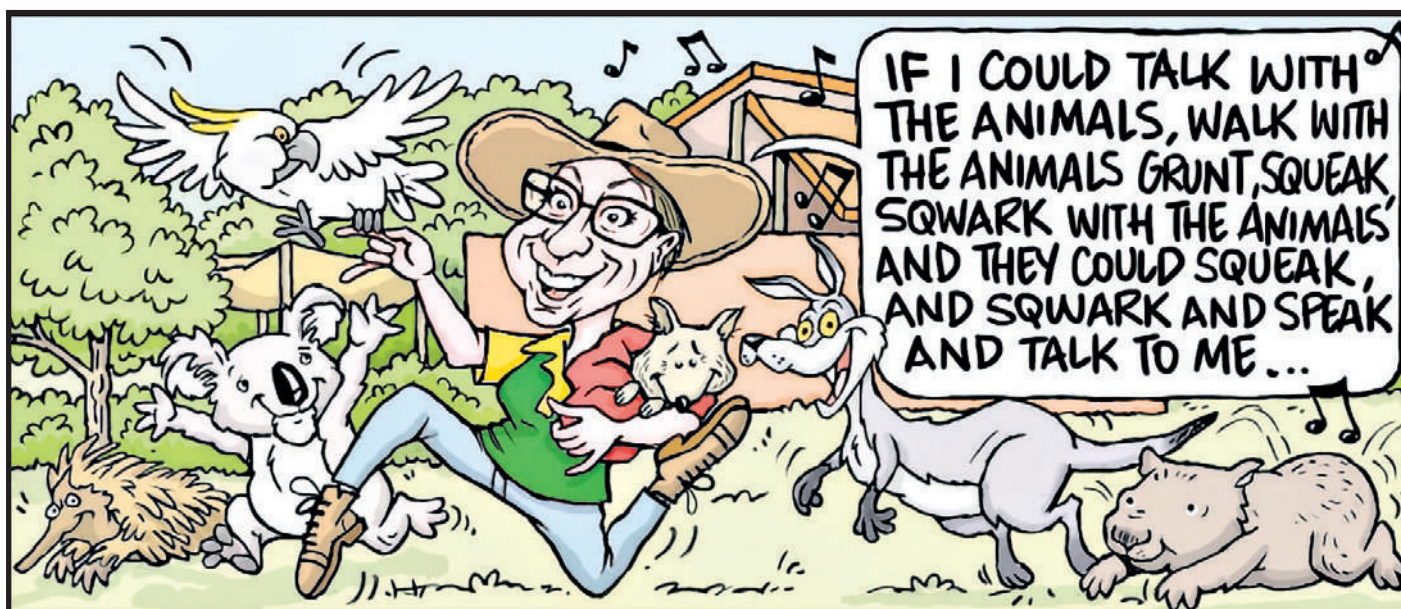
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PAULA RATHBONE MOVED TO PERTH FROM THE U.K. 20 YEARS AGO WITH HER HUSBAND WHO TOOK AN OFFER FROM HIS WORK FOR TWO YEARS, NOW TWO DECADES LATER SHE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS AS A VOLUNTEER AT CAVERSHAM WILDLIFE PARK.

ECHO

YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say:
editorial@echo-news.com

Let the scouts remain

Dear Echo News,

In 1904 a one-room school opened in the bush at Carmel.

It closed in 1990, and since 1992 the local scouts have kept it alive.

Last week I stood in that schoolyard along with about 100 other community members.

Scouts in uniform, parents, grandparents who were once scouts there themselves, and former students of the old school.

A young leader told us he grew up on that site and does not want to leave.

Much of its upkeep over the years has been done by the scouts themselves, quietly and for nothing.

The City of Kalamunda wants to test the market to use this unsewered site in a water catchment reservation area for a camping and caravan park.

It has spent \$81,259 of ratepayers' money on consultants to explore the idea.

A resident told the meeting the city spent about \$1000 maintaining the site in the 2024/25 financial year.

The Mayor was present and told us the city simply cannot afford to keep maintaining parks and reserves.

The city's own figures tell a different story.

Its 2026/27 budget expects about \$61 million in cash and nearly \$59m in reserves, including a \$31.5m strategic reserve it is not spending. It expects to earn \$4.6m in interest this year.

Its own maintenance reserve, \$3.6m two years ago, is now down to \$159,155, drawn down in part to fund land development.

Its council strategic retreat papers (30 May

2026) admit it does very little maintenance of natural areas, and its parks asset plan does not even include bushland in its costings.

Its own buildings plan estimates that getting rid of four rundown buildings would save just \$8043 a year.

The scouts have offered to pay rent and to help care for the place.

Where else can a young person learn bushcraft, teamwork and leadership inside a heritage listed schoolhouse that has stood for more than 120 years?

You cannot put a price on that. The city is about to try.

Councillors, before you put our heritage out to tender, sit down with the scouts.

B Dornan
Wattle Grove

More on Bassendean groundwater

Dear Echo News,

Further to my letter *Bassendean groundwater concerns* (Echo News, Sept 25) I wish to add a couple of extra noteworthy concerns.

As the letter states the groundwater is contaminated with copious amounts of pollutants which drain into the Swan River which is a fact known by many government departments, local member, federal member, local council, conservation groups, and environmental advocates.

There is a picture sign-noticeboard erected where the drain enters the river adjacent to hundreds of dead trees which states "the drain carries polluted water from industrial premises to the north" which is where the contaminated waste containment cell is in Tonkin Park industrial area.

The question has to be asked, why are govern-

ment and agencies turning a blind eye to this hugely contaminated mound and not seeking its removal as requested by community and council?

G Coleman
Bassendean

Baffled by Kalamunda tree cull

Dear Echo News,

Thanks to Hannah Lill (Letters, October 9) for drawing attention to the poor decision made by Kalamunda councillors.

It baffles me that the councillors voting to remove the tree seem to have little respect for the views of ratepayers who live in the hills because of the treed environment.

In another article, the admirable Simon Cheryman has been building nesting boxes for black cockatoos which is resulting in increased numbers in the Perth Hills.

He makes the point that to develop hollows for nesting, trees need to be at least 200 years old.

So, the saplings replacing the tree removal approved by Kalamunda council will definitely not be forming hollows in our lifetime.

Maybe a little more consideration and forward thinking is needed by the council.

R Le Serve
Gooseberry Hill

Milner Rd closure concerns

Dear Echo News,

I am writing regarding the City of Kalamunda closing Milner Road.

They have just implemented a four week trial of Milner Road closure at Stewart Road, if they do not get enough complaints they will close it for one to two years looking at a permanent

Thought for the day

"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have."

- Maya Angelou

closure.

This was implemented without any consultation from residents.

Particularly affected are those on the Forrestfield side of Maida Vale Road which means we are cut off from the greater part of High Wycombe and any services including Edney Primary school with the only access is to go through the train station road.

The city has put up a Feedback Form on their website and my concern is that the only way any residents know about the form is if they are on Facebook.

Many residents who use this road may want to use a feedback form but have no way of knowing it exists if they are not on Facebook.

I would like people to know that they can also access the form at <https://engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/>

E Hort
High Wycombe

Action call against poverty

Dear Echo News,

It is estimated that there are more than 3.7 million people across Australia living in poverty.

In Australia, one in seven people and one in six children struggle to survive in poverty.

We're a wealthy country and yet many Australians are struggling to put food on the table, pay their bills, keep a roof over their heads and provide the material basics for children.

This Anti-Poverty Week (October 11-17), Mission Australia is calling on governments to do more to tackle poverty. As part

of this, we're joining other non-profit organisations to call for an official, national measure of poverty in Australia with targeted responses.

With an official measure, we could truly understand the extent of poverty in Australia and implement policy solutions to create meaningful change.

Mission Australia's frontline staff see the impacts of poverty every day on the people we serve. Rising rents, stagnant wages and the ever-increasing cost of living are pushing more people into poverty, housing instability and homelessness. Children are bearing the consequences of inadequate policy responses.

Our governments have the power to make an immediate impact and ensure people can afford the essentials. They can raise the rate of income support payments to at least \$82 a day, continue to build more social and affordable homes and invest in early intervention services to prevent people from reaching crisis in the first place.

We know what works to reduce poverty, now we need action so that everyone can have a safe, secure home and live with dignity.

Elise Jorgensen
State Director
Mission Australia

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.



Trillion Trees' pilot Lunch and Learn event held ahead of securing the grant.

Trillion Trees receives new funding

TRILLION Trees in Hazelmere is among the eight community projects across the state recently promised additional funding as part of an Australia Post grants program.

Trillion Trees Australia received an Australia Post Community Grant for their Lunch and Learn series.

Lunch and Learn is a series of community lunches for the Trillion Trees volunteer community where they can share a healthy, nutritious lunch and hear from a community expert in native fauna, flora or conservation.

The workshops aim to provide nutritious meals and connection alongside interaction with nature to improve wellbeing and mental health outcomes.

Trillion Trees chief executive officer Mark Hullet said over half of the organisation's volunteers are over 60 and around 20 per cent live with a disability and are at higher risk of the social isolation linked to poor health outcomes.

"This grant will allow us to strengthen volunteer engagement and build stronger social connections within our volunteer community," he said.

"Sharing food and information by bringing inspiring guest speakers to our volunteer community is also a small way to show our gratitude for the dedication of our volunteers, who help us to deliver our mission across our community nursery, restoration and education programs.

"Boosting the wellbeing of our volunteer team and building their social connections ensures they feel valued and continue to volunteer with enthusiasm."

Mr Hullet said the grant was graciously received and went a long way to building a healthier and happier community.

"Huge thanks to Australia Post for providing grants like this which help to build community, boost volunteering and strengthen the social fabric of Australia," he said.

"Our organisation is proudly powered by volunteers and it is great to be able to deliver these Lunch and Learn sessions for them."

Each week 120 regular volunteers attend the Trillion Trees Community Nursery in Hazelmere, helping to propagate 200,000 native trees each year.

Many volunteers also assist the charity with tree planting, community events and nature care activities.

The October Lunch and Learn session will be nature journaling with Sue Hauri Downing on Monday, October 26.

Australia Post 2026 Community Grants program aims to support mental wellbeing and community connection with more than \$72,000 committed.

For more information email volunteer@trilliontrees.org.au

Vines group to focus on development outcomes

GUANHAO CHENG

THE Vines Residents and Ratepayers Association (VRRRA) held their annual general meeting (AGM) discussing the Swan planning review, upcoming Supreme Court hearing, and campaign tactics.

VRRRA vice-chair Dixon Lowe said traction was building with the interest in the development issues in the Swan Valley broadening.

He said it was important to continue voicing concerns among members as there was a disconnect between the level of resident opposition to the redevelopment of The Vines and what was being approved.

"Golf members who speak up are afraid they might get in trouble," Mr Lowe said of the factors limiting conversation.

"We are still increasing visibility of the issue and we may need to demonstrate again."

"We're glad there is growing attention on the flooding issues in the Swan Valley and the proposals for redevelopment of The Vines."

As reported in *Swan Valley residents rally against development* (Echo News, November 28, 2025) Swan Valley residents protested at Parliament House to oppose developer changes to The Vines and to preserve open green spaces in the Swan Valley.

VRRRA member Gavan Troy said the review would soon come to a close with community review contributors being given a result on Thursday but concerns remained.

"The City of Swan have not addressed some of the concerns I raised

and obliged with my requests to publish the context surrounding the questions I have asked them," he said.

"It's important for the public to understand where I am coming from and my concerns that inform the review if they wish to follow along."

"I can tell you there was great difficulty in obtaining the appropriate terms of reference for the review."

"I'm not here to protect the City of Swan staff but you must recognise the overall environment in which they're operating."

"If you look at the world of planning in Western Australia, it's a very small circle, and if a council staff fails to undertake their work in time, there's a reputation they gain as a result of it."

"The council staff were thus subjected to an increased stress on needing to turn these reports around so much quicker and of course they were also accommodating the growth that's in the City of Swan in particular so that put them under a stress situation."

"It wasn't helped by state government changes."

"This planning review spans a whole lot of areas in the Swan and we need to scrutinise what is being allowed under delegated authority by the city staff and approved."

"I find it quite alarming that there seems to be a lack of transparency when certain approvals are given without the public's knowledge."

"The review's focus should not be about individual decisions but rather if guidelines, process and frameworks that are in place were followed by city staff."



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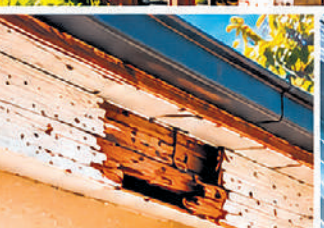
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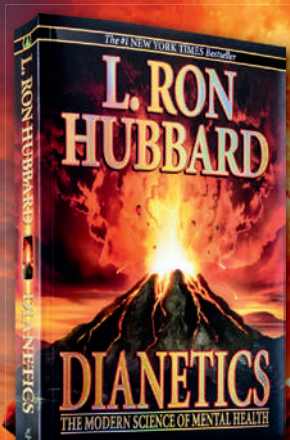


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Two-year Perth adventure turns into two-decade love affair with Australian wildlife at Caversham

TWO decades after relocating to Perth from the United Kingdom, Paula Rathbone has double the reason to celebrate this month as she celebrates 20 years as a volunteer at Caversham Wildlife Park.

"Twenty years ago, my husband Andy and I took up an offer from his company to move from the UK to Perth for two years," Mrs Rathbone said.

Having been given such an amazing opportunity Paula wanted to make the most of being in WA and decided to volunteer.

"I also wanted to give something back to the community which had made us feel so welcome and meet new people. I felt this should be something uniquely Australian – so where better than Caversham Wildlife Park," she said.

According to data from Volunteering WA, there are 1.5 million people like Mrs Rathbone who volunteer their time to support clubs, organisations and events across Western Australia.

"I had previously visited the park whilst on holiday and I loved how hands-on and accessible the park was, as well as how friendly and welcoming the staff were.

"On our arrival in Perth, one of the very first things I did was to investigate opportunities to get involved at the park – I discovered their new volunteer scheme and applied straight away. After our two years we decided to stay in Perth and so two has now become 20 and counting."

Mrs Rathbone, a primary school teacher from Bull Creek, said volunteering at Caversham had led to new friendships and she had learned a lot about Australian animals and witnessed the development of the park over the years.

"One of the best aspects of volunteering is meeting a huge variety of people from all over the world as well as locals," she said.

"I love being able to make everyone's visit that little bit more memorable and help their time at the park go smoothly. Spending time with the animals is also amazing."

She has also inspired the rest of her family, including her sons Daniel and Ben - to follow in her footsteps and take up their own volunteering



Caversham Wildlife Park volunteer Paula Rathbone.

such as at Parkrun and being foster carers for dogs.

"It has been an honour to be part of the Caversham family, and I hope to be for many years to come."

Volunteering WA chief executive officer Tina Williams said stories like Mrs Rathbone's showed that when you volunteer, you often get back more than what you put in.

"For Paula, it was about finding her people and her place. She came to Australia looking for connection, and twenty years on, she's not only found it, she's helped create that same sense of welcome for thousands of others."

Upgrades commence on Goldfields pipeline



Upgrades have commenced on the historic Goldfields pipeline.

UPGRADES to the Goldfields and Agricultural Water Supply Scheme (GAWSS) have commenced as part of a \$543 million state government project designed to secure water for more than 100,000 residents in the Goldfields and Wheatbelt.

To be delivered by the Water Corporation the project will involve the replacement of 44.5 kilometres along the pipeline's 566-kilometre route, and duplication of Binduli Reservoir to support a 10 per cent increase in the pipeline's capacity.

The project will utilise new pipes manufactured in Kwinana using Pilbara iron ore and Cockburn cement designed to last up to 150 years.

The upgrades will create more than 330 jobs throughout construction while ensuring the regions have the essential infrastructure required to support future investment and growth.

Local businesses will benefit from \$42.4m in works, with \$14m to be specifically spent with Aboriginal businesses.

Designed and built by CY O'Connor between 1898 and 1903, the GAWSS is one of WA's most significant infrastructure pieces, delivering water to regional communities for more than a century.

Premier Roger Cook said the project was about

securing the infrastructure regional communities need to grow and thrive.

"As part of our Seven Cities vision, we're ensuring the Goldfields has the essential services needed to create jobs and support new economic opportunities in regional WA.

"By manufacturing the pipeline in WA, we're backing local industry today, and with a lifespan of up to 150 years, we're delivering the water security and economic foundations the Goldfields and Wheatbelt will rely on for generations to come."

Water Minister Daniel Pastorelli said the upgrade will increase the scheme's capacity by 10 per cent, helping to meet growing demand and secure reliable water supplies well into the future.

"Replacing 44.5 kilometres of ageing pipeline is a major step in renewing this historic infrastructure, to ensure this vital scheme can continue serving the Goldfields and Wheatbelt for generations.

"The new pipeline sections are being built to last up to 150 years, combining modern engineering with careful preservation of an important part of WA's history."

For more information, visit: www.watercorporation.com.au/goldfieldspipereplacement

Ellenbrook crash prompts animal rescue call

GUANHAO CHENG

THE WA Horse Council is calling for clearer rescue responsibilities, specialist equipment and more training after an Ellenbrook horse float rollover.

WA Horse Council chair and equine veterinarian Kathy Klein said the May incident showed that a prompt emergency services response needed to be backed by people trained and equipped to extract horses safely.

"The horse float rollover in Ellenbrook in May exposed a serious gap in the state's large animal rescue capability," she said.

"Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) responded promptly, with a fire appliance arriving quickly from just a block away.

"However, despite emergency services being on scene, control of the rescue and decisions about how to extract the trapped horse were effectively left to experienced equine industry personnel and the attending veterinarian.

"The veterinarian was placed in considerable danger while attempting to assist the trapped horse, without appropriate personal protective equipment, including a helmet.

"The issue was not the speed of the emergency services response, but ... absence of established large animal rescue procedures, trained personnel, appropriate equipment and effective scene management."

The call follows three days of large animal rescue workshops at Ascot Racecourse from September 30 to October 2, bringing together emergency responders, local government staff, veterinarians, animal welfare organisations and the equestrian and racing industries.

The City of Swan reported in August last year that its rangers rescued a ewe from a steep riverbank at Herne Hill after a resident raised the alarm.

The ewe and her surviving lamb were reunited and returned to their owners.

Workshop reports supplied by the horse council also acknowledged Swan councillor Rod Henderson's ongoing support.

Dr Klein said the Ellenbrook rollover exposed uncertainty over who was responsible for physically undertaking a large animal rescue and protecting those helping at the scene.

"We need to know not simply who responds to the emergency, but who is actually trained and equipped to perform the rescue," she said.

She said DFES responded promptly, but decisions about extracting the trapped horse were effectively left to experienced



City of Swan officers undertaking the large animal rescue training at Ascot Racecourse.

equine industry personnel and the attending veterinarian.

Dr Klein said communities needed more than an emergency services response.

"We need the training, equipment and established procedures to ensure that large animal rescues can actually be performed safely," she said.

She said similar challenges arose when horses or livestock became trapped in dams, drains, mud, swimming pools or confined spaces.

The horse council wants domestic animal rescue more clearly recognised in the state's emergency management legislation and operational arrangements, particularly for individual incidents outside major emergencies.

Its priorities include defined rescue responsibilities, equipment located strategically across metropolitan and regional WA, training for likely responders and established procedures for accessing specialist people and resources.

Dr Klein also called for greater cooperation between emergency services, veterinary professionals, animal welfare organisations and the equine and livestock industries.

"We don't need to reinvent emergency management. We need to ensure that rescuing domestic animals, including horses and livestock, is recognised and supported within the systems we already have," she said.

WA's animal welfare in emergencies state support plan assigns animal welfare coordination to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

It provides for activation when owners' capacity and local or district arrangements are insufficient, and also allows departmental advice and connections before activation.

Dr Klein said animal welfare coordination and the practical ability to rescue a trapped large animal were distinct needs.

The Ascot workshops were presented by the horse council with the Animal Emergency Incident Management Network, with David King leading the training.

The first day focused on emergency services and animal welfare responders, followed by equestrian sport and then racing personnel and veterinarians.

Training emphasised scene safety, communication, teamwork and techniques for moving or lifting a compromised horse. The racing programme also addressed starting barrier incidents and other racecourse emergencies.

Dr Klein said the workshops had generated interest in further training and simulation exercises, including from Murdoch University and emergency services personnel.

She said the council had supported rescue training and advocacy for more than a decade, with its first Ascot workshop held in 2012.

"However, interest and goodwill must now translate into practical commitments to training, equipment and operational capability," she said.

"Animal welfare and human safety go hand in hand. We owe it to our emergency responders, our communities and the animals themselves to get this right."



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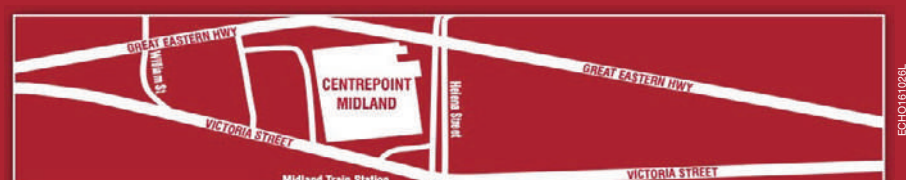
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Rural Aid counsellor Ian Larnach speaking with a farmer.

Rural aid urges farmers to register

WITH summer approaching and the risk of bushfires and other severe weather increasing across parts of Australia, Rural Aid is encouraging farmers to make sure they know where to turn if they need a hand.

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting warmer and drier conditions across parts of the country this spring, with increased bushfire risk in several areas.

For farmers already dealing with dry conditions, the prospect of fire and other severe weather adds another layer of uncertainty.

Rural Aid chief executive officer John Warlters said taking a simple step now could make it easier to access support if disaster strikes.

"Disasters don't wait, and neither should farmers," Mr Warlters said.

"We want farmers to take that step now, to be prepared.

"Getting registered with Rural Aid means we know who you are and where you are and if you need support, we can talk through what help may be available."

Rural Aid provides a range of practical and wellbeing support services for farmers at no cost, including finan-

cial assistance to help cover urgent or unexpected costs and counselling and mental health support for farmers and their families.

The organisation can also provide emergency hay deliveries to support livestock, water deliveries for essential household use along with on-ground help through the Farm Army and farm recovery event programs, assisting with clean-up and rebuilding.

The process of getting help from Rural Aid is straightforward and farmers can just apply over the phone.

Mr Warlters said farmers did not need to be facing a disaster today to take the first step.

"We know farmers have a lot on their plate, but getting registered now is one less thing to think about if a fire or other disaster comes your way," he said.

"Whether it's a bushfire, flood, storm or drought, Rural Aid is here to help farmers and their families through the challenges that life on the land brings.

"So don't wait, get registered with Rural Aid now and if you need a hand, we'll be here."

Register today by calling 1300 327 624 or visit www.ruralaid.org.au

Bishop blesses chapel at new hospital

A NEW chapel at St John of God Midland Private Hospital has been formally blessed by the Most Reverend Nelson Po, Auxiliary Bishop of Perth, designating it as a space for divine worship, prayer and reflection at the recently opened hospital.

The blessing ceremony establishes the chapel as a sacred space within the hospital, offering comfort, connection and spiritual support to patients, families, and caregivers.

St John of God Midland Private Hospital chief executive officer Vanessa Unwin said the hospital was much more than just a building and its chapel had been thoughtfully designed as a peaceful sanctuary, providing a sense of calm away from the clinical environment.

"Curved architectural elements, lightly coloured timber and filtered natural light create a warm and welcoming atmosphere, while sweeping architectural curves symbolise the belief that spirituality can be found in everyday moments and places," Ms Unwin said.

The chapel also brings elements of St John of God Health Care's history and heritage into the new hospital, with the altar and lectern relocated from the St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital site.

The tabernacle, a fixed, sacred repository that houses the Eucharist, was also brought across from Mt Lawley Hospital and has been refurbished, now holding a prominent place in the chapel.

St John of God Health Care chief mission integration officer Tara Peters said the chapel re-



Bishop Nelson Po during the Midland Private Hospital chapel blessing Mass.

flected the organisation's commitment to caring for the whole person, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

"When we think about health care, we naturally think about the clinical care people receive, but caring for someone during times of illness, recovery or uncertainty extends well beyond their physical needs," Mrs Peters said.

"The St John of God Midland Private Hospital chapel is a place where people can step away for a moment, whether they are seeking prayer, comfort, quiet reflection or simply somewhere to gather their thoughts.

"It is also a visible expression of our Catholic identity and our commitment to compassionate, person-centred care. While grounded in our Catholic tradition, it is a welcoming space for

people of all faiths and backgrounds."

St John of God Midland Private Hospital opened to patients in August 2026, expanding access to private hospital services for people living in Perth's eastern suburbs and surrounding communities.

The standalone 123-bed private hospital includes eight operating theatres, a critical care unit, day surgery facilities, and interventional cardiology services including the region's first cardiac catheter laboratory.

The chapel is available to patients, families, visitors and caregivers throughout their time at the hospital.

For more information about the new St John of God Midland Private Hospital visit www.sjog.org.au/newmidlandprivate



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SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER
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10AM TO 5PM

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Tickets
\$98 p/p

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21 NOVEMBER | 12 DECEMBER

Get ready to unleash your inner artist! A talented Perth creative will guide you through a fun, relaxed painting session where you'll craft your very own masterpiece while sipping away on a glass of bubbles.

After painting up a storm, settle in for a delicious two-course lunch.

Art session kicks off at 10:30am and flows through to 11:45am

Tickets
\$135 p/p

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PACKAGE OPTIONS

- \$125pp** - includes bubbles on arrival, roaming canapes and 3 courses Luncheon
- \$165pp** - includes bubbles on arrival, roaming canapes, 3 courses Luncheon and unlimited beers and wine for 2 hours. **Book your seats now.**

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Set in the hills, this special Italian dinner brings together a beautifully curated four course menu, live music from an Italian singer, and an atmosphere made for long dinners and even longer conversations.

Wine pairings are available for those who want to take the evening to its full Italian potential - one course, one glass, at a time. **Additional \$35pp**

Come for dinner, stay for the music, and settle in for a Friday night of good food, beautiful company and a little la dolce vita.

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DPIRD is asking the community to be on the lookout for boneseed, which has bright yellow flowers.

Boneseed alert for the Swan Valley and Hills

PETER W LEWIS

RESIDENTS from Kalamunda, Mundaring and the Swan Valley are being encouraged to be on the lookout for the invasive weed boneseed as the weather warms up.

With seedlings, juveniles and adult flowering plants having already been found in the Perth Hills, foothills and regional areas residents are being asked by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) to be alert for the invasive weed, considered one of Australia's most significant environmentally damaging weeds.

DPIRD undertakes extensive monitoring and eradication activities for boneseed each year with biosecurity officers recently searching known infested sites and conducting surveillance adjacent to these areas.

DPIRD regional biosecurity coordinator Tim Stevens said boneseed was capable of rapidly invading a wide range of landscapes and threatening native biodiversity and habitats.

"The weed's ability to produce up to 50,000 seeds per year that remain viable for many years means affected sites require long term monitoring before they can be declared free of infestation," Mr Stevens said.

"Eradicating boneseed requires persistence and

commitment, with teams often working in challenging terrain and conditions to locate and treat infestations."

Originally introduced as a garden plant, boneseed has become a serious environmental threat, making ongoing vigilance essential.

Mr Stevens said community awareness and early reporting was critical to protecting Western Australia from invasive weeds, while supporting successful eradication programs.

"Landholders are responsible for managing declared pests on their land by undertaking monitoring and reporting any finds to DPIRD," he said.

"Once we receive a report of a new detection, the area is mapped and requires annual monitoring for at least 15 years with no mature or seeding plants found before a site is considered free of boneseed infestation.

"DPIRD will undertake follow-up audit searches on known infested areas and we also provide support and advice to landholders on management options as required."

Boneseed's bright yellow flowers begin to appear from August to October and if seen should be reported to DPIRD's Pest and Disease Information Service or the MyPestGuide Reporter app.

Find out more on the significant weed by visiting the boneseed page or read the biosecurity alert at www.dpiird.wa.gov.au

Northam community art project almost finished

GUANHAO CHENG

THE Northam visitor centre building received a vibrant makeover during the October school holidays.

Northam residents worked on the Season Splash Community Paint Project across four days transforming the pillars beneath the visitor centre building into a large public artwork.

About 15 young Northam residents participated in the four-day project which attracted considerable interest from community members enjoying the spring weather and spending time along the river foreshore.

Participants remained engaged throughout the program and had the opportunity to work alongside emerging Indigenous artist and Northam youth worker Duana Nickels, who shared her skills and experience with the group.

Ms Nickels guided the participants in creating a work that celebrated the seasons of Northam.

Avon Community Services supported the project by providing lunch, snacks and refreshments each day and the project was coordinated by the Shire of Northam.

Shire of Northam President Chris Antonio said the project was a fantastic example of how partnerships can create meaningful opportunities for young people, while enhancing public spaces.

"Season Splash is about bringing people together, celebrating creativity and giving our young people the opportunity to leave their mark on Northam in a positive and lasting way," he said.

"This project not only enhances an important public space, but also encourages community pride, connection and participation.

"We are grateful to Dulux and our project partners for helping make this opportunity possible for our young people and the broader community."

The project was delivered with the support of Avon Community Services, Dulux Australia and the state government through Regional Arts WA.

Final touches to the artwork on the visitor centre building are expected to be completed by Ms Nickels in the coming weeks.



Final touches to the community artwork are set to be completed in the coming weeks.

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Help improve access and inclusion

Shire of Mundaring is reviewing and updating its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan in accordance with the Disability Services Act 1993 (WA).

Community members are invited to provide feedback at the Disability and Access Focus Group on **Thursday 22 October, 10.30am-12.00pm** at the Shire Administration Centre in Mundaring.

Register your interest via QR code or call 9290 6857 to discuss any access or support requirements.



Scan to register your interest



Shire of MUNDARING

Darlington firies pay special visit

A STRATTON family recently enjoyed a special visit from the Darlington Volunteer Bushfire Brigade after Bullwinkel MP Trish Cook helped facilitate the connection.

The visit gave local mum Kylie Warren, her daughter Quinn and son Tyler, an opportunity to meet the firefighters and explore the fire trucks.

Tyler Warren is a young NDIS participant with a keen interest in fire engines and emergency services, and the visit gave him a great opportunity to connect with his community.

"My team and I have been supporting Kylie and Tyler throughout their NDIS journey and have built a truly warm relationship with their family," Ms Cook said.

"When I learned that Tyler has a love of fire trucks, I reached out to the great crew at the Darlington Volunteer Bushfire Brigade to see whether they might be willing to stop by and pay him and his family a visit.

"To their immense credit, the brigade didn't hesitate. The captain and crew enthusiastically jumped at the opportunity to take time out of their busy schedules to visit Tyler and proudly show him their fire truck and gear.

"Their generosity, kindness and community spirit created a special experience for Tyler and his family, as well as other families on his street. It was great to be there to share in that moment."

Ms Cook said she was grateful to the members of the Darlington Volunteer Bushfire Brigade for their willingness to make this happen.

"Their thoughtful gesture brought so much joy to Tyler and it is a wonderful example of the positive difference volunteers make in our community every day."

Tyler's mother, Kylie Warren said



Members of the Darlington Volunteer Bushfire Brigade paid a special visit to the Warren family.

he had a great time with the team from the Darlington Volunteer Bushfire Brigade.

"He loves the trucks, especially the sirens and even got to spray some water around. Thanks so much to Trish Cook for helping organise this and the brigade for going the extra mile for us," she said.

A Darlington Volunteer Bushfire Brigade spokesperson said the team had the absolute privilege of meeting Tyler and his family.

"Tyler has a neuronal brain disorder and can't walk or talk, but he loves fire trucks and firefighters.

"After a request from Trish Cook, our local Federal Member, we got the team together and headed to Tyler's house so he and his sister could get up close and personal with our fire trucks and firefighters.

"It was such a fun morning, and our volunteers were delighted we could bring some joy into Tyler's day."



The hub will provide targeted support to stabilise health and develop plans for ongoing older adult care.

Older Adult Health Hub opens for elderly care in East metro

PETER W LEWIS

THE second of three Older Adult Health Hubs has now opened in the East Metropolitan catchment in Belmont and will service older people from Midland, the Swan Valley and the Perth Hills.

Residents with complex care needs from these areas can now access the service with a referral from their local GP.

The new Belmont Older Adult Health Hub aims to strengthen community-based, accessible services for older Western Australians and support them to stay healthy in the community and avoid hospitalisation where possible.

The hub brings together a multidisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, geriatricians and allied health professionals to co-ordinate assessments, treatment and referral pathways in one location.

Services include comprehensive geriatric assessments, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, nursing, medication management, dietetics, memory and cognition support, and links to community and social services.

"Care can be delivered face-to-face, by phone or video, and through home visits where appropriate, depending on a person's needs, helping reduce barriers to access for people with mobility or transport challenges," a health department spokesperson said.

"Local GPs have been engaged by WA Health regarding the services on offer."

The hub will also offer co-ordinated support for frailty and falls, memory and cognition, medication management, functional decline, advance care planning, and access to aged care and community ser-

vices.

Working alongside a patient's GP and existing health care providers, the hub will provide targeted support to stabilise health and develop plans for ongoing care.

The hubs work alongside existing health services and community and older adult programs.

Health Minister Meredith Hammat said the government was investing \$24.3 million to deliver a new model of care that brings geriatricians, nurses and allied health professionals together, giving older Western Australians more co-ordinated care closer to home.

"By providing co-ordinated care earlier, we can help older Western Australians stay healthier and independent for longer, while avoiding unnecessary hospital visits and easing pressure on our busy hospitals," she said.

Aged Care and Seniors Minister Simone McGurk said the government wanted to keep older Western Australians well in the community.

"Strengthening community-based care is one way to do this," she said.

"For older adults living with chronic or complex conditions, this co-ordinated approach means they can stay well and avoid unnecessary hospitalisations.

"The hub also provides real, practical support for families and carers navigating aged care and health services, from assessments to advance care planning and connecting to services like home care and transport."

The Belmont hub, located at 95 Belgravia Street, is part of a Cook Labor government \$24.3m election commitment to establish three Older Adult Health Hubs across Perth.

Annual bushfire community day

THE sounds of summer will convey the important lessons about bushfire safety at a special family-friendly event in Wandoo on Saturday, October 17 from 12pm to 5pm.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has partnered with the City of Kwinana to stage the 2026 Bushfire Community Day at Honeywood Oval.

This year's community day will be in conjunction with the city's Summer Sounds festival, with emergency services displays, demonstrations and practical bushfire information added to the regular program.

The DFES Bushfire Centre of Excellence (BCoE) has again put together an interactive and educational series of activations that enables the community to brush up on their bushfire knowledge.

BCoE Chief Superintendent Grant Pipe said with summer around the corner it was the right time to spread the message about what actions households and businesses needed to take to prepare for a bushfire.

"Western Australia might be a big state but more than 93 per cent is bushfire prone," he said.

"Our firefighters do a magnificent job keeping WA safe but the responsibility for preparing for bushfire season needs to be a collaborative effort involving the community.

"The bushfire community day provides attendees with a range of educational products and materials so they can be prepared in case of an emergency.

"There is also some fun for the kids which also carry the bushfire message. They can dress as a firefighter, roll out a fire hose, climb inside a fire truck, all while adults can deal directly with experts on how best to be ready for bushfire season."



Last year's event was held in Mundaring.

DFES staff and local brigades will showcase fire truck displays, hose demonstrations, brigade activities, Firewise gardening information and the RAC Rescue Helicopter experience.

BCoE launched the inaugural Bushfire Community Day in 2021, opening the DFES Bushfire Centre of Excellence facility in Nambeelup to the public and highlighting the achievements of WA's bushfire management sector.

Since 2024, the BCoE has staged the event in the City of Kalamunda and the Shire of Mundaring, close to bushfire-prone areas.

Established in 2019, the BCoE is the primary vehicle to share information about bushfire management in WA, strengthening the capability of the sector through the provision of knowledge, training and engagement to reduce the impacts of bushfire.

To find out more about how to prepare for a bushfire, visit dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/bushfire/prepare

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Speakers Darnelle Pretorius and Anjelica Smilovitis. Dr Pretorius with event facilitators.

Power of stillness explored at Swan chamber gathering

GUANHAO CHENG

THE importance of slowing down, finding purpose and helping others flourish was at the centre of the October Hour of Power.

Speakers challenged attendees to reconsider their relationship with productivity and success.

Press Road Media brand and media strategist Anjelica Smilovitis opened her presentation by inviting the audience to sit in complete silence for one minute, without phones, conversation or distractions.

She then recalled visiting her family doctor about 12 years ago, when she was 27, after experiencing a period of emotional numbness.

At the time she was working as a personal trainer while studying psychological science and regularly started work at 4am, filling her days with clients, study and other commitments.

Ms Smilovitis said she found herself feeling increasingly disconnected despite being passionate about her work.

"I didn't feel joy, I didn't feel sadness," she said.

"I just felt completely (stuck)... which felt weird to me because I was someone that was quite passionate about life and I was motivated (and) I loved what I did."

When her doctor asked how much time she spent relaxing, she found it hard to answer.

He recommended taking an hour each day to unwind, prompting her to begin with a compromise of 20 minutes sitting outside doing absolutely nothing.

However, the experience initially proved uncomfortable as her inner monologue discouraged her.

"You're lazy. Get up and keep going. You've got a list of things to do," Ms Smilovitis said.

"What if someone sees you over the fence and sees you just sitting there doing nothing?"

Ms Smilovitis said her stubbornness helped her persist until she gradually began appreciating the stillness.

Hiking was eventually incorporated into her routine as she continued her practice of stillness.

While walking, she discovered that creative ideas for her writing came more naturally than when she was sitting at a computer trying to force them.

The practice also helped her return to work and personal relationships feeling refreshed and more present.

Ms Smilovitis recalled how childhood boredom had encouraged her and her siblings to invent games and explore their surroundings.

"What was amazing is that we would go out there, my brother, my sister and I, and we'd create new games, just out of thin air," she said.

"We'd get everyone involved and we had created something completely new.

"Somewhere in that boredom, creativity happened, problem-solving, imagination and curiosity happened."

Ms Smilovitis said modern society's constant access to social media, artificial intelligence and other distractions had potentially diminished people's capacity for creativity.

"The moment we feel bored or uncertain or stuck, we reach for our phones, we look for distractions, we fill our time under the guise of productivity," she said.

"But what if that space is an opportunity?"

"I just wanted to leave you with a question: what if over time our busyness and stress have woven themselves into our lives to the point that it's become normalised?"

"What if leisure, rest, or stillness has become

something to be feared rather than enjoyed or pursued?"

Swan Christian Education Association executive principal Dr Darnelle Pretorius followed with a presentation about leadership, personal values and helping others reach their potential.

Drawing on her experience in education, in which she holds an educational doctorate, she discussed the importance of understanding one's purpose and aligning personal behaviour with professional responsibilities.

Dr Pretorius said she found wisdom in Stephen Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, pointing to its principles of seeking to understand others before expecting to be understood and finding solutions that benefitted everyone involved.

"(Ask yourself) how can I come out of a difficult situation so that both of us walk out smiling?" she said.

"Think win-win.

"I wanted to be a highly effective person... (Covey) talks about, firstly, having a private victory in your life before you step into the public arena."

Dr Pretorius said probing one's own spirit, private thoughts and analysing how things were organised in private was reflected in the energy that was put out in public.

"Your public persona reflects what's inside," she said.

"I think as we equip ourselves and we walk into our workplaces every day and we come with joy, we will become infectious.

"People that are generous attract generous things in their lives and people who are kind attract kindness."

Dr Pretorius said leaders should empower others rather than micromanage them, while creating environments where people feel encouraged to succeed.

"Seek first to understand and allow that person to talk you through their thinking," she said.

"Clarity is kind."

Both speakers discussed the role of Christian faith in their lives, describing prayer and quiet reflection as important daily practices that helped them find stillness and consistency.

Echo News asked both speakers about the importance of maintaining boundaries while remaining generous.

"We can only really be responsible for what we're in control of and so if a person is behaving badly or taking advantage, you can't allow that and obviously you'll walk away from it," Dr Pretorius said.

"So, when I feel like a person is taking advantage, I'm not in control of that and I would then step away and allow them to take their own decisions."

Ms Smilovitis said the answer was unique to each person but returning to the practice of stillness helped her identify her own boundaries.

"That stillness helped create confidence and trust within myself which I think is very important," she said.

"For me, my anxiety was, 'If I don't do this, I'm going to lose my job or I'm going to lose this opportunity,' and in some cases that is the case because that's the system you're in.

"But in the stillness, you can be honest with yourself and say, 'I can't keep going on that rat mill'.

"It's what drove me to start my own business because I wanted to create my own space with those healthy boundaries in place.

"Sometimes just exploring 'Why is it that we perhaps feel we need to over-give or maybe we can't speak up or have a boundary?' is what we need."

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ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

Your local Gig Guide

Fri October 16

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

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

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

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

Sat October 17

Settlers House York
Nick Childs
From 12pm-3pm
Jukes of York
From 5.30pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace York

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

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

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Shane Turner
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Sun October 18

Settlers House York
Back Verandah Band
11am-2pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace York

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

Sun October 18 cont.

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

Tues October 20

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

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

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

Wed October 21

Chidlow Tavern
Wednesday Night
Jam Session
From 7pm, Free
4 Thomas St, Chidlow

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Fenton and Friends
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Thu October 22

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

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

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



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& GIG GUIDE

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ECHO NEWS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Brabham filmmaker to premiere psychological thriller

A BRABHAM filmmaker is preparing to premiere his own feature-length psychological thriller at Luna Cinemas this November, after spending years working to bring the project to life.

Shaun Gonzalvo is the writer, producer and lead actor of *Because You're Mine*, a 90-minute independent film made entirely in WA with a local cast and crew.

With nine years of experience as an independent filmmaker, Mr Gonzalvo was determined to create opportunities for local creatives and prove that ambitious films can be made in WA without major studio backing or having to move interstate.

Working alongside director Lilliana Benger and cinematographer Reilly Stewart, Mr Gonzalvo brought his story to the screen, exploring themes of grief, identity and loss.

Along with initial problems the film itself also changed significantly during production.

What began as a more conventional thriller evolved into a darker and more personal exploration of grief, identity and what can happen when losing someone also means losing part of yourself.

"I wanted to explore grief, not just the experience of losing someone, but the feeling of losing yourself before the loss, and then trying to find your way back to who you are while you're grieving," Mr Gonzalvo said.

For Mr Gonzalvo, however, *Because You're Mine* represents something bigger than getting one independent film



Lead supporting actor Jesse Vakadini, producer, writer and lead actor Shaun Gonzalvo, cinematographer Reilly Stewart and director, producer and supporting actor Lilliana Benger.

made.

Having worked as an indie filmmaker for nine years, he wants the film to challenge the idea that ambitious young creatives need to leave Western Australia to build careers in the screen industry.

"We're constantly told, especially as creatives from Perth, that we're 'nobodies' unless we move somewhere else," Gonzalvo said.

"I didn't want Perth to simply be a backdrop. I wanted it to feel like a Perth, Western Australia film, made by

Perth people, with our own creatives given the opportunity to contribute their talent and have their work seen."

Because You're Mine will premiere at Luna Cinemas on Wednesday, November 25, followed by a Q&A with the creative team.

As the film has been made entirely independently, the team is now looking at film festival opportunities and exploring options for distribution, with the hope of securing a wider release across Australia.

Lesmurdie High alumnus is Blackadder live on stage

LESMURDIE Senior High School alumnus Chris Thomas is stepping into the shoes of one of British television's best-known schemers later this month.

He plays Lord Edmund Blackadder in Harbour Theatre's stage adaptation of the classic BBC comedy by Richard Curtis, Rowan Atkinson, Ben Elton and John Lloyd.

Directed by Dr Jarrod Buttery at Camelot, the production features episodes from the second series, set in Elizabethan England, with familiar characters including Baldrick, Lord Percy, Queenie and Nursie.

Mr Thomas said the invitation to audition for the title role came as a surprise.

"The director approached me several months ago and asked if I would be interested in auditioning," he said.

"At first, I thought he meant one of the other characters - but when he said it was Blackadder himself, I became intrigued.

"It's not a character I would ever have thought about playing, not least because I'm taller than Rowan Atkinson.

"Obviously, I still had to audition and prove my mettle, but it was the challenge of taking on the role that motivated me."

Mr Thomas is no stranger to bringing television characters to the stage, having previously played The Cat in

a production of *Red Dwarf* at the Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre.

"There is definitely pressure because there are expectations when you perform something so well-known and so well done," he said.

"But having taken on well-known roles before, I had some idea of what it was like."

His approach to Blackadder has centred on the character's sardonic humour and the original script, rather than attempting an exact impersonation.

"You have to think of it like Hamlet - there have been numerous interpretations of that lead character over the years, from Sir Laurence Olivier to David Tennant," Mr Thomas said.

"I don't have the same twang Rowan Atkinson has in his voice, but you can give the same sardonic and sarcastic inflections.

"The director also gives suggestions on line delivery and, because it's a stage production, the performance needs to be bigger when there's a theatre full of people."

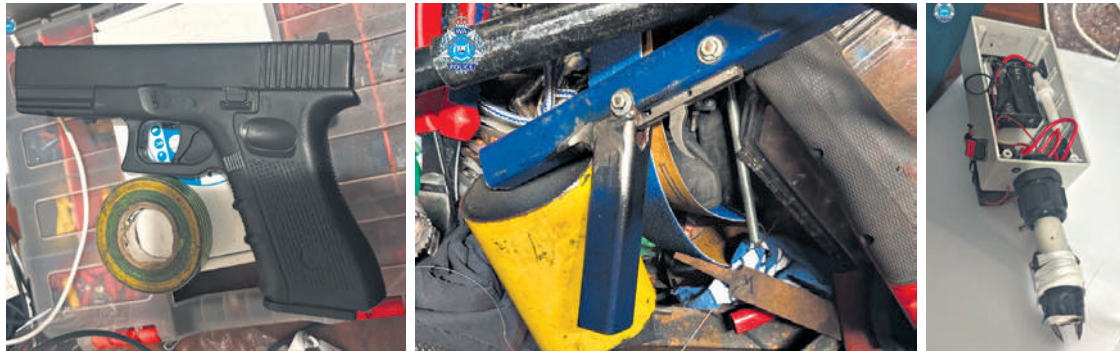
Blackadder plays at 7.30pm October 16 and 17 with a 2pm matinee October 18. Tickets are \$30 adults, \$27 concession and \$25 children - book at trybooking.com/DOUZL.

Harbour Theatre performs at Camelot, 16 Lochee Street, Mosman Park.



Lesmurdie High alumnus Chris Thomas plays Lord Edmund Blackadder in Harbour Theatre's stage adaptation of the classic BBC comedy.

Man charged after High Wycombe firearm seizure



Illegal firearms seized included handguns and makeshift guns and tasers.

DETECTIVES from the drug and firearm squad have charged a 26-year-old High Wycombe man following an investigation into his alleged possession and manufacture of illicit firearm components.

On July 20 and July 22, officers from the Australian Border Force intercepted two consignments containing firearm parts destined for Western Australia.

As a result, and acting on community information provided to police, detectives from the drug and firearm squad, with assistance from the Tactical Response Group, executed a search warrant at a residence on Citrus Grove in High Wycombe, on Sunday, August 2.

The 26-year-old man was located inside the residence and taken into custody.

It will be alleged police seized weapons and firearm related items, including three privately manufactured firearms (PMF), two homemade tasers, paintball gun, replica firearm, BB gun, throwing knives and ammunition.

It will be further alleged police located various quantities of methylamphetamine, cannabis and drug paraphernalia.

The 26-year-old man from High Wycombe has been charged with the following 13 offences including three charges of possessing or acquiring ammunition while not being authorised by a licence or permit, two counts of manufacturing a prohibited weapon and one count each of unlawfully possessing three or more firearms or major firearm parts for different firearms, unlawfully possessing a prescribed paintball gun or major part of a prescribed

paintball gun, carrying or possessing a prohibited weapon and possessing a controlled weapon.

He was further charged with one count each of possessing methylamphetamine, drug paraphernalia in or on which there was a prohibited drug or plant, carrying or possessing an edged weapon and possessing a prohibited plant.

He appeared before the Armadale Magistrates Court on Monday, August 3 where he was granted bail with conditions and a \$5000 personal undertaking and \$5000 surety.

Following his appearance in Midland Magistrates Court on September 11 he was remanded through to October 23 for his next hearing.

Detective acting superintendent Anna Shaw of the serious and organised crime division said the illegal importation, manufacture and possession of firearms and firearm parts posed a significant threat to community safety.

"WA Police has zero tolerance for this type of offending. We continue to work closely with national and international partners to monitor emerging trends and target individuals involved in offences, including those involving PMFs. If you choose to engage, expect to be caught."

"We thank members of the public for information that can lead to illegal firearms and firearm related parts being taken off WA streets."

Anyone with any information in relation to criminal activity, including the use of firearms and firearm related items, is urged to contact Crime Stoppers online via www.crimestopperswa.com.au or by calling 1800 333 000.



The Afterlife Party filmmakers from left to right: Star 'Sofia' Mounfield, Rebekah Hannah, Chantelle 'Kat' Kerr, and Jaysinn Allan.

Paranormal documentary spotlights Guildford's historic Garrick Theatre

BRAYDEN MOULD

PERTH-based independent filmmakers The Afterlife Party are set to premiere their homegrown paranormal documentary, 'Curtain Call for the Dead: Guildford's Garrick Theatre' on October 31 at The Backlot Perth.

The independent production focuses on the historic Guildford venue Garrick Theatre celebrating its place in local history alongside the town's surrounding landmarks.

The group previously won Best WA Made Horror Feature at the Perth Horror Film Festival for a project filmed in the Gnaragana Pine Plantation.

During their time at the site, the team explored the rich history of the heritage venue and recorded experiences that matched longstanding accounts from theatre members.

Investigator and filmmaker Chantelle 'Kat' Kerr spent much of her life growing up around Midland and Guildford and spoke about the deep local significance of the landmark.

"Guildford has always been such an intriguing area because it holds so much history," she said.

"You walk down that street in Guildford and it's like you just kind of get transported back in time."

Director and editor Jaysinn Allen said showcasing the historic venue and supporting the local community group behind it was central to the project.

"Honestly, it's one of our team's favourite places of all the places we've been," Ms Kerr said.

"It's beautifully unique, and we love to bring that attention to a local theatre."

"We really hope that people learn about the history and get to know that these aren't just old buildings, but places that played a big part in the inception of Western Australia," she said.

The filmmakers hope the project encourages residents to reconnect with their own backyard and hold on to the region's foundational heritage.

Attendees can meet the team at the screening event at 21 Simpson Street, West Perth on October 31, at 6pm.



Nominations open for Mundaring 2027 Australia Day Citizenship Awards



2025 Mundaring Citizen Awards award winners: Inspirational Volunteer, Darren Rullo, Young Citizen of the Year, Amariah Stenton, Long Service, Max Hore, Access Mundaring, Bruce Watkins.

Know someone who deserves to be recognised?

Every day across the Shire of Mundaring, people give their time, energy and care to make our community a better place.

They are the volunteers who lend a hand, the young people making a difference, the community champions bringing people together and those who have quietly dedicated years to serving others.

Nominations are now open for the 2027 Shire of Mundaring Australia Day Citizenship Awards, giving our community the chance to recognise and celebrate these remarkable people and groups.

Awards are presented across five categories: Junior Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Inspirational Volunteer, Access Mundaring and Long Service.

If someone comes to mind while reading this, now is the time to nominate them.

A nomination is a simple but meaningful way to say thank you and shine a light on the people whose contribution helps make the Shire of Mundaring such a connected, caring and inclusive community.

To learn more about the award categories, eligibility and how to nominate, visit the Shire of Mundaring website at www.mundaring.wa.gov.au

Citizenship Awards 2027

Nominations Now Open

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond to make our community a better place? Nominate them for a **Shire of Mundaring Australia Day Citizenship Award.**

Nomination Categories:

- **Junior Citizen:** Individuals or groups under 15 years who, through their volunteering activities, have made a meaningful contribution to the local community
- **Young Citizen:** Individuals or groups aged 16 - 30 years, who have made a significant contribution to the local community
- **Inspirational Volunteer:** Volunteers whose dedication makes an outstanding difference
- **Access Mundaring:** Recognising efforts to create a more inclusive, accessible community
- **Long Service:** Honouring community champions with over 10 years of service.

Scan QR Code to Nominate

Nominations close

Friday 27 November 2026

(08) 9290 6666 | shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au

mundaring.wa.gov.au

Ballajura Community Fair is back!!

ON THIS SUNDAY
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SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2026 | Gates open 10 am

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This event is run by the Community

For the Community

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Supporting YOUR COMMUNITY

Ballajura Community Fair is on this Sunday!

The Ballajura Community Fair has been bringing people together for more than 30 years, and Community Connecting Youth Inc is proud to play a part in this much-loved local tradition.

The fair showcases everything that makes our community special, from live entertainment and school performances to cultural displays, local organisations and family activities. It is a day that celebrates the people, cultures and connections that make Ballajura such a vibrant place to live, while raising funds that support community projects and local causes.

This year is going to be epic so make sure you come on down and enjoy a day of community spirit and most importantly have fun!

When: Sunday 18th October 10am until 3.30pm.

Where: Ballajura Community College Oval.

Entrances via Cassowary Drive or Illawarra Crescent.

We have the best line up ever!

22 food and drink vans so there will be something for everybody.

55 stallholders with so much to see and do!

We have amusement rides and some sideshow alley games, show bags, Lions chocolate wheel and much much more.

There are free activities for the kiddos as well...free face painting, Old MacDonald Farm and activities offered by stallholders.

We will have the dunk tank filled and ready to go so come on down and try your luck at dunking maybe your teacher or principal?

We still have some places available for the talent quest so give Carol a call on 0414 791 081 or email carol-bookings@ccyinc.org.au to register!

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.



Creating jewellery you Love

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More than Jewellery



ADVERTISING FEATURE

Supporting YOUR COMMUNITY

Darlington Artist Gina Scriven

Gina Scriven is a Darlington artist currently working with glass to create jewellery and sculptural pieces.

Gina has previously participated in the ‘Sculptures on the Scarp’ exhibition and this year is opening her studio in Padbury Road as part of the Mundaring Hills Open Studio (MHOS) art trail. She is one of 86 artists involved in the event.

Gina loves working with glass. “It’s light and the reflections and colours provide the perfect medium for me to express what inspires me about nature,” she said.

“As glass is a natural material, working with it adds to that extra connection with nature.”

Many of Gina’s art glass creations are unique

because she enjoys pushing the boundaries of what the medium is expected to achieve.

Now in its seventeenth year, the 2026 MHOS Art Trail includes some 34 studios and three venues. All studios are open during the weekends Saturday, October 17 to Sunday October 25 with many of them open right through. Find a promotional brochure or use the website to plan your visits - www.mundaringhillsopenstudios.com



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The people who make our community stronger

Before the doors open, the tables are set, the kitchen is ready and the toys are laid out for families to enjoy. Elsewhere, food hampers are being prepared for people doing it tough. Behind these everyday acts are volunteers who consistently show up and often are the last to leave, selflessly working to support and benefit the lives of others.

It was a privilege to bring together individuals, charities, multicultural organisations, community groups and sporting clubs at Midland Town Hall for the second annual Hasluck Volunteer Awards, to celebrate our volunteers.

Lynne Hooley, recipient of the Hasluck Lifetime Achievement Award, with a particular focus of her volunteering with the Guildford Family Playgroup. Each week, Lynne arrives early to set up outdoor play at St Matthew’s Hall, helps prepare the indoor space and organises the kitchen. These simple acts create a safe and familiar place

for children to flourish.

Nola Sonsoni, named Hasluck Volunteer of the Year, is the driving force behind Connections Café Midland’s team preparing food hampers for people experiencing food insecurity. Her work provides valued support, dignity and connection to people in our community when they need it most.

Lynne and Nola remind us that volunteering is more than any single act of giving time. It creates opportunity for participation and progress. I was honoured to recognise them and so many others whose generosity makes Hasluck a stronger, vibrant and more caring community.



Celebrating the 2026

Hasluck Volunteer Awards



TANIA LAWRENCE

Member for Hasluck

- @TaniaLawrenceMP
- TaniaLawrenceHasluck
- Tania.Lawrence.MP@aph.gov.au
- (08) 6245 3340
- 2/257 Great Eastern Hwy
Midland, WA

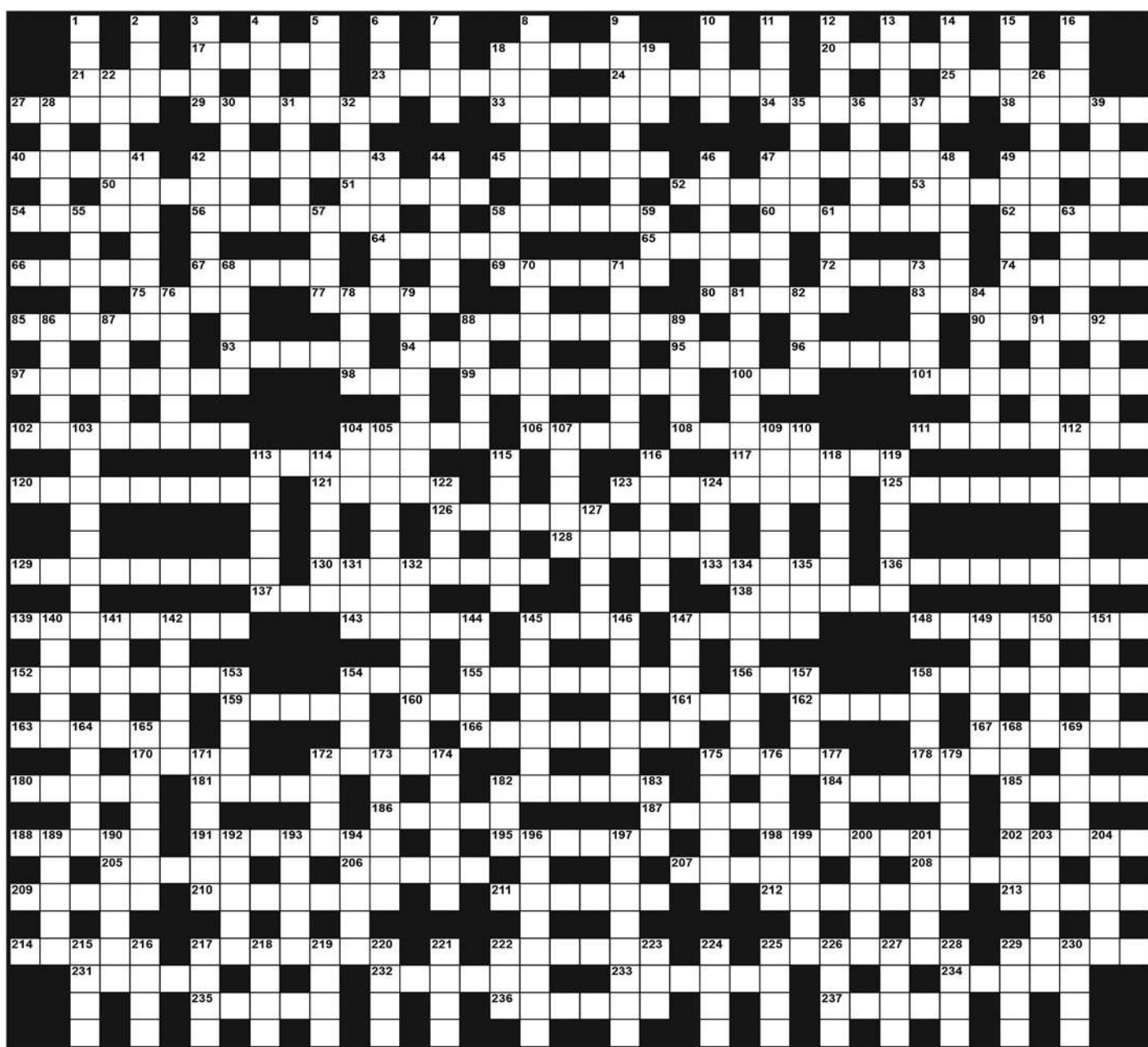
Labor





Mind Boggler Crossword

1290



ACROSS

- 17 Keep away from
18 Loud breath noises
20 Blue
21 Leg joints
23 Wedding participants
24 Worked for
25 Himalayan country
27 Direct
29 Annoys
33 Take notice
34 Unwieldy
38 Heats continually
40 Animal
42 Rider's foothold
45 Cause to happen
47 Delays (5,2)
49 An inhalant
50 Boredom
51 Songs for two
52 Test
53 Criticise
54 A map
56 Twisted
58 Meal
60 Having senses
62 Love
64 Wild dog
65 Patronage
66 Strong rope
67 Correct
69 A flag
72 Lees
74 Small drum
75 Otherwise
77 Throws off
80 Soft material
83 True
85 Unhappy
88 Puts off
90 Kind
93 Show fright
94 Drunkard
95 Devil
96 Type of rock
97 Symbol of remembrance
98 Speck
99 One wanting perfection
100 Fortune
101 Underground cells
102 Immoral
104 Playful stunt
106 Woody plant
108 Talk over again
111 Extolling
113 A root food
117 Flees with lover
120 A zoo
121 A stone
123 Dupes out of money

- 125 Dangerous
126 Hold back
128 Night bird
129 Large size
130 Turning around
133 Run off
136 Rapt
137 More dense
138 Equine animals
139 Showed attitude
143 Group of soldiers
145 Make beer
147 Deep gorge
148 Looked over
152 Short and abrupt
154 Donkey
155 Sweat
156 Bend the neck
158 Berate
159 A shrub
160 Frozen water
161 Take to court
162 Praise
163 Moral strength
166 Useless person
167 Separated stock
170 Globes
172 Types of birds
175 Guide
178 Noticed
180 Brief
181 Greatly enjoy
182 Hate
184 Door fasteners
185 Moors a boat
186 Bury
187 Spoils completely
188 Small boat
191 Chats
195 Annually
198 Endurance
202 Metrical feet
205 Small nails
206 Oil of plants
207 Famous lover
208 Seeing
209 Narrow lane
210 Signs
211 Mix with water
212 Leaps
213 Strong winds
214 Car parts
217 Shows again
222 Tormented
225 Put aside
229 Demise
231 Farewell
232 Soup dish
233 Steal cattle
234 Push down
235 Pig
236 Resounded
237 Feel clumsily

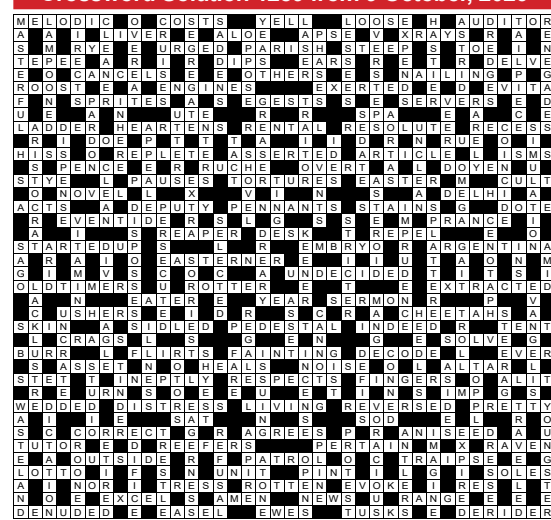
DOWN

- 1 Get for oneself
2 Move off course
3 Mixed food
4 Oaths
5 Loved one
6 Steals
7 Way out
8 An example
9 Print plates
10 Not any
11 Type of drink
12 Listen
13 Wind instrument
14 Curve
15 High hills
16 Healthy
18 The ocean
19 Unhappy
22 Of no gender
26 Made up for
28 Portable light
30 Capar
31 Drinking bout
32 Give off
35 Complete
36 Walks in water
37 Incite to activity
39 Thin biscuit
41 Meal courses
42 Works out (coll)
43 Small waterhole
44 Trick plays
46 Extremely sad
47 Constantly annoy
48 Make happy
49 Frighten
55 Type of resin
57 Lumps
58 Fish eggs
59 Colour from sun
61 Unclothed
63 Line of travel
68 Kindness
70 Most inquisitive
71 Real
73 Selfish desire
76 An envoy
78 Tough
79 Take away attention
81 Changed position of
82 Nuisance
84 List of tasks
86 Layer above earth
87 Final Greek letter
88 Smell unpleasant
89 Musical instrument
91 Desires
92 Coarse material
103 Formally delivers
104 A hog
105 Type of car
107 Piece left from decay

- 109 Pieces of fast music
110 Olden poet
112 Greatly loved
113 Thawed
114 Temperament
115 Give voice
116 Distends
118 Church songs
119 Disgraces
122 Check print
124 Tidings
127 Push softly
131 Choose
132 Awakening
134 Judge's rooms
135 Body limb
140 Coarse
141 Unspoken
142 Scanner
144 Sent in tubes
145 Burst of gunfire
146 Table attendants
147 Large box
149 Quick look
150 Type of badger
151 Follow on
153 Fat
154 Curved structure
157 Used to be
158 Grip
164 Prickle
165 Public gamble
168 Untying
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230 A continent

Crossword Solution 1289 from 9 October, 2026



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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:

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Public Notices

**WAPC** Western Australian Planning Commission

Have Your Say
Amendment 2 to the North Ellenbrook (East) District Structure Plan

The Western Australian Planning Commission is seeking public comment on Amendment 2 to the North Ellenbrook (East) District Structure Plan (East DSP).

Amendment 2 to the East DSP proposes to include 49ha of land at Lot 118 Warbrook Road, Bullsbrook into the East DSP area for residential uses, realign the approved 'Road F' Neighbourhood Connector along the eastern boundary of the amendment area and include the proposed Chudalup Road / Warbrook Road – Tonkin Highway overpass.

The application can be viewed at haveyoursay.dplh.wa.gov.au/neeastdspamend2 or in person by appointment at the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Level 2, 140 William Street, Perth. Contact neeastdsp@dplh.wa.gov.au or at **6551 8002** for an appointment.

Submissions can be made online or posted to: Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Metro North East team, Locked Bag 2506, Perth WA 6001.

Submissions close **27 November 2026**. Late submissions may not be accepted.

DPLH_31925

**WAPC** Western Australian Planning Commission

Have Your Say
Amendment 2 to the North Ellenbrook (West) District Structure Plan

The Western Australian Planning Commission is seeking public comment on Amendment 2 to the North Ellenbrook (West) District Structure Plan.

Amendment 2 to the North Ellenbrook (West) District Structure Plan proposes to change 106ha of light industrial uses to residential, schools and open space. If approved, Amendment 2 to the North Ellenbrook (West) District Structure Plan would provide for an estimated additional 1,500 dwellings, an additional primary school, and relocation of the high school and district open space to a more central location.

The application can be viewed at haveyoursay.dplh.wa.gov.au/newestdspamend2 or in person by appointment at the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Level 2, 140 William Street, Perth. Contact newestdsp@dplh.wa.gov.au or at **6551 8002** for an appointment.

Submissions can be made online or posted to: Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Metro North East team, Locked Bag 2506, Perth WA 6001.

Submissions close **27 November 2026**. Late submissions may not be accepted.

DPLH_31916

**Do you have something to celebrate?**

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The Minister for Skills and TAFE invites senior leaders with governance and strategy skills and experience to apply for a Governing Council position in Western Australia's TAFE sector.

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Experience on Government boards or committees is highly desirable.

Under the *Vocational Education and Training Act 1996*, Governing Councils play a key role in the governance, strategy and oversight of TAFE Colleges within the Western Australian Government policy framework.

Expressions of interest for membership of **Central Regional TAFE** Governing Council are invited.

Governing Council members are remunerated for their services.

The State Government is committed to increasing the representation of women on Government boards and committees and supports diversity in the appointment to boards and committees.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and people from culturally diverse backgrounds are warmly invited to apply.

Applicants are required to submit a brief curriculum vitae (maximum two pages) using the approved proforma, together with the following completed forms:

- **Fit and Proper Person Declaration (signed and witnessed); and**
- **Private Interests Declaration (signed and dated).**

Applications must be lodged by **Friday, 13 November 2026** via email to TAFEGovernance@dtwd.wa.gov.au

Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing (PRIS): Collection Notice - Personal information of applicants provided during the application process will be collected, used, stored, and shared in accordance with relevant privacy legislation and organisational policies to support the selection, appointment, and governance processes.

The curriculum vitae proforma, declaration forms, PRIS Collection Notice and further information regarding Governing Council membership and the application process are available at www.dtwd.wa.gov.au

DTWD_31821

**WAPC** Western Australian Planning Commission

Have Your Say
SWAN VALLEY PLANNING SCHEME NO.1 – AMENDMENT NO.16

The Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) is inviting public comment on the Swan Valley Planning Scheme No.1 – Amendment No.16 that proposes to:

- Rezone Lot 47 (11111) and Lot 48 (10901) West Swan Road, Henley Brook, from 'Priority Agriculture' to 'Special Use';
- Modify 'Schedule 4 – Special Use Zones' of the Scheme Text by inserting land uses and relevant conditions applicable to the zone; and
- Modify the Scheme Map to show Special Use zone over Lot 47 (11111) and Lot 48 (10901) West Swan Road, Henley Brook.

The proposed amendment will facilitate the Foundation for Indigenous Sustainable Health (FISH) Health and Wellbeing Project, which comprises short-term accommodation and associated cultural, hospitality and community land uses intended to support Aboriginal people travelling from regional and remote Western Australia to Perth for medical treatment.

The Swan Valley Planning Scheme No. 1 - Amendment No.16 can be viewed online at <https://haveyoursay.dplh.wa.gov.au/>.

Submissions close Monday, 23 November 2026 and can be lodged online at Have Your Say, WA!, by email to swanvalley@dplh.wa.gov.au or posted to: **The Secretary Western Australian Planning Commission, Locked Bag 2506, Perth WA 6001.**

Late submissions may not be considered.

DPLH_31827

ECHO Notice Board

Upcoming Events

- **Kalamunda Prostate Cancer Support Group** meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Falls Farm, 41 Cagney Way Lesmurdie from 10am-1pm. For more information call Roy 9295 2522 or Ray 0427 095 892.
 - **Mundaring CWA** meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10am at the CWA Centre (Sculpture Park), Jacoby Street, Mundaring. There is a general meeting and cuppa with craft and social to follow until 3pm. New members and visitors welcome. For more information call Marg on 0417 956 628.
 - **Midland Men's Shed Social** Tuesday is every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am in the Baptist Church Hall, Bellevue. Our workshop at 34 Swan Avenue Midvale is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8am to 11am. Call Andy on 0419 921 805.
 - **Midland Lawn Tennis Club** meets for social tennis 9am every Wednesday and Saturday at 21 Patterson Drive, Middle Swan. All ages and standards of play welcome, and they have senior and junior teams that compete in Tennis West pennants. For more information email playtennis@midlandtennis.com.au.
 - **Ladies over 50** or retired and wondering what to do with your free time? Enjoy it with a group of fun-loving ladies who like to go out for coffee, lunch, dinner, theatre, cinema, museum, bus, and train trips, wineries, games, holidays, and many more activities. Just one phone call could give you a new lease of life. For more information call Heather on 0435 266 499, Debbie on 0431 360 561, or Rosy on 0439 981 623.
 - **Swan Athletic Sporting and Community Club** will be hosting a Melbourne Cup celebration at 11/26 McDonald St, Herne Hill, on Tuesday, November 3 from 11am. The cost is \$25 per person which will cover finger food, lunch, and a novelty event. For more information call Tom on 0401 803 675.
 - **Swan View Community Association** is encouraging treasure hunters, collectors and bargain seekers to explore Swan View this Sunday, October 18 when the Swan View Spring Clean Community Garage Sale takes place across the suburb. Residents will open their driveways, garages and front yards for a day of community garage sales, offering shoppers the chance to browse an ever-changing mix of household goods, tools, books, toys, collectables, furniture, garden items and unexpected finds. A free online map showing participating addresses will be released on Saturday, October 17, allowing visitors to plan their route before sales begin on Sunday. For access to the garage sale map and event updates, visit the Swan View Community Association Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/share/19VYsUyC9h/>
 - **Stoneville Community Garden** will celebrate its 5th Anniversary and Open Day on Sunday, October 25 from 10am-2pm next to Norris Park, off Bentley Street, Stoneville. There will be a cheap plant sale, seed savers station, sausage sizzle, baked treats and drinks, kids face painting and activity table and a raffle with amazing prizes. The Mundaring Seed Savers will also be there sharing their knowledge. Everyone is invited, so bring family and friends.
 - **Mahogany Creek Tennis Club** will hold a free community open day at 2040 Strettle Road, Mahogany Creek on October 24 starting at 2pm and running until 5pm. Enjoy a free sausage sizzle, free social family games and a fun day out. Racquets will be available and no experience is needed. Membership discounts will also be available. For more information, contact Noeline on 0407 919 703.
- 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



and microchipped. Costs Apply. Contact Bak-ers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

Garry is an eight-month-old cavalier cross cocker spaniel. He was living in a block of units but unfortunately he thought he was a guard dog for everybody who lived there and his barking became a problem. He doesn't bark if kept inside. He is sterilised, vaccinated,

ECHO Sports

9374 6666
editorial@echo-news.com

The Vines golfer to compete in Special Olympics

SWAN resident Thomas Morgan will compete in the upcoming Special Olympics as a state representative.

The Special Olympics will involve more than 850 athletes from across Australia with intellectual disabilities and autism, competing in 13 different sports.

Mr Morgan's father John Morgan said the opportunity was a testament to Tom's hard work, athletic talent and unbreakable spirit.

"When he steps onto the tee in Melbourne this October, he is not playing for just a medal, he is proving that an illness should not define a person's potential," he said.

Mr Morgan said Tom lost interest in golf at one point in his life but started playing again about three years ago.

"He met Mark Tibbles, the golf professional, on the golf range," he said.

"Mark approached me one day and said, 'Who is that? Is that your son? Man, he can hit a great ball.'"

"He told me he was running a course for people with disabilities and asked if Tom would like to join.

"And that was the crossroads."

Mr Morgan said the meeting and subsequent lessons were a blessing for Tom.

"About 10 years ago, we had a lot of trouble on our hands. That was a challenge," he said.

"But the doctors [adjusted his treatment], and it seems as though he's stable now.

"He's bubbling, waiting to get on the aeroplane to get to Melbourne."

MTI Golf Academy instructor Mark Tibbles, who trains Mr Morgan, said retaining focus would be the key to success for Mr Morgan's performance during the upcoming event.

"When Tom has a little bit of focus, he's exceptionally good," he said.



Special Olympics WA State Manager Kendall King, Fellow WA team member Lily Broadbridge, Instructor Mark Tibbles, Golfer Tom Morgan, and Variety WA CEO Chris Chatterton.

"His dad John is going to be caddy-ing for him at the event, so I'm hoping John can be a sort of steady influence for Tom through the tournament.

"The golf tournament's played over three days and they play 18 holes three days in a row.

"That's a lot of golf for Tom, because Tom's been playing regularly all year, but he's just been playing 9 whole rounds with a carer.

"To move from that to 18 holes in a competitive situation is going to be a big step up for Tom, but again, it's down to focus."

Mr Tibbles said the community building aspect of the sport made the experience larger than just a game of golf.

"There's been a real tough road and a tough journey for Tom... I just think

for someone who loved the game back then as a kid and then lost it because of an illness, it's just such a great joy to see him coming back to golf and looking forward to playing golf again," he said.

"It's hitting golf balls but it's also the interaction with others and being part of a team.

"I think it will be interesting for Tom to see how he goes away from home in a team environment... it's going to be an interesting experience and hopefully a rewarding one in many ways."

All golf events for the 2026 Special Olympics will be held at Sandy Golf Links in Victoria and runs from October 20 to 22.

Athletes will be placed in a division with athletes of a similar ability based on their official golf handicap.

ECHO Local Real Estate

**Residential
Commercial
Rural & Country**

Heritage and space in Middle Swan

FOR those seeking space, privacy and a touch of Swan Valley heritage, this 9795sqm property is a rare find.

This four-bedroom, two-bathroom home has been in the same family for more than 50 years and is now ready for a new chapter.

Cruise up the pebble pathway to the front entrance and enjoy the tranquillity of the valley atmosphere.

Beyond the treelined frontage and through the door, a cottage-style home full of historic charm awaits.

Inside, exposed brick walls combine with solid timber floorboards to create an authentic atmosphere that celebrates the home's heritage.

Clean white ceilings with exposed beams sprawl through the home, linking rooms that are brimming with personality.

The spacious lounge and dining area includes a built-in bar, ideal for entertaining friends and family.

An open fireplace keeps the home warm during the colder months and preserves the original character of the house.

The good-sized kitchen adjoins a spacious central family room, offering plenty of space for everyday living and larger gatherings.

Wallpapered rooms throughout add colour and personality, while

wheelchair ramps add to the accessibility of the home.

The double garage provides security and peace of mind.

Beyond the sheltered parking, the driveway and grassed areas offer plenty of room for guests, making gatherings a breeze.

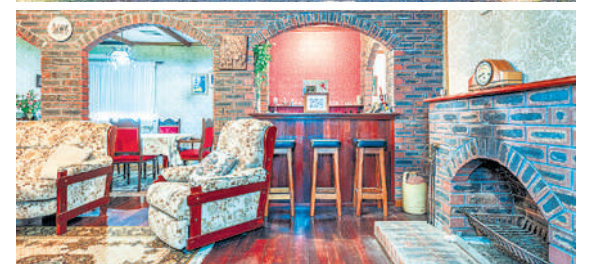
The home sits towards the eastern side of the block, leaving a substantial portion of the land open and ready for development or other uses subject to council approval.

Expansive gardens, sheds, outdoor entertaining or simply room for the family to spread out, there is plenty of possibility that is offered by this spacious property.

The home would benefit from some refreshing and updating, but the foundations are present, with generous rooms and a practical floorplan.

With nearly a hectare of land around it, this is an opportunity to renew, personalise and create a property that could serve another family for decades to come.

**Address: 22 Oakover Road,
Middle Swan
Price: From \$1,200,000
Agency: Real Estate Plus
For more information contact
Milton Rendell on
9274 5000.**





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[^]Savings calculated on recommended retail price notified by the supplier. 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. [~]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. Participating Discount Drug Stores may not have sold at RRP. Pricing in-store prior to the promotion may differ and actual savings may vary. Offers available at participating pharmacies in-store while stocks last. Products and offers not available at all stores.

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Ph: (08) 9274 1455
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OPEN 7 DAYS
8:00am - 8:00pm