ECHO NEWS

SINCE 1985

Friday, November 20, 2026

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Authorised by S.Catania 34/6 Keane St, Midland WA 6056

Horsepower in the Hills a success P4



Council backs HyperFest return P7



Taking Jorgensen Park fight to parliament P3





Young creators launch

More than 100 children from Midland and Mundaring are preparing to become published authors and illustrators through a creative program. P 10

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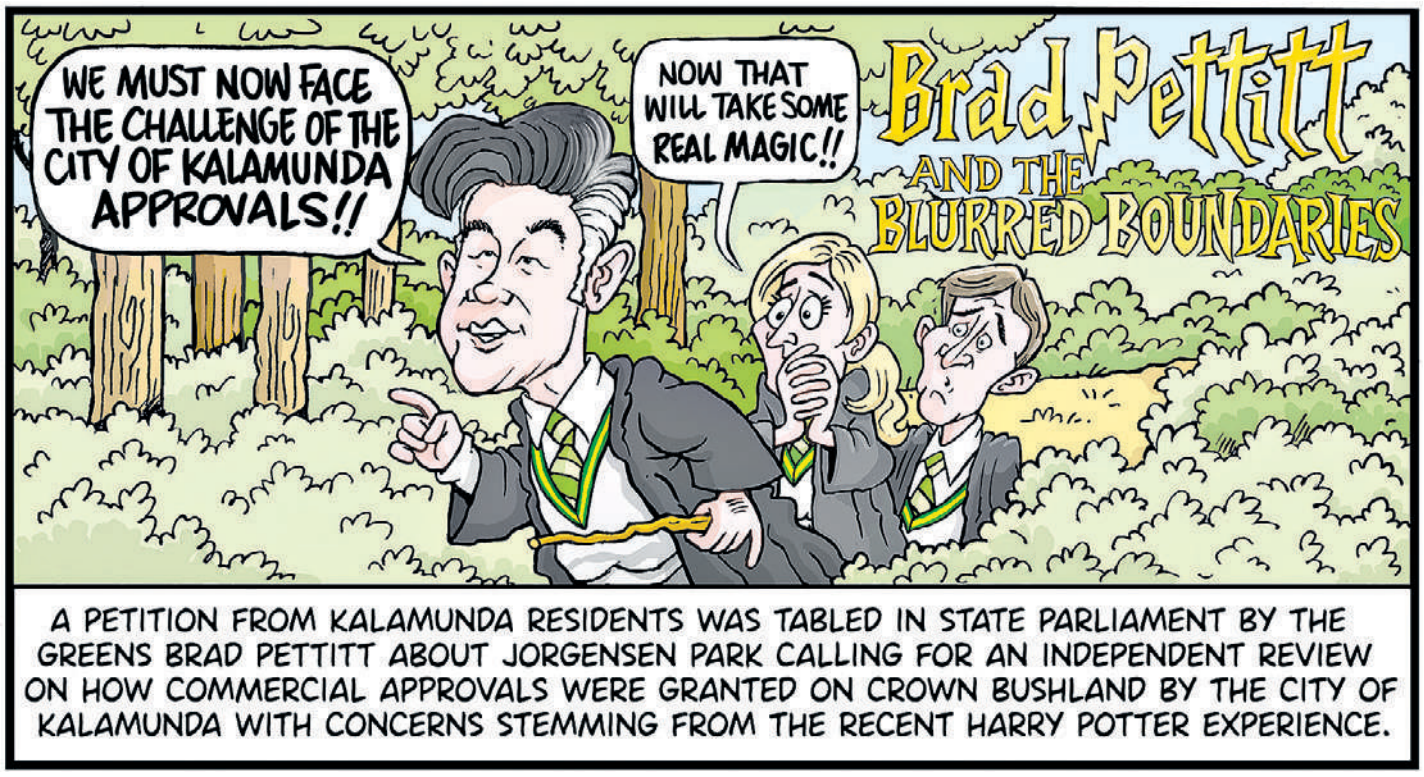
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ECHO **YOUR THOUGHTS**

Have your say: editorial@echo-news.com

Toddler library safety

Dear *Echo News*,

Caution to parents with toddlers visiting High Wycombe library.

On several occasions while at the library I have seen toddlers leaning on the glass window as the automatic doors open.

The kiddies have to be pulled away quickly in case of injury by way of trapping their arms between the window and door.

These events have been reported to the library staff and HR in Kalamunda.

Within the past two years there was also a lady who was about 80 years old exiting the library when the doors shut on her, whacking her.

Regarding the toddlers, I have suggested a remedy but nothing appears to have been done so please watch your kids when they're in a 'safe' place.

I think the phrase is, "see the hazard, make the change".

The latest event was on November 2 when the mum grabbed her kids before injury.

T Conway
High Wycombe

Second-hand smoke concerns

Dear *Echo News*,

Secondhand smoke drift from neighbours is not just an annoyance; it's a serious health issue facing our community.

Cancer Council WA regularly receives calls from distressed residents in apartments and units who are being impacted by a neighbour's smoking.

In most cases, they have already tried to resolve the issue with their neighbour, strata body, local council and even local MPs.

WA's strata laws are silent on the issue of smoking, which causes confusion and conflict.

The laws are currently under review but there is no plan to introduce a standardised by-law about smoke drift between lots.

Share your experiences and let Minister Carey MLA know that this issue cannot be ignored any longer.

Landgate's online survey is open until November 26.

Ashley Reid
Cancer Council WA CEO

Open letter to Premier

Dear *Echo News*,

Premier, in 2022 you proudly announced "Western Australia is gaining traction with international investors as the southern hemisphere's growing hub for data centre operations" and "… we look forward to welcoming you and your business…", but you failed abysmally to plan for it!

You have emphasised the open space of the north west, yet 13 of the 15 currently in the state are in the metropolitan area (WAtoday 10/08/26).

You have ignored the absence of any regulatory framework, protocols, guidelines, minimum standards, or appropriate land use or zoning requirements.

Instead, we are left with development applications for data centres in Western Australia being assessed against local planning frameworks that were conceived prior to the era of AI and large-scale data centres.

And so emerges applicant claims that they are just "warehouses because they store things".

And some local government planners pick that up as the easy minimalist classification. But they are not warehouses.

While we can define by finding similarities, a truer picture emerges by finding differences and its 10 to one that there more differences than similarities.

Data centres are driving contention and anger around the world, they even cost many United States republicans their seats.

A major hyperscale data centre is proposed for Hazelmere, 14km from the CBD and within 150m of families - 37m tall, a footprint just shy of Optus Stadium, requiring the removal of more than 300 trees, together with 96 diesel generators, 58 external cooling units pushing heat into the environment, a massive drain on the grid and big demand for water, all 24/7.

And super security. Where am I to see a warehouse with such requirements Premier?

You have failed our community miserably by failing to plan.

Be brave, put a moratorium on all applications until these critical frameworks are developed and in place.

Do not let long standing communities carry such a dreadful burden while you twiddle your thumbs and pat yourself on the back for inviting them with such open arms, but closed eyes.

C Hughes
Woodbridge

Thought for the day

"We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations."

- Charles R Swindoll

Ward boundary confusion

Dear *Echo News*,

I am disappointed by the City of Swan's special meeting into the discussion paper on electoral boundaries held on November 9.

I went to the meeting hoping to better comprehend the issues but left equally confused.

The motion presented clearly concerned whether the report was factually correct and enabled the community to make a sensible assessment and if not it should be revised.

At no time did the city confirm or deny if there were errors in the 'corrected' report and no reply was given to the question whether it had been misinterpreted by a member of the community.

Opponents to the motion seemed to have not understood the motion and brought personalities into the discussion rather than correctness.

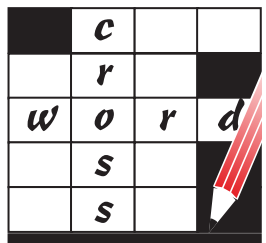
The motion clearly concerned the community being correctly informed to make an assessment.

I was none the wiser at the end of the meeting but felt there was something wrong and therefore voted in support of the motion.

S Ashby,
Woodbridge

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.

INSIDE



P16 Crossword

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Swan sets next steps after planning review

GUANHAO CHENG

THE City of Swan council has requested a planning improvement plan be presented in February next year following an independent review of the city's planning processes.

The request formed part of an amended motion passed 10–5 at the November 11 council meeting.

The LK Advisory review examined the city's planning framework and four cases, including the Hazelmere data centre, The Vines structure plan amendment and Midway Ford's non-conforming use application.

It produced 39 priority recommendations and found the city's processes generally aligned with the state planning framework, while identifying procedural weaknesses it considered unlikely to have materially affected planning outcomes.

City of Swan planning and development executive director Leon Van der Linde said the first priority was a comprehensive policy review.

He said this would address inconsistencies between local policies and deemed provisions, which prevail over inconsistent planning scheme provisions, and form part of the improvement plan.

Cr Jennifer Catalano questioned why deficiencies had occurred if planning staff were already following the state framework and recognising the precedence of deemed provisions.

Mr Van der Linde said the identified deficiencies concerned processing, including accepting information and ensuring the correct material was available during public advertising.

He distinguished those issues from assessing applications on their merits, which fell outside the review's scope.

Cr Catalano then asked whether the proposed interim controls were redundant because they covered requirements staff were already applying.

Mr Van der Linde said they were not redundant and that he and the statutory planning manager could reinforce the requirements and introduce steps to ensure assessments addressed the state framework.



City of Swan planning and development executive director Leon Van der Linde says the first priority is a comprehensive policy review.

Cr Sarah Howlett's amendment requesting priority implementation of interim controls passed unanimously and became part of the substantive motion.

Cr Rod Henderson subsequently added an amendment for council to form a planning process and policy improvement committee at its February 2027 meeting.

Supporting implementation, Cr Bowman pointed to reviewer Len Kosova's experience and said the report fulfilled the scope commissioned by the committee.

"And let me remind you about Len Kosova, one of the most well-known, respected, and experienced planning people in WA," he said.

He described the report as a roadmap for improving the city's planning processes and urged councillors to begin implementing its recommendations.

As reported in *Swan council backs planning department review* (*Echo News*, March 13) the review originated from an annual elector's meeting where residents voted unanimously for an independent review.

Community groups coordinator Dixon Lowe said residents supported an improvement program but disputed some of the review's conclusions.

"The reviewer acknowledged the deficiencies are systemic, with some written into the city's own procedures," Mr Lowe said.

"Our community group doesn't support the review's conclusion that the city's processes are 'aligned with the state planning framework and represent good practice', nor that the deficiencies didn't alter planning outcomes.

"These statements conflict with evidence reported and leave statutory compliance questions unresolved."

Mr Lowe said the community endorsed the recommendations, subject to two proposed amendments, as the basis for improvements to governance, statutory compliance and public confidence.

Council's resolution noted the community submissions for staff consideration in preparing the improvement plan.

It also provided for council to consider reporting arrangements when the plan is presented in February.

Residents take Jorgensen Park fight to parliament



Calls for an independent review came after the city approved the 'Harry Potter: A Forbidden Forest Experience' event earlier this year. Picture: Brayden Mould.

BRAYDEN MOULD

KALAMUNDA residents have escalated their fight over governance of Jorgensen Park to state Parliament, calling for an independent review into how commercial approvals were granted on the crown bushland.

Greens MLC Dr Brad Pettitt tabled the petition in the Legislative Council after community members spent more than three months collecting more than 1000 physical signatures at Kalamunda markets, alongside approximately 4000 signatures in an online petition.

While triggered by the temporary lease of Jorgensen Park for the now concluded Harry Potter: A Forbidden Forest Experience, petitioners say their primary focus is protecting the reserve's future and preventing a precedent for commercialising conservation land.

Kalamunda resident Toni Warden said concerned residents invited Dr Pettitt to tour Jorgensen Park after feeling shut out by the City of Kalamunda.

"We're just grateful that, where we had doors shut in our face, there was a door that opened up and was ready to hear the community's concerns," Ms Warden said.

"And then we want to make sure the community is aware that we followed the process, we honoured the signatories and their shared concerns."

Ms Warden said Jorgensen Park is divided into distinct recreation and conservation zones under the city's own management documents and raised concerns the council had blurred those boundaries.

"The parts of the park that were leased out under the city's own management document are for conservation, they're not for recreation – and I think the city blurred those lines," she said.

"What's the point in having protections in place when they can be set aside for what is just an opportunity for a foreign company to make a lot of money and leave ratepayers out of pocket."

Presenting the petition to Parliament, Dr Pettitt outlined the community's formal requests to the Upper House.

"Petitioners are concerned not only about this proposal, but also about the broader precedent that may be established for future commercial developments affecting crownland, conservation areas and community assets.

"We call upon the government to undertake an independent review of the approvals, leasing, environmental assessment, governance and decision-making process associated with the proposal."

Residents wishing to sign the online petition can visit https://tinyurl.com/3sdwkjjf

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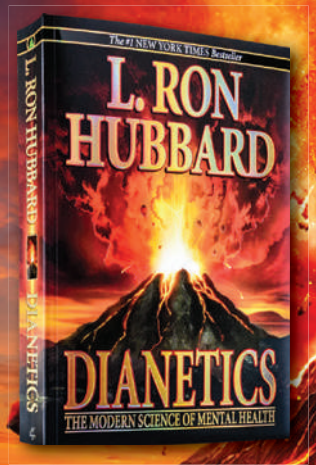
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Horsepower in the Hills a revving success

WALLISTON Primary School's oval became a meeting place for motoring enthusiasts and families when Horsepower in the Hills returned on November 15.

The car and bike show brought together the school's parents and citizens association and Wally Boys Racing (WBR), a club formed by former Walliston Primary students.

The two groups have partnered to stage the fundraiser every two years since 2010, with some former students now helping support the school attended by their own children.

All proceeds from the event go to Walliston Primary School for new supplies and equipment.

Longstanding Wally Boys club member and Walliston Primary parent Liam Reffell said the continued growth of the event heartened him and the fellow club members.

"Being able to raise funds for the school while bringing the community together is what makes the event so special," he said.

"The event keeps growing every year, and it's awesome to see the support from enthusiasts, families, and the wider community.

"While it all started with the cars and that's still the best part for me and the reason the show is what it is today it's turned into so much more than that.

"It's about bringing people together, creating memories, and supporting a great cause."

Mr Reffell and his wife Belinda organised arrangements for vehicles arriving at the school, helped get cars onto the oval and made the trophies.

Their work formed part of a wider volunteer effort that began long before the gates opened and continued after the event.

P&C president Rachel Boyes said hundreds of volunteer hours had gone into preparations, with 70 volunteer shifts needing to be filled on the day.

The P&C handled event logistics and legal requirements, organised children's activities and arranged the food and drink offerings.

Ms Boyes said the school community, Wally Boys members and their families had worked together to make the event a success, contributing wherever they could.

She said she had found the motoring community welcoming and inclusive during her involvement in organising the past few shows.

Alongside the vehicle displays, the program included free activities for families, with dodgeball, laser tag, slot car racing and face painting among the attractions.



Horsepower in the Hills raises funds for school supplies at Walliston Primary School. Picture: Stephanie Clarke (Multi-Coached)

Children took part in Bunnings craft activities, giant yard games and carnival games, while food trucks provided refreshments.

A dunk tank added another fundraising opportunity, with principal Craig Mainard and Kalamunda MLA Adam Hort taking the seat to help raise money.

The event also supported young local performers through a program of live entertainment.

She said the collaboration between the school community and the Wally Boys had helped the show grow over successive events.

Mr Reffell said it was a worthwhile event and he wished to honour the original club members for beginning a community-focused event.

"A huge thanks to the original WBR crew for getting it all started many years ago and the continued passion to keep delivering a fantastic event every two years," he said.

Work begins to deliver Clean Energy Skills Hub in Midland



Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson, Klasey Hirst MLC and Midland MLA Steve Catania at Midland TAFE.

WORK is underway to deliver the $32 million Clean Energy Skills Hub at North Metropolitan TAFE's Midland campus, which will facilitate training across clean energy sectors including solar and wind and battery energy storage systems.

The Midland campus will serve as a hub and will connect with up to four interconnected specialist spokes in regional WA, including Central Regional TAFE's Kalgoorlie campus.

The state government has made a number of TAFE courses in the clean energy sector fee free or low fee including the electrotechnology pre-apprenticeship, certificate III in electrotechnology electrician, and certificate III in laboratory skills.

The government also recently awarded a tender for a specialist facility to be delivered at South Metropolitan TAFE's Munster campus to also help train the skilled workers needed to support the state's growing clean energy sector and major project pipeline.

A key election commitment, the facility will provide state-of-the-art facilities to deliver training for the renewables industry, including wind energy, battery technology, green hydrogen, electrification, automation, and robotics.

The two-storey building will include classrooms, computer laboratories, automation laboratories, instrumentation laboratories, battery laboratories, and a control room. Once opened, it is expected to support an additional 840 course enrolments annually.

About 22,000 extra workers will be needed in the clean energy sector by 2035.

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Hazelmere data centre rally attendees march from the Swan administration building to the Midland town hall in protest of the proposed data centre on Bushmead Road. Pictures: Guanhao Cheng

Residents rally against Hazelmere data centre

GUANHAO CHENG

HAZELMERE residents have renewed calls for stronger scrutiny of CDC's proposed Bushmead Road data centre, with speakers at a November 11 rally questioning its scale, electricity demands and proximity to homes.

Mary Street resident Jenni Moffatt said she had lived in the area for 35 years and accepted the presence of nearby light industry.

She said those businesses generally operated during daylight hours, with buildings of an acceptable height and noise that was intermittent.

"But it's daylight hours. The buildings are of a height that we can all live with," she said.

Ms Moffatt said her opposition centred on this proposal's location and potential effects on neighbouring homes, rather than opposition to data centres generally.

"I'm not against them (data centres), I am against the fact that they're putting them in suburbs," she said.

"Surely, they've got enough money that they can go further out and build their own infrastructure."

She said the proposed development would be less than 140m from her back fence and feared its height, noise, lighting and heat would change her neighbourhood's character.

"It's not just noise, the size, it's also the loss of the animals that we all love here," she said.

"We love our native animals and they're a part of our area that brings us together, adding to the country feel and it's why we came here and chose it as our home."

At the rally, Trillion Trees communications coordinator Kate Herren urged council and staff to give community concerns greater weight during assessment.

"Today, hundreds of us came out to say no to this huge proposal for a hyper scale data centre in Hazelmere," she said.

"We implore council and staff to listen well to community concerns and apply tighter oversight of planning."

Ms Herren said more than 3100 submissions had been received against the proposal by the second week of November.

Mineral Policy Institute research associate Gwenaël Velge said the resource demands of large data centres warranted planning beyond individual applications.

"We need to have regional planning, if not national planning, because we know that this is happening over east as well," he said.

"We ask that we don't push these proposals through before we have a clear idea of how we're going to go about it in the regional sense, not (just) the local level."

Mr Velge said the scale of the facilities' resource requirements were comparable to mining operations and that their impacts extended beyond neighbouring residents.

"We're a research centre looking at how mining affects communities and we're shifting our focus because we don't consider these hyper scale data centres as warehouses," he said.

"I don't think people really understand the scale of them… this thing needs 192MW of electricity and I know that sounds quite abstract.

"Basically the entire south-west grid from Kalbarri to Kalgoorlie to down south is only 2.3GW (2300MW), so this will be about 10 per cent of the entire grid's average demand for a single facility.

"We're pushing this fast tracked and it's a real problem."

Former Kalamunda MLA Matthew Hughes said the state government's handling of the proposal was inadequate and called for intervention.

"Why is the (state government) sitting on its hands letting CDC build… right on top of the residential community of Hazelmere?" he said.

"Why aren't you calling these deficient rules into question and doing something about it?"

At the council meeting later that evening, Mr Hughes asked why council could not formally request the Planning Minister to call in the application.

City of Swan chief executive Stephen Cain said councillors could initiate a notice of motion under the city's meeting procedures.

He also said residents could seek to address the assessment panel when the responsible authority report was presented.

The City of Swan says the Metro Outer Development Assessment Panel will determine the application, with the city preparing a recommendation and reporting community submissions.

On its project website, CDC says it selected an industrial site to minimise impacts on surrounding communities.

It says acoustic treatments would keep operational noise comparable with residential night-time background levels, it would fund electricity connection infrastructure, and its closed-loop cooling system would recirculate water.

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The schoolhouse opened in 1904 as Heidelberg School and the site has been used by the scouts since 1992.

Carmel Scouts' future uncertain

GUANHAO CHENG

CARMEL Scouts' future at the heritage-listed Carmel Schoolhouse remains uncertain after Kalamunda council rejected a motion to stop wider market testing for the site and progress a new lease for Scouts WA.

The October 27 motion, moved by Cr John Giardina, would have reversed council's June 23 decision but it was defeated 6-3.

The scouts have used the property at the corner of Carmel and Reeds roads since 1992.

They remain under a holdover arrangement after their lease expired in June 2023.

During public question time on October 27, the city confirmed it had received an expression of interest from the scouts.

Cr Giardina's motion proposed forming an advisory group of six surrounding or adjoining landowners and up to two Scouts WA representatives, with support from city staff.

Under point five, the city would have worked at the same time to progress a draft lease for Scouts WA by June 2027.

Cr Giardina said residents at an October 7 community meeting had told him they should have been consulted earlier.

"And all I heard on the night, the majority was, 'We weren't informed and we weren't told,' and fair enough, that was true," he said.

"So I don't mind putting my hand up and saying, 'Look, we got it wrong this time. Let's go back and try again.' So that's what I'm doing here this evening."

City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas said she wanted to hear how the scouts would use the facility before the city proceeded with a lease.

"I want to discuss with the scouts how they're going to make good use of that, not just say execute the lease. So, I'm not supporting this because of point five," she said.

"But that doesn't mean I don't want scouts there."

The city's June officer report examined several options for the 2.03ha site, including keeping the current arrangement, returning it to state management and exploring visitor uses.

One option involved changing the planning scheme to allow camping and caravan use, then seeking an operator through a ground lease.

Cr Modolo said the city had yet to receive a commercial proposal for the site.

"There is no proposal for a caravan park at this site," he said.

"There is no commercial proposal on the table at all."

Ms Thomas said the city was preparing a pre-EOI community engagement phase expected to launch before December.

"As part of this process, local landholders, residents and interested stakeholders will be invited to provide feedback on what they value about the site and what elements should be protected," she said.

"The engagement will also seek community feedback on the types of opportunities they would be comfortable seeing explored through the EOI process."

The community engagement period is expected to run until mid-January 2027, with the EOI anticipated to be released in February 2027.

"No decision has been made regarding the future use of the site," Ms Thomas said.

"The upcoming EOI process is intended to explore potential opportunities for the site and identify proposals that align with the city's objectives, heritage obligations, planning requirements and community values.

"The EOI will not determine an outcome.

"The city acknowledges the strong interest in the Carmel Schoolhouse and recognises the site's significance to many people within the community.

"Community feedback gathered through the pre-EOI engagement process, along with any future consultation on preferred options, will help inform recommendations presented to council for consideration.

Mundaring set for 460 new trees

MORE than 460 new street trees will be planted across the Shire of Mundaring over the next two years, helping to grow tree canopy and create greener, cooler streets and neighbourhoods.



New street tree planting will help grow canopy and create greener, cooler streets and neighbourhoods.

The project is being made possible with $180,998 from the state government's tree recovery local government grant program to increase tree canopy and strengthen resilience to future tree loss, including the potential impacts of polyphagous shot-hole borer.

"The shire's natural environment and leafy streetscapes are highly valued by the community, with the protection and growth of tree canopy an important part of maintaining the character and amenity of communities across the district," a spokesperson said.

Planting will focus on areas with lower canopy cover and greater exposure to urban heat, helping to provide more shade while creating habitat for local wildlife and strengthening the shire's tree canopy into the future.

Shire President Paige McNeil said the project reflected a priority that our community has consistently championed.

"Our community has made it clear that protecting and enhancing the natural environment is our biggest priority. The unique biodiversity of the Perth Hills is a defining part of what makes our area so special," she said .

"Planting more than 460 new street trees is a significant investment in growing our tree canopy, creating more shade, supporting native flora and fauna, and helping keep communities across the shire greener and cooler."

The new trees will build on work already happening across the shire to grow and care for tree canopy, from street tree planting and revegetation to the management of parks and reserves and the provision of thousands of seedlings to the community.

Planting will be delivered over the next two years, with more information about locations and timing to be shared with the community as the project rolls out.

The project is delivered by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation through the WA tree recovery program.

Find out more go to www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-water-and-environmental-regulation/wa-tree-recovery-local-government-grant-program

Swan ward boundary review flawed claims Guildford Assn

THE Swan ward boundary review process will close public submissions by midnight tonight, November 20, however community representatives say the report sets a flawed foundation.

All local governments are required to periodically review the number of electors required to elect a councillor in each ward, to ensure that in each ward the number of electors for each councillor is within 10 per cent of the local government area wide average.

The review has been the source of months of community conversation and council debate since it was first reported in *Swan ward boundary review moves forward* (*Echo News*, August 28).

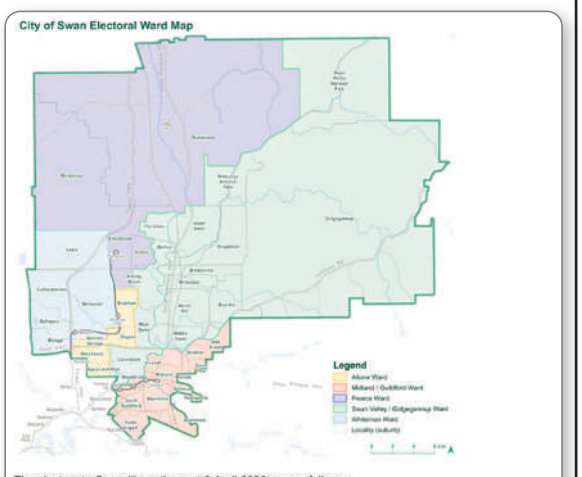
Guildford Association chair Christine Hughes said the City of Swan should revisit its discussion paper before weighing any of the options.

"What's at stake, is the document is flawed, and we can't make good decisions on it," she said.

At the November 11 council meeting, Ms Hughes questioned why the city's online explanation identified only one change to the discussion paper since the August council meeting when she had counted at least eight.

City of Swan acting chief executive Sarah McQuade said the later version clarified how variations in representation were shown.

It says a separate correction to the description of option three which wrongly placed Guildford, South Guildford and Perth Airport in Whiteman, did not change the modelled ratios because those localities had been counted in Midland/Guildford.



The electors to Councillor ratio as at 8 April 2026, are as follows:

Ward	No. of Councillors	No. of Electors	Ratio of Electors to Councillor	% Ratio Deviation
Altone	3	25,844	8,615	4.17
Midland/Guildford	3	24,831	8,277	0.09
Pearce	4	33,509	8,377	1.30
Swan Valley/Gidgegannup	2	17,475	8,738	5.66
Whiteman	2	14,118	7,059	-14.64*
Total	**14**	**115,777**	**8,270**	

*The variance is expected to be within a range of +/- 10%.

Ratio deviations of 10 per cent or more will trigger a boundary review process.

Council has yet to choose a preferred option.

Residents can respond to the published options or submit alternatives through Swan Engage before council decides what to put to the Local Government Advisory Board.

Council backs HyperFest return



The Hyper program is designed to support youth development through music and contemporary arts. Picture: Lizzie Wilkie

HYPERFEST will return to Midland in 2027 after City of Swan councillors voted nine to six to continue the all-ages music festival despite a proposal to pause it.

Midland/Guildford ward councillor Rashelle Predovnik moved a motion to keep the festival running while the city reviewed its Hyper program and explored stronger partnerships with local schools.

In her speech supporting the motion, Cr Predovnik said the festival could provide opportunities to involve more young people.

"We can review the program and we can still hold the festival next year," she said.

City officers had proposed pausing HyperFest to consult young people about what would encourage them to attend and volunteer.

Their report identified rising costs, staffing pressures and limited participation by Swan residents. The festival recorded a deficit of about $244,000 in 2025/26.

Cr Predovnik said schools had expressed interest in students gaining practical experience through the event.

Following the vote, she welcomed opportunities to build on the festival's history.

"I'm looking forward to working with our local high schools, Edith Cowan University and other partners to create opportunities for young people to gain hands-on experience in event management, music, business and the creative industries," she said.

"HyperFest has an incredible history in Midland, and I'm excited about what we can achieve by building stronger partnerships and giving the next generation the opportunity to be part of it."

Former Hasluck MP named as the new Governor for WA

FORMER Hasluck MP Ken Wyatt has been named Western Australia's next Governor, becoming the first Aboriginal person to hold the state's viceregal post.

The 74-year-old represented the eastern metropolitan electorate in federal parliament from 2010 to 2022, making history as the first Indigenous Australian elected to the House of Representatives.

Approved by King Charles III on the recommendation of Premier Roger Cook, Mr Wyatt will be sworn in as the state's 35th Governor on February 1.

Mr Wyatt said in a post to social media, that he accepted the role with gratitude, humility, and a deep sense of responsibility.

"I thank His Majesty The King for this appointment and Premier Roger Cook for his confidence in recommending me. With Anna beside me, I look forward to serving the people of our great state," he said.



Ken Wyatt (centre) with Noel Pearson and former Kalamunda MLA Matthew Hughes. Picture: Gera Kazakov.

Mr Wyatt will succeed outgoing Governor Chris Dawson when his term concludes in December, with regional communities, children, and young people set to be his key priorities.

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Swan District Hospital site petition

A PETITION calling for action on the former Swan District Hospital site in Middle Swan has attracted 550 signatures, highlighting community frustration over the state government's failure to deliver a clear plan for the long-vacant site.



Guildford-based MLC Anthony Spagnolo.

Guildford-based Liberal MLC Anthony Spagnolo tabled the petition in the Legislative Council on Thursday, November 12, following a campaign launched alongside Midland small business owner and Swan Chamber of Commerce president Mike Matich.

Mr Spagnolo said the response demonstrated the significance of the issue to the Midland community.

"To have 550 people sign a petition on a local issue like this shows just how strongly people feel about the future of this site," Mr Spagnolo said.

"The hospital closed in 2015, and 11 years later, the buildings continue to deteriorate while taxpayers are left footing the bill."

Figures provided by the government in February revealed almost $4.9 million had been spent managing the site since 2015, including approximately $4.6m on security. A further security contract worth $1.4m was awarded in February 2026, with options extending through to 2029.

WA Liberal leader Basil Zempilas recently joined Mr Spagnolo and Mr Matich at the site to call for action, with a video of the visit attracting significant attention on social media, receiving more than 107,000 views across Facebook and Instagram.

"The building has been vandalised, it's had millions spent on security and there is still no action, we want to get this issue moving," Mr Matich said.

Mr Spagnolo said the public response reinforced the need for the Cook Labor government to provide greater certainty about the site's future.

On the same day the petition was tabled, Mr Spagnolo questioned the government in Parliament about the site's hazardous materials assessment, potential demolition or remediation works, associated funding and when a plan for its future would be published.

He said the government referred questions about the assessment to an earlier parliamentary answer but provided no details of approved works or allocated funding, and no timetable for determining the site's future.

"When I asked (Minister) John Carey what work the government had approved, what funding had been allocated and when his department would publish a plan for the site, I didn't get any of those answers," hesaid.

"At a time when Midland needs more housing, it makes no sense that land with significant potential for over-55s housing or another community use continues to sit vacant while millions of dollars are spent securing it."

The petition calls on the state government to establish a clear pathway and timeframe for the site's future, assess the remaining buildings, reduce unnecessary security and maintenance costs, and consult with the local community and relevant Native Title party.

"People in Midland have waited long enough. The government needs to provide a clear plan for this site and start delivering an outcome for the community," Mr Spagnolo said.



A render of the new Brabham Senior High School.

Brabham Senior High milestone reached

A NEW secondary school for the fast-growing community of Brabham is another step closer to delivery, with PS Structures Pty Ltd confirmed to deliver the next stage of the significant Cook Labor Government project.

The $144 million Brabham Senior High School will accommodate 1000 students and is being delivered in two stages, with the first ready for day one of school in 2028.

Facilities set to open in 2028 include contemporary classrooms, administration and student services, a resource centre and computer science teaching area, as well as hard courts, landscaping, and parking.

The remaining works will include delivering additional specialist facilities including an endorsed education support program, health and physical education facilities, materials technology, science and food technology spaces, and a cafeteria.

The school oval will be a shared-use public open space, creating a valuable community asset that both students and the community can enjoy.

West Swan MLA Rita Saffioti said Brabham and Henley Brook are growing and the government is making sure the schools, roads and services local families need are growing with them.

"We're getting on with delivering a new secondary school close to home and just a short walk from the new Metronet Whiteman Park Station," she said.

"I look forward to seeing construction continue and the school open its doors to students in 2028."

Education Minister Sabine Winton said the government is investing in high-quality public schools to make sure students have access to the best possible learning opportunities in their local communities.

"This new secondary school in Brabham will provide students with modern classrooms and specialist facilities, designed to support learning across a wide range of subject areas.

"It is exciting to see this new milestone reached on this brand new school, which will welcome its first year 7 students in 2028."

All construction works are now set to be completed by PS Structures Pty Ltd. The school was designed by Taylor Robinson Chaney Broderick Architects.

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GFS Perth opens new chapter with Friendship Central launch





GFS Perth staff members Rebecca, Miriam, and Sana with two community members. Right: GFS Perth's CEO Alison Gilchrist with Michelle Maynard MLA, and part of the crew of Radio VCA 88.5FM.





A beautiful sunny day at the back of Friendship Central. Right: GFS Perth members Chris, Mick, and Tristan.

EARLIER this month GFS Perth celebrated a significant new chapter in its 140 years of friendship with the official launch of Friendship Centre, the organisation's newest community hub in the Swan Valley.

The hub is home to The Friendly Fig Café, children's play and nature spaces, a range of programs, workshops and events, and volunteering and skills pathways.

At its heart is a permaculture garden and food forest that has already begun taking shape and will continue to grow and develop alongside the community it serves.

"The launch day was filled with smiles, connection and excitement as friends, family and community supporters gathered with us to celebrate," a spokesperson said.

"After many conversations, extensive planning, long hours and hard work, it was an absolute joy to mark the beginning of this fresh and exciting new chapter. Friendship Central is unlike anything else."

Friendship Central, located at 4380 West Swan Road, West Swan will officially open its doors to the public on Thursday, November 19, beginning with the opening of The Friendly Fig Café.

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ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

Your local Gig Guide

Fri November 20

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Matt Sofoulis
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Woodbridge Hotel
Blue City Wailers
From 8pm, Free
50 East St Guildford

Sat November 21

Imperial Homestead
DJ Jam Session
From 6, Free
83 Avon Tce York

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

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Jazz Elements
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Sun November 22

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

Chidlow Tavern
Sally-Jane
From 12.30-3.30pm, Free
4 Thomas St, Chidlow

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
The Lowdown
4pm-7pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Tues November 24

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

Wed November 25

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Jack Lowrie and
Rachelle Coba
5.30pm-8.30pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Thu November 26

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

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Shane Turner
5.30pm-8.30pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

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

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ECHO NEWS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Youth-led anthology to be launched at MJAC

MORE than 100 children from Midland and Mundaring are preparing to become published authors and illustrators, with a youth-led anthology launching at Midland Junction Arts Centre on Saturday, December 12.

Their stories, poems, comics and illustrations explore bravery and will come together in a professionally printed book celebrating young voices and imaginations.

The anthology is the culmination of 'Book Builders Challenge: Young Creators Studio', a free writing, illustration and publishing program created and led by award-winning WA children's author and educator Kristy Nita Brown and supported by the state government and Healthway through the Creativity and Wellbeing for Young People Program.

Delivered in partnership with Mundaring Arts Centre Inc and Midland Junction Arts Centre, the program gives children aged eight to 12 the opportunity to learn directly from established WA authors and illustrators and experience the journey from an idea to a published book.

Mundaring Arts Centre executive director Jennifer Haynes said it had been inspiring to see the enthusiasm of young creatives eager to tell their stories and learn from WA authors.

More than 100 students booked out the challenge sessions in Mundaring and Midland as soon as they were released.

"Seeing the centres full of local, young authors as they discuss their writing and ideas for the publication, has been a pure joy," she said.

Across ten workshops, participants have been developing characters, imagining fictional worlds, experimenting with illustration and learning how books are made.

Guest presenters have included Kylie Howarth, HM Waugh, Renae Hayward and Gabriel Evans, with Ash Harrier and Alison Mutton joining the program in November.



Award-winning WA children's author and educator Kristy Nita Brown.

For Leo, 12, from Mundaring, working with Gabriel Evans has been a highlight.

"It's fun, my favourite thing is probably drawing. My favourite thing we have done is drawing characters with Gabriel Evans. It's inspired me to keep drawing," he said.

Grace, 11, from Midland, has enjoyed connecting with the people behind the books.

"It is really fun meeting all the authors and illustrators," she said.

Each participant has the opportunity to contribute at least one original piece to the anthology and will receive a free copy of the professionally printed book.

Parents have also welcomed the opportunity for their children to explore their creativity.

"The kids are finding it really interesting. They enjoy getting different perspectives and it takes them through the whole process. I would absolutely recommend it to other people," Alysia, a parent from Mundaring said.

The December launch will put the young creators centre stage, with children sharing their work through live readings as they lead a celebration and exhibition for families, friends and the wider community.

The anthology book launch will be held at the Midland Junction Arts Centre, 276 Great Eastern Highway on Saturday, December 12 with the exhibition running until Sunday, February 14, 2027.

Midland Junction Arts Centre will be closed for the Christmas break from December 20 and returning back on January 12, 2027.

A Day in the Forrest returns



A Day in the Forrest will feature Irish big band The Broken Pokers and right Kayps. Photograph: Billy Zammit

THERE'S something special about a music festival that's put together by the community, for the community, with no grand ambitions beyond bringing good people and great music together.

That's Day In The Forrest (DITF), returning to Glen Forrest on Saturday, December 5 for another glorious afternoon and evening of independent Western Australian music.

This year's line-up is outstanding, even for DITF with Front Porch Serenaders kicking things off at 1pm, followed by Jae Laffer, accompanied by multi-Grammy Award winner Lucky Oceans.

Then there's ORCH5 a Perth contemporary jazz-fusion project presenting all-original compositions and improvisation.

Carla Geneve whose original music combines indie rock, folk and alternative influences, has become a recognised figure in the Australian contemporary music scene.

Edward is a contemporary Perth ensemble featuring Grace Barbé, Benjamin Witt, Jessica Carlton and Ben Vanderwal.

The group explores spiritual jazz, dub, Afrobeat, R&B; and free-flowing improvisation, bringing together some of WA's experienced contemporary musicians in a genre-crossing collaborative project, followed by Kayps an Indigenous Walmatjarri and Bunuba hip-hop artist, and The Pearly Gates.

Western Australia's legendary, undisputed chanteuse provocatrice Abbe May lights up the park after dark, before The Broken Pokers Irish Big Band bring the evening home.

For all its growing strength, DITF has lost none of its wonderfully homespun character. It's still a festival built by volunteers, where the musicians get paid, the audience gets in free, and the atmosphere is as important as the music.

"That's what we love about it. You get to be part of something that brings the community together, and stay connected with the incredible music being made right here in WA," a spokesperson said.

Musicians often tell the organisers, "This is what it's all about."

And really, that says everything.

Day In The Forrest 2026 is a free event and will be held on Saturday, December 5, from 1pm to 10pm at Morgan John Morgan Park, Glen Forrest.

KALAMUNDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2026 KALAMUNDA CHAMBER OUTSTANDING ENTERPRISE AWARDS

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Award-Winning Pool Care from a Local Family Business





Poolwerx Kalamunda, Mundaring and Stratton Park have won Excellence in Home & Property Services at the Kalamunda Chamber Enterprise Awards.

Owners Soibhone and Alessandro Nascimento work alongside their daughters and dedicated retail and mobile service teams, making this a family business serving the Perth Hills and surrounding suburbs.

With Alessandro hands-on as Head Technician and Soibhone leading the business, customers benefit from technical expertise and owners personally invested in their care.

From water testing and maintenance to green pool recovery, equipment installations and repairs, the team helps customers understand their pools and make informed decisions.

"We want customers to feel comfortable asking questions and confident in our adviceo," says Soibhone. "It's about understanding the problem, explaining the options and finding a practical solution.

"Our family and team take pride in what we do. This award reflects their commitment and the trust our customers place in us."

The family thanks the Kalamunda Chamber for an amazing event and its ongoing work supporting local businesses, and congratulates their fellow finalists. Exceptional service across our industry matters: customers depend on knowledgeable, reliable businesses. Maintaining those standards together strengthens our community and ensures customers receive the care they deserve.



2026 Outstanding Enterprise Award winners

Excellence in Tourism & Events - **Kalamunda Garden Festival**; Excellence in Hospitality - **InnerCup**; Outstanding Independent Retailer - **Hills Botanic**; Outstanding Not For Profit - **Woodlupine Family Centre**; Outstanding Personal Services - **A Style A Head**; Outstanding Professional Services - **The Business Studio / Mead Medical Group**; Outstanding Trade Specialist - **Kalamunda Plumbing**; Excellence in Home & Property Services - **Poolwerx Kalamunda**; Outstanding Allied Healthcare Service - **Mead Physio Group**; Outstanding Customer Experience - **La Fattoria Perth Hills**; Excellence in Environmental Sustainability - **Plume Estate Vineyard**; Young Achiever Award - **Shenae O'Keeffe, Karri Studio**; Business Station Emerging Enterprise - **Mackem Golf**; Business Person of the Year - **Marcus Geisler, Plume Estate Vineyard**; People's Choice - **Emma's Little Cake House**; Chairperson's Solopreneur of the Year - **Henriette Rossouw, Maniacs STEAM Education**; Chairperson's Enterprise of the Year - **Kalamunda Toyota**.

KALAMUNDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE





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Kalamunda Toyota

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Thank you, Kalamunda.

Kalamunda Chamber of Commerce 2026 Outstanding Enterprise Awards







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OH WHAT A FEELING

KALAMUNDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2026 KALAMUNDA CHAMBER OUTSTANDING ENTERPRISE AWARDS

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Over forty years on, Kalamunda Toyota is still showing up



If you've been to a junior footy game, the Farmers Market or a community sausage sizzle in the Hills, chances are Kalamunda Toyota was there too.

Sometimes it's a sponsor's banner. Sometimes it's the dealership's BBQ trailer, lent free to whoever needs it.

That quiet, steady effort has now earned the dealership Chairperson's Enterprise of the Year at the Kalamunda Chamber of Commerce 2026 Outstanding Enterprise Awards.

Each year, local businesses enter the Chamber's awards across categories such as retail, hospitality, trades and tourism, putting their case to the judges.

You can't apply for this one. The Chamber's Executive Committee chooses the nominees and the winner, looking for a business that has made an exceptional contribution to Kalamunda's economic and social life.

Family owned for over 40 years, Kalamunda Toyota is the only car dealership in the Perth Hills.

It backs the Kalamunda Cougars, Kalamunda Districts Junior Football Club and Kalamunda Cricket Club, and every car it services goes home washed and vacuumed.

For Dealer Principal Joe Zito, the award is personal.

"We've been part of this town for four decades.

"Our customers' kids play in the teams we sponsor. Being chosen by the people who know Kalamunda best means everything to our family."

Newly appointed General Manager Dom Lombardo points to the team.

"Honestly, this award belongs to them. They're the ones at the dealership early on Saturdays and late on weeknights.

"Thanks to the Chamber, and to everyone who keeps choosing local."





Emma's Little Cake House: Sweet Success in Kalamunda

What began as a hobby creating cakes for family and friends in 2008 has grown into an award-winning small business for Kalamunda cake designer Emma Wright.

Emma's Little Cake House specialises in bespoke celebration cakes, from elegant weddings and milestone birthdays to elaborate 3D creations, including a spectacular 30kg Kenworth truck and trailer cake.

Balancing her passion for cake design with a demanding career as a police officer, Emma spends much of her spare time bringing her customers' ideas to life, often working around shifts and days off.

"Winning was such an incredible surprise! Knowing that people took the time to vote for my little business means more than I can say. I'm genuinely grateful for the support I've received from our wonderful community."

Proudly based in Kalamunda, Emma continues to create edible works of art, proving that a little passion, creativity and plenty of hard work can go a long way.



Contact to get a tasting box or your very own custom cake!!

emmaslittlecakehouse@yahoo.com.au 0420 471 990

Kalamunda Based Emma's Little Cake House

Mead Medical recognised for Outstanding Professional Service



Mead Medical is proud to have won the Outstanding Professional Services award at the 2026 City of Kalamunda Outstanding Enterprise Awards.

With practices in Kalamunda and Maida Vale, Mead Medical brings together a dedicated team of doctors, nurses and support staff who share a commitment to caring for our local community.

The award recognises the collective effort behind every appointment: the warm welcome at reception, the care provided in the consulting room and the work behind the scenes that keeps our practices running.

Our team supports patients through every stage of life, offering general practice care alongside services including skin checks, women's health, chronic disease management, travel medicine and minor procedures.

We are grateful to our patients for their trust, and to our colleagues and community partners for their ongoing support.

Above all, this achievement belongs to our team, whose compassion, professionalism and dedication make a difference every day.

Thank you, Kalamunda, for recognising Mead Medical. We look forward to continuing to care for our community for years to come.

MEADMEDICAL
Whole of Life Care
Award-winning care.
Here for our community.
WINNER 2026
Outstanding Professional Services
City of Kalamunda
Outstanding Enterprise Awards
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For more than 20 years, Forrestfield Medical Centre has been a trusted provider of quality healthcare to Forrestfield and surrounding suburbs, combining the personal service of a local practice with a commitment to caring for the whole family.

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Patients also benefit from an integrated model of care, with a range of allied health services available onsite, including pathology, podiatry, physiotherapy and pharmacy. By bringing these services together under one roof, Forrestfield Medical Centre makes it easier for patients to access the care they need, when they need it, with greater continuity between providers.

Forrestfield Medical Centre remains committed to delivering accessible, patient-focussed healthcare that supports the long-term health and wellbeing of local families.

Forrestfield Medical Centre, Unit 1, 76 Hale Road, Forrestfield, with free onsite parking and public transport stops nearby. Visit forrestfield.ipn.com.au or call ahead to book your appointmenton on 08 9359 1822.



JOIN US

Share&Care
Community Services Group
Building resilience in communities

Share & Care March Against Family & Domestic Violence

Tuesday, 1 December 2026
9:45am
Meet at The Village Green, 176 Fitzgerald Street Northam

THIRD ANNUAL MARCH

Let's walk together in solidarity with the many who have been impacted, and in memory of lives lost to family and domestic violence.

Our march through Northam and beside the Avon River will finish at The Village Green, where we will observe a **moment of silence,** then **light refreshments.**

Stop the Violence March in Northam



Members of our Wheatbelt community are invited to join Share & Care to make a stand against violence by joining our third annual March Against Family and Domestic Violence in Northam as part of 16 Days in WA (November 25 - December 10).

Community members can join the march on Tuesday, December 1 by gathering at The Village Green, 176 Fitzgerald Street in Northam at 9:45am.

Orange is the 16 Days in WA colour and marchers may choose to wear something orange in solidarity with Share & Care's message: 'stop the violence' and the campaign slogan 'Play Your Part'.

The march through Northam will finish back at The Village Green for light refreshments after a moment of silence for those impacted by family and domestic violence.

Tragically, every eight days one woman dies in Australia on average at the hands of a partner or former partner. One in three women and one in 14 men in WA have experienced physical, emotional or economic abuse by a cohabiting partner, and one third of all sexual assault incidents are family and domestic violence related.

"Let's walk together in solidarity with the many who have been impacted, and in memory of lives lost to family and domestic violence," Share & Care CEO Sarah Mencshelyi said.

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Gift Yourself a Brighter Smile at Kalamunda Dental & Implant Centre

Kalamunda Dental & Implant Centre located at 2 Haynes Street, is a family dental care, committed to providing quality dental care to the local community in a welcoming and comfortable environment.

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The Kalamunda Dental & Implant Centre team are committed to providing personalised dental care helping patients maintain healthy smiles and achieve their dental goals.

They also have a Christmas whitening promotion so you can give yourself the gift of a brighter smile this festive season with a take-home teeth whitening kit for $249 until December 31.

Whitening suitability will be assessed by your dentist and treatment risks and expected outcomes will be discussed.

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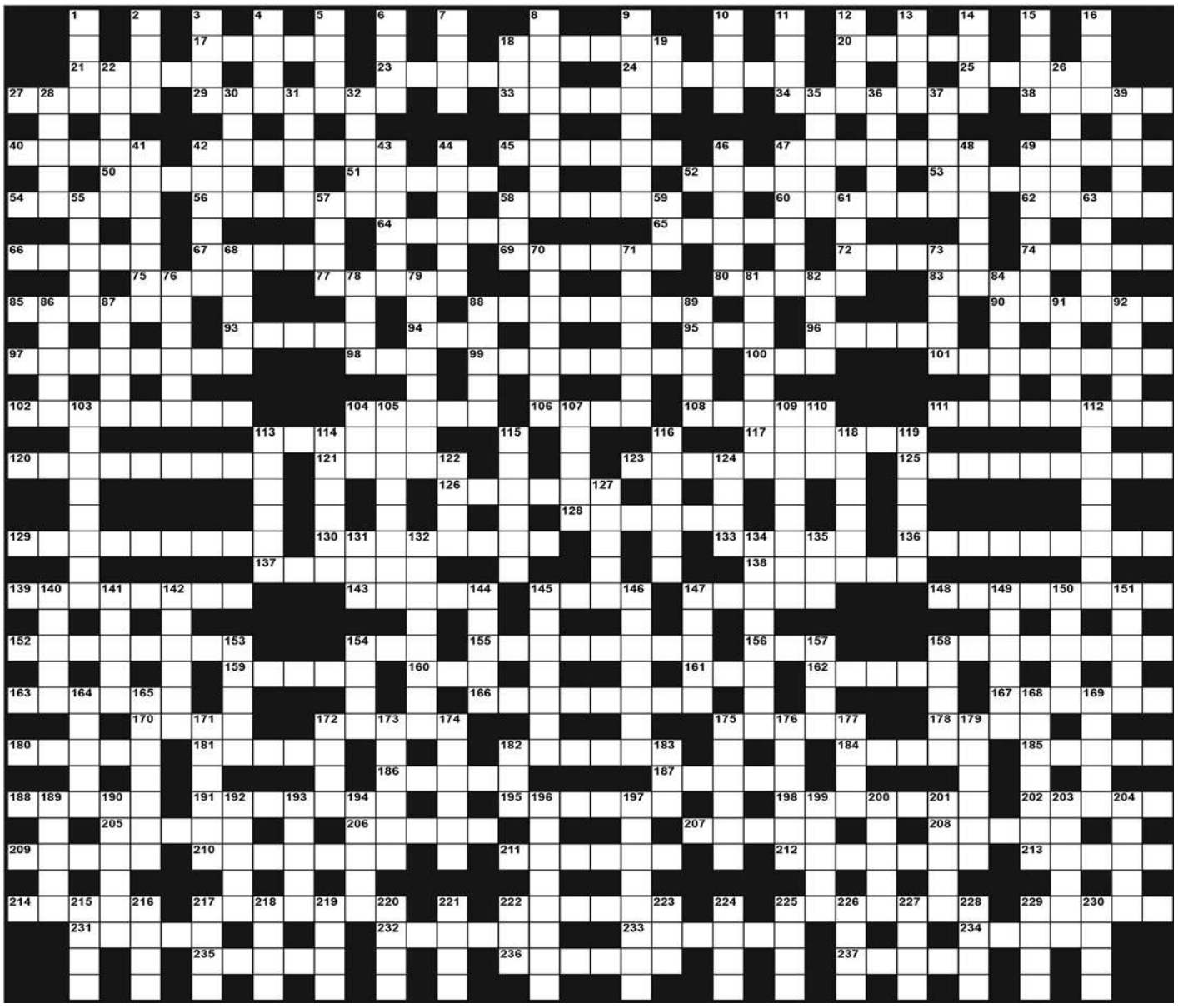
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ECHO Mind Boggler Crossword 1295



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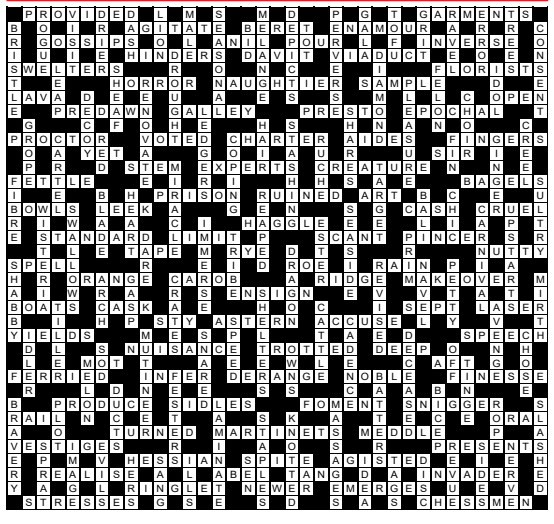
17 Very fat
18 Take heed
20 Nimble
21 Released
23 Type of icon
24 Search for food
25 Share out
27 Engine
29 A layer
33 Sex
34 River cleaner
38 A fibre
40 Gaseous water
42 Burmese temples
45 Covered by stars
47 Bird covering
49 Local dialect
50 Call together
51 Extra good
52 Cede
53 Light dress material
54 Donkey noises
56 Fled
58 Rough fights
60 Types of hawks
62 Leered
64 Hang down
65 Permit
66 Timber joint
67 Group of trees
69 Complained
72 Tend to the sick
74 Particles
75 Flightless bird
77 Slight colouring
80 Untrustworthy (coll)
83 Asian country
85 Part of a sentence
88 Puts on show again
90 Take no notice
93 A representation
94 Sticky substance (coll)
95 Dismissed
96 From that time
97 Harassed
98 Canine animal
99 Put in order
100 Devil
101 Showing respect for
102 Turns back
104 New
106 Female sheep
108 Damp
111 Stopped action
113 Older
117 Sets of steps
120 Bankrupt
121 Come up
123 Smashes
125 Make stress mark
126 Scares off
128 Yellowish
129 Good speech
130 Endless time
133 Hairdresser's room
136 A permanent fund
137 Wish for
138 Dispatcher
139 Money handlers
143 Old Russian rulers
145 Enemies
147 Group of bushes
148 Detestable
152 Supporting wall
154 A pair
155 Regretful
156 Strong drink
158 Inflicted pain on
159 Fence of plants
160 Trap
161 Large body of water
162 Tender
163 Interfere
166 Ghosts
167 Robberies
170 First man
172 A den
175 Thaws
178 Large plant
180 Bad mark
181 Stage show
182 On dry land
184 Raised bank
185 Set at rest
186 Thorny plants
187 Robust
188 Out of date
191 First
195 List of information
198 A tambourine
202 Perfect
205 Written work
206 Airholes
207 More recent
208 Afterwards
209 Gloss
210 Enmeshes
211 Stern
212 Trainline
213 Splits
214 Graven images
217 Help for the poor
222 Uses great heat
225 Removed
229 Whip marks
231 Private remark
232 An opening
233 Paying guest
234 Old womanish
235 Untied
236 Pushed inwards
237 Weakens

DOWN

1 Silly
2 Finished
3 Head movements
4 Sign of crying
5 Departed
6 Dutch cheese
7 An amphibian
8 One in control
9 Letter of introduction
10 School test
11 Mature
12 Create
13 Chant
14 Expensive
15 Sicknesses
16 Consumes
18 Hang behind
19 And neither
22 Set of prayers
26 Lubrication
28 Distant part
30 Serving dishes
31 Island greeting
32 Papal edict
35 Types of plants
36 Discourage
37 Hard stone
39 Disagree
41 Overcomes
42 An oath
43 Unexpected
44 Act properly
46 Charged for
47 Moved as water
48 Piece of bacon
49 Stealing in riots
55 Change
57 Verse composer
58 Plead for
59 Unhappy
61 Small horse
63 Gambling game
68 Crazy
70 Set aside
71 Joins with
73 Fathers
76 Cores
78 Decorated a cake
79 Silly titterers
81 Hopeful person
82 Struggle to breathe
84 Church passages
86 Lift with effort
87 Corner
88 A fish
89 Ancient sinful city
91 Memos
92 Scope
103 Callers
104 Type of tree
105 Parties noisily
107 Lingers
109 Church towers
110 Pitch
112 Sets in motion
113 Maroon
114 Groups of ships
115 Sits on haunches
116 Completely
118 Independent piece of land
119 Separate
122 Olden garden
124 Pulls behind
127 Type of sword
131 Small bird
132 Argued sensibly
134 Breathe audibly
135 Single thing
140 Sharp
141 Disliked a lot
142 Levelled out
144 Religious groups
145 Swordsmen
146 Agitator
147 Board game
149 Member of clergy
150 Road travelled
151 Turn inside out
153 Disgrace
154 Skilful
157 Trench for defence
158 Petty
164 Attracts
165 Portable light
168 More weighty
169 Sham
171 Painter
172 Half
173 Male relatives
174 Sailing vessels
175 Anchored
176 Last one
177 Poor city area
179 Play over
182 What we breathe
183 Established (abb)
189 Pained
190 Enchantments
192 Under (poet)
193 Large wild cat
194 Turn aside
196 Took by threat
197 Remembered
199 Angry
200 A bump
201 Make happy
203 Silly chatter
204 Representative
215 A vow
216 Fodder storage place
217 Small room
218 Tiny piece
219 Separate article
220 Part of an egg
221 Male deer
222 Garden plot
223 Wet earth
224 Showing amazement
225 Pull with effort
226 Enactments
227 A tax
228 Hurry along
229 Broad
230 A vegetable

We apologise as the solution for 1293 published last week was incorrect. The correct version can be found on the *Echo News* website by scanning the QR code or going to: https://echonewspaper.com.au/category/crossword/

Crossword Solution 1294 from 13 November, 2026



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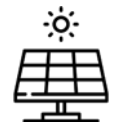
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Read between the lines



By Pastor Ian Kirk

A Close Call

While holidaying in Kalbarri with some of my family, we explored the inland gorges. We enjoyed the spectacular view from the Sky Walk and we saw Nature's Window. Some of us did the 9km loop walk.

We also went to the Z bend, and from the lookout, saw the deep and narrow gorge. We also took the steep track down to the Murchison River and went for a swim.

Being at the Z bend reminded me of a close call many years ago when I was a teenager. Mum and Dad gave my brother John and I the freedom to explore this gorge. We went kilometres from the lookout, walking along narrow ledges, high above the river.

While on one rock ledge, going around a corner, I suddenly came across a large male goat with horns. Startling it, the goat put its head down and began to charge me. But then it stopped and jumped straight up to the next ledge and disappeared out of my sight. I was so thankful that the goat stopped charging me. I would have fallen to my death.

Many of us have close calls. Indeed, we can die at any time. The question is: are we ready to die? Back then when I was a teenager, I wasn't ready. But a few years after that, I came to believe in Jesus Christ. Now I know, through Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection, I go to heaven when I die.

ECHO Notice Board

A free service for non-profit organisations
9374 6666
editorial@echo-news.com

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.

• **Rosehill Ladies Golf Club's** nine-hole summer competition commences on November 24 until early March 2027 at Hillview Golf Course, Maida Vale. Hit off begins at 7.30am so come along, join the fun, enjoy the friendly companionship all while getting some excercise.

• **The Really Really Free Market** is happening next Sunday, November 22, from 9am-10am. Bring any items you no longer need and take what you need or want. Everything is free. For more information visit their Facebook page https://tinyurl.com/b85nsw52

• **Parkland Villas** is hosting a market day on Saturday, November 28 from 9.30am to 1pm at 25 The Parkway, Ellenbrook. Food, homemade treats, handmade jewellery, paintings, pot plants, and knitted and crocheted items are among a number of items for sale. No entry fee and parking is avaliable at the shopping centre across the road.

• **Lesmurdie Arts and Crafts** Christmas sale is happening on Sunday, November 29 from 10am to 3pm at Falls Farm, Cagney Way, Lesmurdie. Members will be selling a variety of work including woodwork, fused glass, photography, stained glass, paintings. pottery, textiles, fibre arts and more.

• **Mundaring Residents and Ratepayers Progress Association** is holding its final 2026 meeting at The Hub of the Hills, Craig Street, Mundaring on Thursday, December 3 starting from 7.30pm. Wrapping up the year with new committee members and welcoming all new residents and ratepayers from Mundaring and Mahogany Creek. For more information follow us on Facebook or call Josie on 0403 239 077.

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

Woofer of the week



Max is a 12-year-old english cocker spaniel. His owner has joined an age care home and can no longer care for him. He is a little deaf but is otherwise healthy. Max is microchipped, vaccinated, and sterilised. Costs Apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

ECHO Sports

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Brothers Brendan Hassall and Jonathan Hassall demonstrating FlingGolf at Hillview Public Golf Course.

Brothers fling new sport into Perth Hills

TWO brothers are introducing an alternative to golf and demonstrated the new sport in High Wycombe last Saturday.

FlingHeadz co-founders Brendan Hassall and Jonathan Hassall, a Brabham resident, have introduced FlingGolf to the Perth Hills.

The sport replaces traditional golf clubs with a single stick used to launch a golf ball down the fairway.

The pair recently hosted a three-hour demonstration at the Hillview Public Golf Course, where about 10 to 12 people tried the sport despite an initially wet and windy morning.

Brendan said the response was encouraging, with both newcomers and experienced golfers showing an interest.

"It doesn't take away anything from golf," he said.

"It's a fun alternative for golf and it can allow a non-golfer to be playing a game of golf within 15 to 20 minutes of picking up the stick.

"You only have one stick for everything, you don't have to have 14 clubs. You only have the one stick with a cradle that the ball sits in, and once you invert the stick, that cradle becomes the scoop for your chipping.

"You put a weight at the bottom of the scoop and that becomes your putter.

"It's one stick for all aspects of the game and that's a lot lighter."

Originating in the United States, FlingGolf uses a specialised stick with a cradle-shaped head to propel a conventional golf ball towards the hole.

The same equipment is used for longer throws, shorter approaches and putting, allowing participants to play on established golf courses alongside traditional golfers.

Brendan said the sport could appeal to people who found the time and practice required to learn conventional golf discouraging.

He said most beginners could learn to launch the ball straight down the fairway after about 10 to 12 attempts.

One of the most memorable moments at Hillview involved two younger participants, believed to be brothers, whose attempts quickly developed into a friendly rivalry.

Despite being smaller than his companion, the younger participant surprised Brendan with his throwing ability.

"The young fellow, he nailed it. It was really cool," he said.

A golf professional also expressed interest in trying the equipment, which Brendan said demonstrated the potential for the two sports to coexist.

The brothers discovered FlingGolf earlier this year after Brendan came across a video of the sport while working offshore.

Intrigued by the unfamiliar equipment, he shared the video with Jonathan, and the pair decided to purchase a stick each.

Their equipment arrived and they soon began playing together.

Having previously played conventional golf, the brothers found the new sport easier to pick up and were soon enjoying their rounds.

But Brendan said its greatest benefit had been the opportunity to spend more time with his brother.

"We spend so much more time together," he said.

"That's what makes us love it so much, having it bring people together down the middle of the fairway, spending time outdoors and walking in a beautiful environment.

"It's so accessible and the fun of the game is how the ball easily goes where you aim it."

Brendan said the brothers hoped to return for another public demonstration at Hillview from 9am to midday on Saturday, November 28 while exploring the possibility of making FlingGolf equipment available for hire at the course.

The brothers will also be demonstrating the sport at Kalamunda Golf Course on November 27.

In the longer term, the pair hope to establish a state FlingGolf league, followed by interstate competitions and eventually an Australian team capable of competing internationally.

Further information about FlingGolf is available through flingheadz.com.au

Lake Leschenaultia Open Water Swim



The swim was a family affair for the Roberts and Williams clans.

MAIDA Vale Masters Swimming Club held the 40th Anniversary of the Lake Leschenaultia Open Water swim at Chidlow last weekend attracting more than 250 swimmers aged from eight to 85.

The distances on offer were the 'Go Jump In the Lake' 400m, and the 800m, 1.6km and 3.2km swims.

Due to the low water level, swimmers were treated to a gentle tummy massage from the abundance of reeds on the surface in some sections of the lake.

Young bronze medallion paddlers and life savers from the Central Aquatic Swimming Club provided support on the course.

Enthusiastic competitors who were new to open water swimming were able to enjoy their first experience in the calm water, with no waves, currents or threat of anything dangerous – albeit there were a few curious long necked turtles and competitive ducks on the course.

Most entrants were from the metropolitan area, but groups had travelled from as far away as Busselton, Mandurah, Rockingham and Safety Bay - some making use of the camping ground at the lake.

The Lake Leschenaultia Challenge is the first in a series of six open water swims in the WOW series of community events, held under the umbrella of Masters Swimming WA across various locations during the summer season.

Thanks to a $10,000 Shire of Mundaring grant each finisher received a commemorative towel.

Shire President Paige McNeil welcomed everyone to the event and encouraged them to enjoy and explore the great features of the surrounding townships of Chidlow, Mundaring and the eastern hills.

Details are on the WOW website for the next swim which will be held at South Beach in Fremantle on December 12.

ECHO Local Real Estate

Residential
Commercial
Rural & Country

Made for comfort in Midland

THIS contemporary two-bedroom, one-bathroom apartment in Midland offers convenience, comfort and connectivity with its prime location.

The apartment is close to the centre of Midland's CBD with shops, cafés, restaurants, public transport and neighbourhood parks in easy reach.

The property has a dedicated single carport and will attract buyers seeking a more manageable space with pristine white ceilings, walls and sleek tiled flooring.

Set within a smaller complex, it avoids the complexity of some larger developments and offers privacy in a more relaxed atmosphere.

Being on the upper level offers peace and quiet and an elevated view over the district from the apartment balcony.

The generous central living area shares a space with the kitchen and has a door that allows balcony access.

The spacious balcony provides a spot to enjoy morning coffee, read a book or simply relax at the end of the day.

Opening up the sliding glass doors will keep the space well-ventilated while cooking.

The property lets in natural light through its windows and sliding glass door on adjacent walls opposite the kitchen.

The modern apartment kitchen has stone benchtops and a fully tiled splashback to protect the paint beneath from stains and splatters during food preparation.

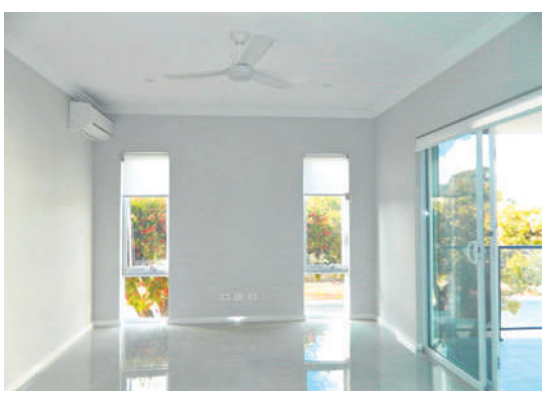
The apartment also has a separate storage room for keeping belongings stored out of sight.

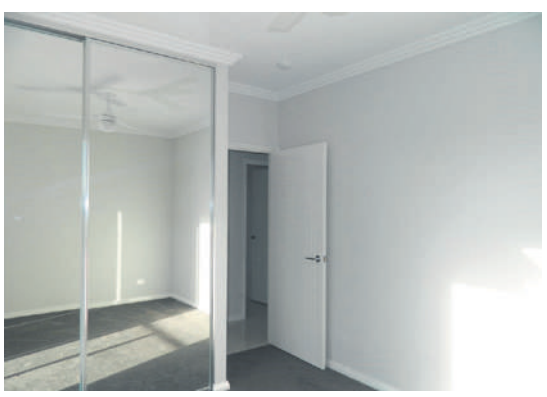
The property is currently tenanted until early 2027, making it particularly attractive to investors looking for an existing rental arrangement.

Address: 4 / 31A North Street, Midland
Price: $545,000 - $565,000
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.

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