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'Deadly' dog to walk free?

By BEN DICKINSON

A vicious rottweiler that badly mauled a Shenton Park woman will be allowed to remain at its house in Cambridge – and could walk in public – while Claremont council decides what action to take.

Cambridge would not clarify if the dog needed to be locked up.

The 62-year-old university professor required emergency surgery after receiving severe injuries to her head and arm during the unprovoked attack at a dog exercise area at Lake Claremont last Friday.

The dog bit the woman's arm to the bone then dragged her by the head as neighbours responding to her screams tried

ROTTWEILER ATTACK

to pull the animal off her.

"If it had been a kid, they wouldn't have survived," she said after spending two days in Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

She called for the dog to be euthanised but Claremont CEO Liz Ledger would not say if the council would seek a destruction order.

The victim, who asked not to be identified, said she was walking her dog with her partner at the Lakeway Street off-leash exercise area shortly before 9am on January 24.

She was approached by the "very large" rottweiler that was "walking around on its own".

"It came up to me and it

A rottweiler attacked a Shenton Park woman. **Photo: Adobe Stock**

started to be a bit menacing for absolutely no reason," she said.

"My dog wasn't even near me, it was near my partner."

She said she tried to walk away from the rottweiler, but it followed her and became increasingly aggressive.

"It was definitely intent on attacking me," she said.

She shouted desperately to other walkers to try to identify the rottweiler's owner before the dog jumped on her back, tore her clothes and bit her shoulder.

"Once it had me down on the ground it bit my arm straight down to the bone," she said.

People from nearby houses came running at the sound of her screams.

By the time they reached her, the dog had bitten into her scalp and was dragging her across the grass by her head.

"They kicked and punched the dog to get it off me," she said.

"I was bleeding quite badly."

She said the dog's owner walked away during the brutal attack but was confronted by witnesses who demanded her identification.

"She didn't intervene, she didn't shout at the dog," the victim said.

An ambulance took the injured woman to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, where a surgeon stitched her head and arm and administered an antibiotic drip.

She spent two nights in hospital before being discharged on Sunday.

She said she suffered a panic attack on her first night at home and could not sleep.

"I can't lie down because all the stitches are in the back of my head," she said.

• Please turn to page 60

Rangers interrupted Liberal candidate Sandra Brewer's day when they spotted her walking at Cottesloe beach with two campaign signs. **Photo: Paul McGovern**

'Illegal' election signs go up then down

By JEN REWELL

Illegally placed election advertising signs have spread across verges and public land as hopeful politicians gear up for the state election on March 8.

Most of the signs were illegal until writs were issued on Wednesday, according to Churchlands MLA Christine Tonkin.

"I notice that other candidates are in breach of Town of Cambridge and City of Stirling policy in this regard," she said.

Most councils only allow election signs to be erected on private property for 28 days before an election, which would start on February 8.

This bylaw is being ignored, with political volunteers installing corflutes on sticks across western suburb verges and hanging banners from fences.

Swanbourne resident Julie Pethick said Liberals "played dirty" over the long weekend by putting up unauthorised signs promoting Cottesloe candidate Sandra Brewer on large stretches of public land along the railway line.

"It has been great to see most being taken down today, but what a waste of time and money," she said.

Ms Brewer's signs were put on the four corners of Cottesloe roundabouts, on verges and along Marine Parade. "This weekend was really when we started to make an effort," she said.

• Please turn to page 60

Homeless pitch tent in Claremont park

By BONNIE CHRISTIAN

A couple who set up camp in a central Claremont park have highlighted what the mayor says is a growing number of rough sleepers and panhandlers in the town.

Locals and mayor Jock Barker say they are frustrated there is little in the council's power to resolve the issue.

The pair, who identified themselves to locals as Aboriginal people who had "the right" to camp where they wanted to, initially set up camp about a week ago on Public Transport Authority land near the corner of Gugeri and Langsford streets, near the Claremont CBD..

A few days later they moved across the road into bushland

The camping set-up in Rowe Park this week.

in Rowe Park.

Their setup included tarp strung up across the trees, a two-person tent and cooking equipment.

Town of Claremont staff responded to multiple complaints about the camp on PTA land and in the park.

On Wednesday the pair packed up and moved on.

Mayor Jock Barker said there had been a recent increase in the Town of people asking for money and at times being threatening.

"It's not good enough to have elderly and young people in the town being asked for money near the ATM," he said.

"I've spoken to a number of people about this happening to them, and they have felt terribly threatened.

"I'm concerned that there are these itinerants in the town smoking cigarettes that cost about $50 a packet and using iPhones but then they're begging for money.

"I'm worried that residents giving them money encourages them to keep coming back.

• Please turn to page 60

DUTTON FIRES UP ON CHANEY 4-5 • BUSINESS 51 • PROPERTY 54 • PITSTOP 56 • TRADES & SERVICES 57

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LETTERS

Please email your letter to *letters@postnewspapers.com.au*, lodge online at *postnewspapers.com.au* or snail mail to: The Editor, 276 Onslow Rd, Shenton Park 6008. All letters must include writer's full name, address and daytime phone no. for verification. Boring letters or those over 300 words will be cut. **Deadline: Noon Wednesdays.**

Sweetie traps cause grief at till

As a parent, I must speak out against a practice that has become a source of frustration for families everywhere – the placement of sweets and sugary treats at the till in shops and restaurants.

While it may boost sales, it creates unnecessary chaos for parents and children alike.

Children, with their natural love for anything sweet, are instantly drawn to these temptations.

The moment they spot the brightly wrapped sweets, the begging begins.

Denial often leads to meltdowns, leaving parents grappling with the aftermath under the judgmental gaze of other patrons.

This setup is akin to placing heroin in front of a recovering addict and expecting them to simply walk away. It's unfair, unnecessary, and contributes to unhealthy eating habits from a young age.

Retailers and restaurateurs should reconsider this approach. Why not replace these sugary traps with healthier options – or remove them altogether?

Let's support families by making shopping and dining experiences less stressful and more positive for all.

This is a small but significant step towards promoting healthier choices and a more pleasant environment for parents and children alike.

Andrew Smith
Johnston Street, Peppermint Grove

• More letters pages 8, 12, 14, 18

POST-script to Woodside protest

I would like to commend reporter Ben Dickinson for his article *Activist defends protest* (POST, January 25).

Following the biased reporting from other media outlets at the time of the protest in 2023, it would be hard to believe that the young activist involved, Matilda Lane-Rose, holds an informed perspective or understanding of the issue she was protesting about.

Your reporter clearly articulated her views and her passion to protect the environment and our future through non-violent direct action, and how she was inspired by the suffragettes.

I hope we can look back at the actions of Matilda and her fellow activists with the same pride as they defend us from the dangerous carbon emissions emitted by Woodside's operations, which are causing and accelerating the climate crisis.

If you care about the right of individuals to take actions against injustices like these, please sign the "Protect Your Right to Protest" petition on the Greens WA website.

Viv Glance
Shenton Park
Greens candidate for Nedlands

Life or death – the way forward

Thank you, Jonathan Wood, for your courage in writing about your mother's dementia (*Dementia should be considered as qualifying under VAD laws*, Letters, January 25).

A decision to stop eating and drinking in order to end your own life – slowly – must be respected by health professionals and carers. So must a decision in an Advance Health Directive – a document lawfully executed while you have capacity – to refuse medical intervention even if it would undoubtedly prolong or save your life.

So equally should a decision in an AHD to choose assisted dying be respected in circumstances you stipulate, such as when you can no longer recognise your loved ones, take care of your personal hygiene or feed yourself. This would end suffering for you and for those who love you.

There is no doubt this issue is complex. All the more reason, therefore, to grapple with it and find a safe and compassionate solution, as other jurisdictions have done.

Dinny Laurence
Norbury Crescent, Perth

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Solar warrior to spark Nedlands

By BEN DICKINSON

A Tesla-driving Wheatbelt councillor who was dumped by the National Party because of his controversial blog is running as an independent for the state seat of Nedlands.

Quairading councillor Jonathan Hippisley, who describes himself as a "pragmatic environmentalist", said he believed his environmental policies would be better received in the western suburbs than in his rural shire.

"Driving this car, the local farmers just stare at you like you're stupid," he said from behind the wheel of his Tesla Model 3.

But his views on feminism could alienate western suburb voters.

In a blog post, he theorised that "feminazis" had incited terrorist attacks by promoting access to abortion.

Mr Hippisley lived in Nedlands for 15 years before moving to Quairading in the mid-2000s.

"There are no old-growth forests in Nedlands, but plenty of people voted for that concept," he said, referring to the Liberals for Forests movement in the 1990s and 2000s.

"I think of myself as a Nedlands person.

"I think my message will be better heard right here."

Mr Hippisley wants the state government to invest heavily in local battery manufacturing to help store power generated by solar panels.

He is also lobbying for the state to lift its 5kW limit for solar

• Please turn to page 61

Jonathan Hippisley wants to be the next MP for Nedlands. **Photo: Paul McGovern**

Arborist Luke Bryant was ordered to stop pruning this lemon scented gum. **Photo: Paul McGovern**

Chainsaw protest turns expensive

By BEN DICKINSON

An arborist was ordered out of a tree by a Nedlands council worker last week, leaving a Dalkeith homeowner $800 out of pocket.

Circe Circle resident Kannan Venugopal hired arborist Luke Bryant to prune parts of his neighbour's lemon scented gum that were overhanging his driveway.

News of his plans alarmed members of Nedlands Tree Canopy Advocates.

"STOP THE CHAINSAW" wrote NTCA member Martina Bovell in the group's private Facebook group, which has 1000 members.

"A neighbour wants to chainsaw everything overhanging their property, taking a huge amount of canopy away, which will surely unbalance the tree and make it unsafe."

The NTCA had been alerted by the neighbour who owns the tree, Agnes Gleeson, after an apparent miscommunication about Dr Venugopal's plans.

Four NTCA members showed up on Wednesday morning as Mr Bryant was preparing to start work.

"I had people standing just outside my gate taking pictures of the tree," Dr Venugopal said.

"They were asking me questions about what I was doing.

"I said: 'I'm not answerable to you'."

Mr Bryant said he spoke to the tree advocates and explained that he would only be conducting maintenance pruning on the tree's higher branches to make it safe.

> "I wouldn't need (a cherry picker) if I was going to lop it"

"I'm an arborist, not a tree lopper," he said.

"It's not going to affect the balance of the tree at all."

He said he had hired a cherry picker so he could reach the higher branches to carry out targeted pruning.

"I wouldn't need it if I was going to lop it," he said.

Satisfied with Mr Bryant's course of action, the NTCA members left the property.

But a council worker arrived minutes later and told Mr Bryant to stop work.

"He said he had the CEO [Keri Shannon] on the phone and told me to stop," Mr Bryant said.

After the arborist and his crew packed up and left, the council reversed course and told Dr Venugopal the works could proceed.

Mr Bryant said he waived his fee, but Dr Venugopal still had to pay $800 for the hire of the cherry picker.

"This is absolutely crazy," Dr Venugopal said.

"The council has to pay this because it's not our problem."

Nedlands did not answer any of the POST's questions about the confusion, including whether it would reimburse Dr Venugopal.

• Please turn to page 61

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'I WONT SAY HER NAME'

Teal spray as White launches

By BEN DICKINSON

Peter Dutton gave one instruction to an army of western suburb Liberals on Monday afternoon: Beat Kate Chaney.

"The Teals' game is almost up," the federal opposition leader told a packed room of party faithful at Claremont Showground.

"Australians realise that the Teal brand is really a Green brand."

About 750 enthusiastic supporters squeezed into the showground's members lounge to hear Mr Dutton launch Liberal candidate Tom White's campaign to wrest back Curtin.

The seat is the Liberal Party's heartland in WA, held exclusively by conservatives from 1949 to 2022.

Ms Chaney, an independent, holds Curtin with a 1.26% margin after unseating Liberal MP Celia Hammond three years ago.

Mr Dutton cast Ms Chaney as a dishonest myrmidon of prime minister Anthony Albanese, earning raucous applause from the crowd.

He warned that she and her fellow "Teal" MPs would block the Coalition from returning to power, if given the chance.

"I can't point, really, to any of the Teals who would support the Liberal Party in a Coalition minority government, if that is to be formed after the election," he said.

'We are coming for you,' Senator Michaelia Cash, here with Liberal leader Peter Dutton, said of Kate Chaney.

"Even if we have more seats than the Labor Party, the Teals will line up to support Anthony Albanese."

WA Liberal Senator Michaelia Cash refused to name Ms Chaney.

> "Three more years will be catastrophic"

"I don't even want to say her name, the person who currently and for a very short time more holds the seat of Curtin. We are coming for you," she declared.

Mr Dutton said he was "certain" that WA's 16 lower house seats, including Curtin, would determine who won the keys to The Lodge.

"We will all be waiting on that results that come in from Curtin … and other seats here in WA," he said.

"Two and a half years [of Labor government] has been bad for our country.

"Three more years will be catastrophic."

With a scrum of statewide media present, the Liberal leader largely steered clear of the issues that Ms Chaney has campaigned hardest on – the environment and political transparency – focusing instead on the economy, inflation and immigration.

He warned of thousands of small business closures under a re-elected Albanese Government and hammered Labor for admitting 3000 Gazan refugees "without doing the requisite checks".

Blue army … *Around 750 Liberals turned out to see Peter Dutton launch Tom White's campaign.* **Photo: Jane Wishaw**

He lauded Mr White, who he said had given the Liberal Party "the best chance of restoring integrity and honesty into the office of the member for Curtin".

"Tom has had an incredible business career," he said.

"He has empathy and a sympathetic ear, and obviously a very sharp mind."

Mr White said he was running because he was a "patriot" who loved Australia but lamented that "the hope this country once offered no longer shines as brightly as it once did.

"We are a poorer nation than we were two years ago," he said.

"We are a more divided nation than we were two years ago."

Mr White said he was the underdog in his fight with Ms Chaney.

"Hundreds of thousands of dollars continue to flow into the Teals' bank account from activists in Sydney and Melbourne," he said.

"Shame!" yelled a man in the crowd.

The POST asked the Liberal Party about claims that mining magnate Gina Rinehart was bankrolling Mr White's campaign, but the party did not confirm nor deny it.

"All our donations are disclosed annually in accordance with electoral legislation," a spokesperson said.

Ms Chaney publishes the names of her donors and dollar amounts on her website in real time.

Mr White told the crowd he was "not afraid of the Teals" and pledged to win back the trust of voters in the western suburbs.

"We are going to reconnect with the people of Claremont, Subiaco, Nedlands and Dalkeith," he said.

"We are going to show the people of Cottesloe, Wembley and City Beach that we are worthy of their support."

Photo: Ben Dickinson

Curtin candidate Tom White said the Liberal Party would win back the trust of western suburbs voters.

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Senator David Pocock answers questions on stage with Kate Chaney.

Chaney reveals how to be a tie-breaker

By BRET CHRISTIAN

Kate Chaney has provided insight into how she would approach Liberal and Labor leaders if she happened to be among independents holding the balance of power after this year's federal election.

"If you go in with a list of demands, that doesn't feel right to me," she told the approving crowd of 350 supporters last week.

"My priority is we need a stable, functioning government, so that will be part of it.

"I'd be happy to work with both sides."

But prime minister Anthony Albanese said he intended to lead a majority government.

"We won't be entering into any coalitions," he said last month.

Ms Chaney and other community independents could hold the balance of power if she were to retain the western suburb seat of Curtin and neither Labor nor the Coalition finished with a majority of seats.

She said that if she was negotiating with Labor or coalition leaders she would make sure she was focused on the things that she wanted to see addressed.

"Housing for me is a big one," she said. "Climate is a big one. Tax reform is actually a big one for me too, because they are all things where short-termism is killing good decisions.

"It would be more likely to be, 'Tell me what you know, what you are going to do about these key issues.'

Promise

"If I was negotiating with one side or the other, the key issues would probably be different.

"But whatever happens, I would retain my ability to vote independently on every piece of legislation, because I actually think that's the most important thing, and that's what I promised my community."

Ms Chaney shared the stage with David Pocock, Australian Capital Territory independent senator and a former Australian rugby captain who on numerous issues holds the balance of power in the Senate.

His high profile helped fill the venue, with a further 350 people on the waiting list.

Part of the 350 crowd with 350 more on the waiting list.

Federal opposition leader Peter Dutton said in Claremont on Monday that Curtin was a must-win seat if his side were to win enough seats to make him prime minister.

The Coalition must win 19 more seats at the next election to win government in its own right.

Ms Chaney said that political party members of parliament had a "soul-destroying" role because they were climbing a career ladder which left them no choice on how to vote other than to follow the party line.

Cheering

"This really honestly feeds into why Question Time is such an unmitigated disaster," she said.

"The behaviour and the questions and the cheering is actually for your own side.

"You're trying to show them how available you are to the party and how clever you are and how good you are."

Independents worked hard to get across each piece of legislation and make up their own minds on its merits.

"Both parties are happy to talk about tax cuts, but no one's happy to talk about where the money is going to come from," she said.

This led to scare tactics on the campaign trail.

Her independent colleague Allegra Spender put out a 20-page document listing all the tax problems that need to be solved, and some ideas for solving them.

"That has now been turned into billboards in her electorate with a picture of her face that says: 'higher taxes'," Ms Chaney said.

"That is what the opponents are now doing. Neither party will even talk about tax.

"Let's talk about what we think we need or deserve as a country in terms of aged care or disability care or health care.

"We've got an ageing population. How are we going to pay for it? And I think people are pretty reasonable about making trade-offs when they're part of the conversation."

She said she was disappointed that prime minister Anthony Albanese had, at the behest of WA premier Roger Cook. backflipped at the last minute on the Nature Positive legislation.

"Politics got in the way," she said. "The decision was made that was in the interest of a few and politically driven.

"Albo wasn't willing to risk an election outcome from Western Australia.

"Around 70 or 80% of West Australians love nature, surprise, surprise, just look around. They want it protected.

"They want an independent regulator. They want all the things that have been proposed that gets scuttled by a small minority and then we all miss out."

Eye-opener

She said the scuttling of gambling reform legislation was an eye-opener to the way politics interacted with self-interested media, who did not want to see their gambling advertising revenue cut.

"Neither government, neither party, is willing to really have a go at them," she said.

"There was $1.7million of gambling donation money to the major parties last year.

"It's been extraordinary.

"We're the biggest losers in the world per capita, and the sort of arguments that the prime minister has resorted to putting forward are pretty laughable."

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THE LISTENING POST

What housing crisis for our leaders?

Peter Dutton swiped gleefully at Anthony Albanese's mortgaged $4.3million new coastal home, referring to it as the prime minister's "retirement home".

Egged on by radio Nova FM presenters on air, the opposition leader even drew a cartoon of the PM and his partner inside their clifftop house.

But he was silent on his own retirement nest-egg – a booming luxury property portfolio. He and his wife Kirilly have cashed in high-priced properties while still holding plenty more.

The Australian Financial Review reported in 2018 that former police drug squad officer Dutton had been an active property investor since 1992.

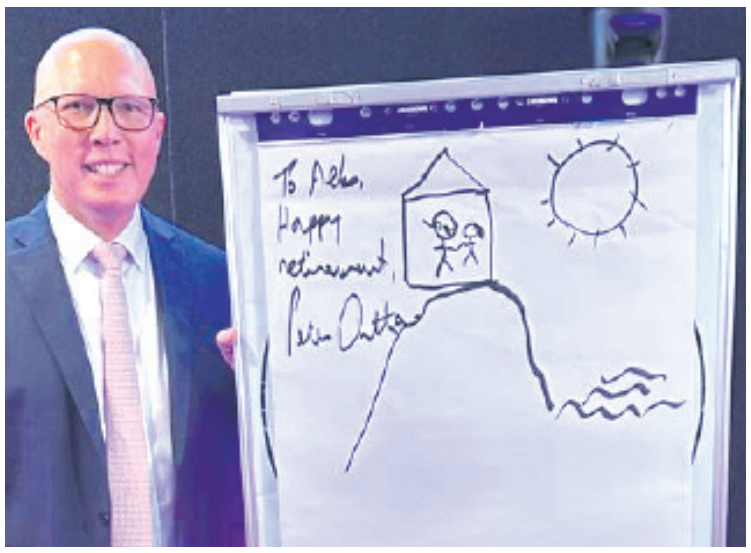
And last October the AFR reported: "Since 2020, the Member for Dickson has sold off a mix of luxury and investment properties totalling about $12million."

It said the sold properties include a central Brisbane CBD penthouse, for $3.47million in 2022, and a year earlier a beachfront home on the Gold Coast for $6million.

A six-bedroom home on an acreage in north-west Brisbane went for $1.8million in 2020.

The couple lived on 130ha Juffs Farm in Dayboro near Brisbane that they bought for $2.265million in 2020, and Mr Dutton co-owns a Gold Coast unit bought in 2020 for $790,000, the AFR reported.

The paper said it understood that the Dutton family sold their two childcare businesses held through a Dutton family trust in 2022.



Funny, that ... *Peter Dutton lampooned Anthony Albanese's recent house buy – but was silent on his own property portfolio.*

Begging letter gets short change

WA Labor have got the begging bowl out, if this desperate email to the POST is any indication.

As the state election looms, the governing party revealed it wanted to raise $10,000 this week to help combat Liberal Party lies.

And mistaking the POST accounts section for a grassroots Labor supporter, Labor asked for up to $100 to ensure they "hit the ground running in February".

"Post, we are at a critical moment in the campaign," the email started.

"Voting opens in just a few weeks and the Liberals are ramping up their attack ads, counting on undecided voters to believe their lies.

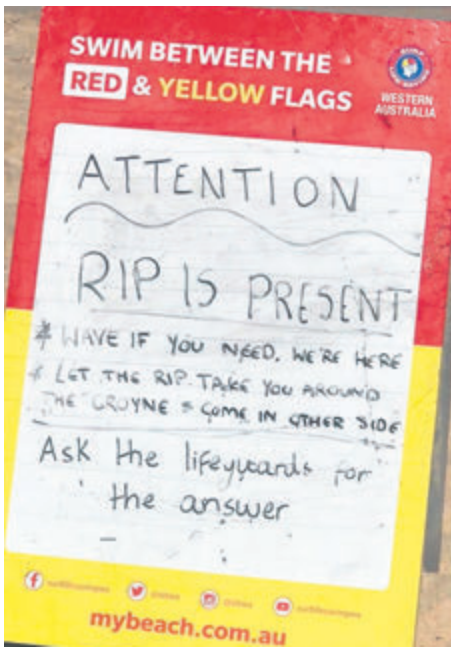
"We can't afford to let their message dominate."

But instead of begging for lunch money from the POST, maybe Labor could do something of more use – like getting their Nedlands candidate Mary Monkhouse to answer her phone.

"I'm too busy to return calls," she told a POST reporter in her only contact with the newspaper.

How does that resonate with the begging email that said donations were needed to help outline Labor's "vision for WA"?

Too busy ... *Mary Monkhouse.*



The helpful sign that greets swimmers at City Beach.

City Beach swimmers should let it rip

The tragic drowning of a swimmer caught in a strong current at City Beach last month has prompted a helpful new sign at the popular beach.

While many beach signs urge swimmers to avoid rips and currents, they rarely advise about what to do if you find yourself in one.

Not any more.

Rough seas and heavy surf confronted beachgoers last week as well as a solution for anyone out of their depth.

"Let the rip take you around the groyne and come in the other side," City Beach lifesavers wrote on their noticeboard.

It replaced the daily quiz question that usually adorns the board.

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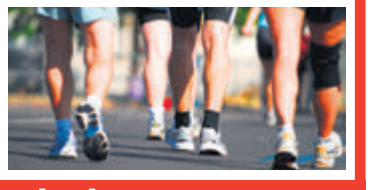

Check our website www.westcoastcommunity.com.au our next enrolment day is Tuesday 4 February, 9.30am-11.00am.

Screech report shelved for election

More than 60 families have joined a group to put pressure on the PTA to fix the noise at the Daglish turnback. **Photo: Paul McGovern**

By BONNIE CHRISTIAN

A government report into the torturous screeching caused by the turnback at Daglish train station will likely not be available until the same week as the state election.

The noise started when the new $1.65billion Morley to Ellenbrook line service launched on December 8 and the turnback started being used 1200 times a week, compared to 66 times a week previously.

More than 60 families have ramped up the pressure on the Public Transport Authority to fix the noise that is significantly impacting their daily lives.

The PTA told residents this week it had finished a report into the noise, but it will not be available for four to six weeks.

The state election will be held on March 8.

"To ensure thorough and accurate assessment of noise levels, monitoring has been extended as previously communicated," a PTA spokesperson said.

"The noise monitoring results will be considered by the PTA to inform next steps and assist in investigating potential noise mitigation options, where required."

Residents who demanded deputy premier and transport minister Rita Saffioti find an urgent solution have had their letter unanswered.

They note that the PTA has already flagged additional turnback capacity will be required to accommodate an increase in frequency to six trains per hour by 2031.

They want funding and project development for the additional turnback capacity to be brought forward.

A more appropriate location for a turnback would be between City West station and Perth where no residents live within a 300m radius, the letter said.

The area between Thomas Street and West Leederville station would also be an option, they say, because the rail line is sunk 10 to 15m below nearby properties.

State planning policies require noise from upgraded rail infrastructure to be limited to 60db in the day and 55db at night within one metre of a home, the letter says.

Residents have measured 70db in impacted homes and 90db in front yards.

Mitigation measures the PTA told residents it tried during the recent monitoring have made no difference, Stubbs Terrace resident Don Robertson said.

This has included rail lubrication, which will be assessed through the noise monitoring.

Jude and Jeff Rowohlt have lived on Stubbs Terrace for 51 years and say they have always enjoyed the sound of the trains going by.

"The high-pitched screeching and grinding noise we are all enduring now is something completely different to normal train noise," they said.

• Please turn to page 61

Cambridge split over boss

The Town of Cambridge will pay more than $350,000 to a new CEO, despite the mayor and three councillors being against the move.

Councillors debated the confidential matter for almost 90 minutes at a special council meeting on Tuesday night before voting 5-4 to make an offer to a secret candidate.

Two employees of a recruitment firm were allowed to attend the meeting.

Mayor Gary Mack and councillors Gavin Foley, Susan Kennerly and Michael Le Page voted against the decision.

The name of the potential CEO will be kept secret until the contract is signed.

The five-year job offer is subject to satisfactory background checks.

The matter will return to the council if negotiations are needed after the offer is made.

Cambridge has had four CEOs in the past four years, and five in six years.

Acting CEO Kelton Hincks has been in the role since August 2024, when the previous CEO left after having been there for just over a year.

Mr Hincks was previously the director of infrastructure, and was also acting CEO in 2022-23.

The WA Liberals will contribute $500,000 towards an all-weather, synthetic green and canopy at the Dalkeith Nedlands Bowling Club if they win Government in the upcoming State election.

This facility will provide a year-round facility which can be used by club members and community groups and make a real difference to the Club and the wider Dalkeith and Nedlands communities.

New shade facility

Jonathan HUSTON
LIBERAL FOR NEDLANDS

0451 660 419
jonathanhuston.com.au
Jonathan4Nedlands

Authorised by S. Morgan, Liberal Party, 2/12 Parliament Place, West Perth WA 6005.

LIBERAL WESTERN AUSTRALIA

LETTERS

Please email your letter to *letters@postnewspapers.com.au*, lodge online at *postnewspapers.com.au* or snail mail to: The Editor, 276 Onslow Rd, Shenton Park 6008. All letters must include writer's full name, address and daytime phone no. for verification. Boring letters or those over 300 words will be cut. **Deadline: Noon Wednesdays.**

Fix Wandana before building more social housing

The department of communities needs to address antisocial behaviour at Wandana Flats in Thomas Street before building any more high-rise social housing *(Secret social housing for Subi*, POST, January 25).

This includes substantial noise complaints, assaults (verbal and physical), theft (laundry, mail, garden, off balconies) and criminal damage to property including vehicles in the carpark.

The disruptive behaviour unit continues to support repeat offenders to stay in housing, while victims and in particular women are forced to suffer in silence, provide extensive evidence to back up complaints, or transfer.

Tenants often lie to support other tenants. CCTV installation is refused, on the grounds it would impinge on tenants' privacy.

The department has moved more than 40 tenants from the top floors of B and C blocks (undergoing roof renovations) to other housing, so there must be a stash of available public housing somewhere.

A-block has undergone renovations but is riddled with bug infestations especially bedbugs, cockroaches and fleas.

The bedbugs return after fumigation as tenants continue to bring in discarded rubbish and store it on the property.

While the department pays for fumigation tenants have to pay for the removal of destroyed furniture. There are also issues with mould.

Many migrant tenants aged under 55 have been allocated over-55s priority housing at Wandana while women in refuges were denied the same access because they were not 55 years old.

Wandana resident
name supplied

VAD access for dementia sufferers

Dementia sufferers can have such a pitiful and painful death (as Jonathan Wood so graphically described *(Dementia should be considered as qualifying under VAD laws*, Letters, January 25) that many people would like to keep their right to apply for voluntary assisted dying.

This can work via an advanced VAD directive to be lodged if we succumb to dementia.

As with Advanced Health Directives, we would keep the right to change our minds and revoke the request while we still had capacity to do so.

This would ensure that people with dementia would be safe from manipulation, a risk the CEO of Dementia Australia wants avoided.

It is working elsewhere and should at least be considered here by the state government.

Gail Wyatt
Brassey Street, Swanbourne

• **More letters pages 12, 14, 18**

Matilda Lane-Rose, front and centre, with fellow protesters outside Perth Magistrates Court last week.

Thank you, climate activists

I commend the POST for covering the arrest and court case of climate activists who protested Woodside's fossil gas projects (*Activist defends protest*, January 25).

No doubt many POST readers are weary from the run of extreme heat that WA is going through, and saddened by the deaths and destruction caused by the LA fires.

While these events are on opposite sides of the planet, they are linked by the worsening climate crisis.

As a parent of young children, I am distressed by the prospect of a future in which heatwaves and catastrophic fires are the norm, and my kids cannot even go outside to play due to fear of deadly heat and dirty air.

One of the climate activists said they were inspired by the British suffragettes and their fight for women's voting rights.

I think history will also look kindly on the heroic actions of our current climate activists.

It takes true courage to stand up to powerful companies like Woodside and its CEO Meg O'Neill, who seem hellbent on carrying on business as usual while our world burns.

Jason Wu
Commercial Road, Shenton Park

Political football with babies' lives

The decision to move the site of the proposed new Women and Babies Hospital from QEII Medical Centre in Nedlands to Fiona Stanley Hospital in Murdoch has raised serious concerns about the safety of seriously ill newborns due to longer transfer times.

The Australian Medical Association has been vocal in its criticism of this decision, arguing that it contradicts international best practice. Similarly, the Liberal candidate for Nedlands has highlighted the risks to infants' lives posed by this decision, citing increased transfer times and traffic issues (*Traffic threat to infant lives*, POST, January 25).

Building the new maternity hospital at QEII would be the safest and most practical choice for mothers and babies.

Voters are telling me they're tired of the adversarial politics of the major parties, where critical infrastructure decisions become political footballs. They want leaders who act in the public interest.

If elected to Parliament, I will champion a collaborative, evidence-based approach to decision-making.

My focus will always be on representing families and ensuring that major decisions, such as the location of the new maternity hospital, serve the best interests of the community.

Rosemarie de Vries Daglish
independent candidate for Nedlands

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Peta Walker with her grandchildren. She said George O'Neil and his naltrexone treatment saved her life.

Fresh Start saved Peta's life

By BONNIE CHRISTIAN

Aboriginal woman Peta Walker says she is alive today because of an intervention by a Subiaco doctor.

"When I was on the plane coming over to Perth I said a prayer, and I told myself if this doesn't work, I'm going to kill myself," she said.

Dr George O'Neil treated Peta at his world-renowned clinic Fresh Start, giving her a slow-release drug called naltrexone.

Peta, 47, who is from NSW, had for 20 years been taking all kinds of drugs from marijuana to heroin.

She had lost custody of her three children and been to jail multiple times.

"I'm not a stranger to making poor decisions," she said.

Her only treatment options were methadone, which Dr O'Neil says treats an opioid addiction by creating another opioid addiction.

"I fell in love with methadone," Peta said.

"It numbed me from all my feelings, it's the ultimate stone.

"But it's like liquid handcuffs.

"If I had kept on it, the plan was to end it all. I was so sick and tired of hurting my family. I wanted to be a mum."

Dr O'Neil said the drug keeps you "addicted forever with no route out."

Naltrexone blocks the effects of heroin and other opioid drugs.

"I'm the only doctor in the country taking people off opioids," Dr O'Neil said.

"I can give the heroin addict as much opioids as they like, so that they don't cause any trouble in the community.

"But in the process, they become separated from the community and their family and from everything they wanted to achieve in life.'

But despite assurances from many politicians that they would help fund the treatment, which is also used now in America, Dr O'Neil is footing the bill himself.

It costs $5000 per patient per year.

"For 27 years Fresh Start has given Australians on heroin the choice to stop or continue opioids," he said.

"We need donations and a change in Australian government attitudes to affected families.

"The US government pay for many of the prisoners, many single mums, and poor but the Australian government promotes long term opioids like methadone.

"The State covers labour costs for nurses and pharmacists to give methadone each day to keep people on methadone.

• Please turn to page 61

Aged tourist saved from rip

A swimming instructor saved a 79-year-old European tourist in dangerous conditions at Cottesloe beach last Friday.

Ian Goldthorpe was teaching children at the VacSwim course next to the Cottesloe groyne when he saw the man struggling in the surf.

It was one of five rescues between 11am and 3pm at the beach that day in rough conditions whipped up by the remnants of a cyclone sitting well off the coast.

"The wind and the waves were coming in from the north, so in that corner of the groyne you get a nice rip running out," Mr Goldthorpe said.

"A few people were getting stuck there – the lifeguards were pretty busy.

"I watched the man jump in. He was swept out in the rip, was trying to swim back in against it, and then tried to climb up on the rocks.

"I jumped out with a rescue tube and got him off the rocks, just out to sea a little bit more, and yelled at the lifeguards.

"Two of them came out and took over – they had to drag him in.

"He was a bit shocked, but no injuries."

SLSWA lifesaving services manager Cam Robbins said people going into the ocean needed to "stop, look and stay alive".

"Stop and assess the conditions according to your abilities, and if necessary, make the decision not to go in, or find a different location where the conditions may suit you better," Mr Robbins said.

"Even better, choose a location where lifesavers are located and can assist should you get into trouble."

Lifeguards performed 220 rescues at Scarborough in one day recently.

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SUPPORTING BUSINESSES IN CURTIN

Across Curtin, we have a diverse network of enterprising businesses. Australia needs to encourage and support successful businesses of all sizes – this is how we increase our standard of living.

Industrial relations reform

When I speak to people running these businesses, many raise the challenges posed by our industrial relations system, which is one of the most complicated in the world.

Navigating our workplace relations system is a huge headache and a drag on business growth.

Having worked in and advised some of Australia's largest companies, I know that even with significant human resources teams, companies frequently find they have breached some unknown or complicated term of an award.

Over recent years, there has been no political will by either major party to make the industrial relations framework more functional and easier for businesses to navigate. Instead each side tinkers with ideological changes, rather than practical workable solutions for business.

In such a complicated regulatory environment, the main winners are the specialists – lawyers, unions and IR professionals. Neither businesses nor workers benefit from complexity.

Efforts have been made to streamline the number of awards in recent years, but each award is still ridiculously complicated.

Our workplace relations system needs to be simplified and modernised to make it easier for companies to flexibly grow their businesses, contribute to productivity and do the right thing by their workers.

Small business definition

Small businesses often face regulatory burdens designed for much larger businesses, especially when it comes to employment laws.

One of the simplest ways to reduce this regulatory burden would be to **increase the threshold for businesses subject to the Fair Work Act from 15 employees to at least 25**. This change would provide relief to small businesses across Australia and free up their valuable time and resources. This change has strong support from the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

What I am doing

As a crossbencher I have been able to negotiate some amendments to reduce the complexities that have been added to our workplace relations system in this Parliament. I have also proposed additional changes that were not passed (for example reducing unions' power of entry, an amendment which was, surprisingly, not supported by the Liberal Party).

Practical guide to support

As well as improving legislation and encouraging both sides to focus on simplification and flexibility, I will continue to find ways to support small businesses in our community. We have just released the **Curtin Small Business Guide. This is a list of practical resources, most of them free, to support you and your small business in Curtin**.

SCAN TO DOWNLAND A DIGITAL COPY OR PICK UP A HARD COPY FROM MY OFFICE.

Kate Chaney MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CURTIN

kate.chaney.mp@aph.gov.au
Authorised by Kate Chaney MP, Cnr The Boulevard and Floreat Ave, Floreat, WA, 6014

The Silk Road finds its permanent home in Claremont:

NESTLED in the heart of Bay View Terrace, where Perth's most iconic destinations meet – the historic Claremont Hotel, renowned restaurants, and world-class fashion, and jewellery boutiques – something extraordinary has been capturing the attention of locals and visitors alike. At the entrance of this vibrant precinct, Majestic Persian Carpets has unveiled a stunning display of artistry that feels as though the Silk Road itself has reached Claremont.

This boutique is more than a showroom; it's a gateway to the rich heritage of the ancient trade routes that once connected continents. Walking through the the artrial Majestic Lane is like stepping into another world, where centuries-old craftsmanship meets modern luxury. Every piece on display tells a story of patience and passion, with hand-knotted silks sourced from master artisans across Persia and beyond.

Majestic Persian Carpets Lane way

The entrance is marked by a breathtaking sight – rare Persian carpets draped like regal tapestries, their intricate patterns glowing in the sunlight. These aren't just carpets; they are treasures. Woven with the finest silks and dyes derived from nature, each one showcases unparalleled detail. From floral medallions that seem to bloom before your eyes to geometric designs that trace the journeys of ancient caravans, these carpets are a testament to the timeless elegance of the Silk Road.

Majestic Persian Carpets has quickly become the crown jewel of Bay View Terrace, and Majestic Lane Way drawing in shoppers who flock to the precinct for its luxurious blend of dining, fashion, and cultural flair. Visitors stroll along the terrace, enjoying alfresco meals at Claremont's famous restaurants and exploring boutique windows filled with couture. But it's the carpets that leave them breathless.

Inside the boutique, a curated collection of the world's finest silks awaits. Each carpet is a masterpiece, some taking years to create, with every knot tied by hand. The shimmer of pure silk and the richness of natural colors – saffron golds, deep pomegranate reds, and oceanic blues – leave an impression that words can scarcely describe.

To celebrate the Lunar New Year, Majestic Persian Carpets has embraced the spirit of the Silk Road with a spectacular display. At the center of the boutique lies an exclusive collection of silk rugs designed to honor the holidays. These pieces feature intricate motifs of dragons, phoenixes, and lotus flowers – symbols of prosperity, renewal, and harmony.

As visitors leave the boutique, they carry with them more than purchases. They carried stories of a global legacy brought to life in their own corner of Perth.

Majestic Persian Carpets has done more than showcase the world's finest hand-knotted silks; it has brought the elegance of the Silk Road to Bay View Terrace, weaving a timeless connection between past and present.

Now, Claremont stands as a vibrant testament to this heritage, with Majestic Persian Carpets at its heart, offering treasures that truly take your breath away.

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Paddle out to mourn surfer

Ashley Mangano "understood the spirit of surfing" as being about community and the joy of the ocean.

Ashley catches a wave on dry land during a visit to Bali.

POST PEOPLE

By BONNIE CHRISTIAN

The surfing community is mourning Ashley Mangano, former president of the City Beach Surf Riders, who will be remembered with a paddle out at City Beach today.

Ashley's mother Janice and younger brother Justin said they were grateful for the widespread support after his suicide last month.

"Ashley's legacy goes far beyond the waves – he embodied the spirit of community, kindness, and being part of something bigger than oneself," Surf Riders member Pat Connell said.

The club, which began in 1959, has lost nine of its members to suicide.

Club member Jaxon Crocker said it was a sensitive time for their community and a reminder to look after your own and others' mental health.

"We need to keep talking to each other," he said.

Ashley had a lifelong connection to surfing, loving the thrill of catching waves and the camaraderie with his fellow surfers.

"As president of the City Beach Surf Riders, he poured his heart into the club, fostering an environment where everyone felt welcome and valued," Pat said.

"Ashley was always there, leading with humility and warmth.

"He was an awesome club president who truly understood the spirit of surfing – more than just a sport, it's about community, respect, and the shared joy of the ocean.

"His passion for the ocean and the club was infectious, inspiring everyone around him to give their best and support one another."

Ashley worked as a global executive with NHOA Energy.

The company said in a statement the "culture of excellence and camaraderie" he fostered would remain his legacy.

His mates said it was the way he treated others that was his greatest achievement.

"He had an uncanny ability to remember names, ask about your family, and make everyone he met feel important," Pat said.

"Whether in the line-up or at a club event, Ashley always had time for a chat and a genuine interest in your life.

"He was a calm and steady presence who led by example, never letting anger or ego get in the way.

"His kindness, humility, and dedication to the club and its members were unmatched, and his impact will be felt for years to come.

"To the City Beach Surf Riders and the wider surfing community, Ashley Mangano wasn't just a leader – he was a friend, a mentor, and a shining example of what it means to be part of something bigger than oneself.

"As the waves roll in at City Beach, Ashley's spirit will forever ride alongside them, a reminder of the extraordinary life he lived and the countless lives he touched."

Ashley Mangano

The paddle-out will take place at City Beach groyne at 10am on Saturday, February 1.

If you or anyone you know needs help call Lifeline on 131 114.

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Reason to be cocky about ancestry

I had always thought I was the first and only member of my Mitchell family to have come to Australia as a migrant and consider it one of the greatest and most fortuitous events in my life.

Every subsequent Australia Day has given me an opportunity to recognise and thank this great country.

However, I discovered recently that my great-great-great-uncle, the surveyor and explorer Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell, beat me to it by almost 200 years!

Knowing now what he undertook in exploring and mapping areas of New South Wales and Victoria makes me even prouder to be an Australian citizen.

Sharing our family name with the Major Mitchell cockatoo (named after Sir Thomas) is the icing on the cake.

God bless Australia.

Graham Luke Mitchell
Connaught Street,
West Leederville

The Major Mitchell cockatoo was named for surveyor and explorer Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell.

• More letters pages 14, 18

Have your say in the POST
Email letters to:
letters@postnewspapers.com.au

Strange alliance

Liberal candidate Tom White promises to "make Curtin matter again in the federal parliament" if he gets elected.

With such a pledge I am surprised he is seeking the help of Sky News commentator Peta Credlin (*White banks on Credlin as drawcard*, POST, January 25)

Ms Credlin lives thousands of kilometres away on the eastern seaboard, but will be campaigning for Mr White in Cottesloe.

She had a powerful influence on Tony Abbott when he was prime minister. Likewise, if Mr White is successful, she will be pulling his strings. Curtin will not matter!

Filomina D'Cruz
Karella Street, Nedlands

Political platitudes

Tom White

Recently I received a pamphlet outlining Tom White's Liberal candidature for the Curtin electorate.

In essence it was full of political and economic platitudes. There was no reference to many pressing issues such as climate change, environmental concerns, sports gambling or negative gearing.

Where does he stand with respect to Peter Dutton's plan to turn from an increase in solar energy to nuclear power?

David Hayles
Vincent Street, Nedlands

Welcome school holiday havens

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the excellent school holiday program Nedlands and Mt Claremont libraries have provided.

It is evident that a great deal of thought, effort and care goes into organising these activities, and they have become an invaluable resource for children and families in our community.

The range of programs offered not only nurtures children's creativity and curiosity but also plays a crucial role in their education.

From hands-on craft sessions to a range of engaging worksheets, every activity is thoughtfully designed to inspire young minds and nurture a love for learning.

Reaching the prize in the lucky dip becomes an exciting reward for kids achieving their library lover card goal.

Additionally, the programs serve as a wonderful relief for families during school holidays, especially in the current climate of rising living costs.

Providing free activities that enrich children's lives is a gift to the community, making it easier for families to balance their budgets while ensuring their children have meaningful and enriching experiences.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the friendly and dedicated staff, who go above and beyond to ensure every child feels included and engaged.

Their enthusiasm and kindness are truly inspiring and make the library a place where children and parents alike feel valued and supported.

Thank you once again for the outstanding work. The school holidays program is a testament to the important role libraries play in shaping our community and supporting families.

Bingyan Zan
Broadway, Crawley

A day for all Australians

A significant and increasing number of people think January 26 is an inappropriate date for Australia Day.

Regardless of the reasons, that fact alone should be sufficient for everyone to decide that the existing arrangement is unsatisfactory. But pigheadedness blocks common sense.

State governments and municipal councils and businesses that show some commonsense are bullied by politicians who suppose citizens can be forced to celebrate.

Then there is the vexed issue of an alternative date. Each of the many proposed dates has its avid supporters who expect everyone else to accept their chosen date, with the result that there is no change.

We need a date with no historic significance except that we have made it Australia Day.

The most important consideration is that it must be a Monday so we can celebrate as "The Land of the Long Weekend". The fourth Monday in January is a suggested date that keeps it close to its present date.

D.L. Brown
Barker Road, Subiaco

Authorised by S. Morgan, Liberal Party, 2/12 Parliament Place, West Perth WA 6005.

Sandra BREWER
LIBERAL FOR COTTESLOE

THE HON. COLIN BARNETT AC
CLAREMONT

Sandra, as a long standing local understands our community. She has the background to work closely on local issues. Sandra also has the skills and experience to play a significant role in the future economic and social development of our state. That is what we all want.

GILL VIVIAN
MOSMAN PARK

I am so taken with Sandra Brewer because of her professionalism, she honestly cares and genuinely wants to represent our community at the up-and-coming State Election. What Sandra has accomplished in her career I am genuinely impressed with. Sandra has proven herself to be a very strong advocate for her community and has taken the time out of her busy schedule for me to take her around Mosman Park. I really urge residents to support her campaign to become the Member for Cottesloe at the up-and-coming election. In all my years of living in Perth, I have never seen so one so passionate and that comes across so genuinely.

JOHN MACAULAY
NORTH FREMANTLE

I'm so excited that Sandra Brewer is running for State election! She's a strong advocate for our community and really cares about helping others. She's been working hard to understand how the Fremantle Traffic Bridge closure will affect local businesses and residents, and I've been really impressed with what she's accomplished in her career over 30 years particularly in property issues and experience with small to medium business. I urge everyone to support her campaign to become the Member for Cottesloe at the upcoming election.

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Farewell, old friend ... *This red-tailed black cockatoo had a spot of bother with a detached tail feather this week.* **Photo: Margaret Owen**

Shake your tail feather – off

I am sure everyone suffers sometimes from an irritating itch.

This male red-tailed cockatoo apparently could feel that one tail feather was not quite right.

On investigation, he found that the feather had become dislodged, not an everyday occurrence.

The bird looked at the feather, passing it to the left and to the right. After satisfying his curiosity, he dropped it and it spiralled shaft-first, like an arrow, to the ground.

Margaret Owen
Daglish Street, Wembley

Keep on fact-checking claims

Betty McGeever's letter *Cruelty to children under Dutton's watch* (POST, January 25) is an excellent example of fact-checking.

She refutes claims made in a document distributed by the Liberal candidate for the Curtin electorate that suggests opposition leader Peter Dutton deserves credit for releasing children from detention on Manus Island.

She provides clear evidence that in fact it was longterm efforts by many groups and individuals that eventually forced the then minister to act, but not before much additional suffering had been inflicted on those innocent children affected.

Ms McGeever lays out her argument calmly, without resorting to personal attacks or negativity, making her message all the more potent.

It is to be hoped that this kind of writing will characterise the coming election campaign, addressing the electorate with respect and treating voters as competent adults able to make considered choices.

Elizabeth White
Wilsmore Street, Daglish

Perth needs urban forests

If every council in our metro area was suddenly able to prevent all trees being removed from private property, would it solve our tree canopy decline?

Only temporarily, because those trees are going to die anyway as all living things must.

The real focus of canopy management must be on constant renewal.

And there lies the rub. Large trees aren't going to be replaced on private property – there isn't room – so public land is the way to go.

There they can be protected and replaced in perpetuity.

Grayden Provis
Hesperia Avenue, City Beach

Votes for women

The article *Activist defends protest* (POST, January 25) includes a claim that "women in Britain in 1928 finally got the same voting rights as Australian women received in 1902".

In fact, women in the UK were given the right to vote by November 1918 and the right to stand for parliament by December 1919.

In the case of Australia, women had the right to vote in South Australia in 1894 and Western Australia in 1899, well before 1902.

Women could stand for election in WA by 1920, and Edith Dircksey Cowan was Australia's first woman parliamentarian by March 1921.

She had campaigned for both the right to vote and the right to stand for parliament.

Hilary Silbert
Gibbon Street, Mosman Park
founder, Edith Dircksey Cowan Commemoration

• From 1918 British women could vote if they were 30 or over, and had property rights. In 1918 men could vote at 21, or 19 if in the military. The statement published by the POST is correct. See also letter page 18. – Editor

• More letters page 18

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Libs promise to revive Cott Cat

A shuttle bus from Cottesloe train station to the beach during the summer months will return if the Liberals win power in the coming state election.

Cottesloe candidate Sandra Brewer said they will commit $60,000 a year to have the service back up and running.

"This shuttle bus service will ensure that visitors can easily access the beach, improving their experience and making Cottesloe more accessible to everyone," she said.

WA Liberal leader Libby Mettam said the service was a "simple yet effective solution to improving access to one of our most iconic locations."

"The service will help families, seniors and those with mobility challenges, who may find it difficult to walk the distance from the station to the beach," she said.

"This is about making Cottesloe beach a more accessible, enjoyable destination for everyone."

The service was run jointly between the Public Transport Authority and Cottesloe council.

Last month, Ms Brewer said she had to help two American tourists who were waiting at the station's bus shelter call an uber because, despite four signs advertising the Cott Cat, the service was not running *(Cott Cat shuttle scuttled*, POST, January 11).

The signs were removed by the council after the POST report *(Cott Cat signs removed*, POST, January 25).

Cottesloe mayor Lorraine Young said that due to low patronage, the service had been reduced to run only during the Sculpture by the Sea exhibition, which is not running in 2025.

It is an 800m walk, including a steep hill, to Cottesloe main beach from the station.

Liberal candidate Sandra Brewer says Cottesloe's cracked limestone walls are an eyesore and could be dangerous. **Photo: Paul McGovern**

Cott beach an eyesore

By JEN REWELL

Wide cracks in limestone walls, orange safety bunting and warning signs are the ugly welcome for visitors to Cottesloe beach.

Liberal candidate Sandra Brewer said the cracks in the terraced limestone retaining walls were an eyesore at what was promoted internationally as Perth's best beach.

"The situation is urgent now, it is beyond politics," she said.

Ms Brewer said a girl taking a selfie on Christmas Day had fallen from the top rail onto the grass several metres below. "She was very hurt, it's a wonder she didn't break her neck," Ms Brewer said.

The masterplan for the Cottesloe Beach revamp has been waiting for the $30million green light for years.

The main steps from Carpark 1 to the path show crevices in the limestone blocks and patchy mortar supported by vertical steel beams.

An orange safety fence was erected by council workers this week to stop people walking or sitting too close to the wall.

"The fact that it's protected by this ugly barrier is not deserving of what is promoted as an iconic tourist beach," Ms Brewer said.

"This is used by our city and around the world as an image of Perth, and it's on billboards at the airport.

"There are people coming from all over Europe and Asia, and when they get here, we need to give them an experience that is world class.

"This is so far below the expectations of what Cottesloe should be."

The retaining walls and grassed terraces were built in 1934, with some men working on the Depression-era project instead of paying rates.

Ms Brewer said it was unrealistic to expect the Cottesloe council to bring it up to the standard that was expected of a major tourist attractor, and the money should come from state and federal coffers.

Many other WA beaches have recently had millions spent on them, including $100million at Scarborough, $51million at Busselton, and $15million at Rockingham.

Cottesloe mayor Lorraine Young agreed that the terrace section of the beach was "underwhelming".

The limestone cracks were under investigation and included in the asset maintenance program, she said.

A 2019 masterplan for the foreshore revamp, initially costed at $22million, was now estimated to cost $30million.

"It is a completely shovel-ready project that has been backed by the community and will deliver the expectations of locals and visitors," she said.

The council had been lobbying the state and federal governments for several years to commit funding, as it had done at Scarborough, contributing $48million.

"The need for it now is even greater," Ms Young said.

She said there was little point spending lots of money on fixing up the carpark and

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LETTERS

Please email your letter to *letters@postnewspapers.com.au*, lodge online at *postnewspapers.com.au* or snail mail to: The Editor, 276 Onslow Rd, Shenton Park 6008. All letters must include writer's full name, address and daytime phone no. for verification. Boring letters or those over 300 words will be cut. **Deadline: Noon Wednesdays.**

Memories of an aerial protest

I was saddened this week to hear of the passing of Winston Foulkes-Taylor, of Claremont.

I had the pleasure of getting to know Winston better through his passion for the accessibility provided by Car Park One at Cottesloe Beach.

Winston (and many others, including his wife Chris, who survives him) was passionate about saving Car Park One from being reduced to just a tiny fraction of its size, set well back from providing useful access to the beach.

POST readers might recall the day in February 2021 when a plane flew up and down Cottesloe beach carrying Winston's emphatic message on a long banner: "Save Cottesloe No.1 car park"!

I distinctly remember Winston's (and others') joy at seeing it up there spruiking his plea.

Winston had hired the "Air Ad" at his own expense (and had tried to stay anonymous) and I am sure he would not mind it now being mentioned on his passing.

Hopefully that long banner flying overhead remains at least one lasting memory of Winston and something he was so passionate about, and can inspire others to seek to protect what they believe makes Cottesloe beach so special.

Rest in peace, Winston – yours is a very sad loss.

Michael Tucak
Railway Street, Cottesloe

■ See report page 16

Highly visible ... *Winston Foulkes-Taylor, above, and, top, his message about Cott's Car Park One gets a literal airing.* **Photo: Air Ads, from the POST, February 20, 2021**

Feast of photos

I was disappointed to read Kate Chaney's Summer Newsletter to find that in four pages it only had 16 photos of Kate.

Hopefully this number can be beaten next time.

Shane Hughes
Hilda Street, Shenton Park

Illegal and destructive activities 'don't win votes'

Matilda Lane-Rose *(Activist defends protest,* POST, January 25) asserts that British suffragettes succeeded through militant actions in the 1900s.

In fact their illegal, destructive activity resulted in hardened opposition.

Support for female suffrage was regained after World War I, when Emmeline Pankhurst and other leading suffragettes had suspended their campaign to support the war effort. British women over 30 got the vote in 1918 and all adult women could vote by 1929.

Australian women got the vote far earlier, in 1902, not least because such respected leaders as Catherine Spence, May Anderson and Vita Goldstein didn't resort to criminal activity.

Law-breaking militancy doesn't win support for any cause.

Jeremy Buxton
Walker Avenue, West Perth

■ See letter page 14

Earthwise – there's nothing else like it

Nestled between the Bagot Road daycare and the Subiaco City Council Theatre Gardens lies a green oasis called Earthwise.

Earthwise, a haven for people of all walks of life and many different nationalities.

Earthwise, where you can sit in a comfortable garden chair in the grounds under trees of figs, mulberries, oranges and lemons, and be undisturbed with your thoughts.

Earthwise became my lifeline when I moved to Perth from the Wheatbelt seven years ago, and for a short while, before I faced mobility problems, I worked in the Op Shop, and on Fridays in the gardens, tending the worm farms.

I was only too glad to be able to give something back to the Earthwise community that had given me so much.

Earthwise and music have always gone together – outback jam sessions, and Sunday community singing, when I have learnt to sing many different types of songs.

Workshops on sustainability, yoga classes ... all take place at Earthwise.

There is no other community like Earthwise in the metropolitan area, so we can only hope that its lease with the Uniting Church will be renewed this year, and it will continue for future generations.

Valerie E. Rummery
Derby Road, Shenton Park

POST editorial standards

The POST's policy is to produce accurate and fair reports, and to correct any verified errors at the earliest opportunity, preferably in the next edition. For details of the policy please visit the editorial standards page at postnewspapers.com.au/feedback-policy/

TOWN of CLAREMONT

Claremont Ahead

WITH **MAYOR JOCK BARKER**

CLAREMONT NEWS / JANUARY 2025

Dear residents,

Greening the Town

Now is the time to order your tree size and species for the Town's Adopt a Tree project.

Trees can be adopted complete with plaque as a tribute for families, or to remember a loved one. The trees planted last year are flourishing and will leave a lasting memory for generations to come. We look forward to the next round of plantings to occur in the coming months. Visit our website to complete an application form.

Bay View Centre Bookings Open

The Bay View Community Centre has an exciting array of activities now ready to book, including Tai Chi, painting, illustrating and kids activities.

Each activity will run throughout the term, commencing 10 February. Some classes are free or low cost, and bookings are essential as places are limited. Visit *claremont.gov.au/places/bay-view-community-centre* and visit what's on for further information and booking details.

Young arts

We're pleased to be providing two exciting opportunities for eager young people to develop their creative skills. The youth mural mentorship will see one lucky young person assist an experienced artist in painting a public art mural, while the youth photography competition encourages them look introspectively and capture an image under the theme of 'In your own world'. Plus there are some enticing prizes on offer.

The mural mentorship is open now and the photography competition opens 3 February. To learn more about both initiatives and apply, visit our website.

WASO Free Family Concert

A Night on Bay View returns on Saturday 15 February, from 7pm at Claremont Park. Parking is limited, consider riding or walking to the event.

Next Ordinary Council Meeting

The first Council meeting for 2025 will be held on Tuesday 4 February. Please visit our website for more details.

Mayor Jock Barker

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Botanist Kingsley Dixon shows independent Lisa Thornton the fibres of a zamia cycad in Churchlands bushland. **Photo: Jen Rewell**

Botany lessons to help pollies

By JEN REWELL

Kingsley Dixon has offered lessons in botany for all local political candidates to explain why restoring bushland in Churchlands is vital.

"I am offering 'Botany 101'," said the prominent botanist.

Churchlands independent Lisa Thornton took up the offer this week, and was taken on a tour of a 700m strip of bushland between Newman College and Churchlands Green.

Prof. Dixon strolled through dry grass identifying trees and plants, describing their role in the eco-system, and extolling the virtues of the preserving the 700m strip of bushland.

At one point he rummaged through leaf litter caught in a zamia cycad, picked out soft fibres from deep in the fronds, and explained how Aboriginal people had used it to carry fire.

Prof. Dixon said because the bush had been untouched for so long, it was a "mini Kings Park".

"The values I see as a botanist are irreplaceable," he said.

"All political persuasions should be fighting tooth and nail to preserve this."

Ms Thornton is the only Churchlands candidate to commit to preserving the bushland.

"It's not just the election cycle, we have to think generations ahead," she said.

Local MLA Christine Tonkin has pushed for years for the bushland to be excised from Main Roads now that it is not needed for the Stephenson Avenue extension.

She brought the concept of a road to link Pearson Street to Empire Avenue to Stirling council in 2024.

Ms Tonkin said there were significant traffic issues in the area which needed to be addressed, and if a road review of the area was done it would be looked at by both Stirling and Cambridge councils.

Both Ms Tonkin and Liberal candidate Basil Zempilas have said they will wait to find out what the community wants before committing to supporting the proposed road or the bush.

Greens candidate Caroline McLean was unable to be contacted.

Meanwhile, Prof. Dixon is calling for the bushland to become a classroom for school children at the adjacent Newman College.

A school program called Sense of Wonder which linked science with art in a banksia bushland at Curtin Primary School is now being introduced at John XXIII College in Mount Claremont.

Prof. Dixon said only half of one percent of Perth's original bushland was left intact, and each part should be treasured.

"These are all fragments of a tapestry," he said.

Cars only on Freo bridge

The Fremantle Traffic Bridge has been permanently closed to cyclists and pedestrians as four huge cranes work on its replacement.

The 87m-high crawler cranes are building abutment foundations and retaining walls to support the deck of the new bridge.

The shared path on the 86-year-old timber bridge has been closed for good, creating a lengthy detour via Stirling Bridge for pedestrians and cyclists travelling between Fremantle and North Fremantle.

Vehicle traffic on the old bridge has been reduced to one lane in each direction, with a 40kmh limit.

The $430million project is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

A forest of cranes beside the old traffic bridge. **Photo: Paul McGovern**

100m SEAWALL to be built on Smiths Beach!-EPA

In August 2024 the EPA revealed that the developer of Smiths Beach is proposing a concrete and rock armored seawall on the sandy beach that was not detailed in their planning application. This seawall is proposed at an astonishing 2900m2 in area, it will be over 100m long, 22m wide and 5m in height.

The developer has provided NO design details, No erosion modeling has been completed, NO longterm assessments undertaken, NO sand movement modeling carried out, yet the EPA is to somehow decide if it can be approved.

Independent advice provided to the Smiths Beach Action Group finds that a seawall will all but destroy the most used section of the beach and provide "*no effective protection to public assets*".

Regardless of your opinion of the development or the developer, do YOU think that in 2025 we should be concreting 2900m2 of fragile coastal beach environment so that a development can extend their development size 44% over the approved area?

Are YOU concerned? If so get your submissions into the EPA by the 10th February, 2025. Go to www.savesmithsbeach.org/epa

The view of the development if it proceeds as proposed

3 Easy Steps to Complete Your Submission

www.savesmithsbeach.org/epa

Save Smiths Beach Again

Bring on big brother in Nedlands – Libs

By LLOYD GORMAN

Subiaco and Nedlands need a "robust network" of CCTV cameras to help protect the local community – particularly women and children – says Jonathan Huston, the Liberal candidate for the state seat of Nedlands.

Mr Huston, a Subiaco resident, claims places such as the Perth CBD, UWA and QEII are peppered with police-monitored closed-circuit systems while other areas in the Nedlands electorate have very little public coverage.

Jonathan Huston

When Subiaco Primary School was torched last year, police relied on vision from CCTV in neighbouring homes as part of their investigation, he said (*Kids charged over Subi school fire*, POST, June 29).

"While UWA is to be congratulated for having a very extensive internal network with over 700 monitored CCTV units in operation, more needs to be done to support this by wider CCTV monitoring," Mr Huston said.

"UWA, QEII and Transperth have internal monitoring systems, but there are significant gaps in street surveillance that need to be addressed, particularly for the safety of women and children."

He said the bus hub on Stirling Highway outside UWA, Rosalie Park and the Rokeby Road and Hay Street precincts had "a lack of CCTV".

He also called for a 24-hour police presence at the major police stations in the electorate.

He pointed to the success of the UN backed "Safer Cities – Her Way" program in regions such as Gosford, NSW, adding it was "an excellent model to pilot in Nedlands".

Subiaco mayor David McMullen said there was CCTV at Lords Recreation Centre, Subiaco library and the neighbouring museum and at its offices and council chambers in Hay Street.

These were supplemented by CCTV cameras on private property, including homes, cafes and alfresco areas.

"The City places a premium on community safety, but CCTV generates more schools of thought than might at first be expected," Mr McMullen said.

"There needs to be a cost-benefit analysis, as well as a thorough understanding about where to use it, and how the public feel about being surveilled in the streets."

Councillors and City staff had previously workshopped the issue and engaged with WA police and Crimestoppers to understand the effectiveness and need for CCTV in Subiaco.

"If any candidate for the seat has access to money to install, operate and monitor CCTV, and a proposal for its implementation, we would of course be happy to hear the details," he said.

This red-tailed black cockatoo perished after being trapped on a barbed wire fence at UWA grounds in Shenton Park.

Barbed wire trap

A red-tailed black cockatoo that died with its wing caught on barbed wire in Shenton Park has prompted calls for less dangerous fencing.

The male cockatoo was spotted dangling from the boundary fence that surrounds UWA's grounds on the corner of Underwood Avenue and Brockway Road.

Troy Sinclair, who spotted the bird's carcass, described the find as "devastating".

"Another one was circling above, which was probably its lifelong mate," he said.

He called for the Friends of Underwood community group to push UWA to consider "bird friendly wire".

The forest red-tailed black cockatoo is protected and listed as a vulnerable species.

Turbine protest

Protestors will have to pay to attend a public forum about a controversial South-West wind farm project to be held in Dalkeith next week.

Synergy wants to install up to 30 wind turbines near the Scott River, northeast of Augusta.

Cattle farmer Scott Baxter, barrister Raymond Broomhall and wind industry critic Alex Nicol will address the forum at the Adam Armstrong Pavilion at 6.30pm on Thursday, February 6.

Tickets are available for $30 on Eventbrite.

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Big tent keeps bowls in the shade

By BEN DICKINSON

Jonathan Huston is turning big tent politics from metaphor to reality.

Speaking at the Dalkeith Nedlands Bowling Club this week, the Liberal candidate for Nedlands pledged his party would chip in $500,000 for a giant sunshade if it won government in March.

"It will look like a big, very attractive tent," club president David Steinberg said.

The freestanding gable structure, expected to cost $1.5million, is a key part of the club's plan to stay viable as interest in competitive bowling declines.

It will shade one of the club's greens, which will be converted from grass to a synthetic surface to save on maintenance costs.

The shade will keep the synthetic cool enough to play on in summer and protect players from rain.

"This is a club … who have seen the writing on the wall of where bowling clubs are going in this country," Mr Huston told members on Tuesday.

"They've said: 'We're not going to let that happen here, we're going to work out a way that we can turn this singular club into a multifaceted club'.

"This could not be more Liberal values in action."

The Jutland Parade club had five greens and more than 500 members in 1962, when it served as a competition venue for the Empire Games.

Like most bowling clubs, Dalkeith Nedlands has undergone a steady decline that has forced it to adapt to survive.

"We're in the process of changing the nature of the club to be a community hub," Mr Steinberg said.

"The first stage of the project was to accept we don't need five greens."

One of the greens has already been converted to three padel tennis courts, operated by West Coast Padel, which opened late last year.

Another disused green is also expected to be converted for padel tennis.

One of the three remaining greens has already been converted from grass to a synthetic surface, with another to follow.

That will slash the club's turf maintenance bill, currently around $150,000 a year.

"The problem with synthetic is it's 10 to 15 degrees hotter than grass," Mr Steinberg said.

Detailed plans for the canopy have already been prepared by local firm Hames Sharley.

Mr Huston promised he would "sustain this commitment" until a future Liberal government is elected, even if the party did not win office in the next term.

"A covered outdoor area provides an accessible space for everyone, regardless of the weather, and will enhance community connections," he said.

No bias … *Dalkeith Nedlands Bowling Club president David Steinberg gives Liberal candidate Jonathan Huston a few tips on the green.* **Photo: Paul McGovern**

Too much waiting, says de Vries

Waiting times at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital are particularly bad, says Nedlands independent candidate Rosemarie de Vries.

The Subiaco councillor said she endorsed the State of Emergency 2024 report on waiting times published recently by the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine.

She said the report revealed a healthcare crisis across Australia, including QEII Medical Centre.

"We're all aware that wait times in the emergency department are getting longer and longer," she said.

"This report also makes clear that wait times to find a hospital bed, if admission is needed, are also getting bigger".

The AECM report showed that emergency department visits that required hospital admission increased by 9% between 2016 and 2021 while the number of WA hospital beds rose by just 2% in the same period.

"Not surprisingly, the wait time for most (90%) patients to be admitted to hospital in WA increased by approximately 30% in 2021-22, from almost 11 hours to over 14 hours," she said.

"I've looked into the numbers that ACEM used, and the situation seems to be particularly bad at Charlies.

"The wait time for most (90%) patients to be admitted to SCGH increased by approximately 60% in 2021-22 and looking at data from last year is still about that level.

"This is unacceptable.

"If elected, one of my top priorities will be to work to improve our healthcare system."

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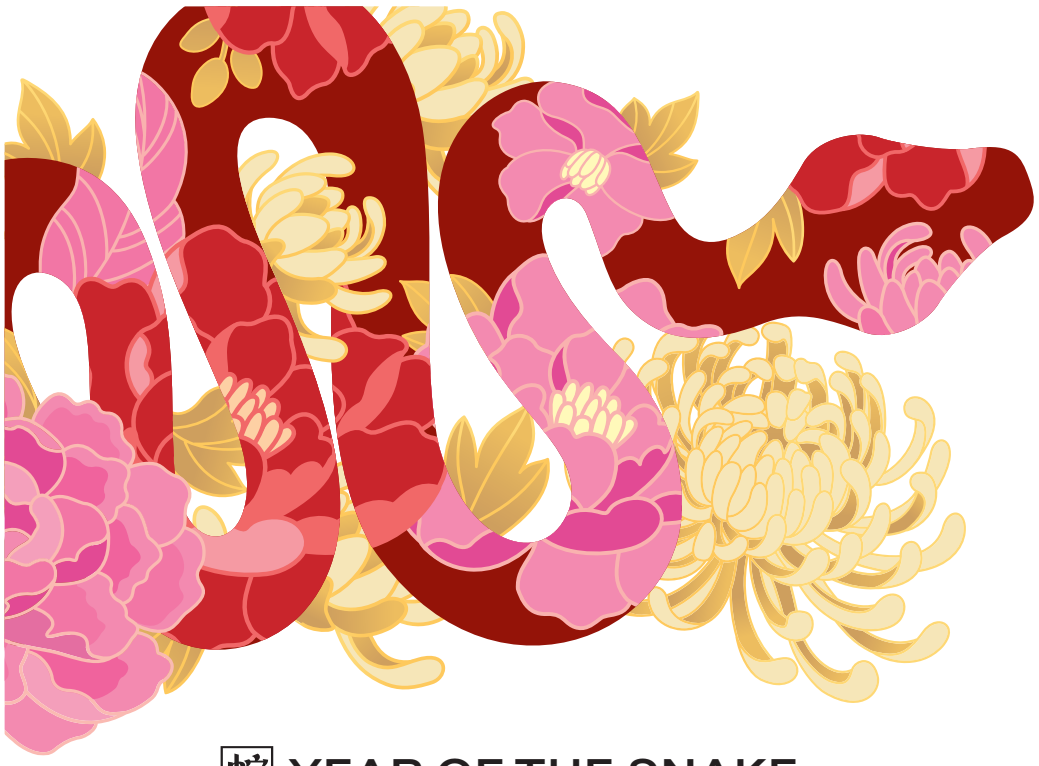

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Unlike the bold and outgoing Dragon, the Snake represents calmness and introspection. These traits are seen as essential for guiding one's life with wisdom and grace.

2025 PREDICTIONS

Rat

1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020

A year of opportunities, but careful planning is essential. Financial gains are possible, but avoid taking unnecessary risks.

Ox

1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021

Hard work will pay off, especially in career and personal goals. Stay patient and persistent, as steady progress will lead to success.

Tiger

1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022

A year of adventure and creativity. Tigers may face challenges but can overcome them with bold action and determination.

Rabbit

1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023

A year of personal growth and reflection. Rabbits may find new opportunities in their careers and improved relationships.

Dragon

1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024

Dragons are likely to shine this year, with luck favouring career advancements and personal achievements. Be mindful of impulsive decisions.

Snake

1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013, 2025

It's your year! Expect transformation and breakthroughs. Personal and professional growth is strong, but don't overextend yourself.

Horse

1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014, 2026

A dynamic year with opportunities for travel and new experiences. Horses should focus on balancing work and personal life.

Goat

1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015, 2027

A harmonious year with chances for collaboration and creativity. Focus on nurturing your wellbeing and relationships. Financially, planning will bring long-term rewards.

Monkey

1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016, 2028

Monkeys can achieve great success by leveraging their quick wit and adaptability. Relationships benefit from more thoughtfulness.

Rooster

1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017, 2029

Roosters will thrive with careful organisation and focus. Relationships improve with patience and understanding.

Dog

1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, 2030

Dogs may find success in teamwork and community efforts. Trust your instincts when faced with tough decisions.

Pig

1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, 2031

A prosperous year with potential for financial gains and personal growth. Stay focused on your goals and avoid distractions.

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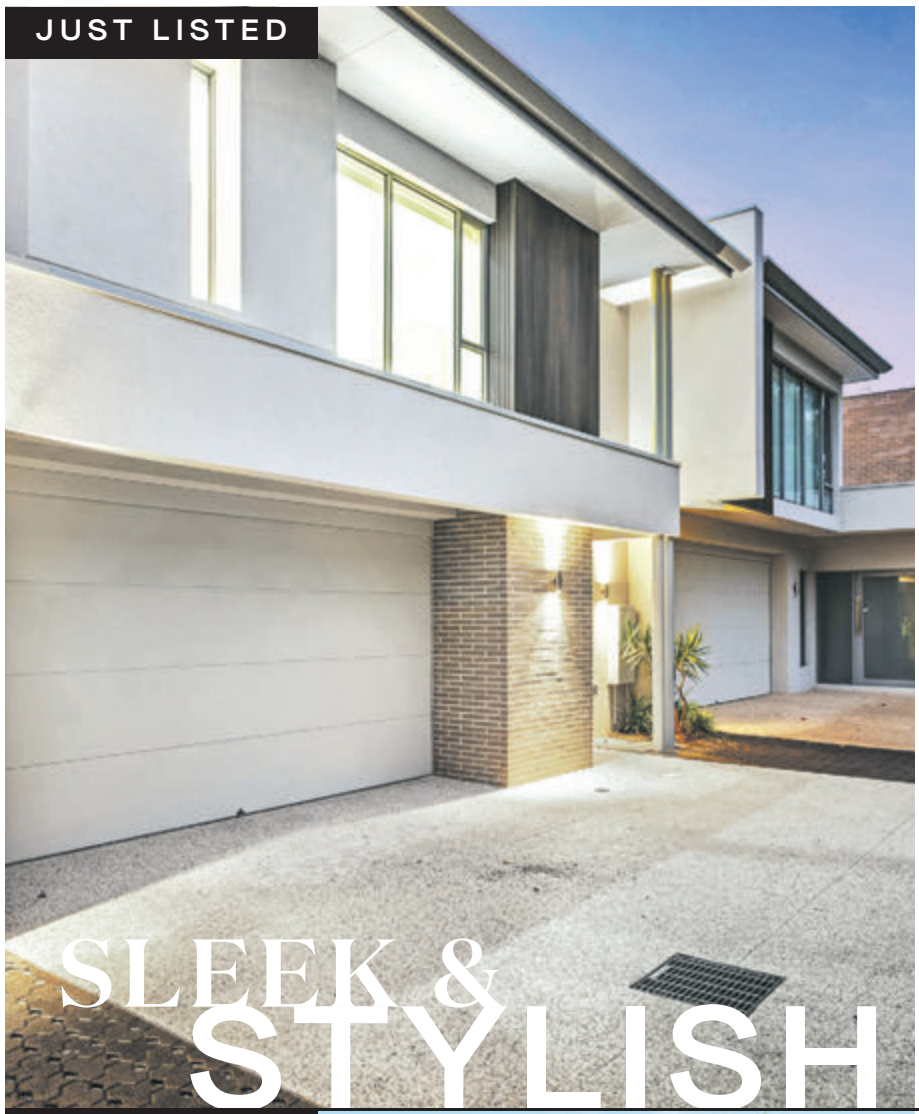

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DUET

Leighton beaches may lose to Port vision

By BONNIE CHRISTIAN

Leighton residents say they feel their suburb has been an afterthought in the state government's grand plan for Fremantle Port.

"By the time it considered the Port Beach and south Leighton sections, it felt rushed, constrained, unimaginative and under-baked," Paul Gamblin, of Leighton Action Coalition, said.

"The Future of Fremantle indicative scenarios for this section were underwhelming.

"They all show versions of heavy engineering, like groynes and seawalls, across this much-loved natural beach, and a narrow coastal setback, with very little public space and parking areas."

The new vision for Fremantle Port was released late last week showing the 50-year plan to transform it into a waterfront city.

It follows the plan to move container trades to the new Westport terminal in Kwinana by the late 2030s.

The plan for the old port proposes that Fremantle would become a larger, more globally significant coastal city, and has the capacity to deliver 45,000 extra jobs, 20,000 new homes and 55,000 new residents.

But Mr Gamblin said the plan showed a narrow foreshore reserve at Leighton that would make it even harder for public recreation and parking.

"While the latest report lacks detail, it is notable that the images do not show any groynes or seawalls.

"This is somewhat reassuring and probably indicates the government's accurate reading of community sentiment on this retrograde and counterproductive approach to coastal management in a setting like this.

"However, the reality is that avoiding seawalls and groynes will require the restoration of coastal dunes.

"That means Port and Leighton need a much wider foreshore reserve than the report shows, also because car parking and public facilities need to be provided behind the dunes.

"The rubber will hit the road when the government undertakes an analysis to determine the setback distance that is required to establish the foreshore reserve requirements.

"We don't get second chances here."

The plan for Fremantle Port is "underwhelming" for some Leighton residents.

Promises flood into Churchlands High

Liberal leader Libby Mettam with Churchlands candidate Basil Zempilas promising to inject funds into Churchlands Senior High School.

By JEN REWELL

High school students in Churchlands, and construction companies, will be the winners no matter who wins the upcoming state election.

The Labor and Liberal parties have both announced major projects for Churchlands Senior High School, should they be elected.

A re-elected Labor government is promising $130,000 to upgrade the student services area and extend the school's outdoor stage.

WA Liberals are hoping to lure voters with the promise of $600,000 for a "wellbeing hub" for students and a revamped entry.

Churchlands hopeful Basil Zempilas said parents and teachers at the school had said the two projects were among their community's top priorities.

Mr Zempilas said if elected, the WA Liberals would spend $200,000 to transform a classroom into a hub for the school's chaplaincy services, which were currently housed in a demountable.

The entry on Lucca Street would be upgraded with pathways, landscaping and signs that would "create a modern and inclusive statement", Mr Zempilas said.

He said the school's P&C had already fundraised $200,000 for the project.

An extra financial boost was

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Doubts over river playground

By BONNIE CHRISTIAN

Perth council has defended a new playground on the Crawley foreshore as meeting Australian standards.

JH Abrahams Reserve children's playground was replaced last year with a nature-based design by Landscape Studio and funded with a $189,000 Lotterywest grant.

It features a concrete slide, limestone climbing blocks, and a climbing frame built of wooden logs.

Muriel Rowan asked councillors at the annual electors meeting on Tuesday night if the City planned to cater for younger and older children, and whether the facility met Australian standards for playground design.

"There is a lack of sand play, water play and suitable swings," she said.

"The only swing, the disc basket swing, is currently too high for effective practical purposes across an age range.

"The concrete slide, while meeting standard regulations, seems hazardous for young children as it is currently presented.

"What is the intention of the concrete blocks and why do they not meet the Australian standards for the fall zones?"

Robert Farley, acting general manager, planning and economic development, said the City would arrange a site visit to "better understand the issues".

"The playground has a variety of play experiences and provides improved physical and cognitive play opportunities compared to the previous playground," he said at the meeting.

Incorporating sand and water play posed maintenance issues.

"It requires daily maintenance and visitation to inspect for the likes of sharp objects, whether a syringe or broken glass," he said.

"Incorporating water play requires either a significant use of water or a filtration system in the case of recirculating the system.

"The basket swing provides inclusive use providing for all ages to participate either individually or in groups and our understanding is the height of the swing complies with relevant Australian standards.

"In terms of the concrete slide, rock scramble and deck, they comply with Australian standards and provide a challenge for young children to negotiate.

"The limestone blocks include bevelled edges and handrails to provide support.

"Concrete slides are often used in playgrounds for their ongoing durability and performance."

Kids take a ride down the new concrete slide at JH Abrahams Reserve. **Photo: Paul McGovern**

From vineyards to science honour

Professor Nina Tirnitz-Parker, OAM.

A liver disease professor said she was very surprised to hear she had been nominated for an Order of Australia Medal, and thrilled to accept it.

Churchlands resident Professor Nina Tirnitz-Parker is head of the Liver Disease and Regeneration Group at Curtin Medical School, and of the Liver Cancer Program at the Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute.

The OAM was awarded for her significant service to biomedical science.

Prof. Tirnitz-Parker said she was not sure which part of her professional life had instigated the anonymous nomination. "It could be my service to biomedical science, or my board work," she said.

Or, it could be her work in global leadership for mentoring women and girls in STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) programs.

"When I started, lots of scientific fields were dominated by men," she said.

Things had changed as it became clear that women were making valuable contributions to science, but there was still room for improvement.

"We need to assist to help them to come back to the workforce," she said.

Prof. Tirnitz-Parker came to Australia in 2003, intending to only stay for six weeks.

Instead, she met an Australian man and fell in love. They have two daughters, aged nine and 11.

She grew up in a wine region in Germany and studied zoology, genetics, anthropology and physiological chemistry before finding her passion in stem cells and cancer biology.

Her research involves cutting-edge technologies and platforms, such as single-nucleus RNA sequencing, spatial transcriptomics and patient-derived organoid drug screening.

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Lawyers fund caught up in legal tangle

By JOHN TOWNSEND

The family of a deceased WA farmer has been given rare permission to sue a statutory legal fund for compensation initially sought from his bankrupt lawyer.

Vicki Smith and Gary Chivers, the administrators of the estate of their uncle Allan William Brown, succeeded in asking the Supreme Court to allow them to take action to seek up to $154,000 from the Solicitors' Guarantee Fund.

They had tried to recover the money from their uncle's lawyer, Jarrod Thompson, but that Supreme Court action lapsed when Mr Thompson was declared bankrupt three years ago.

Mr Thompson, a UWA law graduate and Guildford Grammar School student, ran Thompson Legal in Albany until the firm folded.

The guarantee fund was set up by the state government in 1967 and administered by the Legal Contribution Trust to "protect the community by compensating consumers who lose money when a law practice fraudulently fails to deliver trust money or property".

It holds about $17million in trust but has not been called on to make a distribution for more than five years.

Every WA lawyer contributes $50 a year to the fund as part of their practising certificate.

Supreme Court judge Gary Cobby allowed Ms Smith and Mr Chivers to sue the fund after it rejected their initial bid for compensation.

"The plaintiffs seek compensation from the fund in respect of the alleged defaults of a solicitor, Jarrod Thompson, in the course of his acting or purporting to act as Mr Brown's solicitor," Justice Cobby said.

"As the trust has refused the plaintiffs leave to make their proposed claims, the plaintiffs cannot proceed unless the court makes an order permitting them to do so."

The court heard that Mr Brown farmed at Mt Kokeby, near Beverley, before retiring to Albany. He died in 2017. (Mt Kokeby was named for Baron Rokeby of Armagh, who inspired Rokeby Road in Subiaco, but a misspelled sign on the local railway station in 1889 gave rise to the modern version of the name.)

Mr Thompson was Mr Brown's

• Please turn to page 61

City of Nedlands

nedlands.wa.gov.au

PUBLIC NOTICE
Advertising Draft Local Planning Policy 3.4 – Tree Retention R25 – R80

The City of Nedlands is seeking comment on Draft Local Planning Policy 3.4 Tree Retention R25 – R80. This Policy is for the purpose of protecting large canopy trees on residential land (R25 – R80 inclusive) by requiring a development application be submitted for any tree damaging activity to a tree of a specified size.

This Policy will be open for public comment until **5pm Friday, 21 February 2025.** The Policy is available to view and comment on **yourvoice.nedlands.wa.gov.au.**

Copies can also be viewed at the City's Administration Building located at 71 Stirling Highway, Nedlands, WA 6009.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Development Application Available for Inspection

Amendment to Mixed Use Development located at 87 - 89 Broadway, Nedlands.

The City has received a development application for the above.

To discuss the proposal with City Officers during business hours you may contact the City's Planning Services on (08) 9273 3500 or email **planning@nedlands.wa.gov.au.**

Additionally, a City Officer will be available after hours to review plans and discuss the proposal in the City's Council Chambers on Wednesday, 12 February 2025 between 4pm and 6pm, by appointment only.

To view the plans and make a submission, please visit **yourvoice.nedlands.wa.gov.au**

Submissions close **5pm, 21 February 2025**

Keri Shannon
Chief Executive Officer

David Fitzgerald has retired to Wembley after a life on the land at Leonora. **Photo: Paul McGovern**

Life on the land turns to cactus

By JEN REWELL

A life of service has been rewarded with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), but 90-year-old David Fitzgerald is not one to rest on his laurels.

The Wembley resident still spends time searching Google Maps for infestations of cactus in his adored Leonora country, which is about 830km northeast of Perth.

"My legs don't work very well anymore so I don't go up there very often, but I go online and look for likely spots," he said.

The OAM was awarded for service to the wool industry, and to the community of Leonora.

David was owner and manager of Nambi station from 1957-1996, which ran up to 15,000 head of sheep.

"Now dingoes have taken over the place so you can't run small stock," he said.

Most pastoralists in the area now run cattle, he said.

Since retiring to Wembley he and his wife Patricia have invested their time helping the St Vincent de Paul Society.

During his many years in Leonora, David was president and councillor on the shire board, on district and pastoral committees, and a member of several government appointed boards.

He was a founding member of the clay target club, and involved in the racing, pistol and gymkhana clubs, as well as the Nabberu Hostel for Aboriginal Children and the Isolated Children's Parents' Association.

He had conservation roles including feral goat eradication programs, and has an enduring interest in cactus control.

During his online hunt for the invasive coral cactus and prickly pear, he has discovered several isolated prospector's camps.

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The future depends on what you do today

There are two mistakes one can make along the path to truth, not going all the way and not starting

~ Mahatma Gandhi
~ Buddha

give yourself time and space

A place in the sun

By BEN DICKINSON

Dalkeith resident Joan McKenna Kerr has been inducted as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her three decades of advocacy for people with autism.

Ms McKenna Kerr has been CEO of the Autism Association of WA since the 1990s, taking it from a small advocacy organisation to a major service provider that supported 7768 people last financial year.

"There was really no understanding of the difficulties they faced [30 years ago]," she said.

Joan McKenna Kerr AM

When Ms McKenna Kerr arrived at the association, few people thought it was possible for children with autism to share a classroom with their neurotypical peers.

"It was quite a punitive approach," she said.

"It was thought that they were just non-compliant and difficult."

But that all changed when the association started working with educators to show them how to adapt their teaching styles and environment to better support students with autism.

"They have real difficulties understanding the social world," she said.

"When you understand that and structure the environment around that, children with autism thrive."

She said people with autism were still underrepresented in employment, had a higher rate of health problems than the average person, and often still faced difficulties at school.

"Every child should have their place in the sun," she said.

"We're a much more interesting society for including people who are diverse in so many different ways."

Cambridge Croquet Club head coach Matthew Whitfield is looking forward to showing sportspeople around the lawn.

Croquet out to 'poach' top players

By JEN REWELL

People with a competitive spirit and an eye for angles could be in the running for a $6000 prize from one of Floreat's community sports clubs.

Cambridge Croquet Club is hoping to attract elite sportspeople to the game by launching a scholarship that will culminate in an exclusive final tournament with a prize pool of $6000.

Head coach Matthew Whitfield said the club hoped to improve its competitive standing by introducing motivated athletes from sports such as hockey, golf and tennis.

"This is a good opportunity for people with a strong competitive instinct to transition to a non-impact game," Mr Whitfield said.

"Croquet is a very exciting, vigorous game."

He said top croquet players were competitive and cunning, with a good eye for angles and excellent hand-eye coordination.

"You have four balls on a lawn the size of several tennis courts, so the tactics are infinite," he said.

In croquet, players use a mallet to hit balls through small hoops in a certain order.

Recipients of the scholarship will receive intensive coaching, the use of a top-quality mallet, free entry to tournaments, and other incentives.

"It's a project unprecedented in size in croquet circles, and groundbreaking in Australia," Mr Whitfield said.

There are 10 scholarships on offer, and applications can be made through the club's website until March 31.

ADVERTISEMENT

The Perth Property Market: Wrapping Up 2024 and What Lies Ahead

As we move through 2025, Perth's property market continues to demonstrate resilience, confidence and strong growth fundamentals.

Despite economic shifts and ongoing global challenges, demand for premium homes remains high, with significant sales exceeding $7 million still occurring in City Beach, Peppermint Grove, Mosman Park and Cottesloe.

Perth's median house price grew to $745,000 by December 2024, and REIWA predicts a further 10% increase in 2025. More specifically in the Western Suburbs, Wembley recorded the highest growth with 18% increase in median value to $1,723,652 and was also the most sought after suburb with an average of 98 buyer enquiries per listing. Peppermint Grove maintained the title of most expensive suburb with the median house price of $4,228,655.

Western Suburbs Median House Prices

Suburb	Median estimate value	12 month Change in median Value	Buyer enquiries per listing
Peppermint Grove	$4,228,655	7%	41
Dalkeith	$3,477,076	6%	41
Cottesloe	$3,370,060	8%	51
City Beach	$2,781,777	12%	59
Swanbourne	$2,671,132	16%	66
Nedlands	$2,425,721	7%	67
Floreat	$2,116,398	12%	81
Mosman Park	$2,100,023	12%	47
Mount Claremont	$2,090,044	13%	64
Claremont	$1,933,652	8%	54
Shenton Park	$1,898,838	15%	93
Subiaco	$1,874,523	16%	69
Jolimont	$1,764,426	12%	92
Daglish	$1,758,457	15%	56
Wembley	$1,723,652	18%	98
North Fremantle	$1,641,535	9%	62

Source: realestate.com.au

Towards the end of last year we saw the heat came out of the market, buyer sentiment change from the manic FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) to relax slightly as stock levels rose, providing choice and time for buyers to take their time finding the right property.

This is reflected in the current stats with REIWA reporting that there are 4,790 properties on the market, which is close to a thousand more than the same week last year. This trend started around September last year where the stock levels were increasing faster than they were being sold. This year has started differently, the sales rate is higher – with last weeks statistics showing there were 865 sales, which is over 100 more than the same week last year. Internally we are seeing increased buyer interest which is unusual over the holiday period.

It definitely feels like the sentiment has changed again. And although figures show that stock levels and days on market have slightly increased, this has not dampened buyer sentiment, it is still a strong sellers market.

A strong WA economy – now the nation's best-performing – combined with rapid population growth of 2.8%, continues to fuel housing demand.

The elections this year do not appear to be impacting the market, and with interest rate cuts expected mid-year, buyer confidence is likely to strengthen further. Meanwhile, construction trends remain a key factor. The cost to build a home in Australia has surged to an average of $550,000 – a 47% increase since 2020. Fortunately, building costs do appear to be stabilising though, with last year seeing a 6.7% increase which is in line with the 10 year average.

While the number of dwellings under construction remains at elevated levels of 22,910, the construction industry has been able to increase the number of completions with 19,089 new homes completed in the 12 months to September 2024. The high construction costs and skilled labour shortages are still contributing to future supply constraints.

The low Australian dollar – while not great for holidays and online shopping – is great for exports especially with our resources industry.

This helped add a buffer to the commodities whose prices have softened and added extra margin to those like gold at record prices. The low Aussie dollar is also appealing to expats and international investors, who see Australian property 'on sale' with the currency conversion.

With these factors in play, 2025 presents a unique landscape for buyers, sellers, and investors.

The fundamentals remain strong, and Perth's market is well-positioned for continued upward momentum. I'll be exploring these themes in more detail over the coming weeks.

JUSTIN DAVIES
0419 909 350
Space Real Estate

Writing in the wall

What's the news? Chelsea Lansdown reads correspondence from 1942. **Photos: Paul McGovern**

By JEN REWELL

A cache of lost mail from 1942 has found the light of day and provides a fascinating insight into the private lives of ordinary people during World War II.

The nine letters were found inside a wall of the cottage on Railway Parade, West Leederville when the home was renovated several years ago.

The house has changed hands since then but the letters have stayed with it as new owners come and go.

Whitefox real estate agent Chelsea Lansdown handled the most recent sale of the circa 1900 home.

"We're not sure if we should keep passing them on with the house," Chelsea said.

She and the owners were looking into giving the letters to an organisation that would be able to preserve them.

The mixed bunch includes photographs, an offer of a job interview and general correspondence of the time.

Some of the envelopes are typed, some scrawled and others have exquisitely neat handwriting.

The letters are from different authors and the intended recipients as far away as Harvey, Edinburgh and India.

They are written in cursive, in ink, which proved challenging to decipher for readers who were more used to modern typeface.

"This is my favourite one, this is from mate to mate," Chelsea said.

The letter begins "Dear Willy, you old c***, can you remember me" and is a coarse and brutally honest account of the life of a man who has joined the navy.

"You've no bloody idea what Flinders is like, old boy. By the living Harry I'm glad I joined the navy instead of the army or the RAAF.

"We get the best of tucker, four meals a day and bonza accommodation."

He says there is a "wireless in every mess" and "electricity laid on everywhere".

"We get leave every fortnight up to Melbourne for 3 days & boy do we have a f****** good time," he writes.

He also describes the fun he's had with women in Melbourne who aren't his "one and only" but conceded that while a change is as good as a holiday, "these women are best to keep away from – they cost too much".

Another letter is from one housewife to another, and details what she has been up to and that someone called "Olive" has moved back home.

"We lead a very quiet life these days, our main thought at the moment is gardening, vegetable growing, Digging for Victory the papers call it," the writer says.

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Live in a home unlike any other in this spectacular architect-designed Bicton new-build; which looks set to become a riverside icon. 'Infinity Views' was designed by architect John LeClare Josephs of Superseed Architecture and was recently completed by boutique building company Capozzi Building. Nestled into the cliff face in a private cul-de-sac and spread over 560sqm of internal living space, this spectacular home is set over three spacious levels, with each storey making the most of the uninterrupted water views across the river to Fremantle Harbour, Rottnest and the ocean beyond.

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A Stunning Family Retreat

Tucked behind charming limestone-enclosed gardens, this beautifully renovated family home is the perfect blend of modern design and lush greenery. Ideally located just minutes from the river, beach, and some of Perth's most prestigious schools, it offers an unmatched lifestyle for families.

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POST news COMMUNITY

NEWS THAT'S RIGHT UP YOUR STREET

Like to share your community news with POST readers? Contact **Louisa Wales** *louisa@postnewspapers.com.au*

Dance to good vibes at Matilda Bay party

You won't stay seated for long when cover band Vibe gets going at the free Sunset Sounds community concert at Matilda Bay on February 9.

Get up and boogie by the beautiful Swan River from 5.30 to 7pm.

Families are invited to bring a picnic or buy food and drinks from the popular food van.

There will even be free ice-creams, and bubble-making fun for the kiddies.

Vibe is described as a versatile, energetic and professional band specialising in R'n'B, Funk, Soul, Pop and Rock.

The evening is sponsored by the City of Perth Western Residents community group.

For more information go to cityofperthwesternresidents.com.

Bring the kids for a perfect Matilda Bay evening February 9.

Society makes historic move

Sally Anne Hasluck and Richard Offen at the society's sleek new home. **Photo: Paul McGovern**

It's official: The Royal Western Australian Historical Society is about to move to a new home after more than 60 years at its previous address.

On Thursday last week, January 23, the society threw open the doors of its modern new premises at 109 Stirling Highway, Nedlands, for members and friends to get a sneak preview.

The RWAHS bought the space with the help of a $500,000 LotteryWest grant, and hopes to have it up and running by April.

The organisation recently sold its premises at 49 Broadway which it has occupied since 1964.

RWAHS president Richard Offen said the new space would allow the society to set up a bookshop on the ground floor where it could be seen by passers-by on Stirling Highway.

The new address includes room for office space and to store its collection of Western Australian historical artefacts, and two areas to hire out for meetings or events such as talks or book launches.

Richard said he was relieved they had found a building in an excellent position, offering a comfortable and convenient home in which the society would celebrate its centenary next year.The RWAHS will offer talks in coming weeks at the Church of St Andrews, 177 Stirling Highway.

On February 18 at 10.30am Marsha Sullivan will present a history of the Dogs Refuge Home in Shenton Park, and on February 19 at 6pm Jenny Gregory will present a talk called "Letters to Mollie from DH Lawrence". All welcome.

Bookings are essential, on 9386 3841. For more information go to histwest.org.au

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Ocean marathons ultra-fun for Josie

For Josie Page, swimming for hours at a time in the ocean is not merely enjoyable; it's a way of life she can take around the world.

Josie, 25, is one of a merry band of regulars in the Westside Christ Church Aquatic Club who meet each week at Christ Church Grammar School pool to train for long-distance open-water swims.

All of them compete in marathon swims around the world and enjoy a strong camaraderie.

It's not a commitment they make lightly.

Josie's weekly training schedule includes nine two-hour swims in the Christ Church pool, plus two strength and conditioning sessions at the gym.

But it pays off.

In 2024 Josie achieved an outstanding race result of five hours, 47 minutes and 43 seconds in the 45.9km ultra-marathon swim around Manhattan Island in New York State.

It wasn't far behind Shelley Taylor-Smith's 1995 Manhattan swim time of five hours, 45 minutes and 25 seconds.

Josie's time was also up there with the world record set by open water champion Andy Donaldson at the Manhattan swim in September of five hours, 41 minutes and 48 seconds.

Josie Page at the Christ Church Grammar School pool where she trains for marathon open water swims. **Photos: Paul McGovern**

Josie said she was surprised at her time, but she had given it everything she had.

"We started at 2am and swam into the sunrise," she said.

"It was current-assisted but you had to work hard to get on the current and stay on it.

"It is physically and mentally very difficult but I enjoyed it the whole way through, which definitely helped."

She said her swimming club friends were a great support during her Manhattan swim.

"They sent messages while I was swimming which were relayed to me [during the race]," she said.

"They were watching the live track all the way which was nice."

Josie encourages other swimmers who haven't tried long-distance open water competition to give it a go.

For more information visit westsidechristchurch.com.

How will Trump alter course of war in Ukraine?

US President Donald Trump

A former British soldier and expert in international defence will discuss the impact of the second Trump presidency on the war in Ukraine on February 19 in Crawley.

Richard Iron, who is president of the Australian Institute of International Affairs branch in Victoria, will speak at Forrest Hall, attend at 6pm for 6.30pm.

Western indicators are that more than half a million people have been killed or wounded in the Russo-Ukrainian war, with many more displaced.

The Biden administration in the US maintained support for Ukraine. New President Donald Trump has signalled a markedly different approach.

Mr Iron will examine the possibilities of a negotiated end to the war, and the conditions that would have to be achieved to enable lasting peace.

Tickets are $10 for members and $20 non-members of the AIIA WA branch.

For more information and to buy tickets go to internationalaffairs.org.au/western-australia and click on the Western Australia Events section.

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Bordering the Kalgan River, this custom rammed earth home is set on 10 acres, with direct river access. Featuring well established grounds with lush lawns, easy care gardens and mature trees, the stunning property also includes two cottages and excellent shed space.

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Scan for further property information

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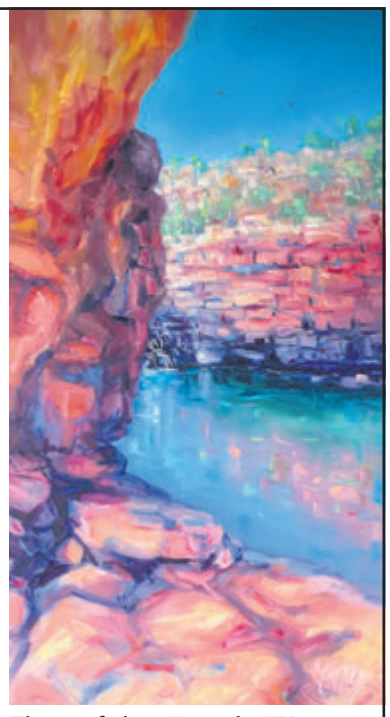

Three of the pieces by Western Australian artists to be shown in Peppermint Grove next weekend.

The art of fundraising at Freshie Bay

All are invited to an exhibition of works by WA artists at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club next Saturday and Sunday, February 8 and 9, from 10am to 5pm.

The exhibition will feature works by more than 40 WA artists, including the late Robert Juniper, and will benefit the BrightSpark Foundation, which funds WA scientific research in child heath.

RFBYC commodore Tim Cummins said: "We are incredibly proud to host this event and bring the community together to celebrate art while supporting such a worthy cause."

All artworks will be for sale, with part of the proceeds to go to BrightSpark and the remainder to the artists. No art sale proceeds will go to the club.

While entry is free on Saturday and Sunday, tickets for the opening night from 6pm to 8pm on Friday are $65 each and include drinks and canapes.

For more information visit rfbyc.asn.au and click on the "Club Info" tab.

What will it take to publish your book?

Have you written a book you're about to send out to publishers?

Have you been struggling to find a publisher interested in your work?

Hear how to give your unpublished manuscript its best chance of being noticed, with professional advice from an industry insider.

Fremantle Press senior editor Rachel Hanson (pictured) will give a 90-minute masterclass called Getting Published at the Fellowship of Australian Writers WA next Saturday, February 8.

Rachel joined Fremantle Press in 2021 as a fiction and non-fiction editor.

She began her publishing career more than 12 years ago and has an MA in Professional Writing from the University of Technology Sydney.

The class will be at Mattie Furphy House (next to Allen Park), 11 Kirkwood Road, Swanbourne, from 10 to 11.30am.

Tickets are $35 members and $45 for non-members.

Go to humanitix.com and search "Getting Published with Rachel Hanson".

For more about the fellowship visit fawwa.org.

Dockers kick off St Pat's project

Fremantle Dockers players have donated $20,000 to support a Fremantle church's centre for the homeless.

St Pat's in Fremantle is raising money to fit out a place for the homeless to have a meal, a shower, and access health and dental care.

It is due to open at the end of the year.

Dockers captain Alex Pearce presented the donation during a visit to St Patrick's Community Support Centre on January 22.

"It's always good to have moments like this where we step away from the training track and acknowledge we have a bigger role in society and within the Freo community," he said.

Denara, Peter and Molly with Next Generation Association players from the Fremantle Dockers.

The Fremantle Players' Community Charitable Fund was founded in 2018 with support from the Fremantle Foundation charity, and is reputed to be the first player-backed fund set up by a sporting team in Australia.

For more information visit stpats.com.au.

AUCTION

26 Circe Circle, Dalkeith

6 3 2 1 1012

No ordinary home, this family residence is a place where pedigree and potential intersect. Some houses are complete chapters, others are blank pages. It offers a rare chance to shape the property into your own vision, a story with the opening lines beautifully written. Introduced by polished timber parquetry flooring and a captivating double height entry hallway, the home features both formal and informal living spaces, beautiful dining room and fully fitted home office. Stone finish floor tiling, soaring ceilings and arched windows and doorways provide some context as to its 1991 vintage.

View
Saturday 1st February
9:00am - 9:30am, 11:15am - 11:45am, 3:30pm - 4:00pm

Auction
ONSITE | Saturday 8th February
11:00am

Vivien Yap
0433 258 818
vivien.yap@raywhite.com

Thomas Jefferson Wedge
0416 657 300
thomas.wedge@raywhite.com

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Understated Exterior – WOW Interior

3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 352sqm

FEATURES:

- Beautifully presented residence in tranquil pocket of Subiaco
- Second, ground floor, guest room and bathroom
- Generous ground floor main bedroom, WIR, ensuite
- Single garage, plus double carport at rear accessed from ROW
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- Expansive open plan living/dining with fireplace
- Upper floor guest retreat, bathroom, pedestal basin, wc
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Talk about the birds and the bees

A honeyeater visits a Eucalyptus torquata, known as a coral gum.
Photos: Mark Brundrett

The guest speaker at the Western Australian Naturalists' Club main branch meeting next Friday, February 7, will be Dr Mark Brundrett.

Mark is an associate professor at UWA and a research associate at the West Australian Herbarium. He will talk about the insects, birds and marsupials that pollinate the flowers in the state's southwest.

Dr Mark Brundrett

His talk, with excellent photos, will be about the relationships between the characteristics of flowers and the animals that pollinate them.

Flowers compete to attract pollinators by using colours, scents and shapes tailored to suit pollinators' sensory systems. Some have evolved to attract relatively specific pollinators.

A study into pollination strategies of the plants in our biodiversity hotspot identified that the complexity of pollination evolution in WA is globally unique.

This has major consequences for the management of rare flora and ecosystem restoration, especially due to increasing habitat degradation, fire and climate change.

Friday's meeting will be from 7.30pm in the Hew Roberts Lecture Theatre, University of Western Australia.

Park at the Gordon Street or Clifton Street entrances to the campus. All are welcome and a donation of $3 for members or $5 for non-members will include a chance to win the door prize.

For more information visit wanaturalists.org.au and click on the events button.

A bee on a Thysanotus sparteus, known as a leafless fringed lily.

Sign up to rid Australia of rubbish

Clean Up Australia Day this year will mark 35 years of people collecting rubbish to improve and conserve our environment.

The event is described as Australia's longest-running and biggest national day of environmental action.

All are invited to register for Clean Up Australia on Sunday March 2. The day for businesses will be February 25 and for schools on February 28.

Clean Up Australia was founded in 1990, and more than 22 million Australians have taken part so far.

Last year 140,000 bags of litter were collected nationally.

An estimated 81% of litter collected for the event in 2023 was plastic, the organisation said. About 44% was picked up near waterways, 16% from parks, and 11% from bushland.

Registrations for Clean Up Australia Day are now open. Volunteers will be offered a free kit containing gloves, rubbish bags and other handy resources for the day. Businesses will be asked to pay a small fee.

For more information go to cleanup.org.au.

Cott Probus invites new members

Women are invited to join the Cottesloe Ladies Probus Club which kicks off for 2025 on Monday February 10.

Club members will meet for friendship, fellowship and fun at 9.30am at the Grove Library, 1 Leake Street, Peppermint Grove.

Guest speaker will be the Western Metropolitan Regional Council's education and communications officer Rosie Bruce who will talk about how to manage waste wisely.

For more information phone Jacoba 0407 264 452 or email jhohnen65@gmail.com.

OUR TEAM IS GROWING.

Mosman Park Medical Centre is your trusted local community focused practice offering high quality healthcare.

We're excited to announce the addition of two new doctors with diverse special interests.

Dr Julius Varano

Dr Julius Varano brings extensive experience to the Western Suburbs, having spent the past five years practicing in the Eastern Suburbs.

He earned his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in 2011 from the University of Western Australia for significant research in respiratory cell biology and immunology before transitioning to medicine.

As a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Julius has worked across various specialties, including General Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Psychiatry, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, General Surgery, and Paediatrics.

HIS KEY INTERESTS INCLUDE:

- chronic disease management;
- men's and women's health;
- sexual health;
- palliative care;
- dermatology;
- preventative medicine;
- minor procedures such as cryotherapy, wound repair, and iron infusions;
- a non-opioid approach to managing chronic pain.

Dr Michael Crew

Dr Michael Crew is delighted to return to Perth, WA, with his wife and two young children, bringing over a decade of healthcare experience.

Before pursuing medicine, Michael worked as a Sleep Medicine scientist and taught health sciences at university.

A Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Michael has provided care in hospitals, regional clinics, and rural settings. He takes a holistic approach to healthcare, emphasising long-term wellness.

HIS KEY INTERESTS INCLUDE:

- metabolic health, particularly weight management;
- Type 2 Diabetes, and pre-diabetes;
- lifestyle medicine, focusing on nutrition, physical activity, sleep, and stress management;
- managing chronic conditions and improving overall health.

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51 Harvey St Mosman Park

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For more information, visit us at MosmanParkMedicalCentre.com.au

SALE

3 2 2

37 Heather Road, Ocean Beach

Representing one of the most impressive properties in the sought after Ocean Beach area, this stunning coastal retreat offers the perfect blend of luxury, comfort and eco-friendly living.
Completed in 2022, this contemporary, three bedroom, two bathroom home features mid century design elements, which are sure to impress the architectural enthusiast!
The home itself has been thoughtfully designed around the natural landscape, vegetation and the northern aspect of this 2022sqm block, allowing enjoyment all year round.

View
Sat 1st, 8th & 22nd of February
11:00am to 12:00pm
Sale
High $1 Million's

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Our Olly's the best of the best

A Wembley man who has led the manufacture of tens of thousands of wheelchairs for children in need around the world has been named Senior Australian of the Year 2025.

Olly Pickett, aged 84, was the category's WA finalist, and was flown to Canberra for the announcement.

He was chosen as the winner over finalists in every Australian state.

Olly is a retired teacher who was nominated by former students after the 50-year reunion of St Patrick's College in Geraldton, where he taught.

He has volunteered from Monday to Saturday for the past 27 years at Wheelchairs For Kids Australia in Wangara.

He co-founded Wheelchairs For Kids in 1996 to provide adjustable wheelchairs free to children in developing countries.

He began building wheelchairs after being approached by the Rotary Club of Scarborough. At the time he was teaching welding to kids who had dropped out of school.

Since then, more than 60,000 custom-built wheelchairs have been given to children in more than 80 countries, thanks to his army of 250 volunteers who build the wheelchairs in Wangara.

Each chair costs $275 to make.

A further 350 people from aged care and community groups sew covers for the wheelchairs' soft supports, and crochet rugs and soft toys to be sent with the chairs.

Olly also developed an innovative, low-cost wheelchair design to World Health Organization standards that grows as the children do – a world first.

In congratulating Olly, National Australia Day Council chair John Foreman said: "Brother Olly's compassion and energy are the driving forces which have brought mobility and freedom to countless children around the globe.

"He reminds us that, through volunteerism, you can truly impact the lives of others."

Olly said he returned to Perth on Monday night and was straight back to the Wangara workshop early on Tuesday – to be met by 20 or so volunteers who stood in formation to welcome him back.

"There was a big welcome waiting for me," he said.

"I couldn't believe it. They held a special morning tea to celebrate. And then we got on with the business of making wheelchairs."

Olly said a 12m container had arrived on Tuesday, ready to be loaded up with its precious cargo and shipped to Mombasa.

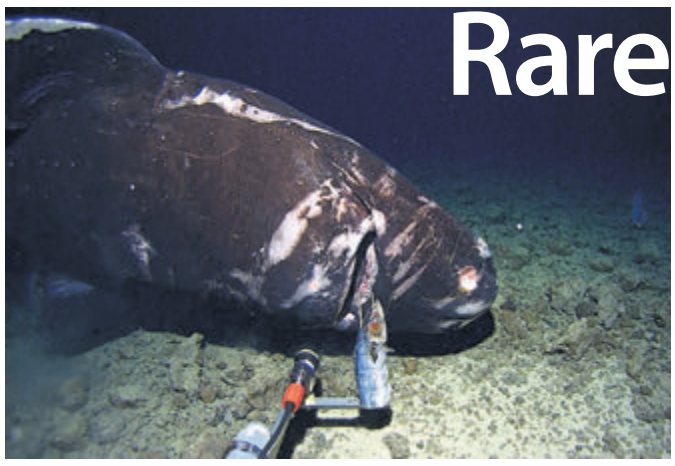
"We've got 340 boxes of wheelchairs going to Kenya tomorrow," he said.

And was he thinking of retiring any time soon?

"I'm 84 now so I'll give it a few more years and see how I go," he said.

On a roll ... *Olly Pickett makes and gives wheelchairs to kids in need around the world.*

Rare glimpse of deep-sea shark



The sleeper shark filmed at a depth of 1400m.

Researchers from the University of Western Australia have captured rare footage of a sleeper shark during an expedition to explore the biodiversity of the Tonga Trench in the south-western Pacific Ocean.

Research fellow Jessica Kolbusz, from the Minderoo-UWA Deep-Sea Research Centre, said the sleeper shark was filmed on the eastern side of the Tonga Trench at a depth of 1400m in 2.5C waters.

"Pacific sleeper sharks have rarely been observed in the southern hemisphere," Dr Kolbusz said.

"They are frequently caught as bycatch in the northern hemisphere, but they have seldom been studied."

The slow-moving sharks can grow up to seven metres in length and the one caught on film was estimated to be about half that.

The rare vision showed the shark had rows of teeth when it opened its mouth to feed on the bait, but the range of teeth the species could possess was unknown due to the lack of research.

"They are opportunistic predators and scavengers that eat slow-moving bottom feeders and carcases, and stomach contents have suggested the capability of small dashes to catch fast-swimming fish," Dr Kolbusz said.

The expedition aimed to explore how biodiversity and species abundance changed between 1000m and 10,000m and whether those changes were driven by pressure or habitat.

The Tonga Trench is a key pathway for global ocean circulation.

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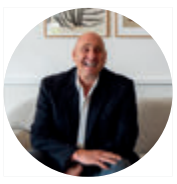
17A North Street, DUNSBOROUGH

4 2 2 685m2

Discover the epitome of coastal elegance in this stunning residence located in enviable Old Dunsborough. This home offers a perfect blend of sophistication & comfort, making it an ideal retreat for those seeking a premium lifestyle. The spacious interiors are designed to impress, featuring ample living space for entertaining or relaxing. The home is surrounded by lush gardens with a spacious outdoor entertaining area, while a tree lined beachside laneway provides access to rear shed & there is plenty of parking including a double garage. This unique property backs onto & has direct access to iconic Thurstun Lane. Nestled in the heart of old Dunsborough, this property provides unparalleled access to the vibrant community & natural beauty that define this sought-after coastal town. Just moments away from pristine beaches & picturesque walking trails, you'll have endless opportunities to explore the great outdoors. The combination of luxurious living spaces, prime location & proximity to the Old Dunsborough Boat Ramp & Geographe Bay makes this home a standout choice for discerning buyers.

For Sale:
From $3,200,000

Contact:



Garry Morris
0417 964 823

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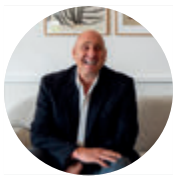
5 Finlayson Street, DUNSBOROUGH

2 1 2 704m2

This dream beachside retreat is an iconic beach house nestled in one of the most sought-after locations in Old Dunsborough. Only footsteps to the ocean, providing an unbeatable coastal lifestyle, this is where your home meets paradise. Set just metres from the Bay & surrounded by peppermint & other native trees, this home is located on a large dual access corner block, allowing you to enjoy the soothing sounds of the ocean from the comfort of your home. The property features a functional kitchen overlooking the spacious open-plan living & dining area, 2 good sized bedrooms, while a second outbuilding could be easily converted into additional accommodation or utilised for your own use. There is potential for stunning ocean views with the addition of a 2nd storey. Whether you're looking for a tranquil beachside escape or a character filled home to make lasting memories, this property is the perfect place to embrace the beauty of coastal living & a laid back Dunsborough lifestyle. With its stunning location & incredible views, this beach house won't last long.

For Sale:
$3,200,000

Contact:



Garry Morris
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JHY Realty

20 Bay View Crescent, Dunsborough

Gaze through expansive windows at uninterrupted ocean views or stroll across the road to feel the sand beneath your feet. Defined by generous flowing spaces, premium finishes, and modern luxuries, this distinctive property showcases impressive open-plan living, alfresco entertaining and breathtaking ocean vistas. This sensational beachfront abode features a two-storey main residence comprising 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 2 powder rooms, along with an adjoining self-contained studio apartment complete with a bathroom and kitchenette, set above a large garage with space for a boat. Located in one of the region's most prestigious addresses, this oceanfront residence serves as your gateway to the iconic Margaret River region.

Offers Presented By 5pm 19/02/2025 (Unless Sold Prior)

Team Jennings Hopkins
Andrew Hopkins
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andrew@jhyrealty.com.au

7 Wardanup Crescent, Yallingup

A rare opportunity exists to acquire one of the largest and last vacant blocks available on prestigious Yallingup Hill. Totaling 1211m2, this cleared, elevated lot offers a 10m height limit gaining picturesque views over main break and the adjoining National Park. An incredible blank canvas for your dream holiday escape or forever home, situated within walking distance to pristine Yallingup beach for endless summertime bliss and beautiful Caves House for social sundowners. Potential views extend from Indicators to the South, over "The Bubble" and "Mainbreak" to the West, with the most amazing sunsets that Yallingup is famous for.

Offers Presented By 5pm 12/02/2025 (Unless Sold Prior)

Team Lee York
0438 867 737
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Scoop up the competition with lacrosse

Athletes keen to represent WA or Australia might consider taking up lacrosse, an advocate for the sport said.

Lacrosse WA high performance director Lara Clarke said the sport was growing quickly in Australia.

She said WA players were making their mark at state, national and international levels and she urged men, women and children to sign up for the exciting opportunities ahead.

Lacrosse had been classified once again as an Olympic sport and would be in Los Angeles in 2028.

"Australia ranks third in the women's competition in the Sixes format and there's a very good chance they will medal at LA28, after winning bronze at the last two World Games. The men are currently ranked sixth and are well placed to move up the ladder for LA28," she said.

"We're pretty sure Australia will keep it going at the 2032 Brisbane Olympics as well."

Lara said there were seven lacrosse clubs in WA with more than 1000 players from juniors and up.

The Quick Stix modified lacrosse program for kids five to 15 years was now in schools around the state and clubs were offering Modcross for players aged seven and up.

The sport was really taking off in Australia, she said.

Her own son had fallen in love with lacrosse when he tried it.

He chose it because in men's lacrosse he got to wear a helmet and it's a very physical, face paced game, she said.

"It's fast. It's fit. It's like a cross between ice hockey and polo on a horse.

"It's a high energy, high impact game that is fabulous to watch."

Budding lacrosse players also have the chance to learn from the best with top US players offering training in WA in coming months.

Recently 30 young women players were treated to expert training and encouragement from some of the world's best at an "emerging stars" clinic.

Leading American players Katie Riehl, Mackenzie Boyle, and Lauren Ellis arrived in Australia in November and will be here for a year to play for a local Perth club.

Lara said Ocea Leavy, a West Australian, was also out from the US to teach at the clinic at Wembley in December while home to visit family for Christmas.

"This clinic was above and beyond," she said. "Our junior players had a whole day of coaching from US College Division One athletes learning invaluable skills and making new friends."

Western suburb lacrosse clubs include Subiaco and Wembley. For more information go to lacrossewa.com.au.

Players training with some of the world's best at Wembley Lacrosse Club. **Photo: Paul McGovern**

Australia Day on the lawn

Nedlands Croquet Club held its annual Australia Day tournament on Sunday, with 10 players competing in a round-robin event.

Club member Wendy Prendiville said the weather was perfect and the cool breeze for most of the day meant the players, who were out on the lawns from 8am until after 6pm, weren't subjected to the extreme heat experienced lately.

"There was a great contest in the final between the undefeated Ian Dumergue from Forrest Park and Jeff Newcombe from Como," she said.

"Ian played his usual precise, fluent style of croquet, which is always a pleasure to watch.

"Not giving his opponent many opportunities to score, he managed to come out on top with a Triple Peel, 26-8 TP, repeating his winning performance from 2022."

Ian Dumergue

Having fun at Cambridge Croquet

More than 50 members of Cambridge Croquet Club came out in force to celebrate Australia Day on Sunday.

Club member Stephen Barnes said: "It was a wonderful occasion, with so many members playing croquet or attending the after-game barbecue.

"It is impossible to thank all those who contributed to making the event the best Australia Day event we have run."

New club captain Amanda Hurt, in her first major role for the club, pre-organised all the matches ensuring smooth running of the competition.

The winner's title of Top Gun went to Brian Scott, with Lesley Storey runner-up.

But winning was not as important as taking part and the club offered a host of prizes throughout the afternoon.

"One important event was the presentation to Joanna Jakeway for her work leading a catering team and editing the club's newsletter," Stephen said.

"Good Egg" winners Christine Bunny and Hazel Elliott.

"Her husband Roger, our past captain, spoke of the enjoyment that croquet has given him. The club wishes him well in his difficult battle with his sight."

For more information about Cambridge Croquet Club go to cambridgecroquet.com.au.

CITY OF SUBIACO

NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SPECIFIED WORKS

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (NOISE) REGULATIONS 1997

REGULATION 14A (8)

The Chief Executive Officer of the City of Subiaco proposes to approve a Noise Management Plan for specified works (waste collection and cleaning of roads, footpaths and public places) within the City.

The purpose and effect of this Noise Management Plan is to describe how the noise impact from waste collection and roads, footpaths and public places cleaning activities carried out by the City of Subiaco will be managed and minimised.

A copy of the proposed Noise Management Plan may be inspected at or obtained from the City's Customer Service & Council Chambers at Level 2, 388 Hay St Subiaco during office hours Monday – Friday 9:00am – 4:30pm.

Any comments regarding the proposal should be submitted in writing by 21st February 2025.

Comments can be submitted:

- Via email **city@subiaco.wa.gov.au**
- By mail addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, City of Subiaco, PO Box 270, Subiaco 6904

Please include your full name, address, email and contact phone number with your comments.

COLIN CAMERON
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Bowling

Dalkeith Nedlands

Pennant matches for ladies and men on Tuesday and Thursday January 21 and 23 were, very sensibly, abandoned by Bowls WA due to heatwave conditions. There were no pennants on Saturday, January 25, due to state singles events.

But 32 players participated in social bowls on Saturday and some fierce competition resulted. Best performed were John Pole, Alan Pitman, Fran Farrell and Tom James with a margin of 6 shots. Next were Lindsay Richardson, Maureen Davison, David Mildenhall and Michael Joyce + 4; then Peter Wiesner, Gof Bowles, Chris Biris and Julia Wallis + 2; and John McCormack, John Shaw, Alan Davison and Les Pedder + 1. It was disappointing that only three players from the men's top side bothered to attend social bowls and perhaps this goes some way to explaining why the Saturday side is on the bottom of the pennants table.

Hollywood Subiaco

Thursday's bowls were cancelled due to the heat rule, and the long weekend took care of the Saturday bowls.

Mosman Park

Both men's and ladies' pennants were cancelled last week because of the extreme heat.

On Wednesday January 22 social scroungers got off to a new beginning. We had a roll-up for three rinks on a lovely balmy evening. The winner was Noelene Chesson and the runners-up were Dominic Tomwierik and Jarrod Dougan.

Australia Day was very busy. There was a bouncy castle for the kids and the rinks were available to hire.

The annual bowls match between Australia and the Rest of the World was played with the Australian team winning 65-45.

Wednesday social scroungers is at 6pm for a 6.30pm start and there is mahjong each Thursday morning from 9am.

Subiaco Pétanque

Last Saturday, January 25, Subiaco welcomed Nuvish from the Dodo club and Amanda from the Safety Bay club, along with French visitors Benoit and Martin.

They joined 31 club members in a delightful afternoon of competition for the President's Cup.

Nick Siciliano was a convincing winner. Other successful players were Rob Dunlop, Nuvish Atchamah, Marion Meacock, Al McDonell, and Ravin Parianen.

This Friday, January 31, the club again welcomed players from all clubs in Perth for another twilight competition. There will be social play on Saturday, February 1.

Visitors are always welcome on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Consult the website, petanque-subiaco.com, or Facebook pages for details.

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Water polo club drives to excellence

By Justin Fris

After every Olympic Games, non-mainstream sports such as water polo often receive a spike in participation rates.

This is often due to the added exposure which comes from being splashed across free-to-air TV during a period when the world is watching.

One entity keen to capitalise on this added interest is the University of Western Australia Water Polo Club, which is based at Perth High Performance Centre – formerly HBF Stadium – in Mount Claremont.

President Peter Hughes and chief executive Frank Di Costa are keen for a new era for the club.

The club intends to undertake a major capital works program, leaving it in a position to not only solely own and operate the purpose-built outdoor water polo pool at the site, but also subsequent tailor-made infrastructure that would create a true centre of excellence.

"The jewel in the crown is undeniably the HPC outdoor water polo facility," Mr Di Costa told Business News.

"This is what we're looking to take over [ownership], so we've got full access to the pool and facilities.

"Our women's program has been on a bit of a decline, just because we don't have the facilities.

"So, being able to provide a centre of excellence and participation as well … it's got to cater for elite programs, AWL [Australian Water Polo League] national programs, Asian touring clubs, along with participation across all different levels.

"Accessing pool space and having really elite facilities is a big gap in the sport, particularly in Western Australia.

"So being able to bridge that gap and have the world-class facilities is going to have a big impact on this club."

Mr Di Costa believes the planned facilities will be very important.

"They include changerooms designated for both women and men," he said.

"There will be coaching rooms … we'll have an office structure in there and a fully equipped gym.

"And upstairs, we'll have a nice social members lounge for people to be able to utilise.

"They'll be fully functional facilities, which will be able to cater for all of the requirements of the sport and activities."

UWA Water Polo Club chief executive Frank Di Costa. **Photo: Michael O'Brien**

■ **Keep reading at businessnews.com.au**

Brown-Neaves grabs Yallingup getaway

By Mark Pownall

77 Thornton Road, Yallingup.

Property and construction entrepreneur Garry Brown-Neaves has bought the home Steve Tobin built in Yallingup, paying $8.5million for the eight hectare property.

Sold just a month after the property hit the market, the price was well below Mr Tobin's goal of breaking a local record at $15million and largely matches the estimated cost of the new home.

The Tobins had held the 77 Thornton Road site via a private company for 12 years, having bought it for $1.7million.

Mr Tobin, a resources contracting entrepreneur who sold 65% of his Queensland-based Terrex Seismic to private equity group Allego seven years ago, last year told Business News that his family had decided to relocate to Perth having spent years developing the property.

It is a neighbour to Aravina Estate, a wine and hospitality property developed by the Tobins and sold in 2023 to Indonesia's second richest man, Low Tuck Kwong.

Mr Brown-Neaves sits on the Business News Rich List with a fortune estimated at $350million.

Growth expected for non-alcoholic sector

By Liv Declerck

Lightning Minds founder Michael Payne. **Photo: Michael O'Brien**

Non-alcoholic brewing company Lightning Minds has recorded a 180% revenue increase for the 12 months ending December 2024, indicating continued growth in the non-alcoholic beverage sector.

The Fremantle-based brewery's founder and managing director Michael Payne told Business News that 2024 was a strong year for the young company.

"October, November, December, we saw our biggest growth over a three-month period, even though we're only a three-year-old business, so it was quite promising," he said.

"There was still a lot of learning, [but] it was just nice to solidify some of the hard work and see some results.

"I have investors as well, so it's always nice to be able to show growth and see that their investments pay off in the end."

Lightning Minds' growth reflected recent data that found that the global non-alcoholic beverage industry would grow to more than $US4billion by 2028.

According to the No- and Low-Alcohol Strategic Study 2024 conducted by London-based drinks industry data company IWSR, sector growth would occur at a rate of 7% a year by volume.

The no-alcohol market in Australia specifically is expected to grow at a rate of 7.5% through to 2028.

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Not the turn on it might have been

Babygirl (MA15+)

★★☆

REVIEW: PIER LEACH

Nicole Kidman's heralded role as a Manhattan robotics CEO who longs to be dominated comes at a time when there are few Hollywood screen explorations of sexuality, post #metoo.

So it's a welcome thematic revival, even if it turns out to be far less erotic than the hype suggests.

Robotics is Romy's (Kidman) business, but it also might be a metaphor for her perfunctory sex life with her husband Jacob (Antonio Banderas, in a thankless role). The opening scene has her fake an orgasm before dashing into another room to finish herself off with some online porn.

Arriving at work the next morning, she is frighteningly almost attacked by a dog. When a young man (Harris Dickinson, Triangle of Sadness) commands it to heel, she's relieved, and aroused. She'd like to be brought to heel, too.

It turns out he's her new intern, Samuel, and he quickly tunes into Romy's silent memo.

The power dynamic does a skidding 180, and it isn't long before he has her standing in the naughty corner and lapping milk out of a bowl at his feet.

Written and directed by Dutch-American filmmaker Halina Reijn (Bodies Bodies Bodies), Babygirl is interested in expressing the desires of a middle-aged woman – even if Kidman's statuesque Romy is no everywoman.

But it is weirdly bereft of feeling. Kidman brings her signature hauteur but little depth, while Dickinson's character is only developed in the context of his kink.

There is none of the feelgood subversiveness that Maggie Gyllenhaal and James Spader brought to the similarly themed, gender-reversed 2002 film Secretary.

Nor does it have the emotional clout of Isabelle Huppert in Michael Haneke's 2001 erotic drama The Piano Teacher. Or the brutal, high stakes tension Michael Fassbender lent his sex addict in Steve McQueen's Shame (2011).

When Samuel picks Romy up and carries her like a baby, to the strains of George Michael's Father Figure, it's just a little bit funny and obvious. Less thrillingly erotic and more amusingly simplistic.

Intern Samuel (Harris Dickinson) engages in an unemotional dominating sexual role-play with his boss, Romy (Nicole Kidman).

Sharing loss can be a positive thing

Roe Rowe, with her husband musician Chris, shares their personal story of loss.

In contrast to Fringe's overload of queer burlesque, clowning, singing and dancing, comes a serious story about loss.

Roe Rowe, who grew up in Cottesloe, had a miscarriage last year. Now, with her musician husband Chris, she is staging a Fringe Conversation called What to Expect When You're No Longer Expecting.

The grieving parents share their hopes, dreams, the joy of pregnancy and the devastation of pregnancy loss. "It is such a common experience, and we realised we were just another statistic, but not many people talk about," Roe said. "It is on the fringes of discussion and through Fringe we want to open up the conversation."

The Rowes share their stories and play original songs at State Theatre this weekend, February 1 and 2.

They plan to start a memorial wall for other people who experienced miscarriage and will donate profits from the performances to Pink Elephant, an organisation that provides support to women in that position.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRINGE WORLD FESTIVAL 2025

You choose the songs for Catherine Summers

In her 10th year performing at Fringe, jazz singer **Catherine Summers** adds to new twist to her show. Juke Box Raffle invites the audience to choose the evening's repertoire from a list of over 250 songs. Songs range from Elton John to Ella Fitzgerald, Amy Winehouse and Sophie Ellis-Bexter to Sarah Vaughan. It's a celebration of jazz and pop, backed by a full six-piece band. Catherine is at Lamont's Bishop's from February 4 to 7, and 11 to 14, 7pm.

■■■

Night Owl Shows present shows depicting the lives, loves and music of some of the 20th century's most influential singer songwriters: Simon and Garfunkel, The Carol King and James Taylor Story and 60s and 70s hits in California Dreams: Sounds of LA. The three shows perform in repertory from February 5 to 16 at the Pleasure Gardens.

Pigtails (Mia Slayford) uses her pop music to tell a tale of disconnection.

■■■

Pop artist Pigtails (aka Mia Slayford) has returned to Perth after a decade of writing and singing her way across Europe and LA.

Broken Toy is a new pop theatre show that explores idea of finding human-ing difficult. Pigtails has always felt different to everyone else; she's complex, ridiculously sensitive and moves through the world with her eight-year-old self in mind. With oversized props, four dancers and a ton of colour, Pigtails performs at Blue Room Theatre from February 11 to 15 as part of its Summer Nights season at 6pm.

■■■

Rhythmos is an award-winning contemporary a cappella choir of up-and-coming young singers. In Rhythmos Goes Big the choir will go all out with soaring harmonies, big band vibes and jazz-infused rhythms in a laid-back cocktail lounge style.

They go big at the Ambassador Bar on Aberdeen Street this weekend, February 1 and 2, and next Saturday and Sunday.

Simon and Garfunkel reimagined by Night Owl Shows.

direct answers

WAYNEANDTAMARA.COM

Q I'm dating a man who cannot watch a movie, see a Victoria's Secret commercial, or glimpse a beautiful model in a magazine or online without saying what he would like to do with her sexually.

Recently we were looking up something online and he clicked on an image of a young topless female. I was upset. He tells me I am a jealous drama queen, but his need to constantly verbalise his thoughts about other women bothers me.

He says all men look at their female friends, wonder what they look like naked, and think what it would be like to have sex with them.

Is this normal male behaviour? Am I overreacting? I've asked female co-workers, and they all say they would be upset.

How do I deal with him?

Lacy

A Lacy, in asking how to deal with him, you are seeking a way to stay with an abuser.

You don't need to understand his way of thinking. You need to understand you are with an abusive man.

The first time he made a vulgar remark and you didn't leave, you set the stage for his continued behaviour. If you don't walk away, you've signalled your acceptance. His behaviour will grow worse. Why? Because that's who he is, and that's who he thinks you are. Don't trade the right to loving and respectful treatment for the hope of a wedding.

Wayne & Tamara

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Toronto company Why Not draws on its SE Asian diaspora to retell an Indian tale.

Five hours immersed in Indian culture

SARAH McNEILL

Toronto director Ravi Jain had grown up with bite-sized versions of Mahabharata on television and in books and comics.

Based on a 4000-year-old Sanskrit epic about a family feud, the stories, philosophies and spiritual ideas are foundational to Indian culture.

But Ravi only got to understand the stage play at university where they studied Peter Brooks's version. That is the version most people will recall or know of – a version that came to Perth Festival in 1988. "His version taught me about myself," said Ravi, who was born in Ontario to Indian parents.

Ravi started his own theatre company called Why Not in Toronto in 2007 as a push-back against those traditional theatre companies that wouldn't cast Indian or Asian performers.

"I wanted to be a [Robert] Le Page not a brown Le Page! I wanted to make a company that melded cultures. I wasn't seeing that in Toronto," he said.

"Canada is a colonial country and ultimately it is about celebrating our differences. The thing that makes us unique is our differences. We should use those differences to build bridges, not obstacles."

His bridge between the country he grew up in and the country of his heritage was to stage a new version of the classic Indian tale.

Hybrid is a word he and Miriam Fernandes, his co-artistic director and co-creator use a lot in reference to the epic play they affectionately refer to as MBT – possibly to save terrible mispronunciations.

"Hybrid is a word we think is important and forces us constantly to ask who are we to tell this story?" Ravi said.

"All the themes of life and experiences are there – we just needed to find our story in it," said Miriam whose family come from Goa, southwest India.

"We had to shake off Peter Hall for this version, and shake off all the expectations from both white and Indian audiences. We are hybrid."

It took them over eight years to harness the many stories into an accessible piece of theatre.

Ravi said they considered Indian audiences who knew MBT better than them, and western audience who may know of it or some of it but might be intimidated by the various plots and characters.

"We went through a huge spiral of stories and it took many years to come back to where we are now," Miriam said. "We've wrestled with it for eight years and it's still like sand through our fingers."

This production, which tells the timeless story of the Pandavas and the Kauravas, two royal families fighting for control of the kingdom, is split into two parts running just over five hours.

Part 1 is Karma – The Life We Inherit, which asks: "When everyone believes they are right and their opponents wrong, how can one end a spiral of revenge?"

The second part is Dharma – The Life We Choose, which explores the question: "Are we destined to repeat the mistakes of our ancestors? Can we build a new world?"

To those who worry about an extended performance time, Miriam said: "Let it wash over you and go along for the ride – like life.

"Fifty years from now it'll make sense and then it's gone again."

Ravi agreed: "The duration is a distraction. If there's a reason to stay, you will. With a story like this, time does not matter and you need to sit with the ideas for a long time."

Mahabharata performs for Perth Festival at His Majesty's Theatre from February 8 to 16, with Part 1 at 2.30pm and Part 2 at 7.30pm.

Getting teeth into a spiritual burger

SARAH McNEILL

The day that fast food chain McDonald's opened in Singapore, Joe Paradise Lui's grandfather tried a Big Mac. He loved it so much he had a McDonald's burger every day for the rest of his life.

"Even when he was in hospital with a stroke, he tried to give me money to sneak him in a Big Mac," Joe recalled.

Theatre-maker Joe has worked in all Perth's theatre companies as a director, writer, lighting designer, composer and performer. He went to Melbourne last year where he met Brisbane-based Merlynn Tong in a late-night artists' gathering and when he told her that story she said her Singaporean grandfather loved McDonalds' Filet-O-Fish burger.

Joe Paradise Lui and Merlynn Tong re-examine their faith.

It was the beginning of a friendship and a working partnership that has resulted in a Perth Festival show, Legends (of the Golden Arches).

The golden arches represent both the recognisable M logo and the golden bridge to Chinese hell.

Joe and Merlynn were born and grew up in Singapore, and moved to Perth in their early 20s.

Their sharing of cultural stories and memories of growing up in Asia, and of becoming theatre artists in Australia, made them both examine and re-engage in the rituals, beliefs, myths and superstitions that were a part of their childhood.

"We come face to face with our own familial memories and cultural quasi-truths," said self-confessed atheist Joe.

"Spirituality was a part of everyday life in Singapore," Merlynn said. "There were festivals all the time and everyone, regardless of religion, was a part of it."

"It's not like go down on my knees every day but I will never stop believing, it is part of me.

"It is us trying to remember the myths and legends that we grew up with," Joe said.

Their show Legends is set at a Chinese funeral where Merlynn wants to remember the rites and rituals and Joe is just frustrated by the traditions.

But then the Lords of the Underworld drag them beyond the graveside, over the golden bridge and into the afterlife to resolve their differences.

Commissioned by Perth Festival and produced by Performing Lines WA, Legends (of The Golden Arches) performs at State Theatre from February 21 to 24.

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Modern stepping stones lead to the front of this beautifully-renovated character home on a 405sq.m block near the river.

Entertain beneath the stars

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The new owners of 48 Princess Road might want to invest in a good telescope for gazing at the Milky Way from the rear extension deck.

Sitting on the deck on a summer or autumn evening and looking at the night sky is one of the current owners' favourite memories of their 16 years in this home.

In 2013 they completed a major renovation to the worker's cottage, for which they engaged Paul Lim of Mata Design Studio.

They added a two-storey extension with a bright rear living area, a swimming pool and enclosed carport that is entered from the 405sq.m block's rear right-of-way.

Festoon lighting adds a party vibe to the outdoor entertaining area.

The work also included an upstairs adults' retreat which the owners converted into a master bedroom, nursery and study when their son was born.

"We used polished concrete for looks but also thermal mass with in-floor heating to create a comfortable, energy-efficient home," the owners said.

The home underwent a second rejuvenation 18 months ago with renovations carried out by Aine McBride Design.

This was to convert the unused formal dining room into a second lounge enclosed with fluted glass doors, and to update the kitchen and living areas.

"This maintains Paul's original visual and spatial flow through the house from the front gate to the rear pool ... while adding the ability to create some separation between adults and kids in the evenings," the owners said.

"Aine created a second 'outdoor room' and entertaining area with the front garden renovation that opened up the original cottage garden to create a private relaxing living space that can be used night and day by adults and kids."

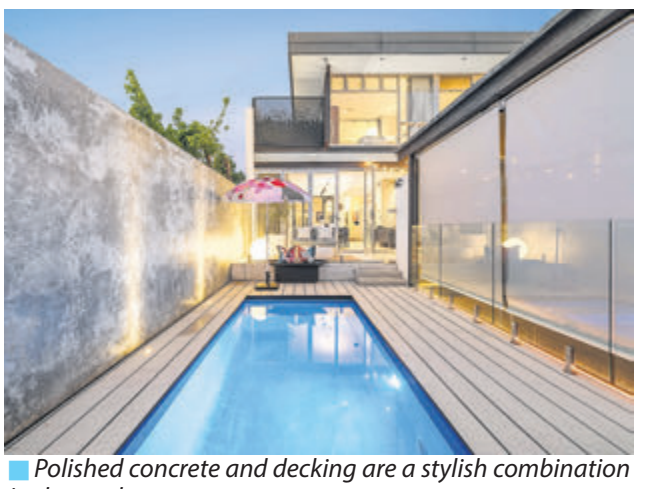
One feature they loved most was the clever use of natural light.

"We love the use of Paul's materials and layout to create an extension that is light and bright," they said.

"For example, the pool area walls gently reflect northern light into the living space and the light concrete floors also give the area brightness that make you feel like you're outside.

"The wall-to-wall folding doors transform the deck and barbecue area into a large flowing entertainment area that's great for entertaining outdoors eight to nine months of the year, while the heated flooring gives a gentle warmth that makes things cosy in winter."

Among the clever design elements is the built-in dining table next to the island bench.



Polished concrete and decking are a stylish combination in the pool area.

Things you will love

1. Tasteful renovations
2. Lots of natural light
3. Indoor-outdoor connection

CONTACT: Susan James 0408 003 700.

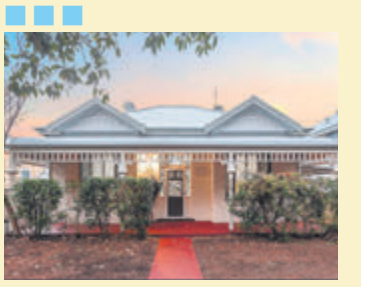
recent sales

$715,000

PEPPERMINT GROVE
4/1B McNeil Street

A courtyard is among the features of this 2x1 which last sold for $500,000 in 2013.

AGENT: Trent Vivian, Vivian's Real Estate.

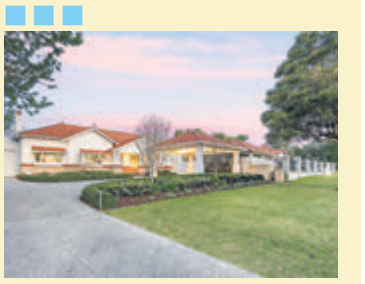


$2.12million

WEST LEEDERVILLE
39 St Leonards Avenue

The seller of this renovated 1900s character home lives in the same street.

AGENT: Craig Gaspar, DUET Property Group.

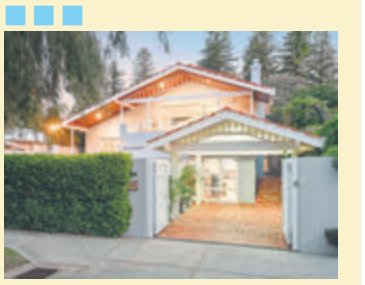


$4.05million

NEDLANDS
38 Webster Street

Keen Architecture designed the striking extension to this 1930s house on a 1012sq.m block.

AGENT: Deborah Brady, Ray White Cottesloe Mosman Park.



$3.63million

COTTESLOE
29 Napier Street

Justin Scott Cherrington bought this 527sq.m property through his company Grace 3 Pty Ltd, according to property and ASIC searches.

AGENT: Candie Italiano, Ray White Dalkeith Claremont.

Changing HANDS

POST Property writer **Julie Bailey** would like to hear your real estate news. Email *julie@postnewspapers.com.au* or follow *Instagram@juliebailey_property*

Good things come to those who wait ... this City Beach house has finally sold after being on the market for a year.

City Beach house settles for $5.5m

Almost a year after hitting the market, **Carl Cardaci's City Beach** house has sold for **$5.5million**, property records show. Mr Cardaci's source of wealth is through his family's company, **CFC Group**, which has interests in transport, distribution, logistics, mining services and property. His four-level house on the corner of **Tumut Road** and **Oceanic Drive** was advertised in the $5million to $6million range a year ago (*Ultimate family residence*, Changing Hands February 3, 2024). The 847sq.m property was listed originally with agent **Vivien Yap**, but was sold by **Scott Swingler** of Shore Property. Landgate shows it settled on December 13 and the buyer is listed as **James Albert Brown**.

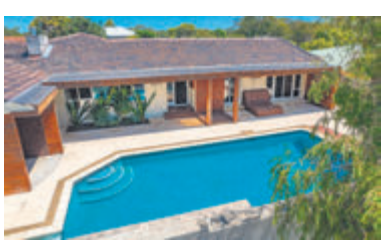
Albany icon falls to Cottesloe buyer

Cottesloe resident **William Maxwell Langley** has emerged as the buyer of **Albany's** much-loved **Scots Uniting Church**. Mr Langley beat seven bidders in an online auction for the heritage-listed church building, which he bought through his company Scots Church Pty Ltd, an **ASIC** search revealed. The beautiful Victorian Academic Gothic-style building went for **$1.67million**. The property at 168 York Street has been the spiritual heart of Albany since the 1890s. Plans were drawn by prominent Melbourne architect Evander McIver and the foundation stone was laid in 1891. Local contractor William Sangster built the church, which opened on March 30, 1892. The final cost of construction was £1416. When marketing the property last year, agent **Rob Mason** provided prospective buyers with redevelopment concepts produced by **Matthews & Scavalli Architects**.

Get set for fresh round of auctions

Local auctions are back after a lull over the summer school holidays. First cab off the rank is **17 Glengariff Drive, Floreat**, at 2pm this Saturday, February 1. Agent **Emma Milner** said buyer fatigue had set in before Christmas and home opens in December had been quieter than normal. But buyers were now out in force and ready to buy. "We have exploded into 2025 with huge home-open numbers," Ms Milner said. The Floreat house up for auction is on an 830sq.m site in the west of the Floreat Forum pocket. "It was built in 1961, and we know that because a son of the original builder came to a home-open," she said. There had been interest from buyers looking to modernise the 4x3 plus those wanting to demolish and build. For more details, phone 0421 213 000.

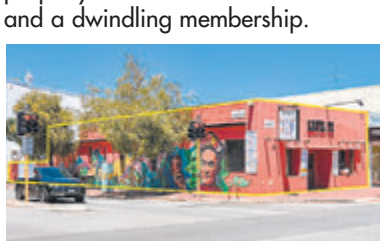
Eight bidders competed for Albany's Scots Uniting Church building, which sold for $1.67million in an online auction.



Buyers are back in force, says the agent who is auctioning 17 Glengariff Drive, Floreat, this Saturday at 2pm.

Prime Subi sites still seeking buyers

Two adjoining commercial properties in **Subiaco** – the **Irish Club** and the **Santa Fe** site – could appeal to developers looking for a high-exposure location. The Santa Fe Restaurant and Tequila Lounge, on the corner of Hay Street and Townshend Road, is owned by **Ee Choo Khoo** and **Hung Quoc** Truong, who paid **$1.93million** for it in 2018. The 347sq.m property has been on the market for 147 days, according to RP Data. The Irish Club, on a 608sq.m site next door, is still advertised for sale after offers closed on November 22. Both properties have a four-level height, subject to planning approvals. Irish Club president **Alan O'Meara** said members voted at their AGM to sell up and use the proceeds of the property to fund new premises elsewhere (*End of an era for an Irish institution*, POST, October 26). Mr O'Meara said the decision was reached after members considered the rising cost of maintaining the property at **61 Townshend Road** and a dwindling membership.



It's adios to the Santa Fe site in Subiaco, which is for sale or lease.

What's not to love about Albert Hall?

3 Pearse Street
NORTH FREMANTLE
1 Offers
1 Ray White
434sq.m

It was Valentine's Day when a couple drove down Pearse Street in North Fremantle and spotted a For Sale sign.

They had always thought they would like to live in an old church, and they fell in love with Albert Hall on sight.

Although they affectionately call it The Church, the hall wasn't always a place of worship; it was built in about 1900 as a community hall on what was then known as Mason Street.

Mason Street was renamed Pearse Street in 1923, but the hall remained Albert Hall – believed to be have been named after Queen Victoria's husband.

The hall has a colourful history and has been used for balls, boxing matches, church meetings, billiards, scuba-diving lessons, pottery and an artist's studio.

In 1992 artists Paula and Walter Tolley renovated the hall to turn it into both a home and an art gallery.

Over the years a dining area, galley kitchen and a mezzanine were added.

The mezzanine supports came from the old Woolstores and the spiral staircase came from a fire station.

A huge old timbered counter that acts as a room divider came from the Commonwealth Bank.

The current owners have lived and loved this Federation-style hall for 30 years.

"It has been a wonderful home," one said.

"We and others feel embraced, depending on the season, by the coolness, warmth and ambience of lives lived in this sacred space.

"The thick walls gave us a sanctuary of privacy and amazing peace within the vast uncluttered spaciousness; for us, a writer's paradise fostering creativity and inviting a plethora of uses."

There is currently a main bedroom on the mezzanine level, with a small ensuite.

On the ground floor the dining room, with flagstone flooring, retains a sense of history.

The galley kitchen looks out over the pretty, north-facing courtyard which is dominated by a mulberry tree.

"It is a magical space," the owner said of the brick courtyard that longs to be filled with more plants.

There is work to be done on this heritage hall, and the owners leave it reluctantly.

– SARAH McNEILL

Things you will love

1. A sense of history
2. Peace and quiet
3. Scope for renovation

CONTACT: Sarah Bourke 0474 310 500.

This heritage-listed building called Albert Hall has been used for a variety of purposes such as boxing, balls and church meetings since it was built around 1900.

The courtyard is a " magical space" according to the owners who bought Albert Hall about 30 years ago.

There is plenty of scope to transform the living area with dramatic vaulted ceilings and a mezzanine.

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Original at 90, she just keeps on a-Rollin'

By PAUL BLANK

This is a remarkable example of an original 90-year-old Rolls-Royce, now owned by former Mosman Park mayor Brett Pollock after long stints in Scotland, Canada and New Zealand.

Ordered in December 1934, the car was delivered by Scottish dealer The Clyde Automobile Co Ltd in May 1935 for Mrs Ann Duff of Ramleh, Busby, Lanarkshire.

It was bodied by Barker with Enclosed Limousine coachwork (completed April 14, 1935).

The Spirit of Ecstasy surmounts the classic Rolls-Royce grille.

The plush interior provides an armchair ride.

The order form notes "Car for use in the United Kingdom – Town and Touring".

Mrs Duff's husband was a partner in a Glasgow company operating as a jewellery wholesaler, watch manufacturer, silversmith and diamond merchant.

The car was kept for 22 years until 1957, owned by another local Rolls-Royce fan for another 22 years when it was bought by Welded Tube of Canada Ltd and shipped to Ontario.

It remained with the new owner for 16 years until a relative bought the car, and after a year, shipped it to Canterbury, New Zealand.

There it remained until a West Australian shipped it to Perth where he kept it for 20 years.

Its sixth and final owner was Mr Pollock who has owned it for the past nine years.

As a vintage car enthusiast who owned Ford Model A and Austin 7s, Mr Pollock has maintained and serviced the car himself – with occasional advice required from a specialist.

Brett Pollock with his Rolls-Royce in original condition.

The car's condition is fascinating.

It is original, having never been restored, but clearly always well-maintained.

The paintwork is past its prime, especially the silver side and rear sections where it is crazed and dull.

But the bodywork is very good. It is aluminium so has no rust issues.

The front seat leather has been replaced and is excellent, and Mr Pollock says that all the other upholstery is original and untouched since 1935, yet still in good condition.

There are many nice details on the car, including an opening windscreen and sliding glass division, while retaining both original radiator caps.

It wears its original Scottish registration plates, and the WA plates 1935 RR.

The car has seen plenty of use, which may explain why it runs so well.

It is frequently used in display and runs. Notably, Mr Pollock has twice driven the car the 650km from Perth to Lake Perkolilli near Kalgoorlie-Boulder, and has participated in the historic motor sport event held there.

The Rolls-Royce performed faultlessly on the drives and in the event.

Mr Pollock proudly states: "I'd drive this car to Sydney tomorrow", such is his confidence in its reliability and comfort.

However, he has decided to sell it and is asking $56,900.

Contact the author, paulb@classicrally.com.au, for details.

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Some of Sandra Brewers' signs were installed prematurely. **Photo: Paul McGovern**

'Illegal' election signs

• From page 1

She said that her team was taking down the incorrectly placed signs.

"Our volunteers were a little too enthusiastic over the weekend," Ms Brewer said.

She said there were seven councils in the area and they each had different bylaws about election signs.

"Navigating it can be a bit challenging," she said.

Some signs had been defaced with moustaches, horns and vampire teeth drawn on in black pen.

Perth lord mayor and Churchlands Liberal candidate Basil Zempilas said his crew of volunteers knew the rules and were asked to stick by them.

"Mostly my signs are on private property with the permission of the owner," he said.

"On a few occasions people have moved my signs to places they shouldn't be, and as soon as we get a phone call, we arrange to get them moved.

"I think it's incumbent on every candidate to do the right thing."

Ms Brewer said one of her signs had been defaced with blood and a sexist message.

Mr Zempilas said defacing of signs was commonplace.

"If it bothered you, you wouldn't be involved, but I do feel for some of the candidates not so used to the public attention, they don't deserve to have their signs defaced just for stepping forward to be part of the democratic process," Mr Zempilas said.

'Deadly' dog to stay home

• From page 1

"I can't move my arm [so] I can't even look after myself."

While she said she was "lucky" to be alive, the attack has left her shaken.

"It's life changing," she said.

"I won't be going to a dog park like that again."

Ms Ledger said the rottweiler's owner provided a written statement about the attack on Saturday and met with the investigating community safety officer.

"All the relevant information will need to be collated and assessed, and the investigation finalised before the Town decides on the next course of action," she said.

Rangers would "at a minimum" issue an infringement notice but may also start criminal proceedings in the magistrates court.

"That will be a collective decision made by the Town once the investigation has been finalised," she said.

A criminal conviction carries a maximum fine of $10,000.

Ms Ledger did not say whether the council would seek an order to have the dog euthanised.

She said Claremont had asked Cambridge rangers to check the dog's registration and make sure it was safely contained.

The victim urged the council to seek a destruction order.

"I'm a dog lover myself, but I'm worried the dog's going to do it again," she said.

"If it's a small fine and a slap of the wrist it's not exactly going to be something that they'd regret."

A four-year-old Nedlands girl was flown to Perth Children's Hospital in mid-January after being mauled by a rottweiler in shallow water at Quindalup beach near Dunsborough.

"It was the most horrendous thing you could imagine as a parent," the child's mother said (*Hero Luke saved mauled Nedlands girl,* POST, January 18).

Homeless pitch tent

• From page 1

"I saw a Christ Church boy give one of these people a banana and they just threw it on the street.

"They don't want food; they want your money and what are they going to do with the money? Go buy more cigarettes.

"There's definitely been an uptick of people sleeping rough and asking for money, and why wouldn't they?

"As long as it goes unchallenged by the council, they will continue to set up their camps here.

"I really think it's time that local government was given the wherewithal to move these people on.

"I'm not being uncharitable, it's just that they become a threat or an apparent threat, such as at the bank early in the morning or late at night."

CEO Liz Ledger said the woman living at the first camp site told rangers she was experiencing homelessness, and she was given information on the options available, such as drop-in centres, and asked to move her camp.

"On Wednesday, in response to further complaints from members of the public in relation to a new encampment, a community safety officer and the manager attended Rowe Park.

"The same person was at the site along with another person.

"The Town's officers had a lengthy conversation with the couple, discussed possible options available to them, and directed them to vacate the area by 3pm.

The original campsite near the railway line at Claremont.

"If the camp is still there after that time, WA Police will be contacted.

"There have been no reported incidents of antisocial behaviour that the Community Safety team are aware of to date."

In WA, police and councils have limited powers to move people on unless they pose a threat.

It is not illegal to beg or sleep in a public place.

Promises flood into Churchlands High

• From page 28

needed due to rising costs since the idea was first put forward in 2022, he said.

"These projects are more than bricks and mortar," said Mr Zempilas.

"They're about investing in the 2300 current students and those of the future, their families, the school's dedicated staff and the wider Churchlands community."

Sitting Churchlands MLA Christine Tonkin said the school nurtured students from across the community.

"We understand that providing top-quality student services and facilities is essential for helping students thrive," Ms Tonkin said.

The last big projects at CSHS were the sports hall (2017) and the Taryn Fiebig Concert Hall (2012).

Jonathon Hippisley with his Tesla charged by an outsized home solar system. **Photo: Paul McGovern**

Solar warrior

• From page 3

systems on single-phase power.

His Quairading property has a larger system with batteries on a private circuit, which he built himself for around $10,000.

"We're a family of six and we've achieved net zero," he said.

"A quarter acre block receives a megawatt of power from the sun at midday.

"All you have to do is harvest it."

Mr Hippisley said he used to be a Liberal voter, but disliked Peter Dutton and thought the party had lost its way – particularly on energy policy.

"We really don't need nuclear power," he said.

As a member of the Nationals he lobbied for the party to contest metropolitan seats, which it is doing this election.

Mr Hippisley said he had expected to be endorsed as the National Party candidate for Victoria Park, until party elders discovered his Wordpress blog, The Grumpy Cat.

"The night before [preselection] they rang me and said: 'Not only will it make you unelectable, it'll make the whole party unelectable'," he said.

In one blog post, titled "Is feminism to blame for the rise of Jihad?", Mr Hippisley wrote that "women in the West rave on about wanting respect, and the need for men to listen to them, but on the topic of abortion they show the pragmatism of Genghis Khan."

"Their intransigence on the topic alienates not only men in their own country, but also whole communities in other parts of the world," he wrote.

"Jihad is waged by people with a violent disposition, and those people will always be violent.

"But giving them a focus; giving them a cause through which to recruit others, is unwise at best, and potentially catastrophic."

Mr Hippisley said his blog posts were primarily a reflection of his pacifism.

"I'm a little bit down on war," he said.

He said he admired the Teal movement and would suggest voters give their second preference to community independent Rosemarie de Vries, followed by the Nationals' James McLagan.

"You've got a lot of good people in the National Party," he said.

"One of the issues is the parliamentary leadership doesn't listen to the members."

Lawyers fund caught up in legal tangle

• From page 30

lawyer for six years from 2010. He was granted power of attorney in 2011, several months after Mr Brown was diagnosed with possible dementia, but Ms Smith and Mr Chivers sought to regain payments he had made to himself after that time.

Gary Cobby

Justice Cobby said the plaintiffs had identified 111 transactions totalling $154,000 that Mr Thompson had made from Mr Brown's account.

Some of them were unitemised invoices or invoices "plainly disproportionate to the fees charged", while two $10,000 payments were made directly from Mr Brown's bank account to Mr Thompson's personal account after a liquidator had been appointed to run his legal business.

"His payment of those amounts to his personal account constitutes some evidence that he acted dishonestly in dealing with Mr Brown's assets," Justice Cobby found.

"Mr Thompson had access to, and apparent control of, Mr Brown's bank accounts and other property for approximately six years, in circumstances where there is reason to think Mr Brown may have been mentally impaired.

"Following Mr Brown's death, Mr Thompson purported to act as the executor and trustee of his estate, and purported to act as solicitor for the estate. No grant of probate was made to Mr Thompson."

The plaintiffs started Supreme Court action against Mr Thompson in 2018, but that was stayed three years later when he declared bankruptcy.

Mr Thompson's LinkedIn profile says he is now a senior law clerk at Margaret River firm Wallis Legal, prompting praise from controversial One Nation MP Ben Dawkins and prominent human rights lawyer Rabia Siddique.

Fresh Start saved Peta's life

• From page 9

"The federal government pays to keep people on opioids but refuses to support patients who want to cease opioids safely."

Peta describes the impact of naltrexone on her life using an old story.

"We all have a black dog and white dog and they're always fighting for dominance within us," she said.

"Which dog wins? It's the one you feed the most.

"So, for me the naltrexone put the black dog to sleep, and I was able to feed the white dog."

Peta fed the white dog with support from friends and family, including her children who she has reconnected with, counselling and her faith.

She stopped taking naltrexone eight years ago and in all has been clean for 12 years.

Peta now works supporting victims of domestic violence and caring for her six grandchildren.

When her daughter had her own child, Peta was there, staying up with her late at night.

"She was telling me how my addiction affected her life, how she had to grow up quicker to look after her brothers, all the broken promises.

"I was just in tears but in that moment, it was about her being heard."

Donate to Fresh Start at www.freshstart.org.au

Chainsaw protest

• From page 3

Dr Venugopal said the tree had dropped three large branches in the three years he has owned the property, the latest of which was too big to be moved by hand.

"Just the night prior we had one of our friends over for dinner," he said. "Their car would have been crushed."

A new council policy approved last year requires residents to seek council approval for activities that could damage a tree "with exemptions for common pruning".

Ms Bovell said the NTCA had "worked hard over the last four years to preserve the beauty and value of the City of Nedlands by advocating for the retention of trees and promoting reasonable options in their management".

"In this case, the Advocates had reason to believe pruning that would constitute tree damaging activity was likely to occur, in contravention of the City's council guidelines," she said.

"The council was duly informed of this suspected action."

Mr Bryant returned to finish the job on Thursday morning.

Arborist Luke Bryant trimmed the overhanging tree at the second attempt.

Screech report

• From page 7

"It is a daily and a constant torture, imposed on all of us all without any warning. Just six weeks ago. It feels like a lifetime."

A separate, open letter written by Mr Robertson on behalf of the Daglish Residents Group said the noise was also impacting people in Shenton Park, Daglish and Jolimont.

"Outdoor areas, both at the front and back of residences are rendered unusable as a result of the noise," he wrote.

"Some of the worst affected residents have had to move all their living quarters to the rear of their houses.

"Residents who work from home are distracted and stressed by each intrusive event.

"Windows cannot be left open and air conditioners must be used instead.

"In addition, residents report excessive vibration and are concerned about damage to their houses."

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National achievers show their sporting mettle

— THE — SPORTING POST

JOHN TOWNSEND

A stroll through the list of achievers recognised on Australia Day is a reminder of how significant sport is in this country's everyday life.

Amid the former politicians and game-changing medicos and veteran community contributors, every page recognises someone who has given years, often decades, of their life to sport.

Who has heard of Arthur Wrigglesworth? He got an OAM for 70 years of involvement in football and cricket as a player, coach and administrator in country Victoria.

Imagine the number of youngsters he inspired and steered, the families he supported by giving kids a path to their dreams. And his medal only took seven decades.

Sydney swimming organiser Lynette Foley's OAM was a reward for more than 40 years of getting people into the pool.

More than a few lives saved and changed will be her legacy.

Then there is Peta Freeman, a Fremantle dynamo who has had a profound impact on WA hockey, bowls and surf lifesaving.

Peta's dad Jack Lee, who received an MBE before the current honours system was instigated under Gough Whitlam in 1975, was a great old stick who was forever dark that he was not named joint dux as WA's best student in 1925 despite dead-heating with another candidate, wrote East Fremantle Football Club's history and was a warm and astute sounding board as one of my predecessors as cricket writer at The West Australian.

Peta's OAM is as deserved as any of the Olympic gold medallists whose feats at Paris last year were recognised with a second gong.

Curiosity, as much as anything, kept the pages turning.

Sport kept appearing, even with those people honoured for their professional lives.

There was Cheryl Edwardes, a one-time WA attorney-general who I first encountered while covering the Wanneroo Inc royal commission.

The thing I remember most clearly from that inquiry was the witness who, having gone to the Edwardes's for dinner, reported that he was served the worst chicken dish he had ever tasted.

Cheryl later became a WA Football commissioner who was a gracious host and engaging company in the official box at AFL games.

Recipes never came up in those conversations but she was certainly sharp and across plenty of issues in the football world.

Neale Daniher was the biggest name on the list and the most deserving and least polarising Australian of the Year in recent times.

There is little prospect of him embarrassing the prime minister with a provocative T-shirt.

Daniher's courage, humanity, humour and inspiration have been lauded across the nation and back, even as he deals with a fate as cruel as any imaginable.

His days as a resourceful, tough and creative footballer were cut short by repeated knee injuries, a fate he might have considered the epitome of cruelty until that was overshadowed by his diagnosis with motor neurone disease.

My only sporting dealings with him came on the cricket field.

A correct and classy left-handed batsman who looked as though he could have played at a much higher level but for his football commitments, Daniher played a season at South Perth in the first days of Fremantle's journey in 1995 when he joined Gerard Neesham's inaugural coaching panel.

Daniher and his fellow assistant Mark Riley, a fiery and fast-talking fast bowler who played Under-19s for WA, were convinced to join South Perth by club coach Kim Hagdorn, a prominent sports journalist.

I encountered them in a lower grade match at Richardson Park where Daniher displayed his quality with a handy innings highlighted by a couple of exquisite cover drives before he tried one too many and was caught at slip.

Riley's dismissal was even more memorable.

I was the captain and had warned one of our recalcitrant fast bowlers that consequences would apply if he was late for yet another match.

ABOVE: Neale Daniher is the most popular and deserving Australian of the Year in recent times.

LEFT: Anthony, left, Terry, Neale and Chris Daniher made history in 1990 when the four brothers played together in an AFL match.

Of course he was, and he was told he would have to run from fine leg to fine leg for the first 10 overs after his belated arrival.

He was prepared, though. As his team-mates wondered how the bowler would respond, he dragged an old bike from the boot of his bomb and proceeded to ride it around the boundary at the end of each over.

And his late arrival was forgotten when he eventually made a memorable entry into the infield by immediately taking a one-handed screamer at mid-off to get rid of the dangerous "Bomber" Riley.

Mike Ewing in action in the Cotswolds in 2008.

Mike Ewing was another feisty fast bowler, nicknamed Quickie or JR at Uni, who received an OAM last week to acknowledge his ground-breaking UWA research into legumes and other pasture plants, as well as his back-breaking work in the Cottesloe sand-dunes as head of the Coastcare group.

Mike was a fine player during his many years as a team-mate but it was off the field, during the long periods of discussion, provocation and debate that are a key part of cricket, particularly at Uni with its unusual and often contradictory blend of intelligence and opinion, where he came into his own.

JR once attended a convention where he was eager to confront enthusiastic keynote speaker HRH Charles, of Wales, whose take on the value and future of genetic modification did not resonate with the scientist's experience and sense.

"GM-crop debate: Quickie 1 Future king 0," read a match report from a 2008 England tour after Mike regaled us one night with a ball-by-ball, or rather grain-by-grain, account of the subsequent regal discussion.

Mostly as even-tempered as is possible for a fast bowler, it took plenty to get Mike's dander up, though that happened one day at McGillivray Oval.

A Nedlands batsman was given out on appeal for obstructing the field "by verbal interference", after his loud shout appeared to distract a fieldsman preparing to catch him.

The opposition captain, normally a placid chap and much admired in later life as a Supreme Court judge, was outraged by the appeal and dismissal and expressed his view unusually forcefully during a tense post-match encounter.

That was too much for Mike. Marching chest-first into the milling players with eyes blazing in a fashion perhaps familiar to the current king, he exuded a level of controlled ferocity that quenched the matter in a moment.

He might be an OAM now but JR's team-mates would have been happy to give him a medal all those years ago.

• It is not the Australia Day honour's list, but two of WA's most prominent sporting administrators are about to be elevated to the Wall of Fame at UWA's department of sport science, exercise and health. Football pioneer Jan Cooper and gymnastics identity Liz Chetkovich were 1977 Phys Ed graduates and will join other luminaries on Wednesday when their trail-blazing careers are recognised.

Mike Ewing, circled, with his University team-mates before a grand final in 1989.

Albany waves welcome after 30 years

Albany surfers should be surfing the state's second artificial reef by the end of March after a 30-year process from idea to fruition.

The $12million reef at Middleton Beach is expected to produce a 100m-long left-hander suitable for all levels of surfing from beginner to advanced when the swell is bombing into King George Sound.

Project instigator and local surfer Peter Bolt, 69, said the Albany Boardriders began in the 1990s the process of preparing a feasibility study to build an artificial reef.

"Too many times it just seemed to get bogged down losing momentum and then another election cycle came around and interest levels would rise," Bolt said.

"Sometimes it hard to believe it's happening.

"I live close to the port and drive down there and see the infrastructure starting to arrive and I know it's real.

"When I saw the construction equipment come down from Darwin and park at King George Sound there was so much interest and excitement. This is actually happening, it's actually real."

Construction will take two months with 68,000 tonnes of rock being trucked in from a local quarry.

A big grabber will place rocks onto a barge which will be towed around by a small tug to the site of the reef. The barge bottom will then open to drop the rock in place.

"The reef construction is attracting a lot of attention in the local surfing community and families who have young kids are saying this is going to be great for us," Bolt said.

"It's close to the surf club and the beach is patrolled so kids can go down after school. It's all so positive."

The reef will start 140 metres out to avoid affecting the shoreline. It is sand banks will form inside the reef for beginners to use.

"The wave is expected to break 40-50 percent of the time in swells as small as one metre," Bolt said.

"When its bombing in, the wave could be a head-and-a-half high.

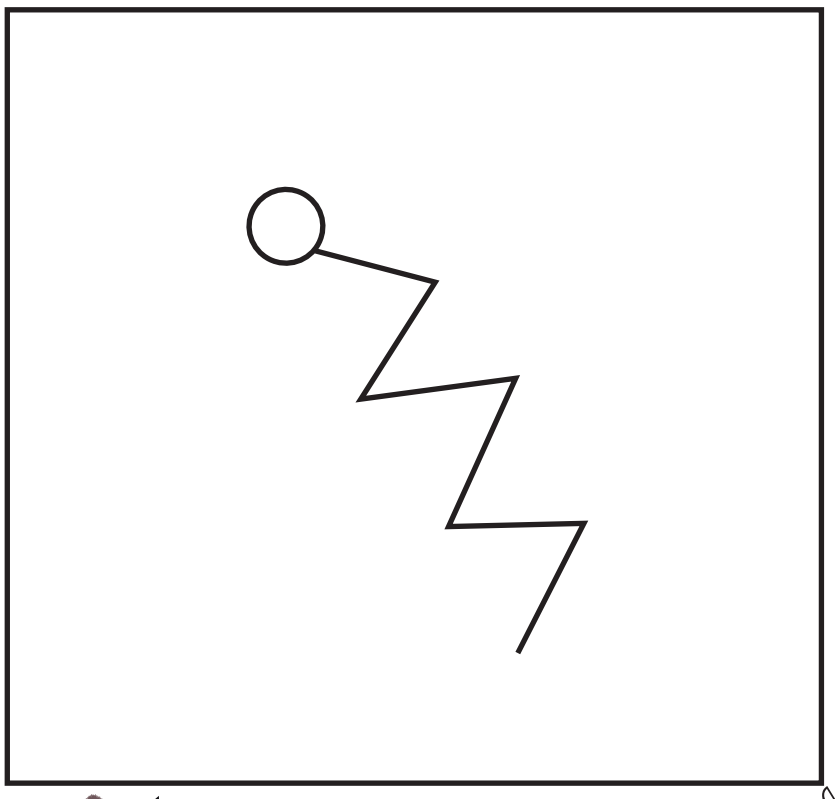
"When it gets big all the local legends will be able to come out and enjoy it."

SURFING

WITH CAMERON BEDFORD-BROWN

Middleton artificial reef instigator Peter Bolt enjoying one of Albany's natural wave assets.

POST Kids



Doodle bug

Use this shape to make a drawing. The best two entries will win.

You could win $10

How to enter:
Do your best Doodlebug drawing in the box above, and fill in the entry form. **Cut out the drawing and entry form and ask an adult to email it to** sarah@postnewspapers.com.au, with "Doodlebug" in the subject heading. Or drop your entry off to our office at 276 Onslow Road, Shenton Park 6008, during normal business hours, or mail it to POST Kids at that address. For artists up to the age of 12. **ENTRIES MUST ARRIVE BY NOON ON WEDNESDAY.**

Name: ..... Age .....

Address .....

Suburb ..... Postcode .....

Phone number: .....

What have you drawn?: .....

Milla Longley (8)

Sophia Douglas (9)

Butterflies and flowers

Hi kids!

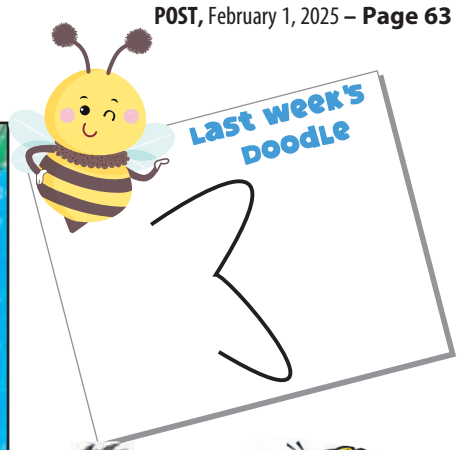
There were some beautiful butterflies flitting across my desk this week, like Sebastian's bright pink one and Amy's butterfly in among the flowers.

And there were some lovely flowers, but the one that really evoked the scent of a garden was Milla Longley's big beautiful purple flower. Milla, 8, from Wembley, titled her drawing A Flowery Day, and it certainly is – her pretty pink and purple flowers are beautifully coloured and shaded.

There were some quirky creatures such as Robert's exuberant Patrick Sea Star, Harriet's gorgeous bunny and Rose's dog in space, but our other main winner is Sophia Douglas, 9, from Nedlands, who drew a cute, big-eared dog that has just left muddy paw-prints in its wake.

I hope you all enjoy the last few days of your holiday. Stay cool!

sarah



Q. What do you call a butterfly that can fly faster than any other butterflies?
A. A betterfly!

Q. Why was the moth so unpopular?
A. He kept picking holes in everything!

Q. What do you call a girl with a frog on her head?
A. Lily!

Q. What lives under the sea and carries a lot of people?
A. An octobus!

**There was an old woman from Leeds
Who swallowed a packet of seeds.
In less than an hour,
Her nose grew a flower,
And her hair was all covered with weeds!**

Ice-cream winners

Vouchers will be valid for the next four weeks.
These Doodlebug contestants have won.

Sebastian Butler, Austin Ashburner, Sarah Hobby, Robert Polito, Harriet Calder, Abigail Lock, Scarlett Barnes, Rose Dodd, Sophie Hall, Amy Kruger.

BR baskin robbins
Shop 4/531 Hay St
Subiaco 9381 3100

Amazing anagram

Would you believe the letters of ELEVEN PLUS TWO can be rearranged to read TWELVE PLUS ONE?

Tongue twister

Willie feels really weary.

Sweetcorn, ham and cheese pie

This "impossible pie" is not impossible to cook – it's really quite easy – but it is a "pie" that doesn't need any pastry!

This is great for picnics

WHAT YOU NEED

- 1 cup sweetcorn
- 1 tbs olive oil
- 1 brown onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 200g sliced leg ham, chopped
- 4 eggs
- ½ cup self-raising flour
- 1 cup milk
- ½ cup flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped
- 1½ cups grated tasty cheese

WHAT TO DO:

Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease and line a 16cm x 27cm (base measurement) lamington pan with baking paper. Heat oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Add chopped onion and garlic and cook until softened. Stir in corn and ham. Cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Set aside to cool. Whisk eggs in a large bowl. Sift over flour and whisk until well combined. Gradually whisk in the milk. Season with salt and pepper. Stir through parsley and 1 cup grated cheese. Stir the cooled corn mixture into the egg mixture. Pour into the prepared pan. Sprinkle with the remaining grated cheese. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes or until set in the centre. Stand for 15 minutes. Slice and serve warm or cold with a leafy green salad and tomato chutney or sweet chilli sauce.

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