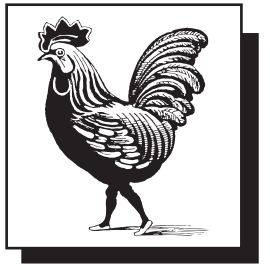


COCKBURN CITY HERALD



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‘Gotcha’ Cockburn in knots over sister cities list

by STEVE GRANT

“IT’S great to have a good old hatchet job with an item like this; you know, it’s fantastic to have a publicised list that you can use to attack other elected members.”

Cockburn’s council’s antipathy was laid bare on Tuesday night as

councillors tied themselves in knots over a now-cancelled \$114,000 sister city trip to Croatia, with Cr Michael Separovich’s summing up of the chaos having a Puck-like glee.

The merits of sister city relationships took back stage to a skirmish over naming councillors who’d expressed interest in accompanying mayor Logan

Howlett to Split - a ‘gotcha’ moment aimed at those who’d made political mileage out of criticising the trip but at some point had put their hand up.

The staff motion to refer an invitation from Split’s mayor to the council’s Sister City Reference Group for a recommendation on whether to go or not was pretty tame, but a stronger alternative

from Cr Tarun Dewan to consider scrapping sister cities altogether sparked a series of factional manoeuvres that at times left councillors confused about where they were in the debate.

Cr Dewan had barely opened his argument that the merits of sister city relationships hadn’t been proven when he was questioned

• Continued page 4

Cock-a-doodly-do
...thanks
to you!

by ANDREW SMITH
Publisher

WE’RE so humbled and so grateful to all those who heeded our call for donations to help support the Herald’s independent journalism.

And it wasn’t so much the funds coming in that was so gratifying (though that certainly helped), it was how many readers really understand how important real, local news is.

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• Federal MP Josh Wilson and Fremantle councillor Jemima Williamson-Wong, and a packed-out town hall. Photos by Katherine Kraayvanger

The gas junkie with a reefer

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER
and STEVE GRANT

SOUTH FREO music superstar John Butler says it’s “f...ing boring” to be back fighting fossil fuel companies 10 years after seeing them off James Price Point near Broome.

Butler was at the Save Scott Reef film night and panel discussion on Thursday along with around 300 others who packed out the Fremantle Town Hall.

“In between we were fighting fracking the whole time and we’re still fighting fracking, so in many ways it hasn’t stopped,” Butler said of his battles with Woodside and other fossil fuel companies.

“The nature of the insatiable appetite of

the mining resource sector is such that it just changes tack constantly.”

Butler said after licking their wounds after their James Price Point loss and fracking not panning out because of opposition, Woodside had simply come back with a new proposal - the Browse Basin.

“I think sometimes these things have to be looked at like a drug addiction, and every once in a while, you have to have an intervention with the people you care about in your community who are attempting to screw up the place for their addiction,” he said.

“Woodside acts like an addict, and we have to be the family that chains it to a tree for a second.”

The muso said with a lot happening around

the world, it could be difficult for climate activists to know where to direct their energy, so events like Save Scott Reef were good for helping give them direction on what to do.

“It’s hard to know where to sift through all the data.

“I think that the biggest thing for a lot of us is we’re seeing things happening globally, and I think there’s always a really great activist and campaign adage, which is ‘think globally act locally’.

“When you’re inundated by what to do about the world, there’s things to do right here.

“You don’t need to worry about conspiracies that are somewhere else, there’s things that are happening here that are real and that we have agency in.”

Once upon a Scotch

Charlie learned how to speak with confidence.

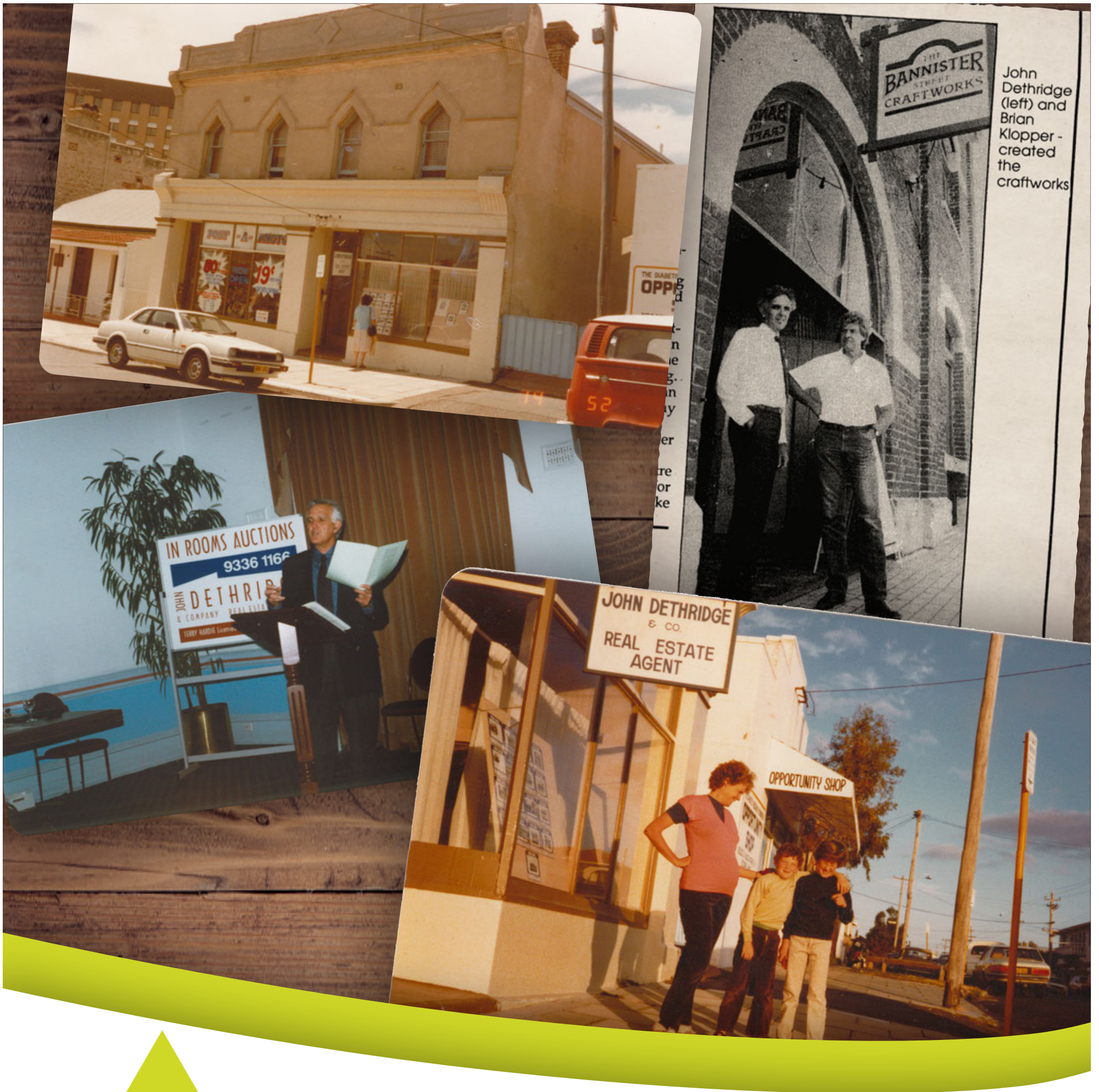


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John Dethridge (left) and Brian Klopper - created the craftworks



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Locals say Valley problems ignored

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER

CONCERNED residents of White Gum Valley say a troubling rise in antisocial behaviour in the suburb is being overlooked by authorities.

A concerned resident posted a video on a local Facebook group this week showing a group of youngsters fighting in the street and shouting obscenities at each other.

In the video's caption, the resident says he has lodged at least 20 complaints with Homeswest because of the antisocial behaviour.

The resident says he has tried several other avenues to get help, including the police and police minister, council members, and local politicians.

Former convenor of the White Gum Valley precinct Mark Woodcock says there is a range of issues stemming from some troublesome tenants, which he reckons has escalated in the last

"four or five months".

"There's been plenty of car break ins," Mr Woodcock said.

"There's lots of rubbish dumping again now, which normally means someone's moving in house."

"Buildings and walls have been graffitied again too."

Public housing

Public housing itself isn't the problem, Mr Woodcock says, but he criticised the government's decision to concentrate housing in a certain area, which he says allows disruptive tenants "to cause problems".

"It's really to do with the density, not the fact that we have public housing," he said.

"We have to have it, the government just needs to be more strategic about how it puts it in."

"If you stuck one social housing unit on every block, or every second block, you wouldn't have issues like they had in Beaconsfield," he said,

referencing community issues caused by troublesome residents in the 'Beacy Bronx'.

Current Greens member and Former Fremantle mayor Brad Pettitt says there needs to be a more "integrated response" to instances of "terrifying" antisocial behaviour associated with government housing in the area.

"The processes that the Department of Communities are using to deal with disruptive tenants just isn't working," Dr Pettitt said.

"It's something that gives social housing a bad name, when it actually should be a welcome part of our community."

Dr Pettitt said the Department's has a "weird, hands off approach" with an attitude that "hopes the problem goes away".

"These issues aren't being dealt with appropriately," he said.

"They're not getting on top of it and actually giving these residents the services they need."

Gathering families

THE Kidogo Irish Aboriginal Festival is being held in Fremantle this weekend, with founder Joanna Robertson saying its reputation is growing.

"We're going to have a lot more indigenous elders coming this year who've asked to come, who want to see what we're up to, who love what we're doing," Ms Robertson said.

One of the keys to the festival's success was being unique, as often an Indigenous component is tacked on as side-acts.

"When we do it, Kidogo is everyone is the same, everyone is coming together," she said.

This year's theme, "family gathering," reflected the ethos of unity and community.

"We've got Mary G and Olive Night, she's a 75-year-old Aboriginal blues singer legend from Wangkatjunga," Ms Robertson said.

The festival also aims to explore shared narratives between Irish settlers and First Nation peoples.

"I want to learn more stories from people who are First Nation people about who their relatives were, who were Irish," Ms Robertson said.

"Nobody has done this in the world before... it's actually getting a lot of interest in Ireland," she remarked. The festival's unique approach to cultural exchange has garnered



• Noongar elder Walter McGuire with Kidogo director Joanna Robertson.

support from organisations such as the Irish Arts Council.

"It's beginning to get sort of well known around the world... recognised that we need to look at what settlers shared with First Nation people in a positive way as well," she said.

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LORRAINE HAMMOND is an associate professor at the School of Education at Edith Cowan University.

That's what the Melville resident describes as her "day job". However, she has also worked around the country from Fitzroy Crossing, through Canberra, and down in Tasmania, implementing a new approach in teaching literacy to young children.

It is significant work. "Being literate has a huge impact on your life chances," Prof Hammond says.

"Your capacity to economic success, social success, to be able to engage with other people, your

Making history:

employment, your wellbeing," she lists.

Previously, Prof Hammond says, young Australians were taught to read using the 'whole language' method which "really wasn't considered to be evidence based".

"When you went to school, you would have been encouraged to read from the beginning and you would have been given books that had lots of pictures," she said.

"You would have been encouraged to look at the first letter and guess, and if you got really stuck then you might read at the end of the sentence and go back and try and figure out what the word is."

The whole language method assumes reading is a natural ability in children, which Dr Hammond says "isn't terribly effective".

"The human brain is not designed for reading as such, it's

designed for talking," she said. "That assumes that talking is the same as reading, and they're

different." Prof Hammond has advocated for evidence-based teaching -

Political mileage to Split

• From page 1 by colleague Phil Eva on whether he'd nominated for the trip. Cr Eva then asked for a list of all councillors who'd expressed an interest.

Deputy mayor Chontelle Stone and Cr Tom Widenbar tried to shut the questions down, describing them as irrelevant, and the latter successfully moved a dissent motion (5-4) against a ruling from the mayor that Cr Dewan should answer.

But when the deputy mayor sought to amend Cr Dewan's motion to kill off the 2024 trip to Split, it gave Cr Phoebe Corke an opening to revisit the list.

Cr Corke had argued that releasing the names would be more transparent given public comments made about the Split delegation, and said raising the trip in the motion made them relevant to the debate.

Her dissent motion successfully

flipped the vote (5-4 in her favour), while Cr Stone's immediate response to try and shut down the debate by putting the item to an immediate vote failed to get the numbers.

The city's corporate affairs executive Victoria Green then provided the list: Crs Dewan and Kevin Allen expressed interest in a side trip to Portugal (though Cr Dewan withdrew it the same day), while Cr Widenbar also showed interest but had missed the deadline.

Cr Separovich, who has a Croatian background, clarified that he'd been interested in going to Split, while new councillor Carol Zhang and the deputy mayor also gave a nod to a trip to their sister city, Cr Stone later withdrawing her expression of interest.

The sister city arrangements will now head back to committee for a discussion about whether they are still relevant these days,

with only Cr Zhang prepared to mount an argument for them.

Cr Zhang said the debate over the Split trip had damaged the City's reputation, but scrapping the arrangements seemed an over-reaction.

"We throw out the bathwater with the child," Cr Zhang said.

"We have to think in a more holistic way and think about the long-term benefit.

"Outside WA not many people know about the City of Cockburn, but the thing about our it is now it's different; now we are the gateway to the new Westport, we have the AMC, we are thinking about the blue economy.

"We need to promote our city's name and rebrand our city.

"So sister cities is one way for making the city well-known outside Australia," she said, noting Cockburn's three current sister cities were all from different continents.



Cost base complexity



by Mark Douglas FCPA
Managing Partner of Francis A Jones
www.faj.com.au

I tell my clients it's good to pay tax. As they're thumbing "accountants near me" into their phone, I quickly explain my logic. To pay lots of tax, you must have earned lots of income.

This goes for both income tax and capital gains tax. Australians love property and individuals pay more CGT on this asset class than any other.

There's nothing wrong with paying tax on your property gain. There is something wrong with paying too little or too much tax.

This is where good accountants come in handy. Our tax system works on self-assessment meaning the ATO will accept whatever you tell them until they have cause to doubt you. If they do question you, it's often an expensive, drawn-out, unpleasant process (even where you got it right).

CGT is complicated and getting it bang on is tricky. It all starts with determining the cost of your property. How hard can that be?

Well, there are five elements to your cost base. The purchase price (or sometimes the market value), incidental purchase costs (think stamp duty and agent fees), holding costs like interest and repairs (but only if not tax deductible and for properties bought after 20 August 1991), the costs of improving your property

(e.g. a renovation), and lastly, the rare costs of establishing, preserving or defending your title (perhaps damages for the termination of a contract).

Third element holding costs can add up quickly, especially for geared lifestyle assets like holiday homes. These costs can reduce a capital gain but cannot contribute to a capital loss.

If you subdivide a property, you create two distinct assets. Each element of the cost base must be apportioned on a reasonable (but not necessarily the same) basis across those assets. For example, a property split down the middle into two smaller blocks might have a higher first element cost applied to the lot that retains the original house.

The cost base must be reduced by any recoupments, which could include insurance proceeds, expenses paid for by other parties, or GST claimed back (usually on commercial properties).

the ATO will accept whatever you tell them until they have cause to doubt you

Where a property is purchased and an amount is attributed to depreciable assets, this is also excluded from the cost base.

Any amounts paid in foreign currency must be converted to Australian dollars before calculating any capital gains.

If that's not enough you'll also need to consider the CGT start date, market substitution rules, temporary absences, reduced cost base, costs incurred after the sale and offsetting other losses.

My point is that CGT, like all tax, is complex. Don't be fooled by our self-assessment system. Google "accountants near me" and get some good advice well before your property is sold.

This is general information that is not personal financial, investment or taxation advice, and does not take into account your personal circumstances. Do not act based on this information without first obtaining the advice of a suitably qualified professional.

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which incorporates "phonemic awareness, phonics, and comprehension" – and which requires explicit instruction, instead of assuming the child will learn to read naturally.

"We help children become aware that the words that you speak comprise of sounds and those sounds match up to letters," Dr Hammond said.

"If you learn to apply that code, and you do it enough, then your brain starts to start to automatise the process of reading.

"Suddenly you can read anything new and you can read

words we've never been taught before, because your brain has got the hang of this system."

Explicit instruction is important to Australian children because the English language is notoriously difficult to learn, Dr Hammond says.

Unlike more sensible languages such as Spanish, which has 28 letters and 28 corresponding sounds, English has 26 letters and 44 sounds that has been built throughout history and which is difficult to learn without explicit instruction.

"The French came in and gave

a layer of language to English, and then there's the Anglo Saxon layer and then there's the Greek layer," Dr Hammond said.

"It's really complicated."

Dr Hammond has worked extensively on the Department of Education's Kimberley Schools Project, which she says has had a large impact on Indigenous children living in remote communities such as Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek.

"There are some children in remote communities who are now better off than their parents," she said.

"The significance of that is of course, these young people can now consider going on into high school and they will have to access to go on to university or TAFE, because they're literate.

"The reason that's changed is because we have changed the way we teach reading."

Dr Hammond was inducted into the Western Australian Women's Hall of Fame last week for her services to education. It follows an Order of Australia during the 2019 Australia Day honours for her contribution to tertiary education.

Dr Hammond says she is "very proud" to accept the induction, which she shares with the teachers who chose to take "a big leap of faith" for better student outcomes.

"The way you're taught to read was incredibly popular," she said, "but it wasn't the right way to teach reading.

"So many teachers have said 'Okay, we'll do what this research says', and then their children have done really well.

"I share recognition with them because they got on board and made a big difference to children's lives."

Getting Freo's Afrobeat back

AN event being held today (Saturday March 16) is hoping to recreate the buzz around African culture that used to be an integral part of Fremantle life.

Meroe will bring together four artists, musicians, DJs and a fusion of Ethiopian and West African food at the Da Raw Nature Studio Gallery on Henry Street from 4pm.

The event is being organised by Shubert Courteau and Shoshi Montsitsi who have a weekly African show on Noongar Radio.

Mr Courteau arrived in Fremantle about a decade ago and said it could be difficult for artists in newly-arrived places to know where to find like-minded souls.

"We try to make people connected together, even who don't

know each other," Mr Courteau said.

"Maybe they will never think to be connected with that type of person, but they could do something together."

Although he's French-born, Mr Courteau's ancestry takes him through the French West Indies and back to Africa, and it's an important part of his identity that connects him with all Africans.

"For me the connection is about the story of slaves who all came from Africa," he says.

"So when I was young I would always say we are all from Africa, it doesn't matter which path we've seen."

Tickets for Meroe (the name of an ancient Nubian city) are available on Eventbrite.com



• Meroe aims to raise awareness about African culture and bring people together to find kindred creative souls.



truth telling

**We will never abandon our dream
of walking together**

**Quote: Whadjuk Nyoongar Elder Gerrard Shaw
img cr. Turid Calgaret 'Walyalup Boodja'**

fremantle.wa.gov.au/truth-telling-program

Join us for the Truth Telling program launch event!

The City will present a year-long program of Truth Telling, with a range of engagement opportunities for all ages.

The launch event will serve as a bridge between the One Day in Fremantle events of recent years and the new Truth Telling program.

Everyone is welcome.

Visit the City's website to register your attendance at fremantle.wa.gov.au/truth-telling-program

PROGRAM

Sunday 24 March | Manjaree Bathers Beach | From 10am

10am | Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country

11am | Yarning circles including guest speakers

11.30am-1pm | Truth Telling activities such as weaving, yarning circles and cultural tour

12pm | Traditional food for everyone

We acknowledge that truth-telling is an extremely sensitive process, and we aim to create a culturally safe and supportive space at this event.

The City of Fremantle acknowledges the Whadjuk people as the Traditional Owners of the greater Fremantle/Walyalup area and we recognise that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still important today.

COURSES & CLASSES

A HERALD PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

Local Learning Centres: Evolving with the community

Community learning centres have been dotted around Perth suburbs for decades now, with a history that stretches back to the 1980s. For example, in 1985 a group of enterprising young mums who were babysitting each other's children formed the South Perth Learning Centre (SPLC). It featured a crèche and ran classes such as Italian, bread-making and

Australian literature. For local young mums, this provided much-needed respite from daily child-rearing and from motherhood isolation. Fast forward to today, and women's participation in the workforce has jumped from 45% to 75%. With young mums now mostly at work and their children in purpose-built daycare centres, community learning centres had to



L-R: Mavis Drake (Cryptic Crosswords Club), Migara Ramanayake (Drawing teacher), Fiona Buchanan (Pastels teacher), Lisa Anstis (Committee chair), Tania Daymond (Watercolour teacher).

adapt. These centres now deal with a different type of social isolation, running classes and activities mainly for retirees—

however they have not shed their original DNA. As an intergenerational initiative, Glyde-In in East Fremantle (est. 1981) runs an Intergenerational Play program with the local kindergarten; while Kalamunda Community Learning Centre (est. 1978) has actually kept its crèche to this day. For its part, SPLC engages uni students from Curtin University and UWA as volunteers and interns who assist with marketing and technology. Let's hope suburban community learning centres continue to flourish as hubs for multi-generational community activities for many decades to come!



Just an eyesore

COMPLAINTS about ugly graffiti have been increasing in Fremantle over the last few months.

Shop operators and property owners are wondering if that might have something to do with the City of Fremantle no longer cleaning up unsightly tagging from private walls.

There definitely appears to be much more of the stupid vandalism visible on Fremantle streets, so is anyone doing anything about it at all?

There are many CCTV cameras all over our city, so is Fremantle council passing on information about the graffiti morons to WA Police?

Take them to court and force them to clean up their own childish mess!

Let's be very clear about this: Graffiti is not art! It is property vandalism. Nothing else!

It is worse than dogs pissing against every post and tree.

It does not matter if it is stupid, illegible tags, or political messages.

Last week I wrote on my Freoview blog that I absolutely agree with the "Free Palestine" message, but totally disagree with the way they do it, by spray painting it on buildings, signs and advertising boards.

Doing it that illegal way diminishes the very important message, and that is disappointing.

I don't necessarily disagree with Fremantle council's stand that it is not the role of government to clean up private property, but graffiti makes our tourist city look very untidy and uncared for, so maybe a better solution can be found.

Is it, for example, something the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce could take up, and pay for a contractor to remove the nuisance nonsense?

And it is not just graffiti that is visual pollution on our streets.

One only has to look at the old Woolstores building opposite Clancy's that is packed with large posters, that promote concerts and bands.

It's ugly and it's not acceptable!



The same apply for silly stickers put on traffic signs, downpipes, vacant shop windows, and any surface that is visible to the fools who engage in this silliness.

I am still seeing the Men's Shed volunteers going around town though, scraping stickers off signs and posts, so at least there is still some minor cleaning going on in Fremantle.

Why does anyone believe they have the right to damage other people's properties, that needs to be cleaned up and costs the owners, or local councils (yep, that's all of us!) a lot of money?

There are also some misguided people, who believe they are artists, who spread the same, repetitive and badly done images all over town, believing they are beautifying Freo.

Please give us a break from that mediocrity!

Graffiti and illegal bill posting has been around for many decades.

It remains a visual eyesore that riles the vast majority of people, but no one in government takes much notice of.

That needs to change, because the general public and property owners hate the ugly rubbish, and so do I.

Roel Loopers/Freoview



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Good Friday Service - 9:00 am

Easter Sunday Service - 9:30 am

The Church will also be open on Maundy Thursday between noon and 1 pm for Meditative Communion.

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• The Leighton Action Coalition says people seem ready to mobilise again to protect their beaches from inappropriate development.

LAC buoyed by mayor's setback

THE Leighton Action Coalition says it's thrilled Fremantle mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge "doubled down" on the council's support for a bigger foreshore setback when the precinct is opened for housing.

Ms Fitzhardinge gave her strongest support for the Coalition's call for the WA Planning Commission to hold off approving a subdivision of old industrial land adjacent to Port and Leighton

beaches until more consideration was given to the effects of climate change.

Coalition organiser Paul Gamblin said around 200 people attended the meeting last Wednesday, and he sensed there was a willingness to act quickly, with the WAPC's decision on the subdivision expected shortly.

"What we are really doing is encouraging people to write letters to members of parliament and the planning

minister, and we had a real surge in submissions after the meeting, and not just pro-formas."

Mr Gamblin said if the Cook government followed developers' aspirations to allow housing closer to the beach, it would inevitably lead to more groynes, whereas a setback to Bracks Street in North Fremantle would be likely to negate the need for human intervention so nature could do its work.

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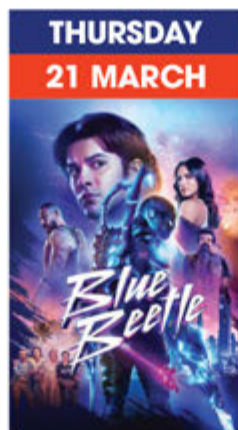
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Handel Bach Mahler

Handel's happy and festive *Concerto Grosso Op6 No 12* opens the concert. **Bach's** *Concerto for 2 Violins* has at its heart the exquisite Adagio, a love song where the two violins intertwine in perfect equality featuring violinist sisters Rebecca Glorie and Andrea Mendham. With the energetic and intricate outer movements, this is an enduring highlight of the Baroque. **Mahler's** 4th Symphony is late romanticism at its best with beautiful warm and lush melodies, delicate, tender and ethereal moments. FCO plays the first and third movements. Conducted by the amazing John Keene this promises to be a transporting musical experience.

John Keene



The conductor is critical in giving the orchestra a *raison d'être*: shaping the music into an exciting, new interpretation, exploring the scope of the emotions contained in the composition in the limited time of a few rehearsals. John Keene has a deep understanding of the score and innovative approaches. He is also FCO's new Artistic Advisor and also a brilliant double bass player.

FCO on YouTube Channel

Those who were unfortunate to miss the November concert can find the those and many more recordings on FCO's own YouTube channel.

Saturday 23 March @ 3pm

Churchlands Senior High

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Sunday 24 March @ 2.30pm

Basilica of St Patrick Fremantle

Adults \$40, Concession \$35, Under 18s \$20

Tickets available at Trybooking,
call Natalie on 0438 933 250
or available at the door.

Doors open 1 hour before the concert.



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Planting the seed



food

STEPHEN POLLOCK

A "Dark Kitchen" doesn't sound very appetising.

I had visions of Darth Vader cooking a fry-up or the kid from *The Exorcist* making me spag bol.

A quick Google revealed that it's actually a marketing term for an eatery that only does delivery or pick-up and no dine-in.

I was ordering from Nature's Wok in Palmyra, a healthy Asian takeaway that doesn't serve meat, instead using plant-based protein.

So I was about to eat pseudo meat from a Dark Kitchen – for a brief moment I thought I was in a weird David Lynch movie or a remake of *Soylent Green*.

But my daughter said we should go meat-free one day a week, so in the interests of family harmony I threw down my tomahawk steak and dived head-first into the menu.

There was a decent range of wok-charred noodle dishes, fried rice bowls, stir fries and sides, including Fragrant Mongolian, Tangy Pad Thai, Thai Basil and Cashew, and BBQ mini buns.

Most dishes had a choice of protein – plant-based chicken, plant based-beef or tofu – or you could get it with just veggies.

I ordered the Sizzling Black Bean with plant-based chicken (\$17.95 beef wasn't available).

The online menu was very versatile, letting you choose from a range of noodles (Hokkien, Canton, Ho Fun, Pad



Thai), fried/boiled rice, and a host of vegetables and sauces.

I got a jumbo serve with plenty of fresh bean shoots, broccoli, carrot, bok choy, capsicum and sliced onion.

The thick Hokkien egg noodles were nicely cooked, but the black bean sauce was a bit underwhelming – I wanted more of that trademark bold, salty punch.

The plant-based chicken was okay with a pleasant texture and inoffensive flavour, but after a while it felt a bit like making love to a mannequin instead of a real person.

Across the table my human wife "Special K" was tucking into her Korean fired coated tofu (\$17.95) – a messy cacophony of battered tofu, egg fried rice and sweet chilli mayo.

It looked like a hangover cure for vegetarians, but the flavours were there, especially in the egg fried rice.

The tofu had a nice batter and a decent texture.

"This would be a really good comfort dish for winter," noted my wife.

"There's plenty of veg in the egg fried rice and it's a good



heartly serve."

My young kids shared a seasonal mixed veggie stir fry (\$15.95).

I had a sneaky taste and enjoyed the subtle oyster sauce and steamed rice. The kids polished it off no problem.

We finished the meal with some regulation spring rolls (four for \$8.95).

Next time I would go for Nature Wok's veggie dishes without the plant-based protein as something about the smell and texture reminded me of airplane food.

I also had a Proustian flashback to my mum giving me Linda McCartney veggie sausages when I was a hungover (they nearly pushed me over the edge).

But the meal was a hit with my wife and kids, who planned to devour the leftovers the next day, so maybe my brain is just hardwired to meat and I need a few goes to become adjusted.

Hmm, perhaps a Dark Kitchen isn't so scary after all.

Nature's Wok Palmyra
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Let it all out

 arts
STEPHEN POLLOCK

SASHA BRITTO'S visceral cover art for her exhibition *Gut Feelings* is like a woman exploding after years of pent-up frustration.

The 26-year-old describes creating art as "free therapy", and draws on raw emotion to produce stunning paintings that often depict a mass of naked, intertwining bodies.

"My cultural differences and being a person of colour and a female is always something to paint about," Britto says.

"And a lot of this exhibition is inspired by the things we can see and feel in those situations but cannot explain.

"Whether that be good or bad. I think as humans, feeling those emotions, trying to figure out why we are here, what it means to you and if this world is actually something you want to be apart of is pretty insane and confusing to me."

Born in Perth with south-east Asian heritage, Britto says the creative fire in her belly is a by-product of her family having lived, or still living, in countries where it is illegal to make art that isn't supportive of the kingdom or the highest political power.

"Being killed for making art that you like is crazy," she says.

"I'm big on old cartoons and animation, but I like the adult ones – the ones that mum and dad didn't want you to watch," laughs Britto.

"No new AI shit. flip-book classic, frame-by-frame, old-school stuff. The movie *La Planete Sauvage*

by René Laloux and Roland Topor is a masterpiece and Frida Kahlo is also a goddess in my eyes."

Growing up, Britto was an avid drawer and heavily into art and music, creating artworks with whatever she could lay her hands on.

On turning 16 she started dabbling with henna – the art of using black dye from powdered henna leaves to decorate skin with intricate patterns.

She was hooked and a decade on is part of a group of passionate henna artists at The Henna Leaf in Fremantle Markets, using only organic powder that is free of chemical nasties.

"Henna was an escape for me as a child and a good way to harness whatever undiagnosed neurological networking failure that was up in my brain," Britto says.

"It started off as free therapy and an easy way to make money and that naturally opened up doors for selling other art.

"Henna is definitely something that I've loved and hated before. "But now I can't live without

• Some of Sasha Britto's striking artworks.

it. I've grown to appreciate it more since it's such a significant art form in my family's cultures. Much like painting and creating other art."

Britto's latest exhibition also features a bunch of her talented arty chums including Fred, Harper Barton, Lachlan Payet, Nick Ireland, Olina Murphy and Papa G.

They were suffering from "imposter syndrome" so she give them a friendly nudge in the right direction.

Britto says painting keeps her grounded and positive about life.

"A few years ago, and probably now, I felt that I knew nothing about painting, so I started

painting. It helps me think and be hopeful," she says.

"We harbour a lot of feelings in our guts and unfortunately I'm one of those people that experience that a lot.

But she concedes that sometimes they're self-induced.

"*Gut Feelings* came about through a large vomit after an unexpected big night, if I'm going to be honest with you!"

There's still time to catch Gut Feelings: Sasha Britto and Friends at the PS upstairs art space on Pakenham Street in Fremantle until tomorrow night (Sunday March 17).



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It's a short walk to the restaurants, cafes and bars on the famous Cappuccino Strip, and with this heatwave still lingering, you can enjoy a refreshing swim at the inner-city Bathers Beach.

Grocery shopping will be a cinch with a top-notch IGA around the corner in Walyalup Koort.

Location – tick. But what's the actual apartment like?

Well, it's an executive three bedroom two bathroom number with all the high-end bells and whistles.

The open plan living/ dining/

kitchen area is bright and airy, thanks to the large bank of bi-fold doors leading to the balcony.

It creates a great indoor-outdoor flow and you have lovely views of the surrounding tree tops, heritage buildings and the port cranes in the distance.

There's plenty of room for a lounge setting and dining table in the open plan, but the kitchen steals the show.

It's a pristine-white beauty with high-end appliances and loads of storage space. Plus there's a neat prep bench where you can chop up your shallots while enjoying that amazing vista.

The balcony is super deep and wide with ample room for a dining table, BBQ and comfy chairs.

It's a great spot to enjoy sundowner drinks with your partner or family and friends.

The rest of the apartment continues the high standard with three spacious bedrooms (one has a walk-in robe and the others have built-in robes).

For added convenience, one of the bedrooms features a plush ensuite and the others share a bathroom.

This 174sqm apartment includes stone benchtops in the kitchen, bathrooms, powder room and laundry, concertina blinds, reverse cycle ducted AC, and timber flooring throughout.

Part of the Gallery Suite complex, residents have access to a resort-style pool on the roof, gymnasium and secure basement parking.

If you fancy a little slice of executive life in the heart of Fremantle, this apartment will be right up your Wall Street.



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WINTER IS COMING!

Case Study March 24

Fancy Tap Water

Plumber wisdom with Tony Young



Water filters are the flavour of the month and there are a lot of them on the market at the moment.

I must admit I am a bit sceptical, as mostly they over spec'd and over priced in my opinion... So, lets have a think about this logically before you part with \$4000 – 5000 and \$500 annually to maintain.

A. I guess my starting point is 'WHY'?

ie My son has eczema and hard water and chlorine affects it... and then identify what you are trying to filter out...
Solids... sand, scale
Colour... iron
Taste... chlorine, organic,
Chemicals... chlorine, fluoride, calcium
Bacteria... eColi

B. How are we going to filter out these impurities

Filtering of solids is usually done by forcing the water through a porous medium .. ie ceramic, sand, fibre and measured in micros 1/1000th of a millimetre 2 – 5 micros is common

for this type of filtering. Tastes and odours are attenuated by carbon filter cartridges. Bacteria by Ultra violet light treatment.

C. Where in your house you need to protect...

ie Do we need to filter garden and toilet water filtered? Your hwu, your shower or your kettle?

In my opinion, the \$75 filter in my fridge water does a pretty good job. So I get a little dubious about the benefits of \$4 -5k units I see advertised and installed, when the water that we drink starts above Australian Standard and world Health org standards?? First world problem?

Start with the name brands that are familiar... Puretec is one that springs to mind, the last one I priced was \$2500 installed... but in my in my opinion does no better job (than this human body can detect) than the \$400 double cannister unit under your kitchen sink.

Be aware that...

1. They can cost up to \$500 per year for maintenance (ie if a big heap of rubbish comes through the mains after a burst in the street... could wreck a few filters in a row?)
2. You can pay a lot for a fancy cover, for a apparatus that is the same underneath... but ultimately it is only the filter medium that does the work (the filtering).. so all the rest is window dressing.

On a re read that all sounds a bit cynical, but it can all lead to very fancy expensive tap water, 99% of which comes out of the tap for free

Conclusion... give the 'whats and whys' a bit of thought before you go all in

Goodluck!

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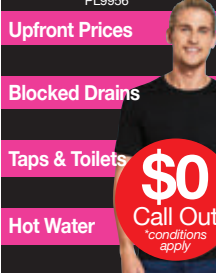


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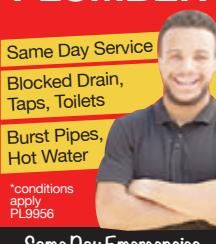
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More Growth to Come

Perth's housing values have increased more than 50 percent since the end of 2019 firmly putting an end to speculation that our run of price gains was purely due to the low interest rate, stimuli-fuelled COVID period. Core Logic reports Perth's current median home value to be \$687,004 up 52.9 percent since the bottom-of-the-market March 2020 price of \$449,325. Current values eclipse the previous 2014 peak of \$518,540.

We've been witness to similar markets in the past. For example, back in 2006, Perth's median house value rose a whopping 40.6 percent in twelve months thanks to the mining boom. Prices retreated relatively quickly after mining-related construction jobs ended and workers returned to whence they'd come.

three factors are set to underpin positive house price growth

Back then, WA's population gains went from +1,000 persons per week to -150 per week in a short period, hence the fairly spectacular downward adjustment in house values; demand simply fell away. There is a fundamental difference in Perth's housing landscape this time around with population gains, low housing supply and relative affordability the three fundamental drivers of our market. These three factors are set to underpin positive house price growth for at least this year and into next with no predictable market shock on the horizon to bring this upward trajectory to a premature end.

Considering each fundamental in turn, Perth's house prices could gain a further 15 to 18 percent this year based on current trajectories.

These comments are the author's own and may not reflect the opinions or policies of the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia/Australia.

By HAYDEN GROVES
REIA President 2021-2023
REIWA President 2015-2018



Want more property info?
Email me at hayden@dgre.com.au



WA's changes to population growth are at peak levels with around 22,000 new arrivals quarterly. Overseas migration is out-pacing interstate migration growth and with a housing shortage, the demand for more homes inevitably pushes up house prices. Meanwhile, REIWA continues to report low listing numbers currently at about 3,250, well below long term averages.

The supply pipeline looks bleak too with current annual dwelling approvals 24 percent below the 10-year average for houses and an astonishing 74 percent below for units. Clearly, we are not going to be building enough homes for to cater for our population gains anytime soon. In fact, WA is leading the nation in terms of time taken to build new homes.

Yet Perth remains one of the most affordable places in the nation to buy property with a year-to-date median house price of \$718,500, well behind Sydney's \$1,395,804, Melbourne's \$942,671 and Brisbane's \$899,474. We have nudged past Hobart's \$696,508 in recent months. And the percentage of average household income to service current average mortgages in Perth is 29.8 percent, way more affordable than Sydney's 58.1 percent.

Interest rates are predicted to fall later this year as the broader economy slows. It's foreseeable that such a move will add further fuel to Perth's already hot property market.

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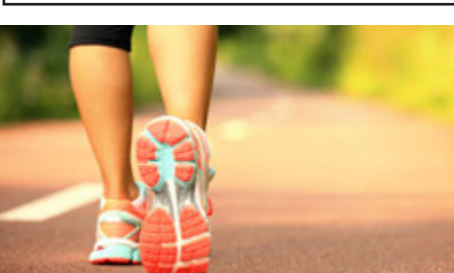
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Astrology with Sudhir

March 16 – March 23, 2024



ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

On Monday the Sun enters Aries. The Sun's presence bolsters our sense of individuality, helps extricate us from familial patterns that restrict our identity and gives us access to what we have to offer our culture. Embrace all these things. You are ripe for the new, with peace in your heart.



TAURUS (Apr 21 – May 20)

While the Sun has been sailing through Pisces, you have been pleasantly drifting. As it enters Aries on Wednesday, there will suddenly be a fire under you. Life is about to crank up your starter motor and set you on your way. Any resistance you have had to change, will now quickly melt away.



GEMINI (May 21 – June 21)

Mercury will be conjunct Chiron on Thursday. Chiron is the wounded healer in mythology. Where our wound is, is where we learn the art of healing. Chiron is presently in Aries. The theme here is to focus on where you have acted rashly, or on where you have avoided embracing action at all.



CANCER (June 22 – July 22)

The rising Moon will pass through Cancer early in the week, bringing a sense of comfort and familiarity. This will give you the confidence you need to navigate the Sun's entry into fiery Aries on Wednesday. The world will be both exciting and adventurous and more combative then.



LEO (July 23 – Aug 22)

The Sun will move out of the deep waters of Pisces on Wednesday, into the fiery and adventurous realms of Aries. Whilst it has been on Pisces, you have been somewhat becalmed and befuddled. As it enters Aries your clarity and mojo will return. Rekindle your confidence and bravado.



VIRGO (Aug 23 – Sept 22)

As Mercury passes in front of Chiron on Thursday, so your interest in and capacity for healing rekindles. Chiron is the wounded healer in mythology. Where we hurt is where we learn to heal. Note where you have been rash and where you have failed to take action. Assimilate both.



LIBRA (Sept 23 – Oct 23)

When the Sun moves into Aries, as it will on Wednesday, your fear is that the peace and harmony you have worked for, will be rattled and lost. The truth is that if it is, then it is not real peace or real harmony. This month is for finding your strength, for finding your core. Steel your resolve.



SCORPIO (Oct 24 – Nov 21)

The Sun moves out of the deep waters of Pisces, into fiery Aries, on Wednesday. Whilst it has been there, you have been granted access to currents of feeling that you had forgotten existed – and which have revitalised you. When it moves into Aries, your sense of adventure will kick in.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Though you have had a certain amount of influence of late, the Pisces Sun let loose various bewildering forces that have made it hard for you to get traction. On Wednesday, the Sun moves into fiery Aries. This will give you the clarity, strength and kavoom that you have been missing.



CAPRICORN (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

On Friday, Venus will meet up with your ruling planet, Saturn, in Pisces. This will soften your edges and bring further clarity, in what has been a confusing period. Pisces implies depths. Capricorn signifies heights. It's not possible to have one without the other. Love yourself up.



AQUARIUS (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

Mars is on the last lap of his journey through Aquarius. He has brought you more fire than you are used to, along with a well-formed sense of adventure. He has given you access to your will and courage. Continue talking about what's most real with your small tribe of essence friends.



PISCES (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Come Wednesday, the Sun will move out of Pisces, having completed his annual visit. Along with Saturn he has been crystallising all that is real in you, and for you. His work is done for now. Your job is to swim away from the limelight and integrate all that the last month has taught you.

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• The Hollow Cause wasn't your usual night out at the theatre.

Cause for reflection

by BARRY HEALY

The audacious musical theatre piece, *The Hollow Cause*, which had its Australian premiere in Fremantle is a and powerful production. Sited in the Naval Supply Store, the building with the big octopus mural that welcomes travellers from the old wooden traffic bridge, it certainly isn't like your normal night at the theatre.

For a start, early arrivals interact with cast members for an hour in a representation of a World War II partisan camp in the Polish forest.

One character is a fortune teller with a deck of cards. With eyes closed and serious demeanour, he sifted the astral realm for me to provide predictions about people who would survive the Nazi horrors and emigrate to Australia. Among others, he mentioned Richard Pratt, who established Visy Industries, Frank Lowy, chairperson of Westfield Corporation and Sir Zelman Cohen, the former Governor General of Australia.

I gently mentioned that many Jewish refugees who came to Australia after World War II became leaders of the Communist movement. I asked if they were in his pack of cards. Staying in role, he closed his eyes and searched the void but had to admit that those stories were not coming through.

The Hollow Cause starts with a potent acknowledgement of country referencing Aboriginal leader William Cooper's 1938 protest to German authorities condemning Kristallnacht. The acknowledgement links the Australian genocide of indigenous

people with the Holocaust, declaring: "Never again!"

Having "never again" spoken while a genocide was proceeding in Gaza without including the Palestinian people raised a question about the moral universe that *The Hollow Cause* inhabits.

However, if you can leave such thoughts at the door, along with quibbles about historical accuracy then the theatrical experience is tremendous. Writer/director Keshet Kesh assembled a cast of top-notch singers backed by a 22-piece orchestra to pump out a blend of contemporary classical music, jazz, gospel, Latin and contemporary pop fused with exotic music of Mizrahi, Klezmer and Folk music.

Lead singers Morgan Cowling, Vin Trikeriotis, Andre David, Kelsy Cruse, Sam Rabbone and Sarah McCabe all have mighty voices and with a sizable ensemble of back-up singers really belt out the songs. The narrative of Jewish partisans on the run from Nazi pursuers unfolds at a cracking pace.

The musical's marketing synopsis promises an examination of fighting "for a cause that seems increasingly hollow" and how "does one find meaning and purpose in the face of overwhelming despair?"

To produce dramatic tension, Keshet Kesh is very free with historical fact. That creates a gripping narrative with improbable twists, but somewhat obscures the promised existential depth.

No doubt this production will find a national audience and further mature. It deserves a future.

The Hollow Cause
The Naval Store, 141 Queen Victoria St, Fremantle

Have your say

Proposed local development plan – 2-4 Clontarf Road and 1 Naylor Street, Beaconsfield



The City is seeking your feedback on a proposed local development plan over the above addresses.

This site has already been granted subdivision approval, which will create 184 lots with a network of new roads and laneways, and six open space reserves. A local development plan is required as a condition of subdivision approval and sets special design criteria for the development of the site.

The local development plan can be viewed at mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au or at Walyalup Civic Centre, 151 High Street, Fremantle.

A Talk to a Planner session will be held at Fremantle College, 79 Lefroy Road, Beaconsfield on 26 March 2024 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., where you will have the opportunity to ask questions or discuss any concerns you may have.

Submissions on the proposal must be lodged in writing and should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, City of Fremantle, PO Box 807, Fremantle WA 6959, by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 4 April 2024.

Enquiries can be made to Strategic Planning on planning@fremantle.wa.gov.au or 1300 MY FREO (1300 693 736).

Visit mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au

Proposed temporary closure of Beach Street - East Street to Queen Victoria Street

The Fremantle Traffic Bridge houses various services, including telecommunications and water that need to be removed from the deteriorating bridge and relocated under the river.

Service relocation works are planned to start in March and require a temporary road closure of Beach Street (East Street to under Queen Victoria Street) until July 2024. This means vehicles and pedestrians heading to and from Fremantle on Beach Street will be detoured via East Street and Canning Highway as shown in the map below.

Importantly, access to the businesses and carpark on Beach Street east of the bridge will be maintained.

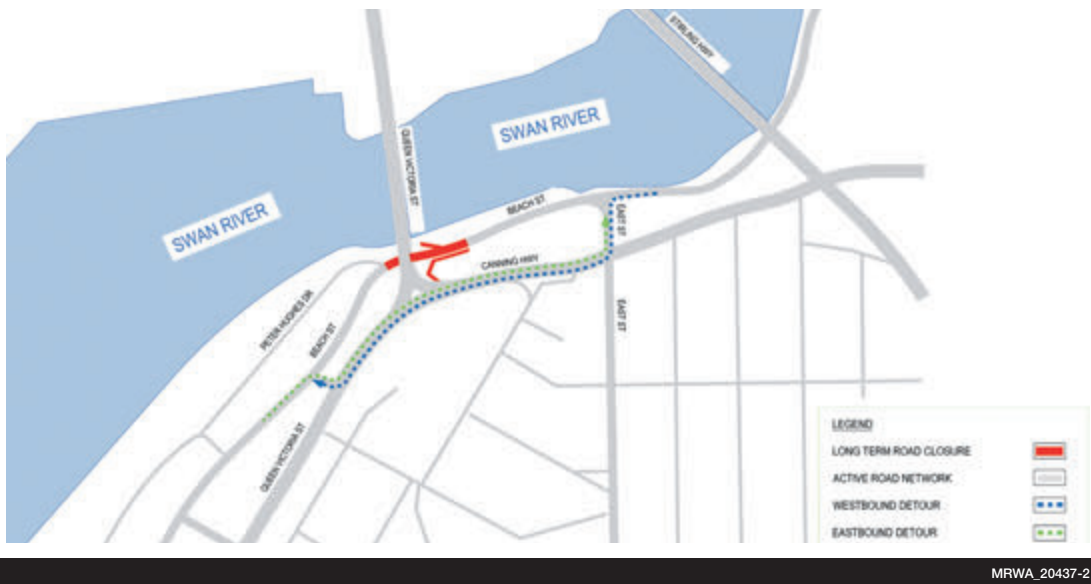
The proposed closure will provide:

- a safe environment for workers and the wider community
- an area for large machinery to operate
- access to and from the area for vehicles undertaking the works.

Development Approval was granted in October 2022 to conduct these works. Concurrently, a Development Application to progress the Swan River Crossings Project is being assessed through the State Development Assessment Unit.

Public comment is open for 21 days (Saturday 16 March to Saturday 6 April) regarding the proposed temporary full closure of Beach Street. Please send comments to enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au addressed to the Fremantle Bridges Alliance, Community and Stakeholder Engagement Team.

Prior to the temporary closure of Beach Street – East Street to Queen Victoria Street, some work will be undertaken requiring a single lane closure on Beach Street with one lane operating under contraflow. Temporary traffic signals will be operating 24/7.



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- For safety purposes, your gas supply may need to be temporarily turned off for short periods between the hours of 8am-4pm while network upgrades are in progress.
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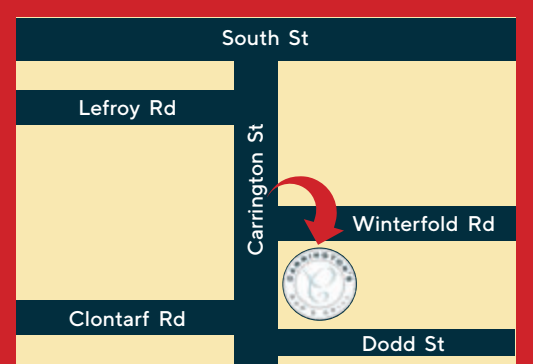
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