

# COCKBURN CITY HERALD



Volume 35 N° 14  
Saturday April 6, 2024  
www.fremantleherald.com

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# Greens wedge Freo on AUKUS support

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER

FREMANTLE mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge says her council will look at "any potential opportunities" the AUKUS nuclear submarine deal produces for the local economy, despite the City's decades-long anti-nuclear policy.

Ms Fitzhardinge said current plans suggest no nuclear waste or transportation within the Fremantle municipality.

"At this stage we expect any opportunities for Fremantle would be related to Pillar 2 [of the AUKUS deal], particularly the technological capability elements," Ms Fitzhardinge said.

"We already have strengths in the marine and immersive technology sectors."

Fremantle's awkward position on AUKUS was highlighted by Greens Upper House candidate Sophie McNeill, who was due to speak on the issue on Thursday night as the Herald was heading to the printers.

Ms McNeil says there has been an "alarming lack" of community consultation about the presence of a nuclear submarine base and building facilities in Cockburn Sound.

"It is disappointing Fremantle council did not put its own submission into the inquiry highlighting the city's long-standing anti-

nuclear policy," Ms McNeill said.

"It is directly at odds with Defence Department plans to allow for naval nuclear propulsion facilities

to be created in WA, including for storing or disposing of radioactive waste from AUKUS submarines.

"AUKUS undermines

Australia's sovereignty, creates a massive economic burden, and poses significant environmental, security and safety risks to our community."

Fremantle's anti-nuke policy states: "The whole municipality of Fremantle is a nuclear free zone", and that "Council opposes the  
• Continued page 2



• Yuck Circus gave their unique take on an Aussie icon at last weekend's Fremantle International Street Arts Festival. Our columnist Roel Loopers took a camera around to catch the action: See his roundup on Page 7



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# Safety high priority for Freo locals

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER

GREATER community connection and safety are at the top of Freo residents' wishes for the next decade, according to the council's draft Strategic Community Plan.

The council gave the green light at last week's ordinary meeting to send the draft plan out for consultation; it provides a guide to where the City's planning, budgeting, service delivery, and resources will be focussed between 2024 and 2034.

The council conducted community consultation for the plan through the Let's Talk Freo initiative between February and July last year.

Let's Talk Freo found Freo residents are keen to see "social connection" and "community safety" as a priority over the next decade, followed closely by a focus on public transport around the city.

Public transport was a hot topic around town during the consultation period, as it coincided with news the City's free CAT bus was to be wound up.

Community and economic development, housing, and sustainability were also among the most important issues for

participants.

Let's Talk Freo was conducted via several public events and communication campaigns, to gauge public opinion as to how the City should spend its money and resources.

Fremantle council community engagement partner Kavi Gupta says the plan is a fundamental document for the council to follow over the next decade.

"It's significant because it sets the vision for the city for the next 10 years," Mr Gupta said.

"When council staff and elected members make decisions, they'll refer to this document and say 'this is what the community said to keep in mind when we tackle some of those issues'.

"It's one of the largest engagement programs the public participates in every few years."

Development of the Plan has been slow-moving, having started in early 2021.

Fremantle mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge acknowledged the delay in the plan's development, attributing it to the long transition out of Covid disruptions.

"In 2021, we were still in Covid world," Msr Fitzhardinge said, "and we were doing more internal planning, because it wasn't clear to us when and how we would



• There were a few surprises about how people connected with the council's consultation on the new Strategic Community Plan.

be able to do that big community engagement.

"Of course, by the time we get to 2023, it was very different."

Ms Fitzhardinge said the plan was also an "important lesson" in "not making assumptions" about community engagement.

"We made some assumptions early on, about which demographics would engage in which way," she said.

"One of our assumptions was

that seniors were probably more likely to go face to face, and that younger people will be happy to engage online.

"The largest number of people who have engaged with all the online tools were 65 plus."

The draft Strategic Plan is now available to people who "live, work, and play" in Freo on the Let's Talk Freo page on the council's website.

Feedback is due April 27.

# Greens AUKUS wedge

• From page 1  
development of a nuclear waste facility in Western Australia."

The policy was introduced in 2000 and was amended in 2003.

The Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance, which includes Fremantle, endorsed the 2023 Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Bill in December last year.

The PSWMA also comprises the local governments of East Fremantle, Kwinana, Cockburn, Rockingham, and Melville, who are "generally supportive" of the 2023 Bill which addresses safety of communities located near the nuclear base on Garden Island.

In the submission letter from December last year, the PSWMA outlined the need for "open and transparent reporting" about the naval nuclear facilities located near major residential areas, saying it is critical to "developing public acceptance" of the subs.

Ms Fitzhardinge said the submission wasn't an endorsement of AUKUS, but was integral for local governments around the nuclear base to have a say in its safety planning and understand how it would affect their communities.

"We will remain actively engaged with State and Federal agencies to better understand any regional risks and risk management plans," Ms Fitzhardinge said.

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# Shock as Ports boss dies at work

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER

FREMANTLE PORTS chief executive Michael Parker died suddenly at work in his office on Wednesday April 3.

Described as an "integral part of Fremantle's professional community", Mr Parker had worked as head of the Ports for almost three years, and previously worked at mining giant Alcoa since 1994.

Mr Parker, 52, leaves behind his wife and four children.

Fremantle mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge says the news of Mr Parker's death is "very sad".

"We have really enjoyed working with Michael," Mayor Fitzhardinge said.

"He will be missed."

In a statement the Ports said he "led an ambitious agenda of change for Fremantle Ports, that included a major capital works program to upgrade port assets and a suite of organisational change initiatives directed at ensuring the organisation was prepared for a dynamic future in the decades ahead."

"Our focus today has been ensuring Michael's family, his spouse Wendy, and their four children Ben, Jackson, Sophie and Dan, have our full support and our people receive the care and time they need to process this news."

Fremantle Ports chair Chris Sutherland said Mr Parker was a "wonderful father, an exceptional leader and will be sorely missed".



• Fremantle Ports boss Michael Parker has been remembered as a great dad and exceptional leader.

# Bathers set for shark net

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER

BATHERS BEACH is a step closer to getting a shark net after Fremantle council confirmed it as the preferred location last week.

All but one councillor voted for a protected swimming area at Bathers Beach after the state government hinted it might support the installation with a \$200,000 grant from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

The council will have to foot the maintenance costs, estimated at \$68,000 annually.

Focus on safe swimming areas in Fremantle comes after the two shark attacks which claimed the lives of Paul Millachip at Port Beach in 2021 and Stella Berry in the Swan River in 2023.

## Attacks

That may have influenced community sentiment about Bathers Beach, which wasn't locals' favoured location for a shark net during the consultation.

Councillor Doug Thompson, whose ward encompasses both Leighton and Port beaches, says Bathers Beach is "not the place".

"The money was put up because of shark attacks."

"This summer there have been three times that I'm aware of, that Leighton and Port have been closed because of sharks."

"I'm not aware of sharks ever being sighted at Bathers Beach."

However, Cr Thompson voted in favour of the location, with Coastal

Ward councillor Andrew Sullivan the nay vote because he was "not convinced" about the proposal and "had reservations" about a shark net.

"The protection of swimmers is the wrong issue."

"The majority of people who are unfortunately attacked by sharks are adventurous people who put on a snorkel and go crayfishing on reefs, or surf, or long-distance swimming."

"None of these things get done inside a safe swimming area."

City ward councillor Adin Lang supported the location and says Bathers Beach presented an opportunity for a beach trip to be incorporated into the West End visiting experience, activating the area to tourists.

"It's not about where people are going at the moment," Cr Lang said.

"It's about, 'where do we want people to go?'"

"It's going to be a great thing for downtown business, and for Bathers Beach, which is a gorgeous beach."

"At the moment it's very quiet, but I don't expect it will stay that way."

The council acknowledged facilities at Bathers Beach would need to be upgraded if it is to be developed into a popular swimming spot.

Local business owner Nick Unmack had previously offered \$100,000 towards toilet and change facilities at the end of last year.

The Herald attempted to contact Mr Unmack to confirm his offer is still on the table, but he is believed to be on holiday with his family.

The council will investigate Harvey Beach in North Fremantle, as another potential location for a shark net.

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# Housing boost for Cockburn

SOCIAL housing in Cockburn has received three boosts from the Cook government, including the city's first "tiny homes".

Housing minister John Carey this week announced four tiny homes for seniors would be built in Spearwood using a rapid construction method.

The one-bedroom, one-bathroom social homes use Weathertex boards made from waste timber and long-lasting recyclable metal frames. They are prefabricated in just 12 weeks at Summit Projects' factory in Canning Vale.

"These four new prefabricated tiny houses - delivered through our government's housing reforms - will provide new homes to vulnerable seniors in our community," Mr Carey said.

He also announced 19 new homes for people on WA's long social housing waiting list at the new OneOneFive development in Hamilton Hill this week.

Seven three-bedroom, two-bathroom homes would be made available to families, while there'll be another 12 one- and two-bedroom homes which will achieve 7.5-star NatHERS energy efficiency ratings. All will be

suitable for seniors and people with disabilities, and include waterwise gardens and solar energy systems.

"Since our record \$2.6 billion investment in housing and homelessness measures, we've added more than 2000 social homes, with a further 1000 social homes under contract or construction," Mr Carey said.

Fremantle Labor MP Simone McGurk said OneOneFive was an exciting development giving people housing diversity.

"The OneOneFive development in Hamilton Hill also recognises the site's history as a school, and its indigenous heritage, through street names, public art and built form," Ms McGurk said.

Last month 16 houses for seniors were funded by the federal government in Coolbellup through its Social Housing Accelerator.

Fremantle federal Labor MP Josh Wilson said delivering safe and affordable homes had always been his party's priority.

"This new investment will give seniors a secure place to live in the welcoming community of Coolbellup and serves as another illustration of the Cook and Albanese governments' partnership to deliver for Western Australia," Mr Wilson said.



• Up-and-coming comedian Shayla Keane performing at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

Photo by Nick Robertson

## Class clown is a winner

by MALAKIA LELIEVELD

SANTA MARIA COLLEGE student Shayla Keane has won the Melbourne International Comedy Festival's 28th Class Clowns grand final.

Class Clowns is one of the festival's developmental programs, helping the next generation of Tim Minchins develop their comedy chops.

Shayla says the inspiration for her comedy comes from travelling the world with her family and finding humour in everyday situations within different cultures. "Culture is a big part of my life," Shayla told the Herald.

She first entered the contest in 2022 and was a runner-up in the grand final, and says this year she

was more prepared.

"In 2022 I had just started out in comedy.

"I was really nervous and had little confidence in myself as a comedian.

"In 2024 I had a lot more confidence, was less nervous and more excited to be on stage."

Shayla was one of 11 finalists from around the country and walked away with a first prize of \$1500, a \$1000 workshop package for Santa Maria, as well as the Class Clowns trophy.

Shayla's comedy routine occasionally references her "brown skin" as she has Indian/South African parents and she gently mocks some of the compliments from well-meaning peers, but says overall race has been "a positive influence on my life".

"I don't think I will be focusing on my race as part of my future comedy routines," she said.

Shayla's keen to grow a career as a stand-up comedian, but balances that with a desire to obtain a degree at university once she's finished high school.

"I enjoy making people laugh and forget about their problems for a while."

She plans on doing some open mic gigs around Perth in the near future but for the long term is considering a move to Melbourne to try out its comedy scene, which is incredibly competitive but can help launch a career.

Class Clown's former alumni includes Aaros Chen (*Fisk*, 2017 best newcomer award and 2019 director's choice award at the festival).

## Gyms press for tax benefit



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

The fitness industry has a knack for novel revenue models. Laurie Potter was inventive in the 1980s offering \$400 lifetime memberships to his chain of fitness clubs. It was a bargain, so much so that the business went into receivership in 1987 owing \$36 million to creditors and leaving 82,000 members without access to the facilities they had paid for.

Life memberships were rightfully banned following this, so the industry moved to monthly or annual subscriptions and has since evolved into 24-hour gyms with reduced staff taking full advantage of technology. The industry grew rapidly prior to the pandemic but has since faced falling revenues.

There are currently more than 6,000 gyms across the country, and gym owners are battling competition, rising costs, and declining memberships. Operators claim that cost of living pressures are contributing to cancelled memberships, possibly also impacted by the outrageous active wear outlay needed to look good whilst exercising (and shopping, and socialising, and nightclubbing).

The latest industry effort is to lobby the federal government in a pre-budget submission that suggests gym memberships should be tax deductible. It is presented as a serious

health measure, but I wonder if there might be another agenda.

In presenting such a strategy it is common to recommend a (add number here) point plan. AUSActive, the industry's lobby group, have opted for the classic three-point. 1. A tax deduction for participation in active health pursuits, including gym memberships. 2. Grant employers an FBT exemption for offering gym memberships to staff. 3. Implement a nationwide public health campaign. I'm adding two more points that didn't make the press release. 4. Add a broad-based statement if you're short of a third point. 5. Issue a press release and get maximum coverage for your industry.

On the positive, at least this is a carrot, rather than stick approach like say a sugar tax might be. But then again, punitive tax/health policies, like a tobacco tax, have a history of working well.

**“that suggests gym memberships should be tax deductible**

But have they really thought this recommendation through? What about people with gymtimidation? Should we not get a tax deduction for walking the dog? I'm sure most would happily keep a 12-week dogbook to evidence their tax-deductible journeys. Would swimming be eligible, or is that risking another bottom of the harbour scheme? And what about those gym rats who skip leg day? I recommend a reduced rebate for them.

Public health and well-being are serious matters requiring a careful combination of policies that both prevent and treat health issues in our community. I'm not quite convinced that lunging into a three-point plan offered by an oversaturated industry with declining revenue is the best approach to addressing this issue.

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## Perth Property Takes Lead

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



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It doesn't seem that long ago when Perth's property values made us the cheapest major capital in the nation. At the time, it failed to make any sense that Hobart and Adelaide's median house prices were significantly higher than ours given our low unemployment, high wages, lifestyle and economic strength.

Two years ago, Perth's median home value for the March quarter was reported by Core Logic as \$525,800. The current median house value for Perth as reported this week sits at \$703,502. In March 2022, we were the most affordable place in Australia to buy real estate with all the evidence pointing to Perth being on the brink of a property boom.

**Perth has some way to go**

Back then, buyers dabbling in the Hobart property market parted with \$820,000 during the quarter, in our nation's capital they paid \$982,000 and in Brisbane \$760,000. In Darwin, the median house price reached \$583,000 and Adelaide put on a tremendous 7.1 percent spurt from the previous quarter to reach a median of \$649,000. Melbournian buyers paid a median of \$1,121,500 for a detached house and Sydney topped the list with an extraordinary median of \$1,590,900 for the quarter.

Perth's median house price growth for the twelve months to March 2022 was 4.1 percent. Compared to the same twelve-month gains had in Hobart (31.5 percent), Brisbane (26.7 percent) and Adelaide (24.8 percent), Perth's property price gains back then were comparatively modest.

Perth's annual house price growth is now a nation-leading 19.8 percent and showing no signs of slowing. Brisbane sits in second place at 15.9 percent, Adelaide 13.3 percent

and Sydney (somewhat remarkably given their high median price) has put on a further 9.6 percent. Remaining capitals are still growing but by less than 3.5 percent.

Usefully, Core Logic's statistically references 'series peaks' demonstrating current market sentiment within the context of a 'since-COVID' cycle. Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth are the last remaining cities to be at peak since that time with Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart all having peaked in early 2022.

It would appear Perth has some way to go with Adelaide's median home value at \$734,173, and Brisbane's - the capital most typically value-aligned with Perth - at \$817,564 with both still growing.

I predict Melbourne will continue to constrict from its current \$778,892 median value, Hobart's anaemic growth at 0.3 percent could turn negative at the year progresses and Sydney's growth pattern will stall. I punt Adelaide is close to peak growth and whilst remaining positive will only gain 5 to 8 percent over the next twelve months and Brisbane should continue its double-digit performance for the remainder of 2024.

With Perth gaining 1.9 percent in March and 5.6 percent for the quarter, we could see gains of around 22 percent this year. Meanwhile, local rents are up 13.7 percent for houses and 15.9 percent for units. Housing affordability has deteriorated and will get worse before more supply arrives.

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

# News ban hits publishers

by STEVE GRANT

SMALLER local publishers will be disproportionately affected by Meta's removal of its news tab from Facebook and Instagram says a lobby group.

Facebook's news tab disappeared from Australian accounts on Tuesday after Meta thumbed its nose at the federal government's news media bargaining code, introduced in 2021 to make digital companies pay for news content they share and benefit from through advertising, but don't contribute to.

Some smaller publishers received funding from Meta through the Walkley Foundation, but most were excluded because of a high revenue threshold.

The Local and Independent News Association says these publishers would lose out through the loss of website traffic driven by Meta.

LINA executive director Claire Stuchbery said government support would be needed to counter the losses and help newsrooms transition to new income streams.

"These local and independent media publishers play a critical role within their communities, combatting misinformation and disinformation, supporting community health and safety (including emergency preparedness and resilience), promoting workforce development and fostering social cohesion and civic



engagement.

"They are also key to platforming diverse voices and experiences, as these tend to be the most affected by the closure of larger newsrooms and the

rising syndication of content."

Many small newsrooms formed in response to misinformation about Covid and to fill news deserts with locally relevant updates

during the pandemic, and in the context of rising natural disasters and the advancement of generative AI technology.

Ms Stuchbery said while big news organisations had brand awareness, these hyperlocal newsrooms tended to rely on Facebook and Instagram to find an audience.

"Not only would this affect the viability of existing news publishers, but the ability of new organisations and publishers to start-up and build their audience would be hampered in the future, further consolidating what is already one of the most concentrated media markets in the world," Ms Stuchbery said.

## The Chook's simple solution

COMMENT by STEVE GRANT

THERE'S a simple way governments across Australia can support traditional media organisations and counter the power of Meta.

It's simply to stop shovelling hundreds of millions of advertising dollars to its US-based owner Mark Zuckerberg and his tech giant pals each year, and instead spend that money with local publishers, big and small.

There's something perverse about the federal government's handwringing over Meta, when it has been one of that company's biggest benefactors. In fact, its advertising spend has all the hallmarks of a social media junkie, ballooning year after year until the notion it's saving money by going digital has become a mere fallacy.

Its digital advertising budget is now hundreds of millions of dollars bigger than

what it was when the traditional route was traditional media.

And it's not alone; state and local governments have increasingly gone down this route, particularly gutting regional and suburban newsrooms until far too many communities have been left with no locally-produced news at all.

This behaviour turns a blind eye to the noxious influence of social media on communities.

Governments have a responsibility to be messaging their community through safe and inclusive avenues, and while legacy media wasn't without its issues, does Facebook really stand up to the pub test given its legacy of scandals, bullying, misinformation and data misuse?

It's a simple equation; support democracy by supporting local, independent media, or continue down the rabbit hole that gave the likes of Donald Trump a leg-up.

# Verge dumpers confused

CONFUSED verge-dumpers have prompted Fremantle council to launch an education campaign about its new valet service.

Launched at the end of last year, Verge Valet allows residents to pre-book a council truck to haul away unwanted bulk waste from their property.

But the tradition of keeping an eye on your neighbours' verges as a heads-up for the yearly collection is proving hard to kill, leading to some copycats dumping unauthorised piles outside their house which are cluttering up the street.

"People are just dumping their rubbish," one disgruntled White Gum Valley resident said on a community Facebook page.

"I loved having the verge collection," another resident said, "it was a good lesson for my children that someone's trash is someone's treasure."

Despite the complaints, the City of Fremantle says there's been a 90 per cent "customer satisfaction rate" from those who have used Verge Valet.

It says pre-booked collection is more convenient, reduces landfill and keeps streets tidier (as long as everyone follows the rules, of course).

The council wants residents to use social media 'swap' pages to move unwanted goods or take them to a charity, and only chuck out items that are at the end of their life.

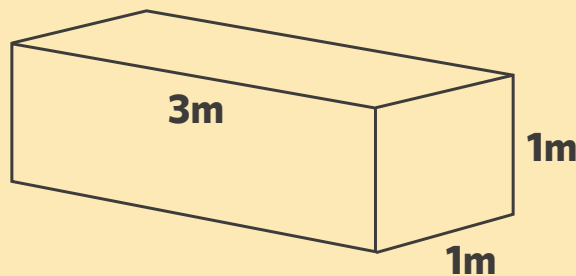
Each household is entitled to one free Verge Valet service a year, as well as six free waste drop-offs at the Fremantle Recycling Centre on Montreal Street.

More information about the new service is available on the Verge Valet page on the City of Fremantle website.

## Book your Verge Valet™ service

### How to set out your waste

- Up to 2 days before your confirmed collection, put your junk out on the verge.
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- Remember limit of 3m<sup>3</sup> per collection.



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## Logic parked

I READ with wry amusement the letter from edition dated March 30 regarding reverse car-bay parking ("Backing up the parking lot," Herald Letters). The correspondent, bless her, has failed to grasp the intelligence and logic behind parking in this manner. Reverse parking means that on leaving the parking bay one has much better vision of other vehicles and you can be sure of not competing for the same space.

We have all seen the near-misses and bumps when two drivers, oblivious of each other are reversing into the same area. In addition, I think we have all observed drivers making several manoeuvres to actually drive in forward gear into a parking bay. Often of course these drivers end up parking at an angle, over the line or in such a manner to make it difficult for the driver in the adjacent bay. In my opinion, if you cannot wait a few moments for a driver to accurately manoeuvre and park, either in forward or reverse gear, then you are an impatient driver and impatient drivers are dangerous drivers. Maybe take the bus?  
**JE Guy**  
Applecross.

## Harbour too

LINDSAY LOVERING missed another arts organisation that has been treated shoddily by Freo council over the years in his letter "A sub-plot?" last week. Harbour Theatre was founded in 1963, beginning modestly on the upper floor of the Evan Davies Civic Library on South Terrace. In 1977 the building was slated for demolition, but through a joint effort with the Fremantle Society and Heritage Commission, the building was saved and partially restored. In 1995, Harbour Theatre was forced to find another venue because Freo council decided to lease the building at a commercial rate. As a temporary measure, Harbour Theatre performed at the Tivoli Theatre in Applecross. After exhausting every avenue with the council for help in relocating back in Fremantle, a lease was finally arranged privately with the Fremantle Education Centre at the Princess May Building in 1996. In December 2009, Harbour Theatre was forced out of the Princess May Building when



the Fremantle Education Centre received a Federal Government grant to re-roof the building and convert the space into offices. Despite intense lobbying by Harbour Theatre members and the general public to the state government and local councillors, the theatre was forced to move again. Freo Council offered Harbour Theatre a temporary venue at the disused Port Cineaste Building on Adelaide Street, until a more secure home could be found. But just after the theatre's 50th anniversary the building was sold in 2014 and the theatre had to move again (and now the place is just a car park?). A deal was reached with the Mosman Park Memorial Hall, also known as Camelot Theatre, forcing Harbour out of Freo. But last year Camelot's roof caved in and Mosman Park council has shown no sign of when, or if, it will be fixed. Freo Council's Draft Strategic Community Plan (tinyurl.com/freoSCP) states the aspiration of "major venues and spaces positions Fremantle as WA's capital of arts and culture events" and "City-owned arts and cultural facilities offer contemporary, fit-for-purpose infrastructure, equipment and spaces". Pull the other one, Freo council. You've done nothing but destroy the arts, just like Lindsay Lovering said.  
**Joel Frederick**  
White Gum Valley

From some 8000 notifications, about 80 responses were received, of which eight were from government departments; a return of 1 per cent. Now because of the low uptake of the proposal the council is seeking to extend the initial five-year trial period by another seven years. To do so it conducted another consultation process over the months of December to February. The council was obviously aware this timing might be questioned, because it dealt with the matter in its FAQ section of the information document, where it asks the question: "Why are you engaging during the Christmas period when people are busy? Are you trying to hide something?" It provided the answer to the question as: "To meet statutory planning timelines a scheme amendment must be advertised as soon as reasonably practicable following council's resolution to prepare the amendment." To me this sounds like bureaucratic hyperbole - I think they doth protest too much - but also raises several questions. If the statement it true why wasn't council's resolution to prepare the amendment made at a time that would have resulted in the consultation taking place at some other time? Was there any statutory requirement for the decision to be taken when it was? After the near nonexistent response to the first consultation event, why didn't council seek other ways of consulting to get a greater result? If you continue doing the same thing you will continue to get the same result... The council seems hell bent on surreptitiously forcing the Fremantle Alternative into a policy because 12 years seems rather a long stretch for a trial. To answer the council's own question; yes I do think that you are trying to hide something.  
**DH Phillips**  
White Gum Valley

## Alternate truth

IT'S amazing to what extend some local councils will go to to establish a policy they want to enforce. Five years ago Fremantle council trialled a plan for small infill development in selected areas of the city, called the Fremantle Alternative and public consultation was held from December to February.

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**David Scaife MLA**  
MEMBER FOR COCKBURN

9414 3266 David.Scaife@mp.wa.gov.au

Authorised by D Scaife, Unit 5, 816 Beeliar Drive Success WA 6164.



# Life's too short

THE sudden death of very likeable Fremantle Ports CEO Michael Parker at the age of only 52, and the death of my good mate Henty Farrar last year, who died withing three months of having been diagnosed with a brain tumour, made me contemplate how important it is to get the balance of life right.

It is so difficult to resist the performance pressure we are all under from an early age.

We are expected to excel at school, university, work, and with our partnerships.

Nothing short of perfection is acceptable, and that often creates huge emotional stress.

Many believe they have failed, because they are not great at everything, and they end up with depression.

We live in a time of mad and unsustainable consumerism and entitlement.

We demand that our governments bail us out, because we allegedly have the right to a better lifestyle.

We whinge about everything and the main media and politicians in opposition are happy to play the game, and keep telling us that we deserve better and that our governments are failing us.

That creates a social media environment of accusations, blame, conspiracy and nastiness.

I have no doubt that there are a lot of people who are battling the cost of living crisis, but I am doubtful that it is as dramatic as the media want us to believe.

As someone who lives on the government pension, that is \$ 1,300 a fortnight, I am managing well and refrain from exuberance and over

spending.

My food shopping is deliberate, so I often buy what is on special.

I only go out once a week for a few drinks and share a meal with a mate, and I no longer travel.

But I am far away from any hardship.

I have a secure, albeit small, income and secure tenure of the small inner city apartment I live in, and I now longer drive a car.

They are small sacrifices I am happy to accept, as long as it enables me to continue to live in Fremantle, the city I love.

The world is full of people who have a sense of entitlement.

## Entitlement

They believe it should be their right to earn more every year, and that governments should do more for them, without raising taxes or council rates.

They believe they have a right to a bigger car, bigger TV, bigger fridge, bigger holidays, etc.

The me, me, me society is ruthless in its selfishness.

Why care about climate change and rising sea levels, when I want to build a house close to the coast.

I have a right to uninterrupted views when I build and no one should be allowed to take them from me.

We go through a long period of our lives getting the balance all wrong, believing life is all about achievement, making a career and earning a lot of money.

We forget to take time out to play, relax, and contemplate what life is all about.

We forget that life is not indefinite, but only that relatively short period where we make the ends between birth and death meet.

Life does not come with guarantees. Shit happens.

We are here today, but might be gone tomorrow, so why are we so negative about most things and have so little tolerance?

We'll all die, and some of us sadly die far too young.

And every time that happens should be a wake up call for us all, that life is so much more than career and possessions, and that we should be grateful every day for good friends, good health, and our families.

We need to relearn to milk the day, to see and appreciate the beauty in life.

We should not allow the negativity of the main and social media, and that of opposition politicians confuse us into believing all the rubbish that is thrown at us.

As someone who survived two deep and long depressions, I have learned to constantly look for the small beauties that life offers us.

It can be something as simple for this photographer as noticing a reflection in a window, a car bonnet, a rainwater puddle, or the lovely smile of someone who takes my coffee order, or a stranger telling me how much they like my column in the Fremantle Herald.

I am immensely grateful that I live in Freo, where most people care and are willing to share.

Life is so much better than what the media wants us to believe.

Life is good, because most people in the world are good. Enjoy it while it lasts!

Roel Loopers



• THE Fremantle International Street Arts Festival attracted many people to the city over the four day long Easter weekend, but not anywhere as many as in previous years. It was pretty quiet on Sunday. It was a bit of a hit and miss festival this year with some excellent acts, but also a few mediocre ones. Unlike previous years the wow factor was missing, because there was nothing of outstanding excellence.

## Fremantle Ports Harbour Tours

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Fremantle Ports is providing a rare opportunity for the community to enjoy boat tours of the Fremantle Inner Harbour.

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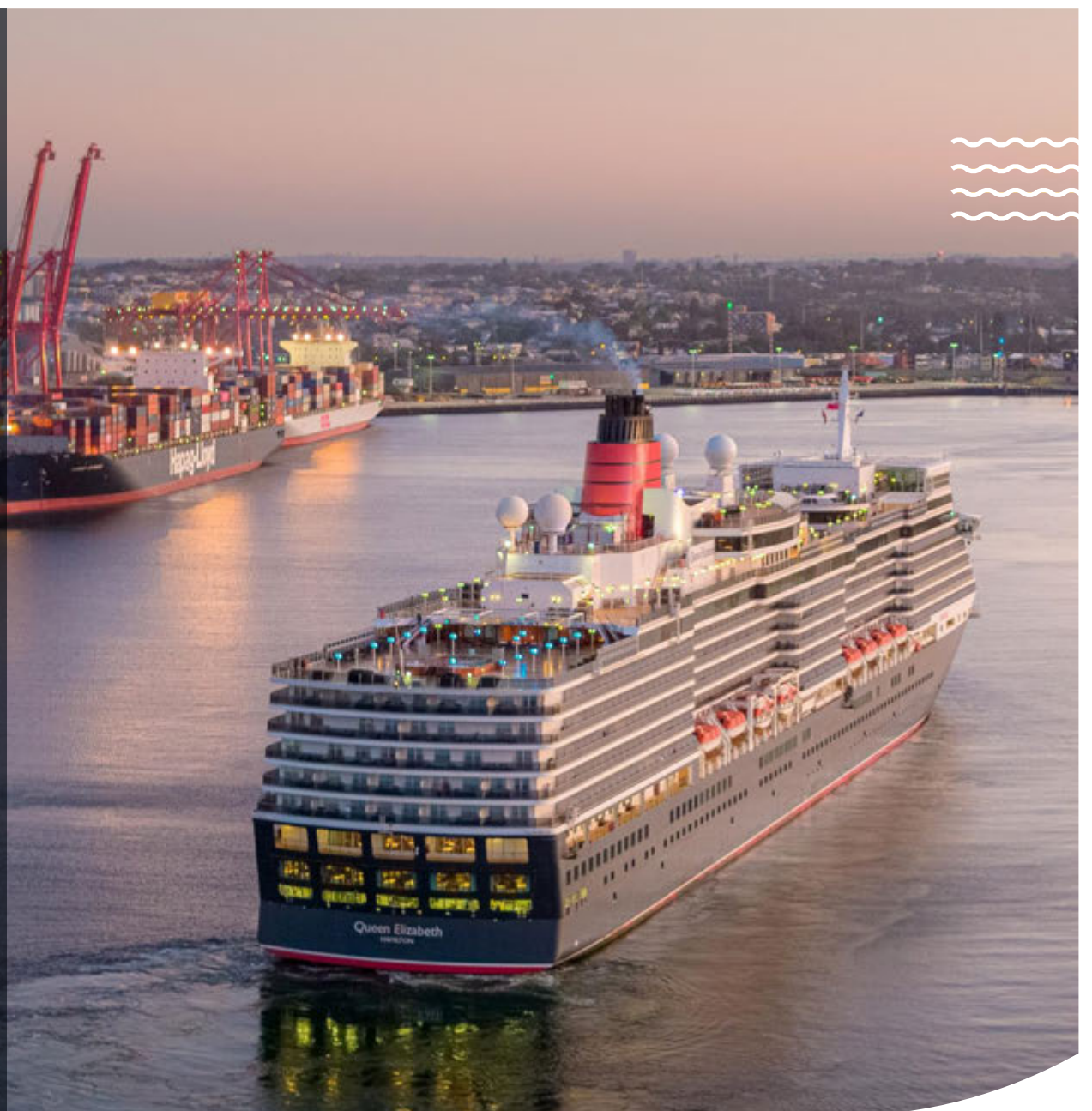
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# High distinction for Port teacher

by STEVE GRANT

AN innovative approach to teaching that's shown outstanding results in re-engaging at-risk youth with schoolwork has earned a Port School teacher a national award and helped swell middle school classes at the Hamilton Hill campus.

Port School on Carrington Street caters for kids who fall through the cracks in the education system; often coming from trauma and dysfunctional home lives, they struggle to fit into mainstream schools and either get expelled or simply don't turn up.

Back in 2016 principal Barry Finch was given a particularly tough cohort who'd been referred from the juvenile justice system and needed a fresh approach.

Instead of chaining them to a desk, he had the idea of converting a bus into a classroom and after being picked up each day the students would do some school work in a park before being rewarded with an activity they'd find stimulating and engaging.

Mr Finch handed the bus program over to teacher Matt Hopkins to run.

"These were kids that couldn't stay on course, and had not been to school for years," Mr Hopkins said.

"The approach developed real and trustworthy relationships and provided education to the boys at their level."

It was something of a lightbulb moment, and buoyed by the program's success, Mr Hopkins pitched a separate program for



at-risk and disengaged girls and boys in years 8 and 9 a couple of years later.

"What really engaged disengaged kids was not taking them to fancy places, but to give them education at their level, and then they started to get pride in their work."

A primary school teacher before moving to Port School, Mr Hopkins adapted its teaching style to suit the high schoolers.

"We would come at it at their level, without making it babyish."

Mr Finch said they also worked heavily with parents to ensure the students were committed, and as a result the school's attendance rates are now over 80 per cent.

## Literacy

"We've had an amazing outcome in their numeracy and literacy," Mr Finch said.

Mr Hopkins said they used a range of "high impact instruction" techniques which are recognised internationally as best practice for

teaching.

"It's the science of learning; how we use information," Mr Hopkins said.

"In our classes kids have to be thinking and responding to the teacher 40 times."

He says as a result, kids who'd stagnated in literacy and numeracy at a young age were advancing by a year.

Mr Finch says the program comes with high expectations about learning, behaviour and outcomes, and while Port is



Port School also picked up a state award from Resilience Australia for its Emergency Services Cadets program, which skills up youngsters from vulnerable communities to deal with emergency situations by putting them in contact with organisations like the police air wing.

technically a CARE school, he prefers the term "special assistance school".

"CARE schools can be accused of being too focused on social outcomes and not academic performance, and that's not so," he says about Port's expectations of its students.

"Care schools can also be accused of not having enough rules and boundaries, and that is not so."

As a result of the program's success, next year the school will have its biggest cohort of year 8 and 9 students so far, while Mr Hopkins will get to hang his National Excellence in Teaching Award in one of Port's new middle school classrooms, which he helped to design so it would suit the school's teaching model.

Mr Hopkins said he wasn't sure "how to take" winning a national award, but said a big factor had been Mr Finch's willingness to try new ideas.



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# Earned their stripes

by BELINDA GREEN

**L**IONS and Tigers on Bannister Street in Freo is not your average Indian restaurant.

If you rock up expecting beef vindaloo and garlic naan you're in for a surprise. A great surprise!

My handsome co-reviewer and I rolled on in one Saturday for lunch, to be greeted by the loveliest server ever. She took us through the menu and how it works and made sure we totally understood things.

There's the Chef's Choice menu for those amongst us who are undecided - \$68 per head gets you an amazing selection of dishes that can be tailored to suit your needs (if you don't do seafood for example).

We decided to choose a few dishes, which are share plates, so everyone could have a bit.

Curry leaf "nemesi" papadums (\$24). Now, these are not your usual papadums. They were bubbly.

Steve #1: the sourdough Naan (Steve is the name of the sourdough starter) with whipped ghee, black cardamom and jaggery (\$11).

I can officially say I am addicted to whipped ghee, and proceeded to put it on everything. Apparently jaggery is a type of sugar. I am probably addicted to that too.

Leek and Onion Bahjis with roast chilli aioli (\$12). A traditional Indian treat sneaking in here with the onion bahjis. So very good.

Wagyu Beef Skewers with fermented chilli, chana hummus

and mint chutney (\$24). Simply the most divine wagyu beef ever. Only two skewers, which left room for more deliciousness. The fermented chilli was surprisingly mild; good if you're not a lover of the hot stuff.

Chicken Supreme, Sandalwood and Pistachio Korma, Rosemary Chicken Skin Crumble (\$39). This one was fascinating. Apparently the skin is removed, fancied up, then put back. The meal is simply amazing, and we were stoked when our server was able to answer all our stupid questions about sandalwood in a korma.

Crushed Fried Potatoes, kasundi and curry leaf aioli (\$14). Honestly I was getting very full by this point and the potatoes ended up coming home with me. I may or may not

have eaten them for breakfast the next day and they were absolutely top notch. Kasundi is like a relish. There. Saved you a Google.

We were vaguely surprised that the dishes didn't come out in perhaps the order we expected.

For example, the papadums and crushed fried potatoes came out very late in the meal when we were expecting them earlier. This did nothing to change the abject marvellousness of the meal.

As a wheelchair user, Lions and Tigers is truly a delight. The front entrance is flat (a rarity) and the disabled toilet is easily accessible at the back of the restaurant.

If it was busy you may have to ask the odd person to move.

I have spent my wheelchair

career in search of the perfect bathroom and this may just be it.

No baby change table competing for room so plenty of space to manoeuvre the chariot. Sink and mirror at wheelchair height (you'd be surprised how many disabled bathrooms have standing-height mirrors, usually allowing for a lovely view of my upper forehead) and paper towels to wipe your hands.

Those blowy things are crap, and wheeling with wet hands is a challenge. So it's a win, win, win.

Overall a 10 out of 10 experience. Amazing food, wonderful service and a brilliant accessible venue.

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## Treat yourself to Nourish Me Wholefoods

Nourish Me Wholefoods is a family-owned and operated business on the quaint and historical George Street in East Fremantle. Nourish Me Wholefoods recently celebrated its first year open in March sharing their love and passion for healthy food with the local community.

Nourish Me Wholefoods use local suppliers to ensure they provide the best and freshest produce and support local businesses such as La Paleta, Hippy kombucha, Swan and Mantis, Kommmunity Brew, Simara Blends, 123 Nourish me sunscreen, personal care and ethical cleaning products and Casella courtyard just to name a few.

Nourish Me Wholefoods has a beautiful courtyard to relax, read and play games in as well as being able to bring your best friend along to share the experience. They also love meeting your dogs!

Nourish Me Wholefoodshave a small book/puzzle library where we encourage swapping and sharing as much as possible.

Nourish Me Wholefoods serve delicious coffee,

hot chocolates, smoothies, milkshakes and gluten free/vegan breakfast and lunch options as well as delicious organic snacks, staples and supplements.

Nourish Me Wholefoods look forward to welcoming you. There is plenty of free parking on George Street. Just look out for the big blue building opposite Glasson park, a great play park for all ages.



by MARGOT REID

A NEW gallery operating from the Naval Store in Fremantle hopes to give artists free rein to explore their creativity.

Current Gallery was co-founded by printmaker Nina Juniper and interdisciplinary artist Will Ek-Uvelis who noticed a gap for small, artist-led initiatives in Fremantle.

Ms Juniper says Current will allow "more experimentation and more emerging artists and creatives" to get their work seen.

Unusual for a gallery, Current doesn't charge artists for the space and even pays them, relying on bar sales and sponsorship to meet the costs, which includes leasing the space from Enkel.

"Current recognises the time, intellect, labour and skill that an artist/creative/curator expends in creating works and making them available to the public," Ms Juniper said.

"We hope to lead by example, paying artists for their contribution to society and creating the change we wish to see."

The not-for-profit gallery has so far hosted a number of exhibitions, residencies, and community workshops since opening in September last year.

It's program is set for the first six months of this year, but Ms Juniper said they'll soon be putting out an open call for emerging and established artists eager to use the space in the second half of the year.

The latest exhibition at Current is Fremantle artist Shannon McCulloch's *Run Shannon Run*, which opened on Wednesday night.



# All aboard

In his latest project, the 2021 Archibald Prize finalist delves into the way images used every day in mainstream and social media contain subtle messaging and ideology that consumers might not be consciously aware of.

The video component repurposes found footage from shows like 9 News, RBT Australia and social media.

McCulloch found these seemingly banal images elicited strong feelings thanks to their language and representation of emotion, revealing and exacerbating "contemporary

experiences of shame, alienation, dread and desire".

He focusses in on the raw emotion within these shows for his still artwork, creating portraits of people as they conceal their face with their hands on RBT, or other emotional moments from Channel 9 News.

Overall, the art invites contemplation of these images that we see every day and the subtle messages they may be pushing.

The exhibition will run until April 14, and conclude with a conversation with McCulloch from 4-5pm.



• *Run Shannon Run* is showing at the new Current gallery in Fremantle.

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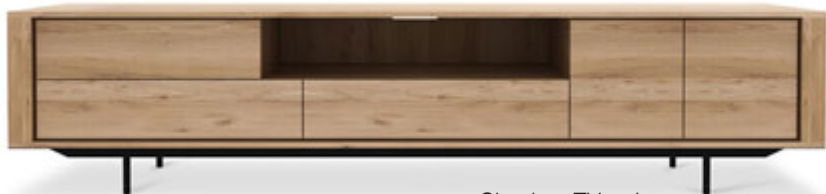
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# Attadale whopper

**A** GORGEOUS family home on a giant 1214sm block near the river in Attadale?

Tell 'im, he's dreaming.

Well he's not, because this four bedroom two bathroom property is up for sale and will attract a lot of buyers.

There's plenty of space to put in the dream pool and tennis court, or you could subdivide the land into three lots and sell two of them.

The development options are vast and it's not often this kind of opportunity comes up in Attadale, especially on Dandenong Road, which is only a few streets back from the river.

So what's the actual house like?

Well, it's a very pleasant two-storey family abode with plenty of room and modern facilities.

The open-plan lounge/dining/kitchen area is massive with light wooden floors, a neutral colour scheme and lovely views of the lush back garden.

Slightly recessed, the chic kitchen has a big island bench/breakfast bar, stylish floor tiles and a nice range of colours and textures on the cupboards and drawers.

It's a very relaxing space with top-end stainless steel appliances, loads of benchspace and a double sink (whipping up meals will be a cinch!)

The home has a great layout with a theatre room, study and laundry on the ground floor, and the four bedrooms on the

first floor. The main bedroom is a cracker with a ginormous walk-in robe and plush ensuite with double vanities and corner spa-bath.

There's even a spacious balcony, where you can relax with drinks at sunset.

Two of the other bedrooms have walk-in robes with the fourth featuring built-in robes.

This 2009 north-facing home includes reverse-cycle air con, reticulated easy-care gardens with bore, gas hot water storage system,

and a double car garage.

It's situated close to Santa Maria College, Attadale Primary School, Point Walter Reserve, Point Walter Golf Course and it's easy walking distance to the Swan River.

This is a great family home with unique development opportunities.

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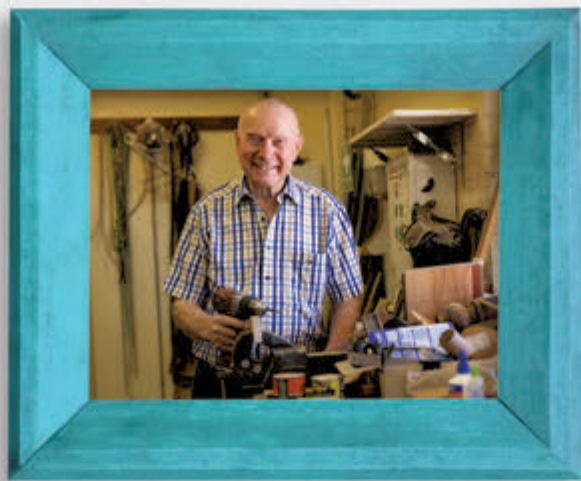


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# Art Deco classic

“HASTINGS, there’s been a murder in Menora!”



Well, not quite, but home buyers will be literally crawling over one other to get their hands on this Art Deco delight.

It’s a period beauty with the stylish curves on the verandah and geometric design on the baulstrade sure to wow guests as they walk up the driveway.

The Art Deco magic continues inside with a set of patio doors featuring matching lead-light panes, and a lovely 1920s-style artwork on the wall.

The second living area (currently a games room) is gorgeous, featuring ornate ceiling medallions, vintage corning and polished jarrah floors.

There’s a cute recess with a bay window (the perfect spot for an afternoon read or a cheeky siesta) with relaxing views of the leafy trees outside.

Normally the catch with these type of houses is space and 21st century features, but this property has been tastefully expanded to five bedrooms and two bathrooms with all the mod cons.

It’s most evident in the huge kitchen which has contrasting black benchtops and white cabinets, a walk-in pantry, and a host of top-notch stainless steel appliances.

The bedrooms continue the stylish theme with that classic mix of old and new.

Especially the main ensuite which has a double shower, modern floor-to-ceiling tiles and a traditional wooden cabinet.

There’s a sheltered alfresco out the back with lots of room for a large dining table, lounge setting, BBQ and more.

The tiered back yard is an ode to plants with a mix of cacti, shrubs, raised garden beds and mature trees.

The *Chook* would keep some of them, but put in a pool in the top level.

It’s lovely as-is, but there’s room to put your own stamp on things.

The home has a great layout with an attic conversion containing three bedrooms, a family bathroom and study.

The ground floor has two living zones, dining area, two

bedrooms (including the main ensuite) study and laundry.

The home also includes a free-standing one-bedroom, one-bathroom studio at the rear, 100L rainwater tank, wine cellar and an under-croft garage.

Situated on a huge 917sqm elevated block on Rookwood Street (the largest block on the street) you are close to lots of locals parks and shops, and are in the catchment for Coolbinia and Menora Primary Schools and Mount Lawley High School.

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**HAVE YOUR SAY**

**Proposed road closure: portion of Queen Victoria Street**



We're seeking comment on a proposal to close a setback portion of Queen Victoria Street for amalgamation with 31-33 Queen Victoria Street, Fremantle.


A location map and details are available from [mysayfremantle.wa.gov.au/queenvictoriastreet](http://mysayfremantle.wa.gov.au/queenvictoriastreet) from Monday 8 April 2024 or from the Customer service centre. Comments close **Monday 13 May 2024** and may be sent to [info@fremantle.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@fremantle.wa.gov.au)

Visit [mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au/queenvictoriastreet](http://mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au/queenvictoriastreet)

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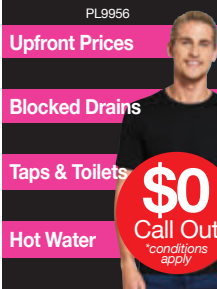
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**FREMANTLE Herald** 





• Max Barton's *Origin of Life* is a metaphysical hoot.

# Tart art

by JESSE NOAKES

THERE is a part of *OOL*, a new performance piece by British playwright, performer and musician Max Barton that ran for two weeks at Victoria Hall last month, in which Max describes a lemon.

The point is not in the shape of the fruit per se, although it runs as something of a leitmotif throughout the play in various forms, but how the shape mirrors a

life by expanding out as it extends before falling back towards itself in the end.

My viewing of *OOL* (it's short for *Origin of Life*) was similarly symmetrical, bookending the fortnight by attending opening and closing night performances, but rather than filling out and then falling away between the two points the play matured to a firmer and fuller sense of itself during its run.

Between those two packed out performances it also appeared

to fill a gap I'd not perceived in the Perth theatre scene for self-aware but intelligent unpacking of complex topics in a novel marriage of one-man band and a show playing multiple versions of Max on screen while a cast of other characters supervised unseen via voiceover.

There's Maury, a Ruby Wax-type saloon comedian who delivers jaundiced one-liners and commentary on familiar stand-up themes via subtitles projected on the screen behind the performer.

There's Takk, whose voice emanates from a mobile phone speaker as Max repeatedly insists on pausing the performance to call his Nordic lover into a conversation with the audience about the increasingly off-kilter direction of his performance and what it means for artistic self-direction and the choices we make about what to keep and what to cut.

And there is Pedro, who the show slyly posits as the true auteur of the piece, calling together a sprawling cast and crew in an exercise in democratic centralism that ultimately cuts all of Max's favourite scenes from the official program – only for the entirety of his preferred performance to play out in front of our eyes on a second stage as he creates an entire play from the pieces cut before curtain call.

The premise of a play that never actually starts – an old-timey bomb on a plinth perpetually about to have its fuse lit is forever set to signal the start of the performance proper – is that our lives are always poised to launch but, rehearsed and reheated, it's the parts we never planned that give us the real story.

In practice, at Victoria Hall in Freo, this device demanded that the audience reorient at a right

angle early in the piece to face a second stage that takes up most of the performance, which grants an impromptu immediacy to the rest of the piece.

The first night it was a messy melange of sprawling seats but by closing night the audience marshalled themselves into neat rows on cue.

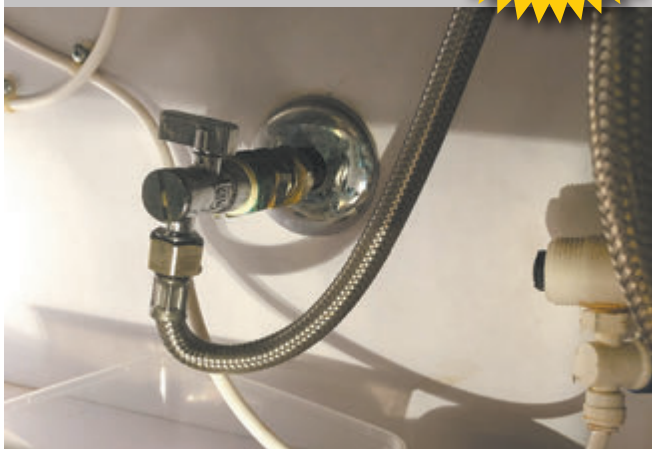
Increasingly overt references to a glaring absence in Max's life culminates in a song about a song he played to his father as he lay dying last year in London, made from the beeps of the machines in the hospital ward which is pictured on the projector behind his performance.

The play closes the way it begun, with an acknowledgement of stolen country and a bomb about to go bang in a big way before freezing for good. When life gives you lemons, squeeze a shit ton and drink the juice on stage.

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## Case Study April 2024

# Flexi Hoses

## Plumber wisdom with Tony Young



Looking for interesting topics this week I asked around the office what should we be talking about ?

Fraser Young piped up and said that he had just come back from a job where a burst flexi hose in an apartment block had burst and entered the apartment below.

The units were under 5 years old... but close inspection of all the apartments revealed that braided flexible connections had large discolourations that we find just before the hose ruptures.

Bursts of flexi hoses are one of the greatest cause of water damage to cupboards. The internal rubber degrades with movement against the braiding... and current thinking is that standard hoses have only a 5 - 7 year life span, a guarantee of only 12 months... These hose are used on mixer taps, cistern connections... and can be in other locations in cupboards.

They should not be used on hws within 1 metre.

### What to look for:

- a. Black and rusty spots on the braiding
- b. Water damage and leakage

### So... what to do about them as they are widely used ?

1. There are 15 years guaranteed ones made
2. Some of the better mixers like Grohe are producing mixers with non removable long life hoses
3. Minstop isolation are also worthwhile (like your little toilet tap before the cistern) to be able to turn off a leaking hose independently/quickly
4. New to the market are Flood Stop ministops... which sense the burst and shut down
5. Turn off the water when you are on holidays or house left vacant
6. Plastic coated and pex lined hoses are coming onto the market and have a 15 year warranty

Maybe we all should be visually checking our flexi hoses on an annual basis... and change them every 5 - 10 years depending on the type.

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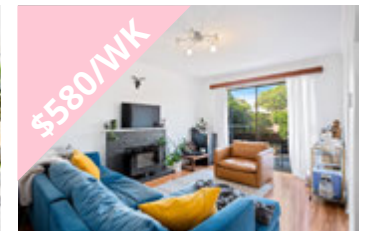
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