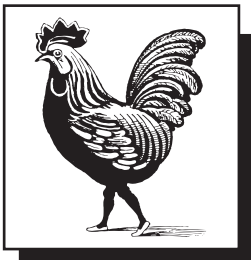


MELVILLE CITY HERALD



Volume 35 N° 6
Saturday February 10, 2024
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• Sex workers Gaea Anastas, Ruby Bujega and Gabriela Revas Ureta will be performing today at Tania Ferrier's exhibition *Body of Opportunity*.
Photo by Steve Grant

End of the week-ender

by STEVE GRANT

IN breaking news, businesses in Fremantle's West End say the city council has left them "frustrated and alienated" by cancelling a popular street market held on the same weekend as the city's International Street Arts Festival.

The Westend Weekender has been held for eight years (with a Covid break) but an email from the Artisan Store sent to the Herald late Thursday says the city claimed "time, resources and budget" as being behind the cancellation.

But the email, from store owner Rowena Mitchell and attributed to its "team", said the Weekender was run and managed by the local business and required little funding or time from the council.

• *Continued page 3*

The empower of sex

by STEVE GRANT

A QUIET revolution in the sex industry, powered by innovations such as OnlyFans, has been empowering sex workers to take agency over their bodies and could consign stereotypes about their profession to historical footnotes.

That's one of the provocative themes in

the exhibition *Body of Opportunity* by South Fremantle artist Tania Ferrier; a revisiting of the industry 30 years after her highly successful 1980s project *Pop Porn* put its seedy side under the spotlight and even had megastar Madonna wearing a set of the show's iconic Angry Underwear.

Ferrier was giving a talk at the Fremantle Arts Centre a year ago when a fan in

the audience, sexologist and stripper Gabriella Revas Utera, put forward a challenge.

"She came to my talk about *Angry Underwear*... and said 'well, come back to the strip club and see what's happening now'," Ferrier said.

Revas Utera outlined how sex workers had become more empowered and gained agency in the decades since the assault

of a stripper in a New York club where Ferrier worked sparked *Pop Porn*.

Ferrier says initially she didn't take up the idea because she'd just finished a show, but with some enthusiastic prodding from arts centre curator Andre Lipscombe decided the opportunity was too good to pass up.

"The Fremantle Arts Centre did a whole hunt to find Gabby; luckily she

registered to come to the talk - I think there's about 30 people involved - and I remembered she'd said her name was Gabby."

Ferrier said Revas Utera's aim to destigmatise sex work so she could freely discuss her work in her community captured her attention, particularly as many of her shows had

• *Continued page 7, and a little heads-up; the page includes some nudity.*

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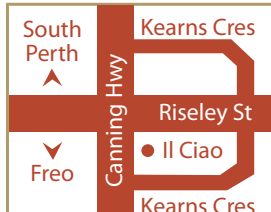
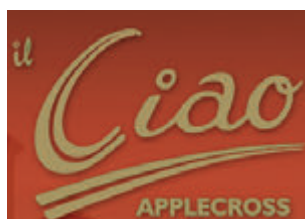
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Your Local February Update

Lunar New Year

I want to wish everyone celebrating this Lunar New Year, a happy and prosperous new year. This festive occasion is a time of renewal, hope, and most importantly, family. Regardless of where life takes us, our loved ones are a source of strength, support, and unconditional love. May this festive season be a time of renewal, unity, and profound appreciation for the ties that make us who we are.



40th Anniversary of Medicare

The 1st of February marks 40 years since the Hawke Labor Government introduced Medicare – delivering universal access to the healthcare Australians need throughout its history. All of us have stories of how Medicare has helped us. I am proud to be apart of the Albanese Government that made the biggest ever investment in Medicare – saving Australians hundreds of millions of dollars on cheaper medicines and more bulk billed trips to the GP.

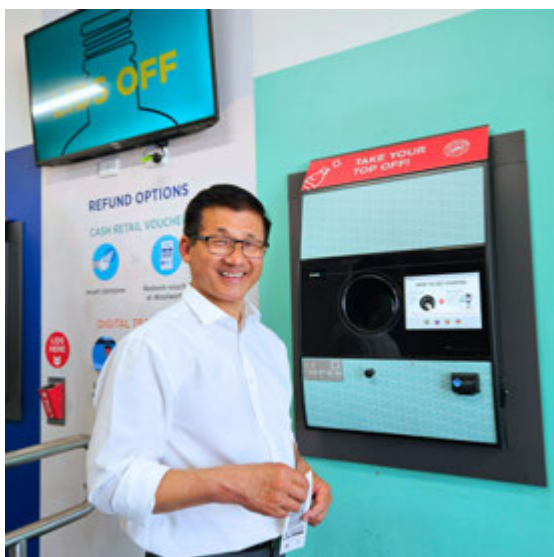


Fully Funded Public Schools

Western Australia will be the first State in Australia where all public schools are fully and fairly funded by 2026! This is just the first step and the Albanese Government is committed to working with all States and Territories to fully and fairly fund all public schools. This funding will be tied to the things that will help children to keep up, catch up and finish school. I proud to be part of a government that invests in our children's education.



Reduce, Re-use, Recycle



As we endure the scorching summer heat we often consume a large variety of beverages.

Remember to keep the environment clean and earn a refund or donate by visiting Containers for Change centres in Willetton, Leeming, Canning Vale, Booragoon or Myaree.

Let us all Reduce, Re-use and Recycle.



Business angry at cancelled market

• From page 1

"The eagerly anticipated yearly occasion is of great importance to numerous small business owners located on High Street, as it serves as a platform for showcasing their products and services, amplifying foot traffic, and cultivating an exuberant festival atmosphere."

"This event also fosters a sense of community while preserving local culture."

In its absence, these small businesses would lose out on the invaluable opportunity to connect with potential customers and generate essential revenue," the email said.

It said there was little discussion with local businesses before the decision was made, which would also impact on the success of the festival.

"The Westend Weekender

is a pivotal component of the festival, as numerous attendees from last year's event attested that the absence of the market on the streets would have rendered it lacklustre. Its presence not only enhances the festival but also supports the growth and development of the surrounding area."

Pitches

The email says that without the markets, and because no busker pitches have been designated in the West End, there'll be little to encourage visitors to push through the crowds that gather around the National Hotel to see what's beyond.

"The National Hotel's sprawling presence at the corner of High Street and Market Street

poses a significant hindrance to foot traffic - ultimately transforming both High Street and the West End into a desolate ghost town."

The email says a council officer said they might fund a future market in a different venue, but that would be "detached and remote" from the business itself.

"It is important to note that this may result in reduced foot traffic and patronage for those local businesses."

"The council's decision-making process can be perplexing at times."

"The council has once again dismantled a longstanding initiative aimed at supporting business within the community."

The email urged West End businesses to lobby the council to overturn the cancellation.

Touch too much

by STEVE GRANT

THE Bon Scott memorial gate at Fremantle Cemetery had to be removed last week after being by a car.

The Metropolitan Cemeteries Board's senior knowledge management officer Iris Boardman confirmed it was an accident after AC/DC fans contacted the Herald fearing some yobbo had souvenired the entrance.

"A vehicle collided with the gate causing damage to the supporting archway brickwork," Ms Boardman said.

"The MCB cordoned off the area and removed the gate to ensure public safety."

"The gate is being securely kept until the archway repair works have been completed."

Ms Boardman said a contractor was due to start work on the repairs this coming week and the gate should be back up just after their completed by February 24.

Because of previous vandalism and littering at Bon's grave, visitors are warned they are being watched by CCTV, but Ms Boardman said it didn't cover the gate itself so couldn't provide any insight into the crash.



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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 Beeliiar Drive Success WA 6164.

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WA MADE FILM FESTIVAL 2024 PROGRAM OUT NOW!

Over 70 WA-made feature films, short films, and documentaries will take centre stage at this year's **WA Made Film Festival**, including twelve films made exclusively for the festival as part of its **Get Smart! Presented by Buy West Eat Best** smartphone filmmaking competition.

The **WA Made Film Festival** maintains its reputation as WA's biggest celebration of local screen culture.

It will run across ten days, with celebrations kicking off on **Friday, 23 February** and continuing until **Sunday, 3 March**.

FULL DETAILS: WAMADEFILMFESTIVAL.COM.AU



It's a fair old life - mostly

THE monthly Fremantle Politics in the Pub event in the Local Hotel will on February 27 ask the question "A Fair Go For Young People? Do young people nowadays have it much harder than previous generations?"

On the one side we hear young people complaining about disadvantage and inequality, unaffordable housing, high student debts, and poorly-paid entry-level jobs, but that is countered by claims of poor work ethics and laziness of young people.

Young people say they are getting unfair conditions, when compared with the post-war generation and that they have to deal with climate change, that was not their making.

Generations

But we always had to live with the consequences of the actions, and inactions, of previous generations.

We pay for the mistakes of the past and we reap the benefits of the improvements and innovations of the past.

Life is forever changing and evolving.

The past directs the present, hence we are all paying for the mistakes made by others.

History shows that it has always been like that.

No one should deny the impact of climate change, and what it will mean for future generations, and neither should we brush aside the very serious issue of unaffordable housing.

They are real issues for this and

future generations,.

We often hear that we live in the age of entitlement.

People constantly want more and consumerism has reached a ridiculous and unsustainable level, but were our parents and grandparents better off?

A young FIFO worker complained on social media recently that there was hardly any money left to live on, once he had paid for big holidays, cars, jet ski, rent, etc. and that he had to survive on a mere \$1,200 a week.



• Do young people get a fair go these days?

If that is hardship, I'll take it. The post-war generations in Europe had to deal with rebuilding entire cities, and live with huge poverty and hunger.

Millions of people had to start their life all over again as refugees

in foreign countries, with a different culture and language.

Was that easier than currently not being able to find a place to rent?

Don't get me wrong! I absolutely understand the

frustration of looking for a place to live.

I have been there many times myself, and had to couch surf for six months about 10 years ago, when I could not find anything I could afford.

Life is not a walk in the park, and never will be, unless one belongs to the few privileged ones, who have no worries in the world.

Most of us just battle on, create a happy life for ourselves and survive.

That makes us rightly proud of our achievements, even when it was never really perfect.

As they say: It is what it is.

We hear that there is a generational inequality, so the claim is that we oldies had it so much better than the young ones.

I sincerely doubt that is true.

The current generation has different issues to deal with, but life in the past was absolutely not a smooth and easy run to success and wealth.

It was bloody hard work, often without the support of social services.

Being unemployed meant being poor, and putting food on the table for the family was often a struggle.

Going all the way back to the early settlers, look at the amazing achievements they made.

Imagine walking or riding from Fremantle to the Kalgoorlie goldfields, in a harsh country they knew nothing about.

Contemplate what it must have been like to live without running water and electricity, and the basic lack of health care.

Yes, life is bloody hard and unfair sometimes.

Life puts a lot of challenges in our way, challenges and changes we have had to deal with since the big bang.

From the very day we are born we had to learn to cope with adversity.

We had to find solutions for the mistakes made in the past.

Nothing has changed in that regard.

Life is a character-building fight, where we learn to look after ourselves and support each other.

Not everything is smooth sailing from school to university and straight into the perfect job.

Hurdles

There are always hurdles in the way, that appear to make our future insecure, but is it really a lot worse now than it was 50, 100, 200 years ago?

Comparing the present with the past is not working for me.

We see the immense potential of this new young generation.

The innovation technology, the start-ups, the creativity, IT and AI.

There is a real willingness to try, to change, to challenge the status quo, with no fear of failure.

The future looks amazing and exciting.

I have no doubt that all those young achievers will adequately deal with the challenges of climate change, and everything else thrown at them.

They'll have to, as there is no other option.

Life continues and we deal with it, as we always have.

Roel Loopers/Freoview

Review of Local Planning Policies 1.1 – Planning Process and Decision Making

At the December 2023 Council Meeting, Council decided to approve the amended Local Planning Policy 1.1 for advertising.

The aim of the amendments is to add provisions encouraging consultation between neighbours prior to the lodgement of a development application through fee reductions.

We are seeking your comment on the amended policy before it is finalised.

Feedback on the amended policy closes on **Monday, 26 February 2024.**

For more details and to provide feedback, visit www.melvillecity.com.au/LPP1-1

For further details regarding these policy changes please contact Tom Geddes – A/Principal Statutory Planner on **9364 0666** or tom.geddes@melville.wa.gov.au

Gail Bowman
Chief Executive Officer

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Guardless road worries parents

by STEVE GRANT

PARENTS and residents living near an Ardross intersection that's been the site of several accidents are urgently trying to recruit a crossing guard, fearing otherwise a child may lose their life.

The corner of Riseley Street and Drew Road is regularly used by students getting to nearby Ardross Primary School and home, but since September last year WA Police have been unable to find anyone to take on the crossing guard's job.

Nora Ball lives nearby and says she's concerned because she sees children as young as seven years old crossing without an adult, and believes the intersection is patently dangerous.

"I am quite concerned because there are lots of accidents; there were two or three last year in the space of a couple of months.

"Coming from Booragoon, Riseley Street goes down a hill, so cars come zooming down, and coming from the Canning Highway end it's a bit of a blind spot," Ms Ball said.

She contacted police to find out when the guard might be replaced, but said they pretty much threw up their hands and urged the community to become recruiters.

"They said 'if you can find someone, tell them to get an application in,'" Ms Ball said.

Ardross Primary's P&C has also been on the lookout without any luck.

Crossing guards are paid \$29.68 per



•Ardross primary P&C president Cindy Webster and neighbour Nora Ball are concerned young kids are crossing this dangerous intersection without parents - or a crossing guard. Photo by Anton Ball

hour, but with WA unemployment rates at record lows, police have been struggling to cover busy crossings across the metropolitan area. The Chook ran a story about Beaconsfield Primary's plea for a second guard in 2022 after year 4 student Ania Watson was hit by a car ("Bus lane to be reviewed after car hits student").

Across the metropolitan area there are around 20 vacant intersections needing to be filled.

Police provide the uniforms, lollipop and full training, and to apply telephone 6274 8731 or email childrenscrossingsunitsmail@police.wa.gov.au

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82nd Anniversary of the SS Vyner Brooke sinking

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Commemoration for the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) who served during World War Two and fled Singapore as it fell to the Japanese in February 1942.

Australian Army nurses have accompanied the Australian men to warfare through every conflict from the Boer War, before Australia Federated in 1901, right up until the Vietnam War conflict of 1965 - 1972. Australian nurses continue to serve in the Armed Forces for every conflict Australia is involved in.

And yet, there is a group of 65 Australian nurses who are the unsung heroes of Australia and their tireless efforts to ensure their camaraderie, their endurance and their endless loyalty to Australia has been relegated to the sidelines of the Australian warfare context.

This is their story.

On the 12th of February 1942, 65 Australian nurses - who refused to leave their patients - were threatened with court martialing and forced to board the SS Vyner Brooke as Singapore fell to the Japanese. The decision to move the nurses to safety earlier had been deliberately delayed, with catastrophic consequences.

The ship was attacked two days later by the Japanese and was strafed, bombed and sank off the shores of Radji Beach, civilian passengers and children - who had not heeded the call earlier to leave Singapore - also lost their lives along with twelve of the Australian nurses.

Those who survived swam to shore over the following hours, with some spending up to 57 hours together in the water and swamps.

The nurses who arrived on shore first set up a bonfire to act as a beacon to those still in the water. A group of civilians decided to go to find help and the Australian nurses, under the guidance of Matron Irene Drummond,

chose to stay to protect their patients. This group, who had started the bonfire, were approached by a Japanese patrol and forced to walk into the water where they were shot from behind. Vivian Bullwinkel, standing at the end of the line was shot through the

hip and feigned death amongst her colleagues until the Japanese left. Without Vivian's survival, this story is lost to history.

The remainder of the nurses who made it to shore were interned for the duration of war. Eight women lost their lives during internment to starvation, communicable diseases like 'beri beri' and because the nurses all put the needs of others before themselves. Only 24 of the women made it home to Australia.

To honour this group of extraordinary women the Applecross RSL Sub-branch commemorates this event, every year on Sunday in 18th February (2024) at 10.30 at Point Walter at the memorial to this remarkable group of women.

“

The ship was attacked two days later by the Japanese and was strafed, bombed and sank off the shores of Radji Beach, civilian passengers and children lost their lives.

Livestock to be unloaded

by STEVE GRANT

ALL livestock aboard the MV Bahijah will be offloaded in Fremantle after the exporter was refused a licence to take the long route to the Middle East.

The Bahijah has been stuck in Fremantle port and just off its coast for two weeks with 15,000 sheep and 2000 cattle aboard after the federal agriculture department ordered it back from the pirate-ridden Red Sea.

On Thursday morning the department said it would be "engaging" with exporter Bassem Dabbah "in relation to the arrangements that will be needed to support this".

"Any offloading of livestock will be undertaken under strict biosecurity protocols and with regard to animal welfare," the department's statement read.

"The department will continue to support the exporter as they consider options for the livestock once they have been unloaded."

The Herald asked the department whether the threat of legal action by Israeli-based animal welfare activists to try and block the livestock from being unloaded had played a part in its decision to reject the export licence.

But the department responded: "A more detailed statement

of reasons underpinning the recent regulatory decision is not yet available, however will be published as soon as possible. We will provide a direct link as when this is online."

The Herald spoke briefly to the husband of one of Bassem Dabbah Live Export's directors, Tam Michalek, this week but he said she was "trying to sort out" the issue before speaking to the media.

Gidgegannup

Ms Michalek, who lists animal welfare as an interest on her LinkedIn page, helps run the family farm in Gidgegannup as well as operating Bassem Dabbah's parent company T&T Rural Contracting with Darwin-based business partner Chloe Grant.

The pair have been lauded as Australia's youngest and only women live export license holders.

One of their first deliveries of cattle to Israel in 2022 achieved a 99.93 success rate.

Ms Michalek has previously worked as a compliance officer for cattle companies TW Pearson and North Australia Cattle Company, as well as managing the export supply chain for International Livestock Export.

Her first gig in export was with Global Rural Solutions back in her home state of South Australia in 2014.



• Friends of Palestine picket an Israel-bound ship at Fremantle Port. Photo by Kikei [Dot] Net Photography

Lawrence to join Gaza rally

FORMER Western Australian Labor premier Carmen Lawrence will be one of the key speakers at a rally against the War in Gaza due to be held in Fremantle today (Saturday February 10).

The rally, kicking off at 4pm in Walyalup Koort has been organised by the Friends of Palestine, which described Israel's response to the October 2023 attack on its soil by Hamas paramilitary units as "brutal".

As of Monday, the Al Jazeera news outlet reported at least 27,478 people have been killed and 66,835 wounded in Gaza.

FoP chair Nick Everett said the

constant bombing and ground offensive left nothing but "mass death, destruction and misery".

"The Australian government has taken no action to condemn Israel nor impose diplomatic or trade sanctions on the apartheid state," Mr Everett said.

Allegations

"Yet, when Israel made unproven allegations that a small number of United Nations Works and Relief Agency staff were involved in the October 7 Hamas attack, the Australian government immediately 'paused' aid to the UN agency.

"In doing so, Australia is

severing a lifeline of support to displaced Palestinians."

Other speakers at the rally include St Paul's Anglican Church priest Gemma Baseley, maritime union organiser Michael Quinn and Palestinian community member Razanne Yasir.

There'll also be performances by musos Emily Barker and Sharin Attamimi before the crowd marches through Fremantle.

Mr Everett told the Herald there hadn't been much pushback against the group for holding the rally, and they'd got approval from police and Fremantle council.

The rally follows a second picket of an Israeli-owned ZIM ship at Fremantle port February 3.



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The empower of sex

• From page 1 already dealt with stigma, such as her exploration of Rottnest Island's dark history in *The Quod Project*.

"It's the same thing as with *Pop Porn*, in a way, even though I realised that the word porn is extremely difficult to use at any time.

"But whenever you stigmatise and taboo a word entirely and try to take it out of circulation, you create a problem because parents won't sit and talk to the children about appropriate sex.

"You've got to look into what's going on with this shutdown and you've got to open up a space for conversation.

"Otherwise you create, essentially, a sickness in society," Ferrier told the Herald.

Revas Uteras, who holds a master's degree in sexology from Curtin University and was born in Chile, says Australians are pretty awkward when it comes to discussing sex.

"Anything that has to do with sexuality, intimacy and pleasure, it's taboo; we don't talk, we don't share it, especially in Australian society.

"So then I found that for someone to work utilising their sexuality, sensuality, their bodies, is even the next level of taboo."

Revas Utera said stripping and sex work is more commonly referenced in pop culture these days,



• Tania Ferrier's image *In Search of the Nude*.

particularly in music, and younger people are more relaxed about the industry, but old attitudes linger.

"If people have issues with their own sexuality, then when they see a woman empowered and using their sexuality for profit, it will be confronting, it will be challenging.

"I think that's the whole idea of this project for me, was to embrace all of who I am; a mother, a member of the community. I'm a dancer - that's my job - I'm also a sex educator, and how can I integrate all of that without feeling that some aspects add value and some aspects

take value from me.

"That's my life project."

The club where Revas Utera performs is now owned by a woman who'd worked her way up from being a skimpy barmaid, and she says it's not the only part of the industry undergoing change.

OnlyFans

"Now there is OnlyFans there is the democratisation of the production aspect, which has changed the industry as well.

"In the early 2000s or '90s, to do a porn you needed equipment which

meant you needed capital. Now, we just need a phone and an account, and then you can start making money making content."

Ferrier said the tut-tutting about sex workers usually come from people who haven't been to a burlesque show, let alone a strip club, and discriminatory attitudes can have serious consequences.

"Society also needs to catch up because a great article that just came out when I started this project was about workers in Sydney, and how the banking system still won't let women get a bank



• Tania Ferrier. Photo by Steve Grant

account, and so they're stuck in a cash economy, and a cash economy can then lead to getting robbed on the way home."

Revas Utera said the health system also discriminated against sex workers, particularly those offering full sexual services.

"They assume that they are drug users, they assume that they are not in charge of their life, they assume that they all have health issues.

"For example, if someone shows up with a bruise, they assume that they were abused."

While Ferrier is lead artist, the exhibition of 74 images also includes work by photographers Sascha Turisini and Nikita Dunovits-Ferrier.

Former Funkellero Abe Dunovits has written a musical score and Dana Stoll created the costumes which the performers will wear for a final performance today (Saturday February 10 at 1pm) at Gallery Central in Aberdeen Street, Perth, while there will be an artists' talk at 4pm and the images will be on show until tomorrow.



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Red imported fire ant has been eradicated from Fremantle

Red imported fire ant was first detected in the Fremantle Port in 2019. An intensive successful eradication program by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) followed.

The co-operation shown by Fremantle residents and businesses during the surveillance, baiting and quarantine activities was crucial to the success of this program.

DPIRD biosecurity officers collected 14,000 ant samples from more than 3,500 residential and commercial premises, including multiple front yards, backyards and even a few cubby houses!

With your help, Western Australia has now been officially declared free from the invasive red imported fire ant.



Scan for more information

Thank you to residents and businesses for all your support



A022-23 JAN 2024



• Second Harvest Australia will close in May. Photo by Steve Grant

Harvest shuts

by STEVE GRANT

A CHARITABLE organisation which has been providing food relief for the needy in Cockburn for 42 years, and an op shop in Hamilton Hill for the last eight, has announced it is closing its doors for good.

Second Harvest Australia was founded in 1982 and runs the food centre and op shop next to the Southwell Community Centre on Caffery Place as well as a warehouse in Cockburn Central, but stalwarts Sandra Walquist and Jill Fraser have announced its last day of trading will be Friday May 3.

Ms Walquist declined an on-the-record interview, but a note on the op shop door gave a hint of the increasing difficulties they've faced keeping the not-for-profit operating.

"The major points impacting

this decision were:

- Availability of cheap and donated food;
- Abuse and bad behaviour to staff and volunteers;
- Available, experienced and physically fit volunteers to complete the day-to-day tasks; and,
- Costs associated with running a not-for-profit organisation," the note read.

The Herald understands the pressure on charities around the metropolitan area is making it harder for small operations like Second Harvest to get unsold goods from supermarkets once the bigger charities take their share.

Former Yangebup Progress Association president Maggie Zentner paid tribute to Ms Walquist, Ms Fraser and their team.

"I have done some volunteers there and it saddens me that Second Harvest Australia is

Council grilled

by STEVE GRANT

FREMANTLE'S annual meeting of electors has failed to accept the City of Fremantle's annual report for a third year running, while also passing a vote of no confidence against mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge over the South Beach toilets farce.

The modest crowd of around 35 electors was well peppered with Ms Fitzhardinge's political opponents, including former mayoral contender and councillor Marija Vujcic who raised two successful motions on the night.

"The first motion is a no confidence motion in mayor Fitzhardinge's handling of the City's finances and in particular the South Beach toilets and changeroom project," Ms Vujcic said.

"There are strong concerns and criticisms of the mayor's handling of civic finances, as evidenced by the civic centre cost blowout from \$45m - \$63m audited; the architectural fee blowout by \$5m; the sale of income performing car parks have resulted in the loss of at

least \$25m over the last five years," she said in her statement in support of the motion.

"The financial mess of the South Beach toilets and changeroom project, is indicative of the financial mismanagement coming from your office.

"The project cost is \$3.3m - it's been stated by others. Are we cracking on? Of course not; we are building makeshift facilities costing hundreds of thousands of dollars just for this summer.

"This is not what we signed up for."

Budget

Ms Vujcic's concerns about the budget were echoed by her former running mate Craig Ross, a former forensic auditor who peppered the council with questions from its financial audit which he said was riddled with simple errors such as wrong dates.

Mr Ross honed in on the doubling of the value of the city's parks, roads and paths which the Herald spotted leading up to the meeting ("*Freo's roads paved with...*" Herald, February 3, 2023) and later told us he believes

the City simply stuffed up and asked for the wrong type of audit that didn't take into account the limited uses of the land.

Mr Ross also says the council is consistently putting forward wildly ambitious capital works programs, but other than the Walyalup Koort redevelopment was barely achieving them, leading to the last financial year completing around \$10m of the \$25m budgeted.

He says the shortfall is being used to plug holes in the budget caused by the council selling off income-producing assets to build the civic centre but failing to produce the revenue it expected.

"I looked over the last eight years, and apart from Walyalup Koort, on average they spent just \$6m each year of capital works."

Mr Ross also criticised the council for keeping secret a projected \$3m investment loss stemming from the imminent collapse of the regional Resource Recovery Group and the write-down of its recycling centre. This was discussed as a confidential item by the council and he believes the loss could be as high as \$5m because the asset should have been written down to zero.

closing," Ms Zentner posted on the association's Facebook page.

"Sandra, Jill and the team are an incredible bunch of people and they will be missed by so many."

Cockburn mayor Logan Howlett said the City was also saddened by the closure, and appreciated the "remarkable" contributions Second Harvest made to Cockburn.

"Everyone who has ever been involved with delivering the important work of this organisation over the past 40+ years, should be very proud of all it has accomplished during this time.

"Many sections of the WA community are experiencing difficulties during the current economic climate and we

encourage people in need to reach out to support organisations in the community."

The mayor said the City provided \$197,850 to Second Harvest between 2012 and 2022, including grants in response to Covid-19 and to purchase a fridge and freezer" while offering peppercorn rent and other assistance.

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Naked Specs family growing up ●●

by Jane Grljusich
Herald Promotions

The Naked Specs experience is unique, colourful, passionate, responsive, empathetic, and highly personalised. Their customers keep on referring them and coming back time after time, now to beautiful new premises just up the road at 201 South Terrace.

From a stall at the Freo Markets, to a storefront on the east side of South Terrace, Naked Specs has grown up in South Freo, now moving over the road and a few doors up towards Australia's favourite port city, on the corner of Rose Street, opposite the Local Hotel.

Fully-Freo, all West Australian, and intercontinental in style, Naked Specs is still Perth's most unique and talked about eyewear boutique – not only for its incredible range of handpicked brands and frames selected from independent eyewear brands from across the globe, but for its customer service and experience.



Wendy



Sofia

Here's what they say:

"I would summarise my Naked Specs experience as I'm addicted," Barbara tells us.

"Great," says eccentric Maureen.

"It's just special," Connie says.

"And enjoyable," David adds.

"Lots of laughter," from Jo.

"It's enhanced my life actually," Fiona tells everyone.

Justine and Adam Levin have grown Naked Specs, and their family, on the basis of passion, honesty, love and life experience – which sometimes – as most of us know – is not all roses.

"We laugh, laugh more, cry, reflect, and support each other," says Justine, "believe me, it can be quite magical. It's a meeting place of hearts and minds ... it just is. Our customers are rather "evangelical" about us and just want their friends and family to share the joy of their experience."

And that they do.

This old chook sent her mum in to see Justine just before a shocking breast cancer diagnosis and a hard-fought battle with chemotherapy and radiation treatment. Justine was on the phone immediately, offering support, and to let me know that as soon as Mum was ready, she'd adjust her lenses post-treatment due to the impact on her eyes. What a relief and comfort. Who does that? Naked

Specs does now we're part of their family.

"It is a family," says loyal customer Liz, "I've never felt like a customer in this joint, not one second, I mean I'm an outrageous person, but Justine just talks to you and treats you like you're family and just listens to what you need and what you want and she'll figure it out."

"It's like going to an old-fashioned tailor shop where people will know what you will like," Connie adds.

"Well summarising up my Naked Specs experience is just one word – FABULOUS," says Deb.

- **Naked Specs is underpinned by**
- **strong ethics, creativity, and**
- **their passion to help people and**
- **bring about positive change in**
- **the lives of everyone they meet**

"Everything we do is for you, the customer," says owner Justine Levin.

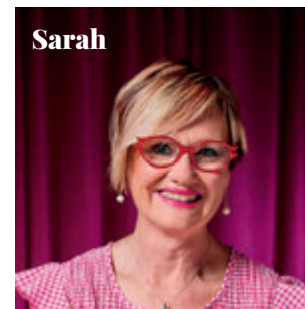
"We live and breathe to wow our customers, we keep our promises, we care deeply about people, we build trust and loyalty, and our goal is to keep customers for life. We're a brand that stands for something – you."

The couple and their team, optical dispensers Carmen, Ellen, Brandon, and Janeen, are all friendly neighbours, relishing on creating a joyful and supportive atmosphere at the shop where customers enjoy the process of selecting a new pair of glasses that not only look and feel fabulous but also give them the best possible vision.

They want you to help you to reveal yourself with eyewear that you love.

You can book your eye test online in just a minute or two.

Their optometrists conduct comprehensive eye



Sarah

examinations in a comfortable environment and all eye tests are bulk billed for eligible Medicare card holders providing glasses, sunglasses, and prescription safety glasses, as well as eyewear styling, aftercare, eye tests and lenses.

But don't expect what you usually get because

what you'll get is so much more.

"People should expect to walk into the store and feel ...", muses happy customer Doug.

"Everything," says David, finishing Doug's sentence.

"Thrilled and excited," Connie adds.

"I think people should expect a really good welcome from Naked Specs," says Fiona.

"And, a long chat that will fix the wars, yeah," Liz tells us.

It will, just ask this old chook, and the growing family at Naked Specs.



Barbara



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201 SOUTH TERRACE, SOUTH FREMANTLE



Keeping it real

 food
STEPHEN POLLOCK

FORGET about your posh delis and artisan cafes, a trip to Hela Continental Smallgoods is a real rustic adventure.

First off, you have to make an acute turn on the busy South Street and ascend a ramp so steep you need a team of sherpas to reach the crumbling summit.

At the top lies an archaic carpark with a few random shops – Hilton’s very own “Death Zone”.

In the corner is Hela Continental Smallgoods, its

vintage sign catching the afternoon sun like a German pensioner on the beach.

The shop’s giant glass door was plastered with various warning stickers including ‘Don’t push or pull, slide gently’ and ‘Maximum four customers at a time’.

I proceeded with caution and emerged in a tiny shop with a butcher’s counter and a few wooden shelves with smallgoods.

It was a meaty grotto – a sort of living hell for Tash Peterson – with a huge phalanx of German bangers and smoked meats.

The shelves were crammed with small goods and there was everything from German mustard to huge jars of sauerkraut. But I

was there for the sausage.

After a brief pause, a lady emerged from the rear of the store.

She was super friendly and polite, and ushered me over to the bulging snags.

I plumped for some traditional bratwurst (\$20.95/kg), debreziner (\$25.95/kg), kranski (\$25/kg) and a tray of Leberkase (\$13.50) a sort of premium spam made from finely-ground pork that is popular

in Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Austria.

Back home, I whacked the lot in the oven for dinner (the Leberkase took about 45 minutes at 170C) and put the smoked sausages in at the end to crisp up the skins.

The pick of the bunch were the traditional bratwurst, which had a delicious combination of pork, beef, garlic and marjoram, a herb from the mint family.

The snag had a complex flavour that held your interest to the final mouthful.

Super tasty with high quality meat, these were a joy to eat.

Coming in a close second were the debreziner, which were lightly smoked and had a bit of heat courtesy of the chilli.

The kranski had a nice smoky refrain that wasn’t overpowering, but I regretted my decision to heat them up and should have just had it sliced cold with some nice cheese.

The Leberkase didn’t look that appetising when I removed the lid and popped it in the oven (it was pinky-grey and looked a bit like Polyfilla) but it soon fluffed up into a pork loaf.

I’ve never tried Leberkase before, so I can’t say if it was authentic, but it had the taste and texture of a hot dog.

It’s often eaten in a sandwich or in a hard wheat flour roll, so that makes sense.

Since Elmar’s on North Lake Road in Myaree closed down last year, I’ve been having bratwurst withdrawal symptoms.

Thankfully a *Chook* reader on our Facebook page alerted me to the family-owned Hela, which despite being in Hilton for 39 years, had somehow flown under my radar.

It’s now my go-to for German snags and definitely worth a visit.

Just make sure your brakes are in good working order for that car park ramp, or it could be “Auf wiedersehen, Pet”.

Hela Continental German Smallgoods
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Valentine's Day

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Savor Romance at Carrington’s Bar and Grill: A Culinary Love Affair on Valentine’s Day

When it comes to celebrating love and indulging in a gastronomic adventure, **Carrington’s Bar and Grill** in Hamilton Hill stands out as the perfect destination for a romantic Valentine’s Day rendezvous. This year, Carrington’s is offering an exquisite Seafood Bonanza for \$65, curated especially for couples looking to share a memorable dining experience.

The Seafood Bonanza is a symphony of flavors, carefully crafted to ignite the senses. Priced at \$65, this delectable feast includes a tempting array of dishes that define the essence of fresh and succulent seafood. From the irresistible beer-battered barramundi to the delicately grilled half shell Shark Bay scallops, and the spicy kick of chilli mussels cooked in napolli sauce – each dish is a celebration of the ocean’s bounty.

But that’s not all; the Seafood Bonanza also features BBQ prawn skewers, perfectly grilled squid, toasted sourdough, and sides of chips & rocket, parmesan & red onion salad. The combination of textures and flavors ensures a culinary experience that is not only satisfying but also deeply romantic.

To complement the Seafood Bonanza, Carrington’s Bar and Grill presents Carrington’s Spritz Sensations, a lineup of tantalizing cocktails available for just \$10 each. Let the evening unfold with these delightful concoctions as you toast to love and create unforgettable memories in a cozy and inviting atmosphere.

For those seeking variety, Carrington’s will be featuring terrific Chef Specials on Valentine’s Day, adding an extra layer of

excitement to the dining experience. The Chef Specials promise to showcase the culinary prowess of Carrington’s kitchen, offering unique and delectable options to elevate your celebration.

And if the Seafood Bonanza doesn’t quite fit your fancy, fear not – Carrington’s Bar and Grill has a full menu available, ensuring there’s something for every palate. From mouthwatering appetizers to sumptuous main courses and decadent desserts, Carrington’s offers a diverse selection that caters to various tastes and preferences.

This Valentine’s Day, immerse yourself in the enchanting ambiance of Carrington’s Bar and Grill. Book your table now and embark on a culinary love affair with the Seafood Bonanza, Carrington’s Spritz Sensations, and an array of Chef Specials. Carrington’s is more than a restaurant; it’s a destination where love and flavor intertwine to create an unforgettable celebration of romance.

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“Embark on a culinary love affair with the Seafood Bonanza, Carrington’s Spritz Sensations, and an array of Chef Specials.”





Real charmer

THIS South Fremantle home has a gorgeous facade.

There's a lovely ornate finish on the bullnose verandah, the tuckpointing is exquisite and the timber porch is pure period bliss.

Built around 1890, this three bedroom one bathroom abode is on a limestone ridge with great easterly views of the suburb.

The inside is just as attractive with lots of period features including a vintage fireplace, jarrah floors, sash windows and exposed timber beams.

It's got that classic layout – long corridor with rooms peeling off either side.

The kitchen is a stylish number with the black floor tiles contrasting nicely with the white

walls and wooden cabinetry.

It's modern and functional while also doffing its cap to the past with a lovely old mantlepiece on one wall.

As bathroom/laundries go, this is one of the most stylish the *Chook* has seen - it's got black-and-white floor tiles and a period vanity with decorative splashback.

The back garden is a cosy, lush oasis with a sheltered deck overlooking a range of trees, plants and shrubs, making it a great spot for alfresco meals.

With the current heatwave biting like a junk yard dog, you'll be making full use of the outdoor pool, which has another entertaining area off to the side.

It's a lovely spot with an old stone door frame adding a touch of yesteryear. There's also some



vintage lights dangling above the pool. The *Herald* reckons you'll be spending a lot of time out here in the summer.

The home includes ducted zoned air-conditioning, rooftop solar panels with Fronius inverter, newly installed roof insulation, and a secure double car garage with potential to build an external granny flat.

For added peace of mind, the internal and external electrics throughout the property were recently replaced.

Situated on a 490sqm block on Wesley Street, it's a short walk to South Beach and all the cafes, bars and restaurants on South Terrace, and it's not much further to the Wray Avenue precinct.



This is a charming home in a great spot.

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OUR TOP HOUSE HUNTING TIPS FOR BUYERS.

Attending open homes is an important part of the purchasing process, allowing you to see a property you're interested in and gauge whether it really suits your needs.

But back-to-back inspections Saturday after Saturday can be a touch overwhelming, so here are our top tips to simplify the process and help you find the property that is 'the one'.

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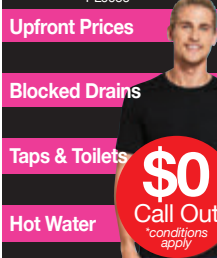


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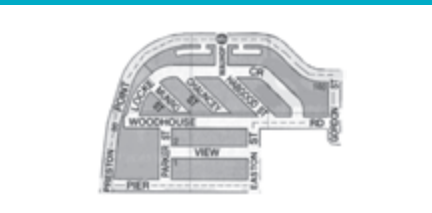
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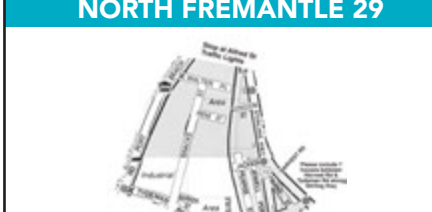
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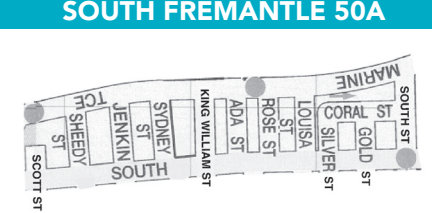
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It's good to talk

LISA O'MALLEY will talk about the time she called Lifeline when she hit her "lowest point" and thought she wasn't the mum her son needed, at a Conversations about Suicide forum in Myaree on Sunday.

The Bicton Labour MP has previously talked about her brother Michael, who sadly committed suicide in 2014, to encourage people struggling with their mental health to seek help and not suffer in silence.

This time she will open up about her own struggles.

"Twenty years ago, when my son was only two years old, I was at my lowest point and felt that I wasn't the mother he needed," says Ms O'Malley.

"It was a time of change in my life – I became a mum, started up a small business with my husband, and there were the typical financial pressures that come with those things, but life was good with a loving and supportive partner, a healthy child, close-knit family and wonderful friends.

"I had no reason to be unwell, I just was. That's the thing with mental illness, it does not discriminate. Anyone can suffer. Back then I used to ask myself, 'Why me?' The simple answer was 'Why not me?'

"I reached out to Lifeline WA, and it was a turning point."



• Bicton MP Lisa O'Malley.

Ms O'Malley says mental health problems should be discussed openly like any other ailment.

"We need to get rid of the stigma attached with reaching out for help," she says.

"I have recently been diagnosed with arthritis which I am learning to manage with professional help, just like I did with my mental health 20 years ago.

"I am passionate about normalising conversations around mental health because in my experience not talking about mental health doesn't help."

A former worker in the health and fitness industry, Ms

O'Malley now manages her wellbeing by "making time for fitness, family, friends and fun."

"Prioritising overall health and fitness is not just important, it's an absolute necessity for me to maintain good mental health," she says.

Hosted by Lifeline WA and the Baha'i Community of Melville, the free forum will provide a safe and inclusive space to discuss the importance of mental health and wellbeing.

Ms O'Malley will be joined by Lifeline WA telephone crisis supporter Virginia Bradshaw and counselling psychologist Hoda Golestani.

"My brother Michael has been gone 10 years now but the impact of his death continues to be felt by everyone who knew and loved him," Ms O'Malley says.

"I am committed to doing whatever I can to stop others from losing their brother, sister, mother, father, son, daughter, partner, friend or colleague to suicide, and I hope that sharing my story helps."

The Conversations About Suicide Mental Health forum is on tomorrow (Sunday February 11) at the Baha'i Centre of Learning 453 Marmion St, Myaree from 3pm to 5pm.

No registration is required and if you can't attend it will be live streamed at [youtube.com/watch?v=SflMVrSLnNw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SflMVrSLnNw). Contact Lifeline 24/7 on 13 11 14.

Annual Electors' Meeting

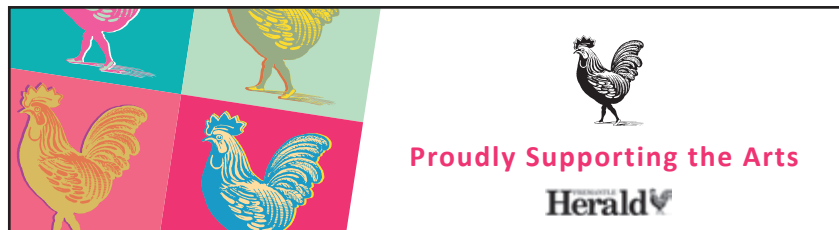


The Annual Electors' Meeting will be held on Tuesday 27 February 2024 commencing at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, 135 Canning Highway East Fremantle

The purpose of the meeting is to allow for discussion of the contents of the annual report and other general business.

A copy of the annual report is available from the Council office or website www.eastfremantle.wa.gov.au

JONATHAN THROSSELL
Chief Executive Officer



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