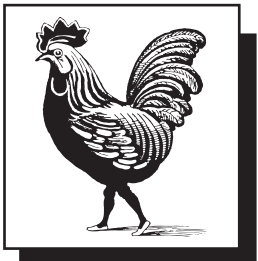


# MELVILLE CITY HERALD



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Saturday January 13, 2024  
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• Fremantle mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge hands over the keys for the old North Freo Bowling Club to Bowlo.

## Bowled over

by STEPHEN POLLOCK

IT'S been a crackerjack start for North Freo Bowlo with 300 members signing up and about 100 people attending the soft outdoor launch last Friday night.

After signing a 10-year lease with Fremantle Council in early December, the not-for-profit Bowlo have been busy transforming the old North Fremantle Bowling Club on Thompson Road into a multi-purpose social club.

While bowls will still be played at the club, there won't be any official competitions, allowing the greens to be used for a variety of lawn sports like

croquet, pétanque, skittles and low-impact events like movie nights and yoga classes.

The more rugged grassed areas will be used for community and private events including food trucks, markets and car boot sales.

And there's even talk of a book club, and a community choir and curry night.

Bowlo co-chair Julia Jones says they are still waiting on a liquor license – which could take around three months – and are finishing some internal work, so currently they are only open outdoors on Friday nights.

Ms Jones says she's been bowled over by the kindness and generosity from the local community.

"After putting the word

out we've had several tradies come down to do volunteer work, as well as people working on our website, and someone even made us a gorgeous jarrah bartop," she says.

"And we've been donated a whole heap of stuff from Claremont Bowls Club, which was closing down.

"But the place was absolutely gutted, so we've had to do most things from scratch. It's been a huge job.

"Getting the bar, cool room and commercial kitchen back up to scratch will cost a few hundred thousand dollars over the next few years."

Mr Jones says in the upcoming months they will slowly ramp up activities including community events

like yoga classes and craft clubs in the morning, as well as corporate and private event bookings on Saturday nights.

Eventually the Bowlo hope to create a local precinct including Gordon Dedman Reserve and the social farm on Thompson Road, a similar model used at Gil Fraser Oval.

Prior to handing over the keys in December, the council spent six months and \$249,584 on essential works to the clubhouse including asbestos removal, roof and floorboard repairs, electrical work, refurbishment of the main hall as well as a new north facing façade, new bar, new entrance and new gutters.

• continued page 2



• Artist's impression of the upgraded Freo Hospital.

## Hospital upgrade

WORK has started on a \$63M redevelopment of Fremantle Hospital with 40 new mental health beds and a 24-hour mental health urgent care service.

The V block upgrade includes 20 secure beds, 10 beds for "open adults", a 10-bed neurological behaviour unit for older adults and a new neurostimulation unit.

The new 24-hour mental health urgent care service – an expansion on the existing triage service from 8am to 10pm – will help take pressure off Fiona Stanley Hospital's emergency department and provide dedicated crisis care for acute mental health patients.

"WA's southern corridor is growing rapidly and it is vital healthcare services are expanded to match this demand, which is why we are investing \$63 million to significantly upgrade Fremantle

Hospital," said WA premier Roger Cook.

"An extra 40 beds will increase inpatient mental health services at Fremantle Hospital by more than 60 per cent, which will be hugely beneficial to the community."

The purpose-built building will feature wards with single, swipe-controlled bedrooms with ensuites and TVs, treatment rooms, sensory modulation rooms, and separate dining and lounge rooms.

"The new beds and improved mental health services at Fremantle Hospital are being designed using contemporary therapeutic principles, such as the use of natural light, landscaped outdoor courtyards and balcony spaces to create a better experience for patients and staff," said state health minister Amber-Jade Sanderson.

• continued page 2

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• Fremantle mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge gets ready to do the 'Flipper' at Bowlo.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Annual General Meeting of Electors**

The City of Fremantle gives public notice of its Annual General Meeting of Electors



**Date:** Monday, 5 February 2024  
**Time:** 6.00 pm  
**Location:** Walyalup Civic Centre

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Annual Report 2022-2023 and any other general business pertaining to Council.

An agenda will be made available closer to the meeting date.

The annual report and the audited financial statements adopted by Council on 20 December 2023, are available for viewing at the City of Fremantle (Walyalup Civic Centre, 151 High Street, Fremantle) or on the City's website under "Budget, finances and annual reports".

For more information about the meeting format, agenda, or how to submit questions or motions, please contact [agendasminutes@fremantle.wa.gov.au](mailto:agendasminutes@fremantle.wa.gov.au)

**Glen Dougall**  
Chief Executive Officer

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

# Venue reboot

• *from page 1*  
The North Fremantle Bowling Club was ousted after a petition was lodged in September 2021 urging the council to move it on so a more community-friendly club could take over. They "stripped" the club house bare before Bowlo moved in. It's a far cry from 1957, when The North Freo Bowling Club was established with 140 members and hailed as "one of the most modern and attractive bowling club houses in the state," according to the *Daily News*.

Annual membership for The Bowlo is \$40 with children free, and it will be based on the successful Bowlo in West Leederville, which has around 1000 members. "With the cost of living crisis, people are keen to go places where you don't have to spend a lot of money," Ms Jones says. "Lawn Bowls is experiencing a revival in Australia because it is affordable, low-impact and accessible. The North Freo Bowlo contributes to this re-imagining of lawn

bowls to reflect the changing demographics of our community." The Bowlo is an incorporated association governed by a volunteer board of local parents and grandparents who collaborate with community and business stakeholders. While the internal works are being completed, The North Freo Bowlo on Thompson Road is open outdoors 4pm-8pm on Fridays with BYO drinks and picnic. There's free use of lawn bowls and BBQ, and free icy poles for kids.

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## Health booster

• *from page 1*  
The redevelopment will increase the number of inpatient mental health beds at Fremantle Hospital from 64 to 104. "This \$63 million, 40-bed redevelopment will be a huge boost for our southern corridor, delivering important extra capacity for mental health inpatients and a 24-hour mental health urgent care service," said Fremantle MP Simone McGurk. "Alongside our \$8.5 million dedicated neuro



• (left to right) State health minister Amber-Jade Sanderson, Fremantle MP Simone McGurk and WA premier Roger Cook at the Freo hospital upgrade site. rehabilitation ward, we are investing in Fremantle Hospital to ensure it continues to meet the needs of our community now and into the future." Ms McGurk's office told us the works are estimated to be completed by mid 2025.

## SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING



A Special Council Meeting will be held at **6.30pm on Tuesday 30 January 2024** in the Council Chamber for the purpose of:

1. Accepting the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2023
2. Determining the name of the café at East Fremantle Community Park

**JONATHAN THROSSELL**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Dispute deepens

by STEPHEN POLLOCK

FREMANTLE federal MP Josh Wilson has expressed his "support" for the Maritime Union of Australia in their bitter, protracted dispute with Australia's second-biggest stevedore DP World.

This week DP World called for the federal government to intervene in its lengthy pay dispute with stevedores across Australia.

They claim Fremantle Port alone had lost about \$3.2 million in perishable cargo and disrupted

\$8.9m worth of exports as a result of the industrial action taken since October last year. While it would probably be a matter for federal workplace relations minister Tony Burke, the *Chook* asked Mr Wilson if he would be willing to help broker a peace deal.

"It's in everyone's interest that we have good faith bargaining from all sides within the proper framework, especially in the critical freight and logistics industry," Mr Wilson told the *Herald*.

"I certainly support the important role of the Maritime Union as the representative of port

workers in that process."

MUA WA secretary Will Tracey has disputed DP World's latest claims, saying perishable goods are exempt from their industrial action and they would have received reports if any were spoiled.

He also disputed the impact on exports, saying their industrial action had specifically targeted DP World, while allowing wider port operations to continue largely unaffected.

Mr Tracey said DP World's claims were a smokescreen for recently upping their container fees by as much as 52 per cent.



• Intrepid locals enjoy an ice bath at the Freo Farmers Market.

# Record breakers?

by STEPHEN POLLOCK

A TOTAL of 550 people – including Fremantle mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge – will attempt to set an ice bath world record at Leighton Beach in North Fremantle next Saturday (January 20).

To set the group record, 250 participants have to simultaneously submerge up to their necks in 6 degrees C ice baths for three minutes.

The event was organised by White Gum Valley resident Mark Hughes, who

runs ice bath classes at Freo Farmers Market for a gold coin donation and founded One Life Live It, offering personal coaching and ice bath training to alleviate stress and anxiety.

Organising the attempt has been a major logistical feat, requiring about 3200 bags of ice and thirty inflatable 3m x 42m pools that will be pumped full of ocean water.

Folk from seven different countries will take part on the day and will send videos/photos of their participation.

The record has never been

attempted before, so Hughes has held meetings with The Guinness Book of Records to agree on the figures and a Guinness adjudicator will ratify the result.

The event will raise awareness and funds for Beyond Blue, a not-for-profit that supports Australians with their mental health.

On the day there will be free yoga and breathwork sessions in front of the Orange Box café, starting at 8.30am, before the event is officially 'opened' by mayor Fitzhardinge.

The record attempt will take place at noon.

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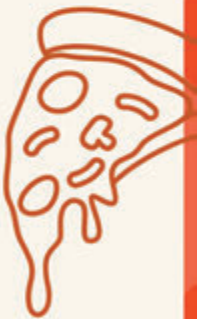
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# Mutual respect

AUSTRALIA Day is approaching and more and more local councils won't be celebrating it.

Fremantle Council stopped festivities and abandoned the fireworks eight years ago in 2016, out of respect for our First Nations People, many of whom say that it is Invasion Day for their people.

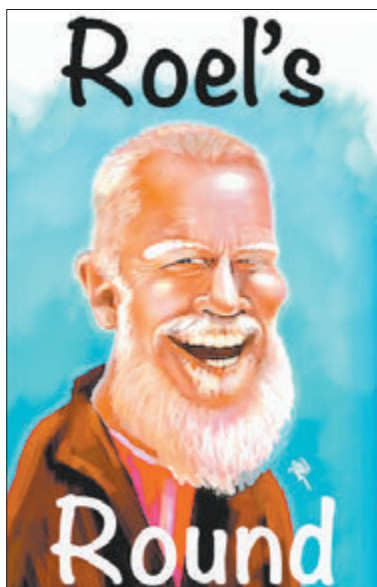
It is the day racism started, where they were displaced from their land, and a time of the Stolen Generation, where children were randomly taken away from their parents, for the simple reason only that they were black.

Australia Day is a day of mourning for our Aboriginal people, and that should be respected and considered.

I do believe that there should be a day that we all celebrate Australia, our achievements, history and multiculturalism, but I do support not doing that on January 26, as that date is pretty meaningless date to every other state and territory in Australia anyway.

It is the day the First Fleet arrived in 1788, but here in WA we had to wait a while, until 1829, until the first settlers arrived at Walyalup, that we now call Fremantle, and established the Swan River Colony.

For the first time this year the City of Fremantle will also not hold a citizenship ceremony on Australia Day, and will also conduct the Australia Day Citizenship Awards on January 23. The City has decided also to do away with the alternative One Day in Fremantle entertainment, and will instead



have year-long truth telling events.

It is fair enough for local governments to decide when to hold their citizenship ceremonies.

It was silly political bluster from former Federal Liberal Minister for Immigration Alex Hawke, who decreed that councils would not be allowed to hold any citizenship events at all, if they did not have one on Australia Day.

The Albanese Government now allows councils to hold them within three days before or after Australia Day, hence we will have our Fremantle one on January 23.

It actually makes a lot of sense to not hold citizenship ceremonies on a public holiday, as it will be cheaper, and allows council staff and elected members to also have the day off, and there is no need to pay penalty rates to staff either.

All this is quite controversial and has become a bit of silly and disrespectful political grandstanding, which is disappointing.

We really need to become more mature about having a conversation about reconciliation, as was shown again during the Voice referendum campaign last year, where the debate became more about political parties, than about humanity, and the deep desire of our indigenous people to be recognised in the Australian constitution.

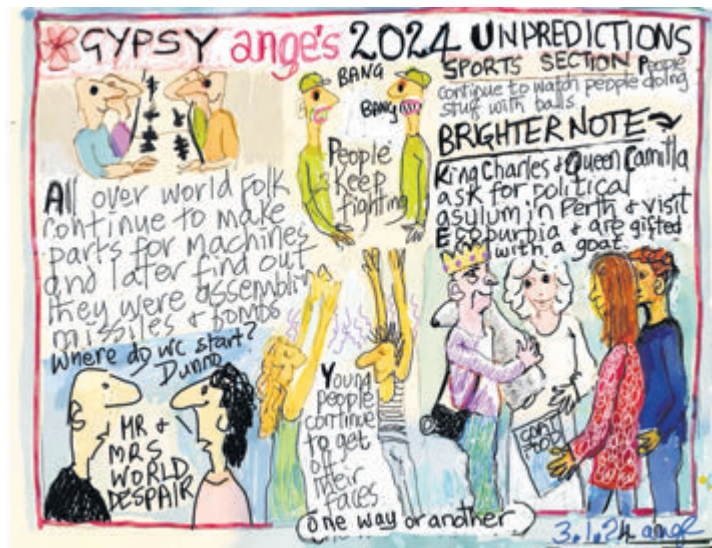
I believe we are a much better country than that. I never liked all those cars with Australian flags driving around, because there is a big difference between national pride and nationalism. As someone born in the Netherlands, excessive nationalism worries me, and reminds me of the very dark fascist days of Hitler and Mussolini.

Immigration by people from all over the world has made Australia the fantastic and peaceful country that it is. I believe that deserves a really good celebration on a national day, yes, on Australia Day! It would be so easy to shift the date, especially since it was initially held on a different date anyway.

Changing the date of Australia Day is not about politics of the right or left, or about woke culture, or pandering to a minority.

It is about mutual respects and accepting that January 26 is a very sensitive date for Australia's First Nations People. We have grown and build this country together since, so let's celebrate all of us, just not on January 26.

Roel Loopers/freewiew.  
wordpress.com



## Code brown

THE troubled redevelopment of South Beach changing rooms took a nasty twist when the temporary toilets overflowed last Friday during the height of summer.

A council spokesperson said the overflow was caused by people flushing all manner of "foreign materials" down the dunnies including balloons, baby wipes and even a carton of chips.

"The City of Fremantle has responded to overflowing of South Beach toilets by increasing preventative pumping to every second day," said a council spokesperson.

"The city called in a plumber as soon as it was aware of the overflow issue who pulled apart the system and installed a new pump.

"The plumber will continue to regularly check the toilets for foreign objects during the busy holiday period. The city has also ordered larger capacity pumps which should arrive later in the month. As well as erecting signs to remind people not to flush foreign objects down the toilet, the city will also be improving landscaping and fencing around the demolition site."

Council demolished the original changing rooms and toilet block in August last year and planned to build a new one, but that's been delayed after a consultant estimated the rebuild would cost \$2.18M. Council had budgeted up to \$1.9M and are now looking at an alternative design. After demolition, council installed temporary toilets with disabled access, close to the South Beach Cafe.

## Weird SMSF investments



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

Not too long ago the ATO wrote to 17,000 self-managed super funds and their auditors targeting these funds over their concerns of a lack of asset diversity.

The ATO suggest that good diversity consists of a broad range of investments across a number of asset classes. But equally they don't like you straying too far away from conventional assets in your quest for a heterogeneous portfolio.

They prefer that super fund investments fit into neat little boxes that we all understand, like shares, property and fixed interest.

So they're probably not so keen on some of the less conventional investments that have found their way into SMSFs over the years. These include washing machines (this got them in a spin), frozen horse semen (although the investment went swimmingly), cattle (better in a bull market), and the odd sewing machine (seams sound to me).

The less-diverse funds attracting the attention of the ATO are those holding 90% or more of their funds in one asset, or in a single asset class. This could be the case for SMSF trustees that are holding large sums of cash prior to settling an asset or paying out a member, or perhaps just because the trustees are risk averse.

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

It's ok to do that if there's a valid reason to do so. Super law does not dictate that you must have diversity in your fund assets. It merely says that you must give effect to a written investment strategy that considers diversity. There may well be a very good strategic reason why your portfolio is less diversified than the ATO might like.

But what SMSF trustees must do under the law is have a written investment strategy that assesses and reviews things like risk, return, diversity, liquidity and insurance.

What's important is that your reasons for not diversifying your assets are reasonable, are in the best interests of the members of the fund and are clearly documented in your investment strategy. If you have done this, there should be no reason why the ATO, or your auditor has any concern about your investment decisions.

**“**have a written investment strategy that assesses and reviews things like risk, return, diversity, liquidity and insurance

And somewhat weirder investments can also be ok if they meet certain criteria. This could include cryptocurrencies if you're that way inclined, or personal use assets like coins, cars and collectables. But be careful, there's other rules to comply with around holding such investments and other issues to consider like security, insurance and proof of ownership.

The investment choice ultimately belongs to the trustee, but remember that it might be time to give that investment strategy a review to make sure it's current and relevant, and to have a chat with your accountant about other SMSF compliance issues.

## Missing Out

Licensed real estate agents are regulated by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) with consumers able to seek advice and lodge complaints about agents' behaviour to that department. The Real Estate Institute of WA (REIWA) also has a community hotline where consumers can obtain real estate advice when dealing with a member agent.

Current market conditions of savagely low supply and strong demand for both sales and rentals often leads to a spike in enquiry with REIWA and DMIRS, especially from tenants and buyers that have missed out on the opportunity to either buy or rent a home. Most are just wanting clarification of the process.

When representing their vendors and landlords, agents have a role to play in ensuring their communication with interested buyers and tenants is clear and thorough, especially in circumstances where there is strong competition to either buy or rent the properties they represent.

*the agent is not working in your interests*

In the first instance, agents should make it clear to buyers and tenants that there is competition for the home. This can include asking prospective buyers to sign a document that acknowledges an awareness that their offer is one of many and that they've had sufficient opportunity to put forward their best offer. Similarly for tenants, the sheer volume of visitors to a home open should indicate that renting a home will be competitive. It is unlikely your application to rent will be the only one submitted.

Local agents mostly manage competition amongst buyers and tenants in a professional,

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



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

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process-driven manner. However, it's worth noting that agents are not obliged to inform you that there is competition for a property, albeit best practice to do so.

Buyers and tenants ought to remember the agent is duty bound to act for their client and is not working in your interests. Agents are merely obliged to be honest, ethical and fair in their dealings with tenants and buyers.

Despite this, buyers and tenants who miss out on a property are often quick to blame the agent. Some will lodge formal complaints against an agent even though the agent is simply discharging their responsibility to their client in seeking the best price or highest rent.

A recent experience from a buyer who was repeatedly told a property would likely sell for above \$900,000, was aware they were in competition and still insisted on submitting an offer for \$875,000, was livid when told someone else had paid \$975,000. Similarly, a tenant who offered \$80 per week above the asking rent lodged a formal complaint against the agent when their landlord accepted an offer to lease \$130 above the asking rent.

Higher rents and selling outcomes are part of the natural market in action. Agents understand that buyers and tenants are trying to secure a property for the lowest possible price or rent, but it is not the agents' role to achieve that outcome.

 FORMER councillor Rachel Pemberton is calling for safer streets in Fremantle ahead of drop-in sessions on the issue this month.

**I**SPEND a lot of time walking my dog around the streets of Fremantle. Sometimes it can be quite a challenge or I feel unsafe.

Firstly I need to exit the cul de sac where I live, which has no footpath, but gorgeous shade trees on either side where a footpath might go.

There are cars parked informally on either side of the street, so people to walk or ride in the centre of the road.

On one occasion, my dog and I were almost hit by a car turning rapidly into the street. Often, I hear cars coming fast behind me as we walk down the road and must move quickly out of the way. There are many streets like this in Fremantle.

Older parts of Fremantle were designed long before cars were widely used, which makes accommodating many vehicles tricky.

Some people use their garages for storage, or convert it to rental accommodation, so the car is parked on the street. In some narrow streets, this makes it hard to walk down the street, let alone to get an ambulance or fire truck through in an emergency!

The City of Fremantle's Integrated Transport Strategy says pedestrians, particularly vulnerable pedestrians like parents with prams or people with mobility issues are prioritised.

However, many of Fremantle's small or narrow local streets, struggle to meet this objective. As our population density increases, and the number of private vehicles increase, it could become less safe or appealing for people to walk and ride around local neighbourhoods. In a community that supports sustainable and active transport, this is a growing concern. There are many other examples of



• (left to right) McAtee Court and Douglas Street in Fremantle are two thoroughfares which have no footpaths and could be made safer, says Rachel Pemberton.

# Let's be safer

these scenarios throughout Fremantle, particularly in the older areas such as the suburbs of Fremantle, South Fremantle and North Fremantle where parking pressures continue to be an issue for locals.

However, there are some relatively easy, low-cost strategies and treatments that have been implemented in other parts of Perth (and beyond) that may help to address this issue in a consistent manner.

Friend Street in the new Knutsford St development precinct is a new local and narrow street that has been classified as a shared street, with signage to clearly indicate this to all users.

This is a relatively simple and low-cost solution that could be implemented in other streets where the only option is for pedestrians and cars to mix.

This signage could be further enhanced by adding the blue on road Safe Active Streets paint markings, which may be suitable in some streets in Fremantle.

If the City is serious about supporting sustainable active transport and ensuring the most vulnerable road users are at the

top of the hierarchy, then we need to take action that supports this.

These treatments can also help facilitate the city's Urban Forest Plan to plant more trees. Clause 4.11 in the Local Parking Law, adopted by this Council in 2021 states that vehicles may not "obstruct a footpath or pedestrian refuge".


However, this is clearly not being enforced by officers.

Perhaps implementing shared streets or Safe Active Streets in some areas may be a better solution than restricting and infringing parking?

Bespoke solutions for our narrow local streets are likely to be most suitable, developed in collaboration with the neighbours and residents to make the streets safer and more accessible to all.

That's why, especially if you live in a narrow street in the City of Freo, you should have your say by February 1 at [mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au/safe-and-functional-streets](https://mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au/safe-and-functional-streets) or visit a drop in session on January 12, or January 19 10:30am-12pm at 255 Queen Victoria St, North Fremantle.

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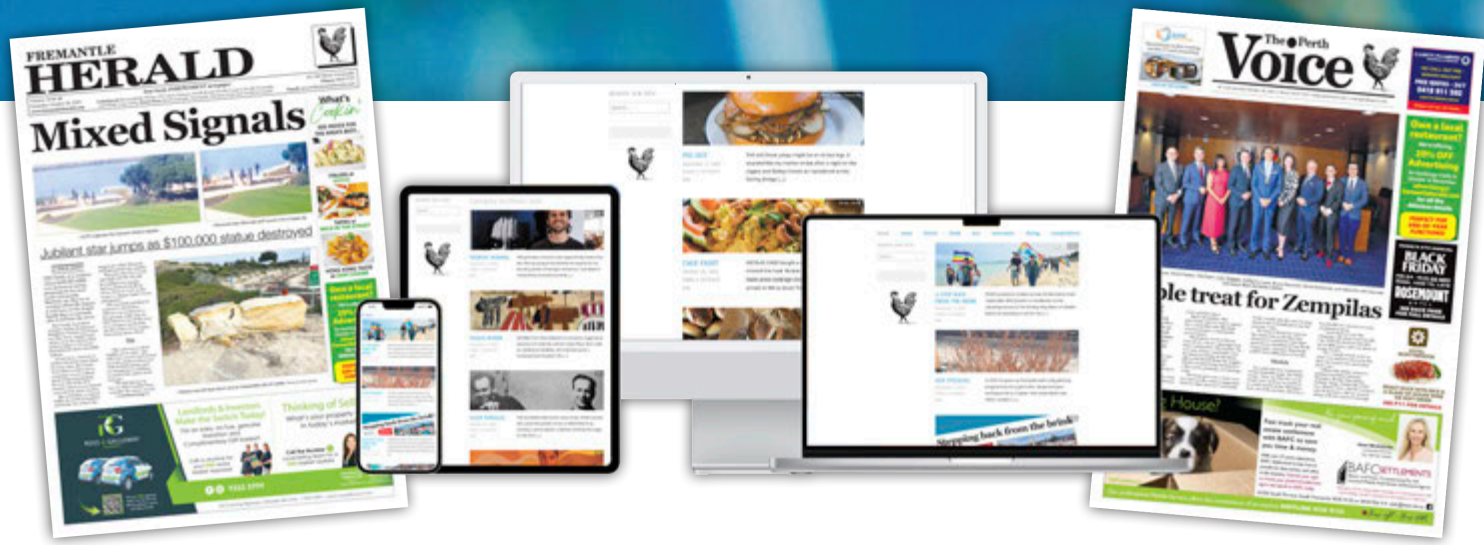
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# Hard to top

 arts  
STEPHEN POLLOCK

**M**OST folk eventually give up their crazy dreams to get a 'sensible' job and settle down, but the co-founders of Acrobatch did the exact opposite.

21-year-old Simon Wood was studying politics at university and Ben Kotovski-Steele was a graduate engineer, but they gave it all up to run away to the circus.

"I was studying politics at the time and a friend invited me to go with her to a circus festival in Karridale," Wood says.

"In the remaining years of my degree study, I came to the realisation that circus artists were much more warm, friendly and welcoming than politician minions and I'd much rather work in the arts.

"Since then it's been quite the journey travelling around and training and making that transition into a professional circus artist."

Kotovski-Steele worked as an engineer for a bit, but soon swapped the wrench for the juggling balls and became besties with Wood, bonding over their love of the Big Top.

A 13-year friendship blossomed, but they never actually worked together until

the pandemic marooned them in Perth.

"We discovered we worked really well together when I got locked down in Perth while visiting my parents and have been performing regularly together ever since," Wood says.

Fast forward to 2024 and they are now teachers at Fremantle-based CircusWA, where they train three times a week and Kotovski-Steele heads up the Academy Youth Troupe program.

In 2020 they joined forces with fellow circus performer Luke Forrester to form Acrobatch, a contemporary circus company that mixes juggling, acrobatics and satire.

Their latest show *Appeasing Nergal* is set in a living room with three housemates and skewers global events including Jeff Bezos' trip to outer space and politicians' responses to the pandemic. It also reflects on the devastating bushfires and floods in 2021.

During the energetic show, the trio perform mind-bending tricks with everyday objects, and explore some wild theories on the wrath of ancient gods and their impact on the modern world. Oh, and there's even a bit of free "government health advice".

Forrester says they been performing at various WA events, festivals and variety shows since mid-2021, honing their tight-knit act.

"*Appeasing Nergal* is what



• Fremantle-based Acrobatch mix juggling, acrobatics and satire in a contemporary circus show.

happens when three friends get together and put all of our silliest ideas and coolest tricks into one show," he says.

"It's one of those performances where I'm easily having as much fun as the audience."

Readers might remember Forrester from his quirky, viral YouTube video in 2021, which featured him juggling pine cones for quokkas on Rottnest Island.

Their cute reactions became a global hit and the story was picked up by the Daily Mail in

the UK. You can check it out here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FjFHu7ijFg>

*Appeasing Nergal* was developed with support from the dept of local government, sports and cultural Industries and has been performed at Joondalup Festival and The WA Circus Festival in Karridale.

It will make its Fringe World debut at the State Theatre Centre in Northbridge on January 27/28 and February 3/4/10/11. Tix at [fringeworld.com.au](http://fringeworld.com.au).



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# Historical footnote

 HILARY SILBERT is the granddaughter of Barney Silbert and daughter of Eric Silbert. The Silbert's shoe store on the corner of what's now the High Street Mall, was an institution in Fremantle for many decades.

ONCE a household name: Barney Silbert, the person and the landmark in Fremantle.

"Meet you at Barney's Corner" was the phrase used when *Barney Silbert's Shoe Store* was on the high-profile corner of High and Market Streets.

If you looked up to the first floor, you saw the signage *Barney Silbert's Corner* painted in the window, arranged by son Eric in time for the America's Cup

Challenge. Today Barney Silbert is immortalised in beautiful terrazzo flooring as you enter the chocolate shop *Coal River Farm*.

So who was the personality behind the name? Barney, originally Berel, was born in Russia, the youngest child of Tamara and Jacob Silbert.

By the age of four, his mother had died.

As a teenager of 17, he left Europe alone, to join family in Fremantle. His voyage on the *Karlsruhe* is commemorated on Panel 99 on the *Welcome Wall* at Fremantle Harbour.

Commencing work on the WA Goldfields with his brother in law, the owner of Silbert and Sharpe, Fruit and Vegetable Merchants, this European, immigrant teenager was to become a popular figure in Fremantle.



The first business presence involving Barney was 94 High Street, on the corner of Pakenham Street.

A shop known as *Dainty Lady* sold giftware, watches and even imported china that his fiancée, Minnie Masel, painted to brighten up the plain crockery of the day.

A year after marriage, in 1914, Barney and Minnie Silbert bought land on the south side of Ellen Street, and were allowed an 80 foot frontage and 3/8ths of an acre to build the Federation house that exists to this day.

Originally number 74, it is heritage listed as number 55.

A close friend and Ellen Street neighbour was Fred Samson.

They shared an interest in rose growing and would together purchase the rose bushes from the nursery.



• Barney Silbert (left) owned an iconic shoe shop on the corner of High and Market Streets, where there are still nods to him today (above).

Barney's son Eric described the Ellen Street garden.

"The house was surrounded by an English garden of citrus trees, dahlias, grapes, arum lilies, jasmine, black-eyed susan, german lilac, and 100 roses from Newman's Nursery."

Barney was awarded First Prize for the Fremantle Inter Districts Garden Competition in 1935.

From the verandah the family could see the port, and could use WA's largest playing field: Fremantle Oval which included the croquet, bowling and tennis clubs.

They could also hear the sounds of residents in the nearby asylum, now the Fremantle Arts Centre.

Barney and Minnie successfully ran *Barney Silbert's Shoe Store*, surviving the Depression, World War II and had even expanded the business by acquiring neighbouring sites.

All this whilst Barney had received very little formal education, had little English language on arrival, and no business training.

He was an original member of the Fremantle Businessmen's Association in 1919, becoming treasurer, and was actively involved with the Ugly Men's Association.

This was a uniquely Western Australian charity group who raised funds and built houses for World War I widows.

Barney was a trustee and foundation member of the Fremantle Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, a lodge located in High Street.

After World War II, Barney was involved in the Advance Fremantle Association.

The business was to sponsor both a yacht race off Fremantle

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with the *Barney Silbert's Cup* and, South Fremantle and East Fremantle Football Clubs.

Barney had been a roller skater and a rower and then joined Fremantle Bowling Club as a keen and competent player, only having to walk across the road from his home.

He joined in 1919, was in a team that competed in NSW in 1931 and won the Glick Trophy in 1935.

His passion for lawn bowls saw him design a new item of clothing: a sleeveless pullover that he interested a manufacturer and had them made in cream for bowlers.

A first in fashion! He sold them in others colours in the shop, for general wear.

He was one of the first people in the metropolitan area with a car: a Wiley's Overland Tourer, number 124, which he drove as an ambulance during World War I.

Cars and their owners were listed in the newspaper of the day.

Barney certainly was a personality.

Customers went to the Silbert Shoe Store to buy a pair of shoes and stayed unscheduled hours listening to his stories.

His sense of humour had him walking into the street one day, and looking up.

Passers by also stared into the sky.

When there was a crowd, he walked back inside!

He would park his car outside the shop and when a policeman told Mr Silbert there was a *No Parking* sign, Barney bent down and said "Who wrote that sign under my car?"

Barney Silbert was also known for his empathy and decency.

The Wilson family and Ken in particular, were aware of this side of his character.

Ken was the seventh child of a family of nine.

The Depression and his father Alexander's poor health meant



• Barney Silbert's Shoe Store in its pomp in a bustling Fremantle.

that in 1935, aged 14, he had to leave school to become a shop boy for Barney.

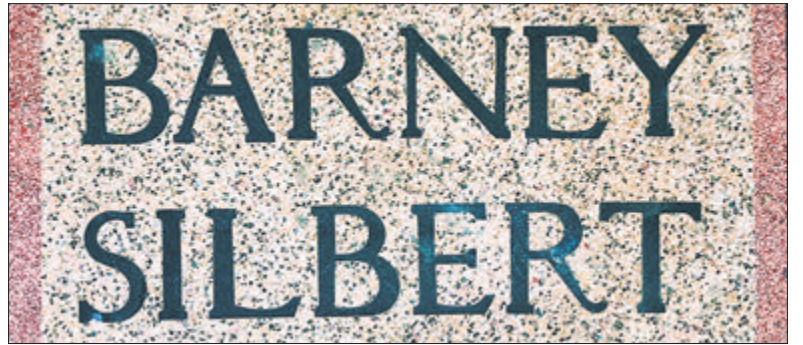
Ken, who borrowed shoes for his interview, believed his employer was a good business man and excellent tutor, often kind to him and his family.

In 1938 when Ken's father died suddenly, Barney opened the shop on that Sunday to dress the family for the funeral and then paid Ken an extra five shillings a week.

This extra money in the little yellow pay envelope was given to Mrs Wilson by Ken and she told Ken to take it back as he had been over paid.

He hadn't and Barney insisted. So one colourful character Barney Silbert.

Very much part of the fabric of Fremantle, and I think he would be amused to walk over the terrazzo floor and the words *Barney Silbert*, to buy chocolate!



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# Bon Scott kissed my wife



## SUMMER READING

I joke.

"Brassy, kind of shiny; just like I remember." She's serious.

"Did you know," I ask her, "that Fremantle derived from the name of a hamlet in France named Fromentel? Well not in the first instance, as it was named for Admiral Fremantle, but the origins of his name seems to trace back to the French words for cold cloak, and the hamlet Fromentel."

Shelley doesn't even feign interest.

I'm not interesting to her any more, and I know I'm slowly losing her which makes me panic.

"Something personal," I tell myself, "say something personal, not just facts, facts annoy her".

Then, while we're looking at Bon and imagining our lives in the mid-70s, I say something personal but the minute the words are out of my mouth I know I'm done for.

"Idiot, idiot. Idiot," I chant to myself and I don't want to look up and see her face because, like I said, I'm done for because what I said is, "Why would he choose you? Like, seriously, Shelley, of all the girls why would he choose to kiss you?"

So here we are, standing across from a famous fish and chip place, the fishing boats glinting their value back at us, and on the surface it looks like all is well with the world

but I've just gone and stuffed it.

I chance a look at her. I take in her so-soft skin and the pink flush that's rising up her neck and colouring her cheeks and because I'm looking I can also feel, really feel, the way her softness sinks into my body when we sleep.

I can hardly bear the thought I might have lost her forever because I'm an idiot who can't say personal things and communicates through facts.

"Sorry, sorry, sorry," I say quickly, "Didn't come out the way I meant."

Now she turns to me and says she wished I had stopped talking.

"Me too," I say, "but it's the Freo vibe, makes me ramble."

"Fremantle," she corrects, "not Freo," because now everything about me annoys her.

My breathing, my stance, my rants about the demise of the fifth estate, my fact filled responses. "And it's Geraldton, not Gero," she snaps.

Well she can say it easily enough but I'm always stuck behind anxiety that I will say it wrong.

Never sure if it has lots of hard e's like Freemantle, or if I should swallow the e and say Fr'mantle. Or now, Fromentel, which really does have a beautiful ring to it.

We both stare at the water, chop-chopping near the edge of the jetty.

Because I know she's upset I try to explain; I think if I can make her pity me a bit we might get back on track. I also keep talking because if I don't hurry and make this right I will be left here with the statues of the Italian fisherman and Bon, three lonely frozen-in-time men watching the water.

I tell her another bit of my story, about how I came here as a kid, a migrant like Bon.

How I asked the teacher to help me spell pier and she, young and blonde and immeasurably beautiful, didn't know what a pier was. How the teacher had struggled to hide her resentment of the flies and our little town ways and that I knew a word she didn't, so, to cover her embarrassment she attacked me.

"You're not in the East now Bruce," she said. "Here we say jetty. And dance not darnce, and parsty not pastie."

That was how my first love/crush/romance got jumped on.

Now, one particularly bright flash of sunlight bounces from a wave cap and hits my eye and I blink out a tear which leads a few more down my face and I'm nine again and humiliated because I don't fit.

Shelley looks at me and I sniff, pretending it's hay fever.

This is a pivotal moment, my mum would have said, this is where life can turn on a sixpence.

"I'm really sorry Shelley," I say again. "That must have been amazing, being kissed by Bon. Or even by his roadie. It must have made your day."

She looks me in the eye. And laughs. "You're a right idiot," she says, and I know we're okay again.

Then we walk down the narrow streets of Fromentel and head towards the wharf where the Carnival Princess might finally be waiting, no longer standing off but standing by.

I feel Bon watching us leave, feel the cold cloak lifting.

by THOM DAVIES

SHELLEY says, "Bon Scott kissed me once. On the cheek."

I look at her with my look of having heard it all before, although in this instance I haven't heard it at all.

I just don't want to give her any satisfaction when it's been a long morning. We've been waiting endless hours for our friends who are coming down the coast from Gero on the Carnival Princess.

They sent a message to say the weather got rough and they had to stand off somewhere, so we've been filling in time since eight.

Since we heard, I've been going

on and on about how ships can't stand off, only float off.

Even though I could tell Shelley was sick of listening to me I just couldn't stop.

"He was born in Forfar," I tell her. "Bon. And lived in Kirriemuir until he was 10 and migrated here with his family."

"Hmm," says Shelley, who hates my little factoids. "Well it might have been him or it might have been one of his roadies," she adds, "but I think it was him. He had a particular sort of smell."

Shelley leans up against the statue of the possible cheek kisser, and because he's balanced on an amplifier she's sniffing at his thigh, or maybe it's his crotch.

"Well, how does he smell then?"

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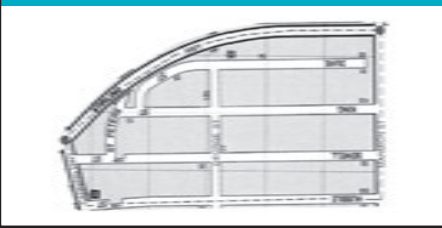
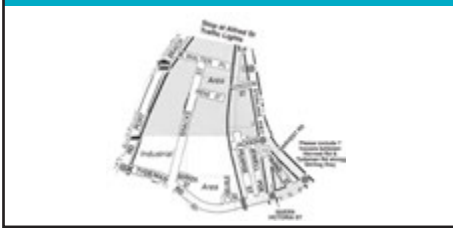

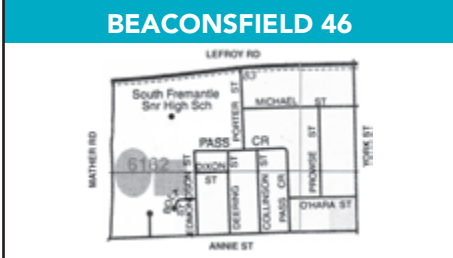

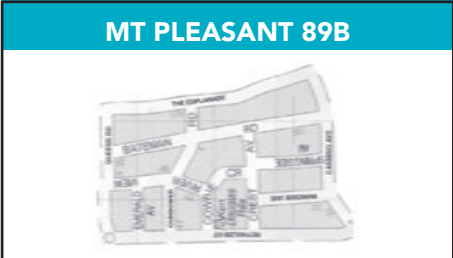
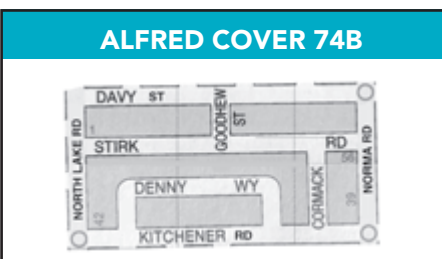



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## Astrology with Sudhir

January 13 – January 24, 2024

**ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 20)**  
It's time to be a little more particular about where you are heading. Shift your vision from a wide-angled to a focussed lens. It's important to use this moment to align your heart with your actions. It will set the tone for the days ahead. There is much to be shared with those who really care.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 – May 20)**  
Uranus in Taurus is retrograde. You may well be rethinking some of those wild ideas that you've been having lately. The Capricorn Sun is in such a position that getting real with details and particulars is on the agenda. The Aquarian Moon suggests you don't close your doors however.

**GEMINI (May 21 – June 21)**  
With Mercury in Sagittarius, you are in a philosophical phase. This week will find you sifting the facts of your life from your dreams. The Capricorn Sun is engendering reality checks across the board. You are not immune. This is a potentially transformational week should you go with it.

**CANCER (June 22 – July 22)**  
The theme of the month is to skill-up. Apply yourself to learning those things you really want to master. The Capricorn Sun is giving you the energy to focus on particulars. The Moon begins her week in Aquarius, suggesting that these practical matters are also associated with feeling free.

**LEO (July 23 – Aug 22)**  
The Moon is in Aquarius, your opposite. In relationship there is no avoiding having to be very aware of the needs of the other. It's a challenge to the ego to be required to put oneself aside. The simple art of listening can be transformational. To really hear, we must be profoundly silent.

**VIRGO (Aug 23 – Sept 22)**  
There is something deeply settling about the tone of this week. It's as if the universe has decided that your methods are effective, and is encouraging similar approaches in all your friends. Everyone is in one way or another trying to bring their dreams to ground. Take care of subtle details.

**LIBRA (Sept 23 – Oct 23)**  
There's lot hanging on your opinion, or actions. You aren't about to be pushed by anyone. You are also not about to be told what the most therapeutic path to take is. Your interest is in being deeply connected to your feelings, and encouraging the same in others. Liberation is your agenda.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 – Nov 21)**  
Pluto is teetering at the end of Capricorn and is about to enter Aquarius. This means there's major change ahead. You can sense it coming. Pluto has been in Capricorn for over a decade. Your belly is telling you to get ready to show your skills and strut your stuff. Interesting times ahead!

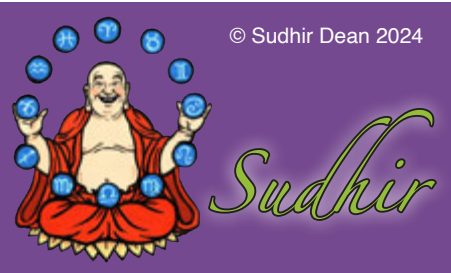
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 – Dec 21)**  
Venus is shining brightly in your sign. Where others are ducking hailstorms, you are walking forth protected by the morning star. Your friends, your tribe, your community, will be soaking up all you have to offer. Share ideas, visions, creative notions of all kinds. It will make your heart sing.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 22 – Jan 19)**  
Mars is in Capricorn. Use your awareness to keep his energy (within you) pointed in the right direction. There's no need to react to those seeking ideals of harmony. There's no need to buck and kick at those who insist on playing left-field. Stick to what makes you happy. You are growing.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 20 – Feb 18)**  
The Moon begins her week in Aquarius, which gets you off to a particularly fine start. She links your ideas in with your feelings, which turns you into a more potent force on all fronts. Point your energy in the direction of both work and healing. Watch out not to get ahead of yourself.

**PISCES (Feb 19 – Mar 20)**  
Saturn in Pisces gives you the wisdom to make a particularly sensitive and efficient career move. When intuition combines with common sense, the effects are amazing. Neptune, also in Pisces, is at odds with Mercury in Sagittarius. Don't let anyone unpick your dreams with excess logic.

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• Jade Dolman, who goes by JD Penangke when wielding a brush, presents her first solo show. Photos by Jed Lyall

# Smoky art

by DAVID BELL

YOU'VE almost certainly seen artist JD Penangke's work.

Her murals sprawl across buildings, bus stops, fences, sports team shirts and school uniforms, but this week she's stepping outside of her commissioned work for her first ever solo show.

JD Penangke is the nom-de-arte of young Boorloo/Perth artist Jade Dolman, who is Whadjuk/Ballardong Nyoongar on her

mother's side and Eastern Arnernte on her father's side.

Her work quickly became highly sought after for commission pieces by schools, councils, companies and government departments since she started painting murals full time about six years ago.

But that roaring success has meant putting some of her personal creativity aside in the meantime while working to spec for clients, and she seldom found time or verve to pursue painting when off

the clock.

"I had not painted on canvas for about five years, because it just felt like work to me," Dolman says.

Preparing for her first solo show at Blank Walls Studio has reawakened her creative side.

"This experience of the art residency at the moment has really changed that relationship that I have with canvases, and I feel like I'm kind of taking it back and owning that experience more."

Dolman has titled the show *Boybidi*, made up of two Nyoongar words roughly meaning 'smoke trails'.

Smoke features prominently in her work. In an urban environment, smoke usually signals danger, but for Nyoongar people it signifies change, cleansing and regeneration,

and smoking ceremonies mark significant events like birth, death or the change of seasons.

"Culturally, what it is like to us, smoke is really like a cleansing," Dolman says. "To me it signifies change... overcoming change, coming out stronger, growing, letting things go."

Dolman hadn't planned to base the show around smoke until she started her first day of the residency at Blank Walls Studio.

"The only thing I went into my residency knowing was that I wanted to paint the walls... and I wanted to paint it like a river, but only in grey."

As the work took shape, she realised what she had painted. "I kind of sat back, and I was like: Oh my gosh. It's smoke. It's like the

concept came through me."

It turned out to be a fitting concept given 2024 is a year of change for Dolman, who's planning to put aside a lot more time to pursue more of her own individual creative works this year.

"2023 was my year of experimentation and learning different techniques. I did a glass residency in Sweden. I also did a lot of work with pottery, and learning lots of foundations for how to work with that medium. So this year, I'm looking to grow some those skills, and just be able to express stories through multi-mediums, and see how that goes."

JD Penangke's *Smoke Trails* is at Blank Walls Studio, 268 Lord Street, Perth on January 12 from 7pm til late.

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Jordan Mac

# Nannup Music Festival returns

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Thanks to the Nannup Music Festival, we're giving away a double pass plus camping to the 2024 festival running 1 - 4 March valued at \$680.

The much-loved Nannup Music Festival presents an eclectic mix of live acts over the March long weekend each year, set to the stunning bush backdrop of Western Australia's South West and the small town atmosphere of Nannup. The community-spirited event, produced by a dedicated team of staff and volunteer Committee from the non profit Nannup Music Club Inc, has been running since 1990 and has consistently proven to be one of the most anticipated

[www.fremantleherald.com](http://www.fremantleherald.com)

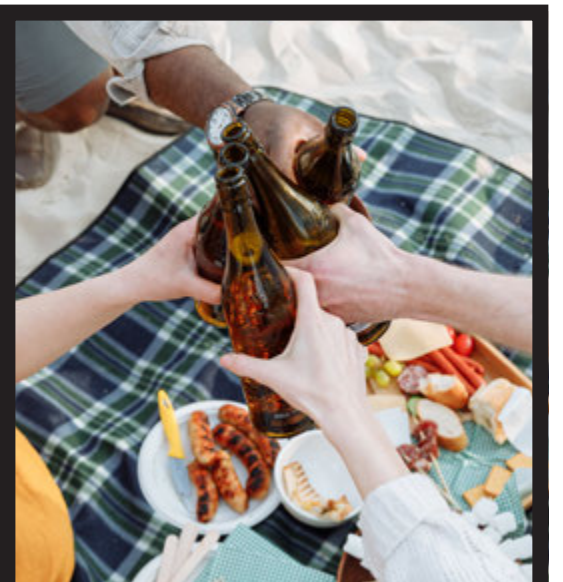
events in Western Australia's music calendar. Over its long course, it has created life lasting memories for multiple generations of audiences and earned an acclaimed reputation among national and international performers.

The festival highlights the best in new, emerging and Indigenous music over free and ticketed venues, presents the Nannup Emerging Artists and Festival Director's Awards, and offers workshops, talks, poetry, camping, kids activities, food and artisan markets where you're invited to share, immerse and discover in the "Nannup bubble". It is a special place to share a festival experience and

authentic good times with family and friends; a colourful celebration of music and community.

Nannup is part of Nyoongar Boodjar lands and is home to 14 language groups. Nannup town is situated on the lands of the Bibbulmun people and the north side of the Blackwood river (Bilyar Goorbillyup) becomes Wardandi country. The festival takes place during Bunuru – Second summer (season of the adolescence). We love, honour and cherish this place and we trust that it will be respected and nurtured far into the future.

More details:  
[nannupmusicfestival.org](http://nannupmusicfestival.org)



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