



• Around 120 people attended a protest photo shoot in response to Freo council taking this Moreton Bay fig off its significant tree register, paving the way for it to be cut down.

Council in a jam over fig decision

by STEVE GRANT

FREMANTLE council appears to have misread the room after paving the way for a 130-year-old fig tree to be cut down on High Street, facing a stinging backlash this week.

On Thursday a crowd of around 120 people, including MP Brad

Pettitt and Eskimo Joe guitarist Stu MacLeod, held up traffic outside the old Cattalini pharmacy as they noisily discussed the decision and posed for a Herald photo.

A Change.org petition started on Monday by someone listing themselves as "Green Day" had already racked up 9,329 signatures when the Herald went to print on Thursday evening.

The fig tree has also lit up the airwaves with 6PR covering the issue this week and the ABC giving the Herald a call looking for sources for a couple of programs it had in the pipeline.

Rescind

Green Day called on the council to rescind the decision.

"The proposed demolition threatens not only this individual tree but sets a dangerous precedent for future decisions regarding our natural heritage in Fremantle and beyond," they wrote.

"We must stand together as a community and demand that our government prioritise environmental concerns over short-term private financial gains."

They also called on the council to act on a previous agreement with the Cattalini family, which still owns the property but blame the tree for their inability to find a buyer, to assist with its maintenance.

Design Freo organised the photo shoot, and secretary Emma Brain told the Herald she was

• *Continued page 4*

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Fox fears



• Tom Lubin and Jenny Christenson enjoy the show put on by a couple of Alfred Cove's ospreys.

by STEVE GRANT

A FOX is suspected to have been involved in the destruction of 140 vulnerable fairy tern nests on the Point Walter spit late last month - though humans aren't out of the frame yet.

Although there is an almost constant night-time vigil over the nests and their chicks by volunteers during the breeding season, Melville Bird Sanctuary founders Jenny Christenson and Tom Lubin said something got past fences meant to protect the colony and ruined more than half overnight.

They said the loss was tragic because it had been a very promising start to the breeding season.

"At first the destruction appeared to have been caused by human and dog disturbances but was later expanded by evidence of at least one fox in the area," the wrote in the Friends of the Melville Bird Sanctuary's latest newsletter.

Baiting

"The City of Melville made arrangements for fox baiting and trapping. Additional 'No Dogs' signage was also installed including a recent illuminated sign on Honour Avenue, Bicton leading to Point Walter sandbar and reserve."

They later told the Herald on a tour of the new sanctuary that human and dog footprints on the spit showed that some people weren't honouring local efforts to protect the tiny birds that nest in the sand.

"Unfortunately, though, dogs chase off the birds, and then when people walk on the mud flats, that compresses them, so it's more difficult for the birds to

Tern nests destroyed

feed," Mr Lubin said.

In the section encompassing Alfred Cove, fishermen chasing flathead from a small beach is also disturbing important migratory species that can come to the area from as far away as Siberia.

"They're so nervous that even if you're at this distance, and they see you, they're off," Ms Christenson said from the safety of the fences around Troy Park.

Despite the setback, the sanctuary is steadily progressing, with a new bird spotting platform opened recently at the park and an election commitment from Bicton MLA Lisa O'Malley should see another opened in the next few months across Alfred Cove near the Melville Bowling Club.

Another planned for Troy Park will give people incredible views across the park to the Perth city skyline.

"All of the shoreline is part of the bird sanctuary and it goes all the way into Applecross. It's what was basically the boundary of the Swan Estuary Marine Park," Ms Christenson said.

Melville council and the state's conservation and biodiversity department also have long-term plans to revegetate the point at Troy Park that overlooks some of the most popular spots for birds and watchers.

"Unfortunately, before the vegetation happens, there's a lot of foreshore erosion that has to be fixed, so it won't be immediately," Ms Christenson said.

The Friends are also planning to hold their first official bird watching walk today (Saturday

February 24), starting from the Pt Walter spit through to the Bicton Baths jetty, which marks the other end of the sanctuary.

Ms Christenson has been running unofficial walks in Alfred Cove every six weeks or so, and Mr Lubin says they're well attended, with up to 20 people tagging along.

But she says the new walk will offer something different.

"The Blackwall Reach and Point Walter walk you can see a lot on the sandbar, and then after that you go into this little forest area of the reserve," Ms Christenson said.

Pardalotes

"You'll see Australian ringnecks, you'll see pardalotes - you hear them all the time. The lorikeets are deafening and red tailed cockatoos come over.

"So there's a bit to see, but it's the views too - that's stunning."

The pair have been tireless in pushing the bird sanctuary, which emerged from the debate over a proposed wave park that was knocked back by the state government. Mr Lubin says ironically the park helped kick along the sanctuary.

"I think the wave park ended up having a lot of people realise what they would lose, and as we started to talk about the wave park, there were lots of people who came on board right away.

"You know, we were not activists at all, the two of us; we just got hooked on this," he said.

To join today's birdwalk, meet in the Pt Walter carpark near the spit. It's about 2.6km and there's some inclines so they suggest a medium level of fitness.

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WA Wildlife puts out emergency call

by STEVE GRANT

WA WILDLIFE has launched an emergency fundraiser after unprecedented demand for animal rescues drained its reserves and left it having to consider cutbacks.

The service, formerly known as Native Arc, is tucked beside Bibra Lake and for the last two years has been operating WA's first native animal hospital to be licensed by the WA Veterinary Surgeons' Board.

Operations director Dean Huxley told the Herald it had been WA Wildlife's busiest two years ever, with urban sprawl and encroachment on bushland seeing more than 13,000 sick and injured animals admitted.

Mr Huxley said some of the demand was also driven by improving attitudes towards native wildlife and their welfare.

"I think before some people would find animals and probably consider self-euthanising, but now they know that there are other options," he said.

"I've definitely seen people's attitudes towards native animals changing."

A big drain on the reserves was treating 55 oil-covered pelicans brought in between June and September last year from around the Penguin Island and Rockingham area.

Mr Huxley said authorities were never able to identify the source of the oil spill, but it was almost certainly land-based to have lasted so long without being picked up, with the region's landfill sites considered the most likely source.

If the culprit was identified they could have been ordered to pick up some of WA Wildlife's costs, but while it did get a \$20,000 cash injection from the



• Dr Justin from WA Wildlife's native vet hospital checks up on a sleepy echidna.

International Fund for Animal Welfare and WIRES (Wildlife Rescue), the pelicans' treatment burnt a \$30,000 hole in its budget.

Mr Huxley said some of the pelicans were released with tracking devices in an effort to find the source, but all they learned was how free-ranging the species could be.

"One went up to Toodyay

two hours later, even though it had been brought in from Rockingham," he said.

"They scattered in every direction."

WA Wildlife's appeal notes that in the last year, its volunteers have put 100,000 hours towards rescuing and caring for injured animals.

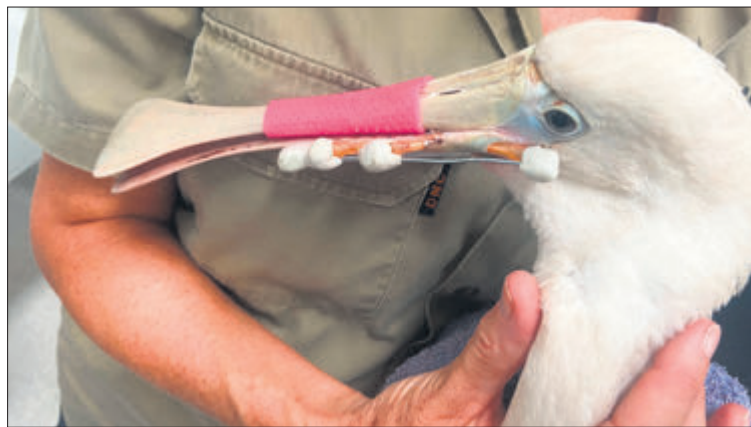
"Lack of funding also has an impact on our entire team," it said.

"Only 15 per cent of our funding comes from local government, with the major source of funding coming from the public and our sponsors.

"Our dedicated team is trying their best to provide the services needed to continue to care for sick and injured wildlife.

"Unfortunately, without your support we will need to consider whether we are able to continue with the level of services currently provided."

To support WA Wildlife, go to wa-wildlife.giveeasy.org/urgent-help-needed-to-save-more-wildlife



• A spoonbill with a busted beak gets some care and attention.

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I despair

MIGHTY Fig Tree Drops off the List (*Herald, February 15*) mentions nothing of the value of a large shady tree in central Fremantle streets: only a litany of woes about it doing its fig tree thing in an urban squeeze.

I despair.
Jane Hutchison
via fremantleherald.com

Bzzzzzzzzzz...

ON my morning amble I admire the glorious Moreton Bay Fig Tree on High Street.

Most days Pamela Cattalini, a fabulous Freophile, is working away, sweeping and clearing up the debris.

I thought it was a labour of love but having read the Herald (*"Mighty fig tree drops off the list"*, February 17, 2024) find after 60 years, Pamela wants to sell, and no-one gives a fig.

Whilst perambulating past Fremantle Tech in South Terrace very early one morning, there were electric saws, axes, mulching machines, and blokes hanging from the tremendous tree, which was almost as tall as the building, right on the edge of South Terrace.

Prendiville's are doing a brilliant restoration but the shady tree, especially on 43 degree days, must have been surplus to requirements.

So Pamela... an early morning Prendiville, before anyone notices.

Now you see it, now you don't. As Joyce Kilmer wrote, 'I think that I shall never see, a poem lovely as a tree'. Nor me!

Suzanne John
Fremantle



My bid

IN "10 Ways to Fix Rental Crisis" (*Herald, February 17, 2024*) Hayden Groves of the REIWA argues that negative gearing is the best thing since sliced bread and that The Greens are misguided to think otherwise.

However, I think negative gearing is a very contested space.

His 10 Ways to help tenants make some sense, but are so full of words like 'examine, coordinate, develop incentives' that I'm not sure they'd come to much.

I'd like to offer an alternative 10 Ways to help tenants:

1. Ban rent bidding.
2. Enact decent minimum health and safety standards for rental properties.
3. Allow tenants to have pets (even encourage them).
4. Tenants should have a legal right to make modifications, such as garden landscaping and putting up pictures.
5. Longer and more secure tenure

(eg: strong restrictions on "no-grounds evictions").

6. Restrict annual rent rises to cost of living plus 10 per cent (as in the ACT).

7. Only allow negative gearing on new homes and one per landlord (currently 80 per cent of negatively geared properties are on existing houses, so do little to increase supply and lots to drive up house prices).

8. End the 50 per cent capital gains discount, as it only encourages speculative housing investment.

9. The approximately \$22 billion annual savings from scrapping these two tax dodges should be used by the government to build 550,000 low-cost housing units in the next 10 years.

10. Remind MPs that housing policy should aim to provide a decent affordable home for everyone – rather than exaggerated wealth-creation opportunities for the already wealthy.

These are fair, sensible, evidence-based and happen in stacks of other countries – which is why The Greens have them.

Rob Delves
Beaconsfield

Council in a jam

• From page 1
overwhelmed by the response. "It shows that we are prepared to stand up for the things we value in Fremantle," Ms Brain said.

Zoe Saleeba, daughter of prominent Fremantle architect, the late Trevor Saleeba, was in the crowd and had environmental rather than heritage values in mind.

"I live in Fremantle and am on my street all the time, and am constantly aware of the rising heat," Ms Saleeba said.

"My kids are growing up in Fremantle and I want a healthy future for them, so it's important to keep as much canopy here as possible."

Ms Saleeba's three-year-old son Remy Finnie was a bit more blunt about the decision to remove the tree's protection: "I am going to tell them they are stupid," he said.

The protest brought out the entire team from South Fremantle-based landscape architects See Design Studio.

Director Joel Barker told the Herald there were many options to develop the site, which with sensitive landscape planning could see the fig remain.

The public backlash isn't the first time the council has faced criticism for weakening the tree's protection; 20 years ago it had to back down and agree to help the Cattalini look after the tree after similar protests.

Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge



• Zoe Saleeba and son Remy.

said the fig's future was an emotive issue for many in the community and not everyone would be pleased with the council's decision.

"On balance, Council's decision responded to the concerns of the landowners," she said.

"The decision was made after due consideration of the officer's report and submissions received."

"The future of the tree is now in the hands of the property owner, who has cared for and maintained the tree for the past 60 years."

Ms Fitzhardinge noted that another tree in Douglas Street was added to the register at the request of the owner.

"To be listed on the City's significant tree register, property owners must self-nominate a tree for inclusion," the mayor said.

"The City does not have a policy that allows it to list trees on private property where the landowner does not give consent."

Business name renewal scam



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

If you run a business you probably have a registered business name. Business name registration in Australia is regulated and administered by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). The process to register a business name via the ASIC website is relatively simple and cheap. It will take around five minutes of your time and will set you back \$42 for a 12-month registration or \$98 for 3 years. Ongoing renewal fees are the same amounts.

If you google business name registration, the first (sponsored) batch of search results are for external parties offering to register your business name for you. They all include the acronym "ASIC" in the SEO title or meta description and may have potentially misleading URLs like businessnameregistry.org.

None of these links will take you to ASIC, and each will result in you paying around \$200 instead of \$42. These providers are offering a service, albeit with a spot of subterfuge, and if you really need assistance then by all means engage them. But maybe consider having a go at it yourself first.

ASIC will send you a reminder 30 days

before your registration is due for its annual or tri-annual renewal. The process to renew is as simple as paying the invoice that ASIC sends to you. Nothing else.

But before that happens, you'll likely receive a number of items by mail and email that look extraordinarily official and have an uncanny ASIC renewal resemblance, but with an inflated fee.

My daughter runs a small business and her renewal is due on 23 May. She's already received three notices from different providers proposing that her business name renewal is imminent. The latest suggests (incorrectly) that renewal is due on 23 April and displays an inflated cost of \$99. It then cheekily offers a \$20 discount for early payment.

These unscrupulous companies are offering to pay your \$42 invoice for a fee of \$99. Not illegal, but immoral. Add to this the trickery of having their offer look much like an official renewal notice, and it's the sort of swindle that makes my blood boil.

“These unscrupulous companies are offering to pay your \$42 invoice for a fee of \$99

Even worse are emails from scammers who use look-alike domains and formats to mimic an ASIC renewal notice. These are even more sinister in that they may include infected links or ask for your personal details including ASIC username and passwords. These are of course full-on scams.

The only renewal you should pay will come direct from ASIC. It will not arrive more than 30 days before renewal, it won't ask you to pay over the phone and it won't be for more than the ASIC published amount (currently \$42 or \$98). Please be aware.

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A hard lesson

by STEVE GRANT

RESIDENTS living near John Curtin College of the Arts are back up in arms after a handful of mature trees they've fought for years to preserve were chopped down without notice.

The WA education department has acknowledged that three of the trees were classed as "significant", two paperbarks and one coral tree, though the rest of the stumps appear to be pines.

Alan Ross is one of the "Friends of Bushy Hill" who have managed to hold off John Curtin's expansions in the past and says it looked like its "building boom is on the march again".

"Probably there is nothing I can do about it any more, but it's saddening, and open space is going to be lost for ever."

Local Suze Leitão also contacted the Herald saying local residents hadn't been informed about the works, and she was unhappy about the impact the loss of trees would have on birdlife.

The education department says the trees had to go to make way for a new music building that was a Labor promise from the 2021 state election.

It would provide learning areas for orchestra, bands and other ensembles, practice studios, a STEM makerspace and design laboratory, and staff studies. There will also be water tanks and pumps to boost the college's fire protection.

A spokesperson from the department said in a statement to the Herald that an arborist's assessment of the trees found that one was affected by the polyphagous shot-hole borer and two others had a suspected infestation and were removed on the advice of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.



• Locals were unhappy to see mature trees cut down on "Bushy Hill" at John Curtin College of the Arts this week, after fighting for years to keep the area leafy. They say they weren't given any warning.

They said the college wrote to "its community" in February.

"The location of the new building was considered within the context of the overall site," they said of siting the building on the leafy hill.

"Proximity to learning areas, provision of open space, and heritage were assessed in conjunction with the existing site vegetation.

"The configuration of the new building allows for the retention of as many trees as possible within the area with a central

courtyard wrapping around a stand of melaleuca lanceolata (paperbark) trees and several significant native trees to be retained to its immediate south."

The department says 36 trees were tagged to ensure they were in a protected zone during construction, while 22 trees, and more than 1000 tubestock and shrubs would be planted as part of the project - a way to show that it was cognisant of the benefits of trees and schools and the message it would send to students about responding to climate change.

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Paul Gamblin has advocated for the WA coast, including Leighton-Port and Ningaloo, since the late 1990s and has campaigned on ocean and coastal issues nationally and internationally.

A community meeting on this issue will be held at 6pm on Wednesday, 6 March at the Fremantle Surf Lifesaving Club. More information can be found at saveleighton.org

TWENTY FIVE years ago this month, a group of people - mostly strangers to each other then - gathered on the edge of Stirling Highway near the footbridge to Leighton Beach to challenge a proposal that would have seen private beachside properties occupy swathes of precious public foreshore.

It was the first action that sparked a community campaign - simply called 'Save Leighton' - that became bigger and lasted longer than anyone there could've imagined.

Much of the core of that volunteer group is still active to this day, and that's because while we've made good progress, the job's not finished.

We managed to stop the overdevelopment of the Leighton coast by campaigning intensively across the Court and Gallop governments, and succeeded in substantially increasing the extent of the foreshore reserve, helping consolidate Leighton's place as one of the best and most accessible beaches along the metro coast, with more space for natural vegetation and dunes, and with



• The 'Leighton Wave' when thousands turned out to protect the beach from developers. Photo by Michael Wearne

enhanced recreation areas, like the ever popular one around the Orange Box café.

It was a tough fight at times, culminating in a massive 'Leighton Wave' rally which saw 8000 people gather at the beach more than two decades ago to show government just how much we love our beaches and want our kids to enjoy them too.

Storm clouds

Unfortunately, the storm clouds are gathering again, and the future of Port Beach and south Leighton is at stake.

The WA Government is considering a concerted push by

developers to rezone the land behind Port Beach from industrial to urban.

Rather than simply listening to these self-interested voices, we need our government to act instead on our collective behalf now, and even more so for future generations.

If it doesn't, the community will have increasing difficulty accessing the coast, and the beach itself will likely need much greater engineering, because in time, the foreshore won't be wide enough for dunes to rebuild and resist erosion.

Climate change-driven erosion, alone, means we should not be shackled to these old development

boundaries.

If you think this is far-fetched, have a look at all three scenarios for Port and south Leighton recently published by the Future of Fremantle process.

While much of that process has merit and good intent, in my view, it feels particularly under baked and rushed for the Port Beach section.

Each scenario shows a version of heavily engineered responses to erosion, such as groynes, which should be avoided wherever possible.

The better alternative is to give the beach and foreshore a much wider foreshore reserve.

It's cheaper, retains the natural

qualities and aesthetics of the coast, and is consistent with WA's coastal planning policy.

In a nutshell, we need a much wider foreshore reserve for two reasons:

1: So that people can access the beach and foreshore now and in the future. Already, the area around Leighton and Port is acutely overcrowded, with families from the wider catchment - around 100 suburbs - unable to find parking (noting that public transport to the beach isn't readily accessible in many areas, particularly for young families and the elderly). We clearly will need much more (flexible) public open space in the years ahead for access and recreation, and to restore coastal vegetation with shade trees.

Restore

2: To restore the damaged and narrow dunes at Port Beach so that we maximise the role that natural processes play in responding to erosion. This approach has enormous benefits, including significantly reducing the need for heavy engineering responses like groynes and seawalls, and retaining the amenity of the beach and foreshore for decades without the most intrusive engineered 'solutions'.

To be clear, we have never been opposed to appropriate development along the coast, and have supported, in principle, the apartment and commercial development at Leighton now, as a pragmatic compromise, with a reasonable setback for the time.

Likewise, we believe the current alignment of Bracks Street, which splits the industrial land behind Port Beach roughly in half

• Continued page 8,

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Curtain-raser for hall

THE Melville Theatre Company finally has its forever home after Melville council reopened the refurbished Main Hall at the city's civic centre in Booragoon earlier this month.

The amateur thespians have been without a home since their former theatre on Stock Road was repurposed for an aged care facility by the council in 2020.

MTC president Michelle Sharp, who recently took over the role after 14 years volunteering for the company on and off the stage, said the newly refurbished venue had sparked a lot of creativity amongst the club and its committee.

Season

"We are so grateful for the City of Melville for supporting the local arts community and for ensuring the space is suitable for our upcoming 2024 season," Ms Sharp said.

"We can't wait to welcome audiences from far and wide to our beautiful new venue."

The MTC has been putting on shows for 40 years, and is one of the city's most prolific with four or five shows each year.

It's shift to the hall wasn't universally loved back in 2020, with ballroom dancing guru Stan Morgillo unhappy that his classes were pushed out, but the Herald spotted that his beginners courses had popped up in the Melville Recreation Centre earlier this month, with a new term starting at the end of April.

The hall upgrade will see the space shared with other arts and



• Melville Theatre Company is gearing up for its first show, Summer of Shorts, in its new home in the City of Melville Main Hall.

Photo by Cole Baxter

community groups, as well as citizenship ceremonies, cultural and formal events held by the City.

As well as a new ceiling and upgraded bathroom and kitchen, the hall now boasts retractable seating, lighting, curtains and an audio-visual system.

Melville mayor Katy Mair attended the opening ceremony featuring performances by DJ Yira and the Tender Strings quartet, and said it was fantastic to see

the building to get a new lease of life 56 years after it first opened.

"I can't wait to see the joy the City of Melville Main Hall will bring to the community, and the arts and events it will host."

Melville Theatre Company's first production in its new home is Summer of Short, a series of three one-act plays written and performed by local actors and running from March 8 -17. Tix available from www.taztix.com.au/event/melville

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The Herald, Saturday February 24, 2024 - Page 7

THE decision by Fremantle council to remove the beautiful century-old Moreton Bay fig tree at 195 High Street from the Register of Significant Trees is scandalous.

By taking it off the register, Fremantle council is de facto supporting the historic tree being cut down, demolished and removed.

That is in my opinion a disgraceful act of heritage vandalism, and is not supported by council's own policy on trees, which states: "Decisions on retention should be objectively, not



community."

According to Fremantle historian Garry Gillard the tree was planted in the late 1880s by Philip Webster, who lived in the

emotionally, based, and must consider the significance of the tree, in terms of cultural, historical, environmental, aesthetic and botanical factors and the role of the tree in the

cottage behind the tree.

The tree is also next to where the Cattalini pharmacy used to be.

John Cattalini was one of our city's mayors, so that adds another historic dimension to the tree's significance.

The owners of the property claim financial hardship.

The owners allege that the tree impacts on their ability to sell the site.

Any good architect and developer could easily make the wonderful Moreton Bay tree a real feature of future development, so the urge to remove it is based on convenience.

Only councillors Doug Thompson and Ben Lawver voted against removing the tree from the register, with deputy mayor Jenny Archibald saying that the owners had had no say when the tree was put on the Significant Tree Register.

Permission

If it required permission of owners to put properties on the heritage list or tree register, not a single one would be registered.

Being listed as a significant site comes with responsibility, and is an inconvenience for the owners.

That is why those important decisions should be made by our governments.

Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge posted on social media that if landowners would lose the power to remove trees, they might no longer plant any.

That is a silly argument.

It is akin to saying that people might not build outstanding homes, because of the risk they could be heritage listed in a the future.

We build and plant for our needs, not for what might happen generations away.

I have received many comments about council's decision, with some people saying that it has emotionally affected them to hear



that the tree will disappear.

Indeed, what are our values as a community when we no longer have respect for our history and heritage, and can't be bothered to protect it?

What is the precedent our council sets here?

Will Fremantle council now also support the demolition of heritage buildings, when they are in the way of future development, quickly delisting them, as they did with this tree?

Is it not bad enough that we already have JDAP, the WA Planning Commission and the State Administrative Tribunal riding roughshod over local

governments, and allowing inappropriate new development in historic settings?

Does Fremantle council really believe making space for a relatively small development is a good enough reason to demolish a significant historic tree, that has been there for some 130 years?

It is absolutely mind-blowing!

We can't take our built and natural heritage for granted, or treat it as a nuisance that is in the way of progress.

We need to cherish and nurture our history.

Council should revisit this decision and reverse it.

Roel Loopers/Freoview

Turning the tide

• From page 6

would be the appropriate eastern boundary for the public foreshore reserve (developers have a much narrower reserve in mind).

Our approach would provide a generous area for well-designed residential and commercial development to the east of Bracks Street.

We've learned a lot from a quarter century of advocating and campaigning for this special area.

We have learned that the public good, and even adherence to policy, doesn't always come automatically and that we have to be vigilant, engaged and ready to act.

At our community stalls, people tell us again and again that one of the many reasons they cherish Leighton and Port beaches is because they're beautiful and unblemished by groynes and seawalls.

We have been reminded that our enviable coastal lifestyle is worth fighting for, and that for so many of us, the physical and mental wellbeing benefits of this coast are of inestimable and

growing value.

Furthermore, that the spirit of egalitarianism that means anyone, irrespective of wealth or privilege, should be equally able to enjoy the beach - which is not a value held universally of course - is something we need to actively defend.

People from across the community care deeply about their coast and will rally to the cause.

They know that the health and public access to our beaches and foreshore areas cannot be taken for granted.

It seems that every few years we have to stand up for our beaches, and that moment has arrived again for the Port-Leighton coast.

The government is poised to decide the future of Port Beach, with major implications for Leighton too, and we need to demonstrate again what governing for the public good, rather than narrow private interest, really means.

At stake are our beaches and some of our most sacrosanct values.

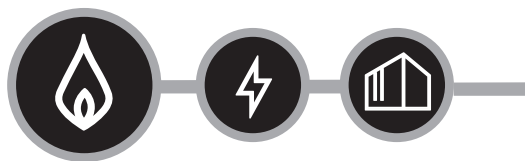
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Natural gas pipes in the Fremantle areas are nearing the end of their life. As part of our proactive Replacement Program, ATCO will be upgrading the natural gas distribution network in this area. This work will ensure the continued security and reliability of these services for decades to come. For more information on the areas affected and the dates of these works, please visit our website or scan the QR code.

- There is no charge for this service and there is no requirement for you to be present when the work is undertaken.
- For safety purposes, your gas supply may need to be temporarily turned off for short periods between the hours of 8am-4pm while network upgrades are in progress.
- Traffic management will be in place in order for this work to be completed safely. There will be temporary lane and road closures around this area during these works, local detours will be in place. Please observe signage on site.
- Every effort will be made to minimise disruption and to permanently reinstate affected areas to their previous condition as soon as possible, within 15 working days of completion of works.
- We appreciate the community's understanding while these essential works are undertaken and apologise for any inconvenience.
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Have Your Say!

East Fremantle Community Park - Liquor Licence Proposal



The Town of East Fremantle is pleased to announce the appointment of Belgravia Health and Leisure Group as the operator of the new East Fremantle Community Park due to open in Autumn 2024.

The East Fremantle Community Park will be a multifaceted sporting, entertainment and recreation destination providing a community space to gather, recreate and celebrate. As part of its proposed offering, Belgravia Health and Leisure is seeking approval to make liquor available for purchase at:

- sporting events, including Western Australian Football League games;
- the East Fremantle Bowls Club and East Fremantle Croquet Club;
- private and corporate functions in its dedicated function spaces which will be available for hire;
- a new café/bar/restaurant style hospitality offering; and
- community events.

Your feedback in relation to the proposed liquor licence offering is required to ensure the operation of the East Fremantle Community Park addresses the needs of its community.

Visit www.eastfremantle.wa.gov.au or use the QR Code to 'Have Your Say' by **Wednesday, 6 February**.



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• The cast of Black Swan's *The Pool* - worth a pool car drive out to City Beach where you can join them at the Bold Park Aquatic Centre.

Black Swan making a splash

by BARRY HEALY

BLACK Swan State Theatre Company seems to always come up with surprises and their new production, *The Pool* is no exception.

The publicity promises “theatre that makes a splash” and they deliver.

For a start it is staged not in a normal theatre but at Bold Park Aquatic Centre in City Beach. For another, the audience is issued with individual headsets so they can follow the dialogue as actors

use the full space of an Olympic-sized pool as their stage.

That Australian swimming pools are egalitarian is the guiding philosophy and the script was formed by Steve Rodgers by interviewing people at suburban pools. So, if you have ever idly wondered about the people you

see at your local pool, what they are talking about, what problems they have, their fears and dreams this is for you.

The soothing quality of water and hypnotic rhythm of swimmers gliding back and forth doing laps is calming and so familiar. Slowly, the audience is entranced

by characters’ interactions at different spots around the venue. The experience is partly cinematic, like a camera’s point of view as your head swivels to catch the action, partly theatrical and partly dreamlike.

The sound direction, by Tim Collins is more than up to the challenge, allowing the audience to eavesdrop on intimate conversations and even hear the inner ruminations of characters. The technical achievement is as spectacular as it is unobtrusive. You simply forget that these actors are miked up as they talk and swim.

The story is episodic rather than linear. Snatches of conversation convey slices of information that slowly meld into an individual’s narrative. Some are amusing, others touching and some are profoundly affecting.

A highlight is an adult’s breakthrough in learning to trust a swimming teacher after decades of bruising emotional trauma. The sequence, beautifully choreographed by Kate Champion and superbly performed by Joel Jackson and Emma Jackson is quiet, enthralling and deeply moving.

There is a group of silent swimmers who form a chorus, accompanying characters, sometimes acting out their reminiscences and at other times artistically representing the story.

If you have the courage, you can join in the show. Audience members who register in advance can jump in the water for the final sequence as an aqua aerobics class.

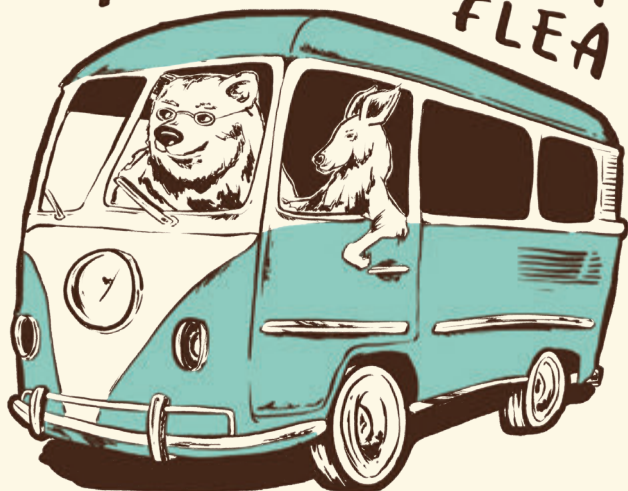
All-in-all, *The Pool* is well worth the trip to City Beach. It’s playing at Bold Park Aquatic Centre until February 25.

A VINTAGE AND MAKERS MARKET, ON THE MOVE

March 3rd, 2024 Naval Store, Fremantle 10AM - 5PM



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Fremantle’s Premier Vintage and Makers Market!

Step into a world of nostalgia and creativity at The Traveling Flea, a one-of-a-kind market nestled in the historic Naval Store in Fremantle. Join us on March 3, 2024, from 10am to 5pm, as we bring together a vibrant community of sellers, makers, and enthusiasts for a day filled with vintage charm, handmade wonders, and eclectic finds.

Dive into a treasure trove of vintage, pre-loved, and repurposed goods that tell stories of bygone eras. Admire the craftsmanship of handmade items, revel in the beauty of art, and discover antiques, homewares, crafts, apothecaries, collectables, and so much more. The Traveling Flea promises an eclectic mix that caters to every taste and style.

The Traveling Flea welcomes sellers and makers from all walks of life, whether you’re a seasoned business owner or someone looking to share gems from your personal collection. Embrace the opportunity to showcase your passion and find like-minded individuals who appreciate the beauty of unique, handcrafted, and vintage treasures.

As you peruse the stalls, enjoy the enchanting tunes of live music that fill the air. Indulge your taste buds in a culinary journey with a delectable array of food

options, making The Traveling Flea not just a market but a delightful experience for the senses.

Do you have a collection of items that deserve the spotlight? Whether it’s vintage fashion, handmade crafts, or antique curiosities, become a vendor at The Traveling Flea! Visit our website at thetravelingflea.com to apply and join our community of diverse sellers.

Save the date for a day of exploration, community, and hidden treasures at The Traveling Flea. Join us at the Naval Store in Fremantle on March 3, 2024 – where the past meets the present, and creativity knows no bounds!



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Stick with it

 food
STEPHEN POLLOCK

I THOUGHT the deep-fried mars bar was an artery-clogging delicacy unique to chip shops in Scotland.

But I recently discovered that Krunchy – a Korean street food joint in Myaree – was doing a mars bar corn dog, which they billed as “Deep Fried Sweet Goodness.”

Situated in Hulme Court car park, Krunchy is part of a group of wallet-friendly Asian eateries.

I’ve visited the precinct a few times and it’s been hit and miss –

I’ve had some cracking meals and others were like something out of a low-budget horror movie.

Krunchy is one of the newer outlets with bright, bold signage (featuring cute, podgy cats) and lots of colourful photos and decor.

It has a friendly, lively vibe and the quirky feel-good look of a Pokemon show.

The menu had a range of “Krunchy” – battered sausage on a stick – with fillings and toppings including potato, ramen and cheese. There was even a version with a cornflake batter.

I could feel my heart wince as I looked the photo, but some of the other items on Krunchy’s menu piqued my interest.

There were rice meals like

gimbap, chicken katsu, bibimbap, bulgogi beef and kimchi fried rice.

And a small range of sides including so-tteok so-tteok – a skewered grilled sausage with rice cakes.

But the tteokbokki – simmered rice cakes with minced pork, fish or sausage – really caught my eye.

I went for the Pesto Tteokbokki (\$20.20). Occupying the no-man’s land between a pasta dish and Thai green curry, it was a moreish hit.

The bacon, prawns, creamy pesto and mozzarella all combined in a delicious whole and it was very addictive.

A little swirl of cream added to the decadence.

It’s probably not a dish you would eat too often if you want to use your super one day, but it was a tasty treat.

Soaking up the thick pesto sauce were the rick cakes, which were shaped like penne and had a firm texture.

It was a good serve for the price. Overall, a great comfort dish brimming with flavour (would be perfect in winter).

I got my young kids a Krunchy half/half Set (\$29.70 for an original, potato and ramen krunchy).

Each krunchy came with two sauces of your choice including BBQ, mustard, mayo, seasoning powder and sugar.

The pick of the bunch was the potato, which had a half cheese and half sausage filling and was coated with batter, potato pieces and panko breadcrumbs.

Like a funfair snack on steroids, one of my kids loved the krunchy, while the other dissected it to get to the pork sausage.

It was certainly made with decent produce with a good quality snag, stringy mozzarella and a batter that wasn’t heavy or greasy. I had a few sneaky tastes and while it wasn’t really my thing, it was good quality.

My wife “Special K” rounded off the meal with a superior Bulgogi beef with rice (\$15.60).

It had some lovely wild rice, but the star of the dish was the stir-fried beef, which was delicious and had a lovely sweet-salty tang.

I was impressed by Krunchy – it was well priced with big serves and the food was packed with flavour.

I might return one day with a defibrillator and try the mars bar corn dog...

Krunchy
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krunchy-perth.square.site

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Easy living

THERE'S an easy going charm to this South Fremantle home.

In fact, it's so laid-back it would probably trip over its own shadow.

It feels like it has positive feng shui and had loving owners who made some great memories.

Aside from the welcoming vibe, it's got that classic limestone South Freo look and plenty of style to boot.

The hub of this three bedroom two bathroom house is the open plan living/dining/kitchen area, which is incredibly bright, airy and spacious.

There's lovely views of the lush back garden through the windows and French doors.

In the corner is a large kitchen with Bosch dishwasher, pantry, plenty of benchspace and tons of cupboards and drawers.

Off to the side is a dining area – a cute semi-nook with great vistas of the leafy garden.

The rear courtyard is classic South Freo with plants, shrubs and trees creating a shady oasis to escape the harsh WA sun and relax with a G&T or your favourite book.

There's an ensuite bedroom on



the ground floor with a built-in robe. It's perfect for a teenager who wants a bit more space or for family and guests who come to stay.

The other two bedrooms are upstairs, including the ensuite main, which is bright, spacious and has built-in robes.

It's a relaxing bedroom with lovely views of the treetops in the street outside.

The home includes solid timber flooring on the ground level, split system air con throughout, European-style hidden laundry, storeroom, garden shed and

double remote garage with shoppers' entrance.

Situated on a survey strata lot with no fees on Scott Street, it's a short stroll to South Beach and all the cafes, restaurants and bars on South Terrace.

It's a fantastic spot where you can really live the South Freo lifestyle to the max.

This home would be a good buy for downsizers, a young family or FIFO workers who don't want to live in an apartment.

Home open today (Saturday February 24) 11am
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Chanel Majeks 0403 246 377
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Eagle's nest

If you're into golf, this apartment will feel like a hole in one.

It's literally opposite the Maylands Golf Course with spectacular views of the greens.

If you pulled off a wonder shot like Kevin Costner in *Tin Cup*, you could probably chip in from the balcony.

You also have superb vistas of the Swan River and the Optus Stadium, which looks spectacular when lit up at night.

Friends and family will be queuing up to come round and enjoy a sundowner drink on the balcony.

Location – tick. Balcony – tick. But what's the rest of the apartment like?

It's bright, modern and airy with the timber floors adding a touch of class.

The renovated kitchen is a cracker with lovely benchtops,

modern appliances including a dish washer, and plenty of cupboards and drawers.

The open plan living/dining/kitchen area is spacious with plenty of room for a decent dining table and a lounge setting.

The unit is well designed and off to the side is another room used as a study/home office.

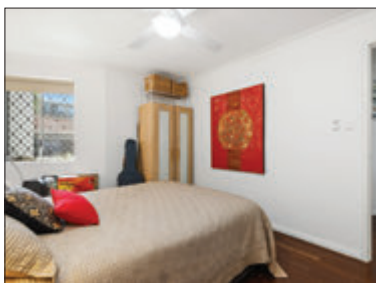
It's got great views of the river and would be a top spot to work from home.

Both bedrooms are neat and tidy, and the contemporary bathroom has a large shower cabinet and stylish vanity.

There's even space for a laundry with a washing machine and tumble dryer.

Back to the balcony – it's big with plenty of space for a lounge setting and visitors.

The flat is in the Peninsula Glades complex, which has a lovely resort feel with lots of



palms, manicured gardens and white holiday-style villas.



Home open today (Saturday February 24) 12pm-12:30pm and tomorrow 10am-10:30am
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Renovating your property is a great way to potentially drive up its value. If it's an investment property, you may also secure a better rental return.

However, before you dive in, it's important to weigh up the costs versus the benefit of renovating.

Here are a few pointers to help you decide whether renovating is the right choice for you.

Work out your goals

Before renovating, think about your long-term goals.

- If it's your home, do you want to stay put in the neighbourhood or are you likely to want a change of scenery in the next few years?
- How does the prospect of selling and moving on compare to renovating and staying put?
- If it's an investment property, is the financial outlay of a renovation likely to pay off (tip: talk to your financial advisor about your investment strategy).

Create a budget

How much is it going to cost to turn your daggy yet loveable 1960s fixer-upper into a modern masterpiece? Plan your renovations and put together some costings.

The general *rule of thumb* is to spend no more than 10 per cent of your property's value on renovations.

To help give you an idea, here's how much you can expect to pay to renovate areas of your property that commonly add value for resale.

Kitchen

If your kitchen benchtop is an antiquated electric blue and your appliances sound like they are going to take off when you turn them on, it might be worth looking into a kitchen upgrade.

It'll cost you, but it may be worth it if your goal is to sell your property eventually.

According to those in the *know* at Hipages, expect to pay the following for your kitchen reno:

- \$10,000 to \$22,000 for a small or budget kitchen
- \$22,000 to \$35,000 for a mid-range kitchen
- \$35,000+ for a high-end kitchen.

Bathroom

A flash new bathroom could be a real drawcard for future buyers or renters.

Depending on factors like the size of your bathroom and the materials you choose, you may be looking to *pay* anywhere from \$10,000 to \$30,000+ for a bathroom renovation.

The *Housing Industry Association* found the average bathroom renovation cost \$17,000 in Australia.



Tony Young

Repainting

A new coat of paint can do wonders for an ageing property.

The cost depends on the size of the property, whether you are doing the painting yourself or getting someone else in and which areas you paint (inside and outside).

According to Hipages, the *average cost to paint* the interior of a property (single undercoat and two finishing coats) is about \$20 to \$30 per square metre.

As a starting point, for a two-bedroom unit, that might work out to \$2,500 to \$3,500.

For an exterior paint job on a two-storey property, you may be looking at \$5,500 to \$20,000. For a roof refresh, expect to pay anywhere from \$2,800 to \$4,500.

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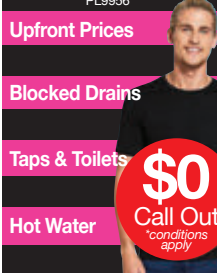


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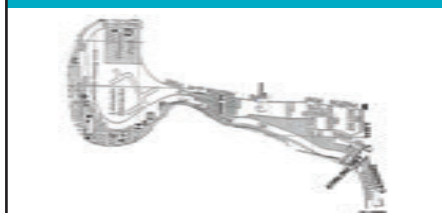
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Heart-to-heart

IF YOU'VE put on a few pounds over the festive period, there's no better time to start getting fit than RedFeb – Heart Awareness Month.

"Heart disease affects two in three Australians and still remains our leading cause of death," says Heart Research Australia CEO Nicci Dent.

"The financial implications of heart disease are not just limited to medical costs.

"Recovery from heart attacks often leads to lost wages, reduced work capacity, and hindered career advancement, due to the physical and mental effects of the condition.

"Furthermore, higher health insurance premiums and the rapid depletion of retirement savings pose long-term financial challenges."

Due to the cost of living crisis, it's worrying but not surprising that many Aussies have cut back on their health insurance.

In June 2023 the national average spend on health insurance was down 10 percent from the previous year.

But there are other low-cost ways to reduce your risk of heart disease.

You don't need an expensive gym membership and can simply go for walks, invest in a cheap exercise bike, or do push-ups and sit-ups in the house.

Australian parenting author Maggie Dent avoided a serious heart episode by buying a smartwatch.

"My smartwatch alerted me to a high heart rate, leading to a diagnosis of atrial flutter, despite having no symptoms," Dent says.

"My journey emphasises the importance of swift action, prioritising heart health, and routine check-ups.

"In financially challenging times, a heart-healthy lifestyle doesn't have to be expensive.

"Embrace simple joys like family walks and connecting with friends to reduce stress. It benefits



• Parenting author Maggie Dent was made aware of a high heart rate by her smartwatch.

Top tips for keeping your heart healthy:

- **Eating Heart-Healthy Foods:** A heart-healthy diet doesn't have to be costly. Focus on affordable staples such as beans, lentils, whole grains and vegetables.
- **Staying Active:** Four in five Australians don't do enough exercise, yet physical activity is

essential for heart health.

- **Managing Stress:** Chronic stress can take a toll on your heart. Finding cost-effective ways to manage stress is vital.
- **Regular Health Check-ups:** Preventive care is key to maintaining heart health. Regular check-ups can help detect issues early and save you money in the long run.

your whole family's health and wallet."

If you're unsure about how to start looking after yourself better, then check out Heart Research Australia's free online Heart Hub, which has a wealth of expert advice.

"Eight out of ten instances of premature heart disease and stroke can be prevented through healthy lifestyle choices," says nutritionist Chloe Steele.

"The foundation of this prevention lies in health literacy, as knowledge is the key to a healthier heart."

Heart Research Australia is asking Australians to wear red this February and donate to vital research to combat heart disease.

"Cardiovascular disease affects more than four million Australians and is responsible for one in four deaths," Dent says. "Research is undeniably a life-

saving endeavour.

"That's why Heart Research Australia tirelessly supports world-class and emerging researchers in their pursuit of ground-breaking studies for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease."

For more info and to donate go to heartresearch.com.au. Check out all the advice on Heart Hub at heartresearch.com.au/heart-hub/

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Who's to Blame?

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



Want more property info? Email me
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Housing affordability is one of the most significant challenges of the modern era. Both house prices and rents are at record highs in Perth and across much of the nation with Perth's median house and rent prices at around \$600,000 and \$600 per week respectively and growing faster than any other major Australian capital.

We understand that the reason for these rises is down to simple economics, higher demand and short supply means prices and rents rise. Governments have done a spectacular job at shifting blame away from their own housing policy failures to investors, banks, real estate agents, local councils and developers. Yet, each of these sectors play a pivotal role in delivering the existing housing stock. Governments, on the other hand, through their taxation and other policies actively undermine housing supply.

who is to blame for the housing crisis?

Property investors, mostly families that own a single investment property, provide 90 percent of all residential rental homes across Australia, housing millions of tenants. They obtain a moderate benefit by claiming some of the expenses stemming from that investment against their taxable income via negative gearing. However, once positively geared, investors pay tax on the property's income and pay Capital Gains Tax if they make a profit upon selling.

Banks, whilst not the most popular corporate citizens, provide the funding for property through mortgages. Banks also provide the funding for developers. Us real estate agents provide the services that help investors navigate residential tenancy laws, help people into home ownership and enable property transactions. Local councils often stymie property developments, especially increased density but they also adapt their planning laws over time, enhancing our urban environments.



Developers provide housing on mass, adding density to areas where people aspire to live, work and recreate. Part of the reason property values are rising is the cost of construction, both labour and materials, has risen by around 40 percent in 3 years with end property values for finished product not at levels sufficient to support the viability of the project. Developers work to a margin and if the project fails the feasibility test, it doesn't get built.

That's why new emerging density areas such as those around the new Metronet hubs will take several years to be developed; the cost of delivering the project is higher than the combined value of the housing produced. These cost constraints are not limited to construction costs. Land tax, holding costs, public art levies, developer levies, rates, headworks fees and stamp duty are additional cost burdens representing around 25 percent of the total development costs.

This is where government ought to step in. If they were serious about housing supply, government would support the groups that provide the housing. Instead, state and federal governments either fail to provide the housing themselves (public housing waiting lists are at record highs) or set policies (stamp duty, tenancy law changes and land tax for example) that actively discourage additional housing supply.

If it isn't government, who is to blame for the housing crisis?

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