

MELVILLE CITY HERALD



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• Intrepid locals set an ice bath world record at Leighton Beach in North Fremantle, and it was all for a good cause. Photo by Roel Loopers/Freoview

Cool new record

by STEPHEN POLLOCK

'DEANO' from Bondi Rescue, WA news presenters, the Fremantle mayor and sailor David Dicks were just some of the folk who set an ice bath world record at Leighton Beach last Saturday.

Out of 553 participants, 509 people managed to set an inaugural world record by submerging up to their

necks in 6 degrees C ice baths for three minutes. Organisers smashed the record attempt with an initial target of 250.

The youngest record breaker was nine years old, and participants included David Dicks, who in 1996 was the youngest person to single-handedly sail non-stop around the world aged 17.

Afterwards, the team from Cold Nips organised a huge ocean dash.

• *continued page 3*



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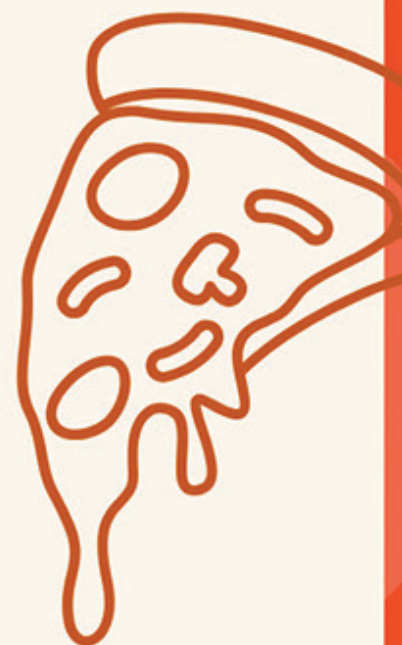
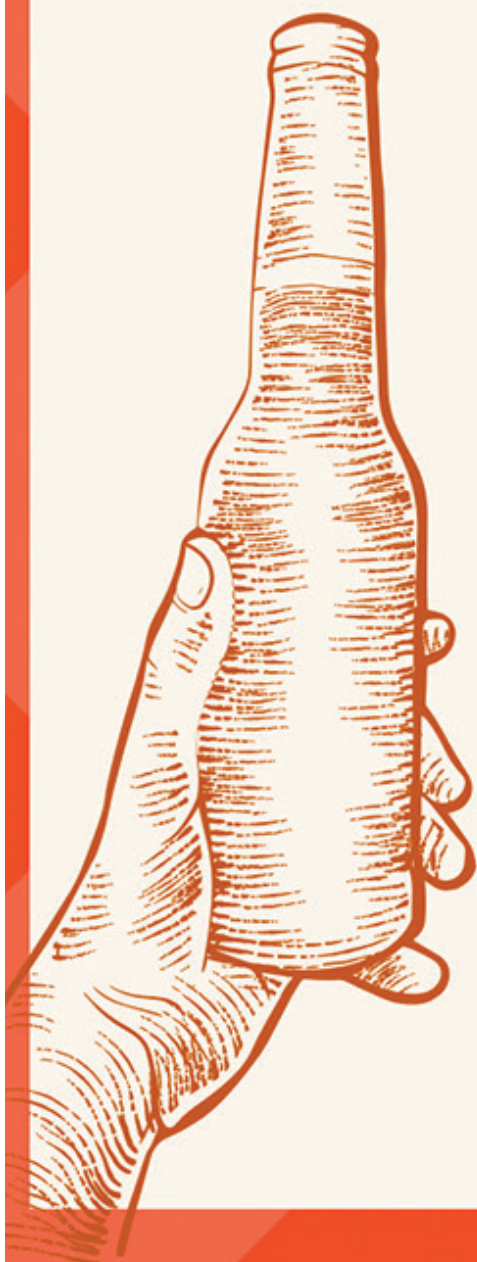
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- ✔ Doubling the KidSport voucher program so that families can receive up to \$300 in assistance per child
- ✔ Contributing funding towards the construction of new shared futsal/netball courts at Spearwood Dalmatinac Club



David Scaife MLA
MEMBER FOR COCKBURN

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

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



• Folk prepare to take the icy plunge (top) Photo by Roel Loopers/Freoview Fremantle mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge and another brave soul feel the cold (middle). People hold hands to remember those struggling with depression (bottom). Photos by Alina Racu Photography

• from page 1
“We think this could have been a record in its own right for a beach dash – we estimate 1000 people all ran into the ocean. It was an amazing sight!” says event organiser Mark Hughes.

Aside from being lots of fun, the event had a serious side, raising funds for Beyond Blue, a not-for-profit that supports Australians with their mental health.

An opening speech touched on anxiety and depression, before the song *Simple Question* by The Dreggs was played. One of the band members had lost his brother to suicide.

“The words to the song are incredibly powerful and poignant,” Mr Hughes says.

“We had approximately 1200 people all holding hands on the grassed area in front of the Orange Box café as we asked them to remember anyone they knew who was struggling with depression, or simply to take time to acknowledge those that are, while we played the song. Barely a dry eye in sight!”



Mr Hughes is still waiting for money to come in from sponsors, but he’s already raised around \$30,000 minus costs.

Organising the attempt was a major logistical feat, requiring about 2.9 tonnes of ice and 43 3m pools pumped full of ocean water. He says Dean ‘Deano’ Gladstone from Bondi Rescue flew in from Sydney with his wife Katie and held a

breathwork and yoga session, as well as taking part in the ice bath world record.

A White Gum Valley resident, Mr Hughes 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. For more info see onelifeliveit.com.au.

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• Fremantle's Citizens of the Year (L-R): Christian Mauri, Roel Loopers, Roma Sharp and Christine Duckham from Friends of Clontarf Hill, Sarah Booth, Kate Raston with Fremantle mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge.



• Jefferson Mattos de Paulo, originally from Brazil, with his family at the Fremantle Citizenship Ceremony. Photo by Roel Loopers/Freoview

It's a tie!

THE Fremantle Citizen of the Year award has been shared after the selection committee was unable to split two nominees.

Christian Mauri, who runs 'Politics in the Pub' and the Fremantle Chess Club, and Sarah Booth, a passionate advocate for the creative use of underused spaces in Fremantle, were presented with the gong by Fremantle mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge at an awards ceremony at Walyalup Civic Centre on Tuesday night. As well as convening community discussions on topics from international geopolitics to local issues, Mr Mauri is a volunteer guide at St John's Anglican Church.

"A lot of the work that I do is not just by myself, but with a

lot of people who are extremely dedicated to the city. I wouldn't be able to do half of what I do if it wasn't for all those amazing people," he said.

Through her role with Spacemarket, Sarah Booth has worked to find places for small businesses, creatives, not for profits and entrepreneurs to base themselves in Fremantle.

The Active Citizenship Award went to Friends of Clontarf Hill which has been maintaining and enhancing tuart woodland for more than 25 years.

"As a volunteer group they have demonstrated resilience and commitment over the years, staring down scheme amendments, fighting weeds and invasive species, uncovering the historical remnants of settlement and war,

all while planting more than 30,000 new native plants," Ms Fitzhardinge said.

Kate Raston received the Young Citizen of the Year Award for her work as the co-founder of We Are Womxn. Ms Raston's story is one of triumph over adversity – her personal experience of sexual assault has made her an advocate for gender equality and the empowerment of young women.

"I think it speaks to the importance of the work that we're doing at We Are Womxn and the impact that we've made," Ms Raston said.

"We work with 15,000 young women in this state and it's nice for that to be recognised."

Held on the same night (Tuesday January 23) there was a healthy turnout for the Citizenship Ceremony with about 44 people becoming Australian citizens.

It's the first time in recent years both events are not being held on Australia Day, with Ms Fitzhardinge saying January 23 was more inclusive.

Senior moment

FREMANTLE blogger and *Chook* columnist Roel "Loopy" Loopers has been awarded Fremantle's Senior Citizen of the Year.

Come rain, hail or shine, you'll find the 75-year-old pounding the streets of Fremantle, where for the past 15 years he's documented all the comings and goings in the city on his popular daily blog Freoview.

The photojournalist is not afraid to share his frank views on all-things Freo, including everything from Australia Day to overpriced flat whites.

Born in the Netherlands, and a photographer by trade, Mr Loopers immigrated to Australia in 1982 after a stint working in Germany as a photographer for newspapers

and press agencies. In the early 1990s he moved to Fremantle, where he quickly became passionate about local issues and a regular letter writer to the *Chook*. In 2009 he started his Freoview blog.

Last year, the National Library of Australia started archiving his blog posts.

"It is a real honour to receive the Fremantle Senior Citizen of the Year," Mr Loopers told the *Herald*.

"Even more so because I also did receive the Fremantle Active Citizen of the Year Award 11 years ago. I don't know anyone else who received it twice.

"It is such a good feeling to see that my commitment to and love for Freo is being recognised by so many people."

To cut or not to cut?



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

Way back in May 2018, the Morrison Liberal government announced and then legislated staged tax cuts, with the last of them scheduled to start on 1 July 2024.

At the time the budget deficit was \$14.5 billion, apparently heading for break-even by 2019/20 (following an unforeseen bout of COVID, the 2019/20 deficit came in \$92.3 billion!). Our national debt was \$350 billion and projected to drop to \$319 billion by 2021/22 (um, it went to \$895 billion). Interest rates were at 1.5% and inflation was steady at 1.9%. Different times hey?

Even without a pandemic prediction, legislating tax cuts five years in advance of an unknown fiscal future is not astute economic policy. What was known was that we were heading towards an election, so one might ponder whether such good tidings were politically motivated instead. Surely not.

In July 2021 the PM to be, opened a press release with the words "An Albanese Labor Government will deliver the same legislated tax relief to more than 9 million Australians as the Morrison Government" and this position was re-confirmed as late as this week.

The current legislated position is that the existing upper/middle 37% tax bracket will be

abolished, so that anyone earning from \$45,001 to \$200,000 in 2024/25 will pay a maximum of 30% tax.

But despite previous pledges, the Albanese government is now tinkering in a bid to shift some of the benefit from higher income earners to lower income earners. Such changes would need the support of the opposition, not an easy task.

As currently legislated, someone earning \$50,000 in 2024/25 will see their annual tax drop from \$6,717 (average rate of 13.4%) to \$6,592 (13.2%), a ho-hum saving of \$125 annually.

Another person earning \$120,000 will have their tax drop from \$29,467 (24.6%) to \$27,592 (23%), saving \$1,875.

Somebody on \$180,000 will see a drop from \$51,667 (28.7%) to \$45,592 (25.3%), a \$6,075 saving.

“the tax cuts will free up more funds for spending

As with any tax cuts, there's a carload of contempt for higher income earners who get the biggest savings. True, they do, but with a progressive tax system (one where the rate increases the more you earn), it's impossible for this to not be the case. High income earners pay more tax in the first place, so they will always "save" more than a lower income earner when rates drop.

Regardless of how it's divvied, the tax cuts will free up more funds for spending and contribute to inflation, which will put more pressure on interest rates, neither of which was of concern for Scott in 2018.

And now, just like then, the impending decision to cut or not to cut will be one of politics, not economics.

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Investors Not to Blame



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

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Only a few weeks into the new year and rental affordability is once again making headlines. Core Logic's latest numbers put national rents at \$601 per week, up from \$437 per week four years ago. Inevitably, calls to make rents more affordable will follow with campaigners Everybody's Home calling on the government to scrap negative gearing and capital gains discounts to fund more social homes. This group, amongst countless others, fail to recognise the fundamental fact that across Australia, 9 out of 10 rented homes are provided by private investors. Removing negative gearing and CGT discounts and hundreds of thousands of investors would sell, decimating supply and setting rents soaring.

national rents at \$601 per week, up from \$437

Governments have very successfully shifted the blame for today's housing affordability challenges away from their own housing policy failures and instead pointed the finger at property investors and the real estate agents that represent them. Politicians have very effectively shifted the narrative away from supporting private property investment to supply homes to the market whilst simultaneously blaming investors for spiralling rents and house prices. This is a remarkable achievement.

Like it or not, unsophisticated private investors – ordinary Australians – supply 27 percent of all homes in the nation to tenants. Government supply about 3 percent as social housing. Yet, in this time of greatest need, with supply of rental homes at severe lows, there are few housing policies that seek to encourage the investor cohort into supplying more homes.

On the contrary; governments shun the idea of stamp duty reform, land taxes continue to rise

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



and tenancy laws continue to swing in favour of tenants. Negative gearing and capital gains tax discounts are no longer sufficient incentives to encourage enough investors to buy. Appealing tax settings and returns in superannuation funds, commercial property and syndicated funds offer 'mum and dad' investors an alternative to direct residential property investment.

Prior to 2014, the volume of investors buying residential homes to add to the rental pool, ran at a higher rate than those selling rented homes. Talk of changes to negative gearing tax laws from the then opposition, along with broader market factors, began to see this trend reverse. Nowadays, there are far more rental homes being sold than purchased.

In Victoria, thanks to rising land taxes and changes to tenancy laws, for every three tenanted properties sold, only one remains in the rental market. In WA, there are now 18,000 fewer tenancy bonds being held today by the Bond Administrator than in 2019. When investors are inactive in the market, it falls to government to provide the housing; something they have failed to do.

Put simply, governments – supported by the media and tenancy advocates – have been busily whacking investors, whilst simultaneously failing to provide enough rental housing for Australians as the only alternative to the private investor market. And, somehow, they've so far been able to get away with it.



• The old Silas Street supermarket is being redeveloped into The Good Grocer. Locals says it's long overdue and are fed up looking at overgrown weeds at the site (below).

Good result

EAST FREMANTLE locals are so fed up with overgrown weeds outside the old FoodWorks on Silas Street, they've planned a community clean-up to pull them out.

The supermarket closed in November 2022 and since then Mother Nature has taken hold and it's starting to look like a scene from *The Last of Us*.

"I agree this looks terrible," posted Maryanne Wilson on the East Fremantle Community Facebook page this week.

"I would be happy to meet a few folk there with a set of snippers and we could then just put the green waste in a pile and ask the council to take it away...."

"Would only take about an hour for

about 3-4 people....Any takers ???!"

Plenty of folk signed-up, but after a local contacted East Fremantle council about the weeds, a spokesperson said they were "addressing the issue, including contacting the owner to take action".

There's more good news on the horizon with council announcing this week it's granted approval for the site to be redeveloped into The Good Grocer.

It's likely to be open 24/7, and will include a small liquor store.

The *Chook* understands the owners are aiming to be open by the end of 2024 for Christmas.

They are currently preparing a building application.



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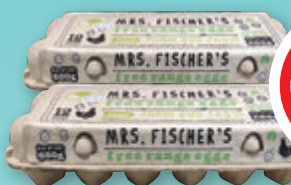
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• Hayden "H Bomb" Wright coaching at the Cockburn Youth Centre (above) and giving a talk at Yangebup Primary School (top right).



Slugger's parting shot

by STEPHEN POLLOCK

COCKBURN'S answer to Rocky – Hayden "H Bomb" Wright – is doing one final kind gesture for the community before he heads back to Melbourne.

The big-hearted slugger has won a few titles in his journeyman career, but his greatest achievement could be the extensive voluntary work and coaching he's done with youths in Yangebup.

As a farewell gift before he moves back east, H Bomb is spending \$650 on boxing packs for

the Cockburn Youth Centre.

The packs include eight sets of gloves, pads, punch pads, head gear and skipping ropes.

"I would like to thank Cockburn Youth Centre for having me as their boxing coach over the last year, as well as giving me the opportunity to hold talks at the local primary school," H Bomb says.

"The biggest thing I've taken is the sense of community and inclusion that the community workers display there.

"Every kid is well mannered and show respect towards the support staff."

After three decades in WA, H Bomb is moving back with his wife and three kids to Melbourne, where he grew up.

He previously founded the Yangebup Community Boxing Club and for five years worked as a social worker for Activ WA disability services, helping clients build their confidence and social skills. He also trained in Perth to be a nurse.

In 2022 he won the South Queensland Heavyweight champion, after a 14-bout losing streak, and last year took out the Journeyman's belt at the Gold Coast Croatian Sports Centre with



his first knockout since 2016.

It was meant to be his final fight, but in typical Rocky fashion he's been tempted out of retirement and back into the ring.

"I'm fighting on March 16 for a Pan Asia journeyman title against a strong 130kg boxer from Thailand called Tinnakorn Sirikul," he says.

"I'll continue my coaching at the

Lilydale youth centre in Victoria."

And the *Chook* couldn't let the veteran bruiser leave without getting his prediction on a possible heavyweight clash between Tyson Fury and Anthony Joshua.

"I believe AJ would win," H Bomb says.

"I think Tyson's best years are behind him; will be close though."

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• Work has started on the new WA film studios in Malaga (artist's impression above). It was originally proposed for Victoria Quay in Fremantle, but Roel Loopers is glad that state government "brain fart" never happened and thinks we can do better at the waterfront site.

Quay to success

Now that the ill-conceived movie studios, that the McGowan Government wanted to build on historic Victoria Quay, have thankfully been moved a long way from Fremantle to Malaga, the future of the south quay of Fremantle Port should be considered again.

I am well aware that the quay is all part of the much bigger Future of Fremantle planning for the entire Ports precinct, if and when the port moves to Kwinana, but that is not going to happen in my lifetime, so for another two decades at least.

Fremantle can not afford to wait that long to better connect the harbour with the inner city and for good development on Victoria Quay.

We need much better connectivity into the port area, and

much better access to the city for cruise ship passengers, Rottnest Island ferry users, and tourists who wander around our city.

That needs to be a priority for Fremantle Ports and Fremantle council.

Innovation

There are plenty of old plans, as a lot of community and stakeholders consultation was done in the past, so let's not try to reinvent the wheel and start the whole process from scratch again, and waste a lot of money and people's time.

We have derelict buildings, such as the former Immigration Office and Police Station on Victoria Quay, and like A,B, C and E Shed these old buildings need to be restored and put to good use again.

One of them could become an

Immigration Museum for example, and the other one a lovely small bar.

Is there scope for Notre Dame University to build a new Nurses and Midwives building on the quay, and could we have a convention centre, maybe even in the Passenger Terminal?

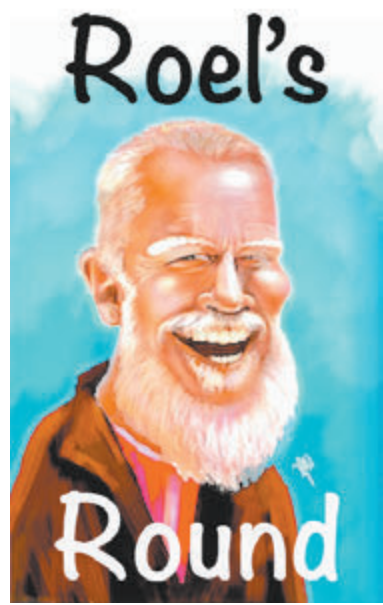
Trees, or at least large planted areas, would also improve the quay.

Gage Roads in A Shed has made a positive difference to Victoria Quay and really helped activating it, so what can be done with the recently restored huge C Shed?

Will B Shed again become the ferry terminal, once the building maintenance has been completed, or could it be something else all together?

We need creativity, innovation, and out of the box ideas for the activation of the historic precinct.

Fremantle needs a home for Circus WA, Spare Parts Puppet



Theatre, the Harbour Theatre and Fremantle Chamber Orchestra, so could one of the large sheds become the new home for these cultural assets, or would a purpose-built performing arts centre be an option?

Family entertainment is lacking in Fremantle, so is there the opportunity for an activity center of some sorts for children, that could open on the quay?

Large climbing walls, indoor roller or ice skating, a place to throw hoops?

I'd love to have a small fish&chips outlet and a cosy small bar on the quay, and see E Shed either become a very good market again, or change it to something totally different.

Currently the markets are uninspiring and boring, so there is a lot of room for improvement there.

It is my understanding that a Sydney consultancy is currently investigating what the right retail and hospitality mix on Victoria Quay should be, when that could easily have been handled in house

by Fremantle Ports.

All it needs is common sense and creativity, or just talking to the Chamber of Commerce, local business people, or to the many Freo creative thinkers like me.

I am one of many people who really enjoys the always changing Fremantle working port, and visit it daily.

I love watching the large container and RoRo ships entering and leaving the port, and the huge elegant cruise liners floating in. It's also a great spot to watch the sunset and dolphins.

Victoria Quay is very special and significant for Fremantle, so any development needs to be done with great sensitivity.

We are still waiting for a Maritime Trail, that tells the story of the long jetty, the first port of Fremantle, and the connection to the current port, designed by the amazing C.Y.O'Connor.

There are so many stories about the wharfs and wharries, and about how Fremantle significantly changed when containerisation started and the former huge sheds became redundant.

There are many wonderful old photos, that should be on permanent display, either inside a building, or as projections on the outside of the Roundhouse.

Victoria Quay presents many exciting opportunities. It is now urgent time to stop talking and stop procrastinating about developing and activating it.

It is time for action and decisions. It is time to connect the port area to the inner city.

The lack of action has been very frustrating in the thirty years I have lived in Fremantle.

The Freo community is sick and tired of more meaningless talk fests, and hearing about more new plans, that are never implemented.

We have wasted enough time. Let's get on with it!

Roel Loopers/Freoview

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 Tickets Trybooking or call Natalie 0438 933 250 or at the door from 2pm

Naked Specs family growing up ●●

by Jane Grljusich
Herald Promotions

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

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

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



Wendy



Sofia

Here's what they say:

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

"Great," says eccentric Maureen.

"It's just special," Connie says.

"And enjoyable," David adds.

"Lots of laughter," from Jo.

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

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

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

And that they do.

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

Specs does now we're part of their family.

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

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

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

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

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

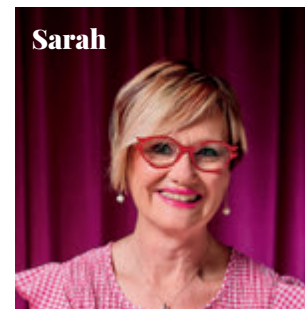
"We live and breathe to wow our customers, we keep our promises, we care deeply about people, we build trust and loyalty, and our goal is to keep customers for life. We're a brand that stands for something – you."

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

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

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

Their optometrists conduct comprehensive eye



Sarah

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

But don't expect what you usually get because

what you'll get is so much more.

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

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

"Thrilled and excited," Connie adds.

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

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

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



Barbara



Maryce

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Worthy concert



ARIA award-winning singer Kavisha Mazzella will perform at a fundraiser for Nepalese kids on Saturday night in East Fremantle.

Freedom Through Education raises money for Nepalese families so they can send their children to school.

The charity has 28 kids in public schools in Kathmandu where they learn how to read and write, speak two languages and do basic mathematics.

"These are the most important subjects for them to learn so they can break free from a life of poverty," said a FTE spokesperson.

The East Freo fundraiser will be a mix of live music, art auctions and a live broadcast with kids in Nepal, so attendees can see the difference they're making firsthand.

Singing in English, Italian and other languages, Mazzella will take you on "an uplifting journey of well-crafted stories and songs with echoes of Celtic, Fado and Gypsy influences".

In 2011 she was awarded an Australia Day Honour for services to music and



• (top left) Musician Kavisha Mazzella and (above) one of the Nepal families Freedom Through Education has helped.

community.

In 2023 she got a Lifetime Contribution gong from Folk Alliance Australia for championing diversity in the folk music scene.

Also performing at the fundraiser will be the acclaimed En Coda Trio, Scottish singer

Kaia, and Kate from Off the Wall Yoga Music with Charles and Julian.

Freedom through Education Nepal is at Off the Wall Yoga on Petra Street in East Fremantle from 5.30pm to 9.30pm today (Saturday January 27). Tix at trybooking.com.

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Join us in revitalising the North Fremantle Heritage Trail

The trail, established in 1988, needs a refresh so let's shape the future of our trail together. Save the dates below and be part of this historic renewal.

NORTH FREMANTLE HERITAGE TRAIL SCAVENGER HUNT

Fri 12 Jan–Sun 18 Feb

Pick up the map from the Fremantle Visitor Centre or local businesses, or access all the hunt details online by scanning the QR code. Submit answers via our online form to win 1 of 3 vouchers to local North Fremantle businesses.

NORTH FREMANTLE HERITAGE TEMPORARY TRAIL

Fri 12 Jan–Sun 18 Feb

Explore key sites at your pace using the online map and temporary trail markers.

ONLINE SURVEY

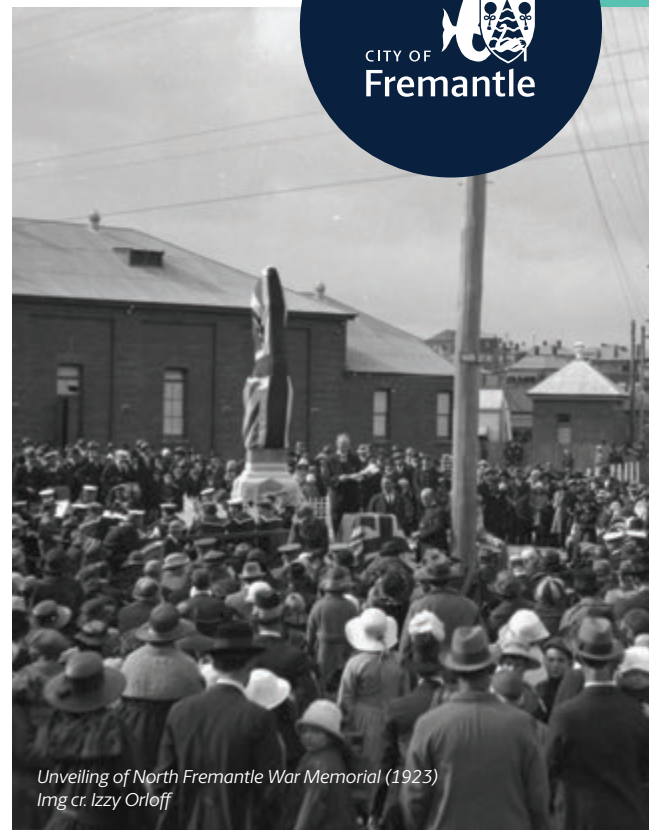
Fri 12 Jan–Sun 18 Feb

Join the conversation by participating in our online survey.



For more information, visit the North Fremantle Heritage Trail Refresh Project page via the link or QR code.

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Unveiling of North Fremantle War Memorial (1923)
Img cr. Izzy Orloff



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries

The State Government, through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, is a major supporter of The North Fremantle Heritage Trail Project. Sport and recreation creates vibrant, inclusive and connected WA communities.

Chargrilled nirvana



food
STEPHEN POLLOCK

AFTER six hours with my kids at Funmantle, I was in dire need of some food and a bottle of vodka.

Grumpy dad jokes aside, I have to take my hat off to Fremantle Council and say the collection of funfair rides scattered across the port city – six rides for \$5 – was great value and the queues weren't too bad.

The kids had a ball but I was hangry, so I made a beeline for Sana, a Middle Eastern joint off the Cappuccino Strip on Market Street.

Over the years the restaurants on the Strip have copped flak for serving over-priced, average cuisine.

But for me, it's still the quintessential Freo experience to sit alfresco on the Cappuccino Strip after an afternoon trudging around the port city.

The Strip has a unique holiday buzz, courtesy of the raffish mix of nut jobs, tourists, hippies and families streaming by.

Sana had a large modern dining area inside, but we opted to sit in the alfresco opposite a grizzled busker who serenaded us with swampy blues played on a resonator guitar (he's normally outside Timezone).

Sana specialises in Middle Eastern street food and the menu had a range of lighter share plates



including fattoush, koussa, falafel and spicy grilled eggplant, and larger plates like shish tawook, lamb cutlets, hibar and marinated chicken.

They also did meze boards for two or four people, including a vegan option, and a small range of desserts including panna cotta and baklava.

There was an under-12 kids menu with lamb and chicken dishes, but they were priced at \$25, which I thought was super expensive, but we'll come back to that later.

My wife "Special K" and I decided to go for the meze plate for two (\$109 including two desserts).

I had a hunch the food would be good as the aromas of chargrilled meat wafting out Sana were mouthwatering.

It wasn't long before the attentive and smiley waitress was back with our huge board of Middle Eastern goodies.

Wow, it was huge, and had a

lovely rustic presentation. It could have easily fed three people.

I'll start off with the meat: the chicken was divine – chargrilled crispy skin and moist, succulent flesh.

Instant Proustian flashback to eating at tavernas on Mediterranean holidays in my youth.

The lamb kofta was just as good – I've had my fair share of koftas that look and taste like a rock-hard dog treat – but these were top quality.

It was accompanied by a lovely, semi-spicy slaw which stopped the dish from becoming monotonous or dry.

The generous mound of potatoes were another hit – super crispy skins and fluffy inside with a subtle garlic punch. Some of the best I've had.

While the little bowl of watermelon and feta was perfect for refreshing the palate.

A great side dish that really complemented the meal.



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• The huge meze plate for two at Sana (above) and kids enjoying a ride at Funmantle in FOMO (right).

Across the table, my wife was busy dipping the thin Turkish bread into the hummus, aduki and baba dips.

"A great variety of dips and lovely fresh flavours," said Special K.

"I'm really enjoying the chargrilled corn as well.

"The bread is super light and doesn't bag you up."

We couldn't finish the potatoes and bread, and wanted to leave

room for our desserts – a panna cotta and a baklava.

Both were delicious and the panna cotta had a lovely selection of berries with an indulgent coulis.

We got Bamm-Bamm and Pebbles a Chooky Chicken (\$25) from the kids menu to share.

It was the right call as the portion of hummus, bread, potato, corn and marinated chicken was massive and enough to share

between two under-12s.

The kids meal came with a drink and ice cream.

The quality of food was the same high standard as the main.

Overall our meal at Sana was fantastic – the service, food and ambience were all great.

My only gripe would be the price point of certain dishes and the portion control.

\$25 for an under-12s meal is way too much, and the meze for

two (\$109) could easily feed three.

However there was a lunch special for \$28 – a mini sana plate with meat, bread, hummus, corn, potatoes, zahra and rice.

We thoroughly enjoyed our meal and it ended a quintessential day out in Freo.

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• The Douglas DC4 Skymaster, nicknamed the Amana, was an all Australian National Airlines plane.

Remember Johnny

by GORDON LEE

I HAD a real good friend, Johnny Engler who lived in Westbury Crescent, Bicton.

One day in 1950 it was announced at assembly at Fremantle Boys School that Johnny was to be given two weeks off school to go with his father on a plane trip to the eastern states.

We all sat on the jarrah floor of the school hall and listened to Mr Stewart the headmaster.

"This is a great opportunity for Johnny to see a big city and

ride home on a new bus across the Nullarbor desert," Mr Stewart said. Johnny's father Douglas was the manager of the Pioneer Bus Company.

The company had ordered a brand new bus to be picked up in Melbourne and driven back to WA by a company mechanic.

Johnny and his dad would be passengers.

The plane to take Johnny and his dad to Melbourne was a Douglas DC4 Skymaster named the Amana – all Australian National Airlines (ANA) planes

were given a name ending in ana.

The Amana took off from South Guildford Airport at 9.55pm on June 26, 1950 under Captain RJC Chappell on route to Adelaide.

Just 20 minutes later it was a burning, tangled wreck in thick bush about 20km from York just east of Perth.

One man, Edgar Forwood from Adelaide, briefly survived the crash.

He died six days later taking the death tally to 29.

We heard that condensation in the fuel tanks of the plane was



believed to be the cause of the crash.

Johnny's house with its round leadlight window in the front with

a camel and sand hills design is still there in Westbury Crescent. A light in the lounge room illuminates the design at night.

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SUMMER READING

Surreal cuppa

by YORK DARROW

I'M not sure if you heard, but something very tragic happened the other day.

While I was walking along the bridge that goes across to Fremantle, I saw a bus lose control and go careening off the edge and into the water.

On its way, it ran over quite a few people and even pushed a car into the water as it fell.

It was all pretty sad.

People were in the water screaming for help, but no one could help them all the way down there.

The only thing anyone could do was watch from the top of the high bridge as the people squirmed and

screamed for help like little eels wriggling in a bucket.

All told, I think about 17 people died in the accident, and even I died as well.

Now you might be wondering, how can she be telling me this story if she died in the accident?

It's actually quite simple: I made the whole thing up.

There was no accident or bus

that day, in fact I never even went near the bridge that goes across to Fremantle.

Now I'll tell you what did happen.

I met one of my friends in a café and she had the most interesting story to tell.

She told me she had seen a little man in the vegetable shop trying to buy one half of a zucchini.

He kept on and on with the shop clerk about how he only needed this much for his zucchini soup, and even one hair more would spoil the lot.

It really was becoming quite a riot, and other people were lined up behind him giving him dirty looks all the while, but he didn't pay them any notice.

He just kept arguing that it wasn't fair the shop sold such big zucchinis, that they should have smaller ones for people who wanted to make zucchini soup.

It was at this point a tall man tapped him on the shoulder and

suggested he make two zucchini soups instead.

This intrigued the little man, and he thought long and hard about it.

Everyone in the shop was waiting for what he had to say, as the whole thing had become a rather big spectacle by then.

At that point my friend decided to go out of the shop and get some coffee, and that's where she met me.

It was all well and good until she told me she had made the whole story up.

I asked her if the shop really did sell half-zucchinis and she said she didn't know.

I told her it wasn't very nice her making up stories without any ending.

She replied that actually it was my fault, as I had made her up and the story as well.

I agreed she was probably right, and we went back to drinking our coffee.

She told me she had seen a little man in the vegetable shop trying to buy one half of a zucchini.

Mode

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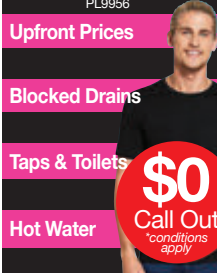


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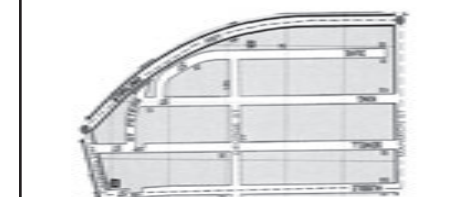
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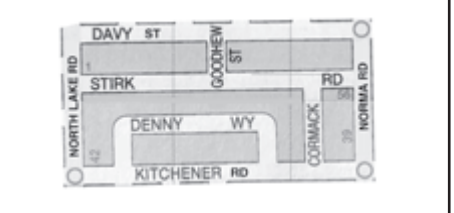
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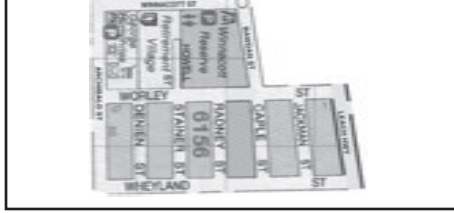
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Public Notice

Development application: 30,34,36,38 Amherst Street & 2 Stack Street FREMANTLE DAP008/23



The City has received a development application 57 Grouped Dwellings, 24 Multiple Dwellings and 7 Commercial Tenancies. A drop-in Talk to a Planner session on the proposal will be held on Thursday 1 February 2024, between 5.30 and 6.00 pm in the Mardoo Lounge, in the Library at the Walyalup Civic Centre (151 High Street Fremantle).


To find out more, download the proposed plans or submit your comments, please visit mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au by 5.00pm, Saturday 10 February 2024.

You may also hand in a submission to the customer service centre, email planning@fremantle.wa.gov.au or post to PO Box 807 Fremantle WA 6959.

Visit mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au

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

Glen Dougall
Chief Executive Officer

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Astrology with Sudhir

January 27 – February 3, 2024



ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

The last thing you need is to be bought to ground. Mercury and Mars, together in Capricorn, present a hazard of over-zealous pragmatism. Try not to fall for it. The Moon is in Leo during the first few days of the week. This will serve you well. Put yourself out there. Shine your loving light.



TAURUS (Apr 21 – May 20)

Mercury and Mars, together in Capricorn, are giving you the clarity and energy you need, to gain momentum. Traditionally slow to start but strong to finish, you are living up to your reputation. Your wishes for nourishing growth and meaningful change, are on the verge of fruition.



GEMINI (May 21 – June 21)

Mercury is conjunct Mars, meaning that you have a whole lot of horsepower behind the ideas that are filling your cranium. Because they are both in Capricorn, it won't be reactivity or spontaneity that is expressed. It is more likely that you will be methodical, well-rehearsed and on song.



CANCER (June 22 – July 22)

You have been in a process of intense learning. The whole notion of who you are and how you would really like to shine, has been going through some shifts and changes. Give yourself permission to brainstorm, experiment - and go up a few less-trodden paths. It's play time.



LEO (July 23 – Aug 22)

The Moon begins her week as full as a boot in Leo. She inspires all sorts of adventurous and spontaneous actions, especially in the realm of relationship. Go with this and you will have a fun, creative time. A full Moon means a time of fruition. Note all the good things now happening.



VIRGO (Aug 23 – Sept 22)

The Moon will enter Virgo on Sunday. She will help you to reflect in a meaningful way. She will gift you the silence, slowness and peace you need to do this. This will come after Saturday's Leo Moon brings all sorts of energy and passion to the surface. First action - then integration.



LIBRA (Sept 23 – Oct 23)

The Leo full Moon on Saturday is bound to set events in motion that make you deepen your longing to make meaning out of this crazy journey through life on mother earth. Philosophise to your heart's content. The Moon arrives in Libra on Wednesday. She will help you to still your heart.



SCORPIO (Oct 24 – Nov 21)

Pluto, your ruling planet, is now in Aquarius, after fourteen or so years in Capricorn. This will shift the tectonic plates under your life. The whole transformational journey that is your raison d'etre, is beginning to shift tack. Aquarius is all about freedom and responsibility. Which is which?



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Jupiter, your ruling planet, is receiving a multitude of blessings from Venus, who is shining her light of delight your way from over in Capricorn. As you tune into your heart, you feel sure-footed, even in the most precarious of situations. Jupiter is in Taurus, bringing simplicity and pleasure.



CAPRICORN (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Pluto has left Capricorn after fourteen years. His work is done in your sector for now. His work is to dismantle and renew. He has moved on. Mercury and Mars are conjunct this week in Capricorn. This may make you a little impatient to have your ideas listened to and accepted. Slow down.



AQUARIUS (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

Pluto has entered Aquarius. This is huge. He will be around for way beyond a decade. There is plenty of time to get used to it. His job is to dismantle, and open up the space for renewal. He is a death and a rebirth. Your ideals of social justice, freedom and responsibility are on the line.



PISCES (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Life is being soft with you. It is allowing you time to gather your acorns in preparation for whatever adventures the new year is bound to bring. There's no need to connect if you don't want to. Identify your strengths. Notice and appreciate what you have already gathered in the way of resources.

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WHAT'S ON • CLASSES • ACTIVITIES • SPIRITUAL SERVICES • SUPPORT GROUPS

A BEGINNERS MAHJONG COURSE - U3A Melville will be holding a nine week Beginners' Course on this intriguing game of Chinese origin, commencing Tuesday 13th February 2024. Two hour sessions from 11am at Kadidjiny Hall, Kitcheener Rd, Melville. Cost minimal. To enrol, or for more information, contact Mark at u3amelville@gmail.com

ABILITY HEROES promote employment and integration of Australians with disability into the community. Inclusion and meaningful contribution should be a birthright and not a privilege. We encourage individuals and organisations to join us and participate in and contribute to this timely and worthwhile not-for-profit project. <https://abilityheroes.com.au/> Phone: 0409 105 855

AL-ANON is for family and friends who live with the problem of someone else DRINKING, there is help for you, phone al-anon 9325 7528 or 1300 252 666 for a meeting near you

AMNESTY FREMANTLE is looking for new members! Meetings are held from 6pm, second Wednesday of every month at Clancy's Fish Pub, Fremantle. Email fremantleamnesty@gmail.com for more details. Involvement is voluntary and obligation-free - help to achieve change and protect the basic rights of people around the world

ARE DRUGS A PROBLEM? We've been there, and we can help. Narcotics Anonymous - 1300 652 820 www.wana.org.au Text your postcode to 0488 811 247 for a meeting near you

DANCING: BEGINNERS. Learn: Waltz, Jive, Rumba, and others for social events. Enrol with/without partner. Starts February 5. Melville Recreation Centre. Mondays 7:30-9:00pm. \$118 (7 weeks). Stan 0409 306 737 stan@stansdancing.com

FA - FOOD ADDICTS Are you having trouble controlling how you eat? Food addicts in Recovery Anonymous-FA-is a 12 step program for anyone suffering from food obsession, overeating, undereating or bulimia. visit (www.foodaddicts.org) or call 1800 717 446

FREMANTLE BRIDGE CLUB hold supervised social Bridge: Every Tues 9.30am and Thurs 6.30-9pm. Inc beginners lessons. Contact Sue 0409 372 222

FUN QUIZ is for family and friends who want an enjoyable night out testing their knowledge of trivia, personalities & facts. Every 1st Thursday of the month from 6:30 to 9pm at Cockburn Bowls & Recreation Club, 40 Birchley Road, Yangebup (off Beelar Drive). Come early and enjoy a variety of hot food at Bowl & Fork Café. Drinks available at The Legends Bar. There are loads of prizes, many drawn at random, as well as raffles. Cost is only \$10pp, which goes mostly towards our Rotary Cockburn Charity account, supporting some 20 local community groups. Reserve a table via SMS at 0407 689 131, stating Captain's name, Team name and number of people on team; tables of 4 to 6 (max)

HELP A CAT RESCUE AND RECYCLE at the same time. Eligible Containers for Change can be donated to volunteer based Impound Feline Rescue by using our scheme ID C10304764. In some instances we can collect the cans, bottles and containers. Phone 0407 381 868 or email mattelr16@gmail.com

IF YOU WANT TO DRINK, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's ours. Call Alcoholics Anonymous 24hr help: 9325 3566 or 1300 22 22 22

IF YOU WERE EVER SERVED BY THE LOVELY SIMONE at Ed'z Sportz Bar in Hamilton Hill, she could do with a bit of help with her cancer battle right now. Please donate (whatever you can, no matter how small) at tinyurl.com/helpsimone - more details at the link.

JOIN RICKEETA WALLEY FOR NOONGAR STORYTIME every Thursday from 10.15am at AH Bracks Library. For ages 2-5, this free weekly program introduces simple Noongar language, engaging children's imaginations by using traditional storytelling and creative play. No bookings required. AH Bracks Library, cnr Stock Rd and Canning Hwy, Melville

MATURE ADULTS LEARNING ASSOCIATION. Over 50 and looking for ongoing educational and social opportunities? The MALA (inc) provides a series of lectures by academics in their field, including arts, literature, science, environment, world affairs, creative writing and more. No pre-requisites, just fun learning. Next lectures commence February 23rd. For enrolment and full program please see www.mala.au

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PAINTING FOR PLEASURE is a group of artists who meet weekly to work on our individual creations. We give encouragement to each other but there is no tuition so some experience is necessary. Every Thursday 10:30-2:30 at a central venue in Melville. Call for further information on 0419 767 937

RELATIONSHIP ISSUES?? CoDA may help, a fellowship of people whose common purpose is to develop healthy relationships. Every Tues 6-7 pm, Thurs 10-11 am 88 Bawdan St Willagee (Crn Horn Pl)

SOUTH PERTH LEARNING CENTRE Term starts 29 January with daytime adult classes in arts & crafts, languages and technology. We also host social clubs for mahjong, crosswords, current affairs and more. splc.org.au 0459 571 736

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My road trip

by LACHLAN SWEETING

“ARE we there yet?”

We’ve been on the road for hours... this same boring red dirt for kilometres, so you can’t even play I Spy because you’ll always end up with either the sky, the road or the stupid dirt!

Then, rising from the horizon faster than my friend Dale can run, there was a servo.

I hadn’t noticed I was hungry ‘til the delicious smell of meat pies flowed through my nostrils.

We pulled over and Dad got out and immediately burnt his feet on the scorching cement.

Me and mum burst out laughing as Dad hopped around like a kangaroo.

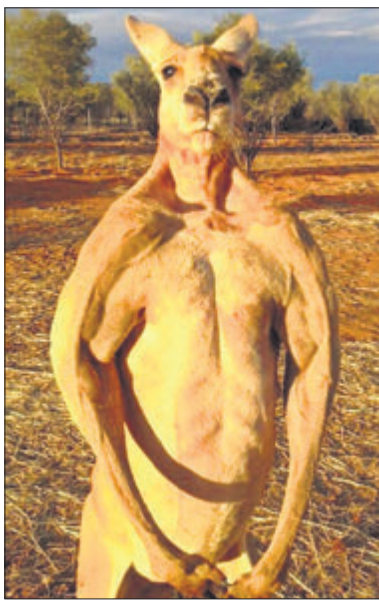
Then he threatened us that if we didn’t stop laughing, he wouldn’t get us a meat pie, and suddenly it wasn’t funny anymore.

Dad went in and came out with three brown bags and handed me and mum the perfect combination of delicious, flaky pastry and tender beefy goodness, which I drowned in tomato sauce and gobbled down in less than four bites, which is a new record for me.

It took another two hours of pure boredom to arrive at the campsite just as the sun was beginning to set.

We had to set up the tent, and quick.

It’s like what my Italian teacher, Mrs Spagnoli would say, “If you get your work done quick then you get free time”.



So, I helped Dad pull the tent out of the boot and basically just stood there until Dad told me to “connect those” or “pull here”.

And then, faster than a kangaroo can hop, it was done.

I felt so proud of us, getting it done in such a small amount of time, which I later learnt was actually a lot of time and we were just slow.

After that, Dad got the barbie going and I plonked myself in one of our camp chairs with an apple juice in one hand and a pack of Twisties in the other.

Dad peered his head around a big gumtree that was inconveniently placed in the middle of our campsite,

“Hey Hazza, what do you want in your hotdog?”

“Just some onions and the usual sauces please,” I replied.

Every time I have a hot dog, I always make sure I get Rosella tomato sauce with a hearty drizzle of Heinz barbeque sauce, and the onions must ALWAYS be above the sauce, not below.

Anyway, while Dad was getting that sorted, I was just sitting there and taking in all the Australian outback when I heard a scrunching sound behind me.

I was sure it – whatever ‘it’ was – could kill us.

Anything out here can kill you, like the redback spider or this yellow and black snake that’ll both kill you in under 30 minutes.

Even the platypus can kill you with this poisonous thing on its foot.

But then, seeing it out of the corner of my eye, was a bloody massive kangaroo.

I knew what it was here for.

My snag. I wasn’t gonna let him take my sausagey goodness from the barbie, where it was being cooked to perfection.

So, I got up and confidently looked it straight in the eye, secretly hoping for it to just not be bothered and leave.

But then I saw its muscles, more defined than that guy Arnold Schwarzen-Vader or something, so, I called to Dad, “Dad! There’s a roo here and he wants my snag!”

And like that, my dad came flying out of nowhere, like Bruce Lee, and full-on kicked that roo in the chest. But it didn’t budge.

Not even a muscle moved.

It was like he was invincible. You could see the confidence in

SUMMER READING

its eyes, like one of those wrestlers from the telly.

Then Dad swung around and punched that roo square in the face.

It was on.

The kangaroo jumped from side to side, like a boxer before his fight, and launched himself feet-first straight into my dad, which knocked him clean to the floor.

Punched

He got up, holding his stomach with his hairy hands.

And again, the roo attacked, this time hitting Dad square in the chest.

It wasn’t over.

Dad wasn’t gonna let him do anything to me or my snag.

So, he leapt up and fully roundhouse-kicked the roo in the face, causing it to go flying.

Then he turned to me with a comforting yet smug grin, “I guess we won’t be seeing much more of him anytime soon.”

That made me laugh so I hard I thought I was gonna pass a kidney stone or something like that.

I learnt about that in science class, and apparently it really hurts.

Then, like in one of those magic tricks, Mum emerged from the tent, oblivious to the events that had just

occurred.

“What was that all about?”

“Did you seriously not see?”

There was a kangaroo, and dad and it fought, and dad won!”

“Wow,” Mum said sarcastically.

Why didn’t she believe me?

It had all happened right in front of my eyes. Or had it?

Was it just a figure of my imagination and the whole scenario was just played out inside my head? Was I going crazy?

It must have been that meat pie I had eaten earlier, right?

Shimmered

“Bedtime!” shouted Mum and I stumbled into the tent and flopped on to my inflatable mattress.

We had one of those star-gazer tents, so I just laid there for a while, looking at the stars as the memories of today replayed in my head hundreds of times.

I fell asleep and woke up in the middle of the night, with everything pitch black apart from the stars, as they shimmered in the night sky. But then I noticed a shape, illuminated by the stars.

The kangaroo was staring me straight in the eyes and it was here for revenge.

I screamed.

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Nannup Music Festival returns

WIN A DOUBLE PASS PLUS CAMPING

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

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



The greater the spy, the bigger the lie

From the twisted mind of Matthew Vaughn (Kingsman franchise, Kick-Ass) comes Argylle, a razor-witted, reality-bending, globe-encircling spy thriller.

Bryce Dallas Howard (Jurassic World franchise) is Elly Conway, the reclusive author of a series of best-selling espionage novels, whose idea of bliss is a night at home with her computer and her cat, Alfie. But when the plots of Elly’s fictional books—which center on secret agent Argylle and his mission to unravel a global spy syndicate—begin to mirror the covert actions of a real-life spy organization, quiet evenings at home become a thing of the past.

Release Date February 1, 2024



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View: Saturday 27 January 3:45 – 4:30



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