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• New concept plan for the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre by Wyllie and Brookfield.

Farewell comrade

by DAVID BELL

WIDELY regarded as one of the worst designed buildings in the CBD with “all the charm of a Soviet-era mausoleum”, the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre is in line for an extensive makeover.

This week the Cook government announced negotiations had started with PCEC leaseholders Wyllie and Brookfield, who have unveiled a concept plan to

extensively transform the PCEC.

Originally conceptualised under the Court government in 2000 and delivered during the Gallop government in 2004, the original \$225million building was a target of the aesthetic authorities from the get-go.

By 2006 journalist Tim Treadgold declared it was “a white elephant” and a failing business, “showing “all the charm of a Soviet-era mausoleum, and having limited windows to showcase Perth’s crowning

glory, the Swan River.”

The redesign aims to improve connectivity to Elizabeth Quay and showcase the riverfront and Kings Park. It’ll include a new outdoor theatre on the river, new public waterfront facilities, and new food and beverage venues.

Premier Roger Cook said this week in his announcement “there is huge potential on our riverfront, and this proposal would deliver an iconic new precinct that opens up major tourism and

hospitality opportunities for WA, helping to diversify our economy and create local jobs.

“The PCEC is the oldest and smallest major convention centre in Australia. My government wants to see the precinct redeveloped to attract lucrative business events, while creating a place of pride on the river for all Western Australians.”

A business case will now be finalised for the state government to evaluate, touted for mid-2024.



• WACA board director Paul Collins.

WACA spat

by DAVID BELL

PAUL COLLINS is fighting to overturn his two-month suspension from the WA Cricket Association board.

The ban was dished out on January 4 during a pivotal time for the governing body.

Mr Collins is one of five board directors voted in by WACA members, along with five appointed directors, and there’s been a range of disagreements among board members and WACA management in recent years, including a high-profile spat over mens urinals (*‘Slash on the off side,’ Voice, August 26, 2023*).

In a social media post this week, Mr Collins said that “On 4 January 2024, I received a letter

from the Deputy Chair of the Western Australian Cricket Association Limited (“WACA”) which purported to provide a notice of suspension of both my membership of the WACA and my position as a director of the Board of the WACA.”

He says the investigation that led to this outcome was started just 10 days after the story broke.

Mr Collins wrote: “I have engaged legal representation to protect my interests and remedy the situation.

“Accordingly, I have nothing further to say publicly other than to encourage all Members of the WACA to continue to ask questions about the design, costs and funding of the WACA ground redevelopment.”

• *continued page 3*

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Seeing beyond



• A trap in Kings Park in 2022 to monitor for the spread of borers. Photo via the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development



• (above) The polyphagous shot-hole borer. (below) A *The Last of Us*-style solution tried to infest the bugs with a killer strain of fungus, but it was ineffective in the field. Image via Nel et al., (2023) in the journal 'Insects'

Tree killer

by DAVID BELL

THE dreaded polyphagous shot-hole borer has been found in Kings Park, dangerously close to rare and endangered flora in the WA Botanic Garden collection.

The beetles ravage the insides of trees by boring a network of tunnels that they use to grow fungi for food. This can eventually kill the tree as the fungus blocks the flow of water and nutrients.

They attack a wide range of trees but are especially prone to go after many of the introduced ornamental species planted around Perth like the London Plane, Moreton Bay fig and Port Jackson fig.

The common box elder maple has also been identified as a "highly susceptible reproductive host", dying within two years of infestation and leading to the borer's population exploding into surrounding areas.

They were spotted in Dalgety Street in East Fremantle in 2021 by an inquisitive gardener, wondering why her mature trees were dying (*'Deadly borer found in East Fremantle'*, *Fremantle Herald*).

The infected Kings Park trees are located in Mounts Bay Gardens beneath the Mount Eliza Escarpment.

The Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority announced a score of Moreton Bay figs, Port Jackson Figs and Coral Trees have "significant signs of PSHB infestation" since confirmed with molecular testing.

They have to be removed to prevent them becoming a new launching pad for the beetles to spread.

It's a particularly crucial culling given "the Mounts Bay Road location of the trees is in close proximity to the Western Australian Botanic Garden and the many rare and endangered flora protected in its collection," according to the BGPA.

The Mounts Bay Garden area is known to Noongars as Goonininup, and it's a significant site of a freshwater spring and considered a home to the Rainbow Serpent, the Waugal.

The BGPA announced it'll consult with Noongar elders on healing the area, with a focus on planting local flora species both to reflect the cultural history and because "local flora species are much more resilient to threats as well as vital habitat and food for our native animals and birds".

There are no effective chemical treatments for stopping the borer, and the race to find a cure has been marked by disappointment so far.

South Africa, which also has many Plane and fig trees, has been dealing with an invasion of the borers for six years and has tried many remedies.

They recently hoped that a



borer-killing fungus might help control the beetles: A study showed they could be infected by a fungal strain that would overtake their bodies and kill them within a week of infection.

But it didn't work out in the field: They just bore too deep to be effectively targeted, and the predator strain of fungus is too fragile to survive for long outside a lab.

"50% of clients have come from the *Herald & Voice!*"

Hello Val,

I think you may be interested in this!

I'm currently using four main avenues for advertising my unlocking creativity workshops and courses that help adults tap into creativity they didn't know they had (or remember having as children).

It's a leading-edge, brain-aware method and already 3,700+ WA people have surprised and delighted themselves.

Big thanks to the *Herald and Perth Voice* and your readers for leading the way as you're close to making up 50% of people who are choosing this way to get more creative in life and have more fun in these uncertain times!

Jan Cross, Extraordinary Mind Project.



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Try some of this information out on simple drawing exercises. And prepare for surprise. Tuning in to the subconscious works more deeply for stickman level drawers through to practising artists.

Participants in Extraordinary Mind Project courses will tell you that incredibly improved drawing skills are just the beginning!

Being bowled over by unexpected talent that emerges during a deep flow state changes everything!

Partly because you are shocked by what you have been able to do. "Oh, my goodness, I had no idea I could do that!"

And partly because it seems so completely natural.

It occurs as some new 'truths' about you!

What's this really all about?

- The joy, the peace and calm that settle on you when you're able to slip past old patterns into that creative place where all potential lies

- Confidence, experiencing yourself and possibilities in a whole new light. "I feel like I can do anything. I really do!"

- Flow on effects, such as better concentration at work, deep relaxation, more focus, less reactivity, ongoing excitement



WHAT'S NEW

Make a surprise visit to your hidden creativity!

Which of these is most you?

1. You strongly suspect that there's more to you and to your creativity
2. "I don't have a creative bone in my body!" you say. You have proof! You are jovial about it. But deep down — when and if you looked — you would likely come across disappointment and a wish that it wasn't true.
3. You are familiar with that 'stuck at a standstill in life' feeling. (Great news, because it may entice you to the edge of your comfort zone, where creativity lives.)
4. Sometimes you just wish you were more creative!

If any of these apply then chances are the way your brain is currently wired is holding your creativity (and you) prisoner.

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~ Karen Twort, industry trainer/facilitator

"I loved it — all of it. It has given me more confidence to try new things without worrying how others will judge me.
Thanks Jan, awesome and stress free sessions." ~ Joanna Lee

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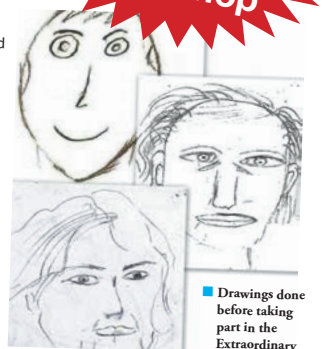
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An Inspired Palette!

Immerse yourself in the lovely Art Deco space at Found and Sorted Real Estate, in the café precinct of Wray Ave Fremantle and experience the exhibition 'Journeying' by artist Myra Mitchell.

This refreshing exhibition reflects the artist's eclectic style and passion, her love of colour, nature, and form.

The artist brings to the exhibition her creative expression, including contemporary abstract and abstract landscape.

Her exhibition runs from Friday 5th January until Wednesday the 31st of January 2024.

'Journeying' is exhibiting at "Found and Sorted" Real Estate, located at 138 South Tce, Fremantle

Exhibition is open Monday – Friday 10-4pm

Weekends 1-4pm



• Houses that have their lifetime environmental impact assessed will be prioritised for assessment to cut waiting times.

Housing first

by DAVID BELL

VINCENT council has become the first in the country to dangle a carrot of swifter assessment for new house plans if they're more environmentally-considerate.

It's part of an effort to get more sustainable homes built and cut down on emissions, water waste and electricity use.

Lengthy waits to get development applications processed are a common complaint from builders dealing with local governments: The development assessment processing time at Vincent currently ranges from 14 days to 159 days, with simpler house plans averaging 20 working days.

Vincent's new fast "green-

track" incentive aims to further reduce processing time for single or grouped dwellings to within 10 working days if the applicant can show how their design stacks up against the council's environmentally-friendly housing objectives.

That will be done via a "Life Cycle Assessment" – a measurement of the lifetime savings of emissions and fresh water the development could achieve through green-friendly measures. This will be included with the house plans.

Vincent mayor Alison Xamon announced the new fast-track system this week, and said in a statement: "We are thrilled to be the first local government in Australia to introduce a GreenTrack service.

"This will have a huge impact on our sustainability footprint in

residential areas and help tackle climate change at a local level.

"We want to help lead the transformation in how we live and use our resources in the future and reward our community for choosing to invest in environmentally friendly design.

"Getting this right at the beginning will save time and money during construction as fewer expensive add-ons will be required to achieve performance targets. This is in addition to a lifetime worth of financial savings for residents who live in a comfortable energy and water efficient home."

While applications that include an LCA will get prioritised for assessment and be processed faster, they still have to meet the usual building rules to get approved.

Collins strikes back

• from page 1

Mr Collins has been critical of some of the directions taken in the massive WACA East Perth ground upgrades, and in August last year he spoke out against the decision not to include urinals in the new mens' bathrooms.

He said the decision had been made on the grounds of addressing "inclusivity", but he argued that the gender-neutral bathrooms would cause chaos on game days as the mainly-male audiences would have to queue for cubicles in lieu of using more

efficient urinals.

Within a day of the Voice breaking the news, the story blew up in national media, and we've heard some of the WACA higher ups were furious that Mr Collins had gone public. The former Stirling councillor gave us a brief update this week, telling the Voice: "The advice I've received is that my legal remedies to have this purported suspension set aside in a court of law are very strong."

This all takes place during a key period for the WACA:

Along with the ongoing redevelopment of the East Perth grounds, the board is currently searching for a new CEO as Christina Matthews announced her resignation in December 2023.

We contacted the WACA to ask what mechanism Mr Collins had been investigated and suspended under, asked who decided on the suspension, and queried the timing given the search for a new CEO, but a spokesperson says they weren't able to provide any more information about the matter this week.

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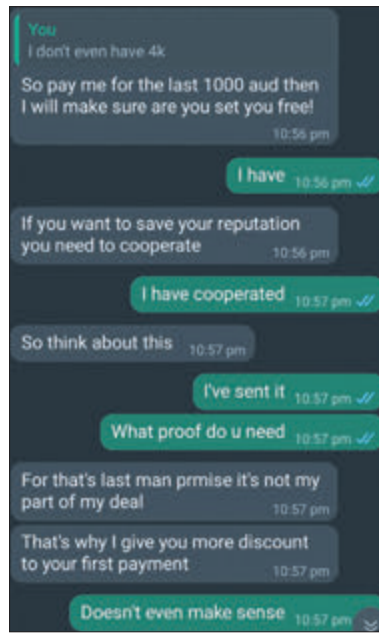
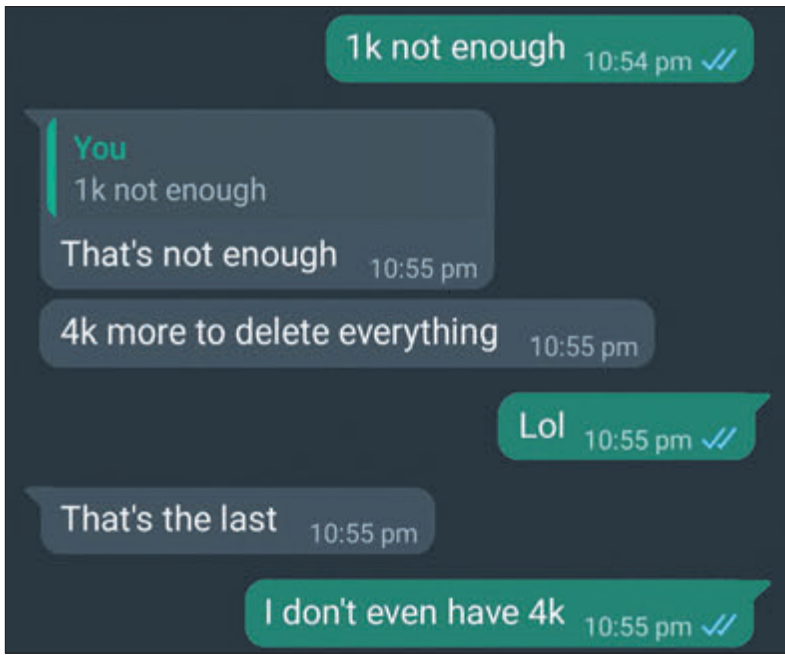
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• Threatening texts sent by scammers targeting Perth men looking for a date.

Epic scam

by DAVID BELL

A VOICE reader targeted by international scammers wants to warn others of a diabolical scheme preying on Perth men looking for a date.

The scheme extorts victims out of thousands of dollars by threatening to send intimate videos of them to their family and friends.

The blackmailers connect with their targets on online dating platforms and then set up a video call in hopes of gathering racy footage to use as extortion material.

The scams have become increasingly common over the past few years, but what surprised our reader was the length of time the scammer committed to the ruse.

After matching on the dating app Tinder, this scammer spent weeks texting with the target before asking for a video chat.

For "at least two weeks, if not more," our reader Mark (not his real name) told us, which made him think it was unlikely a scammer would spend that much time on a target.

The scammer was in the Philippines but Tinder allows people to search for dates in distant

places. She came up with a cover story that she worked at a Perth hotel and was in the Philippines for a holiday until February.

Then this week she asked for a video chat via Instagram, and things quickly heated up.

Such steamy video calls are pretty common among young daters: About 50 per cent of generation Y and generation Z have sent a nude image of themselves or disrobed during a video chat, according to a 2023 study published in *Archives of Sexual Behaviour*.

"It's pretty normal," our gen-Z source said, "for me and my

generation, this is pretty common," and this had followed a pretty typical flirty trajectory.

Shortly after the call started the woman exposed her breasts, and asked the target to show himself.

The heat of the moment lowered our source's guard enough to heed her request.

"I see breasts, my normal reaction is: F*** yeah," Mark says. "So I obviously go to whip out my appendage and, you know, give it a few one-two-threes."

And then the woman asked him to show his face again. Shortly after he did, she hung up.

"A few minutes go past, and she sends me a screen recording of literally what I was just doing."

"And then she sends me a screenshot of all my contacts," including parents, friends and family, whose accounts were found on social media.

"And then she's like: Send me \$10,000, or I send it."

"This all happens at like 10pm and I'm freaking out. And the other thing is I didn't want to tell anyone obviously, because like I'm ashamed that I was in this position in the first place, like a f***ing idiot."

They bargained down to \$1,000. Mark first attempted to send the payment via PayPal, but the platform refused to let the payment go through. The transfer eventually worked via the international transfer service Remitly, sending the money to a bank account in the Philippines.

But it wasn't enough: almost immediately, the scammer asked for more money, now wanting \$4,000 to delete the video.

Mark says that's when he realised they could just keep

asking for more, and he got angry.

While stalling the blackmailer with a few invectives, he set all his social media accounts to private, and then blocked the scam accounts.

He reported the encounter to Remitly and to the police via the federal ReportCyber website, providing the scammer's phone number, name and the bank account details.

The police contacted Mark the next day, and he says "they figured out who they were". The initial PayPal transfer failing made the scammers desperate enough to send their bank account number. Police are also able to create a "hash", a unique code related to the video, that can be put in databases to prevent the video being uploaded to popular porn or social media sites.

Because Mark reported the crime quickly to Remitly, the company was able to cancel the payment before it was finalised and the \$1000 was returned to his account.

Mark says the police "were actually really good. They're just like: Yeah, you're not alone, there's heaps of people this happens to, but it's really good that you're coming forward and telling us about it."

"So many people are ashamed, which I totally get."

But Mark was more angry than ashamed, and he says "I'm pretty happy that I spoke out, because obviously you could tell that they'd done it to a lot of people," given how practiced the scammers seemed.

"So who knows how much money they've taken from other people?"

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by STEVE GRANT

BROADCASTER and author Sandra Ramini-Harris says society needs to redefine its notion of ageing, saying older people are being sidelined despite the wealth of experience they have.

The Perth resident, whose illustrious career included interviewing John Lennon and Yoko Ono while sharing a bed with them during a peace lie-in, has just written her fourth book *Act III* which addresses the challenges and stereotypes associated with ageing.

Approaching her 83rd birthday, Ramini-Harris says older people need to embrace the third act of their life, and advocates for a positive shift in perspective on ageing.

She began writing *Act III* when she noticed a decline in work opportunities, attributing it to ageism.

Experience

"That surprised me because I knew I was doing good work, and I knew, in fact, it was probably the best work that I was doing, because experience is a great teacher," she said.

She critiques the language commonly used to describe older people, rejecting terms like "wrinkly senior" or "elderly."

She argues that this demographic represents a reservoir of experience, with each year lived adding valuable insights. Ramini-Harris urges a celebration of age rather than an apology, emphasising the need to relish the freedom and choices that come with the later stages of life.

Ramini-Harris says her goal is not only to get young people to reconsider these stereotypes, but also to inspire older people to

Time to start acting out



• Broadcaster and author Sandra Ramini-Harris.
Photo by Steve Grant

embrace the later stages of life with enthusiasm. She says many have fallen for the 'young is everything' message of mass media.

She criticises the trend of cosmetic procedures aimed at reversing the ageing process, advocating for authenticity and embracing the beauty that comes with age - grey hair and wrinkles.

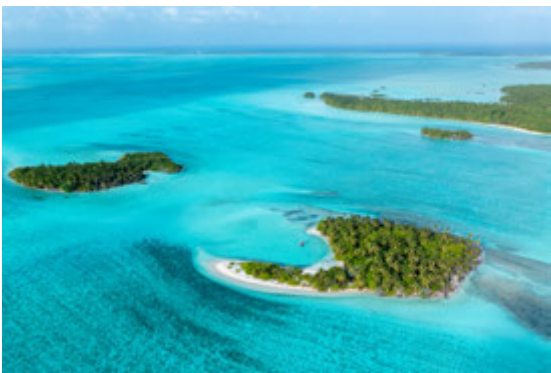
Ramini-Harris also rejects the notion that merely existing is a worthwhile goal.

She wants to live life fully, savouring every moment, experiencing new adventures, and cherishing milestones like witnessing grandchildren flourish, and says others should do the same.

Ramini-Harris suggests people should join

groups like book clubs, Probis or Rotary, saying it fosters connections and creates spaces where seniors can share experiences and support one another.

Act III is available on major online platforms like Amazon, and Ramini-Harris welcomes direct inquiries through her email address sharrisramini@gmail.com



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• Reginald Robinson Lee c1897 was lookout on the Titanic (right).

Titanic tale

by GORDON LEE

MY grandfather Herbert William Lee (1875-1921) was a professional soldier.

A company sergeant major drill instructor, he served in the Boer War and the Great War in the 1/28th Battalion as a member of the WA Mounted Rifles.

Herbert was an Englishman and married a Welsh girl Mabel Frances Finch-Davis.

They migrated in September 1902 to Western Australia and lived in the Fremantle Drill Hall.

He was discharged medically unfit and it seems his injuries were sustained from falling off a bike (probably drunk going on my father's memories of him) while on duty in England during World War I.

Herbert and his wife are buried in Fremantle Cemetery.

His brother Reginald Robinson Lee (1870-1913) was notable for the fact he was lookout on the Titanic, in the crow's nest at the time of collision with the iceberg.

Reg spent his early working life in the Royal Navy.

He was discharged in 1900 because he was "unreliable where alcohol is obtainable".

In 1912 he was lookout on the Titanic – perhaps there was a lack of due diligence on crew appointments on the great ship.

He survived the Titanic but he could not survive his demons

The two brothers only lived to their mid-40s.

Both had a weakness for alcohol.



A friend visited the Kew records office to look for the service record of RR Lee and could not understand how a naval officer could have thrown away a career in the navy for a life as an able seaman in the merchant navy.

He made these notes...

He left the RN under a cloud – he was placed on the retired list on 1st Feb 1900 – because he had a severe drink problem.

The captain of his last ship wrote on July 1899: 'Performance of duty not at all satisfactory, cannot be depended on to do his work punctually and carefully without constant supervision.'

On the whole a very unreliable officer. He cannot be trusted when liquor is obtainable. He has intemperate habits.'

He had previously been sent home from Jamaica on the SS Spartan in 1898 after a spell in hospital suffering from Delirium Tremens caused by his drink problem.

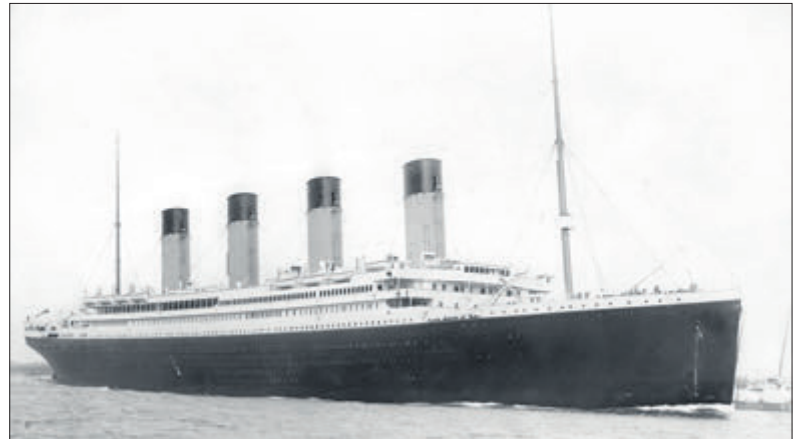
Bearing in mind that as a paymaster he was responsible for all the ship's stores, he would have had unlimited access to the ship's rum supply.

Would he have been cold stone sober when he was a lookout on the Titanic some 12 years later?

My experience of 23 years in the Royal Navy tells that those with an alcohol problem do not shake it off easily.

It probably also ruined his marriage.

So resplendent in his naval officer's uniform, achieving 85 per cent in his paymaster's exam and throwing it all away. What a shame!



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Bon Scott kissed my wife



by THOM DAVIES

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

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

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

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

Since we heard, I've been going

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

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

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

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

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

"Well, how does he smell then?"



I joke.

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

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

Shelley doesn't even feign interest.

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

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

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

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

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

but I've just gone and stuffed it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Discover Treasures at The Traveling Flea

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.

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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!



Want an article published about your business or upcoming event? Email matt.eeles@fremantleherald.com to find out how



Elegant abode

THIS federation-style house in East Perth is an absolute stunner.

Spanning over 400sqm with four bedrooms, two bathrooms and a four-car garage, it combines style with practicality in an elegant package. The craftsmanship is second to none with solid jarrah doors, handmade staircase, period fireplaces, windows sashes and ornate architraves.

It also meets the needs of the 21st century family with all the mod cons including a state-of-the-art security system, brand-new high-end appliances, sophisticated lighting, and an advanced air con system with individual room monitoring and temperature control.

The bathrooms, with their floor-to-ceiling tiles and new tapware,

marry modern functionality with classic design.

There's some lovely outdoor areas too, with the spacious terrace perfect for al fresco dining or relaxing in the sun.

The property has undergone extensive renovations including a unique four-car garage with app-controlled jarrah garage doors, illustrating that no expense has been spared.

Situated on Victory Terrace, it's a lovely spot in East Perth with Optus Stadium, the Swan River, Claisebrook Cove and Victoria Gardens all close by.

Home open today (Saturday January 20) 1:30pm
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Holiday Bubble Burst

Plumber wisdom with Tony Young



We've talked about Flexi Hoses bursting before, but with a rise in damage and insurance claims at this time of year with people getting away with family and friends over the holidays I think it's important to remind everyone about the risks so you can avoid "dancing with disaster" while on a well earned holiday. Flexi hoses are generally found on mixer taps in bathrooms and kitchens as well as toilets but they can be used on other plumbing appliances too.

Did you know...

In just 24 hours a burst flexi hose can release 61000 litres of water. This is more than enough to flood an entire home (or fill a swimming pool).

Flexi hoses are responsible for around 1 in 10 water damage insurance claims and these claims are more than double the cost of a regular burst.

47% of people don't know what flexi hoses are and 20% don't know where they are located in their homes.

1 in 4 home owners have experienced water damage and 8 out of 10 don't know how to prevent it.

Insurance claims spike during holidays,

however most insurance policies won't cover costs if flexis are not maintained as they class it as 'maintenance'.

All this sounds very scary, however it can be avoided in a few simple ways...

1. Check the condition of all hoses visually, signs that they are "on the way out" include rust spots, discolouring, bulging parts and frayed or broken fibre.
2. They should also be free from any tight bends or kinks and shouldn't be over tightened or stretched.
3. We also recommend individual ministop isolation valves for each hose so they can be isolated easily for maintenance or in case of an emergency. This also gives an added advantage of being able to isolate them when you go away without having to turn off the water to the entire house (and garden irrigation).

If you're unsure how to check them or whether you should have them replaced with quality hoses that have a 10 year warranty, just give our friendly office staff a call and one of our plumbers will be happy to advise you.

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Astrology with Sudhir

January 20 – January 27, 2024



ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

This is an interesting week. The Sun and Pluto will move into Aquarius. Pluto shifts signs about once every fifteen years, so this is quite momentous. Then there will be a full Moon in Leo on Friday. Expect a buildup of tension that will release on Friday. Use your communication skills.



TAURUS (Apr 21 – May 20)

The Moon begins her week in Taurus, softening your approach to difficult matters. Come Friday she will be full in Taurus, which is a completely different kettle of fish. Watch as matters that were started with a degree of innocence, become a field of ego battles. Know your position well.



GEMINI (May 21 – June 21)

Mercury and Mars are operating together in Capricorn. You may find yourself obsessing about practical matters, and getting quite hot under the collar. The healthiest way to deal with this combination is to be adventurous. The Moon passes by early in the week, instilling emotion.



CANCER (June 22 – July 22)

The Moon passes through on her way to fullness in Leo on Friday. As she makes her presence felt, you will find yourself getting quite passionate and emotional about the work that you do and the skills you are developing. The Sun is in Aquarius, bringing a sense of increased possibility.



LEO (July 23 – Aug 22)

Come Friday, the Moon will be full in Leo. This week will feel like a slow burn. The Sun and Pluto both move into Aquarius early in the week, challenging you to look beyond your usual parameters, into the lives of others. There is a lot that is broken that needs to be fixed. Ego just can't cut it.



VIRGO (Aug 23 – Sept 22)

Mercury and Mars are travelling together in Capricorn. This will make you particularly perceptive but perhaps a little hot-headed too. As long as you point your passion in the direction of making life more pleasant, life-affirmative and nourishing, all will be well. Continue your renewal.



LIBRA (Sept 23 – Oct 23)

The more you dare to be seen in the world at large, the more aware you become of how the past is trying to take ownership of the present. If you can prevent yourself from being dominated by yesterday, extraordinary fresh openings will present themselves for you to dance on through.



SCORPIO (Oct 24 – Nov 21)

Pluto moves into Aquarius on Sunday. Where Pluto goes, you go. He only shifts signs about once every twelve to fifteen years, so this is a big week. He has been dismantling structures whilst in Capricorn, and setting up the possibility of renewal. In Aquarius, it's our ideals on the line.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Venus continues her journey through Sagittarius. She is continuing to mix her heady brew of love and truth. The Sun and Pluto are moving into airy Aquarius on Sunday blowing oxygen on your fire. It's time to look up and out at the world with ideals intact, and see where it takes you.



CAPRICORN (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Pluto and the Sun depart Capricorn and head into Aquarius on Sunday. Pluto has been with you for about fourteen years. Pluto's job is to regenerate and renew. To do this he dismantles what's done and dusted and opens the space for fresh growth. Your soil has been fully tilled. Say goodbye.



AQUARIUS (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

Pluto and the Sun will arrive on your doorstep on Sunday. With a few minor gaps, Pluto will be traversing Aquarius until 2043. Pluto's job is to regenerate and renew us. To do so, he dismantles what's gone beyond its use by date, and opens space for fresh growth. Be open to the positive.



PISCES (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Saturn and Neptune continue to play their contrary roles in your sign. Saturn is doing his best to bring order, create discipline and get you in touch with your wisdom. Neptune is doing his bit to dissolve all that is crystallised within and help you go with the flow. Be a poet and a scientist.

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Sudhir

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Jordan Mac

Nannup Music Festival returns

WIN A DOUBLE PASS PLUS CAMPING



Codee-Lee

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 via nannupmusicfestival.org

NOTICEBOARD

WHAT'S ON • CLASSES • ACTIVITIES • SPIRITUALSERVICES • SUPPORTGROUPS

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

CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS (CoDA) is a Twelve Step Fellowship of people who share the common purpose of learning how to develop and maintain healthy and fulfilling relationships. Our Perth Community meets: Mondays 6-7pm in Claremont, Corner of Stirling Hwy and Queenslea Drive (Christ Church). 0417 995 111 codependentsanonymous.org.au

FA – FOOD ADDICTS in Recovery Anonymous (www.foodaddicts.org) meets Wednesday 6.30pm at Atwell House – 586 Canning Hwy, Alfred Cove in Room 4 (behind the Gallery) Everyone welcome contact Kerrie 0407 607 436

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

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ON THE TERRACE Join us on our journey! Our first breakfast meeting for the new year 2024 will be on Thursday 1st February. We are a team of women who help to transform the lives and status of women and girls. Find us on Facebook. New members always welcome. Enquiries to Annie 0407 386 453. www.soroptimist-wa.org.au

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NUHRA AGED CARE Volunteer Visitors Scheme. Would you like to make a difference in the life of an isolated and lonely resident living in an aged care facility, by providing friendship and companionship and by visiting at least once a fortnight for half an hour to an hour? Please contact Sonya on 0401 051 565 or 9328 6272 or Email: nuhraacvvs@aussiebb.com.au

WOULD YOU LIKE TO Make a difference? Become a volunteer with the Community Visitor Scheme which is government funded. Visit and befriend lonely and isolated residents living in aged care facilities. Men, women (minimum age 18) and young mums are encouraged to provide companionship to our older citizens. Training and support is provided. Please contact Sonya at Nuhra Life Enrichment Centre, Mt Lawley on 9328 6272 or email nuhraacvvs@westnet.com.au



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CITY OF VINCENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Council Briefings and Ordinary Meetings of Council - Dates for 2024

In accordance with regulation 12(2) of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, the City of Vincent provides local public notice of the dates, times and location of the Council Briefings and Meetings.

Council Briefing	Ordinary Meeting of Council
6 February	13 February
12 March	19 March
16 April	26 April
14 May	21 May
11 June	18 June
16 July	23 July
13 August	20 August
10 September	17 September
15 October	22 October
12 November	19 November
3 December	10 December

Meetings will commence at 6pm and be held in the Council Chamber located upstairs at the City of Vincent Administration and Civic Centre, 244 Vincent Street, Leederville.

David MacLennan
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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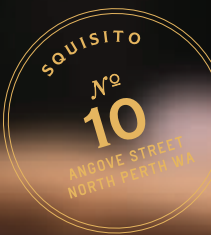
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