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# Borer gives park a Hyding

by DAVID BELL

ONE in five trees in Hyde Park may have to be removed because of a polyphagous shot-hole borer infestation, with the oldest and grandest ornamental trees most likely to be among the casualties.

Agriculture minister Jackie Jarvis visited the park this week and announced: "Unfortunately the only way to deal with this invasive pest is to remove the infected trees."

"Hyde Park is highly susceptible, we know this borer targets European tree species."

"We've already had to remove a number of trees in King's Park and Perth Zoo, and unfortunately now in Hyde Park we're going to have to remove some trees to deal with this pest."

Hyde Park has already had a few trees removed and several other limb loppings to try to halt the bug's spread. But this latest cull is the most drastic yet.

"There are about 900

**1 in 5 trees to go**

trees in Hyde Park," Ms Jarvis said.

"We're estimating about 20 per cent of those trees may have to go."

Dead trees can become launch pads for the insects to rapidly spread.

"This borer infects the tree with a fungus that then causes dieback," Ms Jarvis said.

"If we don't treat these trees, they will die anyway... It is absolutely devastating but we are doing all we can to stop the spread of this invasive species."

South Africa has been struggling against the borer since 2012, and research



• Mt Lawley MP Simon Millman, Perth MP John Carey, and agriculture minister Jackie Jarvis at Hyde Park on Tuesday January 30.

there has shown that once borers infest London Plane trees, about 50 per cent of them die. There's a near-100 per cent fatality rate for box elder maples, English oaks, and other maples in the South African studies, and all those species are commonly planted in Perth's parks and streets too.

A trial of a directly-injected chemical treatment is underway in Perth after showing some success in California, but there's a lot of unknowns about how effectively the substance works on different tree species. South Africa has tried many interventions, from chemical cocktails to a predatory fungus strain that targets borers, but none have

worked very well and their only effective measure that remains is just removing dying trees.

The borer originates in South East Asia, and Ms Jarvis said: "This is a really timely reminder for the people of Perth not to bring in untreated wood products... I'm also asking Perth residents to check their trees, so any trees you have in your garden, I'm asking you to look for borer holes. They are tiny holes in the trees, you might see traces of sawdust. You probably won't see the borer, it's incredibly small, but I'm asking people to look for any signs of disease."

Reports can be made via [mypestguide.agric.wa.gov](http://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov).

au or the MyPestGuide Reporter phone app.

Perth MP John Carey and Mt Lawley MP Simon Millman are holding a community forum about the problem.

"We want to arrange a briefing from the experts so people can directly ask any questions and test any ideas," Mr Carey told us.

He said the idea of cutting down trees has been hard for many to accept. "I understand people saying 'let the tree be', but then the tree will spread it to the rest of the park."

## Devastated

"I love Hyde Park, I use this park every morning or night, and I know that so many people love using Hyde Park. I think a lot of people are going to be devastated."

Around 20 trees are being removed from the Mounts Bay Garden patch of Kings Park, mostly Moreton Bay figs, Port Jackson figs and coral trees ("Tree killer," *Voice*, January 20, 2024).

The Botanic Gardens and



• The shot-hole borer is tiny.

Parks Authority is planning to replace them with native trees, in recognition of the area's significance to Noongar history and because native species are less susceptible to the borer.

Mr Carey says there's not yet been talk on what species might replace the trees that have to be felled at Hyde Park.

The forum is on at Perth Soccer Club on February 19 at 6pm, RSVP for numbers via [www.johncareymla.com.au/events/](http://www.johncareymla.com.au/events/)



• The shot-hole borer was first detected in this East Fremantle property in 2021, where it killed this box elder maple tree.

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# Pride flag push left blowin' in the wind

by DAVID BELL

A PLAN to fly the Pride flag outside Bayswater civic centre has been shot down by half its council, with little explanation from the nay-sayers.

Cr Nat Latter, elected in October 2023, called on colleagues to support flying the Pride flag, which also flutters outside civic centres in Perth, Vincent, and Bassendean councils.

Cr Natter said at the January 30 meeting: "It matters for governments to be visibly inclusive in this way because it saves lives."

"It encourages engagement with the City and participating in civic life and because it's incredibly meaningful for any level of government to proclaim their support for LGBTQ people in a way like this."

"We can set the tone in our district."

## Lasting impact

"We cannot forget that a large anti-LGBTQ protest... happened within our district last year. And I applaud the City and councillors for their response to it in the moment; but those kind of events have a lasting impact on the people affected, and our response should be lasting too."

Cr Latter has long been a supporter of LGBTQ+ people, and previously organised the Drag Queen Story Time which was targeted by protesters in 2023.

The civic centre currently has four flag poles which fly the Australian national flag, the WA state flag, the Aboriginal flag, and the Torres Strait Island flag. Installing a new flag pole would cost about \$8,000.

Council staff suggested a couple of dozen other flags could also fly from the new pole on the appropriate days, including Federation Day, Australia Day, Harmony Day, Anzac Day, Sorry Day, or Chinese New Year.

Cr Latter said even raising the issue of flying the Pride flag brought out some nasty comments: "I've received messages of support but also a few really disgusting responses to this being in the agenda."

Cr Latter's idea was supported by PrideWA CEO Lauren Butterly who wrote a deputation saying: "The Pride flag indicates a safe space for our



•Vincent council has been flying the Pride flag for several years; here's former mayor Emma Cole helping raise it with the Perth Pride Choir in 2022 to celebrate Pridefest.

community. The mental health statistics for our LGBTQIA+ community speak to a need for all local governments to actively show they are safe spaces.

"Seeing a Pride flag displayed on public buildings is a way to make members of our LGBTQIA+ community feel safe, included, accepted and celebrated in their local area," Dr Butterly wrote.

Mayor Filomena Piffaretti, who gave a staunch vocal defence of the LGBTQ+ members during the Drag Queen Story Time protest last year, did not weigh in on the Pride flag issue when she voted against Cr Latter's proposal this week.

All of Ms Piffaretti's supporters likewise voted against: Crs Josh Eveson, Assunta Meleca, Steven Ostaszewskij and Michelle Sutherland

Those in favour were Cr Natter, Dan Bull, Lorna Clarke, Giorgia Johnson, and Elli Petersen-Pik.

Cr Ostaszewskij was the only 'no' voter to offer a rationale: "I believe we can demonstrate

inclusivity, we can be visible in our demonstration of being inclusive, and we can show support of the LGBTQIA+ community, of which I am a member."

"I believe we can do this in a very visible way, right on the verge of Broun Avenue there. We have a beautiful digital sign there, which I believe we spent... I think it was \$50,000 on this big beautiful digital sign there."

Cr Latter liked that idea, but felt a flag had "symbolism and significance."

With the votes locked 5:5, Ms Piffaretti's casting vote as mayor killed the motion. No motion to use the digital billboard was put forward either.

Later in the meeting during a questions-without-notice session, Cr Johnson asked Ms Piffaretti why she'd voted down this motion a great job communicating to the City's diverse community last year.

Ms Piffaretti responded: "If I wanted to do that, I'm happy to talk to you outside of this chamber."

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**WELLINGTON SQUARE / MOORT-AK WAADINY**  
**SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2024**

St Jerome's Laneway Festival is being held on Sunday, 11 February 2024 at Wellington Square / Moort-ak Waadiny, East Perth.  
 The event starts from 11.00am. The event will conclude at 10.30pm.  
 System tests/sound checks for the event will be conducted on Saturday, 10 February for a maximum of two hours between 2.00pm – 8.00pm, and Sunday 11 February for a maximum of two hours between 9.00am – 11.00am.

**NOISE MANAGEMENT**  
 Stage and speaker layouts are designed to obtain maximum screening from buildings and topography. Noise levels will be continuously monitored both inside and outside the venue. Sound systems will be adjusted wherever practicable to reduce noise emissions to residents.

**ROAD CLOSURES AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**  
 The following roads will be closed for the event from 10am Sunday 11 February, to be restored 12am Monday 12 February.

- Wittenoom Street (Hill Street to Bennett Street)
- Hill Street (between Wittenoom and Royal Streets)
- Wittenoom Street (Bennett Street to Plain Street - Local Traffic Only)
- Bennett Street (Wellington Street to Royal Street - Local Traffic Only)
- Wickham Street (Bennett Street to Plain Street - Local Traffic Only)
- Bronte Street (Bennett Street to Plain Street - Local Traffic Only)

The CPP Royal Street Car Park (east end from Lime Street) will be used exclusively for the event from 6am on Sunday 11 February until 12am on Monday 12 February.

**COMPLAINTS OR ENQUIRIES**  
 There will be a dedicated complaint line for residents. The number is 08 6266 8365. Please note this number is only in use during the following times: Saturday, 10 February 2.00pm – 8.00pm and Sunday, 11 February 9.00am – 11.30pm.

**Any enquiries or concerns prior to the event may be directed to St Jerome's Laneway Festival on [perth@lanewayfestival.com.au](mailto:perth@lanewayfestival.com.au)**

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# Zempilas confirms state run

by DAVID BELL

PERTH lord mayor Basil Zempilas has announced he's seeking to become Liberal candidate for Churchlands, aiming to wrest the electorate back from Labor.

Churchlands was previously held by Liberal MP Sean LeStrange until 2021 when Labor's Christine Tonkin was narrowly elected with 50.8 per cent of the two-party preferred vote.

Mr Zempilas was first elected as lord mayor in 2020 and was re-elected in 2023.

During that campaign he steered clear of speculation he might not fulfil his four year term in favour of a Liberal candidacy.

The possibility was repeatedly raised during the election, with rival candidate Sandy Anghie saying she was the only contender who'd committed to being a "full term" mayor.

## Speculation

Mr Zempilas ended the speculation on January 27, holding a press conference in Churchlands and confirming he'd seek pre-selection by the Liberal branch members.

Mr Zempilas said his interest in politics had been boosted by his stint as lord mayor, and he now wanted to bolster the Liberal numbers in the lower house. The Liberals currently have three MPs, plus three Nationals to make up the coalition against 53 Labor members.

"One of the things I've observed very closely from a front row seat, if you like, is the effect of



• Lord Mayor and perhaps soon The Hon Basil Zempilas and his family. He's confirmed he'll seek endorsement from the local Liberal Party branch to be the official candidate in the 2025 state elections.

a lack of balance on our political system in how this government has operated," Mr Zempilas said at his January 27 conference.

"And more balance, I think, in opposition, is going to help produce a better government, whichever way it is. We want it to be closer, we want a more fierce, even contest, and that's something I want to be a part of."

He said there had been "no encouragement" to run from his employer Kerry Stokes who

runs SevenWest media, and "no endorsement". "Didn't ask for one, and didn't get one." But he had told Mr Stokes of his interest in running around October last year, just after the election.

Preselection candidates have to be a member of the party for a month before the branch members vote, and Mr Zempilas' announcement came a day before the cutoff.

State Perth MP, Labor's John Carey, was critical of Mr Zempilas

for leaving the city centre and running in another seat.

Mr Carey told us: "I'm not criticising him for running for higher public office, or for running for a political party," noting other members including himself and Fremantle's Brad Pettitt had also made the jump from mayor to MP.

"My argument [is]: He said he was committed to the city and to Perth residents, and so surely he would then fight here in Perth if he's been so committed?"

Mr Carey suggested that the reason Mr Zempilas was running in Churchlands was because too many Perth residents were angered by the lord mayor's track record on issues like closing the council-owned childcare centre and ending funding for the Safe Night Space for Women.

Mr Zempilas noted at his candidacy announcement that during the October 2023 election "there was lots of discussion and speculation about what my future might or might not be".

## Next tier

He said at his candidacy announcement: "I didn't rule anything out, but I did say that my focus was very clearly on the October lord mayoral election. And I think people understand my desire to take what I've learned as lord mayor, to take the learnings about how this state government operates, to the next tier."

If Mr Zempilas is successful in being pre-selected by Churchland's Liberal branch members, he says he'll stay working as lord mayor until the election writs are issued, which happens between 33 and 58 days ahead of the March 8 polling day.

That's too late to avert a by-election. Recent provisions in the Local Government Act, introduced by Mr Carey ahead of the last election, allow the runner-up in a race to "backfill" a position if the winner resigns within the first year.

If Mr Zempilas were to resign before October 2024, that'd hand the lord mayoral chains to second-in-place contender Sandy Anghie instead of forcing a by-election.



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# Lane name gets delayed

by DAVID BELL

THE naming of a dangerously anonymous laneway in Maylands will likely be delayed another month, as Bayswater councillors decided to consult a local history group to find more potential street names.

Maylands resident Peta Illich has been waiting 15 months for the laneway her house sits on to be named, as ambulances attending to an unwell family member have had trouble finding the unlabelled alley on several occasions.

Last year the council decided against naming it on the spot as their list of pre-approved street names had nearly run dry.

Instead they went out to a lengthy community consultation campaign, asking the public for suggestions for a big list of new street names to have ready to go whenever future naming opportunities arose.

The council was due to approve that list at its January 30 meeting ("Ambo farce," *Voice*, January 27, 2024), but this week mayor Filomena Piffaretti called for a deferral until the February 27 meeting.

## Historical

She said the Maylands Historical and Peninsular Association had asked to make some suggestions for the list too, as it'd missed the consultation period.

"I did speak with the president of the association today," Ms Piffaretti said, "and this just slipped past them, and they would like the opportunity to contribute."

All councillors voted in favour of the deferral save for Cr Giorgia Johnson.

Unfortunately for Ms Illich, the first step towards naming her anonymous laneway was also caught up in the deferral.

As part of the item approving the names list, staff had also recommended councillors ratify a 30-day public advertisement period for three possible names, with an aim for the report to be back to council in time for a decision at the April 27 meeting.

Since that was tacked on to the overall naming item on the agenda, that will be likewise kicked down the road.

# Voiceland's top citizens

CITIZENS who've put in long hours helping the homeless, their neighbourhoods, and even the oceans were recognised at this year's Community Citizen of the Year Awards on Australia Day.

## STIRLING:

Community citizen of the year goes to **Rob Geersen** who volunteers with Starkick, an all-abilities program for kids at Coolbinia Football Club. Mayor Mark Irwin said Mr Geersen was awarded for "promoting inclusivity, fostering a sense of community and providing equal opportunities for children with disability".

- Senior community citizen of the year is **Maureen Banham**, founder of the Karrynup Mall Walkers. This walking group for seniors provides for exercise and socialising in a safe (and weather-proof) environment.

- Young community citizen of the year is **Marwa Wasiqe** for her work with young multicultural groups in not-for profits and government advisory bodies, and mentoring youth in the Afghan community.

- The group award goes to **Uluu**, a new-ish company aiming to keep garbage out of oceans by replacing plastic with an easily-biodegradable material made from seaweed.

## PERTH:

CITIZEN of the year is **Jane Armstrong** from Homelessness; We Care, for their work fundraising and providing food, care, and company for homeless people, refugees, unemployed and disabled people.

- Youth citizen of the year went to **Kate Kirwin** who's getting more young women involved in STEM, developing coding skills through her "Perth Web Girls" group.



• Bayswater trader Greg Da Rui won community citizen of the year, pictured here with mayor Filomena Piffaretti.

- The senior community citizen award went to **Paul Ennis**, who's spent more than 60 years servicing the Perth Town Hall clock, meticulously keeping it ticking while preserving its heritage.

- The group award went to **Sensorium Theatre**, which holds live theatre shows featuring elements like touch, taste, smell and sound, catering for young people with disabilities.

## BAYSWATER:

LONG-TIME Bayswater town centre presence **Greg Da Rui** won community citizen of the year. A pharmacist by trade, he's involved with the Bayswater Traders Association, the Baysie Rollers, and co-founded Future Bayswater. He was also recognised for his work with the Bayswater Food Pantry initiative providing free food for the needy.

- Senior community citizen is **Andrew Mollatt**, who's put in years of volunteer work as a driver for the community bus.

- High school student **Lola Donkin** is young community citizen of the year, for her time helping the Maylands Historical and Peninsula Association update its street art displays and cataloguing local art.

- The group award went to **Friends of Lightning Swamp**, who've spent 20 years rehabilitating the wetlands through weeding, planting, and collecting rubbish.

- Bayswater also runs its own "Outstanding Women in Leadership" award, which went to **Renee Cabassi** for promoting physical health and social connection in local women.

## VINCENT:

Doesn't give out Australia Day awards, have any celebrations or ceremonies on January 26. The council briefly had non-denominational "Active Citizens" awards in the mid-2010s, but those were quietly retired even before Vincent councillors raised any opposition to celebrating on January 26.

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# SUMMER READING

## Where there's a will...

by PENELOPE WILSON

AS I lay on the living room sofa, staring at the ceiling, I wondered how on earth I came to be in this predicament.

There I was in my flannelette pyjamas and dressing gown, flat out, unable to lift my head into a vertical position without collapsing with dizziness.

I had gotten out of bed to go to the bathroom and couldn't make it back!

I kept thinking, this will pass.... this will pass.... this will pass. But it didn't.

As my husband took off for work he asked if he could do anything.

He was unsure about leaving me in this condition, but I assured

him I would be OK and I asked him to pass me the house phone and my mobile phone.

My son got up, dressed and fed himself and cast me several worrying looks and questions as he too took off for his day at school. Silence filled the house.

### Dizziness

I lay there in the quiet; at least I wasn't totally isolated. I had communication.

Water, I thought, I need lots of water, but to no avail, as I lifted my head that all encompassing dizziness, that spinning out of control hit me again.

I realised I needed a doctor. How on earth was I to get to the front door to let him/her into the house?

I had planned to do so much

this day and here I was laid out like a body at a wake.

I suddenly remembered that we kept a spare key for the back door hidden outside for emergencies, was my neighbour at home?

I had her number in my mobile and called her, (this a little harder than it sounded as I didn't have my reading glasses to hand!).

She was home and came straight over, found the key, unlocked the back door and was by my side in five minutes.

She was all care and concern and we arranged for a doctor to call and come in the back door as my neighbour would leave it unlocked.

What a wonderful woman, she even brought me a glass of water and a bucket! But she had to go to work.

The doctor arrived some two

hours later when I was still no better.

She injected a rather large needle into my nether regions and asked was there any stress in my life at the moment?

"Welllll," I answered, denial briefly flying in the face of common sense, but then a distinct, "Yes," followed as I told her we were going through a family court case and I didn't know if I could take any more.

There it was, out in the open, hell, I thought, this is ridiculous.

The doctor told me I should gradually improve and by night time should feel OK, but should I not improve I was to be taken to hospital!

### Drastic

Hospital! It seemed so drastic, but that was it, no medication, just go to hospital if you don't get your act together!

Go straight to goal, do not pass go; do not collect the \$200.

Well, I had all day to lie there and 'get my act together' and of course there was much analysing and worrying going on.

How could something as trivial

as a family legal problem bring me to my knees, but it had and it made me realise the power of family relationships.

It has never failed to amaze me how family dynamics change when one person from a family departs this earth.

### Respect

It makes you realise how one person can keep the peace amongst the other family members whilst alive, albeit unknowingly.

Now call me naive, call me daft, but I have been brought up to respect one's elders, to speak out when the need arises but to do so with clear reason and tact.

The problem, I realised, was that many people are not brought up the same as oneself and couldn't give a rat's rear end about respect and fairness.

I was essentially a third party here, looking at a situation and knowing all the facts and fallacies and it was hard to keep emotion out of the equation, supporting and helping my husband, (as one would do).

It was also important to care for my mother-in-law (she had few carers' and was quite unwell).

## "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).

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Jan Cross, Extraordinary Mind Project.



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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 'truth' 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



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Which of these is most you?

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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

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Thanks Jan, awesome and stress free sessions." ~ Joanna Lee

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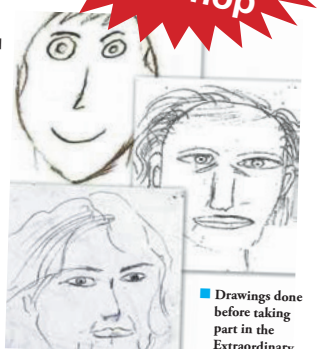
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The fairness issue rated equally high; how could it not with my upbringing?

So how did all this stress start? It started when my sister-in-law died of cancer at the age of 41, and then her father died two years later.

My husband was just one of two children and he effectively became the only child.

My brother-in-law and niece went to great lengths to tackle my mother-in-law about changing her will within two weeks of her husband's death; my mother-in-law was already severely depressed and upset at not only losing her daughter but also her husband and now she had to deal with people making claims on her future estate – that was bad timing, rude and unfair (according to our beliefs anyway), and there was much soothing of ruffled feathers.

My mother-in-law was outraged and upset by the request but decided to make changes to her will to keep the peace.

My mother-in-law was taken to a family solicitor to do just this.

### Rudeness

The result being that my husband would receive 50% of the estate on his mother's demise and his niece would also receive 50 per cent of her grandmother's estate (in effect receive her deceased mother's portion) – fair enough.

But events then changed dramatically over the course of the next few years, the relationship between granddaughter and grandmother deteriorated dreadfully, due mainly to the granddaughter's monetary demands and rudeness.

My mother-in-law then made up her mind to change her will to favour only her son.

She did not want to leave her granddaughter anything.

To add insult to injury my husband was also executor of his mother's will as well as now being the sole heir. My husband was very aware of the personalities and the possibilities in the ensuing scenario and felt very uncomfortable.

His mother asked him three times to take her to a solicitor to change her will.

She was very agitated and adamant, so after the third request he took her. Then, the inevitable; my mother-in-law passed away.

My husband was in a very awkward situation.

He was lawfully expected to fulfil his role as executor by abiding by his late mother's wishes but on

the other hand felt his niece should receive some part of the estate.

He finally decided he would give his niece part of the inheritance anyway by paying some of her costs to make her life easier, even though this went against what his mother wanted.

But, on hearing that her grandmother had left her out of the will, my niece shot off to a solicitor and started an avalanche of insults and accusations in order to gain what she felt was rightfully hers.

She was not interested in discussion with my husband in any shape or form.

### Spat out

The emotions involved were huge and constant thoughts of what 'might happen' or 'what one might be criticized/accused of next' very unnerving, it is these assumptions, I believe, that cause the intense stress in these situations.

All the family politics were dragged in, churned over, embellished and spat out.

This had now dragged on for several months, every Friday a letter would appear in our letterbox demanding this, that and the other, or else unfair or untrue accusations were made.

It got to the stage that I couldn't face the letterbox anymore, it was too stressful!

I would stand at the front door looking down the garden path at the letterbox, one part of me wanted to ignore it, the other part of me felt incredibly drawn to its contents.

At one stage the letterbox was actually ripped off the fence and found at the end of the street!

On another occasion my husband had eggs thrown at his car windscreen.

I have never seen such lies, twisting of situations and insults in my life, and all from a family member.

It went very much against my

grain. My husband was advised not to answer any of her letters and demands and to only correspond through a solicitor, which my husband had to hire and attend just to defend himself!

In this state of 'muteness' my mind would go wild answering her letters which she would never (unfortunately) see. Very frustrating.

So there you have it in a nutshell, the cause of my illness. And yet there was more to come, another four months in fact.

So who does have the right in this situation? Of course, the granddaughter had a right to her mother's share but does she forfeit this right by her constant monetary demands and unseemly behaviour?

And doesn't the grandmother have a right to leave her estate any way she wishes?

After a 13 month legal process the courts decided that the granddaughter should receive 25 per cent of the estate but she had to pay her own legal fees which would have detracted greatly from the sum received.

### Twist

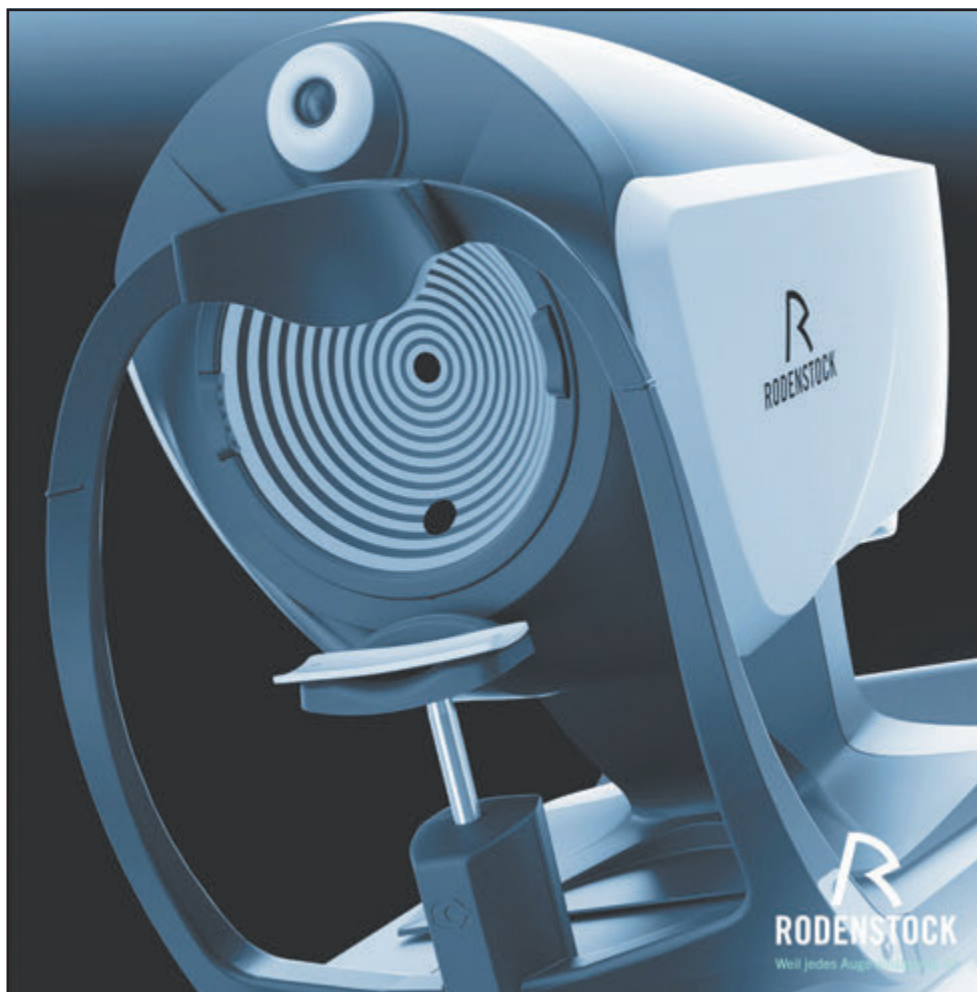
We were happy just to have the whole process over and done with but the experience has left a very sour taste in our mouths and there is to this day no contact between certain family members.

There was, however, a twist to this tale.

In the original will, the granddaughter was entitled to the mother's share should the mother pass away first.

And yet the granddaughter and her father made a great fuss demanding that the grandmother change her will on the assumption that with their wife/mother dying all the grandmother's estate would pass on to her son – they effectively did themselves out of 25 per cent of the estate.

I rest my case.



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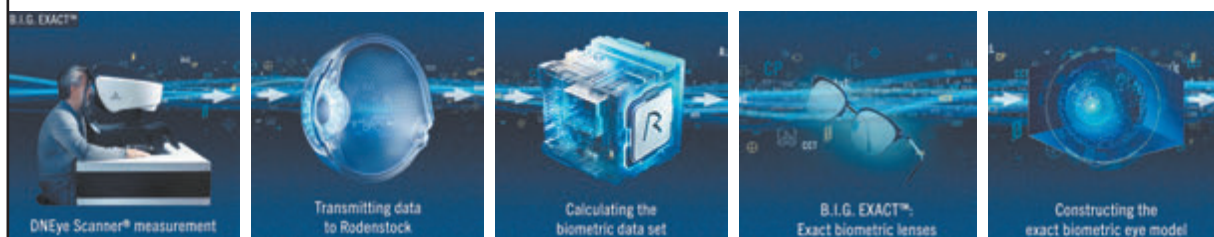
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# Seniors

## Great timing

**T**HERE was never any chance of Paul Ennis being late for the Perth Citizen of the Year awards.

For six decades he maintained the historic Perth Town Hall clock, making sure the antiquated series of levers, springs and weights were in perfect harmony to tell the correct time.

His long service and diligence was recognised when he recently received the Senior Citizen of the Year award from Perth council.

Ennis, 71, said it was a particularly proud moment as his 92-year-old father, who he cares for, got to see him receive the gong.

The Ennis family looked after the Perth Town Hall clock for more than 100 years and Paul was the last in the family line to service it.

As a young boy Ennis would accompany his dad when he was working on the clock, before taking on maintenance duties when he was a teenager in the late 1960s. The family were all skilled

watchmakers and back in the day made chronometers for ships, clocks for the department of civil aviation, and looked after most of the big clocks in the state.

"We did the clock at York Town Hall, the Albany Town Hall and just about everywhere else you can think of," Ennis told the *Voice*.

"Back then clocks were controlling all sorts of things including the chronometers on ships which were used for navigation, so they were engineered to the highest standard and had to be spot on."

The Perth Town Hall clock was built by London clockmakers Thwaites and Reed and the three bells also came from London.

When fixing the clock, Ennis tried to keep as many of the original parts as possible.

He was amazed by their durability, including a giant suspension spring which had been in-use for more than 50 years. "With these old clocks, none of the parts are standard, even the threads on the bolts, and you

have to make any replacements yourself," he says.

The clock was originally manually wound, but was upgraded to a self-winding weight system in the 1950s, which Ennis then overhauled in 2005.

But apart from that it's pretty much original.

The third generation of the Ennis family to maintain the clock, he says there's only been one major incident when a huge cable snapped, sending the clock into free spin.

He said Big Ben in London had the same issue in the early 1960s.

Situated on the corner of Barrack and Hay Streets, the Town Hall clock used to be the highest building in the city. People would use it as a meeting point and large crowds would gather beneath it on December 31 to bring in the new year.

The Ennis family were always there on new year's eve to make sure it was working, including having a hammer on hand to whack the bell if the clock failed at midnight – but it never did.

"I knew times were changing when I was there for New Year recently and there was only a hobo and me – there used to be crowds of up to 5000 people," Ennis says.



Ennis says he never had a formal contract with the City of Perth and it was a sort of old-school gentleman's agreement that he would fix it.

He used to go up and check the clock every two weeks when he owned a jewellery store on Hay Street (his second trade was jewellery making).

Now in semi-retirement, a "young fella" has taken over maintenance of the clock, but Ennis is still on hand to offer advice when needed.

• The Perth Town Hall clock (left) and Paul Ennis with Perth Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas (above).

"It was a great honour to get the citizen award, and also recognition of the decades of service my family put in to keep the clock going," he says.



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# Luna limelight



arts  
STEPHEN POLLOCK

**A**FTER decades of screening other people's films, Luna Leederville will finally get top billing in a new behind-the-scenes doco about the beloved indie picture house.

And who better to make *Luna*, starring than two of its long term employees – duty managers Ailish Beahan and Caitlin Kirk – who know the quirky venue inside-out.

Beahan will direct and Kirk produce, with both sharing writing credits. Kirk has a background in film and post-production, and for the past year they have been making creative advertisements under the Girlgenius moniker.

"We will be highlighting a variety of events held at Luna, and how important getting together for storytelling and human connection in these spaces is," said the pair in a joint statement to the *Voice*.

"There are endless funny things that happen at Luna, the same as any workplace that consists of funny, passionate and creative human beings.

"We hope to include as many of these faces and stories as we can in the doco."

Situated on the corner of Oxford and Vincent Streets, the Leederville

venue was built in 1927 and started out life as The New Oxford Theatre.

Over the years it went through a series of owners and name changes including the Nickelodeon, Olympia Theatre and Star Theatre.

In the mid 1990s it was renamed Luna Cinema and underwent major renovations, before the Luna Palace group took over in 1999 and it finally became Luna Leederville.

The gorgeous art deco venue is a hipster antidote to dumb Hollywood franchises like *Transformers* and *The Fast and the Furious*, screening only the best indie, cult and classic movies.

## Quirky

It also hosts special events like Q&As with directors, live concert broadcasts and various fun nights like *Rocky Horror* singalongs. The cinema has a funky bar, adding to the social and sometimes chaotic vibe.

In recent times cinemas have struggled because of streaming services and giant TVs, but Luna Leederville has transcended its cinematic roots to become a quirky hub for the community and a bit of a cult icon.

"Luna is an inspiring and special place," said Beahan and Kirk.

The 10-minute documentary was one of three films selected to be made as part of the City of Vincent Film Project, which awards

filmmakers \$8000 to make a short film about Vincent.

*Aurelio Costarella* (working title) will explore the rollercoaster life of the Vincent fashion designer, including the success of his fashion label, his mental health journey and the impact of art therapy. It will be directed by Chantel Concei and produced by Kate Downie.

*Steel Coping* will delve into the local skateboarding scene, which is more than just a hobby and has become a subculture for disaffected youth in Vincent. It will be produced by Zoe Davis with writer/director Mason Smit.

A partnership with the Revelation Perth International Film Festival, over the years the City of Vincent Film Project has been an important springboard for filmmakers to get wider recognition.

*Pacing the Pool*, a short doco about local swimmer Richard Pace who has the bone-weakening condition polyostotic fibrous dysplasia, and *The Throwback* which explores the last days of Mt Hawthorn's holdout video rental store, have won international awards.

Directed by Radheya Jegatheva, *Pacing the Pool* was picked up by more than 80 festivals around the world and even got the nod at an Academy Award-qualifying event.

"Now in its seventh year, the Vincent Film Project has gone from strength to strength," said Vincent



• Ailish Beahan and Caitlin Kirk are making a short doco about Luna Leederville, where they both work.

mayor Alison Xamon.

*Luna*, starring, Aurelio Costarella, and *Steel Coping* will be screened

at the annual Revelation Perth International Film Festival at Luna Leederville on July 3-7.



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# Saint or sinner?

 **food**  
STEPHEN POLLOCK

IN honour of Jannik Sinner winning The Australian Open, I decided to take my kids out for an Italian meal.

Yes, I was paying my respects to a supreme athlete by eating my bodyweight in pizza and pasta.

But it made sense in some parallel universe where there were no wars, over-eating was good for you and watching *Today Tonight*

was punishable by death.

On the penultimate day of the school holidays it was so hot even the solar panels were begging for mercy, so I quickly parked and frogmarched Bamm-Bamm and Pebbles into Il Milanese.

Situated just over the Inglewood border in Bedford, the Italian cafe had an impressive facade with lovely art deco architecture framing the bay windows.

Inside it had a large counter, a display cabinet filled with meats and cheese, and a variety of glasses

and bottles on shelves, creating an arty backdrop.

There were a few small tables, but the owner recommended we sit in the lower level which was more spacious and resembled a formal dining area.

It was a nice spot with the walls festooned with photos of Italian soccer teams and rustic sacks of coffee beans.

The owner was incredibly nice, a humble gent originally from Milan, and he put on some extra air con so we didn't feel the extreme heat.

The menu had a vast range of pizza, panini, panzerotti, pasta and risotto.

There was also a kids menu and a nice range of authentic Italian drinks including chinotto.

Before going back to vegemite sandwiches at school, the kids had one last hurrah and decided to share a Margherita pizza (\$19).

I was lured in by the Specials Menu which included dishes like squid ink risotto, spaghetti frutti di mare and truffle tagliatelle.

I ended up going for the boneless pork fillet cotoletta (\$28).

While waiting for our meal, a few people came in for coffees and the owner was on first-name terms with all of them, illustrating the cafe was ingrained in the local community.

I battled the heat with a Zero Peroni (\$6) and it was a pleasant surprise – when alcohol-free beers first came out they were pretty grim, but they are now very palatable and the flavour almost tricked my brain into thinking I

was getting soused.

It wasn't long before the kids were wolfing down their Margherita pizza. Any sit-in pizza under \$20 is great value these days and this was a cheesy delight with heaps of mozzarella, a thin mottled base and a judicious serve of San Marzano tomato.

According to the menu, the pizza dough is naturally risen for at least 48 hours.

It was a hit with the kids and they had no complaints.

Unfortunately, my cotoletta was a bit of a misfire.

The large pork fillet was tough and the salad was a bit of an afterthought – rocket with some cherry tomatoes and no dressing.

It was surprising as I've been in before and the pasta and breakfast dishes were pretty good, so maybe it's best to stick to the stalwarts – coffee, pizza and pasta.

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The brand-spanking new kitchen has a sleek design with the speckled benchtops and chunky cupboard handles providing some contemporary flair.

A shiny stainless steel oven, gas cooktop and tiled splashback complete the pretty picture.

The ensuite bathroom is modern and fresh with the large

shower cabinet complementing the white vanity and mirrored cupboard on the wall.

It's often the bathroom that dates or feels a bit grubby in apartments, but this is a great example of what can be achieved with a small space.

The balcony is a cracker and a great spot to enjoy drinks and nibbles while gazing out at Crown Casino and the city in the distance.

The living area and bedroom are carpeted, meaning it will be nice and snug come winter, and there is split-system aircon.

Part of the Inglecrest apartment complex, there are great facilities including automatic gates, two

lifts, tennis court and a sparkling pool (essential for the heatwave we are going through).

Situated on Tenth Avenue, it's a short walk to all the shops, cafés and public transport on Beaufort Street, as well as Maylands train station, cycle path and the Eighth Avenue precinct.

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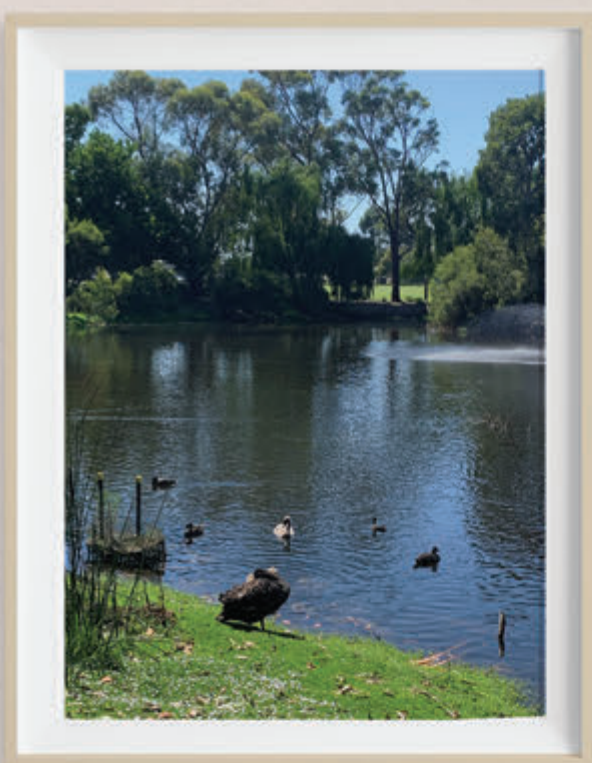
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# Astrology with Sudhir

February 3 – February 10, 2024



### ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

Mercury, Venus and your ruling planet Mars, are all in Capricorn. Together they are setting an agenda that is quite different from your normal modus operandi. Your usual approach is to launch into experience and learn from what follows. For now you must structure, plan and build.



### TAURUS (Apr 21 – May 20)

The Scorpio Moon is doing it's level best to draw you into emotional whirlpools that may or may not serve you well. The good news is that there are multiple other influences around that are more genuinely supportive. Step back until you can see the easy path, then walk up it with delight.



### GEMINI (May 21 – June 21)

Your ruling planet Mercury, is in the pragmatic universe of Capricorn. You have a golden opportunity here to apply your crazy Gemini wisdom to practical matters that have others stumped; and offer unique, innovative solutions. Exercise your brain in fields of play you at times avoid.



### CANCER (June 22 – July 22)

The Moon begins her week in Scorpio, spicing up your emotional world and encouraging a willingness to look under the rug. When you feel safe, you are quite the explorer of emotions. This is a powerful time of self-enquiry for you. Make use of every bit of encouragement you get.



### LEO (July 23 – Aug 22)

The Scorpio Moon at the start of the week rattles your cage more than a little. Your relationships inevitably bring feelings to the surface that go beyond what you learned at high school. Courage is your superpower. Apply it in the realm of intimacy. Expand your sense of what's possible.



### VIRGO (Aug 23 – Sept 22)

As long as you don't take on challenges that are way beyond you, you will find yourself excelling with ease. In other words, avoid hubris at all costs. Venus in Capricorn is fuelling you with affection. Uranus in Taurus is opening up innovative options that will yield greater freedom.



### LIBRA (Sept 23 – Oct 23)

While you ponder the meaning of life, life goes on. Your ruling planet Venus is in a strong position in Capricorn, lining up a series of blessings that are so seamless you might not even notice that they are there. Life is supporting you in ways that are so obvious it will take two looks to see.



### SCORPIO (Oct 24 – Nov 21)

The Moon begins her week in Scorpio, strengthening your position, reinforcing the feeling that you are on track, and opening up a sequence of events that gives you the sense that life is on your side. When you are aligned emotionally, the results of your actions can be dramatic and practical.



### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

The Scorpio Moon stops you in your tracks early in the week. Avenues of expansion that you might have assumed would bear fruit, end up being less fertile than imagined. It's time to reassess. The best way to do this is to go back to your friends and allies to get feedback that you can trust.



### CAPRICORN (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Venus, Mercury and Mars are in Capricorn. Venus is having a powerful positive influence. Follow your lightness and your delight, and the results will be powerfully positive. Mercury and Mars are a little less productive. Overthink things, or try to force things, and they will go pear-shaped.



### AQUARIUS (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

The Sun is in the 'Crazy Wisdom' part of Aquarius. Let your mind dance it's wildly unorthodox, unwieldy dance. You will cover a lot of ground but the outcome will be creative and positive. With Pluto now in your sign, there is a bigger fish on the barbeque. There's no need to go there yet.



### PISCES (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

The Scorpio Moon at the beginning of the week gets you off to a positive start. Emotions are healthy when they are able to flow. You will find yourself able to touch on feelings that have been eluding you. Understanding and ease directly follow. Saturn is keeping you steady, secure and wise.

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# Sudhir

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**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ON THE TERRACE** What is the purpose of Soroptimist International? A global volunteer movement, we work together to transform the lives of women and girls. Our network of around 66,000 club members in 120 countries works at a local, national and international level to Educate, Empower and Enable opportunities for women and girls. Be part of this movement. Join our Terrace club. We meet on the first Thursday of each month. Find us on Facebook. Enquiries to Annie 0407 386 453 [www.soroptimist-wa.org.au](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:nuhraacvvs@westnet.com.au)

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