

MELVILLE CITY HERALD



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Your local, **INDEPENDENT** newspaper

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Council fesses up: Owners not told about tree register

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER

THE Moreton Bay Fig at 195 High Street was back before Fremantle council this week after a review found officers didn't follow correct processes when adding it to a Significant Tree Register.

The review was conducted after the Cattalini family, which owns the property, threatened legal action when their request to remove the enormous fig was at first accepted by the council, but rescinded after a public outcry.

The review concluded the process should be redone so the listing abided by Local Planning

Scheme requirements.

At Fremantle council's meeting on Wednesday night, CEO Glen Dougall conceded neither the occupants or owners of 195 High Street were notified about the fig being put on the register.

"We haven't been able to demonstrate that we contacted occupiers or the various properties

as required under the scheme," Mr Dougall said.

Trees along Harvest Grove in North Fremantle and Henderson Road will also be under review for the Significant Tree Register.

The tree is on a property owned by Pam Cattalini, widow of former Fremantle mayor and pharmacist John Cattalini.

At Wednesday's meeting, members of the family were scathing when questioning the council over the Significant Tree Register.

Ms Cattalini's daughter Danielle said the council was "ignoring" what's "at stake" for the Freo community.

• *Continued page 7*



• Consiglia Vinciguerra arrived in WA with four children to join her husband Giuseppe in forging a new life with many other Italian migrants who went on to shape their adopted home's culture.

Voyage to new life was bananas

by STEVE GRANT

THEY came at the peak of Italian mass migration, and late last week Franco Smargiassi and sister Anna Martinazzo returned to Fremantle to celebrate where they took their first steps on Australian soil 70 years ago.

Ms Martinazzo says she was just nine years old when she arrived at Victoria Quay with her mother Consiglia and three siblings in April 1952, but didn't get much of a chance to form an impression of her new home.

"I had been seasick the whole way," she says.

"I think I had to be carried off the boat, I was so weak, and to this day I have a bit of anxiety about going on a boat, just in case I get it again."

• *Continued page 6*

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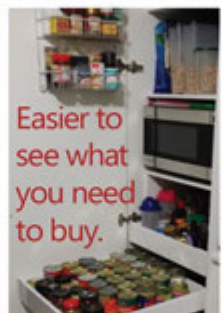


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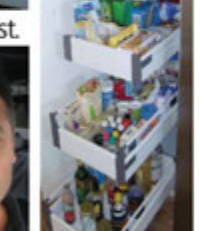


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Election challenge stretches to June

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER

THE legal battle hanging over Fremantle's Coastal Ward has stretched out until at least June.

Former councillor Marija Vujcic's challenge against her successor, Jemima Williamson-Wong's election win last October was back for a quick mention in the Fremantle Magistrate's Court last week.

Cr Williamson-Wong won the seat by 71 votes after preferences, but Ms Vujcic, along with the Greater Fremantle Community and Business Group, say that's too close to call given a major

stuff-up by the WA Electoral Commission.

The WAEC mixed up the ballot papers for Coastal and Central Wards prior to the election, although there's been no challenge against Cr Geoff Graham's win in the latter.

Cr Williamson-Wong says she joined the legal proceedings as an interested party "to understand what was going on" in the process concerning her election.

"The reason I joined wasn't to persuade one way or another, but to provide information and understand what's going on as the process unfolds," Cr Williamson-Wong said.

"I absolutely believe democracy requires transparency and accountability, so I'm supportive of that."

Cr Williamson-Wong said her legal fees were being covered pro-bono in a private agreement with Hammond Legal, and not by the Fremantle council.

Cr Williamson-Wong, 21, has had to face several hurdles since her election six months ago.

In December, flyers were distributed to letterboxes around coastal ward criticising her age and questioned her ability to serve on council, citing "inexperience".

The case will continue with a procedural hearing in June.

Small but SASsy

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER

SPEARWOOD Alternative School will be hosting a fair next weekend to celebrate its 40th anniversary and its success as an independent public school.

The school was founded in 1984 as part of the state and federal government's Choice and Diversity in Education project.

As a public school, Spearwood delivers the standard state curriculum, but in a more "holistic approach" to education.

Put it this way: students get weekly yoga lessons while receiving the same education as their state school peers.

School board chair Olenna Connell says Spearwood has a "big focus" on fostering an appreciation for the environment and Indigenous culture, as well as learning how to "take agency for their own learning".

"We do put a strong emphasis on literacy and learning, and making sure we tick all of those boxes," Ms Connell said.

"At the same time, we appreciate there are different elements to education.

"Children also need to learn to be happy, content, confident curious human beings who are part of a wider community."

The school is small, but its size is what makes the education so unique: the community-based focus is present in the education experience itself.

"Our school doesn't have a



• Spearwood Alternative School is gearing up for its 40th birthday open day.

uniform, and we don't call our teachers miss or mister, we speak to the students and teachers by their first name," Ms Connell said.

"There's a big respect and rapport built, as well as big emphasis on a restorative practice of justice."

Ms Connell says the school is acutely "aware" of its 'alternative' status being a last-chance place for students who may have struggled in the state school system.

"It's a conversation we have all the time at the school," she said.

"When the school was founded 40 years ago, the name

attracted a different demographic of people that wanted to be 'alternative', so we've had that tag for a long time.

"It's interesting because the name 'alternative' is very polarising but at the same time, we now have to take local catchment, but our list is overflowing.

"Our Open Day was loaded with people that want to be part of a smaller community."

The Spearwood Alternative School 40th Anniversary Fair will be held next Sunday, May 5 from 10am - 4pm, complete with markets, food, music, and school tours. The address is 370 Rockingham Road, Spearwood.

Combined, over



local businesses, councils and organisations have chosen to advertise across the **Herald** and **Perth Voice** newspapers **this week!**

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Ditching trial a touch insensitive

by SOPHIE KELLY

MAIN ROADS has deactivated contactless sensors it installed around Perth during the Covid pandemic, leaving locals frustrated at the lack of communication and a change in their routine.

In 2022 the department rolled out the contactless sensors at 70 pedestrian crossings in busy areas across Perth.

They provided pedestrians with an alternative to pushing the button to activate the crossing' instead they could hover their hand over a sensor.

WA transport minister Rita Saffioti said at the time the technology would offer

reassurance to people who were hesitant to use pedestrian push buttons during the pandemic.

But Main Roads says the sensors suffered from "a number of faults" including issues with picking up when someone was trying to use them and also glitches in their audio elements.

It decided to permanently scrap the trial and deactivate the sensors across the 70 sites.

Fremantle resident Bruce Wilson was concerned about the lack of communication from Main Roads before it turned the sensors off, saying it left people in the lurch.

"They did it without being willing to advise everyone," he said.

Mr Wilson, who delivers the *Herald* through Fremantle's CBD

each Friday, said he still observed people trying to use the sensors, describing the situation as an "inconvenience" to people who use the crossings daily.

He says touchless sensors are good for hand hygiene generally and there should be more of them, while removing them is an "adverse direction to improving community health".

Local retail workers Ella Cooke is immunocompromised and crosses the intersection at Market and High Street at least four times a day.

Ms Cooke said she was also concerned about the sensors being deactivated.

"Just because Covid isn't as prominent any more doesn't mean there aren't still dangerous germs around," she said.

Freo ArtWalk Returns

ARTWALK FREO will once again grace the streets of Fremantle and its neighbouring suburbs in May.

Local and internationally acclaimed artists will welcome visitors into their studios, homes, and creative spaces, many for the very first time.

What began as a single weekend affair will now extend over three weekends starting from May 4 and 5.

Organiser Ros de Souza has seen first-hand the positive impact Artwalk Freo has had on artists and the local community since its successful inaugural event in 2014.

The entire event is designed to explore on foot with each route approximately four kilometres long and tickets starting at \$20.

Art enthusiasts and the broader community are warmly welcomed to wander through the streets, seizing a rare chance to discover the hidden artistic gems of the port city and experience the creative process up close and personal.

The first weekend is based in South Fremantle, then Artwalk moves to White Gum Valley, then concludes in the Monument Hill precinct through to Holland Street accessed via the new highway underpasses.

Over 22 artists will be opening their homes and studio spaces this year including the renowned Ian de Souza, national treasure Pippin Drysdale as well as



• Ian de Souza and Sarah Abbott are opening their studios.

acclaimed ceramic artist Sandra Black, visual artist and curator Jo Darbyshire, mixed media artist Eveline Kotai and sculptors and public art creatives Arif and Audrey Satar.

"We have come out of a five-year hiatus," Ms de Souza told the *Herald*

"The past few years have been challenging for artists and the community as a whole, but Artwalk Freo is a testament to our resilience and creativity.

The inaugural walk in 2014 had a budget of just \$400 and the four artists involved lived near each other by the monument, but for the comeback Ms de Souza said they decided to go all out and involve all three areas.

Previously they'd avoided going near South Fremantle because the walk clashed with an architecture event, but that appears to be in a permanent hiatus.

She said this year the event is

ticketed for the first time.

"Previously we've had grants, and we're incredibly appreciative of what that helped us to achieve, but we really wanted to see if we could self-fund the event."

Ms de Souza said what had struck her most about this year's event was bringing together artists who were well known in art circles, but hadn't necessarily met each other, and she hopes some interesting collaborations might emerge.

Artwork will be available to the public for purchase directly through the artists at each studio.

The artwalk kicks off the May 4/5 weekend from 10am till 4pm and runs till Sunday May 19.

For more information or to purchase tickets head to www.artwalkfreo.com or find more information on their socials @artwalkfreo on Instagram and Facebook.

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NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE

The University of Notre Dame Australia will host its Fremantle Campus Open Day on Saturday 4 May. Please note:

- **Mouat St** will be closed between Phillimore St and Marine Tce.
- **Croke St** will be closed between Henry St and Cliff St.

BOTH ROADS WILL BE CLOSED FROM 4AM TO 6PM.

This is a major event with approximately 5,000 people in attendance. Music will be played during the event on Mouat St between 9am and 3pm.

If you have any queries, please contact the Future Students Office on 9433 0533 or future@nd.edu.au.

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— herald  thinking allowed —

Act now; it spreads

Help with HELP



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

reasonable level – currently \$51,550 per year.

The Government is listening however and is hinting at providing help for students with HELP debts. One popular suggestion is to index HELP debts by the lower of inflation (measured by the CPI) or wages growth (measured by WPI).

The problem, at least historically, is that WPI is rarely lower than CPI. It has been lower four times in the last 25 years. It might be simpler to just cap the maximum indexation rate.

There are other sensible concessions that could be considered to assist students in an equitable way.

The first would be to calculate indexation on the running balance of the debt, so that repayments made through the PAYG system throughout the year will reduce the total interest charged annually.

Currently, the only incentive for voluntary payments is to save the annual indexation charge

The second is to bring back an incentive to make voluntary payments. Students can make these at any time, but under the initial rules, were incentivised to do so with a 15% discount. This concession was reduced to 10% in 2005 and to 5% in 2012, before being scrapped entirely in January 2017.

Perhaps the discount for voluntary payments could be equal to the current indexation rate, providing better incentives as holding costs rise.

Currently, the only incentive for voluntary payments is to save the annual indexation charge. To do this you must make the payment before 1 June, being careful to follow the ATO's helpful instruction of allowing "enough time" for them to process your payment.

The HELP system allows Australian university students to defer their course costs until they start earning a decent income, at which time they commence making repayments through the PAYG system.

It was introduced in 1989 and has been consistent in applying an annual inflation rate to each student's outstanding balance as a substitute for interest.

Before 1989, tertiary education was cheap (almost free). I commenced my university studies in 1986 and finished in 1992, so was fortunate to get my education relatively cheaply. I remember the shocking announcement that HECS (the old name for HELP) would be introduced at \$1,800 per year and was aquiver when indexation of 8% and 6.4% were applied in the first two years. It has since settled down somewhat (until recently), with the average indexation since inception sitting at 2.8%.

I don't want to see students hard done by and I understand their concerns with 2024 indexation expected to exceed 4%, after a nasty 7.1% last year. But then again, inflation is inflation. It is what it is. Their deferred debt will be bigger than expected, but so will their future earnings and capacity to repay at that time. Students are not asked to begin repayments until their income reaches a

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

FREMANTLE (and Perth in general) has so far been spared the scourge of graffiti.

But recently I've noticed an increase in the amount of graffiti around Fremantle, most of it tagging.

I originally came from Melbourne, and last winter visited Athens, two cities that have been ruined by graffiti.

The image to the right is a street scene from Athens, and tagging is ubiquitous throughout the central area where we visited.

There was some good street art, but most was ugly tagging as shown above.

We even saw tagging on marble antiquities.

I was living in Carlton in Melbourne in the 1970s and caught two young boys tagging the newly-renovated brick wall of a house I was renting.

Tagging was new then, so I gave them a verbal blast and let them go.

These days I would take them to the nearest police station.

The tagging in Melbourne is now totally over-the-top, and although the city tries to make it a feature with tagged lane tours, the fact remains that the city is greatly lessened by the tagging.

Graffiti grew quickly in Melbourne, and after a while it was so pervasive that it could not be stopped.

I suggest that unless Fremantle acts quickly, we will succumb to the same fate.

Tagging is not art – it is visual pollution. It is also a criminal offence.

The Fremantle council needs to take immediate action. Here are some suggestions:

- Encourage residents to 'dob in a graffiti polluter,' perhaps via an advertising campaign.
- Request that the local police take the matter seriously. They can attend schools, and

GARRY BRISCOE is a Beaconsfield resident who's concerned about how much graffiti is appearing on walls (and even works of art) around Fremantle. It follows the *Herald's* story about Fremantle council cutting back its graffiti-busting services in July last year ("Scrubbed out," *Herald*, October 14, 2023). Dr Briscoe says he's seen the results of letting graffiti get out of hand and has urged the council to act now.

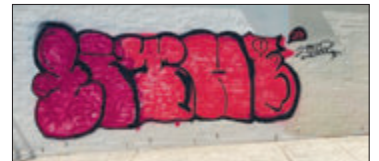


should make an example of any perpetrators.

- Encourage residents and local businesses to quickly cover over any graffiti. This will rob the writers of any recognition.

- Employ a worker to paint over any graffiti that appears within Fremantle. There are also businesses that can sand-blast brick and other materials if required. Kleenit is a company that performs this task; and,

- Encourage the state government to increase the penalties for graffiti, and to undertake an advertising



campaign condemning the practice.

Let's not kid ourselves.

Unless we take action, our beautiful Fremantle buildings will soon be covered with ugly graffiti.

Perpetrators don't care about history or beauty, just a perverted need for recognition.



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MY MOST UNLOVED WORD/PHRASES 2484 ange

<p>REACHING OUT cos you cant say as you catch</p>	<p>(I also want to spell + say egrerious)</p> <p>egregious (eg. tree-john) a word I look up when I hear it + forget again. Silly word.</p>	<p>EXCITED! We are SO excite & to tell you this word is SO overused which devalues it. Pleased & happy to say!</p>
<p>BOOMER disparaging word for a diverse group of people. born 45-60 roughly</p>	<p>AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME previously known as NOW OR JUST NOW</p>	<p>TOMOZ a quick way of writing tomorrow on social media which I annoy myself using</p>

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Baugruppe or gripes?

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER

A PLAN to build sustainable housing units in White Gum Valley is currently before Fremantle council as part of a decade-long build to alleviate WA's social housing crisis.

The 24 new units, referred to as WGV Baugruppe, are to be built as part of the larger WGV, a plan to build 80 new environmentally and socially conscious dwellings in the Valley.

The new homes will be one- and two-bedroom units as part of WGV, which is located on Beazley and Stevens Streets in the Valley, just opposite Booyeembara Park.

WGV was developed as a "demonstration project" by sustainability experts Peter Newman and Josh Byrne.

WGV will eventually comprise Baugruppe, as well as the Sustainable Housing for Artists and Creatives, a private build ('Evermore'), and additional low-income housing known as Generation Y, as well as individual lots tailored to the WGV design.

According to Development WA, WGV is Western Australia's first "One Planet Community", which they say integrates sustainable building design with community need, which will include additions such as eco-friendly facilities such as solar power and rainwater tanks.

Opinion divided on valley housing

However, Citizens Climate Lobby member Louis de Villiers says while WGV "sets the standard" for sustainable housing in WA, he's not convinced the government's plan to ease the need for social housing will be solved by Baugruppe.

"We know that there is not a single successful example of social housing where social housing makes up more than 20 per cent of the development," Mr de Villiers said.

"We don't want to see something developed here which is bound to fail, we want to see something developed which will form a sustainable, creative part of the community, something which sets a new benchmark for development."

Some White Gum Valley residents have taken local Facebook page to unofficially complain about the proposal, saying the Valley is "only a small suburb" and WGV will only leave residents "on top of each other".

Residents are able to voice their concerns through the City of Fremantle website.

Community feedback submissions to the council's plan will be open until this Monday, April 29.



• Freo council has released new verge garden guidelines to help green up the city.

Oases on the verge

by MAX BENNETTS

FREMANTLE'S green thumbs are being encouraged to add their touch to the city's verges to create lush, flowering oases.

The local council has developed new guidelines to clear the green tape and is even planning to host events and workshops to give homeowners some hot tips about creating a cool street.

Fremantle mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge said verge gardens supported the city's urban forest aspirations while also helping

water conservation.

"There are so many social, environmental, and economic benefits to creating a verge garden," Ms Fitzhardinge said.

"It doesn't have to be plants or ground covers, verge gardens can also include seats or benches, swings and play equipment, community libraries, even edible gardens."

White Gum Valley has had its own verge group, Valley Verges, who'll be at the official launch of the guidelines at Sullivan Hall on Sunday May 5 to provide expert advice.

Dave Broun from Valley Verges says their suburb is graced by wide verges which makes for great fun, as well as bringing people together to take climate action and preserve biodiversity.

"It's great seeing people working together to bring shade, flowers, bush foods and birds to our suburbs. We grow plants, share laughs, and learn together," Mr Broun said.

The guidelines include the best plants and materials to use on a verge, sample garden layouts, water-wise tips, and rules about safety.

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Voyage Down Under was bananas

• From page 1

But her older brother has vivid memories of both the voyage and the town where he would be reunited with his father Giuseppe and eldest brother Cesario, who'd sailed a couple of years earlier to escape the grinding poverty of post-war Italy.

"We came through the Suez Canal and we stopped at Port Said," Mr Smargiassi said.

"Port Said was important, because I was 11 and three-quarters years old, and I'd never eaten a banana in my life."

His only other chance to try the exotic fruit had been in the town square markets of his hometown Vasto, but a single piece would have taken all his pocket money and deprived him of his one weekly treat - a trip to the local cinema.

Mr Smargiassi says times were tough in Italy and the family new hunger well - they survived on just 100 grams of meat a week, a few vegetables from a relative who owned a market and the occasional fish when his brother would help out on the docks.

But the tough times had made Italians good workers, and in Australia they were forging new careers and even industries, such as the fishing boats that operated out of Fremantle.

Consiglia and the four children joined Giuseppe who was renting a house in North Perth and working for the Doust building company, but a friend told him the rates of pay were better in country towns and the family moved to Pingelly.

His quality of his first home restoration caught the eye of the local newspaper and soon Giuseppe was in hot demand, and even bought a block of land with the aim of building an investment home.

But Ms Martinazzo says her father overcame the scarcity of building materials and laboured for two years on the house, but they struck a problem when it came time to sell.

"He had moulds and he made the cement bricks, and the house is still standing very strongly.

"An on the floor, he put terrazzo tiles, which is what you did in Italy.

"When it came to selling it, no one would buy it because of the terrazzo - this stuff on the floor."

So the family made the decision to stay in Pingelly and for nearly 20 years Giuseppe was kept in permanent work.

They lived across the road from the local school, and Ms Martinazzo is proud that she and Mr Smargiassi's names still grace the school as head boy and head girl of their final years - an impressive effort given they arrived in the country without a word of English.

Diaspora

Ms Martinazzo says nowadays she appreciates the opportunity to grow up in a country town, but back in her teens it seemed pretty boring and she jumped at the chance to move into the city, where she scored a job with a solicitor's office that was looking for someone who spoke Italian to help service the growing diaspora.

She stayed until she met her husband Gaetano who established a crane business which still operates today.

Mr Smargiassi says his brother-in-law and father were a great example of the Italian influence on Perth.

"You've come across the saying Veni, Vidi, Vici which became 'we came, we saw we conquered', and

the Italians here were a bit different; 'we came, we saw, we concreted', he laughs.

There's no doubting Perth would be a far different place without its Italian influences, and Ms Martinazzo says it's a better place for it.

"What I personally like is that it's a welcoming place, not only just to the Italians, but so many other culture that have come here," she says.

"In my mind the mixture works well and that makes for an interesting place, rather than the boring place that it used to be ... meat and three veg.

"Now you can eat food from everyone and it's become much more interesting."

But Mr Smargiassi fears that globalising is robbing the city of some of its charm, that the richness of the cultures is being lost.

He says as an example, at the last Census, when asked about languages other than English used at home, the only option was to tick the one for Italian, but he says the Vasto dialect is distinctly different. A return to Italy a few years ago made him realise how few people remembered the dialect; there are predictions it will be gone by the next generation.

It prompted him to help found Global Chat Radio, which still operates out of Tuart College, as well as the WA Multicultural Association. Ms Martinazzo also volunteers at the City of Stirling's Day Club where each week elderly Italo-Australians come for a lunch and play.

She says it's partly in honour of the pioneering Italian migrants, as they were willing to take on whatever job was put before them. "I admire the migrants for that."



• They could have been us: Franco Smargiassi and Anna Martinazzo at Victoria Quay, 70 years to the day when they first stepped onto Australian soil.

BULK GARDEN ORGANICS *verge collection*

Put on your gardening gloves, sharpen the pruning shears and get ready for the City of Fremantle's bulk garden organics verge collection.

Accepted materials

- Tree trunks, branches and shrub prunings up to 1.5m in length and 30cm in diameter
- Two trailer loads (6x4 trailer size) or two cubic metres of green waste

Not accepted materials

- General rubbish, junk or white goods
- Bags or boxes of leaves, loose leaves or grass clippings
- Dug out lawn, weeds or root materials
- Sand and soil materials

Items can be placed on your own kerb up to three days prior to your collection date commencement date.

fremantle.wa.gov.au/vergecollection

From Monday 6 May

AREA A

Fremantle (does not include CBD), North Fremantle, White Gum Valley, parts of Hilton (north of South Street), O'Connor

From Monday 13 May

AREA B

South Fremantle, Beaconsfield, parts of Hilton (south of South Street), Samson



Clusterfig End the tribalism

• From page 1

"Do you want to go to court on this?" Ms Cattalini questioned the council.

"We don't want to go to court, but if we are forced to we will.

"We want everyone to say that you have not followed the process."

Ms Cattalini acknowledged community effort to protect the tree but said maintaining had taken a toll on her elderly mother.

"Yes, there was a protest with all the people in front of the tree, but where have I been?" she asked.

"They have not been at one council meeting. We have been here all the time and we have worked with you.

"We have had people say they'll do plans to help clean [the area around the tree], and not one has turned up.

"Yet, my mum is struggling."

An amendment was passed at the meeting to reanalyse the fig tree's place on the Significant Tree Register with councillors highlighting the need for council policy to strike a balance between private ownership consent, and the protection of Freo's tree canopy.

Fremantle mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge says her heart "goes out" to the Cattalini family throughout the ordeal, which was an interesting debate between environmental protection and individual land-ownership rights.

"It hasn't been clear for you and I can see the toll it's taken on the family," Ms Fitzhardinge said.

"In my world, heritage trees will be dealt with like heritage property - they'd be assessed for their heritage value and they'd be kept on a list through the heritage system.

"That would feel much cleaner than this mix up."

THE recent terrible events in Sydney should be a wake up call for our entire nation, that our current status quo is not longer working.

We have created a society of disconnect. Disconnect that is resulting in violence, hatred and murder.

It is somehow irrelevant if people kill because of terrorism or mental health issues, because all of them are perpetrated by people who are disconnected from society and their communities.

We are proud that Australia is a multicultural society, but at the same time there are still many who insist we are a Christian country.

We have people who claim not to be racists, but who don't like Aborigines, coloured people, Muslims, etc.

For them there is something wrong with anyone who is different from the norm they set for themselves. Our lack of tolerance is as disappointing as it is worrying.

Nationalism and tribalism are running riot.

We believe in an urban myth and claim to be the best country in the world, where everyone gets a fair go, because we are oh so tolerant.

That is ignorant nonsense.

There is a lot of religious, racial, political, gender, and social intolerance in our country, and there is an unacceptable and unexplainable high degree of domestic violence.

Tribalism starts early in life, when people join a sports team.

That supposedly also means one has to hate every other team in the competition.

If you are a Fremantle Dockers fan, you have to hate the West Coast Eagles, and all other clubs and their



supporters.

How more silly can it get?

It is only sport, not war, FFS!

It moves on to politics from there, so we hate all those on the other side(s) of politics and accuse them of

being biased.

Like in religion, my leader, my God, is better than yours, so we argue, fight, stop listening, and close our minds and hearts.

That too creates isolation.

After thousands of years we still engage in religious wars.

Murderers

What is happening in Gaza is a war between Christians and Muslims.

The initial murders and kidnapping at a music festival by Hezbollah terrorists, resulted in even more devastating violence by Israel.

Those who condemn that and support Palestinians are dismissed as being antisemitic.

We hate, judge, dismiss and ignore.

Those whom we consider not to be normal, whatever that means, are treated with contempt.

Ask the homeless, vagrants, dark coloured, gays, lesbians and trans people, and those with mental health issues, how people look down on them.

We do not connect well, or not at all, with those who are different, hence they feel rejected and very isolated.

That creates resentment and anger, that sadly sometimes escalates in violence and murder.

The main media is obsessed with reporting negative stories, and whilst social media gives us a great opportunity to connect, it has created more divisiveness, because there is a mass spreading of disinformation, conspiracy and nastiness, together with live streaming of murder and violence, as did happen during the Bondi Junction stabbings.

We are constantly confronted with misery, but rarely do we get positive stories reported in the media.

That makes vulnerable people even more apprehensive about life.

The feeling of isolation and disconnect from the community also applies to young people and seniors.

There is an huge sense of loneliness in our society, hence we hear of tiny children committing suicide, but many grown up men also no longer see a future.

We can not expect our governments to do it all for us.

It is up to all of us, each and everyone of us, to reach out and connect to those who are different, or just bloody lonely.

We need to learn to understand and accept our differences better.

It should not matter at all in which one of the mythical Gods one wants to believe.

What does matter is that we take responsibility for our own actions and attitude, and care about others.

Connecting with everyone in our communities will result in a much safer and coherent society, a society where we show respect and tolerance to others.

Roel Loopers

freoview.wordpress.com

Toilet contract set

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER

SOUTH BEACH'S toilets have finally been assigned a builder after the council's first contract fell through due to rising costs.

ICS Australia, a Booragoon-based construction company, got the contract last week after its proposal "demonstrated the best value-for-money" while

"maintaining quality design and functionality" of the new facilities.

The council says the new contract "will not exceed \$2.5 million", although an additional \$500,000 towards the facilities had been added to the budget since the previous negotiations fell through.

Construction is due to begin in June and will be completed by mid-next year, missing the 2024-25 summer.

APRIL 2024

Across the Town



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New Park Opens – 80 Jobs

Almost 80 jobs have been created in the new hospitality and leisure facilities at the East Fremantle Community Park, which opens soon.

It is a partnership between the WA Government, East Fremantle Football Club, East Fremantle Bowling Club, East Fremantle Croquet Club and Lotterywest.

Open	Facility
30 April	Carnabys Café (7am to 3pm)
30 April	Playground
9 May	Skate Zone
9 May	B Active Health Club
9 May	Half-court Basketball
May/June	Bar and Restaurant
	Playgroup
	East Fremantle Bowls Club
	East Fremantle Croquet Club
	Fenced dog park
	Football Oval

Facilities at East Fremantle Community Park



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An angel forged from reality

ESA MITCHELL is a newish Fremantlian and blogger, but has found a home on Hampton Road with a fascinating slice of the city's history. This is Part 1 of how she came to know about her famous digs. You can follow her adventures at journeygirl.com.au

ON Christmas Eve 2022, we made the move to Fremantle.

It had to be the perfect scenario for us to leave our previous happy home, and it couldn't have been more perfect.

The surprising alignment of events that brought us here, continues to astound us.

Simply put, it was fate.

However, this article is not about that specifically, though the subject of synchronicity will certainly weave its way throughout.

Some could conclude that the house is the heart of the tale.

The house is where I'll start.

Built during the mid-1800s, and later inherited by a 14-year-old Mary Dunne, there is no denying that the limestone walls hold the stories and feelings of all those who have breathed within them.

The facts that are well known are iconic Freo lore: Mary Dunne's addition of the ballroom circa 1903.

Adam and Gordon "Snowy" Fleet's extension at the rear of the house, completed around 2005.

Almost every lover of Fremantle history is familiar with the connection of The Easybeats' band to the house.

The memories of that time are not just romanticised musings but are literally set in stone, with an autograph etched into the mortar.

To top off this unique renovation, they took advice from the well-known Western

Australian architect, Brian Klopper.

The gravity-defying, curved brick-vaulted ceilings are tell-tale of that fact.

This is not just a house; this is a testament to history, innovation, and cultural significance.

Then there is the leading lady of this tale; the angel.

A 10-foot statue at the entrance of the property.

She too is iconic and oft discussed but with this story I intend to blow her up because as it turns out, there is more to her than meets the eye.

Here is where I credit the artist; Roderick Browton and now I will tell you about her.

Iconic

I'll explain why I consider her so important to the house's story and just as iconic as the rest of it.

She is the reason we ended up here.

Cindy, my mother-in-law, was drawn to the house because of her strong belief in angels and their power.

The statue is not ethereal or supernatural in her form but human-like.

Real, curvaceous and with phoenix wings.

A true Earth Angel.

Since we have been in the house, we've witnessed the full moon rise between those wings and it is impossible not to feel something big stir within you in those moments.



• Esa Mitchell with Hampton Road's famous statue. Photo by Salty Davenport

One day last year, I sat in my office, which is a limestone structure in the front yard.

On this day, I had the front barn-like doors open for some reason.

They are usually closed to block out the road noise.

People are often walking by and many stop to look at the angel or the house.

But on this day, with the doors open, I noticed a couple at the gate and felt compelled to say "hi" to them.

Also, something I never do.

The woman was beautiful, and when I asked her if she was interested in the house, or the angel she revealed herself as the muse behind the statue from 20 years ago.

My heart stopped, for a moment.

A sharp intake of breath and a swift gathering of my thoughts enabled me to introduce myself properly to her and have an actual conversation before she went on her way.

Encounter

I even took a photo to share with my family and to reassure myself of the reality of the encounter.

It was the first time she had seen the angel since she posed for it two decades ago.

I was totally shook.

Feeling optimistic... Or spiritual rather, I decided to research some of the things she said during our brief, and bizarre encounter.

I found her. A lot about her. Which I would later learn was because she lectures on the importance of building a web presence, a digital footprint in the new media environment.

Luckily for me, she did this very well for herself and I found her as if I were following breadcrumbs home.

I emailed her at a university email address where I thought she worked.

I didn't believe it would reach her.

If it did, I didn't think she'd care. But I did it anyway. And she replied straight away.

• *Continued next week*

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Facebook @CarnabysEastFre Instagram @CarnabysEastFre Website carnabys.com.au Location 44 Moss St, East Fremantle



SUNDAY 5 MAY
10 AM - 2 PM
12 PM MARCH

UNIONSWA



The journey of Robert Zielinski's Torbay Suite

by EZEKIEL WHITE-U

IMMERSED in the stunning landscape of the Torbay Inlet near Albany and far from madding crowds, acclaimed fiddler Robert Zielinski's head filled with music.

Inspired by the gentle awakening of dawn and serene starlit nights under the karri forest's canopy, Zielinski listened deeply to the sounds around him and was inspired to compose a suite he says will transport the audience to the Great Southern at its world premiere at the Perth Concert Hall on Sunday May 12.

Kiangardarup – The Torbay Suite, takes its name from the Minang Noongar word for "kangaroo place" as the traditional owners knew the inlet, and was gifted to Zielinski by local elder Vernice Gillies.

"I didn't set out to write anything but was just inspired," Zielinski said of the experience.

The studio where he crafts violins, including his own, is in the heart of the karri forest and Zielinski says he'd take daily walks down to the inlet, becoming attuned to the natural rhythms around him.

Listening deeply is part and parcel of Zielinski's fiddle-playing, as he never learned to read or write music.

But he says composing the suite



• Robert Zielinski immersed himself in the landscape of the Torbay Inlet.

Inlet an outlet for a natural talent

came naturally, with each piece unfolding in a predetermined sequence. Drawing on years of training to learn music by ear, he skilfully translated the essence of his surroundings into the melodies of the suite. Afterwards, Zielinski played the various parts to fellow musicians, who also learned it by ear and together they refined the composition.

"I never learnt to read or write music, so I don't," he said.

"It's like the piece plays you, you have to get out of the way and let it play."

The result is a medley of sound

that blends Zielinski's fiddling with Melinda Forsyth's cello, Manuela Centanni's wooden flute and Jim Green's bouzouki, with recordings the composer made of the inlet's sounds.

Although of Polish decent, Zielinski was adopted by Perth's Irish community in the early 1980s because of his obvious talent, and when he was 12, local fiddling legend Mick Doherty took him under his wing.

He moved to Ireland at the age of 17 and ended up staying for a 14-year residency studying with the country's top traditional fiddle

players and teaching at the Galway School of Traditional Irish music. His dedication and skill were recognised when he received the Michael Coleman Fiddle Player of the Year Award in 2000.

Zielinski says choosing the Perth Concert Hall to premiere the suite was a natural choice.

"The hall allows the audience to hear the natural sounds of the instruments and the emotions in every note without a microphone."

The concert is from 4-6pm, and tickets are \$35-89 from <https://perthconcerthall.com.au/events/event/kiangardarup-torbay-suite>



• Zielinski records amongst the giant karris.

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

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- We appreciate the community's understanding while these essential works are undertaken and apologise for any inconvenience.
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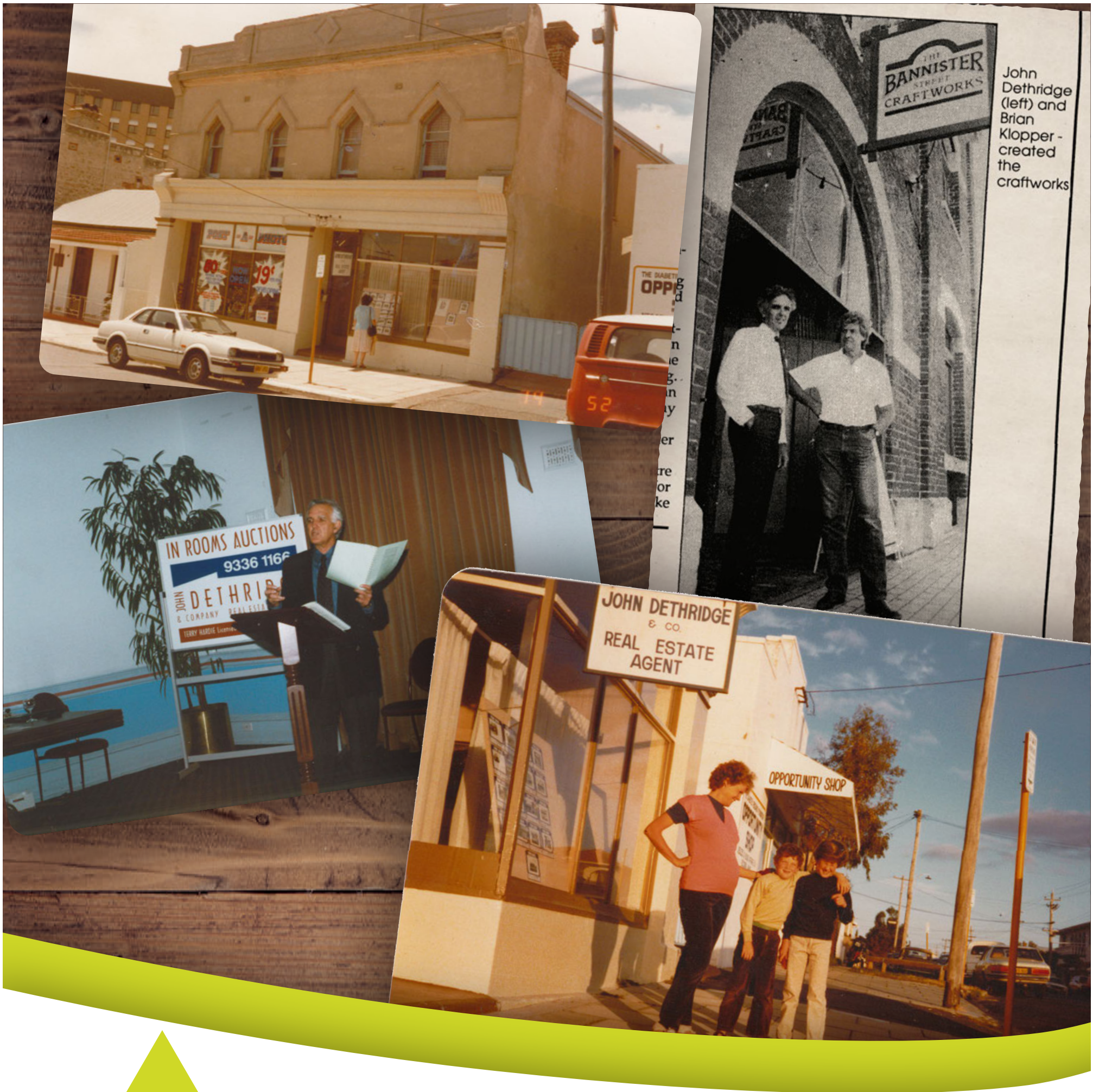
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John Dethridge (left) and Brian Klopper - created the craftworks



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DON'T MISS THE LEGENDARY MOONDYNE FESTIVAL!

SUNDAY 5TH MAY 2024 9AM - 4PM

The town of Toodyay celebrate its 40th year of Moondyne Festival and will step back in time to celebrate the life and times of the iconic Moondyne Joe by hosting the Moondyne Festival Toodyay bringing the infamous Avon Valley bushranger Moondyne Joe and his escapades to life. The highlight of the day being the re-enactment of Moondyne Joe's various escapades and his mock trials.

The festival is the premier colonial festival in WA, first held in 1984 to celebrate the life and times of 'Joseph Bolitho John's, known as 'Moondyne Joe', the Avon Valley's legendary bushranger.

The festival transforms the picturesque historical town of Toodyay into a lively all-day festival with the sound of song, dance, laughter and fun for the whole family.

The opening ceremony is at 10am. Locals and guests are encouraged to dress in 19th century costumes for a colourful procession down the Main Street followed by a fun, colourful, energetic and noisy parade with street actors, stilt walkers, town crier, blacksmith, wood chopping and much more.

Some period costumes are available for loan to wear at the festival, email moodynecommittee@gmail.com for details.

Cheer on 'Joe's Gang' and the floozies, coppers, swaggie and town crier as Joe is tried by a kangaroo court convicted by a corrupt judge and escaped with the assistance of local inhabitancy who love Joe, one would say he was the WA equivalent of Ned Kelly or Robin Hood.

The festival will be held on Stirling Terrace Toodyay which will be closed off to traffic from 8am to 4pm Sunday May 5th 2024.

As well as the street entertainment, there will be a variety of stalls, displays, performances and demonstrations. Check out the 10th Light Horse display, Barn Baby's Animal Farm, Western Australian Reptile Park or take a ride on the Perth Horse and Carts and Billy Carts.

Toodyay's own Nathan Coleman will be playing

as well as the Pioneers Bush Band and Paul Davis Entertainment. Avon-Fun Dance Club will be joining us as well and Zig Zag Community Arts.

Listen to Bush Poets, Australia's early settler's folk music that will include Irish, Scottish, Italian and English music performed by various entertainers. Enjoy once again the very popular Royal Australian Navy Band and Toodyay Community Singers.

The festival follows through the main town site to the beautiful Duidgee Park resting on the banks of the Avon River which will be filled with speciality craft and food stalls. Events include log chopping, blacksmithing, bush poetry, stilt walkers, horse & cart rides, reptile display, historical tools restoration, and of course the ever-popular Swaggie Camp. Kids amusement rides, and a visit to Moondyne Joe's cell at the old Newcastle Gaol Museum.

The mini train ride at Duidgee Park is always a highlight of the day.

This event is packed full of family fun and kids' entertainment. Children will be delighted with stilt walkers, carnival, face painting, balloon twisting, petting zoo and old fashion games like hopscotch, sack race, egg and spoon, skipping, quoits and much more.

Make sure you don't miss this brilliant event suitable for all ages.

www.moodynefestival.com.au

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“ This event is packed full of family fun and kids' entertainment. Children will be delighted!

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For more information about volunteering, loan costumes or street stall bookings contact:
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Face-to-face



arts
STEPHEN POLLOCK

THERE'S a searing honesty to Angela Stewart's art.

The North Fremantle-based artist likes to peel back the layers to expose the doubt that occurs during the early stages of creating a painting.

She then uses that to fashion something unique and a bit meta.

One of her techniques involves painting a face, photographing it, then painting on the print to create something beautiful and slightly haunting.

It's like a sophisticated version of those weird full-length mirrors at the fun fair.

"I have always been interested in people. Faces, the wash of expressions as a language spoken or unspoken between another ... the touch of a hand, the nuance of expression, the age, the cultural identity," Stewart says.

"It is the making of the work, the underbelly with drawing, photography and paint, the underbelly of process in and around the portrait that interest me. How our lives become stories."

Stewart has specialised in portraiture for the past four decades and has been influenced by artists like Kathe Kollwitz, Cindy Sherman and Tacita Dean.

"As a young woman I developed a feminist stance

examining painting and art books, researching the portrayal of woman in the cannon of Western Art," she says.

"Over the years I have gathered groups of people to make bodies of work."

These days Stewart is inspired by Italian renaissance art, especially Sofonisba Anguissola, a renowned 16th century painter who she researched for her Doctorate of Creative Art at Curtin University.

At that time, art was transitioning from fresco to easel painting, forcing artists to reassess their style and technique.

"I became interested in the notion of artist's doubt," she says.

"The gestural style of my painting altered into a darker palette.

"The sensitivity of line will always be a pathway, my oeuvre leading from one epoch to the next leading in and beyond the portrait into flora or horses."

After graduating with a BA in Fine Art in 1988, Stewart went on to exhibit in solo and group exhibitions around the world and her work is in several major collections including Curtin University, BHP Billiton, The University of Western Australia and Edith Cowan University.

She also lectured in art for several years at tertiary institutions including a lengthy spell at Central Institute of Technology in Perth, and completed a Masters in Visual Art and a Doctorate in Creative Arts at



• Remembering Arcimboldo by Angela Stewart.

Curtin University.

Her latest exhibition *Memory: 40 Years of Making* features paintings, drawings and painted photography from throughout

her career and documents her evolution as an artist.

It's at Gallery Central (North Metropolitan TAFE) 12 Aberdeen Street in Perth from May 1 to 23.

There's an artists talk with Angela Stewart and Soula Vouyoucalos-Veyradier on May 8 at 12pm. For more info see www.artcollectivewa.com.au.

ADVERTISEMENT

8 REASONS WHY YOU NEED TO CHECK OUT THE NEW EAST FREO COMMUNITY PARK



The residents of East Fremantle can rejoice at the news that the long-awaited East Fremantle Community Park is just days away from opening to the public.

From April 30, Carnaby's Café and the all-abilities playground will be open to enjoy, with the B Active Health Club, Carnaby's Bar and Restaurant, skate zone and half basketball court following closely behind on May 9. The dog exercise area and oval will open in June.

There will be something for everyone at the state-of-the-art venue which has been developed with the community in mind, encouraging movement and activity for all ages with the following facilities:

- 1 B Active - a 1,000 sqm Health Club which will host 80+ classes and additional virtual classes each wee
- 2 Carnaby's - a café, bar, restaurant and function space with a focus on local produce
- 3 A first-class sporting facility for East Fremantle Football Club, East Fremantle Lawn Bowls Club, East Fremantle Croquet Club and other sporting activities
4. An open oval for community/ WAFL club use
- 5 An all-abilities playground
- 6 An outdoor basketball 1/2 court
- 7 A Skate Zone
- 8 An enclosed dog exercise park

The Health Club, B Active, will feature a range of amenities and services including state-of-the-art gym equipment, free weights and cardio machines. Also on offer will be Reformer Pilates, group exercise, a cycle studio and small group functional training. B Active memberships are selling now, and group tours will begin on April 30 with the opportunity to save up to \$500 before May 9 (*T&Cs apply).

The other jewel in the crown - Carnaby's Café, Bar and Restaurant - is looking to distinguish itself as a premier hospitality destination through its dedication to a menu that caters not only to a diverse clientele, but also celebrates local botanicals, embraces international culinary influences and embodies a sustainable ethos from the passionate kitchen team. Visit carnabys.com.au to learn more.



There will be something for everyone at the state-of-the-art venue which has been developed with the community in mind.



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food
STEPHEN POLLOCK

WINTER doona – check.
Heating serviced – check

Donald Trump in court – check.
With the cold weather starting to bite, dainty dishes like keto salad are less appetising and our bodies begin to crave a carb blitzkrieg.

Step forward pasta – a calorie monster that lights up your gut like a feel-good H-bomb.

It doesn't get much more old school and comforting than Al Dente Pasta in Palmyra.

Situated just off the Canning Highway, the family-run restaurant has a dining room that looks like something out of your nonna's house in the 1970s.

It reminded me of the scene from *The Godfather* – "Leave the gun, take the cannoli." – minus the graphic violence bit.

You get the sense the restaurant is a neighbourhood favourite with deep ties to the community.

I liked the menu – it had a nice range of dishes, but wasn't overwhelming, and was divided into Pasta, Meat and Seafood.

It was decidedly traditional with classic dishes like veal cotoletta, spaghetti marinara, penne arrabbiata, and garlic prawns.

There was also a nice range of starters, side dishes and sweets, including old favourites like tiramisu and panna cotta.

Fans of deconstructed lasagne with sugo foam and squid ink pasta will need to look elsewhere, but if you're after old school with a few modern twists, you'll



Carb cravings

like Al Dente. The test of any local neighbourhood Italian is its meatballs.

Al Dente's Fettuccine Meatballs (\$23) were so good I thought my nonna had been reincarnated and plonked in their kitchen.

The tender balls of meat were packed with flavour and had that trademark handmade texture.

A clever touch was using a bolognese sauce, giving the dish a deep meaty kick.

The ribbons of fettuccine were perfect for mopping up that thick sauce. A great, honest meatball dish. Across the table my wife "Special K" was tucking into her fettuccine pesto and salmon (\$24.50).

"The basil pesto and smoked salmon go really well together and

makes for a very interesting dish," she noted.

"The creamy sauce adds a touch of decadence, but isn't too rich and is nicely balanced.

"I'm liking the fettuccine, it's al dente and perfect for the thick sauce."

Unfortunately my Spaghetti Marinara (\$26.50) didn't hit the same heights.

There was a bevy of quality seafood with mussels, fish, clams and prawns, but there wasn't enough sauce.

At certain points the whole dish came together with the white wine, diced tomato and seafood combining in a pleasing whole, but they were fleeting.

A little more tomato would have helped coat the spaghetti and



bring it all to life, but I couldn't fault the quality of the produce.

My young daughter rounded off the meal with a chocolate panna cotta (\$7). She wolfed it down, and said she preferred it to the mixed berry one she had eaten on a previous visit.

Al Dente Pasta does what

it says on the tin – serving up comforting, traditional Italian food at reasonable prices.

There's BYO and it does weekly specials and home delivery.

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Coner of Canning Hwy and Murray Rd, Palmyra
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VOTE 1 CARRINGTON'S BAR & GRILL FOR WA'S BEST STEAK SANDWICH

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WRAP YOUR LIPS AROUND WA'S BEST STEAK SANDWICH

CARRINGTON'S BAR & GRILL UNLEASHES DYNAMITE FLAVOUR IN WA'S BEST STEAK SANDWICH COMPETITION

Local-favourite Carrington's Bar & Grill has announced its latest steak sandwich masterpiece, **The TNT**. But this delectable creation isn't just any steak sandwich; it's Carrington's latest entry into the prestigious Australian Hotel Association's WA's Best Steak Sandwich Competition following its 2023 success as a Top Four finalist.

As the competition heats up, Carrington's is confident that **The TNT** packs enough dynamite flavour to take home the crown.

After savouring **The TNT** steak sandwich, I must say it's a true masterpiece of flavours and textures, and unlike any other steak sandwich I've ever had in Perth. The succulent scotch fillet was cooked to perfection, tender and juicy, which paired wonderfully with the crispy bacon. The bourbon-infused toffee onion added a unique sweetness that elevated the dish, and the rocket provided a refreshing contrast. The zesty BBQ aioli gave it a nice kick without overpowering the other flavours.

What really stood out was the creamy roasted capsicum blend sauce, which tied everything together beautifully. The soft Turkish panini was an excellent choice of bread, holding all the ingredients together without being too heavy. Unlike other steak sandwiches, **The TNT** holds together really well without becoming a mess of ingredients



on the plate. It's a genuine pleasure to eat, and I couldn't take each bite quick enough. It's also worth noting that **The TNT** is not spicy, and that the flavour is truly dynamite.

And let's not forget about the peri peri chips and crispy onion rings on the side – they added a delightful crunch and an extra layer of indulgence to an already towering delight.

Overall, **The TNT** steak sandwich is a must-try for any food enthusiast looking for a burst of flavours and a satisfying meal.

Locals and eager food enthusiasts are invited to taste the explosion of flavours themselves at Carrington's Bar & Grill and then cast their vote on the AHA WA website (www.ahawa.asn.au). Voting is open from April 30th to May 27th, giving everyone the chance to support their favourite steak sandwich.

"We believe **The TNT** truly embodies what a winning steak sandwich should be – bold, flavorful, and unforgettable," says Carrington's head chef, Jass. "We've put our heart and soul into crafting this masterpiece, and we're excited to share it with our community."

Whether you're a steak aficionado or simply appreciate good food, Carrington's Bar & Grill invites you to savour **The TNT** and join them in their quest for steak sandwich supremacy. Don't miss your chance to be part of this culinary excitement – visit Carrington's, wrap your lips around **The TNT**, and cast your vote today!

Carrington's Bar & Grill
330 Carrington St, Hamilton Hill
Phone 9337 3011
carringtonstavern.com.au

Cottage charm

A COTTAGE in South Fremantle. For many it's still the dream abode in the dream suburb.

This two bedroom one bathroom 1900s cottage has oodles of charm and plenty of period features including timber architraves, picture rails, polished jarrah floorboards and French mullioned doors.

The lounge is particularly inviting with a vintage fireplace in the corner and stylish plantation shutters on the windows.

Sometimes cottages can have poky dark kitchens, but this is a spacious beauty with double sinks, lots of natural light, and top-end appliances including a Miele oven and Metters woodfired oven.

There's a separate dining room (call the *Chook* old-fashioned but we like a bit of noise separation).

The main bedroom is a good size and features huge built-in robes and a modern ensuite with chic fixtures and fittings.

There's a delightful rear courtyard with high limestone walls, a mature lemon tree and potted plants.

It's a great spot to dine alfresco or relax with a glass of vino after a hard day at work.

Or depending on the time of day or weather, sit on the front verandah instead and watch life unfold in South Freo.



The home includes split system air con, solar panels and power inverter, security alarm and off-street parking for two cars.

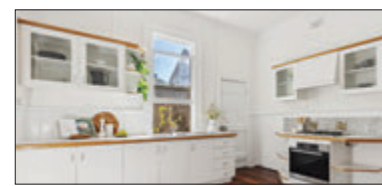
And there's potential to extend upwards and enjoy ocean views. Situated on a 235sqm block

on Jenkin Street, it's a short walk to South Beach and all the cafes, small bars and restaurants on South Terrace.

This is a cute cottage in a top location. Home open today (Saturday



April 27) and Sunday April 28 at 9.30am
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Yongs Plumbing (YPS) was founded in 1977 by Jack Young and has provided quality plumbing to Fremantle and surrounding districts ever since. Jack retired in 1995 and lives happily in Murdoch aged 86, and YPS is now run by Tony Young. YPS employs six full-time plumbers and provides the entire gamut of plumbing, gas and hot water services. The company recently welcomed Fraser Young to the fold, making Yongs a third generation master plumbing business.

"We're traditional plumbers in the best sense of the word. While we make use of all the latest technology available, we still place great emphasis on quality workmanship. We employ all our plumbers directly, rather than hiring sub-contract labour and we employ and train

up to two apprentices at a time. We're very proud of our staff and our involvement with the Fremantle community," said Tony.

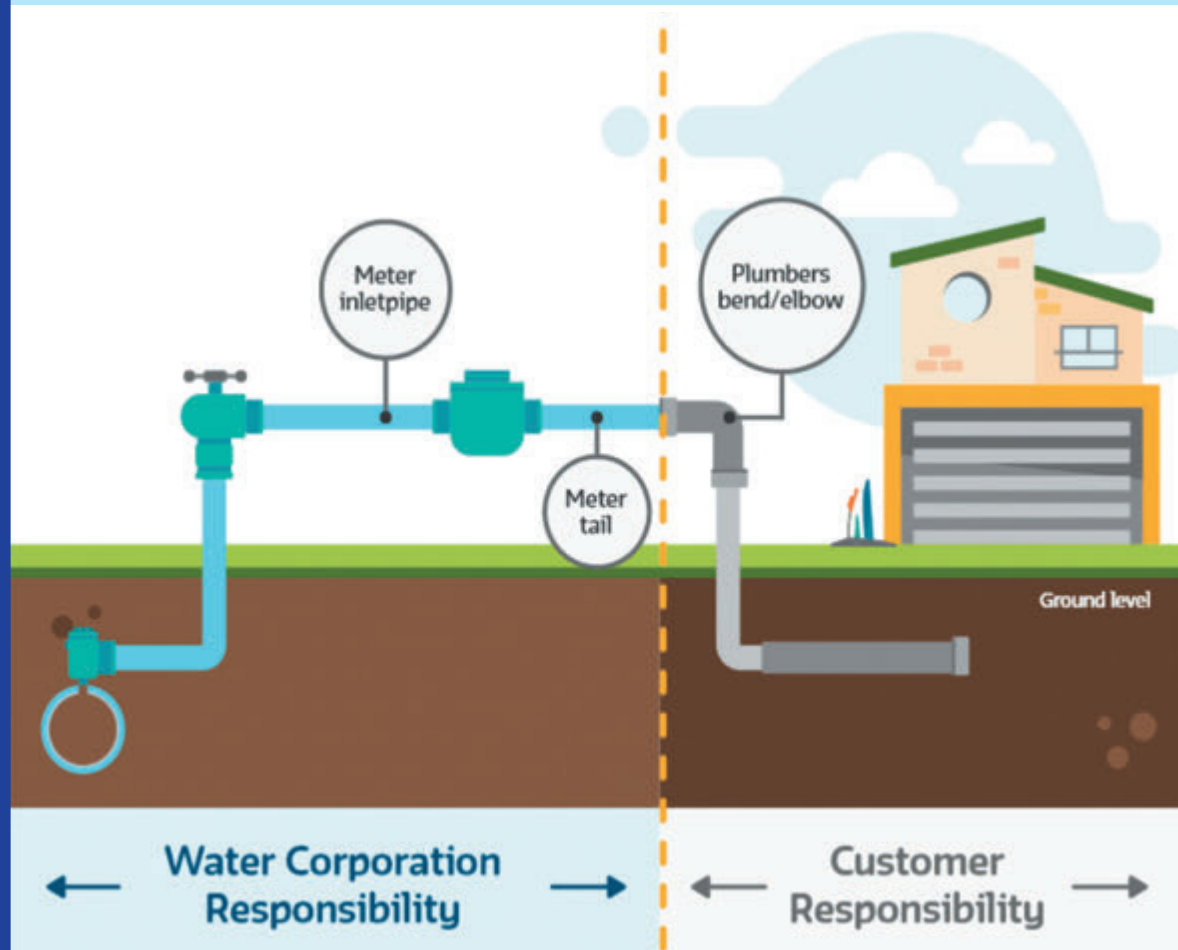
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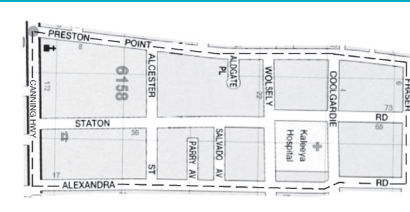
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• Suzi (above) has broke a national record by working at Australian Red Cross Lifeblood for more than 50 years.

The Bay City Rollers.

"I somehow just fell into this job due to our director of nursing at the time being a family friend. I was returning to Perth after living in Victoria for a short time and commenced as a nurse," Suzi says.

"When I started here there was just Fremantle and the Perth clinics with a mobile unit, which I moved around on for a bit, but most of my time has been at Fremantle.

"I have worked in many roles over the years, from being a session leader to a trainer."

Over the past five decades Suzi has seen it all, including an emergency global callout to find a rare blood product.

"One of our donors was badly burnt and need to have blood products. Unfortunately he had a very rare phento type and we did have blood frozen for his use, but

he used it all," she says. "A call was put out world wide and we managed to receive products from the UK and America. Thankfully, he is still living a very happy normal life."

After blood is donated its usually separated into red blood cells, plasma and platelets which can be used to treat a variety of conditions including cancer and blood diseases, anaemia, and stomach and kidney conditions. They are also used in non-orthopaedic surgeries.

A division of the Australian Red Cross Society, Lifeblood has been providing blood donation services for more than 90 years and also do organ matching and tissue typing, facilitate stem cell donation, and provide breast milk donations for clinical trials.

Suzi says the most rewarding part of her job has been meeting the donors and getting to know them.

"I have become very good friends with donors on the outside, being able to have a coffee or lunch with them," she says.

"It's very important that we have the donors as without them we would not have the blood products or other components to make the anti-D tetanus and other important products."

Dedicated service aside, the *Chook* can't let Suzi off the hook for being an Eagles fan while working in Fremantle for half a century.

"Yes, I do get needle from some of the fans – lots of banter I have to say – and from a few of the ex-players as well!" she laughs.

To find out how to donate blood at the Lifeblood Fremantle Donor Centre (47 Douro Road, South Fremantle) see lifeblood.com.au.

Bloody good job

YOU know you've made it when they name a cafe after you.

For the past 50 years, Suzi has been working for Australian Red Cross Lifeblood, mostly at their Fremantle blood donor centre. She's the first person in

Australia to work for the not-for-profit for half a century, and to celebrate this epic milestone they recently renamed the Freo Centre canteen "Suzi's Cafe" and held a party in her honour.

There was a great turnout at her 50th including long-term

donors she's got to know over the years and her family who made the long drive down from Northampton.

It's just rewards for a career that started way back in 1974, when people were still wearing tan bellbottoms and listening to

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