

MELVILLE CITY HERALD



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No funds for Canning parks

by CINDY CARTOJANO

MELVILLE councillors have rejected a design and budget for a contentious park in the Canning Bridge precinct.

The park is one of two that residents are pushing to have developed in the precinct to cater for greatly increased densities, but councillors were concerned about the burden the \$1.7 million price tag would have on ratepayers.

Central Ward councillor Scott Green argued at last Tuesday's monthly meeting the proposed

budget would be better spent elsewhere awhile the land could be utilised for a greater purpose.

"There are better sites for tree-planting than The Esplanade," Cr Green said. "We need much more bang for our buck."

Applecross-Mount Pleasant Ward councillor Clive Ross has been one of the key supporters of the project and says "\$1.7m equates to 38.25 cents for each ratepaying property in the City of Melville".

Cr Ross said that amount would decrease even further if the current level of properties under construction was taken into account

and more people moved in.

He said the City had failed in its obligation to provide public open space within the walkable distance of 400 meters from each resident, estimating more than 700 faced a longer trek to access a bit of nature.

Save Our Space co-administrator Sue Flis told the Herald the decision to reject the motion had fuelled the already raging uproar of residents in the area who were keen to finally have a liveable space with a bit of fresh air.

Earlier this year, more than 2000 people signed a petition asking the council to "go ahead and fund the

park that they'd agreed to create" Ms Flis said.

She says it's understandable the council is pushing for high rise buildings to promote density and combat Perth's sprawl but she hopes councillors pay attention to the value of public amenities as well.

She says the only POS in the City is Apex Park which is bound by a "black-watery swamp" and the "little perimeter border along the banks of the river".

Ms Flis hopes the council will have secured enough funding by the time a review of the park problem is considered at its June meeting.

White rhinos and little white lies

WHAT'S the difference between the news you came across on Facebook or Twitter, and the news you're about to read in today's Herald? We produced ours in a traditional newsroom with reporters - they just nicked theirs from somewhere else. And they didn't bother to fact-check what was being said, such as the doozy doing the rounds from TicToc this week saying the white rhino went extinct. It didn't - not quite yet. And while a dodgy item about a rhino is one thing, what about when it comes to politics - the people we elect to make the decisions that guide our lives? Is it ok to parrot misinformation? When you support independent newsrooms, you help to protect our democracy. So, please, support The Herald by contributing to our Feed the Chook campaign. Make your donations to: **Herald Reserve, BSB 086 217, Account 63-951-0124. Or mail it to PO Box 85, North Fremantle 6159.** Please send an advice to accounts@fremantleherald.com or text 0438 933 300. Thank you very much for your support.

Tracker helpless as fox feasts on turtle

by STEVE GRANT

FOXES have been caught red-handed continuing their attacks on Bibra Lake's vulnerable snake-necked turtles.

Last week while Bibra Lake Turtle Tracker Paul Markendale watched on helplessly from the shore, a fox dug up two aestivating (hibernating) turtles in the middle of the lake and devoured what they could.

It follows the trackers' discovery earlier this month of 96 turtle carcasses which showed signs of being attacked by the feral pests ("Foxes blamed for turtle deaths," Herald, May 4, 2024).

Bibra Lake Turtle Trackers co-ordinator Joyce Gadalon told the Herald it was depressing to pass World Turtle Day on May 24 with the prospect of the local population being predated out of existence by the foxes.

"Foxes have continued to be sighted at the lake this week as it appears the

City is unable to stop turtle death from happening," Ms Gadalon said.

"Save Our Snake-Necked Turtles recovered an additional nine turtle carcasses from the lake bed last week and a further five carcasses were found by turtle trackers in bushland surrounding the lake at the same time."

Ms Gadalon said other than Mr Markendale's encounter, trackers had sighted two other foxes around the lake during May. "There are now questions being raised on whether the council are meeting their obligations of controlling foxes under WA's Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 which requires all land owners and managers to control foxes found on their land," she said.

"Bibra Turtle Trackers are frustrated at the time it has taken local council and government agencies to action welfare checks on the remaining turtles in the lake and whether any more can



At it again

• More foxes have been spotted on Bibra Lake, including one (inset) that dug up a turtle for a feed as Turtle Tracker Paul Markendale watched helplessly on.

be done to protect them."

But Ms Gadalon said a meeting between the trackers and the council prompted by their speaking out had gone well.

Support

She said questions asked by staff showed there was support for the trackers within the council, but they were still finding it hard to generate action.

Meanwhile around

40 community members gathered at the Cockburn Wetlands Centre on World Turtle Day to hold a candlelight vigil for the turtles killed by the foxes, and to write to Federal Labor MP Josh Wilson urging him to support strong new nature laws.

Following a welcome to country by Whadjuk Noongar man Shaun Nannup, turtle tracker Felicity Bairstow addressed the crowd.

"Volunteers have spent hundreds of hours protecting these turtles and their babies, from protecting nesting females and their nests, to calling for feral animal control," Dr Bairstow said.

"But we're up against worsening climate impacts like droughts and heatwaves, and we need our national environment laws to be much stronger in order to protect wildlife."

• Continued page 5

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• Work on the cockies has paused while the strata owners sort out their differences over what's arty.

Strata squawk

by CINDY CARTOJANO

AT the corner of South Terrace and Nelson St in South Fremantle, two half-painted red-tailed black cockatoos wait patiently.

But neighbours to the cockies have found themselves in a sticky strata situation which has forced their creator to pause her brushes.

And when things get sticky with strata, a disagreement about something like artwork can get a little complicated.

Paul Ryan owns the shop on the corner and commissioned environmental activist and street artist Lora Flora to decorate the big wall opposite Abhi's Bakery.

But while his strata neighbours love Flora's emerging cockies, they're not so keen on a more bohemian mural which graces the front of the building on busy South Terrace.

They were hoping Mr Ryan would tone down the frontage before starting on the cockies, but he's dug in, saying negotiations have taken a formal turn when he'd rather resolve things with a

"friendly chat".

"We're a strata, lots of different people, lots of different opinions," he said.

Meanwhile Flora says she's been caught in the middle of the squabble, and had to stop work on the cockies after a heated exchange with Mr Ryan's neighbours.

A conservation biologist by training, she can't wait to get back to the mural, which she hopes will help raise awareness of the plight of the red-tailed black cockatoos, which are listed as "vulnerable".

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WA WORLD OCEAN DAY

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER

A GROUP of Freo artists are being forced to relocate after being given three months' notice to move out by a developer.

The Tiny House Collective, formerly known as the Swan's Nest, sits on the corner of Amherst and Stack Streets in the former McCarthy's Engineering shed.

The Collective facilitated artists and creatives from around Fremantle, offering affordable spaces for painters, woodworkers, sculptors, welders, and boutique construction companies.

However, the site was purchased by Subiaco-based developer Locus in 2021 and is set to be demolished and replaced by the Monument East development later this year.

The Collective was given a three-month eviction notice in March, which gives them until end of June to find somewhere new.

Scrambling

According to some of Freo's creatives, several of whom have called the Collective home, it wasn't enough time.

Artist Laura Folan, also known by her artist name Lora Flora, has previously used the Collective's space for her paintings and says the group had known about development for "quite some time", but that the three-month eviction notice has left some tenants "scrambling".

"There's no similar spaces where there is such a mixture of people doing different things," Ms Folan said.

"We haven't been able to find a warehouse suitable for all of us, so it's like we're breaking off into different directions.

"There's a lot of spread space to do noisy or messy projects, and a lot of art studios are just completely not suitable for that."

Ms Folan says she feels as if she's "losing a support network"



The Tiny House Collective is in the old McCarthy's Engineers shed on Stack Street, which is soon to be redeveloped for apartments.

Tiny house, big problem

of fellow artists who aren't being made to feel welcome in Freo anymore.

"There's very much a lack of affordable spaces for artists in Fremantle at the moment," she said.

"It really feels like the artists and creatives are being pushed further and further out.

"Fremantle likes to think of itself as an artsy space that supports artists - I'm not seeing a huge amount of that at the moment."

Fremantle Industrial Arts Quarter secretary Gayle O'Leary says artists have been scrambling to find alternative spaces to facilitate their craft in a "hideously unaffordable" market.

"The sad thing is a lot of small businesses and artists who were there before, have already moved out," Ms O'Leary said.

"Some of them have already

shut down their businesses out of fear that they wouldn't be able to find another space to relocate to.

"Hopefully that won't be permanent, but we just don't know."

According to Ms O'Leary, Locus will be retaining the red brick buildings on Stack Street for commercial and creative use, but there is "no guarantee" they will remain affordable for Collective members to utilise.

"One of the reasons why people are attracted to working [at the Collective] is because you've got some breathing space to pursue what you're interested in," Ms O'Leary said.

Flexible

"These spaces are flexible, and even if they've only got a little bit of room, they make it work because they know each other, they work well together, and they can sort of accommodate each other's each other's needs.

"It's not as formalised as a lot of the newer spaces."

Ms O'Leary acknowledged the effort developer Locus had gone to consult the community about Monument East, which is part of the Knutsford East Local Structure Plan to create residential infill.

"We all chipped in and told them what we value about this area and what our fears are and what we don't want it to become," she said.

"That was good, that was open.

"But what they didn't talk about there is the impact that it's having on people within those spaces and how they were how would they manage that."



Tiny House tenants say affordable space in Freo where they can mix with like-minded creatives is as rare as hen's teeth.

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Cultural centre delay angers Noongar elder

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER

CONSTRUCTION of an Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Bibra Lake has been put on hold to the dismay of some traditional owners who say the delay is "disrespectful".

The City assigned \$12.5 million to the centre in late 2021 and the construction tender was awarded in 2022.

However, Cockburn acting director of community Anton Lees says the cost of the tender ballooned significantly.

"Due to ongoing high and rising inflation, building costs and interest rates coupled with a tight labour market, the preferred tender submission was more than \$6m higher than the council-endorsed budget," Mr Lees said.

"As a result, the tender was unable to be awarded.

"An allocation has been included in the draft 2024-25 Annual Municipal Budget to finalise the centre's design and commence construction."

The centre was designed to be a "place of recognition and



• Corina Abraham

learning" for local Noongar culture, and a "safe and secure meeting place" for Aboriginal people.

Its construction is part of the City's Reconciliation Action Plan and was developed with input from the Cockburn Aboriginal Reference Group.

However, some members of the Cockburn Indigenous community are less than happy with the "disrespectful" postponement.

Elder and former Reference Group member Corina Abraham says the council needs to be

"held accountable" for the delay given its significance to the area's Indigenous community.

"We've done all this consultation, we've done all this work around it, and they just seem to keep disrespecting my people as the Aboriginal community in regard to the cultural centre," Ms Abraham said.

"We've fought for so many years and we haven't even got the concrete slab down.

"You've got the wave put in place and you've got other things put in place and yet the cultural centre is supposed to be built now.

"It keeps getting pushed back."

Ms Abraham, who was on the ARG before she says she was "ostracised" and removed from the panel, is seriously ill and on palliative care, and is not hopeful she'll see the centre constructed while she's still alive.

"We're never going to see what we fought and consulted and advocated for, for many, many years," she said.

"It feels like it's never going to be built."

Borer a pandemic

by STEVE GRANT

FEDERAL Perth Labor MP Patrick Gorman (right) has labelled a tiny beetle as a "pandemic" for Perth trees.

In Parliament this week, Mr Gorman said the polyphagous shot-hole borer was an "enemy" that posed a massive biosecurity risk to the country.

"This invasive beetle is just two millimetres long and it's on a rampage from Fremantle to Perth and a number of suburbs in between," Mr Gorman said.

Chopped

"Already I'm seeing in my electorate trees in people's backyards being chopped to the ground.

"In Hyde Park, a loved Perth park in the middle of our city, we're looking at some hundreds of trees being removed.

"Sadly, Kings Park and its trees that have outlived the Bond Corporation, trees that were here before colour television, trees that have provided shade for family picnics for decades is also on the chopping block."

Native species had originally been thought to have been spared the worst of the beetle, which preferred dutch elms and other

exotics, but Mr Gorman noted that 28 species were now known to be susceptible.

"I'm a measured person who dislikes alarmists, but this borer beetle is a pandemic for Western Australia's trees. And, as hard as it is, I support the actions to remove the infested trees.

Chainsaw

"Indeed, we need the state and local governments to move as fast as possible.


"I will very happily get my chainsaw out if I need to, because without swift action, WA faces massive economic disruption."

Mr Gorman said the beetle had cost the US state of California an estimated \$15.9 billion.

But he said there was some hope, with wood movements being banned, while researchers at the University of WA and CSIRO were looking at treatment options.

He also urged Western Australians to learn to identify the beetle and report any damaged trees.

"Fast action and a community response now is the only way to ensure that Perth's tree canopy is there for the next generation of Western Australians, and that this invasive beetle does not affect the rest of Australia," he said.



City of
Melville

Notice of Intention to Levy Differential Rates

The City of Melville is in the process of finalising its Annual Budget for the 2024-2025 financial year. The proposed rates for the 2024-2025 financial year equate to an increase of 4.5% when compared to the rate in the dollar for 2023-2024.

The funding proposals include the following principles in relation to each rating category for differential general rates and minimum rates.

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Residential Improved/Unimproved	7.325134	\$1,434.42
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A Statement of Objects and Reasons for adopting these differential rates has been prepared and is available on our website at www.melvillecity.com.au/differentialrates.

It is also available for inspection at the Civic Centre, 10 Almondbury Road, Booragoon and at the City of Melville libraries during opening hours.

Submissions are invited from any elector or ratepayer with respect to the proposed rates, and any related matters, within twenty one days of the date of this notice. Submissions should be made at www.melvillecity.com.au/differentialrates or sent to City of Melville Locked Bag 1 Booragoon WA 6954 and clearly marked Submission Re Differential Rating.

All submissions should be received by no later than **5.00pm on Thursday, 13 June 2024.**

Gail Bowman
Chief Executive Officer



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Memoir set to stir Freo

Foxed

by STEVE GRANT

SHARING your life story through a memoir can be somewhat nerve-wracking, particularly when your insights about your community could make some a little uncomfortable.

First-time Fremantle author Khin Myint's *Fragile Creatures* will almost certainly push buttons when it's launched at the Chesterton Lounge at Bar Orient this coming Friday (June 7), and he admits to having some nerves ahead of the event.

"I feel a mixed set of emotions about that, because it's my local community, and then people will just know so much about my life," Myint says.

The son of a Burmese father and English mother, he grew up in Rossmoyne struggling to fit into either the European community, or its small but growing Asian population.

It was the era of notorious racist Jack van Tongeren, whose firebombing of the Man Lin restaurant in Karawara sparked fear across the city; the son of the Chan family who were the victims of the attack was a fellow Rossmoyne student.

Myint presents a searing account of the terrifying bullying he and others faced during that tense era, and while he says Perth has come a long way, he still sees racism around him.

"Racism in Fremantle is not overt, in my experience as a 40-something, mixed-race guy, but it's definitely there.



• Author Khin Myint's first book *Fragile Creatures* will be launched in Fremantle this week.

"When I want to talk about race, ideas around race or racial identity, I often feel it's not a welcome conversation here."

The book also delves into mental health, with Myint's sister Theda's looming suicide a pervading theme.

His family, the medical establishment and the alternative healers were split on whether her illness was wholly mental or wholly physical, and he says one of the aims of the book is to challenge readers to look at a middle ground.

"I want them to remember in

their own lives, and think about in their own lives, how the culture that we that we live in, that we swim in, defines how we look at the things around us and look at other people, and how there can be a lot of a lack of nuance in how we see other people.

"The culture encourages us to think in stereotypes, to think in binaries - for example, binaries around the illness."

Myint also wants a more critical look at masculinity, arguing that there are contrary notions of how young men

in particular are supposed to behave.

He says it's largely boys and men being pulled towards the right, and he fears that's in part from the left constantly telling them they're the problem.

"As we're critiquing them, I think you need to be compassionate towards that; you need to flow into it and understand what's going on a little bit," he said.

Fragile Creatures
Khin Myint
Launches Friday June 7,
7pm, Chesterton Lounge

• From page 1

Wilderness Society campaigner Sarah English said climate and biodiversity crises intersected at Bibra Lake.

"As we've seen with the Turtle Trackers, local communities are on the frontlines of the climate and biodiversity crises, and it's essential that they're able to participate in environmental decision-making.

"Community rights must be embedded in our new nature laws."

On Wednesday the Albanese government introduced legislation in the Parliament to establish a national environmental protection agency, promising it would be a "tough cop on the beat".

Environment minister Tanya Plibersek said one of its first tasks would be to investigate illegal land clearing and offsets, following an audit that found one in seven developments could be in breach of their conditions.

Vigil

Also on the cards under new legislation will be a new organisation, Environment Information Australia which will "provide up-to-date, transparent environmental data and information to the public".

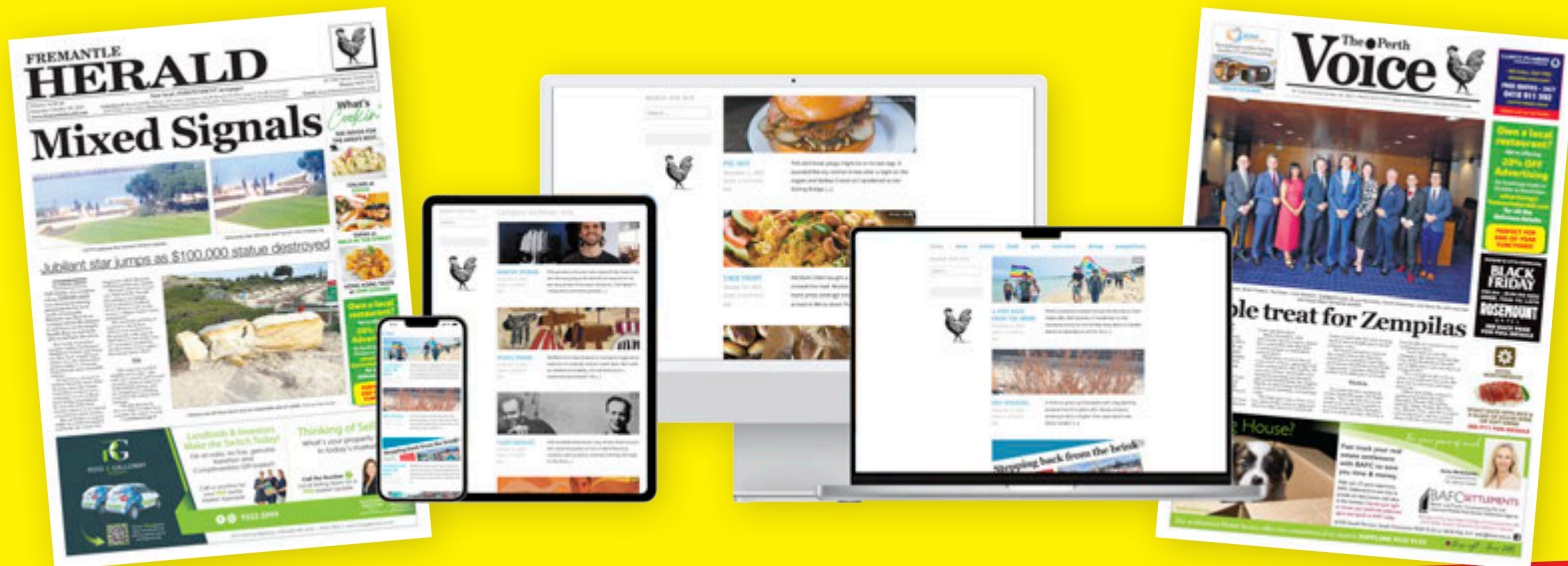
But while the new agencies were welcomed by environmental groups, they say they'll be toothless unless the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act was also overhauled.

The Wilderness Society, Environmental Justice Australia and Conservation Council of WA also want an independent board for the EPA, saying it would otherwise be susceptible to interference from vested interests.

The groups said the legislation didn't give the public a "fair say" in environmental decisions.

Ms English said it was "once-in-a-generation" opportunity to create laws that worked for nature.

"Together, we're calling for a definition of 'unacceptable impacts', strong national environmental standards, and for climate change and deforestation to be addressed in the EPBC Act," Ms English said.



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Carriage owner hits out at council

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER



• David Furness said the council has prevented him selling the business and recouping some of the battering he took during Covid.

THE owner of the Carriage Cafe in Fremantle's Esplanade Reserve has labelled the actions of Fremantle council "unconscionable" after it demanded the carriage be demolished.

The Cafe, which has been at the Esplanade since the 1970s, was purchased by David Furness in May 2017 and had been operating until he was forced to close in 2022 due to the "immense" financial strain caused by COVID-19.

Mr Furness had planned to sell the Carriage Cafe and says he had a prospective buyer waiting, so began negotiations to secure a five plus five-year lease.

By this point, the business was incurring rent to the City of a "significant amount" which the council agreed to put on hold.

"We had verbal discussions about once the sale will be complete, we would offset what I owed to the council by what I would have received for the purchase for the sale," Mr Furness said.

However, in a meeting with the council later, Mr Furness said the "tone" of discussions turned "sour" after which he attempted to make sure the next owners would not run into the same issues.

"I expressed my opinion to ensure that that person had the right agreement and wasn't going to fall into any complexities down the line," he said.

Lease

The lease, Mr Furness says, included several clauses which he took umbrage with such as a restriction on trading times as well as a reference to a 'tenant' and 'landlord'.

"How can they be the landlord of the property that I own?" Mr Furness said.

"In layman's terms, I own a building and you're claiming to be the landlord of that building.

"It doesn't work like that."

Two weeks after the final meeting, Mr Furness says he received an email from the council instructing him to demolish the cafe.

"It was, 'Get stuffed, David, forget it, we want it gone'."

The carriage is secured to the site with 26 groundings, which Mr Furness says classifies it as a "permanent" structure.

Roots of adjacent Moreton Bay Figs have also grown underneath the cafe, meaning removal "may potentially damage" the heritage-listed trees, he believes.

"Even if it's a removable structure, it's been for in the area for significant period 'for the enjoyment of the land', which is pretty arguable," Mr Furness said.

Mr Furness was told a financial meeting did occur within the council walls to rescind the lease, but alleges he was not made privy to it and was not able to access meeting minutes due to it being a "personal matter" of the council, which had engaged lawyers.

"They have the right not to disclose personal matters," he said.

Surrender

"I asked them to please provide me with a copy of the council meeting minutes where the decision was altered along with the rationale behind it.

"I've been unable to locate the committee meeting minutes discussing this matter, and since then, I've received a number of letters from the lawyers demanding that I surrender the cafe to the council."

The letters cited several reasons including the fact Mr Furness' lease had expired and that he had unpaid amounts owing to the council.

Mr Furness also says the council told him he had "no right to refer the dispute to arbitration" and that he "must make suitable arrangements with the council to collect any plant and equipment" in the Carriage Cafe by close of business on April 19.

"If you fail to do so the council the city will instruct us to commence action under the disposal of uncollected Goods Act 1970," Mr Furness read from a letter.

Mr Furness says he wonders why the council would need the cafe equipment unless it was setting it up for another owner, and in any case, refused to give the cafe up.

"If they want my keys, they should fairly compensate me for the losses I am now facing, that have prevented me from selling my property and business."

Mr Furness says the debacle had taken its toll, and that Council had "moved the goalposts" several times during the negotiations to save the cafe which he says he has not abandoned.

"I'm still wanting to resolve the matter," he said, "and I'm not walking away from it.

"They're just being completely unreasonable, unfair, and deceitful about how they've eluded me over a number of years.

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Skating over

IN such a period of rapid growth and change for Fremantle, it's important to stop and look what we as a city are choosing to leave behind or bring forward with us into the future.

The skateboarders have made the Woolstores ledge on Cantonment Street their home since the late '80s, and they were used in the 'This is Fremantle' campaign to advertise our city to the world as the cultural capital of Western Australia.

They are a part of the cultural fabric of the city, and the community they've organically grown and fostered would be an incredible asset to any prospective business in the future Woolstores development.

The skateboarders can surely be considered and included in the development plans for the building.

They have something that can't be manufactured, dictated or put into a box and sold, and that is culture - we need to preserve it.

Zachary Tilghman
Winthrop

Keep it open

CLOSING South Mole is not the solution.

It's where generations of locals have taken their fish and chips, thrown in a line, sat in the car and watched the storms crossing the sea, watched the dolphins and seals and waved to all the ships with migrants, sailors and tourists.

People from overseas understand our piece of heaven when they look across to south



beach and then out along the horizon.

Part of the solution is to regularly repair and clean all public toilets. The South Mole toilets have been a very poor example of a toilet facility and not fit for purpose, regardless of the backpackers.

I'm sorry that there is such a punitive attitude to travellers.

They come a long way to enjoy this glorious place and find there's not enough cheaper campsites.

They work in jobs that Aussies are not filling, making our coffees and food.

The centre of the city is very small, but on the outskirts there is still vacant land, like that piece on Carrington Street next to the cemetery, where there could be toilets, bins and running water.

I'd like to see welcome signs to travellers and campers and directions to the nearest waste dump station (for vans). Many of our country towns have these facilities.

More and more people are

buying and living the dream of travelling to each town, where they spend many dollars.

Inaction contributes to the problem. Let's keep up with the times so everyone benefits.

Ronelle Brossard
Hilton

Have a read

HOW very funny that Agnieszka Kiera and Bill Ody, who sent identical letters to the *Herald*, want me to offer constructive city planning solutions, when the lack of those is exactly what I criticised the inadequate 'Manifesto' of the Fremantle Society for.

I regularly post constructive suggestions, ideas, and possible solutions and changes on my daily Freoview blog, so maybe your correspondents should start reading it.

As for the laughable, but very

slandrous, insinuation that I might be beholding to developers: My own integrity, that of my blog, and the weekly columns I write for the Chook, are more important to me than money, hence I even rejected the offer of payment by the Herald for my columns.

I have never received any payment, not even a free coffee, drink or a meal from any of the developers, let alone a penthouse or apartment with sea views. It's very nasty to suggest that.

Roel Loopers
Fremantle

Any limits?

ROEL LOOPERS is a proud immigrant (*"Migrants make all our lives better," Roel's Round, May 25*) but does he see any limits to growth?

Australia's population has doubled over the past 45 years to 27.3 million and has risen 43 per cent since Sydney held the "best ever" Olympics in 2000.

A dispassionate observer would wonder why perceived skills shortages are worse today than in 2000. Perhaps population growth is the cause, masquerading as a solution?

No one blames migrants for the expanding queues at hospitals, low rental vacancy rates or the never-ending road works, required to cope with the immigration-fed population expansion.

With growth running at 660,000 over the 12 months to September 2023, the problem lies squarely at the feet of the politicians who act against the best interests of Australian residents and recent arrivals.

Australia is a vast dry land.
Population expansion eats

away once productive farmland and bush that should be a haven for native animals.

How is this rapid population growth benefiting anyone except property developers, real estate agents and big-box retailers?

Survey after survey reveals that Australians like to welcome migrants at a manageable pace and economists find that there is no net benefit to the economy from immigration as it is the first-generation migrants and the wealthy 1 per cent who benefit.

Peter Strachan
Cottesloe

Egregious

THE article *"Sparkling action"* recommending the cutting off of gas to homes thus forcing them on to the electricity grid was egregious to say the least.

It is all very well for the great and good of the Fremantle area to drive their electric cars and live in totally environmentally homes, however there are a vast number of people struggling to maintain a roof of any sort over their heads and provide for their families.





I agree the environment and climate change are vital in keeping the world we live in going, however, there must be some form of pragmatism involved in making the cross to renewables; we cannot just cut off gas supplies ad hoc.

Fifteen or 20 years ago, we were exhorted to use gas in our vehicles and homes, now the tune has changed. If Peter Newman would like to pay for the replacement of my gas/electric stove he is free to do so, until then I will continue using the gas stove top.

Geoff Dunstone
Palmyra

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A great opportunity to listen

HANNAH FITZHARDINGE is the mayor of Fremantle.

A LARGE element of my role as the mayor is to talk – to speak at council when we’re making decisions, to do media, to give speeches.

However, the greatest pleasure I’ve had over the past year has in fact been to do the opposite – to listen.

The Fremantle community is bustling with ideas – with hopes, aspirations and plans for the future, and views about how our already much-loved city can continue to get better.

You’ll hear these in galleries, over a coffee, while waiting in line for your lunch, at sports clubs and in schools.

Ideas

Our job over the past year developing the Fremantle Strategic Community Plan 2024-2034 was to go out into the community where the ideas were, and to ensure we heard from a broad range of people – people we hadn’t necessarily heard from before.

On this measure of success, the Plan, which was adopted by Council last week, exceeded all expectations by reaching more than 4,900 people.

For context, the government guidelines for developing such a plan require us to engage a



minimum of 500 people.

To gain such a broad reach of people, we ran consultations across the city – in parks, in coffee shops, even in a backyard bell tent.

We analysed the data about who we were speaking to and developed specifically targeted events to reach those who we hadn’t heard enough from.

We received more than 5000 individual ideas through the process.

Then came the tricky bit –

making sense of it all.

Fortunately, some very clear themes emerged:

a liveable and desirable city that is vibrant and socially connected; a thriving city with a prosperous and innovative economy;

a creative city that is inspiring, diverse and dares to be different; a resilient city that plans for the future and is empowered to take action; and,

an inclusive city that welcomes,

celebrates and cares for all people, cultures and abilities

Now the real work begins.

To ensure this isn’t just a plan that sits on a shelf, a whole body of work has been done within the organisation to align our corporate planning, budgeting, resource allocation and service delivery with the Strategic Community Plan.

At the end of the day, a plan that doesn’t drive decision-making isn’t worth very much.

Perhaps what gives me the most confidence that the plan will drive change in how we do things is the level of engagement employees of the City had in developing it.

Too often this type of work becomes just the job of those tasked with ‘community engagement’, while the people who have to deliver the outcomes are not included in the process.

Not so in Freo!

Involved

Everyone, from our parks team to our arts folks and our engineers, got involved in developing the plan.

In doing so, they heard directly what the community is hoping for in the future.

So now what?

The plan is available on our website and we’d love you to have a look.

It’s a vision that can’t be delivered by council alone.

The enthusiasm shown by the thousands of community members who were part of this process is a reflection of how much we all care about our city.

I’m confident that the Strategic Community Plan truly reflects our collective vision for the next 10 years and provides a clear understanding of what matters most to the people who live, work and play in Fremantle.

I hope you do too.

The Strategic Community Plan is available at www.fremantle.wa.gov.au

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Food by the beach at Ostro Italian

Fremantle Boat Harbour has a new gem, Ostro Italian, where you can indulge in authentic Italian cuisine while enjoying breathtaking ocean views. This Italian restaurant and wine bar offers a delightful dining experience with its mouth-watering dishes and vibrant atmosphere.

At Ostro Italian, the focus is on serving the best authentic Italian food, from savoury dishes to delectable desserts. The house-made panna cotta, accompanied by pistachio and berry coulis, is a must-try for anyone with a sweet tooth. Their menu is designed to be flavourful and visually appealing, ensuring a memorable meal every time you visit.

The restaurant also offers special nights that are perfect for food enthusiasts. Every Tuesday is Pasta Night, where you can enjoy any of their pasta dishes for just \$20. Wednesdays are Pizza Night, featuring their signature pizzas at the same great price. These deals make it easy to sample a variety of their offerings without breaking the bank.

Ostro Italian is more than just a place to eat; it's an experience. The friendly staff is dedicated to providing excellent service with a smile, making every visit enjoyable. The restaurant's location by the Indian Ocean allows guests to take in the refreshing sea breeze, creating a relaxing and revitalising dining environment.

This also makes Ostro Italian the perfect venue for function with the venue catering for all types of function from communion, birthdays, engagement - they've even had a wedding! Functions can be set down a la carte, stand up or an indulgent grazing table.

Open from Monday to Thursday from 5 pm to 9

pm and Friday to Sunday from 11 am to 9 pm, Ostro Italian is the perfect spot for a casual dinner or a special occasion. Whether you're there for a mid-week meal or a weekend treat, the combination of authentic Italian flavors and stunning ocean views will make your visit unforgettable.

Next time you find yourself in Fremantle, make sure to stop by Ostro Italian at the Fremantle Boat Harbour and let the sea breeze and delicious food carry you away.

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Strange times

 arts
STEPHEN POLLOCK

FANCY walking inside a giant eyeball and then down a serpentine tunnel into a glowing brain?

Synapse is just one of the weird arty installations at this year's Strange Festival, which features more than 20 outré artworks in empty shopfronts and neglected spaces across Perth.

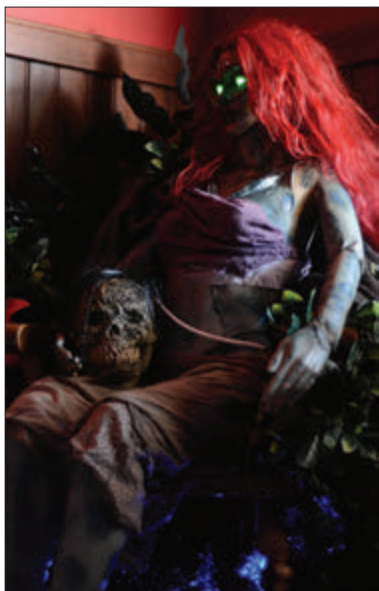
More than 30 artists have been given carte blanche to do what they want for the free art trail with only one stipulation – it has to be odd.

So it's only fitting that opening night kicks off with *The Procession of Enkidu* – an army of drummers carrying a sculpture of the legendary Enkidu (the companion of Mesopotamian demigod Gilgamesh) through the malls of Perth.

Led by the enigmatic Sayer, they weave through the city by torchlight and drum, before ceremoniously laying Enkidu to rest in the beating heart of the city – Forrest Place.

If you're still standing after all that mythological hoopla, you might want to check out some other live events and performances at the festival.

There's Mad Max-inspired fare at the Thunderdome in Yagan Square, a bazaar with trinkets and workshops at "Bartertown" and underground live shows



at Strange Court (the Carillon City Food Court) and Strange Basement (Liberty Basement).

Making a welcome return is Exhumed Cinema at Como Theatre (the old Cygnet and Perth's first 'talkie' picture house) with a line-up of more than 50 cult and classic films in 35mm or 16mm including *Silence of the Lambs*, *Fight Club*, *Dr Strangelove*, *The Goonies* and *Children of Men*.

Now in its third year, the Strange Festival is still decidedly grass-roots and feels like it's flying by the seat of its pants.

Festival co-founder Jess Oakley wouldn't have it any other way.

"What I have learnt from the last two years of Strange... is that it is a dynamic beast which never



• *Synapse* at Elizabeth Quay is one of the highlights of this year's Strange Festival.

turns out how we expect," she says.

"This is not something to be seen as a negative as I have learnt to put trust in our artist to create beautiful installations that fit, fill and complicate the spaces they are given.

"It has reinforced my belief that art is for everyone and what may not speak to you will deeply impact someone else. Which makes it invaluable in a cohesive diverse community.

"Though the biggest thing I have learnt and grown from is

that something this big can't be done alone."

Oakley says one of the highlights of this year's festival is the giant art installation *Synapse* at Elizabeth Quay.

"It's a 20-metre long interactive installation where you are able to enter through the pupil of an eye and walk through a tunnel into the brain," she says.

"There you can interact with objects which describe the anatomy and physiology of the visual system in the mother tongue of Whadjuk Boodjar."

The festival will go out with a bang on closing night with local noise artists Injured Ninja performing *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, a poem written between 2100 and 1200 BC in ancient Mesopotamia.


Get ready for a high-energy primal party as manic drummers create a trance-like groove for the immolation of Enkidu, which Oakley describes as "Mad Max meets Neo-Mesopotamia".

The Strange Festival is on June 14 - 23 across Perth. For the full programme and more details see strangefestival.com.au.



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• Eastwinds in action (above) and one of their school workshops in Bedgerabong, NSW (right).



Exotic reunion

 arts
STEPHEN POLLOCK

EASTWINDS are so multicultural, they make the UN look xenophobic.

The six-piece world-roots band includes musicians from Estonia, Japan, Iran, Australia and England, and they play a mind-boggling array of instruments like the shinobue flute, cittern and daf drum.

The global ensemble was formed in 2013 by three wind players including Fremantle local Mark Cain, who also composes, teaches music and makes instruments from plumbing accessories and recyclable materials.

Cain is a cult legend in the port city and for decades has performed

in a variety of world music bands including Nova Ensemble, Daramad and Flying Carpathians, who won a WAM World Music Award in 2018.

He plays a number of wind instruments, but is perhaps best known for his tasty saxophone licks.

He's also a former radio journalist and trained WA's first indigenous radio broadcasters as part of Noongar Radio at 6NR.

Right now Cain's busy preparing for a special Eastwinds reunion gig in Fremantle.

"Our singer Kristiina Maalaps left for Estonia three years ago and returned earlier this year for a short sojourn, hence our reunion gig," he says.

"Kristiina is a sublime singer, fluent in the languages of jazz and folk... and with the voice of

a songbird. The tune I most like in our repertoire is *The Gift* – it features a counter vocal melody written by Kristiina, with lyrics written by her poet mother Lea Tabur."

Cain says the mix of cultures and instruments in Eastwinds, plus their love of improv, creates a very unique sound.

"Esfandiar Shahmir plays the Persian ney, an end-blown flute with an ethereal, haunting sound," he says. "He is also a master percussionist on a large frame drum called daf."

"Sanshi hails from Japan and is a didgeridoo virtuoso who refined his skills learning from the Yolngu in N.E. Arnhem Land."

"Other instruments featured include saxophones, shawms, jaw harp, home-made reed instruments, shinobue flute and also guitar,

cittern and double bass (Steve and Kieran Barnes)."

In-between gigs, a stripped down Eastwinds tour schools across Australia as part of the Musica Viva educational program.

Cain says it's highly rewarding that pupils get to see a band with no cultural barriers, "where anything is possible".

He especially enjoyed visiting a small farming community school in Bedgerabong, NSW.

"After the show the students asked if they could perform a couple of pieces for us featuring about a dozen classroom marimbas (built some years before in a community project with composer/community artist John Madden)," he says.

"It should be borne in mind that this school had no qualified music teacher, just passionate educators willing to rehearse the students daily. What they played was jaw-dropping."

"The arrangement, the phrasing, the tremolo rolls with their mallets and just the togetherness of their playing. It was beautiful. This is what inspires us. To see music in out-of-the-way places played to this standard and with such joy, you can't beat that!"

Nearer to home, Cain says

the closure of Kulcha in 2014 – a permanent venue for live world music in Fremantle – left a "huge hole" in the local music scene.

"It was such a short-sighted government funding decision and it was a real loss to Fremantle," he says.

"There are signs of things getting better. The ongoing Multicultural Cafe series, which not usually the held in Fremantle, has breathed some much-needed life into this space and given opportunities to emerging musicians of different background."

With wars raging across the world, Cain says Eastwinds is a reminder that music can transcend religion and politics to be a unifying force: "This band bridges cultural divides and we think the group points to a direction in how Australian music will evolve in decades to come. Multiculturalism is definitely alive and well here. And in tenuous times, this is a real plus in Australia."

With the rare occurrence of all six members in WA, Eastwinds will play a special reunion gig at Fremantle Park Club, 36 Ellen Street on Saturday June 29 at 7:30pm. Tix at trybooking.com/events/landing/1219804.

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Nestled amongst bushland and birdlife, this 320sqm hilltop plot on Swanbourne Street has amazing vistas of the harbour, ocean and surrounding islands.

It's a cracking spot and the *Chook* would build a two-storey home that takes full advantage of those views and the sea breeze come summer.

Situated across the road from Stevens Reserve, the land is in a charming area with a mix of contemporary and character homes.

It's only a short walk to Monument Hill Park, which has lovely rose gardens, the war memorial and amazing panoramas

of Fremantle and beyond. Or toddle down the hill to Wray Avenue to sample the funky and eclectic mix of shops, cafes, small bars and restaurants, including the recently opened whisky bar Malt'n Gold.

And it's not much further to South Terrace, where you can enjoy an even bigger range of retail and hospitality, and catch the bus to the beach or Freo CBD.

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Basso beauty

THIS is a real Basso-bonzer property.

Situated on a whopping corner block, it's got four bedrooms, two bathrooms, large pool, self-contained studio and a massive undercover alfresco.

It's a great family abode with a versatile layout that will come in handy as parents and kids get older and need their own space.

The main open plan living/dining/kitchen area is big, bright and airy with large floor tiles and high ceilings enhancing the sense of space.

Eating your cornflakes won't be a problem as the kitchen has a huge breakfast bar that could probably accommodate the entire cast of *Ben-Hur*.

The kitchen has some stylish natural grain cupboards and includes a double oven, seven-gas burner cooktop with tiled splashback, double sinks and blanco dishwasher.

The home has lots of living areas include an additional stand-alone lounge which the *Chook* really likes.

It's got nice French doors and is bathed in natural light, courtesy of the many windows, with great views of the leafy trees outside.

I imagine this cosy retreat is a favourite in winter with mum and dad curling up to watch TV.



The carpeted bedrooms continue the stylish theme and are spacious and well-appointed.

The main has a walk-in robe and modern ensuite with sleek fixtures and fittings.

Open the bi-fold doors in the open plan and walk out onto the huge decked patio which has oodles of space for dining and living settings, BBQ and pizza oven.

Get the patio heater fired-up and this could be an all-year round spot. The alfresco overlooks a lovely back garden with a veggie patch, shed and kidney-shaped pool with shade sail.

There's another deck beside the pool where you can hang out with family and friends in the summer.

If that wasn't enough, there's a self-contained studio flat at the rear with its own shower, bathroom



and bedroom. It's a cracking little addition that will be perfect for older kids or visiting family, or you could potentially lease it out and take advantage of the tight rental market.

The home includes ducted evaporative air con, rain water tank, big laundry, solar panels, attic storage and double garage.

Situated on a 661sqm green title block on Blockley Way, you are

close to Anzac Terrace School and lots of lovely parks.

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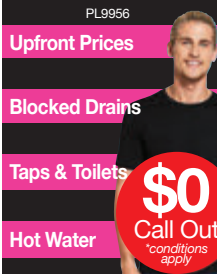


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In accordance with section 31 (3C) of the Dog Act 1976, the Town of East Fremantle gives notice of its intention to specify a dog exercise area at the East Fremantle Community Park on the corner of Allen Street and Marmion Street.

The dog exercise area is proposed to be an off-lead area however, the dog must be under effective control at all times.

Please provide any feedback by 4pm Monday 1 July 2024 by:

- Email to admin@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au
- Mail to the CEO, Town of East Fremantle, PO Box 1097, Fremantle WA 6959

See the map at <https://www.eastfremantle.wa.gov.au/news/proposed-dog-exercise-area/20845>

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Astrology with Sudhir

June 1 – June 8, 2024



ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

As you power yourself into that place you have been wanting to go to, so you will have to balance work and home. If you don't, both are capable of applying pressure until you do. With Mars in Aries, you have energy to burn. Chiron is still with you, keeping you on a healing track.



TAURUS (Apr 21 – May 20)

Mercury and Uranus are circling together. Mercury is your mind. Uranus is your desire to be free. This could either lead to a whirl of frantic ideas, or if you stay grounded, to some genuinely innovative options. It's your responsibility to keep things creative. Lay low if you have to.



GEMINI (May 21 – June 21)

Jupiter, Venus and the Sun are in your midst. This is a healthy collection of cosmic influences to have hanging around. Venus will help you to identify where your delight is. If it's hiding, she will bring it out. Jupiter will expand and open your horizons. The Sun will fill you with vitality.



CANCER (June 22 – July 22)

With the asteroid Vesta in your sign, your sense of the importance of home and hearth have never been stronger. A home is not a house. When we are truly nurtured, we aren't compromising ourselves in any way. We are utterly comfortable and natural in our own skin. Seek this as a resource.



LEO (July 23 – Aug 22)

The Sun and Venus are travelling together in Gemini. Love and life are beaming in on you as one indomitable force. In Gemini, they are filling you with lightness, quick-wittedness and play. Let this lightness penetrate your heart. It is a strength. It will help you to engage and be creative.



VIRGO (Aug 23 – Sept 22)

Venus in Gemini is a little bit dangerous. She tends to inspire people to experiment. Ultimately, her intention is to bring beauty, but her energy is fairly untamed. Be careful not to react out of your own insecurities when she comes along and pushes the envelope. Own up to your own stuff.



LIBRA (Sept 23 – Oct 23)

Life is essentially leaving you alone to discover what nourishes you and what doesn't. With the Sun and Venus in Gemini, this is likely to be a fun process, as long as you don't fall down a rabbit-hole by over-intellectualising things. Keep your joy simple. Keep coming back to innocence.



SCORPIO (Oct 24 – Nov 21)

The asteroid Pallas Athena is in Scorpio and giving you a cool clear head through her presence. This will help you gain clarity in many places. Unravel emotional knots that have been getting in the way of your heart being nourished. You may also find added insight on the career front.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Jupiter's presence in airy Gemini should give you added horsepower on the learning front. It helps to understand how the brain works when it comes to learning new skills. Overdoing things doesn't help. Doing enough, and then allowing the unconscious mind to take up the task, does work.



CAPRICORN (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Change is in order. This is regeneration and renewal time after all. That's not possible without a few of your chess pieces moving. The good news is that the combination of Mercury and Uranus in Taurus should present you with the clarity and the courage required to shift things around.



AQUARIUS (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

Your journey is being aided and abetted by the wondrous power of Jupiter in Gemini. Jupiter is the largest of the planets and not surprisingly is known for inspiring expansion, growth and opportunity. In Gemini, he does this light-heartedly. Life is taking you on a creative ride.



PISCES (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

The Moon begins her week in Pisces, stirring up your emotions. That which was under the surface, surfaces. The tides and currents are rolling. You are definitely not becalmed. Neptune is giving you an air of vastness and depth. Saturn is making you feel like you really do have it together.

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ABOUT TIMES PAST Visit Miller Bakehouse Museum to experience bread making from yesteryear and view family history. Sundays 2pm - 4pm, 7 Baal St. Palmyra, \$3 adult \$1 child; OR groups/schools by appt. 0466 333 849. Also large room with screen, a/con, kitchen for community hire @ cheap rates, 0466 333 849. www.melvillehistorysociety.webnode.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEDITATION FREE Shri Mataji Nirmaladevi's meditation with Indian Raga and self realisation. Every Friday 7-8.30pm. 391 South St Hilton. Dr. Sadanand G.Mankar. Mobile 0407 561 662

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

SHARE A BEER and save the world! Join the Amnesty Freo crew every second Wednesday of the month at Clancy's Fremantle from 6pm. Look for our sign and sup from the cup so together we CAN make a difference. Need more deets? Email fremantleamnesty@gmail.com

THE EMBROIDERERS' GUILD OF WA invites you to Samplers and Stories: A Contemporary Showcase 55th Anniversary Exhibition. Opening Saturday June 1, 2024, 3pm. Exhibition runs to Sunday July 21, 2024. Wireless Hill Museum, Telefunken Drive, Ardross, WA. Opening hours: Wednesday to Friday 10am - 2pm. Saturday and Sunday 10am - 4pm. Enquiries: admin@embroiderersguildwa.org.au

TUESDAY LADIES' GROUP Senior ladies are most welcome to join us for mornings of craft, fun, games and chats over morning tea. St Stephens Uniting Church Hall Mackenzie Rd Applecross. 10am to 12pm. Just turn up or contact Jackie on 9330 2386

VIBE LINE DANCE AT SULLIVAN HALL. White Gum Valley. Beginners welcome. Modern contemporary dances and music. Heaps of fun! Great for mind and body. Call Georgine to register on 0407 361209 or email georginealderton@gmail.com Follow us on Facebook

WILLETTON LADIES PROBUS Inc. Meet 2nd Thursday of the month. 51 Agincourt Drive Bullcreek. Fun, Friendship, Guest Speakers and more. Phone Raylene 0421 953 328

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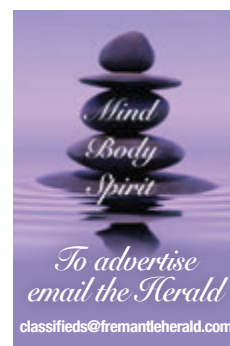
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Never too late

If you're of a certain vintage, where do you go to make new friends or find romance?

Dating apps can be intimidating and the quality of candidates patchy to say the least – some look like extras from *Night of the Living Dead* – match-making agencies are expensive, and if you don't belong to any clubs or societies, opportunities to socialise can be fleeting.

This can leave older people feeling lonely and isolated with no knight in shining armour on the horizon (for the record it could be a female knight, see Brienne of Tarth in *Game of Thrones*)

Freo local Sarah Booth decided to address this dating void by holding a casual, monthly mingler for singles aged 60 or over at the Ode to Sirens pub in the heart of Fremantle.

Older folk will probably feel at home as the walls are lined with classic LP covers.

"The idea came for the event when my smart, funny, wonderful 75-year-old neighbour Mary needed to find a partner," Booth says. "She didn't have much success on the apps – and I don't blame her – so I decided to start a whole event for her, and all the other 60-plus singles in Freo, instead."

"Ode to Sirens I love because it

is a cool place, nicely lit, cosy and relaxing – the perfect environment for a mingle."

Booth says the debut event in April attracted a "really nice crowd" and moving forward she hopes to hold it on the last Thursday of every month.

"The event is very casual and low key, everyone gets a name tag on arrival and then can just buy a drink and have a chat," she says.

"The last event attracted a really nice crowd, so it wasn't too nerve wracking for anyone."

So what are the chances of finding your dream partner later in life? A study from the University of Bath revealed the odds of finding love after 60 are 1 in 562 – but only if you leave your chances to fate.

If you are proactive and take steps to socialise and meet new people, the odds dramatically reduce.

Call the *Chook* soppy and sentimental, but we believe it's a bit of both – fate and effort – and if you don't buy a ticket to the raffle, you ain't going to win.

There are apps and online dating sites for older folk including Silver Singles, Singles 50 and Mature Dating, but Booth says there is no substitute for a socialiser where things happen naturally and are less force-fed.

"I don't believe apps for any



• Sarah Booth (left) with her neighbour Mary Hill, who was the inspiration for a new 60-plus singles event.

age group can replace the feeling of face-to-face connection," she says.

"That's not even old school, it's just chemistry! What I wanted to create was a place that people felt comfortable and safe getting to know others in the Fremantle community – whether it's romance or friendship it's a great opportunity just to connect and have fun."

In a recent interview with the *Herald*, 82-year-old Freo resident Sandra Ramini-Harris – whose

illustrious broadcasting career included interviewing John Lennon and Yoko One during their peace lie-in – says older people need to embrace the third act of their life, and advocates for a positive shift in perspective on ageing.

She says many have fallen for the 'young is everything' message of mass media. She criticises the trend of cosmetic procedures aimed at reversing the ageing process, advocating for authenticity and embracing the beauty that comes

with age – grey hair and wrinkles.

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

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

The next 60-plus Encore event is scheduled for Thursday June 27 at Ode to Sirens, 25 High Street in Fremantle.

'Whether it's romance or friendship it's a great opportunity just to connect and have fun!'

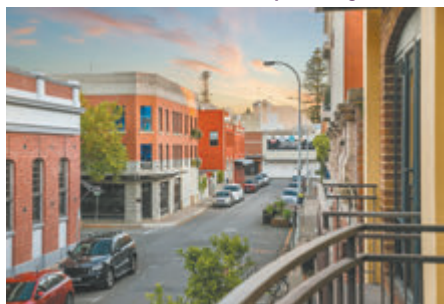
How to Buy



By HAYDEN GROVES
REIA President 2021-2023
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It's a sellers' market. Property listings throughout the metropolitan area are down to about 2,400 on reiwa.com. Four years ago, there were 14,000 properties on offer. Sales volumes are consistently at around 950 per week, outpacing supply so buyers often find themselves making an offer to purchase in competition with others.

Agents have differing approaches as to how to deal with multiple offers but normally will inform buyers that their offer is one amongst others. When a property is offered for sale by private treaty, details of competing buyers' offers are not normally revealed so as a buyer offering in competition with others, it is difficult to know what price and conditions will ensure purchasing success without paying significantly more than the next highest offer. This is made more difficult given most properties no longer carry an obvious price tag.

should not assume the agent thinks it is a lie

Buyers should remember that agents have a responsibility to act in the best interests of the seller unless it is unlawful or unethical to do so. Agents have a legal responsibility to work at getting the buyer to pay the highest possible price on terms favourable to the seller they represent.

One of the most effective ways to achieve this and discharge their fiduciary responsibility is to have multiple purchasers competing to buy. Naturally, buyers don't like having to compete as it is much harder to gain a negotiable advantage in such circumstances.

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

My advice to buyers is to always ask the agent if there are any other current offers on the property before submitting your own offer. Agents are not obliged to tell you that there are, so this knowledge might influence your initial offer.

Also, consider removing any less-essential conditions of your offer such a timber pest inspection clause if one had been done recently, especially for more modern homes and consider aligning the settlement date to suit the seller. A bigger deposit might make your offer more appealing or an 'odd' price offering rather than neat 5 or 10-thousand increment might make your offer stand out from the others.

The notion that agents should assume the buyer's first offer is not their "best offer" is nonsense. A buyer who tells the agent that this is their best offer should not assume the agent thinks it is a lie and remember that the seller is under no obligation to provide you an opportunity to negotiate further.

Buyers who miss out through competition are naturally disappointed, but ought to come away from the experience knowing they gave it their best shot.

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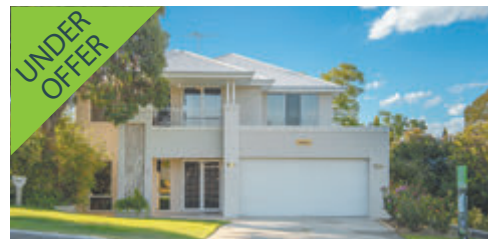
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