



Budget reveals bridge blowout

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER

THE controversial new Fremantle Traffic Bridge will cost a whopping 54 per cent more than originally advertised, with no help for Freo businesses to survive what could be a "catastrophic" impact for the city.

The project, which has drawn major criticism from some members of the Freo community, was initially costed at \$280 million.

However, in the State Budget this week, the government has labelled the Bridge's cost at \$430 million – a massive blowout of the original cost.

Constructing the replacement bridge is poised to be a major inconvenience for Freo traffic, which Greens MLC Brad Pettitt says is "hugely concerning" for the city's financial health.

"There'll be no functioning bridge in that location for at least a year, and it'll be partially closed probably for two years," Dr Pettitt said.

"There's no money in the budget for actually helping Fremantle businesses or any

of those things, it's just all the money is going towards infrastructure.

"There's nothing flagged this budget, or forward estimates, around actually helping Fremantle to survive what I think could be potentially quite a catastrophic impact in terms of traffic and congestion."

Dr Pettitt says the changed figure had a "distinct lack of fanfare" given the rejection of alternative plans on a financial basis.

"They've also spent an extraordinary \$80 million already," Dr Pettitt said.

"Given works have barely started, I find that to be an amazing number to spend on what really largely are drawings."

According to a spokesperson from the Main Roads department, the "significant escalations" in materials and labour had caused the Bridge replacement cost to balloon so dramatically since it was initially funded in 2019.

"The current figure reflects the project's complexity and updated design, the extensive program of community and stakeholder engagement

• *Continued page 3*



• Vicki Bailey says there's a shortage of daycare for dogs such as her kelpie-collie cross Fenrir

Doggie dilemma

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER

A DOG daycare centre in South Freo's looming closure has left owners scrambling to find care for their pets, saying there's a desperate shortage of alternatives.

Diggiddy Dog Daycare on Hampton Road in South Fremantle will cease operating in mid-June leaving several of Freo's

dogs without supervision and care during the day.

Vicki Bailey is mum to one year old Fenrir, a kelpie border-collie cross, and says the daycare service is "just incredible" and will be sorely missed.

"For me it's about making sure that Fenrir is safe," Ms Bailey said.

"I'm able to go to work, and he's cared for and loved, and the daycare obviously provides that.

"The staff are incredible,

and any business should be so happy to have them because they really are highly trained.

"Sometimes I walk in there and they look like they've been through the wringer, but they're still smiling and they're still loving the dogs."

According to Ms Bailey, the closure will impact many families who purchased dogs during the Covid-19 pandemic who have had

• *Continued page 3*

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Bridge budget blowout

• From page 1
which required an extensive scope and design review process," the spokesperson said.

"The evolution of the design to an extra-dosed cable stay bridge with a construction program designed to minimise the duration of the bridge closure, reflects the extensive program of community and stakeholder consultation undertaken with the local community on this significant project."

The cost to replace the Bridge will be split in half between the Federal and State governments.

In his criticism of the cost blowout, Dr Pettitt highlighted the effort to save the Bridge from development, which included plans to transform it into a New York Highline-style elevated park.

"At the time they said it was going cost \$80 million to keep the old bridge and use it as a as a Highline as proposed," he said.

"When we've just seen a huge budget jump like this, you can't help but wonder to yourself 'should have we looked at designs that actually did that?'"

"Would that have been a better outcome from a heritage and community perspective?"

The bridge, which has the highest heritage listing available in the state, is labelled by the WA Heritage Council to be of "exceptional cultural heritage significance" which drove efforts to retain the bridge and build another serviceable traffic-way to its west.

Climate group ramps up pressure for parks

by ASHLING EARLY

THE Melville City Climate Action Network is rallying residents to attend the council's May 21 meeting to ensure two controversial park spaces at Canning Bridge get secured funding.

Although funding to turn the old senior citizens centre site on The Esplanade and another at Moreau Mews into open spaces was originally slated to go through the council's February meeting, the council almost over-turned it with a rescission motion and eventually deferred the item.

Staff have put forward designs and a budget for this month's meeting, and MCCAN has been circulating a petition around coffee shops urging residents to let wavering councillors know the parks have strong public support.

The projects at 13 The Esplanade and 64 Kishorn Road Mount Pleasant are expected to cost \$1.7 million to build and \$80,000 per year for upkeep.

MCCAN founder Paula Samson says councillors' previous attempt to scuttle the project still had residents nervous.

"There is residual fear in the community... and fear will only be quietened when

councillors vote in favour of the funding," Ms Samson said.

MCCAN chairperson Ian Peacock says there's no denying the climate was in an emergency and people had to fight hard to preserve and increase the amount of green space around them.

"The provision of Public Open Space in the area is so urgent the conversion of this site to a park should be happening right now".

Melville mayor Katy Mair wouldn't be drawn on her position before the upcoming meeting, but said the staff recommendation would be considered.

Doggy dilemma for Fenrir

• From page 1
to return to work and find alternative arrangements to ensure their dogs are cared for.

"I've looked into other daycares, and they're generally all full," she said.

"There will be some people who will really struggle around working, especially having to go back to the office after Covid.

"I suppose there's a risk that some of these dogs will end up in kennels or rescue organisations, because people are not able to cope with it."

As for Fenrir, he'll have to cope with the sad reality of not being able to attend Digiddy Doggy

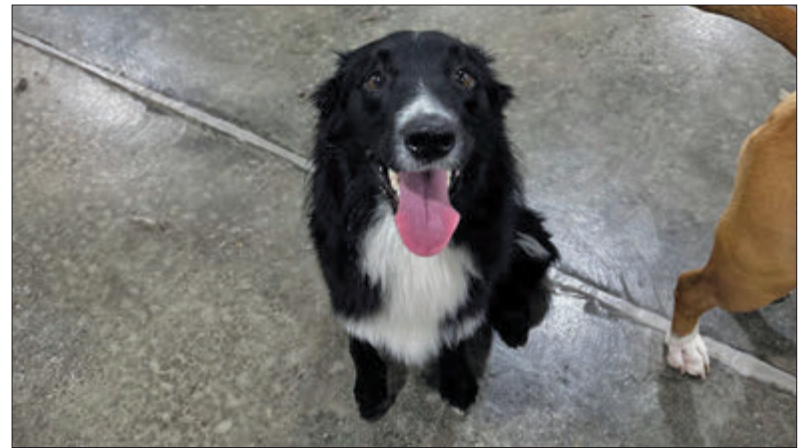
which Ms Bailey says he "actually prefers" to being at home.

"Honestly, he skates on the polished concrete floor to get through the door, he just can't wait to get here," she said.

"For it to close, it's quite devastating for me, and for Fenrir as well, because he's such a high energy dog and he looks forward to going every week.

"When he doesn't go if there's a public holiday, he knows and he starts to get a bit on the frustrated side," she said with a laugh.

The Herald contacted Petstock, Digiddy's parent company, but they declined to comment as to why the daycare will be closing.



• Fenrir's in doggy heaven when he's in daycare with his pals.



PORTFOLIO



Have your say about South Mole

What do you think about vehicles on South Mole? Have your say at www.fremantleports.com.au until June 6. There will also be a public forum at the WA Maritime Museum on Wednesday, May 29 at 5.30pm. Fremantle Ports closed South Mole in March due to illegal camping and anti-social behaviour. It's now open again, at this stage just to pedestrians and cyclists, until we've consulted the community.

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VICTORIA QUAY ▷ Thanks, port runners!

Nearly 1000 runners descended on Victoria Quay on Sunday May 6 for the Fremantle Ports Harbour Master Classic. Elite and weekend runners had a great time, with ships in the harbour sounding their horns for the start of the 5km and 10km races. Thanks to everyone, including the sporty littlies in the Kids' Dash. See you next year!



◀ MARINE Our new pilot boats coming soon

Our two new pilot boats will arrive in August. Built and designed right here in Western Australia, these fast and seaworthy vessels will allow us to keep on safely and efficiently transferring pilots to and from ships, 24/7. An \$8m investment for Fremantle Ports, look out for them in harbour waters soon!

IMPORTS ▷ Trade's looking good

So far this financial year, trade's been strong. By the end of March, nearly 90,000 new motor vehicles came over the docks - on target to eclipse last year's grand total of 114,000. Containers are also up on last year, reaching 645,000 by March, with three months to go. Last year's grand total was 809,709.



◀ COMMUNITY Harbour tours

Around 850 people took a free hour-long tour of the Inner Harbour with us in April or May. The sold-out autumn harbour tours were a big hit, with passengers thrilled to see ship movements and dolphins on nearly every trip. We hope everyone who took part had a great time and learnt more about your port.

What a drag

DEAR Main Roads, You are aware, aren't you, that in designing Walter Place, North Fremantle, your road planners have created a drag racing strip?

We've lived here for more than three years and word has clearly got around among the V8 and motorcycle community.

Racing typically starts about 5am and ends around 11pm.

Don't put up one of those speed monitors though, or it will encourage them to beat the 120+ kmh they already achieve.

Andrew Heard
North Fremantle

They shoot horses, don't they?

THIS is in response to the increasing number of shootings that kill mentally challenged persons.

I get it that first [police] responders may not always receive clear alerts on attending an incident; nor be able to distinguish between a benign situation and a deliberate and premeditated act of terrorism.

The latter, everyone would expect, would be met with necessary full lethal force, to mitigate innocent loss of life.

But shooting to kill a person not carrying a firearm? [Literally the opposite of taking a knife to a gun fight]. It calls into question



some of societies' acceptable law enforcement techniques.

This practice is asking our officers to be judge and executioner – without a fair trial!

Even Martin Bryant (Port Arthur massacre), was captured alive and tried, in 1996.

Why are we going backwards? Capital punishment in Australia was abolished in the 1980s.

Are we not a progressive, and so-called enlightened society?

To be clear. In no way is this a reflection on, or blaming our many brave front-line officers, who sometimes put their lives on the line. It must be also a personal moral dilemma for them.

The question is: Does Australian standard police training dictate that officers shoot to kill, when confronted with a knife yielding person - regardless of the perpetrator's age; the situation; demeanour; or obvious altered state of mind?

Such archaic training may have been acceptable in the 18th century – when advanced technology was non-existent and very early weaponry was less accurate and protective gear unsophisticated.

Academy training must be so engrained that even a senior, experienced officer recently tased an elderly woman on a walker, because she had a knife in her hand. Allegedly the tasing caused her untimely death.

If a homeowner was to shoot an intruder in the house who carried only a knife, the owner could be facing court for manslaughter, based on the premise of "excessive" use of force to defend themselves – in their own home.

Where is the "measured" response for self-preservation when supposedly more highly trained officers are involved? And sometimes in greater numbers.

Is this not double standards? What happened to "Serve and

Protect"? Do we now need to be also fearful of our law enforcers?

I cringe at that words our politicians and authority figures from the PM down utter in public after horrible incidents occur, with many needless losses of lives, including those of the perpetrators. They fail to acknowledge the mentally ill who also die – unnecessarily, in my opinion.

As if verbal justification after the fact makes it "all right". Early mental health intervention and care plans may actually prevent such events occurring in the first place. It is just plain system failure.

There would be few families or individuals that are not confronted by someone with a mental issue in our community.

This lack of empathy; support and protection for ALL peoples in our society is no longer acceptable in modern times, in an inclusive and advanced nation like Australia.

A reflection of our apathy and ambivalence with a health system no longer fit for purpose.

Name supplied

Fence half full

I BOUGHT a house in Hilton 2016; half the front was a white picket fence, the other half was a hardyflex solid fence.

Three years ago I changed hardyflex to colorbond.

I work hard in my garden, so it looks the best it can with my limited resources.

I recently received a call from Freo council, who subsequently came to my house saying my fence had to go because it does not follow the Hilton guidelines. Times have changed in Hilton; I've had things stolen,

people in my back yard at midnight saying "I'm just passing through". If a bike gets stolen or I get hurt because my fence has to be basically see-through and the meth heads can see how easy it is to break in – I end up dead on the floor, but hey the front fence is looking good.

Will the council compensate my family as the chief babysitter is dead.

The side of the house is my backyard, as it's a front subdivided block.

Jackie Robinson
Hilton

Not broken

THE "proposed" North Coogee name change - "If it's not broke why fix it".

The majority of long-term and current residents we've all spoke with, value our North Coogee location and its name, hence why we've chose to come to this great location and lifestyle.

Maybe the area unofficially known as Port Coogee might like to be labelled Port Catherine, who knows?

If the Catherine Point Community Group (formerly known as the South Beach Community Group) are so eager to fix something that is broken, they could start with the South Beach reserve and carpark so local ratepaying families and the public can use and enjoy the facilities.

That would be a perfect place to start!

Any efforts in that direction would certainly be appreciated by "all".

Al Watto
North Coogee



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The last shunt

by ROMIE FAYLE

IT once attracted a 13,000 signature petition calling for its preservation, but the owners of the abandoned Carriage Cafe on Fremantle's Esplanade Reserve have been told to haul it away.

The cafe was closed in 2022 after lease negotiations between the council and the lessees of the site broke down, and since then it has been surrounded by ugly fencing.

Fremantle council's business director Matthew Hammond says it's only a matter of time before the site is cleared.

"The City has since formally requested the removal of the carriage from the site, however the private owner has yet to proceed with its removal," Mr Hammond said.

Kel Smith owned the cafe years ago and said it was a sad day to see its demise looming; back in 2008 he gathered 13,000 signatures to force the council into backing away from an order to move on.

Trendier

Despite the carriage having been on the Esplanade since the 1970s, council staff had claimed it didn't fit their vision for the park and should be replaced with a trendier cafe closer to the Italian Club carpark.

Despite buckling to public pressure, the council never eased up its opposition to his plans for the retired railway carriage, Mr Smith says.



• Fences surround the cafe, rubbish piled up inside, while a murder of crows seems ready to pick at the carcass - a sad end for the Carriage Cafe.

Before selling the cafe back in 2015, he said he spent thousands of dollars on upgrade plans, but the council refused to give him a lease extension that would justify the investment.

"All we wanted to do was to maintain a much loved community asset for the community and visitors" Mr Smith said.

One of the signatories and a high-profile campaigner was South Fremantle resident and former WA premier Peter Dowding.

He says the council is bucking to pressure from businesses around the Esplanade who are just trying to knock off a competitor.

"When so many tourists and visitors use the Esplanade, why on earth would Fremantle council bow down to the landlords that own large swathes of Freo property and whose demands for rents exceed the economic capacity of small business operators and leave so many properties vacant," Mr Dowding told the Herald.



• Lucinda Haywood representing Bicton and Gee Anderson representing Fremantle in the Youth Parliament.

Youthful aye

by RUBY COLE

THE Y WA's new Youth Parliament has been sworn in for 2024.

Among the 59 young West Aussies being given a once-in-a-lifetime political experience is Lucinda Haywood from East Fremantle, who's representing the Bicton electorate.

In her final year at University, Ms Haywood is determined to find out how the WA government is addressing and legislating current social issues, specifically its response to the housing crisis and the renewable energy transition.

"I hope to achieve by participating in a program which gives young people a tangible voice in issues facing West Australians," she said.

"Being able to write a bill that could be viewed by the parliament and WA MPs is an incredible opportunity."

"When young people are locked

out of these decision-making processes their concerns and ideas are ignored and pushed aside; Y WA Youth Parliament is way to amplify them instead."

The topics the Youth Parliament will debate over their four-month term cover issues from any state government portfolio.

The parliament is run by The Y, formerly known as YMCA, and gives young people an ability to have their voice heard by policy makers, says CEO Tim McDonald.

"It's an incredible opportunity for young people to advocate, grow skills and make life-long connections," Dr McDonald said.

"The Y WA Youth Parliament program, now in its 29th year, offers young people an insight into the workings of government and policy development."

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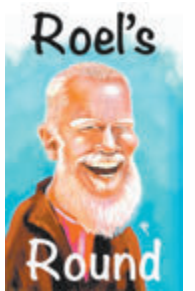
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Cash still rates



I DON'T know where the calls for a cashless society come from, but it's unrealistic and ignores the fact that point of sales card machines fail more often than is reported.

Last year in Melbourne hundreds of cafes and shops had to close when a bank had a major breakdown.

Eftpos machines no longer worked and people could not get cash at ATMs either. Where do you go from there as a business?

Many thousands of dollars in sales were lost to small businesses, staff were sent home, so they too missed out on income, and motorists who had filled up their car with fuel could not pay – a nightmare for servos and customers.

Although banks are making huge profits, BankWest has announced it's closing many branches.

I assume they expect their customers to call and wait in long queues, or go online. Methods many older people do not like, as they prefer face to face communication with bank staff.

The conspiracy nonsense that the Albanese government wants a cashless society were refuted by the governor of the Reserve, Michele Bullock, as recently as December last year, when said ensuring "reasonable access" to cash was a "high priority" of the bank.

It is also interesting to note that cash is a legal tender, so it can't really be refused by traders as payment, no matter what they prefer.

Believe it or not, there are still people who do not have a credit or debit card, so how else would they pay?

Not all small businesses prefer card payments.

Fees

I know one newsagent in Fremantle who hates it when people pay for the daily newspaper with a credit or debit card, because the fees they pay mean that they are hardly making any money out of selling the rag.

There is also often a cost for card users, as many traders pass on the cost of card transactions.

I use a debit card, but in some places a credit card surcharge is added, such as when I buy a drink or meal in one of Freo's pub.

I don't believe it is ethical to put a surcharge on a debit card sale, as it is basically an Eftpos sale with straight transaction into the accounts of the traders, but what can I do about it, but go and try somewhere else?

A cashless society would also impact on buskers and beggars, because it is unlikely that people will be inclined, and have the patience, to line up after a performance and pay a few dollars on their cards, instead of throwing coins in a hat or a bag, to thank the

buskers for their great

entertainment.

But not to have a cash float and having to count the money and deposit it at an ATM at the end of the working day would be beneficial for cafes, and point of sale cashless payments make takeaway transactions just a bit faster.

There is also less chance of theft by staff, and management has an immediate record of the day's turnover.

But when the internet crashes, or when there are power blackouts, traders might as well close.

Online shopping can of course only be done with credit or debit cards, so those traders are not interested in cash.

That does not apply however to car boot sale markets, sausage sizzles, and many other community activities, where acquiring a point of sale machine would be too costly and prohibitive

I personally always have some notes and coins in my wallet, as I would feel naked without real money.

The consensus on my Facebook page, when I asked what method people prefer, was that most want cash and cards and are not in favour of a cashless society.

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Your Local May Update

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The Albanese Labor Government is cutting student debt for around 22,000 people in Tangney. I've heard from students and people with student loan debt who were shocked at last year's spike in indexation. The Government has listened to you, and now we are taking action. This will make the system fairer and benefit all Australians with a HELP debt. Additionally, we are addressing the risks of placement poverty and assisting with the cost of living for teaching, nursing and social work students in Tangney by creating the Commonwealth Prac Payment. This will encourage more students to study teaching, nursing, and social work - all of which are critical to our local workforce and community of Tangney.



Visit to Camco Engineering

Recently I visited Camco Engineering in Canning Vale alongside Minister Ed Husic and Senator Varun Ghosh. Our Government's plan for a future made in Australia relies on the hard work of people like Jonathan, Greg, Tina and the whole team at Camco supporting our critical industries.



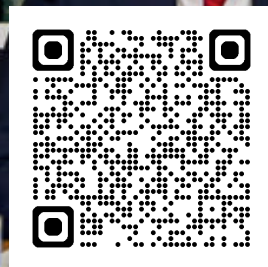
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- herald thinking allowed - Careful and selective

by KATIE MAIR
Mayor of Melville

I'D like to take this opportunity to give the community reassurance about what's happening on-site in the Melville City Centre following the recent story published in the Herald "Fire risk spells doom for bush," (May 4) and the letter "Bushwhacked," (May 11).

Both paint a picture that does not entirely match council's decision at the April 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

At this meeting, council asked for an independent botanist or ecologist to undertake a flora survey and threatened ecological communities assessment in spring 2024 at a 2,970sqm portion of the Melville City Centre fronting Davy Street in Booragoon.

The background to this is the presence of the vegetation on-site, which triggers a classification of the site as containing bushfire prone vegetation, increasing the bushfire attack level for the future Library and Cultural Centre, future land swap site and adjoining development sites.

The intention behind managing the vegetation is to minimise the fuel loading state through the careful and selective removal of shrubs and debris along with pruning in our efforts to

activate the area.

No matter the results of the survey and assessment, the City will retain trees and other vegetation with conservation value and the site won't be bulldozed as stated in the article "Fire risk spells doom for bush," Herald, May 4, 2024).

It's important that we don't pre-empt the results of the flora survey and threatened ecological communities assessment.

Following the spring survey results, council will be in a position to consider whether the site should be changed to a low-threat vegetation status and associated vegetation management measures.

Following survey results in spring, a site plan will be prepared together with a prescriptive vegetation management plan, which will include the banksias and other key plant species in the area.

It's important to note that previous studies showed that there are no declared rare flora species recorded on the site to date and the vegetation on the site is not considered a threatened ecological community.

The reason behind completing the flora survey and threatened ecological communities assessment in spring 2024 is because the site has not been surveyed during this period, and we acknowledge this may identify other plant

species which may require special management or relocation depending on the circumstances.

If required, the City will undertake a range of mitigation measures including seed collection, leaf litter and topsoil relocation in disturbed areas and translocation of suitable plants.

I understand and appreciate the community's concern for the vegetation on site, especially against the backdrop of the vision for the Melville City Centre.

In March, council endorsed plans for the development of a new library and cultural centre – the largest and most significant cultural development project ever to be undertaken by the City, placing community at the heart of the Melville City Centre.

Envisaged as a vibrant innovative hub of arts, culture, literature and learning, the endorsed project is set to house the City's main library, gallery and exhibition spaces, municipal museum, an outdoor civic space, and a host of other core services.

The library and cultural centre has been designed for the entire city to enjoy; it will transform the current commercial precinct at Booragoon into a true hub for the city, providing a lively focal point for cultural activities and for the community to come together.

Have your say



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The City, along with its Project Partners the South Fremantle Football Club, Fremantle Football Club, and Western Australian Football Commission, is working to prepare a masterplan for the Fremantle Oval precinct.

For many years now, facilities for the public, players and patrons at the oval have been poor. With the popularity and participation of women's sport growing, particularly women's football, works are needed to improve facilities and ensure the future of the oval as a major sporting facility and destination in WA.

Redevelopment will provide opportunities for new uses within the precinct that benefit the community, city centre activity and the precinct's key neighbours: the Fremantle Prison, Fremantle Hospital and Fremantle Markets.

The City and its project partners are looking for the community's support in developing the Masterplan. The community's input will help inform the Masterplan's vision, its guiding principles, and assist the City in developing partnerships and attracting funding.

Visit the URL below or scan the QR code, and have your say **by 14 June**.



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Adoptees can't wait

by SIENNA DALY

SURVIVORS of WA's forced adoption era are awaiting the outcome of a Cook government inquiry due later this year, but say the state simply needs more support services now.

Forced adoption survivor Jen McCrae is credited with getting the Upper House Environment and Public Affairs Committee's inquiry into the practice up and running, but says WA falls short compared to adoption services provided in the eastern states, such as Sydney's dedicated hub Wattle Place.

Ms McCrae told the Voice the lack of support contributed further to the lifetime of distress felt by many WA survivors.

In 2010, WA was the first state to apologise for the trauma caused by forced adoption, but Ms McCrae says in the interim the government has only implemented two out of the 20 recommendations from a Senate inquiry held in 2012.

"The 2018 review of the 1994 Adoption Act remains incomplete and as such no longer holds validity with which to address current issues owing to the six-year delay. Why the delay?" Ms McCrae wrote in her submission to the state inquiry.

She also criticised the "astounding apathy and



• Jen McCrae (left, at the microphone) with MP Mia Davies (centre) and fellow forced adoption survivor Anne Haylock (far left)

purposeful disinterest" of politicians since she started her crusade.

In 2021, Ms McCrae and two supporters wrote to then-health minister Roger Cook requesting an inquiry, but his reply mistook them as members of the Stolen Generation.

She requested an apology but says the minister never responded.

Former child protection and women's rights minister Simone McGurk also

rejected an inquiry when asked by then-Opposition leader Mia Davies in November 2022 because she didn't think "it will do anything" for the survivors.

Adoption Support WA ARMS coordinator Lynne Devine says there needs to be more community awareness and education about forced adoptions, which she said was a long-running and unethical practice.

• Continued page 11

More Edge Tinkering

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



Want more property info?
Email me at hayden@dgre.com.au

The Cook government is trying to rebalance Western Australia's rental market. There has been a flurry of affordable housing-related policy announcements recently to address surging rents and low vacancies.

REIWA assesses Perth's vacancy rate at 0.6 percent, a long way from a market parity 3.5 percent. The latest announcement aims to encourage property owners to convert their vacant homes into long-term rentals by offering a one-off \$5,000 payment. Sorry to be cynical, but a property owner who can afford to leave their property vacant (Granny / Fonzie flats or vacant rooms are ineligible) for a period of longer than six months, doesn't need a lazy \$5,000 to convince them to lease it.

The policy comes off the back of the recent Short Term Rental Accommodation (STRA) Incentive Scheme, which encouraged owners to convert their property from the short to long term market with a \$10,000 payment. So far, 150 properties have converted their properties into the long-term market or a minute 0.05 percent of rented properties across WA.

a lazy \$5,000 to convince them to lease it

In announcing the latest policy, Premier Cook acknowledges the "significant demand for housing" and has committed to "leaving no stone unturned in our work to boost supply of homes." Responsible Ministers shared the limelight with Treasurer Saffioti suggesting, "This initiative has the potential to bring up to 1,000 properties back onto the rental market." Commerce Minister Ellery reckoned the STRA Incentive Scheme has been "a success" and Minister Carey (Planning and Housing) reflected on his government "continuing to think outside the box...to boost housing supply."

To give credit where credit is due, at least the government is doing something and, in this market, something is better than nothing. Unsophisticated private investors - ordinary



West Australians - supply 27 percent of all homes to tenants, about 264,000 properties. Government supply about 3 percent. In this time of greatest need, with supply of rental homes at severe lows, these recent housing policies that seek to encourage the investor cohort into supplying more homes will barely scratch the surface.

Meanwhile, big-ticket items that would significantly move the needle on supply are ignored. Stamp duty - where bracket creep means an investor tax of \$27,000 at Perth's median house price - and land tax rebates are obvious places to start. And why not (even temporarily) repeal the foreign investor tax where these buyers pay \$76,000 in state tax when buying a \$700,000 property? This group, very sensibly, choose to rent rather than pay the tax, soaking up valuable rental stock.

Put simply, governments - supported by the media and tenancy advocates - have been busily whacking investors, whilst simultaneously failing to provide enough rental housing for West Australians as the only possible alternative to the private investor market.

WA's poor market performance in the years 2012-2020, has left our housing market underprepared for the surge in new arrivals and we're playing catch up. There is time for meaningful reform to encourage investors into the market to add more supply and whilst relatively small cash incentives may tinker around the edges, they won't make a meaningful impact.

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

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New support for FIFO families

By KIRSTY LICHTENSTEIN

A NEW FIFO family support group developed by a Hilton mum of two is aimed at using shared experience to reduce isolation among households who live with the rotations.

FIFO Family Project founder Vicky Pellowe says while there is support for FIFO workers on mine sites, there was very little back home for their families.

Ms Pellowe is hoping to bridge this gap by providing monthly meetups, educational workshops and a resource hub of advice.

Juggle

She says the juggle of FIFO lifestyle as a mother at home is challenging but there are positives.

"At times my kids are upset and miss their dad, but in a way this is a blessing as it helps us talk through their difficult emotions; I can see them becoming resilient and developing healthy coping mechanisms," Ms Pellowe said.

"There are a lot of sacrifices made in the FIFO lifestyle but there are positives that come out of it, especially when we can connect with others."

Lifestyle

Ms Pellowe says she hopes to create a space that supports every FIFO family, every step of the way.

"It does certainly impact the wider family and we want to encourage them to join this community too."

The first event will be held at the Meerilinga Children and

Community Service in Rennie Crescent, Hilton from 9am on Saturday May 18.

According to the Minerals Council of Australia, in 2023 about 289,000 Australians held mining

jobs that required them to be away from home for extended periods at a time.

Research done by Queensland Uni's School of Psychology's Parenting and Family Support

Centre found that FIFO partners who stayed at home reported increased levels of stress, anxiety, and depression in comparison to their non-FIFO stay at home counterparts.

You can follow the project on Facebook and Instagram @TheFIFOFamilyProject

Tickets to their upcoming free event can be found on eventbrite.com.au

Adoptees can't wait

• From page 10

Trained psychologists and councillors who understood and recognised what the severance did to people were fundamental to survivors' wellbeing.

Forced adoption was a common practice – starting in the late 1920s but reaching a peak between the 1940s and 1980s, particularly targeting unwed mothers to sign over their babies through shaming and coercions.

A large number were born in WA, illegally separated during the second stage of birth known as "the clean break" which according to Ms Devine "destroyed my life".

Australian government statistics puts the number of forced adoptions at 150,000 country-wide, but author Kate Inglis estimated in her 1984 book *Living Mistakes: Mothers who Consented to Adoption*, that another 100,000 hadn't made it onto the books.

Ms Devine said it was no surprise babies were spirited away at the first opportunity, as the aim was to "annihilate a child's origin".

Ms McCrae said institutions such as King Edward Memorial Hospital, Ngala and Hillcrest in North Fremantle where the forced adoptions took place subjected the mothers "institutional coercive control", which could involve being sedated with Largactil.

Forced adoption survivor Anne Haylock describes it as a "chemical straitjacket," but like



• Babies at Hillcrest Maternity Hospital, where many women say they were shamed and coerced into signing over their children.

many forced adoption survivors, she's faced years of difficulties getting access to her own medical records to find out what exposure she might have faced.

Ms Haylock told the *Herald* forced adoption created "a false identity" which was a common feeling among the survivors, who are subsequently more susceptible to depression and anxiety.

Apologies from King Edward's Memorial Hospital and Ngala Kensington were deemed "insensitive" and "inadequate" by many of the survivors.

A Department of Communities spokesperson said apart from the inquiry where survivors got to tell their stories, there were a number of organisations available in Perth such as Adoption Research and Counselling Services, Adoption Support for Families and Children, Forced Adoption Support Service, and ARMS.

But Ms McRae says often these services have a focus that's not relevant to a survivor's needs; ASFC promotes the adoption of children, FASS is part of Relationships Australia and provides limited information on available help other than noting small grants they could access to start groups.

The inquiry is set to be released in the second half of 2024 by the Cook government. Its purpose is to examine the lived experiences of forced adoption survivors and the role of the state government, health services and private institutions in the forced adoption era.

It will also identify what measures are currently available to assist persons experiencing distress, their effectiveness, and how the survivors may be supported further.

Ms Devine is hoping the Upper House committee won't try to understate the ongoing impact of forced adoptions and fears that if survivors don't get genuine answers, it will hold many back from being able to progress with their lives.

"I fear they will stay the same," she said.

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East Fremantle Tricolore 70th Anniversary

East Fremantle Tricolore was founded in 1953 and one of the pioneers of football within Western Australia. The name Tricolore stands for 3 colours, which links back to the club's Italian heritage and was proudly displayed on the emblem and playing shirts.

Fremantle City Football Club is an amalgamation between East Fremantle Tricolore and Fremantle United Soccer Club, and the club has planned a special event to recognise the 70-year anniversary of East Fremantle Tricolore being established.

On May 25th, Fremantle City FC will host Perth Soccer in an NPL Men's state league match at Hilton Park in Beaconsfield. The game will be used to celebrate the 70th anniversary, which is fitting as both clubs have proud Italian heritage and pioneers of the State League football competition.

East Fremantle Tricolore was one of the most successful State League clubs, winning titles in 1963, 1964, 1965, 1970 and 1972. The club also won the D'Orsogna Cup in 1961, 1962, 1968, 1972, 1976, 1978 and 1979.

As part of the 70th anniversary, Fremantle City FC and Perth SC will compete for the prestigious East Fremantle Tricolore and Perth Azzurri Cup, which acknowledges the heritage of both clubs. In another moment of nostalgia, the cup and game day activities are being sponsored by D'Orsogna, which has a long history in supporting State League football in Western Australia.



East Fremantle Tricolore Team Photo Under 18 1970 Champions

Fremantle City FC is inviting all past East Fremantle Tricolore coaches, players, administrators, and supporters to attend the 70th anniversary event. The festivities will commence at 1.30pm, in which the clubhouse at Hilton Park Beaconsfield will be open and host a gathering of past members. The NPL game will kick-off at 3pm and the winning team will be presented with the trophy after the match.

Tony Estrano, President of Fremantle City Football Club, noted that, "We are encouraging all past Tricolore members to come down for the festivities on May 25th. It's going to be a fantastic day and a great opportunity to celebrate that history, which is a foundation of our club and inspires as we continue to build that legacy."

John O'Connell, former East Fremantle Tricolore player and coach, noted that "I'm grateful that I was part of that successful period of the club and I'm looking forward to the anniversary event and reliving some great football memories."



FREMANTLE CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

is inviting all past East Fremantle Tricolore committee members, life members, coaches and players to attend the 70th anniversary celebration on 25th May 2024.

1.30 pm: The clubhouse at Fremantle City FC, Hilton Park, Beaconsfield, will be open and host a gathering of past East Fremantle Tricolore members, coaches and players.

3.00 pm: On the main field in front of the clubhouse, the NPL game between Fremantle City FC and Perth Soccer Club will kick-off and the winning team will be presented with the prestigious East Fremantle Tricolore and Perth Azzurri Cup.

Date: 25th May 2024

Location: Hilton Park, Beaconsfield



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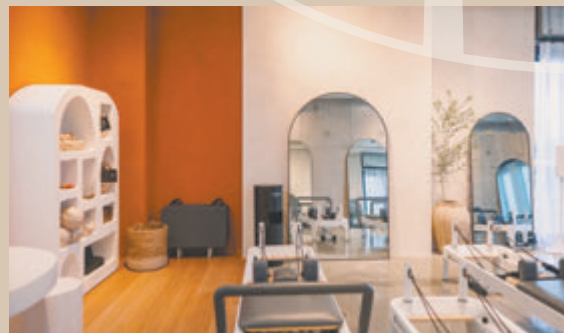
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 **food**
STEPHEN POLLOCK

THE Vi Pa Thai restaurant is easy to overlook.

It's small and tucked away in a corner behind a petrol station in Myaree Village.

It's also not listed on any third-party delivery service, so it's fairly low-profile unless you live in the area.

A local foodie I know "Tim Tam" said it was a hidden gem, so I jumped in the *Chook* jalopy and spluttered up Marmion St to investigate.

The restaurant was scrupulously clean and well presented: sounds like a given but it's amazing the number of places I've visited that were dirtier than Oscar's bin in *Sesame Street*.

It was a nice setting with large paper lanterns rubbing shoulders with Thai artworks, ornate leather chairs and wood-grain tables.

The exterior didn't do it justice – it was a lovely spot for a casual meal – and the staff were smiley, pleasant and friendly.

The menu had a large range of "authentic Bangkok" dishes with starters, mains, salads, curries, noodles and sides.

Highlights included the fish



Tasty bite

with ginger and plum sauce, panang curry, tom kha soup, jungle curry, drunken spicy noodles and lemongrass stir fry.

Vi Pa gets brownie points for having a decent range of salads including laab and creamy roast chilli, as opposed to the perfunctory two or three dishes.

We kicked off with the intriguingly-named Money Bags (four for \$13.90).

The deep-fried wontons had a lovely light, crispy batter and were stuffed with minced chicken and prawn.

They were nicely presented with a little piece of string tied artfully around the top of the pastry bag.

I'm not a big fan of deep-fried food, but this was a delicious entree with a quality filling, and it got the tastebuds zinging for the main event.

The test of any Thai restaurant's mettle is its chicken green curry (\$19.90).

Vi Pa's had a lovely blend of aromatic spices wafting from the bowl, and I couldn't wait to tuck in.

The creamy sauce was thick and had just the right amount of spice, while the chicken was tender and tasty.

I often bemoan the lack of veg in a green curry, but this was teeming with red and green peppers, water chestnuts, carrot,

peas and green beans. A delightful medley that helped make it a delicious, well-rounded meal.

The accompanying jasmine rice (\$4.90) was fragrant and there was probably enough for two adults.

Next up was the See Ew noodle with beef (\$20.90).

This stir-fry classic had a colourful array of veg including bok choy, carrot, water chestnut and onion.

The thick noodles were coated in a subtle fragrant sauce and it was a good choice for kids or adults who don't like a lot of spice.

There was plenty of beef and while it was good quality, it was a touch over and could have been more tender.

That aside, it was a fresh, vibrant dish.

In between talking about Minecraft, Ronaldo, PAW Patrol and other important geo-political issues, my kids wolfed down some spring rolls (four for \$11.90).

I had a sneaky taste and

can confirm they had a light, crispy coating with a nice mix of vegetables and glass noodles.

Maybe I've become emotionally numb to spring rolls after consuming hundreds over the years – the culinary equivalent of tying your shoe laces – but it would be nice if someone did something unique with them.

The majority of dishes in Vi Pa were under \$20, which is great value in this day and age.

It ticks all the boxes for a good local restaurant – big portions, moreish food, friendly staff and a nice ambience – so it's no surprise it's busy most nights of the week.

And I like they are not listed on a third-party delivery service – down with the corporate machine, globalisation, 5G, internet banking, and all those other things that make our life easier. Err, wait a minute...

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James Dekleva

James began studying piano at the age of five, graduating from UWA with top marks in performance having studied with Jana Kovar. He was selected to participate in masterclasses by international and national artists including Bart van Oort, Bernadette Harvey, and Connie Shih. Performing highlights include the Beethoven Marathon in Perth and operatic productions in Australia and overseas. In 2019, James was awarded the Management Choice Award in the Steinway Australia National Piano Competition, and in 2021, he was a quarter-finalist in the International Beethoven Piano Competition Vienna. James was chosen by Piers Lane to perform at the Sydney International Piano Competition 2023. James has also composed a piano trio, several songs for voice and piano, and some works for piano solo.

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A big no-no



arts
STEPHEN POLLOCK

IT'S art at its most provocative and political.

Incensed at the way the Voice referendum descended into a mud-slinging farce and the resultant NO vote, South Fremantle artist Rob Boulden created a series of satirical paintings of white Anglo Saxon boys for his latest exhibition *That Wild Colonial Boy Dance*.

Bursting at the seams with youthful energy and vim, the acrylic paintings depict boys playing in the idyllic countryside, but their seemingly beautiful playground is riddled with dark colonial guilt and violence.

There's a boy wearing a polka-dot gas mask and brandishing a gun, another playing Aussie rules with a black mask, and a boy riding a toy bike and about to chuck a spear.

Dark journey

"I painted white adolescent, Anglo Saxon boys to highlight our immaturity as a nation (particularly that of a high percentage of our elected representatives) and the fact that we are still a nation in thrall to white males with a seeming misogynistic and racial bent," Boulden says.

"The boys wear the colours of a particular international fossil fuel company that loans its financial support and logo to some children's sporting activities."

Boulden says his burst of creativity was fuelled by a dark TV journey that touched on child abuse and corruption.

"When the Voice to Parliament was first mooted, I had a strong premonition that the majority of west ozzies would vote No, so I turned from a series I was two thirds of the way through about the abuse of children by powerful people (in this case Epstein) and started an equally angry series about the historical abuse of our first nations people," he says.

"The Epstein-pieces with a bit of a twist, became part of my Dance series."

The exhibition also contains a companion novel Boulden wrote about an old white man recalling



• Paintings from the exhibition *That Wild Colonial Boy Dance*.

his life during the 'settler period'.

"It is as violent and sometimes pornographic as the colonial/settler period was often apt to be," he says.

"The old man monologue was completed in about nine weeks of isolation at a farm on the south coast close to the roar of the ocean.

"At its completion three other monologues were added by other male characters all born in the 1980s and when Oz was just beginning to accept itself as a multi-racial community...though with first nation people firmly embedded at the bottom of the ladder. It will be expanded into a longer novel."

Boulden has led an interesting life - he lived in Hanoi for a long period where he was co-owner of a gallery for emerging Vietnamese artists, and was an art commentator for a blog and various magazines in the city.

In 2014 he moved back to Perth and bought a house near the dog beach in South Freo,

where he goes for daily swims.

He's had solo exhibitions in Freo and Geraldton, as well as group exhibitions in Sydney, and has a fine art diploma from TAFE in Perth.

So after a NO vote in the Voice referendum, where do we go from here, and does Boulden see a unified Australia anytime soon or are we destined for a protracted civil war?

"I guess we can begin to heal divisions with a rewrite of Oz history that needs a lot of white truth telling and an acceptance of those truths. These truths should encompass a re-write of Oz female history," he says.

That Wild Colonial Boy Dance is at the Terrace Greenhouse Gallery on the corner of South Terrace/King William St in South Fremantle until June 2.

The official opening (tonight Saturday May 18) includes a dance party with the Jude and friends fiddle trio and kicks off at 6pm. For more info see terracegreenhouse.com.au.

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South Freo classic

DUSTIN Hoffman and Barbra Streisand from *Meet the Fockers* would love this South Fremantle home.

It's a quirky boho delight and I could imagine Streisand doing the downward dog in front of the buddha statue in the garden.

This property is full of classic South Freo touches with

multicoloured chairs, a Bali-inspired alfresco, yoga studio and little nods to Indonesia throughout.

But it's also very practical with a whopping four bedrooms and two bathrooms on a 455sqm block (normally these character homes in South Freo are pretty cramped).

The property includes a heritage-extended workers cottage and a self-contained studio down the back.

It's a gorgeous character home with lots of individuality, but it's not too out there and will appeal to a wide range of buyers.

The U-shaped kitchen is beautiful with gorgeous wooden benchtops and stainless steel appliances mingling with textured cupboards and a deep stylish sink

The ensuite bathroom ups the ante again with chic aquamarine tiles, a deep standalone bath and

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1 Kemp Road, MOUNT PLEASANT



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The Herald, Saturday May 18, 2024 - Page 17

Great locale

If YOU'RE into golf, fishing or cycling or all of the above, you'll love this townhouse.

It's situated on Maylands Peninsula and is literally one street back from Berringa Park, the Swan River foreshore and the local public golf course.

The nearby Bardon Park is a favourite *Chook* fishing spot (there's hardly any blowies because it's so far upstream).

And when you feel like a flutter, just drive over the bridge to Belmont Park for the gee-gees.

The location is superb, but what's this three bedroom two bathroom townhouse like?

Well, it's got a lovely facade with palm trees, stylish windows and a double garage with sunrise motif.

The pleasant theme continues inside with a nice open plan living/ dining/ kitchen area with light wooden floorboards and high ceilings.

Slightly hidden around a corner is the gleaming white kitchen which has double sinks, a small breakfast bar and plenty of cupboards and drawers.

Storage won't be an issue with the walk-in pantry, and there's plenty of light streaming through the double window above the sink.

From the dining area you can



access the rear patio via a set of sliding glass doors.

It's a substantial area with a built-in BBQ with storage, and plenty of space for a large dining table and lounge setting.

This large space is fully enclosed with a fence on one side and cafe blinds on the other, making it an all-year round spot and effectively an extra room.

The patio overlooks a neat patch of lawn with raised garden beds and there's some bench

seating along the fence.

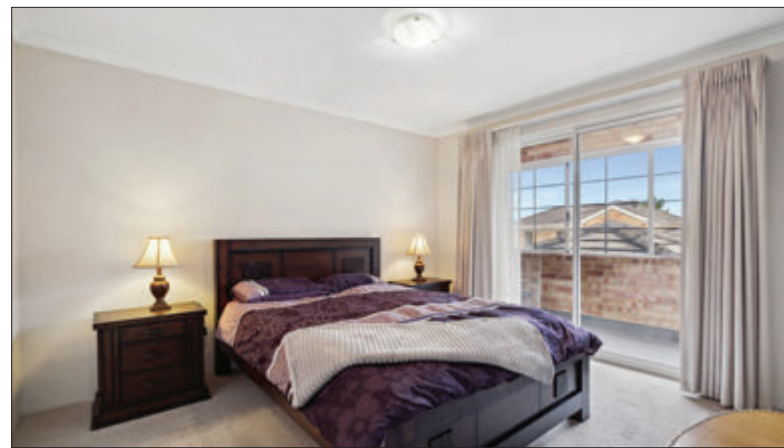
This low-maintenance garden has got a bit of everything and will please owners and pets alike.

The ground floor also includes a large store room, separate laundry and WC.

There's a good layout to this home with all three bedrooms on the first floor.

The main is spacious and has a walk-in robe and cute ensuite.

You can access a balcony from the main bedroom too. It's



enclosed as well, so I imagine it must get quite windy on the Peninsula and that's why the patio and balcony are both sheltered from the elements.

There's a lovely family bathroom up here with a standalone bath and shower, as well as a separate WC.

The remaining two bedrooms are pleasing on the eye and have built-in robes.

This abode is in a great spot, and after you've done a spot of

fishing, head down to Eighth Avenue to sample all the great cafes, small bars and restaurants.

The home is near Maylands Peninsula Primary School and is in the zone for Mount Lawley High School. If you fancy a Maylands townhouse beside the river, this is a good shout.

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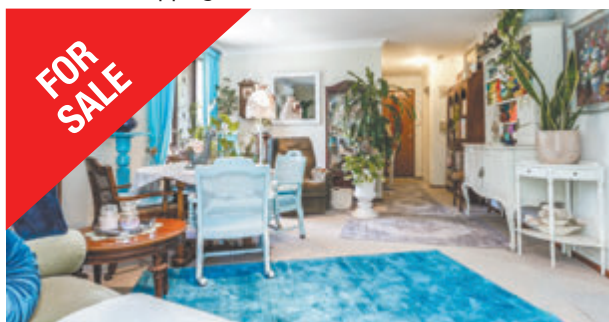
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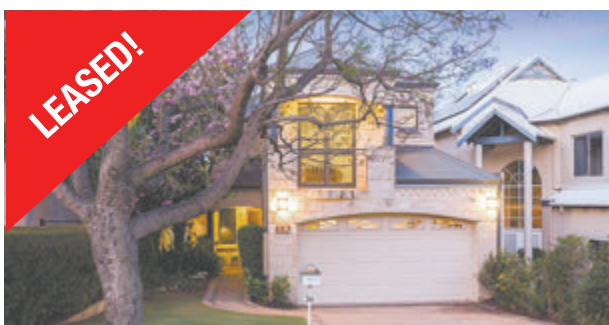
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Mike B, Applecross



"Agnes Is Super Personable And Had Sales History"

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Cliff Kemp, Myaree



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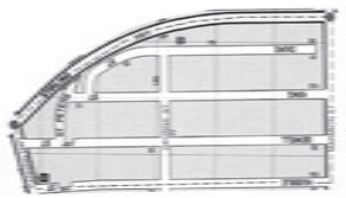
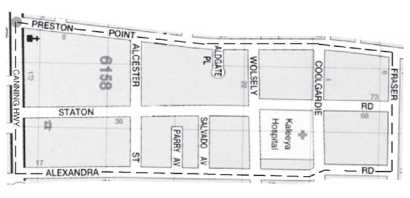




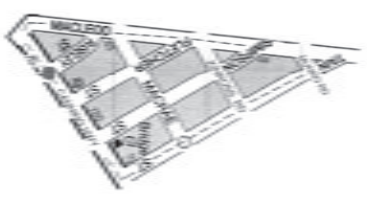

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- There is no charge for this service and there is no requirement for you to be present when the work is undertaken.
- For safety purposes, your gas supply may need to be temporarily turned off for short periods between the hours of 8am-4pm while network upgrades are in progress.
- Traffic management will be in place in order for this work to be completed safely. There will be temporary lane and road closures around this area during these works, local detours will be in place. Please observe signage on site.
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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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For more information search for 'replacement projects' at www.atco.com.au

ATCO

If you see a giant fluffy giraffe called Harold on the school run, don't worry someone hasn't popped an acid in your corn flakes.

He's "Healthy Harold" from Life Ed WA, a not-for-profit that holds sessions in schools to empower kids and help them make better life choices.

His trusty sidekick is senior educator Gina Natale, a qualified health and PE teacher from Melville.

"We cover topics such as respectful relationships, cyber safety, alcohol and drugs including vaping, nutrition and safety," Natale says.

"Along with Healthy Harold the giraffe I teach students lessons for life in a fun, engaging and age appropriate way.

"I have had the opportunity to teach in the Goldfields region and all throughout metropolitan WA."

During the last few months you might have seen Natale pounding the streets of Palmyra or doing gruelling laps of Len Shearer Reserve. She's been training hard for the 12km course in Sunday's HBF Run for a Reason (May 19), raising funds for Life Ed WA.

She says the not-for-profit makes a big difference to kids' lives.

"Over the last eight years there have been many memorable moments within the sessions," Natale says.

"Everyday is filled with laughs and smiling faces from students as they leave. If students come up to me and say they loved the session and they had fun, then I know I have done my job.

"I especially enjoy being able to engage with students with a disability or English as second language students, and seeing their



• Gina Natale is doing HBF Run for a Reason to raise funds for Life Ed WA.

Worthy run

faces light up when Harold comes out. It is a truly amazing feeling and gives me so much joy."

Life Ed was founded in 1979 by the late reverend Ted Noffs, who saw how health and social issues were impacting kids' lives through his work at Wayside Chapel in Sydney.

Instead of using scare tactics, he came up with a program that empowered and motivated children to make the right decisions. After a successful launch in Sydney's King Cross, a mobile classroom was built and the program travelled to schools across New South Wales.

Fast forward to 2024 and Life Ed now hold sessions with more than 700,000 children across Australia

every year.

"A particular moment sticks in my mind when I was working with students from a regional school and at the end they came up to me and said that it was the best incursion they had experienced and wanted me to come back for a visit again soon," Natale says.

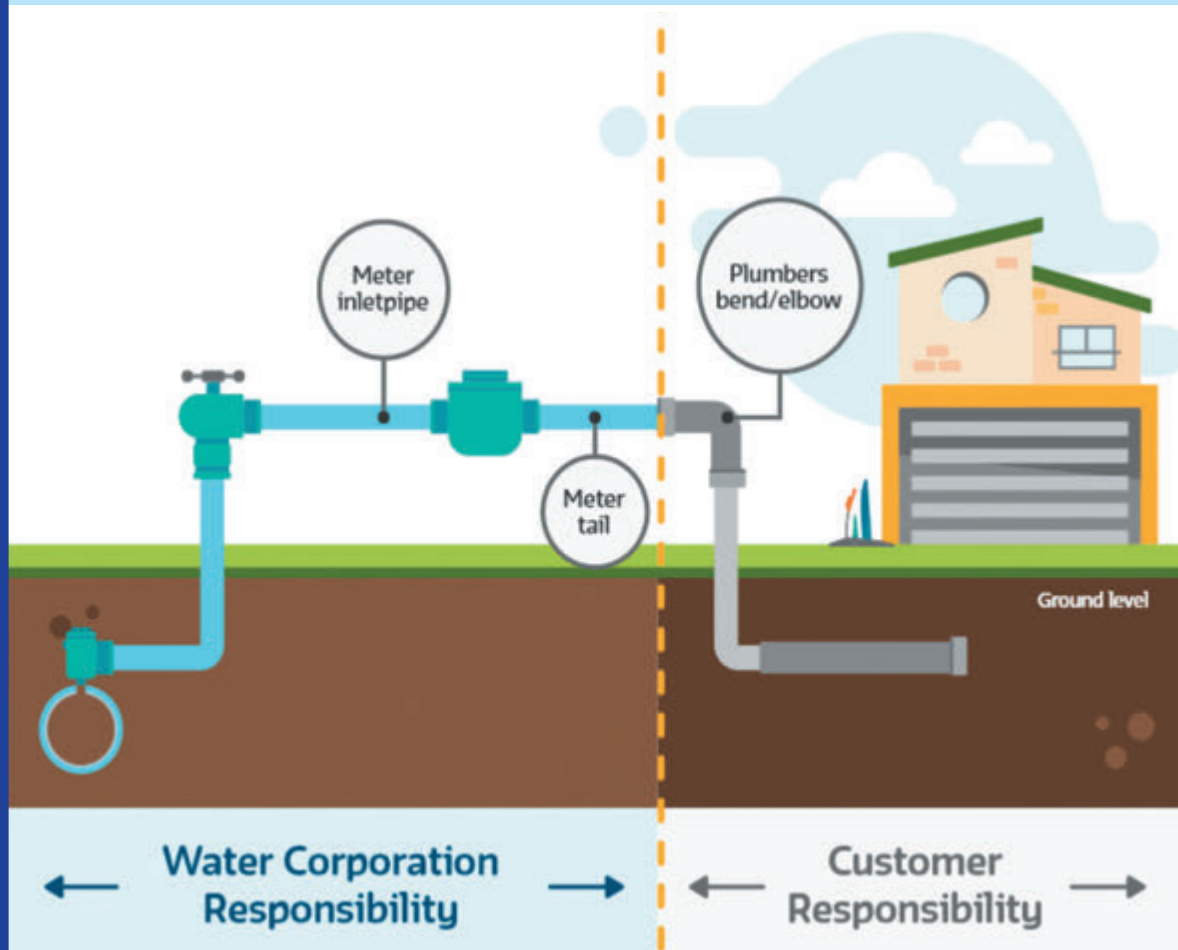
So apart from enjoying a non-alcoholic, gluten-free beer with Healthy Harold after her 12km run, what else does Natale have planned?

"I will be looking forward to a relaxing bath, followed by pizza for dinner!" she says.

If you want to donate to Natale's run, go to runforareason24.grassrootz.com/life-education-wa.



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Have you ever received a card in your letter box that tells you that you might have a leak... as your consumption is much higher this reading?

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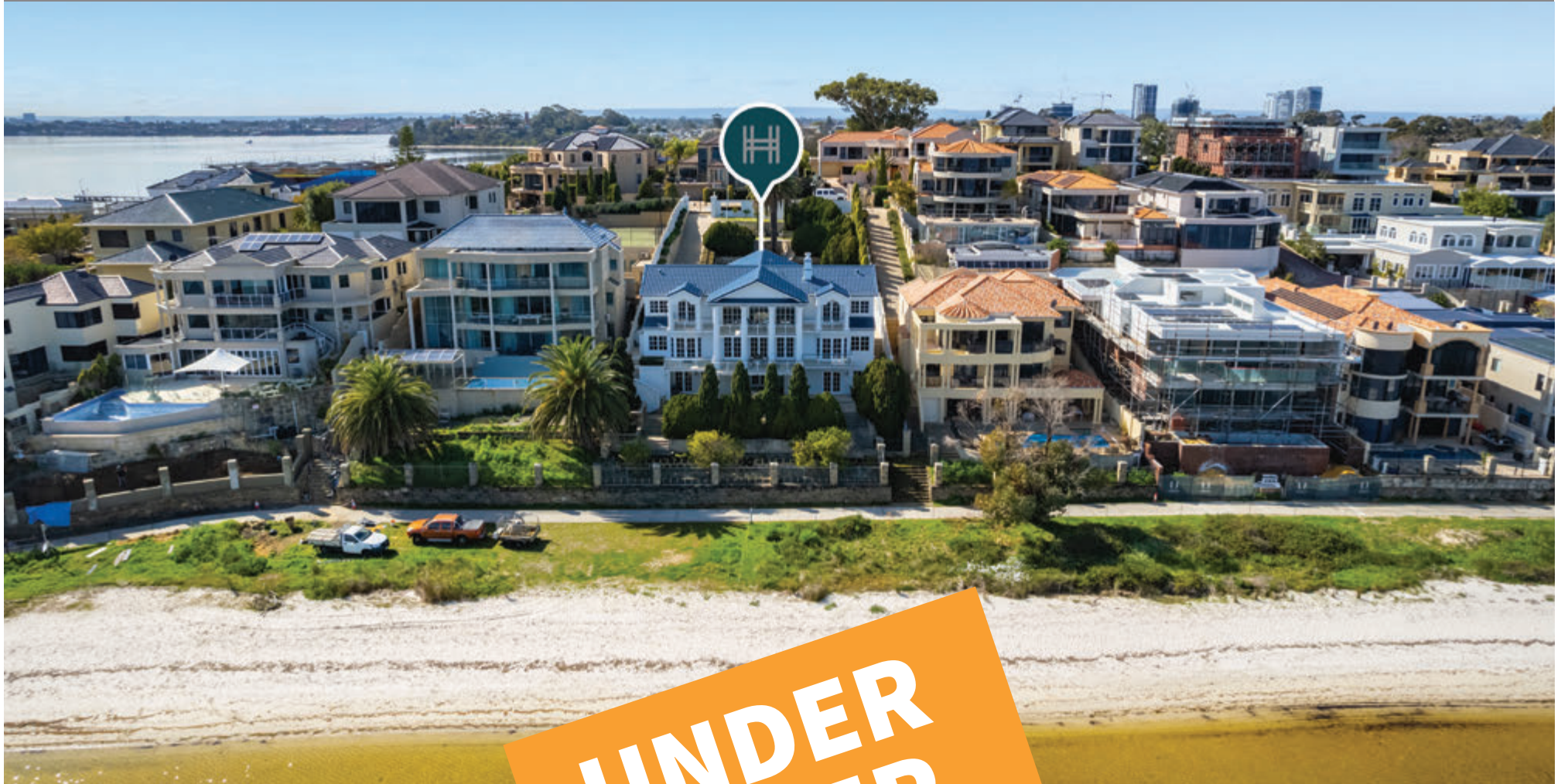
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1. Turn off all appliances in the house and take a meter reading by taking a photo with your phone.
2. Do the same process 10 minutes later.
3. If the numbers change work out how much and then divide by 10 to give the loss per minute.
4. Ring Fraser at Fremantle Leak Detectors on 0413 114 882.

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