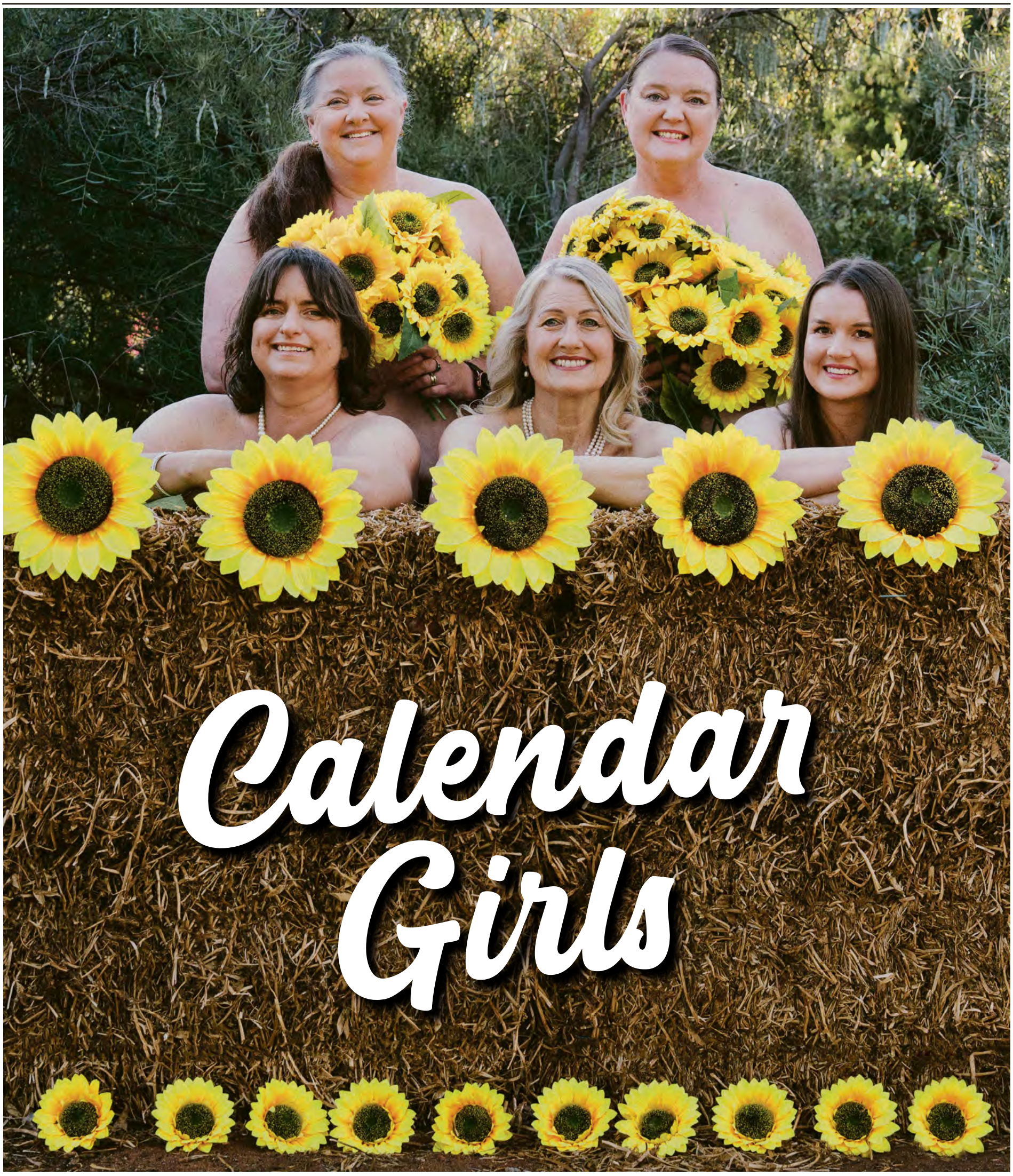
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Issue 55 | OUR COMMUNITY, YOUR STORIES | NOVEMBER 2026



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WHERE EVERY VOICE MATTERS

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Editorial

There are times when events far beyond our own community nevertheless feel uncomfortably close to home.

The horrific attack on Dr Helen Haines, the independent federal Member for Indi, outside her electorate office in Wangaratta last month was one such occasion. It was an appalling act of violence that has prompted difficult questions about the safety of those who serve in public office, and the increasingly hostile environment in which they are expected to work.

In this edition, we are privileged to publish a special contribution from the Hon Mia Davies, former Member for Central Wheatbelt and Leader of the Nationals WA, who reflects on the attack and what it means for women in public life.

Having represented regional Western Australians for 17 years, Mia brings a particularly valuable perspective to this discussion. As she observes, regional representatives do not enjoy the anonymity that might be afforded to their metropolitan counterparts: their communities are also their workplaces. Their constituents are their neighbours, and the accessibility that makes regional representation so important can also leave them vulnerable.

Her contribution raises an important distinction between the scrutiny that rightly accompanies public office and the personal abuse, intimidation and threats that no person should be expected to endure.

The circumstances and motivation behind the attack on Dr Haines are matters for investigators. Nevertheless, the broader questions raised by Mia deserve serious consideration, irrespective of political allegiance.

Democracy depends upon disagreement. It requires us to question decisions, challenge authority and hold our elected representatives accountable. None of those responsibilities, however, requires us to abandon civility or respect for the humanity of those with whom we disagree.

These principles are equally important at a local level. As a community newspaper, The Northam Advertiser has a responsibility not merely to report on matters affecting our district, but to encourage informed discussion about them. That includes asking difficult questions, scrutinising claims and providing opportunities for a diversity of perspectives.

Indeed, the willingness of local people to speak up, organise and advocate for change is one of the strengths of regional communities. The challenge is to ensure that passionate disagreement remains constructive rather than destructive.

Elsewhere in this edition, we celebrate the people, achievements and history that make our region distinctive, while continuing to examine the issues that matter to our readers.

I extend my sincere thanks to Mia for taking the time to contribute such a thoughtful and timely piece. Her reflections are a reminder that public service carries responsibilities, but it should never require the sacrifice of personal safety or dignity.

Our thoughts remain with Dr Haines, her family, her colleagues and the Wangaratta community.

And to our readers, thank you, as always, for your contributions, your engagement and your continued support of The Northam Advertiser.

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9622 4260

Our Cover



This month's cover image features five of the leading actors in the Link Theatre's upcoming production of Calendar Girls. A big thank you to Rhonda Oliver, Helen Sullivan, Lindsay Newland, Jodi Lucy and Britt Hadlow for agreeing to appear on our cover. The production starts on the 20th of November - get your tickets now.

Also a big thank you to Angie Roe from Angie Roe Photography for capturing this wonderful image for us.

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Media Kit

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For editorial contact:
editor@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au
before 15 November.

Scan the QR code to view our Media Kit.

Acknowledgment of Country

The Northam Advertiser acknowledges and pays respect to; the Ballardong Traditional Custodians and Elders - past, present and future; the Nyoongar Nation and the continuation of their cultural, spiritual and educational practices.

Aboriginal People should be aware that this publication contains images or names of people who have passed away.

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NCC AGM

Join the Northam Chamber of Commerce for the Annual General Meeting.

The yearly reports will be presented and the 2026/2027 Board elected.

When:
10 November 26, 5.30-7.30pm

Where:
The Rec Northam
Enclosed beer garden

Bookings:
northamchamber.com.au/events

More Info:
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Maxwell (Max) Wayne Trenorden

1 August 1948 - 22 August 2026

For more than four decades, Max Trenorden was a familiar figure in the public life of Northam, the Avon Valley and the wider Wheatbelt.

A farmer, businessman, local councillor and parliamentarian, Max dedicated much of his life to advocating for the communities that shaped him. He was a politician who understood the challenges facing regional Western Australia, through his own experiences of growing up in the Wheatbelt, working in the region and raising a family in Northam.

His death on 22 August 2026, aged 78, marked the passing of one of the region's longest-serving and most recognisable political representatives.

From Wyalkatchem to Northam

Maxwell (Max) Wayne Trenorden was born in Wyalkatchem on 1 August 1948 and grew up on the family farm at Yelbeni.

In an extensive oral history recorded for the State Library of Western Australia in 2008, Max recalled his early years on the farm, a busy household and the influence of his parents. It was a childhood shaped by the realities of agricultural life, the importance of family and the connections that sustained small country communities.

His interest in politics and public affairs developed early, encouraged particularly by his mother, who fostered his habit of reading newspapers and listening to the ABC.

After attending Wyalkatchem Primary School and Scotch College in Perth, Max returned to the family farm, working alongside his parents and three brothers. The difficult agricultural conditions of the late 1960s eventually prompted a change of direction. Max left farming and took a job with Western Mining at Kwinana before joining AMP as an insurance agent in 1970. He was assigned a territory based in Northam, bringing him back to the Wheatbelt and the communities he knew well.

Over the following 16 years, he built a successful career in insurance, establishing relationships across the district and developing an understanding of the businesses, families and organisations that formed the backbone of the Avon Valley.

Building a stronger Northam

Max believed regional communities needed to be active participants in shaping their economic future. He became involved in revitalising the Northam Chamber of Commerce, serving as President on several occasions, and was a foundation member of the Northam Economic Development Association.

In May 1978, he was elected to the Northam Town Council, where he served until entering State Parliament in 1986.

At a time when regional towns faced changing agricultural industries, economic pressures and the continuing attraction of Perth, Max recognised the need to diversify the local economy and create opportunities for people to live and work in the Avon Valley.

He was involved in the establishment of the Avon Community Development Foundation, an organisation created to encourage investment, industry and employment opportunities across the region.

He was also closely involved in community and sporting organisations, including the Avon River Management Committee, Northam's cricket and golf communities and the Northam Recreation and Sports Advisory Council, which he served as President.

Max's interest in the region was never confined to one industry, organisation or section of the community. He saw the connection between strong businesses, community organisations, recreational opportunities and the long-term viability of regional towns.

A country representative in Parliament

Max first contested the seat of Avon for the National Country Party in 1983, unsuccessfully challenging the sitting Labor member, Ken McIver.

Three years later, he returned to contest the Labor stronghold, defeating McIver at the 1986 State election. Winning the seat for the Nationals was a significant political achievement and reflected the strong local profile Max had built through his involvement in Northam's business and community life.



Photo: Max and his wife, Veronica

He would go on to retain Avon at every subsequent election until the seat disappeared in the 2008 electoral redistribution.

In his inaugural speech, Max spoke with pride about the Avon Valley, its history and its contribution to the development of Western Australia.

For the people of Northam and surrounding towns, he became a familiar presence at community meetings, sporting events, business gatherings and local functions.

In Parliament, Max was known for his robust speaking style, willingness to challenge Ministers and his determination to ensure regional concerns were not overlooked.

He served across a range of shadow portfolios, including regional development, racing and gaming, consumer affairs, works and services, and later energy and science.

A consistent thread ran through his political career: a belief that people living outside metropolitan Perth deserved fair access to infrastructure, services and economic opportunities.



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Among Max's most tangible achievements was his involvement in the establishment of the AvonLink passenger rail service between Northam and Perth. During the early 1990s, he chaired the Avon CityLink Ministerial Committee, which examined the case for a regular passenger rail connection linking the Avon Valley with the metropolitan area.

The AvonLink commenced in September 1995, representing a major milestone for Northam and the surrounding communities. Max was a passionate advocate for the service and continued to defend it through subsequent debates about its future.

Also in the early 1990s, when regional communities were starting to lose the last of their "big four" banks, Max was instrumental in the research and initiation of Bendigo Bank entering WA. This brought significant confidence in the economic sustainability of those smaller towns which were under threat and has grown to over 50 franchises of the brand across WA, with over 30 of those in regional communities.

His involvement with the Avon Community Development Foundation reflected similar priorities, encouraging industrial development, business activity and new employment opportunities.

Max became Leader of the Parliamentary National Party in April 2001, succeeding Hendy Cowan. It was a challenging period for the Party, which was navigating its identity, relationship with the Liberal Party and its role in representing regional Western Australia. Following the formation of an opposition Coalition with the Liberal Party in 2004, Max served as Deputy Leader of the Coalition alongside Liberal leader Colin Barnett.

He was succeeded as Nationals leader by Brendon Grylls in 2005, during a period of generational change within the party.

Max made an enduring contribution through his work on parliamentary committees. He served for more than a decade on the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee, chairing it from 1993 until 2001, and participated in numerous inquiries examining government administration, accountability and parliamentary processes.

He believed strongly that Parliament had a responsibility to scrutinise the actions of government and that elected representatives should be more than passive participants in the legislative process.



By the time he left the Legislative Assembly, Max had become its longest-serving member, earning the informal title of Father of the House.

When electoral boundaries were redrawn ahead of the 2008 election under Labor's one vote one value legislation (abolishing Avon and the neighbouring electorate of Merredin to create Central Wheatbelt) he moved to the Legislative Council to represent the Agricultural Region.

His parliamentary career concluded in May 2013, having contested that election as an independent candidate.

Remembering Max

Max Trenorden belonged to a generation of regional politicians whose involvement in public life was built on years of participation in their local communities.

His path to Parliament took him from a farm near Wyalkatchem to the businesses and community organisations of Northam, and ultimately to the leadership of the National Party and the State's parliamentary chambers.

He understood that the future of country towns depended on more than agriculture alone. Strong local businesses, employment, transport, essential services and opportunities for young people were all part of building sustainable communities.

Behind the public figure was a man who loved a good yarn, a day at the races, the footy and above all, his family. He enjoyed the company of others, and his connection to the people and communities of the Wheatbelt remained an important part of who he was.

Max is survived by his wife Veronica, his children Aaron, Heath and Nikki, stepdaughter Daisy, grandchildren and his extended family.



Northam Women's Keepfit Club celebrates 70 years



Photo: The current Keep Fit Club members

The Northam Women's Keepfit Club is celebrating 70 years of exercise, friendship and community spirit, marking seven decades since it was established in October 1956.

The club began with a group of young mothers and a pianist, with classes held on Monday evenings so fathers could look after the babies while their wives exercised. In later years, sessions moved to Wednesday mornings, a tradition that continues today.

Throughout its history, the club has held classes at several Northam venues, including the old East Northam School, the Friendly Society Hall, the Ambulance Hall and the RSL Hall.

Starting with just 20 members, the club has grown over the years, reaching approximately 130 members at various times.

Today, the group has around 20 members who meet every Wednesday from 9am to 10am at the RSL Hall. Sessions are led by club member Sally Hart, with members enjoying the benefits of regular exercise in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Beyond fitness, friendship remains at the heart of the club. Members celebrate milestone birthdays together and enjoy a large Christmas luncheon each year.

Current president Elaine Pollard has been part of the Keepfit group since the 1970s, reflecting the club's long-standing commitment to bringing women together through exercise and friendship.



Photo: Plaque on the seat next to the Avon River in Northam

At 92, Elaine is the most senior member of the club. She still meets with the club every Wednesday and enjoys the friendships that have developed over the many years.

The ladies met at the seat beside the Avon River, that was built in 1979 by the husbands of the club members, to provide somewhere to sit as a break during their walks around the river.

The club welcomes new members of all ages who are looking to improve their fitness, meet new people and enjoy a friendly social atmosphere.

Participants are encouraged to work at their own pace and only do what they feel comfortable with. Closed-in shoes are required.

After 70 years, the Northam Women's Keepfit Club continues to demonstrate that exercise is about more than physical wellbeing — it is also about connection, friendship and being part of a community.

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New law to ban thugs from stores passes WA Parliament

Legislation to protect retail workers and customers by banning violent and aggressive individuals is set to take effect after passing the Western Australian Parliament.

Introducing retail barring orders was a Cook Labor Government election commitment that builds on earlier reforms imposing tougher penalties for assaults on retail staff.

The Retail Barring Orders Bill 2025 passed Parliament recently, clearing the way for its enactment.

Under the legislation, employers, shopping centre owners and unions can apply to the courts to ban violent individuals from retail premises. A court order will make a ban enforceable by WA Police.

A Retail Barring Order against an adult can be imposed for up to two years and up to one year for children.

Serious or persistent breaches of an order can result in penalties of up to five years' imprisonment.

Attorney General Dr Tony Buti said the government was committed to protecting retail staff and customers from threats, violence and anti-social behaviour.

He said about 25 per cent of retail staff nationally had faced physical violence at work, with a majority repeatedly abused by the same customer.

"We now have a legally enforceable way to keep these people away from retail premises with the strong deterrent of potential imprisonment if they breach a ban," he said.

Dr Buti said the reforms were vital to protecting an industry employing up to 150,000 people in Western Australia, many of whom work for small businesses.

The government is working to have the laws in effect before Christmas, when the busy shopping period can bring increased aggression and abuse towards retail workers.

Rossi backs WA shearing teams through Beyond the Shed



Rossi is supporting WA shearing teams through the Beyond the Shed program, providing 25 pairs of work boots and 75 collared work shirts for participants going above and beyond in their training.

Rossi work boots and work shirts will support some shearing team staff as they take on training and other work opportunities during quieter periods in the shearing season.

For people who spend much of their working year in the shearing shed, stepping into other agricultural or regional work can mean needing different equipment, including steel-cap boots and collared work shirts.

The Rossi contribution will support training participants who go 'above and beyond', with a participant who has made the most of the opportunities available through Beyond the Shed receiving a pair of Rossi work boots and a collared work shirt.

The first recipient is long-time shearer Noel White, who has been shearing since he was 20.

During a quieter period in shearing, Noel completed five training courses through Beyond the Shed: front end loader, excavator, working at heights, White Card and confined spaces.

Now back shearing, Noel has the additional tickets he needs to take on casual work during future quieter periods.

WASIA Executive Officer Valerie Pretzel noted that this recognition honors the commitment and positive mindset participants bring to the program.

"Participants in Beyond The Shed are taking proactive steps to expand their skills, opening doors to more year-round work opportunities," Ms Pretzel said.

"Acknowledging participants like Noel allows us to highlight individuals who go the extra mile by embracing new skills and preparing for steady employment throughout the year."

"The gear provided by Rossi Boots serves as meaningful appreciation for participants who demonstrate the determination, initiative, and strong work ethic characteristic of the shearing community."

Beyond the Shed is an industry-led program delivered by the Western Australian Shearing Industry Association (WASIA), helping shearing contractors and their teams build on the skills they already have and access more work throughout the year.

The program supports training in areas including fencing, machinery operation, livestock handling, transport and general farm work. It also helps connect participants with seasonal and short-term work with other businesses and industries in their local communities and regions.

The aim is not to move people away from shearing. It is about helping shearing teams do more throughout the year, while keeping skilled workers, businesses and families connected to regional communities.

The program now has more than 40 shearing contractors and hundreds of shearing team workers involved across WA.



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Building the workforce of tomorrow on a century-long foundation

by John Murphy, General Manager Muresk Institute



Photo: John Murphy

As the Muresk Institute marks its centenary, it is an opportunity to celebrate 100 years of education and training that have shaped Western Australia's agricultural industry.

Since 1926, Muresk has played a vital role in training generations of farmers, machinery operators, technicians, apprentices, and agricultural professionals. Over the past century, agriculture has undergone remarkable change. Farming methods, machinery, technology, and workforce needs have evolved dramatically, yet Muresk has continued to adapt alongside the industry while maintaining its focus on practical, hands-on learning and skills development.

The history of Muresk mirrors the story of Western Australian agriculture itself, reflecting the changing skills needed to support a modern, productive, and globally competitive agricultural sector.

From its earliest years, the institution was recognised as a place of innovation and practical problem-solving. Historical records show students receiving awards for achievements in water conservation, pasture improvement, and wool classing, demonstrating a long-standing commitment to equipping learners with practical skills that could be applied directly to industry challenges.

That role is more important than ever. Modern agriculture relies on advanced machinery, precision technologies, and data-driven production systems, creating strong demand for skilled workers. By bringing together industry, training providers, employers and learners, Muresk helps build the workforce needed for a productive and competitive agricultural sector.

Today, Muresk continues as Western Australia's skills hub for modern agriculture, supporting workforce development through practical, industry-relevant training that helps learners build the skills employers need while supporting productivity and innovation across the sector.

The institute also plays an important role in creating pathways into employment and training opportunities, particularly for regional Western Australians. By providing access to hands-on learning environments and industry-focused training closer to home, Muresk helps strengthen local workforces and support regional communities.



Photo: Muresk Historical Photo



Photo: Heavy Diesel Mechanic

The State Government's delivery of a $10.3 million Agriculture Machinery Training Centre, opened in 2023, has further strengthened Muresk's position as Western Australia's leading agricultural training hub. The facility includes modern workshops, classrooms, information technology laboratories, and an industry-standard shearing shed, supporting agricultural mechanical apprenticeships and specialist training using contemporary equipment and technologies.

As we celebrate Muresk's first century, we must also look ahead. Western Australia's agriculture industry remains a major contributor to the State's economy. The future success of the sector depends on a strong pipeline of trained workers who can embrace new technologies, adapt to changing industry needs and drive innovation on farms and in agribusinesses across the State.

Muresk remains well placed to continue developing the skilled workforce needed for Western Australia's agriculture industry. Discover more about Muresk's rich history and the opportunities helping to shape the future of Western Australia's agriculture industry at muresk.wa.gov.au.



Street Name Origins



Freind Place, a cul-de-sac running off Burgoyne Street, is one of Northam's quieter streets, but its name has a strong connection with an old Northam family. Property records describe the street as being named after an old Northam family, and the Freind name has remained associated with the town for generations.

Among those remembered is Fred Freind, who was heavily involved with the Salvation Army and contributed to the Northam community. The Freind name also lives on in the town today through Freind's Garage in Grey Street, continuing a family connection with Northam.

There have been several generations of Freinds associated with the district, making it difficult to establish whether Freind Place was named specifically for Fred or simply in recognition of the family. Either way, the street provides a reminder of a family whose name has been part of Northam's history for many years.

Bakers Hill Golf Club fundraiser





Photo: Helen Carter with the winning team from the golf day



On Saturday the 3rd of October the Bakers Hill Golf Club held an end of season fundraising ambrose golf day.

The day was to celebrate the life of much-loved club member and former president and Captain, Dave Carter. Forty players took to the course to compete for the David Samuel Carter Memorial Trophy.

The fundraising event was in support of the Heart Foundation. With 70 people in attendence on the day, the club raised a total of $1679.55.

David's wife, Karen Carter, was in attendance on the day to present the trophy to the winning team.



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SHOW TIMES

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Sat 21st Nov – 8pm
Sat 28th Nov – 8pm

MATINEES

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Sat 28th Nov – 2pm
Sun 29th Nov – 2pm

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Share & Care March Against Family & Domestic Violence

Tuesday, 1 December 2026

9:45am

THIRD ANNUAL MARCH

Meet at The Village Green,
176 Fitzgerald Street Northam

Let's walk together in solidarity with the many who have been impacted, and in memory of lives lost to family and domestic violence.

Our march through Northam and alongside the Avon River will finish at The Village Green where we will observe a **moment of silence**, before sharing **light refreshments**.

Things you can do if someone you know tells you they are experiencing family and domestic violence

- Take disclosures seriously and believe what they share. Every experience of violence is different. Domestic violence isn't always physical. It can be financial, sexual or coercive controlling behaviours.
- Listen with patience and without judgement.
- Reassure them the abuse is not their fault and that seeking help is a courageous and valid step.
- Avoid making excuses for the person causing harm.
- Have helpline numbers readily available.
- Offer to help them explore available support options. This could include connecting with services, finding resources or simply being there as they consider their next step.
- Respect their readiness and safety. Understand that leaving may not be safe or possible right now. Avoid pressure or judgement - support them where they are.

Violence against anyone is unacceptable. Stop the violence.

National free call hotline (24x7): 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)

Share & Care Wheatbelt free call crisis line (24x7): 1800 353 122

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

16 Days in WA

25 November – 10 December

Stopping Family and Domestic Violence

16 Days in WA

Wheatbelt mental health advocate recognised with State award



Photo: Hon Katrina Stratton MLC with David Gunter

by Naomi Sherrington

Family Access Services chief executive David-Anthony Gunter has received one of Western Australia's leading mental health honours, using the occasion to call for stronger support for communities across the Wheatbelt.

Mr Gunter was presented with the Minister's Mental Health Award at the 2026 WA Mental Health Awards in Perth on Friday, 9 October.

Hosted by the Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH), the annual awards recognise individuals and organisations making a positive difference to mental health and wellbeing. The Minister's award honours an individual whose contribution has benefited people experiencing mental health challenges, as well as their families and carers.

The award was presented by the Hon Dr Katrina Stratton MLC. But Mr Gunter was quick to redirect attention from his own achievement to the people working alongside him.

"Like any of these individual awards, it really is a team effort," he said.

He attended the ceremony with his wife and Family Access Services co-founder, Tina Gunter, and his personal assistant, Linda Harachi. He acknowledged their contribution and that of the wider team supporting individuals and families across metropolitan Perth and regional Western Australia.

Family Access Services works with children, young people and families navigating difficult or complex circumstances. Its services include supervised child access, respite care for foster carers, child transport and National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) supports.

The organisation also helps people facing complex mental health challenges, homelessness and barriers to accessing services. Its approach places particular emphasis on adapting support to people's circumstances rather than allowing distance or disadvantage to determine whether help is available.

That focus is especially relevant in the Wheatbelt, where people can face long journeys for appointments and where accessing specialised support is not always straightforward.

Mr Gunter has been involved in supporting vulnerable people in the region for years. Before his current role, he managed Fresh Start's Northam-based recovery program, working with people leaving prison who were experiencing addiction. He publicly advocated a rehabilitative approach, arguing that helping people rebuild their lives was important both for those individuals and for the wider community.

At the awards ceremony, however, Mr Gunter made clear that recognition alone would not resolve the challenges facing regional Western Australians.

He drew attention to deaths by suicide in the Wheatbelt this year, expressing particular concern for young men and the families and communities affected.

Rather than presenting suicide prevention as the responsibility of one agency or profession, he called on individuals, local organisations and government bodies to connect, share resources and work together on practical responses.

His appeal highlighted the importance of making mental health support visible, accessible and responsive to regional needs. It also recognised the role of community connections: friends, neighbours, clubs and workplaces can all help people seek support, particularly when services are harder to reach.

WAAMH's awards are held during Mental Health Week, bringing together people who work to improve services, challenge stigma and promote wellbeing throughout the State.

For Mr Gunter, the honour provides a platform to press for further change. His message was not simply that regional communities need greater attention, but that meaningful progress depends on cooperation between those communities and the organisations serving them.

While the award bears one person's name, it also acknowledges the sustained work of the Family Access Services team and the importance of ensuring people in the Wheatbelt are not overlooked.

Mental health support

If you or someone you know is going through a tough time, support is available:

- Lifeline: 13 11 14 (Text: 0477 13 11 14)
- Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467
- Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
- Rurallink (Regional WA): 1800 552 002 (after-hours mental health support)



Heartlands sets the standard for rural vet care



Photo: Dr Tracey Thornton at the Accredited Hospital in York

The Heartlands Veterinary Hospital in York has been recognised by the Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association as a Hospital of Excellence. It signifies that a veterinary hospital or clinic achieves the highest national standards in clinical care, surgical safety, practice management, and modern facility design.

The key standards that were assessed were strict medical protocols, with Heartlands meeting stringent rules for sterility, anaesthesia monitoring, and diagnostic capabilities comparable to human medical facilities. An independent inspection of the hospital was carried out to verify that the practice has state-of-the-art equipment, proper record-keeping, and advanced hospital infrastructure.

To maintain accreditation Heartlands will undergo comprehensive on-site evaluations by an independent panel every 3 to 4 years.

This is an incredible achievement. Up until the end of 2025 there were only 50 accredited hospitals in Australia. There are only 5 accredited hospitals in rural areas Australia-wide, and Heartlands is the first mixed practice in Australia to receive this recognition. Truly remarkable!

The vision behind Heartlands Veterinary Hospital is the wonderful Dr Tracey Thornton. She started Heartlands as a sole practitioner in the old bank site on Avon Terrace in York 18 years ago, and her skill, compassion and hard work saw demand for veterinary services in the area grow to the point where she funded and built the amazing hospital that now stands in Macartney Street. There are now 10 vets, a practice manager, 15 nurses, 3 animal attendants, 2 administrative assistants, and one receptionist, which makes Tracey one of the biggest private employers in the town. Tracey's investment and belief in the Avon Valley community have resulted in an incredible service being available for animal owners in the region, and her passion for excellence means that Heartlands' clients and patients receive world-class care.



Make a stand against domestic violence this 16 Days in WA



Photo: Second annual march in Northam

Does it feel like every time you read or see the news, another woman has been killed by her partner or former partner? Tragically, one woman is killed every eight days in Australia (on average) due to family and domestic violence.

Additionally in WA, one in three women and one in 14 men have experienced physical, emotional or economic abuse by a cohabiting partner. One third of all sexual assault incidents are family and domestic violence related.

If you want our community to be a place where everyone is safe, you're invited to join Share & Care to make a stand against the violence.

The 16 Days in WA campaign – a State Government initiative held since 2017 – will start on 25 November, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and runs through to Human Rights Day on 10 December.

Share & Care will hold its third annual March Against Family and Domestic Violence during 16 Days in WA on Tuesday, 1 December in Northam.

"Let's walk together in solidarity of the many who have been impacted, and in memory of lives lost, to family and domestic violence," Share & Care CEO Sarah Menchelyi said.

"We all have a responsibility to stop family and domestic violence and that's why it's so important to try to reach everyone in our communities during 16 Days in WA."

To take part in the Northam march on 1 December people should gather at The Village Green, 176 Fitzgerald Street in Northam at 9:45am. The march will finish with a moment of silence, followed by light refreshments back at The Village Green.

Orange is the colour of the day and march participants are invited to wear something orange to show your support.

Ms Mencshelyi said the march continued to grow year-on-year and this year Share & Care hoped to make the events bigger and more impactful as we all work together to keep our families and communities safe.

"Every person who marches, and particularly when you share your participation with your family, friends and colleagues, helps amplify the message of 16 Days in WA," Ms Mencshelyi said.

"If you're wondering how you can make a difference, something we can all do is call out disrespectful behaviour and harmful views when you hear it and role model respectful behaviour.

"We can also support young people to create safer relationships and reduce the risk of gender-based violence in adulthood by educating them about healthy relationships, gender equity and consent."

Community members who need further information, counselling and support in relation to family and domestic violence can call 1800 RESPECT – a free, confidential national hotline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Share & Care provides accommodation, support and referral for women and children escaping family and domestic violence in the Wheatbelt region. Women can self refer to the refuge 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on the Share & Care free call crisis lines:

- Northam: 1800 353 122
- Narrogin: 1800 007 570.



Isabel Throssell

Nurse, Mayoress and Wartime Volunteer



Photo: Isabel Throssell nee Cottrell, 1905. Source – State Library of WA

by Michelle Paul

Isabel Throssell was a selfless woman of determination and courage. When war broke out, she was prepared to do whatever she could to help.

Isabel Throssell, née Cottrell, was born in South Australia in 1870. As a young woman, she decided to become a nurse. She completed her training at the Children's Hospital in Adelaide, where her co-workers affectionately called her "Cottie".

In October 1896 Isabel married Lionel Throssell (the oldest son of George Throssell) at Saint Bede's church in Adelaide. They were second cousins, sharing the same great-grandparents. After their marriage, the couple moved to Northam and lived at Semaphore house on Wellington Street before moving to Uralia House in 1904.



Photo: St Bede's Church in Adelaide still stands today. Source – History of St Bede's Anglican Church

The couple's first child, Evelyn Crystal, was born in Northam in 1898 and twin boys, Lancelot and Gerald, followed in 1902. A third son, Winston, was born in 1907.

Her husband served as Mayor of Northam for three consecutive years, from 1898 to 1900. As Mayoress, Isabel was involved in a wide range of community activities and when Northam Public Hospital was short-staffed, she would step in to help, sometimes for weeks at a time.

Then came the First World War.

Three days after war was announced Isabel volunteered to serve as a nurse to help the wounded and sick soldiers. At first, she was told not to volunteer because it was "a mother's duty to stay at home" but Isabel wasn't deterred.

In the meantime, she became heavily involved in Northam's wartime fundraising campaigns and was a driving force behind Red Cross work in the district. It wasn't long before people began to call her the "Florence Nightingale of Northam".

But Isabel wasn't content to support the war effort from home. She wanted to nurse soldiers overseas. However, because she was married, she wasn't permitted to enlist in the Australian Army Nursing Service. Instead, Isabel decided to travel to London at her own expense and join the British nursing service.

People from all around Northam organised a big farewell event for Isabel at the town hall where the Colonial Secretary (and Northam resident, Hal Colebatch) presented her with a travelling case inscribed with the words "Presented to Mrs. G. L. Throssell by the residents of Northam and district on the eve of her departure to nurse the soldiers".

At first things didn't go smoothly. Isabel was packed and ready to leave, but her passport was cancelled. She eventually left Australia later in 1917, arriving in the UK on August 15th. Even then, things didn't go as planned. The travelling case she'd been given at her farewell was stolen and, at age 47, she was considered too old for military nursing. But Isabel was a determined woman. To get around the rule, she told the authorities that she was 43 years old.

We often hear stories of young boys lying about their age to get into the war but women like Isabel show that experienced nurses were just as willing to bend the rules.

Her persistence paid off. Isabel joined the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve (QAIMNSR) and began nursing at the Belton Park Military Hospital on September 24th, 1917, right in the middle of wartime.

Belton Park Military Hospital was one of the final stages in a wounded soldier's journey home from France. The hospital dealt with surgical casualties as well as minor illnesses and had approximately 670 beds, making it a substantial hospital rather than a small camp sick bay.

A report from the hospital matron described Isabel as, "kind, conscientious, tactful, reliable and excellent in every way".

In June 1918, Isabel asked permission to resign when her contract ended because she wanted to return to Australia before her twin sons reached military age. Her request was accepted, and on September 23rd she boarded the Runic for the journey home.

The Runic reached Fremantle on November 11th – the very day the Armistice was signed – but the ship was quarantined because of the Spanish flu outbreak, even though no one on the ship showed symptoms. Isabel herself said, "Beyond the illnesses and wounds for which the men were returning we had absolutely no sickness on board". While the rest of Perth celebrated the end of the Great War with parades and street parties, those on the Runic were completely ignored. They had no contact from the mainland until the following afternoon and by then hundreds of frustrated soldiers had already lowered the lifeboats and gone ashore.



Photo: Steamship "Runic" with returning Australian troops onboard. They are unable to disembark due to the flu epidemic. Source – Collections WA



Photo: Lifeboarts leaving the Runic at Fremantle. Source – The Runic Rag

On November 13th, the Runic left Fremantle for the Woodman Point Quarantine Station. Unlike their arrival in Fremantle, however, the prospect of disembarking at Woodman Point was met with resistance. The soldiers refused to leave the ship, probably because they didn't want to expose themselves to the deadly disease at the quarantine station. Overall, it was an unsettling homecoming to Australia.

Isabel's wartime experiences had done nothing to diminish her commitment to helping others, and she continued her charity work after returning home.

When the influenza pandemic reached communities across Western Australia, Isabel once again volunteered to help by nursing the infected and by August 1919, she was put in charge of the emergency influenza hospital in Narrogin. Yet, after seeing the devastating effects of the war in Europe and the deadly pandemic at home, her life came to a sudden and awful end in December 1921.

It was a few days before Christmas and Isabel was lighting a fire under her copper pot to boil the Christmas ham. Suddenly her clothes caught on fire, engulfing her in flames. Her husband, Lionel, tried desperately to save her and was badly burnt as he tried to put out the fire. Isabel suffered severe burns and died at Fermoy Hospital on Christmas morning.



Photo: Australian troops on the Runic who are refusing to go ashore at Woodman Point. Source – Collection WA

Isabel Throssell was a charitable and determined character in Northam's history and her legacy lived on through her children. Her daughter, Evelyn Crystal, followed in her mother's footsteps, training as a nurse at the same Adelaide hospital. The family's tradition of wartime service continued through Isabel's three sons, all of whom served in, and survived, the Second World War.

INTRODUCING

CAROLS IN THE PARK 2026

Friday 4 December

5pm - 9pm Bernard Park Northam

Join us for a free community event with market stalls and great local food. Bring a chair or a picnic rug & enjoy Carols in the Park.

Entertainment by the Carols Band, Refractory Road, St Joseph's School Choir & Northam Area Schools Band.

Traditional Kids Games • Inflatables
Silent Disco • Roaming Entertainment
Nativity Photo Booth • Family Craft Activities

ALCOHOL FREE EVENT
BYO BLANKETS & CHAIRS

Organised by:

Combined Churches of Northam

NORTHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Shire of Northam



Update from Chris Antonio, Shire of Northam President



Both the recent Peth Glory and the Multicultural Food Festival were not only successful, but examples of a great collaboration between the Shire, community organisations and visiting groups. Well done and thank to all the Shire of Northam staff, volunteers and community members involved.

Thank you to all candidates who stepped up with the offer to represent our Shire as a Councillor to fill the vacant Councillor Position until October 2027. I would like to congratulate our newest Councillor, Theresa Lee, on winning the position. Theresa will add great experience and value to our Council, and we all look forward to working with you.

The Community Citizen of the Year awards are an opportunity to celebrate and recognise the outstanding individuals and groups who go above and beyond to support, inspire and bring our community together. Nominations have now closed, and we thank those of you who nominated someone who deserves to be recognised for their extraordinary contribution and help us shine a light on the people who make our community such a wonderful place to live.

There are four award categories:

- Community Citizen of the Year (for individuals over 16 years)
- Young Community Citizen of the Year (for individuals aged 16-30 years)
- Senior Community Citizen of the Year (for individuals aged 65 years or over)
- Active Citizenship Award (for community groups or events)

If you want to keep up to date with recent events, follow me on Instagram @shire_of_northam_president.

Permits to Burn

We have recently launched a new educational series on our social media channels called Shire of Northam Hot Tips. These tips will be shared each Friday throughout the high threat season and will offer insight into what the Shire is doing to protect the community and how you can play your part this summer.

The Shire of Northam is now in the Spring Restricted Burning Period and as such, the first post in this series is all about Permits to Burn.

Before lighting a fire, check whether you need a permit and whether burning is currently allowed. It is important to remember that applications are processed by volunteers and you should allow ample time in your application for processing before your planned burn.

You can get all of the updates in this series by following @shireofnortham on Facebook and Instagram.

Cemetery Masterplan

The Shire's Cemetery Masterplan Survey has now closed and the results of this will be reviewed to develop the masterplan that will ultimately guide the future management and development of the Northam Cemetery.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey and to provide quality feedback on what you'd like to see in the space. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us to ensure that this important place is a fit for purpose and welcoming space for generations to come to lay their loved ones to rest.

Firebreaks Due 1 November

Do you know what your property needs before bushfire season? Firebreak and fuel-load requirements vary depending on your property size and land use. A small residential block and a large farming property won't necessarily have the same requirements.

- Check the requirements for your property.
- Clear excess vegetation and dead flammable material.
- Make sure required access is suitable for emergency vehicles.
- Don't forget the Building Protection Zone requirements if you have a habitable building.

Firebreaks and fuel-load measures must be in place by 1 November and maintained through to 30 April. Read the full Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice before deciding what work you need to do.

Find the requirements at northam.wa.gov.au/firebreaks

Hot Weather

As the weather turns warmer, we'd like to offer a timely reminder about a number of things that you may wish to consider with the changing of the season.

- Dogs and other pets should not be left in cars, especially during hot weather. When left outside at home, they should be left in a shaded area with access to clean water
- When little ones are enjoying a local park or pool visit, make sure to send them with sunscreen and water
- Our snake friends love this time of year! Take care outdoors.

To Snip or Not to Snip?

When we as blokes arrive at the decision with our partners that the pitter-patter of tiny feet, 2am feeds and toxic nappies are not on the agenda anymore, then some form of permanent contraception is one possible pathway. There are options for the ladies in our lives, but those options can involve major surgery and unwanted side effects. The male version in terms of permanent surgical sterilization is the vasectomy and by comparison it's minor surgery with little to no side effects.

The first question is, what exactly is a vasectomy? Quite simply it is the cutting and sealing of the tubes (vas deferens) that carries sperm from the testes to the penis. It is usually done under local anaesthetic via a very small incision on each side of the scrotum, and despite 'The Snip' being the slang term, it doesn't usually involve scissors.

The most important question in many bloke's minds is, does it hurt? And we're well within our rights to ask this. We've already spent a lifetime keeping our crown jewels out of harm's way and on the odd occasion that we haven't, well, it hasn't ended well. The short answer is no. Some bruising and slight discomfort over the first couple of days is normal but not debilitating. A warning to my three-year-old daughter not to jump off the end of the lounge into my lap four hours after surgery would have been useful in hindsight and I wouldn't suggest riding your bike home after the op!

An important point to keep in mind, is the fact that the sperm already in your reproductive system will remain viable little swimmers for up to 3 months, or until the pipes are clear. It's not uncommon for couples to fall pregnant in the months immediately following a vasectomy, an irony not immediately all that humorous to those affected.

A lot of guys worry that it will affect their experience of sex however this typically isn't the case, as outwardly there is no visible difference to ejaculate nor usually any change to sensation. The vasectomy in no way interferes with erectile function nor with orgasm which no doubt is a relief to those considering the procedure.

A vasectomy should be considered permanent even though there is a procedure known as a vasectomy reversal. A successful reversal is by no means guaranteed, with success anywhere between 40-90 % but falling away rapidly with age, time between surgeries, and other complications. For this reason, you need to be absolutely certain; besides, repeat operations on our 'agates' don't figure very highly on anyone's 'to do' list.

To decide whether a vasectomy is right for you, the ball is in your court so to speak. You need to be sure that you and your partner have completed your family and that you want to take responsibility for family planning. On the flip side, a vasectomy is not something to be rushed into if you are relatively young, recently separated, divorced or having relationship problems.

So, all in all it's a decision you and your partner need to make together, it is a major decision.

The Regional Men's Health Initiative

P: (08) 6314 1436

E: menshealth@4blokes.com.au

Creatine – What is it and should you be taking it?

Creatine occurs naturally in muscle cells (lesser amounts are produced in the brain and the testes) and is synthesised in the liver, kidneys and pancreas (endogenous) from the amino acids arginine, glycine and methionine. It is found naturally in animal foods — grass-fed meat, cow's milk and seafood — so is potentially deficient in vegetarian diets.

Musculoskeletal

Creatine is important during high-intensity, short-duration activities (sprinting, weight-lifting) and was thought to be useful only for athletes and body builders as its effects are measurable during times of physical exertion, mental stress or immune recovery. Muscles rely exclusively on dietary ingestion with some endogenous synthesis, while the brain largely synthesises creatine.

In athletes, it provides muscular energy. Additionally, during times of mental fatigue, it can improve cognitive abilities which can also improve performance.

Research also indicates that creatine has anti-inflammatory and anticatabolic effects which support strengthening muscle and bone and increasing recovery from exercise, and helps rehydrate muscles, reducing the risk of cramping.

Energy production

Being essential for energy metabolism, creatine research shows that those with post-viral fatigue syndromes have much lower levels than normal. Post-viral fatigue is classified as a neurological condition by the WHO, with symptoms including persistent debilitating fatigue, systemic inflammation, cognitive difficulties and malaise exacerbated by exertion (physical or mental). Symptomatically similar to chronic fatigue and myalgic encephalitis, it is triggered by a viral infection such as influenza, COVID or EBV, with research demonstrating mitochondrial dysfunction, increased oxidative stress and impaired creatine metabolism.

In a study on subjects with post-COVID fatigue syndrome (Long COVID), they showed lower creatine levels in the brain and skeletal muscles, correlating directly with increased symptom severity.

Supplementing patients with creatine showed benefits during rehabilitation with lung conditions including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, respiratory failure and Long COVID. However, larger-scale studies need to be conducted to confirm these findings.

Ageing

Creatine is particularly useful in older adults — even better combined with resistance training but still having a positive impact in those who are unable to exercise due to physical impairment. Supplementation in the elderly demonstrates that even without any training, creatine can delay atrophy of muscle mass, improving endurance and strength, increasing bone strength and thereby decreasing the loss in functional performance of everyday living.

Creatine improves bone strength, reducing fracture risk over time in older adults, and reduces both age-related sarcopenia (the loss of muscle mass) as we age, or after injury when our fitness deteriorates.

In a meta-analysis, creatine supplementation improved memory and cognition in healthy individuals, with older adults showing greater improvement than younger adults.

Neurological

The brain is metabolically active tissue that utilises creatine for energy production. Creatine deficiency is indicated in major development disorders including intellectual disability, autism, seizures and learning disorders.

There is increasing research demonstrating the benefits of creatine to brain health — including improved cognitive processing (particularly if induced by stressors such as sleep deprivation, exercise and stress) and recovery from trauma (brain injury, ageing, depression and even Alzheimer's disease).

The brain synthesises creatine but dietary creatine can also be transported through the blood-brain barrier, although this can be problematic. Research indicates higher doses are needed in order to increase brain creatine levels (compared to muscle).

Immune system

Creatine impacts both the innate and the adaptive immune responses, the innate immune system being the first line of defence against bacterial and viral infections, where creatine downregulates the pro-inflammatory mediators, reducing the reaction to the pathogen. This means that the innate immune system does not over-react, so the adaptive immune response can be ramped up effectively. The adaptive immune response uses creatine as an energy source for the lymphocytes (immune cells). Elevated creatine is associated with stronger immune function and resistance to infection.

Supplementation

The research repeatedly demonstrates the safety of creatine supplementation, without toxicity or significant adverse reactions. Studies confirm it as safe even at high doses. Creatine monohydrate is the form used in the majority of studies and is consistently the best-studied form of creatine supplementation.

The recommended dose is three to five grams per day for general health benefits — athletes may use higher doses. Creatine monohydrate can be taken with food or in water. It is not necessary to cycle or load creatine, as daily intake is sufficient to maintain optimal muscle stores.

Article taken from: wellbeing.com.au/body/creatine.html

Stronger planning rules proposed in crackdown on illicit tobacco

The Cook Labor Government is proposing stronger planning regulations for new convenience stores intending to sell tobacco, making it harder to establish stores selling tobacco as part of its crackdown on the illicit tobacco and vape trade.

The proposed changes to Western Australia's Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 would require the majority of new convenience stores intending to sell tobacco products to obtain planning approval.

These State-wide changes will give local governments greater powers over proposed stores and a stronger say in what opens in their communities, while providing opportunities for residents to have their say through the development approval process.

The proposal complements tobacco laws strengthened earlier this year, which gave authorities greater compliance and enforcement powers to disrupt the illegal trade.

Since the strengthened laws came into effect in May, 89 closure orders have been issued. The Department of Health has conducted around 400 inspections, seizing more than four million illegal cigarettes, one tonne of loose-leaf tobacco, and 13,000 vapes.

Further tobacco reforms are expected to be introduced to Parliament in early 2027, strengthening licensing requirements and giving landlords greater powers to evict tenants involved in the illicit trade.

Public consultation on the draft amendment will run from Monday, 26 October until Friday, 4 December.



New approach to diabetes education could strengthen healthcare workforce

A multidisciplinary, co-designed education program is helping equip allied health professionals with the skills to support Australians living with diabetes – a complex condition that requires ongoing education, self-management support and interaction with healthcare professionals.

The study, by researchers at The University of Western Australia's School of Health and Clinical Sciences, was published in BMC Medical Education and demonstrated a promising new approach to strengthening Australia's diabetes care workforce.

Lead author Dr Alex Park, from UWA's Centre for Optimisation of Medicines, said expanding diabetes capability beyond traditional models of care could help build a more connected and accessible workforce.

"Diabetes care is not delivered by one profession alone," Dr Park said. "By bringing different health professionals, educators and people living with diabetes into the design of education, we can develop training that is more relevant to the way care is delivered."

The program, Australia's first allied health-specific diabetes education qualification, was developed through collaboration between researchers, practising allied health professionals, credentialled diabetes educators and people living with diabetes, including First Nations representation.

The program reflected how diabetes care is delivered in the real world: collaboratively, across multiple health professions and increasingly through digital and community-based services.

The program attracted 738 expressions of interest from healthcare professionals across Australia, with around one-quarter based outside capital cities, and pharmacists accounted for more than half of the expressions of interest.

Of the 142 professionals who enrolled in the first intake, 130 completed the program — a 92 per cent completion rate – and participants remained highly engaged with online learning materials, videos and virtual placement resources.

Researchers identified finding suitable local clinical placements a challenge for professional training in regional and remote areas, so the program introduced a centrally coordinated telehealth student clinic.

Co-author Dr Joseph Carpini, from UWA's Business School, said sometimes innovation meant rethinking who was equipped to provide care, how professionals were trained, and how expertise could reach communities that might otherwise miss out.

"This is ultimately about building capacity across the health system," Dr Carpini said. "If we can give more healthcare professionals the knowledge and confidence to support people with diabetes, we have the potential to strengthen care closer to where people live and work."

Further research will examine how the program influenced participants' professional practice and, ultimately, outcomes for people living with diabetes.

The research provides a potential model for other areas of healthcare where growing demand, workforce shortages and geographic inequities require new approaches to education and service delivery.

Article taken from: uwa.edu.au/news/article/2026/october/new-approach-to-diabetes-education-could-strengthen-healthcare-workforce

Brain Gut Health

We often don't understand the link between what's happening in our head, and what happens as a result, in our stomach. Emotions are pivotal in our ability to absorb nutrients. So, if you are stressed, angry, sad or grieving, anxious, or depressed over a prolonged period, no matter how nutritious your food is, it will not be digested properly and therefore, not metabolised into your body sufficiently. In fact, in extreme times of upset or imbalance of emotions, you are better off not eating much. The undigested food will become ama, (toxic plaque) that causes blockages and builds up in your weakest areas of the body.

To counter these emotions, we must examine our thoughts and understand what is in our power to change and what we cannot change and therefore release it. Many of our thought patterns are conditioned into us from childhood. Many of our ideas are, in fact, imprinted on our minds, then pathways are formed in our brains to react in specific ways to situations. So, these ideas are not necessarily yours, therefore you can change them. In changing the root cause of your emotional reactions, you get a whole new perspective and can release the chains that are taking you down the path of your old learnings.

By taking care of your mind, then eating wholesome cooked food with presence, you will heal and live well.

It is important to note that feeling emotions is human and part of your experience. It is the letting go of the emotion in less time that makes the difference.

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Enright Park - Where?



Photo: Successful rehabilitation at Enright Park alongside the Avon River in Northam

by Peter Weatherly of the Avon Valley Environmental Society

If you travel through the traffic lights in Northam and head towards Goomalling you will almost immediately cross the railway line and there on your left will be Enright Park – named after a prominent citizen whose house was once located on the site.

It is environmentally significant as it sits at the confluence of the two main rivers that flow through Northam – the Avon and the Mortlock.

It is also the site of the last known Aboriginal corrobboree which was held in 1899. We know this because a Constable J Stewart not only visited and described the event but also wrote, in beautiful copperplate, a report to his sub-Inspector about the event. We have a copy of that report and have strong reasons to believe that he is referring to what is now known as Enright Park.

In time, as is true of much of the river banks, it was used as landfill and since then had been neglected as wasteland – that is until the Aboriginal community, Greening Australia and the Society started to rehabilitate the site and it became a major point of interest along the Dorntj Korlinny (Walking Together) Track.

We have been working there for about two decades trying our hand at rehabilitation. There are two parts to the site, the lower part which is low, subject to flooding and next to the Avon and the high part which was wasteland.

The lower part is an outstanding success and is now well covered in vegetation though wild oats and other weeds are an ongoing problem. In most years, it is fed water mainly from the Swan Enclosure in Bernard Park. This is fresh water as it is runoff from the town so we have the unique situation of having a freshwater wetland alongside the salt water wetland just below the weir. It gets flooded with salty water from the Avon in wet years.

The higher part, the one used for landfill, is a very different story. The soil is heavy, highly compacted and when we first started rehabilitation, grew little more than double gee and calthrop. It was almost bare. There were also a few sad looking trees on the site.

Fortunately for us, the shire arranged for large quantities of woodchips to be delivered to the park which we spread over the site and much to our surprise, it controlled both the double gee and the calthrop and today neither are a problem.

We work on the principles that bare land is 'Bad" with a capital 'B' and that almost any kind of vegetation is better than nothing. Mulch, mulch, mulch. Let nature take its course. Eventually the vegetable matter will compost and improve the soil and allow all the microscopic creatures to do their work and turn the dirt into soil. To date, it appears to be working. It takes time. A lot of time!

We continue to work the site and are thrilled to see a healthy topsoil developing. We are revegetating with some success – particularly along the banks of the Mortlock. We hope to repeat this on the rest of the park. Dry years don't help.

The park is now frequently visited by both locals and visitors – particularly grey nomads because it is caravan friendly and supplies some shade.

Go visit – we hope you like it.

REJOINDER

Despite the criticism of my September article, 'The End is Not Nigh', I stand by the thrust of my argument: that some prominent, influential people have, in my view, made exaggerated predictions about climate change. I believe such statements deserve scrutiny, particularly given their potential to contribute to climate anxiety and influence decisions about the allocation of public funds. I value the continuing debate, however. It's how we get closer to the truth.

DELIVERED

The Directory has now been delivered to letterboxes and Post Office boxes in the Shire of Northam

Additional copies can be collected from:

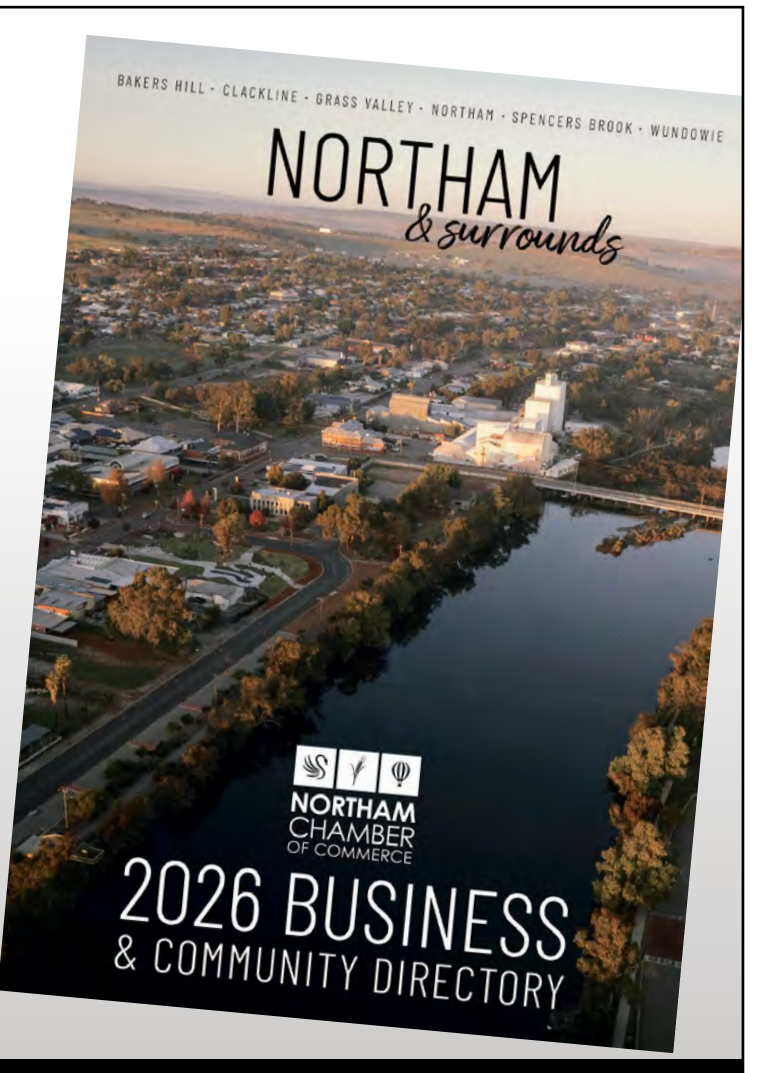
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NORTHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Produced by the Northam Chamber of Commerce for the community

Avon Valley Artists Represent at Plein Air Down Under

by Lindsay Newland

Seven members of the Avon Valley Arts Society travelled to Mandurah in September to participate in Plein Air Down Under, Australia's largest and longest-running outdoor painting festival. The annual event brings together artists from across Australia and beyond to celebrate the practice of plein air painting, creating artworks outdoors, directly from the landscape and surroundings.

The festival offers much more than a competition, with a week of workshops and organised paint-outs leading up to the main event. These activities provide opportunities for artists to develop their skills, learn from professional artists and contribute works to the Experience Peel exhibition, which is judged separately from the main Plein Air Down Under exhibition. Several AVAS members took advantage of these professional development opportunities, attending workshops led by the festival's featured and guest artists.

One of the strengths of Plein Air Down Under is its welcoming and inclusive approach. With competition divisions catering to different levels of experience, the festival provides opportunities for both emerging and experienced artists to participate and challenge themselves. While the event offers significant prizes and recognition, its greatest value is perhaps the opportunity for artists to come together, exchange ideas, share experiences and learn from one another. For regional artists in particular, these connections provide valuable opportunities to engage with the wider arts community and build relationships beyond their local networks.

The festival concludes with the popular Quick Draw competition on Monday, where participating artists have just two hours to complete an artwork. The time pressure creates an exciting challenge, while the concentrated painting area encourages a wonderfully social atmosphere as artists work alongside one another. AVAS member Jessica Edwards-Parker enjoyed success in this year's Quick Draw, taking out the Watercolour and Gouache category with her artwork 'Peopling'. Reflecting on her experience, Jessica said, "If it hadn't been for the workshops and demonstrations put on by the Plein Air Down Under organisers, I wouldn't have been in the creative state of mind that led to my artwork."

There was further success for AVAS in the main Plein Air Down Under exhibition, with youth member Ella Newland winning the 13–18 Years category for her artwork 'Dinner and a Show'.

Several AVAS members also enjoyed success through the sale of their artworks during the festival, highlighting the opportunities the event provides for artists to showcase their work to new audiences.

The Avon Valley Arts Society congratulates all seven members who participated in this year's festival, particularly Jessica and Ella on their award-winning achievements. Their involvement reflects the growing enthusiasm for plein air painting within the Avon Valley and the importance of supporting artists to develop their practice, challenge themselves and connect with the broader arts community.



Photo: AVAS Artists ready to start in the Quick Draw competition

Northam Art Prize Continues to Grow with Increased Prize Pool

The Avon Valley Arts Society is excited to announce a significant increase in the prize pool for the 2026 Northam Art Prize, reflecting the continued growth and success of this much-anticipated annual exhibition. Thanks to the generous support of major sponsor, the Shire of Northam, the overall winning prize has increased to $5,000. Fellow major sponsor Bendigo Bank has also increased its contribution, further strengthening the prize pool and helping the Northam Art Prize remain competitive among regional art exhibitions.

The increased prize money provides an exciting incentive for artists from across Western Australia to participate, encouraging a diverse range of entries and continuing the upward trajectory in the quality and variety of artworks exhibited in recent years.

While attracting established and experienced artists is an important part of the exhibition's growth, AVAS remains equally committed to providing opportunities for local, emerging and young artists. Dedicated awards recognise the talents of local artists, including the Local Artist Award and the RSM Landscape Award, while the Emerging Artist Award encourages those who are beginning their exhibiting journey, regardless of age. AVAS recognises that many artists discover or develop their creative abilities later in life, and the Emerging Artist Award provides an opportunity for those taking their first steps into exhibiting to gain confidence, experience and recognition. The Youth Award similarly encourages young artists from the Shire of Northam to showcase their creativity and begin their own exhibiting journey.

This balance between recognising established talent and nurturing new artists is central to the Northam Art Prize, creating an exhibition that celebrates artistic excellence while remaining welcoming and accessible to artists at all stages of their practice.

The continued growth of the Northam Art Prize would not be possible without the generous support of its sponsors. AVAS extends its sincere thanks to the Shire of Northam, Bendigo Bank, RSM Australia, Vice Legal, Blackwells Plumbing and Gas, Avon Valley Toyota, Verlindens Electrical, Avon Valley Glass, and Lachlan Hunter MP together with his parliamentary colleagues Julie Freeman MLC and Rob Horstman MLC. Additional support from the Goomalling Tavern, Oxlades Art Supplies and Northam Forest is also greatly appreciated.

The 2026 Northam Art Prize exhibition will be open to the public at the Northam Town Hall from Saturday 14 November to Sunday 22 November, 10am to 4pm daily. AVAS warmly encourages the community to come along and explore the exhibition, enjoy the diverse range of artworks on display and discover the incredible creativity of artists from across the region and beyond. Whether you're a regular gallery visitor or simply curious to see what's on offer, the Northam Art Prize is a wonderful opportunity to experience and support the visual arts in our community.



UPCOMING at AVAS

FORM Creative Learning W/shop

Wednesday 28th October, 5.30pm – 7.30pm
FORM will deliver a free two-hour professional learning workshop for regional artists interested in developing Creative Learning projects with local schools.

Mondays at AVAS - MAVAS

Mondays, 10am-12pm and 12.30-2.30pm
Homeschool Create & Connect offers relaxed, child-led creativity in a welcoming social environment. Children can explore their interests, experiment with art materials and connect with other homeschooling families. Come along for one or both sessions, with time to socialise over lunch.
No bookings necessary. Cost: Gold coin donation per child.

The Art of Still Life

Tuesdays 3.30pm
Join Marie and Ratna for a relaxed, guided still life drawing workshop. Cost: Members $25, Non-members $30. Bookings: Trybooking/DPNYR

Sketchbook Club

Teens, Wednesdays, after school - 5pm
Youth, Thursdays, after school - 4pm
Sketchbook Club is a chance to engage in creative practice, informal collaboration, and peer support. All materials supplied. Gold coin donation.

After School Art Classes

Tuesdays 3.30pm
Inspired by Nature: an eight-week program facilitated by artist Elly Cook
Cost: Casual classes $25, or $20 per session when booking for the remainder of the term.

Mosiac Morning

Saturday 21st November, 10am – 12 pm
Bring along a surface to mosaic at our monthly mosaic morning. No bookings necessary.
Cost: Members $10 Non-members $15

Life Draw

Friday 27th November, 6-8pm
Develop your life drawing skills in a guided session with local artists Marie and Ratna. Explore observation, proportion and expressive mark-making through structured exercises, demonstrations and personalised guidance. Suitable for beginners and experienced artists alike, with charcoal and basic materials provided.
Cost: $35 Members, $40 non-members
Trybooking.com/DQZBR

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Holiday Closure

The College will close to the public from
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While our campuses and public-facing services will be closed, our **Contact Centre and Student Business Systems (SBS)** team will remain available from **18 December to 23 December 2026** to assist with enquiries and enrolments for 2027.

You can contact us during this period from:
9:00am to 4:00pm:
Phone: 1800 672 700 | **Live Chat**

The College will reopen on Monday, **4 January 2027.**

We wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday season and look forward to supporting you in the new year.

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November in York

Even at this comparatively late stage of my life people never cease to amaze me with their talent! This has never been more apparent than with what is currently happening in York where groups of multitalented and motivated people are coming together to showcase their many artistic skills.

A case in point is 'When the Earth Runs' a fascinating exhibition by Rebecca Marwick. Rebecca works with natural earth pigments, river water and gold turning raw materials from the land into paintings that ask what the real meaning is of being wealthy. Ochres gathered from York mixed with water from the river let loose on the page, an extraordinary concept resulting in a collection of beautiful pieces of art. If you missed this fascinating exhibition at Pantechnica Gallery, just check Rebecca out online, she is available for commissions, and I am sure there will be another opportunity to see her work displayed very soon.

On a Sunday in 2025 a group of people had the notion to bring together creative folk who would like to meet regularly and share textile ideas and skills. They decided to meet fortnightly for just two hours to discuss concepts, support each other and build friendships. To share a common thread the theme of 'Trees' was chosen for their works to reflect our country environment in as many ways as imaginable. This has blossomed into the first exhibition for this dedicated and lively group who are aptly named Wheatbelt Threads. The opening is at 6pm on Friday 6th November at Pantechnica Gallery 104 Avon Terrace. The exhibition is titled "Bough and Branch" and all the works on display will be for sale. Another chance to see the work of talented local artists and be fascinated by how the group use textiles to create intricate artworks.



Photo: Work from the Boughs and Branches exhibition

And now for something completely different but still on the theme of textiles in a way. "The Great Global Mend" is a coordinated nationwide mass mending event designed to promote textile repair, reduce waste and build community. It is jointly presented by Care to Wear and FabPatch. Another way to keep fashion from going to landfill just because a button has come off. I must tell you at this point that button sewing on was something I excelled at as a 'brownie' and I got the badge to prove it! Wish I still had it too. York is getting in on the act by joining this great event for the first time and it will be held on Saturday 7th November in the York Town Hall from 10am-1pm. So, dig out those things you have been meaning to get fixed and bring them along so they can be added back into your wardrobe or back into everyday use instead of finding their way into the bin. This is a free event and will be a fun day, I am sure. Now, let me go and find that jumper that some sneaky moth has had a chomp out of and see if it can be rescued.

Just thinking about that great English TV programme 'The Repair Shop' and thinking perhaps this could also be a project that could incorporate the great work that Men's Sheds do with some added skills and be yet another way to improve the circular economy? Just a thought; who is up for giving that a shot too? York Repair Shop has a nice ring to it, I think.



I won't tell you how many shopping days are left before Christmas, but I will tell you it is fast approaching and there are some things you can get on top of before the real festive you know what hits the fan! I know some people are so organised it is quite frightening, but I have always been a bit of a last-minute gift buyer, my rational is that at the last minute you have to decide, there is no time to pontificate. I admit though this has not always had the best results. Can I just suggest before you rush off to where the parking is a nightmare (and costly) crowds are pushy, and kids are noisy you check out your local shops. There is often a lot more available locally than you think and every purchase from a local store is supporting local people and local jobs and really making a difference to a regional community.

One of the great successes of the last few months has been the Bingo sessions at the Castle Hotel run by the Staying in Place team. I don't think anyone has been able to retire on their winnings but there have been some fun times had by all and happy people going home with a few extra dollars in the kitty to splurge on riotous living, or, perhaps just to top up the groceries in these tough times. Check out the dates for the last very special session before Christmas and plans for the new year.

What fantastic day in York on Tuesday 20th October when York had the honour and pleasure of a visit from the Archbishop of York (UK) and the Archbishop of Perth for a service at our beautiful Anglican Church. There was a fantastic turn out and how marvellous to see the Church full of people all in magnificent voice. Dr Marion Kickett gave the welcome to country and after the service we all enjoyed a lunch and lively fascinating conversations with both our local and visiting guests.

As ever greetings to all readers of this great newspaper and we hope to see you in York sometime soon.

The York Scribe



Photo: Archbishop of York (UK) and Archbishop of Perth visit to York Anglican Church

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IN THE garden this month

by Naomi Sherrington

November in the Avon Valley is when summer starts making its presence felt. The days are longer, the soil dries quickly, and a run of hot weather can arrive with very little warning. The focus now is on keeping plants healthy, protecting new growth and making sure the garden is ready for the months ahead.

November Checklist:

1. Check soil moisture regularly, particularly around newly planted trees and shrubs.
2. Water deeply rather than giving plants frequent light drinks, so those roots are encouraged to push deeper into the soil, rather than stay near the surface, where they are vulnerable to damage.
3. Top up mulch before the worst of the summer heat arrives, keeping it away from trunks and stems.
4. Check irrigation systems and make sure drippers have not become blocked or moved away from the root zone.
5. Keep an eye out for aphids, caterpillars, grasshoppers and other pests enjoying tender new growth.
6. Provide water for birds, insects and other wildlife, and clean bird baths regularly.

In Bloom / To Harvest:

Many grevilleas, bottlebrushes and other flowering natives continue to provide nectar for birds and insects, while summer-flowering species are beginning to take over from the spring display.

In the vegetable garden, peas and other cool-season crops may be finishing, while zucchini, beans, cucumbers, tomatoes and capsicums are beginning to gather pace.

Strawberries can also be producing well, but keep an eye on them — birds often notice a ripe strawberry shortly before we do!

What to Plant:

Warm-season vegetables such as beans, cucumber, zucchini, pumpkin, capsicum and tomato can still be planted, although young plants will need consistent water while they establish.

Herbs including basil, thyme, oregano and rosemary will enjoy the warmer conditions.

Hardy natives can still be planted where reliable watering is available, but November is beginning to push the limits for establishing new plants before summer. If you can wait until autumn for larger-scale native planting, your plants — and your watering can — may thank you.

Helping Plants Through Their First (or in some cases, second) Summer

One of the biggest mistakes we can make with drought-tolerant plants is assuming that drought tolerance begins the day they are planted.

Even our toughest Western Australian natives need time to establish a strong root system. A grevillea, hakea or eucalypt that may eventually cope with long dry periods can still struggle badly during its first summer.

Deep watering encourages roots to move further into the soil, where temperatures are cooler and moisture persists for longer. Light surface watering does the opposite, encouraging roots to remain close to the hottest and driest part of the soil.

Mulch is also invaluable. A generous layer helps reduce evaporation and keeps soil temperatures more stable, but leave some breathing room around trunks and stems.

For very young or vulnerable plants, temporary shade during an extreme hot spell can make the difference between a scorched plant and a healthy one. Shade cloth positioned to block harsh afternoon sun is particularly useful, provided plants still receive plenty of airflow.

A little preparation now can save a great deal of rescue work in January (or money on replacement plants!).

Water for the Locals

As natural water sources begin to disappear, garden water can become increasingly valuable to local wildlife.

A simple bird bath placed in partial shade may attract an impressive range of visitors. Birds need water not only for drinking but also for bathing, which helps them maintain their feathers.

Smaller creatures benefit too. Bees and other insects will use shallow water, particularly if stones, pebbles or pieces of bark provide somewhere safe for them to land.

If you use a deeper container, add a branch, rock or other escape route for lizards, insects and small animals that may fall in.

Keep water fresh and give containers a regular scrub rather than simply topping them up. This helps prevent the build-up of algae and reduces the opportunity for mosquitoes to breed.

In a Wheatbelt summer, a little patch of shade and a reliable source of clean water can turn an ordinary garden into a small refuge.

And judging by the number of feathered visitors who eventually learn the location of a good bird bath, word apparently gets around.

A taste of Korea

*Note: I was able to get all of these ingredients in Northam at Coles

by Jodie Longmire

I love trying new recipes and enjoying the combination of different flavours. This month I have been trying out Korean recipes. Here are two that stood out. The first is a one pan rice bake. This recipe is so easy it has made its way into my weeknight rotation. Anything that can be done in one pan is always going to be a favourite of mine. But what makes this moreish dish even better is the balance of all of the flavours. I will be eating this a lot from now on. Onto dessert- this is a combination of Nutella + Mochi + Donut Holes. They have the chewiness you would expect from Mochi but with a bit of a twist with a Nutella filling. Obviously this is not a traditional dish but none the less I found them yummy!



One-pan cheesy Korean pork rice 'bake'

Ingredients:

3 tsp sesame oil
500g Australian Pork Mince
3 garlic cloves, crushed
2cm-piece fresh ginger, finely grated
3 green shallots, thinly sliced
2 x 250g pkt microwave medium-grain rice
60g (1/4 cup) gochujang paste
250ml (1 cup) salt-reduced chicken stock
100g (1 cup) grated mozzarella
2 tbsp Kewpie mayonnaise
2 tbsp sriracha chilli sauce
120g (1/2 cup) kimchi
1 tsp furikake rice seasoning

Method:

Heat oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Add pork and cook, breaking up mince with a wooden spoon, for 7-8 minutes or until starting to brown. Add garlic, ginger and half of the shallots. Cook, stirring, for 1 minute or until aromatic.

Squeeze packets of rice to separate the grains. Add rice to the pan and stir until well coated. Stir in gochujang and stock. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 2-3 minutes or until the stock has just been absorbed.

Level top. Sprinkle cheese over the rice mixture. Reduce heat to low and cook, covered, for 2-3 minutes or until the cheese has melted. Drizzle with mayonnaise and sriracha, then top with kimchi, remaining shallots and rice seasoning, to serve.

Recipe taken from taste.com.au/recipes/one-pan-cheesy-korean-pork-rice-bake-recip

Nutella Mochi Donut Holes

Ingredients:

500g sweet rice flour (glutinous rice flour)
80g self raising flour (*see note)
20g butter, melted
1/4 tsp fine sea salt
500ml hot milk – (microwaved for 1 min 30 seconds)
Filling: about 220g Nutella
Other:
Vegetable oil for deep-frying
50g/1.8 ounces castor sugar
1/2 tsp cinnamon powder

Method:

Sieve through the sweet rice flour and self raising flour into a large bowl. Add the melted butter and salt. Gradually pour in hot milk. As you pour down mix all the ingredients well. Knead it to make one large dough.

Take the dough out onto a cutting board and divide it into smaller pieces to make mini round balls. (The size can be up to you but remember that larger donuts take longer to cook. Also make sure it is large enough to hold the stuffing inside.) While working through, cover the mini balls with glad wrap to stop them drying out.

Place a rolled donut ball on your palm and flatten it by pressing it with your thumbs. Add a spoonful of nutella and seal the dough. (I added 1/2 tsp worth stuffing in each ball). Set aside. Repeat this with the remaining ingredients.

Pour some oil for frying in a deep sauce pan and heat it for 6 to 8 mins (until boiling) on medium heat. Add the donut holes gently (about 5 at a time, depending on the size of your pan) and fry them until the outer dough is golden brown and the inside dough is cooked through. (It takes 5 to 6 mins for mini holes and 7 to 8 mins for medium holes.) Place the cooked donuts onto a piece of oil absorbing paper and cool down for 10 to 15 mins.

In a medium or large sized food grade plastic bag, add the sugar and cinnamon powder. While holding the top of the bag with one hand, shake it so that the sugar and cinnamon gets mixed together. Add the donut holes and mix. Serve.

Recipe taken from mykoreankitchen.com/nutella-stuffed-sweet-rice-flour-doughnut-holes



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UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV 01

TOM CURTAIN TOUR

Multiple Golden Guitar winner, musician and horseman Tom Curtain is hitting the road again with his national award-winning Katherine Outback Experience team! Tickets via Humanitix.

NOV 06

DRUMMING CIRCLE

A Rhythm Drumming Circle for Healing, Connection & Renewal. Have you experienced loss that has changed your world? St Stephens Hall Toodyay, 10.30am - 12.30pm. Tickets at trybooking.com/DQXBC

NOV 10

NORTHAM CHAMBER AGM

The Northam Chamber of Commerce will be holding their AGM at The Rec from 5.30-7.30pm. The yearly reports will be presented and new board for 2026/2027 elected. Drinks & light supper provided. Free event-register through northamchamber.com.au

NOV 14

TWILIGHT MARKETS

The grounds of The Maggie's Nest, Cunderdin will be transformed into a Wheatbelt bazaar, lined with artisan Wheatbelt stalls of jewellery, flowers, art, woodwork and more! Free entry- 4pm-8pm

NOV 20

CALENDAR GIRLS THE MUSICAL

Musical Theatre Performance at The Link Theatre by the Northam Theatre Group. The show runs from 20th Nov - 29th Nov. Tickets at trybooking.com/DQBAJ

NOV 21

NORTHAM FESTIVAL OF HEALING

Discover a world of holistic wellness at the Festival of Healing. Entry is free with a downloadable ticket via Eventbrite. Northam Rec Centre 9am-4pm.

NOV 21

MOSAIC MORNING

A monthly get together to create mosaics at AVAS. Cost Members $10 Non members $15. 10am-12pm. No bookings needed, just turn up.

NOV 27

GREAT SOUTHERN BIOBLITZ

The Great Southern BioBlitz is an international citizen science event where people across the Southern Hemisphere record as much biodiversity as possible over four days. More info at greatsouthernbioblitz.org/how-to-participate-in-the-gsb

NOV 29

NWIB CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Northam Women in Business will be holding their Christmas Party at Eclipse Brewery. Check out their Facebook page for further details.

Do you have an upcoming event?

Send it to us at jodie@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au and we will include it here.

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Happy 80th Birthday Rotary

Come and celebrate Northam Rotary Club's 80th Birthday on Saturday 1st November 2026 at 12.30pm at the Rotary Rotunda next to the river on Ord Street. We will have an open BBQ provided to anyone who has links to Rotary or would like to help us bring the next decade with good food and good people.

Northam Rotary Club received its charter in 1946 as the fourth club to open in Western Australia, and the first in the Wheatbelt. Since then, it has served as a central host to the rest of the region, and all the way to the goldfields. We also had the pleasure of hosting the Western Australian Conference earlier this year.

Northam Rotary has contributed significantly to the life of the people of Northam and its region over the years through donations and organisations of works in public infrastructure, including park amenities and structures, significant contribution to the mental health space, fundraising for local community projects and representing our community through international exchange and leadership programs.

Rotary began as an initiative in Chicago, USA, in 1905 as business owners getting together to provide for their local towns, fostering good ethical standards and professional cooperation. Its first project was public toilets, something which at the time did not really exist until they made it up. Rotary expanded internationally in 1910, then came to Australia in 1921.

Since then, Rotary International Foundation has nearly eradicated polio, a highly contagious and debilitating disease which paralysed more 350,000 children each year in 123 countries. Today polio is only found endemic in two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Rotary International has also played a significant role in the establishment and continued consultation of the United Nations, and currently has more 1700 Rotary Peace Fellows. Rotary is also heavily involved in hygiene, clean water, sanitisation, philanthropy and education.

Locally, Northam Rotary has contributed more than $500,000 to local and international projects, putting Northam, and its incredibly generous community, on the global map.

If you would like to know more about what Rotary has done in Northam, or if you would like information on joining an international organisation that connects people across the world, please come along to our celebration, or contact us on Facebook.

Yours in Rotary.



Point of View

In this new column, Denis Beresford and Mike Whittington take a provocative, sometimes humorous look at the issues shaping life across the Wheatbelt, and ask: what do you think? ? If you have a point of view, share with us at editor@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au.

Who's a volunteer? What's a volunteer?

A friend of mine used to do "a bit of volunteering" on a regular basis. A few hours, a couple of days a week. No biggie. He was a retired bachelor, leading an otherwise quiet life. Yet whenever we were together in public, people would go out of their way to greet him.

Then my friend died suddenly. Still in shock, I made my way to the cemetery, expecting a small group of family, a few colleagues from his working days.

There were more than 150 at the graveside: people from all walks of life, of all ages... the beneficiaries of his years of service; people he had touched lightly but memorably, many, many times, in easing their daily lives.

Their deep respect got me thinking about the nature of volunteering. It's happening all around us, every day. Some of us are volunteers, and don't know it. There's a Minister for Volunteering (Hon. Hannah Beazley MLA), and 2026 is the United Nations' International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development.

My colleague Peter Weatherley reported last issue that volunteering is down, according to ABS statistics. Yet Volunteering WA estimates 1.5 million Western Australians volunteer, formally or informally. Different definitions help explain those figures.

Without volunteers, much of our community life would grind to a halt: kids' sport, walking trails, op shops, the Avon Descent, the SES. Volunteering WA puts the value of volunteering to the State at almost $64 billion annually.

Like all good things, it's never simple. Volunteers give their time and skills; organisations coordinate services; communities benefit. But there are never enough volunteers or funds, and plenty of argument over priorities. Emergency services, community welfare, sport and culture all have legitimate claims.

And yet... it succeeds. Those orange uniforms are there whenever the SES is called; firies turn up; fundraisers find creative ways to raise money. Ask why they do it, and there are as many reasons as volunteers.

Can we do better?

Volunteering WA's 2027–28 State Budget submission calls for practical measures to remove barriers to volunteering, including screening costs. At a local level, Northam's Esther Bliss, an individual volunteer representative on the Volunteering Community Reference Group, believes communication is the weak link.

"It always surprises me that people I meet are not aware of the opportunities that are out there for volunteering," she says. "Even if your skills need a bit of polishing, we can always find a role that's a good fit – you only need to ask."

Lin Booth, Local Manager of Northam & District SES, says training and structure also matter. "If they wear orange, they are a volunteer. No one in SES orange is paid," he explains. SES members must train to certified standards to respond to natural disasters and support other emergency services.

Then there's the "paper barrier": screening checks and administration that, according to Volunteering WA, can discourage willing hands.

With all those problems, I wonder there are any vollies at all. But I think of my friend. What seemed like "a bit of volunteering" meant so much more to those at his funeral.

What do you think?

IN MEMORY OF JOHN PETER MENEGON, RAILWAYMAN AND VOLUNTEER.
1950–2026

Hundreds of trolleys pulled from Avon River as residents demand action



Photo: from Clean Up Northam Community Facebook page

by Naomi Sherrington

More than 350 Northam residents have backed a petition calling for tougher shopping trolley controls, as community volunteers report recovering hundreds of discarded trolleys from the Avon River.

Community volunteers have recovered more than 100 abandoned shopping trolleys from the Avon River in 2025 and approximately 130 so far this year, prompting renewed calls for measures to prevent trolleys being dumped around Northam.

A petition organised by Clean Up Northam Community, bearing more than 350 signatures, is calling for the introduction of a strict Shopping Trolleys Local Law. The petition has been received by the Shire of Northam, and it is anticipated it will be formally received by Council at their Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 28 October 2026.

The petition urges Council to require major retailers to implement effective trolley containment systems, including coin-operated locks or electronic geofencing, and ensure abandoned trolleys are promptly retrieved.

Clean Up Northam representative Jess Joy told The Northam Advertiser that volunteers had spent considerable time and effort recovering trolleys from the river, with the number retrieved continuing to grow.

Those figures do not include recoveries by other community organisations, including the Avon Environmental Society.

"Imagine what the river would look like if there were 130 trolleys in the river today at any one time," Jess said.

Volunteers bearing the burden

Recovering abandoned trolleys is no simple task.

Jess described volunteers using ropes and hooks to retrieve heavy metal trolleys thrown from bridges into the Avon River, sometimes having to haul them considerable distances to reach the riverbank.

"It's not easy to do," she said.

The work raises concerns about volunteer safety, particularly given the weight of the trolleys and the hazards associated with retrieving submerged objects.

Beyond the river, Jess said abandoned trolleys were a regular sight throughout Northam's town centre, including along Fitzgerald Street, around the Village Green and near local businesses.

She described volunteers frequently collecting abandoned trolleys during their regular rubbish clean-ups and returning them to nearby shopping precincts.

However, she said the same trolleys sometimes remained uncollected for days, despite being returned close to their point of origin.

Jess also expressed frustration with existing trolley-reporting arrangements, which she said did not always result in timely collection.

While acknowledging that individuals who remove and abandon trolleys bear responsibility for their actions, she believes preventing their removal in the first place would be more effective than relying on retrieval after the damage is done.

Could a gold coin make the difference?

One relatively straightforward preventative measure has attracted particular attention: the coin-operated trolley lock.

Jess said that despite the hundreds of trolleys recovered by Clean Up Northam, volunteers had never pulled an ALDI trolley from the Avon River.

ALDI requires customers to insert a $1 or $2 coin, or reusable token, to unlock a trolley, providing an incentive for shoppers to return it to a designated bay.

Similar observations have been reported elsewhere in Australia.

In September 2022, the ABC reported that the City of Cockburn had collected more than 100 abandoned shopping trolleys, none of which belonged to ALDI.

More recently, a Queensland environmental volunteer who recovered more than 300 trolleys from Rockhampton's Moores Creek reported finding no ALDI or Kmart trolleys among them.

Although coin-operated systems do not entirely eliminate trolley abandonment, these observations suggest that even modest financial incentives can encourage customers to return trolleys.

Electronic containment systems provide another option, using technology that locks trolley wheels when they cross a designated boundary.

Jess believes measures such as these, combined with securing trolleys outside trading hours and ensuring regular collection services, could substantially reduce the problem.

A longstanding local issue

Northam's abandoned trolley problem is far from new.

In September 2020, the Shire's Community Safety Committee reported an increase in abandoned shopping trolleys, particularly around the Avon River.

The issue resurfaced in February 2022, when the Shire contacted local supermarkets about their collection arrangements following an increase in complaints.

Northam already has a local law addressing abandoned shopping trolleys.

Under clause 4.6 of its Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading local law, retailers are required to retrieve abandoned trolleys within 24 hours of being notified of their location by the Shire, unless arrangements are made for the Shire to undertake collection at the retailer's expense.

A modified penalty of $150 is prescribed for failing to comply.

However, the existing provisions do not require retailers to install containment systems to prevent trolleys leaving their premises.

Jess said Clean Up Northam had been raising the issue with the Shire since early 2025 and had attended several meetings in an effort to find a lasting solution.

The group believes stronger preventative requirements are necessary to address a problem that has persisted despite existing collection arrangements and community clean-up efforts.

Shire acknowledges growing problem

Responding to enquiries from The Northam Advertiser, Shire President Chris Antonio confirmed that the petition was received on 1 October and is expected to be formally received by Council at its Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday, 28 October.

Once formally received, Shire officers will review the petition against the requirements of clause 6.10 of the Shire's Standing Orders.

If deemed compliant, research will be undertaken and a report prepared for formal consideration by Council.

Mr Antonio acknowledged that abandoned shopping trolleys were an increasingly widespread problem.

"It is important to note that local governments worldwide are facing this same issue and are actively looking for solutions to the issue," he said.

"The Shire is conscious that this is an ever-growing problem, and we appreciate the efforts of the dedicated locals advocating for a solution."

The Shire has not yet indicated whether it will support the introduction of mandatory trolley containment systems.

More than an eyesore

While abandoned shopping trolleys are undoubtedly unsightly, their presence in the Avon River raises broader environmental concerns.

Submerged trolleys can obstruct water movement, accumulate rubbish and vegetation, interfere with aquatic habitats and create physical hazards for wildlife.

The Avon River is a significant environmental, recreational and cultural asset for Northam, providing habitat for native wildlife and forming an important part of the town's identity.

For Clean Up Northam, the objective is to stop trolleys reaching the river rather than continually relying on volunteers to remove them.

Jess believes greater accountability and preventative measures would reduce the burden on community groups while helping protect the town's public spaces and waterways.

And while she recognises that abandoned shopping trolleys are a problem in communities across Australia, she does not believe that should discourage Northam from taking action.

"This is our town," she said. "Let's do something about it."

With the petition awaiting formal consideration by Council, residents will now be watching to see whether their calls for stronger controls lead to lasting change.



Photo: from Clean Up Northam Community Facebook page

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Buildings of Northam



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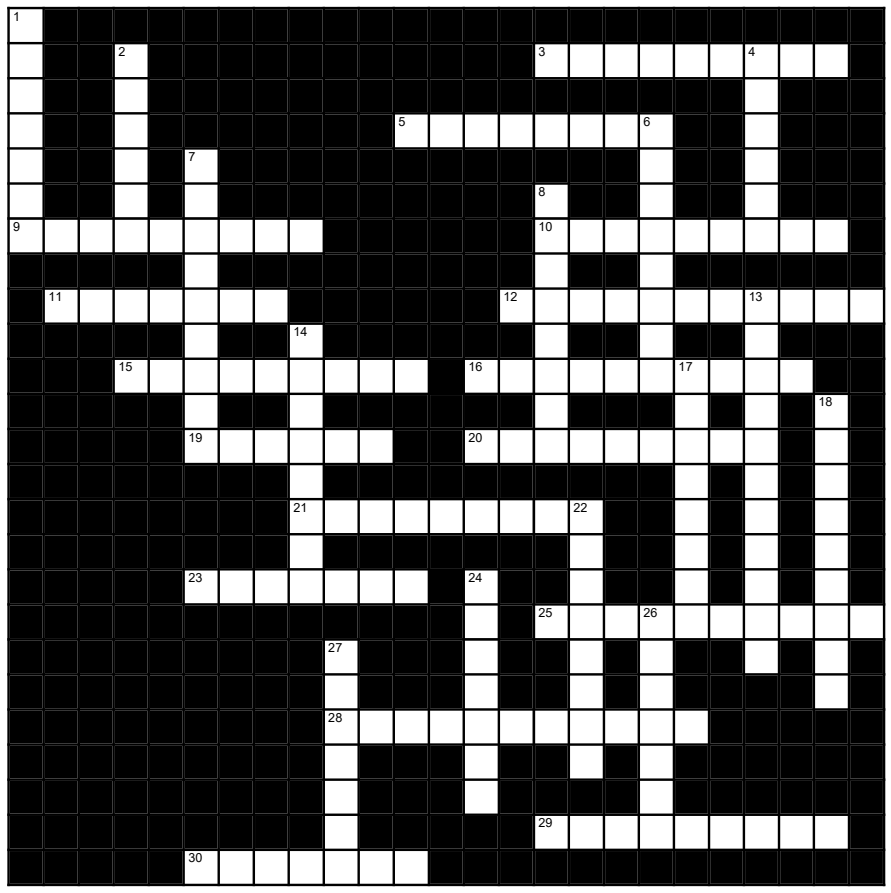
Where am I? Gauge Railway Bridge
Winner: Luke Brennan

Who am I? Mick Casey
Winner: No winner

SUDOKU

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					2			
1			7		3		6	

CROSSWORD



Across

3. Speech in which an actor speaks thoughts aloud, alone on stage (9)

5. Massive single block of stone (8)

9. Large seabird, or a burden hung round the Ancient Mariner's neck (9)

10. Waxy whale secretion once prized in perfumery (9)

11. Tall four-sided stone pillar with a pyramid top (7)

12. The art of making maps (11)

15. Spirit of the age (9)

16. Of doubtful authenticity, like a much-repeated tall tale (10)

19. Cloud of gas and dust in space (6)

20. Maze of winding passages (9)

21. Excessively complicated and devious (9)

23. Seemingly absurd statement that may nonetheless be true (7)

25. Manuscript scraped clean and written over (10)

28. Happy discovery made by pure chance (11)

29. Lasting only a very short time (9)

30. Medieval quest to turn base metal into gold (7)

Down

1. Fire-breathing monster of Greek myth, part lion, goat and serpent (7)

2. Treeless, frozen Arctic plain (6)

4. Intensely bright core of a distant galaxy (6)

6. Dominance of one state or group over others (8)

7. Brilliant red pigment (9)

8. Underground burial passage (8)

13. Something placed in the wrong historical period (11)

14. Partial shadow around an eclipse's full shade (8)

17. Weight swinging on a rod, driving a grandfather clock (8)

18. Close partnership between two different organisms (9)

22. Gum tree, favoured by koalas (8)

24. Time when day and night are of equal length (7)

26. Atom of an element with a differing number of neutrons (7)

27. Small trace of something that has largely disappeared (7)

Where Am I? October Issue – Northam's Standard Gauge Railway Bridge

In 1963, a major piece of Western Australia's railway history was taking shape beside the Northam Weir, with construction beginning on the standard gauge railway bridge across the Avon River.

The bridge formed part of the ambitious Perth–Kalgoorlie standard gauge project, designed to finally connect Western Australia's railway system with the eastern states without the costly need to transfer passengers and freight between different gauges. The overall project was undertaken between 1962 and 1972, with much of the work carried out by contractors.

Bridge construction in the Northam and Toodyay districts was undertaken during 1963–65, with Nielsen (Australia) involved in the bridge works as a subcontractor.

The new railway took advantage of the Avon Valley's gentler terrain, allowing a far easier alignment than the old railway through the Darling Range.

Today, the bridge is a familiar part of Northam's railway landscape — but few people probably realise that its construction was part of one of the State's biggest engineering projects of the twentieth century.



GST fears and cost-of-living pressures weighing on WA households

More than three in five Western Australian households are experiencing at least one form of financial stress, according to CCIWA's Consumer Confidence survey for the September quarter.

The survey of almost 1,000 WA households found the cost-of-living crisis was weighing heavily on consumer confidence, despite a slight improvement in the outlook since the start of the Middle East conflict earlier this year.

Almost two in five (38%) said their expenses exceeded their income each month, and 20% said they had been unable to pay bills on time.

Four in five or 80% of households surveyed said the cost of everyday items was weighing heavily on their budgets.

CCIWA's Chief Economist, Dr Daniel Kiely, said interest rate increases were having an impact, even before last week's rate hike.

"Six in ten (60%) of those surveyed said interest rates were weighing heavily on their confidence," he said.

"Interest rates are now the highest they've been in 15 years, and with the prospect of more hikes before the end of the year, we can expect that pressure to increase."

The survey asked households about their spending habits over the next six months, with around half reporting they would cut discretionary spending to offset cost-of-living concerns.

Dr Kiely said the hospitality sector was likely to feel the impact as Western Australians tighten their belts.

"58% of those surveyed saying they would cut spending on cafes and restaurants over the next six months, which could have a significant impact on the sector heading into the festive period," he said.

"Many consumers have told us they also planned to reduce spending on socialising, with 55% saying they'd spend less at bars, pubs and clubs."

People in Western Australia overwhelmingly believe the state's economy will be worse off if the GST share is reduced, according to a new survey by CCIWA.

The survey of almost 1,000 households in mid-August found significant concerns about the economic impact of a reduction in GST revenue, and the potential impact on services.

Almost 70% of those surveyed said they believed there would be a "moderate" or "significant" negative impact on WA's economy over the next few years if WA's GST share is slashed.

CCIWA Chief Economist, Dr Daniel Kiely, said people in WA clearly understand what is at stake.

"Despite promises from the Prime Minister that there would be no change to the GST while he is in office, it's important to recognise that the GST deal is still under scrutiny from the Productivity Commission," he said.

"More than 20,000 people have signed CCIWA's petition calling for the GST safety net to remain in place, which shows how strongly people in WA feel about protecting our economy."

The survey also asked which potential consequences of a cut in GST revenue would concern them the most.

Almost half (47%) said they were concerned about higher state taxes or household charges.

Concerns about reduced healthcare services were identified by 43% of those surveyed, while 29% said they were concerned about reduced cost-of-living assistance.

Dr Kiely said any reduction in WA's GST revenue would negatively impact the state.

"The GST safety net helps to pay for the services and infrastructure we use every single day and without it, WA would be worse off," he said.

"WA's economy keeps the entire nation strong, but in order to do that we need to be able to support the population and businesses with the infrastructure and services that support such economic growth."

CCTV rebate offers security boost for small businesses

Western Australian small businesses could receive up to $2,000 towards the cost of installing or upgrading security cameras under a new CCTV rebate program designed to help prevent crime and protect local businesses.

The Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC), in partnership with Crime Stoppers Western Australia, is delivering the initiative to support eligible retail and customer-facing businesses to improve security and create safer environments for staff and customers.

The rebate covers up to 50 per cent of the cost of a new or upgraded internal hard-wired CCTV system.

The program aims to help business owners take a proactive approach to crime prevention by reducing opportunities for theft, vandalism and break-ins, while providing valuable video evidence to authorities if an incident occurs.

For small businesses across the Wheatbelt, improved security could offer greater peace of mind, particularly for those operating customer-facing premises where protecting employees, customers and property is a priority.

However, funding is limited, and not every application will be successful.

The program's funding allocation has been divided between metropolitan and regional businesses, with 75 per cent of available funding designated for metropolitan applicants and 25 per cent for regional applicants.

Applications will be assessed on a first-come, first-served basis, meaning the date and time a complete application is submitted will determine its position in the assessment queue.

The funding round will close once the available funding target has been reached, so eligible businesses are encouraged to review the requirements and prepare their applications carefully.

To qualify, businesses must have fewer than 20 employees by headcount, be operating with an active Australian Business Number (ABN) and be registered for GST.

Applicants must operate as a retail or customer-facing business in Western Australia, selling goods or services directly to individual customers for personal, household or everyday use from a physical storefront or service location.

Businesses must also remain eligible throughout the grant-funded project. Those that are insolvent, in administration or facing strike-off, or have owners or directors who are currently bankrupt or undischarged from bankruptcy, are ineligible. Businesses with unresolved grant acquittals are also excluded.

Additionally, applicants cannot be subsidiaries of a group of companies employing 20 or more people in total.

Applications must be complete and submitted through the SmartyGrants platform by a responsible person with a direct connection to the business.

Eligible applicants include business owners, partners, directors, senior employees at manager level or above, trustees, office bearers and company secretaries. The responsible person must be located in Australia.

Applications cannot be lodged by third parties or submitted on a business's behalf by external advisers, accountants or suppliers involved in the application.

The initiative provides an opportunity for eligible businesses to improve their security while reducing some of the upfront costs associated with installing or upgrading surveillance equipment.

Business owners considering applying should check the full eligibility requirements and application guidelines through the Small Business Development Corporation before submitting their application.

See smallbusiness.wa.gov.au for all details.

Local licensed security installers in Northam:

- Dean Winsor, Winpro Electrical: 0439 971 980
- Tyson Turnock, Turntch: 0407 890 810

Opinion

by Hon Mia Davies

I've found it difficult to find the right words following the horrific attack on Helen Haines. As a former female MP who spent 17 years representing regional communities, there is something particularly confronting about what's happened.

When you represent a regional electorate, your community is your workplace. The supermarket, the football, the local show, the street outside your office. People generally know where you live. You're accessible because that's what being a good local member requires and you wouldn't want it any other way.

But there's an uncomfortable conversation we need to have about what we've come to accept as normal for people in public life, particularly women.

Developing a thick skin is useful in politics, but somewhere along the way we've confused resilience with an obligation to tolerate behaviour that would be completely unacceptable in any other workplace. The personal abuse and threats, and the expectation that you brush it off and get on with the job.

Our electorate staff are also impacted. They are our front line, dealing with anger, aggression and sometimes deeply confronting behaviour by turning up to work and wanting to help their community.

While we don't yet know what motivated the attack on Helen, we don't need to know that to acknowledge something is deeply wrong with the way we have normalised hostility towards people who choose public service.

I'm not asking Australians to stop criticising politicians. Robust debate and holding elected representatives to account are fundamental to democracy. But we've allowed legitimate criticism to become confused with a sense of entitlement to intimidate, threaten and personally abuse.

I worry about what that means for the next generation of women and men considering public life. What are we asking them to accept? How many capable, thoughtful people are already deciding that the personal cost isn't worth it?

Reflecting back, I tolerated too much. In the early days I was reluctant to block people online or call out bad behaviour, worried it would be seen as avoiding criticism. I got better at it - but as a younger woman I absolutely felt the pressure to prove I was 'tough enough' for the job.

We shouldn't endorse a system where those who succeed are those most prepared to endure the abuse. And the answer isn't another round of politicians calling on each other to 'lower the temperature'. It requires a much more honest reckoning with what we've come to tolerate, excuse and dismiss.

However, right now my thoughts are with Helen, her family, her staff and the community she stood up to serve. The courage required for the road ahead is unimaginable and I wish her every strength.

NORTHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CEO UPDATE by Theresa Lee

The 2026 Northam Shop Local This Christmas Campaign officially commences on 1st November, encouraging everyone to support the businesses that make our town such a vibrant place to live, work and visit. With a prize pool worth thousands of dollars in Shop Northam gift cards, there is plenty of reason to shop locally this Christmas! The lucky winners will be announced at Carols in the Park on Friday, 4th December.

A heartfelt thank you to all the local businesses supporting this year's campaign. Visit northamchamber.com.au for the full list of participating retailers. Every local purchase helps strengthen our business community and keeps more dollars circulating within our region.

Speaking with several local retailers recently, it's excellent to hear their common report of an increase in new clientele visiting and moving into our community. Some have even welcomed customers returning to Northam after retiring to the coast! This is encouraging feedback and a wonderful reminder of the lifestyle, services and opportunities our community offers.

Another encouraging development for retailers is the recently announced passing of the Retail Barring Orders Bill 2025 by the Western Australian Parliament, allowing courts to legally ban violent or threatening individuals from shops and shopping centres (two years for adults / one year for juveniles). Breaches of this notice by offenders carries penalties of up to five years' imprisonment. We continue to work closely with community safety stakeholders and acknowledge the increased efforts by local police in response to retail security concerns.

Northam Women in Business recently welcomed a new committee at its AGM, alongside inspiring stories from local regional businesswoman Melissa Welsh and the team from Northam Regional Gym, who have just celebrated their 5th birthday – congrats NRG! The event was another wonderful opportunity for networking, sharing experiences and celebrating women supporting women in business.

The Chamber also looks forward to hosting our next Business After Hours networking event, hosted by Lachlan Hunter MP at the end of October, with special guest Sandra Brewer MLA. It is a valuable opportunity to connect with fellow businesspeople and meet the NCC Board and staff ahead of our own AGM on 10th November.

Looking further ahead, our team is already discussing the future of the Wheatbelt and the priorities for our May 2027 Wheatbelt Futures Forum. The economic landscape continues to surprise us, and conversations will undoubtedly evolve right up until the event. The Chamber is also part of a development stakeholder team that has commenced discussions about how we can work collaboratively to harness the opportunities and potential on Northam's doorstep.



Photo: NWIB new board elected at their recent AGM

As we approach the end of the year, I encourage everyone to shop local, support our community organisations and remain engaged in shaping the future of our region.



Family Businesses Succession – The Power of Emotions and Traditions

by Dr Catherine Bowen, Family Business Consultant

Emotional and traditional expectations in a family business (FB) can be powerful influences that cloud sound business judgment. This is particularly so when trying to manage the succession process or appoint a person to a position in the family firm.

In a typical non-family business, people are engaged – or removed - according to their skills and performance. In family business (FB), however, the influences of emotions and family traditions can be very disruptive, impacting decisions on the 'who's who' in the family business, particularly during the succession process.

The dominant influences are:

- Age
- Gender
- Birth order
- Birth right / Tradition.
- Tenure (the time spent in the business)
- Familial love.
- Familial guilt, obligation and the over-riding fear of destroying relationships.

Some years ago, I worked with a well-established, wealthy family business where these same influences ultimately led to quite devastating consequences.

This family business had been established over four generations. Excellent management had seen it expand and grow with the family riding the wave of comfort, respect and financial security. As generation four prepared to hand over to generation five, the family found they were unable to alter the entrenched 'eldest-son' tradition. Their children had grown to adulthood understanding that the eldest son was the 'heir apparent', and that son grew up expecting that he would, by family tradition, be 'the man' one day.

Too late, the parents realised that they couldn't overturn a life-time of expectations without destroying their son's dreams, breaking his heart and potentially estranging him by appointing his far more suitable younger brother to the role. The emotional and traditional forces within the family ultimately overrode what the business needed.

Within five years, the entire business was gone.

What can you do?

Good leadership needs to be aware of the power of familial emotions and traditions.

Good family business communication structures are essential in terms of planning strategies. Clever leadership will encourage the family to use these structures to discuss, debate and assess their own attributes and skills, matching strengths and aligning capabilities with business needs.

Ultimately, it means that the family, by consensus, decides who is best placed to lead and protect the security of the business and the family. Importantly, individual unrealistic expectations are managed early.

Emotional ties and traditions are what set family businesses apart from mainstream businesses, but the wise FB uses them to strengthen their position in the business world - not to undermine the business by allowing those influences to make them vulnerable and inflexible, and potential victims of those same internal forces!

Dr Catherine Bowen – Generation to Generation: The People Factor.

Family Business Consultant | www.gentogen.com.au |



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Australia's temporary resident tax concessions: What newly arrived GPs should know

by Fiona Sherington, RSM Director

Being an Australian tax resident doesn't mean your overseas income is automatically taxable.

If you've recently moved to Australia on a 482 Skills in Demand visa to work as a GP, you're probably focused on settling into a new practice, navigating our health system and building your life in Australia.

Tax is often a lower priority.

However, one of the most valuable financial opportunities available to doctors migrating to Australia arises when you first arrive. Understanding it early can potentially save you significant tax and help you make better decisions about your overseas investments, property and long-term wealth planning.

Many newly-arrived GPs assume that becoming an Australian tax resident means Australia can immediately tax all of their worldwide income and assets. Usually, that would be true, but doctors coming here on a temporary visa can take advantage of more favourable tax concessions.

While you are in Australia on a temporary visa, certain foreign income and overseas assets may remain outside the Australian tax system. This creates a valuable tax planning opportunity.

However, once you become a permanent resident, those concessions disappear quickly. If you hold property, investments, pensions or other assets overseas, and are here on a temporary visa, this is a critical time in your migration journey.

Decisions you make now can have significant long-term consequences for your financial outcomes.

Here is what you need to know.

Australian tax residency rules

Many overseas doctors who relocate with the intention of working and living in Australia will become Australian tax residents relatively quickly, often within months of arrival.

The ATO considers several residency tests to determine if you are an Australian tax resident including:

Resides test

This test focuses on whether Australia has become your home in the ordinary sense. For example, an overseas trained GP who relocates to Western Australia, rents or purchases a home, moves their family to Australia, commences long-term employment with a medical practice and becomes involved in the local community is likely to be viewed by the ATO as residing in Australia and therefore an Australian tax resident under the resides test.

Domicile test

This test, asks a simple question: Has Australia become your permanent home? For many overseas trained doctors, obtaining long-term employment, moving their family to Australia and giving up a permanent home in your home country can be strong indicators that Australia has become their domicile for tax purposes.

183-day test

Spending more than six months in Australia can be a strong indicator of Australian tax residency but must also be considered in relation to the above two tests.

Commonwealth superannuation test

This is a specialised rule that rarely applies to overseas-trained doctors relocating to Australia.

Once you become an Australian tax resident, Australia generally has the right to tax your worldwide income.

Temporary resident status

If you hold an eligible temporary visa, such as a 482 visa, and satisfy the relevant requirements, you may qualify as a temporary resident for tax purposes.

Temporary resident concessions were introduced to make Australia a more attractive destination for skilled migrants.

The concessions can allow certain foreign income and foreign assets to remain outside the Australian tax system while temporary resident status continues.

In practical terms, this means many doctors can enjoy a period where they are living and working in Australia, paying Australian tax on their Australian income, while many forms of foreign income and gains are excluded from Australian taxation. In addition, many non-Australian assets remain outside Australia's capital gains tax (CGT) regime while temporary residency continues.

For doctors who have accumulated assets before migrating, this can be extremely valuable.

What is a temporary visa?

A temporary visa is a visa granted under the Migration Act 1958 that allows a person to live and work in Australia for a specified period but does not provide permanent residency rights. Holding a temporary visa is one of the key requirements for accessing Australia's temporary resident tax concessions.

How do you qualify as a temporary resident?

Generally, an individual may qualify as a temporary resident if:

- they hold a temporary migration visa
- they are not an Australian permanent resident or citizen for Social Security Act purposes
- their spouse or partner is also not an Australian permanent resident or citizen.

What happens to your overseas investments?

Many GPs arrive in Australia with existing investments and wealth accumulated overseas.

These commonly include:

- Rental properties
- Share portfolios
- ETFs
- Managed funds
- ISAs and other tax-advantaged overseas investment accounts
- Cryptocurrency holdings
- Business interests
- Overseas savings and investment accounts

Without proper planning, these assets can create unexpected tax consequences later.

With the right advice, the temporary resident period can provide an opportunity to review these holdings before Australia's normal worldwide taxation rules begin to apply.

What happens when you become a permanent resident?

For most GPs who move to Australia, obtaining Australian permanent residency (PR) is a major milestone.

It is also a critical turning point for your tax treatment.

When temporary resident status ends and you remain an Australian tax resident, Australia's tax treatment of your foreign income and foreign assets changes significantly.

This is often the point where:

- foreign investment income becomes taxable in Australia
- overseas assets become subject to Australian capital gains tax rules
- additional reporting obligations may arise
- cross-border tax planning becomes more important.

An important concept to note, is that for capital gains tax purposes, the foreign assets are treated as though they were acquired at their market value when they enter the Australian CGT system (i.e. the date you gain PR). This means:

- Growth that occurred before the relevant reset point may effectively be ignored for Australian CGT purposes.
- Future appreciation may become subject to Australian tax.

For this reason, obtaining professional valuations before PR is granted can become extremely important, particularly for property and any business assets. We also recommend keeping records of market value at the date of PR for any share, managed funds or cryptocurrency holdings.



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Why invest in Regional WA now?

Regional WA has been one of the strongest-performing property markets in the country over the past few years, and the numbers behind that run are still broadly positive in mid-2026. The pace has cooled a little from its peak, but the conditions that drove the growth have not gone away: tight supply, population movement from Perth, solid rental demand and entry prices well below the capital.

Dwelling values across regional WA rose +19.8 per cent over the 12 months to July 2026, according to Cotality's Home Value Index, with a further +2.1 per cent added in the most recent quarter. The median dwelling value sits at $725,791.

At the centre level, REIWA data shows every regional centre recorded house-price growth over both the quarter and the year to June 2026. The reason prices have held up is straightforward: not enough homes are being built. Building costs are high, land in established centres is limited, and planning and construction timeframes are long, so competition stays focused on existing stock. REIWA regional spokesperson Peta McKenzie put it plainly: "the challenges of building a new home, including the limited availability of land, building costs and timeframes, continue to support demand in the established homes market".

The rental market is in good shape for landlords. Conditions are very tight across most centres, with the gross rental yield sitting at 5.1 per cent on Cotality's figures, well above what most capital-city markets offer. That means rent is doing more of the work for an investor here than it would in Sydney or Melbourne. In the Pilbara, yields run considerably higher still, driven by mining and government demand for housing that the private rental market struggles to meet.

Sentiment pulled back through the June quarter. REIWA members noted that buyers were more cautious, partly because of Federal Budget tax changes affecting investors and partly because saving a deposit while renting is genuinely hard right now. That caution has given the market more breathing room than it had in late 2025, which for a buyer means more listings to consider and a little more room to negotiate.

If you are sizing up a suburb on this list, a free property report gives you a practical rundown: recent comparable sales, suburb statistics, average days on market and an estimated property value, all free and with no obligation.

Northam in top 10 best towns to invest in

Northam is the main service town of the Avon Valley, about 100 kilometres east of Perth. It is an agricultural hub with a hospital, a racecourse and a university campus, giving it a more stable employment base than most regional towns of its size.

The median house price rose +26.2 per cent over the year to $542,500. Five-year growth of +135.9 per cent is the strongest of the ten picks. The gross yield of 5.6 per cent is the highest of the nine picks with a figure, meaning this suburb offers the best rental income relative to its price of any pick on the list. Homes are selling in 42 days, down from 47 a year ago.

Strengths: Exceptional long-run growth record, paired with genuine rental income that most metro picks cannot match.

Risks and considerations: Northam is an inland agricultural town, and its appeal to lifestyle buyers is narrower than the coastal picks.

Best suited for: Yield-focused investors who want genuine income alongside a long-run growth record, and are comfortable with an inland market.

Read the entire article at: openagent.com.au/blog/best-areas-buy-property-western-australia

Perth vacancy rate drops to lowest level in nearly two years

Perth's vacancy rate dropped to 1.7 per cent at the end of September. The fall comes after the vacancy rate decreased from 2.2 per cent in July to 1.9 per cent in August.

It is now at the lowest level since November 2024.

REIWA President Rob Mandanici said the decline was extremely concerning, with rental supply facing new constraints.

"Demand for rental properties remains strong. This is reflected in the low vacancy rate and properties leasing in a median of two weeks," he said.

"Unfortunately, we are seeing increasing challenges to supply and a further tightening of the market with the number of properties for rent in Perth dropping below 2,000 at the end of September. This is the first time they've fallen below 2,000 since March this year.

"Two years ago, the Perth vacancy rate started rising from a record low of 0.4 per cent in March 2024 due to an increase in supply, mainly as investor-owned house-and-land packages reached completion and came to the market.

"We all want renting to become more affordable but more regulation isn't the answer. To improve affordability, we need to give tenants more choice, which means we need more supply. That requires a legislative environment that supports and encourages investment in rental properties," he said.

"In addition to the Federal Government's actions, WA investors are facing more changes to the Residential Tenancies Act. These reforms will make it more difficult to select the most suitable tenant for a rental property and harder to end challenging tenancies. These changes risk discouraging investors further.

Article taken from: reiwa.com.au/news/perth-vacancy-rate-drops-to-lowest-level-in-nearly-two-years/



Passion for Property and Family Drives Local Real Estate Agent. Since stepping into real estate in 2016, I have discovered a true passion for the industry's variety and fast pace. "I love how every day is different, and how I'm always learning something new," Sharon Johnson says. Whether it's helping families find their perfect home or assisting with the best outcomes for the client, Sharon Johnson enjoys connecting people with properties that suit their needs and dreams. I have met clients from all over the world who come to the Wheatbelt region, and finds great satisfaction in guiding them through the often-complex sales process. At home, her life is full of energy and love, shared with her husband Robbie and their four lively boys. "If you can think of bikes, fishing, camping, horses, acreage, bonfires, and friends - that's my family," she smiles. For Sharon Johnson , real estate isn't just a career - it's about building relationships and helping people find a place to call home, all while balancing a busy and rewarding family life.

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Fred is proud to be part of the Elders Real Estate team in Northam, specialising in rural properties across the Avon Valley, Wheatbelt, Central Wheatbelt and surrounding areas. With a strong farming background and years of local business experience, Fred understands the needs of rural clients and brings a down-to-earth, honest approach to real estate. Before joining Elders, Fred and his wife Joanne owned and ran SportsPower Northam for 12 years, building strong relationships through trust, dedication and great customer service - values he now brings to every real estate transaction. Fred is also an active member of the community, serving on the boards of the Avon Community Development Foundation (ACDF) and the Northam Chamber of Commerce. Whether you're selling, leasing or buying, Fred's local knowledge and genuine care make him a great person to have on your side.

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Buying or Selling Property? What You Need to Know About Australia's New Anti-Money Laundering Laws

From 1 July 2026, new anti-money laundering requirements began applying to covered real estate services across Australia. These changes aim to help prevent criminals from using property transactions to hide illegally obtained money.

But what does this mean for everyday buyers and sellers?

What is money laundering?
Money laundering is when someone tries to make money obtained illegally appear legitimate. Because property involves large sums of money, it can be used to hide the proceeds of crime.

What does this mean for buyers?
If you're purchasing a home or investment property, you may be asked to provide identification, confirm who you're buying on behalf of, or answer questions about the source of your funds.

What does this mean for sellers?
Sellers may also need to verify their identity and confirm ownership details. If a property is owned by a company or trust, additional information about who owns or controls that entity may be required.

Will this delay your property transaction?
For most genuine buyers and sellers, the process should be straightforward. However, having your documents ready and responding promptly to requests can help avoid unnecessary delays.

The bottom line: These changes are designed to make Australia's property market safer and more transparent. If you're planning to buy or sell, being prepared for a few additional checks can help your transaction run smoothly.

If you have questions about buying or selling, we're always happy to help guide you through the process and point you towards the right professionals for further advice.

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New wheat variety for the west

A new dual-purpose wheat variety developed by CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, will help support growers recoup losses from adverse weather events such as unseasonal heat and frost.

The high-yielding Hurdle wheat variety, which is the culmination of a decade's work, will be showcased to growers at a field walk in Western Australia this week.

CSIRO Chief Research Scientist Dr Greg Rebetzke, who led the team breeding the new wheat, said it could be used for grazing, hay or grain and would provide greater certainty of income for growers in the face of extreme climate events.

"This new wheat was developed in response to the challenges of climate change experienced by growers," Dr Rebetzke said.

"You can imagine the frustration of a grain grower left with nothing at the end of a long season, because of crop damage due to extreme weather events such as heat and frost.

"This new dual-purpose wheat, if it is affected by extreme weather, will offer growers a choice of grazing or cutting for hay or can be sold for grain."

The new variety came about after Dr Rebetzke joined the Grain Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) Western Panel for a spring tour through the Lake Grace region of Western Australia (WA) following a significant frost at flowering.

"Wheat crops were decimated with little opportunity for any grain yield for growers," he said.

"The panel spoke with Lake Grace growers who were frustrated with how regularly wheat crops were damaged by frost."

Also on that spring tour a decade ago was now retired grain farmer, former head of Australia's Grower Group Alliance and former GRDC Western Panel Chair Peter Roberts.

Mr Roberts said it was a fortuitous meeting that has led to a great outcome for growers.

"Properties like ours in the eastern and southern WA wheatbelt were becoming increasingly prone to frost, so we were being forced to plant later and then have heat affect our crops at the end of the season, leading to reduced yield and quality," he said.

"I spent three days with Greg in the spring of 2016 discussing the range of challenges being faced in the industry and showing him firsthand how frost had fried that season's wheat crops leaving growers devastated."

After meeting with growers, Dr Rebetzke started working with his team on a response which first led to the release of dual-purpose hay and grain wheat varieties Bale and Dual.

These wheats were released in 2021 with strong support from LongReach Plant Breeder's Colin Edmondson and hay industry stalwart Mike Faulkner of AgriLink.

"These two varieties were the first dedicated hay-grain wheats in many years and arose through close connection with industry to deliver to growers," said Dr Rebetzke.

"The new higher-yielding variety Hurdle, which is named after Hurdle Creek in WA where the meeting with growers first took place, is a great example of how CSIRO can respond to the needs of industry.

"It builds on earlier work we did developing the Bale and Dual wheat lines which were well accepted by growers, by enhancing genetics to deliver higher yield and larger grain size."

Dr Rebetzke and Mr Roberts will be joined by LongReach Plant Breeders and growers along with GRDC and industry representatives on a field walk to showcase Hurdle before its commercial release through LongReach in the coming months.

Australia's winter crop harvest forecast 'large but lower'

Australia's winter crop is set to come in down on last year's bumper harvest, but still at historically-high production volumes, according to Rabobank's just-released 2026/27 Australian Winter Crop Forecast.

The agribusiness bank estimates total winter crop volumes will reach 62.9 million tonnes.

While 7.9 per cent down on last season's harvest – which was the second largest on record – this would still be 2.6 per cent above the five-year average.

RaboResearch senior grains and oilseeds analyst Vitor Pistoia said the forecast reflected mixed production results across Australia this year, due to "sharply contrasting seasonal conditions".

"Below-average rainfall across the northern east coast is expected to reduce output in Queensland and New South Wales. By contrast though, favourable moisture levels and strong yields are supporting production increases in South Australia and Victoria.

"For Western Australia, mixed seasonal conditions have driven year-on-year production declines, although the state's output still remains above the historical average. And the WA cropping season has been marked by warmer-than-average conditions and minimal frost damage."

Overall, Mr Pistoia said, declines in grain and oilseed production this year on the eastern seaboard – along with the nation's overall lower wheat volumes – had failed to outweigh strong crops in South Australia and Victoria.

By commodity, wheat, barley and pulse production are all forecast to come in lower than last year, while canola volumes are set to increase.

Rabobank notes the 2026/27 crop forecast comes amid generally firmer grain prices – primarily due to geopolitical disruptions to global export availability.

Although, it says, grower margins continue to be "compressed" by high fertiliser, diesel, agrichemical and freight costs.

Wheat

The nation's growers are expected to deliver a total of 31 million tonnes of wheat to bins this harvest. This is 13.3 per cent down on last year and 9.7 per cent below the five-year average. Mr Pistoia said a decline in wheat production in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia this year will be partly offset by above-average production in South Australia and Victoria.

The price outlook for Australian wheat was currently being supported globally by Black Sea shipping disruptions and locally by the potential impacts of El Niño, the Rabobank report said.

"The global wheat market is moving into 2027 with adequate supply, but reliable export availability is becoming a price driver," Mr Pistoia said.

"Disruption to Black Sea ports and shipping routes has reduced wheat trade and increased maritime trade costs, despite combined Russian and Ukrainian production remaining above the five-year average."

The report said this disruption improved Australia's freight advantage into Asia, with the country's much shorter sailing times.

This should support local port prices relative to overseas benchmarks, Mr Pistoia said, while the local east-west supply imbalance may also encourage grain movements from WA and SA to eastern states livestock markets.

"El Niño has already influenced 2026/27 wheat production on the northern east coast and further impacts in 2027 could create the market separation that was seen between 2018 and 2020, when grain moved from WA and SA to eastern Australia to supply the livestock sector," he said.

"This points to a potentially stronger eastern Australian wheat basis in 2027."

Barley

Rabobank forecasts Australia's barley production to reach 16.5 million tonnes this harvest. While this represents a decline of 1.2 per cent on last year, it would still be 16.8 per cent above the five-year average, making it the country's second-largest barley crop on record, Mr Pistoia said.

Abundant supply is likely to pressure barley prices at harvest, he noted, before exports support an expected recovery in quarter one next year.

"Higher US corn prices, lower European cereal production and global shipping disruptions are improving barley's competitiveness as a feedgrain globally, he said.

"And if the impacts of El Niño reduce east coast sorghum production in Australia and tighten domestic feed-grain supply, east coast barley prices could rise above international parity, allowing other Australian port zones to supply more of the country's export program and improving price baseline."

Canola

Going against the trend seen in other Australian winter crops this year, canola production is forecast to rise, and to record levels.

Rabobank sees canola volumes increasing 5.3 per cent to 8.1 million tonnes, which would be 15.5 per cent above the five-year average.

Mr Pistoia said WA is set to account for 59 per cent of this season's national canola output, supported by a 41 per cent increase in area planted to canola in that state.

"Growth in global consumption of oilseeds is expected to outpace production," Mr Pistoia said, "while stronger biofuel demand should reduce stocks and support canola prices."

Pulses

Australian pulse production is projected to shrink 12.9 per cent on last year, to 5.5 million tonnes. This would still be 25.3 per cent above the five-year average, Rabobank said.

Overall, ample global supply of pulses was capping prices, Mr Pistoia said, however constraints in chickpea production – including a smaller Australian crop – supported a price premium over other pulses.

States

The biggest production declines in this year's winter crops were being seen in Queensland, according to the Rabobank forecast, with volumes predicted to be down 47.6 per cent on last season, to 2.03 million tonnes.

While total production is also forecast down in Western Australia – at 23.73 million tonnes, 13.3 per cent lower than last season – this would still be 3.6 per cent above the five-year average and potentially the fourth or fifth-largest crop on record for the state.

"This continues to give Western Australia the lead as the country's largest canola producer," Mr Pistoia said. It has been a "season for the record books", he said, when it comes to South Australia, where the 2026/27 crop could reach an all-time high – supported by the largest planted area on record and strong yields.

The state's total winter crop is estimated to come in at 12.44 million tonnes, up 43.7 per cent on last season. "Favourable growing-season rainfall lifted subsoil moisture above average and supported strong crop development, with limited frost damage providing further benefit," Mr Pistoia said.

Article taken from: sheepcentral.com/australias-winter-crop-harvest-forecast-large-but-lower/

Focus on Farming

by Chris Antonio

Harvest is under way across the Wheatbelt, with CBH receiving its first canola load in late September, three weeks earlier than last year, and locals starting in mid-October.

Prior to harvest, the Grain Industry Association of WA described Wheatbelt zone as predicting a "very good year", and canola harvest started from mid-October. Further afield, results are divided by rainfall. Statewide, the forecast has lifted above 23 million tonnes, though the report's author noted that without the cut-off low in late August the season "was looking at a very ordinary year". Areas from south of Brookton to Bremer Bay largely missed out and remain dry.

In various areas, growers have contended with mice, false germination requiring reseeding, and grasshoppers. Fog and light rain have slowed early harvesting, and analysts expect a protracted harvest, with final yields reliant on finishing rain.

Fuel security remains front of mind. With the Strait of Hormuz disrupted again since July, Australia holds roughly 50 days of net fuel imports, well short of the 90 days recommended by the International Energy Agency. Supply has largely held, with only sporadic shortages, but headers, trucks and tractors will run long hours for weeks. Keeping on-farm diesel storage topped up remains sensible. High fuel and fertiliser costs also saw some growers trim cropping programs, and machinery dealers report weak demand.

CBH expects to finish last financial year with a record 22 million tonnes shipped, but three to four million tonnes of carry-over will keep pressure on storage and markets.

Deadline for workplace exposure limit for phosphine extended

The Cook Labor Government will extend the timeframe for implementation of the new workplace exposure limits for phosphine in Western Australia by three years.

Phosphine plays an important role in effective pest control in stored grain, and is the primary fumigant used across the Australian supply chain, including on-farm storage and bulk terminals.

Phosphine is also highly toxic and can pose serious health risks if workers are exposed to excessive concentrations.

"I acknowledge the concerns raised about practical measurement of the revised phosphine limit and the possible impacts on grain holding times, storage capacity, and supply chains, said Industrial Relations Minitser Simone McGurk.

"We have listened to industry and while worker health and safety is paramount, the government recognises that there are practical challenges in bringing in the lower phosphine limit in December.

"In recognition of these challenges, and consistent with the approach being taken in Victoria, the government has determined to provide the extended transition period.

"As a government, we will work to ensure current exposure levels are well understood and adhered to." Workplace exposure limits (WELs) are health-based limits that specify the maximum concentration of a hazardous substance that a worker can be exposed to in the air they breathe at work.

Following a review of more than 600 workplace exposure standards by Safe Work Australia, work health and safety ministers agreed in 2024 to new WELs for phosphine,



Photo from storedgrain.com.au

including reducing the eight-hour exposure limit from 0.3 parts per million to 0.05 ppm.

The new limits were due to take effect nationally from 1 December 2026.

The three-year extension will provide additional time for the grains industry to work through practical issues around measurement, monitoring, and compliance and prepare for implementation of the new phosphine limit in Western Australia.

The Cook Labor Government will continue working with industry throughout this period, with the new phosphine workplace exposure limit to take effect from 1 December 2029.

The decision follows similar moves in Victoria and South Australia to defer implementation of the new phosphine exposure limit. It is not anticipated that another extension would be granted.

Elders launches new AI-powered Wheat Condition Report

Elders has launched its new Wheat Condition Report, a monthly national assessment of wheat crop conditions designed to help Australian growers make more informed decisions throughout the growing season.

Developed in partnership with Octopusbot, the report provides a regional, state and national view of crop conditions using advanced data modelling, artificial intelligence, localised weather information and high-resolution satellite imagery.

The report analyses more than 200 localised weather variables, including rainfall, soil moisture, temperature and wind speed alongside satellite imagery, to assess crop conditions across Australia's key wheat-growing regions.

The methodology draws on detailed regional analysis and provides comparisons against both the previous month and the same period in the previous year.

The report will be published monthly through to November, with plans to continually improve and refine its contents.

Elders Chief Agronomist Alex Greetham said the initiative gives growers access to a new level of insight into seasonal conditions.

"We've been talking about the potential of data in agriculture since I was at agricultural college more than 20 years ago. What's exciting today is that we're finally at a point where we can bring together large, geographically diverse data sets and turn them into meaningful insights for farmers," Alex said.

"At Elders, the real value isn't just the data itself, it's combining that information with the expertise of our agronomists on the ground to support better decision making for growers.

Growers can access the latest Wheat Condition Report via the Elders website or by speaking with their local Elders branch team.

The Wheat Condition Report builds on the existing Elders Market Insights offering from established analyst Richard Koch, with reports published across livestock, grain and water markets.



West Aussies top the list for driving test fails



Photo: from drive.com.au

by Ethan Cardinal

Passing your driver's test is one of those milestones that marks most people's entry into adulthood.

Venturing onto local roads and freeways by yourself is a memory most drivers remember vividly, but new data shows learners in this one state have the hardest time clearing the hurdle.

According to data from comparison site iSelect, Western Australia recorded the lowest passing average, with an estimated 53 per cent of novice motorists passing their driver's test.

For comparison, Victoria ranked first among the states analysed, with an average success rate of 72.6 per cent.

The data revealed the passing rates of driving test centres across the states, with WA home to nine of the 10 lowest recorded passing percentages.

The Midland test centre in Perth's east recorded the lowest percentage, with just 28 per cent of learners successfully passing their driver's test.

Mirrabooka driving test centre ranked second at 31.3 per cent, followed by the City of West Perth (34.1 per cent), then Bunbury (36.4 per cent), and Rockingham rounding out the top five (38.3 per cent).

Despite this, WA is also home to the driving test centre that recorded the highest passing percentage in the appropriately named Success – a suburb approximately 21km south of Perth – at 85.40 per cent.

According to Amanda Butler, the Head of Marketing from national driving school Ez Licence, the data isn't surprising given the shorter 50 hours of mandated supervised driving for WA learners.

"Mandatory hours are a meaningful factor. Western Australia currently sits at the bottom of the country for pass rates at just 35 per cent overall. This is against a backdrop of significantly less mandated practice time than states like Victoria, where learners must complete 120 hours before attempting their test," she told Drive.

"The mandatory hours requirement is most likely the main issue. WA's hours requirements are well short of the 120 hours required by states like Victoria [and New South Wales]. This gap in supervised practice time is the clearest explanation for why WA sits at the bottom of the country for pass rates.

"More supervised hours generally translate to more exposure to varied conditions, hazard and traffic situations, all of which build the judgement that gets tested on the day," she said.

WA also has the lowest mandatory durations for its licences – tied with the Northern Territory – with novice drivers given a minimum six-month period on their learner's licence and a 24-month requirement on their provisional licences, equating to a two and a half year period before they're able to get their full unrestricted licence.

Article taken from: drive.com.au/caradvice/bottom-of-the-country-the-aussie-state-where-most-learner-drivers-fail-their-test/

Car tracking devices: Everything you need to know

by Stephen Corby

It makes sense that millions around the world choose to implement this technology into their most prized possessions, their cars. The universal stomach-drop of realising you can't remember where you parked last night, or where you left your car keys, should be a thing of the past, along with proper grammar in texting.

More obviously, and pressingly, the idea that someone might steal your car and get away with it disappears, at least slightly, when you've got a sneaky car tracker secreted in the vehicle. A thief might steal it, but you - with the help of the police - will find them.

But with so many options in the digital market, many struggle to decide on the best car tracking device, and which cost-effective vehicle tracker to buy. So, here are a handful of the most popular options to assist your transition into the future of car ownership.

1. Apple AirTags



Apple AirTags, due to the popularity of the Apple brand and the devices' inherent integration to the iPhone and other Apple devices, serve as one of the most popular options for vehicular and non-vehicular tracking of everything.

From the Apple store these little gadgets sell for $49, with 'Precision Finding' down to the centimetre and vocally activated search functions ("Hey Siri, find my car").

Attaching an AirTag to your car keys allows you to take advantage of its sound-emitting technology, which will chirp to let you know your keys have fallen between the couch cushions or under the bed, and (just in case) can survive up to 30 minutes in a metre deep of water. Or your fish tank. Impressive.

The Bluetooth device's battery has just over a year of duration and can be easily replaced, and its size (31.9mm diameter and 8.0mm thick) allows it to be easily concealed within your car (and hiding one so that you can totally surprise a car thief does sound fun). For more information, click here.

2. Samsung SmartTag



The Samsung SmartTag, SmartTag 2 and SmartTag+ offer similar capabilities to the AirTag with varying features and diagnostics. As opposed to the iDevice oriented AirTag, the SmartTag interfaces with Samsung, Galaxy and Android devices only - still capable of serving as a GPS tracker for your car, but in the non-Apple technological universe.

SmartTag 2, the most contemporary of the SmartTag line, released in 2023, boasts better battery than the AirTag with 500 days of battery life guaranteed, as well as similarly water-resistant capabilities, dust resistance (perfect for the unkempt car crevice) and similar 'Compass View' and 'Search Nearby' features that allow real-time precision tracking.

Available through both JB Hi-Fi and the Samsung website the SmartTag 2 costs $55, with a purchase of four being available for $169, reducing the price of the individual tag to $42.25 each.

The AirTag and SmartTag are almost identical, with paralleling features and tracking systems that rely solely on customer preference and personal device interface to inform decision making.

3. Tile Trackers

Tile trackers, from the company Tile, which also operates the location-based app Life360, come in more variants than AirTags and SmartTags combined.



Tile offers the Tile Pro, Tile Mate, Tile Slim and Tile Sticker as well as a premium Tile subscription that provides more customer services and app-to-tracker integration.

The Tile Sticker, available from JB Hi-Fi for $39.95, is the smallest available Tile tracker with three years of battery life (yes, that is very good) and an adhesive backside that allows it to attach to any surface (that includes the interior of your car).

The Tile Mate ($39.95), a more keychain-oriented tracker with a slightly larger size, offers the exact same location tracking service with, again, up to three years of battery life and SOS alert capabilities in conjunction with the Life360 app.

The Tile Pro, advertised as the "longest tracker" includes the longest Bluetooth connection range of 152 metres and one year of replaceable battery life for just under $50.

Finally, the Tile Slim, advertised as the "Car Tracker" for its slim card-like shape and easy hideability sells for $38.46, although it serves the exact same functions as the other three Tile trackers and, if anything, seems just as optimal for a wallet as a car. All Tile trackers are compatible with Life360 and newer models (marked by the 'Squircle' logo) all contain SOS functions.

4. Hardwired Vehicle 4G GPS Tracker VL101G



For some, the reassurance that the simple, portable and grandma-friendly aforementioned trackers provide is simply dissatisfying.

Those with tinfoil hats, newspaper-lined windows and potentially manic obsession with preventing car theft will greatly appreciate what you might call the 'Nuclear Option'; The GPS Tracker VL101G.

Coming in at just under $300, this nifty, CIA-level hidden GPS tracker for your car provides everything the other products have to offer and so much more.

Designed especially as a car anti-theft device, the VL101G shares the battery of your car, meaning 24/7 location coverage and no need to replace any batteries.

The device is also capable of connecting to any device you desire, whether that be phone, laptop, tablet or SmartFridge. Some of its most notable (and neurotically over-the-top) features include remote fuel and power shutdown control to stall any thievery in its tracks, a lifetime 'TrackSolid Pro License' guaranteed, an 'Inertial Navigation System' that provides tracking in low-service areas like tunnels or remote urban environments, driver behavioural analysis, 'Geo-Security' geofences that set physical boundaries for where your car is permitted to travel, and systematic assistance from five different global positioning systems to provide nanometre-accurate tracking.

If overkill was a car tracker it would bow down before the VL101G in fear and shame. This device is, rather fittingly, available for purchase at The Spy Store, where you can further live out your wildest and most deluded James Bond fantasies, as well as AutoEquip Australia and Sentriwise.

Article taken from: carsguide.com.au/car-advice/car-tracking-devices-everything-you-need-to-know-97192

How distracting is your car's technology?

Groundbreaking new research has found that not all car infotainment systems are created equal, with some systems significantly more distracting than others.

Whether it's a touch screen or tactile buttons, steering wheel control or voice command, the more steps it takes to complete a task, the more distracted the driver becomes - according to the research commissioned by the Australian Automobile Association (AAA), in partnership with RAC.

University of Newcastle researchers used technology including eye tracking glasses to measure lapses in concentration, testing drivers as they interacted with 10 native in-car infotainment systems including BMW, Toyota and Tesla models, as well as Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. The systems were then scored from highest to lowest.

The highest-scoring system, Apple CarPlay required an average of two steps and drew the driver's eye away from the road for a little over one second to complete each task.

The lowest-scoring system, the Cupra Ateca required up to 11 steps and was predicted to take the driver's eyes off the road for around six seconds per task.

The study found that each extra step - a touchscreen tap, button press, steering wheel control, voice command or having to repeat an instruction - exponentially decreased the driver's ability to keep their eyes on the road, meaning each extra step demanded even more attention than the one before it.

"Driver distraction is a significant road safety issue in WA. Alongside speed and fatigue, inattention is among the key risky driving behaviours that contribute to road crashes resulting in death or serious injury," said RAC Manager Vehicles and Fuels, Alex Forrest.

"The research clearly shows there is a direct link between the number of steps a task takes, and the number of seconds the driver's eyes are off the road."

"Infotainment distraction can also include things like the response time and positioning of the screen, along with the size, clarity, sensitivity and configuration of on-screen buttons."

"Any task that takes your eyes off the road for longer than a quick glance should be done before you start driving or while safely pulled over, or done by a front seat passenger," said Mr Forrest.

"If you take your eyes off the road for just two seconds at 60km/h, you've travelled 33 metres blind."

The AAA's new Driver Distraction Test can help drivers identify which tasks such as making a phone call, putting on music or using GPS, take the most steps and ensure they complete those before starting a journey or stop in a safe place to complete them.

"Navigation tasks tend to be especially demanding, and we strongly recommend drivers set this up before they get moving," said Mr Forrest.

The Research Project team included Professor Kristen Pammer, Dr Rachael Wynne, Dr Angus McKerral and Dr Jon-Paul Cavallaro, and was undertaken by the University of Newcastle in conjunction with ABMARC and Red Scientific.

The research was conducted to help manufacturers improve design, regulators assess safety, and consumers and fleets compare vehicles before buying.

Article taken from: rac.com.au/about-rac/media/how-distracting-is-your-cars-technology

Chinese ute brand's regional push shows up in real buyer data, Auto Fetch says

New data from Australian new vehicle sourcing service Auto Fetch shows the growth of Chinese automaker Great Wall Motor (GWM) in the country is prevalent in regional areas.

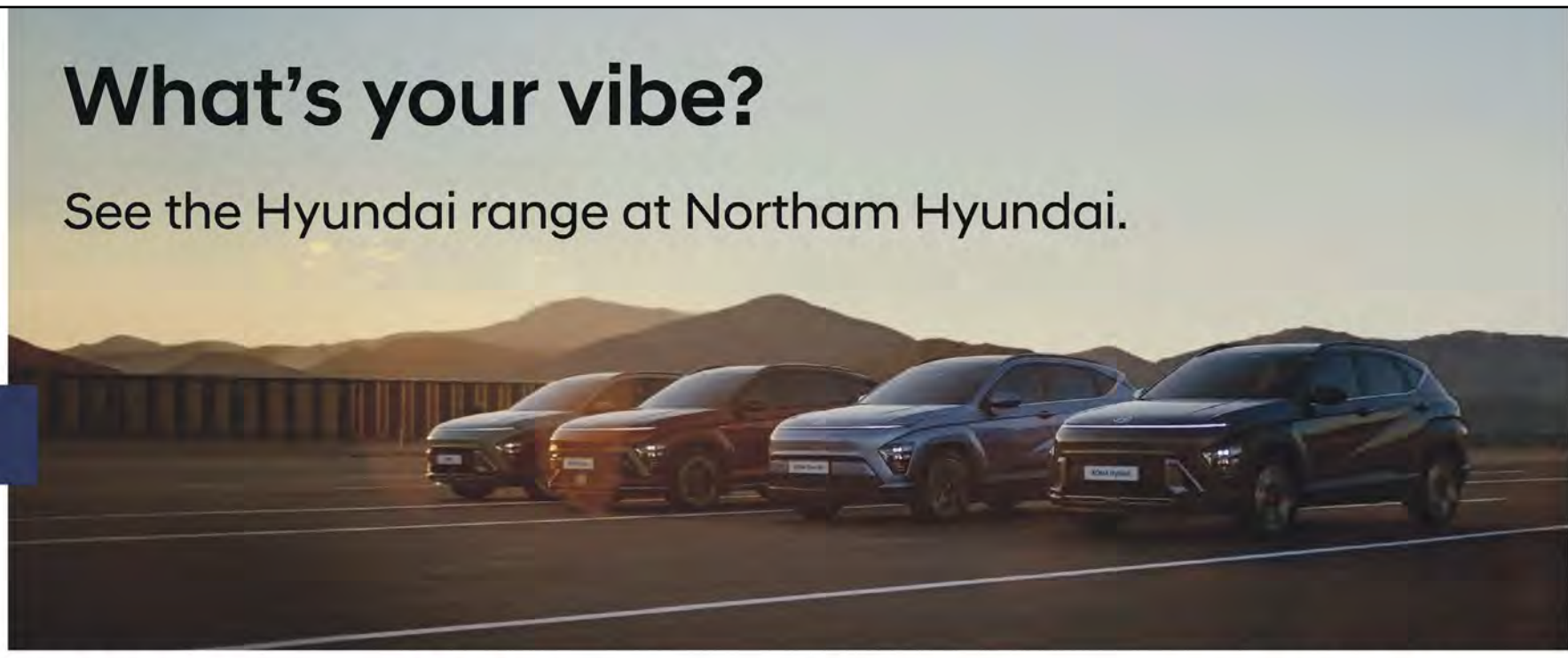
Of the GWM vehicles Auto Fetch has sourced for buyers since mid-2025, nearly 40 per cent have been Cannon utes or Tank 4x4 wagons, as opposed to the SUVs GWM is more commonly known for.

The vehicles have moved through dealers as far spread as Ballarat, Townsville and Northam, along with the Illawarra and Toowoomba regions.

For regional buyers, the data is a sign that GWM's expansion is not just a capital-city story. The brand is adding more diesel and 4x4 models and a bigger ute range, aimed squarely at people who need a vehicle that can tow, work, and cover distance.

GWM has confirmed it will nearly double its local range to 16 models by the end of 2027 as it chases a spot among the country's five best-selling brands. New diesel, hybrid and plug-in hybrid utes are a major part of that push, alongside a V8 engine due next year.

Ryan Toppin, co-founder at Auto Fetch said the numbers reflect what buyers on the ground are actually choosing. "GWM is in the middle of a very aggressive product push, but out in regional, rural and remote areas, people don't care much about a brand's global strategy. Buyers here care about performance, reliability and price is a factor now too, due to increased cost of living,"



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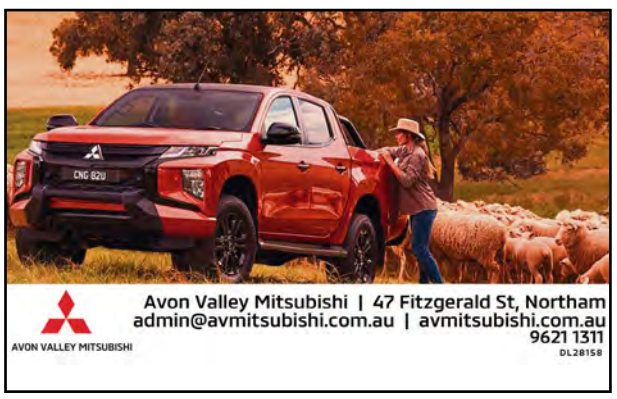
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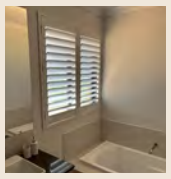
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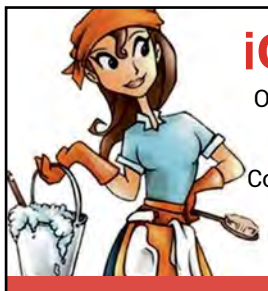


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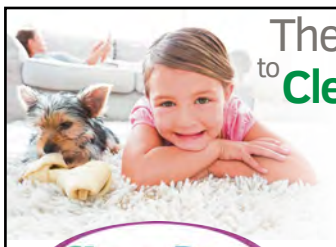
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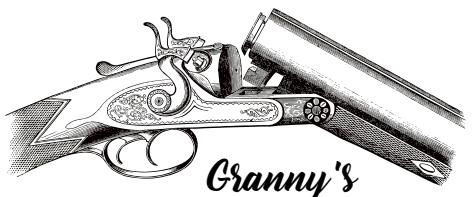
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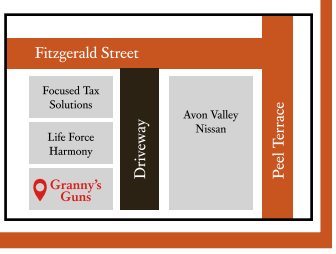


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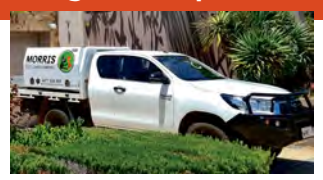


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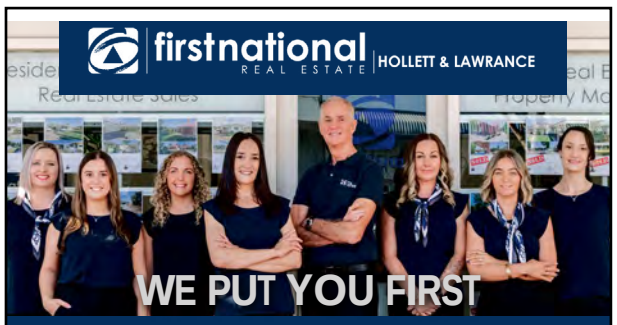
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19 Years of Service: Northam SES Team Leader Ashley Casey



Nineteen years of volunteering, extensive emergency response training and a commitment to helping others have shaped the SES career of Northam & Districts Team Leader Ashley Casey.

Ashley began his State Emergency Service journey in Port Hedland, where he first joined the SES and started learning the skills that would eventually lead him into a leadership role.

Now, after 19 years with the SES, Ashley serves as a team leader with Northam & Districts State Emergency Service, bringing considerable operational experience and an extensive range of qualifications to the unit.

"When I first joined in Port Hedland, I certainly wasn't thinking about where I might be in 19 years' time. I wanted to learn some new skills, meet people and do something useful for the community. I've stayed because I still enjoy doing exactly that."

Ashley's dedication has been recognised with a 5-Year Service Medallion, 10-Year Long Service Medal, 15-Year Long Service Medal and 15-Year National Medal.

While proud of the recognition, Ashley says the medals are only one small part of what volunteering means to him.

"It's nice to have your years of service recognised, but you don't join the SES for medals. The best reward is knowing that when somebody needs help, you have the training and a good team around you to actually make a difference."

During his SES career, Ashley has built an impressive range of emergency response skills and qualifications.

His training includes chainsaw operator, search, search team leader, basic general rescue, storm damage operations, urban search and rescue category 1 (USAR Cat 1), four-wheel-drive recovery, off-road driving, map reading and navigation in urban and rural environments.

He has completed specialist safety training in height safety awareness, ladder safety system, single anchor roof system and dual anchor roof safety system, along with dynamic risk assessment and hand-operated winches.

His other training includes field radio operator, protect and preserve incident scenes, search as a member of a search team, water bomber loader and work in an aviation environment.

Despite the long list of qualifications, Ashley is quick to point out that he did not arrive at the SES knowing how to do these things.

"You don't need to walk through the door already knowing how to use a chainsaw, conduct a search or work on a roof. I certainly didn't. You learn, you practice and you work alongside experienced people. Over time you realise just how much you've learned."

As a team leader, Ashley now has the opportunity to pass some of those 19 years of experience on to other volunteers.

Team leaders have an important role during training and operations, helping members work safely and effectively while responding to changing circumstances.

For Ashley, leadership is also about giving newer members the same encouragement and opportunities that experienced SES volunteers gave him.

"I've had a lot of people teach me things over the years, so now it's good to be able to pass some of that knowledge on. Seeing a new member gain confidence and become someone you can rely on operationally is very rewarding."

He believes one of the most important lessons learned through SES volunteering is that nobody operates alone.

"You can have plenty of qualifications, but when you're out on a job it comes back to teamwork. You look after the person beside you, communicate and make decisions together. Everyone has a part to play."

For Ashley, almost two decades in orange have also brought friendships and experiences that extend beyond emergency call-outs.

Training nights, exercises and operational deployments mean volunteers spend considerable time working together, often under challenging conditions.

"There's a real camaraderie in the SES. You meet people you probably wouldn't otherwise have met, and you build friendships through training and working together. When things get difficult, you know the team around you will support you."

From joining the SES in Port Hedland to becoming a team leader with Northam & Districts SES, Ashley's 19-year journey demonstrates how volunteering can develop into a long-term commitment.

And despite his years of experience, Ashley says there is always something more to learn.

"I don't think you ever get to the point where you say you know everything. Conditions change, equipment changes and there are always skills to refresh. That's part of what keeps SES interesting."

For anyone in the Northam community who has considered volunteering but wondered whether they have the right experience, Ashley has a simple message:

"Come down and meet us. You don't need a long list of qualifications to join — that comes later. Bring a willingness to learn, work as part of a team and help people. We can teach you the skills."

After 19 years in the SES, Ashley Casey continues to train, lead and volunteer alongside his fellow Northam & Districts SES members.

What began in Port Hedland as an opportunity to learn some new skills has become nearly two decades of community service — and Ashley is still proudly wearing orange.



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- Toodyay Events Planning - Moondyne Festival
- Arts Toodyay - Avon Valley Arts Trail
- RSL Toodyay - "21 Hearts" theatre production
- Toodyay Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services
- Toodyay Agricultural Society - Fireworks
- Avon Valley Showjumping & Pony Club Inc
- Toodyay Football Club
- Toodyay Golf Club
- Bolgart Primary School
- Northam Army Camp Heritage Association Inc
- Vintage Sports Car Club of WA Inc
- Toodyay Soccer Club
- Toodyay Kindergym
- Shire of Northam - Bilya Festival
- Northam Country Club

Find out more. Call 9574 4077 or search Bendigo Bank Toodyay.



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E:anglicanparishofnortham@gmail.com

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Record-Breaking Start for Northam Little Athletics Season



The track at the Henry Street Oval has come alive as the Northam & Districts Little Athletics Centre (NDLAC) launched its summer athletics season on October 10th.

The action kicked off with a dedicated Come & Try Session and competition rounds at the Northam Recreation Facility, bringing local families together as athletes ranging from Tiny Tots to teenagers tested their skills across running, jumping, and throwing events.

Henna Garnett Rewrites the U17 Record Books

The standout narrative of the opening meets belongs to Henna Garnett, who has produced an extraordinary performance spree in the Under-17 Girls division. Garnett has broken five centre records across track and field disciplines since October 10th, wiping decades-old benchmarks off the board.

In the horizontal jumps, Garnett posted a distance of 10.72m in the triple jump to surpass Carrie Jose's 2004/2005 mark of 8.92m by nearly two metres. She backed that up in the Long Jump pit, clearing 4.62m to surpass Jaala Munro's 4.36m record, which had stood since the 2004/2005 season.

Garnett showed equal versatility in throwing and track events. In the shot put, her 10.89m throw topped Shari Doig's 9.17m record set during the 2000/2001 season. On the track, she lowered the 200m sprint record to 29.64 seconds (previously held by Rachael Hall since 2001/2002 at 29.87s) and took gold in the 300m hurdles in 59.77 seconds, eclipsing Lara Metaxakis' 2021/2022 benchmark of 1:01.00.

Building Skills and Community Spirit

Little Athletics focuses heavily on individual improvement, building personal confidence, and fostering community spirit. Club officials expressed enthusiasm about the opening turnout, emphasising the vital role that grassroots sports play across the Wheatbelt region.

Parent volunteers were out in full force to assist with timing, measuring, and officiating duties to ensure the weekly meets run smoothly.

How to Get Involved

Online registrations remain open for families interested in joining the summer season.

Where: Northam Recreation Facility, Henry St Oval

When: Weekly meets on Saturday mornings

Who: Children from Tiny Tots up to Junior athletes

Information & Registration: Visit revolutionise.com.au/northamlac or follow the official Northam & Districts Little Athletics Facebook page for schedules and volunteer rosters; email. NDLAC.northam@outlook.com.

Upcoming Meets

Round 3 - 24th October

Round 4 - 31st October

Round 5 - 7th November

Round 6 - 14th November

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Northam Springfield rewarded for 'hands up' approach



Photo: Trent Lockyer (VP), Isabel Hayes (Vince Gianelli Award recipient - junior clubperson), Matt Chomiak (President). Image from footballwest.com.au

Northam Springfield FC has been recognised as Football West's Club Changer Club of the Month for October.

The decision celebrates the club's commitment to supporting, developing and recognising the volunteers who make community football possible.

The Club Changer Club of the Month award recognises affiliated clubs that demonstrate excellence across a different focus area each month. October's theme of Workforce and Volunteers highlights clubs that are creating positive environments for their people through volunteer recruitment, retention, development, recognition and support.

For Northam Springfield, building a strong volunteer workforce is about more than filling positions on a committee or finding coaches for the upcoming season. It is about creating an environment where people feel welcome, valued and connected to their football community.

As a regional club based in the Wheatbelt region, Northam Springfield recognises that its greatest strength lies in the dedication of its players, families, coaches, committee members and volunteers.

The club encourages parents and families to contribute in ways that suit their skills, interests and availability, whether through coaching, team management, matchday support, fundraising, administration or community events.

For a regional club, where access to resources and personnel can sometimes be limited, this emphasis on teamwork and communication is particularly important.

Article taken from: https://footballwest.com.au/news/northam-springfield-rewarded-for-hands-up-approach/

Junior Golfers Tee Off a Successful Season



Another successful season of Junior golf concluded recently. All participants enjoyed learning skills and aspects of playing the game. Some of the juniors are now playing senior golf with amazing results. All have broken their handicaps this year by at least 10 shots. Congratulations to all the players.

The club would like to extend a huge thank you to the WA Golf Foundation and Shire of Northam who have supported them this year and allowed the club to secure once again the services of PGA Professional Brayden McCubbing. The club looks forward to seeing everyone again next year.

Wheatbelt tennis serves up new opportunities for regional players

by Naomi Sherrington

Tennis is enjoying renewed attention across the Wheatbelt, with recent regional development tours, community participation events and upcoming junior tournaments providing opportunities for players of all ages and abilities.

The activity comes as local clubs begin their summer seasons, with Northam Lawn Tennis Club among those encouraging new players to pick up a racquet.

The club advertised a free Come and Play Tennis Day for Sunday 18 October, inviting residents of all ages to enjoy an afternoon of social tennis, games and community participation.

Held at the club's Wood Drive facilities, the event was designed to welcome everyone from complete beginners to experienced players, with racquets available for those without their own equipment.

The occasion offered an introduction to a club that has been part of the Northam sporting community for a century, having celebrated its 100th anniversary earlier this year.

The Northam event followed two regional development tours undertaken by Tennis West, which brought coaching, school activities and club support to communities throughout the Wheatbelt.

During its northern Wheatbelt tour, Tennis West travelled more than 681 kilometres over five days, visiting Yerecoin, Goomalling, Wongan Hills, Miling, Moora, Wannamal and Bindoon.

The tour included 10 club visits and on-court sessions involving 36 participants. Activities ranged from junior Hot Shots tennis programs to cardio tennis, with an emphasis on introducing new players to the sport and supporting existing club members.

Schools were also an important focus, with Tennis West delivering 11 sessions across four schools.

Those sessions reached 182 students, including 73 girls and 26 First Nations students.

Alongside the practical activities, Tennis West representatives met with local club committees to discuss attracting new members, supporting volunteers and ensuring the long-term sustainability of regional tennis clubs.

A separate tour of the southern Wheatbelt delivered similar opportunities across Narrogin, Wickepin, Lake Grace and Pingelly.

Junior tennis activities and cardio tennis sessions attracted a combined 176 attendees, while Tennis West representatives met with 11 clubs across the region.

The visits formed part of Tennis West's broader commitment to increasing regional participation and strengthening community sporting organisations.

Attention now turns to the next generation of Wheatbelt tennis players, with several regional tournaments scheduled over the coming months.

The Tennis West Regional Talent Series will visit York on Sunday 14 February 2027.

The series provides junior players with opportunities to compete against others from their region without the need to travel to Perth.

Competitions feature boys' and girls' singles divisions, with opportunities for talented players to progress to further development activities.

The initiative is designed not only to identify promising young players but also to strengthen the connections between regional clubs and create clearer pathways into higher levels of competition.

The Wheatbelt has already demonstrated its ability to produce promising junior talent.

Earlier this year, York Tennis Club players Hamish Marwick and Phoebe Wherrett won their respective boys' and girls' divisions at the Wheatbelt North Regional Talent Series event.

Both qualified for the State Tennis Centre development camp in Perth, joining other promising junior players from across Western Australia.

The camp provided opportunities for specialised coaching, competitive match play and interaction with leading Australian tennis talent.

Northam Lawn Tennis Club operates from the Northam Country Club, where eight grass courts support social tennis, competitions and junior coaching throughout the October-to-April season.

With opportunities for beginners, social players and aspiring junior competitors, local tennis clubs continue to provide an important sporting and social connection for communities across the Wheatbelt.

Residents interested in participating in local tennis can contact Northam Lawn Tennis Club through the Northam Country Club.

Further information about upcoming regional junior tournaments is available through Tennis West.



Northam's Nathan O'Driscoll trades purple for Tiger stripes

by Naomi Sherrington

Northam footballer Nathan O'Driscoll is preparing for a new chapter in his AFL career after securing a three-year deal with Richmond, bringing his six seasons with the Fremantle Dockers to an end.

The 24-year-old winger was traded to the Tigers on 6 October in exchange for pick 61 in the 2026 AFL National Draft, signing a contract that will keep him at the Melbourne club until the end of 2029.

For O'Driscoll, the move represents an opportunity to establish himself in a developing Richmond side after a season of personal progress ended in disappointment.

Despite playing a career-high 17 AFL matches in 2026, O'Driscoll lost his place in Fremantle's senior side following its qualifying final defeat to Hawthorn and was not selected for the Grand Final against Brisbane.

Speaking to Richmond Media following the trade, O'Driscoll acknowledged the disappointment, saying: "I'm hungry as because I got dropped for the [Grand Final]."

He also declared his determination to reward his new club's faith in him, saying he wanted to prove Richmond right.

The decision to leave Fremantle was not without alternatives. The Dockers had reportedly offered O'Driscoll a new three-year contract, but he elected to explore opportunities elsewhere before Richmond secured his services.

Fremantle's head of player personnel, David Walls, thanked O'Driscoll for his contribution to the club, acknowledging his desire to pursue the next stage of his career.

Richmond, meanwhile, sees the Northam product as an important addition to its developing playing list.

The club's executive general manager of football talent, Blair Hartley, highlighted O'Driscoll's exceptional running capacity and versatility, describing his ability to cover ground at speed as an asset to Richmond's playing style.

Standing 188 centimetres tall, the left-footer has demonstrated an ability to play across the wing, in midfield and at either end of the ground.

O'Driscoll averaged 17 disposals per match in 2026, recording a career-high 27 disposals against St Kilda in Round 11.

Although his AFL season ended in disappointment, O'Driscoll still collected premiership silverware in September, helping Peel Thunder defeat Claremont by 62 points in the WAFL Grand Final.

He gathered 22 disposals in the decisive victory, securing his second WAFL premiership after also featuring in Peel's 2024 triumph.

His move to Richmond marks another milestone in a football journey that began in the Wheatbelt.

A product of Northam Saints Junior Football Club and the Avon Junior Football Association, O'Driscoll was selected by Fremantle with pick 27 in the 2020 AFL National Draft.

He made his AFL debut against St Kilda in Round 2 of 2022, famously kicking a goal with his first kick in senior football.

His debut season also brought two Goal of the Year nominations and an AFL Rising Star nomination, establishing him as an exciting young prospect.

Injuries interrupted his progress over the following two seasons, but he returned to become a more regular contributor in 2025 and 2026, finishing his Fremantle career with 55 AFL appearances.

Football runs strongly through the O'Driscoll family. Nathan's older sister Emma is an established Fremantle



Photo: Nathan O'Driscoll. Image from richmondfc.com.au

AFLW player, while younger brother Aiden was drafted by the Western Bulldogs before being forced into premature retirement following concussion.

Now, Nathan will take his talents to one of the competition's most recognisable clubs, joining a young Tigers side seeking to return to finals contention. In doing so, he follows in the footsteps of other country WA footballers who have found success at Tigerland, including Lake Grace product Liam Baker and Katanning-born Shai Bolton. Both were members of Richmond's 2019 and 2020 premiership teams before returning to Western Australia in 2025, Baker joining West Coast and Bolton moving to Fremantle, where he became O'Driscoll's teammate.

For Northam's football community, his journey from local junior football to the MCG remains an example of the opportunities available to talented young players from regional Western Australia.



A-League action comes to Northam as Adelaide claims victory over Glory

by Naomi Sherrington



Photo by Tom McCarthy

Northam's Henry Street Oval played host to A-League football on Saturday, 3 October, as more than 1,000 spectators turned out to watch Perth Glory take on Adelaide United in an entertaining pre-season encounter.

The visiting Reds emerged with a 3–1 victory, but the afternoon was also a celebration of regional football, giving Wheatbelt supporters a rare opportunity to watch two of Australia's professional clubs compete on their doorstep.

The match formed the second leg of Perth Glory's 2026 Regional Roadie tour, following a 2–0 victory over Adelaide in Bunbury the previous weekend.

With honours ultimately shared across the two fixtures, both clubs gained valuable match experience ahead of the 2026–27 A-League Men season.

Adelaide wasted little time asserting itself in Northam, taking the lead after just three minutes.

Harry Crawford broke down the right flank before unleashing a powerful shot from a tight angle, beating Glory goalkeeper Daniel Solsky and giving the visitors an early advantage.

Perth gradually worked its way into the contest, with Henri Knight producing a powerful long-range effort that forced Adelaide goalkeeper Joshua Smits into an excellent fingertip save.

The visitors came close to doubling their advantage before half-time when Spanish midfielder Juan Muñiz struck the post from outside the penalty area.

Adelaide carried its 1–0 lead into the break, but the second half produced considerably more action.

In the 53rd minute, Brody Burkitt capitalised on an underhit backpass from the Glory defence, calmly converting to extend Adelaide's advantage to two goals.

The Reds had an opportunity to make it three shortly afterwards when a handball by Glory defender Cher Deng resulted in a penalty. However, substitute Luke Duzel sent his spot-kick over the crossbar.

Perth seized the opportunity to fight back.

In the 63rd minute, Tadi Kuzamba headed home after an attacking sequence that saw his initial header strike the crossbar before teammate Lachie Jackson returned the ball into the penalty area.

The goal brought Glory back within striking distance and briefly raised hopes of a comeback among the home supporters.

However, those hopes were quickly extinguished.

Just one minute later, Adelaide substitute Ajak Riak, himself a Perth product, converted a cross from Joey Garuccio to restore the visitors' two-goal advantage.

Despite the setback, Glory refused to surrender the contest.

The home side applied sustained pressure throughout the final 20 minutes, with Kuzamba narrowly missing another opportunity and Jaiden Kucharski forcing a sharp save from substitute goalkeeper Ethan Cox.

Adelaide's defence ultimately held firm, securing the 3–1 result.

While the scoreline favoured the visitors, the match represented another successful outing for Perth Glory's regional engagement program.

The official attendance of 1,008 followed a crowd of 1,136 at the Bunbury fixture, demonstrating the appetite for professional football beyond metropolitan Perth.

Glory's visit to Northam extended beyond the match itself.

In the lead-up to the fixture, club representatives visited local primary schools and explored several of Northam's landmarks, including Bilya Koort Boodja, the town's murals and the CBH grain silos.

The Shire of Northam welcomed the visits as an opportunity to inspire young people, promote participation in sport and strengthen connections between regional communities and professional sporting organisations.

For local football enthusiasts, particularly young players aspiring to compete at higher levels, the opportunity to see professional athletes in action was a valuable experience.

And while Glory could not deliver a victory for the Northam crowd, the afternoon demonstrated that regional communities are more than capable of hosting professional sporting events.

For Northam, the result on the scoreboard was only part of the story. The opportunity to bring A-League football to the heart of the Wheatbelt was a victory in itself.

