

my South Perth

SUMMER | BIRAK 2026



Smooth
SAILING

Watersports for every body

Small shop, big impact

Where opportunity meets sustainability

The mighty Mill

Celebrating South Perth's creative heart





Highlights

- 8** Where gumnut babies grew
May Gibbs' beginnings
- 10** Small shop, big impact
New Reuse Shop
- 12** Making waves
Funcats on the foreshore
- 16** Ballroom without boundaries
A dancefloor revolution



What's Inside

- 4** City updates
The latest news
- 14** The mighty Mill
Community theatre powerhouse
- 18** Drawn into history
Como's architectural gem
- 21** Summer selections
Handpicked by librarians
- 22** What's on
Summer event guide



NEVER MISS AN UPDATE

Sign up to **mySnapshot** to stay up to date with the latest news.



Civic Centre | Monday–Friday 8.30am–4.30pm
Cnr Sandgate St & South Tce, South Perth WA 6151
9474 0777 — 24 hours a day 7 days a week

#discoversouthperth | southperth.wa.gov.au



COUNCILLORS



MANNING WARD
DEPUTY MAYOR
André Brender-A-Brandis
0428 221 278
crbrenderabrandis@southperth.wa.gov.au



MANNING WARD
COUNCILLOR
Blake D'Souza
0450 435 065
crdsouza@southperth.wa.gov.au



COMO WARD
COUNCILLOR
Kathy Lees
0417 776 842
crlees@southperth.wa.gov.au



COMO WARD
COUNCILLOR
Bronwyn Waugh
0418 794 602
crwaugh@southperth.wa.gov.au



MILL POINT WARD
COUNCILLOR
Jacqueline Raison
0477 76 75 74
crraison@southperth.wa.gov.au



MILL POINT WARD
COUNCILLOR
Tim Houweling
0408 416 800
crhouweling@southperth.wa.gov.au



MORESBY WARD
COUNCILLOR
Hayley Prendiville
0402 142 309
crprendiville@southperth.wa.gov.au



MORESBY WARD
COUNCILLOR
Stephen Russell
crrussell@southperth.wa.gov.au



A NOTE FROM *your Mayor*

Welcome to our summer edition of mySouthPerth, your guide to what's happening in our wonderful City.

This issue is packed with local stories that highlight the incredible people and initiatives that make our community so special.

Discover how the opening of our new Reuse Shop in Como (p10) is supporting a circular economy by giving pre-loved items a second life, as well as creating valuable employment opportunities for people living with disability.

We also shine a light on some truly inspiring locals, from Order of Australia medal recipient Darryl Davenport, who is championing inclusive ballroom dancing (p16) to Funcats operator Cameron McConachy, who is working to make water activities more accessible for all (p12).

As summer heats up, so does our events calendar. We're excited to welcome back Southside Summer, our popular FRINGE WORLD 2026 event, along with the free Sounds in the Park and Sounds of Bunuru concert series (p22).



Following the October local government elections, I'd like to introduce you to your new Council (pictured above), including returning Councillor Blake D'Souza (Manning Ward) and new Councillors Kathy Lees (Como Ward), Tim Houweling (Mill Point Ward), Jacqueline Raison (Mill Point Ward) and Stephen Russell (Moresby Ward). I'd also like to acknowledge and sincerely thank our outgoing Councillors Glenn Cridland and Jennifer Nevard for their service to the City.

Together with your Council, I look forward to continuing the work of building a City of active spaces and beautiful places, making our community an even better place to live, work and play.

Mayor Greg Milner

0447 024 264
mayormilner@southperth.wa.gov.au

URBAN GREENING STRATEGY TAKES ROOT

Our new Urban Greening Strategy was officially adopted at the July 2025 Council Meeting, marking a key milestone in our long-term commitment to sustainability and urban resilience.

Shaped by extensive community input – from local events and surveys to a dedicated Deliberative Panel – the Strategy presents a clear vision for creating a greener, cooler and more liveable city for generations to come. It goes beyond trees, recognising the importance of all types of



vegetation and green spaces, from urban parks and green corridors to understorey planting.

Built on four key pillars – Protect; Enhance; Manage; Connect and Support – the Strategy identifies how we will shape and guide our future actions to boost biodiversity and improve public health and wellbeing.

This Strategy represents a significant step forward in aligning our environmental goals with the community's shared values and long-term vision, providing a roadmap for future planning and implementation of urban greening across our City.

A detailed and comprehensive Implementation Plan is currently in development.



Coode St enhancement works

Exciting enhancements are underway at the Coode Street Foreshore, with construction progressing on a new accessible public toilet facility designed to serve the diverse needs of our community.

This upgrade will replace the nearby ageing toilets and includes the City's first Changing Places facility, made possible through over \$180,000

in grant funding from the WA Department of Communities and the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

Changing Places provide essential amenities for people with high support needs who cannot use standard accessible toilets, improving access for people with disability and their carers.

Stage two of the construction commenced on 1 September 2025 following clearance from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and is expected to be completed by the end of January 2026.

The new toilet facility is one of a range of projects planned for Sir James Mitchell Park to enhance the natural environment and make this beautiful space even better for everyone to enjoy.

Over the coming years we'll be making upgrades that will improve conservation and connection to the river for people and wildlife; accessibility and inclusion; and the amenity of one of Perth's most iconic areas on the Swan River foreshore.

Read more about what is happening in Sir James Mitchell Park on our website.



Your new Containers for Change Drop & Go Station in Como

Returning your 10¢ containers just got easier! There's a new Containers for Change Drop & Go Station, operated by Good Sammy, at the City's Recycling Centre. It's a quick, no-fuss way to cash in your eligible containers.

To use the new bag drop, simply:

1. **Bag** your containers.
2. **Attach a tag** with your member number.
3. **Drop** them into the chute.

Your containers will be collected and your refund processed via bank transfer or donation, using the payment details linked to your member number.

LOCATION: City of South Perth Recycling Centre, 199 Thelma St (corner Hayman Rd), Como

HOURS: Wed–Sun 8am–2pm (arrive by 1.45pm Sat/Sun). Closed public holidays.

LANDMARKS RECOGNISED AS COUNCIL ADOPTS HERITAGE LIST

Sites of historical significance within the City have now been recognised through our newly adopted Heritage List.

Council adopted the Heritage List at its October 2025 Council Meeting, with landmarks such as the Narrows Bridge, Como Theatre and Windsor Hotel now formally recognised and protected.

Including a place on the Heritage List gives the place recognition and protection under Local Planning Scheme No.7. It also means that owners must submit development applications for proposals that would otherwise be exempt from the requirement for development approval.

The Heritage List was informed by the recently adopted Local Heritage Survey, and the City thanks the community for its valuable insights into places throughout the district in preparing these documents.



Meet our new CEO

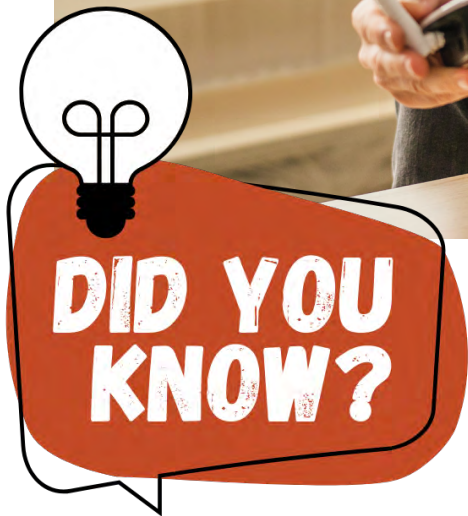
Liz Ledger has officially commenced as the City's new Chief Executive Officer, following her appointment in August 2025.

Bringing over 30 years of experience in local government, including eight years as CEO of the Town of Claremont, Ms Ledger has quickly settled into her new role.

She returns to the City nearly two decades after working here earlier in her career, describing it as "coming full circle".

"It's a privilege to join the City of South Perth again and to be part of shaping its future," Ms Ledger said.

"I look forward to working with Council and our community to continue improving services, fostering innovation and building on the City's strengths for the benefit of the residents, visitors and local businesses."



*Discover City services
you may not know about*

Home Safety and Security Equipment Rebate Program

You could get up to \$300 back through the City's Home Safety and Security Equipment Rebate Program to help cover the cost of security upgrades at your home. Last financial year, the City awarded 212 rebates, totalling over \$45,000, helping residents install everything from security doors and sensor lights to CCTV cameras.

Apply at southperth.wa.gov.au/home-safety-rebate

**WANT TO PROTECT YOUR HOME,
COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS?**



**Scan the QR code
for more safety and
security information**

Top tips to boost your home security

Locks and doors

- ✓ Install quality deadlocks on external doors and windows
- ✓ Fit security screen doors
- ✓ Keep meter boxes and letterboxes locked

Alarms and monitoring

- ✓ Install a home alarm system and CCTV cameras
- ✓ Add a doorbell camera or door view hole for extra visibility

Lighting

- ✓ Use sensor lights at entry points
- ✓ Set timers for indoor lights, TV or radio so your house looks occupied
- ✓ Ensure entrances and driveways are well lit

Safes and storage

- ✓ Use a safe for valuables
- ✓ Secure sheds and garages with strong locks



Pictured: Tracey at Olives Dog Park.

YOUR GUIDE TO PAW-FECT PARK PLAYDATES

The response to our very first enclosed dog parks at Olives and Comer Reserves has been pawsitively amazing. These new spaces have quickly become a hit with residents and their four-legged friends. Whether it's a game of chasey, some joyful zoomies or a chance to meet some new furry mates, the parks are creating a true community hub.

To keep the good vibes going and to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable time, we've consulted our resident dog expert Tracey, Supervisor at our Animal Care Facility, who provided a few friendly tips.

BONUS TIP: Register your dog for free

The City offers free lifetime registrations for sterilised dogs and free one-year registrations for unsterilised dogs. It's a great way to make sure your dog is safe, legal and ready for all their playdates. Visit our website for details.

Good doggo and owner etiquette

- 🐾 **Know your pup's play style:** Dogs, like people, all have different social styles. Reading your dog's body language can help keep interactions positive for everyone. Signs like yawning, lip licking or a tucked tail? Might be time for a breather. Too hyped? A quick time-out can reset the energy.
- 🐾 **Easy does it at the gate:** Wait for a calm moment to enter to avoid overwhelming other dogs.
- 🐾 **Mind first impressions:** Let newcomers settle in without a crowd of greeters.
- 🐾 **Pick up after your dog:** One of the easiest ways to care for our parks and each other.
- 🐾 **Be present:** Stay aware of your dog's interactions and make sure they're always under your control for everyone's safety.
- 🐾 **Leash before leaving:** Keep your dog safe and avoid surprises near exits.
- 🐾 **Walkies?** Discover more off-lead areas on our website.



Pictured: Lynn O'Hara.

Where gumnut babies grew

Long before Snugglepoot and Cuddlepoot crept into the hearts of generations of Australians, the riverside haven of South Perth became the fertile ground where one of the country's most beloved storytellers took inspiration.

Framed by natural beauty, the South Perth foreshore draws artists and photographers alike, coaxing creativity from even the quietest corners.

It was no different nearly 150 years ago when a young May Gibbs wandered its dusty tracks, sketchbook in hand, wide-eyed at the bushland that brushed the edges of the Swan River.

The native flora and fauna,

filled with banksias, scrub and curious wildlife, seemed pulled from another dimension – worlds away from the rolling countryside of England, where she was born.

May Gibbs moved to South Perth with her family at the age of 12 and over the next two decades, this idyllic slice of the world would help shape one of Australia's most beloved children's storytellers.

The City of South Perth Historical Society manages the conservation and display of the City's May and Herbert Gibbs Art Collection at Heritage House and few know more about May Gibbs than members Lynn O'Hara and Anthea Harris. For over a decade, they have generously shared their time, knowledge and expertise to support the care and preservation of Heritage House.





"People often think May's inspiration came from the eastern states," says Lynn, Honorary Curator at Heritage House.

"But the flora she drew – the gumnuts, the marri leaves, the banksia pods – they were all here. She saw them every day."

May's whimsical characters, from the mischievous gumnut babies to the gnarly banksia men, grew from her deep connection to the WA bush during her time spent in Harvey and South Perth.

Anthea, President of the Historical Society, says South Perth in the late 1800s was still developing, with Canning Highway a simple muddy track and the Old Mill and Cottage in a derelict state. But for May, it was a wonderland for her imaginative mind.

Her father Herbert Gibbs, a painter and photographer, was a founding member of the Wilgie Sketching Club, where local artists gathered to paint by the river and mill, including the premier's wife, Lady Margaret Forrest, who co-founded the club.

"She was surrounded by creativity. There were musicians,

"But the flora she drew – the gumnuts, the marri leaves, the banksia pods – they were all here. She saw them every day."

performers and artists. May's mother, Cecilia Rogers, performed with May and her brothers at the Mechanics Institute, which is now the Old Mill Theatre," Lynn reveals.

"Their neighbour, friend and fellow founding member of Wilgie Sketching Club, Bernard Henry Woodward, was the

founder and first director of the Western Australian Museum and Art Gallery, placing Gibbs in the heart of a buzzing art scene," she adds.

Located in what is now a lively entertainment precinct, Heritage House on Mill Point Road showcases original May and Herbert Gibbs artworks, letters and memorabilia. The 1904 civic building, owned and maintained by the City and managed by the City of South Perth Historical Society, was recently refurbished with climate-controlled upgrades to protect its treasures.

Among the most prized items inside Heritage House is a painting of a young May reading *Bleak House* (pictured above), created by her father long before *Snugglypot* and *Cuddlepie* became household names.

"It's a portrait of an artist in the making," Lynn says.

"We keep it safe in the vault, but it is displayed from time to time," she adds.

Heritage House tours offer glimpses of South Perth through May's eyes, showcasing photos of her home, The Dune, located at the corner of Harper Terrace and Mill Point Road, along with sketches of the Old Mill, and cartoons she drew of local people.

The Historical Society also runs group tours that explore her legacy further.

For those wanting to take some of her magic home, Heritage House also features a charming gift shop filled with May Gibbs memorabilia, with proceeds supporting the non-profit gallery and various charities in accordance with her will.

A short stroll from Heritage House across Windsor Park, children and families can view a sculpture of May Gibbs and explore a series of interactive artwork installations.

The stomping ground that once inspired May Gibbs now honours her legacy in vivid and playful ways. Today, as locals and visitors wander the leafy paths of South Perth, May Gibbs is more than just a literary name. She is part of the landscape, forever peeking out from behind a leaf, whispering stories through the trees.



The City of South Perth May and Herbert Gibbs Art Collection is available to view on the City's website.

SMALL SHOP, BIG IMPACT

At the City of South Perth Recycling Centre, the new Reuse Shop is giving more than just household items a new lease on life.





Amongst the trees at the City of South Perth Recycling Centre, two shipping containers have been transformed into the Reuse Shop – a treasure trove of pre-loved goods waiting for their new owners.

Bikes are ready to ride again, books are waiting to be rediscovered, camping gear is set for new adventures, and vinyl records are itching for another spin. But the shop's greatest assets aren't on the shelves – they're behind the counter.

Workpower operates the Reuse Shop on behalf of the City of South Perth. For more than 30 years, this not-for-profit organisation has empowered people with disability. Their team prepares donations for sale, greets customers, and keeps the shop buzzing with energy and purpose.

"Employment opportunities for people with disability can be limited," explains James Wilson from Workpower. "Places like the Reuse Shop provide a safe, supportive environment where people can build skills, gain

confidence and feel part of their community. Our team wants the same things anyone does – meaningful work, a sense of pride, and stories worth sharing at the end of the day."

One of those friendly faces on the shop floor is Shirley, who recently swapped office life for a more hands-on role.

"It's a fantastic place to work. It's a lot different to admin, but I really enjoy it," she says. "I help greet customers, process items through the computer system, dust the shelves and even clean and prepare goods for display."

Beyond creating jobs, the Reuse Shop is helping the environment by extending the life of everyday items. Sales from the shop go directly towards staff wages, meaning every purchase supports both people and the planet.

"With every donation and every purchase, we're supporting the circular economy," James says. "The benefits add up quickly – and it all starts with people choosing to donate quality goods instead of throwing them away."



VISIT OUR REUSE SHOP

City of South Perth
Recycling Centre,
199 Thelma St, Como

**Open Wednesday to Sunday,
8am–2pm**

MAKING Waves

As Funcats Watersports marks 50 years on the Swan River, owner Cameron McConachy is ensuring everyone can enjoy life on the water.



Pictured: Cameron McConachy.

Gazing across the serene Swan River with the warm summer breeze on his skin, Cameron McConachy is finally realising his long-held dream of building a career by the water.

Having previously worked in the oil and gas industry, Cameron set his sights on a more grounded lifestyle, trading the fly-in-fly-out life for teaching paddleboarding.

"I've always loved being by the water, but when I realised I could actually get paid to do it, I just thought, this is what I want to do," he recalls.

A wheelchair user for the past five years, Cameron has become

"I was able bodied most of my life, so having a disability for the last five years has been very eye-opening."

increasingly aware of the barriers many people face when trying to access water-based activities.

Frustrated by these limitations, he considered walking away from his dream altogether.

"I was able bodied most of my life, so having a disability for the last five years has been very eye-opening," Cameron says.

"There are definitely businesses out there that are mindful of (access needs) but a lot of

operators don't realise their business isn't accessible," he adds.

This awareness, combined with a strong sense of social justice and a desire to return to the water, motivated Cameron to purchase Funcats Watersports in South Perth in 2024 alongside his business partner and mum, Losaline McConachy.

The watersports hire business offers catamarans, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards, and has been a summertime staple on the foreshore for decades.



Celebrating its 50th year in operation in 2025, Funcats is evolving under Cameron's leadership. The business is embracing a renewed focus on accessibility – a vision that aligns with the City's own commitment to building an inclusive and welcoming community for all.

Guided by its Access and Inclusion Plan, the City is actively creating a place where all people feel welcome and where the diverse needs and aspirations of all people are respected equally.

Fittingly, the Coode Street Foreshore where Funcats is located will be home to the City's first Changing Places facility, made possible through over \$180,000 of grant funding provided by the Department of Communities and the

Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. The nationally-accredited Changing Places initiative provides facilities for people with high support needs who cannot use standard accessible toilets.

For both Cameron and Losaline, making Funcats more inclusive has been one of their main aims since taking the helm. To support this, they've added a larger catamaran to their fleet – generously donated by Robert Davies of Forrestfield – which can sit up to eight people and includes back support

to accommodate people with mobility challenges.

They've also introduced a wider stand-up paddleboard that can be fitted with seating, offering more comfort and accessibility for all users. Cameron believes meaningful change for people with disability means having spaces where they can share their access needs and have them listened to.

"It is so important for people with disability to have the support they need to feel confident to speak up and tell us business owners how we could do things differently," Cameron says.



To learn more about Funcats Watersports, visit its website.



The mighty Mill

From flamenco to Fringe, South Perth's Old Mill Theatre is proving that even the smallest venues can steal the spotlight.



Tucked behind the main Mends Street strip in South Perth, the Old Mill Theatre is easy to miss.

Housed in a modest heritage-listed building, it doesn't shout for attention. But step inside and you'll find one of the busiest community theatres in WA – a 115-seat powerhouse quietly outpacing even the state's major venues in the number of performance nights it stages each year.

"We're punching above our weight," Vice Chairman Roger Farley says with a smile.

"People assume the large, well-known theatres would be busiest, but when we compare the numbers, we're equal to or busier than most of them."

It's a surprising feat for a small theatre run entirely by volunteers – over 100 of them – who do everything from set building and costume sewing to managing front-of-house.

Among them are locals Roger and his wife Anne-Marie Farley, who first became involved as members before joining the board of management, steering the theatre into its next chapter.

"It's affordable, it's high quality and we're lucky enough to have it right here in our neighbourhood," Anne-Marie says.

"You can see a great production for \$20-\$25, and you're supporting local artists while you do it," she adds.

Since joining the board three years ago, the couple has helped implement strategic changes aimed to see the theatre thrive.



"We knew that in order to survive and grow, we had to think about the next generation," Roger explains.

What was once a modest calendar of four shows a year has grown to more than 10 major productions, plus one-night performances, youth theatre, live music and even flamenco dancing during Perth's Fringe World Festival.

In 2025, the Old Mill Theatre became an official Fringe World venue for the first time, opening its doors to a broader and more diverse range of performances and audiences.

"We still honour the traditional audience, but we've also welcomed in experimental theatre, emerging artists and younger creatives – especially

A group of WAAPA graduates hired the theatre for a production in early 2025. After the show, they asked Anne-Marie to write a letter of support for a grant application.

"They went on to perform at Edinburgh Fringe and sold out their opening night," Anne-Marie reveals.

For the Farleys, the story encapsulates what makes community theatre so vital.

"Not everyone is going to be a footballer or academic, but theatre gives people – especially young people – a place to express themselves and to be part of a team," Anne-Marie says.

"It's a safe, inclusive space and when you're in a show, it becomes a second family."

"Not everyone is going to be a footballer or academic, but theatre gives people – especially young people – a place to express themselves and to be part of a team."

graduates from places like the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) who need somewhere to gain experience."

"It brings people into the area – they grab dinner, drinks, maybe coffee afterwards – so it boosts the local economy too," Roger says.



Ballroom without BOUNDARIES

Three decades after *Strictly Ballroom* dazzled audiences with its tale of love, rebellion and rhythm, Como's own Darryl Davenport is leading a real-life revolution on the dancefloor.

Over 30 years ago, Baz Luhrmann's *Strictly Ballroom* lit up cinema screens and thrust the Australian ballroom world into the spotlight. Its glittering story of love, rule-breaking and creative freedom revealed the tension between tradition and innovation at the heart of dance.

It also foreshadowed the journey of Como's Darryl Davenport – a dancer determined to open the dancefloor to everyone, regardless of age or ability.

Darryl first discovered Para Dance during one of the hardest chapters of his life. His father was losing his battle with pancreatic cancer, and his own career as a competitive dancer had reached its natural end.

"It was two momentous things in my life that combined to set me on a new path," Darryl recalls.

"It made me want to care for people more – and the only skill I had was dance."

His chance came in 2018, when he was invited to run his first Para Dance class.

"I didn't even realise Para Dance existed. Australia has so many sports programs for people with disability, but not as many performing arts opportunities," he says.

"A lot of our participants had tried sport, but it didn't click for them. Then they found dance – and they loved it."

What began as a single class soon grew into a community. Today, Darryl's Manning-based



dance studio, Ballroom Fit, teaches more than just foxtrots and quicksteps – it fosters joy, connection, confidence and belonging.

It now offers programs for wheelchair users, people with intellectual or sensory disability (including vision or hearing impairments), seniors and aged care residents, and school-aged children in education support schools.

"It's grown exponentially – every week, month and year we welcome new participants," Darryl says. "The disability side is actually the largest part of the business now."

"One vision-impaired girl told me she felt graceful for the first time," Darryl recalls.

"In another class, a blind and non-verbal boy spontaneously started singing – the teachers were amazed."

Some of Darryl's students have taken their passion even further, competing nationally and internationally with the support of Australia's top coaches.

It's a more inclusive direction that the competitive dance community has embraced wholeheartedly.

"These days, you see under-13s lining up next to Para Dancers in wheelchairs, alongside masters competitors – all sharing the same dance floor," says Darryl.

In recognition of his contribution to dance, Darryl was named the City of South Perth's Citizen of the Year in 2021, and later received the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2025.

Today, closer to home, Ballroom Fit continues to run local classes at Manning Senior Citizens Centre, Como Primary School, Manning Primary School, and Hall and Prior Aged Care Kensington Park. Darryl also delivered workshops and performances in South Perth to celebrate International Day of People with Disability and has been an active member of the City's Inclusivity Advisory Group.



"It made me want to care for people more – and the only skill I had was dance."

Looking ahead, the future of Para Dance is shining – with Darryl lending his support every step of the way. He is supporting the 2026 Special Olympics National Games in Melbourne, where dance will be featured for the first time – a step towards inclusion at the Special Olympics World Games. His long-term dream is bigger still: to see Para Dance and Vision-Impaired Dance included at the Brisbane Paralympic Games in 2032.



Pictured: Robin and Ann Arndt.

Drawn into *history*

A forgotten architectural drawing has shed new light on the history of Ednah Street, and the story of one of Como's most striking homes.

An old architectural drawing uncovered at a local heritage drop-in session has revealed the little-known history of South Perth's Ednah Street.

The large-scale 250 x 76cm drawing was brought in by retired architect Robin Arndt – the designer behind many local buildings, including the South Perth Senior Citizens Centre.

The plan depicts a bold, modern A-frame house, built circa 1968 for the neighbourhood's youngest couple at the time, Robin and his wife Ann.

The proposed timber-glass-and-brick design was considered

daring for the period, and Robin recalls having to convince Council it would sit comfortably alongside the more traditional homes in the street.

"I wanted to show the neighbours and the Council what it would look like amongst the other houses in the neighbourhood at the time, and receive their approval," he says.

More than half a century later, Dordrecht House – named after Robin's great-great-grandfather's home in the Netherlands – still stands as a landmark on Ednah Street, albeit home to a different family now.





“THE STREET WAS USED BY COUNTRY PEOPLE ON HOLIDAY WHO WANTED TO UTILISE COMO BEACH.”

Robin remembers the challenges of bringing the house to life, including an innovative joist and floorboards system he later submitted to the Bunnings Architecture Awards in 1986. Ann’s memories, meanwhile, centre on neighbourhood life – a lemon-scented gum out the front that grew from a sapling to approximately 20 metres tall, a pool shared with countless local children, and even the rats that scattered into homes after the nearby bakery was demolished.

“The street was used by country people on holiday who wanted to utilise Como Beach – some lived in weatherboard shacks and grew their own vegetables,” says Ann. “Everyone kept their doors and windows open – you didn’t lock anything.”

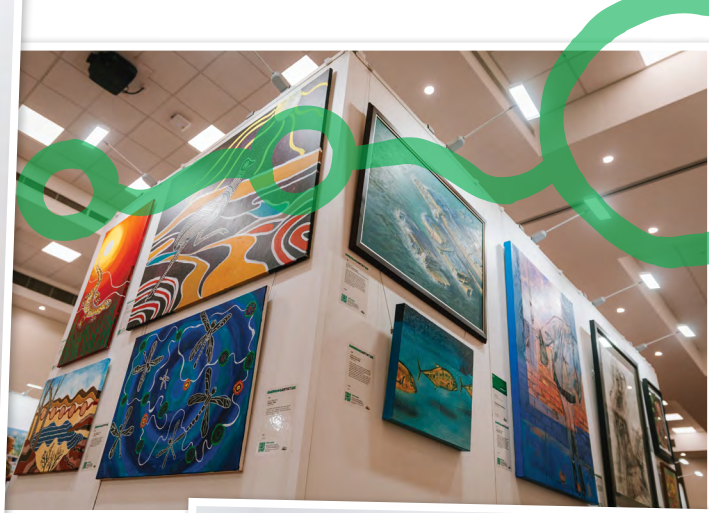
The Arndts now live on the block behind their former home. Once the youngest couple on the street, they are today its oldest residents.

“It’s very different now,” says Robin. “We were told the area might become popular and denser living when we moved in and today the street is much busier.”

While the neighbourhood has changed, Dordrecht House continues to carry the Arndts’ personal history, standing as a living reminder of the creativity, community and family life that have shaped Ednah Street through the decades.



The rediscovered drawing of Ednah Street has now joined the City’s Local History Archive and can be viewed online.



Emerging artists shine

Congratulations Janice Oliver, winner of the 2025 City of South Perth Emerging Artist Award with her powerful black-and-white print ***Come Fly with Me***.

This year's exhibition attracted a record 250+ entries and showcased 128 finalists across diverse mediums, offering a captivating glimpse into our thriving art scene.

Pictured clockwise from top left: Renee Steenkamp and Pip Milton, John Flores, Janice Oliver, Sheree Dohnt, Rohan Agashe and family.



Dystopian tale wins top honours at SPYWA

A gripping dystopian story by Year 9 student Ryan Raghuvanshi has earned him the top prize at the 39th annual South Perth Young Writers Award (SPYWA).

Ryan's entry, inspired by *The Hunger Games*, was praised for its emotional depth and narrative tension — skilfully guiding readers from joy to unease, and finally to dread.

"The Hunger Games series likely sparked the idea for this story," Ryan says. *"I was struck by how it depicted the characters as lambs led to slaughter — pampered with luxury on the train yet destined for brutality."*

The Wesley College student's passion for writing was ignited early in life.

"The moment I stepped into a library, I was captivated. The idea that a story could begin in a classroom and end on the edge of space fascinated me," he reveals.

Taking home the prestigious South Perth Young Writers Bronze Medallion for the most outstanding entry across all categories, Ryan says the experience was humbling.

"Honestly, it could have been any one of us. Being recognised for something I genuinely love doing feels like a dream come true."



Pictured: Ryan Raghuvanshi and Mayor Greg Milner.

Looking to the future, Ryan hopes to publish a novel in the dystopian or horror genre, inspired by literary greats like Stephen King and Pierce Brown.

"To contribute to that legacy would be a dream come true," he says.



SUMMER SELECTIONS

Your library membership opens the door to more than books. Discover these e-books, music and film recommendations from our libraries team.

MUSIC

KPop Demon Hunters
(Soundtrack from the Netflix Film)
Produced by Republic Records



Immerse yourself in the electrifying beats of KPop Demon Hunters. Vibrant, dynamic, and unforgettable – perfect for fans of high-energy tunes – **Kellie.** Borrow now from Hoopla.

READ-ALONG EBOOK

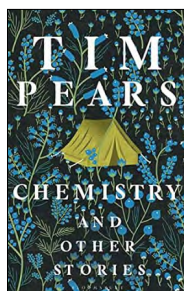
Frogs and Toads
By Jill McDougall & Various



Discover a new world of reading with Era Books. I especially recommend their non-fiction series for young minds. From animals to space, these books are perfect for feeding curiosity and sparking new interests – **Amy.** Borrow now from Era Books Online.

AUDIOBOOK

Chemistry and Other Stories
By Tim Pears



Tim Pears captures life's pivotal moments in these brilliant tales – funny, tragic and beautiful fragments exploring human connection. Perfect for commutes, each short story reveals the profound gaps between us and our closest companions – **Zoe.** Borrow now from Libby.

MANGA

Erased By Kei Sanbe



A clairvoyant wakes up as his childhood self and has a second chance to stop a serial killer. It's heartwarming, sad, beautiful and creepy in turn – **Christopher.** Borrow all nine volumes now from Comics Plus.

DOCUMENTARY

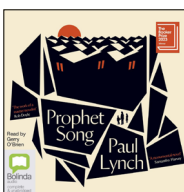
Searching for Sugar Man
Directed by Malik Bendjelloul



This Oscar-winning documentary investigates the life of Rodriguez, one of music history's most elusive figures – **Matthew.** You can find this and hundreds more documentaries and movies on Beamafilm.

EBOOK

Prophet Song By Paul Lynch



A gripping, mesmerising novel portraying a nation at war through the eyes of a mother of four. This popular bestseller won the 2023 Booker Prize – **Debra.** Explore more bestsellers and literary gems on BorrowBox.



COOL OFF AT SOUTH PERTH LIBRARY | With a new hangout area, complete with couches, vending machine and kitchenette, your local library is the perfect place to relax with a book, stream your favourite shows or study in air-conditioned comfort.



Get outdoors and soak up everything the City has to offer. Discover more at southperth.wa.gov.au/events

SOUTH PERTH STREETS

NOW - SUNDAY 5 APRIL 2026 | 5-8.30PM | SIR JAMES MITCHELL PARK (COODE STREET END), SOUTH PERTH | FREE

Enjoy food trucks, international flavours, picnic vibes and stunning city skyline views at this foreshore favourite. Four nights per week (Thursday-Sunday).

CHRISTMAS LIGHT TRAIL

MONDAY 1 DECEMBER - THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER 2025 | FREE

Light up your festive season! Keep an eye on our website for details about this year's trail and competition.

CAROLS AT SUNSET

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER 2025 | 5.30-8.30PM | SIR JAMES MITCHELL PARK (MENDS STREET END), SOUTH PERTH | FREE

Sing along with festive favourites at this community carols event. Also featuring youth markets and family fun, the event is delivered in collaboration with the South Perth Lions Club.



EXPLORE THE OLD MILL

DAILY | FREE

Pack a picnic, wander the gardens, or join a guided tour and dive into local history. Visit southperth.wa.gov.au/oldmill for guided tour times.

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER 2025 | 9AM-12PM | SIR JAMES MITCHELL PARK (MINDEERUP), SOUTH PERTH | FREE

Find that perfect Christmas gift while browsing local market stalls. Enjoy live music, face painting for the kids, and festive cheer.

AUSTRALIA DAY CEREMONY AND BIG BREAKFAST

MONDAY 26 JANUARY 2026 | 8-11AM | SIR JAMES MITCHELL PARK (COODE STREET END), SOUTH PERTH | FREE

Celebrate Australia Day locally with a morning of community spirit, including a Citizenship Ceremony, AUSPIRE Community Citizen of the Year Awards and our Great Aussie Breakfast.



SOUTHSIDE SUMMER

WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY - TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2026 | SIR JAMES MITCHELL PARK (MINDEERUP), SOUTH PERTH | FREE

FRINGE WORLD comes to the foreshore with ZAP Circus delivering their much-loved Circus at Sunset program of shows and skills workshops. Southside Summer will also feature roving entertainment, games and family fun.

SOUNDS IN THE PARK

SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2026 | 5-8PM | RYRIE RESERVE, COMO | FREE

Groove to ARIA Award-winning Conrad Sewell's global hits, with indie pop rock vibes from Perth's Shorehaven. Enjoy food trucks, family fun, roaming entertainers and youth markets - all at this free community concert.

SOUNDS OF BUNURU

SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2026 | 5-8PM | JAMES MILLER OVAL, MANNING | FREE

Rising star Becca Hatch brings her blend of R&B and dance vibes to this free community concert, with additional performances by Boox Kid and Kayps. Enjoy live music under the stars, youth markets, roaming performers, cultural activities, and food trucks.

MINI GOLF AT COLLIER PARK GOLF

DAILY | 9AM-8PM (LAST TEE-OFF 6.30PM) | HAYMAN ROAD, COMO

Put your putting skills to the test. Enjoy a fun, inclusive mini golf experience with accessible holes, a licensed café, and a scenic outdoor setting.



MANNING BIKE TRACK

DAILY | MANNING ROAD, KARAWARA | FREE

Ride, jump, scoot, or roll through this fun, inclusive park, complete with shaded spots, seating and plenty of space to play.



SOUNDS IN THE PARK

FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES



21 FEBRUARY 2026 | 5PM

**CONRAD
SEWELL**

RYRIE RESERVE

SUPPORTED BY
SHOREHAVEN



SOUNDS OF
BUNURU

21 MARCH 2026 | 5PM

**BECCA
HATCH**

JAMES MILLER OVAL

SUPPORTED BY
BOOX KID & KAYPS



southperth.wa.gov.au

