

FREE

Issue 1

December 2015

FREO

StreetWise



WA Celebrates 400 years since Hartog

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Xmas indigenous style

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Free San Churro voucher

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EDITORIAL

WELCOME to the first edition of *Freo StreetWise*, a new quarterly publication focused on real stories about the people, places and events which make Fremantle tick.

Artists, entrepreneurs, pasta kings, pizza makers, fashionistas and car enthusiasts - people from all walks of life explain why they have fallen in love with one of the world's most isolated port cities.

StreetWise also delves into issues which affect our community such as homelessness, retail hardship, high rise and, of course, Roe 8.

Available in the CBD, cafes, bars, newsagents, shops, bus and train stations, the free magazine also extends to Cockburn and Melville.

StreetWise is the brainchild of yours truly, a Freo-based publisher who grew up on the streets of this amazing city after stepping off the *Marconi* in 1967.

In this special issue, meet secondhand furniture king Rudy who drives around in his delivery truck

with a 1971 happy snap of the family of Japanese emperor Hirohito (pages 10-11); Freo's 1985 pasta king Joe Spadaro, who was called on to test drive Freo's first street car run (pages 16-17); and ex-SAS cook Rob Cashman who has doubled the Freo RSL's membership (page 25).

There is also a 'raw' review by Swedish vegan Alicia Passanisi (page 33) and *StreetWise* Gig Guide with 'Baz's Beat', a new column reviewing upcoming bands and music events.

And that's just the first edition. I hope the stories move and inspire you and raise debate in a much loved city at the crossroads. The edition will also be posted online. Enjoy.

- Editor Carmelo Amalfi



Thanks go to SCOOP Property, Duyfken 1606 Replica Foundation, Sealanes, WA Museum, Clancy's Fish Pub Fremantle, Sandrino Cafe & Pizzeria, Frichot & Frichot, Peaches, Bibra Lake Home and Office, Fremantle Prison, Artitja Fine Arts, Kidogo Art Institute, Europa, Norm Wrightson, Pasta Addiction, National Hotel, San Churo Fremantle, RSL Fremantle, Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and Breast Cancer Care WA.

Special thanks go to John and Diane Da Luz, Cassandra Da Luz, the Merenda family, Salvatore and Alicia Passanisi, Koreana Gibson, Petra and Basil Galati, Louise Monte, Joe Spadaro, Joe Rifici, Guy & Sandra Galati-Sardo and Matthew Galati-Sardo, Antoinetta Volpe, Lynn MacLaren, Melissa Parke, Amerigo Carrello, Roel Loopers, Sam Fazio, Debbie Kennedy, Terry Patterson, Cadie, Baeley and Melody Amalfi, Eddie Albrecht, who edited every story, and Christoph Hoppen, who designed Freo's first 'street' mag."

Readers can contact *Freo StreetWise* via PO Box 258 Fremantle WA 6160 or at melnet@westnet.com.au

WA CELEBRATES 400-YEAR HARTOG LEGACY

WESTERN Australia in 2016 celebrates 400 years since the first European - Dutch explorer Dirk Hartog - set foot on the west coast of the 'unknown Southland'.

His historic voyage in *Eendracht* signalled the start of two centuries of exploration by Dutch, French and British navigators, culminating in Cook's arrival on the east coast in the late 1700s.

The first Europeans to land in Australia (at Cape York, Queensland) were the original crew of *Duyfken*, 'Little Dove'.

Ten years later, Hartog recorded his visit to WA by nailing a flattened dinner plate to a timber post erected at Cape Inscription in Shark Bay on October 25, 1616. That plate - Australia's oldest European maritime relic inscribed with details of his visit - is now held at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, having been removed in 1697 when Willem de Vlamingh replaced it with his own plate now held at the WA Museum shipwreck galleries in Fremantle.

To commemorate Hartog's legacy, the WA Government has funded the installation of a memorial at Cape Inscription, interpretative signs in Denham and development of a new website expected to be launched on the 400th anniversary of Hartog's departure from The Netherlands.

Content for the new Hartog site has been developed by Freo-based Amalfi Publishing. The site is expected to be launched in Fremantle on the *Duyfken*.



Enquiries about the government-funded initiatives can be made at dirkhartog@dpc.wa.gov.au.

News and details of the commemorative events will also be posted on WA's Dirk Hartog 400th Anniversary Committee Facebook site.

StreetWise editor Carmelo Amalfi is a member of the Hartog 400th anniversary committee and was media adviser to the 2006 'Australia on the Map' committee celebrating 400 years since *Duyfken's* visit in 1606.

Amalfi sailed on the Dutch Dove that year and survived, just.

<http://museum.wa.gov.au>
<http://www.amalfipublishing.com.au>

Painters, carpenters and general hands - Western Australia's 'Little Dove' needs you.

Freo's 17th century replica sailing ship is getting a much-needed makeover for the first time in 16 years and the *Duyfken* foundation is calling on volunteers to lend a hand to maintain the Freo-built 'Age of Discovery' reconstruction.

"The ship is being prepared for a major voyage from Fremantle to Shark Bay in August 2016, so there is much to be done," *Duyfken* 1606 Replica Foundation CEO Peter Bowman told *Freo StreetWise*.

"During December and January we'd like to have a small team of dedicated vollies helping out with all the general maintenance before we lift the ship out of the water in mid-Feb to replace the whole deck."

Peter says it needs painters and people with general handyman skills to lightly scrape and oil the ship's timbers. The old pine deck will be removed by four shipwrights when the \$4.1 million ship is moved to Rous Head where it will be replaced with new oregon timber imported from the US.

"The ship has had more than a million people walk over it so the deck has simply worn away over time," he explains, adding about 130 square metres will be replaced.

He says the ship's rigging and electrical systems had been replaced, with new sails hand-sewn by Hamilton Hill sail-maker Peter Ripley under a Lotterywest grant.

He adds 10,000 volunteer hours went into the ship in 2014, with a group of 80 people spread across three groups - maintenance, sailing crew and tour guides.

Peter says the aim is to have the ship back in the water by May, departing Freo in late August 2016 for Bunbury on the first part of the 400th commemorative voyage that celebrates the arrival in 1616 of Dutch explorer Dirk Hartog. *Duyfken* will arrive in Shark Bay around mid-October for a five-day festival celebrating Hartog's arrival on the west coast.

Denham's main jetty will be extended and the harbour dredged to accommodate *Duyfken's* berth. This work has been made possible under Royalties for Regions funding coordinated by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Details of where *Duyfken* will be during 2016 at www.duyfken.com and the foundation's Facebook page.



RETHINKING THE LINK

A road to nowhere? Or the answer to Freo's traffic congestion problems?

Locals want the WA Government to 'rethink the link' in the first stage of the \$1.6 billion urban transport corridor connecting Kewdale with the port.

Under the plan, Roe Highway would be extended from Kwinana Freeway to Stock Road. The final stage linking it to the port was shelved by the premier after protests in Freo and Bibra Lake.

Greens South Metropolitan MLC Lynn MacLaren and Freo Federal Labor MP Melissa Parke explain here why Roe 8 is a waste of taxpayer money.

<https://project.mainroads.wa.gov.au>



LYNN MacLaren – Greens Member for South Metropolitan

The Roe 8 highway extension proposal was first drafted in 1955 in an era when land clearing was the norm and scant regard was given to the protection of Noongar heritage and the benefits of public open space and protecting our native flora and fauna.

Some would say little has changed with the government since then.

In the community, on the other hand, passion for our precious heritage and wild spaces runs high, as does the expectation that we plan our city's future sustainably and invest public money sensibly, with a view to long-term benefits.

It is this community passion that has had conservative commentators forecasting since early 2015 that the battle over Roe 8 will be won by the community, not the premier.

With the next state election due early 2017, one wonders how much of 2016 is Colin Barnett willing to spend seeing the nightly news plastered with footage of mums, dads and grandparents blockading wetlands and significant police resources being diverted from dealing with crime to responding to a drawn out campaign.

History shows the precedent for success with campaigns such as this lies with the community – we stopped the shark cull, James Price Point in the Kimberley and old-growth logging in more remote and difficult circumstances.

“In some ways, by comparison, this will be a doozy.”

Along with a highly organised alliance of organisations and extremely high media and public interest, we once again have common sense on our side.

It does not matter how many reports based on dodgy data Main Roads WA commissions (and then recommissions) in its mission to try to justify this proposal; a child could see the road still doesn't get all the way to the port, and the port in any case is reaching capacity.

There are alternatives, and the Greens are willing to work with the Government to ensure they are workable, sensible, environmentally-sensitive solutions.

MELISSA Parke – Federal Labor member for Fremantle

Roe 8, as part of the Perth Freight Link, is a project that defines the wastefulness, environmental ignorance and locked-in-the-past approach of the WA and federal Coalition Governments.

It is a project that exemplifies the complacency and hubris of the federal coalition when it comes to WA. There can be no doubt the Turnbull and Barnett governments take WA for granted.

How else but through complacency and hubris would we see a proposition to spend \$2 billion on a road that the WA government never asked for - a road that flies in the face of

20 years of bipartisan port and freight planning around the creation of container capacity in the outer harbour; a road that utterly abandons the opportunity to get significantly more freight on rail; and a road that ignores the clear evidence of unacceptable harm to environmental and Indigenous heritage values?

This is a project that reared up out of nowhere. The transport and logistic bases for the road have clearly been developed after the project was announced, and the belated cost-benefit ratio analysis is highly unconvincing, not least because it does not include analysis of some logical alternatives.

One thing the Perth Freight Link has managed to achieve is a determined and unified community response. We have seen a number of significant events in which people from both sides of the Swan River, including many communities across the Fremantle electorate, have questioned the project's wafer-thin justification and its raft of harmful impacts.

The premier has made a number of interesting statements about this project. He has initially claimed that trucks might be forced to use the Perth Freight Link but then backed away from that statement. He also said Roe 8 would cost less than \$500 million, contradicting both his own treasurer and minister for transport who, at a joint appearance on August 12, said Roe 8 would

“One thing the Perth Freight Link has managed to achieve is a determined and unified community response.”

cost \$741 million. Most recently, the premier has apparently shelved phase two from Stock Road to the Stirling Bridge indefinitely.

At the same time as the Turnbull and Barnett governments prepare to spend \$2 billion on a truck freeway and private toll road that will ensure rising truck numbers throughout the Perth metro area, there are real congestion problems that go unaddressed in WA.

The Barnett government should be only too aware it has broken a number of promises when it comes to key public transport projects, that freight on rail has dropped steeply on its watch,

and that it has failed to advance the development of the outer harbour.

That is the tragedy of the Perth Freight Link. Not only is it a dud in itself but it also proposes to waste taxpayers' money that should be applied to

infrastructure projects of real merit and urgency, including the Community Connect South project to reduce chronic congestion.



Labor
Melissa Parke MP

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BAN BEGGARS BELIEF

“F**K you mayor!” shouts the homeless beggar camped outside with his mattress and few belongings shoved into a shopping trolley.

Fremantle council’s zero tolerance policy on bad behaviour and street drinking has clearly pissed him off - until FIFO worker Davo intervenes.

“Mate, here’s 20, go and get a feed,” he insists, trying to cover the angry man’s finger with the plastic note. It works, money talks, beggar walks.

Days later, a homeless man pushes his trolley past the council offices on William Street, shouting, “Brad is the pits”. He too is angry; the more you listen, the more disquiet you hear on the streets since the release of the no-more-crap policy.

On November 1, a homeless mother of three who wanted to be known only as Sonia sat on the pavement on Essex Street begging for coin, having been evicted from her Housing Department unit.

“How will the council deal with me then?” she asks *StreetWise*, sucking the life out of a cigarette butt she has picked up from the street filled with Roe 8 protestors. “The government should focus more on indigenous people than refugees.”

“...police are focused on a hardcore group of individuals...”

Many CBD businesses agree with the council, tired of the foul-mouthed slanging matches, physical violence and smell of urine outside their shopfronts. Others don’t agree.

Even the police seem in two minds about the council policy, having issued just one prohibitive behaviour order by November 17, nearly one month after the council announced its controversial stand.

“Rather than moving them on, we need to address the reasons behind their behaviour,” acting

senior sergeant Nathan Trenberth told *Freo StreetWise*. He says police are focused on a hardcore group of individuals who would be dealt with through the courts. Hopefully, the problem “is not long term”, he says.

Mayor Brad Pettitt says the community has been, “loud and clear in telling us they’ve had enough of the small minority of people who at times act badly in public”.

He warned, “people that make other people feel uncomfortable or unsafe in Fremantle are now firmly in the sights of both local police and the City’s officers and will be dealt with accordingly”

F**k you, mayor!



Sonia at Freo festival

SUMMER ON ICE

AS FREO heads into summer, spare a thought for WA Museum research associate Ian Godfrey who arrives in Antarctica late January.



Dr Ian Godfrey

The 63-year-old scientist and father of two ‘officially’ retired in 2013 - this will be his 14th Christmas on ice, and his 7th to Mawson’s hut at Cape Denison.

Before leaving Dr Godfrey shows *StreetWise* the flagpole removed from Mawson’s main hut in 2006 and taken to the WA Maritime Museum on Cliff Street. A replica was erected in its place using Baltic pine tongue and groove timbers as used in the original roof.

“The pole had been battered by wind-borne ice and snow particles and was in danger of being snapped off at the base by the powerful winds that dominate the landscape,” he told *StreetWise*.

“It is the windiest place on earth at sea-level.”

Originally, wires attached to the pole were connected to an internal electroscope that monitored static electrical charges in the atmosphere. It also was used to hoist the British and Australian flags on ceremonial and celebratory occasions.

Ian donned the white gloves before leaving to inspect Mawson’s hut, and showed *Streetwise* the eroded flagpole, Antarctic winds having carved out and left behind ridges of denser wood in the original pole.

The image of Dr Godfrey waiting to be evacuated by a Chinese chopper to the *Aurora Australis* was taken in 2014 by Australian doctor Andrew Peacock.

The image here of the flag pole as it was at the turn of the last century was probably taken by Mawson expedition photographer Frank Hurley.



SLOW down, stay safe: A Christmas message from the WA Road Safety Commissioner

One of the disturbing aspects of my job as WA’s first Road Safety Commissioner is that, most mornings, I awake to hear that there’s been another road crash somewhere in our beautiful State.

No one should be killed or badly hurt. As road users, we’re individually responsible for road safety.

While the Christmas-New Year season is a time for celebration

and family, historically it is a high-risk period for road crashes. If you’re planning Christmas drinks, don’t drive. Give your family the best gift of all by getting home safely.

On behalf of the Road Safety Commission, I wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and a peaceful and happy 2016.

For more information on road safety visit www.rsc.wa.gov.au.



Kim Papalia

LIGHT ON FREO TIME

AMERIGO Carrello is a hidden treasure.

Freo StreetWise discovered the self-trained photographer through local artist Louise Monte, who was not kidding about his passion for capturing light and life through the lens.

His digital photo album is impressive and it's the reason why his pre-dawn image of the WA Maritime Museum on Victoria Quay appears on the first cover of *Streetwise*.

Amerigo is a biological scientist by day, a landscape photographer chasing sunrise and sunset on people's face, buildings, ships and streets.

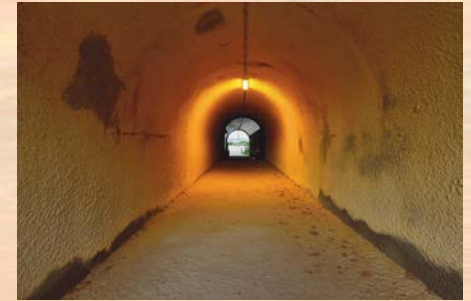
"I especially like how photography transcends both art and science, using a combination of science and technology to capture the image, but requiring a sense of art to make the images compelling and emotive," he says.



The 51-year-old Sicilian son of migrant parents who was born and grew up in Freo, Amerigo says he has witnessed Freo's evolution from historic working port to arts, music and tourist hang-out.

It also takes up a lot of his early mornings and late afternoons. "The streets and buildings, together with the working port environment of Fremantle, provide me with very fertile subject matter.

"Photography has inspired me to see the world and light in a whole new way, finding serenity and beauty even in the mundane."



WHEN RUDY MET THE EMPEROR



FREO furniture king Rudolf Raats met the 124th emperor of Japan on a bullet train travelling from Tokyo to Osaka at 240kmh. And he has a happy snap to prove it.

Pictured here in 1971, the then 17-year-old Fremantle scout joined emperor Hirohito's family in their imperial carriage, cradling on his knees one of the emperor's three grandchildren - Naruhito, the 11-year-old heir to the Chrysanthemum throne, six-year-old prince Akishino Fumihito and two-year-old Sayako Kuroda, who is not in the picture.

Rudy's three mates, who were in Japan as part of the 13th World Scout Jamboree, are standing behind Hirohito's eldest son Akihito, now the current emperor, and his wife Michiko. Akihito's sister is in the foreground.

Having survived several assassination attempts, Hirohito died in 1989 after a battle with intestinal cancer. He and his wife, Empress Kojun,

did not permit having their photo being taken. Protocol.

Only a handful of images of the couple survive, a few of which were taken after World War Two by Lt Gaetano Faillace, personal photographer to US General Douglas MacArthur who, though having spared the emperor from facing trial as a war criminal, forced him to renounce his "incarnate divinity".

Today, the 63-year-old Dutch-born entrepreneur and former merchant navy chief cook keeps the scanned image in the glovebox of his delivery truck.

"I remember walking up to the emperor's carriage where two guards with samurai swords stood at the door," he told *Freo StreetWise*.

The swords were real,
so I didn't make any
sudden moves.

"The swords were real, so I didn't make any sudden moves.

"Next thing I know, the emperor and his wife asked me to come inside. They said they spoke English and noticed the Australian badge on my uniform. The kids also spoke good English and kept asking me about Skippy the bush kangaroo, which was big at the time. Then it just went from there."

The photo was taken by one of the emperor's guards, captured on Fuji film, the image reproduced here for the first time in 44 years. One thing is for sure, Rudy gets around.

Having sailed to Gallipoli on the original sea route taken by the Anzacs as part of the 100th anniversary commemorations of World War One, the owner of Bibra Lake Home and Office has visited four continents in the past seven years and plans to hike the world heritage-listed Inca trail from Cusco to Machu Picchu in Peru.

Fighting fit, ready to climb any mountain, he works out during quiet times of the day with his personal collection of weights tucked behind the counter. There is nothing secondhand about this guy.

Starting 20 years ago with just 220 square metres, Rudy now trades from a 2075sqm unit near the corner of Barrington Street and Stock Road, buying and selling new and used furniture including ex-display items from across the metro area.

"I just bought Mick Lombardo's 30-year-old boardroom table," he says, before adding a little known fact about former America's Cup businessman Alan Bond's boardroom table. "Most board tables are about 1200cm wide, but Bondy's was 1700cm wide. That's so no one could reach across and punch him. Some of his meetings were very volatile."



Rudy's parents migrated to WA in 1955, spending three months at the Northam army camp before moving to Medina then Hamilton Hill. Educated at St Jerome's Primary School and St Brendan's High School (now Seton Catholic College off Stock Road, Samson), Rudy has a son and daughter and two grandchildren.

His father was a carpenter who worked as a plant operator at the BP refinery in Kwinana for 25 years, having served in World War Two as a regimental sergeant major in the Dutch army.

His mum was a dress maker and member of St Patrick's church choir for 25 years.

Rudy also served in the RAAF from 1975 and 1981, after which he coached Fremantle's rugby juniors from 1981 to 1997. One of five siblings, the successful businessman with a long memory told *StreetWise* the only few customers he has lost are those who have died: "I've outlived some of my clients who have been with me for years.

Rudy says the secret to his longevity is giving people value for money and professional service.

"I've been a people person all my life. I've done up a lot of places in Freo. People come to me. They send their stuff here instead of going to landfill

where they pay a lot of money to get rid of it."

Having just bought a new place in Bicton, his family home on the hill where Carrington and South streets meet is on the market. Part of the property was used for stables owned by WA racing identity Jim Chadwick, who has a street in Hilton named after him. In the 1960s and 1970s, the site was used by Drs Daly and Mofflin, who also have street names.

"I'll get round to retirement, just not today," Rudy says.

TUNED TO THE LAW

FRICHOT and Frichot's newest lawyer brings to Freo's biggest law firm a wealth of experience and strong connections in the local community.

Carmelo Zagami, 45, joined 'Frichots' in November 2015 having practised in many areas of law ranging from family law and wills to confiscations and complex commercial matters.

Born at Woodside in East Fremantle, Carmelo went to Christ the King and St Patrick's before attending Christian Brothers College.

A keen soccer player, vice-captain of the CBC senior soccer team, Carmelo was appointed secretary of the Fremantle United Soccer & Recreational Club in Hilton for two years and president for two more years.

"I grew up in Wiluna Avenue in White Gum Valley, then moved to Grosvenor Street in Beaconsfield and now live on South Street in White Gum Valley," he says, his migrant parents having met on Solomon Street.

Carmelo originally worked in a medical laboratory, "but at hospital, I was stuck in a lab all day and didn't see anyone. I saw lots of samples, but there was no personal contact".

Carmelo's professional life involved working as a real estate sales rep in Freo from 1998 to 2004. Then, in late 1999, he was appointed as a justice of the peace, "which is when my interest in law really started".

By 2004, he worked at a property settlement agency before taking up a position in 2006 as a paralegal in banking and finance at Mullins Hancock. In 2011, he practised at Fiocco's Lawyers until it was sold to Slater & Gordon.

Carmelo's new employer practises family law, wills and estates, personal injury, criminal law and migration law. Founded in 1980, its directors are Vito Dangubic, Ante Zorotovic, Ashley Wilson, Nick Gvozdin and Natale Ricciardi. Further details at www.frichot.com.au.



Frichot & Frichot

LAWYERS

& NOTARIES PUBLIC

SCOOPING THE POOL

THEY are the hottest property in Freo. They also are the port city's greatest advocates and part of the community they have lived and worked in for more than 30 years.

SCOOP Property directors John and Diane Da Luz are part of the Freo fabric, childhood sweethearts who have gone from rags to real estate riches in the face of financial crises, booms and bust.

In less than five years they have built an agency that has achieved state and national awards for their innovative and proven marketing methods.

Consistently one of the industry's 'high achievers', John is described as a forward thinker, good at solving complex issues while focused on positive and successful outcomes.

"Fremantle hit rock bottom about two to three years ago," the 53-year-old father of four told *StreetWise*. "The global financial crisis hurt a lot of businesses, but it also triggered the need to implement change.

"Fremantle has a long way to go, but I'd be opening up in Freo rather than anywhere else. We often escort overseas investors around the city and they can't believe what we have here."

Diane agrees. "People talk a lot about the decline in retail, but the reality is that today online trading is revolutionising consumer spending.

"The shift in how we sell, what platform we use to market a product and the process in which this is done transcends retail and all types of business, and is not reflective of Freo. The fact that other cities are experiencing a lull in retail demonstrates that this is not unique to our environment."

Having both grown up in Fremantle, and working out of their Norfolk Street business with a highly professional crew of 20 staff, John and Diane are passionate about Freo and the people who make up its rich cultural fabric.

"We have always been in Freo," Diane says over lunch at The Roasting Warehouse on South Terrace. "We have always been part of the community. We love people, there is always someone to say hello to when you are in the city."

Celebrating 30 years together, Diane and John say the secret to their successful partnership is having a strong network of social and professional contacts and family support.

"People come to you with their biggest asset, and usually through a variety of situations," John says. "It's about understanding and connecting with people, being upfront and transparent.

"People come to us, because they know how we operate."

The name 'SCOOP' was chosen to attract people to the latest news in property, which is everything in real estate buying and selling.

John and Diane Da Luz



FAITH PAYS OFF FOR FREO GIRLS



TWO sisters. A dream to live in Australia. And a canonised Christian priest whose powers of healing still resonate today in the hearts of believers around the world, including in Freo.

Nancy Merenda lost her younger sister Tina to cancer in 2011, her memory enshrined in Sant'Angelo di Brolo, Sicily, where a statue of Pio was erected and paid for by her husband Sam.

Nancy says she and her sister were tight, the 69-year-old Coogee co-founder of Homestyle Salads finding it very difficult to talk when asked about "Tindara".

"She was tough, and battled with her sickness for at least 10 years," she told *Freo StreetWise*. "We were never apart. We were Freo girls."

Nancy says their first job was packing meat for export at the former Robb jetty abattoir where they worked for 18 years with sisters Giaconda and Rose and sister-in-law Adelina.

They had never heard English spoken until they arrived in WA.

"Tina was strong, she was a hard worker," her husband Vince adds, having also hailed from Saint'Angelo. The homesick sisters returned to Sicily for the first time in 1975, after which they

decided to start a market garden in Munster. From 1987, in a small shed on their Henderson Street property, they started to peel potatoes for a living.

On the advice of Perth property developers Adrian and Tony Fini, the sisters opened their first retail outlet at the Fini brothers' Stock Road Markets, where they sold produce for the next 10 years.

By the early 1990s, having invested in new automated technologies, their Munster-based factory became the supplier of choice for pre-packed fruit and vegetables in WA. "Tina and I loved it here," Nancy says. "We always had it in our heads to come to WA, I wanted to speak English."

Nancy and Tina's mother also came to WA in 1967 and settled in Pilbara Street in Beaconsfield after her husband, a stonemason also from Sant'Angelo, died of lung disease after working in mines on the Aeolian island of Lipari off northeastern Sicily.

"We were never apart. We were Freo girls."

Nancy and the late Tina Merenda



Her mum passed away in 2003 and was buried with her husband whose remains were brought to Perth 15 years ago after the death of their first son Carmelo.

Nancy says Tina also was devoted to Padre Pio: "So after she passed away, our family put up a memorial for her in Sant'Angelo."

Saint Pio was beautified in 1999 and canonised by Pope John Paul II in 2002 after achieving worldwide fame for bearing the stigmata - the wounds inflicted on Jesus Christ on the cross. The blood flowing from the stigmata supposedly smelled of perfumed flowers.

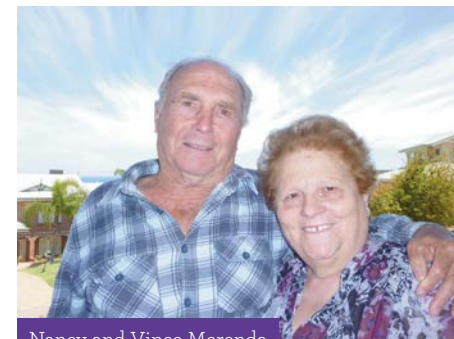
Tina's well known generosity and hard work rubbed off on her two sons Santo and Joe, who developed the Homestyle brand into one of the most successful companies in WA, employing more than 50 people and turning over tens of millions each year.

With their wives Joyce and Doreen and dad Sam, they also founded the Merenda Fund within the Fremantle Foundation. In its first year, it established the Circus Workshop at the Fremantle PCYC.

One of nine children, Nancy says the Merendas have 111 direct family members living in most suburbs of Fremantle.

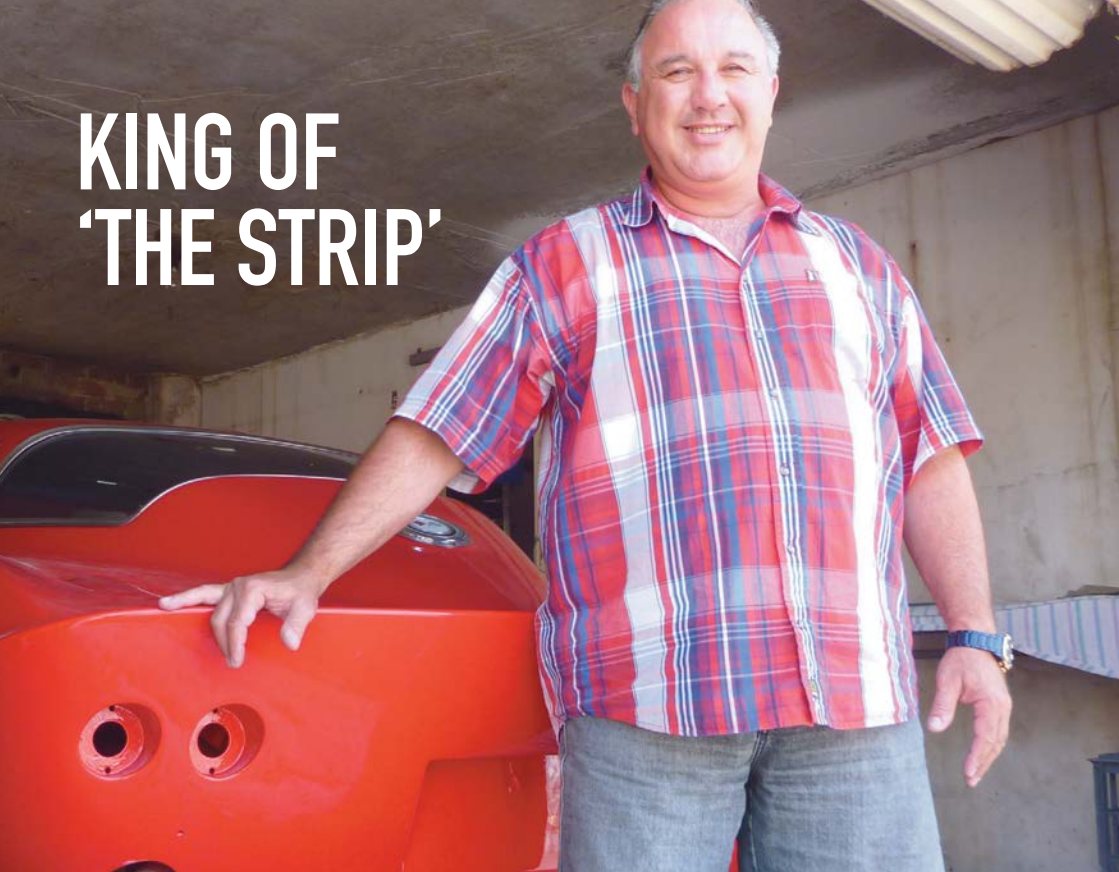
The mother of two girls Pina and Antonella recalls she was the first member of her family to have flown to WA because she was not allowed to travel by sea while pregnant. "I was told I could not travel by boat, so while I was standing under an olive tree I noticed a plane overhead and said I would fly to Australia."

Three months later she touched down in her adopted country and gave birth to her first child in North Fremantle hospital.



Nancy and Vince Merenda

KING OF 'THE STRIP'



JOE Spadaro is Freo's Corvette king. Mechanically minded with a big appetite that saw him down 1.2kg of pasta in 3.2 minutes to become the city's 1985 pasta champ, the Harvey-born 'Spud' is a perfectionist.

"It has to be spot on before I let it out," he says, checking out the sting-red paintwork on his 1953 dream car he last had on the road in 2006.

"It's a been a project," he explains unwrapping a set of original 15 by 10 inch-deep chrome rear rims just arrived from Detroit in the US.

Joe moved to Freo in late 1970, aged 12, his father having migrated from Italy in 1952. The eldest of three children including Nancy, 55,

Joe's Corvette



and Ross, 52, the Freo boy was one month old when his parents, who married in Harvey, moved to Dalkeith to open up a fruit supply shop.

"I bought my first Corvette on April 28, 1979, seven days after my 21st birthday," he says, his dream of owning one inspired by the 1973 film *American Graffiti*.

"I picked it up from a car yard on the corner of South Street and South Terrace. The former owner John Rossi had an

accident in it and because he had no insurance traded it in for another car.

"I bought it damaged, stripped it back to the chassis and the rest is history."

Joe says Perth had a thriving street car culture.

"Your car was your world. You drove it, looked after it, you went to the drive-ins on weekends," he says, adding any proposal to ban them from 'The Strip' was crazy.

"Bog laps made Freo's cappuccino strip. A few months ago someone in council complained there were too many hot rods taking up the parking space at Captain Munchie's."

The car park is a traditional mustering point for old cars, and old friends.

"Do you know how hot-rodding started?" he asks. "During the prohibition years in the US, guys used to drive from state to state and to avoid the cops hotted up cars with big engines and tyres."

Joe not only works on cars, he collects them. His extensive set of model Corvettes fill one wall of his South Terrace home.

"Bog laps made Freo's cappuccino strip."

"All these model cars have a story," he says. "This a one-eighth sized model Corvette made in France with carpet in the interior and boot. "This one is pure crystal, which I bought in Singapore for \$28. This one was issued by Franklin Mint and this one is a meccano model."

One of his favourites included a ceramic model used as a bombonieri at a friend's wedding, with the word 'Corvetto' on its number plate.

In 2004, he travelled to California and attended the Corvettes at Carlisle car show, "where 84 acres of land was covered in Corvettes for three days".

On November 29, Joe got to relive his youth after helping *StreetWise* organise a 'test run' of the Freo 'bog lap'. Images of the event are on the next page and posted on Facebook.

Joe rode in Beta Spuds owner Carlo Cocciolone's black Chevy 789, waving to his many admirers, which include (he was not there) Sultan Ibrahim Ismail of Johor, Malaysia, who has his own collection of old and new cars and calls on the 'king' when he visits Freo.





THE CARS THAT MOVED FREQ



STINGRAYS, Shakers, Chevys, GTRs and HQs. No, they're not cocktails, they are the names behind some of the hottest street cars on the planet.

And on November 29, hundreds of people converged on Freq's Cappuccino Strip to get a closer look at and take photos of some of this city's best classic and vintage cars.

The metallic spectacle appeared online within minutes, one admirer posting it with audio of AC/DC's 'You Shook Me All Night Long'. People cheered and clapped, one curious onlooker informed by her cafe waiter, "this is what they did in the '80s".

The 'test run' organised by *Freq StreetWise* was the precursor to Freq's street car charity cruise which will be held on *Valentine's Day 2016* to raise funds for breast and prostate cancer research.

Supported by the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and Breast Cancer Care WA, *StreetWise* hopes to make it an annual event - so donate on the day and support an important cause.

"Breast Cancer Care WA receives no government funding, we rely on the generosity of the community to continue providing personalised support services to women, men and their families affected by breast cancer," fundraising coordinator Joanne Suckling says.

"We're here to make sure no one goes through breast cancer alone and without people like you we couldn't do what we do. Thank you so much for your support."

www.prostate.org.au
www.breastcancer.org.au

SHE'S A BEAUTY, BY GEORGE

CROATIAN car enthusiast Jure Sain has two wives. One lives in his Spearwood home in Hamilton Road, the other 'wife' on a hydraulic hoist in the back shed.

"When I was young, I asked my wife to marry me but she said we were too young and it was not the right time," he explains.

"So I said, 'OK, I not ask you again. If you want to marry me you have to buy me a 1957 red Cadillac from America.'"

After 10 years, his wife asked him whether his offer was still on the table, to which Jure - George to those who know him - said yes.

"And there she is," the car fanatic with a circus strongman's moustache exclaims as he pulls back the cover on what he refers to jokingly as, "my second wife".

"I just gave her grease and oil change."

Every Saturday, George and his real wife take the cadillac on their traditional early morning cruise through Freo. Better known for his collection of Studebakers, the 70-year-old collector and restorer was 15 when he arrived from Korcula with

his mother and sister.

George worked as a crane driver and later as a market gardener, his family's details included on the WA Museum Welcome Walls on Victoria Quay, panel number 184.

He also drives Father Christmas around Cockburn.

George's collection includes three limos, which he hires out for weddings and special events, a 1963 V8 Ford Customline, a Buick and restored Army jeep.

His 1964 Studebaker

Daytona Limo V8 was built with his brother Domenik after they cut up a 1963 Daytona Wagonaire and 1964 Cruiser to create the 5m, six-door car often seen at weddings in Freo. It carries eight people and the middle seat converts into a double bed, "for relaxation".

It also has a stereo cassette deck, ladies make-up compartment and a fridge.



DESERT ART FOR CHRISTMAS

“IT was osmosis,” Artitja Fine Art co-founder Anna Kanaris recalls as she unpacks a new shipment of delicate Christmas baubles, scarfs and small teapots hand-painted by Aboriginal artists from central Australia.

“A friend of ours in London had met stolen generation artist Barbara Weir in Darwin in the early 1990s and loved her work so much she wanted us to source it for her.

“Then in 1999, a friend of ours invited six friends to come along and view some of the indigenous art we had on show, and now we have over 1000 people on our client list.”

Inspired by the fusion of Aboriginal art and culture on canvas, wood and ceramics, the part-time radio producer with partner Arthur Clarke established Artitja in 2004 when they launched their first “pop-up” gallery in Freo.

Since then, their list of art connoisseurs includes Janet Holmes a Court, the WA Museum and National Gallery of Victoria, as well as buyers from around Australia and overseas.

Appropriately, the name Artitja refers to the seed of a species of acacia which grows in the heart of Australia, Anna and Arthur having chosen it as a reflection of a business that continues to grow.

Based in South Fremantle, the successful business was highly commended for excellence in enterprise and innovation at the 2015 Fremantle Business Awards. Artitja is open seven days a week by appointment.

Holding four exhibitions a year, artworks are sourced from remote and regional communities in the central and western deserts, and as far as the Tiwi islands off the Northern Territory coast.

Anna and Arthur’s home is itself a gallery of works with the walls a canvas of cultural imagery; waterholes, rivers, creeks and the movement of peoples across vast landscapes. It is easy to fall into what Anna refers to as Tjurrkupa “dreaming” before hospitable affable Arthur invites you to have a cuppa at their Attfield Street ‘studio’.

“We have been fortunate to have worked with amazing artists producing some of the best works in this country,” Anna says. Their works are on display at www.artitja.com.au.

Left - ‘Bush Yam’ by Jeannie Mills Pwerle: An established and highly respected artist from the Utopia region of the Northern Territory, Jeannie is an Alyawarre woman born in 1965. Jeannie inherited the ‘Yam Dreaming’ from her mother, and created her own distinct style using warm and beautiful colours, depicting with intricate detail the flower and seeds of the Anaty- the bush yam, or potato.

Background - ‘Tjukurpa Mulayangu’ by Atipalku Intjalki: An established and highly respected artist from the Utopia region of the Northern Territory, Jeannie is an Alyawarre woman born in 1965. Jeannie inherited the ‘Yam Dreaming’ from her mother, and created her own distinct style using warm and beautiful colours, depicting with intricate detail the flower and seeds of the Anaty- the bush yam, or potato.



ALL DECKED OUT



KIDOGO has a new sun deck. Table-top spindles, outdoor cinema, music and art imitating life on Freo’s historic beachfront - home to the popular exhibition gallery at Bathers Beach.

“The new deck is an extension of what we do inside the gallery,” Kidogo founder Joanna Robertson told *Freo StreetWise*. “You could not see the ocean from the gallery, the deck will give people a front row seat.”

The accomplished artist says she has always been entrepreneurial, even when she was in art school back in Ireland. In 1993, Joanna founded the independent Kidogo Institute whose programs continue to provide budding artists with a solid foundation in the visual arts.

A graduate of Dublin’s prestigious National College of Art and Design, the award-winning painter renowned for her figurative and portrait work says she was 20 when she decided to come to WA, “on an adventure”.

That was 17 years ago, the Tanzania-born artist having survived the tough times in Freo’s rapidly changing cultural and economic environment.

“I didn’t want to be doing the same old thing, that’s one of the reasons why I stayed,” she says. “I have survived because I’m tough.”

Joanna’s father was a “beautiful singer” who studied at King’s College at Cambridge

University, her sister Lucinda a master glass artist whose works have been on display at Kidogo (www.iamofireland.ie/19_lucinda-robertson).

Joanna says ‘The Deck’ will be opened in time for the Christmas-New Year festivities, with activities including outdoor cinema viewings, life drawings, sculpture exhibitions and weddings.

“This used to be just sand and dirt, it was not part of the beach,” she says, ‘The Deck’ is expected to create a family friendly atmosphere where artists and diners can mingle and watch the sun set.

There is a slight breeze washing over the new timber, salt-encrusted footprints leading to the soft surf just metres away. In the near distance, cargo ships round the South Mole while fishermen wait patiently on the rocks for their day’s catch.

The sound of Santana spills from Kidogo’s outdoor speakers, “My Spanish Harlem Mona Lisa, You’re my reason for reason, The step in my groove ...”

The song is catchy, the feeling of summer time intoxicating, “And it’s just like the ocean under the moon”.

Details of Kidogo’s summer showings and classes are available at www.kidogo.com.au and its Facebook site at www.facebook.com/KidogoArthouse.



FREO'S ANZAC TRADITION



LIGHTHORSEMAN remembered

"Over here," Brendan Moore gestures to *Freo StreetWise*. Fremantle council's Aboriginal liaison officer had never visited his great grandfather's grave on the corner of Leach Highway and Carrington Street.

After a few minutes, he says, "I found it". Lighthorseman Leopold Augustus Websdale fought in France in World War One and enlisted again in the Australian army in 1942.

The former Noongar station hand from Gingin received the British war and victory medals but received little acknowledgement and missed out on privileges returned men and women enjoyed.

"He met my great grandmother near Wedge Island," he says. "His heritage starts back in the 1830s after a British settler John Websdale came to WA.

"Websdale's wife died and he married an Aboriginal lady, Leo is their son. Leo remarried after the first war, and his wife passed away only five years ago."

Brendan started posting private Leopold's military details in 2009 and are available at www.noongarculture.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Websdale.pdf.

360-DEGREE life change

War vets with mental health problems and disabilities should not be sleeping under bridges or in parks, Veterans 360's Jay Devereaux says.

Jay says Vets360 was established to reach out to

veterans who needed a meal and roof over their head. Follow-up is also important.

Vets360's Facebook page describes its mission which is also available at www.vets360.org.



HILTON historian Wes Olson likes to play with mannequins.

In his back shed, when he's not driving freight trains across the wheatbelt, the accomplished author and researcher is busy dressing up his war dummies for gallery exhibits in Freo.

This involves buying used mannequins and hacking off and repositioning their 'limbs' to get the right poses, such as standing guard or parachuting into enemy territory.

Wes says he spends hours of research to get the right uniforms for displays, some of which can be seen at the historic artillery barracks on Cantonment Hill.



ON A MISSION

ARMY cook, unionist and UK-born father of a new bub, Rob Cashman embodies the new spirit of the Anzac tradition.

The 39-year-old White Gum Valley secretary of the Freo RSL says he is determined to rejuvenate Australia's oldest military organisation for ex-service men and women.

"I want the RSL to continue to grow," he told *Freo StreetWise* on the day his firstborn Owen, which in Welsh means 'young warrior', turned 10 weeks old.

"I met former SAS soldier and Labor politician Peter Tinley at Gino's one morning and discussed how we could reinvigorate the RSL in Freo.

"One of the key things he said was that there was a lot of things happening in the RSL, but I had to make it Freo because Freo has a soul. Once you can identify what that is, you can work on it."

And that's what Rob has been doing ever since.

The Basingstoke-born boy, whose parents emigrated from Wales when he was two, says the local RSL - the second oldest sub-branch in WA - had 18 members when he joined in 2013.

It now has 39, and continues to grow.

"I love Freo, I loved the vibe and used to catch the bus into town and hang out at Captain Munchies," he recalls.

After leaving school, Rob headed for the Wheatbelt, "getting to know who I was".

At 19, he returned to Perth and decided to join

the army after walking into a recruitment office, "by accident". At basic training, the young private tried cooking and soon topped the class.

In 2001-2002, he was in Afghanistan attached to the SAS Regiment just a month after the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

"We lost a soldier there," he says, referring to Andrew Russell, the first Australian casualty of the war.

"I think about it all the time. It changed my life."

Aged 25, Rob returned home and watched his world fall apart - until he marched, for the first time, in his first Anzac parade.

"We need to get young people involved because they are the future of the RSL in Australia,"

"I never got involved in the RSL until I met Vietnam and Borneo vet Les Butt a couple of years ago," he explains.

"He was struggling to keep the local RSL together.

"He also made me realise it was not just about me, but also my family who were encouraged to march with me.

"We need to get young people involved because they are the future of the RSL in Australia."

"For \$40 a year, they can make a big difference by joining and being part of the RSL family."

People who want to support the RSL can visit <http://www.rslwahq.org.au>.

CRAZY ABOUT COCOA

AT San Churro Fremantle, cocoa lovers get to share in the indulgence enjoyed by millions of people since Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes brought the Aztec tradition to Europe in 1528.

“The chocolate here is seriously good,” Market Street proprietor Sharon Menzies says, having joined the San Churro franchise in 2009.

She says she signed up after she walked past the store with her daughter who suggested they join the popular chocolate chain. So she and husband Neil, a commercial pilot for Virgin, did just that, having originally wanted to open a coffee shop.

She says the beans are sourced from four different places in Africa where local farmers grow the prized crop under the Fairtrade banner.

“People come here after dinner to buy dessert,” the 60-year-old part-time actress tells *Freo StreetWise*.

The secret to its success is the company’s signature churros, served fresh and crispy golden using authentic Spanish recipes, which are a hit in France, Portugal, the US and the Philippines.

Born in Margate on the Kent coast in the UK, Sharon says *Freo*’s San Churro store - WA’s first and oldest - is about to get a new interior facelift, its online site at www.sanchurro.com.

The mother of three daughters also has a few hidden talents including acting and documentary making, having completed a degree in film and television and theatre arts at Curtin University.

Until December 12, 2015, she starred in Tim Firth’s comedy, ‘Golden Girls’.

She says tips left at San Churro in *Freo* all go to the non-governmental Kitendo Children’s Charity in Kenya, details of which are available at <http://kccprogramme.org/aboutus/story>.

Details of San Churro’s commitment to the Fairtrade cocoa program is available at www.info.fairtrade.net/program.

HERITAGE ON A PLATE



In the heart of *Freo*, in a unique building opened in 1868, top food, drinks and friendly staff make you feel like you’re on cloud nine.

The state and national heritage-listed hotel on the corner of High and Market streets re-opened in Christmas 2013, six years after the Federation Free Style building was vandalised by fire.

Co-owner Karl Bullers, who bought the building in 2011, says, “People can now come to a family friendly environment and enjoy a meal or drink with a great view. We also have a new summer menu.”

The 45-year-old entrepreneur also runs heritage tours of the historic building which originally belonged to Abraham Moise Josephson, a pearl merchant who lived in Fremantle.

The National Bank of Australasia used the site until it relocated in 1886. William Conroy was its first publican. He was sentenced to hang after shooting *Freo* councillor John Snook, who refused him entry to a children’s fancy dress ball in the Town Hall. Conroy took 15 minutes to die after the rope failed to break his neck. Karl, let’s hope that summer menu cuts the mustard.

Bookings can be made at <http://national-hotel-fremantle.com.au> and its Facebook site.



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What started as a clothes and body care business based on one of the world’s strongest and most durable plant fibres is rapidly expanding into new territory. Margaret River-based Hempco owner Georgina Wilkinson opened *Freo*’s hemp clothing store six years ago.

“I came here from the UK 22 years ago as a backpacker, and I never left,” the mother of two says. Georgina and husband Gary, who is a builder, plan to move into hemp homes and hemp-based foods by mid-2016.

In *Freo*, Hempco manager Bianca Buchanan says she loves the product, having joined the company two and a half years ago. Hempco’s summer range at www.hempco.net.au.

BUILDING A HEMP FUTURE



PEACH OF A SHOP

ORGANIC, friendly, but most of all, peachy. Freo's fresh food markets on Hampton Road in South Fremantle is all these, and much more. One of the biggest green grocers in WA, the popular store is redefining the modern diet using only top-quality produce sourced in Australia and overseas.

Freo girl and Peaches manager Natalie Colecchia, who has worked at Peaches for the past two years, says Peaches offers a 'family' environment focused on service and good quality foods.

"We're all a big family, aren't we?" she says, turning to fruit and veg manager Antonio Naglieri, who has worked here for nearly four years.

With the busy Christmas and New Year season, Natalie says Peaches has employed extra locals, with many of the staff related to each other.

"We've got all the kids coming because the family works here, all the owners' kids are here," she

says. "It's not just a job you drag yourself to every day. I love coming here every day."

Antonio, a father of two young children, says his family moved back to Italy when he was young, his father now a retired brickie who enjoys hanging out at Gino's with his old mates.

Natalie's family hails from North Fremantle and White Gum Valley. Her father, a meatworker, used to work in WA's North-West before moving back to Freo.

Natalie says Peaches caters for a range of tastes, from the regulars who have shopped in Freo for years to vegans and organic food consumers

switching to healthy and ethical food lifestyles.

Established in 1987 as a small fruit and vegetable vendor, Peaches now stocks organic, gourmet, gluten free and specialty foods customers just can't get enough of.

On the morning *StreetWise* visited, staff were busy packing the shelves as shoppers eyed off a giant block of Italian provolone cheese carved out and crumbed for taste testing. Yummo.

For vegans, Peaches offers a "game changer" for shoppers looking for egg substitutes at <http://peachesfresh.com.au/the-aquafaba-revolution>,

"We understand that it can't be easy cutting out all those refined sugary snacks and other animal products," the site explains.

"Chickpea juice is actually the perfect alternative to eggs when making your favourite baked goods such as meringues, cakes and cookies."

Chickpea juice, also known as aquafaba, is available in Peaches' canned section under bio nature organic chick peas and capriccio chick peas. Peaches also sources organic products such as peanut paste, baby foods and soaps.

Green thumbs can also stock up on a range of fruit and vegetables for the garden, including potted herbs, flowers and kale and chilli plants.

Asked where the name Peaches came from, co-owner Frank Di Tullio says, "we wanted to name our store after a fruit we thought describes something fresh, flavoursome and exciting".

For more information, visit the family friendly store at <http://peachesfresh.com.au>, [facebook.com/peachesfresh](https://www.facebook.com/peachesfresh) and on Instagram @peachesfreshfood and Twitter @peachesfresh.





MIXING BUSINESS AND CULTURES

SANDRINO head pizza chef Gianluca Fabris is a machine. The record number of pizzas he has pumped out of the wood fired ovens at Freo's much-loved restaurant stands at 468. And this summer, he hopes to smash it with the opening of Sandrino's new cafe pizzeria on the popular Cappuccino Strip.

"On a normal day, we will cook about 80 to 100 pizzas, but on a busy day we can do up to 250," he says, knocking back an espresso before the start of his afternoon shift.

The 43-year-old chef settled in Hamilton Hill 16 years ago after visiting his older brother in his Subiaco pizza shop. He began making pizzas at Sandrino's old Market Street location, married and had a child. Gianluca's dad, who was nearly 74, retired after working 38 years at the factory in Perugia where the famous Baci Perugina chocolate is made.

The father of a 12-year-old daughter, Gianluca says he was attracted to Freo's multicultural mix. Fremantle and family are also two concepts very

familiar to 42-year-old owner Sam Kaddour. He and wife Jelena moved from Canberra in 2004, "my in-laws live here and we'd visit on holidays ... we decided Freo had the lifestyle we wanted".

Looking for something bigger, the couple bought Sandrino and have not looked back since. "We instantly loved the building and knew it was the perfect fit for our restaurant."

Judging from Sandrino's 40-strong staff, which Sam describes as, "the best of every culture mixed into one," the business is expected to boom.

Under Sam and Jelena's ownership, Sandrino has become a Fremantle institution. With their recent move to South Terrace, Sam says the original site across the road will remain open until February,

"On a normal day, we will cook about 80 to 100 pizzas, but on a busy day we can do up to 250,"

which makes him unique as the only Freo businessman running two sites at once.

Parents of three young children, the Kaddours wanted to ensure their new restaurant was family friendly. They have done so with the addition of two play rooms, with toys, tvs and video games.

Freo StreetWise dined in on November 29, the delicious seafood and margherita pizzas were cooked perfectly, the service professional and timely.

It's also a wonder watching the well-trained staff climb the flight of stairs to the mezzanine floor without missing a heartbeat or dropping cutlery.

Details of the new restaurant and its mouth-watering menu are available at www.sandrino.com.au and its Facebook site at www.facebook.com/SandrinoCafe.



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SUN 27 DEC	10am- 6pm
MON 28 DEC	10am -6pm
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ADDICTED TO PASTA

“MY love of food was greater than my love of getting in trouble,” Pasta Addiction co-owner Denis Simich says.

The 47-year-old father of two boys says his inspiration was mum Perica, one of the best cooks in Freo’s fine dining restaurants.

“When I was 12 years old, I used to catch the bus into town and help mum at work washing dishes,” he tells *Freo StreetWise*, his mum passing away in August 2015.

Today, the successful pasta king with a passion for good food and friends caters to pasta lovers from all over the metropolitan area. With wife Tihana and a great staff, Pasta Addiction offers ready made meals in people’s own dishes and finger foods for private and corporate functions.

“We also do pasta buffet catering on weekends as well,” adds Tihana, who fell for Denis after meeting in Sydney.

The big-hearted pasta cook is involved in WA’s workplace learning program in which local high school students are trained in hospitality in the Pasta Addiction kitchen. He also coaches junior soccer at Western Knights, which was established by Croatian immigrants in 1968.

Denis says they decided to open their Mouat Street pasta place in 2000, offering fresh pasta and sauces made daily.

“In the old days before I left Freo everyone had a pasta shop, so I was a little reluctant at first,” he says, his love of food growing into a thriving trade within walking distance of the bus and train, beach and port.

Details of the cooking creations at <http://pastaaddiction.com.au> and Facebook.

VITALLY VEGAN by Alicia Passanisi

I’M a vegan. I believe in a lifestyle that excludes the exploitation of and cruelty toward living, sentient beings.

I believe in sustainability and nourishing my body with nutrients from the most natural source in the world - plants.

Coming from Stockholm, a city where veganism is spreading, I didn’t know what to expect in a country where meaty barbeques are as conventional as owning IKEA furniture in Sweden.

I was going to be an outsider, that’s for sure. However, Freo proved me wrong. So I decided to visit The Raw Kitchen.

Most dishes are raw, with the exception of a few cooked vegan meals. I ordered Pad Thai, which I have eaten many times - both the meat version (during my pre-vegan years) and vegan version.

However, I had never tried a raw vegan Pad Thai. The noodles are made from zucchini, marinated in an almond satay sauce with capsicum, baby

corn, snow peas, tamarind, mung bean sprouts and fresh herbs sprinkled on top.

The texture of the zucchini noodles was crunchy and the satay sauce was spicy. It reminded me of regular Pad Thai, only spicier and less oily.

I will visit again, happy with the service and decor. Definitely good if you’re looking for quality raw vegan cuisine.



DON'T PAY THE FERRYMAN ...

METRES below the bitumen on Hampton Road, visitors paddle through Fremantle Prison's underground tunnels, LEDs casting shadows across the hand-carved walls and few centimetres of dark water.

The first 20m descent into one of Australia's infamous prisons is all harness and hardhat. The rest of the way down under is a three-hour heritage tour in Wellington boots and a plastic 'punt' cruising through the dark Styx-like underworld decorated with spider webs and weird fungus.



WA's popular "Tunnels Tour" is a different tourism surprise. Chiselled out by prisoners, the 1km labyrinth of waterways flows under Freo's busiest streets, extending about 600m beyond the prison walls. It was completed in 1894.

By 1899, WA's engineer-in-chief C.Y. O'Connor realised that rising levels of organic solids made it unsuitable for domestic use, so the water was

used on prison lawns and gardens. In 1896, a reservoir was constructed on Swanbourne Street, fed from the prison by a steam-driven pump that produced 4.5 million litres a day. By 1910, the system of tunnels was sealed up until re-opened in mid-2005. The prison was closed in 1991.

The prison was placed on the World Heritage list in 2010 - one of 11 convict sites around Australia nominated, "under exceptional examples of the global story of forced migration".

The Australian Government says the prison stood with Port Arthur as one of the most important convict sites in the country.

Details of the tour at www.fremantleprison.com.

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FREO FASHION, EUROPA STYLE

FREO fashionista Peter Ratta is entering his 22nd year in business - and he says it's getting tougher for many in the retail industry.

Having entered the trade in European and US designer clothes, Peter says originally he was an industrial spray painter before he started Europa Sport Fashion for Men on Market Street.

"I've actually gone back to painting because things are tough in the retail industry," he told *Freo StreetWise*. "I always liked fashion, that's why I started the business.

"I was 24 then. Lots of European families, tourists and people from north of the river have shopped here. In the beginning it was tough starting out, then it took off and we sold items not available in bigger stores. Back in the day, we did a lot of double-breasted suits and floral printed shirts. "Today, T-shirts and jeans are still our biggest earners."

But the Beacy boy, whose migrant parents have retired, says the emergence of online retail trading, shopping overseas and wholesale chains is hurting many businesses in the port city.

"To stay ahead of the chain stores you need to give a more personalised service," he says. "People come to be served by you, which you don't always get in big department stores.

"You have to go out of your way a little bit more for customers."

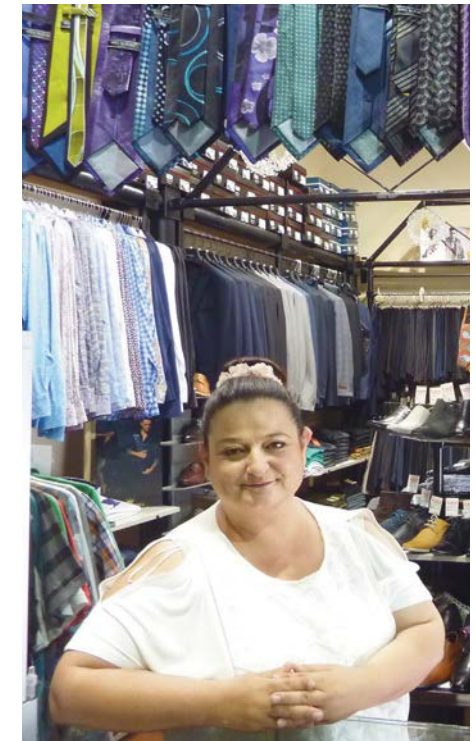
Peter says increasing rents and the rise of wholesalers who once supplied to independent stores, and now ran their own stores, had affected the bottom line.

"When I started, I was paying \$25,000 a year in rent, it's now \$65,000. That's a big difference and my shop is only 42 square metres in size."

The 45-year-old father of two girls says he returned to spray painting two months ago while

his wife Sandra mans the store, which is stocking the latest in spring and summer brands including Pepe jeans and John Lennon English laundry shirt collection.

Peter is confident business will turn around, hoping the downturn is part of a cycle: "I don't think retail will get back to what it was. But I'm hanging in there."



CRAFTED AT CLANCY'S

CLANCY'S head chef Ashley Ryan loves his pub food. Raised in White Gum Valley, the 29-year-old father of three says there are three reasons why he enjoys working at Freo's popular fish pub.

"Good people, good fun and a good boss," he says.

This is music to Tom Fisher's ears, the 35-year-old muso putting the finishing touches to Clancy's December gig guide as Ashley offers *StreetWise* a potted history of his past five years at the Cantonment Street venue.

"I started here then left for two years to finish my apprenticeship at the Hyatt," Ashley explains. "I returned as a sous chef and became head chef after my old manager at Clancy's went to Clancy's in Dunsborough."

The South Fremantle High School graduate is half Aboriginal and half Scottish, his parents having married after they met at church on Paget Street in Hilton.

"Mum came to WA with her parents," he says. "Dad was born under a tree and worked on trains and stations in the bush."

Tom says staff at Clancy's come from all walks of life, some of whom are second generation working alongside their parents.

"We like to be part of the community," he says, *StreetWise* curious at the specks of bright yellow paint on Tom's fingernails.

Nephew of Clancy's co-owner Joe Fisher, who with brother John established the pub 27 years ago, Tom plays acoustic guitar in his own country, blues and rock outfit, the Layabouts.

Tom's father Jim is a legendary muso and his cousin Tim Minchin used to pull beers at his

uncles' pubs before he became famous as a comedian and songwriter.

Tom's band play at the New Year's Eve party at the Indi Bar in Scarborough while Clancy's in Fremantle hosts a family fiesta with circus workshops and party band Boys Boys Boys.

Clancy's was the first pub to focus on local and nationally crafted beers. Serving good food and cool music, it is a ridgy-didge Freo icon whose popular Princess May Park is a drawcard for families with children.

As for his yellow-tipped fingernails, Tom smiles and says shaking his head, "Never believe your child when they say it will wash off".

Details of Clancy's summer feasts and music gigs are available at www.clancysfishpub.com.au and on its Facebook page www.facebook.com/clancysfremantle.



STREET BARBER GROOMS SUCCESS

IRANIAN-BORN barber Morteza Shojaee was 16 when he started cutting hair, living on tips to keep off the streets of Lahijan on the edge of the Caspian Sea.

"I was walking around and applied for a job sweeping the floor of a barber shop," he recalls. "It was not about making money, it was about staying out of trouble."

One of nine siblings, Morteza says his brothers and sisters sold ice cream and soft drinks to help mum and dad survive.

Now living in Coogee, the father of two boys says it took him just a few seconds to fall in love with the port city and the business built from scratch by well-known identity Norman Wrightson.

"I saw the ad for Norm's shop on a US website," he told *Freo StreetWise*. "As soon as I stepped off the train, I knew this is where I wanted to be."

"Freo is Freo. It has Italians, Portuguese, Croatians. It has old buildings, the beach,

Monument Hill (where he lived when he first came here)."

Norm Wrightson's Hairway began as a barber shop on Canning Highway in East Fremantle. Founders Robert Wrightson and his father Ernie moved to William Street in 1933.

Today, 91-year-old Norm is still a regular visitor to the shop and twice a year is invited to dinner at Morteza's home. Morteza opened a second shop at the Kardinya shopping centre.

"The great advantage was having that instant client base established by Norm's family," Morteza says. "We feel we are part of the community now."

Morteza's shop can be found at www.normwrightsonhairway.com.au and on Facebook.

THE BACKBONE
OF LIVE MUSIC
IN FREMANTLE
FOR 25 YEARS

Clancy's Fish Pub

FREMANTLE

51 CANTONMENT STREET, FREMANTLE CLANCYSFISHPUB.COM.AU

STREETWISE GIGS

December 30: Kaildad, Clancy's Fish Pub Fremantle

December 31: NYE Family Friendly Fiesta w Boys Boys Boys, Circus workshops; Funk Club's Countdown to NYE, Salt On The Beach

January 9: The Locals, Mojo's Bar

January 10: Icehouse play Rottneest Island Hotel

January 16: Dilip N The Davs album launch, Mojo's

January 23: The Oh Sees, Mojo's

February 12: Spiderbait, Metropolis

February 14: Sureshaker 'Shake N Bake Party', Mojo's

February 26: J Shed Sunset Sounds with Missy Higgins

Until February 26: Marvellous Machines, WA Maritime Museum

March 4: Kate Miller-Heidke

March 19: South Freo's San Cisco

STREETWISE FILMS

Until December 28: 'Youth', Luna SX

December 24: 'The Belier Family', Luna SX; 'Ip Man 3', Millennium

December 26: 'The Good Dinosaur', 'Joy', 'Suffragette', Millennium

December 31: New 'Snoopy and Charlie Brown: The Peanuts Movie', Millennium

January 1: 'Point Break (3D)', Millennium

January 2: 'Sherlock: The Abominable Bride', Luna SX

January 7: 'The Revenant', Millennium

January 14: 'Carol', Luna SX

January 21: 'The Danish Girl', Millennium

January 28: 'Spotlight' and 'Room', Luna SX

March 3: 'The Lady in the Van', Millennium

STREETWISE STAGE

February 1-March 5: 'Inside Job' Melville Theatre Company

April 9-23: 'The Little Prince', Spare Parts Puppets Theatre

BAZ'S BEAT

FINNISH in Freo

It's pedal to the metal at Metros January 15.

Legendary Finnish band Nightwish returns to Freo ready to rock the roof off the South Terrace venue, having last played there in 2013.

I reckon it's taken that long to repair the walls of the surrounding buildings.

Used to performing in European stadiums of up to 100,000 fans, the symphonic rock giants from Kitee formed in 1996. Their limited-edition debut album, 'Angels Fall First', is highly sought after by collectors with one paying more than \$1000 for a copy on eBay in 2012.

Nightwish is the third best-selling band in Finland and the most successful Finnish band worldwide, selling more than eight million records and receiving more than 60 gold and platinum awards.

The band, whose details are available at <http://nightwish.com/en/live>, gained international fame after the release in 1998 of their second studio album, 'Oceanborn'.

This time around they're promoting their latest release, 'Endless Forms Most Beautiful', which charted at number 16 on the ARIA charts.

If you missed them last time, do not make the same mistake twice. Prepare to be floored.

Tickets available at <http://tickets.metropolisfremantle.com.au>.



To keep your Freo StreetWise Gig Guide handy, cut along the dashed line and stick it on your fridge