

**FREE**

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# **FREO** StreetWise



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# EDITORIAL

WELCOME to a special issue of *Freo StreetWise*. As winter warms to spring, we showcase the best in fine dining, history and business ‘success stories’ changing the face of Freo.

The City’s only independent magazine visited several local traders who are punching above their weight at a time of major redevelopment in the CBD.

The National Hotel, where a new rooftop bar opens in October; Fremantle’s only furniture maker Port Jarrah; Portorosa Fremantle, which has reopened in Market Street AND Spearwood, Cockburn; and South Beach Hotel and Port City Roasters in South Fremantle, on Freo’s ‘new’ Cappuccino Strip.

*Freo StreetWise* thanks the WA Museum for supporting our coverage of the 200th anniversary of the arrival in WA of Rose de Freycinet, the first European woman to set foot on the west coast of ‘New Holland’.

As part of our continuing coverage of the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1, local Melville students share their once-in-a-life experience after having attended the Anzac Day Hellfire Pass commemorations in Thailand.

Readers can contact ‘StreetWise Media’ on 0468 608 503 and [melnet@westnet.com.au](mailto:melnet@westnet.com.au).

*StreetWise* also brings you, exclusively, the extraordinary stories of Australia’s elite navy clearance divers. Supported by the Navy Clearance Diver Trust, our eight-page special includes images and profiles of former divers who survived the often difficult transition from military to civilian life.

It was an honour to share their time and memories for this issue in the lead-up to Remembrance Day commemorations in November.

Thanks to all our sponsors, advertisers and supporters who have made *StreetWise* a local publishing success since its launch in December 2015.

Enjoy.

Carmelo Amalfi





# ANZAC MOMENT

ON April 25, 2018, two Melville Senior High School students attended the Anzac Day ‘Hellfire’ commemorations at the infamous Thai-Burma Railway.

Supported by Melville Rotary, Year 10 students Lora and Melody were selected for the Quiet Lion Tour after submitting winning essays on the WW2 prisoner of war camps where tens of thousands of Australians died.

Their personal story and experiences of the tour feature on pages 22 and 23.

About 30 students who won the essay competition were chosen to attend and lay wreaths at the Anzac Day dawn service at Hellfire Pass and the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery.

The 12-day tour run by the Burma Thailand Railway Memorial Association included visits to the Bridge on the River Kwai, local hospitals and the Weary Dunlop Peace Park in Home Phu Toey.

An estimated 90,000 civilian labourers and more than 12,000 Allied prisoners died in the rugged malarial jungles in which daily horrors included cholera, malaria, dysentery, starvation and severe beatings and torture by Japanese guards. On rations of contaminated rice, POWs used hand tools and their collective strength to build the 415km track from Ban Pong near Bangkok to Thanbyuzayat in northern Burma (Myanmar).

Hellfire is one of the many ‘death camps’ in which Australians were held and killed.

The Australian War Memorial posted recently on the Sandakan ‘death marches’ in Borneo, where some of the worst atrocities of WW2 were committed against Australian and British soldiers.

Of the more than 2400 Allied POWs interned at Sandakan between 1942 and 1945, only six survived.

Towards the end of the war, fearing an Allied invasion, the Japanese fled Sandakan and moved the prisoners inland. The Australian and British prisoners were marched along a muddy, mountainous trail in three waves - the first on January 31, 1945; the second on May 29, 1945; and third on June 9, 1945. Hundreds died on these ‘death marches’.

When the 183 out of about 530 surviving POWs arrived on the second 170km march, they were shocked to find alive only six prisoners from the first march. Of the 75 POWs, mostly sick and dying, who set off on the third march, none survived beyond 50km.

The Anzac Centenary honours the service and sacrifice of the original ANZACs and generations of servicemen and women who fought and died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations since the Boer War in 1899.

Remembrance Day November 11, the 73rd anniversary of the Japanese surrender in August 1945, not only will be commemorations, but a ‘celebration’ of the end of war, suffering and ignorance.

Additional details at [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au) and [www.anzaccentenary.gov.au](http://www.anzaccentenary.gov.au).



# DIVERS ELITE

TRUFFLE farmers, outback tour guides, paramedics, health and safety experts and managers of multi-million-dollar oil and gas developments.

Leadership, service and sacrifice shine bright in the ranks of Australia's elite Navy Clearance Divers.

Having survived the transition to civilian life after years of dedicated and decorated service, CDs today excel in all levels of government, industry, medicine, sports and the arts.

However, former and serving CDs often face physical and mental challenges trying to fit back into society after careers at sea and serving in war zones around the world.

Watching their back is the Navy Clearance Diver Trust, a not-for-profit organisation that supports former members of the RAN CD branch, and their dependents: "The Trust does not have an expiry date. It is there for as long as there are CDs."

StreetWise was invited to compile profiles of 18 CDs who were asked to offer their thoughts and experiences of life after leaving the Australian Defence Force.

Their stories appear here exclusively as part of our continuing coverage of the anniversary of the end of WW1.

Australia's specialist 'bomb busters' have served in all conflicts since the Royal Australian Navy branch was established in 1951; Malaya, Vietnam, Somalia, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan.

This year, the Trust and Leadership WA has launched a public awareness campaign to help CDs better engage with potential employers when leaving the ADF. Their stories are inspirational.

The profiles are available online and the NCDT site at [www.ncdt.org.au](http://www.ncdt.org.au)



# OPEN FOR BUSINESS

NEW rooftop bars, boutique stays, organic cafes, retail shops and restaurants, local roasters, brewers and timber artists.

Fremantle businesses have embraced a wave of new opportunities and developments transforming the cultural centre of the city and neighbouring suburbs such as Hilton and the South Terrace cafe strip.

In this special issue, *StreetWise* celebrates local business 'success stories', old and new, family-run and fashionable. Traders punching above their weight as the CBD is 'transformed' around them during the \$270 million Kings Square redevelopment.

The challenge is how to continue attracting visitors to the city while giant cranes and dump trucks rebuild the CBD.

"There is likely to be a challenging period ahead until completion of the Kings Square project and other major developments that may make Fremantle less appealing for visitors while these are under construction, or create a perception that Fremantle is 'closed for shoppers,'" the Council fears.

However, the launch on July 27 of Freo Now (formerly the BID, Business Improvement District) signals a turning point. What Freo Now chair and National Hotel owner Karl Bullers describes as, "a momentous occasion" for the local business community.

He told the packed top floor of the historic hotel built in 1902 that after consulting businesses, "we made the brave move to carry on the great work the BID has been doing for the past six years".

Council, too, has engaged a marketing team (of which Mr Bullers is a member) whose budget consists of nearly \$400,000 raised annually by a differential rate levied on CBD traders and members of the former BID.

Similarly, the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce has called for expressions of interest for people to join a new 'small business and retail committee' to champion local interests in retail, hospitality and professional services and, "contribute advice to build a better foundation for Fremantle's traders".

With three separate groups working to achieve the same objective, Freo should be in safe hands. Time will tell.

Freo Now told guests it was determined to fill most of the city's existing vacant spaces with new businesses within the next two to three years.

Mr Bullers said the shackles were off, "we (Freo Now) are no longer constrained by area and we have only one stakeholder to answer to. You".

The first order of business is to fill Freo's vacant shops, "of which there are a few".

When asked what the new advocacy group expected to achieve in the next two to three years, Freo Now business 'coach' Samantha Reece said without hesitation: "Zero vacancy in Freo."

Noting recent negativity of Freo as a visitor destination, she told guests the challenge was to boost the vibrancy of the port city in the lead up to the completion of Kings Square and neighbouring projects such as the Old Courthouse and Police Station, Warders' Cottages and Manning Buildings.

Asked whether Freo Now would operate in competition to council's own marketing plans, she said the BID money was being spent on the City's new destination campaign to drive more people into the Fremantle area.

"What's the difference?"

"We're grassroots," Samantha replied. "You can bring people into the Freo area but if there is no where for people to shop, it's wasted money. Our job is to actually put people into those shops.

"We don't want people to go elsewhere, we still want them to come here despite what's happy in the reconstruction process."

She said part of the Freo 'Now' approach is 'coaching' new and struggling businesses, to keep them thriving, "so when the King Square development is finished you can enjoy the fruits of that labour".

Popular events including the Long Table Dinner and Winterworld will continue to raise money for Freo Now and local charities, with members





# ONE FOR TWO

MANAGING two successfully transformed hotels - one in the CBD, the other on the South Freo 'Strip' - is no mean feat. Particularly, when one of them is 'booming' right next door to the Kings Square construction site.



FEDERAL Hotel and South Beach Hotel owner Nik Jurin says he has been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to buy and restore two historic hotels in Fremantle.

"It's enabled me to appreciate the rich architecture and diversity that Fremantle has to offer," he told *StreetWise*.

"Currently Fremantle is going through a transformation that will bring it up to par with what a modern city should provide and offer.

"There will be a CBD, with a daytime working population to compliment an inner city night population that will ensure Fremantle is as vibrant and welcoming as it once was."

Zippering between both popular hotels, Nik says he is heartened to see retail back in the city with the construction of the Kings Square project.

This will provide modern facilities and architecture nestled among the heritage buildings.

"Fremantle's offering to the wider public will expand past the Cappuccino Strip and fishing boat harbour, enabling it to remain relevant as a precinct for decades to come," he predicts.

"Very exciting times ahead. Fremantle is very much open for business."

The Federal Hotel

23 William Street, Freo WA 6160

0893351645

[welcome@federalhotelfreo.com.au](mailto:welcome@federalhotelfreo.com.au)

South Beach Hotel

396 South Terrace, South Fremantle WA 6162

089335 2088

[nik@sbh.net.au](mailto:nik@sbh.net.au)





# NEW PORTOROSA

JUGGLING two new restaurants serving traditional Italian food under the same iconic brand was not on the menu, but Portorosa owner Joe Napoli pulled it off. At the heart of his double success, fresh local ingredients, seafood, oven-fired pizza, wine and top service. Italian style.

Portorosa's Joe Napoli is a glutton for punishment. Fresh from relaunching his traditional Italian restaurant in Spearwood.

The 63-year-old owner from Sicily has moved his iconic brand just a few metres away into new premises on Market Street.

After years of serving great food and wine, not to mention some of the best pizzas outside Italy, Joe's 'reinvestment' in his popular business (both in Fremantle and Spearwood) is a reflection of his tenacity, and love of food.

He says Fremantle's future is linked to its greatest asset - food and good service. However, like many cafe and restaurant owners, Joe believes more retail shopping and parking will attract more people. And more people means more business.

The new Market Street site includes direct views along the 'Cappuccino Strip', its menu building on recent innovations by chef Vittorio Franchina.

Contact Joe and staff at 0894306126 or [www.facebook.com/portorosafreo](https://www.facebook.com/portorosafreo) and [www.portorosa.com.au](http://www.portorosa.com.au).







# ROOFTOP DINING

THE Phoenix-like restoration of Freo's historic National Hotel has renewed interest and investment in the West End. Almost destroyed by fire, the High Street icon is a popular landmark serving up great food, music and history.

National Hotel owner Karl Bullers has taken the historic High Street hotel to new heights with the opening of new boutique rooms and a rooftop bar.

The chair of the new Freo Now (formerly Fremantle BID) says the upper floor development includes building 12 luxury, ensuite rooms.

"The rooms will be individually styled with no two rooms the same, six feature a private veranda and six in the eaves of the building with Parisian style views over the rooftops of Fremantle.

"Heritage styling will merge with modern convenience to bring Fremantle new hotel accommodation without compare.

"The rooftop will open at the same time, with three weddings and a number of corporate functions already booked. Patrons will get to see Freo from a totally unique perspective."

The building was almost destroyed in a 2007 fire so its reconstruction had to start from scratch. Obvious features such as the high ceilings were kept, antique fireplaces replaced and modern conveniences introduced such as air con and free standing baths.

The rooftop will include a bar inside the so-called 'Widow's Turret' or 'Widow's Watch', which has been on the cards since Karl took over in 2011.

Having built the first rooftop bar in the Perth CBD, Karl says there are no other similar venues in the Freo CBD.

The rooftop commands 360 degrees views of the port city, Rottnest and Garden Island, its enclosed turret lining up with the war memorial at Monument Hill and the old Council administration building spire.

The turret also is referred to as the 'Widow's Watch', a railed or protected rooftop viewing platform, often with a small enclosed cupola such as the one overlooking the corner of Market and High streets.

From here, mariners' wives waited for their loved ones to return to port, looking for the lights of ships on the horizon beyond Victoria Quay.

"The Widow's Walk was built with the building in 1903," Karl says.

"The name is only folklore, so not sure if it was actually used for watching for ships, but certainly it has been a great vantage point over Fremantle."

Rooms and functions can be booked from October 15. Additional details at [www.nationalhotelfremantle.com.au](http://www.nationalhotelfremantle.com.au).

*Margaret Mary Mulcahy, widow of National owner Michael Mulcahy. Circa 1930 by the turret.*









# LOCAL RULES

SOUTH Freo's popular Port City Roasters occupies a special place on the South Terrace cafe strip. Cafes, burger houses, pizza masters and fish and chip shops. *StreetWise* visited the popular breakfast and lunch venue to watch its brewing masters create coffee magic and great cuisine.

*“Our success is linked to the success of the farmers and suppliers who grow and produce our products.”*

That's why Port City Roasters' new project 'Local Rules Coffee Roasters' is committed to tightening the gap between the farms and cafes.

“It is our commitment to take ethical coffee to the next level,” the Local Rules team told *Freo StreetWise*. “It goes without saying that our motto is about supporting local communities, but we see this on a global scale.”

The team says the way it buys coffee has massive effects on the small communities which surround coffee plantations: “We want to be apart of making a positive impact through the coffee trade on these towns. Bringing our business to parts of the world that need support helps create economies that can uplift local people.

“Helping people to thrive helps ensure the long-term sustainability of the premium products we aim to provide.”

Port City Roasters' involvement in the farms, to roasting and extracting the perfect shot, is what creates a massive point of difference in its product.

Every bean is roasted individually and in small batches to ensure the most potential flavours are produced in its coffee. The time and energy invested into its product shines through every time you drink Port City and Local Rules Coffee.

Visit its popular cafe in South Fremantle to learn more about its products and the new Local Rules Coffee Roasters brand. So if you are looking for a wholesale coffee company to service your cafe then it is the brand for you.

Contact [www.localrulescoffeeroasters.com.au](http://www.localrulescoffeeroasters.com.au) or email [alex@localrulescoffeeroasters.com.au](mailto:alex@localrulescoffeeroasters.com.au) for details.





# TOP TIMBER

FREO'S Port Jarrah Furniture reflects the passion and resilience of local family businesses to succeed at a local and international level. Owner Clint Clarke says encouraging business diversity is the key to the port city's resurgence.

Furniture maker Clint Clarke's family business has a new addition. Five-month-old Jagger, which is why the High Street trader is chirpy when asked about the future of business in Fremantle.

"I'm a firm believer in giving back a little to help Fremantle business," the Freo Now member told *StreetWise*.

"We are currently looking at exciting times ahead for Fremantle."

The Port Jarrah Furniture owner has traded in Freo for 18 years, completing his apprenticeship at Fremantle Furniture Factory:

"Trading through the years has had its up and downs. I have always tried to produce the highest quality pieces and sent furniture all over the world."

Working with tradie Dane, his former apprentice, at his factory in O'Connor, his wife Kasia manning their furniture gallery in Freo's historic West End every Saturday.

Clint says, "We are truly a small Fremantle business starting from nothing".

Clint's journey has seen him fly to the US on their private jets to instal his prized timbers.

Clint handcrafts each piece of furniture, individually designed, custom made, recycled too.

Using local timbers, marri, jarrah, sheoak, blackbutt, wandoo and tuart, Port Jarrah Furniture reflects the changing seasons of WA's highly biodiverse South West.

Some of the timbers used in his designs are hundreds of years old or recycled from old bridges, jetties and demolished buildings.

"We send a lot of furniture to the US, with Texas probably buying the largest amount of my furniture," he says, adding he would like to see more locals visiting his shop.

Clint's creations have included installing a 3m Marri table, curved bar and all their bedsides for a super

yacht called Outback, restoring 50 new pews at Trinity Grammar's Perth chapel and restoring 150 new pews at Christchurch Grammar in Claremont.

"This year we fitted out Blasta Brewery in Burswood. Our current work is fitting out The National Hotel in Fremantle, with 12 new rooms.

"We are doing the vanity's minibars and wardrobes, plus beds and office desks."

The South Freo boy says there is nothing inspiring about the existing economic climate, "but it just means I have to adjust and be flexible".

Clint is at the Gallery every Sunday.

Port Jarrah Furniture  
45 High Street, Fremantle  
93362225 / 0418900147

[www.portjarrah.com.au](http://www.portjarrah.com.au)

[www.instagram.com/portjarrah](https://www.instagram.com/portjarrah)

[www.facebook.com/pages/Port-Jarrah-Furniture](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Port-Jarrah-Furniture)





# FRENCH EXPLORERS IN WA

HISTORY lovers can share in the 200th anniversary of Rose de Freycinet's visit to WA at the WA Maritime Museum in Fremantle.

The Museum's French Explorers in WA season will showcase two exquisite exhibitions that celebrate WA's French connections.

Showing from September 13 to December 9, 'Return to Australia: Freycinet 1818' includes the science and stories behind Rose's amazing journey to Australia and the Asia-Pacific in her husband Louis' *Uranie*.



The ship arrived in Shark Bay on September 12, 1818. Having smuggled herself on board for the three-year journey, Rose became the second woman to circumnavigate the globe and the first to write a full account of the expedition. Her diary survives today.

Visitors interested in this story will also enjoy 'The Art of Science: Baudin's Voyagers 1800-1804'. For the first time since they were completed over 200 years ago this exhibition brings original



paintings and drawings from the Museum of Natural History in Le Havre, France, to Australia.

Baudin's ships, *Géographe* and *Naturaliste*, embarked from Le Havre in October 1800 carrying an impressive group of scientists. Lavishly funded by Napoléon Bonaparte, their task was the discovery and study of natural sciences, underpinned by the emergence of new ideas and philosophies of reason. Paintings and drawings by Baudin's artists were created on the shores and off the coasts of Australia capturing some of the first European views of Australian animals, landscapes and very first portraits of Aboriginal people. Both exhibitions are free with normal museum admission tickets.

For more info visit [museum.wa.gov.au](http://museum.wa.gov.au)



# URANIE AND ROSE

SEATED on a rock in Shark Bay enjoying a glass of French wine and plate of oysters, Rose de Freycinet would later write in her timeless journal: “Certainly those I have eaten in Paris at table in comfort did not seem so good as those I ate seated on a rock, my glass and my plate on the sand.”

Not only was Rose one of WA's first food critics, the “flower of early European exploration” wrote the first full account of her three-year circumnavigation of the globe on board her husband Louis' ship *Uranie*.

By mid-September 1818, the first European woman to set foot on the west coast of 'New Holland' had been at sea a year after Louis smuggled her on to his 350-ton corvette crewed by 125 men.

Not wanting to be separated during Louis' three-year scientific voyage to Australia and the Asia-Pacific, Rose disguised herself as a sailor and recorded her experiences in letters to her close friend, Caroline de Nanteuil.

Her journal published in 1927 is a personal eyewitness account of exotic cultures, landscapes, dangers and possibilities.

The de Freycinet expedition left Toulon in September 1817 and also visited Rio de Janeiro, Cape Town, Timor, the Moluccas, Hawaii, Port Jackson and the Falkland Islands where *Uranie* was wrecked in 1820.

Louis had already visited Shark Bay as a young lieutenant on the Nicolas Baudin expedition of 1801 to 1804 when he was reprimanded for removing Dutch explorer Willem de Vlamingh's plate from Dirk Hartog Island (1697). This time, he removed the plate erected by Vlamingh to replace Dirk Hartog's 1616 plate - Australia's oldest maritime relic.

The de Freycinets arrived at Shark Bay on September 12, 1818. Their camp on Peron Peninsula was identified after WA searchers found musket balls, ceramic shards and other artefacts buried in the sand where *Uranie's* crew collected oysters and distilled seawater (the first desalination 'plant' in WA).

*Uranie's* Alphonse Pellion's watercolour of the Shark Bay camp shows Rose and a Mauritian boy she was caring for just outside her tent. In the official account of the voyage, prepared later in Paris, the image of Rose and the boy is omitted (Rose was deleted from several other official drawings).

*Uranie* sank on its way home in 1820, Louis and Rose marooned for 10 weeks in the Falklands islands. On their return to France, they became the toast of French society. However, their love story ends in tragedy when Rose nurses Louis back to health, only to contract cholera from him and dies on May 7, 1832. Louis died heartbroken 10 years later.





# COUNCIL SELLS OUT TO BIG SOLAR

RATEPAYERS face increased power bills under a move to build a solar farm on the old South Fremantle landfill site.

I have launched a public campaign to raise awareness of the impact this development will have on ratepayers, having raised this serious issue during the South Ward election last year.

Electricity supply, environmental health and public safety are issues concerning many locals.

The council's community consultation is a smokescreen and it is running its own agenda of getting the solar farm constructed on one of the most polluted sites in WA. There is real concern among the broader community that the council is engaging in false consultation so as to not draw attention to the negatives of this project.

Fremantle council wants Australian company Epuron to set up shop on the 19.4ha toxic tip after previous tenderer, US company First Solar, pulled out. Epuron has no experience of building solar farms in residential areas and certainly has no experience building on a contaminated 'time bomb' such as the old South Freo tip, which was closed in 1991.

WA health and environmental health experts recommended non-disturbance until the site could be remediated. Classed as "Contaminated - Remediation Required", the site consists of more than 900,000 cubic metres of waste buried under 1.5m of rock and concrete capping.

The WA Department and Environmental Regulation states: "Across the former South Fremantle landfill, soil beneath the sand cap contains metals (arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury and zinc) and asbestos. As landfill waste is heterogeneous, other contaminants may also be present."

Groundwater is affected by heavy metals, hydrocarbons such as petrol, diesel and oil, solvents such as benzene and methylene chloride, polychlorinated biphenyls and pesticides such as dieldrin.

Though councillors believe disturbance of the site will be minimal, this is a smokescreen for longer term plans to develop the site with homes and gardens, as stated in council's own plans: "If removal, destruction or dispersal of contaminated material can be done in a low risk and feasible way in the future, then other uses including public open space or residential development could be considered at that time."

Council has said the solar farm will not cost residents any money. Of course the residents will pay through increased electricity charges or increased borrowings.

In May 2014, First Solar was nominated by Council to build and operate a large-scale solar farm at the site. Over 12 months, the project team worked to explore and resolve technical, environmental, financial and design issues associated with the proposal. It couldn't.

By August 2015 First Solar walked away because of, "geotechnical and topographic conditions", and the capacity of the site to accommodate a big-scale project. First Solar has been in solar since the 1980s and knows a lemon when it sees one.

The City then invited the second recommended proponent Epuron to enter an exclusive agreement to build and run the 'green' project over the next couple of decades. In April, Epuron was granted development approval.

Mayor Brad Pettitt started flagging the proposed Epuron agreement last year - the project aligning with the City's 'One Planet' strategy to address sustainability challenges. Council has pledged carbon neutrality for corporate emissions by 2020, with 100 per cent of the City's power expected to be supplied by renewable energy (via carbon offsets) by 2025.

*"This project is a profit-making venture for Epuron and the council gets to offload a contaminated site without having to deal with the community health risks."*

Epuron states final lease and power purchasing arrangements will be subject to separate council approvals, “the pursuit of One Planet strategies and locally sourced green power gives Epuron more confidence in the future viability of the project”. It also says the proposed development will have negligible impact on the site nor produce adverse greenhouse gas emissions. This is nonsense!

In 2003, WA Contaminated Sites Alliance spokesman Lee Bell, when asked whether the site should be disturbed, said, “excavations would create large amounts of contaminated dust, necessitating the evacuation of local residents within a 5km radius of the site”.

Bushland on parts of the site will be cleared, with access via Cockburn Road. An excavator will dig test pits to a maximum of 3m to assess any potential toxic material.

No one is against solar farms or progress. However, solar farms and high density housing do not mix. Even Germany, a world leader in solar energy, does not build solar farms near residents and never on a highly contaminated site. The lack of transparency or any discussion of the costs facing ratepayers is cause for concern.

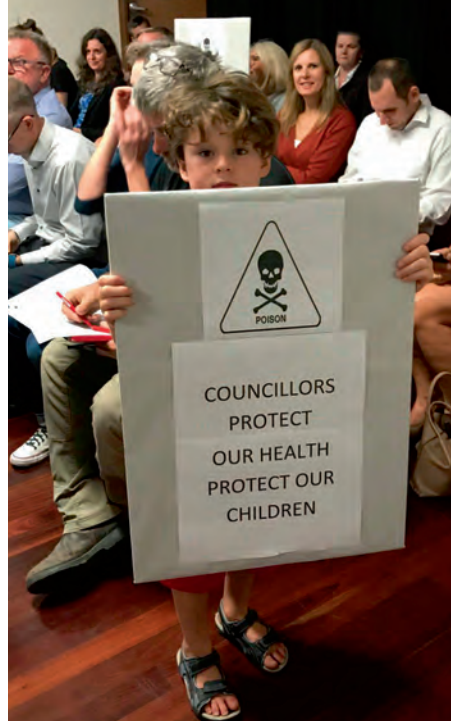
Can it be that the council just want to meet their self imposed green targets at the expense of the community’s health and well-being. No mention is made of the safeguards planned to protect surrounding residents and the environment. Worse, testing is not planned until AFTER the City grants construction approval. This is another example of the council’s smoke screen. This approach is like giving Dracula the keys to the blood bank and asking him not to drink.

Since the City has no plans to remediate prior to any construction or disturbance of the site, the question is exactly how much will be spent on testing, removal and disposal?

My prediction is very little.

The renewable energy target can be met in other ways. This project is a profit-making venture for Epuron and the council gets to offload a contaminated site without having to deal with the community health risks.

If this project goes ahead, there is no turning back.



# ZENNI

THE Polish inventor of the ‘Zenni Method’ returns to WA in October to promote his pioneering electrotherapy treatment.

Viktor Zenni, 75, runs eight clinics in Poland where he treats hundreds of patients presenting with Parkinson’s; thyroid disease; injuries of joints, muscles and tendons; pancreatic, liver, stomach and intestinal inflammations; cerebral palsy; allergies and asthma; and ADHD.

The ‘Zenni Method’ employs mild electric currents (Bernard currents) to ‘stimulate’ diseased and weakened organs. Currents from his device, which are available for sale, help release the electrical potential of cells, improving ionic flows in the central nervous and immune systems.

Dr Zenni says the technique he patented in Australia in 1984 indirectly regulates hormone levels in the body.

Completely safe and painless, thousands of patients have benefited without having to undergo surgery and drug therapy.

Because of its benefits in the treatment of periodontitis, Stoma Care is the only dental clinic in Poland to offer patients Dr Zenni’s electro-stimulation method as part of its treatment.

“The patient is connected to the device. The first electrode which emits electrical impulses is applied to the spine, and the second is located depending on the area of disease (the mouth, forehead, throat, neck, loins).

“The machine is programmed appropriately depending on the type of therapy. The current stimulates the central nervous system, which regulates the organs, including the thyroid gland, and influences the proper secretion of hormones, which can lead to self-healing of the body.

“A 40-minute session is recommended once a month in a series of at least five treatments. Effects may be visible after one to two treatments.”

In Perth, similar electrotherapy treatments are used in sports and medicine, including treating anxiety and depression.

At Murdoch University, researcher Alex Grennan is inviting volunteers over the age of 60 to undergo ‘transcranial direct current stimulation’. He is using non-invasive brain stimulation techniques to assess cortical sensitivity.

Parkinson’s WA clinical nurse manager Janet McLeod told *StreetWise* she was encouraged to see Mr Zenni advocating less drug-based therapies in favour of ‘natural’ therapies.

She said a clinical trial backed by a proper evidence-based study would boost the accessibility of Mr Zenni’s method to the wider public:

“I realise clinicians such as Mr Zenni find it frustrating to gain wider appeal,” she says. “But an evidence based study involving hundreds of patients is desirable.”

Contact *StreetWise* for details or visit [www.zenniviktor.pl](http://www.zenniviktor.pl).







# AARON'S DREAM

AARON Camm met Viktor Zenni in 1991 when the then 20-month-old toddler was diagnosed with arthrogryposis multiplex congenita.

Following the publication in *StreetWise* of the 'Zenni Method', one of our readers, a World Cup fan, saw Aaron on Facebook in a snapshot with Socceroo Tim Cahill.

*StreetWise* contacted Aaron, now 28, to say hello before he flew to Russia to support Australia in the World Cup. Little did he know he would make international news after Russian authorities cancelled his World Cup 'Fan ID'. "The 20-year dream will have to wait ... my tourist visa application has been rejected. Honestly gutted," he posted, watching the Cup in Thailand.

Aaron says his grandparents played a big part in his therapy, his mum having passed away when he was 10 years old.

Aaron's late mother Fiona told *The West Australian* at the time: "We owe a lot to PMH but Mr Zenni's electrotherapy treatment seems to have accelerated the rate of Aaron's improvement."

"I took up swimming as a therapy," he told *StreetWise*. "I'm fully independent, I can walk and I also play rugby."

Aaron was born with club feet, a stiff spine, dislocated hips, weak and missing muscles in most of his limbs. Doctors at PMH tried to correct the stiffness and shape of Aaron's spine and limbs, having to wear plaster to keep them in position.

His father Ian said it was a painful procedure for Aaron, but noticed some improvement in flexibility of his limbs after Mr Zenni treated him.

AMC includes abnormal development of muscles, inadequate room in the uterus for the baby, a malformed central nervous system and spinal cord, and tendons, joints and bones which do not mature correctly. The child's shoulders, elbows, wrists, hands, hips, knees and feet become crooked or hooked, stiff and weak, reducing mobility and flexibility. While the lack of movement, unlike many other diseases, does not get worse over time, regular treatment can prevent further deterioration of the joints.





## HALLOWED HELLFIRE

HUNDREDS of people, soldiers, students and former POWs gather in the jungle clearing. Solemn, respectful, they make their way to their seats, the sound of bagpipes guiding them towards a new dawn.

*“We are interested in history and we have had great grandparents who were involved in WW2, and even kept as prisoners.”*

On Anzac Day. Thailand. At Hellfire Pass.

We joined the tour after winning a writing competition to explore the impact the WW2 construction of the Thai-Burma Railway had on Allied soldiers. About 30 students nationally were chosen to attend and lay wreaths at services at Hellfire and the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery.

Thousands of Allied prisoners died here building the 415km line, which followed the River Kwai between Ban Pong, near the capital Bangkok, and Thanbyuzayat, in northern Burma, or Myanmar. Two POWs - Harold Martin, 101, and Neil MacPherson, 96 - attended the Anzac commemorations.

A few days after we arrived we got the opportunity to speak to Mr MacPherson. He spoke about his difficulties of leaving home and his family, his involvement in WW2, the inhumane treatment of other POWs and the effects it had on him and his friends and family.

We also were fortunate to visit sites such as the Bridge on the River Kwai and Weary Dunlop Peace Park in Home Phu Toey. The tour allowed us to better understand what former servicemen went through.

We are interested in history and we have had great grandparents who were involved in WW2, and even kept as prisoners. This trip offered us the opportunity to visit the physical war memorials and parts of the remaining railway, as well as connect with our own unexplored family history.

The most overwhelming part of our experience was visiting the graves and memorials of the soldiers and the POWs and, during the ANZAC Day ceremony, seeing that so many years later families of those involved in the war and others are still paying their respects.

Having dedicated the Hellfire Walking Trail in 1987, former POW Weary Dunlop predicted the trail would become, “a hallowed walk visited with reverence like that paid to battlefields and war cemeteries at Gallipoli and in Europe”. Hellfire Pass located nearly half way along the route was given its name due to the sight of emaciated prisoners toiling at night by the light of fires which, when viewed from above, resembled ‘the jaws of Hell’.

*We thank Quiet Lion Tour for giving us the opportunity to represent Melville Senior High School and lay a wreath for our fallen heroes.*







# LEADERSHIP, SACRIFICE, SERVICE

THESE exclusive profiles of former RAN Clearance Divers highlight the challenges members of Australia's elite branch face when making the transition to civilian life. Their inspirational stories were compiled by *StreetWise* as part of a new campaign by the Navy Clearance Diver Trust to raise awareness of their unique skills and values, particularly among potential employers.

Dwayne Cananzi says youth and fitness saved his life in 1991 when he fell 20 metres during a 'Blackhawk' helicopter jump.

He broke his legs, back and skull. Eight months later, he was back at work.

"When I jumped, the rope came out of my leg bag in one complete bundle," he told *StreetWise*. "It didn't stream out of the bag as it normally does.

"I threw away my brake hand and basically went into a free fall all the way down.

"I snapped my legs in half, broke my back, cracked my head open and blood was coming out of my left ear."

The Victorian president of the RAN Clearance Divers Association says his legs, ankles and back are, "still cactus".

He says he was lucky: "My youth and fitness were factors in my recovery. My body had the best chance of survival."

The former clearance diver says diving is in his DNA. "I just had to be in the water. I would take days off school to go diving."

Dwayne joined the Navy in 1983, the UC (underwater controller) having served as a sonar operator on subs and warships until 1985 when he qualified for the gruelling course and, "passed it first time".

The 53-year-old Melbourne father of two says his 'transition' to civilian life was not pretty, having been medically discharged in 1995: "It's one of those unfortunate situations.

"I felt like I'd been forgotten, cut away totally."

Dwayne struck opportunity, working as a technical and safety officer at St Alfred Hospital's hyperbaric recompression chamber in Melbourne.

"I got right into research and education and training in safety. I did that quite well for 15 years, but started to feel

burnt out working in the public service."

Dwayne decided to take a year off before starting a new career in occupational, health and safety career in the disability sector - just a stone's throw from the water.

(Yooralla is one of the biggest non-profit disability services organisations in Australia, supporting more than 30,000 Victorians living with a disability).

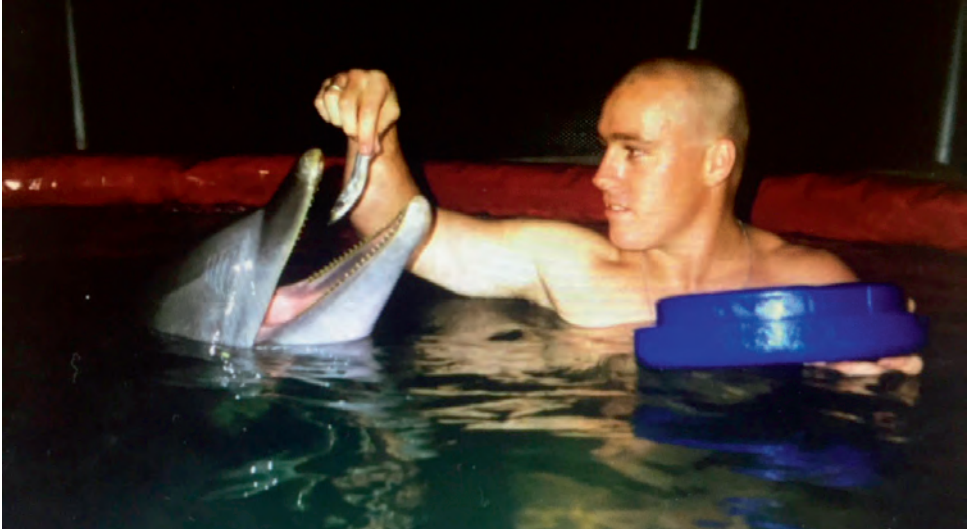
*"I just had to be in the water. I would take days off school to go diving."*











## CLEARED TO SUCCEED

FROM Navy defence divers to leaders in the community. Members of the RAN Clearance Diver Branch face some of the most arduous requirements in the ADF.

Sometimes the biggest challenge is making the transition to civilian life.

The former Clearance Divers shown here share their personal experiences and success stories with support from the Navy Clearance Diver Trust and Leadership WA.

Many former CD continue to work with the RAN Clearance Diving Branch.

Additional profiles are available at [www.ncdt.com.au](http://www.ncdt.com.au) and the *StreetWise* Facebook page.



# ELITE WARRIORS TO INSPIRATIONAL LEADERS



## BLAKE STEVENSON

JOINED RAN: 1986  
QUALIFIED CD: 1990-1997  
CURRENTLY: Production Team Lead,  
Inpex Corporation

IN 1995, Blake Stevenson made a decision that continues to haunt the former CD and Special Air Service Regiment soldier.

Blake had just returned to the CD branch after 18 months of training and service at the SASR in Perth, where he completed the gruelling Cadre course.

"I had applied to go back to the Regiment for a second turn and for whatever reason I didn't end up going," he recalls.

"Had I done so, I would have been involved in the Blackhawk incident the following year."

The worst accident in the Regiment's history, two Blackhawk helicopters collided during a counter-terrorism and special recovery operation exercise near Townsville, Queensland, in June 1996 - killing 18 men.

"Many of those guys I knew, we had completed the course together."



## MARK ALLEN

JOINED RAN: 1980  
QUALIFIED CD: 1983-1995  
CURRENTLY: Marine Technician at  
OPEC Systems

THE late French explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau made such an impression on former RAN CD Mark Allen he decided to make his own scuba diving gear when he was 12, "which freaked out my ol' man. I made it out a jam tin and some rubber. It worked, but knowing what I know now, another five minutes I would have given myself a carbon monoxide build up and died."

Luckily, Mark's father, "skull dragged me out of the pool and said, 'You're lucky you're not dead because I'm going to kill you'".

Qualifying in 1983 after completing the 'hardcore' CD course, Mark left the RAN in 1995 to join Maritime Safety Queensland: "I never thought when I got out of the navy I'd have a choice of getting a job I wanted. I was nervous about 'getting out' into the world. Education played a big part in maritime safety, so I would deliver talks on new legislation and travel around briefing people and different organisation."

Mark says it is important to align the qualities of a CD to civilian employment: "Governments and local councils often recruit guys because they've completed military service without understanding how their skills and qualities align with their own organisations."



## JASON DUNN

JOINED RAAF: 1990  
 QUALIFIED CD: 1995-2004  
 CURRENTLY: HSE Manager, Brunel Australasia

JASON Dunn joined the Air Force in logistics before entering the elite RAN CD Branch. Having moved from South Australia to the WA Wheatbelt in 1979, he says: “I didn’t have a clue what I was getting into.”

In 2004, Jason left and joined the Australian Air Marshal Program for six years before opening a truffle farm in Manjimup.

Based in Port Kennedy, Jason works in Perth as the HSE Manager Australasia for Brunel. He advises divers entering civilian work to, “civilianise your resume”.

He says it is OK to be proud, but too much detail and defence speak will turn off potential employers. “One resume does not fit all.”



## BRETT SHIELDS

JOINED RAN: 1992  
 QUALIFIED CD: 1996-2000  
 CURRENTLY: Group Manager HSE, Civmec Construction & Engineering

A FEW beers with visiting sailors in post-America’s Cup Fremantle tipped Brett Shields into a career as a CD.

Having spent his childhood diving off Rottnest Island and later on shipwrecks such as *Batavia* off Geraldton, Brett qualified as a CD, “though there were some days I didn’t think I would. But I found a way.”

Leaving the navy in 2000, Brett pursued his interests in coral diving, photography and maritime archaeology.

Also working for a company supplying commercial and military diving equipment, he also completed a commerce degree while using his skills to improve industry health and safety.

The HS national and regional manager for Australian and overseas commercial diving and oil and gas companies, Brett says as a CD, “you certainly become very resilient and tenacious and focused on getting a result. Those skills have put me in good stead in the civilian world”.

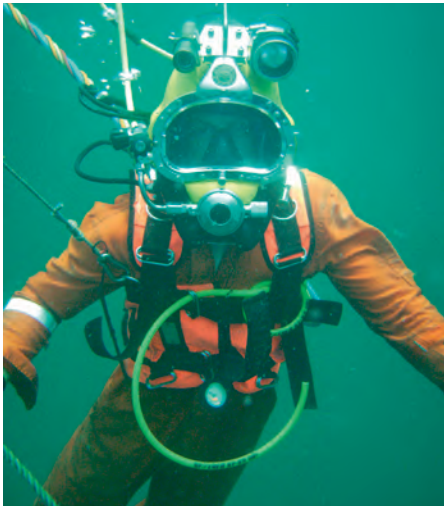
StreetWise would like to thank Navy Clearance Diver Trust secretary Denise Goldsworthy for sharing these extraordinary stories with our readers.





## SUCCESS THROUGH SACRIFICE

*“As former Clearance Divers, we have so many latent skills people are not aware of. You have skills and experiences which a lot of people have never had the opportunity to get involved in. Rely on that, understand that. Get on and do it and you will shine.” - Neil Bell*



*“One of the good things about the CD branch and CD training is the ability to think creatively to move forward and achieve an objective. There is always a strong theme to improvise, adapt and overcome.” - Joe Cuthbertson*

*“We wanted to do the hardest things but no-one wanted to get hurt. So we became very good risk managers.” - Brett Shields*







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