



# **FREO** StreetWise

## **FREE**

Issue 6

October 2017

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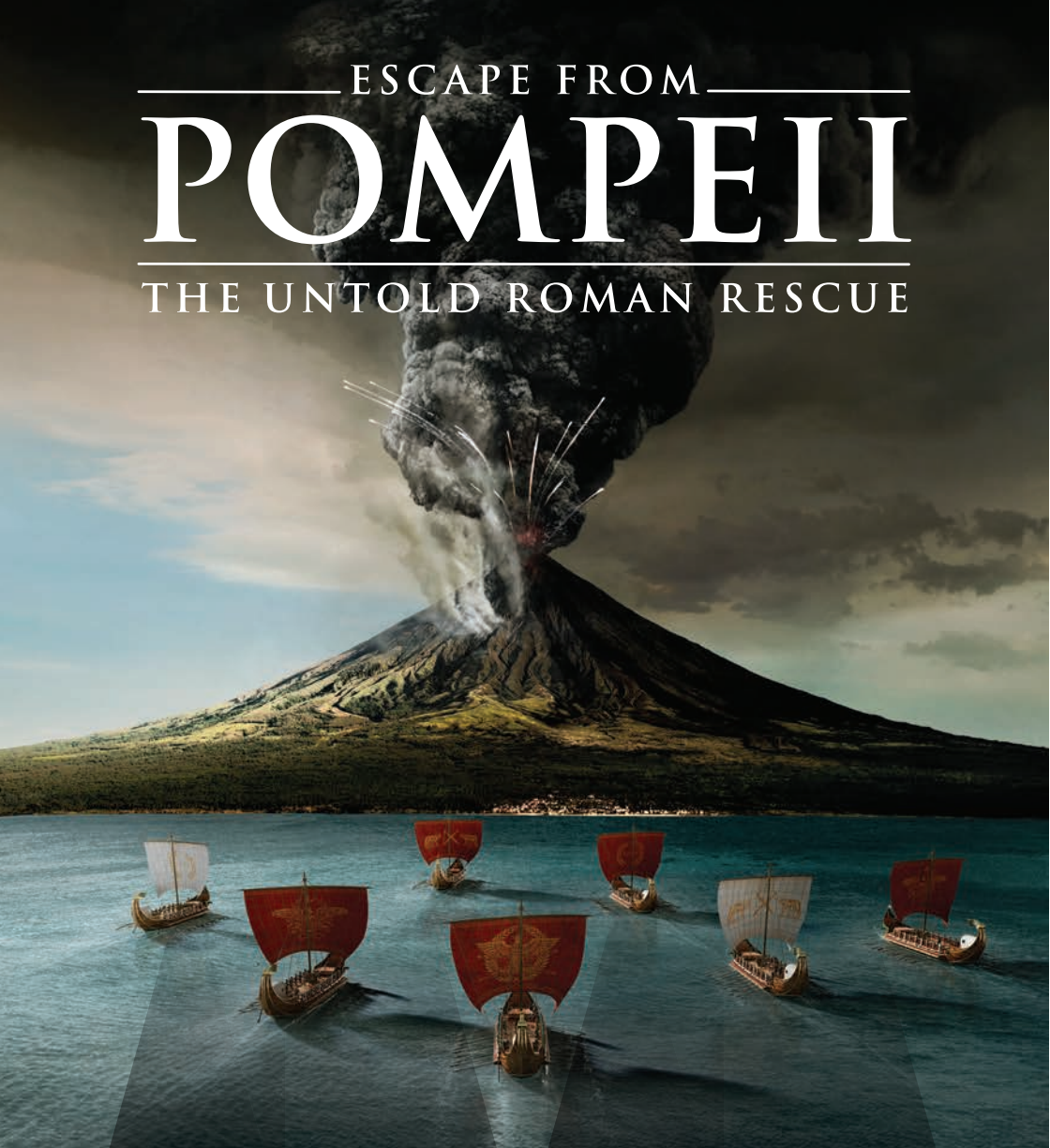
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# EDITORIAL

WELCOME to the sixth issue of *Freo StreetWise*, our stories and images celebrating the best in the popular port city and its suburbs – food, film, politics, history and a number of special events and anniversaries.

We revisit the 1629 *Batavia* mutiny; revere Freo's Blessing of the Fleet; and remember those who sacrificed their lives in all wars and overseas peacekeeping operations in the lead up to November 11.

On October 1, *Freo StreetWise* on behalf of local horse training communities in Fremantle and Cockburn held a Family Fun Day celebrating the 184<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first horse race in WA at CY O'Connor Reserve in Cockburn. Thank you to all who helped make this a great event supported by the City of Cockburn, SCOOP Property, the Merenda Group, Murdoch University, local businesses and individuals including volunteers and members of the public.

Adding to the unique day, new moves to extend the State heritage-listed South Beach Horse Exercise Beach to include the existing bridle trail connecting stables in Fremantle and Hamilton Hill (via Hollis Park).

Meet some of the Freo and Cockburn candidates in the local government elections this month when voters will be asked to consider issues such as Freo's controversial financial audits.

*StreetWise* welcomes guest student photographers from Notre Dame University; thanks Drs Mignon Shardlow and Talhy Stotzer for sending us some of your favourite snaps of the port city.

*StreetWise* also thanks Blinco Street artist Ian de Souza for re-publishing his colourful painting of the Blessing of the Fleet, one of the first completed by a local artist, and Dutch photographer Geert Snoeijer, whose images of Aboriginal people in WA with Dutch physical features could hold the key to the fate of banished *Batavia* mutineers in 1629.

Remaining copies of the *Freo StreetWise* 124-page anniversary edition are still available at SCOOP Property, Calogero's and Peaches in South Fremantle, Portorosa Fremantle and Somes Newsagent in Freo.

Carmelo Amalfi

# THANK YOU

Thanks to our sponsors, advertisers and many supporters including SCOOP Property, Merenda Group, *Menu Magazine*, The Perth Review, Portorosa, The National Hotel, The Esplanade Fremantle - by Rydges, Little Creatures, Notre Dame University, WA Museum, STS Leeuwien Foundation, WA shipwreck author Hugh Edwards, Dutch photographer Geert Snoeijer, Terry Patterson, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Returned & Services League of WA, Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett, Jack Jovcic, Andrew Thorn, Troy Latto, our *StreetWise* advertisers, local government election candidates and contributors Salvatore Passanisi and Cadie, Baeley and Melody Amalfi. Thanks to editor Eddie Albrecht and designer Christoph Hoppen, who also worked on the special commemorative booklet released at the October 1 Family Fun Day at CY O'Connor Reserve. The printed version will be posted online.

Readers can contact '*Freo StreetWise*' via PO Box 258 Fremantle WA 6160 or 0468 608 503 and [melnet@westnet.com.au](mailto:melnet@westnet.com.au). Also follow us on our Facebook site.

# HORSEBACK BEACH

OCTOBER 2017 marks the 184<sup>th</sup> anniversary since horses first raced in WA on a strip of beach named after Goldfields pipeline pioneer and Freo port engineer CY O'Connor.

On October 1, history and horses, great and miniature, converged on CY O'Connor Reserve as part of the 2017 Horse Commemorative Event overlooking the State heritage-listed horse exercise beach.

Organised by Amalfi Publishing, the City of Cockburn-funded event celebrated the continued use of the popular beach by trainers, riders and horse owners including Australia's oldest jockey Danny 'Dashing' Miller, WA's oldest trainer Jack

Cockell and 100-year-old WW2 veteran and Rat of Tobruk JJ Wade.

The Family Fun Day included pony rides, horseshoe throwing and a 10th Lighthorse exhibition honouring the use of the beach by WW1 and WW2 mounted troops. Even a WW2 anvil used in Palestine was put on display.

The celebration of this rich local history follows the unveiling on October 2, 2016 of a permanent horse plaque at CY O'Connor Reserve.



After a welcome to country, Father Ted Miller, whose own father Jimmy was a Perth Cup and three-time Railways Stakes winner who used the beach, blessed the plaque covered by champion racehorse Village Kid's riding rug, donated for the unveiling by WA trainer Bill Horn.

Freo's Samson and Thompspn families contributed to the plaque and plinth while a small army of supporters and volunteers pulled off a top day in 2016 and 2017. Proceeds of the day's donations go to the National Jockeys Trust.

South Freo stable owner Terry Patterson was instrumental in lobbying for support for both events. He said the 2017 event cemented the importance and value of the local horse training

industry to WA since colonial times; the beach having produced a string of winners in WA, Australia and overseas.

The State's first horse meeting included six imported Timor ponies which raced on "The Downs", just south of present-day South Beach.

The State's second horse race was held in 1834.

Images of the Horse Commemorative Event at CY O'Connor Reserve will be published on the *Freo StreetWise* Facebook site.

A commemorative 184th anniversary booklet funded under the Cockburn will also be published online.



# HOLLIS HOLD-UP

A STATE heritage nomination to include the Hollis Park bridle trail connecting horse stables in Fremantle and Cockburn has moved a step closer to permanent listing.

Heritage authorities have told *Freo StreetWise* after nearly five years of consultation, all stakeholders were keen to move on with the registration now that, “all issues have been resolved”.

In a statement issued after *StreetWise* asked what the hold-up was, the State Heritage Office said: “Consultation about registration was deferred while the constraints of the site were discussed with government stakeholders. We hope to be able to begin consultation again in the near future.” Described as “good news”, listing Hollis Park will link local trainers and rides to the existing State heritage-listed South Beach Horse Exercise Area where the first horse race was held in WA in 1833.

Straddling the boundaries of Fremantle and Cockburn, the former South Fremantle landfill site - formerly referred to as ‘Cockell’s Paddock’ after the father of WA country racing - links to the beach historic WA stables such as the only operating stables on Daly Street in South Fremantle and Western Australia’s oldest stables at Randwick on Rockingham Road in Hamilton Hill.

The extension of the existing beach listing was discussed at an informal elected members’ briefing in August 2013 when State Heritage Office representatives described the heritage values of the horse exercise area which, “should be read as implicitly applying to the Hollis Park area as well, due to its associations with the horse training and racing industry”.

On October 16, 2013, the ordinary meeting of council supported the recommendation.

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage Assistant Director General Graeme Gammie said in the April issue of *StreetWise*, “All stakeholders who have an interest in the proposed registration

have been asked to comment, including the owners of the land, the two local governments, and other interested parties. Whilst it is preferable that there is broad agreement for a place to be included in the State Register, it is not a requirement that all stakeholders support registration”.

Presently, the existing path from Cockburn Road to South Beach is used by pedestrians, cyclists and horses.

South Freo stables owner Terry Patterson, whose parents and local horse owners have used Hollis Park for decades, wants the former dune area renamed ‘Cockell’s Paddock’, after Jack David

Cockell who owned stables on Daly Street until his death in 1929. (Pictured opposite)

Cockell’s son Jack, who still trains horses and rarely misses country race meetings, says it would be a great honour to have the park renamed after his father. One of the best horsemen in the State, J.D. Cockell held legendary parties at his stables where locals played two-up at his stables and took in, “the homeless and downtrodden”.



\*The former South Fremantle landfill site was operated as a waste dump between approximately 1930 and 1991. According to the City of Fremantle, 88 per cent of the site is owned by the City and the remainder by the Commissioner of Main Roads WA. The site is registered under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003 with a classification of “contaminated - remediation required”.



# FINANCIALS MATTER

FREO'S financials are front and centre in the local government elections in October. Particularly, in Mayor Brad Pettitt's re-election campaign.

On September 23, *Freo StreetWise* published leaked minutes of campaign meetings which state, "Brad to tell CEO to audit financial reports in 7 days". The revelation raises serious questions over how - weeks before the election - Fremantle's financial "health index" suddenly jumped from one of the worst performing local government authorities in WA to one of the best.

The City's finances are key platforms for Mayoral candidate Ra Stewart and City Ward candidate Claudia Green, who have campaigned on financial accountability and transparency. Claudia says electors are concerned over the deteriorating health of the City's finances and its impact on local rates, amenities and important development projects such as Kings Square and the contractual arrangements with Sirona.

The only true 'local' in the City Ward election sent *StreetWise* a series of questions she says voters want answers to:

1. The State Government MyCouncil website ranks the City's financial position as the WORST in WA, with a score of 42 out of 100, where a score of 70 or above indicates a healthy financial position. The City of Melville rates 98. However, on September 20, just weeks before the election in which the port city's financial future is a hot topic, the Minister for Local Government "clarified" the ranking by agreeing to boost Fremantle's score to near 85 after the City wrote to him pointing out "anomalies" in the auditing.
  - What are the "anomalies" and will the City make public the letter to the minister? Why did the Mayor not tell ratepayers about his direction to the CEO until *Freo StreetWise* revealed his August 16 campaign minutes?
  - Why did the City decide not to send its "new" audit to Treasury, which former Fremantle mayor Peter Tagliaferri said when he contacted the department stood by, "their health audit and have taken in all factors."

2. In the past five years, the City has raised \$50 million selling income generating investment properties. How much of this was reinvested to replace lost ratepayer income? What happened to the \$50 million?

3. Minutes from the City's Audit and Risk Committee in November 2016 concluded that the City's ability to service debt out of its uncommitted or General Purpose funds available from Operations, "is limited and declining", while, "the auditor raised a concern in relation to the City's financial sustainability and suggested that Council and management need to consider ways to improve the operating position either via increasing revenue or by decreasing expenditure (or a combination of both)".

Why did the City increase debt by another \$20 million by becoming contractually bound to Sirona to build a \$50 million civic building it does not need nor can afford before design, costs and estimates, project funding and project management structures were finalised - and against its own auditor's advice? In late 2016, the Mayor wrote: "Can Sirona do their development without our new civic building? We are contractually bound to do the civic precinct as well because it is part of our pitch to State Government that this would be a catalysts project for the centre of Fremantle."

- Is the City or Sirona in control of the new \$50 million civic building or is Sirona driving the project agenda?
- Has the City sold \$50 million of ratepayers' property to Sirona for \$29 million to part fund this project?
- Is the total loss to ratepayers from building the King's Square Civic building \$51 million?



4. Why did the council agree in 2012 to sell the Queensgate building to Sirona for just \$6.35 million when the City's own February 2012 documents valued this building at \$15.9 million?
5. How does the City justify selling the 843-bay Queensgate carpark to Sirona for only \$16 million when the nearby 450-bay Collie Street carpark sold for \$38 million?
6. Can we believe the Mayor's claim the new civic building (excluding land) will double in value over the next 20 years or should we believe 100 years of accounting, project finance and property development theory that buildings depreciate over time? Despite repeated requests, why can't the Mayor produce any property experts to support his "appreciation" claim?






# Vote local

## Vote Claudia Green

### Independent for City Ward

e: claudia\_green42@hotmail.com m: 0416 338 769  Claudiaforcity  @emillia42

## Dear City Ward elector: Fremantle Matters!

Please vote for Claudia Green for City Ward Councillor.

Do you want to return trust to community representation and in Council as a community institution?

As an independent, I am a candidate not sponsored by any political party, business or individual.

### Why is this important?

- It means that I can be your voice and represent you without any compromise.
- It means that I can be a genuine 'check and balance' amongst a Council largely consisting of members of Political Parties, that compromises their decision making, and priorities.
- It means that a local will represent City Ward for the first time in many years.
- I have lived in City Ward for 25 years, and Fremantle for 40 years.

I live here!!

### What skills and qualifications do I bring to the role?

- qualifications in Industrial Relations, Education and Law as well as having worked in the Department of Treasury and Finance, and the Department of Education, and therefore.
- a sound understanding in Statutes, Regulation, financial/ due diligence issues and public-sector governance to be able act responsibly and independently, as your elected Councillor.
- a background in local government activism, and as Chair of the Fremantle Resident' and Ratepayers' Association, for 5 years, so I have a sound practice in procedures and standing orders. Without this, the Council environment is intimidating.
- have represented and presented for community groups in and to Council and on Joint Development Application Committees for years.

I am a good public speaker, described as clear and articulate (see testimonials reverse page

Do you want to be consulted over major changes to amenity and lifestyle?

Major celebration events/ changes to major transport routes, traffic regulators such as speed humps, median strips, parking.



Best wishes,  
Claudia Green

### Are you concerned about:

- rates, and sound financial management
- the sale of major assets, \$40 million debt of the King's Square project, and Fremantle being named a "high risk" by the Department of Local Government?
- A better deal for Seniors, and diversity on Council
- Revitalising the CBD and actioning crime and social issues affecting our city.
- Protecting the Arthurs' Head reserve for passive recreational use and responsible alcohol use development proposals, and in Fremantle generally.
- Responsible Planning decisions in Fremantle



# Testimonials for Claudia for City!

**Chris G'Froerer, local Fremantle business woman:**

“LEADERSHIP INTEGRITY AND PASSION I have known Claudia Green on a professional basis, ...Claudia’s strong leadership, integrity and passion is vitally important to the city and her commitment to ensure transparent and open governance is essential in council. She is the number one candidate for City Ward.”

**Chris Grisewood, Fremantle Citizen of the Year, City Ward resident:**

“Claudia is a knowledgeable, energetic and committed local. These attributes have been lacking in our council for several years.

A vote for Claudia Green means representation in the true sense for City Ward.”

**Juanita Brown, ex City Ward Councillor:**

“It’s high time we had a City Ward Councillor who has the interests of ratepayers and residents at heart. Claudia will do the hard yards and ensure council focuses on its obligations outlined in the Local Government Act.”

**Clint Clarke, Port Jarrah Furniture, City Ward businessman:**

“The current City Ward Councillors are a waste of time. They don’t return emails, they won’t listen if you don’t agree with their political agenda. They don’t even live in City Ward. Let’s get real people on council.”

**Michelle Balfour-Cunningham, candidate East Ward:**

Claudia Green is always happy share information and explain situations. She is enthusiastic, knowledgeable, quickly locates potential problems and offers practical solutions.

**Maryrose Baker, Inner City resident and local activist:**

Claudia’s is totally focused on giving voice to local residents, business owners and ratepayers. She is a wise person and a strong, experienced, advocate. She is definitely totally independent, not under the sponsorship or support of any political party. **She is not driven by any ideology other than to be a true, independent, grass roots voice. Claudia will give City Ward the desperately needed local representation we need on council.**

# MAYORAL CANDIDATE RA STEWART

FIVE months ago, I started my campaign for Mayor of Fremantle to create a “Freo for All”. Not just in the CBD, but in the ‘forgotten suburbs’ where people feel isolated and powerless. Voiceless.

To address the decline of our beautiful port city and political imbalance currently on council, I have and will continue to challenge the issues which affect every resident and ratepayer. I will ensure they are heard.

I have been blessed over these past few months with an amazing support network including my family, friends, campaign team and members of the broader community who have provided encouragement, support and the reason why Freo needs a true voice.

I have had the privilege of meeting extraordinary people; members of our migrant community, our business community, our indigenous community, families, seniors, our young people and the many community organisations which enrich our historic city.

I have given countless hours of thought to how the port city can be rejuvenated, how we can activate, engage and restore our city to its rightful position as the jewel in Western Australia’s crown. I have suggested efficiencies such as online residential and student parking permits

and put forward a policy to encourage diversity of transport and accessibility to our city.

I have developed policy to make Fremantle a creative industry and knowledge hub, and capitalise on the social and educational capital Notre Dame University provides.

I believe the Kwinana W2E (Waste to Energy) plant is a means by which Fremantle can achieve zero landfill, and suggested ways to revitalise the Fremantle Hospital site, thereby providing aged care, affordable residential and student accommodation and specialist medical facilities.

A city is about people first and foremost. It is people who create it, give it life and people who provide the rich fabric of our community.

The people of Freo are what makes this city so special, regardless of differences in thought and opinion. So help me create a Freo for ALL.

Elect a Mayor who focuses on local issues, who listens, consults and addresses the concerns of his - or her - constituents.

Freo for all starts with one vote, yours.



# FREO MAYOR BRAD PETTITT

IT'S an exciting time for Freo. Our amazing port city is going through a period of unprecedented renewal and activation.

Lonely Planet might have already named Freo one of the top ten cities to visit on planet but work is underway to make Fremantle an even more liveable city.

The transformation of Kings Square is now underway which will not only add around 2000 new jobs to the Fremantle CBD but also add some amazing new 21st century retail via the newly released FOMO retail concept.

Add to this a new, bigger, state-of-the-art library and visitors centre and an amazing new playground - co-designed by Fremantle's kids. For the first time Fremantle really will have a civic heart it can be proud of it.

But it's not all about the CBD, importantly we are also delivering better services for ratepayers by providing:

- Improved waste collection and verge services
- A dedicated community safety team
- More arts, culture and festivals
- Sound financial governance
- Restoration of our city's heritage buildings
- More affordable, sustainable and diverse housing options
- The foundations for increased investment and economic renewal.

It has been an honour to have led a collaborative Council, united in its desire to create a positive future for our city.

We have achieved so much, but there's plenty more to do. Never has vision integrity, experience and strong leadership been more vital.

It's an exciting time for Fremantle and I'm looking forward to seeing our port city build on its strengths and realise its potential.



# JULIE MORGAN

(CITY Ward)



The old adage is all politics is local - so should councillors be local too?

I am in the City Ward all day every day.

My boys go to the river or Freo Surf Club to train many mornings at 5am. I then walk them to school at 8.30am, and then go to the office.

After school the boys play at the Esplanade Park or Bathers Beach.

Over the past 12 months, thanks to my constant harassment City Ward has benefitted from increased council security and WA police patrols; the CCTV cameras have been repaired, and I even called an ambulance as a young backpacker lay bleeding early in the morning.

I am reminded of the Hillary Clinton campaign ad - which City Ward councillor will actually be in the City Ward at 3am? I will.

# MICHELLE CUNNINGHAM

(EAST Ward)



Thank you to everyone who voted for me in the 2015 election.

I stand again on much the same issues as before and look forward to comparing results from this year's doorknocking.

The local issues you spoke to me about include maintaining and upgrading our suburbs and city, valid community consultation and solving local, specific East Ward problems.

There are broader issues and these are either ongoing, like retrospective building approval, or change from year to year for the example, the new council offices.

I also want to bring diversity to Fremantle Council. I don't mean gender diversity as in "more women" in council.

I will give a voice to all East Ward residents, regardless of their gender because I try to make informed fair decisions. Good decisions rely on a balance of facts and opinions, experts and locals and experience and creativity.

# LOGAN HOWLETT

(COCKBURN Mayor)



I look forward to serving you and the community as we plan for new and exciting community projects that will contribute to our health, well-being and sense of community.

The world class facilities provided over the past eight years have clearly defined our local government and provide the focus for us going forward.

We have protected our local government boundaries and in so doing brought our community together in a powerful and enduring manner.

My wife Pat and I have worked tirelessly in the community as we share a dream, a passion for all things Cockburn; its people, history, cultural diversity and future as a place where dreams can be realised.

I seek your support and vote as we work together to make Cockburn a safer place, promote small business growth, create the jobs of the future, deliver inclusive community programs and services and increase our tree canopy coverage.

# CHAMONIX TERBLANCHE

(COCKBURN Mayoral Candidate)



Fellow Residents,

It's time for change. As a serving Councillor, I know we need fresh leadership to make Cockburn Australia's BEST city. I ask for your help to realise a BOLD new VISION for Cockburn. With 20-plus years' Industry, Government, Board, Governance and Academic experience, I want to work with you to realise:

1. Connected and Consulted Community - listening actively; improving security; boosting tourism, culture; greater transparency; regular video updates from me, your Mayor
2. Future Proof City - implement city wide wi-fi; better road networks; drone utilisation; video-streaming Council meetings
3. Considerate Commitments - conserving fauna & flora, diverse cultures, disabled, aged, young, less fortunate.

This is your city. With your help, I shall make it work for all of us. My husband Carl, my three sons, and I look forward to your support for a new era of energised council leadership.

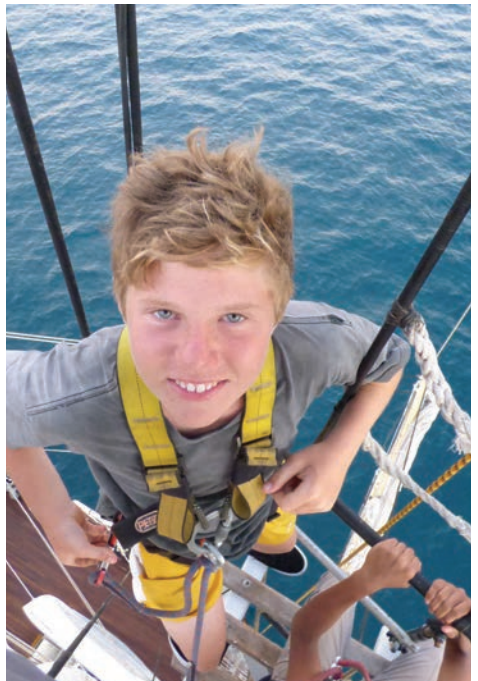


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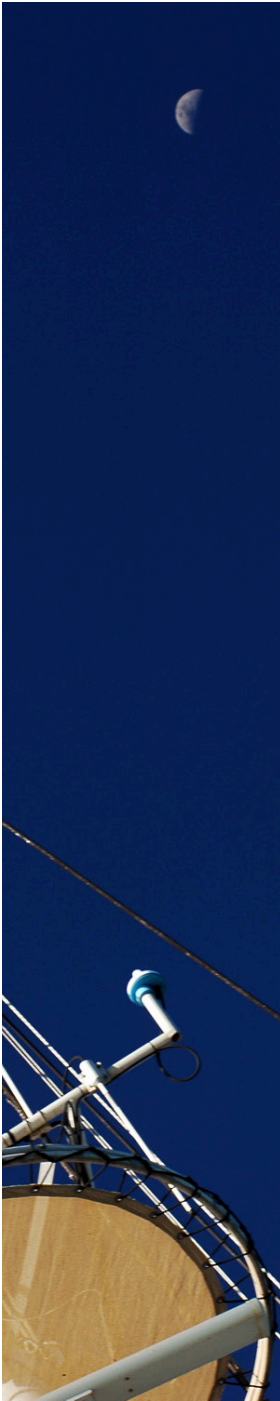
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## TASTY FEST

OKTOBERFEST, new spring and summer menus and a great selection of craft beers are just some of the reasons you need to visit Little Creatures

Head chef Julian Bergerhoff says he likes to, “under promise but over deliver”, his hero dishes including beef and lamb brisquette which he plans to carry over into summer.

Munich-born Julian, 35, joined Little Creatures nearly five years while backpacking in WA, having worked at gourmet and high-end restaurants and hotels in Europe.

He says he is looking forward to Oktoberfest, ‘A Little Bavarian Taste’, which was already underway in Germany when he spoke to *Freo Street Wise*.



# PORTO BELLA

ENJOY traditional cuisine and service at Portorosa Fremantle where you can eat Italian without having to be in Italy.

And when you do get around to visiting Italy, make sure you ask owner Joe Napoli for the best pizza 'hotspots' - one of which will most likely be in his birthplace of Portorosa in Sicily.

Joe uses the best available local ingredients to create a menu that brings out the best in traditional Italian flavours, his recipes attracting diners from around the metropolitan area.

Joe's mouthwatering menus feature a variety of antipasto combinations, soups, homemade pasta and sauce and fresh seafood, poultry and meat. And, of course, pizzas, created in the wood-fired oven popular with winter patrons.

Portorosa also caters for family functions, birthdays, anniversaries and other special events. Friendly staff will provide you with fantastic service, so book your special occasion for spring and summer. Or pop in and say hello to Joe and his staff.

Additional information at [www.portorosa.com.au](http://www.portorosa.com.au) or contact the popular restaurant on 0894306126 or [info@portorosa.com.au](mailto:info@portorosa.com.au).



# STUDENTS FOCUS

*FREO StreetWise* invited Notre Dame University to send in a selection of images by students in its photojournalism program.

Thanks to Drs Mignon Shardlow and Talhy Stotzer for these images, including the cover shot. The photography units at Notre Dame introduce students to the power of a great image and how to capture one.

“Students at Notre Dame learn to produce compelling images that best represent the human condition,” Dr Shardlow told *StreetWise*. “They learn to identify and research a visual story and to value timeliness, objectivity and narrative.

“And they have fun as well.”





# WAR DIARY

A TINY tattered diary kept by WW2 airforce private Nancy Patterson speaks volumes of the pain of war at home in WA.

The Koorda girl who passed away in Fremantle in 1998 records the daily struggle faced by family and friends while their loved ones fought overseas.

Nancy's diary, written in pencil and ink, begins on New Year's Day 1944. Saturday: "Dance went off good. Tom (her older brother who enlisted in 1942) came up, and went to dance at Cadoux. Had a good time."

On January 2, Nancy played tennis then "rabbit chasing" at night. "Had a few drinks with the boys at night. Ended up in hospital acting the fool, was also sick."

The next day she drove to a friend's house in Wylie to help care for a sick baby. The baby died, the funeral held on January 7.

January 8: "Had a few drinks at night."

On January 9, Tom came up from Perth, "went to pictures".

January 12: "was pretty sick ... Mrs Alford came and had dinner with us." (Late Mrs Alford's husband Paddy, 97, lives in a nursing home in Manning).

On January 25, with Tom, they drive to Bencubbin where they ended up, "just about crying drunk", Nancy adding, "Tom's cobbles were wild cos they wanted to get home".

On January 28, the day before her birthday, Nancy and the Alfords celebrated with, "a few drinks of hop beer".

The next day, "Mrs Sands' baby passed away", noting, "couldn't get a drink of beer so had so much soft stuff, was blown up".

By February, Mrs Alford received the good news that, "Paddy survived". Two days later, Nancy, "had a session, was sick drunk".

On February 21, Paddy returns. (He was struck down by dengue fever. He enlisted in June 1941 and served in the Middle East before he returned to Australia in February 1943 to complete jungle training in Queensland. He was discharged in 1946).

On February 28, she notes, "Mum's leg in plaster ... train on strike". (Nancy's mum Martha was

married to Harry, a Northumberland fusilier and boxer who fought in WW1 and Russia in 1919 before he arrived in WA with their son Tommy and baby Nancy. Their property was seized by the bank in the late 1950s after Martha, who had no-one to turn to, her family in the UK, left the farm to live in Koorda when the local school closed. The family moved to Fremantle, living for many years on Carrington Street in Hilton).

On Anzac Day, Nancy says she attended the morning services before driving to Gabbin in the afternoon.

On May 7, she attends the Dowerin versus Koorda footy game. A month later, on June 14, she is taken by ambulance to hospital with appendicitis.

With the strain of looking after mum and her siblings, Nancy plans to leave the RAAF, which she did reluctantly the following year.

August 1: "Played hockey. Yanks matched us."

August 18: "Went to trots with Curly (local farmer). Then to Freo. Missed bus home."

August 31: "A year to day since mum had her last letter from dad." (Harry had enlisted in the 2/28th Battalion and sailed to the Middle East in April 1941, joining the fight in Tobruk in July and Palestine in September. He returned to WA in February 1943, then sailed in August to New Guinea where he died with hundreds of Diggers at Busa River on September 9).

October 6: "A year today since I went in airforce."

On Christmas Eve, Nancy went to the pictures and on Christmas Day, "Tom came up for tea". (A year later, Tom was flown back to WA after he was shot by a sniper on Tarakan Island off Borneo. He died on December 27, 1945).

Nancy ends her diary by noting a full moon on New Years Eve when she, "went to dance ... was a good show".

Her surviving son Terry, who runs the last working stables in South Fremantle where his parents lived for most of their lives, says the war ended in 1945 but for many families it continues today.



The 63-year-old horseman says many were left alone and isolated when loved ones never returned, others lost their lands and belongings and others took their own lives, including members of his own family.

In 2016, Terry returned to Koorda on Anzac Day when he visited his family's former home just outside the central wheatbelt town 236km east of Perth. Only a rusty baby's cot remains on the property where his family lived in a hessian shack and owned a pet pig and 17 Clydesdales.

This Remembrance Day, Terry will lay flowers on the graves of his former serving family members including his grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts. This annual pilgrimage will cover hundreds of kilometres of driving, bad coffee, flowers for his mum (with siblings, opposite) and flags for Tommy and, if he has time, pop in for a cuppa with mum's great friend Paddy..

All because, "I don't forget".



# DAD'S WARS

POLICE Traffic Warden Jean Beatson was six years old when her Scottish-born father John Mack died in Subiaco in 1953, aged 59.

Having survived WW1 and WW2, shrapnel embedded in his kidneys until his death, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlander was “blown to smithereens” by a German attack on his machine gun nest on the Western Front in 1915.

“Dad had heavy scarring on the back of his neck, you could put your thumb into the wounds,” Jean recalls. “I remember asking him how he got them and he replied, ‘white ants’. He never talked about the war.”

Jean, 71, says Remembrance Day will be special this year, having visited her father's house in High Street, Kincardine, and his regiment's home in Stirling Castle during a war history tour to the UK and France last year.

“I've only just found out he was in Jerusalem,” the keen history sleuth says proudly at the Soldiers Monument on Rokeby Road in Subiaco.

*StreetWise* contacted Jean after Afghanistan veteran and former RSL Freo president Rob Cashman passed on her details, “a lady who in my view keeps the Anzac spirit alive”.

Jean says dad was discharged in 1919, having survived his near-death experience, then rejoined in WW2 in the 2/7th Field Regiment ambulance unit in North Africa and the Middle East.

“He didn't have enough in the first,” she says. “I think he lowered his age to 40 in the second when he was actually 47 years old.”

He married his first wife in 1922 and the following year sailed to Ellis Island in the US where his older brother Thomas lived. The middle brother Robert died in France.

John returned to Kincardine then moved the family to WA.

Jean's mother Gwen, dad's second wife, enlisted in the Australian Women's Army Service as a cook at Hobbs artillery base in Karrakatta.

John had three boys from his first marriage, which dissolved after his wife had an affair while he was on duty in Darwin.

“None of three boys made it to dad's age. Duncan hung himself, the eldest died of septicaemia at 48 and the youngest died of heart problems.”

In 1945, John married Gwen Epps, of Midland Junction. Jean says she broke the mould as the only daughter. Her mother, who passed away in 1999, aged 85, told her dad stood at the foot of the bed crying when she was born.

“Mum ran away from home in 1942 and enlisted after her brother disappeared in Timor fighting in the 2nd/2nd Commandos,” she says.

Jean's grandfather on mum's side was a founding member of the Ugly Men's Association, a fundraising and charitable organisation set up in 1917 and forerunner of Lotterywest. “When all the young handsome men were called up to WW1, those were rejected formed the Ugly Men's.”

After WW1, John was a gardener at Hollywood Repatriation Hospital in Nedlands. “He had six weeks and Italian POWs to get the gardens ready for the Royal visit of Prince Albert, Duke of York, and wife Elizabeth.”

Jean says her parents were heavy drinkers. “Those who returned from war were just expected to pick up where they left off.”

She says she never married, though “a few slipped through my fingers”, having spent many years taking care of mum who had dementia.

“I wish dad hadn't gone as early as he did.”

She says it is difficult to get access to her father's WW1 records because many of the archives were destroyed in the Blitz in 1940 and 1941.

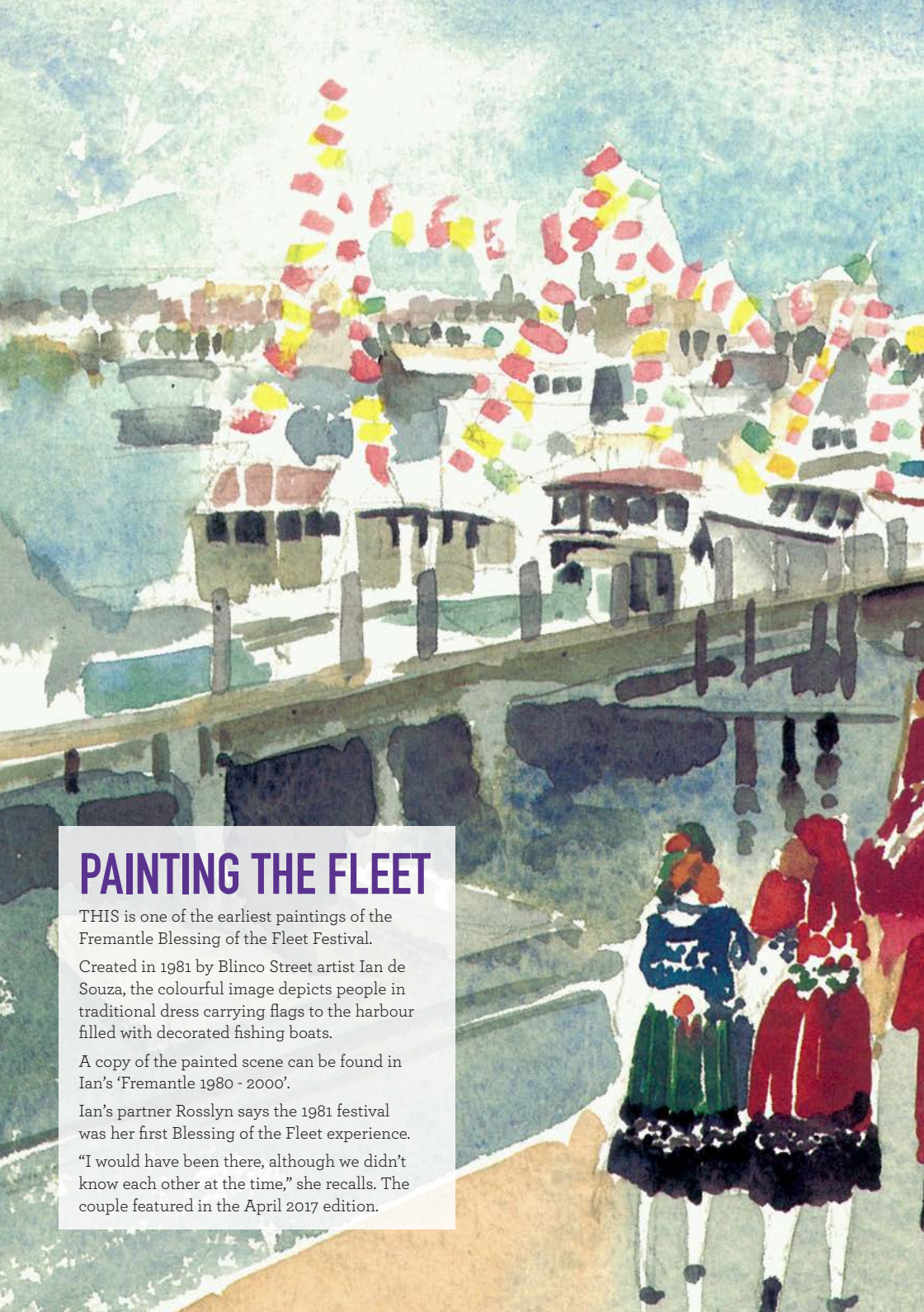
The Highlanders was a line infantry regiment of the British Army formed in 1881, though its history dates back to the mid-1700s. It was amalgamated with the Royal Regiment of Scotland in March 2006.

In 2012, the 5th Battalion was scaled down to a single public duties company called Balaklava Company, 5th Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland, (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders).

*“Those who returned from war were just expected to pick up where they left off.”*







## PAINTING THE FLEET

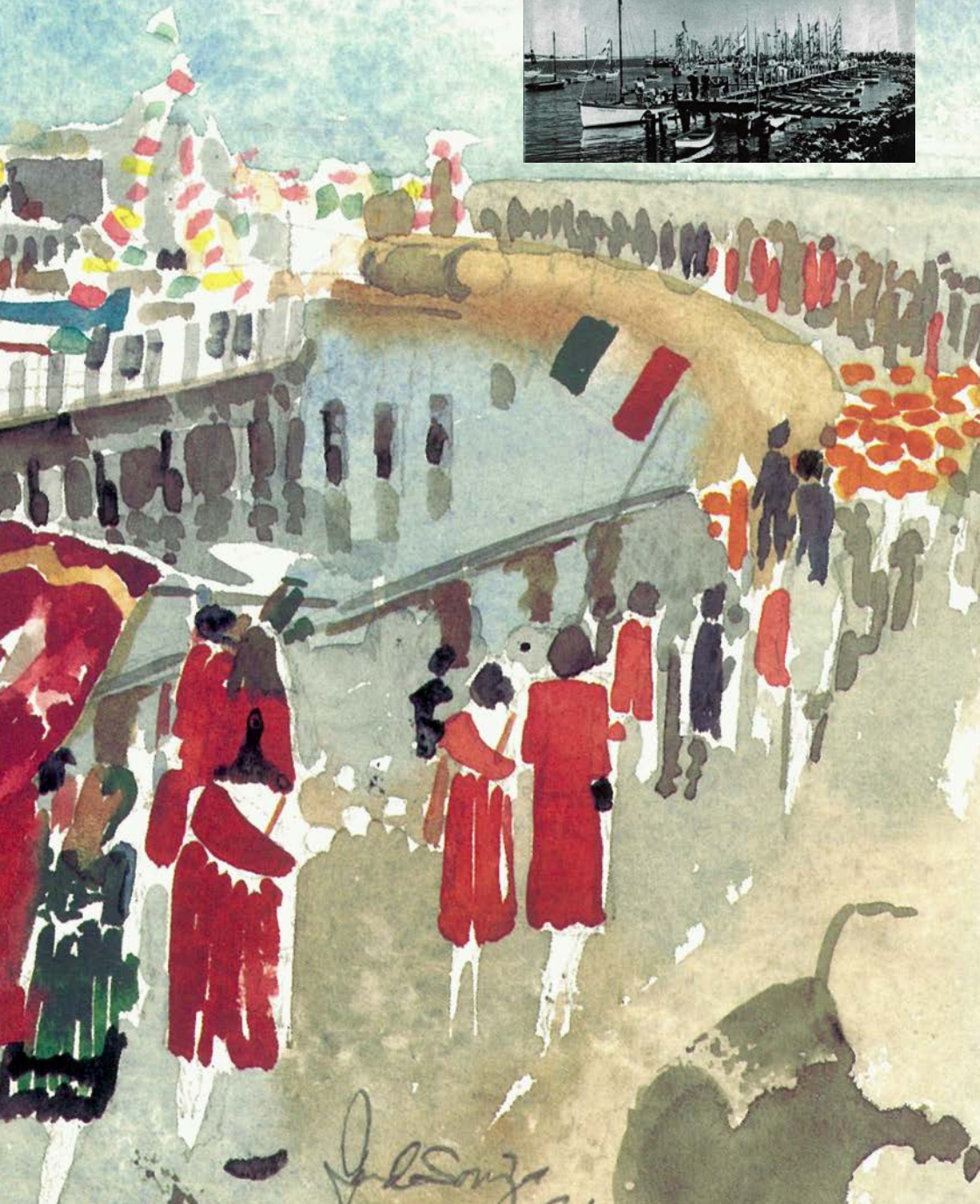
THIS is one of the earliest paintings of the Fremantle Blessing of the Fleet Festival.

Created in 1981 by Blinco Street artist Ian de Souza, the colourful image depicts people in traditional dress carrying flags to the harbour filled with decorated fishing boats.

A copy of the painted scene can be found in Ian's 'Fremantle 1980 - 2000'.

Ian's partner Rosslyn says the 1981 festival was her first Blessing of the Fleet experience.

"I would have been there, although we didn't know each other at the time," she recalls. The couple featured in the April 2017 edition.



J. Souza

# THE ROWER

CHAMPION rower and retired fisherman Roko Jokovich started marching in the annual Blessing of the Fleet in the early 1960s.

Born in Vela Luka on the Dalmatian island of Korcula in Croatia, Roko and his brother and family arrived in Australia 60 years ago.

For a few months, he worked in Broken Hill, NSW, initially in construction, before supplying local shops with fish for a couple of years.

“Every month, I went into Broken Hill to collect our money,” the 86-year-old Beaconsfield resident told *Freo StreetWise* at his Hale Street home.

“My friend and me went to a restaurant where I ordered crayfish from WA. I said, ‘I will be there (in WA) soon’.”

In 1959, Roko moved west. Building freezer boats on Walker Street in South Fremantle, Roko fished off Beagle Island near Dongora before trying his hand at catching Shark Bay snapper.

He said he also sold fish to the Painos and Ricciardis.

Roko’s boats included Dubrovnik (where he fished as a child), Kon Dios and Vela Luka, which is shown here in one of the earliest black and white images of the Blessing of the Fleet.

“Fishing makes me happy,” he says. “I went to the festival from 1960 to 1970 and put in the Croatian flag, then the Portuguese put one on top.

“I watch it from balcony now. Everything changed after the America’s Cup.”

Curious how a fisherman became a European champion rowing for his country in the early 1950s, Roko replied: “Fisherman at that time had no engines, we rowed. We were always rowing.”

He said his eight-man team consisted of men from around the country: “You have to be tall. The rowing club belonged to the navy, which supplied us with food and equipment.”

Having represented his country in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1953 and Belgium the following year, Roko says he left Croatia soon after the Communists took over.

“When Mussolini took over the Dalmatian coast we had to attend school and learn to speak Italian,” The Rower recalls, adding he spoke better Italian than Italians who worked under him.

“I had six men working for me, Portuguese, Italian, Spanish, all nationalities. We can’t talk to each other but we knew how to fish. We worked together.”





# BLESSED BEGINNINGS

FREO'S biggest cultural festival dates back to the first few years after WW2. At a time when many Italian "illegal aliens" were allowed to return to their families after years in internment camps in WA and the eastern States, followers of the Christian faith decided to express their religious devotion by establishing the Blessing of the Fleet.

Italian fishermen from Molfetta, Italy, and Capo D'Orlando, Sicily - both sister cities to Freo - honoured the 'Queen of the Seas' by holding an annual 'festa' or festival in which an image of the Madonna was carried to the harbour and loaded on to a fishing boat. Believers ask for the Madonna's blessing and pray for a bumper harvest, and safe return home.

The image of the Madonna was carried in the first procession in 1948. The statue of Our Lady of Martyrs was first paraded through the streets of Freo from St Patrick's Basilica to Fishing Boat Harbour on September 10, 1950.

Father Pietro Abramo, "who recently arrived from Italy to take charge of the Italian community in this State", led the solemn procession as altar boys, flower girls and cadets from Aquinas College followed singing 'Amore di Madre a Molfetta'. Invisible led 15 boats with the statue on board.

Watched by thousands of people crowding Esplanade Park, a reported 500 to 600 people took part in the actual procession, "a colourful ceremony, held in Australia for the first time". (In Port Pirie, South Australia, the first festival was held in 1934; Victoria 1935; Adelaide 1954; and Tuncurry, NSW, 1958).

The legend states a boat filled with injured and dying Christian Crusaders returned from the Holy Land in 1188 and found a Byzantine-style icon of the madonna and child floating off the coast of Molfetta.

The statue honours 'martyrs of the faith'.

In 1951, a 400-strong procession arrived at the harbour where the statue of Madonna dei Martiri (Our Lady of Martyrs) was lowered into the fishing craft Mitchell: "Despite the drizzling rain, about 3000 people crammed along the fish

market jetty, in boats and on the fishmarket mole to watch the picturesque ceremony."

In 1952, about 5000 people braved blustery weather to watch the annual procession and fireworks. In 1953, the Blessing of the Fleet attracted a crowd of about 10,000 people.

In 1954, when a reported 20,000 people watched the annual event, organisers ran into trouble when they were criticised for not carrying the

Australian flag: "The State executive of the Returned Servicemen's League last night decided to ask the authorities organising the annual procession which precedes the blessing of the Fremantle fishing fleet to see that the Australian flag has pride of place in future processions."

Fr Abramo replied, "it had not been possible to secure an Australian flag", giving people the wrong impression. "Actually, no national flags Italian or otherwise were used, and none were intended. The flags used were of a religious nature. The flag probably mistaken for an Italian national flag was the Catholic Action flag for Fremantle Italians containing four colours - red, white, green and blue."

In 1967, thousands again turned out in Freo, with 20 decorated fishing vessels taking part, "brightly decorated with flags and pennants".

Since then, the number of people attending the annual event has dropped, its future tied to Freo's reputation as a festival city.

In 2016, hundreds of people watched the blessing of the fleet whose organisers plan to boost numbers in 2017 and 2018 with a series of events highlighting the rich history of one of the world's oldest cultural traditions.

*The statue honours  
'martyrs of the faith'.*



# MIGRANT MADE

IN April, ABC broadcaster Gillian O'Shaughnessy asked Spearwood mother of four and grandmother of nine Adelina what she saw when she first arrived in Freo with her 11-month-old son on September 15, 1967.

"It looked old, there was nothing much to see," she replied, one of hundreds of migrants who arrived after three weeks at sea on *SS Guglielmo Marconi*.

Working at the Watsonia factory on Hamilton Road in Spearwood and Myers in Freo, she told Gillian she shopped in Freo with her older sister, who still lives in East Freo, \$20 buying them all the groceries and goodies they needed.

Adelina and my father Frank arrived in the port city to create a new life. Four and a half years later, he was dead. The eldest son of six children died in a traffic accident in Forrestfield, also killing two people in the other car.

Having grown up in Fremantle and Cockburn, working on a market garden leased on Mell Road in Spearwood, I cruised through the Cappuccino Strip in a V8 Monaro, ran amok at Italian dances at "Paget's Hall" in Hilton and marvelled each year at the spectacle that is the Blessing of the Fleet, which my parents attended religiously.

My mother told O'Shaughnessy she asked me after my father died whether I wanted to be a priest or play the accordion. I chose the accordion, which I still have, the electric squeezebox having joined the stage in Kings Square in 1980 to raise money for the victims of the Italian earthquake in the Irpinia region in southern Italy. The quake killed 2914 people including 27 children in an orphanage. More than 300,000 people were left homeless.

In WA, I attended St Jerome's Primary School in Spearwood and St Brendan's College in Hilton before completing a journalism degree at Curtin.

A lifelong member of the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance and founding member of the Australian Science Communicators, my 30-year professional career includes 18 years at The West Australian (1987-2005); teaching journalism at Notre Dame, Curtin and Murdoch universities; and working as a freelance writer for a number of government, industry and media organisations including News Limited (Sunday Times/PerthNow.com).

I have climbed Europe's tallest active volcano - Mt Etna in Sicily - abseiled into caves under the Nullarbor searching for fossils and was a member of the WA Museum that discovered in 2001 British explorer William Dampier's *Roebuck*, and French explorer Louis de Freycinet's *Uranie* on Ascension and Falkland islands, respectively.

In 2006, the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first recorded European visit to the unknown Southland by the Dutch ship *Duyfken*, I sailed out of the port city on its Freo-built copy - and survived!

In 2016, the 400th anniversary of the first recorded European visit to the west coast, I visited Dirk Hartog Island where the crew of the Dutch ship Eendracht left a plate nailed to a post on Cape Inscription in Shark Bay.

These historic events, stories, people, places, inspired me to launch *Freo StreetWise* in December 2015; the city's only independent magazine linked in February 2016 to what has grown into a 4500-strong Facebook group of friends who share their love of local history, business, food, film and the arts.

Importantly, the free quarterly magazine raises money for St Pat's, the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and Breast Cancer Care WA through events including the *Freo StreetWise* Charity Car Cruise.

"Australia is good for me because all my family is here," Adelina tells O'Shaughnessy standing near the WA Museum Welcome Walls.

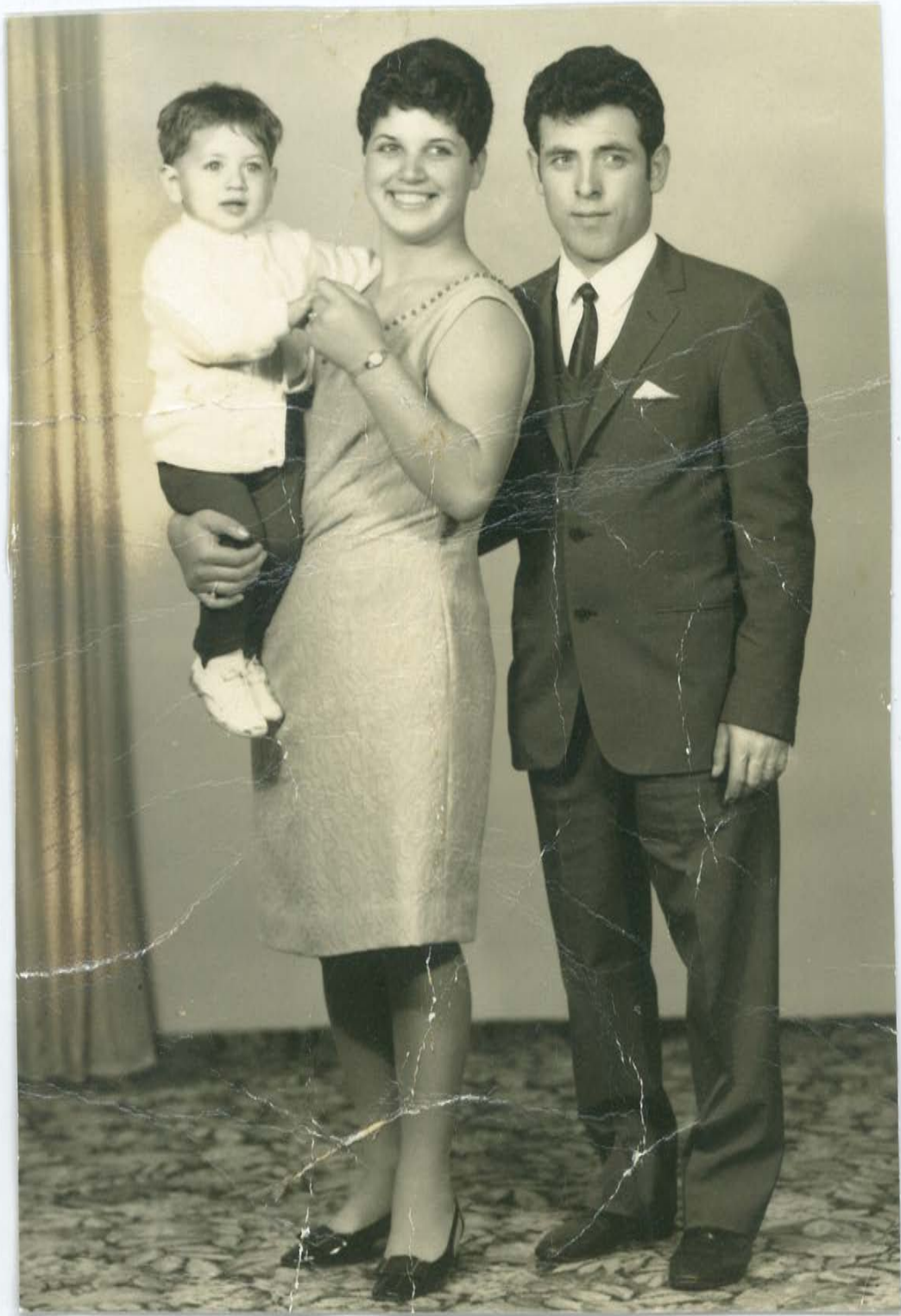
"But a part of my heart is in Italy."

"Your heart's in two places," Gillian replies.

"Yes, three-quarters here and one-quarter there."

Our family story at [www.abc.net.au/radio/perth/programs/wa-afternoons/adelina-and-carmelo/8426674](http://www.abc.net.au/radio/perth/programs/wa-afternoons/adelina-and-carmelo/8426674)





# DEAD OR ALIVE

TWO Dutch sailors stumble into indigenous territory near Kalbarri carrying trinkets and toys more than 150 years before the First Fleet arrived in NSW.

Death came quickly or in old age, the presence in 1629 of the banished *Batavia* mutineers among the Nanda tribe of WA's Coral Coast the topic of much debate and speculation.

If they survived, the Dutch-born sailors were the first Europeans to take up permanent residence in Australia. Unfortunately, the archaeological evidence is history, though descendants of the Aboriginal people who used the coast when *Batavia* sank in the Abrolhos islands off Geraldton believe *Batavia* cabin boy Jan Pelgrom de Bye, 18, and soldier Wouter Loos, 24, lived peacefully on the mainland after they were cast away as punishment.

As revealed in *Freo StreetWise*, Oscar winner Russell Crowe's 'Fear of God' production company has started work on a screenplay based on WA shipwreck author Hugh Edwards' 1963 best-seller, 'Islands of Angry Ghosts'. About 125 men, women and children were killed in the mutiny after the shipwreck on June 4, 1629. The survivors were rescued and the mutineers were caught, tried and tortured and hung after having their hands cut off.

Also reported on the *Freo StreetWise* Facebook page on September 1, Melbourne filmmakers Andrew Scarano and Nathan Christoffel plan to start filming '1629' in 2018, their story based on Rosemary Hayes novel 'The Blue-eyed Aborigine'. They are interested in the story beyond *Batavia*.

"Loos was 24 and became a leader of the rebels," Scarano says. "Pelgrom was 18 years old, a cabin boy who by all reports of him was mad and bad and out of control. At the last minute, as he was led to the gallows, he begged for mercy and was spared.

"I want to show the development of the younger man and how he would have coped in a strange, hostile environment."

Hayes' novel deals with the fate of Pelgrom and Loos, who were left behind on November 16, 1629, at Hutt River or 60km further north at Wittecarra

Gully near the mouth of the Murchison River near Kalbarri.

The two "death-deserving delinquents" were instructed to, "make themselves known to the folk of this land" (hence the toys), *Batavia* commander Francisco Pelsaert noting, "Man's luck is found in strange places".

After the ship wrecked on Morning Reef, Pelsaert sailed to Batavia (now Jakarta) to get help while under merchant Jeronimus Cornelisz turned psycho and persuaded the soldiers loyal to Pelsaert to look for water on a nearby island (West Wallabi Island), hoping they would starve. Instead, 'The Defenders' survived on water, birds eggs and tammar wallabies.

The mutineers launched several attacks on West Wallabi only to be turned back back by Defenders leader Webbie Hayes. Cornelisz was captured during the second attack on September 2, the mutineers electing Loos as their new "captain" after he managed to get away. Had Loos, a professional soldier from the Dutch town of Maastricht, succeeded in overwhelming Hayes' men in the third attempt on September 17, the outcome of the *Batavia* story would be very different.





# NATIONAL RUN

MELBOURNE Cup Day cocktail party, long table dinner and a special Christmas treat are just some of the delights offered over spring and summer at The National Hotel.

The Melbourne Cup Day cocktail party will be held at 11am on November 7, tickets at [www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=320526](http://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=320526). The event includes canapes and beverages, live entertainment, sweepstakes and mystery bets, with prizes for best dress and best hat.

The 'Fremantle Long Table Dinner' will be held November 30 from 6pm to 11pm after its successful West End spread in 2016 when The National catered for over 300 guests on High Street.

Owner Karl Bullers says this year it will be much longer and closer to the Roundhouse. There will be a three-course festive dinner with wine, live music, street performances and a charity auction, all profits from the event donated to St Patrick's Community Support Centre.

Unfortunately all 800 tickets sold out within hours, but the public are encouraged to go along and enjoy the free entertainment, wander through the shops, see the snow blizzards and enjoy the spectacle of this amazing evening.

The National is also taking Christmas bookings at [bookings@nationalhotelfremantle.com.au](mailto:bookings@nationalhotelfremantle.com.au) or call 9335 6688. This year, the menu at <http://national-hotel-fremantle.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Christmas-Menu-2017.pdf> includes two and three-course meals with a minimum of six people per booking.

Kids eat free every Saturday and Sunday 12pm to 5pm. Order any main meal from the 'Mains' or 'Grill' sections of the menu and get a free kids meal. Bookings are essential. Quote 'Kids Eat Free'.

The National also comes to you with sumptuous outside catering. Servicing Fremantle and surrounding suburbs, the beautifully restored hotel caters for a variety of occasions including weddings, family gatherings, corporate events, conferences, engagements and reunions.

Also available is a fully equipped mobile bar with various beverage packages available, tables, chairs, crockery and full wait staff service.



# SUMMER RULES

AWARD-WINNING author Shaun Tan's 'Rules of Summer' comes hot on the heels of the highly successful Spare Parts Puppet Theatre's 'The Arrival'.

Described as a "performance like no other", 'Rules of Summer' is an interactive and multi-sensory puppetry experience that follows the emotional journey of two boys who discover the unwritten rules of friendship. Through a series of mysterious rules such as, 'Never step on a snail', or, 'Never argue with an umpire', the bond between the boys is tested - the breaking of each rule, not always by accident, attracting surprising consequences.

Showing at The Dolphin Theatre at UWA until October 8, the world premiere season of this new adaptation from Tan's award-winning book was launched September 22.

Spare Parts artistic director Philip Mitchell said 'Rules of Summer' is an engrossing and multi-sensory take on a classic story of a boy's rite of passage.

"You will be part of a sensory world of sight, taste, smell, touch and sound," he says. "Bubbles float around you, wind blows through your hair as a storm erupts and suddenly you're faced with choices like whether to accept a yummy treat or not."

Tan says though the story might seem at first to be a book for children, it has a universal connection to all ages: "Rules of Summer encompasses universal themes that govern any intimate relationship regardless of age, gender or background, from siblings to best friends, co-workers and partners. The private universe of imagination and conflict that can exist here so often defies explanation and is, I think, best represented as a kind of shared dream."

Mitchell said the uniqueness of the puppetry art form was ideal for exploring Tan's wordless and non-linear dream-like story. "The absence of words heightens our exploration of visual storytelling and encourages the audience to feel things intuitively, and to identify with the story in their own way. Our adaptation follows a journey of the tensions, love, fights, sharing and emotional dynamic of being a sibling or a friend that is familiar to us all."

'Rules of Summer' was adapted by writer Ian Sinclair, designed by Leon Hendroff, composed by Lee Buddle, production managed by George Ashforth, lighting designed by Graeme Walne and puppets constructed by Bryan Woltjen, Jesse Wood, Julie Reeves, Riley Brabin and Sanjiva Margio. Performers include Rebecca Bradley, Allan Gird, Nick Pages-Oliver.

Educational resources are available for students to accompany each performance that include comprehensive classroom activities.

Details of Spare Parts Puppet Theatre's School of Puppetry Workshops are also online at [www.sppt.asn.au/events/rules-of-summer-2/](http://www.sppt.asn.au/events/rules-of-summer-2/).

Run until October 5, participants receive a 20 per cent off for its one and two-day workshops. Each workshop includes a ticket to 'Rules of Summer' performance.

The 2018 schools season also is available at [www.sppt.asn.au/whats-on/school-season](http://www.sppt.asn.au/whats-on/school-season).

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre is Australia's flagship puppetry company which is between homes as renovations are completed at its Fremo home on Short Street. Contact SPPT on [93355044](tel:93355044).



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