

**FREE**  
Issue 17  
April 2021

# **FREO** **StreetWise**

Fremantle's independent  
street magazine



Food, film and books, local politics, business, hot cars and COVID window views also available at [streetwisemedia.com.au](http://streetwisemedia.com.au).

## **Tent City**

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## **Freight Family**

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## **Overboard**

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**Tony Barrass**  
1962 - 2021

THIS issue is dedicated to Tony Barrass, whose encouragement and professional advice helped launch *StreetWise* in 2015. A regular visitor to Freo, the much-loved journalist, devoted father, husband, friend to many, will be missed but never forgotten.

In 2018, on his way back from an interview with a fallen mining boss in Rockingham, Tony joined *StreetWise* for a plate of ravioli at Capri on the Cappuccino Strip. A cold beer, the latest headlines and news of family and friends, many of whom sent off the Aussie scribe on March 13. Cheers 'godfather'.

[streetwisemedia.com.au](http://streetwisemedia.com.au)



## StreetWise Media

**Publisher**  
Carmelo Amalfi

**Designer**  
Beau G'Froerer

*Freo StreetWise* is a free independent publication produced in Fremantle.

Supported by local businesses and community groups, the magazine launched in 2015 is distributed in cafes, bars, hotels, restaurants, libraries and select sites in Cockburn, Melville and Perth.

*StreetWise* also is available at [www.streetwisemedia.com.au](http://www.streetwisemedia.com.au).

**Contact:**  
Carmelo Amalfi 0468608503  
melnet@westnet.com.au.

**Mailing address:**  
18 Norfolk Street, Fremantle  
WA 6160

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## EASTER BLESSINGS

FOOD, films, business, bogans and local politics in this special Easter issue of Fremantle's independent street mag. The *StreetWise* 'Business Wall' offers readers access to local traders who have weathered the COVID-19 storm - building Freo one business at a time. We acknowledge the supporters and sponsors of the annual *Freo StreetWise* Charity Car Cruise on March 14 when hundreds of classic and vintage cars converged on the port city to raise funds for the Cancer Council. Images of Perth's biggest 'bog lap', extending for the first time from the CBD and Cappuccino Strip to South Freo, available at [streetwisemedia.com.au](http://streetwisemedia.com.au). The centre pages reach out to millions of people who have shared images of COVID life in lockdown - through their windows.

Special thanks to photographer Leith Phillips for his stunning cover image and recent bar room shot of the late great Perth journalist Tony Barrass. And on the back of the State Government commitment to a \$100 million film production hub on Victoria Quay, *StreetWise* introduces a new Easter holidays features section including stories of pandemic-delayed blockbusters, cruise ship killers, Kong and very naughty toys. Stay safe. Enjoy.

**Carmelo Amalfi**





# LAST GREENS STANDING

**COMMENT:** ON March 19, as *StreetWise* went to print, Greens WA Brad Pettitt was elected, provisionally, to the Upper House with 71 per cent of the vote counted since the March 13 State election. The next day, with 75 per cent of the vote counted, Greens WA and Socialist Alliance preferences put Labor's Victoria Helps ahead of the Fremantle mayor on leave and the only Greens candidate left standing for a seat in parliament. As Dr Pettitt told *StreetWise* on March 19: "It's in the hands of the preference gods. If the last third mirrors the first two thirds then I'll be elected, but unfortunately that's not guaranteed. Probably won't know for a couple more weeks."

There will be no Greens MP in parliament if preferences swing against Dr Pettitt, who can still decide to see out his decade-long term as mayor until the local government elections in October. But even if successful, the Greens member faces a long and lonely road on, "the hill". In stark contrast to his high-profile, and often controversial, role as mayor, Dr Pettitt's parliamentary 'win' would be a hollow one. On March 10, Dr Pettitt posted: "Despite Mark McGowan's record high popularity and perceived public trust, the makeup of the Upper House will have a big impact on the next parliament. If I win in South Metro, then it is possible that the Greens will share the balance of power with Labor. If that's the case, we will hold the ALP to account on issues like climate change, corporate donations to political parties, addressing the housing crisis, protecting our environment, improving mental health services and so much more." The reality is Dr Pettitt, if elected, will have no authority, power or influence. Labor does not need him nor will he be able to hold Labor to account. He will be anonymous. Importantly, has Labor used its party preference system to remove Dr Pettitt from Fremantle? Is it payback for the 'tent city' fiasco? Is it a political ploy to reinstate Labor's dominance on Fremantle council?



# MAYORAL HOPEFULS

AND then there were ... Fremantle can look forward to a renewed Labor push for council control in the local government elections in October this year. As reported in the Christmas 2019 issue of *StreetWise*, Laborites Beaconsfield Cr Hannah Fitzhardinge and Hilton Cr Frank Mofflin are expected to run for the mayoral seat with the support of Greens Cr Rachel Pemberton. Acting Mayor Andrew Sullivan isn't saying. Nor is City Ward Cr Adin Lang, who moved into City Ward from Cockburn. Others who have expressed interest in taking a seat at the new Kings Square chambers after the October elections include failed Fremantle independent Rod Grljusich who, as at March 19, attracted less than 300 votes in the State election, and Melville resident Mia Kriznic, who says she is keeping an "open mind" about running for council while openly promoting her business and political interests on her Fremantle Community Forum site. In order to stand for council in October, candidates who do not live in Fremantle must rent property in the city. *StreetWise* understands Ms Kriznic was, at the time of publication, looking for a rental property in City Ward.



# MARIJA VUJCIC

## SOUTH WARD COUNCILLOR

EASTER is a great time of year for my family and me. The heat of summer is over, the children have settled into school, work and family routines. The balmy nights are magic right now, with beautiful sunsets welcoming you as you venture out for a walk. Easter is especially a time for family, tradition, rituals and remembrance. It is a time to take stock of yourself, perhaps at a family lunch with a few generations around the table having conversations of times past and the general challenges of life. My family gatherings are noisy with multi-layered conversations simultaneously getting louder, especially after a few beverages. A Rakija toast is made in honour of my parents who started the tradition, and we laugh and remember. My mum's ace up her sleeve was Rakija. Rakija is distilled from fermented fruit, mostly grapes. It is like brandy or schnapps. The secret weapon against the ills that plague humanity. It is the liquor to destroy bacteria, relieve stomach and muscle pain, annihilate any virus and disinfect a wound instantly.

Other than its evident medicinal use, it goes down very well at Easter and any occasion. Rakija was there to enhance the experience. I can see my dad in my grandsons who argue their points of view far too frequently. As a 12-year-old my father took me with him to argue politics with the then Labor MP for Fremantle, Kim Edward Beazley. As the Councillor for South Ward and Fremantle, I am proud of our heritage and of the generations who sacrificed so that we can have a better life. My Easter message to our City is one of gratitude through love and forgiveness and respect for human dignity, especially as we come out of the COVID pandemic. It is a message of rebirth and restoration of our City through jobs and a thriving local economy that supports our local social fabric through transparency and good governance. Happy Easter Fremantle. It is an honour and privilege to serve as your local councillor.

**Marija Vujcic**



# 'TENT CITY' TESTS CITY LIMITS

ACTIVIST group Freo Street Kitchen moved into Pioneer Park to feed the homeless on Boxing Day 2020. A month later, the State Government closed the unauthorised camp after Fremantle council refused to move activists and nearly 100 homeless people who were checked into a hotel. Its owners were left with a \$40,000 bill the WA Premier says activists must pay. Reported exclusively by *StreetWise*, FSK organiser Jesse Noakes used space at Acting Mayor Andrew Sullivan's Pakenham Street office during what the Premier described as a political stunt.

Former mayor Brad Pettitt and City Ward Cr Rachel Pemberton said Mr Noakes contacted them the week before Christmas to hold a lunch for the homeless on December 31. Hilton Cr Sam Wainwright promoted FSK's "long term" event as early as December 18 when it was posted on a Perth activists events page. The Socialist Alliance member continued to promote FSK and invited people to donate. FSK was still collecting at the time of publication.

Read the full story of this ugly chapter in Fremantle council history at [www.streetwisemedia.com.au](http://www.streetwisemedia.com.au).



Activist Jesse Noakes



Acting Mayor Andrew Sullivan



# NO SHAME OVER CITY STAIN



Mayor on leave  
Brad Pettitt

ON January 29, the Fremantle mayor went on leave to run in the State elections - five days after the WA Government closed tent city. He was tipped to win his Upper House seat as the homeless people evicted from tent city on January 23 still look for suitable housing. ON December 18, Dr Pettitt confirmed having been approached by Freo Street Kitchen activist Jesse Noakes but said neither he or council gave him approval for the lunch. ON January 4, he speaks to police as community concerns grow over violence at the campsite, including the alleged sexual assault by two men, in their early 40s, of two girls, 13 and 14, on December 31. The matter is still before the courts.

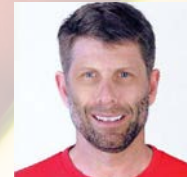


Acting Mayor  
Andrew Sullivan

IN early December, Freo Street Kitchen activist Jesse Noakes moves into the South Ward councillor's Pakenham Street office. ON December 23, 'unbeknown' to him, organisers used the elected member's space to store tents and conduct 'de-escalation' training (below). He said he suspected nothing until activists moved into Pioneer Park. ON December 31, he declares a proximity interest to Mr Noakes, (even though council was not making a decision or meeting formally). For a month, he and all councillors (bar South Ward Cr Marija Vujcic who first called for a council probe) knew where Mr Noakes was camped but stood by as tent city degenerated into violence and cost businesses valuable trade during a COVID pandemic.

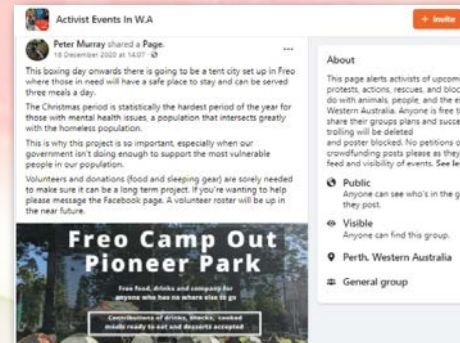


# NOT EVEN SORRY FOR 'STUNT'



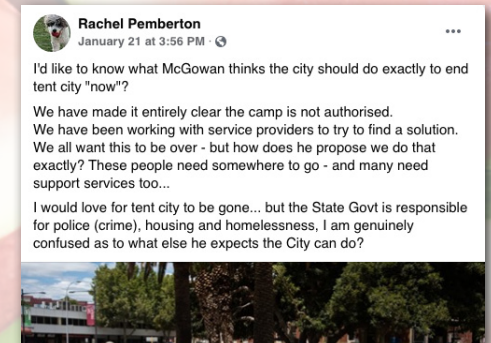
Hilton Councillor  
Sam Wainwright

ON December 18, the Socialist Alliance Hilton Cr shares a link to a WA activists events page where the homeless lunch was listed as a "long term project" (below). He knew it was not the one day event organisers promised, yet did nothing even after Fremantle police received nearly 80 calls for help from the public. ON January 9, he encourages people to volunteer or donate to organisers as, "Some great work is being done at Pioneer Park". ON January 25, he accuses the State Government of showing no serious commitment to the homeless crisis: "They shat their pants because the Pioneer Park camp was in such a public place - like a neon sign advertising their failure."



City Councillor  
Rachel Pemberton

ON December 18, the Greens member of Dr Pettitt's election campaign team introduces activist Jesse Noakes to local police who, on January 27, told *StreetWise* City staff said she and Dr Pettitt had given organisers verbal approval. ON December 21, the City Ward Cr introduces Noakes to "relevant managers" at the City. ON January 21, two days before the State Government closed the camp, she posts: "I am genuinely confused as to what else he (WA Premier) expects the City can do?" (below). ON January 22, the State Government moves to remove the camp, accusing "some councillors" of using tent city to score political points at the expense of public health and safety, including the homeless at Pioneer Park.





# WHY CITY MUST BE PROBED

**COMMENT:** THE ink was not yet dry on the City CEO report into tent city when elected members moved to 'clarify' their role in the homeless 'lunch' that lasted 29 days. First off the bat at the February 24 council meeting was City Ward Cr Rachel Pemberton who said Freo Street Kitchen organisers took the City, and her, for a ride after she organised meetings between FSK, staff and local police.

The member of Greens WA Brad Pettitt's State election campaign said she accepted the "disruption and distress" residents and local businesses suffered, BUT: "The issue of homelessness is not solved by simply dismantling a tent city." Nor by erecting one.



The CEO report states the closure of the campsite on January 23 had left the City with a, "poor public image". Had the Premier not stepped in, the unauthorised camp would have remained open for at least another two weeks. Until February 8. Importantly, as reported exclusively by *StreetWise* on February 21, the CEO report confirms, "some aspects of the camp represented a political protest, and the occupiers and organisers of the site were not prepared to leave voluntarily, and that any forcible removal of the campers from the site would have required significant police support". WA Police attended nearly 80 calls for help and issued 25 move-on notices, five breached, as the number of people occupying Pioneer Park continued to grow after Boxing Day. Incidents WA Police linked to tent city included the alleged sexual assault of two teenage girls, 13 and 14, by two men on December 31.

Last month, both men appeared in Fremantle Magistrate's Court, Nathan Stanley Brand, 44, of Perth, and Aaron Wayne Dann, 41, of Leonora, charged with sexually penetrating and indecently dealing with a child over 13 and under 16. Both men appeared by video link from Hakea Prison but were not required to enter pleas until they sought legal advice.

A group of people also were assaulted and robbed at Bathers Beach on January 2, a stolen phone tracked back to tent city; a man was assaulted with a rock at the camp on January 9; and a 51-year-old woman was threatened with a knife on January 15.

# PREMIER?

WA PREMIER Mark McGowan was wrong when he closed the homeless camp at Pioneer Park, acting mayor Andrew Sullivan told full council on February 24. Cr Sullivan, whose Packenham Street office activists used to store tents and conduct 'de-escalation' training, said when challenged by South Ward Cr Marija Vujcic, who has called for an inquiry since January 1, the Premier's statements about tent city were, "not true", and, "can't be validated and justified". Cr Vujcic, who referred to the City supplying water and power to organisers, said: "The Government certainly had the view consent was given by the City." Cr Sullivan: "The State Government may have had that view but it's not substantiated." Fremantle Labor MP Simone McGurk told *StreetWise*: "Like many ratepayers, I look forward to getting some answers about how this was allowed to occur." Beaconsfield Cr Hannah Fitzhardinge urged people to contact the CCC if they wanted an investigation, accusing conspiracists of a "witch-hunt". She added: "I guess I'm interested in where that went wrong in terms of the last-minute intervention by the Premier, but by and large we should be putting this matter to bed and focusing on issues that will actually enhance Fremantle". Just like that, swept under the carpet by the potential mayoral candidate without



addressing the cause and impact of the political stunt which Beaconsfield Cr Geoff Graham saw through when he supported Cr Vujcic's inquiry call. Cr Graham questioned Cr Sullivan's role, "you did know something about tents on your premises, I would have thought that would be a red flag and enough to notify the CEO ... that obviously did not happen". He added the criminal fallout, glossed over in the CEO report, had left the City open to future charges and liability. Chair Sullivan closed debate stating: "Very little of the information that was put out in the middle of January about criminal activity in Fremantle had anything specifically to do, directly and indirectly, with tent city." Not according to the Premier and WA Police.



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# SUPPORT LOCAL TRADERS

THE *StreetWise* 'Business Wall' brings together local businesses during what is undoubtedly a challenging time for many. Send us your business cards or we can design one for you. Cards will be printed in the next issue and posted online including the *StreetWise* webpage at [www.streetwisemedia.com.au](http://www.streetwisemedia.com.au).



## PORTOROSA

ITALIAN food served with a smile and family friendly atmosphere on Freo's Cappuccino Strip. Portorosa and its sister restaurant in Spearwood offer high quality cuisine, crusty wood-fired pizzas, hand made pastas and fresh seafood at [www.portorosa.com.au](http://www.portorosa.com.au). *StreetWise* thanks Portorosa for supporting the March 14 Fremantle Charity Car Cruise. Check out the specials online or pop in and say hello to Joe.



Portorosa owner Joe Napoli



Excellent food and service in a relaxed setting overlooking the Cappuccino Strip in the heart of Fremantle.



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*Our handmade spinach & ricotta tortellini in a creamy mushroom sauce.*

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*Rich Sicilian style home made lasagne, served with salad.*

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**RISOTTO AI FUNGHI** ..... \$26.00

*Arborio rice with mixed mushrooms white wine and parmesan cheese.*

**RISOTTO CON POLLO** ..... \$28.00

*Arborio rice tossed with chicken, wild mushrooms, cream, spring onion and truffle oil.*

# NATIONAL HIGHLIGHT

ROOFTOP views. High teas. Music, great food and ghosts. The National Hotel is a Freo must, the restored heritage building offering luxury hospitality, fine food and service. The ground level features live music seven nights a week and includes the main bar with original brickwork, vintage timber and wrought-iron fixtures (You'll also find copies of *StreetWise* displayed there). With views of Market Street, the bar accommodates about 150 people plus an additional 56-seater al-fresco area on High Street.

The National's staycation specials offer luxury rooms set over two floors, each floor with its own distinctive feel. Staycationers are greeted with a friendly smile and bubbly on arrival. The rooftop offers patrons a relaxed space to enjoy classic and contemporary cocktails and some of the best views of the city, the port and WA coastline including Rotto. For your next event or meeting [bookings@nationalhotelfremantle.com.au](mailto:bookings@nationalhotelfremantle.com.au) or visit the National at [www.nationalhotelfremantle.com.au](http://www.nationalhotelfremantle.com.au).

## DINING IN OR OUTSIDE?





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**FAMILY CUSTOMS**

IVAN and Rosemary Bullock started in business on April 24, 1981 when they founded their customs brokerage company in Fremantle. "We started with 28sqm rented office space, one desk, one chair, one typewriter and a church bench," Ivan told *StreetWise*. Wesley Church on the corner of Market and Cantonment streets had 135sqm available: "At the end of this space, the Church had some stored items, being benches and chairs and a couple of other things. "But it was on loan as we gave it back. Before we departed from this address we ended up using the full 135sqm." In 1984, Ivan's brother, Graham joined the family business

they developed from a customs brokerage firm to an international forwarding and logistics company providing international air and sea freight facilities, transport and warehousing. Originally, the company traded as I.W. Bullock and Associates before forming Freightmasters International in 1987. "We then entered the transport sector and formed BH Transport services in 1995," he said. "In 2016, we merged the companies into one trading entity - Bullocks Freightmasters International Pty Ltd.

**"The current generation working in the business represent the fourth generation of Bullocks employed in transport and logistics in the Fremantle wharf area. We have met and assisted so many people through services provided by our business."**

"We have invested heavily in I.T. and tried to automate as much as we could.

"The development of technology has been hugely important to the development of our business. Our business has now reached the level of Australian Trusted Trader under the Australian Border Force list of accredited companies, complying with Australian border protection

requirements. This accreditation is a big deal and is internationally recognised by all of Australia's trading partners."

The company also has four Bullocks working in the company. Ivan says business continues

to grow and include major project works and ship charters. "Container volumes continue to increase for both import and export containers," he says.

"Consolidated import and export containers remain an important market.

"Looking forward to the future we see continued opportunity to develop and grow the business as international trade is so important to Australia, allowing us to provide ongoing employment for our staff and service to our clients."



# WINDOW VIEWS



1



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2



3



4



6

'VIEW from my window' was created to connect people and their stories during COVID-19. More than two million readers locked down at home have shared their views since the online page was launched by Barbara Duriau in March 2020.

StreetWise asked its overseas friends to share their views, shown here. Share your lockdown window views at [www.streetwisemedia.com.au](http://www.streetwisemedia.com.au).

1. **Carmelo Amalfi** - Reader Head, Cossack WA (Roxy & Romeo)
2. **Sal Passanisi** - Johanneshov, Stockholm, Sweden
3. **Emanuela Nibali Lupica** - Gioiosa Marea, Messina. Sicily
4. **Leeroy Betti** - Meguro, Tokyo
5. **Kelvin McCann** - Papunya, NT
6. **Dawn Fawcett** - Maadi, Cairo



# BOGAN'S RUN

THE idea for the annual *Freo StreetWise* Charity Car Cruise originated at Portorosa Restaurant on Father's Day 2015. Enjoying lunch outside with family and friends, *StreetWise* noticed a steady stream of street machines, classic and contemporary, cruising the Cappuccino Strip.

A Fremantle tradition dating back decades, including the 1980s 'bog laps' (named after 'bogan' drivers, many sporting mullets), car cruises take place most weekends in WA, raising money for charities - or just for the hell of it.

Today, classic and vintage car owners continue to cruise through the port city in the same wheels they bought and have cared for since they were teens.

This former V8 Monaro owner (no mullet) turned to fellow diners in a lightbulb moment: "I know a cool way to raise money for charity using social media." The rest is *StreetWise* history. After a dry run in November 2015, the first 'bog lap' images were published in the debut *StreetWise* edition on Valentine's Day 2016. The annual event has in the past six years raised much-needed funds for cancer care and research, the first three years supporting the breast and prostate foundations on a date closest to Valentine's Day. See you in 2022.

SPECIAL thanks to South Freo Continental for supporting a great community cause.



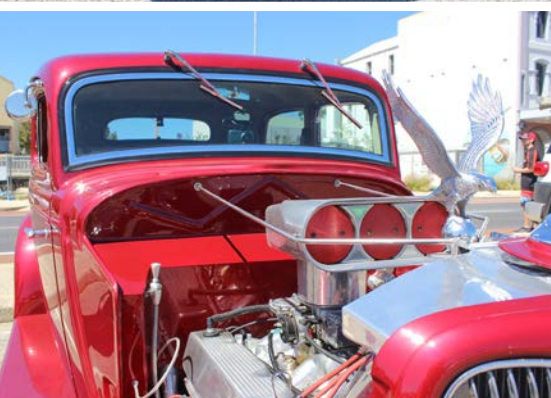
FORMULA 5000 fever hit South Freo on March 14 when WA racing champion Daniel Riccardo's father Joe popped in for a meet and greet at the *StreetWise* Charity Car Cruise. Organised via racing car contact Joe Demarte, the F5000 display proved a big hit among locals at South Freo Continental and Roasting Warehouse where the carpark was converted into a classic street car display. "It's a pleasure to get behind a great cause. Thanks for the invite," Joe told *StreetWise* as people asked questions and took photographs of his 1970 McLaren F5000. Thanks to the Noto family for its support - and the use of its driveway on South Terrace.







THANK YOU FREO



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SPECIAL thanks to our 2021 Charity Car Cruise sponsors and supporters SCOOP Property, Bullocks Freightmasters International, The National Hotel, Portorosa Fremantle, FreeDB Car Stereo, The Hair and Barber Room, Warren's Menswear, South Freo Continental, Homestyle Salads, Port Jarrah Furniture, the Beard family and volunteers from CBC College Fremantle.



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FREO StreetWise Charity Car Cruise images @ [streetwisemedia.com.au](http://streetwisemedia.com.au)





# CREATURE FEATURES

THIS special Easter holidays features section celebrates film, philosophy, hairy heroes and naughty toys. CreatureFeatures is a light-hearted escape from COVID restrictions which have forced film houses to delay production and the release of several much-anticipated films such as 'Top Gun' and 'Dune'. It is a space where StreetWise readers can enjoy 'oddball' stories such as the lead feature that tackles the profound political and religious implications of *actually* discovering extraterrestrials. Yes, this is a thing in science. Does ET worship a 'god'? A 'saviour'? Are we just biological residue from the Big Bang?

Are we ready for 'first contact' or will it end in a 'Mars Attacks'-like mess sparked by a stray dove? On the high seas, a cruise ship killer lurks on pages 26 and 27. Imagine our surprise to learn that, until COVID, about 20 to 22 passengers a year were lost overboard. Despite a number of convictions, many deaths remain unsolved. Cold cases. Murder. Making a cinematic comeback this year (fingers crossed) is 'Dune', the epic desert drama hatched by American author Frank Herbert whose 1965 science fiction novel was the inspiration for David Lynch's 1984 film. The release of the latest *Dune* adaptation, as with most anticipated productions, was delayed last year by COVID restrictions.

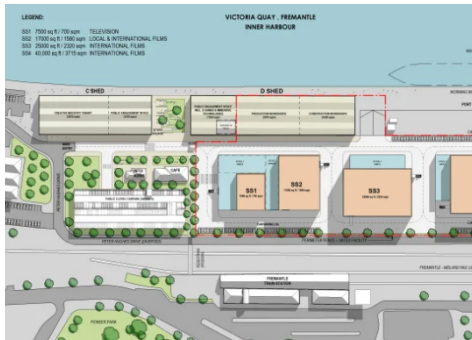
Also BIG news is the return of Kong, the cuddly menace back for an apocalyptic face-off with Japanese terror Godzilla. The last time they met on screen, the King of Skull Island sent the 'kaiju' packing with its spiky tail between its legs. In a twist to the original Kong story, *StreetWise* revisits the 1973 SF short story that describes what actually happened after Kong plunged to his death in New York on pages 30 and 31. Was he stuffed or landfilled? And for superhero fans - the naughty figurines 'Toy Story' would not cast on pages 32 and 33. Enjoy.



## FILM HUB ON THE QUAY

THOUSANDS of jobs. Stars. Lights, camera, action. The WA Government said re-elected Labor will invest \$120 million in the local film industry. The lion's share, \$100 million, will be spent at Victoria Quay to build a new world-class film studio and screen production facility. Hundreds of construction jobs will

be created. About \$20 million will be invested in a screen production fund to help attract new projects to WA. Fremantle Labor MP Simone McGurk said the Quay's transformation, including the recently announced Gage Roads brewery development, was a game changer for the port city. The McGowan Government called for expressions of interest to build a film studio in Perth last August. Three groups responded and the Department of Finance chose Home Fire Creative Industries, registered two days after the call-out, its only shareholder Hesperia Property. Locals have questioned whether film 'sheds' are better suited in semi-industrial areas such as O'Connor than prime waterfront real estate.







“There are infinite worlds both like and unlike this world of ours. For the atoms being infinite in number are borne on far out into space ... We must believe that in all worlds there are living creatures and plants and other things we see in this world.”

- Greek philosopher Epicurus to historian Herodotus, 4th century BC

## ET

LIFE as we know it will never be the same when scientists prove we are not alone in the universe. Whether microbe, Martian or Klingon, Earthlings have lots to talk about when ET actually phones home or arrives in ‘person’ bearing alien gifts and advanced technology? With plenty of time and space in the 13.8 billion-year-old universe for life, civilisations, to flourish and fall, it will be no surprise when space-faring beings eventually turn up in the Milky Way Galaxy.

After a few pints and party pies, someone will pipe up and ask our intergalactic brethren whether they worship a ‘creator’. The God of Genesis. If they praise the name of Jesus, it’s home and hose for Christianity.

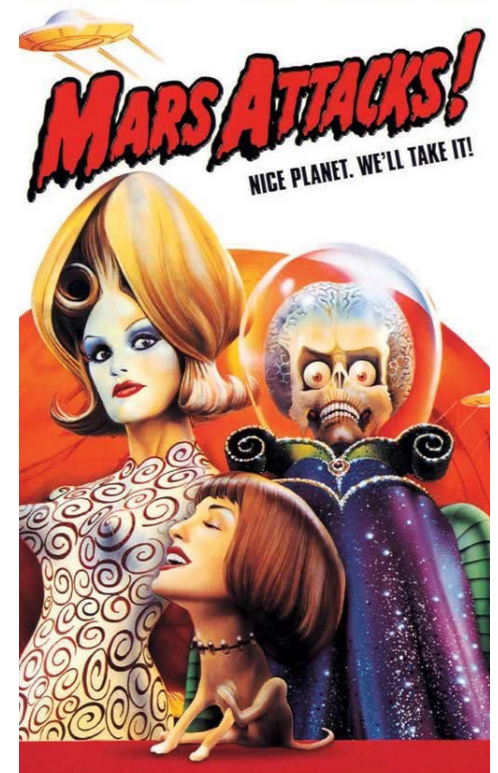
If not, religions, politics, philosophy, are out the window.

Along with millennia of pointless warfare, crusades and terrorism waged in the name of faith and false prophets. In his thought-provoking 1996 book, ‘Are We Alone? Philosophical Implications of the Discovery of Extraterrestrial Life’, UK cosmologist Paul Davies says the world faiths were founded in the pre-scientific era when Earth was regarded the centre of the universe, “humankind at the pinnacle of creation”.

But he says discoveries over the past 500 years have, “reduced our status in space”.

Professor Davies says the discovery of alien beings will radically alter our spiritual place in space.

Once the apple of the Creator’s eye, made in his own image, *homo sapiens* will simply be one of billions of cosmic species, advanced and primitive, scattered across space. But why worry? People already are obsessed with aliens, supernatural entities, ghosts and demons? Let’s just pray for a soft landing on the day of ‘first contact’.







# COLD CASE - OVERBOARD

UNTIL COVID, millions of people embarked on luxury cruises to their dream destinations. Sadly, many passengers, and crew, never return home. An average 20 cruise ship passengers a year disappear overboard. Accidental? Suicide? Or killed by someone they knew, a crew member or stranger with murderous intent?

Most people who die on cruise ships die of natural causes such as heart attacks and strokes. Pool drownings and falling from heights also are common on cruise ships. In May 2020, five crew from different cruise ships died when they jumped overboard or killed themselves in their cabins where they were confined for weeks and months during COVID lockdowns.

In 2016, Cruise Lines International Association reported about 19 people had disappeared overboard every year since 2000.

In the same year, 62 sexual assaults were reported to authorities.

According to FBI statistics, about 16 per cent of all murders and seven per cent of sexual assaults on cruise ships in the past two decades led to convictions or plea bargains. Many deaths remain unsolved. Cold cases.

Murders committed by murderers in a floating population the size of a small town, without a 'sheriff'.

Police records show ship murders are usually committed by a person the victim knows, a family member, usually a husband or wife, involved in alcohol-fuelled arguments which escalate into 'domestic violence', serious injury and death. Rarely pre-planned, most murders at sea involve either stabbings (since guns are not allowed on board) or victims presumably pushed overboard when reported missing. The highest number of reported ship deaths from 2001 to 2019 was 75 in 2015; 51 in 2011; and 46 and 44 in 2017 and 2016, respectively. About five to six deaths for each of these years included crew members. The number of deaths by nationality from 2011 to 2019 included the US (370 passengers); UK (37), Canada (23) and Australia (18).

**Table 1.** Total Reported Deaths on Cruise Ships, 2001-2019

Year	Passenger	Crew
2019	27	10
2018	38	5
2017	46	6
2016	44	4
2015	75	5
2014	20	6
2013	20	5
2012	27	1
2011	51	6
2010	39	4
2009	37	3
2008	25	1
2007	33	2
2006	33	3
2005	16	4
2004	10	1
2003	4	0
2002	4	0
2001	3	0
2000	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>66</b>

**Table 5.** Cause of death Reported for Passenger and Crew, 2001-2019

Cause of Death	Passenger Deaths	Crew Deaths
Anaphylaxis	1	0
Aneurysm	1	1
Asphyxia/choking/smoke inhalation	11	0
Cardiac incident	89	8
Drowning (ship pool)	9	0
Falls		
Fall from height	21	2
Fall overboard	58	14
Fall from bed (rough seas)	5	0
Slip/Fall	2	1
Internal bleeding	1	0
Legionnaires disease	3	0
Meningococcal meningitis	1	0
Multiple organ failure	1	0
Murder		
Head trauma	2	2
Multiple trauma	3	0
Stabbing	1	0
Strangulation	1	0
Thrown overboard	7	4
Myocarditis (viral)	2	0
Natural causes (unspecified)	98	5

Source: Cruise Lines International Association







## SAND WORMS AND SPICE

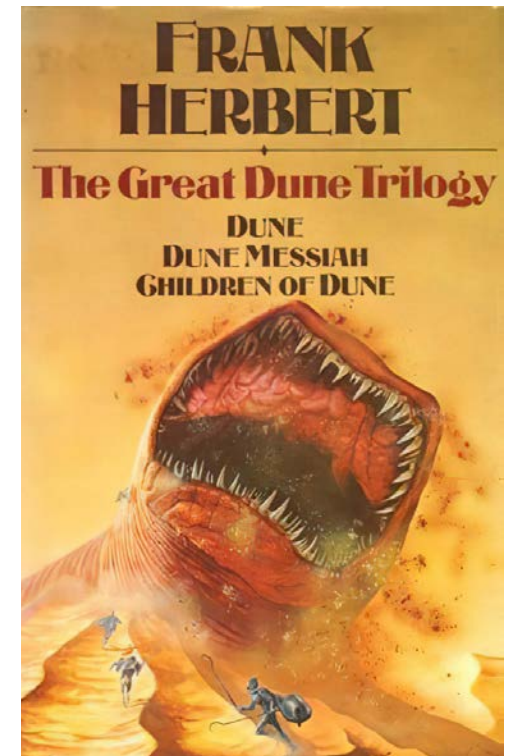
FIVE book sequels followed Herbert's epic desert drama, the US author having worked on turning *Dune* into film for two and a half years. It was meant for release in 1975 but producers could not get studio support for the film's massive budget. In 1984, US director David Lynch released his adaptation of the first Herbert novel. The film bombed. Lynch had agreed to direct and write the screenplay even though he had not read the book. He was not even interested in science fiction.

In 2000, US filmmaker John Harrison adapted the best-selling *Dune* novel into a TV mini-series which premiered as one of the three highest-rated programs on *Sci-Fi Channel*. In 2008, Paramount Pics announced it would make a new version directed by US filmmaker Peter Berg. Herbert's son Brian was a technical adviser on the project. Unfortunately, Berg, who also had not read the book, was removed from the project. In 2016, Legendary Entertainment bought the film and TV rights for *Dune*, after which French Canadian director Denis Villeneuve announced plans to film the epic in two parts. Timothée Chalamet (*Interstellar*) plays Paul Atreides, the protagonist played in Lynch's version by Kyle MacLachlan (*Twin Peaks*).

*Dune* mythology extends to poetry, art and computer games, even music. The *Dune* 2021 trailer (seen by 22 million people in just seven days) includes a composition by Hans Zimmer of Pink Floyd's *Eclipse*, the final song on the 1973 *Dark Side of the Moon* album. In 2008, Chilean-French director Alejandro Jodorowsky approached Pink Floyd about writing the film score, but by then Berg had left the project.



FRANK Herbert's 1965 cult classic '*Dune*' is one of the world's best-selling SF novels. Millions of readers and filmgoers have embraced the epic struggle of the Atreides family, protectors of the desert planet Arrakis, or Dune. The inhospitable wasteland is rich in melange, a 'spice', that extends the user's life and improves their mental abilities. But it is fiercely guarded by giant worms resembling the sarlacci in *Star Wars*. (Scientists have named features on the Saturn moon Titan after planets in Herbert's book). *StreetWise* readers win a copy of the novel if they name who played baron Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen in David Lynch's 1984 flop '*Dune*'. Hint: Police.







IT is time for a monster match up. In the final battle of the 1962 creature feature, *'King Kong vs Godzilla'*, the King of Skull Island wins the "fight of the century" with the radioactive "terror of Japan".

In the battle, Kong gets a brutal beating until a lightning bolt gives him a second wind to take down Godzilla. It was the first time they had appeared together on widescreen.



The creature feature had its roots in a bizarre idea in 1960 to pit Kong against a giant Frankenstein Monster in San Francisco. In 2021, Warner takes up where the 1962 'puppet' monster flick left off. A sequel to the 2019 *'Godzilla: King of the Monsters'* and 2017 *'Kong: Skull Island'*, *'Godzilla vs Kong'* sees Kong form a powerful Ann Darrow-like bond with an orphaned girl Jia as enraged Godzilla wreaks havoc on civilisation.

Like Darrow in the 1933 b/w classic, Jia brings out Kong's gentler side. (Interestingly, a number of scenes deleted in the 1933 film included one in which Kong rips off Darrow's clothes and tickles her legs and breasts. Just sayin'.)

The censored tickling scenes at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=B33GG03TKgg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B33GG03TKgg).

## AFTER KONG FALLS

WHAT happens to King Kong after he falls from the Empire State Building?

Was his giant corpse dissected for science, stuffed or landfilled by New Yorkers?

The answers can be found in Philip Jose Farmer's 1973 book *'After King Kong Fell'*, in which eyewitness Tim Howler, a boy when Kong fell, tells his granddaughter Jill (while watching a King Kong movie): "He was an animal and he didn't know the difference between good and evil." Howler kisses her at the end of the movie and says, "When your mother was about your age, I took her to see this. And when it was over, she was crying, too". Howler, 13, was with his parents in the theatre where caged Kong was on show before he broke loose. Knocked out, he recovered and made his way onto Fifth Avenue: "The body was only about thirty feet from him. It lay on its back on the sidewalk ... spread out more like an ape skin rug than a body, and blood and bowels and their contents had splashed out around him." When the crane lifts Kong's corpse off the street, Howler recalls seeing two flattened naked bodies on the street, one of them his Aunt Thea who went missing in the Kong chaos.







# TOYS WILL BE TOYS



INDONESIAN-born photographer Edy Hardjo creates stories beyond what we read in comics or see in film. The Hulk urinating. Supe squirting sunscreen. Deadpool on a scooter. A chemical engineer, Hardjo pushes the boundaries by using everyday toys or collectibles to create new stories Marvel would be proud of.

Only Hardjo's cheeky mind could have Thor, Hulk, Wolverine, Spiderman and the Joker peeing against a wall in an alley. Hulk cutting Thor's hair. Black Widow plucking Thor's armpits. *StreetWise* invites readers, young and old, to share their figurine images which will be published @ [streetwisemediamedia.com.au](https://streetwisemediamedia.com.au).







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