



FREE
Issue 21
April 2023

FREO StreetWise

Fremantle's independent
print & online magazine

A safe and happy Easter holiday season from Fremantle's free independent publication at streetwisemedia.com.au. Enjoy!

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THANKS

STREETWISE Media thanks sponsors and advertisers who have supported the publishing success of its flagship print and online magazine, launched in High Street in 2015. *Freo StreetWise* is a FREE print and online publishing platform showcasing the people, places and rich history of the port city. Distributed in Fremantle, Melville, Cockburn and select sites in Western Australia, *StreetWise* is linked to a growing social media community at streetwisemedia.com.au.

A community-driven initiative by WA journalist Carmelo Amalfi, *StreetWise Media* attracts thousands of print and online readers interested in local news, the arts, film, history and tourism. *StreetWise* stands out for quality and affordable rates, producing high quality content and images designed to boost your business profile and online presence. Join *Freo's* independent media group and advertise your business, people and special events in 2023. All stories and contributions are welcome at 0468608503 or melnet@westnet.com.au.

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Cover image: Leith Phillips



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



THE Easter holiday season promises renewal and reflection at a time of shaky world peace, rising living costs and local and national issues which affect the way we live, work and think.

This digital magazine edition available at streetwisemedia.com.au explores the best Fremantle has to offer in food, hospitality, history and the arts. The 21st edition also launches a new blog spot that sheds light on local issues affecting residents and ratepayers. We revisit Alcoa following reports of the impacts of its mining activities on surrounding communities and why Indigenous leaders in the Pilbara remain concerned about the destruction of ancient rock art at Murujuga, Burrup Pensinsula.

We also thank the people, local businesses and community groups who donated to and supported the 8th *Freo StreetWise* Charity Car Cruise on March 12. Attracting vintage and classic car owners in WA, Perth's biggest 'bog lap' was a great success for *Freo* raising much-needed funds for the Cancer Council. Additional images of the street spectacle at the *StreetWise Media* website and its Facebook page. A safe and happy holiday season.

Carmelo Amalfi

Publisher
Carmelo Amalfi

Designer
Beau G'Froerer

Freo StreetWise is a free publication produced in Fremantle. Supported by local businesses and community groups, the independent publication launched in 2015 is distributed in Fremantle, Cockburn, Melville and select sites in Perth and WA.

StreetWise also is available at www.streetwisemedia.com.au.

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BLOG THIS

Freo

THERE'S a new blog in town @*BlogThis Freo*. Linked to Fremantle's independent print and online publication at *StreetWise Media* (streetwisemedias.com.au), *BlogThis Freo* brings readers informed comment, criticism and praise (and protest) where it is due. *BlogThis* is not a rumour mill or refuge for bias or bullshit. Big issues face the Fremantle community in 2023 such as rising living costs and the controversial Indigenous 'Voice' to Parliament, so it is important to defer to credible, well-informed, high-quality content and analysis to keep Freo readers up to date, and involved. Backed by facts and local sources (people), not fake news or conspiracy, *BlogThis* is a platform for civil debate, conversation and engagement in issues which affect the way we live, work and think. Readers are encouraged to view the *StreetWise* guidelines before posting responses and contributions to its website and Facebook pages. And there is good reason why. The law in Australia now holds publishers, including readers (followers), responsible for posts which deride and defame the reputation of others.

To highlight the perils of social media publishing, one of our first posts includes exclusive details of a High Street architect's efforts to stop what he says is a growing and cowardly trend in Freo's blogging community - the publication of offensive and defamatory comments by bloggers who, after the damage is done, plead poor and remove posts after they are threatened by legal action. Most page admins regularly screen comments and check notifications under guidelines or criteria posted on their pages. Blogs or weblogs are informal pages or sites run by individuals or groups sharing their views and opinions on a variety of subjects, film, arts, politics, sports and other community events and announcements. Journalists also blog, but their views and opinions are based on facts, their writing style and investigative reporting focused on the ethical pursuit of information. Non-journalistic blogs do not meet this high standard. Not even close. *BlogThis Freo* brings a new, refreshing snapshot of the people and places in our much-loved port city.

Carmelo Amalfi

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EASTER EGGS & THE HARE

AUSTRALIA is one of the biggest consumers of chocolate Easter eggs whose history is tied closely to the goddess of fertility and spring, Ostara or Eastre. Her motif is the ‘rabbit’ or hare.

Christians celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ and to be inclusive, in the early days of the Catholic Church, the resurrection and the rabbit morphed into one celebration that bridged the gap between Christian and pagan beliefs. The Easter bunny and family egg hunts have become cultural symbols and tradition.

Symbols help people better understand the world, sharing experiences and conveying meaning. As your independent Fremantle Councillor elected by South Ward, I watch the power behind the symbols the City communicates to ratepayers and residents. The financial message behind the cost of the Walyalup Civic Centre during its construction was positive and on budget. But I draw people’s attention to the following anomalies:

- The demolition cost was stated as \$650,000 in 2012. The actual cost increased to \$2.5m. Where is the budget amendment that should have been brought to Council for approval?



- Kerry Hill Architects \$1,816,128 increased to \$6,916,548. How is it possible these additional millions did not come to Council for scrutiny? Where are the budget amendments?
- Sirona provided the role of Project Management and the cost escalated from \$734,798 to \$1,588,269. How did this happen without the scrutiny of elected members?
- The 2012 Business Plan stated a return of \$1m from commercial leasing of the centre, instead in this year’s budget the ratepayers are repaying \$1.2m. No one is taking responsibility.
- The Walyalup project cost went from \$45m to \$63m, as audited, and is expected to reach \$66m by next year.

The opportunity cost of the \$20m-plus cost blowout and selling of income performing assets to build the centre is a generational Easter egg hunt for chocolate already traded. Yet the city needs a good clean, funds spent on our Town Hall and heritage buildings, including Fremantle Markets, maintenance of footpaths and drains and so on. These are the symbols of a city that needs the Easter bunny of fertility and renewal. The Easter bunny matters because ratepayers and residents matter. My thoughts are of gratitude and love for our city. Happy Easter to everyone. This is my final year as Councillor and it is an honour and privilege to serve you.

Marija Vujcic



ALCOA'S 'DIRTY SECRET'

"We have got to find a balance between industry and people because neither is going to go away. This is an opportunity for Alcoa to come forward and do the right thing."
- Erin Brockovich 2007

Hello, I'm Michael Southwell. I was a newspaper and television journalist working in Perth and Singapore. In 2000, I embarked on a two-year investigation into the pollution impacts of Alcoa's bauxite mining and alumina refining operations in the South West of Western Australia.

In 2002, I won a Walkley Award for a series of reports in *The West Australian* uncovering Alcoa's dirty secrets, including the growing number of cancer cases blamed on its emissions. When I left journalism to run a family business, I presumed the stories would be followed up, and the scrutiny of Alcoa's operations continued.

This hasn't happened. Alcoa has kept expanding its operations. It now has an alarming footprint and impacts on our environment. They also threaten the health of those near refineries in Kwinana, Wagerup and Pinjarra. Several people have asked me to help bring it to public attention.

I'm prepared to go back into battle with this powerful multinational, but I still have to pay the bills. I'm asking those who believe in the power of investigative journalism to help me recommit to this vital cause.

I'm Carmelo Amalfi and I work as a print and online journalist based in Fremantle. In 2004, I reported extensively on the impact Alcoa's emissions were having on workers at the Kwinana refinery. After more than six months of investigation, the Health Department formed a panel of experts to investigate the plant following the publication in *The West* of a list of cancer deaths and illnesses workers claimed was caused by potentially cancer-causing emissions from Alcoa's liquor burning unit, K58. The original K58 list of cancer deaths included 32 former workers. The list as at April 2004 stood at 67, of whom 40 died. Cancers afflicting these workers included leukaemia, lymphoma and brain, kidney, sinus and bowel cancers. Workers also reported heart problems, vertigo, multiple chemical sensitivity, infertility and acute depression. Of the 32 ex-workers on the original K58 list, 28 were confirmed against the WA Cancer Registry. Buildings K58 and K59 include the liquor burner and calcination operations which breaks down organic matter in the refining process. The Health Department 'investigation' was shelved and I was removed from the story after Alcoa threatened *The West*, and me, with legal action.



SIAN WHITE investigates the fallout from a new campaign launched by American activist Erin Brockovich into health concerns over emissions from Alcoa's WA refineries.

PICTURES: Sian White and Noel Oon



CONCERNS MOUNT: Alcoa's Kwinana refinery will be included in a class action by lawyers representing Erin Brockovich

Widows and workers back Brockovich in class action

Lawyers for high-profile American activist Erin Brockovich have expanded their planned class action to include all further investigation of the impact of emissions on the surrounding community. In 2004, the Health Department shouldered. "Workers and community members are now being given the chance to decide whether this is something they expected and required of all those involved in the studies. "The action group has been kept informed of all the reasons for all steps

IN 2007, US environmental activist Erin Brockovich joined residents and workers who claimed Alcoa was poisoning their communities. The public health crusader who successfully took on big industry

in the US, then had a movie named after her, joined Queensland-based Shine Lawyers to sue Alcoa in a class action.

In 2011, the lawsuit involving 244 local plaintiffs was thrown out of court, the US court of appeals ruling the case should be heard in WA and not Pennsylvania, where Alcoa has its head office in Pittsburgh. Alcoa was accused of knowingly, negligently and recklessly operating its Kwinana, Pinjarra and Wagerup factories and poisoning surrounding communities with toxic emissions. In the US, plaintiffs do not have to pay Alcoa's legal costs if they lost.

In WA, they are liable to pay a portion of the defendant's legal bill. The alumina giant consistently has said its WA operations are safe. Health authorities also maintained the Alcoa-funded



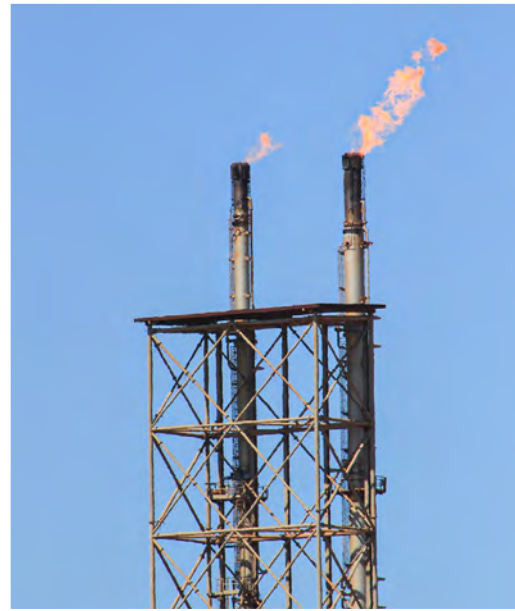
Healthwise study by the University of WA and Monash University was the only reliable guide to cancer incidence among Alcoa workers in Australia. Healthwise found the rates of death in Alcoa's Australian workforce were the same as healthy workers in all industries. The company is now under fire over having not properly rehabilitated nearly 28,000ha of jarrah forest and that its

mining operations in the Darling Scarp threaten Perth's drinking water supply. It also faces criticism for potentially having exposed workers to asbestos at its Pinjarra plant.

MURUJUGA



ROCK ART THREAT



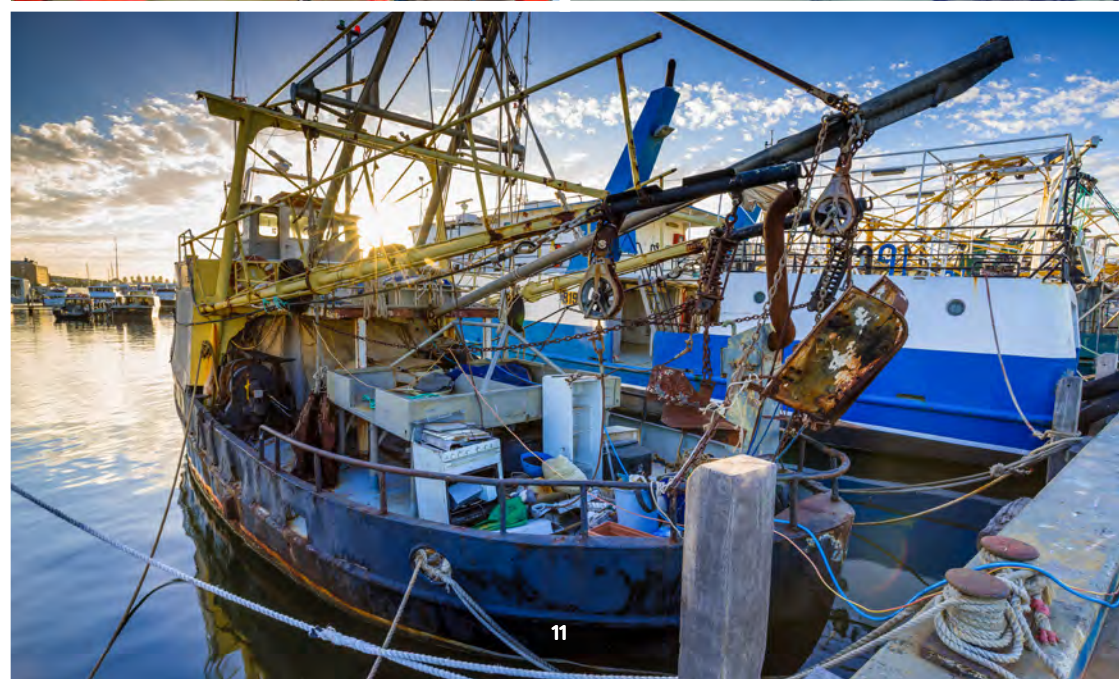
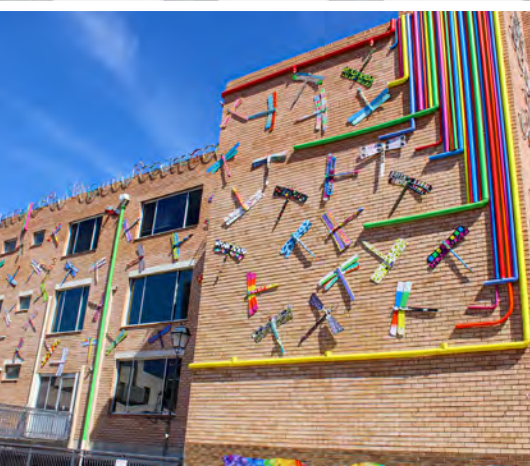
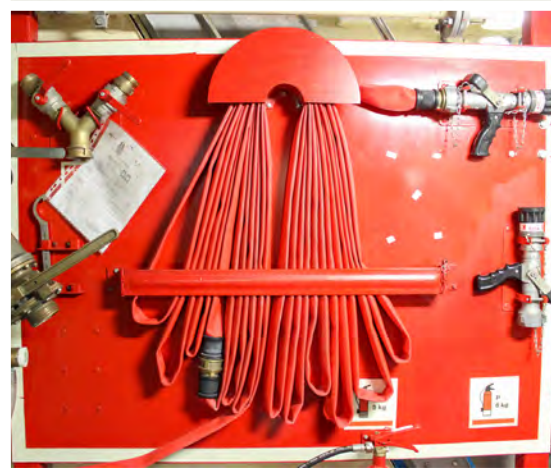
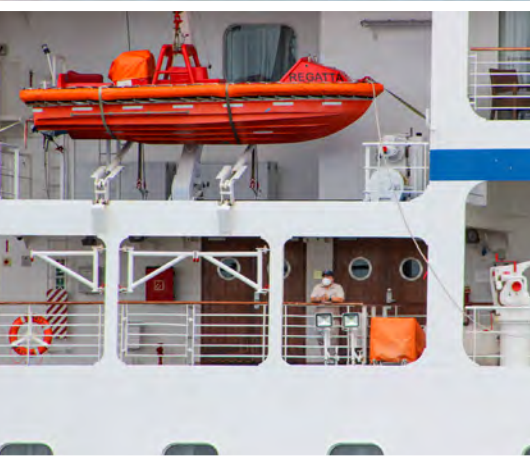
THE Federal Government in February announced nearly 100,000ha of land and sea at rock art-rich Murujuga in WA's Pilbara had been nominated for inclusion on the World Heritage List. If the nomination submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre is accepted, the highly industrialised Burrup Peninsula would be the second site in Australia listed just for its Aboriginal cultural importance.



Announced by the State and Federal governments, the submission will be assessed by UNESCO and take at least 18 months before a final decision is made to give Murujuga a permanent listing with other Australian World Heritage sites including Shark Bay and Great Barrier Reef. The original deadline for the nomination was February 1, 2021 but was delayed by the outbreak of COVID-19. *StreetWise* joined about 100 people at the historic event, including Aboriginal elders, local dignitaries and park rangers. It is unclear whether other nearby significant sites such as Depuch Island and Peawah Hill will be included inside the proposed World Heritage boundary. Stories at streetwisemediacom.au.



RANDOMS



CRUISIN' FOR CHARITY

STREETWISE sponsors SCOOP Property & Finance, Warrens Menswear, Bullocks Freightmasters International, Portorosa Fremantle, South Freo Continental, The Hair & Barber Room, Freedb Car Stereo and Homestyle Salads - THANK YOU. For your support for this publication and the city's biggest charity car run from the Cappuccino Strip to South Fremantle. The annual *Freo StreetWise* Charity Car Cruise raises much-needed funds for the Cancer Council. This year, only a handful of parking bays were left empty at the Beach Street muster where owners of classic and vintage cars and bikes arrived from as far as Guildford and Bunbury.

Special mentions to Peter Beard, Alison Coates & the crew at Shitbox Rally Australia who host the *StreetWise* charity raffle.

The generous prizes this year were donated by The National Hotel, Little Creatures, Portorosa Fremantle and South Freo Continental.

The idea to hold an annual charity car cruise was born on Valentine's Day 2016 when hundreds of classic and vintage cars cruised into port city to donate to a worthy cause 'bogan style'.

[View images of our previous charity car runs at the *StreetWise* website and Facebook page.](#)





JACK'S JOURNEY

STREETWISE first met Jack Mendes in O'Connor, at his successful Yarrick Street car dealership opposite Bunnings. Freo's independent publication asked

the Indian father of two to support the annual *Freo StreetWise* charity car cruise, the March 12 event this year having raised much-needed funds for the Cancer Council. From a family owned trucking business in India in the 1960s, Goa-born Jack has established himself as one of Perth top car dealers. In business since 2010, Jack also has held senior positions within automotive holdings for over more than two decades, including the management of Toyota and Nissan dealerships.



StreetWise caught up with Jack at Synagogue: "I was 19 when I moved to WA and married a Sicilian girl from Fremantle." From new and used sales to servicing and

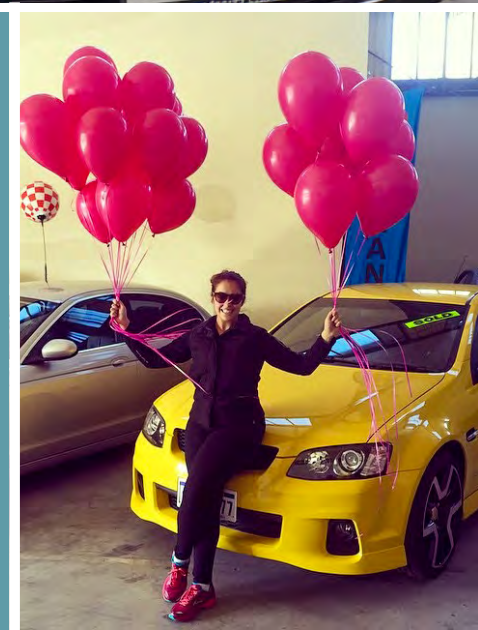
finance, Jack has been in the automotive business for 38 years. A qualified valuer, Jack says the used car and secondhand market is booming, with business up 40 per cent. Notably, people including many professionals and organisations buy online. Jack, 57, previously worked out of a warehouse in O'Connor. Now he works from home, also recovering

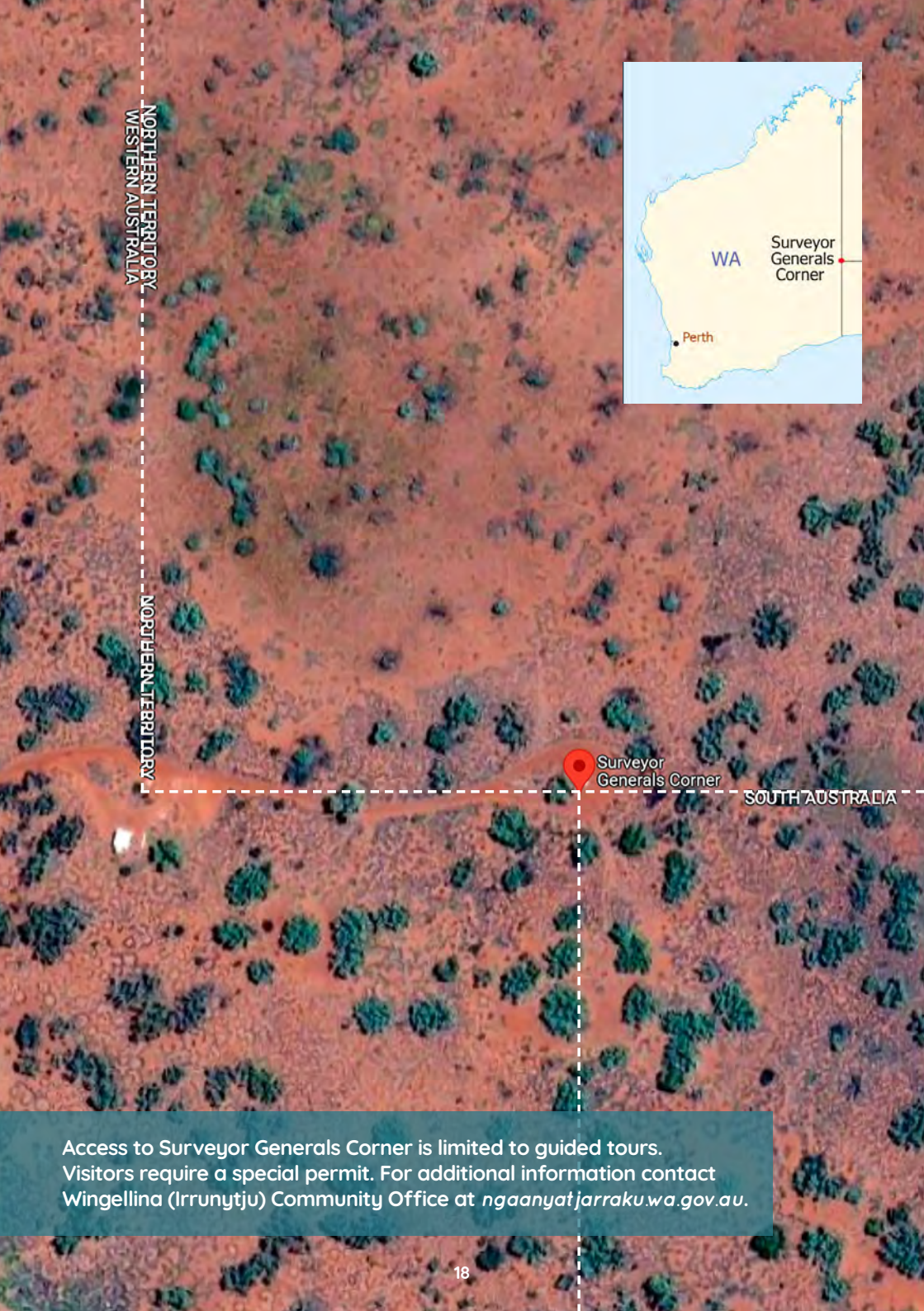
from a series of serious medical issues. "I used to work seven days a week for 14 years," he said. "I made a change supported by my wife and daughters."

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Access to Surveyor Generals Corner is limited to guided tours. Visitors require a special permit. For additional information contact Wingellina (Irrunytju) Community Office at ngaanyatjarraku.wa.gov.au.

WA'S 'BENT' BORDER

IT looks like a straight line. But zoom in and there it is, a 'kink' or bend in the WA-NT border. Called Surveyor Generals Corner, the geographical curiosity is marked by two concrete pillars 127m apart. The late Perth Observatory historian Muriel Utting described the history of the setting of the boundary as, "an intriguing and curious affair". In her 1993 book, 'Astronomy in WA. Volume 2, 1912-1940', Dr Utting says the border between WA and SA lay on the 129th meridian, "wherever it was. No one was quite sure". She says it was the development of the transcontinental railway between Adelaide and Perth, launched in 1917, that, "stirred WA action about a permanent border". The Federal Government needed a definite longitude for Deakin, which marked the border crossing into WA. As the western areas of South Australia were settled as far as the proposed border, "people were becoming restless not knowing for sure to which State they belonged". SA and WA also planned to settle returned soldiers in outback areas near their borders. To be accurate, the surveyors had to know the precise time a certain star under observation passed the telescope's cross hairs. To achieve this, the surveyors set up radio receivers and tuned into specific broadcast signals to synchronise their watches to Greenwich Mean Time in the UK. But, as Dr Utting notes, "despite their best efforts, the equipment they were using and the act of switching stop watches on and off introduced tiny errors. Their fixing was west by 0.2 of a second at Wyndham and east by 0.1 of a second at Deakin".

In distance, "this 0.3 of a second discrepancy meant that the two markers straddled the 129th meridian, 127m apart". More than 40 years passed before the error was noticed, Ms Utting says, "and when it was, nothing was done to correct it". In 1967, the Commonwealth, WA and SA decided to mark the corner where the NT and two States meet. Two monuments or markers were erected at the junction of the boundaries, running east-west along the 26th parallel south. The site is not named after a single Surveyor-General. Access to the remote area is restricted by the Irrunytju (Wingellina) community as it is situated on traditional lands. Access to the area is limited to guided tours and visitors who need entry and travel permits. The nearest settlement is the Aboriginal community of Kalka in South Australia on the Gunbarrel Highway. New Year's Eve occurs three times at Surveyor Generals Corner because it sits at the intersection of three time zones.

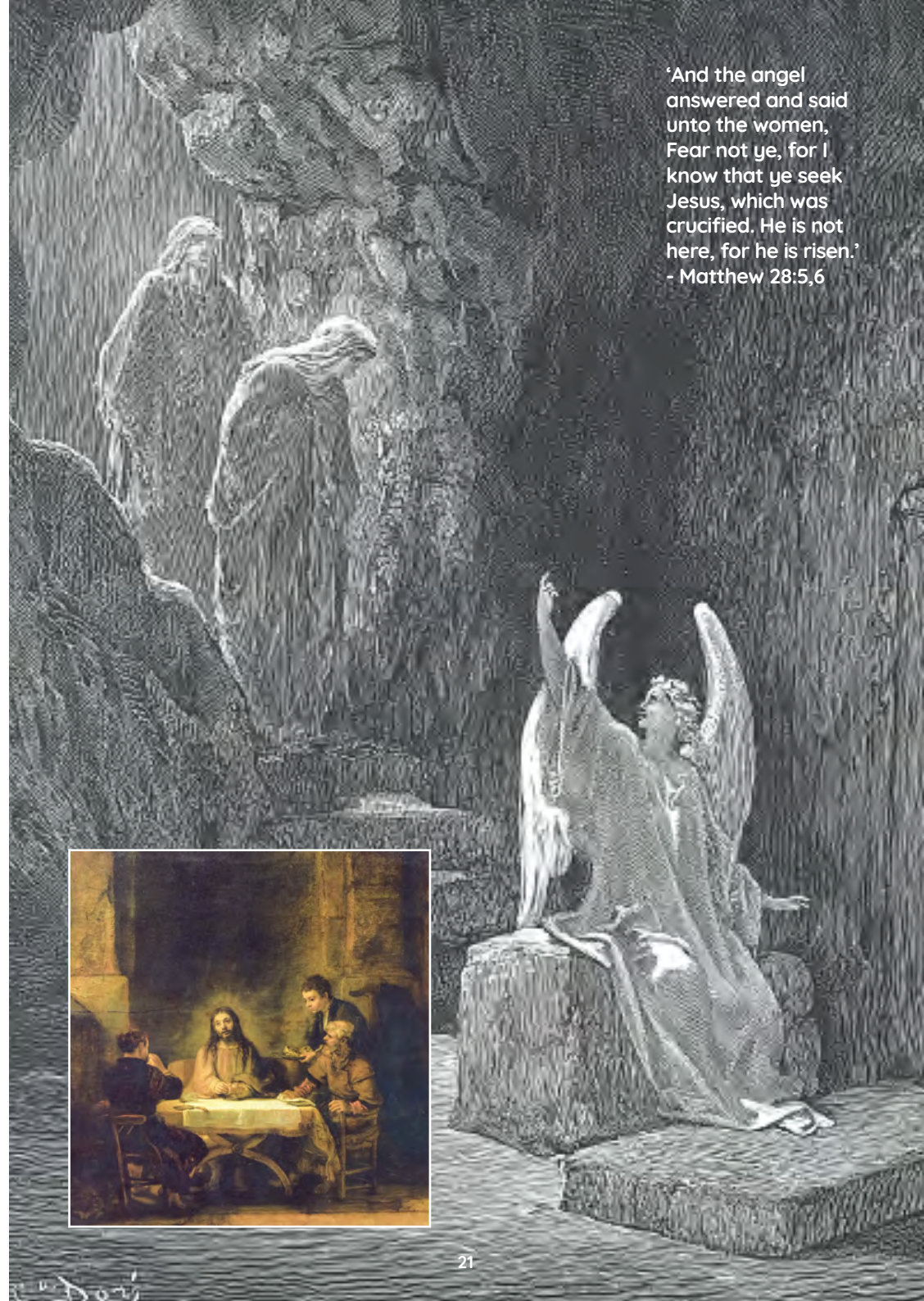


RESURRECTION



EASTER celebrates the 'resurrection' of Jesus Christ who, according to the Bible, rose from the grave three days after his crucifixion. There is no doubt Christ existed and that his followers spread word of his teachings and miracles across the ancient world. But his greatest miracle is walking out of his tomb, three days after his death more than 2000 years ago. Eyewitnesses and writers including Roman and Jewish scholars recorded the extraordinary events surrounding Christ's brutal death, described as one of the most profound moments in human history. Today, it is dismissed as impossible, unnatural. Yet, many people believe in the supernatural, ghosts, demons and 'living dead'. Is it possible? Can people return from the dead? Historical and medical accounts include reports of people who returned from the afterlife. This is called 'Lazarus syndrome', named after Lazarus of Bethany who was brought back to life by Jesus four days after his death. When Jesus died on the cross, it is said the earth shook and bodies of people left their graves and, "went into the holy city and appeared to many people". In the New Testament, Jesus re-appears to his apostles and hundreds of people, leaving behind only an empty tomb. He even broke bread and asked Thomas to put his hand into his wounds, "Stop doubting and believe".

Continued next page



'And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye, for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here, for he is risen.'
- Matthew 28:5,6



BORN AGAIN

THE earliest records of 'rebirth' surround beliefs in and devotion to cults of gods such as Osiris and Baal. In Buddhism, the power of resurrection is described in Chan or Zen tradition. In Hinduism, the rebirth or reincarnation of the soul is known as samsara. Ancient Greeks believed in immortality. Most Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to heaven. The resurrection of Jesus is notably different from other events in which people returned from the dead. His resurrection is the first permanent return to life, everyone else died again. Lazarus died twice. Jesus cannot die again, giving millions of people hope in an eternal life after death. "Because I live, you also will live." (John 14:19).



The promise of Christianity is that all believers will be raised from the dead. The sacrifice on the cross erased the power of sin and death. Only through Christ can believers know God. According to the New Testament, when Christ returns, his followers will be like him, in a new glorified body. Before he died, Jesus brought back to life three people. The first was the only son of a widow. Jesus touched the coffin and told the young man to get up, leaving mourners in disbelief. The second was the 12-year-old daughter of Jairus, a synagogue leader. The third and well known resurrection is that of Lazarus, who had been dead four days. Jesus approached the tomb and rolled away the stone: "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man emerged, his hands and feet wrapped in strips of linen with a cloth around his face. Jesus said: "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."



THE Bible includes several accounts of people who abandoned their graves. Elijah raised widow Zarephath's son while the Old Testament prophet stayed at their home during a severe drought. Biblical records show eight people went to or will go to heaven including Elijah and Noah's great grandfather Enoch. The prophet Elisha raised the son of a Shunammite woman in Shunem, north of Mt Gilboa in ancient Palestine. Like Elijah, Elisha stretched himself out on the boy's body which, "grew warm". Repeating this three times, the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. Elisha also is linked to a resurrection that occurred some time after his own death. Fearing a raid by Moabite raiders, grave diggers ran off after throwing a man's corpse into Elisha's tomb. When the body touched Elisha's bones, "the man came to life and stood up on his feet".



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