FORMER City of Perth councillor Jim Adamos has been charged with fraud in relation to his time on the council.

Police allege the 54-year-old used a sham lease at a property in East Perth to enable electors to be enrolled who were otherwise ineligible to vote in the 2017 council election. It is further alleged Mr Adamos, an accountant, made three false claims for allowances between September 2015 and March 2017 when he was a serving councillor.

The charges come after a 26-month inquiry into the dysfunctional operation of the council between 2015 and 2018, which culminated with a nearly 2000-page report being given to Local Government Minister David Templeman this week.

Three other former councillors and two City of Perth staff members are also being investigated by the financial crimes squad.

Mr Adamos will appear in court on July 13.

Fraud charges laid against former Perth councillor
HELP is again at hand for people finding their way around the Perth CBD.

Volunteers at the City of Perth’s iCity kiosk in Forrest Place have returned, albeit at reduced hours, with the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.

The kiosk will now be open from 10am to 2pm Mondays to Saturdays and 11am to 2.30pm on Sundays, ready to help tourists and other visitors to the city.

Walking tours will also be reinstated and volunteers have been re-purposed as roving ambassadors, wearing red uniforms and moving through the city’s central streets and malls, ready to help with directions or other questions.

Roving ambassador Iliana Lopez Contreras said she could not wait to get back to the city.

“As an ambassador, I can give back to the Perth community that has been very good to me since my arrival 26 years ago,” she said.

“This new role will give me the opportunity to continue providing the best bilingual customer service possible, adding a Colombian friendliness and enthusiasm.”

Volunteers have returned to the City of Perth’s iKiosk.
Up to a third of businesses in the Perth CBD are not expected to survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

Revenue generated in Perth this year is also expected to decline by 11 per cent, compared to the national average of 6.7 per cent, according to the City of Perth’s economic rebound strategy.

It said there had been an 18 per cent drop in pedestrian numbers in the city compared to this time last year.

The number of people parking in the City in April decreased by 77 per cent — about 91,000 motorists — and activity in the entertainment areas in March was 19 per cent lower than the previous year and 57 per cent lower in April.

The business community is lobbying the State Government to use the $130 million parking levy it has collected to help the CBD.

The City lost $16.2 million from the effects of COVID-19 from March to June.

It will now spend $21.1 million over three years as part of its efforts to sustain the CBD, including cutting red tape to make it easier to do business in Perth.

It has already waived fees and charges for business, as well as increasing safety and hygiene measures.

Chair Commissioner Andrew Hammond said the business community had been heavily hit by the “onslaught” of the pandemic.

“The reduction of available jobs and the reduction in the payment of wages have also had flow-on impacts to household, causing major financial stress to many in the community,” he said.

“Our plan is to ease the community, businesses and city workers into the new ‘normal’ way of life, where-by people enjoy this great capital city safely.

“The main objective is to rapidly establish Perth city as a safe and re-energised destination that is open for business and ready to welcome back the community.”

The City has established three advisory committees to help guide its recovery, its members include urban designer and artist Peter Ciemitis, who said it was also important to help the arts sector recover.

“Our people, businesses and industries have all suffered as a result of the pandemic, both financially and socially,” he said.

“Government restrictions and social distancing measures resulted in various cultural and art scenes temporarily closing for public spaces to galleries and museums to concerts and our nightlife.”

The rebound strategy said events and festivals could bring people back to the CBD and help the hospitality, retail and tourism sectors.

The rebound strategy said events and festivals could bring people back to the CBD and support the hospitality, retail and tourism sectors.

Testing the waters for Perth

COMMUNITY consultation is under way for the prospect of building the first public swimming pool in the City of Perth.

Perth MLA John Carey is running a Perth Swimming Pool survey for two months as part of a potential City deal that Mr Carey and State Planning Minister Rita Saffioti have put on the agenda for discussions with the Federal Government.

Mr Carey will hold a series of workshops in East Perth, West Perth and the CBD, as well as online surveys.

He said there was a need for another inner-city pool in addition to Beatty Park in Leederville.

He said he supported the idea of developing a recreational complex, for example as part of the WACA redevelopment.

“The reality is a key part of the city population is in East Perth, and it makes sense to locate a swimming pool where a key residential precinct is located,” Mr Carey said.

City of Perth Chair Commissioner Andrew Hammond said a public swimming pool would help the City reach its residential target of 90,000 by 2050 and provide flow-on benefits to local businesses.


“We all have the same positive outlook, looking for similar fun experiences.”

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STAFF at the City of Stirling have chosen to go without a pay rise.

A City of Stirling spokeswoman said most of the administration staff had voted to keep wages at their current level in 2020-21.

“The City understands other local government authorities have adopted similar measures to continue supporting their communities and staff in these financial times,” she said.

“With the vote now ratified by Fair Work Commission, the City will be able to continue delivering much-needed and valued community services during the recovery from the pandemic, as well as supporting longer term staff retention.

“During the pandemic, the City prioritised the retention and redeployment of its staff and delivery of its services. Importantly, no staff were stood down.”

Stirling councillors approved a freeze on rates at their meeting last week.

Credits will be given to residential, commercial and industrial property ratepayers if their bill is more than last year. Ratepayers can pay in 42 weekly, 21 fortnightly or 10 monthly payments, with the first payment due on August 26.

The council also approved using reserve account funds for other purposes, including offering $3.7 million from the Public Parking Strategy reserve for the rates freeze.
Day the music was revived

THE return of live music performances will be celebrated with a concert at HBF Stadium on July 18.

Local acts Crooked Colours, ShockOne, Slumberjack and Tina Says will perform in WA Unlocked. It will be held on the day all COVID-19 crowd restrictions are lifted.

Culture and the Arts Minister David Templeman said the live entertainment industry had been hit hard during the pandemic.

The resumption of live events means that thousands of West Australians could be employed across several industries, including events, catering, music, production, transport, retail and hospitality.

“This concert will both celebrate the lifting of the restrictions and recognise the importance of supporting local music and the event industry,” Mr Templeman said. “Whilst technology is great, nothing beats a live event.”

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Theatre goes digital

Black Swan State Theatre Company is entering the digital stage. Its new digital platform Black Swan Home Theatre will launch on July 21 and feature video messages from its actors, behind-the-scenes interviews with artists and creatives, backstage tours of workshops and the production of Unsung Heroes: A Digital Festival of Western Australian Stories.

Black Swan postponed its 2020 season until Oklahoma! this November when COVID-19 hit for the safety of its audiences and the artistic community. Initially scheduled as part of the 2020 Season, Unsung Heroes is a collection of solo performances directed by Emily McLean and Joe Paradise Lui that celebrate everyday West Australians who have done extraordinary things. The works have been written by local playwrights Gita Bezard, Barbara Hosta-lek, Chris Isaacs, Hellie Turner and Mararo Wangai.

“Black Swan is proud to be able to continue working with our creative teams in order to help support our sector, keep theatre professionals employed and keep creativity alive,” artistic director Clare Watson said. “We feel incredibly fortunate that as a company during this time, we’ve been working with actors almost every day of lockdown, amounting to over 160 weeks of full time employment.”

In April, we completed a four-week creative development of The Cherry Orchard over four states via Zoom and last month we live-streamed Summer of the Seventeenth Doll with over 1000 audience members registering for the event.

“We are thrilled to continue to share our work with new audiences via Black Swan Home Theatre in presenting the digital festival of Unsung Heroes.”

Each Unsung Heroes monologue was filmed on stage. The pre-recorded performances will be live-streamed for free to registered users from Tuesday, July 21. A live Q&A facilitated by resident artist Ian Michael will follow each live stream. All performances will also be made available on demand. To watch the performances live streamed or on demand, registrations are essential at https://bsstc.com.au/plays/unsung-heroes.

LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCES

KALAMUNDA group Dolce Blue will launch its new single in Maylands on July 18. The launch of TV will be held at Lyrics Underground; tickets are $10 plus booking fee or $15 on the door. FREE live music is held every second Saturday at Mt Lawley cafe Standby Espresso. Bands play from 9.30am to 11.30am, Brass Party will play on July 18 and Oompah! on August 1.

Important things you should know: *Offer available to Australian residents aged 18+ who purchase or refinance a WA home with a new Bankwest home loan. Loans must be disbursed by 31 Oct 2020. Min. loan $25,000; up to 90% of property value (LVR). Excludes refinancers from existing Bankwest and CommBank loans. Only one cashback per eligible customer and per eligible home loan. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Full offer terms and conditions available at bankwest.com.au. Lending criteria, fees and charges and terms and conditions apply and are available on request. Bankwest, a division of Commonwealth Bank of Australia ABN 48 123 124 124 AFSL/AUScredit licence 234456.

Cafe wins after second chance

Kristie Lim

A PROPOSED cafe and small bar on Lindsay Street in Perth has been given the green light, following a State Administrative Tribunal order for reconsideration.

The Metro Inner-North Joint Development Assessment Panel passed applicant Urbis’s amended proposal for a cafe, small bar and a carpark at 29-47 Lindsay Street at its June 17 meeting.

The vacant site in the City of Vincent includes five lots and is bounded by Lindsay Street, Little Parry Street, existing residential properties and a commercial premises.

The decision comes after the Tribunal asked the panel to reconsider its refusal in 2019 and for the applicant to make changes to the development, which is worth $3 million.

Changes include the relocation of the storeroom from Little Parry Street to next to the bin store, introduction of bollard lighting along the street, relocation the bicycle and motorcycle parking from the southwestern corner of the site for more landscaping, and building a security gate for the carpark.

The premise will operate as a cafe in the day from 7am and as a small bar at night with a closing time of 10pm.

The panel believed the proposal met the planning framework for the site.

“The cafe/bar design and interface with Little Parry Street and Lindsay Street are considered to positively contribute to area and streetscape,” the panel stated in the meeting’s minutes.

“The carpark modifications to the landscaping, screening treatments, security have addressed previous concerns and are supported. “The use is considered appropriate in this location with various conditions.”

This approval is valid for 10 years and will cease if the cafe and small bar fails to operate by the end of the period.

River revival

THE lifting of COVID-19 restrictions has reignited plans to redevelop Perth’s riverfront.

The City of Perth began consultations about its riverfront project in mid-March but had to abandon it due to restrictions to slow the spread of the pandemic.

This month it re-launched its community survey about the project, which covers the Swan River from Elizabeth Quay to Point Fraser.

City Chair Commissioner Andrew Hammond said the riverfront had the potential to become a world-class destination.

“We will be working with the WA community and various stakeholders to develop a shared vision for the future of the area,”

Mr Hammond said.

“Focusing on improvements, ideas and community need, we want to hear from as many people as possible to share their vision for the riverfront.”

There will be more public consultation once a plan for the riverfront has been developed.

The City said the riverfront area attracted about 16,000 people each weekday and about 18,000 people on weekends.

Current uses of the area included sports, rowing, music and cultural events, and sitting and relaxing.

People who take part in the survey at engage.perth.wa.gov.au will go in the running for a dinner for two overlooking the Swan River.

Fatal fight in street

A NORTHBRIDGE nightclub manager has died after an early morning brawl.

Paramount Nightclub manager Giuseppe Raco (40) died on Monday after being injured in a fight outside a fast food shop about 4.40am on July 5.

Jaylen Denny Dimer (26), of Girrawheen, was charged with grievous bodily harm on Sunday.

He was refused bail and appeared before the Perth Magistrates Court on July 5.

He was remanded in custody to appear again on August 3.

Detectives are continuing to seek witnesses, in particular two women who helped Mr Raco after the incident.

Call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or visit www.crimestopperswa.com.au.

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PREMIERSHIP POINTS

WA’s 5th premier has endured more pressure than most of the 29 that came before him. Only those who held office during war time or perhaps the Great Depression could say they had more of a torrid time than Mark McGowan. Mr McGowan’s leadership during the COVID-19 crisis is testament to the proverb cornell the hour, cornell the man. Join Mr McGowan for breakfast to hear how he and his team are dealing with one of history’s most VICIOUS HEALTH and economic crises and the leadership tactics they are using to keep West Australians safe. This unique Leadership Matters event will give new insights into how a man born in NSW and educated at the University of Queensland became WA’s favourite son.

BREAKFAST TUESDAY, JULY 28

CROWN PERTH, 7AM (FOR 7.30AM) TO 9AM

TICKETS $110 (incl GST)
CORPORATE TABLES (10 people) $1200
BOOKINGS thewest.com.au/events
INFORMATION events@wanews.com.au

STV
APARTMENT developer Finbar has been given approval to build a 32-storey tower on Adelaide Terrace in the Perth CBD.

The tower at 240 Adelaide Terrace will have a mix of 119 studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments on the 1679sq m site.

The $92 million development is just two blocks from the Perth CBD, less than 400m from the Swan River and within walking distance of the Elizabeth Quay precinct.

It will have a lap pool, gym, sauna, steam room, multimedia cinematic hub, private dining room and residents' lounge.

A rooftop viewing deck on level 32 will feature an outdoor cabana and barbecue area, giving residents sweeping views of the city skyline and river.

Construction is expected to begin in January.

The development is Finbar’s 23rd substantial project in the Perth city block over the past 15 years.

It was given approval by the Local Development Assessment Panel last week.

Finbar managing director Darren Pateman said the development was timely given the recent completion of nearby Vue Tower.

He said the approval was significant as WA moved into a recovery phase after the impact of COVID-19 on property sales.

“The last few months have obviously been a very challenging time for many industries, including the property industry, on the back of sustained softer conditions, however we are confident after some heightened uncertainty that we are moving past the worst of it, with June proving to be our busiest sales month in almost two years,” Mr Pateman said.

The project is a 50/50 joint venture with Ventrade Australia, which will add to the pair’s list of previous collaborations on projects including Concerto, Adagio and Toccata in East Perth, and Unison and One Kennedy in Maylands.
SCITECH Science Centre has reopened its doors just in time for the school holidays. It had been closed for the past three months due to coronavirus restrictions. It now has a daily limited capacity, cleaning at the start and throughout each day, and multiple hand sanitisers throughout the centre in West Perth. Visitors are encouraged to buy their tickets online and will be given priority entry. Scitech continued to deliver programs in schools while it was closed via its web and social media platforms.

Science Minister Dave Kelly reopened Scitech on Monday and said it played an important role in inspiring young people to take an interest in STEM.

Scitech chief executive Kalien Selby said the centre was proud to help develop skills and knowledge needed for future challenges. “Opening the science centre confirms that we are well and truly back to doing what we do best,” she said. “Our commitment to inspiring our visitors with cool and creative STEM experiences is as strong as ever.”

Activities at Scitech include the Super Cool show using liquid nitrogen and the Dinoshadows puppet show.

Science is golden

Science Minister Dave Kelly and Scitech chief executive Kalien Selby welcome children back to Scitech.
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**Vandal escapes fine**

**Emily Moulton**

A PERTH musician who painted an Aboriginal flag on a statue of WA’s first governor, Captain James Stirling, because of his “strong social conscience” has escaped a fine because he doesn’t earn enough money.

Instead Malachy John O’Connor (30), of North Beach, was ordered to carry out 50 hours of community service for defacing the Hay Street monument on June 12 in what was supposedly a protest against racism in the Perth CBD.

O’Connor daubed red and yellow paint on the statue’s hands and neck and an Aboriginal flag at the base on a plaque.

During the hearing on Friday, the court was told O’Connor was frustrated his attempts to have the statue removed had fallen on deaf ears.

The court was told O’Connor had written several letters to the City of Perth and carried out the vandalism as a last resort.

Governor Stirling, who founded the Swan River colony in 1829, is a controversial figure over his part in the 1834 massacre of Aboriginal people at Pinjarra.

He led a detachment of 25 armed troopers and settlers that attacked an encampment of 60 to 80 Pindjarep Aboriginal people.

Settlers’ accounts claim between 10 and 80 Aboriginal people were killed, compared with Aboriginal oral history, which claims 150 people lost their lives.

O’Connor’s lawyer also argued his client had suffered significant financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic but said he would make arrangements to pay a fine should one be handed down.

Deputy Chief Magistrate Elizabeth Woods told O’Connor it was clear that his income was not “significant” and placed him on a community-based order instead, requiring him to complete 50 hours of community service over the next six months.

He was also ordered to pay $18.50 in court costs.

**Malachy O’Connor “too broke” to fine. Picture: Iain Gillespie**

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**THE CONNELLY COLUMN**

Having wrapped up another sitting of Parliament, I’m back in Stirling and wanted to update you on what’s been happening in Canberra and at home.

Shocking, in the last week of Parliament Labor and the Greens voted against mandatory minimum sentences for child sex offenders.

I launched a petition to call for tougher sentences for these crimes, and to raise awareness of the troubling increase in sex. You can sign up by visiting vinconnelly.com.au/protectingchildren

I recently met with the awesome team from Surfing WA to get a project update on the delivery of their new $4 million headquarters to be built on the Trigg coast.

The Coolinba Bombers recently celebrated the installation of their new oval lights, and the Carline Cats have reached an agreement with the City of Stirling on the scope of works for their new facility.

All of this and more has been made possible by the Morrison Government’s investments in our local clubs and organisations.

As the candidate for Stirling I made commitments to these projects at the last election, and I am happy to report that I’m keeping my promises.

**VINCE CONNELLY**

**FEDERAL MEMBER FOR STIRLING**

Authorised by V. Connelly, Liberal Party, Stirling WA 6021

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**CRIME WATCH**

**Hunt for burglar**

**BASSENDEAN**

KIARA police are searching for a man (pictured left) linked to several offences committed in Bassendean.

The man was involved in a burglary, stealing and various fraud offences on June 24.

Quote reference number 240620 1306 88698.

**Bikes stolen**

**PERTH**

POLICE are seeking the public’s help in identifying two men (pictured, centre) who stole bikes from a residential carpark.

Between 4pm on June 14 and 2.30am on June 15, the men jumped the entry gates at the Hay Street carpark and stole the secured bikes.

Quote reference number 160620 1008 84469.

**Liquor theft**

**PERTH**

THE Perth Digital Investigations Team are searching for a man (pictured left) who stole from a liquor store on Murray Street.

The incident happened on June 19.

Email PerthDigitalInvestigationsTeam@police.wa.gov.au and quote reference 190620 1837 62134.

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**Emily Moulton**

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**Malachy O’Connor “too broke” to fine. Picture: Iain Gillespie**

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MIIK GREEN FRACTURE
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MIIK GREEN, 'Fragmertal Portal 425' 2019 (detail), Acry paint on stainless steel, 160 x 120 x 6 cm

MIIK GREEN, 'Hyphen Series - Amaxx 2' 2020, Mixed media on aluminium, 199 x 199 cm

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MIIK GREEN, 'Fragmertal Portal 425/YP' 2020 (detail), Acry paint on stainless steel, 160 x 120 x 6 cm

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MANDOON ESTATE GALLERY
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Sat, Sun & Public Holidays 10am-4pm

LARRY CHERUBINO WINES
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(08) 9388 2116
Mon-Sun 10am-4pm
TO most people, Attadale entrepreneur Ernie Galloway was one of the men behind 24-hour American-themed diner Fast Eddy’s, but to his granddaughter and artist Siahne Rogers he was much more.

“He was a fascinating man who, like so many of these stories, came from humble beginnings,” Rogers, of St James, said.

Galloway bought Fast Eddy’s in the 1980s from founders Christopher and Con Somas, where it boomed to become a Perth icon before “it all fell apart in the early 2000s”.

Rogers was prompted to reflect on her grandfather’s life after his death in 2018, where she started to examine the feeling of fulfilment and the pressures from the idea of success and failure.

The 28-year-old channelled it into the final installation for her BA in Fine Arts at Curtin University, “A big-shot goes belly up… ‘I’ve heard this one before’.

It went on to be selected for Hatched: National Graduate Show 2020 at PICA. The exhibition of 24 works by recent visual arts graduate from across Australia marks the re-opening of the gallery on July 10 and shows until October 18.

“I think he would love the fact someone was making artwork about him,” Rogers said.

“Although the work is informed by his life and what happened to him, it’s still a broader question that I’m trying to ask.

“The definitions of winning and losing are determined for us in such a broader sense and I think that really came through when I started making the work about him.”

Hatching a story

Tanya MacNaughton

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St James artist Siahne Rogers with Empire Crumbles: Bunfight at Fast Eddy’s and Go For Broke! Picture: Andrew Ritchie

Bearing witness

MT Lawley artist and photographer DeeDee Noon hit the suburbs to take photos of the bear hunt trend during the COVID-19 lockdown for her exhibition at a local cafe.

Noon, who is studying a PhD at Edith Cowan University Mt Lawley and photographically investigating people’s connection with toys, will be showcasing her best photos at Bowie Kitchen Cafe until July 13.

The Out of Hi-Bear-Nation exhibition features photos of toys and artworks installed on fences, doors and gates in Mt Lawley, Inglewood, North Perth, Mt Hawthorn and Bayswater.

Noon said some of her favourites were drunken bears and a group of pandas placed 1.5m away from each other.

“The installations were done in a way to reward walkers and many were at heights that were most likely to be engaging for children,” she said.

Noon, a former window dresser, said the exhibition served as a window into what happened on the suburban streets during the lockdown. She will be holding an artist talk on July 11 at 11am, 11.20am and 11.40am. Call 9371 9900.

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Students help struggling peers

ANGELO Westlake-Jennings

OVERSEAS students in Perth who found themselves without income and a hot meal due to the COVID-19 pandemic have had a huge helping hand in the form of a program that supplied them free meals. And in a real heartwarming turn of events, some of the affected international students have even lent a hand with preparing the meals to assist their peers in a time of need.

Organised by StudyPerth, the International Students Meals Program saw overseas student chefs help ready 250 healthy meal packs over the past four weeks at The Kitchens in Balcatta, under the expert guidance of chefs Don Hancey and Sophie Budd, which were then delivered to pick-up points in the Perth CBD, Joondalup and Bentley for students in need to collect.

Recipes for the meals were included as a little bonus to encourage the students to enhance their own skills at home.

StudyPerth, which is funded by the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation and manages international education for WA, initially launched the StudyPerth Crisis Relief to respond to an acute need for food and shelter during the coronavirus pandemic.

“However, there was still a need for international students to have access to nourishing meals, but they may not have fallen into the category for Crisis Relief,” StudyPerth senior manager Angela Beechey said.

“There were 50,000 international students enrolled in WA at the end of last year and as of the end of May, over 20,000 were still studying here onshore. “Many of these students have worked casually and paid tax but have lost work and/or are now unable to find work and are often without social support networks and family in the country.”

Ms Beechey decided that something needed to be done to ensure students unable to receive financial assistance were supported in some way, and if she her partner with WA Food Ambassador Mr Hancey in the hope he would be able to support the program and help with connections to other chefs and suppliers. And deliver he did, although Mr Hancey didn’t need to do much to convince fellow chef and trainer Ms Budd to volunteer her time as well.

“I look at this program like a great recipe — we have all those ingredients: StudyPerth, international students in need, international volunteer chefs, The Kitchen Balcatta, 100 per cent WA produce and mentors like Sophie and myself, added, stirred, prepared and served with passion and pride.”

“The students I had cook with me were awesome,” Ms Budd, who runs Taste Budds Cooking Studio, said.

“We made a total of 1000 packaged meals using the best WA produce to make food for the other students, like Don said, is the perfect recipe.”

Ms Beechey said student chefs who have generously participated in the program have loved it.

“It has been great to get hands-on experience in cooking meals at scale and there has also been a sense of fulfillment from giving back to the WA international student community,” she said.

All the produce used in the program were also WA grown and sourced to support local producers and businesses.

“This program doesn’t just support students but also showcases Perth as a first-choice destination for studying commercial cookery,” Ms Beechey said.

“If we value and support our international students when they are most in need, we can ensure the international education sector in WA remains strong and can drive prosperity and jobs growth as restrictions are lifted and the global economy begins to recover.”

The team wrapped up the goodwill program on Monday, with the majority of the student chefs returning for one last cook.

“I do hope that we can extend the program. However, we will need to get support from other businesses and suppliers to ensure we can keep the program sustainable,” Ms Beechey said.
Talking about their latest opera, mezzo-soprano Chelsea Burns said, “I think it’s perfect for this time because the piece is so lighthearted.”

The film does not shy away from the less positive side of the industry, one interviewee noting that that in the 1950s there were 385 bookstores in New York and now there are 79.

For many book dealers, it is the hunt that they enjoy even more than owning the book itself and with most things searchable at the click of a button, it has changed the way in which a book is considered rare. The Booksellers is an undeniable joy for any book lover and will make you want to take an immediate trip to your favourite independent bookshop.

The Booksellers (PG)
DIRECTOR: D.W. Young
****
NOW SHOWING: Luna Leederville, Windsor Cinema and Palace Raine Square
REVIEW BY: Lucy Rutherford
Olympic goals for water polo squad

TWO water polo athletes will undergo rigorous training to play at a world championship after being selected for a national squad.

Trigg resident Jamie Oberman (19) and Churchlands resident Philippa Pedley (18) have been selected for the Australian 20 & Under Female water polo squad.

The squad will prepare for selection for the 2021 World Women’s Junior Water Polo Championships. Oberman, who is the daughter of 1992 Olympian Paul Oberman, said making the squad was the culmination of all the hard work and training done over the past couple of years. “All the training sessions and early mornings finally paying off in making another squad for me,” she said.

Oberman said her ultimate goal was to play water polo at the Olympics. “I’ve wanted to go from a young age and then finally, the making of these squads, for me it shows that I’m on track,” she said.

Oberman and Pedley have gone back to an intense training schedule after the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. Pedley said they had to ease into the training to stop the risk of injuries.

Comets eclipsed in return

IT was a long time between drinks (295 days) due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but round one of the WA Netball League brought back elite netball, a new team and a chance for spectators to again watch live sport.

The opening games on Friday were played at the Gold Netball WA Centre headquarters, where West Coast Warriors (77) were dominant all night against Curtin Hamersley Comets (42) as 2019 Jill McIntosh winner Nellie Wallam carried her form from last year by shooting 70 goals.

There was also a win to Western Roar over Southside Demons, 70-41, with Tess Gee-Cransberg and debutant Sophie Lamers good players for the Roar. Meg Gallagher was solid for the Demons with 30 goals.

New team Peel Lightning hosted their first game in Mandurah but they were downed by East Fremantle Sharks 63-47.

At the Eaton Recreation Centre in Bunbury, Rangers were too good for ECU South East Jets 68-50. The Rangers were led by scoring machine Georgia Pitt, who shot 60 goals, with Ellie Sanzone in the first half and Kate Buntine in the second half and wing attack Rebecca Tuckey providing good drive in the centre of the court.

The Jets did not give up and outscored the Rangers by seven in the last quarter. With an eight team league in 2020, a 14-game season is in place with the grand final set down for Friday, October 16. Round 2 action tomorrow night on the Gold Netball Centre’s main court features Rangers and East Fremantle at 6.15pm and Western Roar v West Coast Warriors at 8.30pm. Peel Lightning meets Southside Demons on court 3 at 6.15pm.

Catch the action live every Friday on Centrepass on Facebook.
THE Mazda CX-5 has won seemingly endless plaudits since arriving in Australia in 2012, rising quickly to the top of the medium-SUV sales podium, where it has stayed.

Given the segment is the biggest seller in the land, that makes the CX-5 the biggest fish in the biggest pond; it was the top-selling SUV in the country last year.

While it has dispatched worthy competitors that have come for it, the CX-5 arguably faces its biggest challenge in years: the Toyota RAV4, our 2019 Car of the Year.

Although this year’s sales figures are all over the shop due to COVID-19 disruptions, the RAV4 has nonetheless landed some big blows on the CX-5 in this year’s first rounds, accounting for 21.7 per cent of all medium SUVs sold to the end of May, sitting CX-5’s 14.1 per cent share on its backside.

Why? Two reasons: fuel economy and space.

The RAV4 can be had in a fuel-sipping hybrid and has class-leading cargo room in a segment dominated by budget-conscious families. But don’t for a minute think the CX-5 doesn’t still offer what made it everyone’s darling; in fact, it now offers even more.

We’ve said it a lot before but it has to be repeated: Mazda makes the nicest interiors of any mainstream brand and probably exceeds some of the luxury marques. Materials are sumptuous, design elegant yet functional and everywhere you look things are top-end: classy instrument panels, polished chrome, high-definition displays, and all easy to use.

In this car, you feel as if you’re treating yourself and who doesn’t want that on the school drop-off? This was especially true given we were in the top-spec Akera Turbo variant, which adds perks such as heated and cooled front seats, sat nav, Bose stereo, an excellent head-up display, digital radio, heated steering wheel, active LED headlights and more. The seven-inch screen is a tad small nowadays, and the system isn’t the quickest to load, but Mazda’s MZD Connect rotary dial makes it a cinch to use.

There’s all the active safety tech you could want which, crucially, straddles the line between effective and unobtrusive.

The Akera Turbo gets its name from the excellent force-fed 2.5-litre petrol four-pot. It’s a strong, refined engine offering plenty of shove without disrupting the serenity. A six-speed auto transmission is almost quaint but drivers will be hard pressed to notice it; a big win.

When paired with an unshakable all-wheel-drive system and solid dynamics, the driving experience combined with the cabin layout and spec list mean the Akera Turbo’s $50,000-plus price tag feels about right, despite it being more than any other flagship mainstream medium SUV.

Of course, the engine also plays into the RAV4’s hands in some respects. Though it claims 8.2L/100km, we never saw it below double figures.

It’s worth mentioning the CX-5 can run on cheaper 91RON petrol. Also, space behind the B-pillar is a baggie. The 442 litres falls shy of most competitors, as does rear leg room.

MAZDA CX-5
VARIANT: Akera
PRICE: $50,830
ENGINE: 2.5-litre four-cylinder turbo-petrol
OUTPUT: 170kW/420Nm
TRANSMISSION: Six-speed automatic
FUEL ECONOMY: 8.2L/100km

Sam Jeremic

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