

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF FREMANTLE
SUMMER 2025 // ISSUE 25

FRE-OH!



CITY OF
Fremantle



CULLEY'S CRACKS A CENTURY

*Mike and Mel on
a mouth-watering
milestone*

10

NORTH FREMANTLE
Stories of the suburb

13

MAKING THEIR MARK
Murals by young creatives

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Fremantle acknowledges the Whadjuk people as the Traditional Owners of the greater Fremantle/Walyalup area and we recognise that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still important today.

HIGHLIGHTS

9 Culley's celebrates a century

Marvellous milestone for a Fremantle institution

10 North Fremantle Heritage Trail

Take a walk through history

13 Our Voice | Our Mark

Young creatives making their mark on the city



9



10



13

A QUICK WORD...

Welcome to the 25th edition of FRE-OH! magazine.

Summer has landed in Freo, and there's no better place to be this Christmas and New Year. Inside we cover what's making news at the City of Fremantle, including the fresh faces for Freo Council, project updates and the What's On guide.

Our cover story celebrates the centenary of Freo's oldest family-owned and operated cafe and bakery. That's right, Culley's is 100!

We also shine a spotlight on creative producer Danni Colgan - the person booking all the amazing live music gigs at Walyalup Fremantle Arts Centre. And we take a look at three brand new murals that have come to life at Parmelia Park, Horrie Long Reserve and Cantonment Street carpark - all created by local students mentored by artists.

Enjoy the read!

MAYOR BEN LAWVER



WHAT'S INSIDE

3 In the Spotlight

Danni Colgan, the woman behind the gigs

4-5 Newsdesk

6 Fresh on the Scene

7 Five minutes with

Skip Lissiman and John Longley

8 Fresh faces for Freo Council

12 Freo Summer

There's no better place in WA

14-15 What's On

You may have noticed we're a bit light on pages this issue. Unfortunately, we've had to reduce the weight of the magazine to ensure household deliveries could go ahead during Australia Post's peak period in December.

Rest assured, we'll be back to the full 24 pages next issue!

MEET THE WOMAN BEHIND THE GIGS

If you've ever spent a lazy Sunday under the plane trees at Walyalup Fremantle Arts Centre (WFAC) or experienced a sold-out gig on the South Lawn, chances are Danni Colgan has had a hand in making it happen.

As Senior Creative Producer at WFAC, Danni is the quiet force behind some of Fremantle's most memorable music moments.

With over 25 years in the industry, Danni's resume reads like a festival lover's dream — from programming Sydney Festival and WOMADelaide to curating the UK's Meltdown and Brighton Festivals and shaping Perth Festival. When it comes to live music, she's seen (and booked) it all.

"We're so lucky at WFAC," Danni said.

"We have three stunning, totally different spaces to work with. That means we can host big-name acts like The Streets and Spacey Jane on the South Lawn, and create more intimate shows for artists like jazz prodigy Amy Gadiaga and Marlon Williams presenting his album Te Whare Tīwekaweka.

"Our audience is wonderfully diverse, so I always program with a 'something for everyone' mindset."

A Fremantle institution since 1981, Sunday Music remains one of Perth's most beloved — and generous — free live music programs, offering a launchpad for emerging artists.

"For Sunday Music, we balance established and up-and-coming acts — the kind of artists we can imagine headlining the South Lawn in years to come," Danni said.

"We also have the capability to program some unique shows. This December 14, we've got Stella Cain performing with a 50-voice choir — it's going to be magic."

And what's next? "2026 is looking incredible," Danni teases.

"We're welcoming icons like Lindy Morrison of The Go-Betweens, performing with Rob Snarski from The Blackeyed Susans, amazing local multi-instrumentalist Louis Rebeiro and launching Ayo Busari's new EP. Come join us and enjoy!"

SUNDAY MUSIC RUNS EVERY SUNDAY FROM 2-4PM AT WALYALUP FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE.

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT WFAC.ORG.AU

Entry is free, proudly supported by Fremantle Community Bank.





SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS

To support small businesses during the upcoming closure of the Fremantle Traffic Bridge, the City is offering grants of up to \$2,000 each.

The funding can be used for creating marketing content and paid campaign activity over existing digital marketing channels.

Supported by the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce, the grants form part of a broader coordinated campaign to 'flood the market' with content and remind greater Perth that Fremantle is still open for business.

Businesses who receive the grant will also receive one-on-one guidance and direction from a professional marketing agency.

Applications for the first round open on 1 December 2025. For eligibility and key dates, scan the QR code below or visit

INVESTFREMANTLE.COM.AU/SMALL-BUSINESS-GRANTS-PROGRAM



INVEST FREMANTLE WEBSITE LAUNCH

The City has launched a new investment attraction website to provide investors, entrepreneurs, property developers, and local businesses with a clear and accessible resource that highlights the city's emerging opportunities, key investment precincts and major projects pipeline as Fremantle goes through its biggest revitalisation in 40 years.

The website will also include a directory for professional service businesses to list their details, making it easier for potential clients and partners to connect with them.

Businesses can get involved by sharing their success stories, join investor campaigns, be featured in case studies and the quarterly newsletter, and subscribe to stay up to date on the latest insights, opportunities, and events.

INVESTFREMANTLE.COM.AU



ASPIRE AWARD WINNER

St Pat's CEO Michael Piu is the winner of the 2025 THIS IS FREMANTLE Aspire Award.

In partnership with Business Events Perth, the Award enables recipients to attend an international business event for professional development purposes. Michael has chosen to attend the National Conference on Ending Homelessness, in Canada next year.

He plans to showcase the innovative work happening here in WA, learn from global leaders in the field, and bring back insights that will strengthen efforts to end homelessness in Fremantle, Western Australia, and beyond.

St Patrick's Community Support Centre is a Fremantle-based not-for-profit organisation working to end homelessness and support people facing disadvantage to achieve independence and wellbeing.

HENDERSON STREET MALL

The Henderson Street pedestrian mall now runs from South Terrace to William Street, in the city centre.

The newly opened thoroughfare will allow for safer movement and access to businesses in the area including the ever-popular Fremantle Markets, which has already activated the space with a pop-up market and fashion showcase.



VISIT US

Customer service opening hours
8am–5pm (Monday to Friday)

PHONE

1300 MY FREO (1300 693 736)
1300 360 666 (Community Safety Officers)

ADDRESS

Walyalup Civic Centre
151 High Street, Fremantle
Walyalup Koort

POSTAL

PO Box 807, Fremantle WA 6959

EMAIL

info@fremantle.wa.gov.au

WEBSITE

fremantle.wa.gov.au

NRS-friendly Hearing or speech impaired?

Call via the National Relay Service on 133 677

CREATIVE COHORT

Fremantle-based creatives are being encouraged to join the Creative Cohort, a new initiative offering practical support for people working in all areas of the arts.

The Creative Cohort is free to join with members receiving access to a regular mailout, skills workshops, peer support groups and social networking events, with many of the activities being free or low-cost.

Whether you're looking for mentorship, grant advice, marketing support, space to work or simply to expand their networks, the program offers opportunities tailored to a wide range of needs.

**FREMANTLE.WA.GOV.AU/
CREATIVECOHORT**



LEISURE AND BEAN

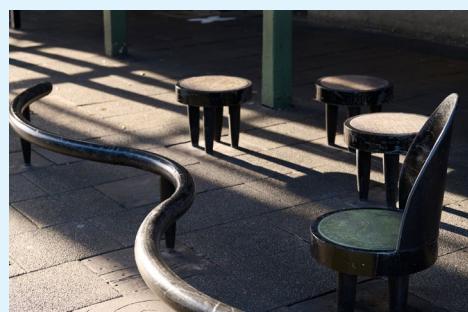
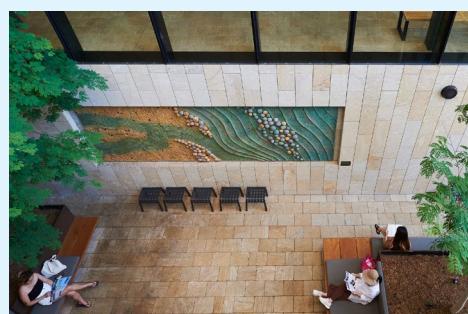
What are you waiting for? It's time you checked out the new café at the Fremantle Leisure Centre. Annie and Wally are serving up delicious coffee and food daily from 7am to 2pm. **HOT TIP: you don't even have to swim laps to enjoy their baked goods – they do streetside takeaways!**



MURAL ARTWORK GUIDE

Thinking of creating a mural? Before you do, make sure you consult the City's new Mural Artwork Guide to understand the process, from commissioning and approvals through to installation and ongoing maintenance.

It's for artists, community groups, businesses, property owners, residents and anyone who is looking to create mural artworks in our city.



THE GUIDE IS AVAILABLE HERE



BAZAAR MAKERS MARKET

Don't miss WA's favourite makers market on 5-7 December. Bazaar 2025 promises to be bigger, brighter and bursting with local talent.

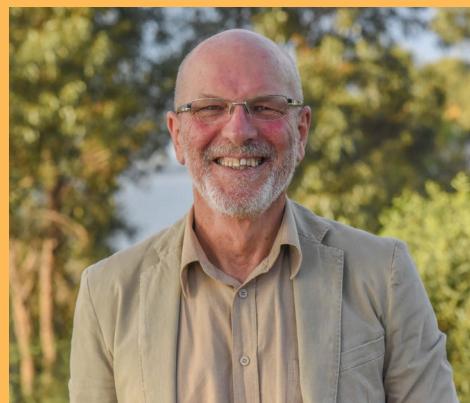
Transforming Walyup Fremantle Arts Centre's lush lawns into a festive wonderland of creativity, Bazaar features 50 of WA's most exceptional artisans and designers selling an incredible array of art, homewares, fashion, jewellery, ceramics, textiles, woodwork, prints, toys, and more.

Now in its 46th year, this much-loved event is the ultimate destination for unique, handcrafted gifts – all made in Western Australia.



FAREWELL TO FREO'S FINEST

Fremantle Council said goodbye to its longest-serving Councillor, Doug Thompson, who retired in October, after 37 continuous years of service to the community. **THANKS DOUG!**



CONNECT WITH YOUR CITY

- facebook.com/cityoffremantle
- instagram.com/cityoffremantle
- youtube.com/cityoffremantle
- linkedin.com/company/city-of-fremantle

Subscribe to our Freo Weekly enewsletter at:

FREMANTLE.WA.GOV.AU/SUBSCRIBE



CITY OF
Fremantle

FRESH ON THE SCENE



THE COOL ROOM CAFÉ

2/114 Holland St, Fremantle

This brilliant neighbourhood cafe nestled in the corner of Holland and Onslow Streets has started a fresh chapter with Chef Drew Dawson and partner Charlotte Beeton taking the lead.

The Cool Room is all about simple, honest food done well, with good coffee, local produce and have an ever-changing menu that reflects the best in season.

The name comes from the building's history, originally used as a butcher's cool room.

Since taking over they've focused on refreshing the space and keeping the café approachable during the day. They've also embarked on some more creative ventures like their pop-up dinner series that transforms the café into a casual restaurant after dark.

Making sure both the day-to-day café operations and evening offering feel distinct but connected has been their biggest challenge so far, and it's taken a great team and a lot of patience.

Chef Dawson says seeing the space come alive, whether that's a busy weekend morning service or a full house at an Off Licence dinner (their evening pop-up restaurant), and watching the community grow around it has been most exciting and rewarding part of running the café.

OPEN 8AM-12.30PM, THURSDAY-SUNDAY.
INSTAGRAM.COM/COOLROOMCAFE

Photo by @shotbyteischa

6

Cute cafés and cosy coffees—see the latest venues, restaurants and coffee bars taking Freo by storm.

PLATED

1 Finnerty St, Fremantle

Plated Café marks the long-awaited return of hospitality duo Loan and Triet Ly to the Walyalup Fremantle Arts Centre. After a few years' absence, they've returned and reimagined the beloved space with a new concept that feels both familiar and refreshed—Plated, a modern Australian café designed for 2025 and beyond.

While some favourites remain like the slow-cooked 16-hour shakshuka and classic brunch staples such as eggs on toast and waffles, the menu now embraces a wider range of global influences, from banana sticky rice with granola and labne-topped savoury crepes to Vietnamese-style pancakes and gochujang beef wonton tostadas.

Their high tea continues this inventive approach, pairing sweet treats like pandan coconut cake, watermelon parfait, and macarons with delicate savoury bites. A renewed partnership with Walyalup Fremantle Arts Centre also means picnic boxes for enjoying on the grounds (or beyond), along with expanded catering and private event options.

Warm, stylish, and community-focused, Plated Café combines the best of what came before with a renewed energy. It's a place to linger, connect, and rediscover why Fremantle fell in love with Loan and Triet's food in the first place.

OPEN 8AM-3PM, MONDAY-SUNDAY.
KITCHEN CLOSES AT 2PM.

INSTAGRAM.COM/PLATEDWFAC
WFAC.ORG.AU/VISIT/PLATED-CAFE

Photo by Sally Hall/Perth is OK!



FLINT AND EMBER

Shop 2B/2 Queen St

Not only does this hole in the wall coffee bar serve up exceptional coffee and hot chocolates, but you'll also find handmade empanadas (delicious South American style savoury pastries) brownies made with their own award-winning chocolate and sourdough toasties.

Catherine and Willow, owners and longtime locals wanted to open something in their favourite place in the world and commit to serving the Freo community on the ground even further.

Their mission statement is kindness, friendliness and connection first, then delicious coffee and food second.

Before opening the coffee bar Catherine had been working with children with disabilities as a physiotherapist and Willow had working as a nurse in the emergency department, but they both wanted to get back out on the street and serve others in a different way.

As part of their mission Flint and Ember offer a suspended coffee board, which lets you purchase cup of coffee in advance for someone who could benefit from a spontaneous and unsolicited act of kindness.

So far their biggest challenge was the absolute chaos of the first few months with all the financial, emotional, structural and social trials of opening a small business, including the coffee machine breaking and venue flooding in their second week.

The name represents a metaphorical campfire, a place to warm the bones and have some uplifting conversation, but you'll have to stop by for a coffee to find out which of them represents 'Flint' and which of them 'Ember'.

OPEN 7.30AM-1.30PM, MONDAY-FRIDAY.
INSTAGRAM.COM/FLINTANDEMBERCOFFEEFREO



SAILING GREATS, SKIP LISSIMAN AND JOHN LONGLEY



How was Perth/Fremantle chosen to host the opening race of the 2026 SailGP season?

Skip: *SailGP was keen to come to Western Australia because they knew it would be spectacular for both the local public and the television audience around the world. They knew, coming to Fremantle, the chances of having good breeze and making it spectacular would be very high.*

John: *Perth/Fremantle is the third windiest city in the world after Christchurch and Chicago. To have great racing you need great wind and we have that. We also have great water; it's clean, crystal clear and beautiful to sail in. It's all backed up by this interesting vibrant city with lots of shoreside attractions. Fremantle really has it all as far as sailing is concerned.*

2026 will be SailGP's sixth season and it is seriously big business, with celebrity owners, TV viewership in the millions and a major tourism drawcard for host cities.

How did it start and how has it mainstreamed the sport of sailing?

Skip: *Larry Ellison, co-founder of software company Oracle, has funded it to this point and is a keen yachtsman in his own right. Russell Coutts, a Kiwi, who skippered New Zealand to its first America's Cup victory in 1995, came up with the concept and put it to Larry who said 'yep, let's get it going'.*



The world's most exciting race on water, the Rolex SailGP Championship, is set to stun spectators at Bathers Beach 17-18 January 2026. Skip and John can barely contain their excitement.

John: *Teams are changing hands now for \$50 million USD. You've got major A-listers investing, like Hugh Jackman and Ryan Reynolds, and tech company investors buying into it because they see its potential.*

We have a state government that sees the value of hosting major events. This will be a continuation of the ongoing promotion of Fremantle, Perth and WA in the tourism and business space. The people that are coming and are associated with these boats are major players.

More than 15,000 fans are expected to attend the event. What will they see when the 13-nation fleet takes to the water?

Skip: *When the conditions are right the yachts will reach speeds of over 50 knots, which is over 100km/h. They're going at twice the speed of the Rottnest ferry, so they're going incredibly quick for a sailing boat. They don't have an engine, it's all by wind power alone. The boats themselves are catamarans, and they've got foils under the hulls. They basically get the hulls out of the water and fly on the water. It's incredible to watch.*

John: *To get up close to one of these boats is a different experience. Like Formula 1 – it's one thing to watch it on television, it's something else to be trackside when one comes past you. It's a visceral, whole-body experience. It's going to be exciting. I think we're all holding our breath that it's not going to be too much carnage!*

FRESH FACES FOR FREO COUNCIL

With the local government elections done and dusted, a new-look Fremantle Council has been getting down to business.

Fremantle residents and ratepayers elected a new Mayor as well as two new councillors at the October 18 poll, with the new Council sworn in just a few days later.

Ben Lawver, an East Ward councillor since 2021, succeeded Hannah Fitzhardinge in the top job, while local business owner Melanie Clark was elected in North Ward following Doug Thompson's retirement after 37 years on council.

Hilton resident Pip Slaughter was elected as East Ward councillor, while Coastal Ward voters returned Andrew Sullivan.

Fedele Camarda, who was elected unopposed in Central Ward, is Freo's new Deputy Mayor.

They join Councillors Ingrid Van Dorssen, Jemima Williamson-Wong, Frank Mofflin and Geoff Graham, who weren't up for re-election.

Adin Lang retired from Council as did Jenny Archibald, who was unsuccessful in her bid to become Mayor. Both leave behind a distinguished record of achievement in their time on Council.

Mayor Lawver said he wanted to focus on supporting people experiencing homelessness, providing practical support for local artists and on creating a collaborative space for his fellow councillors.

“Bringing our caring community together with service providers is a priority for me so we can figure out how to help people sleeping rough on our streets.

“I am also looking forward to the City delivering an audit of our properties and Council discussing how we might best activate them with artists and other creative uses,” he said.

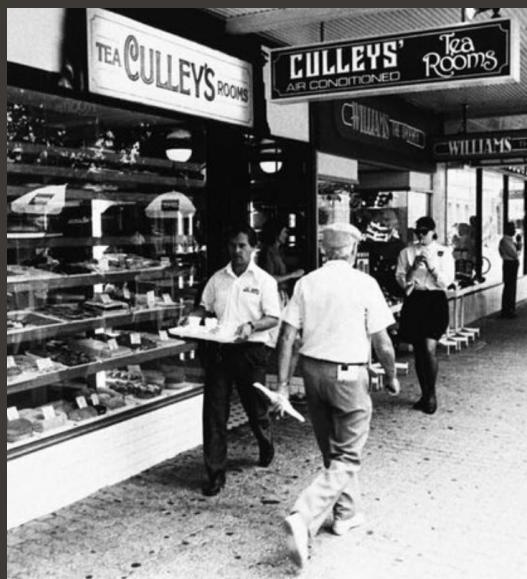
With the Fremantle Traffic Bridge scheduled to close for up to 12 months in early 2026, Council and the City are looking at what additional support is required for businesses and residents in addition to those already announced by the State Government.

“The most immediate thing right now is the looming bridge closure, and for our Council to try and improve on the State Government’s earlier announcement,” said Mayor Lawver.

“Some of the additional things we’d like to see happen include a free transit zone across all of Fremantle and East Freo, establish the entire city as a 40km/h speed limit, better bicycle infrastructure and allowing bicycles on all trains between Freo and North Freo, reducing freight movements during peak commuter times as well as a whole list of other improvements that will help ensure our city can thrive,” he said.



Left-right: Cr Melanie Clark, Cr Jemima Williamson-Wong, Cr Frank Mofflin, Cr Fedele Camarda (Deputy Mayor), Cr Andrew Sullivan, Mayor Ben Lawver, Cr Pip Slaughter, Cr Ingrid van Dorssen, Cr Geoff Graham.



CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF CULLEY'S

Freo's oldest family owned and operated café and bakery turns 100

In 1925, the Jazz Age was in full swing, F. Scott Fitzgerald had just published *The Great Gatsby*, radios started appearing in homes, and a loaf of bread cost 5 pence.

Perth's population hit 200,000, trams rattled through the streets, the Dingo Flour Mill had just opened, and Michael Culley's great grandfather established Culley's Tea Rooms at 116 High Street in Fremantle.

"It was actually my great grandmother who was the brains behind all the deals, which was a bit rare back then," says Mike, who recalls that what would become a Freo institution, began with a handshake agreement between two business-minded women on the train from Perth.

That deal saw them take over the premises where the Abbot's confectionery shop once stood in the Atwell Arcade.

The Culley's dynasty is now into its fourth generation, with the business in the capable hands of Michael and Melissa Culley.

"I do feel the pressure... Because of the family legacy," Mike says. "I said to Dad, 'Dad, it's tough' and he turned to me and said, 'your great grandparents traded through World War II and the Great Depression!'

"So, you tip your hat and keep going. If there's any kudos to any generation, it has to be them. They set the bar so high."

That was Edward and Alice, who passed it down to their sons Dick and Ted, who passed it down to Darrell Culley (Michael's father) and business partner Bob Wegner.

Over the years, there's been many highs and lows.

"The dynamics of Fremantle have changed. Up until the late 70s / early 80s, there were no shopping centres. You had Perth and Fremantle, which were the only places you could go for anything. The foot traffic was unbelievable," says Mike.

At one stage, Culley's expanded to five stores around Perth, but after COVID they consolidated to just the one in High Street (next door to the original location).

The secret to their success? Keeping the regulars happy.

"It's amazing how loyal the people of Fremantle are to us," says Mike.

"We know a lot of customers by name, we know their orders. There's a personal feel at Culley's that you don't get elsewhere," Mel adds.

The old-school charm in the café is abundant, with pressed tin walls, an antique safe, original ceiling fans and black and white photos adorning the walls.

It's a seven-day a week operation, with more than 20 staff, ensuring the highest quality of their products and service.

One of the big projects in the centenary year, was moving the bakery back to Fremantle after a decade in Kardinya.

It's there, in the bakery, that the magic happens – the Culley's bakers making all their own products from pies, pasties, sausage rolls and bread, to cakes, cookies and other sweet treats.

The award-winning Culley's pies are made with a recipe that's been passed down through the generations, with a secret gravy flavoured with spices and stock, the beef sourced from the Stirling Ranges and the free-range chicken from Mount Barker.

There's been plenty of competition in the local bakery scene of late, but the pair are not worried.

"There are a lot of trendy places in Freo. I think what we do is pretty traditional and our prices are quite reasonable," says Mel, noting that customer satisfaction is of utmost importance to them.

"We get all the locals and workers. They know what they're going to get and it's affordable," says Mike.

"In the past five to ten years, hospitality in Freo has nearly doubled."

"Catering has got a lot busier for us. We can accommodate last minute orders because we bake everything ourselves, and our staff can be flexible," says Mel.

Culley's is not just about the flakiness of the pastry or the pillow softness of the lamingtons, it's about the whole experience.

"It's iconic, it really is an institution," says Mel.

"I get a lot of people saying 'my grandparents brought me here', 'my auntie worked here'. There are so many little stories, lots of memories and a lot of history."

**OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY, 6AM-3PM,
SATURDAY 8.30AM-3PM AND SUNDAY
8.30AM-2.30PM.**

CULLEYS.COM.AU



Stroll through the stories of North Fremantle

North Fremantle's history and culture come alive on this self-guided walking trail. Take a stroll to the river's edge and through the streets to discover the stories of the suburb.

Originally launched in 1988 as the Rocky Bay Heritage Trail, the trail was renamed the North Fremantle Heritage Trail in 2004 and was expanded to include some interpretive signage, thanks to the local community, heritage volunteers, conservation groups and the City of Fremantle.

Now, twenty years on, the City has completed a much-needed update to enhance the experience, working alongside the community and the Whadjuk Noongar people, to refresh the interpretation and signage.

Funded by the City of Fremantle and the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport through the Trail Planning Grants Program, the first stage of the revitalisation, the Yoorn (Bobtail) Trail, is now complete.

The City involved the community, as well as Whadjuk Elders, to create an immersive visitor experience blending cultural significance, heritage, nature, and best practices in recreational trails.

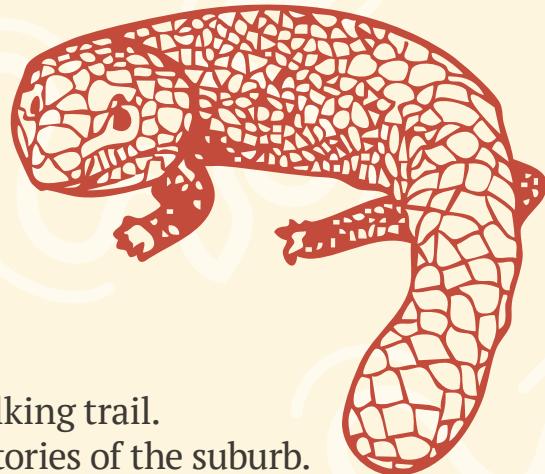
Participants were encouraged to share their stories and memories, as well as take part in guided walking tour as part of the public engagement program.

The North Fremantle Community Association provided its generous support with community engagement, sharing of local knowledge, and helping to secure funding.

A dedicated reference group worked with City staff and experts from Creative Spaces to refine the updated trail route and interactive signage that leads trail-walkers to a digital story map.

All cultural content was reviewed by Whadjuk Elders appointed by the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation and its Cultural Advice Committee to ensure it is respectful, accurate, and aligned with cultural protocols.

This collaboration is central to the project's commitment to truth telling and cultural integrity.



A SELF-GUIDED EXPERIENCE

The North Fremantle Heritage Trail invites walkers to explore at their own pace, guiding them down to the river's edge, past sweeping water views, through quiet bush paths, and into the heart of the suburb and town centre.

The trail offers a rich variety of experiences, from scenic natural landscapes to striking architecture that reflects North Fremantle's unique character.

It's more than a historical walk, the renewed trail serves as a living memorial, honouring the past, recognising ongoing cultural connections, and ensuring the stories of North Fremantle remain accessible, inclusive, and engaging for future generations.

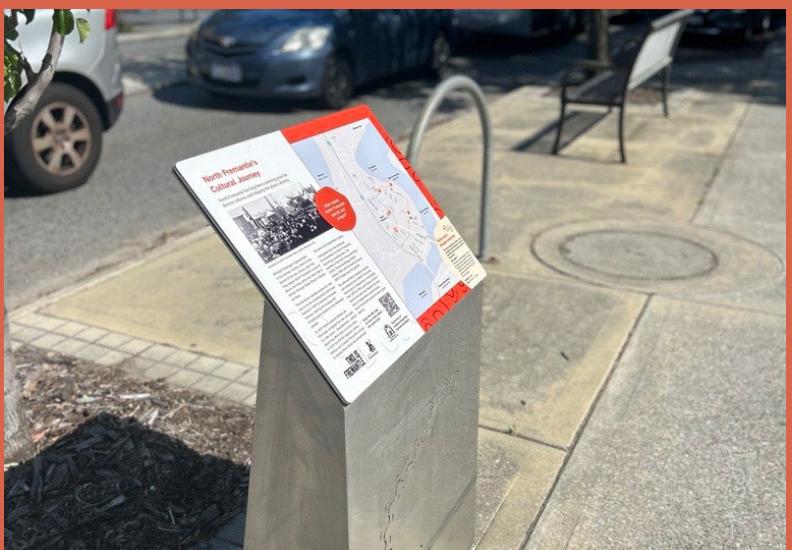


Right to left: Harvest Heights, Harvest Road, 1980. Harvey Bay. The Soap Factory. Derbarl Yerrigan | Swan River. First Fremantle Post Office, Victoria Avenue and John Street, 1893.

**THIS IS
FREMANTLE**



Department of
Creative Industries,
Tourism and Sport



Share your historic photos, insights and local stories

Do you have old photos of North Fremantle? Maybe a snapshot of a family gathering, a local event, a familiar street from years ago, or a building or landmark? Along with a few words, a memory, a connection, or a short story, your photo could help bring the trail to life for future generations.

Submit your stories by visiting:

fremantle.wa.gov.au/north-fremantle-heritage-trail

Follow the Yoorn Trail to discover significant sites and stories from our long history



Scan the QR code below for more information on the North Fremantle Heritage Trail

Distance: 2.4km
Time: 45 mins - 1 hr loop





It's that time of the year again.

With the sand beneath your feet and a gentle easterly breeze in your hair, you look out over the crystal-clear water across to Rotto and Carnac Island.

It's summer in Fremantle, and for the next few months there's no better place in WA to enjoy the beaches and everything a city has to offer, all within walking distance.

The City has recently completed a number of projects that will make the warmer months a bit more enjoyable and convenient.

The new South Beach changerooms are now officially open and already well-used, with landscaping around the reserve also now complete. The City has added extra parking bays as well as designated ACROD bays near the changerooms and the café.

Of course, a summer at South Beach would not be complete without the iconic red pontoon. Over the coming months, it will be the ultimate launchpad for bombies and somersaults.

Making its Freo summer debut this year is the new swimming enclosure at Bathers Beach.

The 350-metre barrier stretches across the bay, providing a safe swimming area and peace of mind for beach users in the heart of the CBD.

The barrier was installed in November and will remain in the water until the end of the swimming season in late March or April, depending on weather conditions.

Perhaps some of Freo's best-kept secrets, the beaches along the Swan River's north bank offer something different on a hot summer's day.

From Sorrell Park near between the Traffic Bridge and Stirling Bridge, all the way up to Harvey Beach at the end of Harvest Road, Freo's river beaches are loved by locals and well worth exploring.

Port and Leighton, Freo's iconic beaches north of the river, will once again provide the perfect setting for beach cricket, dogs in Christmas outfits and an open-water training location for aspiring Rotto Channel swimmers.

Also open for both training and leisure, is the newly restored 50m pool at the Fremantle Leisure Centre. The 50-year-old facility recently received some much-needed TLC before re-opening ahead of schedule in early November.

Of course, nothing completes a visit to the beach like grabbing a coffee or a drink afterwards, and plenty of options await across Freo.

SUMMER IS HERE AND THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE TO BE.

FREMANTLE.WA.GOV.AU/WHATSON

OUR VOICE | OUR MARK: YOUNG CREATIVES MAKING THEIR MARK IN FREMANTLE

What began as an idea to give young people a voice through art has blossomed into three new murals across Fremantle, each a bold expression of creativity, collaboration and place.

As part of the Our Voice | Our Mark project, three artists, Olive Cheng, ArtbyRow (Adam Cicanese) and Jordan Rush, spent the first half of the year mentoring students from John Curtin College of the Arts, Fast Track, and The Studio School. Together, they explored what it means to leave a mark on their city.

Now, their visions have come to life, splashing colour and meaning across the Parmelia Park toilet block, Horrie Long Reserve basketball court, and Cantonment Street carpark.

Each mural tells a different story and reflects the diversity and spirit of Fremantle's young people.

For the students involved, it wasn't just about painting walls, it was about discovering their own creative voice.

Artist Olive Cheng, who worked with students from John Curtin College of the Arts, said the collaboration reminded her of the freedom that comes with youthful imagination.

"Their ideas were so playful and thoughtful," Olive said.

"Even as creatives, we can get used to our own ways of doing things, but giving the students the floor to share their ideas and processes reminded me how open we can think."

"When you're young, your mind wanders with possibility, these students were inspiring and made me want to tap back into that."

Throughout the project, the artists guided students through every stage, from concept development and understanding community context, to the final brushstrokes on the wall.

The result is a vibrant series of artworks that bring people together and celebrate Fremantle's creative energy.

The Our Voice | Our Mark project is part of the City of Fremantle's ongoing commitment to nurturing creativity and youth engagement. It aligns with the Arts, Culture and Creative Strategy 2024–34 and Youth Plan 2023–28, and is supported by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Creativity for Schools Program.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS IMAGINATIVE PROJECT.



Follow @Freoyouth on instagram for more info and updates on all things youth in the City of Fremantle.

**John Curtin
College of the Arts**

**THE STUDIO
SCHOOL**

N North Lake
Senior Campus
Fremantle
Fast Track

Silverleaf

Our Voice | Our Mark is proudly supported by



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Bottom: *A Squawk in the Park* 2025. Olive Cheng and students from John Curtin College of the Arts.

Sliced Pineapple 2025. Jordan Rush and students from The Studio School.

Beauty in The Ordinary 2025. ArtbyRow (Adam Cicanese) and students from Fremantle Fast Track.



WHAT'S ON

LIFELONG LEARNING @ THE MEETING PLACE

Get Your Head into Gear

Kickstart 2026 with a dynamic career workshop! Set clear goals, explore resources, uncover hidden jobs, build connections, and create a strategic plan for success – with expert tips, free guidance, and actionable strategies for career growth or transition.

Thu 15 Jan | 5.30-7pm | \$25 | Booking required

Creative Writing: Story Structure for All Comers

Join local author Jay Martin for a fun, interactive course that helps you start or finish your creative writing project. Learn practical techniques, explore real examples, and gain tools to structure your stories – all with dedicated time to write and develop your own work.

**Every Wed 4-25 Feb | 6-8pm | \$80/4 weeks
Booking required before first session**

Travel Writing: Made Easy and Fun

Make the most of your summer travels with this practical one-day travel writing course. Learn to find great story ideas, use vivid description, and market your work. Includes time to write and get feedback. Perfect for bloggers, aspiring writers, or anyone wanting to engage more deeply with travel.

Sun 8 Feb | 10am-3pm | \$60 | Booking required

Journal Writing Ourselves Awake

Women are invited to join psychologist Georgina Mavor as she leads you through journal prompts that allow language to slow down inner chaos, befriend emotions, and liberate wisdom. Step beyond defensive habits through journal writing that shows you are more than you think you are.

**Every Tue 10 Feb-17 Mar | 5.30-7pm | \$80/
6 weeks | Booking required before first session**



LIFELONG LEARNING @ FREMANTLE LIBRARY

Between the Books

Join us for an evening Between the Books at Freo Library, with local band Rocks&Rhubarb playing after Open Poetry and Micro Fiction Mic. Light Refreshments Provided.

Wed 10 Dec | 7-8.30pm | Free | Booking required

Coder Dojo (Ages 7+)

Young people who use code to develop apps, games and websites are invited to bring their own inspiration, ideas and knowledge into the Dojo. Develop your skills in Scratch, learn new skills and solve problems with on-hand Mentor support.

**Every Wed during school term | 3.30-5pm | Free
Booking required before first session of term**

Tech Help

See our friendly volunteers to assist you in using your laptop, iPad or mobile phone. Simply bring along your charged device.

Tue 10am-12pm | Wed 9.30am-12.30pm | Free

Mobile Toy Library Visits Fremantle Library

Join us in the library courtyard for crafting, party hire and badge making, with Freo Toy Library.

Wed 7 Jan & Wed 21 Jan | 9.30-11.30am | Free

LIFELONG LEARNING @ MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Hilton Creatives After School Kids Club

Develop your minds with imagination, creativity and social skills. For all ages.

**Freo Toy Library | 3.20-4.20pm
Every Tue during school term | Free**

Stay N Play (Ages 2-5)

Kids play and explore their imaginations, creativity and enhance their social and emotional skills.

**Freo Toy Library | 10am-12pm
Every Thu during school term | Free**

Buster Fridays (Ages 0-5)

Free, multi-sensory, hands-on, active and child-centred program that offers creative and fun opportunities for families to learn and play together.

**Fremantle PCYC | 9.30am-11.30am
Every Fri during school term | Free**

Twilight BBQ

Kick off 2026 with a fun-filled family BBQ at the Fremantle Leisure Centre. Don't miss the live music, kids' toys, activities and pool inflatables.

Fremantle Leisure Centre | Twilight | Fri 16 Jan

There's so much more to see and do in Freo! See our full range of programs, events and workshops at fremantle.wa.gov.au/whatson

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Busting through the Barriers

Join us for a friendly, interactive session where we will help you to identify any barriers that may be standing in the way of living your best life and explore ways to break these down. Enjoy good conversation, share experiences, and discover practical ways to create more balance and happiness in your life.

**Fremantle Library | Mon 22 Dec | 10am-12pm
Free | Bookings required**

Learn to Love Yourself

Feel good this February by discovering what self-esteem looks like for you, while learning new ways to be kind to yourself to improve your self-esteem.

**Fremantle Library | Mon 23 Feb | 10am-12pm
Free | Bookings required**



Feel Good Feb

The City of Fremantle is embracing the spirit of kindness with Feelgood February, an Act Belong Commit initiative seeking to promote positive mental health, and activities that keep us mentally healthy. This year, the City is focusing on kindness – to yourself, others, and your environment. It's an opportunity to reflect on how small acts can make a big difference in our lives and community.

Keep an eye out for more info on the City's socials.

1-28 Feb

POSITIVE AGEING

Terrarium Workshop (over 55s):

Create Your Own Little Lush Garden

Feel good this February by discovering what self-esteem looks like for you, while learning new ways to be kind to yourself to improve your self-esteem.

Sullivan Hall | Tue 3 Feb | 9.30-11am
\$12 per attendee | Bookings essential

Dementia with Dignity

Together, let's encourage a new narrative through respectful and dignified language so you'll be empowered with knowledge, confidence and the hope of de-stigmatising dementia.

This conversation is tailored for both caregivers, people living with dementia and the general public. All welcome, light refreshments provided.

Fremantle Library | Wed 4 Feb | 10-11.30am |
Free | Bookings essential

Ceramic Jewellery Making (over 55s)

Over four weeks Jane will guide you through techniques to make your own individually crafted beads and pendants using different clays decorative finishes and glazes to make necklaces, earrings and bracelets. All materials provided.

Sullivan Hall | Thu 5, 12, 19, 26 Feb
10am-12pm | \$10 for the series

Safety in Relationships

Older people have the right to live in safety, to be treated with dignity and respect, to be valued and secure in all interactions and relationships and to be able to make their own decisions. This info session empowers older individuals to live with pride and make informed decisions to establish and maintain healthy relationships in their lives.

Fremantle Library | Tue 10 Feb | 10.30-11.30am
Free | Bookings essential

Critical Information:

Planning Your Best End-of-Life

Complete an end-of-life plan that covers absolutely everything – clearly, securely, and in one place so your family can grieve. In a partnership with Melville Cares, this community workshop will outline Critical Info's tools and resources to help you prepare for and deal with death.

Fremantle Library | 24 Feb | 10.30am-12.30pm
Free | Bookings: 9319 0900 or visit
melvillecares.org.au/client-events

Ongoing Activities (over 55s)

- Knitting & Crochet Circle
- Keep Fit
- Wed Chair yoga
- Qigong
- Coffee Catch-Up
- Freo Men's Group
- Sewing Circle
- Tech Help 1:1
- Connection Café ~ Community Conversations

Visit the What's On website for all info.

WALYALUP FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE

Art Classes

For all ages and all skill levels.

With passionate tutors (including award-winning and exhibiting artists), you'll be learning from the best. Whether you're exploring a new passion or honing your skills, there is a class waiting for you.

CERAMICS · TEXTILES · PRINT · PAINTING
 DRAWING · WRITING · SCULPTURE · JEWELLERY

Summer holiday specials and Term 1 Program are just around the corner!

Visit wfac.org.au for more info or to enrol.

Objet D'Art:

Theo Koning and His Creative Self

The City of Fremantle Art Collection presents a major retrospective exhibition, related public program and substantive illustrated publication about the art practice and creative life of celebrated Fremantle based WA artist Theo Koning (1950-2022).

15 Nov-26 Jan

Bazaar Makers Market

A curated market of WA makers, Bazaar Makers Market 2025 is the place to procure stunning handmade gifts and homewares including jewellery, clothing, ceramics, woodwork, prints, stationery and toys.

5-7 Dec | \$2 entry

FAC YEAH! Community Choir

Our popular choir is a wholesome high point in the week. Trust us, singing with a group of like-minded individuals, really makes you feel great. New members welcome at any time. Singing chops not required, just turn up and join in.

16 Dec, 27 Jan, 24 Feb | 7-8.30pm | \$10

WFAC New Years Day Concert

Lineup to be announced!

1 Jan | Visit wfac.org.au

Focus First Nation Film Showcase

Join to enjoy a selection of documentary feature and short films as part of the City of Fremantle's premier Indigenous focused film program.

24-25 Jan

Brad Rimmer: Loom of the Land

Presented with Perth Festival, Loom of the Land brings together a vast body of work by Western Australian photographer and artist Brad Rimmer.

7 Feb-19 Apr

WALYALUP ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRE

Discover the latest workshops and events at the WACC via Humanitix or stop by for a visit and friendly yarn with the team.

events.humanitix.com/host/walyalup-aboriginal-cultural-centre

EVENTS & FESTIVALS

Fremantle Ports Swimthru

The Annual Ports SwimThru by the Fremantle Masters Swimming Club. From novice to competitive open water swimmers, there are three distances and open to the whole community. Join to experience the fun and fitness of open water swimming.

South Beach | 13 Dec | 6.30-10.30am | \$ Various

Christmas Beach Fun for Kids

This Christmas join Santa at Bathers Beach for a host of fun activities including kite flying displays and kite building workshops, interactive sand sculptures, a mermaids meet and greet, mini train rides, face painting, and an opportunity to meet Santa!

Bathers Beach | 15 Nov-26 Jan | 13 & 14 Dec
12-4pm | Free

Carols in the Koort & Christmas Movie Night

Join Santa and the Elves at the Christmas Carols concert on 19 December with performances from A Capella West and the Australian Girls School Choir alongside roving entertainment and a Christmas Elves Hoola Hooping workshop.

Classic Christmas movies return on 20 December with a screening of The Polar Express, with free popcorn and roving entertainment.

Walyalup Koort | 19 & 20 Dec
5pm onwards | Free

Let's Go Surfing

A day dedicated to providing people of all ages and disabilities a surfing experience facilitated by our amazing volunteers. Enjoy a post-surf sausage sizzle in the grassy amphitheatre with shady tents after a good surf.

Leighton Beach | 5 Dec, 31 Jan, 28 Feb, 28 Mar
9am-2pm | Bookings required



SAIL GP 2026

The most exciting racing on water, making its debut in Fremantle, Australia. Kick starting the 2026 Rolex SailGP Championship, Bathers Beach will host the world's best athletes, battling it out in identical high-tech, foiling catamarans and racing at speeds exceeding 100kmph just metres from shore.

Bathers Beach | 17-18 Jan | 11am
Tickets from \$80

WALYALUP KOORT & MANJAREE | BATHERS BEACH

A VERY FREO CHRISTMAS

13 DEC-20 DEC



MEET SANTA
SING CAROLS
WATCH MOVIES
BUILD KITES
SCULPT SAND
RIDE TRAINS
AND MORE!

THIS IS
FREMANTLE