



FREO

StreetWise

Fremantle's independent street magazine
Issue 13 - December 2019

Now available at www.streetwisemedia.com.au

Booze City

Page 3

Cossack Crossroads

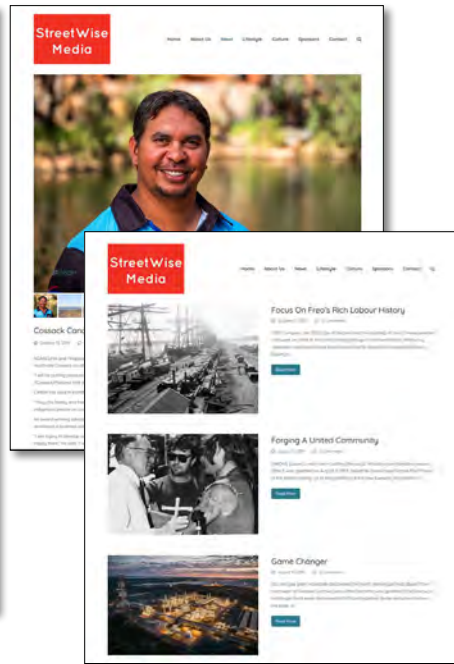
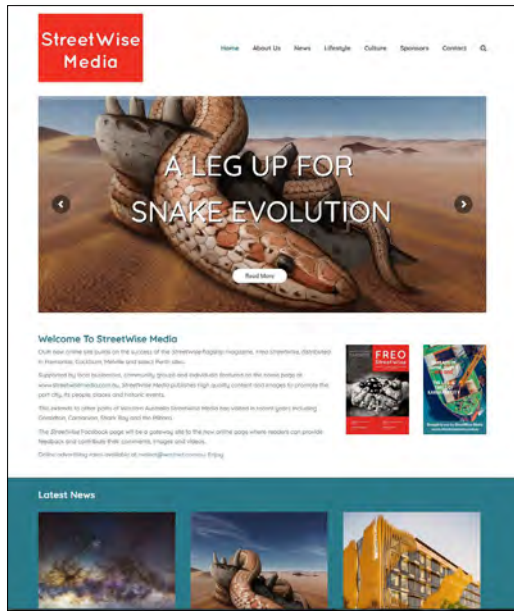
Page 10-17

Sand King

Page 19

Mr Magic

Page 33



www.streetwisemedia.com.au

INDEPENDENT publisher *StreetWise Media* was launched in December 2015 to showcase the unique stories and images of Western Australia's much-loved port city.

Thousands of print and online readers have joined the growing *StreetWise* community since the launch of its flagship magazine *Freo StreetWise*.

StreetWise builds on its publishing success with the launch this year of its own dedicated web space at www.streetwisemedia.com.au.

The StreetWise Facebook page launched in 2016 serves as a gateway to the new site.

StreetWise readers can explore hundreds of stories and images and, for the first time, share their feedback, comments, images and videos at its new online business address.

StreetWise acknowledges the support of sponsors and supporters SCOOP Property and Finance, FreeDB Car Stereo, Homestyle Salads, Portorosa Fremantle, the Hair and Barber Room, Warren's Menswear and *Menu Magazine*.

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StreetWise Media

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Freo StreetWise is a free independent publication produced in Fremantle.

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

To share your story or advertise in *StreetWise*:

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Holiday Blessings

WELCOME to the fifth anniversary year issue of Fremantle's only independent magazine - *Freo StreetWise*.

This Christmas/New Year edition celebrates art, film, history, magic, superheroes and the best of local business in print and online at www.streetwisemedia.com.au.

StreetWise reports on local concerns over the proliferation of small bars in the port city. We talk to newly elected South Ward councillor Marija Vujcic about her first days in council and pay homage to one of Fremantle's much-loved horse racing legends.

StreetWise commemorates the 90th anniversary of the State war memorial at Kings Park and, for the first time, publishes rare family images from the Japanese occupation following WW2.

We feature the life and death struggle of 'Miracle Girl', WA's Magician of the Year and the 'hero' inside all of us.

Readers are invited to submit comments, stories and images. Digital copies of previous *StreetWise* magazine issues are available at www.streetwisemedia.com.au.

A safe and happy Christmas and New Year to our readers and online followers and supporters.

Enjoy.

Carmelo Amalfi

Celebrating 38 years of business 1981 - 2019

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BOOZE CITY

CLINICAL psychologist Rachael O'Byrne was one of the people who stood up in Fremantle council last year to speak against the J-Shed tavern proposal.

The High Street clinician said while the port city's status as an arts and entertainment destination may explain high rates of alcohol abuse, "it most certainly doesn't justify them".

Dr O'Byrne told *StreetWise* problem drinking and drug abuse are serious public health issues in Fremantle, which experiences the highest rates of alcohol-related harm in WA - five times the State average.

"Activation seems synonymous with small bars," according to the owner of the biggest team of mental health professionals in Fremantle.

The sixth generation Freo resident whose family arrived in WA in 1856, said the rejection of the J-Shed proposal was only a temporary win.

Since its rejection, small bars and breweries have popped up all over 'Booze City'.

From Australia's 'first' ocean bar at Bathers Beach and new

boutique bars and restaurants, to 'neighbourhood bars' on Queen Victoria Street and gin distilleries in the CBD and South Fremantle.

The City of Fremantle says anecdotal evidence shows well managed small bars, restaurants and alfresco areas enhance the image and amenity of the city; encourage more families to walk the streets at night; and, "improve behaviour in Fremantle due to the positive peer pressure exerted by an overwhelming number of well-behaved people in the CBD".

Dr O'Byrne said the council needs to take more seriously the public health issues.

Approving tavern licenses in the hope they'll run as small bars is irresponsible.

She said it is unwise to support inappropriate applications for liquor outlets when, "to do so will not only increase harm but concurrently threaten and erode the 'liveability' of this city".

Additional details at
www.streetwisemediacom.au.

"Activation seems synonymous with small bars."



MARIJA VUJCIC

WINNING South Ward brought mixed emotions. The win produced a high and a low when reality kicked in at the inaugural ceremony.

There is a considerable workload getting to know not just issues in South Ward but all issues facing the City of Fremantle.

Navigating local government policies and procedures is going to be a long learning curve.

I am getting used to the whirlwind of meetings and emails that criss-cross between the City executive and elected members over a multitude of issues, concerns and invitations from residents and interested parties.

I am learning on the job, asking lots of questions and being a pain in the proverbial to experienced councillors and the executive.

I cannot praise the executive and staff enough for their friendly, gentle and often wise approach in supporting me as a new councillor.

Credit needs to be given to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and fellow

councillors who have accepted that a certain attitude and approach has arrived and is seated at the table.

Sixty days on, this South Ward Councillor is confident she will be able to navigate the potholes to effectively represent the residents. Thank you South Ward.

Marija Vujcic first dipped her toes into local politics in 2017. She ran as an independent and lost, her campaign sabotaged by a Hamilton Hill candidate the Court of Disputed Returns found was ineligible to run in Fremantle.

“Sixty days on, this South Ward Councillor is confident she will be able to navigate the potholes to effectively represent the residents.”

Undeterred, the tenacious Freo businesswoman ran again in the 2019 elections - and won. Marija was sworn in on October 23.

She told *StreetWise* her priorities included the removal of speed humps on South Terrace; priority parking for residents; support for local businesses; extension of the CAT bus serve north of Hampton Road; review of loud music events at South Beach; and zero rate increase in 2020-2021.



CRUZIN FOR CHARITY



CAR lovers are invited to Western Australia's biggest bog lap in Fremantle on February 16, 2020.

StreetWise Media, in conjunction with Beardie's Bucket, will raise money for the Cancer Council.

Owners of classic and vintage cars and bikes are welcome to the free event, the fifth since the first *StreetWise* Charity Car Cruise was held on Valentine's Day 2016.

Drivers and admirers are asked to muster at Captain Munchies car park on Beach Road from 10am.

At midday, the metallic spectacle will proceed into the CBD to showcase some of the best wheels in the state. Please give generously to our volunteers.



50 YEARS 'HARD YAKKA'

50 YEARS OF BOOM, BUST & RED DOG

THE LIFE & TIMES OF KARRATHA CITY

Brought to you by *StreetWise Media*
www.streetwisemedia.com.au

KARRATHA was gazetted on August 8, 1969. In 2014, the former mining town was declared a city of the Pilbara.

StreetWise Media celebrated the 50th anniversary of its gazettal with a commemorative booklet supported by the City of Karratha, Woodside, SCOOP Property and Finance and Merenda Galleries.

WA Premier Mark McGowan described Karratha as a vibrant and attractive urban centre, home to nearly 16,000 people including residents living and working in Wickham, Point Samson, Roebourne and Dampier.

"As more families choose Karratha as their home, the next 50 years look incredibly bright," he said in the foreword to the booklet.

'50 Years of Boom, Bust & Red Dog - The Life & Times of Karratha City' is a chronological journey from Dreamtime rock etchings on the World Heritage List-nominated Burrup Peninsula to the first iron ore shipments from the Pilbara, 'powerhouse of the nation'.

The publication showcases Karratha's first 50 with local stories and images of the city's formative years including the role unions played in improving work conditions across the Pilbara.

The special edition also includes a rare b/w photograph (opposite) of Lars Peter Hedlund, after whom Port Hedland is named.

Limited copies of '50 Years' are available at melnet@westnet.com.au and www.streetwisemedia.com.au.



“It is for the preservation of this kind of family history that we are so passionate in seeing this town succeed.”

- Cossack landowners



Sunrise over Picard Island

COSSACK LIMBO

LANDOWNERS at Cossack remain in limbo decades after local and state governments promised to ‘reactivate’ the historic ghost town 1500km north of Perth.

The freehold owners, some descended from the State’s first ratepayers, say authorities have used red tape and delaying tactics to block their dreams to develop their coastal properties overlooking Butcher Inlet.

As reported by *StreetWise Media* in October, WA Planning Minister Rita Saffioti rejected a town planning scheme amendment to allow temporary, small-scale developments such as chalets, caravans and glamping sites.

The latest setback has left owners angry; old, ill, but they say not yet defeated.

They claim lies, incompetence and lack of political will have stalled turning Cossack into a residential and tourist village.

In the next few pages, *StreetWise* explores the reasons for keeping heritage-listed Cossack in chains.



Tein Tsin lookout



Galbraith’s store



Customs House

A 'LIVING' HERITAGE



PEOPLE stopped living and working at Cossack after WW2.

Established in 1863, the 'gateway' to WA's North West was abandoned by the start of the 20th century.

Between 1902 and 1904, a jetty was constructed at nearby Point Samson, taking the wind out of Cossack, the municipality dissolved in 1910.

In the 1920s, Japanese businessman Sakutarō Muramatsu, and sons Jiro and Tsunetaro, ran a store here.

One of their lots is owned by South Fremantle stables owner Terry Patterson and Point Samson local Leigh McNab, whose great great grandfather Peter Lars Hedlund sailed into Butcher Inlet in 1863. His ship *Mystery* is said to have sunk just off their coastal property near the existing fishing jetty at Cossack.

Mr Patterson said people have lived and worked on and off at Cossack for the past 70 years.

Geoff Van Waardenberg's great great grandfather Andrew

Stonehouse Thompson arrived in the 1870s in a pearling boat he built in Fremantle.

His third eldest son Christopher, who helped his father repair boats here, maintained contact for the rest of his life. In the 1930s, he made trips in winter and stayed at the Weld and White Horse hotel sites.

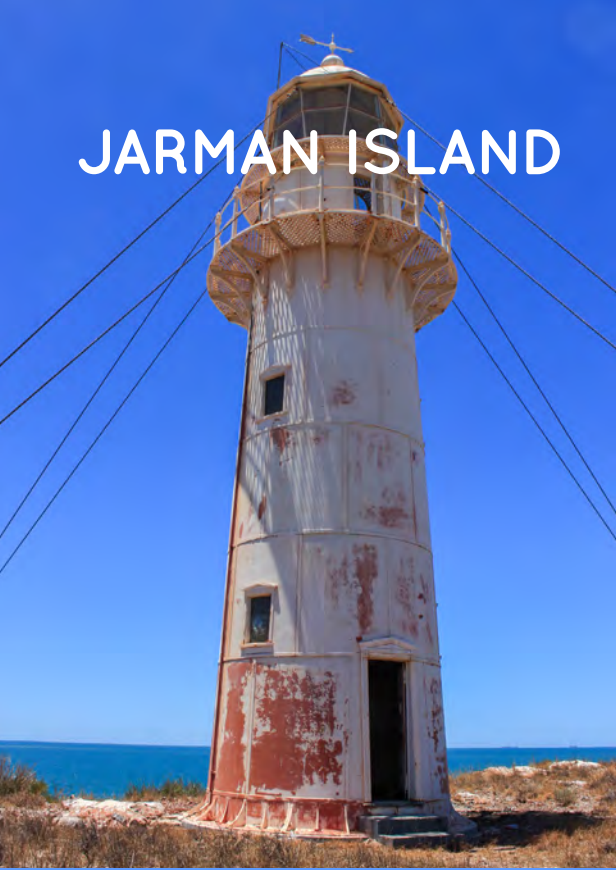
Mr Patterson owns the block next to the Weld. By the 1950s and 1960s, landowners raised concerns over the government wanting to resume their land.

Christopher always believed it would be a thriving historical tourist town: "Like the descendants of the Hall family, it is for the preservation of this kind of family history that we are so passionate in seeing this town succeed.

"In our minds, what better way of continuing this history than to open an accommodation establishment in great granddad's footsteps where they ran a boarding house more than a century ago - 'Thompson's House, B&B'."



JARMAN ISLAND



DESCENDANTS



Pre-fabricated Jarman Island lighthouse was shipped from England in 1888 with the tools to build it and the paint to protect it.

Locals want tours resumed to the lighthouse and caretaker's house, and outdoor loo, last restored in 2003.

THE McNabs, Leigh, Shannon and Karl are 'residents in waiting'.

The Pilbara family live and breathe Cossack.

Fishing, swimming, watching nature, their undeveloped blocks overlook Butcher Inlet at the mouth of the Harding River.

"We just wish we could build here," Leigh told *StreetWise*. "We pay our rates and fees, but we can't develop here."

Leigh is descended from Peter Lars Hedlund, after whom Port Hedland is

named, the Swedish captain having sailed into Cossack in 1863.

Leigh says she is livid over the latest council setback to 'reactivate' the historic town, contrary to what she says is State Labor policy to boost local tourism, notably at Cossack.

Presently, a caretaker keeps an eye on the old town site.

During a trip to Jarman Island, Leigh told *StreetWise* that landowners are running out of time, and patience.

Additional details at
www.streetwisemediacom.au.

PROMISES, LIES

COSSACK'S connection to Australia's colonial past is reflected in a small group of private landowners who for years have fought tooth and nail to develop their coastal properties.

Though old, ill and dying, they have decided to fight for their rights as freehold land owners, calling on State authorities to remove existing impediments to developing the historic townsite.

There are 22 blocks privately held by 10 owners. The Government owns most of the lots at Cossack (more than 200) as vacant Crown land.

Terry Patterson is the biggest private land owner, with seven blocks, followed by the Shakespeare Hall family, with four blocks.

From 2000 to 2005, 10 private lots changed hands for prices ranging from \$4000 to \$57,000 per lot. In 2005, three lots changed hands in August (\$195,000); September (\$225,000); and October (\$150,000).

After promises of connecting power, water and waste disposal, prices dived and offers torn up when

the City of Karratha left to rot the piping and cabling bought under a \$1.3 million State grant, of which \$935,000 was returned to Treasury.

Diagnosed with prostate cancer, Mr Patterson said: "We have got owners who have died, who have gone bankrupt and lost everything because the City of Karratha and WA Government cannot agree on the future of Cossack.

"We believe their tactic is to stop the sale of blocks to new owners, to burn us out through death and compulsory resumption."

Planning Minister Rita Saffioti has rejected the City's proposed town planning scheme amendment to allow low-key developments at Cossack. The City said it was disappointed, but offered no solutions to resolve the impasse.

"Either the City is incompetent or the Government is motivated by political reasons not to allow the remaining landowners to develop their freehold properties," Mr Patterson said.

"This situation is disgusting."

"We believe their tactic is to stop the sale of blocks to new owners, to burn us out through death and compulsory resumption."

... AND MORE PROMISES

FORMER Karratha CEO David Pentz said the City wanted to acquire Cossack until the WAPC stepped in and complicated matters.

He said the situation could have been resolved when WAPC chairman Eric Lumsden travelled to Karratha in 2012 to try and resolve the landowners' issues.

"We could have resolved it at that moment," he said. "Some people bought, speculated and over paid for the land. Those who paid a higher price were not prepared to sign up and got others to stop, and the whole thing stopped there."

Landowners were offered options including swapping lots for land outside the storm surge zone.

Former City planner Joel Gajcic told *StreetWise*: "We had a situation where the planning scheme said basically if you haven't already got something there you can't build anything else. Essentially there was a moratorium on development.

"Promises were made to put in a development plan to see where they could build. The problem is you have multiple owners. You have people that have money and people who don't. There are people who can invest and people who are prepared to ride it out. Others don't care."



Terry Patterson

Mr Gajcic said freehold land cannot be compulsorily acquired, "you can't force people, you can offer them a value greater than what it's worth but all that will do is give hope to people that if they hang on long enough they will get a windfall".

After the 2017 closure of Cossack Adventure Cruises, Port Hedland commissioner Fred Riebeling labelled all levels of government a 'disgrace': "The Heritage Council, Water Corporation, Roebourne Shire and the State Government have all let these people down,"

SAND CASTLES

SAND plays a crucial role in society. Yet iron ore and gold get most of the limelight as a valuable resource.

A key ingredient in concrete, bricks, plaster, glass and microchips, high quality sand is mined across the Pilbara. Ports, roads, groynes, house and office pads all need sand.

Sand is defined not by what it is made of, but by the size of its grains, which are smaller than gravel and larger than silt.

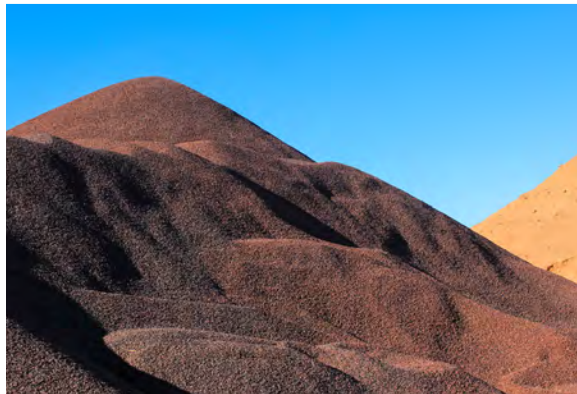
Desert sand generally is not construction grade.

Sand provides excellent drainage in garden beds and decorative landscaping.

Sand is used in moulding, filters, fertiliser fillers, golf courses, volleyball courts and sandboxes in playgrounds.

Sand also is used to make elastics in clothing and an ingredient in silicone breast implants.

Sand also can form from weathering of shells and fossils. People who collect sand as a hobby are known as arenophiles.



PILBARA 'SAND KING'

KIM North is the salt of the earth. Having lived and worked in the Pilbara most of his life, the 61-year-old 'Sand King' started out in his father's civil earthmoving business in Wickham.

Today, 'Northie' is the biggest private mining lease holder in the Pilbara, his family-run business Norwest Sand and Gravel managing leases around Karratha and Port Hedland.

The father of two was born in Pinjarra and moved to the Pilbara in 1971.

Northie says the biggest impediment to businesses in Karratha is council red tape and political influence.

Former council staff have confirmed Northie's relationship with the City went south after the council objected to the WA Mines Department having approved his mining leases at Sam's Creek near Point Samson in 1999.

"Since then, the council has shown a consistent behaviour of bias and victimisation, not just against me but a number of businesses in Karratha who don't tow the council line.

"State Government agencies such as Mines, DOLA and Water Corporation are complicit in this, senior staff use their positions to disadvantage me at nearly every turn."

Northie said this abuse of power had cost the company millions of dollars in delays, rate increases, court actions, fines, forfeitures and stress.

Delays on just five of his leases in Karratha and Wickham total more than 50 years, the Sam's Creek leases held up for 12 years.



STARLIGHT



- 20 -



PERTH Astrophotographers is a public group of starlight chasers sharing their knowledge and techniques to capture the beauty of the night sky.

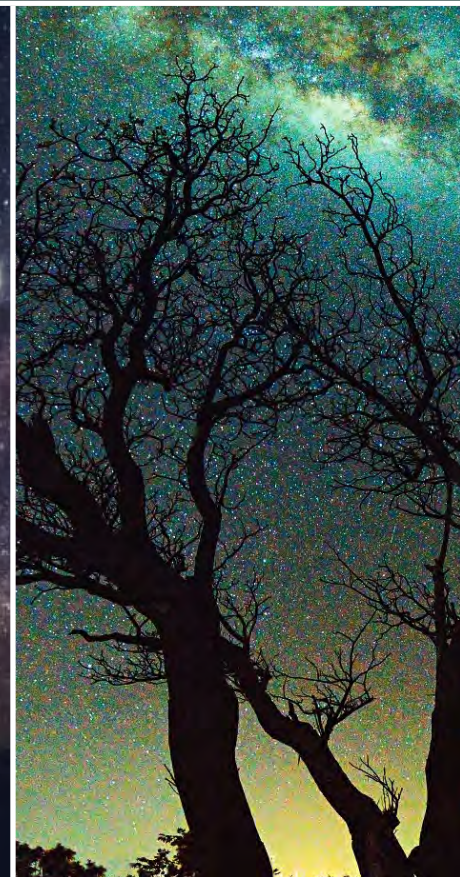
Members range from amateur to professional photographers who contribute many hours of travel in search of dark skies and stunning landscapes.

You can share their photographs, memories, locations, tips and tricks, "and anything else that helps spread knowledge and information about the night sky, on the Perth Astrophotographers Facebook page."

Images courtesy of Graeme Phillips, Barister's Note, Pamela Jennings. The top image is a CSIRO radio snap of the centre of the Milky Way.

Light from the galactic centre takes 25,000 light years to reach Earth.

- 21 -



SACRED GROUND

THE Fremantle war memorial on Monument Hill was unveiled the year before the State war memorial was unveiled at Kings Park in 1929.

At one point, the port was considered a potential site of the State war memorial as it was the departure point for thousands of WW1 soldiers.

WA Premier James Mitchell was keen to proceed with the construction of a memorial in Perth, but he was not in favour of building the State memorial in Fremantle.

Mayor Frank Gibson was more ambitious and wanted the memorial to, "rise in consequence to be the State's own memorial".

Mitchell was not interested, but his successor Philip Collier was, having declared he preferred the port city to King's Park as a site for a WA war memorial. Collier even suggested Fremantle might become the national memorial. A 3500 pound tender was accepted to build the Kings Park war memorial in a commanding position facing Perth.

On November 24, 1929, the 18m cenotaph was unveiled and placed in the care of the WA Returned and Services League.

The foundation stone was laid on Armistice Day, the monument unveiled on Anzac Day 1929.

The obelisk overlooks the city of Perth with views of the Swan and Canning rivers and Darling Ranges.



'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM'

THE State war memorial was unveiled on November 24, 1929 - the centenary year of the founding of WA. It was a solemn event and despite the bad weather attended by more than 20,000 people.

The crowd witnessed the planting and dedication of 404 trees to honour servicemen and women who enlisted and died overseas.

The trees were planted in unison as a single gunshot signalled the coordinated plantings enjoyed nearly a century later by those who visit to contemplate and remember.

Construction of the cenotaph began in 1928, the same year the war memorial at Monument Hill was unveiled on November 11.

StreetWise Media celebrated the 90th anniversary of Monument Hill in a special commemorative edition published in the lead up to Remembrance Day 2018 and republished on Anzac Day 2019.



OCCUPIED



IMAGES of Japan captured by a Fremantle sapper during the Allied occupation following WW2 have surfaced for the first time in nearly 75 years.

The snapshots belong to Army radio operator Douglas Walter McNab who was stationed at Exmouth before he joined the occupation forces in Japan.

The surrender of Imperial Japan was announced by Emperor Hirohito on August 15, 1945. Signed on September 2, and after several days of secret negotiations, Hirohito recorded a radio address in which he announced the surrender.

The surrender ceremony was held on board *USS Missouri*.

Douglas' daughter Leigh McNab told *StreetWise* her father grew up on Scott Street in Fremantle.

"I was 12 when dad died," she said. "Mum died when I was 25. She died of a broken heart."

Her grandfather Walter McNab fought at Gallipoli in WW1, his unit having embarked from Fremantle on board *HMAT A63 Karoola* on June 25, 1915.

The 11th Battalion, 7th Reinforcement private was 21 when he enlisted.

He copped three days field punishment for, 'disobedience of orders', having a loaded rifle in the support trench and a dirty rifle. Walter died in 1958, aged 64.

Ms McNab said before the war her father built boats with his father and sailed them to Rottneest Island.

Douglas died of kidney disease in 1971, aged 47. His wife Norma Lorraine Rundin died in 1967, aged 71. Ms McNab's mother's father John Henry Rundin was the manager of the WA Wheat Board. Mum used to drive around in a Rolls Royce because she was the private secretary of the Board.



NANCY WATSON 1928 - 2019



LEGEND trainer Nancy Watson was on her knees weeding the horse box when *StreetWise* first visited her stables in East Fremantle in 2016. She was a sprightly 89.

On August 13 this year, the icon of WA harness racing passed away, aged 91.

Born at the former Wellard Hospital on October 3, 1927, Nancy was a Bulldogs fan (with a soft spot for the Dockers), loved cats and enjoyed fishing and gardening.

Her father Victor (Reginald) Wilkinson and wife Blanche migrated to WA in 1923. Reg was exposed to poison gas in WW1 and was advised to find a warmer climate for his family.

Nancy attended Hazel Orme, Freo's oldest kindergarten; South Terrace primary school; and Princess May high school.

At her funeral service, family and friends were told: "Nancy had only one ambition and that was to be with horses."

Nancy's first job was at the Howard Porter stables in Osborne Road and Mills & Wares biscuit factory.

On July 7, 1960, she married Doug Watson at Wesley Church where she was christened and attended Sunday school.



The Freo couple met at trackwork at Richmond Raceway.

Nancy's younger sister Margaret told *StreetWise* Nancy and Doug enjoyed training horses at the heritage-listed horse exercise beach in Cockburn.

When Doug died in 1980, his ashes scattered on the track where the couple first met, Nancy took out a trainers licence for trotting, only the second woman to receive one in WA.

After she retired, suffering glaucoma and heart problems, Nancy took up leather work repairing horse rugs and racing gear.

Nancy's ashes were scattered at CY O'Connor Beach where she trained and swam horses.

Additional details at
www.streetwisemedia.com.au.



MIRACLE GIRL

LIFE seemed great in 1998. I was 23 and working three part-time jobs as I couldn't find full time work.

I worked in a mobile phone shop in Subiaco selling mobile phones, and on weekends at The Newport Hotel in Fremantle. I was enthusiastic and outgoing and enjoyed interacting with people.

During this time, I also suffered migraines. They were constant, my head throbbed and the pain was excruciating.

Though I wasn't feeling the best, I had to go to work.

I was alone in the house. In the shower I got dizzy and felt like I was going to collapse. I had to grab hold of the wall and managed to call my mum.

Previously, I had taken a few days off work as I was very unwell and I had only been in my job for a very short period of time.

I was going about my daily tasks, phoning clients, making

appointments to the best of my ability even though I was not feeling 100 per cent.

It was lunchtime and I went with my manager to a place called 'Tastings'. They have the best food. All of a sudden I collapsed on the floor at my manager's feet.

The doctor couldn't figure out what was wrong, and wrote a referral to have a CT scan the next day.

The next morning my mum took me to Fremantle hospital to have my CT scan and they found that

my brain was suffocating in fluid, I needed to be operated on urgently.

The doctor told my parents I was lucky I fell in front of my manager. If there had been no one around when I collapsed, that would have been it, I would've remained a vegetable. They used a shunt to drain the fluid.

Everything was going well and the shunt was working fine until I became very ill again and this time I was admitted to hospital.

"I remained in a coma for seven months ... People asked me, 'Could you see anything when you were in a coma, as in Heaven? Could you hear anything?'"



I ended up in Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital where I remained in a coma for seven months. It was touch and go and my parents and family were called many times to say that I wasn't going to make it. I wasn't going to survive.

People asked me, "Could you see anything when you were in a coma, as in Heaven? Could you hear anything?" I remember all these people kept coming in and out to visit.

I came out of the coma. I contracted meningitis in hospital and I was ill with a high fever and had two fans going to keep me cool. It was touch

and go for a while. I had to learn to walk and talk and feed myself again.

The doctors wanted to send me into a nursing home. My parents and family pleaded with the doctors to give me six weeks' chance and then, miraculously, I started to move my fingers and it developed from there, slowly but surely.

I was finally transferred to Royal Perth Hospital Shenton Park Ward One, which was the brain injury ward. This is where I learnt to talk and feed myself again. This is my story and that is why I was called by doctors, nurses and family and friends, 'MIRACLE GIRL'.

LOVE YOU TENDER

A Moment of Soft and Tender

I watch the way your father softly kisses your mother goodnight.

“Night, dear.” Lips smack together for a soft peck, and your mother smiles, and I smile too.

Because in their affection I recognise the gentle way love lives within you.

Beyond Diagnosis

When talking about mental illness or injuries, do not forget about the souls attached to them, do not talk about the house that is broken into, and forget about the person living there.

Delicate warmth

I watched your jaw tighten as we drove around in circles all in vain for the next half hour, but not once did I question if I loved you.

When we finally made it out of your car, the rain had started to fall lightly and you grabbed my hand, and raced with me to make the traffic light.

And there I was, a stranger in a strange street she had never known, laughing at the absurdity of it all, hand in hand with the boy she loved most.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

AFTER a long year of film work and a successful premiere in Perth, ‘Frozen Moments’ is ready to start fundraising for its first festival run.

Directed by Curtin University screen arts student Baeley Amalfi and written and produced by Alexa Teixeira, the short film follows a young Jack as he explores the magic of ‘old’ film photography.

Baeley said film students are excited to get their creative works into national and international film festivals: “A crowdsourcing

campaign will be launched at the start of 2020.

“Look for ‘Frozen Moments’ on our Facebook page and join us on the journey.”

Congratulations to all students whose films screened at Curtin Razor 2019. Eight short films were featured, with the award for best production going to, ‘Kia Kaha’, a documentary story of ‘Haka for life’ founder Leon Ruri who tackles male suicide and depression.



“I WILL RAISE YOU...”

IN the 2010 film *Smokin' Aces 2*, Tom Berenger tells his FBI protectors that playing cards is, “cerebral”, pointing out the mid-15th century origins of tarot cards. “You don't really buy into that old world gypsy bullshit do you?” Berenger: “Karl Yung had a different term for it. Synchronicity. The idea being that all nature is interconnected in a way that the past, the present, the human mind through an act of random sampling, if you will, can predict the course of future actions.”

My elderly Sicilian uncle applies his ‘winning’ synchronicity each time he plays cards, often with friends. Each time we play Sicily’s popular 40-card briscola, played in two halves, the winner needing the highest score out of 120, he says, “You will not get more than 30 points”.

His photographic memory and ability to remember cards of every suit, kings, queens and aces, is no match for me. He also knows there are four suits for the four seasons (hearts, clubs, spades, diamonds); 52 cards for the weeks in the year, 13 cards in each suit for the 13 phases of the lunar cycle and, as Berenger

explains, “if you add up the pips on every card of the deck it totals 365 the number of days in the year”. My uncle is also religious, his dedication reflected in, ‘The Perpetual Almanac or the Soldier’s Prayer Book’, published in 1681.



It told of a soldier caught in church playing cards. Hauled before the authorities, he said cards were a soldier’s prayer: “The ace reminds me of the one true God. The two and three are the Son and the Holy Ghost. The four are the four apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.”

Underplayed is the potential cards have in helping young minds, not to mention older ones, enjoy maths through addition, subtraction and division. In this mathematical duel is the ability, particularly when playing in teams, to outwit opponents using ‘secret’ signals.

In briscola, the first round is played without speaking or signalling, after which players can signal partners:

Ace - stretch lips over teeth or purse lips. King - glance upwards or raise eyebrows. Knight - shrug shoulder.

MR MAGIC



THE WA Society of Magicians has voted James Diamond, aka James De Sousa, 2019 Magician of the Year.

By day, the 36-year-old ‘wizard’ works as marketing manager at SCOOP Property and Finance. By night, he dabbles in the kindred arts. Cards mostly.

Sworn to a Magician Code of Ethics, James describes himself as a ‘Close Up Comedy Magician and Entertainer’.

Having watched him on several occasions, Diamond offers audiences a unique experience, juggling wit and humour - and impeccable card skills.

WASM is one of the oldest magical societies in the world, its first meeting held on January 26, 1922.

If you want to make a wedding, party or special event a magical occasion, contact James on 0414690484. Or email jamesinfo@JamesDiamondMagic.com and facebook.com/JamesDiamondMagic.

KINGDOMS, QUEENS & JOKER

THE first playing cards were made during the T'ang Dynasty about 800AD. By the time playing cards left China around 900AD, they were divided into four suits.

About this time, people began playing cards in Iran and India, where players preferred circular cards. Cards were introduced into Italy and Spain around 1370, most likely from Egypt, and possibly having originated from the Indian card game of Ganjifa played in 16C Persia.

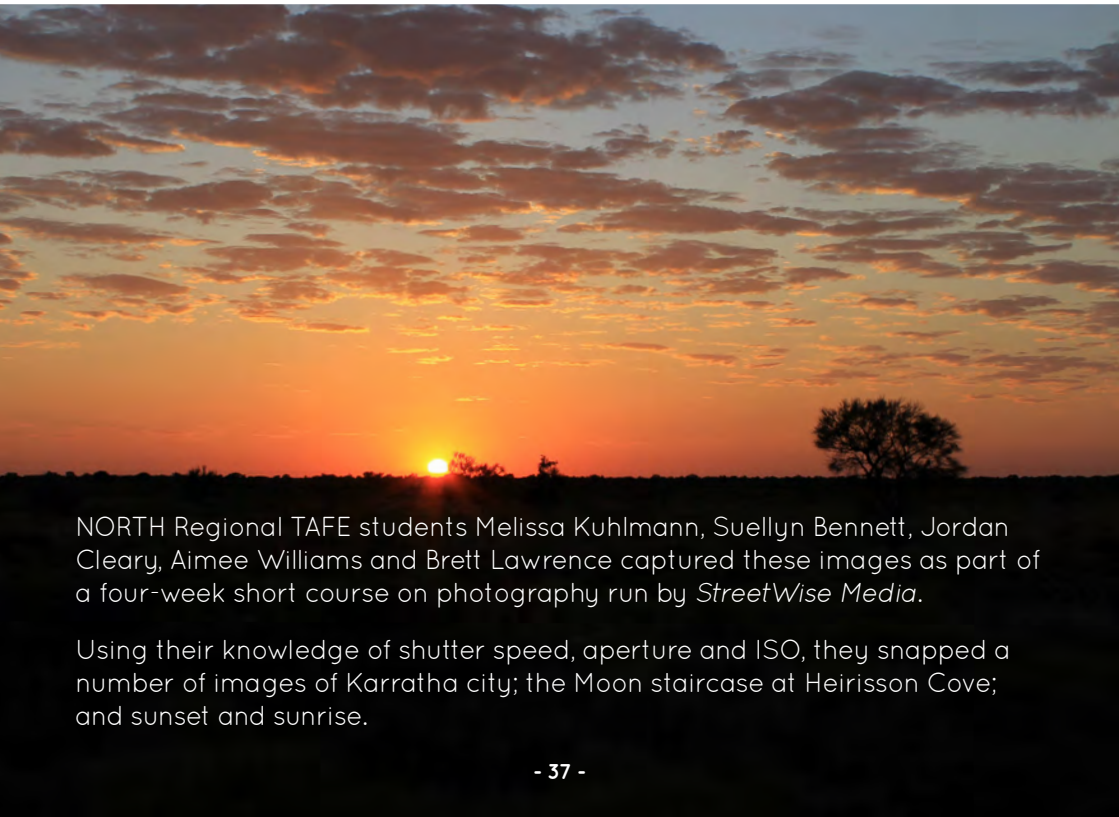
The Tarot deck was invented in Italy around 1440. America's only contribution to playing cards is having introduced the Joker in the late 19C.

Modiano and Dal Negro are well known names associated with playing cards. Dal Negro is an Italian company that produces playing cards, tarot cards, divination cards, chess, backgammon, roulette wheels, and toys for children. Its origins date back to 1756 when it was owned by an Austrian in the city of Treviso. Dal Negro was bought in 1928 by the Dal Negro family.

Founded before 1884, Modiano was established by founder Saul Modiano in Trieste. Most parts of Italy have their own card patterns. Some are reproduced here.



STUDENT SNAPPERS



NORTH Regional TAFE students Melissa Kuhlmann, Suellyn Bennett, Jordan Cleary, Aimee Williams and Brett Lawrence captured these images as part of a four-week short course on photography run by *StreetWise Media*.

Using their knowledge of shutter speed, aperture and ISO, they snapped a number of images of Karratha city; the Moon staircase at Heirisson Cove; and sunset and sunrise.



HERO

Based on the 1977 pulp fiction 'Superfolks' by American journalist Robert Mayer, a timeless satire and tribute to unsung heroes everywhere. An adaptation by comic book nerd Carmelo Amalfi.

THERE were no more heroes.

The Dynamic Duo were dead, killed in a high speed bat chase through Gotham. Wonder Woman, aka Diana Prince, returned to Paradise Island, having pawned for charity her boots and bullet-proof wristbands and lie-detecting lasso.

The CIA picked up her invisible jet, cheap. Superman, the Man of Steel and public relations dream in tights, was still missing, presumed dead following a mysterious kryptonite shower over Metropolis. The Flash, Fantastic Four, Atom, Hulk, Green Arrow and most of the X-Men were gone, killed in action or retired, received disability pensions, died of cancer or declared clinically insane (Joker is still on the run).

In this fading pantheon of mighty men, women, children, and pets, the last to hang up his cape was also the greatest superhero of all. Faster than the speed of light. Stronger than spider silk. Able to move mountains with one arm. But those days were long gone, his extraordinary abilities having faded mysteriously during a cliffhanging duel with Dr Chernobyl.

Using his secret identity, Norm left his life of crimefighting and slipped into the 'burbs where he married his childhood sweetheart Bella to raise three kids and their blind dog Cato.

Working as a casual weather reporter on the local rag (if Clark Kent could) Norm no longer shot out of cafe booths to rescue a school bus plunging off a bridge or space shuttle hurtling helplessly to Earth. He was super retired.

Or so he thought.



MASS panic broke out after the UN announced the incredible news at a press conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

A 100km-wide chunk of ice-encased iron, dislodged from the Kuiper Belt beyond Pluto, was on a collision course with Earth. Dubbed 'Santa's Anvil', it was due to strike the third rock from the Sun at Christmas.

The rogue rock had extinction written all over it. Armageddon.

Norm was light years away. His world was about to end unless the house was spotless by the time Bella and the kids returned from the airport with his in-laws from Malta.

He wished he could draw on his inner strength to blow dry the lounge room. But the promise of his childhood, his immortality, was a distant memory.

Grey and heavy, beyond his legal flying weight, his knees and fingers ached. His senses unreliable.

The idea of soaring through the sky gave him nausea. He sat down. The telephone ...

- Norman? Is that you?

- Who is this?

- Thank goodness it's you. It's Sax the Accordion Player. We met at Spiderman's funeral. I need to know Norm, do you still keep in touch with him?

- Who?

- Don't play games Norm, not now. You are the only contact we have for him on Earth.

- I haven't seen him in ages. He was injured, retired I think ...

- Find him Norm. Find him fast.

- What if he's dead?

- Then so are we...

Bella's 4WD roared into the drive just as Norm untangled his son's Goblin Glider from the kitchen blinds. The family reunion was noisy, his incomprehensible father-in-law knocking off the malt whisky he'd won in the Christmas raffle at work.

He felt drained, his former career as a crimefighter packed away in a dusty shoebox in the back shed.

It looked good after all these years. Fine, silky smooth though tight in the crotch, the fabric spun by a now extinct spider from Colombia. Avoiding the redback squatting in his broken mower, Norm appeared from the cobwebs ready for action. Did he dare take a running jump into his former work space or should he just go to bed before people got hurt or caught him on a smart phone crashing into a car or pot plant?

Norm had to know. It was now or never. Climbing up to the top of his son's cubby, he straightened up, pulled the atmosphere into his lungs and took the leap he'd replayed in his mind so many times...

Happy happy thoughts, his body hurtling like a fiery comet towards the spiky buffalo grass.

Norm pulled up to rooftop level, over the blow-up pools and webers. Over the trees, power lines and playgrounds. Then down, darting casually around corners, nothing fancy at first. This was a test flight. After a few minutes, nausea gave way to confidence, a familiar strength refilled his lungs and limbs. His mind and spirit soared. He was back!

He could hear the faint voices below.

- Look. It's a pterodactyl.

- No, it's a drone.

Norm pulled himself up and away, pissed off at being compared to a dinosaur. As he cursed himself, he failed to see his future smack him in the face. Collapsing stars and galactic question marks orbited his bruised brow, his outline in the aluminium pole resembling Mr Magoo. The street went dark. Any faster he would have taken out the suburb. Norm's muscles turned to jelly and his ears picked up local FM. As the constellations cleared, Norm limped home where he stuffed his uniform back into its box and retired for the night, sore but exhilarated.

Norm learnt of Earth's fate on the morning news. Sax was right. Earth, the home that had nurtured his abilities since childhood, was doomed. He faced the greatest fear of his adoption. Himself. Hero.

Thousands of kilometres away in Moscow, special service agents toast to a shaky world peace and a rapidly expanding arms race.

- Has he shown up yet?

- No, only reports, a few sightings.

- We are interested only in results. No disarmament treaty is possible until he is taken care of. We don't want heroes. That's why we have gone to all this trouble creating Armageddon. He has to be eliminated, or the deal is off.

To be continued ...





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