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Friday, July 12, 2024

Festival Centre gets a makeover

Anna Vlach

Adelaide Festival Centre will be out of action from mid next year while its three theatres close for a \$51m makeover.

The cash splash will pay for new seats in the Festival Theatre, Dunstan Playhouse and Space Theatre, as well as new lighting for foyers and auditoriums.

The Playhouse and Space, both to shut from July 2025, will also get new stage flooring.

The Festival Theatre will shut from August 2025. All three will reopen in early 2026.

FULL REPORT PAGE 3

Apple grower exits

PAGE 8



Uproar over drag queen story time

Dasha Havrilenko

More than 100 concerned parents have complained about a northern council's decision to host a drag queen story time event for children at a local library.

The Salisbury Council acknowledged the complaints about one of their school holiday events, called the "Rainbow Storytime", which invites a drag queen performer to read to young children in the local library.

A Salisbury Council spokeswoman said the event was to "promote diversity".

FULL REPORT PAGE 5

Katie Fattel with son Cassian, 4. Picture: Tom Huntley

EXCLUSIVE

THE HOUSING TRUST MANIFESTS A SCANDAL



HOUSE FOOLS

» Mum of disabled boy told she could dream up a home

» Given tent advice if manifestation failed

George Yankovich

A mother facing homelessness with her life-support-bound son was offered guides on new age practices to "manifest" a home by the government's Housing Trust. Katie Fattel was then sent links to find a free tent and where she and son Cassian, 4, could sleep rough.

FULL REPORT PAGES 6-7

'TIME TO GO, JOE': GEORGE UNLEASHES

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MAGIC OF HARRY

SYMPHONY OF POTTER PAGE 3



THE LIFE OF RILEY, FINALLY SPORT



Hope of wiping out kids' cancer

Sue Dunlevy

A deadly childhood cancer may be completely prevented thanks to a major breakthrough by Aussie researchers.

A day after the federal government announced it would fund a \$500,000 lifesaving treatment for neuroblastoma, the Children's Cancer Institute has – in a second win – identified a gene that could ultimately wipe out the condition.

About 40 Australian preschoolers each year develop neuroblastoma, which develops in nerve tissue and comes with a less than 50 per cent chance of survival.

By blocking the gene, known as RUNX1T1, researchers found they could stop tumours in mice bred to develop neuroblastoma.

Professor Murray Norris, who led the research published on Friday in the medical journal *Nature Communications*, described the results as "a major finding".

"This work opens up entirely unexplored avenues for the development of new therapeutic approaches for neuroblastoma, and quite possibly other cancers as well," he said.

The RUNX1T1 gene also plays an important role in adult small cell lung cancer and rhabdomyosarcoma.

The breakthrough is the result of a 10-year journey and the race is now on to turn the discovery into a therapy that could stop the cancer ever occurring.

"There is a possibility of using silencing RNA (ribonucleic acid, which has structural similarities to DNA) that you can actually inject into the patient that specifically binds to your gene of interest, and then stops it from being produced in the first place," Prof Norris said.

This type of targeted treatment, if proven to work, could eventually be offered to women from families with a high risk of neuroblastoma to prevent the cancer in their children.

Switching off the RUNX1T1 gene in children who have already developed the cancer could also be tried as a treatment. It might help their immune system recognise the cancer and fight it off.



George Yankovich

A mother facing homelessness with her life support bound toddler was offered guides on New Age practices to "manifest" a home by an SA Housing Trust public servant.

"That was on top a Google link about where to find a free tent, but Katie Fattel said her four-year-old son Cassian is "facing death" without a power supply for his medical machines, pleading for the Premier to intervene.

The pair, along with Cassian's father, will be shunted out of their Woodville rental of eight years this September because water damage is making it uninhabitable and the landlord cannot afford repairs.

After surviving a 2021 backyard pool drowning, Cassian

has acquired cerebral palsy and cannot support his legs or neck without aid.

He is non-verbal and needs a minimum of three machines to stay alive, including a feeding tube active 22 hours a day.

"He won't survive being homeless – he would probably get extremely sick and die very quickly," his 40-year-old mother said.

"Homelessness is bad for anyone going through it but Cassian has no capacity to adapt to it like you or I can."

"He needs a safe place to live and I need a safe place to take care of him."

While their two-storey house has an upstairs bedroom, Ms Fattel is his full-time carer and sleeps in the living room next to her son because he requires hour-to-hour

supervision. Since applying for the Housing Trust in January, they have been fast-tracked to category 1 priority thanks to a case worker's intervention.

But Ms Fattel said she was "shocked" by an ensuing email from the same person with links to guides for manifestation – a spiritual practice that suggests mental willpower alone can influence real world outcomes.

The 20 different articles featured titles such as "How to manifest a house that's perfect for you" and "How to manifest anything you want, according to a witch".

The author of the former gives the following instruction: "Believe that it can happen for you, and even if you don't know how or when, expect that it is already done and that

the forces that be are bringing you closer to your home every day."

Ms Fattel said she believed there were "good intentions" but that the family did not need "wishful thinking".

The same employee also sent Ms Fattel links to resources for obtaining free camping gear and safe rough sleeping locations, adding: "Please forgive me if sending these links causes you upset, as I'm sure it will."

"I am also at a loss as to what to do."

"It was actually just making me a lot more distressed because, at the end of the day, I can Google all of this myself," she said.

"I thought they would have advice or inside resources that I could take advantage of and

"If it is based on need, who can be more in need than someone like Cassian?"

Katie Fattel
Mother, student

instead it was just Google links.

"I think the issue is there are so many layers in housing that they don't understand his needs ... All they're getting at the top is the fact he's disabled but not that he's severely, profoundly disabled."

Should they end up on the

Fangs very much for a new world record

Emma Kirk

One of Australia's deadliest snakes has broken a terrifying world record, after having enough venom to kill 400 people extracted in a single yield.

The snake, named Cyclone, is a coastal taipan that lives at the Australian Reptile Park and is part of a program that saves lives across Australia.

The reptile park is the only facility in the country that

mills taipans for the production of antivenene.

Australian Reptile Park operations manager Billy Collett said: "Coastal Taipans are not the most venomous snake in the world, but they are known worldwide for their aggression and bites have caused fatalities every year."

The previous highest amount recorded was 4.9g but Cyclone the coastal taipan has now produced 5.2g.



A world record for extracting the most venom in a single yield.

Focus on vax fatigue

The trusted relationship GPs have with their patients makes them best placed to fight vaccine fatigue and misinformation amid concerns about a resurgence in preventable disease, the Royal Australian College of GPs says.

"Australia has been grappling with falling vaccination rates and we're seeing a resurgence in preventable diseases

as a result, such as measles, which was virtually eradicated in 2014," RACGP president Nicole Higgins said.

"GPs are best placed to boost vaccination rates because they have expertise in counselling patients and addressing vaccine fatigue and misinformation, which is a hangover from the Covid-19 pandemic."

Former cricketer brings sex abuse suit

Glen Norris

Cricket Australia is facing accusations it failed to protect junior cricketers from sexual abuse after a claim it allowed a player to be molested by a coach during a tour of India.

Dean Raymond Reynolds, now 57, is suing the sport's governing body for more than \$4m in the Queensland Supreme Court, alleging assistant coach Robert "Bob" Bitmead sexually assaulted him on the under-19 Australian tour of India and Sri Lanka in 1985.

According to the claim lodged with the court, the assault occurred when Mr Reynolds, then aged 17, fell sick with gastroenteritis and was lying on his bed in a Mumbai hotel room.

After being given an injection by team doctor Malcolm McKenzie reportedly to treat the stomach illness, Mr Reynolds alleged he was approached by Mr Bitmead, who proceeded to massage his penis without his permission.

"The plaintiff was groggy and in a semiconscious state but nonetheless protested to Bitmead," according to court documents. "Bitmead stated he was there to make the plaintiff feel better. Bitmead continued to stroke and masturbate the penis of the plaintiff for approximately a minute. The plaintiff then lost consciousness."

Mr Reynolds claims the alleged assault effectively destroyed his cricketing career as well as a later role with Qantas after he developed an alcoholic abuse disorder.

Mr Reynolds, who grew up on a sugar cane farm in Queensland and was considered a talented opening batsman, described cricket as "not just a sport but a passion that defined my childhood".

The plaintiff returned to playing cricket, including being a member of the Queensland Sheffield Shield training squad before playing county cricket for Lancashire in England. However, he said he had not played the sport since the age of 21 due to the effects of the alleged abuse.

Cricket Australia declined to comment. Bob Bitmead has previously denied sexual assault claims.

SA HOUSING TRUST EMAIL ON FEBRUARY 27 LISTED 19 LINKS TO HELP 'MANIFEST' A HOME:

- Home Manifestation Spell
- Positive Affirmations To Manifest Your Dream Home ...
- How to Manifest a House That's Perfect for You
- How To Manifest Anything You Want, According To A Witch
- Manifesting house spell
- How To Manifest Your Dream Home With The Power Of ...
- Money Spells: Manifest Wealth, Attract Prosperity, & Create ...
- Spell for Your Dream House
- Powerful Spells to Manifest Your Dream Home
- A spell for manifesting a home
- Manifestation: Methods for Manifesting Your Dreams Into ...
- Yes, You Actually *Can* Manifest Love in Your Life
- The Do's and Don'ts of Manifesting
- Have you ever used a spell to manifest something ...
- Manifest a house spell
- Dream Home Spell | Manifest Your Dream Home
- Manifesting a Place to Live
- 9 Effective Ways To Manifest Someone, According To Experts
- New Home Affirmations! (Manifest your dream home!)

SA HOUSING TRUST EMAIL ON JUNE 26 INCLUDED LINKS TO ALTERNATE ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS:

- Where is the safest place to pitch a tent in Adelaide
- Where do people rough sleep in Adelaide
- Where can I get free camping gear and equipment in Adelaide

Katie Fattel with son Cassian, 4, at their Woodville home. Picture: Tom Huntley

street, Ms Fattel has been advised a hospital bed would be made available for Cassian, meaning he would have to live apart from his family.

Private rentals are no solution because the NDIS will only pay for adjustments, such as access ramps and ceiling hoists, on Housing Trust dwellings, to avoid repeat renovations.

Ms Fattel said she still sees a future and is finishing her honours year of a Bachelor of Social Work.

"I've heard it all before, that you're a sponge or you're trying to live off the government, but I'm trying to find an opportunity to make our lives better," she said.

As for Cassian, he is starting at a special school next year and "the world is his oyster".



Katie Fattel says Cassian needs life support. Picture: Tom Huntley

He loves being read to and watching his favourite TV shows, especially Bluey.

"Cassian survived against all odds ... the last prognosis we've received is 30, 40 years, but for ... he needs a home and he needs his life support."

An SA Housing Trust spokeswoman said "staff go over and above to support tenants" and that "any reference to 'manifestations' would not be deemed appropriate".

"Applicants assessed as category 1 are our immediate pri-

ority, but with limited vacancies, some individuals with extensive requirements such as the need for multiple bedrooms, downstairs bathrooms and disability modifications, may not have access to social housing as quickly," the spokeswoman said.

"Staff have worked closely with Ms Fattel, including a meeting today, to ensure she has access to other appropriate government support services, including private rental support, HomeStart finance and NDIS.

"We are also actively advocating with community housing providers who specialise in disability accommodation to find a suitable home."

Anti-Poverty Network coordinator Jasmin Witham, who has been advocating for

Ms Fattel, said "there are many out there in similar situations," with more than 15,000 South Australians waiting for public housing.

She said the state government's commitment of several hundred new dwellings will "barely make a dent in the level of community need" and urged measures such as rent caps and vacancy taxes.

"It will take thousands of new public homes to truly rebuild the Housing Trust," Ms Witham said.

Holding her child, Ms Fattel said she just wanted to see action.

"If it is based on need, who can be more in need than someone like Cassian, who cannot survive without a house?"

PAGE 50: EDITORIAL

Luxury development for Yorke Peninsula

Shashi Baltutis

A luxury hotel complex has been proposed for a popular holiday spot on the Yorke Peninsula.

Plans have been lodged by the Lillis Group for the waterfront hotel complex at Port Vincent.

It would comprise 52 apartments over five levels if it goes ahead.

The development would in-

clude 32 one-bedroom, 17 two-bedroom and three three-bedroom apartments.

The building would also have 374 sqm of cafe floor space in order to seat 150 people.

There would be an office floor, a gym and a rooftop function area with 70 seats.

A multi-level car park would be built on site.

The application documents note that apartments in the

project "could be utilised as residential dwellings or tourist accommodation".

The site is currently vacant. The project, Docksider Port Vincent, will be "the new benchmark for waterfront living" on Marina Drive, it said on its website.

A second project has been proposed for nine floating homes and a cafe near the end of Breakwater Drive to "create a unique accommodation of-

fering for the region". The third stage would comprise two groups of three waterfront townhouses on Marina Dr and a hillside grouping of two townhouses.

"It is hoped that these developments will be a catalyst to help build and drive the economy for Port Vincent and contribute to the long-term economic growth of the region," the Lillis Group says on the website.



Artist impression of the planned hotel complex. Picture: Supplied