

# Children get a kick out of sport

ALMOST 1200 youngsters in the City of Joondalup participated in community sporting programs in 2012 and 2013 with help from the KidSport program.

## KIDSPORT PROGRAM PAYS OFF

\$183,000 of funding to 1187 kids, with about 34 per cent registering with a club for the first time and 403 new to a chosen sport.

KidSport, part of the \$20 million State Government initiative Sport 4 All, enables WA children to participate in community sport and recreation regardless of their financial circumstances.

It allows five to 18-year-olds to apply for up to \$200 per calendar year to put towards club fees.

Since February 2012, the City of Joondalup has provided

Joondalup Districts Cricket Club was crowned WACA first grade champions in March, the Wanneroo Wolves women's team won the State Basketball League title in August and West Perth Football Club won the WAFL premiership in September.

"It is very rare for three major State sporting titles to sit in the one location and residents of the City should be proud that these trophies are all in Joondalup," Mr Pickard said.



Youngsters are being given the chance to try a variety of team sports.

## JOONDALUP

### Windfall for swim club's water polo training

ARENA Swim Club recently received a \$20,000 sport development grant from the City of Joondalup to help with its flipa ball program.

Flippa ball, introduced at Arena Joondalup last October, is a modified version of water

polo for children aged eight to 13 years.

Mayor Troy Pickard commended Arena Swim Club and its partnership with Water Polo WA for "providing healthy and sporting opportunities for the local community

as well as fostering and developing local talent".

Water Polo WA CEO Dale Ballantyne said flippa ball aimed to "grow the sport in a sustainable way and build capacity within venues to host the sport of water polo".

## HILLARYS

### Outdoor play funding for childcare

A HILLARYS childcare centre recently received a \$54,799 Lotterywest grant to help build its interactive outdoor play area.

Whitfords Occasional Childcare Centre director Renee Locker said management researched different outdoor play equipment versus natural based play settings.

"In collaboration with Nature Play Solutions and Childscapes, we were able to come up with a design, which pro-



Centre director Renee Locker with chairperson Anita Catalano and Hillarys MLA Rob Johnson at the centre.

vided children with the opportunity to explore the natural environment," she said.

"Some of the things that have been included in our design are stepping logs, decking, tunnels, log balancing beams, sensory gardens, music wall made from natural materials, fruit trees, built in sandpits and secret paths."

Ms Locker said the centre encouraged an appreciation of the natural environment.

"As back yards are becoming smaller and parents more nervous about children being out in the community, we need to fill children's need to challenge themselves, to manage risk, to climb and explore different surfaces and levels and to go into places where there might be 'secret things' and living creatures," she said.

## STAGE

# FRINGE ACTS COME TO FORE

## PERFORMERS REVEAL MANY TALENTS AT FESTIVAL'S PLEASURE GARDEN

THE brightly coloured lanterns have been hung and spiegelentens set up which means only one thing - Fringe World Festival 2014 is here.

Running from January 24 to February 23, Fringe World is set to take over Perth in a bigger and brighter extravaganza than ever, with the debut of entertainment venue The Pleasure Garden at Northbridge's Russell Square and more than 450 diverse shows over the month-long event.

Making their collaborative debut, Subiaco's Lady Velvet Cabaret and Ashfield-based circus arts company Kinetica are joining artistic forces to present *Reveal*, from February 1 to 4.

Kinetica director Sarah Ritchie said the combined circus burlesque cabaret-style show would have something to suit everyone's taste and might introduce audiences to a performance side they'd not experienced before.

"It will also have lots of sexy ladies and fun, with a bit of dark humour as well," she said.

Lady Velvet Cabaret director and show narrator Cameron Lynch confirmed the off-beat production dug deeper than the average cabaret spectacle, with some twists on common conventions.

"I think the success of Fringe World comes from its accessibility because anyone can put a show together and pitch it to the Fringe committee," Lynch said.

"Usually when you think of putting on a show, you have to worry about hiring a venue and marketing, etc, whereas if it's under a blanket festival, then creativity comes to the forefront. The arts scene in Perth is huge so each year there will be more and more. I never see it stopping."

Full program and tickets at [www.fringe-world.com.au](http://www.fringe-world.com.au)



Lady Velvet Cabaret's Stella Hui, Kinetica's Antonia Sassine, Lady Velvet Cabaret's Sarah Rutherford and Kinetica's Sarah Ritchie and Dion del Pino. Picture: Marcus Whisson

Tanya MacNaughton

## COMEDY

# PAIR BRING HOBBIT WORLD TO LIFE

COMEDY duo Susi Prendergast and Jude Bridge are bringing their *Hairy Halflings* song and dance show to the Fringe World Festival next month.

Saying they were banished from Hobbiton, Middle-earth, for flouting the food and beverage rules, the pair bring the hobbit world to life in a 50-minute show.

"We have been performing as a comedy duo since last September, having reconnected after an interval of 21 years," Banksia Grove resident Susi said.

"Our show is a story about two banished hobbits, told in song, skit and 'feetering' big hairy feet.

"When we discovered we were both hobbits and addicted to merry song and onesies, we felt we had to share our joy with the people of Perth, Earth.

"Our show will appeal to hobbits, short people, those with an inferiority complex, basically everyone except the under-15s."

*Hairy Halflings* opens at the Cheeky Sparrow, Murray Street, on Saturday, February 1 at 9pm.

The season runs from February 4 to 6, at 8pm. Tickets are \$20, from [fringeworld.com.au](http://fringeworld.com.au)



Hairy Halflings' Susi Prendergast (left) and Jude Bridge. Left: artwork depicting the comedy duo.

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Artists impression, October 2012

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