



Terminator looming

By LLOYD GORMAN and LINDA CALLAGHAN

It's now or never to have your say and lobby your councillors, say the deputy mayors of Nedlands and Subiaco.

Max Hipkins and Paul Clements say there is only a small window before the fate of the two councils is decided when they both vote on the same night on whether to join or not.

"In one month it will be in the hands of both councils to terminate both cities," Mr Hipkins said.

And both councils could disappear and this October's elections be cancelled, Local Government Minister John Castrilli said.

He said if both councils voted to proceed with the merger and the Local Government Advisory Board backed it before October, the elections would be cancelled and commissioners appointed.

"Under this scenario elections would not be held in October 2011," Mr Castrilli said.

The deadline for public submissions is June 16. Submissions can be made on line on the websites of the two councils.

Mr Clements said: "We were told we could pull out at any time, that it was voluntary."

Mr Hipkins said he expected Nedlands to vote for the merger, but Mr Clements said approval was by no means certain in Subiaco.

Subiaco would bring money, Nedlands would bring parks, Mr Clements said.

"We can go and sit in those parks now," he said.

He said choosing a name was going to be a big issue.

Subiaco would comprise only 45% of the total population.

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What is this mild-mannered planning officer up to on Saturday? - See page 4

Murder error:

Compo pay stuns Darryl Beamish

By BRET CHRISTIAN

Darryl Beamish was stunned to learn that the government had finally recognised he had been wronged.

Through his sister, Mr Beamish (70) said he would be able to care for his wife after the government promised a \$425,000 payout to compensate him for spending 15 years in prison for a murder he did not commit.

"Now I can look after Barbara," was his first reaction on hearing the news on Wednesday night.

His sister, Frances Grenville, of Nedlands, who broke the news, said: "It will make Darryl and Barbara more comfortable."

"Barbara is rapidly losing the sight of her remaining eye. They struggle to survive on their disability pensions. They totally rely on their old car which keeps breaking down."

The next morning the couple was doing the usual Thursday shopping, with no thought of celebrating.

The incredible saga of injustice spanning exactly 50 years is still shrouded in controversy.

Attorney-General Christian Porter cut Mr Beamish's \$500,000 claim by \$75,000, saying the original case against him was strong, and that there was a lack of evidence of misconduct by prosecutors and police.

But Mr Beamish's lawyers say they were never obliged to show evidence of misconduct, and that his false confession to murder was challenged from the start.

Mr Beamish was convicted in mid-1961 of the 1959 murder, and sentenced to death by hanging.

He spent months on Death Row in Fremantle prison for the axe killing of socialite Jillian



Darryl and Barbara Beamish

Brewer (22) in the bed of her unit in Wilson Street, Cottesloe.

Mr Beamish, who has been deaf since birth and has never spoken, was framed by police for the murder, which was committed by serial killer Eric Edgar Cooke in 1959.

Mr Beamish had to wait until 2005 before his murder conviction was finally quashed by three judges of the Court of Criminal Appeal.

A series of appeals in the 1960s was refused after judges believed Cooke was lying when he confessed to Ms Brewer's murder.

Mr Beamish's death sentence was commuted by State Cabinet after a recommendation of mercy by the jury on the grounds of his disability.

He married Barbara, who is also deaf, after his release from jail on parole in 1977.

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Chaney house sells See Changing Hands page 88

Not a done deal

Subiaco ratepayers are in danger of being forced to subsidise a rate reduction for Nedlands residents while their own rates rise.

This emerges from a study of documents released last week promoting a merger between the two cities (POST, 28/5).

"Too many people are talking as though the merger between Subiaco and Nedlands is a done deal; it's not," said former Subiaco mayor Richard Diggins.

He and another long-time Subiaco resident, retired professor Tom Stannage, urged Subiaco residents to scrutinise the proposal and lobby their councillors to vote against the merger.

"The quality of life in the area would be severely damaged in such a merger," Mr Diggins said.

Mr Stannage said: "The Subiaco council's ability to campaign against the merger has been neutered because it instigated the process."

"It has put forward only the reasons in favour of the merger."



Landmarks ... Subiaco War Memorial, left, and the Nedlands post-code sculpture in Stirling Highway.

Nedlands is a place of wealth and status



residents of Nedlands," he said.

In addition, the history and social composition of Nedlands and Subiaco remained poles apart, he said.

Mr Stannage said: "Culturally, there is a great divide between the cities."

Subiaco Primary School had students of 50 nationalities.

The city had been a leader in the recognition of indigenous rights, he said.

"Subiaco people are different," he said. "They live here because they appreciate its history and diversity."

"Subiaco has hospitals, Aboriginal and released prisoner hostels and social housing for disadvantaged people. Nedlands has virtually none."

"In the 1970s, Nedlands residents successfully campaigned to exclude intellectually disabled children from Tresillian because they didn't want them there."

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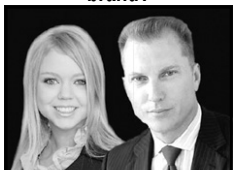
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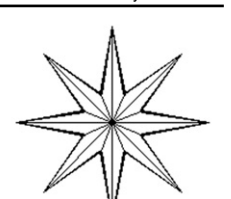
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Family life a special bond

• From page 6
A year after they met, Geoff enlisted in the Army. He served for five years in the north of WA and NSW. He said he wrote to Daphne every day and was eager to tie the knot when he returned to Perth. "We got married straight-away," said Geoff. "I was still in the army when we got married. I was discharged two weeks later." They had their first child, Lindsay, in 1947 and five more followed, including twin girls Dianne and Joanne. Geoff was an honorary athletics coach at Aquinas, where he worked for 25 years.
During his time at Aquinas, Geoff taught track hero Herb Elliott, who went on to win gold at the 1960 Rome Olympics. Geoff was a champion hurdler during his school days at Aquinas. He was the 1940 state champion and record holder for 220 yards track. Geoff said it had been a great life together. "The great thing when you look back on it is your family and your children. We have 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren," he said. "We're very proud of all of them," he said.

Day digs

• From page 9
Dr Dannatt said it was too late for him. He was left without any redress when Subiaco councillors rejected a ruling by the city's planning officers to refuse an application by a neighbour to build a second home on the block. The addition was two storeys and on the boundary with Dr Dannatt's property. It contravened a number of planning guidelines. It had cut views and light from his main bedroom and replaced them with a solid violet-coloured wall, he said. Dr Darnatt said a Subiaco councillor who visited his home after the neigh-

Compo pay stuns

• From page 1
The couple have lived independently on disability pensions, living frugally, paying off a very modest house and paying extra bills by Mr Beamish rising at 4am each morning to do odd jobs. In 2009, as their finances and health slipped, Mr Beamish applied for \$500,000 compensation from the state government. After waiting 18 months without a result, he approached his local MP, Roger Cook, who said he could make no progress ("Millions for cop, but what about Darryl Beamish?" POST, 29/5). "I think Darryl has been treated appallingly," Mr Cook said at the time. His lawyer, Michael Dawson, said then that there were obvious reasons Mr Beamish deserved compensation. "The state has wrongfully taken 15 years of his life and the rest of his life has slipped away," he said. "He had no opportunity to accumulate superannuation and lost a finger while in jail. "He is not asking for the earth, the moon and the stars. His claim is modest compared with other payouts." Andrew Mallard, who spent 12 years in jail after being wrongfully convicted of the murder of Mosman Park jeweller Pamela Lawrence, received a \$3.2 million ex-gratia payment. Injured police officer Matthew Butcher was paid \$3.3 million by the state government. Along with all other convicted killers, Mr Beamish was visited by police investigating the Claremont serial killings in the late 1990s and asked to provide an alibi. At his final appeal in 2004, his lawyer Tom Percy QC argued that Cooke's confession to the Brewer murder should be believed in the light of evidence of other home-invasion assaults by Cooke, and Cooke's substantiated confession to the hit-run murder of Rosemary Anderson in Shenton Park in 1963, for which John Button was wrongfully convicted. Mr Button was exonerated in 2002 after fresh forensic evidence obtained by the POST was accepted by the Court of Criminal Appeal.

Ratepayers won't save anything

• From page 44
Rationalisation of the rates in each area, with almost certain increases in the non-residential rates in Subiaco. The council deciding to accommodate most of the state government's mandatory increase in residential density in the Subiaco area in order to leave Nedlands density largely untouched. This was even foreshadowed by Nedlands mayor Sheryl Froese ("Subi may stash \$190m for

Vibrating building

• From page 19
signed, documented and constructed in an incredibly tight program of eight weeks. The studio is located over two levels with an open-plan office space created to encourage teamwork and improve conversation and collaboration between staff. At Eco 541, the office block in Subiaco pictured on page 19, a facade of perforated metal panels acts as a sun and heat shield and disguises balconies. Created by Scott Penn Hall Architecture and Interior Design, the building is being assessed for a green star rating. Artist Brian McKay was commissioned to create a sophisticated, geometric, wind-vibrated sculpture to set the building apart. The winners will be named at a ceremony at Burswood on June 19.

Ram-raiders

• From page 9
"They didn't get the store room, so we will have a sale of what's left. Maybe we will re-open early next week." Ms Coleman said her clothing would probably be re-labelled by the thieves, or sold online or through private sales. She said she did not have insurance. "Vidlers has had ram raids, Laced Up next door had one last week," she said. "I don't understand why we can't have bollards. Do we have to look like Los Angeles and get heavy shutters?" Vidlers used to have bollards, but Cottesloe council told the shop to remove them as part of a development application. At the time the council said the bollards were too close to the pavement.

Oval safe

• From page 7
been set aside for construction work in last month's state budget which might have been a deliberate ploy by Mr Barnett. "I tend to think it's a strategy to retain some flexibility in an environment where finances are tight and defer a decision to a later date," he said. Future funding could come from several sources, Mr Tindale said. "The Commonwealth has said it would contribute \$250 million but that might change if it took \$350 million to remediate contaminated land where there is a perfectly good alternative," he said. "A period of seven years to build a new stadium seems lengthy, it could be two elections away."

the advertisements and go to the website you find that comments close on June 16. Furthermore, there is no provision for written submissions. The only way you can comment is to respond to a structured website questionnaire, and complete an online form. I sincerely hope Subiaco councillors give these matters serious consideration when they vote on the issue.
Kevin Wulff
Jasmine Avenue, Subiaco