

Herd on the Terrace



Latin lunge has toecutter twitchy

Spare a thought for Perth liquidator Jeremy Nipps as he prepares for a week-long public examination of failed iron ore hopeful Ochre Group.

The snag is that former Ochre director and promoter Nathan Featherby, son of veteran Euroz Hartley broker John Featherby, has apparently moved to somewhere in South America.

The Bull became aware of Nathan's Latin lunge when Nipps' legal team from Mills Oakley, led by Brendan Taylor, went to the Federal Court to gain permission to serve a summons to Nathan by phone or email.

Nipps' process server had gone to Nathan's last known address in Duncraig to serve the documents.

But the process server was told by Nathan's mum that he was in South America and she did not have contact with him.

The insolvency toecutter's team subsequently obtained an Argentinian mobile phone number apparently recently used by Nathan, as well as an active email address.

Justice Darren Jackson outlined the evidence presented by Nipps while agreeing his legal team should not be forced to rely on the Argentinian Government to serve the summonses to Nathan.

What's more, neither Nipps nor the Mills Oakley crew had a postal or residential address for the prodigal son.

Justice Jackson said serving the summons to Nathan by email and phone service would, hopefully, allow Nipps' investigation to progress in a "duly expeditious way".

We look forward to the examination starting on July 25 and Nathan sharing insights into Ochre's collapse, as well as to the joys and pitfalls of life in South America.

Hoovered up histories
The US consulate's Fourth of



July party is always an event to be seen at.

Held pre-emptively this week at Fraser's in King's Park, Consul-General Siriana Nair's team showed true American ingenuity by gathering sponsors to make the event cost neutral to the Yankee taxpayer.

Resources Minister Madeleine King reminded the packed house that one-time Goldfields mine manager and US president Herbert Hoover told The Kalgoorlie Miner in 1898 that WA was expected to have natural resources for extraction for "several more years".

Spotted at the shindig were a jovial Liberal leader Libby Mettam with her old boss Colin Barnett, Committee for Perth CEO and networker-in-chief Paula Rogers and economist and Mr Everywhere Conrad Liveris.

Also reportedly celebrating the 247th birthday of the

Declaration of Independence were the Breast Cancer Research Centre's Brendan Kirwin, lobbyist extraordinaire David Parker and more resources executives, diplomats and academics than the Bull imagined could be fed by a temporary resources extractor.

Peter, Allen & slow justice

The cogs of justice indeed move slowly in matters involving Federal authorities, as is evidenced by recent events involving two of Perth's more interesting business figures.

The Perth Magistrates Court has adjourned Allen Caratti's prosecution for allegedly dodgy actions with Commonwealth officials has been adjourned for the 15th time on the slow road to a District Court trial.

It's not back before a magistrate on August 25, when hopefully we might see some action on the

charges. Caratti has pleaded not guilty.

The one that really has us scratching our head is a surprise five-month adjournment of fallen oil play promoter Peter Landau's Supreme Court sentencing on nine charges.

We had expected Landau to be sentenced last week, but the matter did not show up on the court lists.

We subsequently learned of a secret hearing on June 13 that remains subject to a strict suppression order restricting the low-down to Landau, his lawyers and the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.

All we know is that Landau is due back in the Supreme Court on November 30, more than 15 months after he struck a plea deal with prosecutors and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Very mysterious indeed.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

- Vicki Robinson has retired as company secretary at Wesfarmers. Sheldon Renkema replaces her.
- The Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA has appointed Tim Marney as chief economist.
- RMS Australia has appointed Perth-based Catherine Bell and Riaan Bronkhorst as partners.
- Octava Minerals has appointed Feiyu Qi as a non-executive director.
- Future Battery Minerals has appointed Paul Brown as a non-executive director.
- Neil McKay has resigned as company secretary at Torque Metals.
- Western Power has appointed Rowel De Paz as asset strategy engineer.
- Pitcher Partners has appointed Perth-based Chris Pattinson and Michael Liprino as partners.
- Gabriele Sorrento has resigned as a non-executive director at Vection Technologies.
- Duratec has appointed Krista Bates as a non-executive director.
- Vulcan Energy has appointed Cris Moreno as CEO. Francis Wedin will move to the role of executive chair. Gavin Rezos continues on as non-executive deputy chair.
- Sandfire Resources has appointed Megan Jansen as CFO. Matthew Fitzgerald will step down from the role.
- Carbine Resources has appointed Glenn Whiddon and James Pearce as non-executive directors.
- Victoria McLellan has resigned as CFO and company secretary at Metgasco.
- James Allchurch has resigned as a non-executive director at Winchester Energy.



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WA Aboriginal heritage laws bamboozle business

COMMENT
DANIELLE LE MESSURIER



The biggest changes to Aboriginal heritage law in WA's history officially take effect today and many businesses remain befuddled over what it all means.

The first major test for the Cook Government has not gone well, judging by the level of backlash over the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act from miners, farmers and Indigenous groups.

The symbolic rollout was on full display this week, with the Government continuing to tweak

the laws right up to the 11th hour amid growing pressure but opposing calls for a delay.

Some of that tinkering — particularly the commitment for a "light touch" approach to enforcing the new rules for the next year, an implementation group and an "education first" approach — will allow companies to go about their business without the fear of a fine hanging over their head.

The Government also agreed to a one-year reprieve for more rigorous requirements to Indigenous heritage surveys after hastily taking down guidelines following concerns from industry, as revealed by The West Australian.

Why all this had to be done the week before the new system was

due to be brought in defies logic. Granted, WA Aboriginal heritage laws, which date back to 1972, are extremely complex.

However keep in mind the incoming laws were first drafted in 2020 under then-aboriginal affairs minister Ben Wyatt — this is not something that has been concocted overnight.

No one wants to see a repeat of Juukan Gorge, which was facilitated through the Section 18 process under the previous act and added weight to the reforms.

But while most companies support the need to strengthen heritage protections they have been left bamboozled by the messy implementation process.

Some miners feel they have reached a stalemate. They say they have no choice but to work

with the laws even with their outstanding concerns, such as the absence of Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services, because putting them on the backburner would only create more headaches for projects.

Organisations were on Friday putting out material to better explain the incoming changes to their members, including the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA.

We can only hope the Government is doing the same, given how busy it has been seemingly making policy on the run this week.

Even with the last-minute changes, don't bank on a smooth rollout.