



## IT'S A HOLE IN WON FOR HANNAH

Like many WA footy fans in September last year, Hannah Green was yelling and screaming her beloved Eagles to an AFL premiership. "I was watching it with a very rowdy crowd at a Cockburn pub with my family and it was a lot of fun to be there," Green, 22, said. A year on, the emerging golf superstar will sit alongside the Eagles on Monday night as joint winner of the Herb Elliott Medal for the State's most inspirational performance on the annual WA sporting calendar. West Coast held their nerve to win. And Green showed similar steel in June when she held off defending champion Park Sung-hyun by one stroke to claim the Women's PGA Championship. "To be matched up with (West Coast) for my win this year is definitely a real honour," she said.



Picture: Daniel Wilkins

# Premier's foreigner backflip

EXCLUSIVE JOSH ZIMMERMAN

The McGowan Government is pleading with Federal Immigration Minister David Coleman to make it easier for international students and foreign workers to migrate to WA in an apparent backflip on one of its key election commitments.

On his first day in power, Mr McGowan wrote to then prime minister Malcolm Turnbull requesting WA be removed from the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme. It was trumpeted as putting WA jobs first.

But two years of plunging foreign student numbers and lacklustre population growth have forced a reversal, as revealed by Citizenship Minister Paul Papalia's submission to a Federal probe into regional migration.

In it, Mr Papalia pushes for Perth to be re-classified as "regional Australia" as part of a continuing review, which would open the door to easier migration for international students, refugees and skilled workers.

If enacted, the change would make it easier for students studying in Perth to earn permanent residency — a major competitive advantage for WA universities over those in cities such as Melbourne and Sydney.

But it would also dramatically

increase the number of occupations for which business owners could seek to sponsor foreign workers, from between 200-300 currently to 500-700, depending on the exact visa class.

"Classifying Perth in the same way as Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane for all visa types will not meet the needs of the Western Australian economy or the aspirations of the community," Mr Papalia wrote.

Mr McGowan said a regional classification would improve the State's capacity to attract international students but did not address questions about the potential for an influx of foreign workers. "We are currently working collaboratively with the Federal Government, in particular Senator Mathias Cormann, to respond to recent changes to visa settings," he said.

Steven O'Neil, managing director of migration agency ISCAH, said Federal changes to the skilled work visa system, coming into effect next month, would make it harder for foreign workers to earn permanent residency. "The new company-sponsored visa requires holders to work for three additional years to apply for permanent residency, whereas previously this permanent visa was granted in the first instance," he said.

## Fast ants that 'fly'

The world's fastest ants have been found. The Saharan silver ants move at a speed equivalent of about 580km/h in humans.

Researcher Sarah Pfeiffer said the ants "fly through the air with no feet on the ground from stride to stride".

## Fortescue loses appeal

Mining behemoth Fortescue Metals has lost its appeal against the native title decision that hands the Yindjibarndi people exclusive rights over 2700sqkm of Pilbara land — including the Solomon mine.

Andrew Forrest's firm has been battling the Yindjibarndi claim since 2003 — and last year lost the fight when the Federal Court sided with the native title ruling, pointing to important cultural sites near the Fortescue mine. The ruling has raised the prospect of a

potential multimillion-dollar compensation claim against Fortescue. Senior Yindjibarndi lawman Michael Woodley said they believed mining on the land had been happening without prior and informed consent.

Yesterday a full bench of the Federal Court threw out an appeal against the ruling.

Mr Woodley said it was fantastic news.

Fortescue said yesterday it was considering a High Court challenge.

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## Doctor dies on diving trip

A highly respected WA anaesthetist and experienced diver is being remembered as a beautiful and bubbly woman after she died while on a diving trip in the Caribbean.

Dr Fiona Sharp, 55, was well known in Perth's medical and scuba diving circles. She worked out of the Fiona Stanley Hospital hyperbaric medicine unit.

The Weekend West understands Dr Sharp died after being pulled from the water near the Caribbean island of Bonaire.

"It is with great sadness we have lost the best daughter, sister, sister in law and aunty to the ocean today. She passed doing what she loved. We will miss her fun loving ... bubbly nature," her sister Donna Bird posted on Facebook.



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**74 The Avenue**  
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**10AM 328 Walcott Street, Mt Lawley via**  
**LCD viewing screens open from 9am**

**This historic river front home is sold and all items will be sold - unreserved! Viewing a must in this old-world untouched home.**

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**Excellent range of period hallmarked sterling silver incl Linton table service, Rare 1869 mounted emu egg .**  
**Huge range Georgian and Victorian Furniture all through the home.**  
**Good range of lithographs, prints and maps inc Gould, Interesting Estate collectables and books and sundries throughout .**  
**Genuine Estate sales of this nature very rarely come to Perth's market - Viewing a must!**  
**PUBLIC VIEWING ON-SITE**  
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