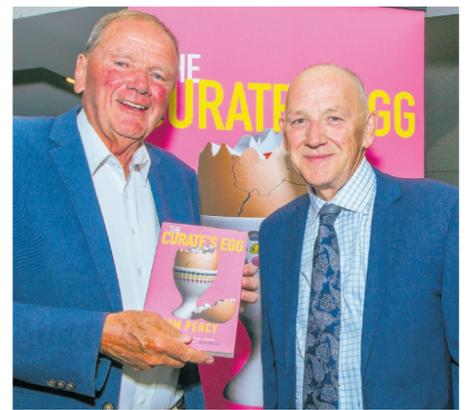


Tom Percy with
Chrissy Lloyd at
the launch of his
novel. Pictures:
Amber Lilley



John Bowler with Tom Percy.



Heather Lavery and Wendy Percasky.



Ronnie Rogers, Cobber Rogers, Mary-Anne Bowler, Mike Hutson and Paul Simpson.

Tom cracks it as an author

AMBER LILLEY

Former Kalgoorlie-Boulder local Tom Percy QC, one of the State's most high-profile lawyers, has released his debut novel, with the book's people and places inspired by past client experiences.

Mr Percy recently released his debut novel *The Curate's Egg* after spending 3½ years writing it mostly on planes in between his high-profile criminal cases.

He told the Kalgoorlie Miner at a book launch in Kalgoorlie-Boulder on Friday it was an honour to bring the book back the town he was born and raised in, and something he felt made the journey of writing the book complete.

The book follows a Perth man

whose life takes a crumbling turn after a trip to Sydney for the races leaves his personal and professional life up in the air.

Mr Percy said he was not sure at first where the novel was going to end up, but had a handful of issues in mind that he wanted to raise.

"A lot of people never come in contact with the criminal law system when they're completely not guilty, and this guy for one reason or another, he ends up in the position where he is charged with something that he never did and he has to deal with it in his own way," he said.

"I started writing it, I didn't know where it was going, (but) I knew the issues I wanted to raise.

It took me by the nose and led me down the track."

Mr Percy said the book came with two layers — one featuring a "cracking yarn" with a storyline to entertain readers, and another deeper level which calls into question elements of the criminal justice system.

"I've always wondered about the clients I have who are genuinely not guilty — not technically not guilty, not subjectively not guilty, but completely and utterly not guilty — and have to weave their way through the criminal justice system," he said.

"The devastation that brings on the individual, I wanted to portray that in terms that everyone could understand, and not a lot of

books that I know of have actually tackled that issue."

Mr Percy was born in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and spent his childhood years growing up in the Federal Hotel which was owned by his widowed mother.

He then moved to Perth for boarding school, before studying law and eventually returning to the Goldfields.

Mr Percy is also a well-known name in the racing, football and cricket scenes in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and across the State.

At the book's launch party on Friday evening, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Mayor John Bowler said the Goldfields had proudly followed Mr Percy as their own, and he had done the region proud.

"We see Tom as our boy. We followed his career when he first became a lawyer, he came back to Kalgoorlie and in a way it's probably the best thing that ever happened to him because of the range of law he had to experience and get across," he said.

"The reality is Tom rarely loses, (and) that's why he is continuously sought after by Goldfielders. Whether it's a parking fine, murder in the first degree or international drug cartels — anyone in Kalgoorlie gets Tom, and he will fix it."

Mr Bowler said he was not surprised to hear Mr Percy had "done it again" and wowed the world of literature with his debut novel.

Village at Leonora a step closer

TEGAN GUTHRIE

Leonora's \$4.5 million independent living village is a step closer to construction, with Majstrovich Building Company awarded the tender for construction works.

The project, jointly funded by the State Government and Shire of Leonora, will deliver eight modern independent living units, as well as a community hall, communal gardens and barbecues.

The selected company, Majstrovich Building Com-

pany, has strong ties with Leonora, having completed the Northern Goldfields Regional Offices and Administration Centre in 2017.

With a track record of engaging with local contractors on previous projects, Majstrovich Building Company will again maximise local content in the Ageing in Place project to ensure that economic benefits are retained within the Goldfields region.

Member for Kalgoorlie Ali Kent said the units would help residents to live inde-

pendently while accessing local and visiting support services.

Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTier said she looked forward to work getting under way in coming months.

"This project will go a long way in assisting with the demand for independent living units in the Northern Goldfields," she said.

"It will create a seniors' hub where both residents and community members can actively participate in village life."

BreastScreen bus in region

ELENA MORABITO

BreastScreen WA's mobile van will stop in Ravensthorpe for the first time in two years from March 30 to April 6.

BreastScreen WA medical director Elizabeth Wylie said the van, which was now in Esperance, had been travelling across WA for almost 30 years.

Dr Wylie said the van visited Esperance and Ravensthorpe once every two years, with the two-year interval matching the consistency at which women

should be screened if they were over the age of 50.

Dr Wylie said women as young as 40 were eligible to attend, but 79 per cent of all breast cancers occurred in women over the age of 50. She said the service was "very pleased" with the number of Goldfields-Esperance women taking part in the program.

"We just want to make our service as accessible and as client friendly, and safe and appropriate for women as possible," Dr Wylie said.

She said women who booked an appointment would be taken care of by all-female staff and receive X-rays which would be read by "highly experienced consultant radiologists" in Perth.

Dr Wylie said about 5 per cent of women would show an abnormality but only 20 per cent of those would turn out to be cancer or a precursor of cancer. The mobile clinic will be open in Ravensthorpe from 8am-4pm on weekdays from March 30 to April 6.