

Savvy speaking coach brings powerful voice

■ Zoe Keenan

Many people take speaking for granted but when a virus took away Lisa Evans' ability to hear and speak, she lost everything she held dearly.

After working as a midwife in neonatal intensive care for 20 years, an unidentified virus struck Ms Evans, destroying a significant amount of her hearing and, in turn, her ability to speak.

Her life turned upside down and she was forced to walk away from her beloved career.

But a turning point came when she was given the opportunity to participate in a research trial on cochlear implants.

Through vigorous rehabilitation, she learnt to hear and speak again in a different way and in turn regained confidence that she said she lost following the virus.

It was during this process of learning how to speak again that she became interested in speaking and explored the opportunities of a career in coaching.

"I thought I wanted to find a way of sharing and giving back," she said.

"I got the gift of the cochlear implant and wanted to give back by sharing my story and the power of voice and message."

Now, Ms Evans has been operating as a speaking coach and storyteller for 10 years and started her business, Speaking Savvy, five years ago. Next week, she will share her story and the importance of storytelling at the Kalgoorlie Women in Mining event.

Her presentation will explore the importance of storytelling with the aim of empowering and inspiring others and how to use storytelling to build a brand and make an impact.

"We live in a busy world with a lot of distractions and you need to be able to clearly and confidently articulate your message and values," she said.

"It's crafting a message in a way that's compelling and memorable, using persuasion and influence to get heard and get noticed.

"If you're not speaking effectively about your business, you leave money on the table."

The free event is at the Kalgoorlie Overland Motel next Friday at 5.30pm.



“I wanted to find a way of sharing and giving back.”

Lisa Evans

Feral pests action plan

■ Shannon Verhagen

The expansion of an invasive weed program and discussions over commercialisation of the camel are on the cards this year as the pests cause major damage across the Goldfields.

With the State Government this week announcing a \$2.8 million investment across 13 recognised biosecurity groups for 2019-2020, the Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association can budget for the year ahead.

With more than 1000 camels culled by the group this year, chief executive Michelle Donaldson said the group was in talks with Shires and the State Government over alternative solutions.

She said commercialisation of the camel, primarily for the meat industry, would be an ideal scenario but steps would need to be taken to ensure it would be viable and sustainable.

Mrs Donaldson said the cost associated with the damage caused by the beasts was "huge", especially after this year's dry summer had the animals invading stations all over in search of water.

"They cause pastoralists quite a significant amount of drama — they cause animal welfare issues as they're competing with livestock for water, and infrastructure damage if they can't easily access the water," she said.

"Water might be fenced off in yards or stock fencing, but when camels get thirsty they'll go through a fence or chew on a water pipe — they'll do the best they can to get to it."

Operating in Leonora, Menzies and Laverton, Mrs Donaldson said the group would also look to expand their invasive cactus work in the year ahead, and hoped to identify and target other infestations in the region.

"They cause havoc on wildlife and stock — it's terrible," she said.

"And it's spread by them as well on their fur."

Game over for retailer after shopping centre rent hike

■ Tom Zaubmayr

Esperance appears resigned to losing its video-game store, with EB Games announcing it will shut up shop at the Boulevard shopping centre premise.

EB Games has been unable to come to a new agreement with Esperance Boulevard owners Charter Hall for a new lease.

The Kalgoorlie Miner understands a rent hike was the key reason behind the closure.

Staff at the Esperance store were interested in finding another store to operate from, but have been unsuccessful.

EB Games employee Briannah Ripp said the closure had herself and colleagues concerned about their future in Esperance.

"We have been trying to move elsewhere, but it doesn't seem like that is going to happen, which really sucks because I love working here," she said.

"EB Games decided we wouldn't make any profit and it would be better to just shut the store. We were doing well, not amazingly, but we were surviving in this little town, where so many stores were

closing." Ms Ripp said staff were only given a few days notice of the lease expiry. An Esperance Boulevard spokesman said Charter Hall did not comment on individual tenants' circumstances.

The closure comes two months after Esperance's Civic Video closed its doors, citing the rollout of the National Broadband Network as the final nail in its coffin.



Esperance EB Games employees Monique Buckley and Briannah Ripp. Picture: Briannah Ripp

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