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Renewal for the Old Gaol

The curators of the Bridgetown Police Station Museum, Bridgetown Historical Society, Mary Elgar, Chairperson, Barbara Maher, Vice Chair, Lee Wittencoom, Lorie Marshall and Richard Allen together with ten members have all been working hard on a renewal project for the museum, which is located in the first Police Station and lockup on Hampton Street in Bridgetown. The building, built in 1880, is a Bridgetown heritage listed building.

The rejuvenation of the museum has culminated in a welcoming space in which visitors can learn something of the history of the indigenous people together with the colonial history, these histories are now recorded side by side.

The renewal was first sparked when Mary Elgar joined the society in 2015, and seeing the museum's possibilities and wanting to make changes she became the Societies Chairperson in 2017.

As a means of raising much needed funds for the Police Station Museum, Mary wrote a book 'A Mere Country Village' about Bridgetown's history and how a community was formed and grew. This publication was based on 43 oral histories that Mary gathered from present residents and other oral histories that were recorded in the 1960s, others in the 70s, these were then compiled with more recent stories about those groups that work quietly in the background, those that make a strong community, such as the Red Cross, CWA and Lions. These stories were then woven into a book celebrating the 150th anniversary of Bridgetown's gazettal. The proceeds of the sale of this book go to Bridgetown Historical Society for their work in the Museum.

Mary enthusiastically talks on the improvements made at the Police Station Museum, "We applied for grants to make the changes to the museum and received \$15,000 in grants from the State Heritage for the visual media installation and for the production of braille cards for the vision impaired visitors and Easy Read cards for visitors with low literacy skills and non-English speaking people to use, thus passing on an understanding of the history of Bridgetown. *Continued page 15*



Barbara Maher, Mary Elgar and Lee Wittencoom

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Life Membership Awarded

On Thursday 16th December 2021, a special luncheon was held to honour Joan Krauze with a Life Membership of the Bridgetown Art and Craft Centre. Joan is a founding member of the Centre since incorporation, and was one of the leaders in forming the centre and obtaining its current premises.

Over many years, Joan has been a mentor for other crafters in spinning, weaving, natural dyeing and she was heavily involved with the designing and making of the large tapestry at the entrance of the Shire Offices for the Bicentennial Year Celebration in 1988.

Members of the Craft Centre invited Joan to their final meeting for the 2021 year with a special Christmas spread and they presented a very surprised Joan with a plaque, a beautiful bowl of fresh garden flowers and a hand-crafted rug to honour the occasion.

The rug was made from Alpaca wool, spun and plied by Inica Sibbs, a member who has since passed away but whose craftwork lives on. The wool was then knitted into a lap rug by Bronwyn Mitchell, who joined the club on the same day as Joan. It was fitting gift coming from friends and fellow members of the Art and Craft Centre.

This Life Membership capped off a very productive year for the members despite Covid-19 restrictions and regulations.

The year began with the installation of new kitchen cupboards by willing volunteers. That was followed by a street stall at Easter in the Community Kiosk in the main street. The celebration of The 55th birthday of the Craft Group was celebrated in June by holding a 2-day Open Day on the long weekend in that month. This weekend was well attended by many locals and past members. Even the grandchildren of the original owners of the building returned to reminisce. The Centre was invited to present a display at the local Agricultural Show in November and had held stalls at both the Craft Fair in July and at the Leisure Centre and the Twilight Markets in December.

The creative, crafty members are often suggesting innovative activities and crafts to learn, they are keen to support community craft requests and enjoy displaying their latest creations. Residents or visitors to our town are always welcome to go along, share a cuppa and view the crafts at the Art and Craft Building on the corner of Steere and Barlee Streets in Bridgetown. The

general meeting day is on a Thursday from 10.30am to 1pm.



Art and Craft Members at their Christmas Function

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They are Loved

Read this and learn. Learn how important it is to let children in foster care know that it isn't only their foster parents who care about them, the community wants them to know they are loved.

For many years groups in the shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes have been making I Spy Quilts for these children. The group that has been meeting at the Family and Community Centre once a term has now been changed to once a month and the ladies would love to include newcomers. No one has to be a quilter, there are many jobs to do such as choosing fabric, cutting it to size, ironing the pieces so that putting them together is easier, or, making a cup of tea.

In April the first meeting will be on Friday 22nd starting at 9.30 am and stopping when everyone needs to go. Friday May 20th is the next session. Hope you can come.

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Joyce Zhou and Kai Laird

Kinderspiel Piano Duo

Kai Laird and Joyce Zhou will be performing a fundraising Piano Concert for 'Telethon Speech and Hearing's Loud Shirt Day' an event which will be held in St Paul's Church on the Monday 11th April at 5.45pm.

Kai and Joyce are both eight years olds who have been learning the piano for three years and, yes, they are both very talented.

Joyce's piano teacher and Kai's mother Beverly Chan gives some background into the event, "Kai is on the autism spectrum, he has been nonverbal since birth, so my husband Robert and I sought help from Telethon Speech and Hearing Institute.

The program combines highly specialised education and specialist health services to help develop speech and language skills through repeated opportunities to experience,



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explore and discover concepts vital for effective speech and learning. "Now that Kai completed Telethon's Talkabout program, he is able to express himself as any other eight-year-old can.

"This fundraising concert in which Kai and Joyce are performing is a way for us to give back to Telethon.

"From an early age Kai was drawn to music, his first language was expressed by playing music.

"He naturally took to playing the piano and taking lessons quite easily, because there were pianos in the house and I was a piano tutor. Robert, Kai's father, teaches Kai the piano now.

"Joyce is also one of my students and is the same age as Kai, they became best friends almost straight away.

"Joyce, like Kai is very talented; she also started playing at the age of five and, as it is with other dedicated musicians, most of her life revolves around her love of music.

"She searches 'You-tube' to watch videos of the piano pieces being played by other musicians, and is inspired to play as well as them and in this way, she is always improving. *continued page 4*



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30th year ... The Mailbag April 5th 2022 Page 3

Kinderspiel Piano Duo

Continued from page 3

They both initially will have solo performances at the concert. Then they will perform a series of piano duets. The music they will play tells a story which is told through the drama, rhythm and melody of music.

The story begins with Kai and Joyce walking through a forest, enjoying the bird song and the cool breeze. They see a mountain up ahead, and make their way towards it. They pass by a little cabin that is nestled deep in the forest.

When they arrive at the foothills of the mountain, it is serene and quiet. A beautiful lake lies beneath the mountain, and the water is peaceful and calm. All of a sudden, dark clouds appear and there is a crash of thunder and lightning! Kai and Joyce run towards the little wooden cabin for shelter.

The storm dissipates so they make their way out of the cabin. They stand by the lake and a beautiful rainbow appears. White butterflies are flying softly around them, and a flock of ducks is swimming on the lake in a row. The water is crystal clear, and they can see fish swimming.

All of a sudden, a big brown bear appears. Kai and Joyce run and hide behind the trees. They watch the bear silently as it lumbers towards the lake, and when it reaches the water, it begins to fish.

Once the bear disappears, Kai and Joyce come out of their hiding spot and rest by the lake. They hold hands and watch two white butterflies fly over the lake and into the distance.

Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$20. You can confirm your attendance with Chris Shedley by phoning him on 0467 054 503 prior to the recital, this is due to limited seating.

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TALISON – SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Talison is pleased to support community groups across the Shires of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Donnybrook-Balingup, Boyup Brook, Nannup and Manjimup in 2022, enabling organisations to host events, activities and projects or purchase equipment to make a positive impact.

These donations are administered by the Community Team through the Talison Sponsorship and Donations Programme and include in-kind assistance or a cash donation.

For further information contact the Community Team at Talison on GBContact@talisonlithium.com

Talison Supports Bushfire Recovery

The start of 2022 has thrown up some challenges for the Bridgetown-Greenbushes community with the February bushfire, which tore through more than 2,400 hectares in 24 hours, impacting on homes, property, businesses and recreation facilities.

During the height of the bushfires Talison was pleased to provide free accommodation and meals at its Worker Accommodation Camp for more than 150 firefighters as they fought to control the fires and then secure the ground in the days following the containment of the fire.

The large mining machinery was also called into action to create firebreaks or refuel fire-fighting equipment and water tankers.

One of the hardest hit recreation facilities in Bridgetown was the Bridgetown Golf Club which suffered the loss of its Clubhouse and a considerable amount of historical memorabilia along with damage to the course facilities.

The green shoots are now starting to appear on the course thanks to a roster of people hand watering the greens and fairways and assistance from the local Shire and volunteer bushfires brigades who loaned a 12,000 litre Fire Truck.



Mining machinery at the Bridgetown fire front in February

Importantly, club members have been able to return to playing, thanks to the donation of temporary ablutions and office space by Talison.

Bridgetown Golf Club President Bruce Pendlebury said it was important that the members could access the course and get back into playing as soon as possible after the fire.

"We wouldn't have been able to open up at all without ablutions so we really appreciate Talison stepping in with that and the office facility," he said.

Mr Pendlebury said the Club had been receiving donations from other clubs around the State including Carnarvon, Busselton and Margaret River as well as donations from local businesses who provided concrete and timber supplies.

Greenbushes Golf Club will host an auction at the Bridgetown Town Hall on 7 May 2022 from 7:30pm to raise funds for the Bridgetown Golf Club. Organiser Richard Walker said the Hall would be open from 12pm onwards for people to view the items prior to the auction commencing. See more details in this edition of the Mailbag for more information.



The new ablutions and office blocks arriving at the Bridgetown Golf Club.



Talison Safety, Environment Sustainability and Community Manager Bruce Vernon with Bridgetown Golf Club Secretary Alan Wilson with the new temporary facilities donated by Talison.

Talison Public Mine Lookout Reopening

Talison has sought and received an exemption from the Chief Health Officer enabling the Public Mine Lookout to re-open.

The Lookout was closed earlier this year when Talison was required to comply with public health orders to ensure that no unvaccinated person entered the mining operation.

Talison is pleased to advise that the Public Mine Lookout on Telluride Street Greenbushes will again be open to the public from 8am to 5pm daily from Monday April 4.



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A Need to Point Out Bad Behavior

The Granite Memorial located in the grassed area on the corner of Gifford Road and Forest Streets carries a dedication which reads, In loving memory of three young boys who died in an accident, and the father who gave his life trying to save them on Sunday 14th March 1954.

Further details are given, accompanied by some words from Jon Houston, **The Sacred Site**

Reposed in their solitude, by wooded stand befall
Honoured by the presence sculptured words recall

Where voices softly whisper like leaves upon the breeze
And memory paints the picture, the moment which to seize

They were friends of mine, in boyhood ventures gay
silenced in their youth, no more the game to play

Lynette Brittain who has lived close by for over five years witnesses every day that dogs being walked and exercised are peeing on the memorial. "Some pet owners are even leading their dogs to the site to pee.

"I find it totally disrespectful; the pet owners are oblivious to the meaning the memorial has to other members of our community.

"The pet owners who allow their pets to foul the site need to be pulled into line and be reminded that the memorial is not the right place for their dogs to relieve themselves.

"I am calling out this behaviour in the belief it may make some pet owners stop, think and change the place where their dogs are urinating.

"Some days the smell of urine is overwhelming."

Some dogs like to 'mark' everything. But a good tug on the dog's leash as he is thinking about doing it on this memorial will persuade the animal to change its mind, owners can then lead their pet to a tree with less meaning. It's believed lemon trees like to be peed on.

In some shires it's actually illegal to have pet dogs urinate or defecate anywhere.

In Bridgetown unfortunately, pet dogs can, and do pee just about anywhere, but if an animal poops anywhere outside its owner's property, then owners are legally required to clean it up.

Harcourts Bridgetown

By John Ranieri
0438 996 848



Real Estate Matters What will the market do?

Despite the incredible price and sales increase through 2021, Australians seem to remain quite bullish on the market's prospects in the short term.

This confidence seems to be generated from the remarkable resilience of the property market through the pandemic and many may feel that this is likely to continue with the easing of restrictions as Australia's borders have opened.

The recent *LocalAgentFinder Real Estate Sentiment Report* found that nearly one-third of all home owners – or 27 % feel that COVID's impact on their lifestyles had made them consider moving locations and almost three-quarters (74 per cent) agreed that there was a benefit from employees working from home. 36 per cent of home owners believe the current situation would continue to support property price growth.

However! Have we really factored in the Ukraine situation and increasing fuel and other living costs impacting the community. There is already pressure on inflation and likely to see an interest rate rise later this year. Will this have a balancing effect and slow the price growth? Get out your crystal ball!



Steve

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Volunteers Wanted

Geegeelup Village has developed from the modest beginnings of a couple of Apex units forty years ago, to the current state-of-the-art Aged Care facility that is here today, catering for the permanent care needs of up to 32 elderly Hostel residents from our community. This facility enables the elderly to remain close to their family, their friends and their community.

In the early days of Geegeelup hostel there was a cohort of volunteers who came under the banner of 'Friends of Geegeelup'. They would spend their time generously with the residents on a variety of different pursuits, from providing company to entertaining the residents.

Sean Mahoney, Geegeelup Village General Manager would like to welcome back these volunteers. Sean explains the duties expected of those taking part, "The volunteers can take part in a large variety of activities, according to their interests and strengths. The only restrictions are the capability of the resident.

"They can spend time sitting and talking with the residents which is always worthwhile, playing games of checkers, scrabble and cards are also favourites.

"Time can be spent with the residents in the gardens, everyone gets enjoyment from a story being read to them.

"Playing music accompanied with sing along is a fun activity. Participating in art and craft activities like crochet or knitting are also sought after activities.

"We don't expect any fixed or long term commitment to these duties from the volunteers, we would like the volunteers to spend what ever time with the residents they feel comfortable with at a time which suits them.

"Geegeelup is prepared to support and convene meetings with the volunteers.

"The reason why volunteers are needed is so the people who have grown old in this community are able to remain



Sean Manager, Bianca Volunteer and Brian resident

here in the midst of people and places they love, so as they grow frail and need care they can remain close to their family, their friends in their community.

"It is always evident that at the end of their scheduled time volunteers leave with a positivity at the difference they have made to someone's life.

"There are of course some requirements; the volunteers need to have been double vaccinated and also to have had a flu jab.

"A volunteer police clearance is also required, which Geegeelup will cover the costs involved in obtaining one."

Call Caroline, the Lifestyle and Wellbeing Manager on 9761 1366 or email: caroline.gardiner@geegeelup.com.au

Geegeelup Village will talk to everyone interested in any role who wants to join the most compassionate group of people in the Bridgetown-Greenbushes shire.

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Meet Smile Grow

Greenbushes Community Garden is situated along Blackwood Road in Greenbushes opposite the Exchange Hotel. The community garden has a mix of fruit trees, native garden and vegetable garden beds.

The garden comes under the governance of 'Grow Greenbushes Inc' and is on land donated by Talison.

The group has twenty members who gather to have a 'Busy Bee' every Tuesday between 9am and 10.30, there is also one monthly planning meeting.

Irma Lachmund is a spokesperson for the community garden and is delighted to talk about why the garden is working so well. "The garden produces a wonderful abundance of fruit and vegetables which is shared by members helping at the 'Busy Bee', with the excess being available to the community through the Road House in Greenbushes.

"Watermelon, apples and pears are now right to be harvested, with our winter vegetables now being sown and planted.

"The garden is always a hive of activity. The community garden is not only a place where we grow plants, fruits and vegetables it is also and more importantly a social group. Community morning teas are held on the third Saturday of the month, along with welcoming conversations it is also a good opportunity to meet fellow gardeners from the patch along with the opportunity in taking part in a seed exchange and produce swap.

"It's a place where our combined knowledge of what to grow, when to grow it, and what to look out for is readily exchanged.

"Workshops are also held, the last workshop was on 'How to make Lilly Pilly champagne, which was very interesting."

The community garden was given a grant of \$4,150 from the Department of Communities.

Community Services Minister Simone McGurk stated, "Community gardening is a great way to bring people together at a local level while creating beautiful green spaces we can all enjoy."



Irma talks about the improvements the grant will make, "The monies will be spent on a new design for parts of the garden, an improved outside meeting space and a fire pit, we are working towards a more natural looking, inclusive and accessible garden design.

"We are currently looking for input from our members and the wider community with good ideas and ways of improving the Garden.

"Membership of the Greenbushes Community Garden is open to Greenbushes and Bridgetown residents. We already have at least two members who live in Bridgetown. You are most welcome to come along to a Tuesday morning 'Busy Bee' when we can take you for a garden tour."

For further information Greenbushes Community can be contacted through email on greenbushescommunitygarden@gmail.com

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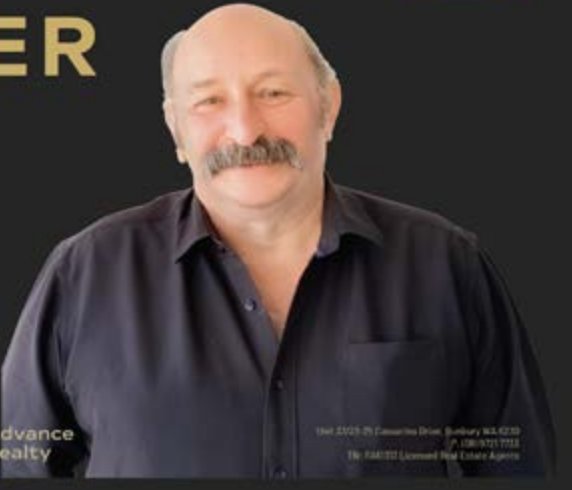

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Such a relief to have the cooler Autumn weather and colours to lift our spirits here in our beautiful southwest.

On March 20th we held an awesome Open Space on the topic of Sustainable Housing. With Covid restrictions in place, it was a full house and the owner builder speakers, Cam Barker and Geoff Bourgault did a fabulous job of sharing their sustainable building experience resulting with being either off grid or with minimal energy output. Iggy shared his experience of developing the Hempcrete business here in Bridgetown – proof in the pudding of the fire retardant qualities of dried Hemp blocks being unscathed in the formidable Hester fires. Wendy from Balingup talked about the concept of Cluster Housing, making housing accessible, achievable and eco-friendly.

Transition Bridgetown are not planning an Open Space for April as being Easter, Long Anzac weekend and school holidays, we thought instead to promote 2 other great Blackwood Events for the Earth that are happening this month.

On Sat 10th April the Greenbushes Community Garden is hosting a workshop on Hugelkultur – a technique that uses decaying wood and plant matter to become a raised bed for growing food.

Also on Sat 30th April, the Ashbil Community Garden will be running a workshop on Composting. If you've been to the Community Garden recently and seen how everything is powering out of the garden beds, you'll know that the compost recipe that is being made on-site is highly successful.

On Sunday May 22nd our Open Space will be on the topic of Alternative Housing Models, a follow up from the brief introduction given by Wendy at our March Open Space. We will have 3 fabulous guest presenters speaking on Co-operative Housing, Cluster Homes and Tiny Homes. All speakers will be from WA and will inform us of best sustainable practice alternatives as to how we can continue to house our people into the future.

The concern of housing for future generations is proving to be very much a priority that we at Transition Bridgetown want to explore and open up discussion for residents in our shire and with our shire.

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Bridgetown Lions

Skin Cancer Screening held on the 13th March was a huge success with 68 individuals scanned and a minimal number referred to doctor for further investigation.

For the Skin Cancer Screening Bus to visit our town and to supply this free service it's costs the Lions around \$7000 to run. There is also five travelling volunteers and volunteers from local Lions Club to help run this service.

The Lions cancer institute is raising funds for the replacement of the Lions Skin Cancer Screening Bus.

Bridgetown Lions organises this opportunity every two years. Thank you for all those who attended, making this a worth while cause.

ANZAC Day Services

Details of the Anzac Day Services being conducted at Greenbushes, Bridgetown and Balingup are:

Greenbushes: 5.45am Parade to form up at the RSL Hall on Blackwood Road, March to be led by the First Light Horse troop to the Cenotaph
6.00am Service commences
7.00am Gunfire breakfast

For further information, contact: Patrick Scallan at gnbushesrsl@westnet.com.au or phone 0427 643 508

Bridgetown:

9.30am Parade to form up at the Post Office carpark in preparation for 9.45am departure. March to be led by the First Light Horse troop to the Cenotaph in Memorial Park
10.00am Service commences

For further information, contact: Glen Norris at glennorris29@bigpond.com or phone 0438 611 628

Balingup Service: 10.45am Parade forms up at Birdwood Park and marches to the Cenotaph at the Town Centre on the South West Highway
11am Service followed by a sausage sizzle

For further information, contact: Patrick Scallan at gnbushesrsl@westnet.com.au or phone 0427 643 508

People attending Anzac Day Services are requested to comply with all COVID-19 restrictions put in place by the Western Australian Government and although they are outside events, wearing of masks would be appreciated.

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How might future farming put the minerals back in food?

(part 1) Adrian Williams

In earlier articles I showed that deficiencies in essential minerals in the diet increase the risk of contracting a range of non-communicable diseases – from Cardiovascular Disease to ADHD in children. I provided information that essential minerals in food have been declining, in some cases since the 1940s. Then I described research that has shown that the decrease in essential minerals in food can be associated with our modern food production systems that are supported by chemical fertilisers and chemical sprays. Farmers are the ones caught in the middle. In this article I discuss a future of more nutritious food production.

We grew food quite successfully without chemicals for around 10,000 years. Admittedly yields were generally lower and the appearance of produce may not have been what we are told we should expect today. But the nutritional content of food was generally higher. Farmers of old, and farmers in some parts of the world today, add livestock manure (and in some cases human waste) to the soil. Others make and apply compost. They know it helps to maintain soil fertility, and they are on the right lines. Today we know why. These practices stimulate the beneficial soil microbes.

Plant scientists are starting to think of plants not as a stand-alone life form, but as parts of a highly complex symbiosis between plants and soil microbes. And the story of the relationship between plants and soil microbes is as good as any science fiction. Plants produce sugars in their leaves through the process of photosynthesis. Those sugars are then moved around the plant and changed chemically to suit the plant's requirements. We now know that around 40% of the sugars are exuded from the plant roots into the soil. The type of sugar the plant exudes signals to the soil microbes what the plant requires (e.g., certain minerals, water). The sugars both signal and reward the soil microbes for providing the plant with what it requires. A handful of fertile soil contains about as many soil microbes (bacteria, fungi, protozoa etc) as the human population of the earth. So, the plant roots are surrounded by billions of beneficial soil microbes to assist the plant.

An important constituent of the sugars is Carbon. So, exuding sugars into the soil slowly builds soil carbon. Apart from the benefits to the atmosphere, increased oil carbon aids soil fertility and moisture holding capacity. All of that is important in our changing, drying climate.

Continued page 14

A Tale of Two Conferences

Bridgetown Historical Society will be involved in two important conferences over the next two years. In June this year the AMAgA (Australian Museums and Galleries Association) National Conference will be held in Perth 14-17 June: "Hear. Us. Now: Turning conversations into actions". Over four days more than 50 speakers will share their concerns for culture and call museums and galleries into action.

AMaGA 2022 will also address how global issues are impacting the Arts in Australia and consider how your local activities connect to the Indian Ocean Rim communities.

Our local Historical Society Chairperson Mary Elgar, together with Pibulum/Wadandi Elder and Custodian Sandra Hill, will present a paper under the theme Us: "Telling our story: our journey from exclusiveness to inclusiveness in Bridgetown Police Station Museum".

Bridgetown Police Station Museum now inclusively tells the story of people who lived in this region of the Blackwood Valley. In close liaison with Elder Sandra Hill, interpretive panels were written telling the Bibulum people's history of Country and the effects of white settlement on their lifestyles, alongside early white settlement and policing in Bridgetown. It was no small feat. Change is hard for any museum, and it requires patience for the community to accept and embrace the adjustments essential for inclusiveness. This presentation will explore the path taken by the Bridgetown Historical Society towards a contemporary, relevant museum.

Next year, in September 2023, Bridgetown Historical Society, as an affiliate of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, will host and present the RWAHS Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies. This will take place over the 1-3 September 2023. Generally, over 150 people attend.

This will require an enormous amount of planning and work, some of which has already started. We have had consultation with the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes and, heartened by their reliable support, will commence this task with enthusiasm. Needless to say, we will be calling for support from the wider Bridgetown community to help in this project and details will be provided soon as to how people can be involved on the sub-committee. Chairperson Mary Elgar will be addressing the Shire Council so Councillors can be well informed.

Mindful of the Covid-19 situation and restrictions that are currently in place plans may well be changed in the future. To that end, we all need to be flexible.

e: bridgetownhistory@iinet.net.com
m : 0487 592 704 Lee Wittenoom

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Show Talk Hello Everyone.

Having felt very protected in our State of WA since the Pandemic first began, we are now hearing of Covid in our local schools, workplace and Community. So far, the strain of Covid appears to be mild and we wish anyone affected, a quick recovery with no lingering symptoms.

Blazeaid vacated the grounds following the completion of their work renewing fences following the Bridgetown fires, and have moved on Southwards to the Denmark Area. We can be excused for thinking that Blazeaid only build fences where required, but as heard recently on the local radio, many people are traumatised by their loss which could include stock and buildings and don't know what to do or where to start. The experience of Blazeaid volunteers can be valuable in guiding them towards a plan and who they can contact for support and a willing listener, even if it is just someone to have a chat over a hot cuppa. All those who had fences renewed were invited to a get-together of greet and friendship at the Showgrounds with a lovely local CWA homemade hot meal and giveaways of the surplus unused fencing materials. One recipient commented it was greatly appreciated and how lovely the Blazeaid people were.

We then welcomed back the Australian Defence Force personnel who are currently camped at the grounds and conducting further Military training in the general Bridgetown area.

Injecting money back into improving the grounds and buildings is the major purpose of the Society. Among the current improvements, plans are being discussed and drafted to make the Junior Farmers Hall a more versatile space. Feedback from venue users has been very valuable in determining what is needed and the best approach.

We are taking very tentative steps towards planning this year's show, with further favourable changes to Covid restrictions hopefully on the horizon. The Royal Agricultural Society keeps us updated on Agricultural Show Covid requirements which so far, this year, has forced all the Show Societies to cancel their events. We can afford to wait another month before making a decision on how we can proceed.

Dog owners please note, the grounds are permanently closed to all dogs.

On Monday 7th March our Committee Member and Section B Horse Chief Steward Jeanette Newbold was laid to rest at the Balingup Cemetery. Paying tribute were her family, friends and on lead a beautifully attired Clydesdale and some ponies which all behaved impeccably. Jeanette's warmth, compassion and outstanding horse knowledge will long be remembered.

Our next Meeting will be the AGM followed by the Monthly Meeting to be held on Wednesday 13th April 7.30pm in the Presidents Room at the Showgrounds. If you wish to contact the Ag Society, Jo Moore can be contacted on 0437 602 836 or email info@bridgetownshow.com.au or follow us on Facebook 'Bridgetown Agricultural Show'



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It's Alive

My wife and I were on my mate's 11,000-acre farm enjoying a three month's holiday, I love farming, every aspect of it, the work isn't as much work as it was fun.

One Monday we were bringing a mob of woolly jumpers from one side of the farm to the other, seventeen kilometres in all, penning them in yards about the halfway mark to rest while we ate our lunch back at the main house, then going back after lunch to drive them the rest of the way to the home farm, then smoko.

After smoko, Greg said we needed to check the tractors and other machinery to see if there was any that needed servicing. "No everything was ok." So, we went and tidied the workshop. While we were flapping our gums I said, "The shed needs another workbench." Then I get a reply, "Yeah, that's your job for tomorrow." Great I should have left the brain switch off and mouth shut.

In the morning, we sorted out the material and bolts I needed, Greg went off to the top farm. The holding is made up of five small farms, as it was from the early days. As he was leaving, he yelled out, "A light over the new bench wouldn't go astray,"

"Yeah, you can go too," was my answer. Must learn to keep my bloody mouth shut. Lunch time came, Greg and I along with our wives had something to eat, then it was back to work. As Greg was leaving to finish what he had been doing, he said "The girls are going to Merredin, shopping, I'll see you at smoko."

With the bench finished, it was the new light next. I went down to the main switch board that controlled the lighting for the compound, workshop, machinery shed and the old house. I wasn't sure if it controlled the new house, all the lettering had faded long ago, so I just switched all the main switches

off. I fitted the new light and put the tools away, swept the floor, just as Greg came back. "That looks good, must be time for smoko."

I don't know why, neither of us smoked! Anyway, a billy of tea would be good so we went down to the main house. I noticed the bread maker in the kitchen was off, but with the red light on. Greg checked it; the dough was just sitting in the bottom of the bucket looking a bit flat. I told him "I switched all the power off when fitting the new light to make sure."

"Looks like there's no bread tonight, that will be ready for when the girls come home."

When I travel in our motorhome, cooking bread as we drive, with everything in the motorhome running on solar power, because of power fluctuations, at times the bread maker would switch itself off part way through the cycle, so we would put the bucket in the gas oven to finish baking the bread.

I told Greg what we did, so in the oven it went. After two cups of tea, he checked it only to find the dough had risen up over the edge of the bucket and was making its way down the sides, like some living slime. "It's alive" were the words he said, along with a few expletives. "Put it in the sink," I yelled "before it crawls out and lands on the floor."

When it cooled, we knew we were safe, "I think it's dead now" I said.

The girls got home soon after. Greg's wife, noticing the mess, asked "What happened to my pizza dough?"

With a bit of a laugh and an explanation, all was ok, "But no pizza tonight" was the response. Geez life can be hard sometimes.

Jack Barrie Bridgetown 2015

How might future farming put the minerals back in food?

Continued from page 12 The microbes can increase the amounts of essential minerals in the soil that are available to plants, including unlocking Phosphorus and making it more available.

Soil microbes even improve soil pH in the root zone. For more on this I recommend the excellent article by Dr. Christine Jones entitled 'Light Farming: Restoring carbon, organic nitrogen and biodiversity to agricultural soils'. It can be found on your search engine. Christine Jones is the Australian founder of 'Amazing Carbon'.

Most soil microbes are 'good guys' and need to be protected. Unfortunately, chemical farming' does just the opposite. For instance, when young seedlings of crop plants should be building their symbiotic relationships with the soil microbes, applications of pre-emergent weed killers reduce the soil microbe populations for six to eight weeks. Chemical fertilisers can have negative effects on the soil microbes. (Christine Jones again, 'Nitrogen the double-edged sword' on Google or YouTube.) Strands of fungi have been discovered to grow to over a kilometre long, able to transport minerals and water over a large area. Complete ploughing or rotavating chops these fungi to pieces. Another setback arises when the soil is left bare. This allows the sun's ultraviolet rays to kill soil microbes in the top few centimetres of soil. Keeping the soil covered with mulch, and systems of minimum- or no-cultivation are important moves in the right direction and are parts of the farming system called 'Conservation Agriculture' (CA).

Here I have covered some of the important rolls of the soil microbes and how to protect them. Next time I'll explain some of the ways we can stimulate those soil microbes to make soil more fertile.

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Renewal for the Old Gaol

Continued from cover

"We have also received two grants from LotteryWest, one of \$3,500 and another of \$15,000 for the audio push button installation."

In January 2020 Interpretive panels were installed in the museum. These panels tell the stories of the early settlement of Bridgetown, the interaction with the Indigenous people and their displacement from their country and traditions, and the history of policing in the town.

These panels can be found on the walls of the cells and rooms of the Police Station. Together with selected artefacts from the Bridgetown Historical Society's collection, these form a cohesive statement of the early history of Bridgetown's policing.

"The next stage in this journey was the installation of 'push button' audio and video mechanisms in September 2021, which when activated generates the voice of a Bridgetown resident telling a story from their life. These recordings have been taken from the many oral histories which are in the archives of Bridgetown Historical Society."

Another fund-raising initiative of the Society is to hold 'Ghost Walks' and 'Cemetery Walks' encompassing school group tours and private group tours.

"The ghost walks are held in winter because it gets cold, dark and spooky early. There are also actors from the Bridgetown Repertory Club who appear as Bridgetown residents from the past, making for a wonderful and surprising night.

"Our next cemetery walk will happen on 23rd April, close to ANZAC day, on this tour we will be visiting the graves and telling the story about those who have served our country."


One of the next major jobs for the Historical Society is to move the 'Orchard Display' which is in the Visitors Centre, to the display shed at the back of the Police Museum.

Bridgetown Historical Society has been the recipient of an inaugural award from the History Council of Western Australia, which was 'For the significant contribution to the understanding of local history in Western Australia'.

Bridgetown Historical Society was also awarded the 2021 Merit Award by the Royal Western Australian Historical Society for outstanding contributions to WA history through the renovation of its museum.

The 'Police Station Museum' is worthy of a visit, not only to witness the harshness of the conditions of the times but also to be thankful we were born into better time.

For further information you can contact the society on Mobile: 0487 592 704, Telephone : 08 9761 4236 or by email: Bridgetownhistory@iinet.net.au



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South West Communities Gather to Support Golf Club

The Bridgetown and wider WA communities have rallied strongly behind Greenbushes Golf Club auction fundraiser in support of rebuilding Bridgetown Golf Club clubhouse and undertaking course renovations needed as a result of the recent bushfire.

Businesses in town and across the South West have provided items for the auction with some items requiring reserve prices. Major items include Family Swimming passes from the Shire, motor vehicles from Manjimup Toyota (Hilux), Bunbury Mitsubishi (Mirage) and Bunbury Kia, a 3.6m Mobile Stock Ramp from Donnybrook Farm Services, a hand sewn quilt, electric golf cars and buggies.

Also available will be a range of South West golf club full and country memberships and playing packages, a variety of vouchers, clothing, beauty, fuel, etc, accommodation packages in Perth and throughout the South West, golf equipment, clothing, sticks, bags, etc, and supporter gear from WA's major sporting teams Eagles, Dockers, WACA, West Coast Fever, Glory and the Wildcats, small and large round bales of hay and a 2 hours service of icecream, ideal for a child's birthday party or a binge at home - all you can eat, from Tony Pratico.

There is a wide range of goods that should accommodate purchasers' preferences with winning bids likely to start at around \$10 into the thousands of dollars for major items.

This will be a real opportunity to save thousands of dollars on a new vehicle purchase. Intending buyers wishing to trade-in their current vehicle and arrange finance should contact dealers prior to the auction night to finalise arrangements. Vehicles are all brand new and come with regular vehicle warranties. Purchase can be negotiated prior to the auction.

The auction will be held in the Bridgetown Town Hall, situated on the corner Steere and Hampton Streets in Bridgetown on Saturday evening May 7. A small entry fee of \$5.00 person will include a raffle ticket with a major door prize of a \$500 hamper from Bridgetown 777 Pharmacy.

Nibbles will be provided at each table and a bar service with packaged alcoholic, including a range of wines and non-alcoholic drinks will be in operation - NO BYO. Empty wine glasses will be available for purchase. A light supper will also be provided with coffee, tea and hot chocolate available.

Prospective buyers can inspect the range of goods from 12.00 noon on auction day with first item being called at 7.30pm that night. All intending buyers will need to obtain a catalogue with identifying purchase number prior to making their first bid.

To assist participants making purchases EFTPOS facilities will be available on the night.

To comply with Covid-19 restrictions number of attendees may have to be limited, but these restrictions are soon to be changed. Persons will be required to wear face masks unless eating or drinking. Registration of patrons will be via auction buyer record and Safe WA app.

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