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April 4th 2023

VOLUME 31 NO: 7 ISSUE 330

THE MAILBAG

Printed and Published by M.P. & J. Krauze, The Quality Shop, 125 Hampton Street, Bridgetown W.A. 6255
 Telephone: 9761 1717 - Email: mailbag@bigpond.net.au - www.thequalityshop.com.au

Heritage Festival

The Bridgetown Greenbushes Heritage Festival will be celebrated from Monday 17th April to Sunday 23rd April.

The festival is being held in conjunction with Australian Heritage Festival that commences 10th April and runs to 14th May with the theme of 'Shared Stories'.



Bridgedale House



Uniting Church



St Paul's

Karen Hill, Manager Visitor Servicing at the Tourist Centre gives us a guide to the week's activities, "We are encouraging all local residents as well as the tourists to take full advantage of what is on display.

Bridgetown itself is special, it being the only Heritage listed town in the south west, so there will be a lot to see and do, plus many a Devonshire tea to try.

Monday to Saturday of the festival the Police Station Museum will be open from 10am to 1pm, with free entry, with stories from early Bridgetown.

Bridgetown History Walks are holding a guided walk each afternoon starting at 11am. These will be at half price for the week, bookings essential.

The two iconic churches of the town will also be opened, Saint Paul's Anglican Church on the 19th April with viewing from 4pm to view the magnificent sculptural pieces within the church that were created by Bridgetown's master craftsman Gordon Holdsworth, followed by a Gospel Singalong with Mary Myfanwy and Daun Crozier at 5.30pm.

Then on Sunday 23rd April, 10.30am – 11.30am, the Uniting Church will have an Open Morning after their regular Sunday service. This is where you can step inside the oldest surviving church in Bridgetown and a former Methodist Church, constructed of local stone in a Federation Gothic style. Morning tea will be available, all are welcome.

'Bridgedale House' will hold an Open Day on Friday 21st April... *Continued page 14*



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Dr William Michael Dewing

Local Doctor recognised with Health Excellence Award

Dr William Michael Dewing was recently awarded the WA Rural Health Excellence GP of the Year Award.

The awards were hosted by Rural Health West and WA Country Health Service on Saturday 11th March. The annual WA Rural Health Excellence Awards recognise and acknowledge the vital role health professionals play in WA rural communities.

More than thirty health professionals and health teams were recognised for their incredible achievements and contributions.

Mick Dewing was given the award for his service to the Bridgetown and Blackwood region as a general practitioner (GP) and obstetrician for the past 45 years. Only recently has he stepped down from the roster for after-hours emergency hospital cover and has only recently retired from obstetrics.

Michael and Jenny Dewing moved to Bridgetown with a six-month-old baby in 1978 to start a new life. Mick reflects on how it all came about, "Why we choose Bridgetown was quite serendipitous. While I was working at Princess Margaret Childrens Hospital I started treating a young girl from Bridgetown who had a referral letter from her doctor, a Nigel Jones.

"The letter's professionalism and caring manner caught my attention, so I noted the address and later that day I wrote to Nigel asking about a position in Bridgetown. I got a reply the next day, as he was keen for me to join him in Bridgetown.

"Even though it sounds like I acted on a whim, Jenny and I had for a long while been coming to the south west on weekends for bush walks, canoeing and camping, and we both had a desire to live in a rural community.

"Jenny and I, with our four children have all thrived living in the south west. ...Continued page 15

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park at their property on Dreyfus Street in Bridgetown to house and display Kim's latest contemporary work. On display now are over thirty sculptures.

The sculptures Kim has produced over the years have been a mix of different materials, ranging from works in bronze, concrete, resin to remnants from the bush.

Kim has recently finished a sculpture design in concrete of a 'money frog'. This sculpture will be used as an honesty box for when visitors come to view the garden, with the frog being a depository in which they can leave a cash donation after enjoying the sculptures in his Sculpture Garden.

During the Open Studios Art Trail the gardens and studio will be open, with an artist on hand, from 10am till 5pm from 1st to 16th of April.

The garden will then be opened to the public to view as they wish. A solar light system has been set up so the sculptures are lit up at dusk, giving the park a whole different atmosphere.

The sculpture park is continually growing and developing, along with Kim's need to be creative.

Sculpture Park

As part of the Open Studio Art Trail, Kim Perrier Sculpture Park will be open for viewing along with works from Bridgetown artists Emily Smith and Margaret Rothery.

Margaret Rothery, who is now in her 90s, has taken up sculpting horses over the last few years and then having them cast in bronze.

Also on display is Kim's latest award-winning sculpture which he entered as part of the 2023 Dunsborough Arts Festival, in the Sculpture by the Bay competition held over the long weekend in March, winning the People's Choice Award with his statue 'Freedom'.

Kim and Marie Perrier have been developing a sculpture



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Bridgetown Historical Society

Our Christmas stall was a great success. Thank you to all those who bought raffle tickets, biscuits, muffins, chutney, jam, books or just came down for a chat. We raised \$613 for BHS work and activities.

The Community Kiosk is a most useful shopfront arrangement for community use. Thank you to the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes for providing this resource.

...continuing Grace Wilkins recollections of early life in Bridgetown she describes how her mother made bread for their family "she made the bread in a brick oven which was built outside the house. She built a really big fire in the oven, let it go out, cleaned out the ashes, had the bread ready to put in (a dozen loaves at a time) and left in the oven for one hour. I remember it was beautiful bread about three times a week, we were a big family."

Having got the shape of your oven, you have only to continue to build with mud till the whole is covered by a foot of mud.

A piece of old tank or any curved iron placed over the oven and secured there will protect it from rain, etc.



Finished Oven

When it has set for two or three days or less in the summer, remove the sand by way of the door and put a slow fire inside; this will burn the box out and harden the inside.

Keep a slow fire in it all day if possible. Your oven will be ready then for your first batch of bread. A piece of iron cut to size of door will serve to keep in the heat.

Interaction with the local Indigenous tribe was part of life for the family.

"Dad used to shear the sheep and take the wool to Bunbury to barter for the provisions. No money changed hands. The captain would take the wool on exchange for provisions. Dad also used to take palm wool and charcoal to Bunbury for the aborigines who camped near our farm and bring back tea, flour and tobacco for them. They used to scrape the wool from the back of the leaves of the palms, then bag it ready to sell."

Grace recalls..." the aborigines used to camp by the river and roam through the bush and help Dad at times. They were quiet and Mother liked them. She said she never felt frightened when she was there on her own. They always cooked their food in the ashes of the fire."

Noting the importance of the Blackwood River to the early settlers..." "In those days everyone settled on the river because of the water. Continued page 14

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Saving Energy, Money and the Environment Mike Kaye

Renewable energy is a clean and reliable solution that provides abundant energy and reduces pollution and carbon emissions. However, before we begin to make major changes to our energy infrastructure, the first step is to approach energy efficiency on a local and personal level. We can make simple, affordable changes to our habits, homes and businesses that provide environmental benefits while saving money on energy bills.

A Negawatt is a terminology coined by Amory Lovins, an American writer, physicist, and scientist. It is defined as a unit of energy saved as a result of conservation measures such as reducing the use of heat or electricity. An example of this is LED lighting that uses a fraction of the energy and has a lifespan of 50,000 to 100,000 more hours than an incandescent light globe. This also applies to habitual changes.

My family and I have lived off grid for 6 years now and in order to maintain abundant energy supplies overnight, we use timers and automation to run our energy intensive appliances like our dishwasher, washing machine and hot water system during the day.

When you buy any of these appliances, check that they can be programmed or even better, can be controlled remotely to turn on and off at set times. With old appliances or appliances that don't have this facility, you may be able to control them with a plug-in timer or get an electrician to put a timer in your switchboard. A great solution is to have the ability to control these devices with Smart Home control system software like Home Assistant.

Jim Dixon is the brain behind BET – Bridgetown Energy Transition. He has had over 50 years' experience



Jim Dixon and Mike Kaye together with an EV which is becoming more and more a common sight

in electrical, mechanical and water engineering and is a passionate advocate for Bridgetown and Greenbushes clean energy future. Jim has conducted around 80 appraisals on local properties and has facilitated the installation of over 250Kw of solar panels. He operates using the gift economy and all donations made help to support Transition Bridgetown. Jim spoke to me regarding maximising the use and return on properties with solar.

“Use as much as you can during the day. If you have an existing resistive water heater, fit an element that can be driven by solar with a timer so it doesn't reheat at night. That saves you 30% on your electricity heating costs to start with, which is usually 40-50% of your total power bill. Even if you haven't got solar, install a timer so it doesn't reheat at night, that saves you 15% off your power bill.” ... *Continued page 14*

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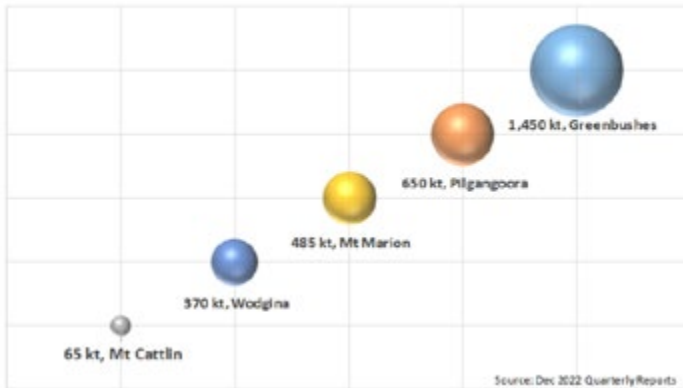
March saw the completion of the Community Bowls in Balingup with a “fun night” to close out the schedule. A big thank you to the organisers of the event. Whilst not in any way being a contender for the winning team both Talison teams thoroughly enjoyed the community spirit and camaraderie that comes with rolling a few bowls down the rink of a balmy summer/autumn evening.



Sad to see the departure of Dom and Mary Iacopetta from Greenbushes after 5+ decades of their involvement with the town. Their community spirit and willingness to get stuck in and give of their time was of the highest order. I personally wish Dom and Mary all the best on their new and exciting adventure and am sure that they will not be lost entirely to Greenbushes.

I was privileged to present, on behalf of Talison Lithium Pty Ltd (Talisson, Company), an overview of the Greenbushes Lithium Operation (Site, Mine) and its importance in supporting the global clean energy transition to the Regional Australia Institute Regions Rising Western Australia conference held in Bunbury during March. Fair to say that most attendees at the conference had little idea as to just how important the Mine is. The Mine’s output is almost equal to the output of all the other major lithium producers in Western Australia (see Figure below) and clearly demonstrates that Talison is the Leader in Lithium.

Annualised Spodumene Concentrate Production



The Site had the opportunity to host members of the Talison Board of Directors (Board) and Executive Management Team during March as part of the annual Board meeting calendar. Site personnel were able to provide an overview to the Board on community and safety initiatives implemented during the 2022 year and to outline plans for the 2023 year. Following on from the visit, the Site Community Team made a submission to the Board seeking a significant increase in Talison’s Community Investment Programme (CIP) which I am happy to report the Board was amenable to support, so I look forward to Talison’s Community Team continuing to engage collaboratively with Local Governments and community groups for the betterment of people living within the South West.



Was great to be able to celebrate Harmony Week during March with employees across the Site. Harmony Week recognises and celebrates our collective diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. Cultural diversity is at the heart of who we are as a Nation, with over half of Australians being born overseas or having at least one (1) parent born overseas. Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, from the traditional custodians of the land to our most recent arrivals.



Harmony Week being celebrated across site

Talison's Community, Sustainability and People & Culture teams came together to develop Site wide recognition of this important week. During the week, staff were encouraged to wear orange where possible and appropriate as a way of recognising and celebrating Harmony. The team also arranged for Mr Soft N Scoop (i.e. Tony Pratico) to travel around Site to hand out free ice creams to all staff and contractors during the week. Why ice cream you may ask - because it is a delicacy that is beloved by individuals of diverse ages, ethnicities and upbringings. With a history dating back over 2,500 years, ice-cream is consumed by individuals in nearly every country around the world, signifying unity in diversity and shared joy.

A big shout out to one of Talison's own – Jamie Kennedy, as she bravely sat down for the 'Greatest Shave'. Jamie decided to participate in the Greatest Shave to raise funds for the Leukemia Foundation. It was fantastic to see such a large crowd of colleagues and friends squeeze into the Shamrock to witness the clippers in action. Blood cancer presently affects over 135,000 Australian families, and 2023 marks the 25th anniversary of the Greatest Shave.



Jamie Kennedy and colleagues at the Shamrock post 'Greatest Shave'

Jamie's fundraising goal of \$2,500 was not only met but exceeded, with a grand total of over \$3,300. This amount will contribute to funding crucial research that will help more people survive blood cancers and improve their quality of life. I congratulate Jamie on this truly remarkable achievement!

The roadworks upgrade to Stanifer Street between the South Western Highway and Greenbushes is taking longer than expected and some wet weather is not helping the cause. Traffic Management will continue to limit light vehicle traffic along Stanifer Street during the day whilst the works are being undertaken.

Congratulations to the following employees who all achieved a five (5) year service milestone at Site during March: Kyle Abbott, Nathan Armstrong, Peter Brookes, Steve Dowling, Andrew Giblett and Andrew Payne.

Talison is pleased to be able to continue to support community groups with the following donations/sponsorships approved during February with cash or In-kind donations:

- Balingup Progress Association for launch of the Balingup Arts and Culture hub;
- Boyanup Bowling Club;
- Bridgetown Agricultural Society; and
- Greenbushes Community Garden.

Garden Sculptures

Father and son, Ron and Brad Edwards, have come back to the south west after a long and busy life working in the mining industry which has seen them working around the world.

Their involvement with mining consisted mainly of supplying and building processing plants for tin, tantalite, gold and diamonds.

Whilst working in and around South Africa they formed firstly a friendship then a partnership, with 'Richard' (Taaafi), a talented metal worker who produces garden sculptures of animals using mild steel.

Since their involvement with Richard, importing his sculptures into Australia, Richard's own business has grown and he now employs around thirteen locals from his village. This partnership is generating not only wealth for his community but is fostering skills with metal fabrication within the village.

Ron Edwards talks about this venture, "The metal animal sculptures are very impressive, we have an elephant and rhinoceros which face out from our business on the corner of Roe Street and Bunbury Street, near the Primary school, which always has heads turning.

"The business has now been opened for eight months and we are really happy with its success.

"Richard makes any animal to order, and we have a lot on order; kangaroos, frill neck lizards and emus are very popular. The metal can be left in its raw state with an ever-growing patina or it can sealed.

"The other part of the business is collectables, which we gather from garage sales and farm clearances: it's the stuff some farmers have stored in their sheds over the years, equipment and tools which had become superseded over time but was considered too good to be thrown out and was therefore was stored. These items have now become wonderful and 'must haves' to a whole new generation, and with the demand, some items have become very valuable."

Brad Edwards goes onto explain, "The business is where



Ron and Brad Edwards with Miner Sculpture

Bridgetown Landscaping once was. We have plans to grow and expand the business, the property goes from Bunbury Street right through to Rose Street on the southern side.

"We are currently housing Warren Bus Service buses; plans are underway to make a new parking area near the Rose Street entrance.

"The bus shed will then become a new display area for the collectables.

"The goods we have are a mixture of delightful items for the garden and a growing assortment of Collectables.

"Enamelled cast iron cooking pots, old signs, film



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WHERE THE LOCALS MATTER

cases, it's a collection which just needs to be seen to be believed.

"We have been growing the business by attending local shows, markets and events like the Blues to showcase our wares.

"Setting the business up in Bridgetown gave us a feeling like we were coming home: Ron went to high school in Denmark, I also visited Bridgetown in my youth for experience in a horticultural course I was completing and I'd liked living in Bridgetown."

This is a new business venture which can only be good for the town.

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ANZAC Day Services

Details of the Anzac Day Services being conducted at Greenbushes, Bridgetown, Balingup and Boyup Brook 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 followed by a Gunfire breakfast

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 followed by light refreshments

Balingup Service

10.45am Parade forms up at Birdwood Park and marches to the Cenotaph at the Town Centre on the South West Highway

11.00am Service followed by a sausage sizzle

Boyup Brook

The Returned & Services League Boyup Brook Sub-Branch extends an open invitation to everyone to attend the ANZAC Day Commemoration Services on 25th April.

The Dawn Service commences at 5.30am at the War Memorial (Abel Street), followed by a Gunfire Breakfast in the Boyup Brook Town Hall for a gold coin donation.

The Morning Service commences at 10.45am at the War Memorial. Ex-servicemen and emergency services workers and volunteers are welcome to march, please assemble at 10.15am outside the old Commonwealth Bank site located on Abel Street. Morning Tea is available on completion of the service at the Boyup Brook Town Hall.

For further information on Greenbushes and Balingup Services please contact Patrick Scallan at gnbushesrsl@westnet.com.au or phone 0427 643 508

For further information on Bridgetown Service please contact Glen Norris at glennorris29@bigpond.com or phone 0438 611 628.

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Transition Bridgetown

The Transition Towns movement works to support community groups to advance an ecologically regenerative and socially just future by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, building community and finding local solutions to global problems.

Here at Transition Bridgetown, we have just had the privilege of putting this philosophy into action with the Regen Fest Taster held on Sat 25th March at the Ashbil Community Garden. Together with other local groups who advocate regenerative practices, we had a really fabulous time displaying local, sustainable, low emission and low waste practices, presentations and demonstrations.

We used our Wash Trailer for the first time at the Regen Fest to accommodate the low-waste theme. With reusable, washable plates, cups, cutlery and fabric napkins there was absolutely nothing to dispose of other than a few washbowls of hot biodegradable soapy water.

The Wash Trailer is completely self contained, includes many extras such as trestles, a gazebo, signs, tea towels etc. You name it – it has it! And it will be available to community groups for local events in the very near future. Please email transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com for further information.

In addition, we had a mini Waste Station operating on the day. With no general waste bins provided, it was stipulated that those attending would need to take any general waste home with them – it worked a treat! The hens and the compost bin had some great vegie and food scraps but very little other items to be recycled.

From a large awareness display of Plastic Pollution through to miniature goats, practical cottage industry workshops, soil health, growing food and firewood, holistic community development and a giant tomato pinata, there was something of interest for everyone! The local fresh gourmet food wrap stall of mainly organic produce was a big hit too.

It really was a fabulous morning! Big thanks to all the representative from the groups who combined to form Blackwood Events for the Earth and coordinated this event. Thanks also to the Bridgetown Hub for support and administration.

Our next Open Space will be on "Holistic Community Development" by Jim Iffe. Jim spoke at the Regen Fest and the message is simple and inspiring. We will have the opportunity to discuss how we are going here in our little towns with our holistic approach to development.

Sunday 23rd April 4.30-6.30pm at the Bridgetown Pottery. The Conservation Council of WA visited Bridgetown last week to discuss with various groups in the southwest, how they could better support and highlight their priorities and campaign strategies. If you would like further information about this, please contact Lisa on 0414 550 025.

And finally, a boost for your compost bins and/or worm farm! Happy Autumn to all.

Check out the Transition Bridgetown facebook page for more detail or email transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com



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Show Talk

Hello Everyone; The Downunder Country Music event was very well patronised and many who camped at the grounds commented on how much they loved spending time and money in our little shops. Even the Op Shops were visited as the weather turned out to be a little colder than some of them anticipated and jumpers and coats were a hot item. It was a pleasure to have them visit and they left the grounds very clean.

Next Event: Festival of Small Halls - The best folk and contemporary music hits the road and rolls into Bridgetown on Saturday, 22 April 2023 with Colin Lillie and Iona Fyfe. Iona is from Scotland and Colin (The Gypsy Scotsman) resides in the Northern Territory

Opening the show will be local act The Sisters Of Com. Talented Bridgetown Siblings, Mary Myfanwy and Esther Victoria, are regular favourites at southwest festivals, gigs and community events.

The Festival of Small Halls Australia Autumn Tour event will be held in Centenary Hall at the Showgrounds. This is a super family friendly event.

Meals will be available at the Hall from 5pm, catered by Bridgetown Agricultural Society. There will be delicious hot soup in a cup, sausage sizzle, cake stall, tea & coffee and soft drinks, BYO alcohol. The Show will start at 5:30pm through to 7.30pm.

BYO camping chairs or picnic rug and cushions (it is a cement floor in the hall so don't forget the cushions!!).

Details and to purchase your tickets head to <https://festivalofsmallhalls.com/bridgetown-2023/> Tickets are also available from Bridgetown Newsagency. There will also be raffles including two of the prizes being a beautiful handmade quilt and a bottle of Blackwood Valley Distillery Cripps Pink Gin. If you require further information contact Hayley at the Newsagents. We are super excited to host this wonderful night of entertainment and we hope you can all join us.

Our next Meeting will be the AGM followed by our General Meeting held on Wednesday 12th April, 7.00pm start in the Presidents Room at the Showgrounds. If you would like to know more about the Committee or the Agricultural Society's role in the Community, contact mob. 0437 602 836 or email: info@bridgetownshow.com.au website address is www.bridgetownshow.com.au

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Thank you, Dr. Mick Dewing



Sometimes it is difficult for an organisation, and perhaps even an entire community, to find the right words to express gratitude and appreciation for a person's life work. Geegeelup Village Inc. finds itself in this situation with the question of how to acknowledge the time and effort brought by Dr. Dewing to Geegeelup and its residents over the years.

Maybe we just say the words: thank you, and hope that Dr Dewing can accept this inadequate attempt as a genuine effort to say just that, thank you.

We are not alone: Dr Dewing was recently awarded the WA Rural Health Excellence GP of the Year Award!

Geegeelup has evolved over many years into a wonderful and modern Aged Care Facility and Retirement Village, full with appreciative residents and dedicated staff. Most of this time Geegeelup has been under the watchful eye of Dr Dewing who to this day comes in for weekly rounds, supporting, advising and encouraging everyone involved.

He was an inaugural member of the Geegeelup Village Aged Care committee and has been its chairman for 40 years. It is a community managed not-for-profit and it recently completed an eight-million-dollar expansion.

We are pleased Dr. Dewing's work in Bridgetown has been recognised with this award and hope that the Bridgetown-Greenbushes community thanks Mick just as much as all the people involved with Geegeelup Village over all these years have.

Sean Mahoney, General Manager, Geegeelup Village Inc.



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ZERO

Easter is a time when our roads are extremely busy, whether it be visiting friends or family members, travelling to and from sport, taking advantage of a long weekend and having a short holiday - whatever the reason, our roads will be busy.

In the lead up to Easter the Shire's Roadwise Group participated in the 'Blessing of the Roads' ceremony.

By participating in the Blessing of the Roads campaign, Roadwise is trying to contribute to reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured during the Easter break by raising road safety awareness.

What we as a community don't want is for drivers to engage in risky behaviour. Instead, we want them to plan ahead if drinking; arrange a skipper, take public transport if you are in a city, or stay overnight. Most of all, please be patient whilst driving. Buckle-up, don't be distracted, enjoy your drive and arrive safely a



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31st year.... The Mailbag April 4th 2023 Page 13

Saving Energy, Money and the Environment ...Continued from page 5

Jim also had advice on aging rooftop hot water systems which are nearing the end of their lives. "Put solar on your roof and fit an efficient heat pump instead, you end up paying less money in the first place and you generate your own power to use all the time the sun's shining.

"Electricity is never going to get cheaper so if you're going to get a new air conditioner go for something that will cost \$500 more, but uses \$1000 a year less in electricity so it pays for itself in six months easy. I worked with a lady who replaced a 5kW air conditioner with a 600W air conditioner that does the same job."

Well designed and insulated solar passive homes are optimal but we can also make inexpensive retrofits. Installing ceiling and wall insulation, sealing gaps in doors and windows and fitting curtains or blinds with pelmets or external shade blinds can have significant effects on our comfort levels. Well insulated homes also require less energy to heat and cool. Some measures require active management. In summer, opening windows overnight when outside temperatures are lower and closing windows in the morning before it gets hotter is a great method for reducing the use of air conditioning.

Jim uses a laser thermometer to show people the significant differences in temperatures caused by drafts from air vents in homes. "You can get draft excluders, they make a massive difference to your air conditioner load. As the roof space gets hot, the air expands and pushes it down into your house. The same in winter, you get a massive heat loss. If people say they can feel a draft along the floor, I put a tea candle on the floor in a saucer, watch which way the flame is moving and move it around to find the source of the draft. It's really simple, but it just takes that little bit of time. New windows don't have air vents in them because they allow cold air to come inside and run up the window causing condensation. If you're in an older house with vents in the windows, you can use some plasticine to fill them up, it stops the source of draft. It's the same with doors, draft sealing, it's available in all sizes, the amount of difference you can make is amazing."

We can all make small, personal changes to reduce our energy consumption which can make a big difference on a community level. If you would like Jim to conduct an energy audit on your home or business contact bridgetownenergytransition21@gmail.com or give him a call on 0497 557 646.

This article has been prepared on behalf of the Sustainability Advisory Committee. If you have any queries on its contents please contact committee member Mike Kaye on 0424257585

Bridgetown Historical Society ...Continued from page 4

You had to cart water from the river but later there would be a tank at the house. Washing was a big job for my mother. We had a copper set in the stones in the yard and galvanised iron tubs and she used to scrub the clothes till they were perfectly clean and there were lots of clothes for a big family."

Thank you to Grace for her recorded memories, conducted by Dallas Chevis.

They were part of the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Oral History Project for the Bicentennial Heritage Programme in 1987. Lee Wittenoom BHS

Heritage Festival ...Continued from cover,

...from 10am to 3.30pm with free entry. You will be able to see inside the oldest building (1862) in Bridgetown and hear the stories of the past and present uses of the buildings and beautiful gardens. The Bridgetown Urban sketchers will be on the grounds and invite the public to come and have a go at sketching.

Of course, there is a lot more being celebrated, there is 100 years of the CWA Bridgetown Branch being open, over fifty-seven years of the Bridgetown Art and Craft Centre along with 'potted history from Bridgetown Pottery Restaurant, and Ford House circa 1896 will be holding a guided tour on Sunday morning. At the Bridgetown Library a special 'Rhyme Time' will be held on Wednesday.

Greenbushes is holding a Mining Heritage Festival. Here you will be to explore the history of the first tin mining town of Greenbushes. There will be ambles, walks, displays and mining activity-type skills competition.

Greenbushes is where tin was first discovered in Western Australia in 1886 and mined in 1888. There will be free entry to the Discovery Centre and activities at Heritage Park, Greenbushes.

The CWA Greenbushes Belles will also be celebrating their history on the Saturday between 10am – 2pm, serving up an 'Old Time Tea' in the Garden, in traditional attire using tested CWA Recipes.

Donnelly River will also be on display with Sharing Our Stories: A Kid's View; Growing up at Donnelly River, a WA Timber Mill Town. All are welcome to come and visit the Friends of Donnelly Village Museum on Monday 17th and meet Tim and Kathleen Larsen who spent time at the Donnelly as kids when their dads worked at the Mill. Gold coin donation entry.

There is also a must see for all little treasure located inside the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Visitors Centre. The Brierley Jigsaw Gallery, with free entry to the gallery for one day, 22nd April from 10am to 2pm.

Learn all about the history of Jesse Brierley and the gallery from volunteers. The gallery houses some of the world's largest and smallest jigsaw puzzles and features the new collection on display the 'Descendants' collection. The gallery is thought to be the largest collection of its type in the southern hemisphere. The Visitors Centre will also exhibit historic displays on the day."

For further information on the Heritage Festival call the team at the Bridgetown Greenbushes Visitors Centre on 9761 1740 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf or www.bridgetown.com.au for event links.

Foster Care

Television frequently reminds us how many children are in foster care. For nearly twenty years two groups in Bridgetown have been making special quilts for these children to let them know that the whole community, in any town, cares about them.

These quilts are made so that the children can play "I Spy" with them, which either entertains them or helps them to make friends by inviting other children to play "I Spy". Because so many people have left town both groups are looking for more helpers.

A person doesn't have to be a quilter, bags are needed for the quilts, or, a person can help choose appropriate fabrics (or just make the tea). One group meets at the Hub (formally the Bridgetown Family and Community Centre) at the corner of Steere and Roe Street (opposite Mitre 10) and the other group meet at the shire Bush Fire Control Centre. For information about meeting dates please phone the following numbers. The hub 0497612139, the threads of friendship group president Julia 0411046535.

Local Doctor recognised with Health Excellence Award

Continued from page 2

“The community is friendly and welcoming. The aesthetic of Bridgetown is wonderful, and as it turned out, it was the right place for my career.

“From those humble beginnings the Bridgetown Medical Group developed and now has three partners and eight doctors working in practice. “While some towns are struggling to attract a doctor, we have endeavoured to make our practice a place in which doctors like to work; it’s an accomplishment of which I am proud.”

Mick is also a passionate community advocate; he has served a couple of terms as a Shire Councillor, and he was an inaugural member of the Geegeelup Village Aged Care committee and has been its chairman for 40 years.

“When I was on the Council the main bone of contention then was the Bridgetown ‘Bypass’. I am still glad the bypass was never built as the highway running through our town makes Bridgetown a destination.


“Being on the Board of Geegeelup Village has meant I have worked with a lot of terrific community members. Aged care has changed enormously over that time providing huge challenges, but equally great rewards.”

Mick has been an enthusiastic teacher of medical students throughout his career, including through the newly established Rural Clinical School in Bridgetown.

His active lifestyle also continues; Mick competes each year in the Blackwood Marathon Relay as a canoeist.

He also participates in, and was on the inaugural organising committee to establish, the Tour of the Blackwood cycling event and completed the 63km ride this year.

“One of the most endearing aspects of the award has been the response to the award from my grandchildren, Mick thoughtfully explains, “They asked me ‘Because you have now become famous, does this award make all us Dewing’s famous as well?’”



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Repairs to St Paul's Church

Adrian Williams

We have the pleasure to live in one of Australia's few Heritage Towns, surrounded by iconic buildings on the municipal register. After 100 years or so those buildings require some TLC. That is the case with St Paul's Church. The original lime mortar is turning to dust and needs cleaning out and replacing. Past efforts to fill gaps between the stones in the walls used cement. This is the wrong material. Cement traps moisture in the walls, potentially causing problems with mould on the inside. Lime mortar has wicking qualities that will expel moisture in the stonework.

Repacking the walls and buttresses with lime mortar is a process with several steps. First, old, crumbling mortar and cement have to be removed. Next the gaps between the stones are filled with lime-rich mortar. In some places this has required injecting mortar into the walls to depths of 15cm or more. Once it has dried the mortar is smoothed. In some places a second coat has been required. The lime naturally turns bright white when it dries

The bright white on the Church walls will be toned down to match patches of the old mortar that have remained in good condition. An old recipe for toning down the mortar was to use a mix of charcoal in milk, however that does not last particularly well. We shall be using a Ferric chloride solution. Once a suitable shade for the mortar has been achieved, tuck pointing will be applied over the top to match as closely as we can the original colours and the original tuck pointing.

A number of people have expressed their interest and concern at the remodeling work in progress. For those deeply interested and concerned about the conservation of this heritage Church and local landmark you can contribute to the work - as do members of the congregation. The Church's bank account details are BSB: 036 121, Account number: 250027. Please identify your donation using your name as a reference. Thank you.



We are following the steps in the Conservation Plan drawn up by a Heritage Architect in 2012. Her work was funded by the Lotterywest Conservation of Cultural Heritage Program, with assistance from the Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes' Community Grant program, for which we were most grateful. Work was undertaken around the Church in 2014 to drain and stabilise the site (using another Lotterywest grant) prior to commencing the masonry work in 2022.

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