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April 7th 2026

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## Major Small Landholder Field Day on 9th May

The Blackwood Valley Small Landholders Group has been around for nearly 30 years. It was started by rural property owners keen to learn how to improve their property management, for lifestyle, enjoyment or profit. Currently there are 56 members, although membership has been over 100 at times. We run events and produce an informative quarterly newsletter. The topics for both are largely based on what members request.

Most events are held on members' properties – an opportunity to 'sticky-beak', learn new ideas and particularly to socialize with like-minded people.

We have a big, day-long event coming up on Saturday 9th May on a property conveniently close to Bridgetown. This will be one of our major events for the year, with two knowledgeable guest speakers. Mark Tupman is a consultant and educator in the fields of biological production, permaculture, regenerative agriculture, and holistic land management. Wayne Edwards is a fourth-generation farmer who transitioned from conventional farming to organic farming in 1998, and has produced avocados, plums, more than twenty types of vegetables, hemp, oats, sunflowers, faba beans, cattle and sheep. After trips overseas and much study Wayne has discovered many stories of successful growing formulas for healthy plants, animals, and people.

The 28-acre property is family owned and run. It is located on elevated land giving stunning views, and with majestic granite outcrops amongst Marri-Jarrah regrowth forest. There is an abundance of wildlife, especially a large variety of birds. The management objective is to live simply and lightly on the land while promoting both environmental conservation and sustainable food production. There is a further aim of developing the property into a demonstration centre... *Continued on page 8.*



Members of the Blackwood Valley Small Landholders committee in front of the Railway Station where committee meetings used to be held. From left: Adrian Williams, David Franks (Chairperson), Kieta Burrell (Treasurer) and Bianca Longfield-Turner (Secretary)

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## 2026 Tour of the Blackwood

Now in its tenth year the cycling event 'Tour of the Blackwood' attracted 464 cycling enthusiasts to take part in the tour, making it a successful event. The tour caters for all levels of riding skills offering four sections to ride in.

The Full Tour took advanced riders along a 130 km trek and had 215 competitors, The Half 'n' Best is a 65 km ride and attracted 92 competitors, the Not so Cosy ride was a 35km ride and attracted 29 competitors. This year's ride along gravel tracks, the Numbat Experience, successfully attracted 128 competitors.

The riders are taken along a series of routes which has them travelling through some of the most picturesque hills and valleys this region has to offer as it follows the Blackwood River to the south, east and west of Bridgetown.

Colin Booth was this year's tour director and explains how the event unfolded: "The decision to run the Tour this year in spite of Cyclone Narelle was made on Thursday after looking at many weather sites and cyclone tracking sites and with fingers crossed. Despite the heavy rain on Friday night, we only had light showers on Saturday and no wind. All riders were very appreciative of us going ahead with the event although we had quite a few late withdrawals.

"The post-ride activities were quieter than normal because of the weather but there were burgers, chips, loaded sausages in buns, coffee donuts, fruit and zero alcohol beer. The ice baths weren't so popular but a few riders braved the weather to have one and the masseuse were busy as usual.

"The members of the Rotary Club of Bridgetown, along with all those volunteers that are needed, the Marshalls and drink providers, the emergency medical teams and 'Moto Scouts' escorts and those who offer direction and refreshment or assistance in the event of breakdown or medical issue all contribute to make this event successful.

"The feedback from those who took part in the event was overwhelmingly positive, which is something the Rotary Club of Bridgetown is very proud of and sets a measure for next year's tour.

"The Rotary Club would like to thank everyone involved in running the tour. The volunteers are amazing, especially those road marshals and the ones manning water stops on a cold morning with the odd shower of rain. The encouragement from them to the riders was appreciated and many riders reported that it really helped. The sweep vehicles and moto crew ensured riders were safe and assisted with punctures and exhaustion.

"The monies raised this year from registrations and donations was over \$75,000. Proceeds from this ride are donated to support mental health. The main beneficiaries are Blackwood Youth Action and The Bridgetown Greenbushes Suicide Prevention Network. Funds are also used for Mental Health and Wellness Projects in the Blackwood region.

"The major sponsors of the Tour of the Blackwood are Wesfarmers and Talison Lithium."

Colin concludes, "Our thanks go out to the hundreds of volunteers and to the local police and those who contributed to making the Tour of Blackwood a wonderful as well as a successful day."

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# Blackwood Regen Fest 2026

The 2026 Blackwood Regen Fest held on the 21st of March at the Ashbil Community Garden Bridgetown was bigger and better than ever. This annual event has become a mainstay of the local events calendar and this year's festival didn't disappoint. More than 400 people attended this year's festival, enjoying the vibrant atmosphere, engaging conversations and strong sense of community spirit.

The festival featured an expanded marketplace showcasing local community groups, ethical businesses, fresh produce, great coffee and delicious food. Other interesting features include a vintage maker's market, upcycled clothing bazaar and a variety of stalls run by local artists and makers offering clothes, jewellery, art and handmade household goods and were all very well received.

The Garden Gazebo zone hosted a series of 20-minute workshops, activities and panel discussions from knowledgeable locals, covering topics such as native bush tucker, resilient living, alternative housing, and growing abundance.

Regenerative practices remain at the heart of the event. The Transition Bridgetown Wash Trailer once again was there to demonstrate how simple and achievable waste-free events can be. Our knowledgeable electrical engineer Simon was present and enjoyed discussing EVs, solar power and off grid power systems with enthusiastic locals.

Punters bought plenty of local native plants from Bridgetown's BES (Bridgetown Environmental Society) Nursery and fresh local produce was available direct from growers. The festival included live worm farm tours, jewellery making workshops, crown making workshops and BES conducted water salinity and PH testing for those



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wishing to bring in their water samples.

There was also plenty of activities for the kids this year including engaging, educational presentations by Meet the Animals featuring a variety of native animals including snakes, dingoes and birds. The ever-popular kid's piñata and kid's treasure hunt managed to keep them entertained.

Blackwood Regen Fest is a waste-free event, so attendees were encouraged to bring reusable drink bottles.

The festival is proudly supported by the Rotary Club of Bridgetown, Greenbushes Belles CWA, Greenbushes Community Garden and Bridgetown Men's Shed. It is powered by volunteers and delivered in collaboration with The Bridgetown Hub, Transition Bridgetown, Ashbil Community Garden, Greenbushes Community Garden and Postcode Permaculture 6255.

Everyone who came along, learnt something new, were able to connect with others and were inspired to live a more regenerative life. Mike Kaye

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## Equine Assisted Learning

Discovering Bridgetown to be a uniquely peaceful place with a wonderful natural environment, a town which welcomed her during a brief holiday she had here a few years ago, Suzie Atwell has decided to make Bridgetown her home, moving here some four months ago.

Suzie through her life's journey has set up a social enterprise, Amazing Smart Kids. This was used as a way of supporting families whose children are neurodivergent, those whose brain function or develop differently from what is considered typical, resulting in unique strengths and challenges. She has also published a couple of books, 'Lindacita Sails the Bahamas', a sailing adventure which gives an insight into how Linda, the author, has learnt to cope with having ADD. A real-life sailing adventure which taught her how to deal with life's challenges.

Another book she has published is 'Repeat Pete A Pirate With Repetitive Behaviour' a book about a pirate who has autism.

Whilst in Bridgetown Suzie has embarked on a new study course, Equine-Assisted Learning, she is to become a facilitator in equine-assisted learning, then with further studies to become equine-therapist

Suzie explains the benefits in her new chosen field, "Horses have a larger electromagnetic field around their heart, this ability allows horses to be particularly effective in therapy because of their sensitivity, nonjudgmental presence, and ability to mirror human emotions, helping clients recognize and regulate their own feelings.

"Being in the presence of a horse, not only because of its size, its strength and power, you need yourself to be peaceful, calm and considered, all techniques of mindfulness.

"Horses pick up on our emotional state. To be effective with a horse, say when grooming a horse, you can't groom a horse when you are in a highly agitated state or if you are anxious, or if you are terribly worried about what life has dealt you a horse will not allow you to groom its coat if you are not 'one with them'.

"This therapeutic approach uses horses to support mental, emotional, and physical well-being through structured interactions. It is used for mental health conditions, developmental disorders, physical rehabilitation, and addiction recovery."

Suzie concludes with, "Then once a state of a peaceful, calm and considered mind is achieved this then brings considerable contentment to everyday lives."



Suzie Atwell

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## Bridgetown Trotting Club

The Bridgetown Trotting Club will again bring harness racing to the forefront of the Lower South West when it hosts its annual Autumn Carnival meeting on Sunday, April 12.

While the club conducts just two race meetings each season, its influence on harness racing in the region extends year-round. Behind the scenes, more than 40 local participants, many of them family-based operations, are involved in owning, training or breeding standardbreds.

That grassroots involvement continues to translate into strong results on the track. This season alone, horses with Lower South West connections recorded 77 race wins and amassed more than \$1 million in prizemoney.

Among the standout performers has been local owner Peter Blossome, whose racing interests earned more than \$200,000 this season. His consistent campaigner Arionrock secured five wins and recently claimed the Albany Cup, pictured above.

Breeding has also played a key role in the region's success, with Grumpy Waters-bred Majic Bay and This Time Jacko each winning five races during the season... *Continued on page 12*



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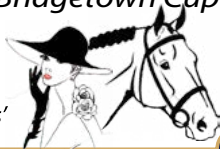
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### Welcome to our 2026 Trainees and Apprentices



**Lilika, Lily, Logan, Willow, Layla-Marie, Annalise, Spencer, Kaizi, Josh and Reece. Absent : Kane, Dylan and Emily.**

Talison is proud to provide people from the communities surrounding our Greenbushes Lithium Operation with their first taste of a career in the mining industry through our annual Traineeship and Apprenticeship Program. This year we welcome nine trainees and four apprentices from Donnybrook, Bridgetown, Nannup, Manjimup, Bunbury and Capel across Fixed Plant Maintenance, Business Services and Infrastructure.

It's the fourteenth consecutive year Talison has offered 12-month traineeships across a range of disciplines, providing opportunities that allow our new recruits to stay in the regions while learning valuable skills that will stand them in good stead for their future careers. The total number of trainees at Talison since the program began is 68.

Trainees will be working in Talison's Warehouse, Procurement, Site Services, Laboratory and Planning Departments. The program offers the opportunity for people to gain experience in the mining industry, while completing a nationally recognized qualification in their field of study.

Each year Talison offers electrical and mechanical apprenticeships, these take approximately four years to complete. Since 2013 Talison has taken on 34 apprentices in these fields.

The Talison Wellbeing team will work closely with the trainees and apprentices to ensure that they build their social skills alongside learning the technical and practical experience they need for success in their future careers.

Many trainees and apprentices choose to continue their careers with Talison or with other mining and resource companies, while others opt to study or pursue different career paths.

Talison is pleased to play a role in helping people in our region to learn new skills and experience what it's like working in the mining industry.

### **New Clubrooms Taking Shape at Bridgetown Golf Club**

The Bridgetown Golf Club's new clubrooms are taking shape, rising from the ashes of a devastating bushfire on 5 February 2022 which destroyed the historic clubhouse, caretaker's cottage and two sheds.

Talison is proud to have given a grant of more than \$700,000 through our Community Investment Program (CIP), which together with funding from the State Government, will create a new and modern facility that will be available for a range of community and recreational activities including functions, workshops, seminars and training.

Talison has also provided temporary hired ablutions and office facilities for the club since the bushfire in 2022, enabling members to get back onto the course and play golf within months of the fire.

Talison's Manager of Social Performance and Sustainability, Rod Jones, said finding a short-term solution to get club members back to the sport they love was a priority while work continues on the longer-term project to deliver new clubrooms.

Club members are delighted that the construction of the new clubhouse is now well under way, with the project scheduled for completion in August.

Club President Bruce Pendlebury said "Without the support from Talison, the Club could only have dreamt about a replacement clubhouse facility of this quality."

### **Old Mill Camp Demobilisation**

Work to demobilise the Old Mill Camp is now underway, with a clear focus on minimising impacts to the community wherever possible. Trucking of material offsite began on 9 March and is expected to be completed by 30 June.

Truck movements are limited to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with five truck movements per day. This staggered approach helps reduce impacts on other road users and keeps transport activity to a minimum.

### **CGP3 Progress**

The ramp-up of our third chemical grade plant (CGP3) is progressing well and is a credit to everyone involved. CGP3 increases our ability to supply a product that supports a cleaner energy future, while also continuing to contribute to the local economy through local jobs and associated economic activity.

### **Talison Proud to Support Bridgetown's New Ultra-Fast EV Charging Station**

Talison is proud to have supported the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Tourism Association (BGTA) in delivering the region's new ultra-fast EV Charging Station, officially opened on 25 March in partnership with the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes and the State Government.

The new charge station, at 154 Hampton Street, has two bays delivering up to 300 kW enabling most EVs to recharge in less than 20 minutes and is supported by a rooftop photovoltaic PV installation enabling return of power, reducing load on the electricity grid.

The project strongly aligns with Talison's purpose and values and our role as a major producer of lithium for the global clean-energy transition. Talison CEO Rob Telford, pictured with BGTA President Phil Beach, attended the launch and highlighted the importance of initiatives like this in building sustainable, thriving regional communities.

The charger strengthens Bridgetown's appeal for EV travellers, creates flow-on benefits for local businesses and provides the BGTA with a sustainable income stream to reinvest in tourism and events. It also reinforces the region's growing reputation as a forward-thinking, clean-energy destination.

Talison commends the BGTA and all partners, and looks forward to continuing to support future projects that benefit the community and the wider region.



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# Stand Up for Dalgarpur — We Still Need Your Voice

The recent Regen Festival at Ashbil Community Garden was a wonderful reminder of just how much this community cares about our natural environment. Many of you stopped by the Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest stand to find out more about the Save Dalgarpur campaign — and we even had a special visitor. Dexter the barn owl dropped in, and seemed very pleased that we are fighting to save his forest. It's not just a charming coincidence — we know barn owls are living in the Dalgarpur Donnelly forest, because our sound meters out there regularly pick up their calls.

For those who are new to the campaign: the Save Dalgarpur group, made up of members from Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest (BGFF) and the Blackwood Environment Society (BES), is fighting to stop mining exploration licence applications covering 32,000 hectares of the Dalgarpur Donnelly forest. These areas include precious mature and old-growth forest, the Bibbulmun Track, the Munda Biddi Trail, Bridgetown Jarrah Park, Karri Gully and Donnelly River Village — much-loved places that are also home to threatened species including Baudin's and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos and Quokka.

We are lodging a formal objection under Section 111A of the Mining Act, calling on the Mining Minister to refuse these applications on public interest grounds.

Now we need you to write to him too.

Our Save Dalgarpur Facebook page has a link to background information to help shape your thoughts.

Or if you are short of time or don't know where to start



Doreen Beverley, Alison, Dexter the Owl and Rhonda

email us at [savedalgarpur@gmail.com](mailto:savedalgarpur@gmail.com) and tell us:

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Why you think the Minister should not approve the exploration tenements

A little about yourself such as whether you're a local resident, a regular visitor from Perth, a keen bushwalker, or something else entirely. We'll take it from there and put a letter together for you to send.

Dexter and his wild cousins in the Dalgarpur Donnelly forest are counting on us. The more letters the Minister receives, the stronger our case. Please add your voice.

If you are interested in joining BGFF, contact Alison Wright at [president@bgff.org.au](mailto:president@bgff.org.au) or 0427 385 640.

## Major Small Landholder Field Day on 9th May

*Continued from cover..* Gates open at 9.00am, and the program kicks off at 10.00am with making wicking beds from IBCs. Following a bring and share vegetarian lunch, there will be a property walk demonstrating ideas on permaculture design, off-grid solar and water systems, orchard design, a chicken 'playground', native bee nurseries, and compost making - with Q&A (highly informative). Then Mark and Wayne will talk about bringing soil back to life and health and improving ecology and land productivity.

Numbers will be limited to around fifty, so an RSVP is essential, both to book a place and to receive information [by e-mail] on the location and access. Please RSVP by 27 April to [admin@bvsl.com.au](mailto:admin@bvsl.com.au) The event will be free to members. The entrance fee for non-members will be \$25 / person for the day. (Alternatively, annual membership – which can be paid on the day - is \$20 / person and \$5 more for each additional person from the same property [i.e. \$25 / couple].) Children will be free and welcome. Some activities will be provided for them.

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## Transition Bridgetown

On the 21st March, the Bridgetown/Greenbushes community came together for a fabulous and successful Blackwood Regen Fest 2026! We had 30 stalls focused on local sustainability, creativity and connections. From local produce and handmade goods to practical demonstrations, inspiring conversations and upcycled clothing fashion parades, it was a buzz!

A big highlight was the "Meet the Animals" stall which delighted families and was a special feature of the Regen Fest this year. Together with the focus on running a low-waste event, the Wash Against Waste Trailer and the information stalls on local Recycling Hubs and Containers for Change, reflected our commitment to reducing waste and the strong community support that makes the Regen Fest so special.

The committee extend sincere thanks to Bridgetown Rotary, Men in Sheds and the Greenbushes CWA Belles for their sponsorship and to the stallholders, presenters and volunteers whose time and energy made the day possible.

Particular thanks also to the Ashbil Community Garden Bridgetown for accommodating the Regen Fest on their leased grounds. We are delighted with how smoothly the event ran and the enthusiastic turnout from the community. Planning will soon be underway for next year's festival. Let us know if you have ideas that fit into the ethos of building resilient and sustainable communities – an ideal more than ever to be actioned!

Looking ahead, there are several Transition Bridgetown community activities in April:

On Wednesday 8th April from 9.30am to 11.30am, the "Sew and Aprons" workshop will be held at the Bridgetown Hub. Participants can learn to sew their own apron while also helping create aprons for the volunteers at the Hub and the Repair Café.

On Wednesday 15th April from 9.30am to 11.30am at the Bridgetown Hub, the "Really Free Clothes Share" invites everyone to come along and share adult and children clothing thus encouraging a more sustainable approach to fashion.

Then on Saturday 18 April from 10am to 1pm, the Repair Café returns to the Bridgetown Lesser Hall. Gaining momentum with each session, the Repair Café volunteers offer a chance to bring along items in need of mending and learn how to repair rather than replace. Come and join in the fun and have a cuppa! Enquiries can be made via email at [transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com](mailto:transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com) or by calling Lisa on 0414 550 025.

These events continue to build a growing movement centred on reusing, repairing and reducing waste - Come and be part of the growing movement of repurposing, mending and not contributing to waste!

We'd love to see you soon!



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# Show Talk

Hi Everyone

The Bridgetown Agricultural Society (BAS) is a very busy volunteer community group. As the custodians, we care for and manage all aspects of the grounds and hold our Annual Bridgetown Show. We provide budget camping in support of the many varied community events throughout the year. We now have many more events and our ground space has grown to accommodate the increased activity. BAS has greater obligations to ensure the grounds and buildings are managed to a standard of safety with the greater volume of people movement. This all comes at a cost, of which BAS works hard at seeking grants, volunteer support and accommodating as many events as possible to fund the ongoing upkeep. Our current Secretary Corinne has been the instigator of many ideas to streamline our ability to cost effectively improve our business potential in running our grounds. As Secretary, she has run a tight ship working over and above, and been involved as a happy and valuable addition to our committee. Corinne is stepping down as Secretary but Thankfully, is not leaving us. Corinne's new role as a committee member will be Blues Budget Camping Coordinator.

Entertainment Committee: Seeking motivated volunteers to join us, to help plan and put together entertainment for our Annual Show. Role details; be able to reach out to some different entertainments and help keep things running smoothly on show day. (Don't worry, we share the load- you'll only have to contact a few!) For information, please get in touch with Hayley via [entertainment@bridgetownshow.com.au](mailto:entertainment@bridgetownshow.com.au), via our Facebook page or pop into Bridgetown Newsagency for a chat.

Coming Events: Bridgetown Easter Tennis Tournament Budget Camping @ Showgrounds. Bookings can be made via <https://events.humanitix.com/easter-tennis-tournament-budget-camping-2026>

Next Meeting: We are always looking for new committee members or extra support in maintaining the grounds and will welcome anyone interested in attending our next Meeting which will be the AGM, followed by the General Meeting on Wednesday 8th April 7.00pm, 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 (Calls only - no Texts) or email: [admin@bridgetownshow.com.au](mailto:admin@bridgetownshow.com.au) website address is [www.bridgetownshow.com.au](http://www.bridgetownshow.com.au) like us on Facebook 'Bridgetown Agricultural Show' or follow us on Instagram.



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# Bridgetown Trotting Club

*Continued from page 5...* Other notable performers with Lower South West ties include five-time winner Hillview Bondi, owned by Pemberton connections, and Manjimup-based Lazi Dais and Thelittle Master. The latter recently captured "The Nights of Thunder", one of the feature events on the Gloucester Park calendar. Together, the Manjimup pair have earned more than \$150,000 in stakes.

Greenbushes owner-trainer Ray Jones enjoyed a productive Busselton season with his newcomer Dawson, while Lavra Joe has returned to open-class competition at Gloucester Park.

Club officials say the Autumn Carnival is not only a celebration of racing success but also a major community event. The Bridgetown trots offers a family-friendly day out, with children's activities alongside full on-course canteen, betting and bar facilities.

With strong regional representation and continued success at metropolitan level, the Autumn Carnival promises to be a fitting showcase of the Lower South West's contribution to Western Australia's harness racing industry.



## Downunder Country 2026

The 13th Downunder Country weekend was very successful with great singing and music, dancing and Bush Poetry.

The Bridgetown Showgrounds being a great venue with the outdoor stage and the indoor stage and dancing in Centenary Hall.

Thank you to the Bridgetown Agricultural Society for all their help over the weekend.

All artists performed very well and the backing band members were excellent, with the Bush Poetry providing some great variety over the weekend.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the raffles, cleaning, merchandise sales, outdoor stage setting up and packing up at the end of the event. Without you volunteers this event would not go ahead.

Plans are already underway for next year's event on the 19th, 20th and 21st March 2027. Keep this date in your diary. David and Therese Higginson 0429 109334 / 0448 387878.

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# Now Is The Perfect Time To Check Your Skin!

The end of summer is a perfect time to check your skin. Months of outdoor activities in the sun can leave behind subtle changes you might not notice day to day.

Finding skin changes early can help you stay well for longer and keep you doing the things that matter to you.

Common symptoms of skin cancer include: A new spot or mole on your skin that is red, pale or pearly in colour.

A spot that is different from other spots on your skin.

Any crusty or non-healing sores.

Any spots, freckles or any moles changing in size (width), thickness (height), colour, or shape.

To learn about the early symptoms of cancer visit <https://www.findcancerearly.com.au/> or call our 13 11 20 Information and Support Line.



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# Southern Forests and Valleys Heritage Festival 2026

Bridgetown and Greenbushes will come alive with history this April as part of the Southern Forests and Valleys Heritage Festival, running from Saturday, 18 April to Sunday, 26 April 2026. The festival won the 2025 WA Heritage Award for Heritage Tourism and is supported by the Heritage Council of WA. It brings communities together to celebrate the stories, places, and people that have shaped the region.

The festival opens with the Puzzletown6255 Open Day on Saturday, 18 April (10 am–2 pm), offering visitors the chance to explore the gallery and experience the recent renovations that have breathed new life into this much-loved local building.

Sunday, 19 April features a full day of activities, beginning with a Classic Car Show and Parade. Vehicles will gather at River Park before departing at 9 am for a scenic drive through Bridgetown and Greenbushes. They will return to Bridgetown and be on display at the Spencer Street carpark (opposite the Visitor Centre) from 11:30 am–1 pm, giving visitors the chance to get up close to a range of classic and interesting cars.

Later that day, the Bridgetown Town Hall will host a special Vintage Movie Matinee and festival launch, presented by the Shire of Bridgetown–Greenbushes. From 2 pm–4 pm, audiences can enjoy the beloved classic *Lassie Come Home* (1943), the first Lassie film starring a young Elizabeth Taylor, on the same site where picture shows have been enjoyed since the 1910s.

The program features a mix of free and low-cost events throughout the week. Visitors can take advantage of free entry days at the Bridgetown Police Station Museum and Orcharding Museum on Wednesday, 22 April (10 am–3 pm) and Saturday, 25 April (10 am–1 pm). The Police Station Museum provides a powerful look at the region's past, including early policing and the impacts of settlement on the Pibelman, Wadandi, and Kaneang First Nations people. It has been recognised for its honest approach to presenting this history.

Also on Wednesday, 22 April, local author Sarah Evans will host a free Memoir Writing Workshop at the Bridgetown Library (10:30 am–12:30 pm, bookings required). History continues on Thursday, 23 April, with an Anzac Heroes Talk at Memorial Park at 11 am, presented by the Bridgetown Historical Society (bookings required).

The community will come together for Anzac Day Services on Saturday, 25 April, with a Dawn Service in Greenbushes at 6 am (Thomson Park) and a service in Bridgetown at 10 am (Cenotaph, Memorial Park).

The festival concludes on Sunday, 26 April, with a full day of activities. In Greenbushes, families can join the Anzac-themed Ghost Walk with Ada the Friendly Ghost at 10 am (Thomson Park) and enjoy free entry to the Greenbushes Discovery Centre from 10 am–2 pm. In Bridgetown, visitors can relax at Devonshire Teas at Peninsula House, a heritage home and gardens, with the CWA serving traditional teas from 10 am–2 pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for National Trust members, and \$5 for children (12 and under).

All venues will also be open during their regular hours throughout the festival, with standard entry fees applying outside of the advertised free days.

Whether you're a lifelong resident or a first-time visitor, the Southern Forests and Valleys Heritage Festival offers a unique opportunity to connect with the vibrant history and enduring spirit of our region. Don't miss this chance to celebrate the stories that define Bridgetown and Greenbushes — be sure to visit the festival website to book your tickets today.



The poster features a collage of images: a man and woman in a shop, a classic car, and a building. Text includes the festival title, dates (18th April - 26th April 2026), and a QR code for more details. Logos for the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Road Safety Commission, Community Services, Heritage Council, and Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes are at the bottom.

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I am happy to work after hours, after school or on weekends, at the local library or other appropriate negotiated setting.

If you are an adult learner, student or parent with a child and want to explore the possibility of tutoring and discuss what options might meet your needs, please give me a call on 0409 226 075. Alternatively, you can email me at [kaylenepower@westnet.com.au](mailto:kaylenepower@westnet.com.au)

Of course, if anyone else in the community thinks I might be able to assist them

with a project they are struggling with, please just call me for a chat. I have an ABN and am open to new challenges!

Kaylene Power





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## From Zinnecker Garage to Ultra-Fast EV Charging: Bridgetown's Motoring Legacy Continues

For more than a century, the historic Zinnecker Garage has helped travellers and their vehicles journey through Bridgetown.

Established in 1921, Zinnecker's Garage and showroom provided essential motoring services to locals and visitors travelling along what is now the South Western Highway. For decades, the garage was a vital stop for motorists exploring the South West of Western Australia.

In 1976, the building entered a new chapter when it became Bridgetown's Visitor Information Centre, welcoming travellers and housing the well-known Brierley Jigsaw Collection, one of the most significant puzzle collections in the Southern Hemisphere.

Today, more than 100 years later, the site is evolving once again and continuing its tradition of supporting visitors and their vehicles.

### Ultra-Fast EV Charging Comes to Bridgetown

In 2024, the Bridgetown Greenbushes Tourism Association began transforming the historic site into the future home of Puzzletown6255, a unique puzzle-themed visitor attraction featuring gallery, retail and puzzle manufacturing facilities.

Alongside this new attraction, the site now hosts Bridgetown's Ultra-Fast EV Charging Station, helping support the growing number of electric vehicles travelling through regional Western Australia.

The charging station delivers 300kw ultra-fast charging, allowing most electric vehicles to recharge in under 20 minutes.

This world-class charging technology uses advanced battery buffering, which means the station can deliver high charging speeds while maintaining minimal impact on the electricity grid making it ideal for regional communities like Bridgetown.

The EV charging station is powered using 100% green energy, combining: Local solar photovoltaic generation and Certified Green Power from the electricity grid

This ensures the station supports a more sustainable future for regional transport while reducing environmental impact. The charger is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is remotely monitored to ensure reliability for travellers.

### Charge Fast and Explore More in Bridgetown

Located in the heart of Bridgetown's main street at 154 Hampton Street, the charging station provides EV drivers with the perfect opportunity to stop, recharge and explore the town. While their vehicle charges, visitors can: Discover Bridgetown's boutique shops and cafés; Explore local heritage streets and art trails; Enjoy the surrounding forests, rivers and walking trails

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