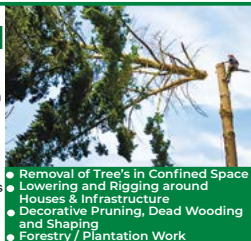


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Photographs from the 2025 Ball held in Bridgetown Town Hall

RFDS Fundraising Winter Ball

The Social Dancing Group's annual ball is a fundraiser for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS). This year it is themed around a magical grotto and will be held on Saturday 29th August in Bridgetown Town Hall, doors open 7.15pm with dancing to start at 8pm.

It's a glamorous night which sees those who attend dressed in cocktail or formal wear.

Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy a wonderful evening. Those who come for the dancing will have their full measure of the night's entertainment, some patrons come to sit and watch the dancing and marvel in the night's theatre with all its glitz and glamour, a glimpse back in time, all contributing to a memorable evening.

All those attending get to participate in one of the best social activities of the year whilst raising money for the RFDS.

The RFDS has special significance for many people who live their lives in the rural and regional areas, who will never know when they may benefit from the service, but who will be glad the service is there when they or their family need it to be.

The social dancing group make sure that all the monies raised from the evening goes to the RFDS with any associated costs for the evening coming from the group's other revenue.

The Social Dancing Group's Annual Ball which raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service has been run since 2011. The RFDS is a vital service for all rural and remote people, providing both general health care and emergency transport... *Continued Page 11*

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Farewell to Two Friends of the Forest, Jim and Mary Frith

In late May, a group of friends, family and forest supporters gathered in Dalgarpur to scatter the ashes of Jim and Mary Frith in the forest they had spent so much of their lives fighting to protect. Their children Robert and Eleanor were there, as were many who had walked alongside them in that work. It was a quiet, fitting send-off for two people whose lives were so thoroughly woven into this landscape.

Jim and Mary bought Park Farm on the Blackwood River in 1960, drawn by the beauty and eager to make a living on the land. Plans changed and work took them elsewhere, but they returned as often as they could, finally settling there in retirement.

It was in the late 1960s that they were first drawn into conservation, fighting to protect the Fitzgerald River region from mining exploration. When CALM invited communities to form "Friends" groups in 1987, it was the catalyst they needed, and Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest (BGFF) was born. With their passion for finding alternative solutions to forest logging, and Mary's background as a biologist, they helped shape BGFF into an effective voice for the forests around Bridgetown.

Over the next 20 years, BGFF campaigned continuously for the forests of our shire, winning protections that today cover thousands of hectares. Two battles stood out and were closest to their hearts.

The first was Dalgarpur, where nearly a decade of letters, forums and sustained community organising led to Environment Minister Judy Edwards announcing the creation of Dalgarpur National Park in 2003. The second was saving the Nunn Block, 194 hectares of old-growth forest owned by Bunnings and earmarked for clearing. Bob Brown in 1993 described its ancient jarrah, marri and blackbutt as among the most remarkable trees he had seen anywhere in Australia...*Continued on page 14*



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Beloved Children's Classic Brings Generations Together in Manjimup

Families, grandparents and children are invited to experience the magic of one of Australia's most treasured children's stories when Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge comes to Manjimup Town Hall on Saturday 19 September at 3.00pm.

Presented by Southern Forest Arts and performed by the acclaimed Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, this heartwarming adaptation of the much-loved book by Mem Fox and Julie Vivas celebrates friendship, kindness and the precious memories that connect generations. The production combines beautiful life-sized puppetry, music, humour and imagination in a touching performance that will delight audiences aged five and over.

Set in the aged care home next door to where young Wilfrid lives, the story follows his special friendship with 96-year-old Miss Nancy as he sets out to help her rediscover her memories. Along the way, audiences are reminded that every memory has a story, and every generation has something valuable to share.

Adding to the magic of the performance, local seniors and grandparents will have the opportunity to become part of the show. Through the complimentary "Take a Seat" pre-show experience, participants will meet the cast and puppets, enjoy a fun

interactive activity and five will be selected to appear on stage during the performance alongside the professional performers. It promises to be a memory that both young and



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old will treasure for years to come.

Southern Forest Arts Events Manager Corinne Rule said the production offers something special for every generation.

"This is much more than a children's show. It's a celebration of family, friendship and the connections and memories between young and old. Whether you're bringing children, grandchildren or simply love great storytelling, this is a performance that will touch hearts and leave audiences smiling."

Performance Details:

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge Saturday 19 September 2026 3.00pm in the Manjimup Town Hall

Suitable for children aged 5 years and over, families, grandparents and anyone young at heart.

Tickets are available now through Humanitix - <https://events.humanitix.com/wilfred-gordon-mcdonald-partridge/tickets>

Corinne Rule Events Manager

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As the owner of an independent local agency, Zara is committed to providing personalised service, honest advice and outstanding results for landlords and tenants alike.



PROUDLY LOCAL
A Bridgetown local, Zara has an intimate understanding of the South West property market and is dedicated to supporting our wonderful community.



LIFE OUTSIDE REAL ESTATE
Zara lives on her 6-acre property in Bridgetown, where she enjoys tending to her ducks, miniature goats, sheep and garden. She loves photography, exploring the South West wine region and soaking up the beauty of our area.



CELEBRANT & FAMILY FOCUSED
Zara is also an Authorised Marriage Celebrant, a role that reflects her love of connecting with people and celebrating life's special moments. She is a proud mum of two amazing children and feels lucky to raise them in this beautiful part of the world.



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Free Music Concert

On Saturday 12 September from 3pm to 5.30 the Black Cockatoo Distillery will be hosting a free music concert on the lawns of the distillery featuring Luke Chandler.

Luke is a multifaceted self-accompanied singer and musician who has a knack for Folk, Alternative Rock, and Pop.

Rachel and Peter Galvin, the distillery owners, welcome all to attend.

“Those who wish to come to the concert may bring a picnic blanket or a seat for their comfort on the lawn. Luke has a captivating performance which I’m sure all will enjoy.

“Mike and Jo will be there with their food business Postcode 6255 Pizza, and patrons can buy take-away Gin, Tonic water and mixers from the distillery for their enjoyment.” Rachel explains.

Over this weekend Rachel and Peter are also hosting a camping weekend for the amazing Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre volunteers.

Black Cockatoo Distillery donates 10% of all profits to support Karaakin and their important work in creating a sustainable future for all three native species of endangered black cockatoos in Western Australia.

Rachel continues, “Volunteers work tirelessly and don’t often get to socialise with each other. “Over the weekend they hopefully will manage to get a rare 24 hours off from caring for the birds.

“We have on our block recently installed three Cockatube nesting boxes which are designed to mimic the old growth Jarrah nesting sites the birds are used to.

“Sam Clarke, Animal Management and Education Officer, will also bring his equipment to see if any of our three new nesting boxes have new tenants.

“The Cockatubes are about 15 metre up in trees, and are 1200mm long and 375mm in diameter and have a bellows rib outside structure. They also have a ladder on the inside to help the birds climb in and out.

“Before the nesting boxes were hoisted in to place I placed leaves and grass in the tube to encourage new occupants.”

The Black Cockatoo Distillery is located along Eedle Terrace at 1 Fox Road in Bridgetown just along the river bank. It should be an entertaining afternoon not to miss.

For further information you can contact Rachel and Peter Galvin on 0424 724 443 or email: rachel@blackcockatoodistillery.com.au

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Red Cross Report

This is a quiet time for Red Cross. It is a time for recruitment and training especially in the emergency arm of the Red Cross.

The Bridgetown unit is holding the 111th AGM in the Bridgetown library at 2pm on Friday 7th August.

In order to continue to support the teams around the state as well as locally, we invite those interested to join us. For further information ring Patricia on 97611946 or Chris on 0417329301.

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Show Talk

Hi Everyone, The Section Stewards who have come up with some exciting additions to their classes, incorporating the "Festival of Memories" – History Bridgetown Show theme. We are sure you will all be interested in creating your version ready to exhibit.

Sponsorship: Thank you to the generous businesses, groups and families who have already acknowledged their support for this year's show. There are a few who have been unable to continue this year; however, we are grateful for your past support. The Bridgetown Show is a community event, relying on community support to make it as wonderful as possible. There are still a number of sponsors who have not yet acknowledged their invitation. If you would like to be included in the sponsorship, please make contact ASAP either via the website or email.

Schedule: This is in the final stages of compiling, then it will be sent to the printer. As soon as our sponsorship has been filled the online schedule will be available.

Memberships: These have been sent out. If you would like to become a new member please make contact via the below addresses.

Budget Camping Showgrounds Bookings: Powered and unpowered Budget Camping for Blues @ Bridgetown Weekend is now open to everyone. The information is available on our Bridgetown Show Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as the website. Unpowered camping will still be available at the gate (card or cash).

Anyone with questions about any of the above, please contact the Secretary and you will be directed to the appropriate person to help you.

Next Meeting: will be Wednesday 12th August 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 website address is www.bridgetownshow.com.au like us on Facebook 'Bridgetown Agricultural Show' or follow us on Instagram



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Open Day 2026: What to Expect

We're looking forward to welcoming the community to our Open Day on **Saturday 19 September**.

This year, we're bringing the free family-friendly event into the heart of Greenbushes, with activities taking place at the Greenbushes School Oval from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Based on feedback from previous years, we've refreshed the event format and introduced a new shuttle bus service to the internal mine lookout, allowing guests to explore at their own pace with no bookings or tickets required. Children aged seven years and over can travel on the shuttle when accompanied by an adult, and closed-in shoes must be worn by everyone.

Alongside the lookout experience, there will be interactive displays, family activities, and opportunities to speak with our employees and contractors about the work we do.

The event will be smoke-free and vape-free, and we ask that pets are left at home.

Traffic and parking arrangements will be in place on the day.

We look forward to bringing the community together for a fun day of activities, entertainment and the opportunity to learn more about our operations and the people behind them.

Talison-Supported Upgrades Deliver Community Benefits

Made possible through a \$700,000 contribution from Talison, a series of solar and battery systems has recently been installed at the Bridgetown Recreation Centre, Library, Town Hall and Incident Control Centre, improving energy efficiency, reducing operating costs and strengthening community resilience through backup power during emergencies.

A key feature is the upgrade of the Bridgetown Recreation Centre, where a new 380kW high efficiency heat pump system has replaced the ageing, inefficient pool heating system. Combined with a 100kW solar PV system and 60 kWh battery storage, the facility can generate and store its own renewable energy, supporting extended use throughout the year through heating and cooling capabilities.

This will provide greater opportunities for recreation, learn-to-swim programs, rehabilitation activities and aquatic events at the pool.

Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes President Cr Stephen Carstairs said the project will deliver significant long-term financial and community benefits.

"Based on the Shire's historical energy costs, these upgrades could result in significant savings each year while reducing emissions and improving our energy security."

-Cr Stephen Carstairs

President - Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes

Talison General Manager Operations David de Vries said the project improved the sustainability of key community facilities.

"As a producer of lithium minerals that enable renewable technologies around the world, Talison is proud to bring the benefits directly to the local community."

-David de Vries

General Manager Operations - Talison



Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes President Cr Stephen Carstairs (left) and Director Projects and Environment Morgan Gillham (right) with Talison General Manager Operations David de Vries at the upgraded Bridgetown Recreation Centre.

Students Get Into Mining at Greenbushes

Talison was pleased to again host students from across Western Australia in July as part of the annual "Get into Mining" tour organised by the WA Mining Club.

The multi-day field trip enables 25 high school students in Years 10 to 12 to visit mining operations in the South West and gain an insight into what a career in the industry has to offer.

WA Mining Club Vice President, Barry Upton, said the tour was a valuable learning experience for all.

"I think one of the biggest learnings is seeing first hand how passionate and committed our hosts are within their own job roles and the diversity of opportunities. It can be life changing for some," he said.

Throughout the tour, students were able to see firsthand how a large-scale mining operation works and learn about the many people and skills required to keep it running safely and efficiently.

Talison is proud to support initiatives such as Get into Mining, which provide students with practical insight into the resources sector and the many career pathways it offers.

Visiting student Sophie said the tour was an eye-opening experience that gave her a much broader perspective on the industry as a whole.

"It challenged many of my preconceived ideas about the mining industry and highlighted how much collaboration and advanced technology are required to keep everything running efficiently."

-Sophie

Another student on the tour, Lochlan, said he was surprised by the diversity of careers available in mining.

"My biggest takeaway is that the amount of jobs that there are in a mine is way more than I thought, and the dedication that people put into making the mine better is crazy."

- Lochlan



Talison's General Manager Project Development and Strategy, Ian McGuire, joins students Sophie (centre) and John (right) for a closer look at the lithium minerals produced at Greenbushes.

Talison Supports Local Business Awards

Talison is helping celebrate the businesses and organisations that make the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes unique through its sponsorship of the inaugural Blackwood Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) Business Excellence Awards, showcasing the talent, innovation and hard work that drives our local economy and community.

Talison is Principal Partner for the awards, which feature eight categories for local businesses and a Community Impact Award for not-for-profit organisations.

BCCI President Tracey Hodgkins said Talison's support made it possible for all businesses to participate, regardless of their ability to pay an entry fee.

"It would have been very hard to raise enough sponsorship to run an event like this on our own. Talison's backing is what made an open, community-wide celebration achievable, and we are deeply grateful for it."

-Tracey Hodgkins
President BCCI

Voting closes in September with the awards announced in October. Check the BCCI website for more details - www.blackwoodcci.org/awards.

Blast Window Update

Talison has recently made a small change to its **afternoon blast window**, bringing the 4:45pm-5:30pm window forward by 15 minutes to **4:30pm-5:30pm**. The 9:15am-9:45am and 1:15pm-1:45pm blast windows remain unchanged.

As a reminder, Talison's SMS notification service provides advance notice of scheduled blasting activities.



Scan the QR code above or visit www.talisonlithium.com/blast-sms-list to subscribe. If you have any questions about the blast window change, please email gbcontact@talisonlithium.com.

Bridgetown Writers Fest is to be held on Saturday 29 August from 11am until 6pm at the Bridgetown Pottery-Restaurant. This is a free event and you are welcome to come and go to any of the seven sessions throughout the day.

11am: Familiar Worlds, New Stories: Writing Fanfiction

Author Bianca Breen hosts an interactive fanfiction writing workshop for teens. In this interactive workshop, you'll explore why writers create fanfiction, learn how to put your own spin on existing characters and worlds, and write the opening of your own fanfic story.

12pm: A Children's Book is a Compass

Award-winning children's author Steve Heron hosts a workshop for adults interested in children's literature.

Exploring realistic fiction and fantasy for children that interpret and comment on life and the issues they encounter.

1pm: All the Places We Go: Worldbuilding in Fantasy

A discussion panel on the core principles of creating immersive worlds, for beginner writers and curious readers (teens welcome). From our world with tweaks to sprawling empires that never existed, how do Fantasy writers transform a blank page into a detailed world with its own unique geography, history, culture and society?

Explore the purposes, approaches and techniques of worldbuilding for diverse audiences with our panel of Fantasy genre experts: YA author Bianca Breen, DnD Dungeon Master Josh Walker and local writer Trevor Finlay. Moderated by Penny Walker.

2pm: Untangling the WWWeb of Deception in family histories

Join Bridgetown Historical Society members for a panel discussion on Untangling the Web of Deception that is genealogy. As members of the Bridgetown Historical Society, we are keen to promote, write and archive family histories, seeking out information that may well have been hidden by the family, or just lost to the annals of time. We will show you

the websites for genealogical research and help you get started along the way.

3pm: Design a Hero

Join romantic fantasy author Wendy Palmer for a scintillating interactive hero-forging session for all Romance and Romantasy fans.

We'll use popular online character designer HeroForge (not AI) to create our dream romantic lead from head to toe, exploring some of the biggest and most surprising trends in this best-selling yet perennially under-estimated genre as we go, including why the first question must be: Is our hero even a human?

4pm: Once Upon a Time: Crafting a Short Story

Award-winning author Sarah Evans shares her storytelling skills and techniques in an interactive workshop suitable for beginners and those wanting to kickstart their muse. This short story writing workshop will focus on the key aspects and expectations of a good yarn and flag common pitfalls.

Sarah's workshops are lively and fun with students challenged to stretch themselves and engage in on-the-spot writing exercises.

5pm: Open Mic, Open Minds

Writers and readers, step up to the mic and share a four-minute poem, chapter or excerpt.

We end this year's festival with a celebration of Bridgetown's creative community and the magic of storytelling. Local writers, poets and creatives, share a work-in-progress or a favourite piece in a relaxed and supportive environment. Readers, share a sample of writing or poetry (or other creative work) that touched your heart and opened your mind.

No rules except the sensible (stick to your four minutes; no hate speech; no AI slop; remember there might be young people present!).

For more information: www.bridgetownwritersfest.au

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Get ready for a night of outrageous fun, fabulous costumes and iconic hits when *Dragged Through the Desert* – A Priscilla Celebration arrives at the Bridgetown Repertory Theatre on Saturday 17 October.

Presented by Southern Forest Arts and Circuit West, this dazzling cabaret-style production pays tribute to the much-loved Australian classic *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. Packed with powerhouse vocals, spectacular costumes, cheeky humour and all the songs audiences know and love, it's a celebration of music, friendship and the joy of being yourself.

Starring award-winning entertainer Dean Misdale, alongside the fabulous Lola Blades, Miss Cara and Nicholas Cruse, the show promises an unforgettable evening featuring classics including *I Will Survive*, *It's Raining Men*, *Girls Just Want to Have Fun*, *Go West* and many more.

Southern Forest Arts Events Manager Corinne Rule said the production is all about bringing people together for a fun and uplifting evening. "This show is pure entertainment. It's colourful, energetic and full of music everyone knows. We encourage people to come dressed in their brightest outfits, gather their friends and enjoy a wonderful night of laughter and celebration at the Bridgetown Repertory Theatre."

With limited seating available, early booking is recommended. *Dragged Through the Desert* – A Priscilla Celebration Saturday 17 October 2026, Bridgetown Repertory Theatre Bar opens: 6.30pm. Doors open: 7.00pm. Show commences: 7.30pm.

Tickets are available now through Humanitix: <https://events.humanitix.com/dragged-through-the-desert-a-priscilla-celebration/tickets>

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Transition Bridgetown

What a cold July it has been! The thought of being homeless in these conditions is unthinkable yet we know that we do have people experiencing homelessness here in our towns.

At the Open Space we held on Sunday 19th July, we learnt from Dr Sarah Youngson about the newly formed Bridgetown-Greenbushes Cross Agency Alliance (The Kindness Collective) who have identified Homelessness as being the number one cause of mental illness at this time. We had information from Jenni Oliver- Manager of the Bridgetown Hub, Nicole Ward; Manager Greenbushes CRC and representatives from local churches and St Vinnies who all talked about what they have put in place to cater for enquiries to assist people needing a safe place to stay, clothing and food. We had heartfelt talks from Vangy Baker on Housing Crisis WA and Elisabeth Pellican on her personal experience with helping a homeless woman and the practical resources list she has compiled since. We also had an interesting talk about Intentional Communities from Irma Lachmund and David Chick talked about what we would like our legacy to be. If you would like to hear any of these talks, please email us on transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com and we will send you the links or contact information.

To celebrate Homelessness Week, the Hub and Transition Bridgetown are co-hosting a "Homelessness Action Now" video and morning tea at the Hub on Wed 5th August 9.30-11.30am. This is a free event and you can book on Humanitix.

The WA Census will be held on Tues 11th August and this year there is an emphasis on capturing data that includes those experiencing homelessness. To help, please contact Jane Wittenoom at the Bridgetown Community Resource Centre on 9761 2712.

The Bridgetown Hub will be running a Connections Week which is a community-led event to identify by name every person in the community who is sleeping rough and/or experiencing long-term homelessness. To help, contact Jenni Oliver at the Bridgetown Hub on 9761 2139.

Repair Cafe

Repair Cafe is on again. On Saturday 15th August 10am-12ish at the Bridgetown Shire Lesser Hall, bring along your items and register them, get matched with our wonderful volunteers, sit together and repair your item and have a cuppa while you watch and learn how to fix things! We also have IT Support, an outlet to recycle used mobile phones and you can get your important documents verified with a Justice of Peace. It's all happening at the Repair Cafe so join us there! Enquiries to Rob 0452 398 595.

Recycling Hub at the Library

We are very grateful to our Waste Warrior, Grace Hitchin, who is coordinating the items that get collected at the BG Library and the volunteers who deliver them to their collection points...Continued on page 11.



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RFDS Fundraising Winter Ball

Continued from cover... The RAC helicopter is a perfect solution to capital city emergencies but just think how much of our vast state exists outside that boundary. Over that time the Social Dancing Group has raised \$32,098 for the RFDS from the annual ball.

The group also holds dances regularly at the Yornup Hall and from the monies these dances have raised they have also given a further \$26,000 to the other charities they support; Beyond Blue, the Cancer Foundation, Perth Children's Hospital and Men's Health.

When getting ready for the Ball, yes, it is beneficial to know your way around the dance floor but not essential, and if you need to touch up your technique, the Social Dancing Group holds dance practice every Monday night at the Uniting Church Hall on Roe Street starting at 6pm. Of interest, as the Annual Ball is imminent, all the dance practice nights until then are being given over to learning the 21 or so dances that will feature at the Ball.

Patricia (Trish) Martin and Mick Blatch are the dance instructors for the group. Trish explains,

"Dance, of course, stimulates the mind as well as the body, dance is a gentle form of exercise which keeps the body supple, and learning the dance steps and remembering the sequence keeps the mind active plus attending dances is the very best social activity around."

For further information on the Social Dancing Group or the Annual Ball you can call Tony on 0427 643 638, or Trish on 0897 611 946.

TRANSITION BRIDGETOWN

Continued from page 10... The latest news is that the company.ozbreadtagsforwheelchairs.org is no longer collecting plastic bread tags because most bread tags are now being made from cardboard and will disintegrate naturally in our compost bins! If you have been collecting plastic bread tags, check out Grace's post on the Community Noticeboard and get in contact with her.

September Open Space "Soup and Pitch"

Elsewhere in this edition of the Mailbag is a more detailed explanation of what a "Soup and Pitch" is. Check it out! It will be something quite different and will hopefully unleash some great ideas that will benefit our whole community. We look forward to providing more details soon. Stay warm, see you soon and thanks for your support.



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Linga Longa Lights Set to Shine!

Excitement is building as preparations are well underway for the return of Linga Longa Lights, with the team working hard to create an even bigger and more spectacular experience for visitors this September.

The popular light and sound spectacular, held at Linga Longa Estate, will illuminate the forest, attracting visitors from across Western Australia and providing another welcome boost for local tourism.

Event organisers say preparations have been underway for months, with new installations, upgraded walking trails and fresh experiences being added throughout the illuminated trail.

"We've been working incredibly hard behind the scenes since last year's event," an organiser said.

"Our aim is to create an experience that encourages people to spend time in the region, support local businesses and discover everything Bridgetown and the surrounding area have to offer."

To make visiting even easier, return bus transport from Bridgetown will once again operate on event nights, allowing visitors to relax and enjoy the evening without the need to drive.

The organisers are also encouraging visitors to make a weekend of it.

"Bridgetown has some wonderful accommodation, cafés, shops and attractions, and we'd love people to spend a few days exploring the region while they're here."

For those wanting to stay closer to the event, camping at Linga Longa Estate is also available, along with a range of luxury bell tent accommodation options for guests looking to enjoy a unique overnight experience.

Visitors won't need to leave the grounds hungry either, with the Linga Longa Café open throughout the event, serving hot meals, sweet treats and barista-made coffee to keep guests warm as they wander through the illuminated forest.

Linga Longa Lights will be held on 12,13,19,20 and 26,27,28 September

Organisers hope the event continues to grow each year and become an important addition to the South West's events calendar.

"We're incredibly proud to be creating an event that not only brings people together but also encourages visitors to discover our beautiful corner of the South West. We can't wait to welcome everyone back for another magical season."

Tickets are available now, with organisers encouraging visitors to book early, particularly those wishing to take advantage of the Bridgetown bus service or on-site camping.

For tickets and more information, visit lingalongalights.com.

Secrets of a Happy Marriage

My wife and I have the secret of making a marriage last. Twice a week we go to a nice restaurant, have some good food, a little wine and companionship. She goes on Tuesday and I go on Friday.

I married Miss Right, I just didn't know that her first name was Always.

The last time we had a fight it was my fault, she asked "What was on the TV?" I said "Dust".

R. Hymes



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Ouch 2026

Our Youth Performing arts concert is on again this year on 15th August. Ouch started in year 2000 with performances from our Youth Theatre Group and the Bridgetown High School music students under the guidance of Steve Schrama.

Now in our 26th year the show has expanded to include dance students from the Bridgetown School of Performing Arts, School choirs, music students from Mark De Vattimo's music School, Manjimup High School and Bridgetown High School and theatre performance from Bridgetown Youth Theatre Group.

Traditionally held at Bridgetown Theatre, the venue has changed this year to the lovely hall at St Brigid's. Performances will begin at 6.30pm. There will be a minimal door charge of \$5 per adult (school aged students free) to help cover the cost of the hall hire. Unfortunately, there will be no sausage sizzle this year.

Come along and enjoy a vibrant performance by our wonderful youth. You will be astonished. Maybe bring a cushion for extra comfort.

For more information contact Chris Shedley Mobile 0467 054 503 or email chshedley@bigpond.com

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Freemasons Hotel Brewing a New Chapter for Bridgetown

Ronan McPhilemy is the licensee of the Freemason's Hotel and under his managership in the last two and half years he has revitalised this heritage listed hotel, transforming it into a vibrant hub for locals and visitors alike.

Ronan previously ran the Mulberry Tree Café for seven years in town, a successful family run business, before venturing into operating the Freemason's Hotel, a business which, in its way, is more demanding and complicated to operate, with onerous restrictions, the provision of accommodation, severing meals and drinks and having live entertainment. Despite the increased demands, the running of a hotel has a more rewarding aspect for Ronan to enjoy.

Ronan goes on to explain, "It's given me the opportunity to pursue one of my greatest passions, that's made this journey especially rewarding.

"For around ten years now I have been brewing my own beer, I enjoy the creative process of brewing, it's become a real labour of love.

"It's all about developing recipes, selecting the right malts and hops, and brewing different styles of beer, from pale ales and lagers through to rich stouts.

"The type and roasting of the malted barley has a huge influence on the finished beer. Lightly kilned malts produce the pale colour and delicate flavours found in many pale ales and lagers, while darker roasted malts create the richer colour and roasted coffee and chocolate notes typical of stouts and porters.

"Hops are equally important. They balance the sweetness of the malt while adding bitterness, aroma and flavour, as well as acting as a natural preservative. Fresh and dried hops each bring their own unique characteristics. "Choosing hops



Ronan and the New Brewing Equipment

is much like selecting herbs when cooking, they're a vital ingredient that can completely change the finished product.

"When applying for a brewing license, I was encouraged to obtain a combined brewing and distilling license, allowing for an expanded range of drinks.

"I've now set up brewing production area in one of the back rooms of the hotel, I can produce around 250 litres in a single brew before transferring it into 50-litre kegs, ready to serve straight from the tap.

"We now have our craft beer, Freo Ginger Beer and Freo Hard Lemon all on tap."

In years gone by, many country hotels brewed and distilled their own beverages, each developing a distinctive range unique to their establishment.

In many ways, that tradition has come full circle. Bridgetown is now home to several businesses producing their own handcrafted beers, spirits and wines, giving locals and visitors an impressive selection of locally made beverages. It's a testament to the town's thriving food and drink culture, and one that leaves patrons spoilt for choice.

Farewell to Two Friends of the Forest, Jim and Mary Frith

Continued from page 2... Mary was part of the bold delegation that approached Wesfarmers in 1994 to propose they donate the block to the nation, a decade of negotiation culminating in the state government acquiring it in 2006 to add to the National Park.

But the Friths were never simply protesters; they were also looking for better solutions. At Park Farm they put their beliefs into practice, becoming one of the first farmers in WA to enter the CALM pine sharefarming scheme and embracing an agroforestry system integrating eucalypt species into contoured belts grazed by Merino sheep. They covenanted 40 ha of remnant bushland to the National Trust and fenced the 10 km river boundary, supplementing it with native plantings. In everything they did, they were building something that would last beyond them.

Jim passed away in 2021 on the eve of his 92nd birthday and Mary followed two years later. Together they were recognised on the Conservation Council of Western Australia's Honours List in 2008 and were both Honorary Life Members of BGFF. One friend wrote of Jim: "a true conservationist — a man who walked you over his farm, explained the way things should be done, and made you believe it." Mary's own words, quoted in an Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission publication, summed up what she believed was truly at stake in all of it: the very fabric of the Earth.

Their ashes are now part of the country they cared for, standing today because of them, and the community they helped build. This is the kind of legacy that does not diminish - but it does need people to carry it forward.

If you'd like to be one of them, BGFF welcomes new members. Contact Alison Wright at president@bgff.org.au or 0427 385 640.

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Historical Society

Bridgetown Historical Society (BHS) has again been very busy this year. Not only have we written a new book *The Lost Orchards* of Bridgetown their recipes their stories their history (available for sale at the Bridgetown Police Station and Orchardring Museum for \$25), but also, we have successfully completed 10 years of running the July Fridge Fest Ghost Walks. These walks are always a huge sellout and attract many participants from Perth, so we are promoting Bridgetown's history far and wide.

We have a free talk from Dr Helen Henderson on 12 August at 4pm. Helen is the daughter of Dr Noel Williams, a GP in Bridgetown for many years in the 30s/40s/50s. Helen has recorded the history of health in Bridgetown, from its hospitals to its midwives to its infant health care.

The talk will be about an hour and more details on our Facebook page for Bridgetown Historical Society next week with venue. Bookings are essential and will be through TryBooking.

Our AGM will be held this year on Thursday 13 August at 4pm in the BHS office, 5 Civic Lane. Please come along and join our band of workers.

On Saturday 29 August we will be participating in the Bridgetown Writers Fest as a panel, our talk being 'Untangling the WWWeb of Deception in family histories'. More details will follow but please go to the website <https://bridgetownwritersfest.au> for full details.

Bridgetown Community SOUP plus pitch

The Transition Mob are at it again; bringing something new and fresh into the Open Space idea for September. We know there's an abundance of wonderful ideas in the heads and hearts of our community, we want to hear them, share them and help bring the most popular to fruition.

SOUP plus Pitch is a micro-funding dinner to celebrate and support creative projects in our community. SOUPs, (Social Opportunity for Untapped Potential), started in Detroit back in 2010. City of Vincent have hosted successful SOUP events.

We're providing 4 people, 4 minutes, to pitch their community focused dream project to an attentive and invested audience, who by vote decide the project they want to support. While the audience visits the polling booth, soup will be served and social interaction encouraged.

SOUP + BREAD + VOTE = \$10 + winner takes all, asked to share the next steps, and invited to return to the next SOUP to provide a progress report. We know it will be a fun event; we'd love to see you there.

All we need now is a venue so we can lock in a date and time. If you can help us, or you've an idea to share with your community contact us. transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com

Thanks for reading; David Chick



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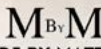
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"A family. A year. A sink."

Bridgetown Repertory's next production is 'The Kitchen Sink', an award-winning play written by Tom Wells, which will be directed by Grace Hitchin.

The Kitchen Sink tells the story of a working-class family, living in the north of England. A funny and tender play about a family who are struggling trying to realise their dreams for a better life.

Martin, who is the father is played by James Davies, he is facing the failure of his milk delivery business as pieces are falling off his milk float as quickly as he's losing customers; his kids, Billy, (David Spooner), and Sophie, (Lyrix Carlson), are striving to achieve their career ambitions with uncertain success. And his wife Kath, (Kath Fazackerley), is battling all the while trying to keep them all on track.

The whole while their kitchen sink just keeps malfunctioning. Pete, (Leon Asplin), a shy and slightly love-struck plumber, is called on for repairs to the sink, which tend to be required at the most hostile of times in the kitchen.

Grace Hitchin enlightens us on how the play is coming along. "The play was written in 2009 and first staged in 2011 and has been performed by a number of professional and amateur theatres alike, but I'm sure this will be only the second time it has been performed in Western Australia.

"During the play we get to share a year with a family whose supposedly ordinary lives are rich with idiosyncrasies, and we get to witness them leaning on one another to get through tough times.

"This is a funny and utterly gripping play, I'm sure all theatre goers will thoroughly enjoy.

"We have cast three wonderful young actors, Lyrix, David and Leon, all with youth theatre experience. They are all rehearsing and performing their roles marvellously well along with the experience of Kath Fazackerley.

"James Davies also a talented and experienced actor who will be performing for



James Davies, Kath Fazackerley, David Spooner, Leon Asplin and Lyrix Carlson

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the first time in Bridgetown.

"Hugh Liston is constructing the set, a kitchen diner."

When asked to sum up in six words what his award-winning play, The Kitchen Sink, was about, Tom Wells replied, "A family. A year. A sink."

The play will be staged during September, on Friday 4th, Saturday 5th from 7.30pm and a matinee on Sunday 6th from 2pm, and in the following week on Friday 11th, Saturday 12th at 7.30 and Sunday 13th, a matinee from 2pm.

Bookings at Try bookings from 31st August or tickets will

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