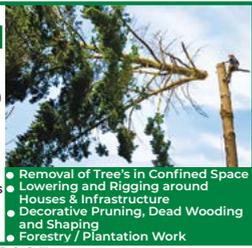


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December 2nd 2025

VOLUME 34 NO: 4 ISSUE 360

# THE MAILBAG



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## CWA Bridgetown Goes Back To Basics

At the 2025 AGM, CWA Bridgetown heaved a great sigh of relief that our major renovations were complete and developed a calendar of events the reflected the CWA of WA purpose of "being a strong, reputable, relevant voice positively impacting lives and communities".

We focused on fundraising for the local community, creating bonds with other local community groups, joining local committees, making our rooms a community open space, supporting our sister branches and catering for the



Rebecca, Kit, Sue, Lynn, Ainta and Beverly with the Christmas Shoe Boxes

Blessing of the Roads, the Mystery Tour of Life, CRC Volunteer Quiz night, the Shire and anyone else who asked.

We held a "ANZAC Poppy crocheting day" open to the local community and in conjunction with the Boyup Brook branch. Some interesting versions were produced to much hilarity. Later in the year we joined Boyup Brook at their 95th birthday party which was also a Cancer Council fundraiser.

May saw the biggest catering project we have ever done and we would not have been able to do it without the support of the Hospital Auxiliary. Both groups made morning tea and food for the ball that was held to celebrate the re-opening of the Shire Halls. 450 happy customers later we pledged to give the Hospital Auxiliary a donation to fund works at the Hospital including the provision of an "infusion chair".

Our own Cancer Council fundraiser was held in June and very well attended. Subsequently some lovely Bridgetown ladies donated very pretty cups and saucers for future events. Thank you.

June also saw us host the international ladies from the Peace Run and Bridgetown featured in their social media productions.

The Home School group are using our rooms for their markets and the CRC will be running their popular games nights there as well. We are very happy that we made substantial donations to many other local organisations including Bridgetown Primary School, the Agricultural Show, Henry Nouwen House, St Vincent de Paul to name a few and of course Operation Christmas Child. And we thought it was a quiet year!

CWA Bridgetown wishes the community a safe festive season and we will see you all again in February. If you would find out more about our fun and friendship group, please contact Anita on 0431 374 753 or email anita5420252@outlook.com. Anita



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Above IGA in 1988: This was a '100 year flood' of 45 cubic metres per second. The flow on Show Day would have been less than 10 cubic metres per second

## Show Day Flood

For at least the past 10 years the Bridgetown Show has enjoyed fine weather. Before this rainfall was experienced on one occasion and this caused some problems with cars trying to leave the Show Parking area. For the team managing the show parking this year the possibility of rain was always a concern, but as the week before progressed the rain and storms held off and it was hoped the forecast rain and storms on Saturday would also go away too.

Such was not to be, and by about 8 am the first of two storm cells brought moderate rain, lightning and thunder in the area above the Showgrounds. This cleared after about an hour and by about 11 cars had started to arrive in reasonable numbers.

Until late afternoon the day was fine and the Show was enjoyed by a reduced crowd. At about 5 pm a larger second storm cell approached. This had heavier rainfall and there was concern whether the fireworks would be able to go ahead. As it happened a fireworks display was able to take place.

By this time rain over the catchment serving the Geegelup Brook was contributing to increased flows in the channel through the townsite.

Online comments and photos by a number of people and the dramatic video by Keira Orr on Facebook show that the peak flow was generally contained within existing channels except where the waterway was restricted by marginal or inadequate culverts.

The brook first crosses the South Western Highway north of the entry to Four Seasons. It then runs through the P A Doust site, ...Continued on page 15

## SHIFT IT TRAILER HIRE



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Deanne, Cherie, Anne and Meryl crumpling paper during one of the felting activities

## Paper Felting

Joomchi and Momigami. Do these words mean anything to you? Well for the ladies at the paper felting workshop it didn't mean anything to us either at the beginning of our day.

Joomchi is the ancient art of Korean paper felting and Momigami means Japanese paper textile manipulation. By different manipulation techniques, both produce strong textured paper fibre textiles, that can be made into wearable art items.

Anzara Clark is an award winning, multi-disciplinary artist who explores various textiles, paper and recycled material manipulation. She presented an introductory full day



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workshop to interested members of the Bridgetown Arts and Craft Centre on Wednesday 15th October.

Anzara was here from Ballarat to present workshops to members of the West Australian Textile and Fibres Association in Narrogin and again to members in Bunbury. By a lucky coincidence, one of the Bridgetown Arts and Craft members saw Anzara's work at the Ballarat Craft Fest mid-May. Discussions and follow-up emails resulted in Anzara coming to Bridgetown.

The Bridgetown members experienced different techniques used for the different effects with paper. We also learnt to make Japanese thread paper and basic cordage.

Anzara hopes to return in 2026, as several country towns' craft centres have requested her introductory workshops and follow-up workshops. She will be extremely busy, as next year she has also been invited to display her fashionable wearable art at the London Fashion Week. Karla Page

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# Bridgetown's First Ultra-Fast EV Charger

Work has begun on Bridgetown's first ultra-fast Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station, made possible through funding secured by the Bridgetown Greenbushes Tourism Association (BGTA).

The new charger is being installed at Puzzletown6255 on Hampton Street and will be the fastest EV charger anywhere along the South Western Highway. With two 24/7 bays delivering up to 300 kW, most EVs will fully recharge in under 20 minutes; giving travellers the perfect excuse to stop, stretch, and enjoy everything Bridgetown has to offer.

The project is a partnership between the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Talison Lithium, and the WA Government's Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED). Their combined support has helped turn a long-running idea into reality.

The station will use a German-designed ADS-TEC Energy ChargePost system. Unlike many chargers that require major grid upgrades, this one stores energy in onsite batteries and delivers it at ultra-fast speeds, even in towns with limited power capacity. Paired with rooftop solar, the new Bridgetown installation will be a future-proof, energy-smart model that other regional communities may follow.

Some of the expected benefits this new charger will bring to Bridgetown include; more visitors, EV drivers plan their stops around charging stations, bringing more business to local cafés, shops and attractions.

Support for community groups; income from the charger will help offset costs at 154 Hampton Street, home to Puzzletown6255, Landcare and Blues at Bridgetown.

A cleaner future; the project shines a light on the



Tessa and Nick on site at Puzzletown6255

important role regional WA plays in sustainable energy and the lithium industry.

## About Puzzletown6255

Puzzletown6255, the Jigsaw Puzzle Gallery, is nearing the end of major renovations. The gallery remains open every day from 10am-2pm throughout the building works.

Work is now underway, with the charger expected to be open to the public by February 2026. Tessa

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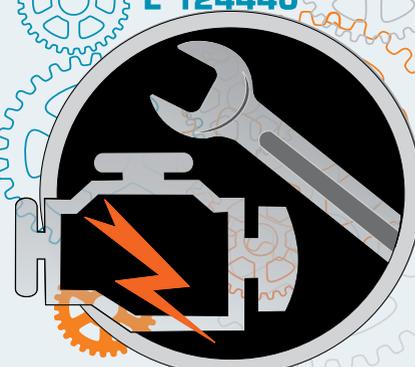
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## BGFF Sundowner Thursday Week

Encouraged by last year's successful 'Sundowner' Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest will hold this year's windup on Thursday week, December 11, commencing at 5.30 pm at the Bridgetown Hotel.

Last year's event in the CWA Building was self-catered. This year the fact that all our funds are committed to the mining exploration legal challenge has suggested a different arrangement.

The evening will be in the Bridgetown Hotel breakfast room with attendees arranging their own drinks and ordering dinner or snacks from the hotel bar on arrival.

Jenny Dewing will present an update on the state of the legal challenge, Jon Steer will show examples of wildlife caught on trail cameras in Dalgarpur and unique recordings of bird calls in the proposed mining tenements, and there will be a rundown of BGFF highlights over the past 20 years.

A brief AGM will follow, after which the hotel will serve your ordered dinner. We hope to see you there. Richard

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# Boyup Brook Country Music Muster receives funding boost from WA Government

The Boyup Brook Country Music Muster is proud to announce it has secured funding through the WA Government's Creative Industries Arts Projects for Organisations – 2025 to 2026 funding program. This grant is a huge boost for our beloved event, helping to cover essential costs for some of the behind-the-scenes necessities that keep everything running smoothly. With this support, the Muster can continue to grow and thrive and bring a great celebration of country music to our region. This is in addition to WA Government funding through the 2024-25 round of the Arts Activities in Regional Communities program, an initiative delivered as part of the Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program.

This support is a game-changer for the Muster, allowing us to shine an even brighter spotlight on the incredible regional artists who bring our event to life. With this funding, we'll be able to deliver a more immersive experience for audiences, complete with high-quality sound, lighting, and media production—ensuring every performance is professional, polished, and unforgettable. This is an opportunity to help us grow our reach, connect with new audiences, and share the magic of the Muster far and wide.

This investment strengthens not just our event, but the cultural heartbeat of Boyup Brook. It supports local jobs, builds regional skills, and increases access to the arts for everyone in our community.

A heartfelt thank you to the WA Government for recognising the value of regional arts and helping us continue to celebrate country music in Boyup Brook.



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**On behalf of the Harcourts Heartland Team, we wish all our wonderful customers a very Merry Christmas and a joyful, prosperous New Year!**

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**Warmest Christmas wishes from our family to yours!**



## December Update

### Talisson Brings Science and Fun to the Bridgetown Agricultural Show

Not even a thunderstorm could dampen the spirits of Bridgetown Show goers, who turned out in force despite the wild weather!

Talisson was proud to once again sponsor free entry for children aged 12 and under, helping make this much-loved community event more accessible to everyone.

The Bridgetown Show is always a highlight on the local calendar, and this year was no exception. Our marquee was buzzing all day - except for a short break when lightning sent us to a safer building - with hands-on science activities and plenty of fun for all ages.

Kids loved the sandpit play area, while the Laboratory Team's Oobleck experiment captivated curious minds, proving science can be both messy and magical. For those a little older and keen on gaming, our Mining Team offered an immersive experience with an interactive video game set inside our pit operations.

A huge thank you to everyone who stopped by to chat and learn more about our operations, and a special thanks to the Talisson team who gave up their weekend to make it all happen!



FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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## Award-Winning Wellbeing at Talison

We're incredibly proud of our Wellbeing Team and the difference they make every day. Recently, their commitment to mental health and workplace wellbeing was recognised in several industry awards.

The team (pictured below) continues to grow their presence across site, making support as accessible as possible. In 2024 alone, they delivered more than 900 support sessions, helping employees, contractors, and their families through counselling, crisis response, coaching, and more.

Congratulations to the team for these achievements:

- WA Association for Mental Health - WA Mental Health Awards – Mentally Healthy Workplace Award (winner)
- WorkSafe WA Work Health and Safety Excellence Awards 2025 – Best Intervention to Address a Psychosocial Hazard (Finalist)
- WHS Foundation Health and Wellness Award – Mental Health Category (Finalist)

Their work makes a real difference, and we're excited to see their impact continue to grow.



## 2025 in Review

As 2025 comes to a close, it's a good time to reflect on what we've achieved, what we've learned, and what lies ahead. Early in the year, community concerns were raised about the impacts of the Greenbushes Lithium Operation. Our leadership acknowledged that rapid expansion in recent years had created challenges and committed Talison to being better neighbours. This commitment has guided our actions throughout the year.

Some initiatives had been in the works for a while, others were fast-tracked in response to feedback. One of the biggest areas of focus was dust management, and we've taken significant steps to reduce its impact including:

- Introduced a live dust monitoring dashboard at [talisonlithium.com/monitoring](http://talisonlithium.com/monitoring), giving the community real-time visibility of dust levels and alert status under our Trigger Action Response Plan.
- Formed a Dust Action Committee and appointed a dedicated manager to oversee dust control throughout summer for faster, more coordinated responses.
- Applied dust suppressant to over 71 hectares, with multiple treatments in key areas, and added a fourth 70,000L water cart to boost suppression capacity

## Other Key Achievements

- Established the Stakeholder Reference Committee, giving local voices a seat at the table.
- Expanded environmental monitoring and launched the Long-Term Health Assessment Program to keep community wellbeing front and centre.
- Released our third Sustainability Report, reinforcing our commitment to transparency and responsible operations.
- Adjusted blast timing and introduced a blast noticeboard for greater transparency.
- Invested in road infrastructure and speed monitoring through Greenbushes town.
- Supported 85+ local community groups through our Community Support and Investment Programs.

Together, these achievements show real progress, strengthening transparency, improving environmental performance, and deepening community partnerships. We'll keep building on this momentum in 2026 and beyond.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to and supported Talison this year – our workforce, contractors, suppliers, and local communities. We couldn't do it without you.

To everyone working at Greenbushes over the holiday period, and to your families, thank you for your commitment and support. Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season, and we look forward to continuing to work together in the coming year to help create a better future.

FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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# The Little Prince

The Little Prince Bridgetown Repertory shows will be run for one more weekend, so you don't want to miss this wonderful family friendly event.

Based on Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's bestselling classic, The Little Prince follows a young traveller who journeys across the stars, meeting curious and unforgettable characters along the way. It's a gentle, imaginative story that explores friendship, wonder, love, and what truly matters in life.

The book itself is one of the most significant works of world literature; the second most translated book in history after the Bible, with over 650 language editions. It's widely studied at tertiary level for its elegant blend of philosophy and storytelling, delivering profound ideas through an accessible, childlike lens.

This stage adaptation captures all the magic of the original text. Local Bridgetown artists have helped in the production. Emily Smith has produced beautiful illustrations and set pieces. Cecelia Karafilis has added her wonderful vocals and recorded original songs for the soundtrack. It is an uplifting story that will resonate with children and adults alike.

Abi O'Wallace and Ray Galloway have risen to the challenge of their large roles, their believability draws us into the story and their performances are genuinely loving, thoughtful and emotive. Tor Klaassen is to be commended for his commitment to learning



The Rose performed by Elissa Klaassen and the Fox performed by Daun Crozier

the entirety of the script and supporting the cast in his role as understudy. He has displayed impressive capabilities for his age and captured child-like curiosity well.

Director Chris Shedley has praised the entire cast for their connection to the story, a connection that he is sure the audience will share.

Up and coming show dates are Friday 5th and Saturday 6th December evening performances – 7:30pm and a matinee performances at 2:00pm Sunday 7th December. Tickets available on [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com) and at the door.



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## Castaway Sculpture

Kim Perrier's De-Vine took out the Major Award at the Castaway Sculpture Awards, the dynamic coastal art festival on the Rockingham foreshore in WA.

A long-time favourite with the public, Kim has also been honoured with the People's Choice Award there three times out of four exhibitions.

Eager to push his skills in wire work and wire casting, Kim embarked on an ambitious new technique, only for the process to fail just four weeks before deadline. Refusing to give up, he began again from scratch, powering through an intense 24-day rebuild.

De-Vine was finally completed at 10:30 p.m. the night before delivery.

The aluminium casting method Kim pioneered for his first Castaways entry has now matured, erupting onto the beach in a cascade of wild, electrified hair. "She looks like she's been struck by lightning," Kim said.

This larger-than-life work is now on display at Perrier's Sculpture Garden, 2 Dreyfus Street, Bridgetown.



## 'Sing Christmas'

Come along and enjoy the singing of Christmas Carols at St Paul's Church on Monday 22nd December starting at 7pm. It's a wonderful evening to look forward to, and one that should not be missed. All are welcome.

There will be many favourite carols for people to join in and sing along too.

The 'Carol Band' is made up of local musicians. The 'band' is in fact a mini-orchestra. Hilary Bardsley, Conductor, has the job of keeping them all in order.

Reverend Sue Kemp will be leading the Carols.

At St Paul's there has always been a carol service held in December. The service acquired its name 'Sing Christmas' around nine years ago. Since then, every year it has attracted more musicians to perform and take part in the concert.

People come together at the service to celebrate the great Christian festival.

St Paul's is one of best performance venues in town. The acoustics are wonderful. Each year a 'wall of music' from the band is met with a 'wall of singing' coming back. It's magical, it's something you can feel.

Tim Streeter, the trumpet player, says, "It's my favourite musical event of the year".

The performance runs for an hour and a half. Tea, coffee, Christmas cake along with jubilant conversations will be offered after the carols.

Everyone is most welcome to attend. St Paul's seating capacity is 120. Be early to be seated inside.

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## Transition Bridgetown

### Wrapping Up 2025 and Looking Ahead

As 2025 draws to a close, Transition Bridgetown is celebrating a year of community action, innovation, and resilience — while already planting seeds for what's to come.

Our final mailbag column for the year includes a heartfelt thank you to Michael Krauze. The Mailbag has again helped keep sustainability front of mind for Bridgetown readers. Festive Season Waste Tips

With Christmas around the corner, Transition Bridgetown is encouraging residents to cut down on holiday waste. The CSIRO has shared some surprising facts about plastic use at Christmas, along with practical ideas for reducing it. Did you know that Australians use more than 150,000 km of wrapping paper during the festive season? How scary is that!! One simple tip for us all is not to scrunch paper or cards. Scrunched paper can't be recycled. Fold it neatly instead. The only thing you should ever scrunch is foil. Check out more tips to save waste at this website: <https://www.csiro.au/en/news/all/articles/2023/december/plastic-waste-christmas>

Repair Café Keeps Things Running

The Repair Café held on 4 November was another success, with locals bringing in broken appliances and household items to be fixed rather than thrown away. The initiative now takes a summer break, returning in February 2026. Organisers are exploring alternating future sessions between Bridgetown and Greenbushes, ensuring both towns benefit from this practical, waste-reducing service.

Blackwood Regen Fest Returns

Residents are urged to save the date for Saturday 21 March 2026 when Transition Bridgetown will host the fourth Blackwood Regen Fest since its launch in 2023 at the Ashbil Community Garden. With stalls, speakers and workshops, the festival celebrates sustainable living and treading lightly on the earth.

Wash Against Waste Trailer Ready to Serve

A major milestone this year was the completion of the new shed housing the Wash Against Waste Trailer, alongside the Bridgetown Community Landcare Nursery. Supported by a Lotterywest grant and a water tank funded by a Talison community grant, the facility is now fully set up. A three-year service agreement with the Bridgetown/Greenbushes Shire covers the public liability, hire and volunteer insurances necessary for the Wash Trailer to be utilised in our community and surrounds. The Wash Trailer is now complete with its own hot water system and is ready to help cater for low-waste public and private events across our shire and surrounding towns.

Community Thanks and Membership

Transition Bridgetown extends warm thanks to the Bridgetown community and shire for its enthusiastic support of our Open Space events this year, which have brought people together to share ideas and solutions for a sustainable future on many different topics. We particularly thank councillors Cr Lansell, Cr Boyle and Cr Fletcher for their attendance and support at Open Space events. We all benefit when communities can work together with their respective shire representatives to get the grassroots feedback from those who have elected them into Council. Thank you.

Wishing you all a healthy, happy and totally fabulous Christmas and positive start to the New Year!

For those keen to get involved with Transition Bridgetown or just learn more about us and our membership, enquiries can be directed to [transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com](mailto:transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com).



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St Vincent de Paul will be distributing Christmas Hampers to members of the Bridgetown community in need at St Brigid's Church Hall, Bridgetown on Tuesday, 16 December 2025 from 12:00 noon to 2:00pm. If you or your family would like to receive a hamper, please call St Vincent de Paul on 0429 680 759 by 5 December 2025 to register.

## Guide and Assistance Dogs Rights

Did you know that under the Dog Act 1976 - Section 8, Guide and Assistance Dogs are allowed access to everywhere their handler goes, and this includes dogs in training.

It is an offence to refuse entry to a person accompanied by a Guide or Assistance Dog including dogs in training; the only exceptions to this rule are operating theatres and some areas of zoos (such as the walk-through exhibits). These rights are covered by a variety of legislation including: The Dog Act (1976), Section 8 The Disability Discrimination Act (1992), Section 8



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## Wild Wonders

The Committee of The Bridgetown Agricultural Society wishes to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Greater Bridgetown-Greenbushes community for supporting us at this year's show. We put our heart and souls into producing our annual show and it was quite disheartening to hear the first signs of a storm at 3am on Saturday.

It is the kind of show day that will go into our history books, the kind we will speak of for years. The show day that was plagued by power cuts, when the opening ceremony and half of the speeches were done through a megaphone. The heart-breaking decision to call off the horse events and Sheaf Toss, the loss of 3 marquees before we even opened the gates. The year hail rained down on us and the hilarious scene of an entire bar crowd trying to squeeze under the rotunda. The Lion's van selling out of just about everything and the inevitable safety call from the sideshow rides that they had done their best but it was simply too dangerous to continue running (large pieces of metal and lightning don't mix well).

Although the sun finally came out and we thought we were through it, the weather turned for a second time and the early evening downpour and hail saw a mass exit from the grounds and the words "When do we call it" started to be said.

At about 6:30pm we received a call from the fireworks boss asking if we were going ahead. "Some of the fireworks have been damaged and the weather is less than favourable;



Having to Shelter Under Cover

how many people are still there? Will they return for the fireworks?"

All available committee members huddled in the secretary's office and weighed up the options. Looking at all the different weather sites and all the radars, we made the decision to go ahead, confident people would return for the fireworks.

The sky cleared, the storm passed and as we waited for the fireworks to begin from our various locations around the grounds our hearts burst with appreciation that the seating was

filled, the cars were lined up, and the community had returned to see the grand finale of one of our most memorable shows on record.

To our hard-working volunteers and exhibitors that showed up for us, the stall holders, food vendors and community groups that stuck it out – you are all amazing. To the huge number of community members who not only came through the gates but made a point of speaking with committee members and congratulating us on a great show when we were doing our best to keep a brave face, we thank you.

We have always stuck by the motto that the Bridgetown Show is a community event for the community and gosh that's exactly how it felt.

When we say rain, hail or shine we say it in jest but our 136th Bridgetown Agricultural Show was it- rain, hail and shine. Hayley

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# Jack's Shack is the centrepiece of new heritage precinct at Donnelly River

The restoration of a timber worker's wood-and-iron hut is the centrepiece of a new heritage precinct at the old mill town of Donnelly River and was officially opened by the Minister for Forestry, the Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC on Saturday 15th November.

Friends of Donnelly Village (FODV) chair Dr Sally Paulin explains. "Friends of Donnelly Village were very happy with a large attendance and lots of interest in our Jack's Shack Project.

"At the opening, the Minister for Forestry, Jackie Jarvis commented on the value of the Native Forestry Transition Funding for community groups such as ours and we were very pleased to welcome Councillor Rebecca Redman, Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes, Tony Dean, Shire President, Shire of Nannup, and Donelle Beugge, Shire President, Shire of Manjimup as well as many ex-residents and local visitors.

"John Tillman Snr was a very welcome guest and he signed copies of the latest edition of his book 'Donnelly: Men and Mill' which is now available for purchase at the General Store, Donnelly River Village.

"This is a project that showcases our local history and contributes to the heritage experience in our forest region for locals and visitors alike.

"While the heritage-listed building was painstakingly restored piece by piece using historical preservation techniques, the story of Jack Surina, who lived there for more than 40 years, uses the latest in media technology.

"With a grant from the state's Native Forest Transition program, the heritage group Friends of Donnelly Village Inc (FODV) has preserved the shack and made it accessible for the public to see any time for free. They can also see – and hear – the story of Jack, thanks to modern interpretation technology. A hand-wound audio console allows users to hear firsthand recollections about Jack and life in the timber town."

Croatian-born timber worker Jack Surina was a giant character of the town, living in the shack which had no running water or electricity for much of his tenure. After the mill closed in 1978, he stayed on, doing odd jobs and tending his chooks and vegies. He died in Bridgetown in 1999, aged 96.

Part of the restoration includes Jack's old dunny, which has been transformed into an Instagram photo opportunity for tourists. FODV has also produced a new video about Jack Surina (at the museum) and reprinted Donnelly's unofficial history 'Donnelly: Mill and Men', by mill worker John Tillman.

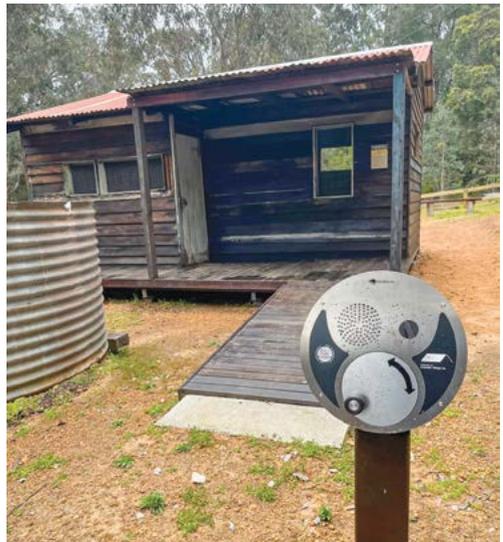
The project sourced materials and services from local suppliers. Volunteers from Track Care WA helped shift the shack. A prisoner team from Bunbury Regional Prison installed the fencing and benches. FODV and other volunteers contributed thousands of hours.

Donnelly River is unique in WA. Built for the families of Bunnings mill workers, the original 1950s timber-framed weatherboard and iron buildings are still intact. The whole town is heritage-listed. Today it is owned by a trust and the cottages are available for family holiday accommodation. The old primary school houses FODV's award-winning museum. The government-owned timber mill still stands, but is derelict and fenced off from the public.

The Jack's Shack restoration project was funded in large part by a \$40,000 grant through the second round of the State Government's Community Small Grant Fund, part of the Native Forests Transition program (administered by JTSI/DEED). This sum was boosted by a Shire of Nannup small grant and private donations. Dr Sally Paulin



Above is Jack's Shack pictured as it was and below the shack pictured after restoration



John Tillman signing copies of his book

## Show Day Flood

Continued from page 2...crosses Williams Street and then returns across the Highway. At all these locations culverts are inadequate and there is wide flooding in the Doust landscaping areas and substantial flow over the Highway.

The watercourse then runs between Hillview Nursery and the railway line, here remaining within its channel.

The culvert under the Highway and Nelson Street, to behind what used to be Kordics, has a design capacity of about 10 cubic metres/second. There was no evidence that this culvert overflowed which suggests that the flow in the creek at this point was less than 10 cm/sec.

Photos posted showed water flowing over Lockley St (behind FATS and the Fire Brigade). This is expected as there is no effective culvert under the street. Through Memorial Park to the Steere Street footbridge was also flooded, due to constriction by the abutments of the footbridge.

Below the footbridge, behind the shops, there is a concrete or stone lined channel which generally contained the flow experienced. Keiran Orr's dramatic video shows water vigorously responding to the steeper grade downstream while remaining within the formed channel.

The flood in April 1988 – now 47 years ago – is generally accepted to have a peak flow of around 45 cubic metres/sec behind the shops. The water behind IGA was the depth of the back axle of a small tractor parked under the back wall. The trees shown in the right of the picture are the same as those in Keiran Orr's video. The dry section outside the building is where a car carried away from further upstream came ashore.

The afternoon storm cell would have had an area overlapping the catchment, so why was the runoff in the brook only a quarter of the 1988 storm? Online images show clearly that the orange or red intensive rain areas of storm cells occupy only a small proportion of the area of the cells. In an intensive frontal system such as 1988 it is more likely that the higher intensities would be spread over the width of the catchment.

Richard Wittenoom



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## Blues at Bridgetown Wraps Up a Successful 2025 Edition

The buzz still remains from Blues at Bridgetown, with the festival's 33rd edition bringing visitors from all over Australia and keeping the locals entertained as well.

"We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our local community and to all those who travel from near and far to support Blues at Bridgetown," said festival manager, Jacky Brody, on behalf of the event committee. "Your enthusiasm, energy and spirit have once again helped make this year's event a standout for our town."

From the great headline acts – Eugene Hideaway Bridges, Little Birdy, Great Gable and Coterie - to all the artists both established and emerging across the Festival Club, venue and street stages to Geegelup and the brand new Blue Owl's Nest mega-stage, the town was rocked in the best of ways.

The Saturday Street Party and Sunday Night Winddown once again brought people of all ages together as only Blues at Bridgetown can. The Street Party vendors were kept as busy as

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ever while ticket and merchandise sales were up slightly this year compared to 2024.

The Bridgetown Agricultural Society (BAS) noted its full support of Blues at Bridgetown. Without the fundraising efforts of BAS volunteers through Budget Camping, there would be no Bridgetown Show.

"The Showgrounds are community-owned, not managed by the Shire, and must be maintained and upgraded whenever possible — including essential works such as roads, toilets, grounds, and septic systems," said Bridgetown Agricultural Society (Inc), Secretary, Corinne Rule.

"These improvements are carried out by local volunteers throughout the year, and the funds raised during the Blues weekend make this vital work possible."

The festival also upped the ante in terms of sustainability with 11.5m3 cardboard and glass recycled, with near on 13,000 containers kept from landfill, also a slight improvement on last year.

"People often ask if we had a 'successful Blues,'" said Brody. "For us, success isn't measured in dollars — it's measured in the happy, smiling faces we see throughout the weekend. While the financial wrap-up is still underway, it has never been our driving force. What truly matters is the lasting positive impact the festival has on our community, not just over one weekend, but all year round.

"Thank you for being part of what makes Blues at Bridgetown so special."



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