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February 1st 2022

VOLUME 30 NO: 6 ISSUE 317

THE MAILBAG

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

Dennis Wins More Awards

In November 2021 Dennis Wilson won the Boddington Open Sculptural Prize with 'Mates for Life', Black Cockatoos on a power pole and he also won the second prize with the sculpture 'Little Pied Cormorants'.

These two awards are just the latest in an ever growing lists of awards. The Dunsborough 'Sculpture by the Bay' was cancelled this year because of Covid-19, but Dennis is hoping the 'Pemberly of Pemberton' Sculptures in the Vines will still go ahead, Dennis being a past winner of both competitions. He has a metal sculpture of a leafy tree with blue wrens and robin red breasts to enter into this competition.

Dennis makes award winning sculptures from scrap steel, leaf springs, clutch plates, farm machinery, old gas cylinders, really anything made of metal that can be cut, ground and bent, so he can then repurpose these items by turning them into award winning outdoor sculptures.

When Dennis retired around nine years ago, he enrolled himself in a TAFE course where he learned to weld.

"I was taught arc welding, mig welding and oxy welding, I couldn't get along with the mig welder, the arc welding seems to work quite well for me.

"I'm not sure where I've got the ability to make metal sculptures from," Dennis is pondering, "My Grandfather was a blacksmith, maybe it's in the genes, it gives me a sense of delight mingled in with joy to create a sculpture from scrap which people admire.

"Not all my ideas or inspirations work out, some pieces I have commenced, I just cannot find the inspiration to finish, but other pieces have a life of their own, they literally just come to life as I make them.

"Of late I have been powder coating parts of the sculptures, a rusting patina suits certain structures, but with the birds, Blue Wrens, Robin Red breast which are such colourful birds, the bright powder coated colours bring them to life.

Continued page 15



Dennis Wilson above with some of his sculptures



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Bert's Garage

Around three years ago Bert and Angie Hayes moved to Boyup Brook from a farm they owned and ran in the Northam York areas, this was so they could ease into retirement and live closer to their family.

This move has been quite life changing, having to prepare their farming property for sale, arranging a clearing sale of the farming equipment as well as dissolving a vehicle dealership, all the while establishing a new home in Boyup Brook, has kept the couple quite busy over the last three years.

One of the major tasks this move involved was finding a place to house their collection of classic motor cars. The collection is a passion which Bert and Angie both share, a collection which has grown and been refined with over forty years of collecting.

Bert and Angie have in their collection twenty cars, three caravans and a motor bike, all licensed, with all vehicles needing to be started and run on a regular basis.

Bert explains the undertaking, "We purchased the old John Deere dealership building along Railway Parade to house our collection.

The showroom and workshop is where we have opened the display to the public, it is opened by appointment, really if someone calls wishing to view the collection we will open up, groups are always welcome.

We have renamed the building 'Bert's Garage' with the adjoining office building being 'Angie's Diner' these buildings have become 'Boyup Brook Classic Cars'.

"The collection has a range of cars from the 1920s to the 1970s and includes a wide range of shapes and sizes from a Morris Minor to large Cadillac Sedans, featuring Australian, English and American cars.

The oldest car in the collection is a 1928 Ford Model A Roadstar which we have owned for around thirty-seven years.

In the collection we have cars from all decades, 1938



Angie and Bert

Chev, 1946 MG, 1955 Ford Thunderbird, 1965 Holden Primer, 1974 Lincoln, E type Jags and my old Fairlane.

We are still buying and selling cars with a notion of balancing our collection.

One of the largest expenses with the collection is the batteries. We go through a load of batteries.

Our neighbour, Lance Carlisle, has also contributed several motor bikes to the display. He has also become a wonderful volunteer who is helping us bring the collection to the public, concluded Bert."

As part of the atmosphere there is also an American diner theme with petrol bowlers, called 'Angie's Diner'.

Angie, who is a very crafty has decorated the diner with some of her crafts, there are paper tole pictures, jigsaw puzzles, diamond pictures and the like all with an automobile theme. She also reupholstered the chairs in the diner.

Angie goes on to talk about the venture, "One of the cars in the collection is our wedding car, it is a Holden HD Premier sedan which was purchased new by Bert's father, it still holds pride of place in the collection.

One of the influences I bring to our 'life style hobby' is when Bert finds a car which we must add to our collection, I'm the one who gets to ask 'How are we going to pay for this one'?"

Our lives literally revolve around the collection; we are members of several different car clubs.

Through the car clubs with the car rallies and tours, whilst being around like-minded people we have made lifelong friendships throughout the years.

One of the cars we have purchased from the USA is a Mustang Mach 1. When buying this car Bert said it would be my favorite, it is very similar to a work vehicle I used to drive, a Falcon XA 351 hard top. *Continued page 15*

St John 

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Parenting Workshop

‘Tuning in to kids’ Parenting Workshop is a free six session parenting program for parents and carers of children aged from 2 to 12.

The workshop will be conducted by the facilitators Christine Ashbil and Michelle Stayt from Accordwest which is funded by Parenting Connections Anglicare.

‘Tuning in to Kids’ is an evidence-based program that focuses on an emotion coaching parenting style. The program helps parents and carers to develop an emotional connection with their child, and shows parents how to help their child learn about their emotions as well as develop emotional intelligence.

Parents through the program will learn different ways to talk with and understand their child, as well as how to help their young person manage emotions and deal with conflict. Parents also learn how to help prevent behaviour problems.

Christine Ashbill talks about the program, “The ideals of the program is to enable the parents and carers to communicate with their child more effectively and have an understanding of their child’s needs.

“Our aims are also to included grand-parents, mums and dads, step and blended-family parents.

“Over the six weeks parents will gain confidence with emotion coaching steps and find improved outcomes with not only their children but with other relationships and interactions too.

“The program has self-care techniques which teach you to listen, pause and think before reacting.

“Tuning in to kids shows you how to help your child develop emotional intelligence.

“Children with higher emotional intelligence generally have greater success with making and keeping friends.

“They also show better concentration at school and tend to have fewer childhood illnesses.

“Emotional intelligence may be a better predictor of academic and career success than a good IQ score.

The workshops are free and will be held at Bridgetown Family Centre over six 2.5-hour sessions starting on Wednesday 16th February. Crèche and morning tea will be provided.

To register or for further information please telephone 9761 2139 or email: btcommunityc@westnet.com.au

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Blackwood Biosecurity Names New Executive Officer

As part of the restructure of Blackwood Biosecurity Inc (BBI), Tracy Zemunik has been appointed as the new Executive Officer and commenced on 22nd November. Mrs. Zemunik, based in Bridgetown, has a background in executive financial management, governance and controls with a passion for community engagement and developing sustainable agricultural practices. As Executive Officer, she will lead BBI with a focus on providing effective, strategic management engaging local expertise and resources to best achieve community objectives and support landholders across BBI's operational area in the management of declared pests.

Per Margaret Morton, BBI Management Committee Chair, "Tracy brings tremendous strategic planning and financial management expertise to our group. The BBI management committee is excited to have her onboard and look forward to working with her as she assembles and directs a new team that will provide great benefit to our ratepayers in minimising the impact of declared pests in our area."

Mrs. Zemunik is excited to begin this new role, "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to lead BBI on a journey in a fresh direction with focus on collaboration, education, advocacy and best practice. I am currently working with our Management Committee for the formation of a new team bringing together the right experience and local knowledge for our area to provide true value across our communities. Meaningful engagement with our stakeholders is key to our mission to really understand pest management priorities, concerns and challenges and to advocate for those landholders where

extra support is needed. In my role, I will strive to achieve effective partnerships and programs that best serve our ratepayers while also ensuring transparency and accountability. I love our unique and diverse area and feel that each of us has an important role to play in protecting our land. We all know that that pests and weeds do not stop at fences or shire boundaries, and to achieve region-wide impacts we must use our collective knowledge and resources as best we can."



Tracy Zemunik

Blackwood Biosecurity Inc. (BBI), is an incorporated not-for-profit group, operating in the Shires of Boyup Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, West Arthur and the southern portion of Donnybrook-Balingup. As a Recognised Biosecurity Group, BBI's purpose is to support landholders and land managers, within its operational area, meet their responsibilities to manage declared pests as defined in Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act). As such the organisation provides a broad range of resources, guidance and services to support landholders to manage widespread and established declared pests.

Find out more at: www.blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au or contact BBI directly by e-mail at info@blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au or phone on 0477 049 967

For more information, please contact Donna Stewart, Blackwood Biosecurity Inc at 0477 049 967 or via e-mail at info@blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au

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Full Circle Brewery

Early last year The Mailbag ran a story on a boutique brewery that was being run by Mark and Nicola Sheridan on their property 'Secret Creek' in Bridgetown.

Plans were a foot to increase the size and scale of the brewery and move the whole operation into the basement of the Bridgetown Hotel, where patrons of the Hotel could watch the brewing and bottling stages through a glass wall.

The move is now complete with Mark installing three 700 litre fermenting tanks at the hotel.

Mark talks about the move into town and how it is working out, "Most of the problems we had with operating the brewery on the farm have been solved.

"The main issue we had on the farm was heating of the brewing tanks, I now use a three phase power heating mechanism, which has made for a much more efficient day.

"I can now heat a 500-litre kettle vat in around one hour, which is a tremendous improvement.

"The space we are renting in the hotel is much larger than the one on the farm, with the bigger space it has allowed us to invest in more equipment enabling us to increase the volume being brewed, giving us a cost advantage with the larger volumes of beer.

"We also get a lot more exposure for the Full Circle Brewery products brewing in the Hotel. Those that see the process may wish to taste the product.

"There is now a want for beer drinkers to sample the beers from all the different boutique breweries, so we seem to be in the right place at the right time, for the moment."

Not only has the capacity been increased but Mark can now also brew a few very individual beers, one of new beers is Two Nannas NEIPA, New England Indian Pale Ale, which is a Hazy style beer. The beer has a minimal bitterness and a soft palate. This beer is brewed with protein rich oats and wheat. The beer also has ridiculous amounts of hops. It is brewed using 'aroma hops', hops which are grown with certain flavours, it has Mosaic and El Dorado



Aaron Hide and Mark Sheridan in the new brewery

which are a dual-purpose hop. It can be used for bittering, and can also give the beer a tropical fruity taste of mango and pineapple.

Aaron Hide has a great interest in the brewing of beer and helps Mark out with an 'all hands to the wheel' attitude. The beer he suggested that should be brewed is 'British Amber'. This beer is brewed with bitter hops, and is a English style beer. This one is named 'Upper Crust'.

Another new beer is the Sweet Sunshine Indian Pale Ale, which is a smooth and sweet, single hop beer using the Mighty Citra hop. The Citra hop has a strong, yet smooth floral and citrus aroma and flavor. It has specific aroma descriptors that include grapefruit, citrus, peach, melon, lime, gooseberry, passion fruit and lychee and a smooth bitterness.

The Extra Pale Ale, XPA has always been a favourite, is also an easy drinking beer, it has tropical aromas and with hop flavour.

"All in all, the move into town has worked out well. One of the main reasons for moving into town was the fact that I was made redundant from my Fly in Fly out job, I have since returned and been employed in the same job, one week on, one week off, so Nicola keeps an eye on the brewing process while I'm away.

"But the dream remains, the long-term plan is to establish a business which will provide an income along with an idyllic lifestyle for the whole family in Bridgetown." Mark reflected.

The beer is now on tap and in cans at the Bridgetown Hotel, as well and it's also available through Clovers Liquor Store in all varieties in cans.

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Talison Lithium supports more than 60 community groups within a 50km radius of its Greenbushes Site each year. This support comes in many forms including cash sponsorships, provision of in-kind items and volunteer hours.

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our Community Relations team to receive an application form.

www.talisonlithium.com

Bridgetown Historical Society

A successful cake stall in December raised funds for the ongoing activities of the BHS. Thank you to all those who supported this effort.

The Police Station and Museum has been closed for a few weeks due to undergoing structural repairs. For a building built in 1880 and still being used today "not bad going".

Bridgetown has many such heritage buildings, an example of we all know, is Bridgetown Pottery Restaurant.

Maslin House, 81 Hampton Street, Bridgetown: Maslin House is a small cottage of iron and handmade wire cut bricks, fronting Hampton Street, which now sits below street level at the original road height. It is one of the oldest houses in Bridgetown, which is located within the central commercial district.

The two acre Town Lot 16 in Bridgetown was originally purchased by John Douglas in 1869, then sold to Thomas Neate Maslin in 1877. Thomas and his eldest son, James Andrews Maslin, built the house on the property and James took up residence here with his wife, Elizabeth. Elizabeth's skills as a midwife meant the front rooms were used early on to care for women "lying in" prior to and following childbirth.

A second timber cottage was transported to the rear of Maslin House around the early 1940's and an addition of a gallery and workshop space was adjoined to the northern side of Maslin House in 1984/85. The original building flows through to this extension (pottery/gallery). Hand hewn floor boards can still be seen in the building as well as pressed metal ceilings.

The house has been used as a boarding house, grocery and vegetable store, dwelling and from 1986 has been and continues to be run as Bridgetown Pottery Tearooms (Restaurant), with the gallery remaining in use for public art exhibitions and similar functions. In 2021 the Mills family celebrated 35 years of living and working in this house.

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Bridgetown can be proud of the many such examples in our main and adjoining streets.

BHS in conjunction with the Shire of Bridgetown -Greenbushes is revising and updating the booklet, Heritage Guide – a self-guided walk that can be used to explore and discover these treasures. This guide is due for publication in 2022.

Watch out for news of the Police Station and Museum opening times in early 2022 that comply with Covid 19 restrictions. Facebook page Bridgetown Historical Society and-www.bridgetownhistoricalsociety.org.au
e: bridgetownhistory@iinet.net.au M: 0487 592 704

Skin Cancer Screening

The Lions Skin Cancer Screening Van will be in Bridgetown on Sunday 13th March, it will be situated in the Town Square car park.

This is an initiative of Lions Club; appointments are approximately 15 minutes long and are held in private rooms by professional skin cancer screeners volunteering their time to help the local community.

For bookings call Lorna on 0427 218 309.

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Real Estate Matters

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The regions have certainly enjoyed a major upsurge in property sales and sellers have been finally rewarded with price increases. All brought about because of COVID-19. Buyers are placing a higher emphasis on country living offered by acreage and relaxed lifestyle.

The past 18 months has seen a marked increase in buyers from not only Perth people but from ex-pats returning to WA. Bridgetown, Boyup Brook and Balingup have all experienced a growth in sales during the period. With real estate price increases of 18% to 20% in Perth, buyers are finding that moving to the regions represents great value and an opportunity to seek a second home or enjoy the peace and quiet of country living with access to nature and green space.

COVID-19 has forced changes on the way we now live and operate our work commitments with working from home becoming a norm for many. This is also changing trends in building design with a new focus on liveability.

There will be a greater emphasis on convenience, function and efficiency of space as families spend more time in the home. Designs for new home builds are evolving but likely to see work spaces to suit family members and open living design for family interaction.

Technology being an important factor with good NBN / 5G connectivity a necessity. We will also see builders working towards carbon reduction (eventual carbon zero) in future developments. Creating housing that is more long-term sustainable will be the aim. The next few years will see many changes in where and how people live and how we work.

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By John Ranieri
0438 996 848



Why does food today contain lower levels of essential minerals?

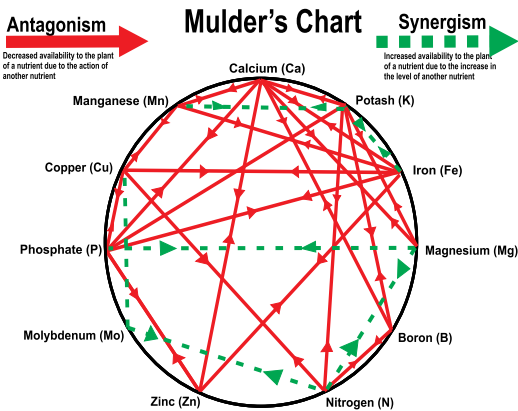
Adrian Williams

Essential minerals are just that – essential. They are essential to good health. In my previous article in December, I showed the alarming level of mineral deficiencies in a sample Australian population. I provided information on the non-communicable diseases that such mineral deficiencies can cause. Figures from the UK show that the level of essential minerals in food have declined by alarming amounts in some cases.

In this article I set out to show some of the reasons for the loss of these important components from food.

Let us start with plant breeding. Plant breeding of crops is usually focussed on producing higher and higher yields. However, this is not without its problems. Through what has been termed 'a dilution effect' carbohydrates in the crop increase at the expense of essential minerals. To prove this effect, a researcher in the USA grew two wheat varieties side by side in the same soil, under the same rainfall and with the same management. One variety was popular in the 1890s and the other was popular in the 1990s. The latter was the result of more cycles of plant breeding. When the resulting grain was analysed the newer, more highly bred variety contained between 22 and 33% less Iron, Zinc, Phosphorus and Sulphur. Plant breeding does not have to concentrate on the goal of higher yield. For instance, it could aim for greater resistance to plant diseases, frost tolerance or increased mineral content. For gardeners, growing what are known as old 'Heirloom varieties' of vegetables in your gardens could be one way to improve the level of essential minerals in what you produce.

Using a limited range of minerals in chemical fertilisers has been identified as a cause for blocking plant uptake of other essential minerals. Mulder published his findings on this - in 1953! He was Belgian and he published his findings in French, but even so it should not have taken so long for his work to be widely recognised. Now scientists have accepted and use Mulder's famous chart. A version is shown below.



It is elegant in its simplicity. Around the outside of a circle are listed a range of the essential minerals. Red lines and arrows show which minerals adversely affect plant uptake of other minerals. The green lines and arrows show which minerals assist the plant uptake of other minerals. So, if you were applying a chemical fertiliser that contained only NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium) then, from the chart, that could have a negative effect on the plant uptake of Boron,

Copper, Calcium, Iron, Magnesium and Zinc. (Note that the chart does not contain an exhaustive list of essential minerals.) If you use fertilisers, organic fertilisers and soil conditioners that contain a broad range of minerals could be expected to produce more nutritious crops (other things being equal) than those grown using only NPK.

Chemical fertilisers commonly make the soil more acidic over time. This influences the solubility of minerals, which allows them to move to, and be taken up by plant roots. When soil becomes acidic (has low pH) most minerals become less available. Exceptions are Cobalt, Copper, Iron, Manganese and Zinc, however these become less available as pH increases. So, for most crops and pastures the 'sweet spot,' the ideal pH range for availability of the widest range of essential minerals, is pH 5.8 to 6.5. A few plants have preferences outside this range, but generally if someone tells you that you need a neutral soil of pH 7 they may simply be trying to sell you lime!

Food processing takes its toll on the essential minerals that the raw food contains. Suffice to say that raw foods (like vegetables and fruit) are likely to have higher levels of essential minerals than highly processed convenience foods. Sometimes it is a question of what people can afford to buy and what facilities and skills they have to prepare meals from raw foods.

Have years of cropping and removal of pastures through grazing simply exhausted the minerals in the soil? Well, yes and no. Most soil analysis will tell you the level of minerals that are available to plants, and what you need to apply to correct any deficiencies. But those analyses seldom show you the total amounts of minerals in the soil. Here is an example from a paddock near Bridgetown. The analysis shows both the levels of minerals available to plants, and the total levels of minerals in the soil.

Mineral	Available minerals		Total minerals
	Found (ppm)	Desired (ppm)	(ppm)
pH 1.5 (water)	5.18	6.0 – 6.5	
Calcium (Ca)	222	600 - 800	632
Copper (Cu)	0.38	0.5 - 5.0	8.5
Magnesium (Mg)	17	100 - 150	394
Manganese (Mn)	2.2	5.0 – 50.0	170
Potassium (K)	26	>100	487
Zinc (Zn)	0.23	1.0 – 5.0	12.8

This example shows that the minerals listed in column 1 are plentiful in the soil (column 4), but only small fractions of the totals are available to plants (column 2) – and in this case the minerals are deficient for the plants' needs (compare columns 2 and 3). For instance, in this example total Magnesium in the soil was 394 ppm (parts per million) but only 17 ppm were available to plants, which is a very deficient level. Most soils have ample essential minerals – if only we could 'unlock' them and make them available to plants.

In the next article I shall show how more of the soil's total store of minerals can be made available to plants. I think you will find it a fascinating, amazing story. It is the story of what has sustained food production from agriculture for 10,000 years but remained unrecognised until relatively recently.

Recognition Awards

The Bridgetown Agricultural Society keeps a record of the years each committee member has been with the Society. This recognition includes attending Meetings, volunteering around the grounds throughout the year, leading up to and on showday.

Each 5 year block is recognised with a Certificate of recognition.

It is amazing how the years can add up and it gives the Society the opportunity to acknowledge these milestones and recognise the outstanding contribution each individual has given to the Society. It is always a proud moment when we can present an award.

The opportunity to award Life Memberships doesn't come around very often and is awarded for exceptional dedication to the Society's continued well being.

Life Membership was awarded to Ric Wheatley in recognition of his 21 years on Committee and for his continued dedication to the Society, serving 13 years as President.

Life Membership was awarded to Adrian Elder who has also been on the Committee for 21 years and for his dedication to the Society. Adrian has also served as a Vice President and for many of those years, as our PA on Showday. His association with the show goes back to his younger years as the Rotary donut seller, walking amongst the crowds selling donuts from a tray around his neck.

A 45 year Service Award was presented to Gerald Richings. Gerald is the oldest active serving Committee Member, still committed to the welfare of the Society. He served twice as President for a total of 7 years and is currently the Ringmaster on Showday.

A 5 Year Service Award was presented to Ed Bland for his 5 years of service to the Society.



Roger Gutteridge with Ric Wheatley, Gerald Richings and Adrian Elder.

We look forward to presenting many more service awards and recognising those who give their time to the Society's well being.


Show Talk Hello Everyone.

Congratulations to all those who were recognised in the Australia Day Honours.

While we welcome you all to 2022 we are still faced with uncertainty within our communities. It is important for us all to stay focussed and to help each other the best we can, to ensure we all stay as healthy as possible, both mentally and physically.

The first meeting for this year will take place on Wednesday 9th February, 7.30pm, in the Presidents Room at the Showgrounds. Our President Roger and the Committee welcomes anyone interested in joining us. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the Month from February to December or you could be a part of the volunteers who together contribute to the wellbeing of the grounds or working on the entertainment, helping to create a great atmosphere for the Annual Show. *Continued page 11*

A large advertisement for Century 21 Advance Realty. The background is dark with gold and white text. On the right side, there is a large gold '21' inside a partial circle. In the center, there is a portrait of Ziggy Gyoergy, a man with a mustache wearing a dark blue shirt. The text on the left reads: 'ON A MISSION TO DEFY MEDIOCRITY + DELIVER EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES'. Below this is the name 'Ziggy Gyoergy' and his contact information: 'Senior Sales Consultant', 'M 0407 472 082', and 'E ziggy@c21advance.com.au'. At the bottom left, it says 'Give me a call for your free appraisal TODAY' and 'Wanted, Tree Farms'. The Century 21 logo is at the bottom left, and 'Advance Realty' is to its right. At the bottom right, there is small text: 'Unit 2/22-26 Cassowary Drive, Bunbury WA 6230 P. 089 41217133 Tlx. 640733 Licensed Real Estate Agents'.



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Happy 2022 All! We hope it has been a positive start for you, despite these unusual times. This month of Feb will see us hosting our regular Open Space topics, films and presentations. We will engage whatever covid event restrictions are in place at the time.

Our first Open Space will be on Sunday February 27th when we will be screening the film 'Seed - The Untold Story' followed by a discussion/workshop on setting up a Community Seed Saving Bank. Watch out for further details on our Facebook page and What's On and we welcome you to join our emailing list of supporters!

We are thrilled to have been able to purchase a new PA system via a Talison Community grant. This will improve our delivery of presentations. The system will be stored at the Bridgetown Family and Community Centre and available for hire to community groups. Thank you Talison.

In early January, we hosted the SUP Tonic event and River Clean Up together with the Keep Australia Beautiful Council. We were really pleased to be involved. Thank you to Seanaid Leslie for sourcing funding and liaising with SUP Tonic and KABC, Talison for providing funds, IGA, Blackwood Fresh and Hansen's Hot Bread Shop for the generous donation of food items for the bbq lunch and the TBR Steering Group and supporters for volunteering their time to help.

113 kgs of rubbish was collected, comprising of 1381 items. The top 5 categories were: soft plastic film pieces/remnants [251] broken glass/ceramics [246] cigarette butts [189] paper/cardboard [187] hard plastic pieces [175] Plus a few tyres and a bicycle!

And this was from an area that looked pretty rubbish free! We look forward to sharing some Open Space events with you this year on topics that raise the resilience, sustainability and health of our very special community. It is only as good as we, the people who live here, make it!

For further information and enquiries please email transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com

Our Weather in 2021

2021 was Australia's coolest year in nearly a decade, according to the Bureau of Meteorology's Annual Climate Statement.

For those living in Bridgetown, Greenbushes and Boyup Brook it was the coolest and wettest year in decades. The average rainfall here in 2021 was up by an impressive 28%.

The mean average rainfall for this district has now reduced to 732.6mm, the rainfall we received in 2021 year was 942.5mm.

We did have a couple of frosts through the year, but not as many as we were once used too.

It was unusual to hear the call from cherry and strawberry farmers from Manjimup, who in November were hoping for warm sunny days to help ripen crops with sunny days in late November being the norm.

By the end of 2021, and for the first time in five years no large parts of the country were experiencing rainfall deficits and drought conditions.

The following statement is the official summary and provides contextual information regarding temperatures, rainfall and significant weather for the 2021 calendar year.

Bureau of Meteorology Senior Climatologist Dr Simon Grainger said: "After three years of drought from 2017 to 2019, above average rainfall last year resulted in a welcome recharge of our water storages but also some significant flooding to eastern Australia.

Continued Page 13

Purple Bench Project

When you next venture into Greenbushes and if you visit the Community Resource Centre (CRC) you will be able to take a seat on the Purple Bench located in the front patio area of the Greenbushes CRC.

Purple benches were first launched in 2015 in Canada, where they are located in public parks to honour the memory of a woman, Barb Baillie, who was murdered by her husband. The benches act as a stark reminder that as a society we can make a difference, with both little and large steps to bring an end to domestic and family violence.

The Greenbushes CRC are proud participants in the 'Purple Bench' project, and on Friday 19th November, they celebrated with the launch of their very own bench. The bench was expertly, beautifully and enthusiastically crafted by none other than Merrick, Dave and Ria from the Greenbushes Community Shed.

Trish McCourt, Projects Officer at the Greenbushes CRC speaks about the project, "The symbolic purple bench honours all victims of domestic and family violence. The colour was chosen as it is associated worldwide with the domestic violence awareness movement.

"The bench is a wonderful respite as well as a subtle way to raise awareness of violence against women and children.

"This is an important issue all across Australia, and one that needs to be addressed."

Family and domestic violence is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations, which often remains unreported due to stigma and shame surrounding the trauma. The 'Purple Bench' project is aimed at making us more aware that there is help and understanding available.

Show Talk *continued from page 9*

The Showground is Memorial Land held in Trust by the Agricultural Society Committee. As the Registered Custodians, they are responsible for the ground and building maintenance and running of events held throughout the year. Hiring of the grounds can be done through the Committee or bookings for the buildings can be done at the Bridgetown Newsagency. All money raised is put back into improving the grounds and facilities and running the Annual Show. The Committee works with other Community Groups enabling them to fundraise towards their own needs through Showground events.

There are a number of events booked for the coming months and hopefully they will still be able to go ahead, but as we are now beginning to realise, and something which is now a part of our lives, tomorrow is still the big unknown.

The grounds are now closed permanently to all dogs. Also, until further notice there is to be no more dumping at the grounds. The infill area past the horse yards is now being levelled and tidied up. The next Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th March 7.30pm in the Presidents Room at the Showgrounds. If you wish to contact the Ag Society, Jo Moore can be contacted on 0437 602 836 or email info@bridgetownshow.com.au or follow us on Facebook 'Bridgetown Agricultural Show'.

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The Years of Progress, 1889 Continues

The Success of the Society was becoming evident

On the Thursday 27th November the 5th Annual Show attendance was larger than at any previous occasion with 254 entries. There were 64 Horses, 71 Cattle, 47 Sheep, 3 Pigs, 5 Poultry, 35 Produce, 28 Dairy Produce and 1 Implement.

The Show had every advantage in the way of favourable weather, and "may be said to have scored a decided success in spite of the disadvantage of having changed its secretary" Luckily, however, the previous secretary was present, "and to his invaluable assistance much of that success may fairly be attributed."

The entries in every class, except that of pigs, was far in excess of any hitherto recorded in the annals of the Society, and without any exaggeration, the Bridgetown show for excellence of the stock shown, as well as for the quantity, was said to occupy a position second only to that of the West Australian Agricultural Society.

Great improvements had been made in the show ground since the previous year; the size of the yards had been more than doubled, and about 25 new pens had been put up; but in spite of this increase on previous years' accommodation, several of the pens were double-banked.

The Annual Dinner was held in the evening followed by the Show Ball. On the Saturday, a cricket match was played between teams representing the Tinfields and the Blackwood Cricket Club which the former proved successful by nine wickets, thus avenging a previous defeat. The proceeding terminated with some athletic sports and a raffle in aid of the Bridgetown Mechanics Institute was drawn the same evening, with a large sum of money raised.

By midday on Sunday the township had resumed its normal appearance of peaceful tranquillity.

By now the success of the Society was becoming evident and the Committee was increased to four Vice Presidents. There was a carnival atmosphere for the week surrounding the Show, and although the ladies were not involved in the meetings, they fundraised for the Society through luncheons and sales of ice-creams and cool drinks. Card evenings, Concerts, Balls, Race Meetings, Athletic Sports, Cricket Competitions and many more all contributed to the activity surrounding the big event of the year and the Show was the major element in the Annual Carnival of the Blackwood District. The Settlers knew how to enjoy themselves after their hard toil.

1890

The ploughing match was held on 10 July at Thomas Giblett's property at the Warren. Giblett had offered the Society the sum of 10 shillings an acre for every acre ploughed (to be held in the proper ploughing season) and also supplied feed for the horses and refreshments for those competing. L. Moore was 1st winning £4 10s. Placed 2nd was L. Lynam with £2 and 3rd Mr G Fox with £1.

The 6th Annual Show was held on Friday 28th November with a large number of people in attendance. The weather was glorious and although gate numbers were down the exhibits maintained their usual high reputation with T. Muir of Deeside showing some good stock that was well ahead of other entries. Great improvements had been made to the grounds with the yards being more than doubled with 25 new pens being erected.

Principal prize winners were W.K. Adam, President of the Society, for his Champion draught mare,

Champion entire for breeding for export and the best bull under 2 ½ yrs old, A.P. Turnbull for best Colonial entire for breeding for export, T. Muir for Champion bull (a grand Polled Angus), P. W heatley for the best Colonial bull, H. Doust for best fat steer, Messrs Steere and Hester for Champion fine wool ram, J. Blechynden for the best Colonial fine wool ram, A.W. Moulton for the best 10 fat wethers and J. Allnutt for the best boar over 12 months old. The Annual Dinner was held in the evening and a Fancy Dress Ball followed, with dancing kept up until almost daylight. Athletics events and a Cricket match followed on the Saturday with the Agricultural Ball taking place on the Monday night 1 December.

The Society's AGM which was also held on the Saturday, took place with Patron; Sir James Lee Steere, President; W.K. Adam, Vice Presidents; J. Allnutt, T. Muir, T. Giblett, W.A.G. Walter. Council; G. Allnutt, H.Doust, G.W. Hester, W. Forrest, J. Inglis, G.W. Layman, A.W. Moulton, J.R. Walter and Secretary; M.H. Jephson.

The Hon. Sir J.G. Lee Steere who was present for the Show, gave an address to the Nelson Electorate at a very crowded meeting attended by many of the town's dignitaries and visitors, noting there was a falling off of the number of visitors, particularly from the Blackwood Road and Bunbury due to the death of J.G. Thompson, who was a strong supporter of the Show and who usually attended with a large contingent of friends.

Sir James' speech at the luncheon, which was held in a marquee behind the assembly room of the Farmers Hotel, referred to the Show being instrumental in bringing together the settlers for one day of the year and "it would be a hard lot if they could not spare one day of the year to meet all their friends."

The good feeling which existed amongst the settlers, tended to make the Show such a success. A toast was drunk to the Society and to the President W.K. Adam. Mention was made of the enlargement of the Showground, which now covered 2 ½ acres and a further 2 ½ acres was being considered at an estimated cost of £50 to clear and fence in.

The first Legislative Assembly under responsible government in Western Australia saw the first Premier, John Forrest taking office on 29th December 1890. John had a long association with Bridgetown. There was the family friendship with the Allnutt's, then in 1862, John's father William Forrest (then living on a small site on the Leschenault Estuary running a flourmill and a few head of cattle and supplementing this income with occasional Government contracts) had been given the contract with Sam Smith to build the first bridge over the Blackwood River at Austin's Ford and following his school studies in 1864, John was apprenticed to assist Surveyor T.C. Carey. John's friendship and close association with well-respected members and councillors of the Central Southern Districts Agricultural Society (Nelson Agricultural Society 1893 and Bridgetown Agricultural Society 1917) would later be of great benefit and huge importance to the growth of the District and to the Society.

John Forrest's life in the Political lane was very different from his early years of exploration with his brother Alexander and his love of the outdoors and yet he still found time, when visiting Bridgetown on official occasions, 'to pull a few blackboys at 'The Grange' with John Allnutt.

John Forrest right



Our Weather in 2021

Continued from page 10

"In 2021, Australia's mean temperature was 0.56 °C above the 1961 to 1990 climate reference period. It was the 19th warmest year since national records began in 1910, but also the coolest year since 2012."

For us in the southwest our average temperatures were consistently lower by a few degrees over the mean average temperature each month.

"Despite the cooling impacts of the negative Indian Ocean Dipole, a period of warmer than usual ocean temperatures in the western Indian ocean, and La Niña, a period of cooling of the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, 2021 was warmer than average (calculated in relation to the 1961 to 1990 climate reference period) and warmer than historical La Niña years."

Temperatures were above or very much above average for most of northern Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia's west coast, but below average for parts of inland New South Wales, and around the southern border of the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

Rainfall was 9 per cent above the 1961 to 1990 average, making 2021 the wettest year since 2016, with November the wettest on record.

As a result, significant flooding occurred across eastern Australia in March and again in November and December.

Above average rainfall was observed for much of the western parts of Western Australia. The Wellington Dam is the South West's largest dam also overflowed.

On a positive note, the major dams in the Murray Darling Basin saw significant increases of water levels, replenishing storages affected by protracted drought.

It has been a warm start to the 2022 year in the south west with several days recording around the 40 degree mark. As we have to, we will wait, see and deal with whatever the year's weather brings.

Separate figures for Greenbushes and Boyup Brook for 2021 could not be obtained because those records are manually recorded and were unavailable at this time.

The Blackwood Tour is on again in 2022

The annual Rotary Tour of the Blackwood will be held again on Saturday, 12th March 2022

with three courses running through the picturesque hills of Bridgetown, Greenbushes, Balingup and Nannup.

Described as one of the toughest rides in WA, the Full Tour is a challenging 134km road ride with several Category 4 climbs while the shortest course the 'Not so Cosy' lives up to its title.

Former Olympian, multiple gold medalist and current World Record holder, Steele Bishop OAM, is the Rotary Club of Bridgetown's Tour Ambassador and said "It's a tough ride for an important cause in a great part of the world."

Funds raised from the ride go to Blackwood Youth Action, a local Charity, to provide mental health services to young people across the Warren Blackwood region.



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Rabbit Control Program is underway

Are Rabbits a problem on your property? Blackwood Biosecurity Inc (BBI) is currently in the process of conducting targeted Calicivirus RHDV1-K5 ("K5") releases with participating landholders across our region.

All landholders within the Shire of Boyup Brook are welcome to participate

With participation from landholders from the Shires of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Boyup Brook, , Donnybrook-Balingup and West Arthur, BBI is progressing with a wide-scale rabbit control program. which approaches rabbit management with the integrated use of a variety of tools and strategies, including the RHDV1 K5 virus. Those who have already registered for this program will be contacted with program updates specific to their participation. If you have not already contacted the group, landholders are encouraged to register by contacting BBI directly by phone or e-mail. Reports of rabbit populations or suspected signs of disease can also be forwarded to the group.

Rabbits as Pests - Rabbits are a declared pest that cause damage to property and the environment. Each year rabbits cause an estimated \$600 million worth of damage to agriculture, as well as cause serious erosion problems, prevent native vegetation from regenerating, attack domestic gardens and undermine farm sheds and other buildings. They are also a major threat to biodiversity, impacting on the survival of many native species. High numbers of rabbits also support a higher level of feral cat and fox numbers, thereby increasing the impact that these species have on native species.

Facts about the RHDV1 K5 Virus Release Program: RHDV1 K5 a naturally occurring virus that is selective to the European rabbit only and does not affect other species, even if a pet ingests an infected rabbit.

Pet and domestic rabbits can be immunised against this virus with the vaccine currently used to protect rabbits against infection from other strains of calicivirus.



This virus will not eliminate all rabbits, but will significantly reduce populations, creating better opportunity for landholders to effectively use other rabbit control strategies

The more people that participate in the virus release, the more effective it is across our area

The group encourages groups of neighbours to join in to organise a coordinated release and increase the success of the release across the community. With community members working together, significant decrease in numbers can be achieved.

Want to know more? Visit BBI's website at www.blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au or contact BBI directly by e-mail at admin@bbisouthwest.org.au or phone on 0477 049 967.

2022 Boyup Brook Country Music Festival Cancelled

The Country Music Club of Boyup Brook in consultation with the Shire of Boyup Brook has cancelled the 2022 Boyup Brook Country Music Festival due to the ongoing risks posed by COVID-19. Whilst proudly the heart of country music in Western Australia, Boyup Brook is also a small regional town. Recent community spread of COVID-19 in Perth, and neighbouring regional areas has elevated the risk posed by holding a large-scale event in the region to an unacceptable level. Country Music Club of Boyup Brook President Jason Forsyth believes whilst a difficult decision, it is the right one. "Despite thorough planning and strict COVID-19 health and safety protocols, the emergence of the Omicron variant and the uncertainty surrounding its spread, have meant holding this event simply contains too many risks," he said. "We understand the cancellation of the festival will be incredibly disappointing for our local community, our line-up of all Western Australian artists, staff, passionate volunteers, and funding partners who have worked tirelessly over the past year on the event. "However, we have the responsibility to ensure to the best of our ability the health and safety of not only our attendees, but also the greater Boyup Brook community which play host each year to our festival. "We have made this decision out of an abundance of caution, and it will allow our team to focus on bringing our much-loved event back in due course when guests, volunteers, staff, and artists can all feel confident about the holding of the event." Shire of Boyup Brook President, Councillor Richard Walker is saddened the event will not go ahead, however he is pleased Festival organisers have put the health and safety of the local community first. "The Country Music Festival is the largest event held each year in Boyup Brook, and whilst it is disappointing to see it cancelled two-years in a row, the risk to our community posed by proceeding with such a large-scale event is just too high. "This decision is the right one, and the Boyup Brook Council will continue to work with the Country Music Club of Boyup Brook to find ways to support them during these challenging times."

The Country Music Club of Boyup Brook will reach out to ticket holders in the coming days to organise refund of tickets.

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Dennis Wins more Awards

Continued from cover

“With the reinforcing bars I use for the structure to hold the birds I will wash with vinegar to achieve a rusted look and then I coat the sculpture with outdoor lacquer to maintain the patina.”

Dennis has always been a collector and he just loves recycling and repurposing used steel objects into sculptures.

Mattamattup Farm, Cheryl and Dennis’s property, was part of the Bridgetown Open Gardens last year. The property has around 100 acres, most of the farm is leased out but Cheryl has a very large garden around the house. It mostly has roses, in a wide variety.

Dennis has his sculptures scattered around the garden, this year with around 648 visitors to the open garden, he managed to sell a great deal of his pieces.

On the property there is also a large old packing shed where Dennis, as a collector, has stored his treasures.

In the packing shed there is a butcher’s wall display, with cleavers and various hangers for the different carcasses, as well as a shearing wall with different size blade shears and bail stencils.

Another wall in the packing shed carries the stencils of the varieties of apples which used to be picked on the property, the apple trees being cleaned out in 1993 with the codling moth infection, a drama which was damaging to a lot of properties around Bridgetown.

Dennis also once collected copper pictures, he has a whole wall of pictures, this art form was very popular when copper was cheap.

A friend pulled up some old Lino and found a whole series of 1960s West Australian newspapers, they thought it would be just the gift that Dennis would prize, this was around the time when the Queen and her husband visited Western Australia. I remember this time; I was one of those who lined the Perth airport road to get a fleeting glimpse of the royal couple as they travelled past.

Much to Cheryl’s chagrin, thinking these objects are hidden away, they were a draw card to husbands whose wives were busy admiring the roses. The husbands who got into the old packing shed were hard to move.

Seeing figures in a patch of clouds is an example of what’s called pareidolia, Dennis imagines figures in piles of scrap metal, then he builds them.

“Most days I spend around 4 to 5 hours working on the sculptures, I then spend some time in the garden, all in all it is sculpting which keeps me off the streets.” Dennis stated with a sly grin.

Bert’s Garage *continued from page 2*

We have now converted it to a right-hand drive, its growling engine note is one which always gives me goose bumps when starting up, there has hardly ever been a better sounding motor vehicle.

We open the show room by appointment, I’m usually the one in the diner collecting the entry fee whilst Bert takes the wide-eyed, oohing and aahing visitors for a tour through the showroom.

He has an entertaining story as well as being able to explain the history behind ever vehicle, he can talk for hours about our cars, or any vehicles for that matter,” said Angie

It is a very special collection and is well worth a walk through to view these classic cars and is good value for the entry fee. To make an appointment you can telephone Bert or Angie on 0428 181 689.



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Up All Night

A walking group of Bridgetown women are preparing to do a walking marathon on the 12th March, a 42km walk around the streets of Perth in an effort to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC). The walk starts after dark and ends at dawn.

The name they have adopted for the walk is FAST, an acronym of Family and Sisters Together. The members are Cherie Olsen, Beverly Walsh, Clare Sivwright, Deb Miles, Lianne Jay and their daughters in Perth.

The women belong to a walking group who walk around town in the mornings, they usually walk around 6 kms commencing around 6am. Their friendship and walking interest has made for a dedicated team who have been walking together now for around seven years.

Lianne Jay is the spokesperson for the group, she talks about how their plans are going, "Cherie brought the idea of 'I'm Walking a night in their shoes' to the group to participate in. The Ronald McDonald house is mostly used by parents from the country who have a need to stay somewhere which is close to the hospital while their child is receiving treatment.

"We all heartily agreed it was a very worthwhile venture, so the planning commenced for us to take part. We need to raise a minimum of \$500 each, but as a group we have set our sights on raising over \$3,000, as from now we are almost half way there."

The group have been raising funds by selling cakes, jams and other produce, with a substantial amount being donated by CWA Belles in Greenbushes. They also have planned an upcoming dinner on 12th February. If you are interested in attending the dinner (limited tickets available) or would like more information, please contact Cherie Olsen on cherieolsen@iinet.net.au



Deb Miles, Lianne Jay and Clare Sivwright

Direct Donation can be made to the group online at www.upallnight.org.au website, then search for the FAST (Family and Sisters together) group, it's as easy as that.

'I'm Walking a night in Their Shoes' is the fundraising event. This overnight walk, starting after dark and ending at dawn, places the participants in the shoes of the parents who stay with at the House.

Sleepless nights are part and parcel of being the parent of a sick child.

So, aim high and smash it out of the park for the kids!

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