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February 7th 2023

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Celebrating 36 years

The Boyup Brook Country Music Festival is to held on Friday 17th, Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th February in Boyup Brook the premier country music destination in Western Australia. With three days of non-stop entertainment, great food and drink, and plenty of family fun.

The festival offers a great long weekend of entertainment, with camping options available for those who want to fully immerse themselves in this celebration of all things country.

From live concerts to a street carnival with buskers and markets and children's activities, as well as a Ute and Truck muster, there is plenty for all ages to enjoy at this fun and friendly festival.

The festival organisers look forward to welcoming back fans from the past 35 years, as well as seeing some new faces in the crowd.

The main performances are held in Music Park, a beautiful outdoor venue set on the picturesque and shaded banks of the Blackwood River and within walking distance of the town centre where the street carnival is held.



The Bushwackers Band



Darren and Olivia Coggan



Adam Eckersley and Brooke McClymont



Freedom Fairies

A small taste of artists who will be performing; Brooke McClymont and Adam Eckersley; It's going to be special show when two of Australia's finest singer-songwriters perform, recently winning three Golden Guitars.

The Bushwackers Band is an Australian folk and country music The much-loved lively Australian Bush Band are recognised for its contribution to Australian Country Music at the Golden Guitar awards in Tamworth by winning Golden Guitars for their songs and being inducted into the ROLL OF RENOWN.

The song "I am Australian" (which was co-written by Dobe Newton and Judith Durham) is a favourite song along with 'And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda' and 'Streets of Forbes'. Darren Coggan and Olivia: Father and daughter together, don't miss this very special, heart-warming performance. ...Continued page 15

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Adam Eckersley and Brooke McClymont

Golden Guitar Winners

At the 2023 Tamworth Country Music Festival Brooke McClymont and Adam Eckersley took home three awards from their four nominations, including Country Music Capital News Group or Duo of the Year, Song of the Year for their single Star of the Show, and Apple Music Single of the Year for their song Memory Lane.

Brooke and Adam's daughter, 10-year-old Tiggy Heart Eckersley becomes the youngest person in history to be recognised with a Golden Guitar, sharing the Song of the Year win with her parents and Dan Biederman as fellow songwriters.

Adam Eckersley generously gave us some of his time to enlighten us on the duo's success, "Well what a wonderful way to start the year, we had four nominations and surprisingly we won three Golden Guitar Awards, truly it was unexpected.

"Brooke and I released our first album together just over six years ago now. From the start we melded together well as a duo, our harmonies with our melodic voices work well, and as a duo I feel we are overall better performers.

"We have both brought different strengths to the duo, these differences are what makes us special. When we collaborate with others to write songs, Brooke is very good with the melody and I'm good with the lyrics.

We both enjoy performing, creating music and the time spent in the studio recording our music.

"When performing on stage we like to get the audience involved, we like it that they know our life story and they know our music. The feeling we get when they sing along with our music truly is something special.

"When we perform as a duo, we both play acoustic guitars during the concert. When we are touring as a band, the band is put together from the other members of the Adam Eckersley Band, I then play electric guitar.

Continued page 15



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World Shearing Record Set

Koen Black set a new solo shearing world record when he sheared 604 Merino lambs in eight hours.

He set the world record at 'Tandara Traders' in Kulikup, Western Australia on the 26th October, 2022, the lambs having an average rating of 16.86. This an impressive number, the top rating is 18, this rating is a scale of how much wool remains on the sheep after shearing.

Koen and his wife Mina and their three children live on a five-acre property in Boyup Brook along with Koen's father Peter, a retired shearer.

So, what preparations went into setting this record? Koen talks us through what it takes to achieve a shearing world record, "Although I'm working in an industry which requires a high level of fitness, before the attempt I took on a six-month training regime in which each day after work, I trained for around forty minutes in the evening.

"The training was mostly cardio training: I spent time on a rowing machine, I did push-ups and sit-ups and I spent the rest of my remaining energy punching the punching bag. The training having the desired effect of making me really fit and ready to break the record.

"Being fit and ready is only one part of the preparation, the encouragement and support I got from my family was the main driving force I needed to create the record.

"Dwayne Black is my older brother, a shearer who now trains future shearers, my father Peter who has sheared his entire life and my wife Mina who lives a shearing life with me give me all the encouragement I need in making me the best shearer I can be.

"It was a totally awesome feeling I got from achieving this record. This record was held by my brother Dwayne which he held for the last twenty years.

"Later this year I will be attempting to break the nine-hour



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Merino Lamb shearing record, this record is currently held by my brother, Dwayne. Yes, he is egging me on to try and take his title. 'Well you are going to have to lift your game to be good enough to break my record,' is a regular taunt."

Koen is 27 years old and has been a shearer now for around ten years. He has his best years to come, which for a shearer is around 32-36 years of age, so we can expect a few more records.

During the world record attempt Koen had four judges and two trainee judges scoring his world record attempt.

Koen makes a very good living from shearing sheep and he went on to add some sage advice, "Shearing is one of those very few jobs left in the world where you control how much you are paid for a day's work, the more sheep you shear the higher your wages."



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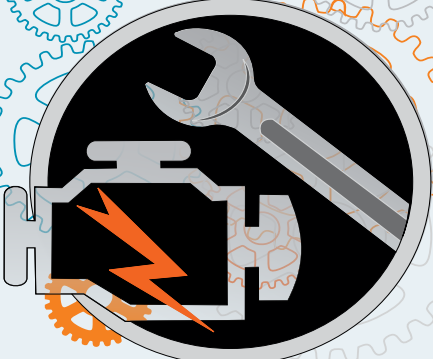
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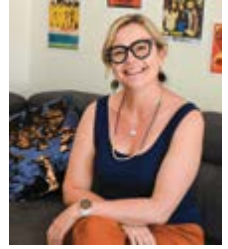
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Social Media, The Best and the Worst

In 2022 a study conducted by Headspace, a leading national youth mental health service provider, found that more than half of young people felt their mental health was getting worse, with 42% of youth feeling that social media was by far the main cause.



Doctor Sarah Youngson, photographed right, Chair of the Blackwood Youth Action Inc (BYA) shares her thoughts about social media.

“Social media has both positive and negative aspects. The risks are that it can cause young people to compare themselves with others’ ‘best lives’, contributing to an increasing sense of inadequacy, low self-esteem and poor body image.

“Spending too long on social media is associated with higher levels of depression, anxiety, FOMO (fear of missing out), isolation and psychological distress.

“It is also associated with cyberbullying.

“When young people spend too much time on social media, it impacts on their life balance; taking time away from healthy activities such as getting enough sleep, eating well, being physically active and spending time with family and friends.”

“On the flipside, there are some significant positives associated with social media use for young people,” Sarah continues, “In providing opportunities for communication and social connection between family and friends, in finding new friends and communities with similar interests as yours.

“It’s a powerful tool in helping to raise awareness about important issues, and being an outlet for creativity and self-expression, and it can be the first place we look to discover sources of valuable information, like mental health services.

“As adults, parents and carers of young people, we need to educate ourselves about the positive and negative impacts of social media, encouraging and supporting our youth to make healthy choices about their online activities.”

BYA recommends to our young people:

Monitor how much you use social media and limit how much time you spend on line. Reflect on how you feel after you’ve been on social media...if it’s not making you feel good, think about changing your use.

Reflect on whether your social media use is impacting on your sleep, diet and or exercise. If so, consider: turning your phone off at certain times of the day; don’t take your phone to bed; disable notifications at certain times of the day (especially at bedtime);

Limit how frequently you check your phone (e.g., only every 15 mins);

Take a screenshot of any posts that make you feel uncomfortable and report it to an adult you trust.

For more information, check out <https://www.esafety.gov.au/young-people>

Social media is here to stay so we need to armour our youth with resilience against the worst of it.

Taryn Brumfitt is the 2023 Australian of the Year and she is an advocate for young people’s mental health issues. ...Continued page 13



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Bridgetown Historical Society

'Sharing our stories' – Bridgetown Historical Society (BHS) is the custodian of a large collection of oral histories recorded over the years which tell the narratives of early settlers, their journey to Bridgetown and their life and activities.

An undertaking in 1987, the Bridgetown – Greenbushes Oral History Project saw 44 such histories being recorded. The State Library of Western Australia holds these cassette recordings and the typed transcripts. BHS also has copies of these transcripts.

Recollections of an early settler in Bridgetown, Grace Wilkins (nee Crowd) born in Bridgetown in 1899 was one of these recorded histories.

Grace spoke about her early life and how her family coped with clearing and developing their farm in virgin bush on land five and a half miles west of town on the Blackwood River.

"...It all had to be cleared by hand and Mother helped with the clearing as well as looking after the family. Dad built a two room house to begin with and gradually added to it. When he wanted to add some bedrooms, he went out and cut a long thin tree, levelled it with a broad axe and then used it as a foundation for the bedrooms....As he gradually cleared the land, we planted fruit trees. We had a mixed orchard, grapes, mandarins, oranges, lemons, stone fruit and a big proportion of apples.

Grace had 5 brothers (one died young) and 3 sisters and recalls how they had about five cows and "...Mother always made butter. Towards the end of winter when the cows went dry, she would put down two stone jars of butter....We never bought butter or bread and there were always ten of us to meals." To be continued...

Stories from the past by the early settlers to Bridgetown, makes us realise how fortunate we are in the present and perhaps resolve to look forward to the future.
Lee Wittenoom BHS

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TALISON – SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY



Talison is pleased to support community groups across the Shires of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Donnybrook-Balingup, Boyup Brook, Nannup and Manjimup in 2022, enabling organisations to host events, activities and projects or purchase equipment to make a positive impact. These donations are administered by the Community Team through the Talison Sponsorship and Donations Programme and include in-kind assistance or a cash donation. For sponsorships and donations please email GBContact please email GBContact@talisonlithium.com

Social Impact Assessment - Participation Dates

Talison has engaged an independent consultant, Environmental Resources Management (ERM), to undertake a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for our Greenbushes Lithium Operation (Mine).

An SIA seeks to identify and evaluate potential impacts and develop strategies to manage the identified impacts. The term 'social impact' describes the positive and negative changes that individuals, groups and communities may experience as a result of Talison's activities.

As part of the SIA, a range of engagement will be conducted to obtain feedback and insights from our community members and other stakeholders.

The outcomes of the engagement will be factored into the assessment process.

A key output of the SIA will be to inform Talison's Social Impact Management Plan, which will allow Talison to monitor social impacts and the implementation of management measures over time.

The engagement for the SIA is planned for mid-February 2023.

Aside from targeted interviews and focus groups there is opportunity for members of the community to attend Open House sessions in Bridgetown and Greenbushes.

The timetable is as follows:

13 February 2023 – Greenbushes RSL Hall – Drop in Session 4pm-6pm

14 February 2023 – Bridgetown Tennis Club – Drop in Session – 5pm-7pm

15 February 2023 – Bridgetown Tennis Club – Open House – 9am - 12pm

15 February 2023 – Greenbushes RSL Hall – Open House – 2pm - 4pm

15 February 2023 – Greenbushes RSL Hall – Drop in Session – 5pm - 7pm

16 February 2023 – Balingup District Hall – Drop in Session – 2pm - 4pm

Please note the Open House sessions will be attended by representatives from Talison to provide more information on upcoming plans for the Mine.

Stage One of Mine Access Road

Stage One works to divert mine heavy haulage traffic off Stanifer Street via the long awaited new Mine Access Road have begun. Stage one involves preparing the designated route and Talison looks forward to keeping the community updated on progress.

Works have also commenced to connect Stanifer Street to the new mine services area.

Further works will take place along Maranup Ford Road to install a carpark at the Talison Gate 1 entrance.



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Balingup Small Farm Field Day 2023

Small Farms – Big Ideas

Applications for Exhibitor is still open, but is closing soon. This successful popular local event that began in 1991 is back on after a cancellation in 2020, a smaller event in 2021 and a cancellation again due to Omicron uncertainties in 2022.

It will be held on Saturday April 15th, 2023, at The Balingup Town Oval – and is a paid for ticketed event with entry tickets available from March 2023.

Applications for exhibitors on the day are still open – through the website www.balingupsmallfarmfieldday.com.au Stalls, businesses, services and animals that fit with the theme ‘Small Farms – Big Ideas’ are favoured. Livestock exhibits are free. Most questions can be answered by looking at the website. Final allocations will be made during February 2023 – we still have some room for more exhibitors, so visit our website today and put in an application.

There will be local musicians playing, demonstrations, kids’ activities, and speakers on a variety of relevant topics, showcasing their local skills, talent, and ingenuity.

There will be something for everyone to learn and take home, thus increasing the information available to you to build positive and resilient rural communities, no matter the size of your property.

Profits made from the Balingup Small Farm Field Day help finance worthy community projects through the Balingup Progress Association.

This is run by a dedicated committee and local volunteers. Any questions, please contact the Coordinator at admin@balingupsmallfarmfieldday.com.au

The day will include something for everyone, from live animals, talks, kids stuff and exhibitors showcasing their local skills, talent and ingenuity. The theme of ‘Small Farms - Big Ideas’ will be highlighted at the 2023 field day with talks, demonstrations and exhibitors

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Lisa Burgess and Dr Sarah Youngson

Youth Space Opening Bridgetown

BYA House was first dreamt of by a group of Bridgetown locals in 2013, recognising a need for a safe and supportive environment for young people in the community.

In 2015, the perfect location was identified, a derelict Officer-in-Charge residence which was earmarked for demolition. Following a petition and public meeting, and with support from the Hon. Robyn McSweeney then MLA, a hold was put on the demolition.

Three long years later in February 2019, following multiple bureaucratic and legislative barriers, the house was provided to Blackwood Youth Association (BYA) for a peppercorn rent by the State Government. Following confirmation of the lease, BYA proceeded to planning stage and were successful in receiving a \$300,000 grant from Lotterywest in 2021 to renovate and refurbish the building.

“Just over 12 months later, we are absolutely thrilled to be opening this purpose designed youth space, the only one of its kind in the inland South West.” said Dr Sarah Youngson, Chair of BYA.

“This will be a space that provides our young people with somewhere safe to hang out, develop firm and trusting relationships with each other and other adults, and have opportunities for learning and recreational activities outside of school. This really is a dream come true for our communities.”

Ms Lisa Burgess, BYA CEO, said “BYA House has been a project that has been driven by community, supported by community, cared for by community. Thousands of volunteer hours, thousands of community dollars in donations of services and goods have made this a building of caring and compassion. BYA thanks all of the community for your persistence and faith that this project will deliver.”

A special thanks to BYA’s major sponsors: Talison Lithium, The Rotary Club of Bridgetown, and Stirling Partners (Perth) for your ongoing support.

BYA House was officially opened on Saturday 10th December by Ms Jane Kelsbie MLA, Member for Warren Blackwood.



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Show Talk Hello Everyone

Welcome to 2023 and congratulations to all those who were recognised in the Australia Day Honours.

Our first meeting will take place on Wednesday 8th February, 7.30pm, in the Presidents Room at the Showgrounds. 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.

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

WOW!!!! What a busy year 2022 was, and what a huge effort and what a wonderful day we were blessed with for the Annual Show. How lucky are we to have such a dedicated group of sponsors and supporters and hats off to the large band of volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the venues, grounds and pavilions look impressive and inviting.

Congratulations to the winners in all the competition classes and thank you to those who didn't win but contributed to the competition and gave the winners a run for their money. Don't give up, 2023 could be your year to win the lovely trophy, cash in your pocket and a fancy rosette to put on the shelf for all to see.

Accolades to the following: Talison Team for free kids show entry, section support and a fun and informative Marquee; President Roger who spread himself around – computer

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work, ground layout, implemented the Free Pink Entertainment Flags and still managed to win in the Cooking Section and the Decorate a Bra class (he made a very lifelike snail!); His wife Ruth who works as Administrator in a number of areas, also managed to enter sections in Centenary Hall. Her and daughter Alice spent hours cooking but couldn't bring in a number of their entries (oh dear, the dog was not very popular but he sure enjoyed the chocolate cake);

Our quiet Show and Community achiever in the background, Debbie Walsh who opened our 133rd Show. Debbie spoke of her long association in and around the Show and how the Show promotes our local Community; Those who contributed to the 'Seed to Supper' open shed - your shared knowledge has inspired those who came to hear and see. We hope there will be more in 2023; The main Committee, Entertainment Committee and BFCC support – who committed over and above throughout the year to bring to you an array of ground activity and an astounding amount of free entertainment and competitions for all ages to enjoy and participate. ...*Continued page 12*

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Transition Bridgetown

Transition Bridgetown is grateful to Michael for our continued column in the 2023 monthly Mailbag. We hope that you are finding it of interest as we raise awareness of, and bring attention to, some of the fantastic regenerative and sustainable practices that communities like ours are, and can be, involved in.

We hope also that your new year has begun positively. Please save the date of Saturday 25th March and come along to the Blackwood Regen Fest Taster at the Ashbil Community Garden Bridgetown located on Stewart Street 9am – 1pm.

We have the pleasure of working with like-minded groups to support this showcasing of local regenerative practices through workshops, presentations and activities.

The event is aimed to be Low/Minimal waste and sponsored locally. It will be informative and lots of fun for all the family.

On other fronts, TBR will be supporting the viewing of Jane Hammond's feature length documentary film Black Cockatoo Crisis to be screened on Saturday February 25th at 3pm at the Bridgetown Repertory Theatre.

Hosted by the Friends of the Forest, this film won the monthly Best Documentary Feature at the Cannes World Film Festival and includes a comprehensive social impact campaign aimed at moving audiences to action and pushing for change. The project grew out of an earlier film Jane made in 2020, 'Cry of the Forests'. Tickets are \$20 for a family, \$15 adult, \$10 pensioner. You can buy tickets on the www.blackcockatoo Crisis website.

Molly Spaulding, who talked about her ground breaking research with cockatoos at our popular "Caring for our Wildlife" Open Space last September, features in this film.

Talking about cockatoos, if you're interested to volunteer in the Great Cocky Count in April, there is an information session being held at the Bridgetown Library on Sat 18th Feb 9-11am. To register, contact Karrie on 0428 723 111

Transition Bridgetown planning for 2023 is still in progress. We look forward to being active in sharing Open Space events on various topics of interest that promote local sustainability and resilience.

In the meantime, you can follow future Blackwood Events for the Earth BEE] on their facebook page and website- blackwoodearthevents

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The Blackwood Regen Fest

Transition Bridgetown in collaboration with several other community groups in the Blackwood area are excited to present a new community event for 2023. This year's event, The Blackwood Regen Fest Taster, will feature a series of speakers and hands on workshops held at the Ashbil Community Garden on Saturday 25th March from 9am to 1pm. This will be followed by an evening bush dance at 7pm guaranteed to get your toes tapping and your body moving. The focus of the festival is 'live local', providing inspiration to residents on how to live a locally focused regenerative lifestyle through an engaging and entertaining day of activities.

Regeneration is a philosophy that comes from an understanding that sustainability is not enough to combat the multitude of environmental, social and economic challenges we face. Regenerative practices with a focus on community awareness, resilience, and environmental conservation are required to maintain our health as a planet and community. There are already many passionate people in our area actively promoting solutions in agriculture, energy, housing, construction, conservation, waste and many other fields.

The inspiration for this year's taster event started in August 2022 when Transition Bridgetown held an Open Space entitled "The Regenerators" that provided a platform for several local, regenerative groups to share the amazing work they are doing in our community. This started a conversation that has continued to evolve into this new local event.

Several local groups are involved in the Regen Fest including Transition Bridgetown, Ashbil Community Garden, Greenbushes Community Garden, Bridgetown Hub, Blackwood Valley Small Landholders, Recycling Network Group, Bridgetown Energy Transition, Seed Savers Group, Blackwood Permaculture Group, BES Bridgetown Community Landcare Nursery, Bridgetown Greenbushes Community Landcare Helping Hands and Blackwood Biosecurity.

Come along to the Ashbil Community Garden on Saturday 25th March. ...Continued page 13

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Waterwise Times

Living on the world's driest continent, we need to understand how climate change is impacting us and how we can live more sustainably. Right now, we have genuine opportunities to transform the way we live and reduce our water use and carbon footprint.

Here in the South West we will need to continue our focus on sustainable water practices and waterwise efforts as we rely on declining rains and diminishing groundwater sources.

The Water Corporation's website states "Since the 1970's rainfall in the South West of WA has reduced by around 20%, and according to future predictions, the drying trend will continue with winter rainfall forecasted to decrease by 15% by 2030.

A 20% drop in rainfall may not sound very dramatic until you understand the impact it has on streamflow – the water that runs off into our dams and other storages. The decline in rainfall throughout Perth and the South West has seen streamflow reduce by an average of over 80%. And it all has to do with dry catchments."

Conserving water is an action where every individual can collectively make a difference. Our Shire is an endorsed Waterwise Shire Council through Water Corps Waterwise Towns Program and with the initiatives of this program, more than 17 million litres of water were saved over two years by residents in Balingup, Bridgetown, Boyup Brook, Donnybrook, Greenbushes, Hester, Kirup, Manjimup, Mullalyup, Nannup, Northcliffe, Pemberton and Quinjinup.

One of the ways this was achieved was with the offer to swap your showerhead to a water saving model. This simple swap can save up to 20,000L of water per household per year. Water Corp have estimated that "in 2020-21, 124 South-West households swapped 166 showerheads saving an impressive

2.5 million litres of water". This offer is still available through the Greenbushes CRC and the Shire's front office. Why not also grab a shower timer to help you limit your showers to 4 minutes?

Capturing and storing rainwater is one of the best ways to reduce your reliance on town water. Did you know that local residents on scheme water may be eligible for rebates from the Water Corp? The offer ends 31st May 2023. Rebates are for:

- New rainwater tank and plumbing - up to a maximum of \$1,000 for a new rainwater tank with a capacity of 2,000L or more that is plumbed; OR
- Plumbing in an existing rainwater tank - up to a maximum of \$500 for the rainwater tank with a capacity of 2,000L or more; OR
- Replacing an existing plumbed-in rainwater tank - up to a maximum of \$500 for the rainwater tank with a capacity of 2,000L or more.

Our Shire also has commitments under this program and have implemented many water saving measures in the gardening department with mulching, planting more native plants, increasing the water storage capacity for the tennis club watering, monitoring of the pool water usage and a water saving fit-out in the swimming pool ablutions. They will continue with these actions and more to ensure they meet the programs expectations.

Collaboration is key to a water-wise community. There are many ways we can reduce every drop used in our homes, businesses and gardens and save money. Ideas and tips example:

- Hand watering plants in the early mornings;
- Adding mulch or compost around plants and garden beds;
- Using soil wetting agents to help soil water absorption and reduce evaporative losses around plants;
- Using timers for watering if you are unable to hand water;
- Using drippers or micro sprayers aimed at the base of plants;
- Installing a greywater re-use system from showers, basins and taps.

Here are 3 great websites to get you inspired:

www.makeeverydropcount.com.au/
www.bushmantanks.com.au/100-water-saving-tips/
www.yourhome.gov.au/water

This article has been prepared on behalf of the Sustainability Advisory Committee. If you have any queries on its contents please contact committee member Tracy Lansdell on 0400976434



The community of Bridgetown is trialing a ban on the sale of energy drinks to kids to protect child health.

Energy drinks contain high levels of caffeine and have been associated with a range of **negative side effects** including **sleeping difficulties** and **heart problems**.

For a four-month period from February 1, retailers in Bridgetown will refuse to sell energy drinks to anyone under the age of 18.

Want more information?

Please contact Justine Howard at Justine.howard@telethonkids.org.au



This study has been approved by the UWA Human Research Ethics Committee (2022/ET000750)

Show Talk

Continued from page 9... You are all legends, so stand up and be applauded.

As usual the Fireworks Finale Spectacular was the icing on the cake. It left us all beaming with happiness and thinking about what ideas we can come up with next.

We are always open to new ideas, if you would like to share one or more. We also need extra hands to help the Stewards in the Sections. Now is the time to get in touch, we would love to have your support.

Our next Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th January 7.30pm in the Presidents Room at the Showgrounds. If you would like to know more about the Committee or the Agricultural Society's role in the Community, contact phone 0437 602 836 or email: info@bridgetownshow.com.au website address is www.bridgetownshow.com.au like us on Facebook 'Bridgetown Agricultural Show' or follow us on Instagram.

Social Media, The Best and the Worst

Continued from page 4...The body image activist, director, writer, and speaker has been campaigning for a shift in body image culture and she's taking that message to school children with a program called Embrace Kids.

When accepting her award she warned us about the influence social media is having on our youth, "Seventy per cent of Australian school children consider body image to be their number one concern," she says.

"We weren't born into the world hating our bodies; it's something the world has taught us.

"Let's turn around that 70 per cent of Australian school children who don't like their bodies into a number that doesn't even exist. Let's get this right for our kids.

"Good Food, exercise we enjoy and a proper sleep are what keeps us happy and enjoying life."

Social media is a wonderful democratising tool which allows everyone to have a say, but it also is one of the most disruptive forces which our world has seen. It has given voice to those that cyberbully, those who marginalise the minorities, has given exposure to those who espouse a way of life which is cruel and demeans women and has no place in Australia, and it has unleashed a rewarding way for scammers to take advantage of us.

It's a new world in which we need to tread lightly.

The Blackwood Regen Fest

Continued from page 11...To learn about what is happening locally in regenerative farming, organic gardening, renewable energy, sustainable housing as well as interactive activities for people of all ages.

This is a great opportunity to learn valuable skills, make new connections, share experiences and have some fun. Then come together to celebrate our awesome country lifestyle at the evening bush dance, further details to come. For all the latest local news, activities on sustainability and more information about the festival visit @ Blackwoodearthevents on Facebook or contact Mike Kaye on 0424 257 585.

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Bridgetown to be in Spotlight

The film, 'The Mountains', is set to be made in the south west of Western Australia. The unique and wonderful scenery of the district will be on full display.

The film will be shot in a few different locations: it will have scenes of our beautiful coastline, and feature many local highways and byways. It will also showcase Bridgetown and its forests and surroundings.

The film has been in the planning stage for a number of years, but is now all set to go ahead and will be shot in July this year.

John Jin (Zicheng Jin) is the screenwriter, director and the producer of the film.

'The Mountains' is set in the year 2037. A time which is a horror age. The film's main protagonists, George and Anna along with their children move to a rural location where they fight for the family's survival with the support of a strong rural community, a community which is working together to deal with the hardships and the burden of survival.

The story is written from the perspectives of Biblical prophecy, science, history and comprehensive reasoning to show the people's struggles in the year 2037, a critical time for humanity.

The film is a low budget film, but will be filmed with equipment suitable for cinemas. John Jin talks of the importance of making film: "Film and documentary makers play an important role in regional economic development showcasing local communities' culture.

"No matter how low or big the budget, film displays local culture and history to the world, and as a reward, the world then is educated to our place in the world."

John has made a number of films and documentaries; notably he was invited as writer, director and producer for the 100th anniversary of ANZACs to make the documentary 'Memory Forever' which was made in collaboration with teachers and students from Mandurah Baptist College.

We wish John Jin all the best with this venture.

Black Cockatoo Crisis to Screen in Bridgetown

The plight of our Black Cockatoo species is the focus of a new film to be presented by Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest in the Bridgetown Repertory Theatre at 3 pm on Saturday February 25.

"Black Cockatoo Crisis" is a challenging but beautiful film that highlights grave threats to the Carnaby's, Baudin's and Forest Red Tail black cockatoos and looks at ways to reverse their decline.

The latest offering of WA Filmmaker Jane Hammond was filmed across the South West and had its Premiere at Luna Leederville in November.

BGFF President Richard Wittenoom said that Jane's previous film "Cry of the Forests" had been shown in Bridgetown by BGFF two years ago. This film played a significant role in supporting the campaign to end logging of native forests.

"BGFF gave modest financial support to the making of that film and were happy to do so again for this new film" he said. "We are very pleased that Jane will present and discuss her film for us in Bridgetown."

"The film aims to move viewers to demand action from political leaders to stop these beautiful creatures slipping into extinction" said Ms Hammond. "If we do nothing these iconic birds will disappear from our skies within ten years".

"We are losing birds to car strikes, illegal shooting, land clearing, pesticide poisoning, food shortages, nesting shortages and general habitat loss" she said. "This really is a story that needs to be told."



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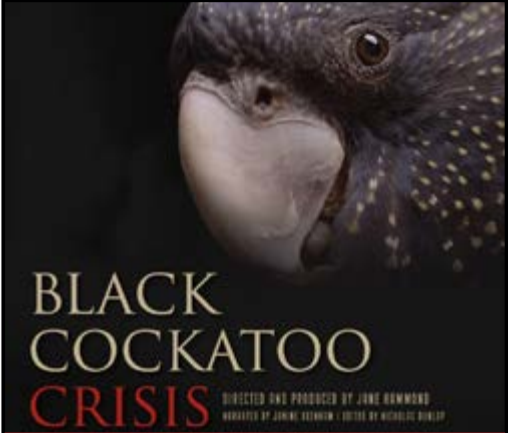
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Bridgetown Hub

The Bridgetown Family and Community Centre (BFCC) has been a fixture in town since 1987, but this year it is having a refresh. From February 2023 the centre will be using a new name Bridgetown Hub.

The Bridgetown Hub will still be providing all the same services it currently provides. So why the name change? Centre Manager, Jenni Oliver, explains; "To ensure that we are an inclusive space for everyone in town, we wanted to have a name to reflect this. Bridgetown Hub will be doing all the same things as the BFCC, but we want everyone to know that we are not just here for families with kids, but for the whole community."

The Bridgetown Hub's mission is to create a hub where people in town feel supported to connect, collaborate and contribute. Funded by the Department of Communities, under the Empowering Communities Program, the Bridgetown Hub is a not-for-profit group, and a registered charity, overseen by a volunteer committee. That means the sole focus of the Bridgetown Hub is to support the community.



BLACK COCKATOO CRISIS DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY JANE HAMMOND
HOSTED BY JANE HAMMOND | EDITED BY MICHAEL DUNN

The extinction clock is ticking on our black cockatoos. Will we save them in time?

A film presented by Fremantle Freelance in association with the WA Forest Alliance and the Wilderness Society

Bridgetown Repertory Theatre
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Golden Guitar Winners

continued from page 2

"We have managed to combine a family life with our careers, with a lot of help from our families who take care of the necessities while we are out there performing. During Covid-19 restrictions because we couldn't tour we held small concerts on our farm over weekends, which we are still doing now.

"The current show we are touring now is the 'Country Music You and Beer Tour'. This is the show we are bringing to Boyup Brook in February.

"We are both looking forward to performing at the Boyup Brook Country music weekend. The last time we were there Brooke was the lead singer with the McClymont sisters, and I performed with my own band, Adam Eckersley Band.

"Now we have three lovely children, Harry, Tiggy and Elroy. Tiggy has her own 'Golden Guitar'. The piano riff in the award-winning song, Star of the Show is hers, and because the song was about her, she contributed to and had the final say with the lyrics.

"We hope to see you in Boyup Brook at the concert."

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Continued from cover

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Why do we not see the Rubbish?

It can take someone who is leaving town and wanting to take away fond memories of Bridgetown as a beautiful, friendly place to give us a fresh look on the town, then to point out the obvious.

Henry Morling a nine-year-old who attended Bridgetown Primary School last year, would like to draw the townfolks attention to the amount of rubbish which is littering the town.

"I would like people of Bridgetown to become more aware of all the rubbish that is lying about streets, recreation areas and car parks in the town.

"It doesn't need to be this way, and frankly over the last few years I feel it's been getting worse.

"The rubbish is mostly small items, stuff which has been discarded with very little thought, out of sight, out of mind. But all the small rubbish lying around builds up and become piles of unsightly litter.

"There certainly seems to be enough rubbish bins around, I never have trouble finding one when I'm out and about.

"Those who are discarding their rubbish by just throwing it away should know better. Leaving the place as you find it should be the common-sense approach.

"Clean up Australia is a wonderful initiative, but it is only held for one day a year, I feel if we all pick up a little of this rubbish each day when we see it lying around it will make a huge difference."

Michael's thoughts: After Henry had told me his concerns about the discarded rubbish littering our town, we went out the back of the shop to the car park to take a photo.



Henry Morling finding litter laying about in the town

I was very surprised to see how much litter is out there. Walking no more than ten paces we had our picture for the story; a picture of sun bleached and faded rubbish which has been dumped and is left piling up; litter I have probably walked past but which I'd never seen, seeing it only for first time when I went looking for it.

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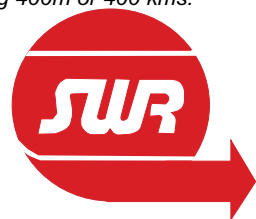
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