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February 6th 2024

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THE MAILBAG

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Celebrating 37 years

The Boyup Brook Country Music Festival is to held on Friday 16th, Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th 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 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.



Jo Keria
 Josh Philpot and Kendall Smith



EcoFaeries



Troy Cassar-Daley



Peter Simpson and Dianne Lindsay

A small taste of artists who will be performing;
 Troy Cassar-Daley; Troy has released 11 studio albums throughout his 30 plus years of making music. He is a proud Gumbaynggirr-Bundjalung man who comes from a long line of storytellers and shares his musicianship with so many artists across different styles of music. His passion to pen stories about this land and what lies at the heart of it has been a driving force in his career.

Allan Caswell; In 2020 Allan won his 8th Golden Guitar (with Manfred Vijars for Bush Ballad of the Year). It came 40 years after his first, in 1980. He has been a Golden Guitar finalist now a total of 44 times. At the 2018 Tamworth Country Music Festival, Allan Caswell was inducted into the prestigious Galaxy of Stars. It was recognition for the huge contribution he has made to Australian Country Music as a songwriter, performer, record producer and author. Caswell is Australia's most recorded songwriter.

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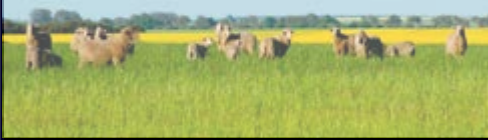
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Samantha Russell and Jane Wittenoom

Re-entering the Workforce

Getting back to work after a long break can be challenging. Samantha Russell had fifteen years away from employment as a single mother, as she provided an upbringing for her son.

During this time Samantha was keen to keep her skills up to date so she commenced several TAFE courses that were teaching computer skills in web site development and courses in writing APT programs.

These courses, although interesting, weren't giving Samantha that all important 'work experience' she needed to have to enable employment.

Whilst working as a volunteer at the Manjimup Community Resource Centre (CRC) she applied for a traineeship with Bridgetown CRC.

Samantha, Sam, commenced a 12-month traineeship in Business Administration with the Bridgetown CRC in February 2023.

Sam's traineeship will finish this February, which is only a few weeks away now, and Sam explains how she has benefited from the traineeship. "Firstly, long-term unemployment can wreak havoc on your sense of self-worth and wellbeing.

"As a mature trainee I was bringing a lot of life skills to the job, but I didn't know if I could work anymore than fifteen hours a week, or if I could even sit or stand the entire day for a day's work.

"I expressed my concerns when being interviewed, I found the CRC very accommodating to my concern, I was told, 'We will work with you to allay your concerns.'

"I was mentored well by John Nicholas, Fiona Ward and more recently by the new manager Jane Wittenoom.

"As my experience and confidence grew, a rapport developed with many of the CRC clients, several now ask for me by name to help them with their difficulties.

"I have really enjoyed, and have had sole responsibility for Silver Surfers program, which is the seniors' IT group.

...Continued page 15

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Tessa Chambers pictured with her winning picture 'Away With The Birds'

Youth Art Exhibition

December 2023 saw the culmination of artistic efforts by Bridgetown young artists as they entered the Youth Art Competition and Exhibition, hosted by The Rabbit Hole Community Arts Hub.

All manner of artistic endeavours were presented for judging by local artistic luminaries, Shire President Jenny Mountford and local artists June Anderson and Gwen Edwards.

Total prizemoney of \$1,000 was donated by local businesses; Blackwood Valley Real Estate, The Stables IGA, Hampton Partners and Harcourts Heartland.

The prize money delighted The Rabbit Hole Community



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Arts Hub organisers and was greatly appreciated of course by our young artists.

The artworks exhibition opened on Friday December 1, with Little Henry's Diner graciously providing some hot tucker.

Martin Sherlock, Chairperson of the Rabbit Hole revealed the winners of the competition, with supporting comments from Jenny Mountford.

Cash prizes were awarded as follows: First Place - \$500 awarded to Tess Chambers for 'Away With The Birds'.

Equal Second - \$200 each was awarded to Lillith McNutt for 'A Single Breath' and Arani Prindiville for 'Missy Moo'.

The skill level was outstanding, with Highly Commended awards to going to Opal Duggan, 'Carmen #1'; Tess Chambers, 'Life After Death' and Sol Ridley, 'Arcog The Destroyer'.

All the artwork was exhibited at The Rabbit Hole until just before Christmas when the People's Choice Award was announced. This was won by Lillith McNutt, 'A Single Breath'....*Continued on page 13*

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Bridgetown Historical Society

A new year and BHS has some new projects to be worked on and then managed. With a large collection of photos, objects and artefacts that need to be digitised and added to our collection we are using the data base MOSAiC for this purpose.

Much work has been carried out in the past on the digitisation of photos and that has continued to be a source of material for enquiries that BHS receives for information on family history.

Collections MOSAiC is a Collections Management System that is being used by many organisations, museums and societies to organise their collections for research and promotion. Work on MOSAiC was commenced by BHS some years ago and we are now embarking on a new phase of this project with several of our members having instruction in this system. An added advantage to using MOSAiC is the ability to upload our digitised material to Collections WA:

Collections WA brings together collections from museums, libraries, archives, historical societies, community groups and other collecting organisations across Western Australia.

Access is available in this data base (<https://collections.wa.net.au>) to a variety of search functions. For example, a search in Organisations, access to the Bridgetown Historical Society Inc. is achieved. We can keep adding our digitised material to Collections WA over the coming years. One such item is this photo (ref #P1995.105):

We would welcome new members, volunteers who would be interested in helping BHS and learning how to use Mosaic.

Please contact Richard Allen, Chair 0487 592 704 or Barbara Maher 0402 025 389 for more information or queries. Lee Wittenoom BHS

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TALISON – SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Community engagement at Talison

Supporting local communities is essential for fostering sustainable development and creating positive social impact. We seek to engage with local communities to understand areas of concern and identify opportunities to create shared value and sustainable outcomes.

Engaging in meaningful conversations about our operations helps us to minimise local impacts and maximise positive contributions and opportunity.

Therefore, we proactively seek input to understand community concerns and aspirations. Your feedback is integral to shaping our current and future operations. By understanding and incorporating insights and feedback, we aim to ensure that our long-term outcomes align with community expectations.

For more information on current or future projects, or to share feedback, please reach out to the Talison Community Team. Our team, situated onsite in Greenbushes, is available to take your calls Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm by phoning (08) 9782 5700, or you can email: gbcontact@talisonlithium.com.

Community investment

As Talison continues expanding its operations to keep up with demand for the global transition to cleaner energy, so too will the benefits that flow into surrounding communities.

Each year Talison proudly supports local initiatives that positively impact these communities. The Talison Community Investment Program (CIP) is designed to offer substantial funding opportunities for strategic programs and projects, which drive the development of social capital and local ownership.

It engages a diverse range of stakeholders, including but not limited to incorporated not-for-profit community groups, local government, and education and training providers.

The four pillars of Talison's CIP are:

- Quality Education
- Sustainable Environments and Biodiversity Improvement
- Health and Wellbeing; and
- Vibrant and Sustaining communities.

Projects funded through inaugural 2023 round of the CIP include:

- \$3M to the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup for redevelopment of recreation facilities at Donnybrook's VC Mitchell Park
- \$1.64M to support the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes capital works program
- \$0.20M to fund the civil works to support an expansion of Geegeelup Village in Bridgetown; and
- \$0.19M to fund a refurbishment of the Greenbushes RSL Hall in Greenbushes.

The Talison Community Sponsorship and Donations Program is another funding initiative that provides support to smaller-scale community projects. In 2023, Talison allocated more than \$170,000 in donations and \$198,000 in-kind support to 82+ community groups through the Community Sponsorship and Donations Program.

If you have ideas aligning with the criteria for one of our funding opportunities, we encourage you to contact our Community Team to discuss potential support by emailing gbcontact@talisonlithium.com.

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The annual Bridgetown Show held in November was a great success once again. A huge thank you to all those showgoers who visited the Talison tent and all Site personnel who assisted on the day.

Talison continues to support community groups with smaller donations and sponsorships. The following donations/sponsorships were approved during October with cash or In-kind donations:

- Balingup Historical Exhibition
- Boyup Brook Cricket Club equipment
- Balingup Visitor's Centre
- Macedonian Community of Manjimup
- Southern Forests Campdraft and Rodeo Club
- Boyup Brook Community Christmas Event
- Boyup Brook CRC
- Rotary Tour of the Blackwood; and
- Blackwood Environment Society.

Congratulations to the following employees who achieved service milestones with Talison during November:

- Michael Hillhouse and Brayden Mueller who achieved three (3) years service;
- Scott Chapman, John Guest and Chris Sharp who achieved five (5) years service;
- Justin Davies who achieved 10 years service; and
- Clinton Best and Simon Fletcher who achieved 15 years service.

Construction of the first cell of the Mine's new Tailings Storage Facility #4 (TSF4) is complete with deposition expected to commence in latter part of December following Regulatory approvals.

All processing plants continued to operate at full capacity during November. Mining activities continue to ramp up with the Mining team on track to achieve record material movement month in November.



Above: Pictures from the Talison Marquee at the 2023 Bridgetown Agricultural Show

BGFF – The Task Ahead

Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest, BGFF, has been largely in care and maintenance mode for the past ten years, but now we have a real task ahead of us. We are looking at a number of issues arising out of the new Forest Management Plan, such as - Identification and preservation of the best stands of Jarrah forest in our Shire, which we are calling “SCV” - Special Community Value - areas.

- Preservation of the wildlife and the forest against incineration by prescribed burning.
- Working along with the proposed joint management arrangements described in the FMP as these take shape, and
- Finding ways to rebuild the interest and involvement of our community in the identified SCV areas.

According to the FMP the forests will be under Joint Management Agreements between six South West Native Title Agreement groups and Parks and Wildlife. These will be known as Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) areas. Our forests will fall into two of these ILUAs:

- South east of Bridgetown, our Warrup, Kingston and Mersea forests will be in WAGYL KAIP AND SOUTHERN NOONGAR ILUA, which includes Kaneang and Menang people.
- West of Bridgetown our DALGARUP National Park and adjacent reserved forests will be in KARRI KARRACK, which involves Wadandi and Bibulmen people.

Forests in the first of these are familiar to us. BGFF has been fighting for the Kingston forests since about 1990. In Warrup, between 2008 and 2012, we funded two studies of Noongar heritage which were carried out by Dr Wayne Webb and his team for an Albany Anthropologist.

The second ILUA includes Dalgarup, Jarrah Park, Nunn Block and Nelson forests. Dalgarup was identified by our group in the 1990s as a largely intact block of about 3,500 ha west of Bridgetown, north of the Brockman Highway and the Bridgetown Jarrah Park. A twelve-year fight followed.

Dalgarup was well known to our people in the late 1990s and early 2000s, when there were still tracks from the light selection logging in the 1950s. These were used by Patsy Hallen and Peter

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Summers for morning runs from their “Back Gate Gully” block on the eastern boundary of Dalgarup, often as far as Nannup. Unfortunately, most of these tracks are now overgrown.

A shed on their property was used by our campaigners, including Forest Rescue, who were banned from camping in the forest, as a base for daily surveillance for logging machinery.

Dalgarup and other blocks were left out of the initial list of National Park candidates included in the Regional Forest Agreement in 2000. Faced with a barrage of complaints the Government commissioned consultants to carry out a desktop study of 100 unsuccessful candidates. Dalgarup was the only one recommended and a major factor in this was the extent of strong community support from Bridgetown.

The Dalgarup National Park was finally announced by the then Environment Minister McGowan in 2006.

We are not sure whose land it was but it must have been at or near the boundaries of the Wadandi and Bibulmen people and certainly it is well within the boundary of the second ILUA. The only reference I have found so far in our records is: “Dalgarup also received crucial support from Aboriginals. A Noongar Elder, Ken Colbung, visited Dalgarup and the place came alive with ancient trails marked by special trees, plenty of cunning (cutting?) tools and sacred burial sites.”... *Continued page 14*

Transition Bridgetown
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Blackwood Regen Fest

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Ashbil Community Garden

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Well, we've nearly come to the end of another year and again we thank all those who have supported Transition Bridgetown events throughout 2023. As we have recently become incorporated, we now have an official membership and we'd love you to become a member! It's free for the duration of this financial year. Email us at transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com

Why not take up the challenge of making it a low-waste Christmas and New Year this year in your home or workplace? This table below will help with where you can recycle items that you may inherit!

- **Recycling Hub – Bridgetown Library** Mobile Phones, plastic bread tags, reading glasses and sunglasses, toothcare products, writing implements, blister packs
 - **Recycling Hub – Bridgetown Hub** Hair product containers made from plastics and flexible or rigid aluminium (including gloves from dye boxes) razor blades including packaging, electronic toothbrushes
 - **Containers For Change – Hastie Waste @ Bridgetown Waste Facility** PH: 9731 0296 TBR number for donations: C1046 1241 Thurs 8am- 12:00 noon; Sat 9am - 1pm
 - **Bridgetown Computers** - E-waste [computers, laptops, modems etc] 1/101 Hampton St Bridgetown 9761 4430 or Trish on 0419 912 126
 - **Bridgetown Lions** - Aluminium cans, motor vehicle batteries, batteries of all sorts - lions6255@gmail.com
 - **Yeop Shop, St Paul's Op Shop** - Clothing, books, toys, household items
 - **Bridgetown Library** - Books PH 9761 2503
 - **Bridgetown Arts And Crafts** - Wool, yarn, material, ribbon, buttons, textiles PH 97611288
 - **MITRE 10** - Batteries
 - **Pharmacy 777** - Hearing aid batteries
 - **Post Office, Mitre 10, Newsagency** - Ink print cartridges
 - **Post Office** - Used Stamps
 - **Bridgetown Kennels** - Old Bedding
 - **Men's Shed** - Timber, recycled wood PH 9761 1288
 - **Bridgetown Buy Swap & Sell** - Furniture
 - **Ashbil Community Garden & Greenbushes Community Garden** - Garden tools
 - **Hillview nursery** - Plastic plant labels
- We are taking a break now until late January 2024 but please put these dates into your new diaries and we'll see you there! Saturday 17th February Screening of Film "Rachael's Farm" as part of the Summer Film Festival in our shire. Discussion Panel on Regenerative Farming 6.45pm-7.30pm. Film starts at 8pm: Sunday 25th February "Ageing in our Community" Open Space 4.30pm-6.30pm Speakers and Q&A: Saturday 23rd March Regen Fest 2024 9am-2pm More details to come! With best wishes for a peaceful and happy festive season from the Transition Bridgetown Committee.

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St Brigid's Parish, Bridgetown, 1904 – 2024

Continued from back page... The first marriage was performed in 1901 by Father Leciale, when P. McAlinden and J. O'Toole were wed.

In 1903 a stone church was erected on the site. It was built in the Federation Free Style of local handmade bricks. The bricks used to construct the church were made from the clay dug up from the now named Somme Creek, which runs along the back of the church grounds, and fired on site.

The Catholic Parish of Bridgetown was formally declared in 1903 and placed under the protection of St Brigid of Ireland.

The new church at Bridgetown was consecrated in 1904 by his lordship the Bishop of Perth, Matthew Gibney and was proposed by Mr. O'Toole. He appealed to the catholic people of Bridgetown to support the future convent school which was to be staffed by some nuns coming from Bunbury.

In the same year, the Bishop of Perth asked a group of Mercy sisters to come to Bridgetown to minister to the educational needs of the Bridgetown children. The Sisters of Mercy are dedicated to serving people who suffer from injustices related to poverty, sickness or lack of education.

The Catholic School's sports oval was then at the Bridgetown Show grounds from 1895 to 1903. The catholic faithful bought the land at the back of church in 1903. This was then transformed into the school's sporting oval.

It's thought the Convent was built during 1904, and was opened in 1904. Unfortunately, no record has been kept of the actual dates of the building of the convent. It was first built as a single storey boarding house for catholic students to attend who came from out-lying areas. The convent later became a home for the nuns, when there weren't enough pupils boarding.

Later the convent had a second storey added. The convent was then used by the nuns, with music rooms, a confessional and a small Chapel added. The convent was also used during the second world war to house orphans from those coastal towns coming under enemy fire, making a safe haven for evacuees.

One of those evacuees from Perth was Thomas Cook, who went on to establish and manufacture Thomas Cook clothing, a brand of tough well-made clothing. After his retirement in the 1990s, and still having a soft spot for Bridgetown, he would visit every few years up to the year 2000, just to keep an eye on the place, dropping into the shop to have a yarn and to discuss how things were progressing. He was on the mailing list for The Mailbag for quite a few years, his son later coming to Bridgetown to inform the town of his passing.

Who was St Brigid? Brigid was born in County Louth, Ireland in the year 451, two decades after Christianity was brought to Ireland. Her mother is said to have been a Scottish slave who was baptized by St Patrick; so, Brigid herself was born into slavery but as a Christian.

Brigid is recorded as having founded a number of monasteries most notably in Kildare where she also founded a school of art which produced the Book of Kildare, a hand painted book of the four gospels. Sadly, the Book of Kildare has been lost. Over the years St Brigid has proven to be a most suitable protector for Bridgetown.

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Volunteering

Since moving to Bridgetown some twelve years ago Kaye McLennan has met some amazing people, many of whom have set aside countless hours volunteering within our Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire.

This has given her an insight into the worthwhile work volunteers are contributing to our community, it is work that the community and the volunteers both benefit from.

Kaye has come up with a plan to help coordinate volunteers with various groups requiring volunteers.

Kaye explains her thoughts, "Rather than put up my hand for one of these roles I approached the Bridgetown CRC and asked if I could collaboratively coordinate a project linking community groups with potential volunteers.

"To date over twenty-five groups have expressed an interest in this idea. The choices are plentiful. With some groups the commitment is as little as one hour a week or one day a year. With all, it simply depends on how much time you would like to set aside, the time of year, the event, your interests, and what skills you have to offer.

"There really is a volunteer role for everyone. I've come to realise that we have an abundance of local community groups offering a diversity of roles to choose from.

"At this time of year some people in our community might consider contacting the Bridgetown Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service and the Bridgetown Branches of the S.E.S and St John. With the latter it may simply mean accompanying the patient on the journey to the hospital.

"In amongst the conversations with people in our community there have been ideas about ways to thank volunteers. One of these suggestions, the 'Pay Forward' idea of purchasing a coffee voucher for a volunteer, is now up and running. Ask about this at your local coffee shop. More ideas for the 'thank you' suggestion list would be much appreciated."

If you are interested in volunteering, would like to find out more about the different groups in our community, the roles you can engage in, the ways you can share your skills and expertise, make

friends, and meet new people, please do not hesitate to contact Kaye on 0407 381 957 for further information.

Kaye continues, "In the not-too-distant future I would like to document some of volunteers' anecdotes to share with the broader community, in particular the stories about the unanticipated and the unusual."

The variety of groups which have expressed an interest in Kaye's plan include; Silver Chain Social Centre, Geegelup Village, St Johns, Breakfast Club, Bridgetown Agricultural Society, Bridgetown CRC, BYA and Red Cross to name a few.



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Youth Art Exhibition

Continued from page 3...The Rabbit Hole was truly astounded by not just the number of pieces submitted and the maturity of much of the artwork, but also by the comments from visitors to The Rabbit Hole gallery which were totally positive.

Both parents and friends and visitors from out of town were full of praise for the artwork by our young artists.

A spokesperson for The Rabbit Hole had the final word, "We had so much fun with the Youth Art Competition and Exhibition, we are going to do it again next year in 2024 and hope for bigger prizes and more art from our young Picassos."

The Rabbit Hole Community Arts Hub is looking for a new Treasurer, adding "We are losing our current Treasurer, Louise who is going travelling around Australia, so we really do need you. If you have some treasurer experience, or a little bookkeeping would go a long way. Louise will help you settle into the role before she takes off. Please contact Louise on 0423035011 or Kath on 0403507146."

Local Disability Survey

The Bridgetown Community Disability Advocacy Network invites you to help us make this region a better place to live for people with disability.

Have your say in the confidential survey below and we will ensure that your feedback is passed on to the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes to be included in their Disability Access and Inclusion Plan in 2024. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please let them know about this survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BridgetownCDANsurvey>

Hard copies are available at the Shire Office and the CRC, or contact cdanbridgetown@gmail.com

If you would like to join a group of like-minded people with lived experience of disability, meeting regularly to support each other and the Bridgetown community, send a message to cdanbridgetown@gmail.com and a local member will get back to you with the date of the next meeting.



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www.balingupsmallfarmfieldday.com.au

Bridge Club

The Bridgetown Bridge Clubs meets every Wednesday afternoon at 1pm in the Anglican Church Hall in Phillips Street. We are a small, friendly group and welcome new and experience players to join us. For further information contact Patricia on 0429 348 413.

Mental Health Professional Network

The Mental Health Professionals Network is a federally-funded initiative designed to bring professionals together regularly for: Peer support, Developing practitioner relationships, Improving referral pathways and Professional Development.

It is interdisciplinary and aimed at getting GPs, Counsellors, psychiatric nurses, psychologists, Occupational Therapists, and all other professionals engaged in the Mental Health sphere to meet each other and learn from each other.

MHPN has started again in Bridgetown after many years and in our first meeting last year it was fascinating to learn how many and varied the skills are that we have in our area for the benefit of the community! We learned that we have professionals specialising in Family Therapy, Relationships counselling, trauma therapy, youth focussed counselling, play therapy and more.

Our next meeting will be held on February 8 at Henri Nouwen House, to hear Dan Russell speak to us about the connection between Sleep Disorder and Mental Health. It starts at 6pm with networking and snacks, follow by the presentation and discussion to finish at 7.30. There is no charge.

If you would like to register for this event or learn more about it, please ring the Co-Ordinator, Elisabeth Pellicaan on 0498 228 082.

2024 Annual General Meeting of Electors

The Annual General Meeting of Electors will be held on Thursday, 22 February 2024 in the Council Chambers, commencing at 5.30pm. The order of business will be:

1. To receive the Annual Report and Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023.
2. General Business.

Copies of the Annual Report including the Annual Financial Report are available for inspection at the Bridgetown Library during normal office hours or from the Shire's website. <https://www.bridgetown.wa.gov.au/documents/644/202223-annual-report>

BGFF – The Task Ahead

continued from page 8... Our concern now is that prescribed burning is about to occur. Parks and Wildlife plan to burn the southern half in Autumn, and the northern half later this year or autumn 2025. We are not quite sure if the coming burn plan will include the Jarrah Park and the Nunn Block. Recently we drove along a track bulldozed from Wetherly Road east along the boundary of the Nunn Block and are concerned at the likely result of burning. In places the bush is thick and understorey is half way up to the canopy.

In the recent burn of eastern Mersea Forest in relatively open country there was epicormic shooting from trunks as burning had reached up to the canopy. What the result will be in the thickets of South Dalgarpur is a serious concern.

I have written to the Undalup Association, the community organisation of the Wadandi, to let them know of our interest in the preservation of Dalgarpur and other forests in the proposed ILUA area and of our hope that their Association will also be interested.

Zac Webb is President of the Association and Dr Wayne Webb and Sandra Hill are Committee members. We are looking forward to meeting and talking with them. Richard Wittenoom

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Re-entering the Workforce

Continued from page 2... "It is a social group as much as it is a computer course. Seniors in our community have a lot of trust with those they deal with, so when they get an email or phone call which threatens to disconnect their phone or email if they don't pay this invoice straight away, they fear that they are in the wrong.

"I am convincing them to not trust all the emails or phone calls they receive, politely thank the sender or caller and to do a little checking with the provider themselves first. Not to pay first.

"Seniors have a lot more to lose than most, their nest egg which the scammers want a slice of, is not so easily replenished at their age.

"During the twelve months of my traineeship I have also completed a Certificate III in Business Administration."

Sam has benefited greatly from her traineeship, finding meaningful and sustainable roles in which she thrived, with the CRC receiving positive feedback from those Sam has assisted.

Over her traineeship her ability and confidence has blossomed to the point where she now easily performs her role at work, she will surely be missed at the CRC when her traineeship finishes.

The Bridgetown CRC has been offering traineeships for a number of years. With all of its recent trainees they have found employment or have entered into further education on completion of the traineeship.

Celebrating 37 years

Continued from cover... Dianne Lindsay OAM and Peter Simpson OAM are both multi-award-winning recording and songwriting artists specialising in the bush ballad genre. They tour Australia with their own shows and also perform at festivals and musters throughout the country. They produce and host a weekly bush ballad radio program and also produce and co-host the successful and very popular 'Back to The Bush Spectacular' concert at the Tamworth Country Music Festival each year to an enormous crowd.

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The Lotterywest Street Carnival offers a vibrant and dynamic array of live music and entertainment. On Saturday, the town centre buzzes with a diverse mix of engaging and colourful performances, blending music, art installations, and roaming entertainers for an exhilarating experience. The event features numerous buskers and children's activities, creating a lively atmosphere. It's free, spontaneous, and open to everyone who wants to join in. The focus is on cheerful entertainment, with a diverse lineup of attractions designed to bring smiles to all ages.

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St Brigid's Parish, Bridgetown, 1904 – 2024

The 120th anniversary of St Brigid's will be celebrated over the next twelve months. Firstly, noted by a Sunday mass on the 4 February at 5pm, followed by an Irish themed supper.

It is also proposed that an Oak tree be planted with a brass plaque listing the names of all the priests who have served in the parish. The Oak tree has special meaning because St Brigid came from Kildare, Kildare being Gaelic for Oak tree.

Planning is also underway for 'Tours of the Convent', where it is thought a tour guide will be presenting orally on the tour some of the long history around the school and church.

Other events are still in the planning stage.

Christianity was a very important aspect of early settlement in Australia. In this region the mix of Christian Churches which were established in Bridgetown provided our community with its foundations, social support, education and welfare.

Below is a little of the history of St Brigid's church, school and convent which is taken from note sheets from the Bridgetown Historical Society: In the early days of the settlement of Bridgetown, the new settlers were accompanied by a religious order which visited the district to tend to the spiritual and educational needs of their creed, for the all-important births, deaths and marriages.

Prior to a church and school being built in 1894, two Redemptorists priests, Fr Treacey and Fr Leciale visited the district to tend to the spiritual needs of the townsfolk.

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Yvonne Ward and Rosemary Wells in the convent's small chapel

The Redemptorists are a religious congregation of priests and Brothers within the Catholic Church who live in a community for the sake of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, especially among people on the margins of society and the church.

The first church was built at the corner of Roe and Steere Streets in 1894, this building also served as a school. It was a little wooden shack, a one room timber construction with a tin roof with one teacher teaching all ages in one room. It still stands at the centre of the Catholic grounds, now commonly referred to as the tuck shop...*Continued on page 11*

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