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THE MAILBAG

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Blues at Bridgetown's 30th Year

The planning for the next Blues at Bridgetown is underway by the newly elected Committee. For all those members elected this will be their first Blues on the Committee.

The Blues and Roots Music Festival weekend will be held on 11th, 12th and 13th November 2022 and is promising to return the festival back to the way it was once held, with the emphasis of the festival being based on a family festival.

Hampton Street is in the planning of being closed for the return of the free street party making room for lots of free music venues along with fun activities for the whole family.



Jo Elliott, Georgie Miller, Megan Loneragan, Jacky Brody, Ashlee Mentlein and Greg Brody, Absent Members from photo, Norton Schmidt - Hunt, Grant Miller and Isobelle Lucus.

Jacky Brodie is the newly elected Chair, she explains how the planning is progressing, "The Blues this year has a whole new committee, and it's a committee which is made up of people who are very keen to be on the board and they all want this festival to be a memorable one.

"There is still a lot of experience within the sub committees of the Blues. Cole Bishop and Gillian Walker will once again be music coordinators and will set the music program.

"Collette Kowald is again in charge of the street party, this will be her twelfth street party and her thirteenth Blues, her long-term commitment to the blues is a grand achievement.

"The 30th Blues will be a festival that is planning to be free of the Covid-19 restrictions that have been imposed on the festival over the last two years.

"The venues we have had in the past, Blues Owls Nest, Geegeelup, the Repertory Theatre, the Youth Stage and the Solar Stage will all return as it has been in the past, the only venue we have to change is the Town Hall, which is undergoing renovations, so we are considering our options.

"The Welcome to Country ceremony and free school concert that were very well received and successful last year will also be returning. *Continued page 15*





Partner with us and have a say about health issues in your area.

The Blackwood DHAC is a group of committed volunteers, comprised of health consumers, community members, and carers, who inform country health services in the Blackwood district of the health and service issues that are most important to the local community.

Your local Blackwood DHAC members

Nannup Leonie Robinson Ph: 0437 328 929 Boyup Brook Kathryn Westphal

Ph: (08) 9765 1066 0458 661 099 Bridgetown John Nicholas Ph: 0409 619 753

Balingup Currently Vacant Boyup Brook
Philippe Kaltenrieder
Chairperson
Ph: 0429 700 708

If you have a suggestion about how your local health service can make improvements or have concerns about the services available in your town or district, have a chat to your local DHAC Chairperson or members. We are here to advocate on your behalf.

We are looking for new members from Bridgetown, Greenbushes & Boyup Brook to ensure that as many groups and individuals within our community are included in conversations about health and health related matters.

For more information on how to become a member Please contact your local DHAC member or visit the "Get Involved" page on the WA Country Health Service website:

District Health Advisory Councils



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Tony Magenta and Collette Kowald at dance practice

Dance is Movement that makes Music Come to Life

Collette Kowald joined the Social Dancing Group some eight years ago in 2014. She was initially encouraged to attend by her thoughtful neighbour Bronwyn who rightly thought Collette needed some social aspect in her life.

Collette who is now the secretary of the group talks enthusiastically about the benefits the dance group has brought to her life.

"The first time I attended a dance practice night I was a reluctant attendee, really, I had to be coaxed in to coming along on that first night. I was thinking I would make such a fool of myself, mostly because I had never in my life had any dance lessons.

"However, I was tutored well and my endeavours were encouraged, then with lots of practice over the next few months I found I was becoming very proficient.

"I didn't attend my first dance for almost twelve months, I felt I needed more practice, basically because I'm a bit of a perfectionist. But when I did attend a dance night it was wonderful, and I wondered why I didn't have the courage to do it sooner.

"On the dance group's regular dance night, the dress code is smart causal, but then when I attended the formal ball and then the dinner dance, I found I was delighted with the need to dress up for the night. The whole picture comes to life, hair, makeup and a beautiful ball gown. Our formal balls always have a colour theme which makes it all that much more exhilarating and spectacular on the night.

"All that is said about the benefits you derive from joining a dancing group came true for me.

"Dancing certainly keeps you fit in a fun and enjoyable way, learning new dance steps and focusing on the dance movement is mentally invigorating and the social aspect has made a huge difference to my life.

"Friendships are not only made locally, they are also made throughout the region. From Pemberton, Manjimup, Bridgetown Uduc and Dardunup, in fact any town which has a hall that is used for dances. *Continued page 13*

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Greenbushes Golf Club Fundraising Auction

A very successful Greenbushes Golf Club fundraising auction was held on Saturday 7th May to benefit the Bridgetown Golf Club; "On behalf of Greenbushes Golf Club President, Gordon James sincerely thanks all those who gave their support towards the Auction Night held to raise funds to assist with the rebuilding of the Bridgetown Golf Club's clubhouse that was destroyed in the February bushfire.

"As a result of the backing and the generosity of the donors, we are pleased to advise that more than \$15,000 was raised. This money will be presented to Bridgetown Golf

Club to assist with the reconstruction."

Many businesses in town and across the South West provided items for the auction, which included Family swimming passes from the Shire, a 3.6m mobile stock ramp, a ride on lawn mower and trailer, hand sewn quilts, motor vehicle parts (tyres, lights and towing equipment), electric golf cars and buggies.

The Unavailability of stock forced the withdrawal of car packages offered but these were replaced by the dealers with

significant cash donations.

South West golf clubs provided full and country memberships and playing packages, and businesses across the state donated a variety of vouchers for clothing, beauty and fuel. There was also accommodation and meal packages in Perth and throughout the South West.

As well as golf equipment, there was supporter gear from WA's major sporting teams Eagles, Dockers, WACA, West Coast Fever and the Wildcats, as well as small and large round bales of hay and a two-hours service of icecream, ideal for a child's birthday party or a binge at home, an all you can eat, from Tony Pratico.

"All of us at the Greenbushes Golf Club were amazed at the willingness and generosity of those wanting to contribute to



the auction, it seemed the Bridgetown Golf Club losses touched a need to help in the wider community.

"While not all the goods were sold on the night, we are still in negotiations with some golf packages and other items and Bridgetown Golf Club will benefit from all the goods donated."

Greenbushes Golf will host a golf day with Bridgetown Golf Club members shortly for the formal hand-over of the monies raised.

Show Talk

Hello Everyone, With our delayed decision to now go ahead with the 133rd Annual Show on Saturday November 26th, 2022 (due to Covid still impacting our lives), the Committee have been flat out planning the entertainment side of things and preparing the contact information to our Section Stewards, Members and Sponsors. There is always a lot of hard work from a lot of people behind the scenes to put everything together to eventually be able to hold a show and the late start puts extra pressure on everyone. Continued page 14









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The Grumpies

One of the must have items semi-retired and retired men would like is a big shed full of equipment and tools. This is so they can get on and do as well as deal with all those repairs and jobs they have been promising.

Bridgetown Men's Shed, (aka The Grumpies) is one of the best wellequipped wood working sheds you will ever come across, and they are looking for new members.



Barry and John at the Shed

They have a large table saw, planers and thicknessers, band saws, spindle moulders, drop saws, drill presses along with clamps and just about any hand tool you would ever need, as well as a dedicated spray room.

They also have qualified people who can guide you on any wood working project, supervise you when using the equipment and they have the experience and knowledge

you will need to complete the job well.

Terry Linz is the secretary at the men's shed and he talks of the benefits of the men's shed. "Men's physical and mental health is the major benefit which semi-retired and retired men obtain from being involved in a men's shed.

"When men retire either through early retirement, disability or they have a 'tree change' they may find themselves without a network of work colleagues or friends.

"The Men's Shed is the ideal place to make new friendships and to have those discussions about your wellbeing in a place where men feel most comfortable, in a shed."

Dave Roberts has recently joined the Men's Shed; he finds the shed has been welcoming as well as being an 'Aladdin's Cave' full of the best equipment anyone could ever need.

"When I first came along to the shed it was so I could work on picture frames, I have since moved onto other projects. As a fundraiser for the shed, we have been making 'bee hotels', mostly from offcuts, we must have sold hundreds of those.

"The shed has recently sourced a lot of timber pallets from the mine, so we have been using pallet timber to make an assortment of projects.

"I was one of those men who always imagined I would need a pretty big shed for when I retired, but for me the Men's Shed has been just right," Dave said.

Terry elaborated, "The shed is open three days a week, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8am to 12noon.

"There are fees involved with the shed: there is an annual fee of \$40 for insurance, a daily fee of \$3 for when using the shed and a morning tea fee of fifty cents.

"Really, no wood working experience is necessary, some men come along for the company. There are community projects to be involved in, where being part of a group which makes items like lending libraries, benches and recycled cabinets or repairs items like the odd broken chair or table, are projects which benefit the community, not only giving you a worthwhile feeling but also giving you a project where you can apply your newly acquired skills."

If you are new to town, or you are someone who would like some further information you can call Terry on 0419 856 883.



Alan Wilson, Golf Club secretary, Brian Hassen, Rotary President, Will Stock, Greens Manager

Bridgetown Golf Club Gratitude to Rotary

The recent fires threatening Bridgetown town site on Saturday 5th February destroyed the Bridgetown Golf Club facilities. The Club House, the Caretaker's Cottage attached to the Club House, two sheds full of equipment and the golf course reticulation system were all destroyed. This was as the fire was being fanned by strong winds, allowing it to burn out of control and race up Hester Hill on the outskirts of Bridgetown.

Since the fire the Bridgetown Golf Club has been well supported by those in our community, support and generosity

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has come from nearby towns and other associated golf clubs.

Now thanks are also given for the generosity Rotary Australia World Community Service, a fund which donates to those who are affected by natural disasters, \$28,000 has been donated to enable the club to purchase a Fire Fighting Unit and new mower through this Rotary program.

Golf Club secretary Alan Wilson said the club was, "stoked", when advised of the funding from Rotary.

Rotary President Brian Hassen said, "Rotary, along with other community groups have been instrumental in providing funding for those people affected by the recent fires. We hope that this donation goes someway to helping lifestyles to return to normal."

The fire fighting unit has already been put to good use in the watering of the greens in order to keep the course in a good condition.

In the last two years in Australia, we have certainly seen our fair share of natural disasters. The generosity shown by and the work of the service clubs, right across Australia, makes a huge difference for the betterment of those caught up in a natural disaster.

Harcourts Bridgetown

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Real Estate Matters

We are super proud of our talented sales consultant Steve Hunter, who was awarded the Rising Star of the Year trophy at Harcourts recent state awards night in Perth. Steve also took home the Silver Sales Status award. These awards recognise Steve's outstanding sales performance for 2021/22 having sold 58 properties in last 12 months. Well done Steve!

But there's more! Our amazing sales team earned a Silver Sales award, with Kate Bond also gaining recognition for 10 years of dedicated service with the Harcourts family. Well done, Kate!

When Steve was congratulated, he said, "All our hard work would be nothing without the support of our valued clients. These rewards are due to them." Thanks to everyone for the outstanding support you give the Harcourts Team; we truly appreciate it. So! If you want your property **sold** in quick time with little fuss and the best of service then get Steve, Kate or Corinne on your side for your next real estate deal? You'll be glad you did.



Steve Hunter

Termites in your home!

We have had a few recent issues with sale of homes that have been termite infested. Owners had not been aware of the infestation, however little had been done to mitigate risks. Living in the country has its benefits but because many of us live on acreage with fertile grounds for pest infestation it is important that home owners have a plan of regular inspection and treatment to minimise the risk of the destruction termites can cause. Termite infestations are serious issues and should be managed by professional pest controllers. Eliminate the stress of a potential sale falling through and get your house checked.

For a free sales or rental appraisal contact Harcourts Bridgetown,

The Real People in Real Estate on 9761 1566

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.

Sponsorships and donations queries for GBContact please email GBContact@talisonlithium.com



Left to Right: Elizabeth Kane Human Resources Advisor and Alexandra Lamb Human Resources Officer.

Jobs at Talison

Face-to-face recruitment drives across the region have gone some way to assisting Talison Lithium Pty Ltd (Talison) to meet the workforce demands of the company's expansion projects.

Human Resources Advisors have met with prospective employees in Bridgetown, Manjimup and Nannup and most recently in Bunbury for annual Job Fairs to discuss roles across a range of departments at the Greenbushes Lithium Operation.

Talison currently has 433 permanent employees and 20 casual staff at Greenbushes and 39 in the Perth Office. There are also hundreds of contractors employed across the site including mining, drill and blast and electrical and maintenance services.

Current opportunities include positions for a Sustainability Administration Officer, Communications Officer, Sustainability Data Analyst, Work Health and Safety Superintendent, Mine Geologist and a Drill and Blast Engineer.

In recent months 25new employees have taken up positions at Talison including an IT Support Technican, Site Accountant, Cleaner, Finance and Commercial Coordinator, Manager Business Continuity Improvement, Draftsperson - Electrical Design, Draftsperson - Mechanical Design, Projects Superintendent, Shutdown Planner, Electrician, Engineers, Process Control Operators, an Environment and Community Superintendent and a Health and Safety Advisor.

Talison is an equal opportunity employer supporting diversity and inclusion.

There are also opportunities for personal development and advancement across a wide range of disciplines for people seeking, professional, technical and trade careers.

In 2022 Talison employed seven new trainees and two apprentices in the 10th year of the Talison Traineeship Program to ensure pathways and opportunities for young people in the region.

Fern Brooks (Environment Trainee), Mary Mabalhin (Administration Trainee), Alexander Dilkes (Site Projects Trainee), Emilee Paganini (Work Health and Safety Trainee), Jay Tonai-Moore (Laboratory Trainee) Jessica Verbrugge (Stores Trainee) and Justin Darby-Jones (Infrastructure Trainee) are now nearing the halfway point in their traineeships.

Between 2013 and 2021 Talison appointed 37 trainees with a number finding permanent employment at Talison and others going on to study mining or other career paths at University.

The traineeships offer young people the opportunity to gain paid work experience in the mining industry while completing nationally recognized qualifications in their field of study.



Former Trainee now Shipping Administrator Kallee Burkett on the right with 2022 Work Health and Safety Trainee Emilee Paganini enjoying time out helping at the Greenbushes Fun Run.

Close to Losing his Livelihood

The fire which ravaged Bridgetown on the 5th February caused hardship and loss in many different situations.

Arie Berghuis, a volunteer fire fighter with both the

Kangaroo Gully and the Bridgetown Volunteer Brigade, was one of the 'first responders' on that afternoon and was out and about driving the Bridgetown fire tanker supporting the fire fighters who were battling with the fire which was threatening Bridgetown.

This was when he heard over the radio that the fire had quickly spread to the Bridgetown Golf Club and was moving on to the old Sale Yards, and was consuming all in its wake.

The Sale Yards is where Arie has his Blackwood Heavy Tilt truck parked along with his sea containers and other equipment he uses with his business.

Arie speaks about his dilemma, "I heard over the radio the fire front was moving quickly and it was threatening the Sale Yards. My first thought was to phone a friend to have the truck moved, but with little or no mobile reception, I more or less had to accept what was to be, would be and to hope for the best.

"I honestly owe my thanks to strangers. On that afternoon of the fire there were quite a few courageous people helping where they could, those who were armed with only a firefighting unit on the back of their ute, they were out doing what they could, and thankfully even though my truck



Arie and his truck before and after



"The truck was set alight by the radiant heat from the fire. The fire was so intense and so hot on that day it set alight anything that would burn from a distance, boxes of filters just exploded into flames.

"I have a sense of those who saved my truck on that afternoon, but not knowing for sure I can only thank all those who contributed to fighting the fire on that catastrophic day, it really could have been much worse.

"Yes, the truck was covered by insurance, but with so much fire damage occurring on that day it took a while for my claim to be assessed.

"In all, I was without my livelihood for fourteen weeks. Now I'm back on the road with the repair work done by 'Wilky's Panel and Paint'. Thankfully, my regular customers have been really patient and supportive of my plight and I'm now busy catching up with the backlog."

The fire which threatened Bridgetown on 5th February was out of control and very intense, it was made so by the strong winds fanning the flames. The fire was so unpredictable it surprised all when there was a 'burn over' at the Bridgetown Incident Control Centre.

2022 REIWA AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

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WINNER - ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Congratulations to our very own Alison Rutten who attended the 2022 REIWA Awards for Excellence and walked home with a trophy for the WINNER of the Achievement Award. This award recognises excellence of newcomers in the real estate industry. Alison is hard-working, compassionate, enthusiastic and dedicated to customer service. For awardwinning service, why not give us a call for all your real estate needs?



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BrushTales

Local artist Brenda Stead is holding an exhibition of her watercolour paintings titled BrushTales at the Jenny Mountford Gallery in the Rabbit Hole, on Hampton Street.

The exhibition is part of the Fridgetown Fest and will run from Friday, 1 July to 7 August. Opening times will be Wednesday to Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm, and Sunday, 10 am to 2 pm. Around twenty-five paintings will feature local fauna, flora and architecture. They have been completed over the six years that Brenda has lived in Bridgetown.

The technique Brenda uses with her watercolours is one of fine, layered brush strokes; this style of painting brings her work to life with its attention to detail.

Brenda reveals some insights into her life and paintings; "BrushTales, The exhibition title is a play on words. My brush tells the story through what I have painted.

"The paintings represent some of my life interests. I'm a nature lover and I have a great interest in the social history behind the buildings, whether they are standing or in ruins, they all have stories to tell.

"Whenever I have spare time, I love to draw and paint. When I've worked or lived in different places, it hasn't taken me long to find wonderful subject matter.

"Cockatoos, owls, possums and other native wildlife, together with some of Bridgetown historical buildings, will feature in the exhibition.

"Bridgetown, being a heritage town, has some fascinating buildings. I have visited other historic towns around Australia and have travelled to many parts of Europe, Italy especially, and I am always drawn to the different buildings and dwellings.

Brenda carries her love of fauna into her role of wildlife carer of birds on behalf of Bridgetown Wildlife Rescue and has well-appointed aviaries that are ideal to look after injured or abandoned birds.

Brenda's property is well set up to welcome birds, with twelve bird baths scattered around her garden which is planted with a wide variety of flowering plants and trees providing habitat and food for birds all year round.

"The best way to attract birds is to have water for them to bathe or drink, flowering plants are not only good for nectar-eating birds but also for attracting insects on which larger birds feast".

Brenda grew up in a family with good art and craft backgrounds along certainly a lot of talented people within with her brother and sister who both have artistic interests.



Brenda pictured in her studio

"Growing up in a household where both my parents had an interest in art was where my love of painting was nurtured.

"My mother was very talented with her art and craft skills and my father worked as a commercial artist and calligrapher. Such an environment where arts were practiced and the necessary art materials were around me to dabble with was a good start to a pastime I really enjoy, which has now developed into something that gives me a great deal of satisfaction.

"I have always painted; watercolour is the medium I mainly use. Now that I'm retired, I have more time to pursue my interest in my art and in wildlife".

BrushTales is an exhibition that will delight and surprise you. There are our community.





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An Interesting Place to Shop

Wilde Folk Collective is a business born out of friendships. Jodie Dagg and Jessie Bosley developed a friendship, which then grew into a business partnership.

This all came about when they had become acquainted through their marriages. Their husbands Stewart Dagg and Tristan Bosley were best pals whilst growing up, this friendship developed into a lifelong friendship, so naturally Jodie and Jessie were destined to be the best of friends.

The Business they have started is 'The Wilde Folk Collective'. It is a beautiful boutique business on Hampton Street in Bridgetown, which is filled with unique homewares, jewellery, soft luscious bedding, gorgeous gifts and other tempting items.

Why the name? It was loosely thought up with its basis in an affectionate descriptive name they have for their children, 'wilde folk collective'. Between them they have seven children, Jodie has five and Jessie has two. The children are often in the shop.

"Thus far the business is working well, by sharing the responsibilities we halve the workload." Jessie goes on to explain.

"We are also reselling products from a range of home-based business. Our suppliers are small local manufacturers who make a range of natural body care lotions, cleaning products, candles and home décor pieces.

"When we stock one person's items, it has often led to us finding another person who is known to produce complimentary items.

"As it is in life, we both bring different talents to the business, we both serve in and run the shop but I'm finding my niche is doing the bookwork."

Jodie is now studying and learning the process of how to make soaps, lotions and body care products and is hoping to supply the store with a range of her personal products.

Jodie brightly talks about the venture, "When you enter our shop it has a wonderful calming atmosphere. We endearyour to connect with and make our customers feel welcome when entering, as well as making their shopping experience a good one.

"This September will see that our shop has been open for two



Wilde Folk Collective owners Jodie and Jessie

years, how the time has flown by.

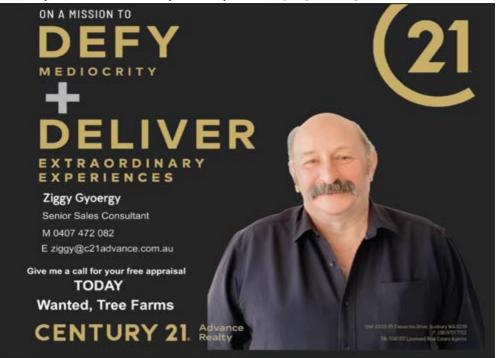
"Yes Covid-19 presented us with some issues, but it also gave us the impetus to create our own web site where our customers can browse and purchase our items online.

"It's early days but we are both happy with the way the business is developing and growing."

"The business is open five days a week,

"The business is open five days a week, Wednesday to Sunday. We take turns in staffing the shop, we have a three days on and two days off roster plan at the moment."

Wilde Folk Collective is one of those new unique businesses which makes Bridgetown a pleasantly surprising town to visit as well as being a good place to shop.





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For the past 2 months, Transition Bridgetown (TBR) has been focusing on Sustainable and Alternative Housing Both Forums have been very well received, well attended, created interest and opened up community discussion within our shire.

TBR are really heartened by this response as well as the interest shown by our shire councillors and our newly appointed shire Executive Manager of Development and Infrastructure.

So heartening to get this support, especially when there are people right here in our community who are facing potential homelessness through no fault of their own. How can we let this happen?

You can find the live stream video of the 'Alternative

Housing Models Forum' on our Facebook page.

Keep an eye out for a post on the Transition Bridgetown Facebook page where we will be facilitating an opportunity for community members to meet and discuss specific topics like Tiny Houses, Cooperative Housing and Cluster Developments etc. If you'd like to receive our emails, please let us know via Facebook or email transitionbridgetown19@

We are very grateful to Lisa Gibson for coordinating this Forum, all of the speakers who came down from Perth to present on their topics, to Talison for granting some funds and to the Shire for providing the venue.

On Sunday June 26th 4.30 - 6.30pm at The Cidery, we will be hosting an Open Space on another topic dear to our hearts. We've given it the title of 'Recycling Demystified.'

Seonaid Leslie who works for Hastie Waste and also the local Containers for Change refund point, will be coordinating this topic with the support of TBR.

There will be information on

Kerbside recycling – where it goes and how it is sorted. Maybe even a hands-on activity

Soft plastics recycling though RedCycle

Containers for Change

How to get involved in local projects like the Recycling Hub, the Recycling Network Group and Waste Free Local Events such as the Bridgetown Agricultural Show and the Bridgetown Blues.

So that we know what our community would like 'demystified' about Recycling in our Shire, we ask you to please email or message us with your recycling/waste related questions in advance. Please post your questions on our Facebook page or email transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com

As the saying goes: "Be the change, you wish to see in the world". Our aim is to continue to provide avenues in which we can encourage interest, discussion and actions in areas that promote sustainability and resilience within the community in which we live. Stay well and warm.



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Bridgetown Historical Society

Many people wonder what a Historical Society does, does it have any importance in contemporary life, is it just a lot of old people talking about olden days?

There are more than a thousand historical societies, family history groups, keeping places, and community heritage groups across Australia and the statement below gives recognition to an important part of our work.

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies acknowledges that the nation of Australia boasts the longest living culture and heritage of any part of the world. We pay tribute to our First Peoples, their heritage and their contribution to our contemporary society. We will endeavour to have First Peoples engaged in our historical work and participating as members. We acknowledge the First Peoples as the original custodians of the land on which our societies work and operate.

In Bridgetown, and in our neighbouring towns of Manjimup, Nannup, Donnybrook, Boyup Brook, we have Historical Societies or Pioneer Museums and just recently in Balingup an exhibition has been curated by Elder and Custodian Sandra Hill: 'Past, Present and Future: A Cultural Journey', which presents a timeline of the lives of her people from pre-colonial times through to the modern day. Included in the exhibition are some of the foods, traditions and clothes worn by Bibbulmun people before colonisation.

This display is located in the Packing Shed in the Balingup town centre. Well worth a visit.

In Bridgetown, BHS is busy creating an orcharding museum in the shed at the back of the Police Station Museum, with the orcharding equipment from the Visitors Centre. When completed, the orcharding museum will document and display the history of the apple industry of the Blackwood Valley.

If you or your family has any photos, objects or artefacts to share from this important time in our history, please make contact:

Bridgetown Historical Society, The Old Yornup School House, (PO Box 1017), 5 Civic Lane, Bridgetown, WA 6255; T: 08 97614236 /0487 592 704 E: bridgetownhistory@iinet.net.au Lee Wittenoom

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Showing The Way Coleen Russell

An interesting piece about Bridgetown is published in 1893, "As one first enters Bridgetown it looks more like a bit of Old England than young Australia. It is a straggling village composed chiefly of rose embowered cottages and a pub.

A New Role 1892 continued

'The Finest Show in the Colony'

The Central Southern Districts Agricultural Society's 8th Annual Show on Thursday 24 November 1892 proved most successful. Large numbers of stock were exhibited including 121 Horses, 127 Cows, 113 Sheep and 7 Pigs. They were all in fair condition with the exception of the steers, which were rather poor.

W.B. Woods won the Champion Draught Mare and with F.A. Nix, won Colt under 2yrs. Winners of the best gentlemen's Hacks were Lee Steere and Moulton. The sheep were first class and the best-dressed sheep was weighed after the show turning the scales at 79lbs. The second prize fine wool ram exhibited by Andrew Muir was shorn the next day and its fleece weighed 15 ½ lbs.

The Show day luncheon at Scott's Hotel was well attended. The usual toasts were proposed. Mr W.K. Adam had come over 100 miles to be present at what he considered

to be "the finest show in the Colony."

Mr Allnutt proposed the toast of the judges and Mr W.E. Ash, in responding, congratulated the Society. He had been present at the Royal, Albany and Broome Hill shows and "this compared very favourably with them."

He pointed out that a show is an educational system and that they ought, besides the show, have periodical meetings throughout the year. He was surprised that farmers apparently did not come to discuss agricultural matters but only politics and believed "the district was handicapped by want of railway communication" and that the Society should advocate its construction.

The settlers had, since 1885 voiced their opinion on the need for a rail system but now, as Mr Ash pointed out, they had the opportunity, having built up respect throughout the Colony as a successful Society, to argue the case to

politicians on the future of the area.

At the Annual General Meeting in the Mechanics Institute the following day, Mr Allnutt proposed the produce shed be enlarged, new pens provided and a few seats for the visitors. Mr J.R. Walter moved the ground be enlarged, by taking in the remainder of the grant, with new pens also being provided. Funding support had been promised but the previous Secretary Mr M.H. Jephson had mislaid the list, which could not be found prior to his departure from the District.

After further discussion Mr A. Knox Brown suggested the balance of the Show ground be cleared, and moved the Committee place a scheme for borrowing the money, enlarging the yard, erecting new pens and other improvements, before the next half yearly meeting.

This was seconded Mr W.K. Adam and carried. Mr J.R. Walter moved the constitution be revised, Elections then took place; President; Mr E. Lee Steere Vice Presidents; Messrs Thos. Muir, A.W. Moulton, Thos. Giblett and G.W. Hester, Council; Messrs J. Allnutt, J. Inglis, G. Allnutt, A. Muir, L.C. Moulton, A. Blechynden, F.A. Nix, W. Forrest Jr. and H. Doust. Secretary; Mr J.R. Walter. The evening's ball was a great success and the Bazaar was open on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

A Change of Name 1893

Mr Ash's speech, in November 1892, "suggesting periodical meetings," was taken into consideration, and throughout 1893 regular meetings were held. This would have been difficult for members in outlying areas due to the distance they would travel by either horseback or horse and buggy.



At the April meeting, the proposed enlargement and improvements to the Show yards were discussed. It was agreed to enlarge the Showgrounds by clearing and fencing in the remaining half, increasing the number of pens, moving and enlarging the produce shed onto the Steere Street side of the grounds. J. Allnutt and Thos. Muir were chosen as delegates to attend the Agricultural Fruit and Vine Conference in Perth.

E.J. Lee Steere resigned at the May meeting and John Allnutt was elected to the Chair. The Mechanics Institution Hall was discussed, "which is now unable to cater for the large crowds who attend the ball" and Sir John Forrest was to be approached to ask the Government to construct a new Agricultural Hall. The Show grounds needed more attention and the Society was facing difficulties by this stage. At a public meeting to discuss the situation, a proposal was made that the Society conduct a Fruit and Produce Show, (to better represent the produce of the district) and this be held in March in conjunction with the race meeting.

There was a large attendance at the half yearly meeting on 29 June in the Mechanics Institute. The Secretary J.R. Walter was absent on leave (England) and W.A.G. Walter

and J.W. Layman were acting Secretaries.

The balance sheet showed a credit of £3 16s. This amount together with the Government Grant of £25 (not yet received) now showed a healthy state of affairs. A. Knox Brown offered a special prize of £3 3s. with two guineas each from Thos. Muir and G.W. Hester.

Society rules and catalogues would be printed and distributed to the members. A number of propositions and amendments were put forward regarding a change of name for the Society. Blackwood Agricultural Society and Blackwood Warren Agricultural Society were suggested, but Mr Inglis was successful with the name change to be, 'Nelson Agricultural Society'. G.M. Williams and H. Doust Snr. successfully moved that Life Members should

be created on a payment of £10.

The Western Mail printed an interesting piece about Bridgetown, "As one first enters it looks more like a bit of Old England than young Australia. It is a straggling village composed chiefly of rose embowered cottages and a pub. The Government have spoilt the antique appearance of the place by erecting a new Post Office and Court House. In keeping with the place the architect should have made allowances for a few cobwebs and some rose bushes. "The Mail went on to describe how the population increased at least ten fold during show week with people coming from far and near, some 70 to 100 miles away."

This is evidently the holiday of the year with all other holidays in disregard by these good people. They work and they play and whatever they do they do it with all their might. From Monday to Saturday there was no let up in the fun." The Mail also printed a full list of the Schedule with classes being; A. Hors.es Champion Class, B. WA Bred, C. Cattle Champion, D. WA Bred, E. Sheep Imported and WA Bred, F. Pigs Imported and WA Bred, G. Produce, H. Wine, I. Dairy Produce, J. Poultry,

Dance is Movement that makes Music Come to Life

Continued from page 2

"We also welcome interstate travellers to our dances as well as those who might be visiting the region from the city."

The Social Dancing Group meets in Bridgetown every Monday night, except for public holidays at the Uniting Church Hall in Roe Street, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm for dance practice.

The dances practiced are in the 'ballroom' style but come with a modern-day flare, Tango, Waltz, Rhumba and Jive are some of the dances taught.

The Group is looking for new members of any age, all are welcome, you don't need to have a partner, and you don't have to have any dance experience to attend.

The dance practice is held in such a way that everyone gets to dance with one another. The dances are conducted as a circular dance, with the females progressing after each dance to the next partner.

In this way you get to dance with the experts as well as those who are still mastering the steps.

"Trish Martin and Mick Blatch are the instructors at the Monday night's practice sessions, they both have a wonderfully encouraging way of demonstrating the dance steps which are to be performed during the practice dance.

"You won't be a dance expert after only a few lessons, but if you stick with the dance practices, you will find

dancing is such a rewarding pastime.

"The dancing group is very welcoming. One of my worst fears was never realised, no one laughed at me with my awkward first attempts at learning to dance, but they may laugh with you, if you turn the wrong way or perform the wrong steps. We are all there to have fun as well as to learn or refresh.

"The younger dancers have such suppleness in their body movements that when they dance, it brings a whole new grace to the dance floor.

"Once new members have settled in it's found they bring a refreshing enthusiasm along with themselves, and they find it's easy to enjoy formal dances, having that chance to dress up and to express yourself differently, you are totally in another world for a while.

"Music is my thinking rock, and dance is movement that makes music come to life. These are the saying I rejoice in." Collette reflected.

Even though we tend to be very comfortable in our homes these days, and yes, we are all living busier lives, human beings fare better with some social interaction.

Currently with no Covid-19 restriction requirements at the dances and the practices nights, there has never been a better time to resume or take up dancing as a pastime.

For further information or enquiries, you can call Tony on 0427 643 638, Collette on 0417 174 294 or Trish on 9761 1946.



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Show Talk Continued from page 3

Our main focus right now is to bring together the Section Stewards changes and secure our Sponsors to finalise the 2022 Show Schedule. This is a big job and needs cooperation from everyone involved, so Ruth, Jo and the team would really appreciate prompt feedback to begin the process. It is so important to have the updated and correct information as soon as possible to ensure the Schedule is available early. If you have a suggestion or something to include in the schedule, contact the Committee now to discuss.

This year's Show theme is 'Seed to Supper'. The entertainment is still in the early stages of being put together, but will focus on local produce and all things food related.

2022 Show Support: Anyone wishing to come on board to help prepare for our 133rd Show on Saturday November 26th, 2022, contact Jo by email info@bridgetownshow. com.au or give her a call. We are always open to and welcome any suggestions or ideas towards our Schedule or Show Activities/Events and we would appreciate any extra helpers in the Sections.

Venue bookings: Remember, the Showgrounds is a great venue for any event and is available for hire with a fully functional Shire approved Industrial Kitchen suitable to plan your event.

For a wedding, party, reunion, weekend gathering, event or private function, consider the showgrounds for your next event. Pricing and information about booking the grounds can be found online www.bridgetownshow.com.au or ask at the Bridgetown Newsagents before making your final decision.

Our next Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th June 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



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The Stables IGA would like to welcome The Odd Bottle.

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The Mailbag June 7th 2022 Page 14 The Mailbag is now online www.thequalityshop.com.au

Blues at Bridgetown's 30th Year

Continued from cover, "Discussions have been held with all the liquor outlets in town, Bridgetown Hotel, Freemasons Hotel, Scotts Tavern, The Cidery and Clovers in a way to make for a more collaborative and inclusive Blues.

"One of the delightful positives that the Blues at Bridgetown is renowned for is that it is the biggest fundraising event for the various clubs and associations in town, so once again we will be working hard in an endeavour to continue this legacy.

"Transition Bridgetown will also be coordinating 'containers for change' collection stations over the weekend.

"We are of course, as we are always are, looking for volunteers. This year we have also set up a system of sub committees which should allow us to share the load which is placed on our volunteers. This is in order to have a way of avoiding volunteer burnout."

"I would like to thank the out-going board for their administration. The job for the new board has been made easier by having money in the kitty for the up-coming Blues at Bridgetown.

The new Committee is Jacky Brody, Chair; Norton Schmidt-Hunt, Vice Chair; Ashlee Mentlein, Secretary with Megan Loneragan, Treasurer.

The Committee members are Greg Brody, Georgie Miller, Grant Miller, Jo Elliott and Isabelle Lucus.

If you would like further information on becoming a volunteer for Blues at Bridgetown, please email volunteers@ bluesatbridgetown.com.au

Greenbushes Fun Run and MTB 2022

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19 the Greenbushes Fun Run and MTB again attracted a wide range of participants with many families among the 211 competitors who turned out in fine weather on Sunday May 15 to race around the scenic course through forested areas around the town.

Established in 2014, the event has raised more than \$75,000 for charity, with Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) being the major recipient.

Event Patron, Didith Atkin, who is a breast cancer survivor initiated the Greenbushes Fun Run and has seen it go from

strength to strength.

It is now one of the most popular events on the Bridgetown-Greenbushes calendar attracting people from as far away as Perth, Manjimup, Collie and Bunbury.

Featuring a 15km mountain bike course with a shorter 5km option and a 10 km and 5km run there is something for every level of ability. The opportunity for participants and supporters to create a pink themed costume ensures there's plenty of colour at the event.

Many local businesses also donate prizes for the raffles and for event and Grow Greenbushes would like to thank all the people who contributed prizes or volunteered to help on the day.

Long- time local participant Russell Forest won the Adult Male 10 km race finishing with a time of 45:14.29 ahead of Nick Harger from Stratham who finished in 49:03.81.

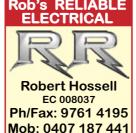
Carolyn Mader from Benjinup, also a previous winner of

the run event, took out the Adult Female division with a time of 51:31.57.

The 15 km mountain bike category saw Cody Ward from Bridgetown finish first in the Adult Male with a time of 37.56.37.

Nicole Watson Bridgetown won the Adult Female division of the 14km mountain bike category with a time of 50:11.61.

For all the results go to www. bluechiptiming.com.au





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Merrylee Legros, Melva Browne Back Maureen Flemming, Pat Steig, Chris Pantou

and good friends. Thank you, Pam and Jim.

For information on joining Bridgetown Garden Club

Bridgetown Garden Club Honours Pam and Jim Taylor

On Saturday May 28th the Bridgetown Garden Club held a ceremony to dedicate a jarrah bench to the memory of founding and lifetime members, Pam and Jim Taylor.

Pam was the founding president of the BCG, holding the office for 10 years from 1996 - 2006. She remained an active member until her death in 2018. Jim was a great supporter of the committee during Pam's presidency and remained an active member until his death last year.

About forty people gathered to participate in the ceremony, many of whom were previous members, several serving on early committees. Pat Steig, Maureen Flemming and Melva Browne from the original committee were all in attendance as was Merrylee Legros, daughter of Pam and Jim.

Chris Pantou represented his late wife Val, who was also on the original committee.

Pat conducted the ceremony, going through a brief history of how the club began, detailing Pam and Jim's involvement and sharing several amusing stories.

The bench is placed high back on the west side of Pioneer Park, near the labyrinth. The area was bathed in beautiful sunshine for the duration of the morning ceremony.

Following this, everyone adjourned to enjoy a generous morning tea and to socialise.

All agreed that it was a lovely celebration of the contribution of two great gardeners, community members and please contact Jillian Wilks President 0437706950

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