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June 2nd 2026

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THE MAILBAG

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Puzzletown6255 Opens Its Doors

A unique community vision years in the making will officially come to life on Saturday 4 July 2026, when Puzzletown6255 celebrates its Grand Opening.

The official opening day will begin at 9.45am, with the formal ribbon cutting at 10.00am, before a full day of activities, stories and celebrations unfolds.

With the recent launch of the electric vehicle charging station, along with upgraded Blue at Bridgetown and Landcare offices, Puzzletown6255

completes the picture at 154 Hampton Street, as a hub for creativity, local stories, tourism and community connection.

Visitors on opening day will be a part of the unveiling of the different galleries and the manufacturing area, alongside special lunches and activities designed to celebrate both the project's past and future.

Highlights of the day will include: Release of a limited-edition Art Puzzle; Silent auction of the original 1970s Brierley heritage carpet; Stories and displays celebrating the evolution of Puzzletown6255; The launch of a new Codling Moth self-guided tour; Free activities and free entry throughout the day.

The celebrations will continue into the evening with a Speed Puzzling Cocktail Event from 7.00pm-10.00pm, bringing together social puzzling, food and community fun in a relaxed atmosphere.

As a lead up to this, the community will first come together for Bridgetown's ambitious 54,000-piece Community Puzzle Challenge, to be held from 8am on Saturday 6 June at Bridgetown Town Hall.

Families, community groups, workplaces and puzzle enthusiasts will race to complete twenty-seven individual 2,000-piece puzzles throughout the day. Once joined together, the puzzles will create a spectacular 54,000-piece masterpiece, *Continued on page 11*



Tessa and Jennie showing visitors Carol and John around Puzzletown6255



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Zappa, The Seeing Eye Dog

Robert Smith, whom you would have seen at some time walking the streets with his Seeing-eye dog, would like to remind the folks around Bridgetown of the public protocols for interaction with Seeing Eye Dogs.

"Pats and cuddles from dog lovers are well-intentioned, but they distract Seeing-eye dogs from their important job.

"This is why if you see a Seeing-eye dog in a harness or coat, you should be aware that they are working. Never make eye contact, distract, feed or touch a Seeing Eye Dog at work without express permission from their handler, the best support you can give a Seeing-eye dog is to ignore their presence, and let them do their job." Robert explains.

"Zappa my newest Seeing Eye Dog, is only three years old, and yes, he was named after the rock star musician Frank Zappa.

"Recently he has been so distracted from his work by those who just want to stop and talk to my dog. If people would like to pat the dog they need to ask me first, and my preference is for saying 'No you shouldn't'. I now have had to get the trainer Matt, the senior Western Australia Seeing Eye Dog Trainer in to straighten Zappa up again so he can once again focus on his work of leading me around.

"When people have asked me if I need help for me and Zappa to cross a busy road, this I do appreciate, especially with our main street being so busy and electric cars being so quiet.

Robert concludes with "There really is no need for anyone to talk to the dog, there is no sense in talking to a dog."

Over the years Robert has had six other Seeing-eye dogs, his first companion was Evie in 1988, then Sharney from 1998, then Harry from 2008, Harry had terrible skin allergies and needed to be replaced by Hillies in 2011, then Bill from 2013, and then Waldo in 2017 with Zappa becoming his aid in 2025.



Robert and Zappa

Guidelines for interacting with Seeing-eye dogs include not calling, patting, or distracting them while they are working.

It is important for businesses and organizations to be aware of the legal rights of Seeing-eye dogs and to create an inclusive environment for all individuals with disabilities. In Australia, Seeing-eye dogs are legally allowed to enter most shops, and offices.

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Community Cinema

Bridgeflix is a new community group which has been formed with the idea of bringing the cinema experience to town with the showing of films in venues around town.

Early this year Bianca Robertson went to the Bridgetown CRC to talk about volunteering with Kaye McLennan. Out of the conversation that followed came the idea of a community cinema.

This idea has now blossomed into presenting a cozy community event where film lovers gather to share stories, laughs, and unforgettable movie nights.

A sub committee has been formed, supported by the Bridgetown Hub, with around ten members with the aim to bring a wide range of movies to Bridgetown suitable for children, teens, adults and families.

“Our first showing, a family friendly matinee will be held on Sunday 21st June, details to follow.

“The film nights will be run on a volunteer basis, keeping the entry fees as reasonable as possible.

Bianca added, “For the family screenings we encourage those with children to bring pillows and blankets to help make it a comfy, fun, experience for their young ones.

“Some with in our community have been talking about the possibility of a local cinema on and off for the last 16 years, so it is now up and running.

“We have also been asked to screen Youth Theatre short films at the beginning of the night, which I would imagine will be very exciting for the young film makers.”

There have been six successful screenings in our Shire in the last six months, from various organisations. For example, over 100 people attended the recent CinefestOZ On The Road screening.

Kaye goes on to explain, “Based on this, and feedback from many in our community, the time now appears right and so we plan to have family friendly matinees and adults’ evening cinema.”

...Continued on Page 13



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Bianca Robertson and Kaye McLennan

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Planning for the Future at the Let's Plan for Life Expo

On Thursday, May 14, 2026, I was lucky enough to attend the Let's Plan for Life Expo in Bridgetown as an exhibitor. The expo brought together a wide range of organisations and community groups, creating a space to ask questions, and learn more about planning for the future.

The day began at 10am, with representatives from across the region meeting local residents and sharing information about the many services available within our community. There was a fantastic variety of exhibitors including Advocacy wa, Better life centre, Bridgetown crc, Carers wa, Staying in place, Rural health west, Bridgetown hub, Pharmacy 777, Advocare, Bridgetown grumpy old men's shed inc, Jen the herbalist, Solaris cancer care, St john ambulance, Staying at home help, Helping solutions, NDIS, Commonwealth Bank, Greenbushes suicide prevention network and more throughout the day, attendees were treated to four informative and thought-provoking presentations. Representatives from Geegeelup Village spoke about the exciting new developments taking place within the village, sharing plans and construction updates on the 15 new units currently being built. The presentation gave people a valuable insight into future housing opportunities and community living options for seniors in the region.

Jaye Lewis, a Care Navigator from Rural HealthWest discussed Voluntary Assisted Dying, explaining how people can access the government-run program, the eligibility requirements, and the steps involved in the process. The session provided important information on a topic that many people are curious about but may not fully understand.

Matilda Lloyd from Bailiwick Legal also gave a very informative talk covering the importance of wills and the differences between wills, estate planning, and business planning. She also explained Enduring Power of Attorney, guardianship arrangements, and Advance Health Directives, helping attendees better understand the legal documents that can support people later in life.

The final presentation was delivered by Adrian Barrett from William Barrett & Sons, who spoke about funeral pre-planning and the option of paying for funerals in advance...

Continued on page 13

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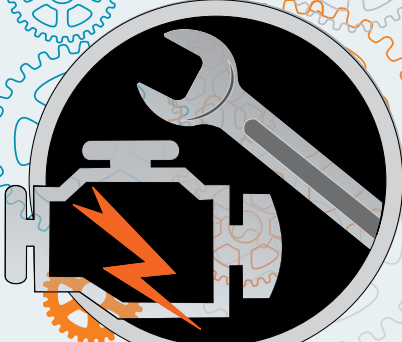
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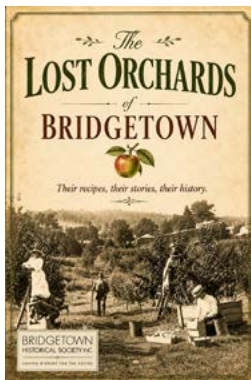
Bridgetown's Orchardring Industry 1860s – 1970s

On 04 February 2026, Bridgetown Historical Society (BHS) celebrated the opening of the new Orchardring Museum, part of the Bridgetown Police Station and Orchardring Museum complex.

The new Museum highlights the history, the stories and the photos of orcharding in the district along with maps of the orchards, names of many of the landholders and many rare artefacts used in the orcharding industry.

If you haven't been able to visit yet, it is open on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays between 10 and 2pm. Groups can come at any time by prior arrangement.

In conjunction with this new museum, BHS has produced a new apple recipe book called *The Lost Orchards of Bridgetown* their recipes their stories their history. The catalyst for this apple recipe book (which is part history book, part recipe book) was



the discovery and subsequent donation to BHS of an old recipe booklet called *Apples the Bridgetown Way*, produced by the Bridgetown 150th Anniversary Committee in 1979. We believed that the history of such an important industry to the district shouldn't be lost, nor should the diverse uses for apples be ignored. Our book will be published in the next couple of months and we hope that the town will support us by buying a copy and cherishing the history of apples in your town.

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Local Voices Survey Provides an Opportunity for Community Feedback

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Voconiq Local Voices survey conducted in May across communities surrounding our Greenbushes Lithium Operation.

The survey, delivered by third-party organisation Voconiq, captured the perspectives of people living and working in the Shires of Bridgetown–Greenbushes, Boyup Brook, Manjimup, Donnybrook Balingup, Nannup, Capel and the City of Bunbury in relation to our operations. This initial survey establishes a baseline, with ongoing opportunities for feedback to be captured through six-monthly pulse surveys over the next three years.

The feedback will help us better understand what matters most to our communities and guide Talison's future decisions and activities. A summary of survey results is expected to be made publicly available in July.

Interactive Truck Safety Session for Greenbushes Students

Road safety was the focus when Talison, in partnership with Qube, visited Greenbushes Primary School students for an engaging and hands-on learning session in May.

The star of the show was a 98-tonne Volvo truck - the same type used daily to transport lithium mineral concentrate from our Greenbushes Lithium Operation to Bunbury Port. Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 had the opportunity to get up close to the truck and climb into the cab, experiencing firsthand the driver's perspective.

The interactive session was designed to help students better understand how to stay safe around large vehicles, particularly in a regional community where trucks, like those supporting our operations, are a regular presence on local roads.

The session reflects our commitment to being a better neighbour - recognising our role in local truck movements through the community and partnering with Qube to promote road safety awareness to help keep our community safe.



Talison Superintendent Product Plan and Shipping Rebecca Dix and Qube Senior Fleet Controller Patrick Phillips, pictured with student Aria Element.

Talison-Funded Upgrade to Deliver Safer Stanifer Street Nears Completion

Work to improve Stanifer Street, the main road through Greenbushes to Talison's operations, is well underway and expected to be completed in June.

The project involves full reconstruction of Stanifer Street between George Street and Diorite Street, including a short adjoining section of Maranup Ford Road. Funded by Talison in partnership with the Shire of Bridgetown–Greenbushes and delivered by contractor Hiway, the upgrade will deliver a stronger, smoother road surface, improved pedestrian infrastructure and stormwater drainage, supporting safer travel through Greenbushes and improved amenity for nearby residents.

Expanded Environmental Monitoring and Long-Term Health Risk Assessment Update

Progress continues on Talison's expanded environmental monitoring program, which is being undertaken to inform a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) for the Greenbushes community.

The program includes an expanded air monitoring network, along with the collection and analysis of water, soil and produce samples from properties within a 10km radius of the Greenbushes Lithium Operation.

Community environmental sampling has now been completed at 67 locations. Individual results are being delivered to participants in two batches, with some shared in May and the remaining results to be provided in early June. Drop-in sessions have been held to help participants understand their results and ask any questions.

The release of individual results is one part of the broader project. The HHRA will bring together all data once it has been fully collected, validated and analysed. The final report is expected to be completed toward the end of 2026, with a summary to be made publicly available.

The program is a key part of Talison's commitment to being a better neighbour. Further information about the Expanded Environmental Monitoring and Long-Term Health Risk Assessment is available on the Talison website at talisonlithium.com/long-term-health-assessment. Any questions can be directed to gbcontact@talisonlithium.com.

Talison Supports Nannup Community Projects

Talison was pleased to join the Nannup community in April to celebrate two exciting projects it has supported, both helping shape the town's future: the Nannup Geopark and the new Nannup Emu Playground.

Talison contributed \$64,000 to support the Nannup Family Collective in creating the new early years Emu Playground. Designed around nature-based play principles, this new space provides a welcoming environment where young children can explore, learn and grow.

The playground represents a meaningful investment in the wellbeing and development of Nannup's youngest residents and their families.

In addition, Talison contributed \$200,000 towards the Nannup Geopark, helping fund the installation of the first of several planned interpretive modules.

These installations will highlight the region's unique geological story, offering both locals and visitors a deeper connection to the landscape. Nannup is working towards UNESCO Global Geopark status, recognising the international significance of the region's unique geology.

Once fully developed, the Nannup Geopark will enrich the community's understanding of the area's natural history and enhance the district's tourism appeal.

Mine Lookout Draws Strong Visitor Numbers

More than 2,300 people stopped by Talison's Public Mine Lookout in April, reflecting strong interest from locals and visitors keen to see the operation up close.

Open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm, the Telluride Street lookout offers a bird's-eye view of the Cornwall and C3 pits and if you time it right, you might even catch a blast safely from a distance.

It's also a great spot to learn about the town's mining history, with a timeline highlighting mining in the area dating back to 1888.



Talison Community Relations Officer Mitchell Wheatley with Nannup Shire Councillor Cheryle Brown and Nannup Collective President Laura Francis-Kingshott at Emu Playground

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BGFF Met With IGO.

Here's What We Learned

In last month's Mailbag article we shared the history of how this community fought for nearly two decades to protect Hester Forest — the court battles, the campaigns, and the eventual declaration in 2004 of Hester Conservation Park, with the remainder of Hester Forest, including the Old Abattoir and Wandoo Valley Walks, designated as proposed Conservation Parks and Forest Conservation Areas. We also wrote that exploration for lithium bearing minerals is now underway in those proposed conservation areas, and that we had arranged to meet with the company behind it. That meeting took place in early May.

IGO (whose subsidiary Flinders holds the exploration applications across the Dalgarup Donnelly forest) sent four representatives, including their Head of External Affairs, Senior Advisor for Government Relations and Community Engagement, Senior Environment Advisor, and Senior Field Assistant. The meeting was held at the Old Abattoir walk, one of the areas they explored, we appreciate that they met with us.

What we learned

Their field season wrapped up in late March when the rains arrived, as DBCA require them to only explore when the ground is dry to minimise the risk of spreading dieback. They completed their sampling program across the Hester proposed Forest Conservation Areas and the proposed Conservation Park, though planned exploration in Wilga and Yornup Forests was not completed. Whether they return next summer will depend on what the current samples reveal.

The methodology is low impact at this stage. Teams of two collect samples at points 100 metres apart by



scrapping back a small area of soil, digging down around 30 centimetres, and collecting roughly a kilogram of material before backfilling. They assured us of strict adherence to their Conservation Management Plan — developed over three years with DBCA — which requires avoiding disturbance to vegetation and potential fauna habitat. To achieve this their teams access the forest on foot, never move logs or remove plants, and manage the primary environmental risks of dieback and weed spread by operating only in dry conditions and cleaning all vehicles and tools before entering an area. Without the opportunity to observe these measures in practice, we are taking their assurances in good faith.

What stayed with us

The meeting was cordial and IGO were open in their responses. But a few things stayed with us.

When we raised how exploration across proposed conservation areas sits with them ethically, the responses were familiar: the government approves it, the government wants to understand the state's mineralisation, and if IGO weren't doing it, another company would. This may be true, but it doesn't address what concerns us most.

We know that exploration is not mining, but what matters is what exploration can lead to. IGO took us to a sample area in the

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old Abattoir Walk to demonstrate the minimal impact of their work, challenging us to find where they dug. We declined, explaining that our concern wasn't the current activity but the pathway it represents. If sufficient mineralisation is found, more intensive exploration follows. And if that succeeds, WA mining law means their exploration licence could convert to a mining lease, potentially meaning the end of our forest surroundings.

We were also struck by one telling detail: IGO chose not to explore within Hester Conservation Park, not out of principle, but because it is a Class A reserve where approval would be difficult to obtain. The proposed conservation areas next door carry the same ecological values and the same community history, but sit in a very different regulatory position. Had governments over the last 22 years completed what they promised and secured the whole of Hester Forest under conservation, we would not be facing this risk today

Where things stand

The Hester Forest we know today exists because people in this community kept paying attention. The proposed conservation areas surrounding the Conservation Park are not yet fully protected, and the decisions that will shape their future have not yet been made.

We will continue to monitor the situation, stay engaged with IGO, and keep this community informed. If you'd like to be part of that conversation or join Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest, contact Alison Wright at president@bgff.org.au or 0427 385 640.

Show Talk

Hi Everyone; June already and still so many ongoing projects to do at the Showgrounds. Secretary Jill has settled in wonderfully. It's good to have two of our committee back from their cruise around the world and to hear that two other committee members who had unfortunate accidents are improving.

Schedule and Sponsorships: Numerous improvements to the schedule have already been undertaken and stewards involved in the class sections will be contacted with information relating to this year's theme and asked for any changes to their sections. Sponsorship invitations to those currently on the mailing list have also been sent out. If you know your contact details have changed since last year, please notify either the secretary or through the website.

Entertainment Committee: Yes, we are still looking for anyone to help plan and put together show entertainment. We meet separately to the main committee in daylight hours or communicate via emails. To find out more, talk to Hayley at the Bridgetown Newsagency, or Coleen on (08) 9761 9055.

General Volunteers Pool: Volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested in assisting the Society especially with outside renovation work and would like to register your name, phone and types of work you are willing to assist with, please contact the Secretary or Coleen.

Coming Events: The Blackwood D&D Winterfest will be the next major event at the grounds. Last year was a huge success with hundreds of players from all over WA filling Centenary and Rowan Halls to immerse themselves in the world of Dungeons & Dragons. If you are interested in being a part of this event, contact can be made via their Facebook page Blackwood D&D Winterfest.

Next Meeting: will be Wednesday 10th June 7.00pm, 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 mob. 0437 602 836 (Calls only – no Texts) or email: admin@bridgetownshow.com.au website address is www.bridgetownshow.com.au like us on Facebook 'Bridgetown Agricultural Show' or follow us on Instagram



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Transition Bridgetown

My goodness Bridgetown is a busy vibrant place to live. For those of us who have been here for 20 plus years, we remember the days when the winter months were pretty quiet in Bridgetown and it was the month of October that things kicked off again. The Fridge-town Festival changed all that, intentionally, and now the town buzzes and thrives all year round.

Celebrating Volunteers

It was a really nice evening of Celebrating Volunteers in our community this month. We acknowledged what Grace Hitchin, Rudi Stryk and Erica Noppers are doing with the Recycling Hubs since taking over from Susie Ascott and Elizabeth Corrigan. Recognition also went to Lisa Gibson, Rob Gibb and Mark Schneider for their commitment to Repair Cafe and its organisation of volunteers. Mike and Jo Kaye were also nominated for leading the Regen Fest and Susie Ascott and Ingrid Barker as founding members of Transition Bridgetown. So, we certainly had our moment.

On that note, we thank Aura Orozco and Emmanuel Podolak for all the work they have done with getting the Wash against WasteTrailer and handbook ready, operating and utilised within the community and coordinating volunteers for this. Big thanks to David Chick for leading our TBR Creative Planning meetings and committee meetings as well as volunteering his help and expertise on connecting the rainwater tank to the new shed that houses the Wash Trailer and is jointly occupied with the Bridgetown Community Landcare Nursery.

So, big thanks to our wonderful committee and thank you to Tracy and Trish from the Community Development sector of our Bridgetown-Greenbushes shire for organising such a great night.

Several of our Waste Warrior volunteers worked on the WashTrailer at the recent Let's Plan for Life event hosted by the Bridgetown CRC. This was a great opportunity for local promotion for the Wash Against Waste Trailer and the whole concept of reducing waste. Thanks to the manager of the CRC, Jane Wittenoom, who promoted the Wash Trailer in the CRC newsletter as well.

Open Space Events

Did you know that: The Recycling Hubs, the Stay-at-Home Program and the newly formed Warren-Blackwood Mental Health Alliance have all been instigated from TBR Open Space events (Waste Reduction, Aging in our Community, Mental Health in our Community) that have raised awareness of these needs within our community? It's good to reflect on our work and if it is making a difference sometimes. Thank you for the wonderful support we receive from those living in our towns.

Our recent Open Space jointly hosted with the Blackwood Environment Society and Friends of the Forest on the 'No Mining in Dalgarup' campaign was very well attended and very informative...*Continued on page 11*



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Puzzletown6255 Opens Its Doors

Continued from cover...which will then be unveiled as part of the Puzzletown6255 Grand Opening celebrations in July.

The challenge perfectly reflects the spirit behind the project — many people contributing small pieces to create something much bigger together.

“Puzzletown6255 has been built around the idea that communities, like puzzles, are created one piece at a time. This project celebrates our stories, our creativity and the people who help complete the picture”.

The event is expected to attract visitors from across the South West and beyond, adding another distinctive attraction to Bridgetown’s tourism offerings. Celebrate our past. Complete our future. Be part of the picture.

Grand Opening Details Puzzletown6255:

Saturday 4 July 2026

Opening Day: 9.45am onwards

2pm Evening Speed Puzzling

Cocktail Event: 7.00pm–10.00pm

Registrations and information: admin@puzzletown6255.com.au

Transition Bridgetown

Continued from page 10... If you weren't there and didn't get to see the video footage of the quokka population, the cockatoo activity and biodiversity of the beautiful forest, you can at least access this brilliant documentary of the film 'The Forest' the story of ecologist Thomas Crowther on ABC iview. Check out the 'Save Dalgarpur' facebook pages for more information.

Repair Cafe

Our next Repair Cafe is scheduled for Sat 20th June and we have a double event that day — it is also World Localisation Day and we are asking everyone who utilises local produce to make their preserves, signature dishes, dried foods etc, to bring in 2 items of what they produce. One to share as a taster, and one to be part of a free raffle. Everyone who brings and item will win something. Please email transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com if you'd like to join in the fun on the day.

Actually, it will be a triple whammy. We will also be having a Sustainable Firewood Raffle with a large trailer load of plantation Spotted Gum and tube stock seedlings if you want to grow your own woodlot.

Find us in the Lesser Hall, the community kiosk and outside the newsagency on the morning of Sat 20th June. Stay well and warm and see you soon.



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2026 People & Places Art Awards Open with The Archies Portrait Exhibition

The Bridgetown-Greenbushes People and Places Art Awards return in 2026, continuing their vibrant revival with a celebration of art, community and creativity at the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Visitor Centre Galleries.

The program opens with The Archies Portrait Exhibition, kicking off with a much-anticipated opening night on Wednesday 3 June from 6pm to 8pm, where this year's award winners will be officially announced. Community members and visitors are warmly invited to attend.

The exhibition showcases a compelling collection of portraiture capturing identity, character and community. Artists from across the region and beyond bring their subjects to life through paint, texture and form, sharing stories that reflect both personal and collective experiences. A selection of works will also be available for purchase.

Awards presented on the evening include:

Best Portrait – \$1,000

Best Local Identity – \$750

People's Choice – \$500

Youth Category (12–24 years) – \$500

Two commendations

The People's Choice Award will remain open for voting throughout the exhibition, running from 3 June to 30 June, allowing visitors ample opportunity to view the works and cast their vote before the winner is announced following the exhibition's close.

This year's awards will be judged by an experienced

and diverse panel:

Andrea Schell, a South West-based visual artist and educator known for her strong foundation in observational drawing and painting, and her commitment to arts education across the region.

Vanda Dei-Tos, Manager of Libraries and Cultural Services at the Shire of Manjimup, bringing extensive experience in cultural programming and gallery curation.

Roz Benson, a lifelong artist and illustrator with a rich career spanning publishing, education and community arts, and a long-standing contribution to the South West creative community.

Together, the judging panel brings a wealth of artistic, professional and community insight to this year's awards.

Looking ahead, the Landscape Exhibition will follow in July, with entries currently open and closing on 24 June. The exhibition will open on Wednesday 1 July from 6pm to 8pm, continuing the celebration of place through works inspired by natural and built environments. The exhibition will run until 31 July, with selected works also available for purchase.

Whether you're an art enthusiast, a supporter of local culture, or simply looking for an inspiring evening out, the opening night of The Archies offers a wonderful opportunity to experience creativity at its best.

Held at the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Visitor Centre Galleries, this is an event not to be missed. For more information, visit: Bridgetown-Greenbushes Art Awards 2026

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Bridgetown, WA

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Community Cinema

Continued from page 3... "There are lots of films available, including more recent ones, and so we are looking at a variety of ways to involve people in helping us to choose which movies to show.

The Bridgeflix Community Cinema plans to be just that, cinema that caters to the broader interests of our community."

Kay and Bianca expressed thanks to Chris Mahon, saying "because of him we now have an email, a website and a Facebook page, so please engage."

info@bridgeflix.au www.bridgeflix.au and www.facebook.com/bridgeflix

Planning for the Future at the Let's Plan for Life Expo

Continued from page 4... He also reflected on the meaning and importance of funerals for families and communities, and how planning ahead can reduce stress for loved ones during difficult times. Between presentations, visitors had the opportunity to chat with stall holders, ask questions, and gather information while enjoying a delicious morning tea and lunch. The Bridgetown Community Resource Centre did a wonderful job organising the expo and bringing so many valuable services together under one roof. The event provided an excellent opportunity for community members to connect, learn, and start important conversations about planning for the future. -Trinity Smith, Staying At Home Help

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You can break free from vaping. The harmful chemicals in vapes; Lab testing has found over 240 chemicals in vapes, and many of them are known to be harmful to human health. For others, we simply don't know what breathing them into your lungs will do. Harmful chemicals are being discovered all the time, and new ones like radioactive polonium are being tested. This raises some serious questions about how these chemicals get into vapes and what kind of danger they might bring.

The chemicals in vapes can harm your health and make you feel unwell, impacting your everyday life. Symptoms like breathlessness, headaches and lung irritation can make it harder to work or study, and ruin social activities. Vaping can even lead to serious medical emergencies.

Nicotine

Most vapes contain nicotine even when they say they don't. Inhaling too much nicotine from vapes poisons your body. A small amount is enough to even kill a small child. Nicotine poisoning can affect you in different ways depending on your size and how much you put in your body.

Signs of poisoning are: Headspins, Nausea and vomiting, Seizures, Feeling restless or irritable, Diarrhoea, Confusion, Abnormal or slow heartbeat, low blood pressure, Extreme tiredness, Coma, Breathlessness, slow breathing or even no breathing

One vape equals how many cigarettes?

We did the maths and found that a 6000 puff vape can contain the same amount of nicotine as about 3 packs of cigarettes.

Vapes are designed so that the nicotine is easy to inhale. This makes it easier to take more hits in a short time and absorb more nicotine into your lungs and blood in one session than you would if you were smoking cigarettes.

Thinking about quitting?

Book an appointment with your doctor. If you are struggling with nicotine withdrawal symptoms that aren't getting better, your doctor can help. They can give you advice on nicotine replacement therapy and link you with other support services.

Call the Quitline on 13 7848. Their trained Quitline counsellors can: tailor a quit plan to suit you, help you work through your triggers and provide new tips to fight cravings.

Whether you're just thinking about quitting or you've tried 20 times already, Quitline would love to hear from you.

If talking on the phone is not your thing, you can also send them a message on Messenger, or Webchat.

Chat to those who matter most; Share your plans to quit with a trusted friend or mentor (e.g., coach, counsellor, or close family member) and reach out for support.

Talk to your loved ones about your decision to quit.

They can support you by: Reminding you why you want to quit. Distracting you when you have cravings or helping you find the best craving busters.

Booking or attending appointments with you. Celebrating your vape-free milestones, and don't be too hard on yourself if you vape again.

Quitting vapes can be a journey and you may stumble or go back to vaping – this doesn't mean you've failed. Many vapes contain high levels of nicotine which can make stopping challenging.

Next time around you'll know what worked and what didn't. Keep trying and you will quit.

For more information and support visit www.cleartheair.org.au/

Emma Handreck, South West Regional Cancer Prevention Coordinator, Cancer Council Western Australia RCPCSouthwest@cancerwa.asn.au

Blues at Bridgetown 2026

Line-Up Announcement, Rally 'round the fire and make yourselves all cosy, we're pleased as punch to announce that Western Australia's beloved springtime musical adventure, Blues at Bridgetown, is back for 2026 with another unforgettable weekend's worth of music and rockin' good times from Friday-Sunday, November 13-15.

Blues at Bridgetown celebrates blues, roots and musical styles that expand the original forms of the genre. This year we've assembled a cracking lineup of well-known and emerging artists, led by Boy & Bear, Pierce Brothers, Deak Harp & Quicksand, Rachelle Cobra & Nico Wayne Toussaint and The Backsliders.

Boy & Bear swiftly catapulted onto the world stage releasing their double-platinum debut album Moonfire which went on to receive five coveted ARIA awards. 2013's Harlequin Dream and 2015's Limit of Love albums both charted at #1 with Harlequin Dream also reaching Platinum sales. With five consecutive top 10 albums and over half-a-billion streams, Boy & Bear's live show is a uniquely compelling experience that has earned the band the glowing reputation as one of Australia's most outstanding live acts and compelling musical export.

A dynamic fixture on the Australian and broader global music scene, Pierce Brothers have spent their storied career accumulating ongoing chart successes, global tours - both as headliners and alongside an eye-watering array of icons - generating millions of streams and fostering a devoted fanbase that rapidly expands with each new release and performance. Pat and Jack Pierce have enamoured with their larger-than-life charm, prolific storytelling and a potent mix of high energy indie folk, blues and roots.

Deak Harp is a master singer/guitarist/harmonica player who learnt his craft touring with legendary US blues harmonica player/singer/songwriter James Cotton. Grammy-nominated blues drummer Richey 'Quicksand' Martin has also played with Cotton and blues icon, Albert King. Together as Deak Harp and Quicksand they are a dynamic blues music duo famously known for their high-energy, raw performances in the Mississippi Delta region. They mix Chicago blues with deep Mississippi Hill Country grooves and will bring all this and more to their first-ever appearance at Blues at Bridgetown.

Rachelle Cobra is an American Blues Award-winning, Grammy-considered guitarist, singer and songwriter who has toured extensively across Europe, Australia, and the US. She has opened for and jammed with a wide range of blues greats, earning consistent critical praise for her expressive guitar work and sweet-and-sassy vocals that channel deep blues authenticity. Nico Wayne Toussaint is recognised as one of the top harmonica players and blues singers of his generation, widely acclaimed across Europe and North America. In April Nico joined Rachelle for a WA tour, backed by several of Perth's top musicians. They had such a good time that Rachelle Cobra & Nico Wayne Toussaint are doing it all again for Blues at Bridgetown.

Backsliders are leaders and virtual pioneers in their own genre – 'delta-blues wall of sound'. They've lifted the roof off any and all venues – moving from straight ahead, in your face, 'amped up' original blues to 'all-acoustic' unplugged 'way down south' delta blues. The legendary Australian band's shows this year have been dedicated to the memory of drummer Rob Hirst (also of Midnight Oil fame) who sadly passed away in January. We are so looking forward to welcoming Backsliders back to Bridgetown.

They'll be joined by 19-Twenty, Andrew Winton, Anna Scionti, Art of Dysfunction, Ben Flournoy Trio, Ben Jansz, Blue and Bird, Boss Stomp, Frank Sultana Blues Band, Cam Walter Blues, Charlie Youngson Trio, Don't Tell Daisy, El Diablo, End of Fashion, Fiona Boyes, LamBros., Lightning Jack, Lloyd Spiegel Trio, Maple, Martin Lee Cropper, Mary Myfanwy, and lots more.



Foodbank in Bridgetown

There are Western Australians going without food and necessities every day and Foodbank is an organisation working hard to change that. It is not-for-profit and non-denominational, operating in every State and Territory in Australia. The Foodbank truck comes to serve the Bridgetown community on the second and fourth Tuesday each month, providing food and groceries to those who are struggling to afford them. Foodbank also delivers nutrition education to promote healthy eating, and they advocate on behalf of people who experience food stress.

Foodbank Australia is the only Australian food relief organisation that is a certified member of The Global Foodbanking Network which has members across 6 continents and more than 50 countries.

The initial Mobile Foodbank link with Bridgetown was established via Bridgetown Hub and they remain the key people in the distribution of food each fortnight. But their facilities for distribution were not exactly weather friendly and the task of setting up and packing away fell on a small number of volunteers.

Enter the Bridgetown Christian Churches Together movement. Inside facilities have been made available at St Paul's Church Hall and the work of setting up and packing away is now shared with volunteers from St Brigids, St Pauls and the Church of Christ. Each Church provides a team to help on each visit for one month and the year is rostered on a monthly basis. It is one way of the Churches Together being "the hands and feet of Jesus" in our community.

Foodbank in Bridgetown dovetails with the emergency relief work provided by another Church organisation – Vinnies (St Vincent de Pauls) – which is led by people from St Bridgid's Church. It's another valuable aid for those who are struggling. To access Vinnies help, ring 0429 680759 and one of their members will respond to address your needs.

The mobile Foodbank truck arrives at St Paul's on the second and fourth Tuesday each month and is open for clients at 10.30am – just come along.

People from all walks of life access food support with Foodbank, including groceries, food hampers, food vouchers and pre-made meals. In fact, they help to feed thousands of people every month across the State – you're not alone if times are tough. 371,000 households in WA have run out of food in the last year and have benefited from the Foodbank initiative. So if you are experiencing food stress, do come and take advantage of the food and supplies available through this wonderful initiative.

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Local community organisation CWA Bridgetown recognised through CommBank donation

Local Bridgetown team nominates CWA Bridgetown in recognition of their important role supporting the community.

25th May 2026: In recognition of their incredible contribution to the community, Commonwealth Bank Bridgetown announces today that CWA Bridgetown will receive a \$1500 donation.

Since its inception, CommBank's Community Donation program has supported hundreds of grassroots organisations across Australia, helping fund essential equipment, services and programs. The donation program empowers branch teams to back causes they know are making a tangible difference in their local communities.

The program has run across the country for the past 8 years, and the local Bridgetown staff nominated CWA Bridgetown in recognition of the important role they play in supporting the local community. In 2026, the Community Donations program is donating more than \$600,000 to hundreds of organisations making a difference in a number of Australian



Nicole left and Courtney right presenting donation to Anita and Kit representing CWA Bridgetown

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communities.

"Community organisations play an essential role in supporting people when it matters most, and we're proud to support that work," Branch Manager Nicole says.

"Through our Community Donations program, our branches have seen firsthand how this support helps local organisations extend their reach and continue delivering vital services. Our teams live and work in the community, and have a strong understanding of local needs and the organisations responding to them.

"The work CWA Bridgetown does to help those who are homeless and dealing with hardship community, supporting ANZAC day celebrations and many other events such as sandwich and soup days has a meaningful impact on people across our local community, and we're proud to support the important role they play."

This year, CommBank's Community Donations program is operating in every branch across the country, from metro to regional, meaning even more grassroots organisations can gain access to vital funding for small projects, and in turn creating a brighter future for all Australians.

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