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November 4th 2025

VOLUME 34 NO: 3 ISSUE 359

# THE MAILBAG

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



BRIDGETOWN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY INC. Est. 1885  
 www.bridgetownshow.com.au

## Show Talk

Hi Everyone; The Show Committee is proud to present Bridgetown's oldest Family Event, 140 years of continued activity, fun and service to our community. Bridgetown's 136<sup>th</sup> Show, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November will come alive with our Wild Wonders theme exploring Native Flora & Fauna including a huge amount of Free Entertainment and heavily reduced sideshow rides (only \$6). The Show will encompass the traditional aspects of life in the Country, the favourites that make our Show special, the new additions that add highlights to a busy, packed day of activity. The greatest highlight is the Competition for all age groups, throughout all the venues, where every year the community contributions are amazing and fascinating in respect to the ideas and quality of entries that fill the Sections. *Like Macca on Sundays says "What a great Aussie thing to do. Put an entry in your local Show"*.

**Entries/Forms.** We look forward to your entries so please ensure you read the Section criteria, have your forms in before the cutoff date and entries in on time for judging. If you have any queries don't be embarrassed, please ask by making contact with your Section Steward first. If they cannot help, they will refer you to a committee person who can.

**Significant Milestones.** As well as being 140 years old, we have been 120 years at Peninsula Road and the Rotunda Bar 120 years, the only remaining venue from 1905. The Presidents Room built in 1955 will Celebrate 70 years. Proud milestones for a resilient Committee who appreciates the dedication of fellow Committee Councillors, sponsors, stewards, judges, members, entertainers, stall holders, exhibitors and behind the scene supporters, who stand alongside us to ensure the show goes on and the grounds continue to improve...

*Continued on page 15.*

## 136th Bridgetown Show

SATURDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER, 2025  
 Peninsula Road 9am - 9pm

# WILD WONDERS

Exploring Native Flora & Fauna



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08 9765-2999  
[adminbbk@hpb.com.au](mailto:adminbbk@hpb.com.au)



Rotary Members farewelling students leaving Bridgetown for Country Week

## Rotary Supporting Youth

Bridgetown High School this year applied for a community grant from Rotary, this grant was to pay for the transport costs of the bus used to take the students to Country Week in Perth.

Chris Shedley is the Bridgetown Rotary Club's Youth Director, "Rotary Club sets aside the monies raised from running the Blackwood Marathon to be used on youth sporting endeavours.

"I convinced the club this year to support the cost of the bus transport for the High School students, \$5,000, which reduced the cost of each student attending the carnival, allowing more students to attend."

Josh Power, sports teacher and coach said "It was the biggest Country Week cohort for many years with fifty-one students attending. Students were very well behaved and showed great sportsmanship in all teams.

"A highlight was a three-point goal in the A-grade basketball scored by Adam Payne to win the trophy.

Social activities included trips to a Golf Simulator, Mini Golf, Laser Tag, a Master Chef competition, a Team Dinner and lots of shopping.

Country Week 2025 occurred between Monday 15 and Friday 19 September when 51 of our year 9/10 students went to Perth alongside six staff members and a parent helper.

We had three teams in Basketball, two teams in Netball, a Futsal team and a Volleyball team.

Rotary was delighted to support such a great activity and hopes to support this event in the future.

Our results are seen below:

Basketball A1 = 1st place	Basketball A2 = 3rd place
Basketball B = 2nd place	
Netball A = 2nd place	Netball C = 5th place
Futsal A = 4th place	Volleyball C = 8th place

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## BBCMM Strikes a Chord with Regional Events Scheme Funding

We're thrilled to share that the Boyup Brook Country Music Muster has received funding through the 2025 - 26 Regional Events Scheme. It's so wonderful for the Boyup Brook Country Music Muster supported by the WA Government through Tourism WA and Royalties for Regions—and it's a huge win for our beloved grassroots festival.

Every year, the Boyup Brook Country Music Muster brings thousands of music lovers together in the heart of the South West to celebrate live country music, local talent, and the amazing spirit of our community. With this funding, we'll be able to grow even more, adding fresh programming, reaching new audiences, and continuing to deliver unforgettable experiences.

The Regional Events Scheme is all about boosting regional tourism, supporting local economies, and showcasing the unique character of WA's communities. We're proud to be part of that mission and incredibly grateful for the backing.

As we look ahead to the 2026 festival, the team is already tuning up for another spectacular event. With this support behind us, we're ready to make it bigger, better, and more memorable than ever.

Volunteer Registrations are now open.

Behind every unforgettable Muster is an incredible team of volunteers. From helping in the Music Park, to greeting visitors, to keeping the streets buzzing with excitement, our volunteers are the heartbeat of the event. Volunteering is a fantastic way to meet new people, gain hands-on experience, and be part of something truly special. Plus, you'll get the satisfaction of knowing you helped make the Muster possible for thousands of visitors. 2026 volunteer registration form is available at [www.wacountrymusic.com.au](http://www.wacountrymusic.com.au) forms. Cindy Armstrong

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## Big Changes to Home Care:

What Bridgetown Seniors Need to Know from 1 November. From 1 November 2025, Australia's aged care system will undergo a major transformation with the launch of the Support at Home program, replacing the current Home Care Packages (HCP). This reform is designed to make in-home care more flexible, fair, and easier to navigate, especially for older Australians who want to stay in their own homes.

### What's Changing in Home Care?

The Support at Home program introduces several key changes: Eight levels of support instead of four, allowing for more tailored care based on individual needs.

Quarterly budgets with carry-over options, giving clients more control over how and when they use their funds.

Separate funding for assistive technology and home modifications, so equipment and upgrades don't reduce your main care budget. Short-term care pathways for restorative care and end-of-life support.

Simplified access through a single assessment system.

Existing Home Care Package recipients will be automatically transitioned to an equivalent Support at Home classification, with no disruption to their care.

Bridgetown CRC's Staying in Place: Local Help for Local People; In Bridgetown and Greenbushes, the Bridgetown Community Resource Centre (CRC) is already helping residents prepare for these changes through its Staying in Place initiative. In partnership with HomeMade, a government-approved provider, the CRC offers personalised support to help seniors live independently at home.

Services include: Assistance with applying for government-subsidised packages; Help with cleaning, gardening, and meal preparation; Personal care and medication support and Social outings and allied health services.

Whether you're eligible for basic support or high-level care, the CRC works with you to tailor services to your needs and budget.

Originally developed by the Pingelly Community Resource Centre (CRC), Staying in Place has now expanded to over 50 locations across Western Australia responding to the growing need for place-based aged care solutions in regional areas.

One of the key strengths of Staying in Place is the opportunity it creates for local people to become registered support workers through platforms like Mable.

Individuals can set their own hourly rates and availability, offering services such as companionship, household help, transport, or basic personal care. Many of these roles do not require formal qualifications, making the program both flexible and accessible. This not only supports seniors but also provides a valuable income stream for community members looking for meaningful, part-time, or supplementary work.

Need Help Navigating the Changes? If you or a loved one is currently receiving a Home Care Package—or thinking about applying—now is the time to learn how the Support at Home program will affect you. The Bridgetown CRC is here to help you understand your options, apply for funding, and coordinate the services you need. Call Jane on (08) 9761 2712 or 0422 654 188.

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## Blues and Blooms Exhibition

“Blues and Blooms is an exhibition which is a celebration of some of the good things in life.” Trish Durham, photographed above explains.

“Bridgetown is known for both its gardens via the Open Garden Scheme and also for the music that fills the streets during the annual Bridgetown Blues Festival.

“My latest exhibition has been influenced by my passion for both and the impact they have had on my life and the place I call home

“Works will include a wide range of jewellery, paintings, art cards and even small scale sculpture.

“The exhibition is to hold in the lovely little Goorbilyup Gallery in the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Visitors Centre, 11 Stewart Street, in the Railway Station Building.”

Opening night 31st October and the exhibition runs until November 13th. Opening hours are 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 1pm on Saturday and Sunday. Trish Durham



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In our cellar door farm shop, we offer 10kg and 15kg meat boxes, or you can buy a variety of smaller meat cuts, all individually vacuum packaged and snap frozen from our butcher for easy choice and quantities for whatever you prefer.

Contact us directly for our meat selection and if you wish to have your order ready for pickup from our Farm shop, due to the prices varying for Lamb, pork and beef please drop us a line with your enquiry and we will send you the price sheet OR: Delivery can be arranged within Bridgetown, Boyup Brook, Greenbushes area, this will incur a small delivery fee. Please ask for more details.



## November Update



### Working Together to Reduce Dust at Talison

As the warmer, windier months approach, Talison is stepping up its efforts to manage dust across the site. While dust control is always a priority, this year we've taken a more coordinated approach through our Dust Improvement Program, which brings together teams from across the business to tackle the issue head-on.

We understand and acknowledge the community's concerns about dust, which is why we created the improvement program focused solely on reducing dust emissions. This team has been busy implementing a range of initiatives, some already in place, others rolling out now, all aimed at improving outcomes for both the site and the surrounding community.

Here are some of the key actions we've taken so far:

1. Dust Alerts issued 48 hours ahead of weather conditions likely to increase emissions.
2. Updated Dust Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) with QR codes across operational areas to report potential dust events with details, actions, and photos.
3. Additional personnel brought in during warmer months to maximise dust suppression efforts.
4. Crew brainstorm sessions held to improve dust suppression productivity and innovation.
5. Weekly management meetings dedicated to dust emission reduction.
6. Two-week scheduling of dust suppression equipment, with daily monitoring of availability and usage.
7. Installation of additional standpipes in mining areas to support water cart operations.
8. Increased water cart fleet in mining from three to four units.
9. Adjusted blast schedules to align with wind direction and local school calendars, reinforcing community engagement.
10. Weekly drone flyovers to assess dust-prone areas from multiple angles and guide targeted suppression.

### Key achievements

Expanded Suppression Capacity

- Dust suppressant has been applied to 71.38 hectares of land.
- Water cart road dust suppression capacity has increased by 30%.
- Stockpile sprays have been expanded to cover more high-risk areas, improving control in locations most likely to generate dust.

Community feedback remains an important part of our response process. If you have concerns or suggestions, we encourage you to reach out via the Talison Community Team, [gbcontact@talisonlithium.com](mailto:gbcontact@talisonlithium.com), your input helps shape our approach. Also don't forget you can keep track of our dust levels by viewing our live dust dashboard, visit: [www.talisonlithium.com/monitoring](http://www.talisonlithium.com/monitoring).



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## Expanded Environmental Monitoring Program to Support Long-term Health Assessment

Talison Lithium is expanding its environmental monitoring program to support a Long-term Health Assessment. This initiative includes increasing our air monitoring network and collecting water, soil, and vegetation samples within a 10km radius of the Greenbushes Lithium Operation.

The expanded program follows several years of operational growth at Greenbushes and growing community interest in understanding potential health risks from long term, cumulative exposure associated with our operations.

The Greenbushes Lithium Operation operates under a 24-hour PM10 dust limit of 50µg/m<sup>3</sup>, as set by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). Dust levels are currently monitored at sites north and south of the operation, and internal trigger levels have recently been adjusted to better support compliance with this requirement.

While current monitoring data meets regulatory standards and does not indicate cause for concern, we acknowledge there are gaps in our understanding of potential long-term and cumulative health risks. The expanded program is designed to address these gaps and provide a more comprehensive assessment.

To support this, Talison has engaged SAGE Environmental Services, an independent specialist consultancy, to design a sampling program aligned with state and national health standards. The assessment will examine:

- What substances people may be exposed to
- How exposure may occur (air, water, soil, food)
- How often and to what extent
- Whether long-term exposure may increase health risks

### Community Participation is Key

Talison is inviting residents, businesses, and community groups within the 10km radius of the operations to participate in the sampling program. Sampling is scheduled to begin in January 2026, during the summer period when dust activity is typically elevated.

The participation opt-in due date is 17 November to support planning and scheduling of the environmental sampling.

For more information on the expanded environmental monitoring program please visit [talisonlithium.com/long-term-health-assessment](https://talisonlithium.com/long-term-health-assessment).

### Paper-Based Information Available

For those who prefer paper-based information, printed materials from the website and registration forms are available at the Greenbushes Post Office. You can fill out a registration form and drop it into the locked collection box located there.

### Visit us at the Bridgetown Show

Talison is proud to once again sponsor free entry for children aged 12 and under at the 2025 Bridgetown Agricultural Show. We care deeply about the communities our workforce call home, and we're committed to supporting events that bring families together and celebrate the vibrant spirit of our region. The Bridgetown Show is a highlight on the local calendar, and we're thrilled to help make it more accessible for young families.

Be sure to visit the Talison marquee during the show! We'll be hosting a range of family-friendly activities, sharing updates on our current operations and proposed Capacity Expansion Projects, and offering a chance to chat with our team.

Whether you're curious about what's happening at Talison or just looking for a fun day out, we'd love to see you there.





The leaders of all the Churches in Bridgetown

## Spring Celebration – Songs or Praise

All the Churches in Bridgetown came together on Sunday 26th October for a combined Spring Celebration of Songs and Words of Praise. The Uniting Church Hall was packed as 70 people aged from a few weeks to lots of years joined together to raise the roof in songs of praise. Our voices were indeed raised as we sang several familiar hymns and songs combined with some recently composed songs. The Jubilee Singers presented two items including a choral version of Psalm 23 – “The Lord is my Shepherd” – the setting which was used in The Vicar of Dibley. The singing was supplemented by readings from the Biblical book of Psalms and prayers of praise and concern. We were led by a group of songsters and musicians from the different Churches.

All the Churches in town were well represented,

and it was a remarkable expression of unity within our Christian community. Denominational boundaries evaporated as we “walked together” in praise. A unique photo opportunity presented itself as all the Church Leaders linked together in solidarity at the close of the meeting.

We were grateful to the members of the Uniting Church who organized refreshments afterwards and it was heart warming to see people from various community groups mingling freely around the pies, cakes and coffee. We were also pleased to welcome folk who are not aligned with any particular Church joining us, including people from the Talison mining camp after their shift at work.

Our next Churches Together event is “Sing Christmas” hosted at St Paul’s Church on Monday evening 22nd December when we celebrate the Birth of Jesus in songs and readings. Do come and join us. Dave Bardsley

## Bridgetown Bridge Club

The Bridgetown Bridge Club meets every Wednesday afternoon from 1pm to 4pm in the St Paul’s Anglican Church Hall in Phillips Street.

“We are a small, friendly group and welcome new and experienced players to join us for an interesting afternoon, club President Patrica Rodgers explains.

“The cost for the afternoon is \$4 and includes an afternoon tea of tea, coffee and biscuits.

“Playing the game of Bridge has many benefits, it is very good for mental health, it’s a game which stimulates memory and is also a very enjoyable social afternoon out.”

The Bridgetown Bridge Club is an affiliated club with the Bridge Association of WA (BAWA) which allows club members in Bridgetown to play in other affiliated clubs in towns such as Mandurah and Bunbury. The club in Bridgetown regularly has players from the nearby towns of Pemberton and Manjimup.

**RayWhite**

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## Our Community Through the Lens

### Photo Competition

Get ready, Bridgetown! 📷 I'm SO excited to announce the launch of our new community photo competition: 'Bridgetown - Our Community Through the Lens!' with Ray White Stocker Preston. This is your chance to show off the unique beauty, character, and spirit of our town! Whether it's a stunning landscape, a slice of local life, or a friendly face, we want to see what Bridgetown looks like through your eyes.

The best part? The 12 winning photos will be featured in a professionally produced 2026 calendar, with full credit to you! Imagine your work hanging on walls all year long! AND all 12 winner will receive a \$50 Myer Gift Card!

**WHAT TO SUBMIT:** PHOTOS SHOWCASING LIFE, SCENERY, AND PEOPLE IN THE BRIDGETOWN AREA. **HOW TO SUBMIT:** EMAIL YOUR HIGH-RESOLUTION PHOTO TO [BRIANNA.SERMON@RAYWHITE.COM](mailto:BRIANNA.SERMON@RAYWHITE.COM) **HOW TO WIN:** OUR RAY WHITE STOCKER PRESTON JUDGING PANEL WILL BE LOOKING FOR CREATIVITY, COMPOSITION, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT. **DEADLINE:** MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SUBMISSIONS CLOSE ON 30 NOVEMBER 2025.



Jenny Dewing, Peter Taylor, Mick Dewing and Eris Amelia enjoying the game

Each time a player plays in an affiliated club they gain Master Points. The Master Point Scheme is intended to stimulate interest in the game and provide a means of measuring player achievements.

Patricia concludes, "Playing bridge is like going to a mind gym, you will make new friends, enrich your social life and have serious fun and perhaps become addicted to the world's most popular card game."

"The game of Bridge is a difficult game to learn, but we can assist less experienced players to learn the basics."

"Bridge is a popular game and there are many on-line and library resources available for a keen person to use."

For further information contact Patricia on 0429 348 413.

## Expert Witness Report to support mining exploration objections

Renowned Australian botanist Professor Kingsley Dixon is currently preparing an expert witness document to support objections against mining exploration claims over 32,000 hectares of prime forest, including important parts of Greater Dalgapur.

The next stage in the objections by Blackwood Environment Society, Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest, Donnelly Village and three individuals will be a Mention hearing at the Warden's Court on March 6.

Drawing on decades of experience in plant science and conservation, Professor Dixon's report is expected to provide critical insights into the environmental impacts of proposed mining activities.

His expert witness report responds to a Brief prepared by our legal team, based on their experiences with similar campaigns. The document will form a central part of our campaign, aiming to ensure that environmental considerations are thoroughly addressed before any exploration licences are determined by the Minister for Mines.

Our campaign has two components: first, the claims and our objections face hearings in the Warden's Court. There is a possibility that the Warden may determine that he will not consider our objections on environmental and social issues in making his recommendations to the Minister.

To anticipate this we are also preparing an appeal under Section 111A of the Mining Act which allows the Minister to determine the issue. The Expert Witness testimony and document will play a key role in each of these options.

Professor Dixon has held key roles at the University of Western Australia and Curtin University. He is recognized internationally for his research on plant germination and ecosystem restoration. As founding Director of Science at Kings Park Botanic Gardens...  
*Continued on page12*

THE  
**STABLES**  
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## Going the Distance for Regional Mental Health

Mental health is a quiet crisis happening in the country right now, because when you're living outside the metropolitan area there's a high chance you're experiencing consistently poorer mental health than your city cousins.

People with mental health problems aren't getting the support they need from city-based services, with their drive-in drive-out service delivery, and one size fits all approach. The result is poor mental health and social and emotional wellbeing, and higher rates of suicide.

That's the bad news. The good news is that there are experts determined to do something about it, and October's Open Space event in the Uniting Church Hall on the 19th of October heard from five of them.

Dr Sarah Youngson from the Bridgetown Medical Centre is Vice Chair of Blackwood Youth Action, and Chairperson of the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Suicide Prevention Network.

She stressed that rural mental health services needed to be tailored for each community, and supported by those same communities.

Lisette Kaleveld from the Centre for Social Impact at the University of WA spoke on the loneliness of people living on the fringes of country communities and the problems of housing and financial stress. While the stigma of mental health and cultural barriers stop many from seeking help, there's no guarantee that help is available even if they do seek it, and telehealth isn't helping.

The Centre's extensive Going the Distance study examined ways to make mental health support work better for regional communities. What's needed, she said, is well resourced community-led responses such as community collectives.

Colin Penzer, from the Western Australian Association for Mental Health, said that while there was a lot wrong with the rural mental health system, significant voices were aware of the problems and working to bring change.

It was important to shift from a clinical response to problems, to preventing them in the first place, and there was a lack of investment in this.

"Politicians don't like community driven responses," he said, but informal, non-clinical community-centred support was essential. He criticised the "cookie-cutter" model of services rolled out throughout Australia emanating from metropolitan areas.

Ingrid Behr and Judi Fletcher spoke about Henri Nouwen House's 33-year history of offering a safe space where people could support each other, connect and grow.

It offers low-cost group sessions of 5-8 people where people can sit down, meditate, and then discuss such things as grief, boundaries, trauma and addictions.

Finally, the Open Space broke into small groups to discuss local mental health needs and how they could be better met, before enjoying the usual excellent lunch... *Continued on page 12*

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# My Health Partnerships

Are you struggling to cope with daily challenges?

Are you unsure where to seek help?

Oseca, in collaboration with Carers WA, Anglicare WA, Advocacy WA, the Neurological Council WA and Advocate will be bringing our "Outreach Hub" to Bridgetown on the First Monday of every month.

Our next visit will be on Monday the 3rd of November 2025 from 9.30am - 3.30pm. You can find us at the Bridgetown Community Resource Centre, 150 Hampton Street

If any of these questions apply to you or a loved one, please come in and see us at our next visit.

Are you having problems managing your bills? Would you like some help with budgeting?

Do you support someone attending appointments?

Do you have to supervise anyone's daily tasks such as self-care or medication?

Are you a person with a disability seeking support to resolve an issue, advocate for your needs, or access the NDIS or DSP?

Are you over 65? Would you like more information about aged care support and how to make informed decisions to lead the life you want to.

Do you have a question about a neurological condition or symptoms such as changes with your balance, sensations in your hands or feet or trouble remembering?

The services available will be both in-person, and via telehealth: Oseca: My Health Partnerships are Carers WA, Anglicare WA, Advocacy WA, Neurological Council of WA, and Advocate.

If none of these services are right for you, we will work with you to point you in the right direction to get the support you need.

For more information, please contact Mandy Kiely: 0438 909 991



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## Going the Distance for Regional Mental Health

*Continued from page from page 10...*  
Transition Bridgetown's Open Space events are far from the only thing on the group's agenda, however.

The Repair Café at the Lesser Hall on the 4th of October saw many Bridgetown people take advantage of the skilled repairers available to have everything from clothing to jewellery and even a sewing machine repaired. But don't worry if you missed out because it's on again on the 15th of November, so bring in anything you need repaired and our talented team of repairers will give it a go.

We're also please to announce that our new shed has arrived at the Ashbil Community Garden. It's jointly owned by Transition Bridgetown and the Blackwood Environment Society and has been made possible by a Lotterywest grant. It will house the Wash Against Waste trailer while also providing storage for both groups.

And of course the Wash Against Waste Trailer is always available for public and private events. Just contact [transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com](mailto:transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com) for further information.

## Show Talk

*Continued from cover...*Show Opener. Mr Jim Gale will be opening our 136th Show. Jim has been a Past President and long-standing Log Chop Chief Steward. Jim's association with the Society has spanned a valuable 56 years of substantial support.

Show Schedule Booklets. Sadly, the Pets Section was not included in the Schedule, so plan B is to pick up your printed copy at the Bridgetown Newsagents or find it on our website. There are some wonderful prizes to be won by following instructions and entering your special pet.

Upcoming Events. The grounds will be closed during the Marathon but open for Budget Camping over the Blues Weekend and for the Show. Anyone wishing to volunteer at these events or assist with setting up before are most welcome, so please contact our Secretary Corinne.

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 12th November 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: [secretarybridgetownagsoc@gmail.com](mailto:secretarybridgetownagsoc@gmail.com) website address is [www.bridgetownshow.com.au](http://www.bridgetownshow.com.au) like us on Facebook 'Bridgetown Agricultural Show' or follow us on Instagram.

## Expert Witness Report to support mining exploration objections

*Continued from page 8...*he world's leaders, and was responsible for understanding that presence of smoke from bushfires plays a critical role in germination.

His involvement in our campaign underscores the importance of scientific expertise in assessing the potential risks to local biodiversity.

Richard Wittenoom  
Kingsley Wayne Dixon is an Australian botanist currently working as a professor at the University of Western Australia. He was the founding Director of Science at Kings Park and Botanic Gardens, and helped to establish the laboratories there as among the world's leading. Early life

Dixon grew up in the Perth suburb of Morley, Western Australia. Dixon received a Bachelor of Science (Hons) and a PhD from the University of Western Australia (UWA). Dixon was the founding Director of Science at Kings Park and Botanic Gardens from 1982 to 2014.

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# The Little Prince

Bridgetown Repertory Theaters next production is *The Little Prince*, a play written by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. This stage production is directed by Chris Shedley.

*The Little Prince* is a timeless tale of love and loneliness. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry first published *The Little Prince* in 1943, only a year before his plane vanished over the Mediterranean Sea during a reconnaissance mission. Nearly eighty years later, this fable of love and loneliness has lost none of its power.

It tells the story of a small prince, a traveller from a far-flung asteroid, who lives alone with a single rose.

The narrator, an airplane pilot, crashes in the Sahara desert. The crash badly damages his airplane and leaves the narrator with very little food or water. As he is worrying over his predicament, he is approached by the little prince, a very serious little blond boy who asks the narrator to draw him a sheep. The narrator obliges, and the two become friends. The pilot learns that the little prince comes from a small planet that the little prince calls Asteroid 325 but that people on Earth call Asteroid B-612. The little prince took great care of this planet, preventing any bad seeds from growing and making sure it was never overrun by baobab trees. One day, a mysterious rose sprouted on the planet and the little prince fell in love with it. But when he caught the rose in a lie one day, he decided that he could not trust her anymore. He grew lonely and decided to leave. Despite a last-minute reconciliation with the rose, the prince set out to explore other planets and cure his loneliness.

While journeying, the narrator tells us, the little prince passes by neighboring asteroids and encounters for the first time the strange, narrow-minded world of grown-ups. On the first six planets the little prince visits, he meets a king, a vain man, a drunkard, a businessman, a lamplighter, and a geographer, all of whom live alone and are overly consumed by their chosen occupations. Such strange behavior both amuses and perturbs the little prince. He does not understand their need to order people around, to be admired, and to own everything. With the exception of the lamplighter, whose dogged faithfulness he admires, the little prince does not think much of the adults he visits, and he does not learn anything useful. However, he learns from the geographer that flowers do not last forever, and he begins to miss the rose he has left behind.

At the geographer's suggestion, the little prince visits Earth, but he lands in the middle of the desert and cannot find any humans. Instead, he meets a snake who speaks in riddles and hints darkly that its lethal poison can send the little prince back to the heavens if he so wishes. The little prince ignores the offer and continues his explorations, stopping to talk to a three-petaled flower and to climb the tallest mountain he can find, where he confuses the echo of his voice for conversation. Eventually, the little prince finds a rose garden, which surprises and depresses him—his rose had told him that she was the only one of her kind.

The prince befriends a fox, who teaches him that the important things in life are visible only to the heart, that his time away from the rose makes the rose more special to him, and that love makes a person responsible for the beings that one loves. The little prince realizes that, even though there are many roses, his love for his rose makes her unique and that he is therefore responsible for her. Despite this revelation, he still feels very lonely because he is so far away from his rose. The prince ends his story by describing his encounters with two men, a railway switchman and a salesman.

The stage production of *The Little Prince* will be performed at the Bridgetown Theatre over two weekends, 27th, 28th, 29th 30th November and 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th December. Tickets at Trybooking and at the door.





## Community Christmas Party

Kevin and all his friendly welcoming staff at our local pharmacy are extending an invitation to all within our community to "Come along and join in with us on Wednesday December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10am until 3pm at our annual Community Christmas Party."

Pharmacist Sehaj Johal explains the ideal behind the party, "This is an event to bring our community together and have some fun.

"You will be able to enjoy food and baked goods that the staff have put together as well as food we have sourced to come from local businesses along with non-alcoholic refreshments which will be provided.

"This event is something that is a little different, it's our way of giving back to our community during the festive season.

"It's our way of celebrating with our Bridgetown family. We are so lucky to call this beautiful town home, hence, what better way than to celebrate this beautiful community together.

"It's a different way of connecting to people, it's a chance for those who would like to meet and chat, and it is an opportunity for those who would like to discuss their medication or their health needs within a community setting, or it can simply be to tell us how your day is going.

"It's also a way for the pharmacy to thank the community for their support throughout the year.

Sehaj concludes with "We would like to see this event become bigger and better every year, for it to become annual street party."



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## Safe Space Blackwood Open every Sunday 12.00 - 3.00pm At Henri's 16 Hester Street, Bridgetown

Community-led Safe Spaces are 'drop-in' style spaces that offer a non-clinical alternative to services such as emergency departments for people experiencing emotional distress or suicidal crisis. Safe spaces provide warm, welcoming environments and are staffed by peer workers with their own lived experience of suicidal crisis and or attempt who can connect with others through the mutual understanding that comes with meaningful shared experience.

The Safe Space Blackwood has been open since the beginning of the year. We are a project of the Bridgetown Greenbushes Suicide Prevention Network (affectionately known as The Bee Gees).

We are so proud of our Safe Space. It's like stepping into a big warm hug.

From the moment you arrive, you will be treated with compassion and gentle kindness. We are located in Henri's, a well known community space, which is reminiscent of your favourite grandma's house. We will have comfy chairs, books, music, opportunities for people to draw, write, talk or just be together in silent companionship.



MikeFletcher, Dr Sara Youngson and JenniferWatt

We will meet you exactly where you are at, without judgement and with compassion. We look forward to welcoming you to your safe space.

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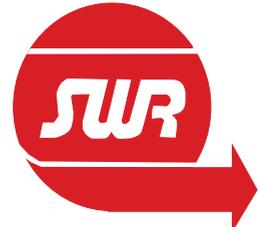
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