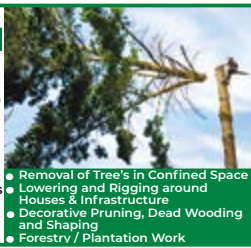


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October 1st 2024

VOLUME 33 NO: 2 ISSUE 347

# THE MAILBAG

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## Blackwood Marathon Relay.

In 1978, the WA Government of the day issued a challenge to organizations throughout the state to come up with novel ideas in which to celebrate WA's 150th year of colonial settlement during the following year.

Several members of the Bridgetown Rotary Club together with members of the public from Boyup Brook, took up the challenge by sketching a route taken from the air across some 56 km of hilly terrain basically following the Blackwood River

between the two towns. The resultant course became the foundation for the Blackwood Marathon Relay.

The resultant course became the foundation for the Blackwood Marathon Relay.

This unique relay event, utilising people with significant sporting skills across 5 different sport disciplines including running, canoeing, swimming, equestrian and cycling, required team members to effectively pass the "baton" between each leg with the result being that the first team across the line was declared the winner. Significant prizes ensued and commemorative medallions for each team successfully managing to finish the event were issued.

It maybe claimed to be a world first, and has been emulated in different forms by various organisations and various towns since that initial event. In 1979 it attracted 54 teams, 80 something in the second and 125 in the third reaching a climax of some 370 teams in the mid nineties. Today some 45 years later, we expect around 130 teams which include iron people and 4 member teams who are unable to fill the equestrian leg.

The event has been held every year except for the one cancelled during the COVID years and there has only been two changes to the route that I can recall since the inaugural race. The first occurred not long after it started. The cycle leg originally went through the main streets of Bridgetown with the finish at the Bridgetown Show Grounds. A train shunting on Steere Street halted proceedings in about the... *Continued on page 15*





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High School Performers at YOH Fest

## Bridgetown High School shines at YOH Fest

Bridgetown Year 9 and 10 drama students recently participated in YOH Fest 2024, (Youth On Health Festival), and were awarded for their efforts.

Act-Belong-Commit YOH Fest is a performing, media and visual arts event for West Australian school students. It incorporates the fun of the arts with health education. YOH Fest is a state-wide competition which is partnered with Healthways.

Drama Teacher Meegan Cullen explains about the event, "It is an annual event that has been running since 1998. It provides students with the opportunity to perform, and challenges them to think outside the box to get their message across in an artistic and creative way.

"Thousands of students from primary and high schools across the state participate each year and this year was no exception.

"Students are judged on how well they convey the chosen health message and on the artistic and performance aspects of their piece.

"Students are encouraged to convey a health theme through dance, drama, short film, song and visual arts. The theme for this year was 'Inclusion'."

At the South-West heat held at the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre, Bridgetown High School performed a piece entitled 'Find Our Way'.

"The self-devised fifteen-minute play looked at how humans form groups in order to belong, often to the exclusion of others. It explored inclusion and exclusion and questions what makes us accept some people and not others."

Meegan continues, "What makes us feel like we belong to one group but not another? Are we happy to be grouped or does it lead to feelings of isolation? ... *Continued on page 14*



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## Toastmasters Club to Launch in Greenbushes

The Blackwood Valley community is set to welcome a new opportunity for personal and professional development with the launch of the Blackwood Valley Toastmasters club.

The inaugural meeting will take place on Thursday, 17 October, at the Greenbushes Community Resource Centre. Networking from 5:00pm for a 5:30pm meeting start.

Toastmasters International, a globally recognised organisation, is dedicated to helping individuals improve their public speaking and leadership skills. The new club in Greenbushes aims to provide a supportive and friendly environment where members can practice speaking in front of an audience, receive positive and constructive feedback, and take on various roles to enhance their leadership abilities.

The kick-off meeting, scheduled from 5:30pm to 7:00pm, will introduce attendees to the Toastmasters program. Participants will have the chance to observe how a typical club meeting operates, including speeches, evaluations, and role assignments. This session is free of charge, with membership fees applicable only if attendees decide to join the club.

The club plans to hold both online and in-person meetings twice a month, on the first and third Thursdays. Experienced Toastmasters will be on hand to guide new members through their journey, ensuring a smooth and enriching experience.

Organiser, Morrie Goodz, encourages anyone interested in improving their communication skills to attend. "Toastmasters is a fantastic way to overcome the fear of public speaking, develop presentation skills, and connect with like-minded individuals," he said.

For more information or to register your interest in attending this free kick-off meeting, contact Paul Foley at 0408 952 627.

Don't miss this chance to boost your confidence and enhance your personal and professional image in a welcoming community setting.



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## St John Ambulance Recruitment Drive

If you think you have the time and the necessary skills to become a volunteer Ambulance Officer with our Sub Centre, come and have a talk with us and enjoy a free sausage sizzle at the Bridgetown Community Stall on Saturday, 12 October from 9:00am to 2:00pm. For further information please contact Glen Norris on 0438611628 or email [glen.norris@stjohnwa.com.au](mailto:glen.norris@stjohnwa.com.au)

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## New Wandillup Bush Fire Station Looking good

Construction of the new Wandillup Bush Fire Station on the corner of Mockerdillup Road and Brockman Highway is well underway and will be completed in time for the upcoming fire season.

The new building has been jointly funded by the State Government's Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, and will replace the old Wandillup Bush Fire Brigade shed that is located on private property.

Shire President Cr Jenny Mountford said that "the new facility 'was a great example of the State and Local Governments working together to provide critical infrastructure that would significantly improve the capability of the local Bush Fire Brigades to serve and help protect their local communities. The Shire was very happy to support this important local project."

DFES District Officer Chris Sousa echoed Cr Mountford's comments and said that "the new facilities at Wandillup and Greenbushes were part of an ongoing State Government program to upgrade emergency services infrastructure in rural communities. DFES recognises and supports the critical role that Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades play by responding quickly to incidents in their local area which often prevents the outbreak of a major fire and damage to property."

Wandillup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Captain John Wheatley said that "the new facility had been years in the planning and Brigade members were very much looking forward to relocating to the new building when completed."

Once the building is finished, the Brigade was keen to have an open day and invite local community members to come and check out the new Brigade facilities.

We are very lucky to have a great group of dedicated members who serve their community and enjoy social activities together. We always welcome new members and there is a role for everyone. If you think you would like to find out more, please call on 0427 870 065.

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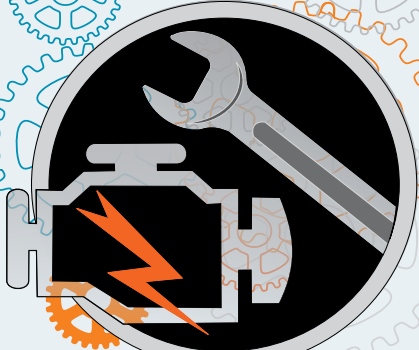
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## Fancy a Hit of Tennis or Croquet?

At last it's nearly Tennis time. The sun is shining through and the grass courts are green and nearly ready for action. The Bridgetown Lawn Tennis Club is starting its schedule of play this October 11th with a term of Junior Coaching. It will be an eight week program running on Friday afternoons 4:30 - 5:30pm.

Then the clubs official Opening Day will be on Saturday, November 2nd starting at 2 pm. Visitors and potential new members are most welcome to come down, have a hit and share afternoon tea with us.

Social tennis will be continuing on Saturday afternoons from 2 pm through until when the weather gets a bit hot and then we are likely to change to Saturday mornings.

Croquet is played on Sunday afternoon's with the start time varying from 3- 4pm, depending on the season. Anyone interested in giving it a go is most welcome to come along. There are also some midweek options for croquet play.

The Club also has a group playing tennis on Thursday evenings and they are looking for more to join the group.

If you just want to have a hit with family or friends we have two Hardcourts which are available for hire during daylight hours. The key is available from SupaChook Carvery on Hampton Street. In the near future we hope to have online booking set up so hirers can plan their times.

The Tennis Club also hires out its Clubhouse for events and meetings when it is not being used for Club activities. Junior tennis is also running a program in first term 2025. So if fourth term 2024 doesn't suit kids can join for the program in the New Year. Juniors can also join as full season members and participate in both terms of coaching and have full member's rights all season.

So we hope we have a playing option to suit you and we hope to see some new faces down at the Club. All enquiries to Anne 0428 713463 or email [bridgetowntennis@yahoo.com](mailto:bridgetowntennis@yahoo.com)



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## Craig's Corner With Craig Dawson



### 2024 Talison Mine Open Day

Talison Lithium Pty Ltd (**Talison**) is thrilled to once again welcome the community to its Greenbushes Lithium Operation (**Mine, Site**) for the annual Mine Open Day. This year's event will take place at the Greenbushes Sportsground (Recreation Rd) on Saturday, October 5th, from 8:30am to 5:00pm. Although the popular 2.5-hour Mine tours are fully booked, attendees can still join the waitlist by scanning the QR code below.

Even without a tour, there's plenty to explore. The sportsground will feature displays from Talison on its operations and expansion projects, along with exhibits from contractors and local community groups. Plus, there'll be a variety of free, family-friendly entertainment and activities throughout the day including live music, food vans, a bouncy castle, a sandpit, face painting, LEGO activities and more. Talison looks forward to welcoming the community for a fun-filled, informative day.



### Update on the Detailed Feasibility Study (DFS) into Recommissioning the Greenbushes to Bunbury Rail Line

In August and September, Talison, in partnership with Arc Infrastructure, Aurizon, and the South West Development Commission, hosted a series of community engagement sessions in North Greenbushes, Dardanup and Donnybrook. These sessions provided updates on the progress of the DFS including the preferred site for the Intermodal Terminal (**IMT**) and shared key findings from studies conducted to date relating to level crossings.

These engagement sessions not only keep the community informed about the DFS but also help facilitate community feedback. Post-session attendees are encouraged to consider the updates provided and send through their feedback, which is then integrated into the broader study, ensuring that local perspectives are considered.

If you are interested in receiving updates on the DFS or have questions about its progress, please contact the DFS engagement team at [info@talisonrail.com](mailto:info@talisonrail.com) or call 1800 418 581.

It is encouraging to note that the DFS is progressing as planned and remains on track for completion by the end of 2024. The findings from the study will outline potential costs, funding options for reinstatement, and considerations regarding level crossings and IMT's. A decision on the recommissioning of the line is anticipated in the second quarter of 2025.

### Talison Supports 2024 Women in Mining and Resources WA Summit

Talison was proud to continue its support of the Women in Mining and Resources WA (**WIMWA**) Summit, an event which supports women's growth in the resources sector through inspiring speakers and networking opportunities. This year, Talison sponsored the attendance of 10 personnel, who were provided the opportunity hear from, and connect with, peers from across the resources industry at the conference.

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Speakers covered important topics such as building community, embracing curiosity, fostering personal growth and challenging the myth of meritocracy. A particularly proud moment for Talison attendees was seeing one of their colleagues, Rumbie Chinyani, take the stage on multiple occasions.

Talison hosted a booth at the conference, which provided information on the Mine's operations, career opportunities, and showcased how the work being done each day at the Mine is contributing to a better future.

A special thank you to the Talison personnel who purchased their own tickets to attend and dedicated time throughout the conference to support their fellow colleagues and answer questions about Talison's operations.



Pictures: Talison Lithium representatives at WIMWA 2024

### Community Support Program – September Recipients

Talison is pleased to provide the following community organisations with support for their events and programs:

**CWA Bridgetown:** Assistance with the purchase of new furniture.

**Greenbushes CRC:** Funding to purchase utensils and cooking equipment for cooking classes as part of the 'A Nourished Community' project.

**Boyp Brook Cricket Club:** Support with the purchase of equipment for the upcoming season.

**Kearnan College:** Sponsorship of end-of-year award.

**Manjimup CRC:** Funding support for Spring Harmony All Abilities Ball.

**Donnybrook Basketball Association:** Funding assistance for two additional representative teams.

**Kirup Primary School:** Sponsorship of end-of-year awards.

**Rotary Club of Bridgetown:** Support for the 2024 Blackwood Marathon.

**Warren Blackwood Network of Schools:** Sponsorship of awards for Warren Blackwood VEX Robotics Interschool Competition.

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## Biosecurity

Blackwood Biosecurity is a not-for-profit organisation. Its main function is to support landholders with the management of declared pests and weeds on their property.

“This year Blackwood Biosecurity visited 685 separate properties supporting landholders with their declared pest problems including blackberry, rabbits, feral pigs, foxes, bridal creeper, feral cats and cottonbush.” Trish McCourt, Blackwood Biosecurity Executive Officer explains.

“Our service includes free equipment loans, weed spraying, baiting, trapping, biological and chemical controls, demonstrations, professional advice and permit applications. Also, we achieved 1,165 calicivirus, rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus releases and drops.

“The free equipment for loan includes: fox lights, fox traps, trail cameras, cat traps, rabbit traps, warren traps, pig traps, bait boxes, backpack sprayers, spray trailer and weed wipers.

“The team includes four paid and passionate staff: Trish McCourt, Executive Officer; Jason Dearle, Operations Manager; James Moyes, Operations Officer and Max Cornish, Admin, Communications and Events (ACE) Officer.

“We also have seven volunteer and inspirational committee members at this time: Gwendalyn Banks, Chair; Jenny Dewing, Vice Chair; Marg Morton, Secretary; Leigh Carroll, Treasurer; Julia Boyle, Mark Schneider and Stewart Kay all general committee members.

“The team is dedicated to increasing landholder education with the management of declared pests. The resources we use are delivered via hard copy newsletters, workshops, greet and meets, council presentations,, ... *Continued on page 11*

## Outreach Hub

GP down south, in collaboration with Carers WA, Anglicare and Advocacy WA, are continuing our ‘Outreach Hub’, which will be visiting Bridgetown on a monthly basis. Our next visit will be on Wednesday 16th October at Henri Nouwen House, 16 Hester Street, Bridgetown, between 9.30am and 3.30pm. The services we will be offering include:

### GP down south: My Health Partnerships

The My Health Partnerships program offers care coordination for anyone over the age of 16 who resides within the Warren Blackwood region and either has or is at risk of a chronic health condition. We can work together with you and other service providers to ensure you are getting the support that best suits your needs.

**Carers WA:** Carers WA provides support and advocacy for carers across Western Australia including the Warren Blackwood region. A carer is someone who provides unpaid care and support to family and friends who are living with disability, mental health challenges or long-term health conditions, including a chronic condition or terminal illness, an alcohol or other drug dependency or who is frail and aged.

**Anglicare WA:** Anglicare will be providing financial counselling and information for anyone who is stressed or worried about their finances. It is an inclusive service for people in a broad range of circumstances, no matter how much you earn. Anglicare financial counsellors can help you with immediate financial problems, explore your financial options and support you to achieve the best possible outcomes and maintain financial control.

**Advocacy WA:** Advocacy WA provides advocacy services for people living with disability in southwest WA. People living with a disability have the same rights and need the same opportunities as everyone else. Advocacy WA supports and advocates on NDIS access and appeals, disability support pension, discrimination, tenancy, guardianship and other areas.

If you feel that any of these services may be able to help you, drop in and see us. For more information, please contact Mandy Kiely: 0438 909 991

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- **\$68,198** to **Arb Skills WA** to purchase a secure box trailer and equipment
- **\$94,420** to **Blackwood Chamber of Commerce and Industry** upskill local businesses
- **\$97,100** to **Black Cockatoo Distillery** to convert a barn to a tasting room
- **\$90,949** to **W.A. Bush Fire Museum and Heritage Group** to construct a shed
- **\$100,000** to **Geegelup Village** for a Feasibility Study to develop a Master Plan
- **\$100,000** to **St Brigid's Catholic Primary School** to upgrade the sports court
- **\$18,960** to **Bridgetown Hub** to develop engineering plans, drawings and a project plan
- **\$40,300** to **Fallobst** to purchase equipment
- **\$20,764** to **Ashbil Community Garden** to upgrade reticulation, fencing and security
- **\$100,000** to **Bridgetown Greenbushes Tourism Association** to provide interactive activities and rotational exhibits
- **\$49,927** to **Bridgetown Historical Society** to install interpretive panels about historical orcharding and undertake a facility renovation
- **\$100,000** to **Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes** for design plans to restore Geegelup Brook



**Jane Kelsbie MLA**  
**MEMBER FOR WARREN-BLACKWOOD**

Authorised by J Kelsbie 5/78 Strickland St, Denmark WA 6333.

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## Transition Bridgetown

The Transition Bridgetown committee invite you to join us for a cuppa and our AGM on Sat 19th October at 4pm at the Uniting Church Hall. We will be screening one of the latest short films by Local Futures on how sustainability and resilience in communities can be achieved.

As you may know, we hold Open Space discussions, presentations and films on topics that form part of the ethos of the Transition Towns movement. Here is our Objective Statement: Transition Bridgetown Inc is an apolitical community group aligned with the world-wide Transition Town movement, which assists communities to transition to a more regenerative, sustainable and resilient way of life. It aims to strengthen local community connections and to empower people to tread lightly on the earth.

It aims to achieve this through community-based actions that emphasise biodiversity, community connectivity, community education, regenerative energy, local food supplies, affordable sustainably-built housing, inner transition, waste minimisation, sustainable water use, and strong working relationships with the Shire of Bridgetown/Greenbushes and other community organisations and businesses.

We'd love to see you at the AGM, become a member or join our supporters email list! We have our executive positions filled but would love a couple of extra committee members. If you can't come along but would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please let us know by emailing [transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com](mailto:transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com)

If you didn't make it to the "Night Calling" Open Space documentary on Owls, we can tell you that it was a very moving and informative Open Space! Transition Bridgetown and Bridgetown Landcare co-hosted the event and Dr Boyd Wykes and Mr Ian Wheeler presented their research and findings. The most crucial message that we took away from the session, is to be mindful of the type of rat and mice poisons that we use in our sheds and households.

Many of these poisons are readily available on the shelves of hardware stores in Australia but have been banned from use in other countries.

Some of the most common rat baits available are lethal to birds of prey and other wildlife through 'secondary poisoning' from their baited prey.

The preference is to use traps rather than baits to control rats and mice without harming wildlife. This enables release of any unintended wildlife captures.

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Do not use second generation anticoagulant rodenticides with difenacoum, brodifacoum, bromadiolone or difethialone.

Finally, take great care with storing and placing baits so that pets and wildlife can't reach them.

If you'd like to be involved with further activity with protecting Owls and wildlife, go to [www.owlfriendly.org.au](http://www.owlfriendly.org.au) Thank you for your continued support and interest!



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# Biosecurity

Continued from page 8...setting up networking groups, displaying information stands and our welcoming and informative office and foyer area for us to welcome and discuss matters with landholders.

“Our next workshop will be a FREE Bee Biosecurity for bee keepers. It will include free lunch which will be held on 12 October. Call us on 0473 454 122 for registration and venue address.”

Blackwood Biosecurity AGM and Sundowner is to be held at the Llama lounge on Tuesday 15th October at 4:30pm.

There will be free finger food. Beverages will be available for purchase at the bar.

Trish concludes with “Come and meet the team, find out what we have been up to over the year. Members and non-members welcome.”

Blackwood Biosecurity is funded by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development through an application for an annual grant.

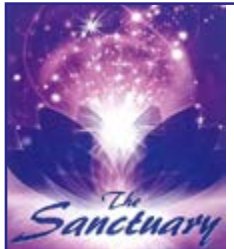
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# Bridgetown Historical Society

You may know that BHS has been the recipient of a grant from the Native Forest Transition: Community Small Grants Fund (Round 2). This will enable BHS to establish a Bridgetown Orcharding Museum.

There is much renovating work to be done on the existing rear shed behind the Police Station Museum which will be the site of the Orcharding Museum. The completed shed will then be used to preserve and display the history of orcharding in Bridgetown. Much of the equipment, tools and gear used in packing sheds on home orchards and ultimately in the Paterson's Packing Shed have been in storage after their removal from the old Visitor Centre and will once again be displayed. We will be writing more interpretive panels on the history of orcharding and so if you would like to be involved in this project please contact Mary on 0487592704.

Other happenings at BHS include a rearrangement of our Committee meetings. The schedule of a Committee meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10.00am will be interspersed with a talk by a BHS member or possibly a guest speaker. Members of the public are invited to attend and the talks will be promoted through Facebook and the Mail Bag. The meetings and talks will be held at the BHS Office, 5 Civic Lane.

The first talk will be on Thursday 14 Nov (probably at 10 am but TBA), Collecting Antique Cartography – a personal reflection, presented by Simon Walker JP.

More information or enquiries  
M: 0487 592 704  
T: 9761 4236  
E: [bridgetownhistory@iinet.net.au](mailto:bridgetownhistory@iinet.net.au)



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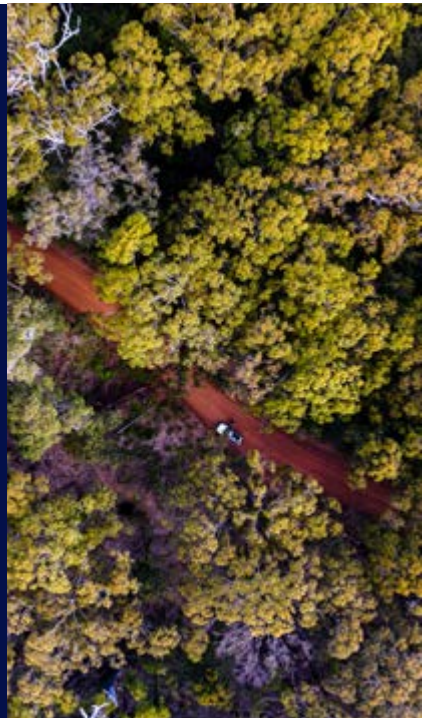
## Applications are open for the Closure of Impacted Business grants program.

The non-competitive grant program aims to support businesses reliant on native timber to exit the industry.

Funding of up to \$50,000 is available for eligible businesses to support with expenses associated with closing their business.

Visit our website to find out more: [www.wa.gov.au/NFT](http://www.wa.gov.au/NFT)

Apply now



# St Brigid's Parish Paving Brick Fundraiser

St Brigid's Parish is celebrating its 120th anniversary this year. To commemorate the occasion, the Parish has organised a 'brick paver' fundraising opportunity.

A proposed new brick path will be placed in the garden which is located between St Brigid's Church and the Convent.

This idea was announced to the parish council by Carlo Pardini, the headmaster at St Brigid's school, he'd seen a similar successful venture which was undertaken at the Pemberton School.

It is hoped that 4,500 bricks to be purchased to complete the path with the monies raised going towards the cost of replacing the three wooden double doors on the church hall.

Individual names can be etched onto the bricks that will be used to make up the path, giving those taking part in this fundraising venture an opportunity to secure a piece of history for themselves, their loved ones, and those who are dear to their hearts.

The fundraiser has been well subscribed but to allow those members of the community who have not yet heard of the fundraiser or who have not had the opportunity to obtain a form, the Parish has decided to extend the closure of the application of applications until 20 October 2024.

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# PUBLIC NOTICE

## DRAFT LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME NO 6 OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, in accordance with the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*, is seeking public comment on the Draft Local Planning Scheme No 6.

The intent of this review is to consolidate the existing operational Town Planning Schemes No 3 and 4 into one Local Planning Scheme No 6 (LPS6). This will update and streamline the day-to-day planning functions and controls at the local level.

The Draft Local Planning Scheme No 6 Text, Maps and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) can be accessed via:

- The Shire website - <https://www.bridgetown.wa.gov.au/publicnotices/>
- Hard copy:
  - o Shire's Administration Building - 1 Steere Street, Bridgetown;
  - o Bridgetown Public Library - 75 Steere Street, Bridgetown; and
  - o Greenbushes Community Resource Centre - 46 Blackwood Road, Greenbushes.

General questions relating to LPS6 can be submitted via email to: [lbs6queries@btshire.wa.gov.au](mailto:lbs6queries@btshire.wa.gov.au) up to and on, Monday 4 November, 2024.

Formal submissions are invited from interested stakeholders in clear and concise language in the following manner:

1. Via SurveyMonkey – scan the QR Code below
2. Via email: [btshire@bridgetown.wa.gov.au](mailto:btshire@bridgetown.wa.gov.au); or
3. In writing to: Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes  
PO Box 271  
Bridgetown WA 6255

**The submission period closes at 4pm, Friday 6 December, 2024**

NICOLE GIBBS  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
4 September 2024



## Bridgetown High School shines at YOH Fest

Continued from page 2...“The play encourages us to be inclusive and to be ourselves.

“The students used coloured costumes to represent different groups and a central white coloured character to highlight inequities and bias.

“The blues wouldn’t accept the white because he didn’t look like them, the pinks didn’t accept that he could do magic because ‘you’re not pink, you can’t do magic’, the multi-coloured group wouldn’t accept him because he didn’t rap like them, the reds don’t accept him because they don’t accept anyone who isn’t red and angry.

“However, we see that people within the different coloured groups are struggling with the idea that they have to be a certain way, and we see that some characters claim to be accepting of anyone, but only if not everybody knows.

“Through the creative use of short scenes and powerful character interactions, Bridgetown High School’s Find Our Way urged the audience to look at our similarities and value our differences and human connectedness -

“After all, aren’t we all part of the same group?”

“Judges commented on the creativity of the piece and acknowledged the use of humour, fun, colour and movement, set alongside insightful and thought-provoking moments. They positively commented on the skills of the performers.”

In their heat, Bridgetown High School students were the winners of three awards; They won the 2024 Healthways Award for Effective Exploration of The Theme.

They also won The Karen Lyons Award for Excellence in YOH Fest Etiquette

They were also presented with a YOH Fest Certificate of Merit for ‘An Artistic and Well-Thought-Out Piece’.

Three of the students who took part in the YOH Fest gave these comments;

“It was great talking to students from other schools and it was lots of fun.” Paris Crittenden.

“Everyone at YOH was really nice and it was really fun to watch everyone’s plays and dances. Even if we didn’t get into the final, it was cool we got the best award at Bunbury.” Zaffy Neil.

“I had an amazing time at Yoh and really enjoyed just spending time with everyone. It was also fun seeing all the other schools! I loved the actual performance and getting to go backstage and just wait for my next scene! It was so awesome and I’m sad that that was my last time. Thank you so so much, Miss, for taking us.” Milli Perkins-Bullock

Meegan concludes with “The students did a fantastic job and worked so well together, they were a wonderful ensemble, which really embodied the message of inclusion. Their performance was excellent and engaging, and they were very professional. They put in the work in development, in rehearsal and on the night. These awesome, talented young people created a really cool play, and the best thing, they had a lot of fun being part of YOH Fest 2024!”

## Farewell

The Blackwood Women’s Group has been helping the local community for at least thirty years and thoroughly enjoying it. However there comes a time when things must change and 2024 is it for this group. As of September there will no longer be meetings. The group would like to thank the Bridgetown Agricultural Society for letting us use the presidents room for many years. Being so easy to park made it an excellent meeting place.

# Blackwood Marathon Relay

*Continued from cover...* the second year, and it thought prudent to finish the event at the Greater Sport Ground hence a change to the ending of the cycle leg. The other occurred just a couple of years ago when changes to private land ownership promulgated a change to the canoe leg, and hence the alteration of the Running section.

Once again on Saturday - October 26th 2024, the Rotary Club of Bridgetown together with hundreds of volunteers will be making the event a reality, and once again, come rain, hail or shine, making it a tremendous event on the States sporting calendar. Long before all manner of contemporary major local sporting and cultural events held in the towns, the Blackwood Marathon Relay has help put both Bridgetown and Boyup Brook on the map with many supporters drawn to the event and wondered at the beauty of the Blackwood River Valley.

For all information surrounding the marathon relay, rules, and refreshments along the track, go to the Bridgetown Rotary website at [bridgetownrotary.org](http://bridgetownrotary.org) and click on the event, or go direct to [blackwoodmarathon.org](http://blackwoodmarathon.org) and click on the 2024 event.

A huge thankyou goes out on behalf of the Bridgetown Rotary Club to all the volunteers, sponsors and private landholders who tirelessly over many years have helped make this event possible. All the best for a great event on Saturday October 26th 2024.

Neale Armstrong, Secretary – Bridgetown Rotary Club)



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Remembering or imagining the childhood joy of your children as they open their presents on Christmas morning; now, imagine that joy magnified tenfold as a child who has never received a present, who might have suffered the effects of either a war, a natural disaster, poverty, illness or maybe neglect receives a shoebox overflowing with gifts. Bringing joy and hope is what the Samaritan's Purse project is all about.

The boxes can be filled with a variety of items from 6 categories. 1. Something to love; a soft toy or doll, 2. Something to play with; a Yo Yo, marbles, tennis ball, skipping rope, etc. 3. Something to wear; T-Shirt, beanie, thongs, etc. 4. Toiletries; soap, face washer, brush, comb, toothbrush etc. 5. Stationery supplies; pencils, coloured pencils, sharpener, eraser, exercise books, etc. 6. carry bag to keep their treasures in. Also include \$12.50 per box to cover the costs of getting the gift into the hands of the child, or pay online and follow your box with a bar code to its destination.

The Samaritan's Purse project is a non-denominational evangelical Christian Organisation providing physical and spiritual aid to hurting people around the world.

Brochures can be obtained from The Quality Shop, as well as Shoe boxes to be filled. The boxes can then be returned to The Quality Shop in October. Don't forget to put a rubber band around the box. Think about it now and start filling your box, some child will love you for it.



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Many thanks to the three Wilky men who all played a part in producing a beautiful result.

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