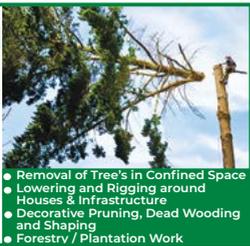


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October 7th 2025

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Coterie



Hideaway Bridges

Blues at Bridgetown 2025

It gives us great pleasure to announce that Western Australia's beloved springtime musical adventure, Blues at Bridgetown, is back for 2025 with an unforgettable weekend's worth of music, melodies and new memories from Friday to Sunday, November 6-9.

A true celebration of blues, roots and associated genres, Blues at Bridgetown will bring together a stellar line-up of well-known and emerging artists, led this year by Eugene 'Hideaway' Bridges, Little Birby and Coterie.

Born in New Orleans, Eugene 'Hideaway' Bridges is a nomadic musician living his life on the road. His home is wherever the next performance takes him, and every year this is from the US through Europe, to Australia with many other stops in between. A towering man with a huge voice, playing an unparalleled brand of blues, Eugene oozes enough genuine charm to light up a small city. 'His instrumental prowess, lyrical and musical vision, and passionate and emotional commitment results in a refreshingly adult set full of joy and meaning.' – Living Blues Magazine

After a long hiatus, Little Birby are back on the road for an illustrious tour celebrating the 21st anniversary of their iconic debut album, bigbiglove. Since their inception in 2003, Little Birby has captivated audiences with their live energy and a sound that blends indie rock with a unique vulnerability. Honing their iconic sound in the Perth music scene, the band quickly skyrocketed to national and global stages, establishing themselves as a force to be reckoned with...*Continued on page 14*



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Bush Brigade Open Day

We all remember the 'Bridgetown Fire' back in February 2022 which started at Hester Brook and threatened Bridgetown which caused a full evacuation of Bridgetown. Fortunately, the wind changed and drove the fire towards Hester and Kangaroo Gully, the impact can still be seen today along Cambells Road and the Forrest from Hester to South West Highway.

The 2025/26 Fire Season is approaching quickly and it's a timely reminder to be prepared, clean leaf litter out of your gutters, prune shrubs and trees away from buildings and reinforce the fire breaks. Complete a Bushfire Preparation Toolkit – this will help you decide if you will be safe and leave early or be prepared to stay and defend.

The Bridgetown Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade which operates from the Incident Control Centre, Les Woodhead Drive, Bridgetown, is holding a Community Open Day on Saturday 18 October from 1pm to 3pm. Followed with a BBQ and a Cold Soft Drink to support the Brigade.

Whether you're keen to be on the front line or support the teams behind the scene, we provide free training...there's a role for everyone.

From Admin, Social Media Coordinator, Equipment / Training officer, or be part of the Welfare team preparing food for the troops on the ground plus more.

Your Skills Are Valuable To Our Community. Come along and have some Fun on our Community Open Day; Showcasing Fire Truck and the Brigades' Vehicles;

Get a photo taken in the Fire Truck; Water target practice using the hoses on the Fire Truck; Use the Radio and learn the "Phonetic Alphabet" ...and much more.

There also will be different Bush Fire Information booklets and a great Photo Display on show to give you an insight of what we do throughout the year. We always welcome new members to be part of the Brigade... come along and meet new people, especially if you are new to town.

If you wish further information, please contact us at btbnfb@bridgetown.wa.gov.au or Captain Kevin Wrightson 04189 306 211.



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Yvonne Derricott and Christine Latham
pictured in a workshop



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A place of unique and rare species in WA it was designated as Dryandra Woodland National Park in 2022.

Christine and Yvonne along with members of TSWP have been exploring and researching areas such as Dryandra's industrial and cultural past, to its current uniqueness as a protected national park.

Christine has lived all her life on Noongar country, discovering her Badimia / Namatji ancestry at the age of 35. Her journey of reconnecting with country and culture is deeply reflected in her art. Yvonne has been researching the local mistletoe and learning about the life of local bees and other pollinators.

The exhibition Fragile Resilience at the Collie Art Gallery will be celebrating its opening from 2-4pm on Saturday, 25 October 2025 until 30th November 2025 Artist's floor talks will be on 26 October 11am

A Printmaking one day workshop will be held on the 2nd November, the theme will be The Natural World.

Collie Art Gallery, 134 Throssell Street Collie, opening hours are Thursday - Monday 10am - 4pm.

Fragile Resilience

Creative interpretations of the Dryandra Woodlands,

Local Bridgetown artists, Christine Latham and Yvonne Derricott, are participating in an exhibition 'Fragile Resilience' at Collie Art Gallery to celebrate 20 years membership with The South West Printmakers.

Part of the celebrations have been to work with Dryandra Woodland National park, Walgadiny; the largest remnant of native vegetation in the Western Wheatbelt.

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Authorised by Kelli Gillies 24025 South Western
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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 finally drying out and nearly ready for action.

The Bridgetown Lawn Tennis Club's official Opening Day for 2025/26 will be on Saturday, November 1st starting at 2 pm. Visitors and potential new members are most welcome to come down, have a hit of tennis or croquet and share afternoon tea with us. Also there will be activities for juniors so it will be an all inclusive family day. Social tennis will be continuing on Saturday afternoons from 2 pm through until after Christmas when the weather gets a bit hot and then we are likely to change to Saturday mornings. Other options for social tennis play are the Tuesday night men's group and the Thursday evenings mixed group who are both keen to have more players join.

Junior Tennis Hot Shots Group Coaching is starting on Friday October 31st with a seven week program running for 2 sessions from 4:00 - 5:30pm. For more information on this see the Bridgetown Lawn Tennis Club's Facebook page or contact Dom Stearne on 0410 294 863.

Croquet is played on Sunday afternoons with the start time varying from 2- 4pm, depending on the season. Anyone interested in giving it a go is most welcome to come along. There is also a midweek option of Tuesday afternoons for croquet play.

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 and in the near future we hope to have online booking set up so hirers can plan their times of play and book ahead.

The Tennis Club also hires out its Clubhouse for events and meetings when it is not being used for Club activities. So keep us in mind when you are planning your next event.

Junior tennis will also run a program in first term 2026. So if fourth term 2025 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

Arts, Culture, Creativity And Community

Preparation for the 2026 Blackwood River Arts Trail is upon us. A ten-day celebration of all that is creative in our lovely part of the world starting 28/3/2026.

If you are an artist living in the Blackwood area and would like your studio or group exhibition to be included please contact us. We welcome all genres of art.

Contact us at: admin@blackwoodriverartstrail.com or contact your local Town Coordinator: Laurie Bullied: bullied@icloud.com. Or checkout our website: www.blackwoodriverartstrail.com Laurie Bullied

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Halloween Themed Quiz night

Get ready for a spook-tacular evening of trivia, laughs, and eco-friendly fun! Thanks to funding from WasteSorted, the Shire is conjuring up a FREE Halloween-themed Quiz Night that'll test your knowledge of waste, recycling, and all things sustainable – with a creepy twist.

Forget information heavy workshops – this is your chance to battle it out in a fun, competitive quiz and bring your rubbish back from the dead! Been arguing over what goes in the yellow bin? Settle it once and for all (and maybe win some bragging rights). Community vouchers are up for grabs for 1st and 2nd place.

DIY Costumes are encouraged! Raid your recycling bin, hit the op shops, and be crafty.

Food and drink options are being organised to purchase on the night. Stay tuned.

When: Friday 31st October from 7pm Where: Bridgetown Hall; Team sizes: 4-5 people. For 1-3 people you may be join others to form a team.

Booking: Yes, to guide numbers expected. Visit the Bridgetown Shire Administration Office or email BTNSHIRE@bridgetown.wa.gov.au Cost: Free, Hope to see you there. Alexa Tunmer

Songs of Praise

Bridgetown Churches together 'Spring Celebration' Songs of Praise in Bridgetown.

Walking Together will be celebrated on Sunday 26 October at 6.30pm in the Uniting Church Hall, Roe Street in Bridgetown.

All the Churches in town are involved; The Jubilee Singers will present an item.

Everybody is welcome to come together to give thanks and worship God in an evening of Songs and Hymns.

Do come along and join us. Dave Bardsley

Vote for Andrew McRae Candidate for Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire Council

I am submitting this notice as I was unable to provide a photograph before the close of nominations, due to an unexpected medical emergency that required me to travel to Perth. I am now home and recovering.

I chose to nominate for one of the vacant Shire Council positions after speaking with community members who expressed concern about the current direction of council. Bridgetown-Greenbushes is a vibrant and progressive community, and it deserves a strong, collaborative council working together to advance the prosperity of our region.

I retired from operational policing in November 2018 after 33 years of service, much of it in country towns. During my career, I managed three police stations, gaining experience in complex problem-solving and budget management. I also worked internationally in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands on capacity building missions, supporting local police in ethical and diligent policing practices. These experiences have given me skills I am ready to bring to the role of councillor.

I am not anti-mine; however, I believe our community should share in the benefits of the wealth generated within our boundaries. I would advocate for legislation requiring a percentage of mining royalties to be returned directly to local government, ensuring tangible benefits for those living closest to development.

I would also like to see council take a progressive approach to addressing the housing shortage, supporting innovative solutions, and cutting unnecessary red tape, while ensuring that infrastructure development is only undertaken with appropriate state government funding support.

Written and authorised by Andrew McRae, PO Box 1032 Bridgetown.



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Community Update: Listening, Learning, and Taking Action

At the October Grow Greenbushes meeting, Talison Lithium CEO Rob Telford provided an update on the company's efforts to reduce operational impacts and improve transparency. This update built on Rob's commitment at the April meeting, where he committed Talison to being a better neighbour, one that listens to community feedback and takes meaningful action.

Rob outlined how the company has taken this commitment seriously, focusing on learning from feedback and delivering improvements. While dust management remains a focus he cautioned everyone present that dust will still be seen and felt, especially heading into the drier months, but that the team were on alert to the priority of reducing the impact where there was opportunity to do so.

A live dust monitoring dashboard is now available on the Talison website, talisonlithium.com/monitoring offering real-time visibility of dust levels for community members. It also provides insight into when Talison enters an alert status, based on internal triggers that prompt action under the company's Trigger Action Response Plan. A dedicated manager has also been appointed to oversee dust control efforts throughout summer, ensuring effective coordination and improvement across the site and a responsive approach to dust events.

Other improvements include:

- Strengthened dust and noise controls, with faster response systems and upgraded monitoring.
- Investment in road infrastructure and speed monitoring through Greenbushes town.
- Measures to reduce blast impacts and transparency including a new blast noticeboard and adjusted blast timing reflective of community feedback.

Expanding Environmental Monitoring for Long-term Health Assessment

Dr Karina Martin, Talison's Head of Health and Safety, provided information on a new program to expand Talison's environmental monitoring in support of a long-term health assessment. This includes increased air monitoring and the collection of water, soil, and vegetation samples within a 10km radius of the mine.

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.

Current monitoring data does not indicate any cause for concern. The Greenbushes Lithium Operation operates under a 24-hour PM10 dust limit of 50µg/m³, 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.

However, we recognise we do have gaps in our environmental datasets and knowledge base on the long-term cumulative health risks, and we are committed to closing these gaps.

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 to participate in the sampling program. Sampling is scheduled to begin in January 2026, during the summer period when dust activity is typically elevated.

For more information on the expanded environmental monitoring program please visit 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.

Talison Mine Open Day 2025

On Saturday 20 September, Talison welcomed more than 500 visitors to our annual Mine Open Day. Its the one day of the year where we get a chance to open the gates and share what we do with friends, family, and the wider community.

As you can see in the photos below, attendees explored interactive displays hosted by Talison teams and contractors, showcasing current projects, machinery, and site operations. Local community groups added to the vibrant atmosphere with food stalls, live music, LEGO activities, and regional resources. Children enjoyed face painting, bubbles, a sandpit, and the ever-popular Dump Truck Simulator by Macmahon, always a crowd favourite!

A highlight of the day was the guided bus tour of the mine, offering a close-up look at our operations, including a blast demonstration by Action Drill & Blast and live pit activity from Macmahon's load and haul team.

This year's event was especially meaningful, as it marked Craig Dawson's final time presenting to tour groups before his retirement. It was a fitting moment to have Craig share the story of Greenbushes with the community one last time.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, helped out, or contributed to the day. We appreciate the ongoing support from our contractors and the Greenbushes community, and we look forward to seeing you again next year.



Leadership Update

We'd like to share that Craig Dawson is retiring after more than seven years of leadership as General Manager – Operations at Greenbushes. Since joining Talison in 2018, Craig has played a major role in the site's growth – tripling production, expanding the workforce from 300 to nearly 2000, and helping guide the business through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Craig also helped grow Talison's Community Investment Program significantly, strengthening its support for local initiatives and partnerships across the region. Craig will remain with us for a short period to support our new General Manager – Operations, David de Vries, as he settles into the role. David commenced in early September and brings more than 20 years mining experience, with a background in process engineering and leadership roles at Glencore and First Quantum Minerals. He is committed to driving performance with a strong focus on safety. We thank Craig for his contribution and warmly welcome David to the team.

Bridgetown-Greenbushes Community Landcare

Have you ever wondered what native animals may live in your garden, seen scratching's and diggings but not quite sure who is there?

Bridgetown-Greenbushes Landcare and Beaufortia Environmental may just be able to tell you!

On Tuesday October 7th, will be running a 'Wildlife in My Garden' workshop at Somme Creek parkland. This event is for families interested in learning how to create safe habitats within their home gardens and how to recognise who is living in their garden. This will be a great event for kids to get hands on building a Ringtail Possum drey to take home. Being on school holidays, we are hoping to see many local families get involved in this event, spending the morning outside enjoying learning about our local wildlife and creating protected habitat for the home garden.

Please bring along your lunch to enjoy afterwards on the grass at the skatepark. Bookings for this event are essential and can be done by contacting the Landcare Office at nrmbridgetown@gmail.com

October is a busy month for events, as we will also be running another 'Walk with the Wild Ones', wildflower walk. Just like last year, participants will enjoy a slow morning at the Wandoo Valley Walk. This year we have Ann Bently to share her wildflower information with us, whilst she takes us on a walk to see the beautiful wildflowers. As past participants will tell you, this is an event not to be missed, being out surrounded by the abundance of amazing local wildflowers is such an amazing experience. This walk will be held on Saturday October 18th, and registrations can be done by emailing me at nrmbridgetown@gmail.com

The above workshops are supported by funding from the Australian Government's State NRM Program.

Show Talk

Hi Everyone

Show Schedule Booklets have now been printed and are about town. Thank you to everyone involved in making these a reality. The online version is also on the website.

School Holidays for those staying at home it is the perfect time to work on your show entries. The Bridgetown Newsagents have the Colouring Comp entries and the Creative Comp Butterflies available now. Don't miss out. All entries to be returned between 20 – 27th October. Get cracking on your choice of medium for the Butterfly and make your creation a standout display on Showday.

Upcoming Events. Secretary Corinne is compiling volunteer positions. Please reach out if you would like to volunteer at the showgrounds over the Blues weekend, a busy bee, setting up before or helping on Showday.

2025 Memberships due 30th September. Head to our website where membership forms are available to download if you haven't received your renewal or want to become a new member.

Awesome Grounds the hard-working grounds staff are gradually making a big statement and the grounds are looking amazing. The rabbit population are not helping matters as they like the garden plants as well!

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 8th September 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 website address is www.bridgetownshow.com.au like us on Facebook 'Bridgetown Agricultural Show' or follow us on Instagram



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Be breast aware this October

Cancer Council WA is urging everyone in the South West region to take Breast Cancer Awareness Month as an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the common symptoms of breast cancer.

In 2021, 1,862 women were diagnosed with breast cancer, and sadly, 279 women and one man lost their lives to the disease. In the South West region, 175 women were diagnosed with breast cancer, and 31 died from it.

Common symptoms of breast cancer include:

- A lump or hard area in your breast or underarm, especially if it is only on one side
- A change in the size, shape or feel of your breast
- Change in the look of your breast, including redness, rash, or your skin looks like the skin of an orange, or is wrinkling in small folds
- Changes to the nipple, like it's pulled inwards, leaking, itchy or has a sore that won't heal
- Breast pain or discomfort, especially if it is only on one side
- An area of the breast that feels different to the rest

If you have had any of these symptoms for more than four weeks, tell your doctor, clinic nurse or Aboriginal health worker as soon as possible.

If you have any of the symptoms, it doesn't mean you've got cancer; often, it turns out to be something less serious, but finding breast cancer early often means that the breast cancer is small, less likely to have spread to other parts of the body and can be more effectively treated.

Cancer Information and Support

To find out more about common cancer symptoms, visit www.findcancerearly.com.au, or if you're feeling overwhelmed and you need someone to talk to, call Cancer Council's information and support line on 13 11 20 and speak to one of our cancer nurses.

Workforce Australia

Local Jobs

South West WA



Bridgetown Embrace ! Employment, Skills and Participation

Have your questions answered, meet services in your community, find employment assistance!

Attend Bridgetown Repertory Theatre on the 21st of October and obtain your scavenger hunt list and check out the stallholders.



Event details
21st October 2025

10am - 1pm

Bridgetown Repertory Theatre

185 Hampton St, Bridgetown WA

If you would like to be a stallholder at this event please email Tiarlie via Support@swlocaljobs.com.au

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Transition Bridgetown

Supporting Our Community's Mental Health

With the threat of climate change hanging over all of us, attacks on science, and the deterioration of civility in global politics, the world can be a depressing place right now. Add to that the constant grinding oppression of the cost-of-living crisis and it's little wonder that the mental health of many in our community is under strain.

Thankfully help is at hand in the form of Transition Bridgetown's next Open Space event "Going the Distance". It's all about making mental health support work better for regional communities and it's presented by experts in the field:

Dr Sarah Youngson from the Bridgetown Medical Centre, Blackwood Youth Action and the Bridgetown Suicide Prevention Network; Colin Penter, from the Western Australian Association for Mental Health; Lisette Kalevald from the Centre for Social Impact UWA; and Ingrid Behr and Judi Fletcher from Henri Nouwen House

It's all happening on Sunday 19th October 12 to 2pm in the Uniting Church Hall and is a valuable local follow-up to WA Mental Health Week which runs from 4th to 11th October with its theme of supporting people in the community to stay mentally healthy. We'd love to see you there but please register by email transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com or text 0432 105 754.

Transition Bridgetown's Open Space events have been a resounding success in the past year, a point emphasized by outgoing Transition Bridgetown president Professor Emeritus Jim Ife.

At the group's AGM on Sunday 28th September Professor Ife spoke of the group's important work creating community sustainability in the face of disturbing news from around the world.

"The answer does not lie with the charismatic and demagogic leader. Rather it lies with the power of the local, recognizing that ecological sustainability must go hand-in-hand with economic and social justice," Professor Ife said.

One of this year's highlights for Transition Bridgetown was the Open Space conducted with Friends of the Forest and the Save Dalgarup Campaign, which raised awareness of mining rights throughout the forests surrounding Bridgetown.

Another was August's Open Space "Creative Actions for Climate Hope" which screened a documentary on the vast dance work The Stars Descend, a five-chapter story stretching across a vast ecological pathway from Woodtjup Margaret River to Garlgula Kalgoorlie.

The war against waste remains a key focus for the group. Working with the Waste Warriors group, Transition Bridgetown has made huge strides in expanding what can be recycled in Bridgetown, he said.

He also spoke about the success of the Regen Fest and the Wash Against Waste Trailer's valuable role in reducing waste at community events.

"Organisations like Transition Bridgetown don't just happen, they only exist because of the dedication and commitment of committee members and other volunteers who donate their time to a cause they believe in," he said.



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MINISTER REPLIES ON DALGARUP

Jenny Dewing and I have finally received a letter from Minister for Environment Matthew Swinbourn in which he advised he was responding on behalf of the Government to emails to Premier Cook and Minister Swinbourn sent by Blackwood Environment Society and Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest on 27 May 2025.

Much of his reply repeated readily available information about the requirements of the Mining Act 1978 and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) process to consider expansion of the conservation estate.

This latter process may in due course resolve the status of the long intended Dalgarpur reserves, but it is clear this will take some years to achieve, by which time our Objections to the granting of exploration licences may be past history.

An important point was that the Minister "notes the points that you have raised in your letter and has asked DBCA to consider your points as they progress this initiative." This is the first acknowledgement we have received that our points may at last be taken seriously.

He reminded us that under the Mining Act 1978 any person may apply for a mining tenement over reserved lands such as State forest or national parks. However an application must be submitted before any mining activities, including exploration, can take place. Such exploration activities require the written consent of the Minister for Mines, with the prior agreement of the Minister for the Environment.

"Before providing this agreement a thorough assessment is undertaken by DBCA to carefully consider the potential environmental impacts on reserved lands. My decisions are informed by this thorough evaluation prior to any determination", he wrote.

It is quite possible that such assessments may not align with the aspirations of Bridgetown groups such as BGFF, BES, the Shire and tourism groups, who have fought for

35 years or more for a more holistic approach to the one and only area in our Shire with a comprehensive set of special community values.

For this reason it is very important that our Community take an ownership stake in future development of Dalgarpur National Park, and make sure our aspirations are widely recognised.

Richard Wittenoom

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Vote **1** STEPHEN BUTLER

Candidate for Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire Council

I have nominated for Council because I believe I have the knowledge, experience and skill set to achieve positive results for the ratepayers of Bridgetown-Greenbushes.

My experience is the result of managing both human and physical resources in leadership positions at all levels of government, Local, State and Federal.

As a retired WA Police Senior Sergeant, with service as a Senior Advisor in Papua New Guinea, East Timor, and later with the United Nations in Timor Leste, I have experience in successfully managing resources in extremely difficult environments.

Previous experience as State Compliance Manager with the Federal government, Security Manager for Argyle Diamonds and Manager for a large metropolitan Council, has enhanced my ability to manage governance, resources and finance issues at corporate level.

Our Shire requires a review of its high debt levels, management practices & spending priorities. We need to be spending smarter, reducing unnecessary expenses and keeping Rates affordable, whilst not impacting on community services.

I see this Council election as a great opportunity to provide fresh eyes to ongoing issues that continue to concern our community. We need a strong Council to get issues fixed.



If elected I will work to ensure our Council;

- Focuses on real community needs
- Champions transparency and accountability of its decisions
- Reduces Council debt without impacting on Rates or Services
- Concentrates on Council issues, not State or Federal
- Keeps Council Rates affordable
- Values community consultation and input
- Reduces wasteful spending of your money
- Regularly reviews its administrative policies and practices
- Actively promotes tourism of our Shire, including Greenbushes
- Commits to delivering the basic functions and services of Council

Authorised by Stephen Butler JP, 175 Catterick road, Catterick WA 6255.



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Blues at Bridgetown 2025

Continued from cover...Now in 2025, frontwoman Katy Steele is joined by original band members Simon Leach and Scott O'Donoghue to perform the classic songs that defined their sound.

A band of four brothers, Coterie encompass an authenticity often lost in modern music, their records telling lyrical stories drawn from real-life experience and using melodically rich vocals to bring a raw narrative heat to the songs. Immersed in a world of surf and art, the band has developed a unique blend of soulful rock music with perfect four-part harmonies that have audiences demanding more. Coterie have enjoyed sold-out headline shows across Australia and New Zealand, their live performance harnessing a lifetime of musical connection, evoking feelings that only 15 years of playing together can create.

They'll be joined by 19-Twenty, Frank Sultana, Great Gable, Hussy Hicks, Jack Botts, Jeff Lang, Karen Lee Andrews, ROSHANI, Smoke Stack Rhino, Andrew Winton, Azure Ryder, Ben Catley, Blackwood Rising, Blue Shaddy, Charlie Youngson Trio, Chris Cavill, Dolce Blue, Emily Barker, Finn Alexander & The Forever Party, Gaudion, Glenn Skuthorpe Band, Hazel, Jason Ayres Band, Kyle Lionheart, Lightnin Jack Band, Martin Lee Cropper, Matty T Wall Band, Melody Pool, merci mercy, Michael Vdelli & The Art Of Dysfunction, Minnie Marks, Natural Boogie, Proud Mary, Reuben De Melo, Rosscoe Frantz, Salt & Steel, Shaun Kirk, Stellar Moon, Steve Tallis & The Snakes Of Desire, Surely Shirley, Tanya Hemi, Tanya Ransom, Teeny Tiny Stevies, The Little Stevies, The Satisfaction, The Sisters Of Corn And Daun, The Southern Right Blues Band, Timothy Nelson, Tracey Barnett, Two Dollar Dog and more.

Plus there's the legendary Saturday Street Party with two massive free stages and a huge range of vendors selling food and wares in the main street, while entertainers and buskers soundtrack that unbeatable festival ambience.

Tickets – giving access to seven stages including the newly renovated Festival Club - are now on sale through bluesatbridgetown.com.au where all package details can be found. Be quick though, our pre-release tickets sold out in no time! Bob Gordon

The Blackwood Marathon Relay 2025 -Could This Be Its Last?

Continued from back page...aging or the passing of significant personnel and the continued pressure on the voluntary work force along with other events held during a crowded Spring calendar have all contributed to The Event arriving a crossroads.

In 2025, a huge effort has been made by a very passionate organising committee which has bred renewed vigour into "The Event." The securing of a substantial State Government grant has enabled a significant professional publicity campaign, which together with major sponsors - the Bridgetown Greenbushes Shire and Talison who have offset some of the traffic management and other operational costs. The future of The Event will however depend primarily on its perceived value by our local communities and the sporting fraternity. Ultimately, the number of participants will decide it's future.

For all information surrounding The Marathon relay, rules, and refreshments along the track, go to the Bridgetown Rotary website at bridgetownrotary.org and click on the event, or go direct to blackwoodmarathon.org and click on the 2025 event.

A huge thank you goes out on behalf of the Bridgetown Rotary Club to all the volunteers, sponsors and private landholders who over many years have tirelessly helped make this event possible. All the best for a great event on Saturday October 25th 2025.

Neale Armstrong (President and Committee Chair – Bridgetown Rotary Club)

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Mad Potters Need Your Help!

Have you ever wondered who takes care of the hanging pots that help to beautify our Main Streetscape? It's the merry band of Mad Potters! It would be wonderful to have a few more willing volunteer gardeners to help out, now that the days are warming up and the plants will need more attention. It would only take an hour or so of your time each week; even less if we had more hands to do the job. If you'd like to join us, please get in touch with Wallace 0478 627 438 or Rob on 0413 447 958 Pictured here: Teresa, Marty and Wallace replanting and topping up the pots and Jennie and Rob set up for watering.

Jude Fletcher



A Boost for the RFDS

At the end of August an energetic crowd attended the annual ball for the RFDS in the newly renovated Bridgetown Town Hall. Thanks to the generosity of the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Mitre 10, Bridgetown Pharmacy, Richfeeds, several Manjimup orchards plus the Social Dance Group members and our DJ, a sum of over \$3,000 was raised. This is a vital service for rural people and many attendees have had contact with the Service. Patricia Martin



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The Blackwood Marathon Relay 2025 - Could This Be Its Last?

To commemorate WA's 150th anniversary of the Swan River Colony in 1979, the State Government put a call out to organisations across the state to set up some form of celebratory event. The Rotary Club of Bridgetown took up the challenge by sketching a route across 56 km of hilly terrain following the Blackwood River which a team consisting of various sport disciplines could "carry a message" from Boyup to Bridgetown. This formed the foundation for the Blackwood Marathon Relay with 56 teams in its first year, 88 in its second and more than 100 since then.

Long before all manner of contemporary sporting and cultural events now held in towns across the South West, the Blackwood Marathon Relay helped put both Bridgetown and Boyup Brook on the map with many people drawn to the beauty of the Blackwood River Valley. Funds raised are invested in the local region including infrastructure projects like Aged Persons residences in both towns.

Once again on Saturday October 25th 2025, the Rotary Club of Bridgetown together with hundreds of volunteers will be making the event a reality come rain, hail or shine.

The publication of October 2003 marking 25 years of "The Event" saw Past President Clint Hannah remarking that up to that point, some "4903 teams (24,515 competitors) and 149 iron persons had participated. Iron people first enrolled in 1988 when Australia celebrated its Bi-Centenary and in the mid 2010's 4 member teams were introduced given the degree of difficulty some teams had in securing an equestrian leg.

This unique relay enables people with significant sporting skills across 4 or 5 disciplines including running, canoeing, swimming, equestrian and cycling, to effectively pass the "baton" between each leg resulting in the first team across the line being declared the winner. Significant monetary prizes and commemorative medallions for each team successfully managing to finish the event have been presented in the past. In 2025, the organising committee have revived the issuance of medallions to ALL who successfully complete the course not just those on the podium, and thanks to a benevolent sponsor, a monetary reward for each person doing the fastest leg will form part of the prize list.

On Saturday October 25th at 9:00 am we hope to see more than 100 competitors head off from the Boyup Brook Football oval along the run leg heading towards Jayes Bridge area where the Canoe and Swim events are set up. From there, the horses and then cyclists departing Winnejuip Bridge will hopefully arrive at the Bridgetown Sports Ground around 3pm onwards. Announcement of prize winners is expected to take place at around 6pm where competitors and spectators alike can partake in food, drink and banter about the adventures of the day.

The event having been held every year except one cancelled during COVID has seen entry numbers dwindling since then. Many factors including huge increases in costs to run the event, ...*Continued on page 14*

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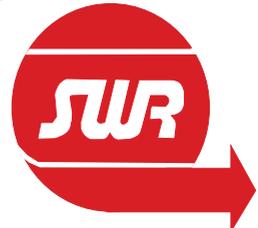
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