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September 1st 2026

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The Blackwood Relay

The Blackwood Relay will be held on Saturday 31st October 2026 and will feature three participation options. The traditional five leg relay and Iron Person, a new Three leg format either as a team or going Solo.

The introduction of the three leg event is one of the significant changes and is expected to attract a broader range of competitors. Featuring a swim, cycle and run format, it aligns more closely with traditional triathlon events while retaining the distinctive character and community spirit that have always set the Blackwood Relay apart. In order to meet the Tri event format, the run leg has been shifted from the start of the event to the end.

The redesigned course places the Blackwood River at the heart of the event and showcases more of the Blackwood Valley and Bridgetown than ever before.

Competitors will experience spectacular sections of private property rarely accessible to the public, while travelling through areas of Bridgetown that have never

previously formed part of the event.

The cycling leg has been significantly extended, creating a more challenging and rewarding experience for competitors, while the overall course has been redesigned to improve event flow, reduce downtime and deliver a stronger finish line atmosphere. One of the biggest benefits of the new format is the improved spectator experience.

Multiple viewing locations throughout the course will allow family, friends and visitors to see far more of the action, creating a more engaging and vibrant event day for the whole community. The committee has also responded directly to participant feedback by introducing professional electronic timing. Digital timing fobs will act as the relay baton and provide more accurate result enhanced competitor tracking and a modern race day experience.

"We've introduced modern timing technology, improved spectator opportunities, a more streamlined format and a course that showcases some incredible parts of our region," Mr Armstrong said... *Continued on page 14*



Photos from previous years' events



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Rotary Projects Timor – Leste East

Bridgetown Rotary Club has over the last five years contributed to providing clean drinking water into schools and orphanages in Timor-Leste East and have two installations proudly displaying the Bridgetown Rotary Club name plaque.

Rotarian Max Bird from the Rotary Club of Kwinana is the Project Manager of Rotary Projects Timor-Leste East (RPTLE), along with Chris Shedley, who both recently returned from Timor, gave a talk on Tuesday 17th August at the Bridgetown Rotary Club about this critical program and infrastructure which assures reliable access to water across Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste has had an extremely rough last 30 years. Over that time the country has struggled through traumatic efforts to separate itself from Portugal and then from Indonesia, resulting in patchy and scarred national infrastructure, the rebuilding of which is taking decades. The presence of Rotary has gone a long way towards initiating and improving life-saving water infrastructure projects.

Rotary's RPTLE has been operating since 2010. Max Bird has helped lead a shift to make sure the water is also of the safest quality possible.

Rotary is united in this endeavour with three other partners. The first partner is The Don Bosco Training Centre in Comoro, Timor-Leste. This is a vocational institution that offers a range of short courses in various fields such as carpentry, electricity, and welding. It is privately managed by the Salesians of Don Bosco and has been instrumental in providing vocational training to out-of-school youth and aspiring workers in the building construction sector.

The second partner is Disaster Aid Australia (DAA), who supply the water filters and the technical knowledge to install and operate the units.

The third partner is the Ministry of Rural Development in the Government of Timor-Leste. The Minister is also the deputy Prime Minister.

Max Bird explains, "There is no water on tap for the people of Timor-Leste

"The work we do is in partnership with the locals every step of the way. We buy the tanks from Timor Roofing, who import rolls of Blue Scope Steel. This is then formed into corrugated sheeting, and the sheets are then rolled and made into tanks.

The recipient, the school or the orphanage will facilitate the building of the tower for the header tank and then the housing of the main tank and filters and water taps.

"It's important for the locals to have ownership and the knowledge of the system.

"The RPTLE project provide two 1000 litre water tanks, and one 100 litre water tank, the Smart Aid UltraFilter, pipes and taps, and the expertise and management of the project... *Continued page 3*

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Rotary Projects Timor – Leste East

This system requires no electricity, minimal maintenance and has a ten-year lifespan removing 99.99% biological contaminants and solids of up to 10,000 litres per day and is simple to install.

“The cost of the project is between \$12,000 and \$15,000 per installation.”

Guided by strategic research from Timor-Leste's Don Bosco at the Comoro Technical School, RPTLE expanded its focus to ensure that the water being pumped into schools and orphanages was of safe, drinkable quality. Every step of the process was a collaborative effort between Rotary and the community.

The RPTLE, in partnership with the technical school, has installed filtered water systems in seventeen orphanages and thirty-five secondary schools, ensuring access to clean water for an incredible 60,000 students. These efforts require extensive preparatory and finishing work, encompassing methods such as spring water capture, bore drilling, rainwater harvesting and general infrastructure upgrades.

Max is an evangelist with the task of raising \$200,000 each year for this project. He visits every Rotary Club around the country seeking funding and has managed to secure some private funding as well. He was well received in Bridgetown.

The Timor-Leste government has also asked for the project to be included in clinics and hospitals.

Max continues, “The benefits of the safe drinking water systems have multiple follow-on effects.

“Women and children can forego the sometimes hours-long trek to source clean water each day. Plastic bottle waste has dropped, and there has even been a forest conservation benefit, due to the reduction in the



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need for firewood to boil the water.

“Rotary in some ways are ensuring that every child in Timor-Leste has access to clean water; a fundamental resource for a healthier and more promising future for our closest neighbour.”

Chris Shedley, with his horticultural background, has also identified a couple of possible agricultural income streams for the locals. On the island is a tree which is a similar genus to the Chinese favourite Jujube fruit, commonly called Chinese date or red date, this is a Chinese delicacy. A similar plant on Timor Leste is Ziziphus timorensis, Timor date palm.

There may be a potential to graft Jujube onto the local plant. The Jujube sells for 30 to 40 dollars a kilo. With the large Chinese population now in Timor-Leste it could be a good cash crop for the locals.

On the island there is also native Indian sandalwood trees, although it may take a few years to cultivate the plantations, sandalwood production could also provide a ready income for the locals.

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Out of the Shadows Walk

The Bridgetown Greenbushes Suicide Prevention Network (affectionately known as The Bee Gees – ‘Stayin’ Alive’) invites all of our community to join us for an ‘Out of the Shadows Walk’ on September 12, 2026.

Every day, 9 Australians lose their lives to suicide. And every day, families, friends and communities are impacted by these devastating losses.

The ‘Out of the Shadows Walk’ is an opportunity for us to come together and support one another. A reminder, that we don’t walk alone. Please join us for a reflective community walk to remember those we have lost to suicide, support those impacted by suicide, and strengthen connections across our community

The walk will start at the Tennis Club in Bridgetown at 6.30am, followed by the unveiling of Blue Tractor. The tractor is a symbol of hope and care for all who are struggling in our community. Every part of it — from the tractor itself to its blue paint job, the concreting, and the transport to and from site — was made possible through generous community contributions, making it a true representation of community togetherness. We hope the tractor will help start conversations, raise awareness of suicide prevention and mental health, and highlight the support services available in our community.

Following the walk and tractor unveiling, we welcome you to join us for a free coffee and bbq breakfast.

We hope to see you there. Our community cares.

Dr Sarah Youngson

What is the Blue Tractor?

The Blue Tractor will help start conversations, raise awareness of suicide prevention and mental health, and highlight local support services across the Bridgetown Greenbushes community.



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Long-Term Health Risk Assessment Update

Throughout the year, we have been keeping the community informed about the progress of the Long-Term Health Risk Assessment being undertaken for the Greenbushes community.

As work on the assessment has progressed, we have identified the need for additional air quality monitoring during the 2026-27 summer period to support the final assessment.

Understanding potential long-term exposure risk to dust is an important part of the assessment, and collecting data during peak summer conditions will help ensure the assessment is informed by a broader and more representative set of seasonal air quality data.

Additional monitoring is planned later this year and into early next year, with the results incorporated into the assessment.

As a result, the long term Health Risk Assessment is now expected toward the second half of 2027.

While this extends the original timeline, we believe it is important to take the time needed to ensure the assessment provides the community with clear, reliable information.

Talison remains committed to keeping the community informed and will continue to provide updates as the assessment progresses.

Inspiring Future Careers



Laboratory Visit: Bridgetown High School teacher Michelle (second from left) joined students Evie, Tahni, Grae, Jiliana and Indie for a tour of the Laboratory at the Greenbushes Lithium Operation with Analytical Chemist Hodan (left) and Laboratory Trainer, Alysse (far right).

Inspiration, connection and career discovery were the focus when Bridgetown High School students joined Talison mentors at the Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA Inspiring Girls Forum recently.

For the sixth consecutive year, Talison proudly hosted regional students at the event, which encourages young women in Years 10 to 12 to explore pathways in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The two-day experience began with a tour of the Greenbushes Lithium Operation (pictured above), where students learned more about career opportunities across the operation, including a visit to the laboratory.

Joined by their Talison mentors, the students then travelled to Perth to attend the forum at Optus Stadium, where they heard from women working across STEM industries and spoke directly with industry professionals about future study and career pathways.

Students returned home inspired by the experience and the opportunities available to them.

"It was an amazing event to go to and a great way for young girls to learn about careers outside of social norms."

-Juliana

"It was such an amazing day and night. Seeing all the opportunity you can have in mining is so interesting and inspiring. The experience was made so much better with the beautiful, talented Talison workers."

-Grae



Indie, Tahni, Grae, Evie and Jiliana at the CME WA Inspiring Girls forum in Perth. Photo courtesy of Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA

What a Night it Really Was

On Saturday night, 15th August, the OUCH Youth Festival was presented in front of a full house in the hall at Saint St Brigid's School.

The OUCH Youth Festival is run by the Bridgetown Repertory Theatre under the guidance of Meegan Cullen and Chris Shedley, with all the performers being seventeen or under in age.

This year 38 performers took part in the two and half-hour show, the performers showcased their talents in a wide variety of performances on display. There were seven performances in dance and ballet, three solo singers and musicians, a stage play, 'Members Only', by Bridgetown Youth Theatre, along with three bands performing, The Scientist, Velociraptors, and Drop Dead Controls, a loud rock band to finish the show.

Chris explains. "It was a fantastic night with each dance, song, play and band receiving rapturous applause.

"The OUCH Youth Festival initially got the name OUCH from the feeling of dread and impending pain some get from performing on stage for the first time. Some on the night had that feeling, but after a little encouragement from those back stage the show went on.

"After their performance it's the euphoric feeling of joy they get from an appreciative audience which makes them want to come back and perform again.

"This unconditional support from the audience encourages a feeling with 'so much love in the room' they perform at their best."

Drama teacher Meegan Cullen said, "I have been involved in OUCH for quite a few years and yet every year I am still floored by the young talent in our town.

"It is not just the talent across the arts that is impressive; it is the kids' willingness to get up and have a go and put themselves on show that always makes me smile and feel a wonderful respect and appreciation for our OUCH performers."

Mark De Vattimo from MMDV Music made the comment, "The young performers had confidence and good attitudes when it came to preparing for the show. My own students were firing on all cylinders on the night. Great to see them all hanging out together in the backstage area and creating a buzz. Bravo to all!"

Emily Dewar was pleased to say, "The Ouch festival provides a creative arts opportunity for young people in the community to share their talents, challenge themselves and connect with other likeminded peers, as they showcase their chosen art, all with an encouraging team of mentors and teachers and an enthusiastic and supportive audience."

Those instructors, teachers and organisers of the night, Cecelia Karafilis, Emily Dewar, Meegan Cullen, Mark De Vattimo and Chris Shedley are to hold a debrief meeting on the night, and to commence organising the 26th OUCH concert in 2027.

"A family. A year. A sink."

Bridgetown Repertory's next production is 'The Kitchen Sink', an award-winning play written by Tom Wells, which will be directed by Grace Hitchin.

The Kitchen Sink tells the story of a working-class family, living in the north of England. A funny and tender play about a family who are struggling trying to realise their dreams for a better life.

Martin, who is the father is played by James Davies, he is facing the failure of his milk delivery business as pieces are falling off his milk float as quickly as he's losing customers; his kids, Billy, (David Spooner), and Sophie, (Lyrix Carlson), are striving to achieve their career ambitions with uncertain success. And his wife Kath, (Kath Fazackerley), is battling all the while trying to keep them all on track.

The whole while their kitchen sink just keeps malfunctioning. Pete, (Leon Asplin), a shy and slightly love-struck plumber, is called on for repairs to the sink, which tend to be required at the most hostile of times in the kitchen.

Grace Hitchin enlightens us on how the play is coming along.

"The play was written in 2009 and first staged in 2011 and has been performed by a number of professional and amateur theatres alike, but I'm sure this will be only the second time it has been performed in Western Australia.

"During the play we get to share a year with a family whose supposedly ordinary lives are rich with idiosyncrasies, and we get to witness them leaning on one another to get through tough times.

"This is a funny and utterly gripping play, I'm sure all theatre goers will thoroughly enjoy.

"We have cast three wonderful young actors, Lyrix, David and Leon, all with youth theatre experience. They are all rehearsing and performing their roles marvellously well along with the experience of Kath Fazackerley.

"James Davies also a talented and experienced actor who will be performing for the first time in Bridgetown.

"Hugh Liston is constructing the set, a kitchen diner. "When asked to sum up in six words what his award-winning play, The Kitchen Sink, was about, Tom Wells replied, "A family. A year. A sink."

The play will be staged during September, on Friday 4th, Saturday 5th from 7.30pm and a matinee on Sunday 6th from 2pm, and in the following week on Friday 11th, Saturday 12th at 7.30 and Sunday 13th, a matinee from 2pm.

Bookings at Try bookings from 31st August or tickets will be available at the door.

We Want To Hear Your Ideas!

How often do you hear yourself saying "We should/could have here in our town"?

Well, now is your chance to make it happen!

Do you have a great idea for our community? We want to hear it. Apply to Pitch!

SOUP + PITCH is a micro-funding dinner to celebrate and support creative projects in our community.

When: Wednesday 30 September 6-9 pm

Where: Bridgetown Tennis Club (BYO drinks. Hot drinks provided)

SOUP + BREAD + VOTE = \$10 Cash at the door – the winner takes all!

The concept is simple:

4 people have 4 minutes each to pitch their community focused dream projects. The audience votes for the project they want to support whilst homemade soup and Fallowbread sourdough bread [provided by Will] is being served and chatter abounds.

The Transition Bridgetown Committee will select up to 4 Bridgetown or Greenbushes community members from the Pitch applications we receive and offer the applicants an opportunity to hone their pitch skills with the Blackwood Valley Toastmasters group.

To be eligible for selection, please complete the online application form by 8 September 5pm.

Here is the link to the form <https://rb.gy/1qfzzg> or email us at transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com

If your idea is accepted, you'll be invited to present at this exciting event.

You'll know on the 15 September if your Pitch application has been successful.

You'll then have 2 weeks to prepare and encourage your friends to come along to support your Pitch!

Ask them to book on Humanitix by 25th Sept to assist with catering requirements.

<https://events.humanitix.com/bridgetown-soup-pitch>

For further information please email transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com with your contact details and we'll be in touch.

We welcome donations of food items for the soup ingredients.

Please let us know if you have surplus produce that you'd like to contribute.

No pitch but want to join in the fun? Just book on Humanitix to let us know you're coming!

We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Love from the Transition Bridgetown Committee Inc.

Backyard buddies

Don't be a tosser: Aquatic weeds

Recently, on a beautiful winter's day on the Canning River in Perth, the sun was shining and a lucky few were out enjoying the amenity of our stunning river. One such person was kayaking when they saw something suspicious – someone hurling an object from the Nicholson Road Bridge. The quick-thinking member of the public retrieved the mystery projectile, an open container jammed to the brim with one of the world's most devastating aquatic weeds, salvinia! Fortunately, no plants escaped into the environment due to this person's fast intervention and prompt reporting to nearby DBCA officers.

What is Salvinia and why is it of concern?

Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) is a Weed of National Significance (WONS). It is an extremely damaging freshwater aquatic weed which would cause havoc to agriculture and the environment if it became established in water systems of Western Australia. Salvinia can reproduce at an explosive rate; it prefers still or slow-moving water with a high nutrient content. It grows in both tropical and temperate regions. Salvinia will readily form a mat completely covering the water surface. It blocks lakes, dams, drains and irrigation channels. The mass of green material may transpire considerably more water than would be lost by normal surface evaporation. The decaying debris pollutes and de-oxygenates the water, endangering fish and other wildlife. The water becomes unfit for livestock or human use. Infestations of salvinia often make

wetland areas useless as retreats for native waterfowl. Salvinia was most likely introduced to Australia as a pond and aquarium plant. Infestations have previously occurred in some wetland areas in Western Australia, with isolated populations discovered as far south as Denmark and north to Kununurra. Salvinia is sometimes found in aquaria or ponds, but this is illegal, as it is prohibited throughout Western Australia. We remind people that weedy aquatic plants are not the only risk to agriculture and the environment. It is of the utmost importance not to empty any aquarium or fishpond contents into natural water bodies or irrigation channels; alien organisms can negatively impact our native aquatic life, and fish can spread disease and affect native fish stocks.

What to look for and how to report

Report any unfamiliar floating plants or illegal dumping of aquatic material in our waterways to our Department or via CrimeStoppers. Please provide the location and photos of the suspicious material so it can be investigated. Salvinia and other declared aquatic plants are also illegally traded on platforms such as Facebook Marketplace and various hobbyist forums. This recent close call highlights just how important the community is in our fight against invasive species.

Honouring Richard

At the recent AGM, Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest (BGFF) recognised Richard Wittenoom's retirement from the presidency after 17 years by awarding him Honorary Life Membership, recognition of what the committee called "unwavering dedication" to the forests around Bridgetown.

Richard took on the president's role in 2008 and immediately threw himself into the fight to save the Warrup block from logging. Public meetings, a petition of 1,451 signatures, a cultural heritage survey, submission after submission, forest events that drew up to 90 people, and on-ground action with people even locking themselves onto equipment to stop the logging. "It was massive," the new President, Alison Wright said in presenting the award. "Keeping that kind of momentum going for years takes real commitment."

The campaigning around Warrup quietened after those five intense years, but Richard never really stopped. He kept working in the background, taking up every public submission opportunity to advocate for the forests. When mining exploration tenements were proposed across the Dalgarpur forest, his passion reignited, he called a public meeting, lodged an objection, started a petition and worked with the council to secure their support for our objection to the mining exploration. He also introduced fellow committee members to Solocator for mapping forest tracks, a tool now used to relocate trail cameras in the field, and took them out to Dalgarpur themselves so they could see, first-hand, exactly what was at stake.

Thank you, Richard, for everything you've done over the years," the committee said. "And I reckon the forests would thank you too, if they could."

Congratulations, Richard. BGFF is in good hands, thanks in no small part to the foundation you built.

One of Richard's greatest passions is to see an extension of the current Dalgarpur National Park into a Greater Dalgarpur National Park which would include the Jarrah Park, Nunn block and the proposed



Alison presenting Richard with a Certificate of appreciation

Dalgarpur nature reserve surrounding Karri Gully.

To continue Richard's long-running advocacy for a Greater Dalgarpur the Save Dalgarpur team, comprising members of BGFF and Blackwood Environment Society, is inviting the community to see a special part of it for themselves. On Sunday 11 October, join a walk through the proposed Dalgarpur nature reserve. The area has no official walking tracks, so the route follows old logging trails, some still marked by remnants of the historic rail-based timber operations that once ran through the forest.

The Save Dalgarpur team will be joined on the day by Greens MLC Jess Beckerling. Walkers can choose between a 12km or 8km option, and the event doubles as a chance to hear about the long-stalled push to bring the area, first promised as a nature reserve back in 1999, formally into the conservation estate, and about the mining exploration threat it now faces.

This is a walk for confident, capable bushwalkers who are comfortable navigating rough and in places overgrown terrain. To register or find out more, email savedalgarpur@gmail.com. Alison

Show Talk

Hi Everyone

Showplace changes are now with the Printer to undergo the final stages, a proofread and then print. Thank you to our Section Stewards and Sponsors for their huge commitment and generosity to ensure our 2026 "Festival of Memories" will stand out as exciting and interesting classes to enter with outstanding prizes to be won.

What's New? The 2026 theme has found its way into many Sections, some are; childhood memory inspired cordial; history book arrangement; olden days arrangement; Bridgetown historic transport; a family heritage cake; memory lane painting; Bridgetown 2025 Show storm; thank a Farmer; early dairy display items, photos and giveaways being organised by Sarah Gardiner.

Entertainment: Sideshow Alley will be overflowing onto the Oval which is already chockers, including Diverse Sports Dogs displays for all breeds, sizes and backgrounds and Canine Hoopers for older or injury impaired.

Memberships: Time is running out, so if you would

still like to renew your membership or become a new member, please contact the secretary at admin@bridgetownshow.com.au

Showgrounds Budget Camping Bookings: Non-powered budget camping tickets for Blues at Bridgetown are still available through Humanitix. Links to purchase tickets can be found on our website and social media pages. Please note: Powered sites are SOLD OUT. We strongly encourage campers to pre-purchase their camping tickets saving time at the gate and moving vehicles off the road and into the grounds quickly and safely. For further questions, contact camping@bridgetownshow.com.au.

We look forward to welcoming visitors to the Showgrounds in November!

Next Meeting: will be Wednesday 9th 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: admin@bridgetownshow.com.au website address is www.bridgetownshow.com.au like us on Facebook 'Bridgetown Agricultural Show' or follow us on Instagram.

Blackwood Relay Unveils Biggest Change In 46 Years

The biggest transformation in the event's 47 year history is set to take place on Saturday October 31st, with organisers unveiling a bold new vision for one of Western Australia's most unique sporting events.

Following an extensive review of the 2025 event and feedback from competitors, volunteers and supporters, the Rotary Marathon Committee has announced a refreshed format, redesigned course and new name for the event formerly known as the Blackwood Marathon Relay.

Now simply known as the Blackwood Relay, the event will retain the spirit and heritage that have made it a regional icon since 1979, while introducing significant changes designed to secure its future and broaden its appeal.

Rotary Club President Neale Armstrong said the changes were the result of months of consultation and planning along with changes in the availability of infrastructure.

"We didn't want change for the sake of change," Mr Armstrong said.

"Competitors told us what they loved about the event and what they felt could be improved. We listened carefully and the 2026 Blackwood Relay is the result of that feedback."

One message came through loud and clear from participants, the iconic equestrian leg had to stay.

"The horse leg remains because competitors consistently told us it is one of the things that makes this event truly unique," Mr Armstrong said.

"It's part of the events identity and we were determined to preserve that heritage while creating a format that is more sustainable and potentially appealing to future generations." Rachel Mott

A Thoroughbred

While a couple of female customers were browsing in the shop, one happened to spot the CWA cookbook on display for sale. "Oh, this book takes me back," she said quite thoughtfully to her friend who had accompanied her into the shop.

"It was a wedding present; my husband enjoyed every cake I baked from the recipes in that book.

"In fact, he liked me to bake them in the same order as is in the book, he liked having a slice of cake every day, and he always knew which type of cake to expect next.

"It was galling, he never carried any extra weight, but he ate a lot of cake."

Sighing, "Me, I'd put on weight just watching him eat the cake. "The countless times I'd warn him; you'll put on so much weight you won't be able to shift yourself because of all the cake you are eating."

"You never carry any extra weight when you're a thoroughbred," he'd always reply, wearing that silly grin on his face,

Forlornly stating, "Well, he's no longer about. I've only recently discovered the full quote behind his thoroughbred analogy he was always boasting about, the full saying is 'Thoroughbreds and Alley Cats never carry any extra weight,' he certainly was no thoroughbred, the scrawny bugger."

Sharing this familiar memory had both of them giggling as they walked together leaving the shop.

Operation Christmas Child

It's that time of the year for people to put together their shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child. A time when we can have the fun of putting together a shoebox filled with gifts for children in countries where children have really very little in their lives.

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. Think about it now and start filling your box, some child will love you for it.



Local Voices: What We Heard

Thank you to everyone who took part in Talison's first Voconiq Local Voices Survey.

The feedback shared through the survey gave us valuable insight into what's important to people across the communities where we operate, and where we need to do better. We're committed to listening and acting on what you've told us.

What the survey showed

The survey provided a snapshot of how people view Talison, our operations and our role in the region, and the issues that matter most to them.

What's working well

Many respondents recognise Talison's contribution to local employment and the regional economy, and value the role we play in supporting regional prosperity.

Where we need to do better

The feedback also highlighted some clear opportunities for improvement:

- Environmental management: concerns about noise, blasting vibration, biodiversity and environmental impacts remain the most common area of concern
- Visibility, transparency and responsiveness: while many respondents believe we listen, people want more information about our operations, how we're managing environmental impacts and how feedback influences decisions
- Understanding our operations: awareness varies across communities and we need to do more to explain what we do and why

What we're doing

As the first Local Voices Survey, the results give us a starting point to measure how perceptions change over time. The feedback also helps us understand where we can strengthen our relationship with local communities and be a better neighbour. We'll use what we've heard to:

- Improve communication about our operations, environmental management activities and community investments through newsletters, website updates and direct community engagement
- Be clearer about how community feedback influences our decisions and what we're doing in response to concerns raised
- Continue improving our environmental management and share more about this work
- Help people better understand what we do and how we operate

We want your ongoing feedback

Your feedback helps us understand what's working and where concerns remain. We'll run another Local Voices pulse survey in the first half of next year to see how we're tracking and where we can improve.

In the meantime, if you have feedback, questions or enquiries, please contact us at gbcontact@talisonlithium.com. A summary of the survey results and further information can be found at talisonlithium.com/localvoices.

Upcoming Surveys for Potential Future Exploration

Talison is planning to undertake preliminary environmental and gravity surveys over the coming months within its tenement area to the west and north of the Greenbushes townsite.

As part of its responsibilities as a tenement holder, Talison is required to continue progressing exploration activities within its mineral tenure. The proposed environmental and gravity surveys are important early-stage investigations that will help inform potential future exploration within Talison's existing tenement area. Exploration activities help us better understand the extent and characteristics of the Greenbushes orebody.

The environmental surveys will be undertaken by a specialist environmental consultancy and will include an examination of flora and fauna.

The proposed gravity survey helps geologists learn more about the rocks beneath the ground. Because some rocks are denser than others, they create slight differences in the Earth's natural gravity field. Using specialised portable equipment, technicians will record measurements from an instrument at selected locations across the survey area. These measurements help geologists build a better understanding of the geology beneath the surface and can help guide future exploration planning. The work itself involves no surface disturbance.

While this planned work remains at an early stage, we will continue to keep the community informed as planning progresses. More information will be made available on the Talison website over the coming months.

Mine Open Day

Enjoy a day out with family, friends, our contractor partners and community groups as we showcase our operations and the partnerships that help make what we do possible.

When: Saturday 19 September, 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Where: Greenbushes Primary School Oval

A free shuttle bus will operate throughout the day to take visitors from the fairground to the Internal Mine Lookout.

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Roll Up for the Zesty Zenior's Monthly Midday Movie Matinee!

The Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes free movie trial for senior's has been such a wonderful success that they are rolling out the red carpet and making it a regular monthly event! Join other Zesty Zenior's at midday on the first Wednesday of every month at the Bridgetown Town Hall for a free relaxed, friendly cinema-style get-together with plenty of good company, a tasty light lunch, a warm cuppa and, of course, fresh popcorn to complete the movie magic.

The remaining movie dates for 2026 are: 2 September, 7 October, 4 November and 2 December. Pop them in your diary, tell a friend, and come along for a midday outing that is easy, enjoyable and just a little bit zesty.

This new initiative is all about creating light-hearted and accessible opportunities for people to connect, share a laugh, enjoy a film and spend a pleasant afternoon together. Whether you come for the movie, the popcorn, the company or the cuppa, we'd love to see you there.

And yes — feel free to bring along your favourite chair, cushion or both, so you can settle in comfortably and enjoy the show!

To ensure we have enough lunch for everyone, and to book your spot, please RSVP each month to tlansdell@bridgetown.wa.gov.au or 0400 976 434. Depending on interest, a free bus can be arranged to transport Greenbushes residents, leaving the Greenbushes Roadhouse at 11.30AM and returning at 2.15PM — just let us know when you RSVP if you'd like a seat on the bus. Tracy Lansdell



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When: **6-9pm Wednesday 30 September**

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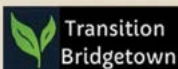
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Transition Bridgetown

We here at Transition Bridgetown, are getting excited about our September Open Space which is quite different to our usual format. Save the date in your diaries for Wednesday 30th September and book on Humanitix to come along to Soup and Pitch at 6pm at the Bridgetown Tennis Club. We thank David Chick and Irma Lachmund for coordinating this event. Every idea needs to be heard so don't be shy, let us hear it and you could be on your way to making it a reality! Look for the poster and details elsewhere in this edition of the Mailbag and we'll see you there.

We have lots of great things happening actually and we are delighted that we have been successful in obtaining a Keep Australia Beautiful grant to hold a Blackwood River Clean-Up/SUP Tonic morning on Saturday December 5th.

More details to come but please mark this event in your calendars. SUPTonic (Stand Up Paddleboards) will be holding instruction on SUP before we all clean up any rubbish along our River edges and tributaries followed by a pizza lunch. Educational for the kids and adults alike with Keep Australia Beautiful Council assisting with information.

Wonderful news! Repair Cafe is on again on Sat 17th October. Start digging out those items that need repairing – clothing, electricals, china, wooden items, garden tools, jewellery, mobile phone and laptop assistance and a JP to sign your official papers! We'll be holding a special workshop too! More details to come.

Our Wash Against Waste Trailer is getting some new stainless-steel plates – 300 of them! Very classy! We found that the plastic ones were too soft and bendy for some foods and also were showing knife cut marks that is not good for micro plastic release. So, thanks to Emmanuel Podolak and Aura Orozco we not only have an updated Handbook ready for your information but also a soon-to-be-released flyer that we will distribute around town. Please consider using the Wash Trailer at your next community or private event. Email transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com or ring Emmanuel on 0408 888 476 for further information.

Library Hub news is that Oz Bread Tags for Wheelchairs are no longer collecting plastic bread tags – mainly because they are mostly cardboard now which is a great transition in itself. If you still have some plastic tags in your home collection though, please let us know and our wonderful Hub coordinator, Grace, is organising to send off her last bundle.

The Transition Bridgetown AGM will be held on 25th Oct at 3pm - more details to come but if you've been thinking you might like to join us as a member or nominate to be on the committee, we'd love to hear from you! ...Continued on page 14



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Wise Woman Magic, A Place of Healing

Recently Ray Murphy and Bronwyn Whiteford completed a Sound Healing Training Program in Koh Samui, Thailand.

Explaining the benefits of the training 'Bron' goes on to say, "This training has given me the drive to offer sound therapy for groups of up to 4 women in addition to my one-on-one sessions.

"One of the tools in my medicine box is sound therapy. I'm an Herbalist specialising in Womens Health and I have been using sound instruments in my healing work for years.

"Our bodies are rhythmic beings with many natural rhythms such as our heart rate, breath and brain waves. Different frequencies of sound can resonate with your body to facilitate healing on a deep cellular level bringing your body back to harmony and alignment promoting relaxation, sleep and focus.

"In my practice of supporting Womens Health, I always seem to be focusing on the stage of life that I am currently in. I've done the preconception, conception and pregnancy, child rearing etc. Now I am in my Wise Woman years and my focus is on peri and post menopause. I am living and breathing it too!

"Sound is an amazing tool, especially for women as we tend to hold the memory of traumatic events in our womb space which can have a huge impact on our menopause journey.

"Traumatic symptoms stem from the 'frozen' residue of energy that has not been resolved and discharged by the body. This residue remains trapped in the nervous system where it can wreak havoc on our body, mind and spirit.

"Sound and vibration moves energy in the body and mind which can result in immediate physical and psychological shifts. These shifts can help us to soften, unravel and come home to ourself. Sound moves through every cell of the body, altering brain states and restoring balance to our nervous system.

"Through the use of various sound instruments and voice, I can help women go deeper into self, to help release 'frozen' energy, memories, beliefs or imbalance in their body. In addition, I use herbal remedies where appropriate to help support the body where needed."

Bron continues, "Whether you just want to chillax or you have deeper work that you need help with, I am available for one on one or small group (max 4) sessions are available by contacting me," Bron Whiteford at Wise Woman Magic, A Place of Healing Ph: 0487 193 815

Remembering Herself, She hasn't gone

Your different, yes!

Your body has changed, but

You are still Her!

Why try to Be what you were, be who you are!

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Learn to rest and nourish her

She is You and You are Her!

Remember who you are

Remembering Herself

Bronwyn Whiteford.



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Felt, Friendship and the Spirit of Kyrgyzstan

Wanting to delve into the traditional practices of felt making and to experience creativity of fellow felt artisans, craft people who have perfected and honed their craft over a life time, Irene Devery went on an extraordinary adventure to Kyrgyzstan, a land of sweeping mountains and textile traditions as deep and rich as the country's alpine lakes.

'Ren' explains her experience, "I was part of a group of six women attending a Felt and Culture Retreat, I was the only Australian. Among this group there were four Americans and a woman from Scotland, who is now residing in France.

"During the fourteen-day retreat I attended eight hands-on workshops with master artisans in felting, natural dyeing, embroidery, and traditional stitching.

"One very special event was when we attended an 'Agro Fest' in the Issyk-Kul region, on the edge of a vast alpine lake which was framed by the majestic Tien Shan mountains. The scenery was simply stunning.

"At the Agro Fest locals proudly paraded dressed in traditional costumes, others were performing traditional dances and all around the fair there were artisans demonstrating their traditional crafts of spinning and felting.

"On display was a vast range showcasing 'Shyrdaks', which are large felted floor rugs appliquéd with traditional cultural designs. Also on display was a huge and astonishing range of very large contemporary felt pictures of the stunning landscapes of the region representing both cultural and heritage images displayed with modern artistic creativity.

"We got to visit small studios, bustling bazaars, and serene museums, where it was explained how the



Shawna, Irene, Sula, Janet, Elizabeth and Anne with workshoped felted bags

ancient designs whisper their meaning.

"We shared meals in artists' homes, here we enjoyed the lessons blended with the aromas of traditional home-cooked dishes."

Kyrgyzstan has a rich history that dates back to ancient times, having been inhabited by various tribes and clans. It was part of the Silk Road, connecting different civilizations.

Sheep have been a cornerstone of Kyrgyz nomadic life, particularly in the mountainous regions that make up the majority of Kyrgyzstan.

The Kyrgyz historically lived a nomadic life which practiced moving flocks to high mountain pastures in summer and lowland valleys in winter

Sheep provided wool, meat, and fat, and their wool was highly valued for its adaptability to harsh mountain climates, durability, and suitability for clothing and bedding.

A drive to improve wool quality led to the introduction of Merino sheep for fine wool production. The sheep breed having adapted to the rugged terrain of the Kyrgyz mountains now for over 150 years.

The sheep thrive in a symbiotic relationship with local shepherds and farmers...*Continued page 14*



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Indigo Songs, River Stories Exhibition

Anyone who has made their home in more than one place, may struggle to know where they belong.

There is a term applied to those who spent formative years in a culture that was different from that of their parents. 'Third culture kids' have absorbed the language, imagery and values of a community that brings a different awareness to their lives.

Su Berghuis-Garde spent her teenage years living in Singapore in the 1970s, and finds that design elements still find their way into her paintings.

Recent travels to Scotland revealed an intuitive connection to ancestral memory resulting in images of plants with a strong use of the colour Indigo. Indigo, sourced from a plant for thousands of years, is thought to have healing properties, as well as representing intuition.

Her current solo exhibition is a blend of works recognising that HOME can be found in more than one place. The works on display at Black Cockatoo Distillery allude to ancestral memory in Scotland, and the daily river walks in Bridgetown, where the artist has lived for 16 years.

"I think most artists who have begun their creative lives with beautiful copying will eventually reach a point of: is this really what I want to do? Is this enough for me?"

And in the endeavour to find out who we really are we have to shed many skins. I paint, draw, print and stitch, creating in tiny books and on large canvasses.

To create something with no known outcome is one of the bravest ways I have learnt to be.

It's an analogy for life, as there are so many times that I've found myself without a map.

I still draw and paint in a realistic manner and have found ways to incorporate that precision and observation in my work, as an acknowledgement of respect for classical learning. But in those images where I get out of my own way and let the materials speak, I find a sense of wonder at what appears before me."

The exhibition, with River works downstairs and Scottish inspiration upstairs (mind your head on the low roof) provides a quiet meditative space reflecting connection with Place.

Indigo Songs, River Stories by Su Berghuis-Garde at Black Cockatoo Distillery 1 Fox Street Bridgetown, from 4th to 27th September. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 11am to 4pm.



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Felt, Friendship and the Spirit of Kyrgyzstan

*Continued from page 12...*Ren continues, "Kyrgyzstan is a country which is modernising and developing rapidly, tourism is an important industry and is providing the locals with a much-needed income, to the point where children attending school have three months of school holidays during the summer so they can work during the peak tourism time.

"One noticeable habit all the artisans practiced, every scrap is used, from short lengths of thread, to small amounts of left over fleece, there is little to no waste.

"Mostly all the master artisans sharing their knowledge were of an age in their 80s. With the country's need for modernity, and all the benefits which that brings, hopefully the traditional skills will not be lost.

"I have already put my new found enthusiasm and knowledge of felt making techniques to good use. Every night since I've returned has been spent completing items with the techniques I learnt from the workshops.

"Also, I've presented a talk to fellow felt makers in Bunbury, hopefully inspiring them in to developing their craft of felt making further.

"Felt is a product which takes fleece and turns it into a durable hard-wearing fabric which is water and fire resistant. Traditionally used for making Yurts, an easily transported tent, jackets, slippers and rugs; felt can be used for just about item which is needed.

"And in the right hands, exquisite felt painting are produced which are 'truly amazing'."

The Blackwood Relay

*Continued from cover...*Strong support from State Government, Talison and Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire means the committee has been able to invest in innovation while retaining the values that have defined the event for almost five decades.

"This event has been part of the fabric of our community for nearly 50 years," Mr Armstrong said.

"Our responsibility is to honour that history while ensuring it remains relevant, exciting and sustainable. We believe we've found the right balance between preserving what people love and embracing new opportunities."

While the format may have evolved, the values that have made the event special remain unchanged. Teamwork, endurance, community involvement and showcasing the beauty of the Blackwood Valley, with the resultant financial gain directed to a wide range of local groups.

The Blackwood Relay 2026 represents more than a course change. It marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for one of regional Western Australia's most distinctive sporting events.

For more information, course details and event updates, visit www.blackwoodrelay.com.au Rachel Mott

Transition Bridgetown

*Continued from page 10...*Email us or ring Ingrid on 0432 105 754

Until next time, stay well and keep your home and garden out of the firing line of the escalating number of rabbits that have moved into town! A headache for Biosecurity and gardeners alike!!



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100th Birthday

Continued from back page...“We always scalded our milk, even though most farmers were against the pasteurising practice that we accept today, my brother spent the first three years of his life in hospital because of TB. Thankfully this illness is now eradicated in Australia.

“The dairy was our winter work and we had an orchard for our summer work.”

On retiring Betty and Jack lived in Australind for ten years enjoying trips around WA, and the East Coast on Bus Tours. And they travelled to New Zealand where they met up with some lifelong friends.

When Jack passed away Betty came to Greenbushes to live with her daughter Pamela and son in law Tony Practico where she has lived for over twenty years. She took great joy in attending the local dances with Tony and Pam, enjoying a waltz around the dance floor and catching up with friends well into her 90s.

Betty has formed a strong and enduring relationship with Tony since the passing of her daughter Pamela. Betty is now a resident in the Geegeclup Village.

One of Betty’s granddaughters, Theresa, also shared some fond memories, “During school holidays I would go and stay on my grandparent’s farm. Nana was simply the best baker of cakes, and scones, with a ready supply of lashings of Jersey cream straight from the separator.

“Her strawberry patch was always the first stop each morning, we never seemed to find more than we could eat.

“She taught me a lot in the kitchen, and for what she didn’t teach, she gave me the CWA cookbook as an eighteenth birthday gift.

“Nana had simply the best garden, roses, gladioli and chrysanthemum and the most fragrant range of stocks, her flowers always won awards at the Balingup Show. A show she regularly attended, making new outfits for her children so that they would look their very best at show time.

“Betty’s name has been passed on through four generations, my mother was named Pamela Elizabeth, I was named Theresa Elizabeth and my daughter is named Ella Elizabeth and my granddaughter is Marley Elizabeth.

“For my birthday this year my husband brought me flowers, an arrangement with stocks, the fragrance of which took me straight back with fondness to my Nana’s Garden.”

Betty’s secret to living a long life, ‘Always keeping busy, the love of gardening, dancing and working hard’.



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100th Birthday

Elizabeth Della Sale has celebrated her 100th Birthday. 'Betty' was born on 17th August 1926 on the Peel Estate in Mandurah.

Her family held a jam-packed gathering for her in the Greenbushes Town Hall to celebrate this event with family members travelling from as far away as the east coast and north of WA to attend.

Betty's parents arrived in Australia from England and were part of the Solider Settlement Scheme. The Soldier Settlement Scheme was established after 'World War I' and was a government initiative aimed at developing rural areas and encouraging returned servicemen to become property-owning farmers.

It was a scheme which promised a lot, but mostly delivered a lot of hardship and hard work for those taking part, having to start a new life mostly on uncleared bush land whilst living in a tent. The property her parents established was a dairy in the upper Capel region.

Betty's memories of these early times were that the men, her dad, three step brothers, and two brothers were mostly away clearing more land so it was left to her and her Mum, Beatrice, to tend the livestock, which meant both her and her mother having to carry two four-gallon buckets of water and feed to the livestock. And she remembers well the walk of two miles there and back to school each day.

As it was back then, the farms were small and mixed, a couple of milking cows, chooks, sheep and a vegetable garden with her father Richard having to work off the farm to generate more income for the family.

Dances were held on most weekends around this time and this is where she met her future husband, 'Mullalyup Jack', Jack Della Sale.

Betty reminisces, "He was handsome, a wonderful dancer and a delightful man, we married in 1951.

"We went on to have four children, Pamela, Valerie, Virginia and Richard, who have gone onto produce fourteen grandchildren, twenty-three great grandchildren and eight great great grandchildren.

"We ran a Dairy farm in Mullalyup, where we produced

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Theresa, Betty and Tony

butter fats, like most dairies did at the time with all our produce going straight to England.

"We ran Jersey cows, they didn't produce the most milk, but they produced the best tasting milk with the most milk fats..." *Continued on page 15*

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