



Coleen Russell

Showing the Way

From this issue onwards we will be serializing Coleen Russell book 'Showing the Way', as you read her story and the story of the Bridgetown Agricultural Society the sub title '130 years of Resilience' is very apt title, the resilience of our forebears is the main reason we find ourselves in Bridgetown today, Coleen resilience combined with her dogged determination have assure the veracity of her book. Where better to start then the beginning.

Coleen Russel;

This book 'Showing the Way' has grown from my original idea of concentrating just on the history of the Society. As the research grew, I began to realise the significance of the Society, the people who formed it and the role each played in the events that shaped the town of Bridgetown and the District. The association between the people of the district, the Society and the town of Bridgetown are so closely entwined that one's story cannot be told without the other.

I have endeavoured to bring the Society's story to life, to preserve its outstanding history including significant events that impacted on the early settlers of the district and as many as possible, those people who contributed in some way to this remarkable Society.

Bridgetown, South West Western Australia was gazetted in 1868 and noted as "it will only be a small village." In 1885, a group of settlers were given permission to form an Agricultural Society and became the Registered Custodians of Memorial Land. Through their vision, passion and dedication, the Society, Town and surrounding settlement grew.

Interwoven with historical accounts and personal stories, we learn how their strength influenced the growth of the Bridgetown community and the people it still represents today. The Society and the Town are so closely related; one story cannot be told without the other.

Read more in the current issue Pages 12 and 13 or visit

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