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April 2nd 2024

VOLUME 32 NO: 7 ISSUE 341

# THE MAILBAG

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

## St Brigid's Patchwork Tapestry

One of the little treasures that will be on show during the 120th year anniversary of St Brigid's Parish is the patchwork tapestry in St Brigid's Church; this tapestry has hung on the back wall of St Brigid's Church now for fifty-one years and has now been listed in Bridgetown-Greenbushes Art Trail Booklet.

Father Noel Fitzsimmons was the driving force behind the patchwork tapestry, his vision was it would be seven metres long and 1.5metres high, the concept arising from a tapestry he delighted in when visiting a small church in England.

Father Noel had the paper patterns of the design which was to be used, and he had various bolts of different cloth and the idea to make the tapestry in sections, he was only lacking the knowledge and knowhow to complete his idea.

He asked Pamela Pratico to bring his idea to fruition by sewing, patchworking, appliqueing and quilting the sections into the tapestry.

In 1973 Tony and Pam Pratico were newlyweds living in a caravan in Wokalup. Tony was then working for the Department of Agricultural. Pam took on the task of completing each section and then stitching the tapestry together.

Father Noel would visit Pam once a week to see how the tapestry was progressing. Because of the small size of the caravan Pam and Tony were living in, he thought she would have more space in the convent and suggested the tapestry could be moved there to be completed.

Pam surprised everyone by completing the task in the caravan in three months. The completed tapestry, a rolled bundle of material was then placed on the floor of the ground floor passageway of the convent, the only place big enough to roll the tapestry out.

How to hang the tapestry was a dilemma and the next task. Pam, Sister Rose, the cook at the Convent and former parishioner and Myrtle Rose sewed loops along the top edge of the tapestry so it could be hung on a timber curtain rail on the back wall of the church.

The tapestry tells the story of the Bible, starting in the Garden of Eden and finishing with the Book of Revelations in the New Testament.

The tapestry hangs in the open and has certainly stood the test of time over the last fifty-one years remaining a colourful welcoming sight for all those who enter the church...*Continued on page 13*



Tony Pratico with his daughter Susie Woodall pictured with the Tapestry

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Daisy Bygott, Zoe Allington and Jorji Harper at rehearsals

## Dangers of Complacency

Bridgetown Repertory Theatre's next production is *H\*tlers Tasters*, a fictional retelling of a story of young German women conscripted to taste Adolf Hitler's food for poison in that anxious period towards the end of the war.

This play was put forward by Julia Robinson for consideration to be staged by the theatre. It's a play which has strong female roles, a play which Julia reasoned would be easy to produce, having only three cast members and only one stage setting.

Julia first came to the Repertory around twelve months ago when she appeared in the 'Women in Black' musical in the role of Patty, a play for which she was also the musical director. Julia has also been working backstage and was the stage manager for the Repertory production 'Bridgetown has got Talent'.

Those on the production committee were convinced of her abilities, and they informed Julia they would support her in producing the play. The outcome was unexpected, Julia found herself in the driving seat.

Julia now had a role as a debut director, "We have around ten weeks to stage this play and I have had a lot of wonderful support from the Repertory.

"Robert Benson-Parry is my mentor with the directing, he has also built the set design.

"Jude Sutherland is my wonderful stage manager; Ray Murphy is on sound and Riyana Diallo is doing the lighting. Sue Bottomly sourced the costumes from the extensive repertory wardrobe.

"The three cast members are Jorji Harper, Zoe Allington and Daisy Bygott.

"All three are first time actors with the Bridgetown Repertory and they are all on stage throughout the entire play. They have taken on the mammoth task of learning the dialogue-rich play as well as the stage craft needed for their interactions with each other during the play.

...Continued page 14

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# Festival of Country Gardens Autumn Festival

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At some of the gardens there will be morning and afternoon tea available, plants for sale, art and garden art for sale and more....

Festival dates are Saturday May 4th and Sunday May 5th. Weekend tickets \$60 per person allows access to all open gardens, or purchase tickets \$8 per garden at each garden gate.

Further information on the Festival, including entrance times, garden locations and descriptions can be found at [www.festivalofcountrygardens.com.au](http://www.festivalofcountrygardens.com.au)

Ticket purchasing at <https://www.trybooking.com> or follow us on Facebook: Festival of Country Gardens.

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## Bridgetown Historical Society

One of the projects for the Bridgetown Historical Society (BHS) this year will be creating an orcharding museum in the Exhibition Shed, at the rear of the Police Station Museum, to display all the historical orcharding equipment donated to BHS. Eight to ten interpretive panels around the room will tell the story of orcharding, in particular apples, in Bridgetown. We will also be conducting oral history interviews with people associated with orchards in Bridgetown.

One of the tasks for this project is to create a book of recipes – Heritage Apple Recipes from Bridgetown and we would welcome recipes you might have stored away in a back cupboard. If you would like to contribute to this recipe book, a meeting has been planned for Thursday 11 April 2024 in the BHS office at 5 Civic Lane at 10.00am. This happens to be during Heritage Week. So, bring your orchard recipes or email them to [bridgetownhistory@inet.net.au](mailto:bridgetownhistory@inet.net.au) Queries: 0487 592 704 Lee Wittenoon BHS

## Show Talk

Improvements to the grounds and buildings is a priority at the moment. A big thank you to Joel Giblett for replacing the ridge capping on Centenary Hall. The addition of whirly birds in the roof of the Wool Pavilion is next on the list and the Junior Farmers Hall will have Airconditioning added and additional kitchen cupboard, fridge and bench space. These improvements will all benefit those who hire the grounds and buildings.

The Downunder Country Music event was very well patronised and many who camped at the grounds commented on how much they loved spending time and money in our town with our interesting little shops. Even the Op Shops were very well patronised. It was a pleasure to have them visit and they left the grounds very clean.

Future events at the grounds during the Winterfest are the Blackwood Dungeon and Dragons and the possibility of an Antique Fair again in Centenary Hall.

We have noticed that some people are again using the grounds to exercise their dogs. Please note the signage stating 'No Dogs' on the Showgrounds means 'No Dogs'. People hiring the grounds do not want to share it with dog poo.

Our next Meeting will be the AGM, followed by the General Meeting on Wednesday 10th April 7.00pm start, in the Presidents Room at the Showgrounds. Anyone wishing to attend the AGM are very welcome.

If you would like to know more about the Committee or the Agricultural Society's role in the Community, contact mob. 0437 602 836 or email: [info@bridgetownshow.com.au](mailto:info@bridgetownshow.com.au) website address is [www.bridgetownshow.com.au](http://www.bridgetownshow.com.au) like us on Facebook 'Bridgetown Agricultural Show' or follow us on Instagram.

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# Probus Proudly Going to The Dogs

The Probus Club of Bridgetown Blackwood Valley is open to all semi-retired and fully retired residents in the Blackwood Valley region.

The Club's ideals are Fun, Fellowship and Friendship.

On Wednesday 17 April the club is delighted to extend a warm invitation to its members and guests for a special gathering at the Community and Recreation Centre on Warren Road in Nannup to welcome guest speakers from Guide Dogs WA: a supervisor, a volunteer and two trainee dogs will all attend.

Over two one-hour sessions with a lunch break in between, we will delve into the remarkable work of raising and training these incredible working dogs which support people with low or no vision, with disability or illness and discover firsthand how these magnificent dogs are transforming lives and making an indelible impact on our community.

"The team from Guide Dogs WA have come across from Busselton, Margaret River so we have arranged to have the day in Nannup, it being roughly half way, so it helps with the logistics." Stephen Blackman the newly elected president of Probus explains.

"I had found out an experienced volunteer guide dog trainer had recently moved to Busselton and had informed the association she could quite easily train the guide dogs in south west, whereas in the past the dogs have all been trained in Perth.

"So, it has given us a wonderful opportunity to have an insight in what it takes to nurture and train a guide dog.

"I myself have had an interest with how guide dogs are trained as my brother back in the UK has now accepted to train his nineteenth dog as a guide dog.

...Continued on page 11



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# TALISON – SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

## Craig's Corner - *With Craig Dawson*

### Harmony Week

Greenbushes Lithium Operation (Mine, Site) personnel recently celebrated Harmony Week, with both our Talison team members and contractors taking part in a series of engaging activities focused on celebrating and deepening our understanding of diversity, inclusion and unity.

Across the Mine and offices in Perth and Bunbury, there was enthusiastic participation in various events, from sharing cherished family recipes to team quizzes. It was great to see the theme of "Everyone Belongs," embraced across our operations by teams who engaged in the friendly and collaborative daily Harmony Week quiz.

### Rail Building Relocation

In early March, the historic railway station building in North Greenbushes was relocated from its original location to a new spot behind the Greenbushes Discovery Centre. This relocation marks a new chapter in the station's history, and Talison is proud to have supported this significant project, spearheaded by the Greenbushes Discovery Centre with support from by the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes.

Now that the railway station has found its new home at the Greenbushes Discovery Centre, it is undergoing restoration to make it accessible to the public and ensure the long-term preservation of this important landmark and cultural heritage for the community's benefit.

### Detailed Feasibility Study into Recommissioning Greenbushes to Bunbury Rail line update

Talison, South West Development Commission, Arc Infrastructure and Aurizon recently conducted Community Information Sessions in Bridgetown and Manjimup as part of the ongoing study into recommissioning the Greenbushes to Bunbury rail line. These sessions build on engagement initiatives undertaken in 2023, which included multiple sessions in Greenbushes, Balingup, Donnybrook, Mullalyup, Dardanup, Boyanup and Kirup.

Talison and the project partners are committed to ensuring community perspectives are reflected in the study by actively incorporating feedback from these sessions into relevant project areas. Thank you to those who have participated in these sessions or provided feedback through phone and email channels.

For the latest developments or enquiries, please email [info@talisonrail.com](mailto:info@talisonrail.com) or call 1800 418 581.



*Winners of the Harmony Week Quiz Competition*



*Relocating the North Greenbushes Railway Station*

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## Community Investment Program

The Bridgetown Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade now has a new welfare vehicle thanks to a \$138,000 donation from Talison's Community Investment Program (CIP). The Ford Ranger 4WD, equipped with a purpose-built canopy, will provide essential amenities like tea, coffee, water and snacks at forward control points during emergencies.

It will also distribute meals to emergency volunteers and can tow the existing welfare trailer, expanding its reach during incidents.

I had the great pleasure of being provided a rundown of the vehicle by Bridgetown Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Captain Millie Nedelkovski who explained to me how the welfare vehicle has the ability to provide both rapid response and support at a second location during incidents with deployment of their existing welfare trailer.



*Pictured: Talison General Manager – Operations, Craig Dawson, with Bridgetown Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Captain Millie Nedelkovski, Special Projects Officer Brian Jones, and Brigade Treasurer Kevin Wrightson.*

I'm also proud to share an update on the significant contribution Talison has made to Bridgetown Primary School through the CIP. Talison recently provided \$141,742, to assist the school in enhancing their playground facilities for students of all ages. They have since purchased six (6) pieces of new play equipment, including a large play module specifically designed for children aged four to six years old. Additionally, the funding has helped purchase and install two (2) new water drinking fountains, a picnic table, seating and audio-visual equipment in the undercover assembly area. Recently I was provided a tour of the new facilities and was pleased to see how the improvements are benefiting students' physical, social and emotional wellbeing.

The four pillars of Talison's CIP are:

- Quality Education
- Sustainable Environments and Biodiversity Improvement
- Health and Wellbeing; and
- Vibrant & Sustaining communities.

The Talison CIP is designed to offer funding opportunities for strategic programs and projects, which drive the development of social capital and local ownership. If you have a project that aligns with one or more of the CIP pillars, please contact the Community Team to discuss potentially applying for funding support by emailing [gbcontact@talisonlithium.com](mailto:gbcontact@talisonlithium.com).



*Pictured: Talison General Manager – Operations, Craig Dawson, with Bridgetown Primary School Principal, Judith Dadson (right) and Bridgetown Primary School Deputy Principal Kellee O'Dwyer (left).*

# Do you know your rights as a person with disability?

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Disability advocates Sara Gunning and Hellen Madzingira will be visiting Bridgetown on Thursday 18 April and available to speak to members of the public. No appointment is necessary as Sara and Hellen will be at the Community Kiosk between 10:30 – 2:30 to answer any questions you may have.

Advocacy WA provides a range of advocacy services for people with disabilities living in the South West. Anyone with a disability can access this free and independent service. We are based out of our main office in Bunbury and visit Bridgetown every other month. However, if you need us to come more often we will – just let us know!

Advocacy WA advocates for social change and service improvement in areas including accommodation, employment and financial security, education and training, transport, and access to specialist health services. Here is an example of how we helped someone recently:

Susie, a mother of two children aged 15 and 18, has Motor Neuron Disease. The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) asked her to move into a group-style home and Susie asked Advocacy WA to help her appeal this decision and get Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) funding to continue to live independently. Due to the intervention of Advocacy WA, the NDIS revised their previous decision and Susie was found eligible to move into her own apartment.

Advocacy WA also delivers workshops to help people navigate the NDIS and Disability Support Pension (DSP) in Bridgetown – the next workshop is on Thursday 23 May. Contact us at [community@advocacywa.org.au](mailto:community@advocacywa.org.au) to find out more.

Want to meet others with lived experience of disability who meet regularly in Bridgetown to advocate for local people? Contact Community Disability Advocacy Network (CDAN) at [cdanbridgetown@gmail.com](mailto:cdanbridgetown@gmail.com)



Neil MacQuarie, Nichole Gibbs, Wendy Ayres, Anne Gething and Sue Keating, Special guests at the opening

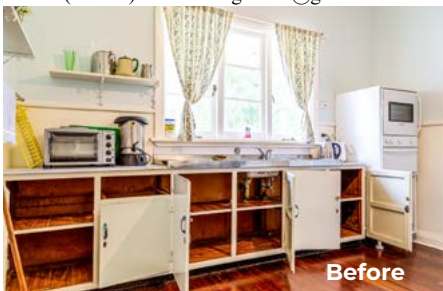
## CWA did it.....

It took 3 years of fundraising with cake stalls, raffles and catering for community events to finalize our new look kitchen and meeting space, officially opened by CWA of WA State President Anne Gething on Tuesday 19th March.

From..... this to this Photos on right

CWA Bridgetown is proud of its achievement which couldn't have happened without the men from the Bunbury Regional Prison who made, installed and painted their hearts out, the Shire of Bridgetown/Greenbushes who granted us funds for new appliances and of course the entire Bridgetown community who happily supported our efforts by buying up big at our events.

The end result is now a small open community space that can



Before



After

be rented out for weddings, parties, meetings and wakes complete with a catering service or just a cuppa. Funds raised will go back into supporting the local community.

For more information email [anita54@inet.net.au](mailto:anita54@inet.net.au) or text 0431 374 753





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## Transition Bridgetown

At the Blackwood Regen Fest held recently, a collaboration between Blackwood Events for the Earth groups, the community expressed support for Transition Bridgetown's initiative to start a Repair Cafe in Bridgetown!

Repair Cafés have become increasingly popular in regional communities. Most recently they have set up in Donnybrook and Manjimup. It's time we took this initiative in Bridgetown.

A Repair Café is not somewhere you just leave an item to be repaired. Rather it is a place where you can bring your old appliance/furniture/clothing/tool/luggage/computer (or whatever) and talk to someone who can see whether it is able to be repaired, and who can work with you to do that repair if possible. It is a way not only of making things last longer, but also of skilling ourselves in how to repair old things rather than discarding them and creating yet more waste.

If we were to have a Repair Cafe in Bridgetown, we would probably start operating once-a-month, in a convenient location.

We would need to recruit a range of volunteers with repair skills who would be prepared to offer their services on a monthly basis.

Transition Bridgetown is holding an 'Open Space' meeting to discuss this possibility. We have invited people from existing Repair Cafés to come and help us by sharing their experience.

If you are interested in volunteering your skills, helping out, or simply supporting the idea and want to know more, please come to our Open Space on Sunday 21 April at 4.30pm, in the Uniting Church Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!

For further information or if the date doesn't suit you to come along but you are interested, please contact Jim Ife on 0411 048 741 or email jimife@iinet.net.au

We are really keen to promote the use of the Wash Against Waste Trailer that makes it possible to organise low/no waste events. Whether it is a community or a private event, we'd love you to consider 'hiring' the wash trailer. The Wash Trailer will assist with reducing waste going to landfill. It is equipped with everything you need to cater for 150+ people. This includes a gazebo, trestles, urn, washing bowls, aprons as well as reusable plates, bowls, cutlery, mugs and napkins. Conditions apply and a donation towards general maintenance and insurances is required. We'd love to chat with you so please email transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com and we can talk more!

It was wonderful that shire councillors were able to have significant conversations with Regen Fest goers at their Lemons to Lemonade stall! The topics identified as being important in our community included water resilience, sustainability and quality, re-vegetating verges, food security, bushfire mitigation, waste minimisation, biosecurity, low/no waste events, renewable energy, alternative housing, regenerative agriculture and more! Thank you to all shire councillors and to Alexa Tunmer – Sustainability and Environment Officer for our shire, for making themselves available to chat with residents in our area.

Look for the article on the 2024 Regen Fest elsewhere in this edition of the Mailbag!

Coming up we have these Open Space dates to please put in your diary:

April 21st – Repair Cafe; June 22nd – Zero Carbon Footprint/Climate Positive; July 21st – Heat Vulnerability/Drought; August [date to be decided] – Waste Reduction. See you soon!!

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# Probus Proudly Going to The Dogs

Continued from page 5... "The dogs really have such a short working life, only around six to seven years, and not all dogs who enter the training program become guide dogs, those that don't make the cut can go on to be hearing dogs, companion dogs or health dogs for those with as an example, Epilepsy, the dogs can be trained to smell the chemical signs which leads to an attack.

"Probus activities are for retired people, new members and guests are very welcome to attend these events and are asked to book by contacting me, Stephen Blackman on 0400 403 778 or by email to [bbvprobus@gmail.com](mailto:bbvprobus@gmail.com)

Stephen concludes "there will be 'car pooling' from the Spencer Street car park to make it easy for those wanting to attend."

## Do you have a few hours a week to spare?

Country Health South West are holding a Volunteer Recruitment Roadshow around the southwest region, "We are looking for volunteers for our local hospitals.

"We are looking for volunteers from all age groups who are 18 years plus in age, and those from all backgrounds to take on a number of tasks, from visiting inpatients in hospital, as a volunteer driver to take patients home or to outpatient's appointments, as a part of Therapy animal teams and as volunteers interested in being consumer representatives in health meetings.

"We will be in Bridgetown on Wednesday May 22nd and will be at the Community Resource Centre from 10am to 12 midday.

"We'll have a morning tea to entice people in and some of our current volunteers will be here who can talk about the benefits of volunteering in health." Cheryl Jewsbury, Regional Volunteer Coordinator WA Country Health Service South West in Bunbury Hospital explained.

Cheryl is based at Bunbury Hospital and manages all the volunteer teams there. She has been asked to try to set up a volunteer service in the regional hospitals.

If you would like further information, you can contact Cheryl on M: 0459 462 885 T: 9720 5939 or by email [Cheryl.Jewsbury@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Cheryl.Jewsbury@health.wa.gov.au)

## Bridgetown CRC Volunteering Project

Towards the end of May we are planning to have another event, the publication of a small collection of retired volunteers' anecdotes about the unusual, unanticipated, and amusing facets their volunteering days. These vignettes will be collated and edited by young people in our community and then published electronically as well as in hard copy format. If you would like to become a 'random volunteer' or, if you are a retired volunteer with an amusing anecdote to share, please contact Kaye at the Bridgetown CRC. Phone on 9761 2712. Kaye McLennan

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# Blackwood Regen-Fest 2024 – Local and Loving it!

Around 400 people soaked up the glorious autumn sunshine as the Ashbil Community Garden came alive on Saturday 23rd March for the 2024 Blackwood Regen Fest. Punters reveled in the electric atmosphere, smiles and good vibes while perusing local wares and produce, learning new skills and sharing with other likeminded community members.

There were 30 stalls on offer representing local community groups, ethical businesses, regen producers, councilors, arts and crafts groups and people offering proactive, regenerative solutions to the myriad of today's social and environmental challenges.

Volunteering is a core tenet of this local event and Bridgetown Greenbushes' generous spirit was on display with people donating their time to man the Transition Bridgetown wash trailer and cook a delicious healthy gourmet lunch wrap made lovingly with local produce. The kids had a great time with the pinata activity, and the adults enjoyed the variety of interesting and informative workshops hosted by local experts.

There was an opportunity to get up close and personal with electric vehicles and miniature goats. The Blackwood Environmental Society took the opportunity to show off their new shade house space while selling a variety of local plants to help to green our farms and properties. The amazing BYA YEOP Shop fashion show was the perfect end to the day with local models of all ages shining in the spotlight showing off diverse op shop outfits.

This collaborative event was a huge success and made possible with the generous support of local sponsors Rotary Club of Bridgetown, Greenbushes CWA Belles, Greenbushes Community Garden, Bridgetown Freemasons, Bridgetown Men's Shed, Blackwood Permaculture, Transition Bridgetown, Ashbil Community Garden and the Bridgetown Hub.

Thank you to everyone who came along and made the day. The Blackwood Regen Fest will be back in March 2025. Mike Kaye

# Justice Of The Peace Signing Service

There will be a Justice of the Peace available to sign and witness documents every Wednesday and Friday (except public holidays) between 10:00 and 12:00 at the Bridgetown Community Resource Centre.

Please ensure you bring along photo ID such as a passport or driver's licence.

For urgent JP services outside the above hours search <https://www.wa.gov.au/service/justice/civil-law/find-justice-of-the-peace-your-area>

For statutory declarations, there are many people who can witness these documents – you don't need a JP. Go to <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2020-03/authorised-witnesses-for-statutory.pdf>

Affidavits can only be taken (i.e. witnessed and sworn/affirmed) by a JP, a legal practitioner, public notary, registrar or clerk of the court, or any mining registrar appointed under the Mining Act 1978.

Certified documents – there is no legislation in WA stipulating who can certify a copy, however, it is usually done by a person who is legislated to witness a statutory declaration.

Please note for witnessing a signature on anything other than an affidavit or a stat dec, there is no edict that says it must be done by a JP (unless it is written onto the document you need to be witnessed).



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# St Brigid's Patchwork Tapestry

Continued from cover... Pam Pratico was certainly someone special. Tony tells us, "Family to Pam was always front and centre, she endeavoured to always involve her family in the farm, work and play and whatever else she was currently working towards."

"I met Pam at a country dance in the Newlands Hall in 1972, and whenever we could we always attend dances. We both sponsored the Yornup Hall dances, and before Pam passed, she asked me to 'keep the dance going'".

The tapestry which hangs in St Brigid's church is a display of what can be achieved by a strong-minded person with a vision, Father Noel, along with the talents and the hard work of Sister Rose, Myrtle Rose and Pam Pratico, gifting to all of us one of those treasures we have within our community.

As an adjunct to the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Heritage Festival 2024, St Brigid's Parish Council will be offering historical tours of the Convent with morning tea, scones, jam and cream all included at \$10 per person. The tour will take place on 12th and 20th April 2024 from 10:00am to 2:00 pm. There will be four tours on each day of one hour duration.

Fundraising from this event will go towards new doors for St Brigid's Church Hall, which has three entrances.

Because there were no written records on the tapestry, if you have any knowledge of those who worked on the tapestry apart from those noted please contact Rosemary Wells via email on wellsfam@wn.com.au



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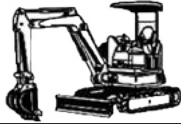
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## The Rotary Tour of the Blackwood

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March a very successful 7<sup>th</sup> Tour of the Blackwood ride was held. This year, the most ever, 311 riders took part in the event.

A very pleased Mike Fletcher, the tour chair explains to us how it all unfolded, "For this event to take place we have over 80 volunteers, traffic marshals, watering point volunteers and those that manage the entertainment in the River Park.

"There were also 15 motor scouts helping out with any punctures, mishaps or unforeseen incidents, and there is a team of medical responders following all the riders.

"This year for those brave enough, ice baths where donated to be used at the finish or, for those who preferred other techniques, we also had volunteer masseurs.

"This year the event was modified slightly, to have all the riders in the three stages coming together around the same time. The Full Tour, 134kms, started at 7am; the Half and Best 65kms started at 9am and the Not So Cosy started in Greenbushes at 10am, bringing 75% of the riders together in the finish at midday at the River Park, enabling the celebrations and awards to be handed out altogether.

"The Rotary Club is very pleased at how smoothly the event unfolded with few problems arising.

"The tour has become the biggest fund raiser for the Bridgetown Rotary Club with around \$70,000 being raised this year.

"This amount of money was boosted above registration fees obtained by the efforts of riders and their sponsors, with teenagers Hannah Khong and Tommey Warren making standout efforts and En Khong who was riding in his 6<sup>th</sup> tour, raising funds from a sausage sizzle at Bunnings.

"The Rotary Club feels the event has a lot of potential for growth, with the idea of having a new ride ridden on a gravel road section."

With the monies raised the Rotary Club is supporting Blackwood Youth Action (BYA) which is a local charity that supports young people in the Warren Blackwood region and surrounds.

Mental illness is the leading cause of death in young

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people in Australia. In the Warren Blackwood region, young people with mental health problems have extremely limited access to services to support them.

Funds raised from the Rotary Tour of the Blackwood support the provision of part time individualised counselling service for youth with mental illness living within the Bridgetown and Manjimup areas.

This year the Bridgetown Rotary Club are also supporting a new cause, the Bridgetown Greenbushes Suicide Prevention Network, (BGSPN)."

The BGSPN strives to create a safe and supportive community where people feel valued, connected, and empowered to seek help and offer support to others to help those who are experiencing suicidal thoughts or have been affected by suicide.

By increasing public knowledge and understanding of mental health and suicide prevention, the BGSPN aims to reduce stigma and encourage people to seek help when needed. All in all, the money raised will be well spent

H\*lters Tasters was written during 2016 by Jewish-American playwright, Michelle Kholos Brooks and is a fictional retelling of a largely unknown story of young women conscripted to do a job that is to test Hitler's food before he consumes it. Three times a day, every day, the young women have the opportunity to die for their country. It explores the eternal themes of love, friendship, family, loyalty as it shows the worst and the best of humanity.

"The play is about many things but, most importantly, it is a play about the dangers of complacency". M. Brooks

The play will be staged in April from Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm and on 14<sup>th</sup> a matinee at 2pm, and the following week on 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm and 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm. Tickets are available at trybookings or at the door.

## Dangers of Complacency

...Continued from page 2

"We still have four weeks to opening night and I feel at this stage the production is coming along nicely and my three cast members are now bringing the play to life." Julia explained.

The play is told using an anachronistic retelling of a historical footnote, with the use of mobile phones for the women to take selfies, and with some modern language being part of the girls' discussions, and the way they dance as they wait to see if they will survive another meal.

They gossip and dream, they question and dance. They want to love, laugh, and above all, they want to survive.



# Heritage Festival

Continued from back page...Did you know that this is the only Bushfire Museum in the state? Come and see the great work that volunteers and workers do to keep us safe.

A popular event last year was the Bridgetown Jigsaw Gallery Open Day, which will take place again on the Saturday with free entry into the gallery. If you haven't come in a while, take a look at what the voluntary committee has been up to which is a popular tourist destination for Bridgetown. Come and hear their plans for the future.

In the afternoon, who wouldn't want a lovely High Tea in the Valley, with the Bridgetown CWA cooking up a treat in their clubhouse on Hampton Street. Book in to not miss out.

The night wouldn't be complete without some Heritage Sounds at St Paul's, which will see a talented group of musicians coming together for a night of delight in the beautiful 113-year-old Anglican Church. Get your tickets early as this will feature Morgan Remaj (Classical Guitar), Jadon Dale (Classical Piano), The Dale Family, Dale Kerber (Organ), The Sisters of Corn (Harmonies) and Daun Crozier (Poet). Bookings essential on humanitix.

Wrapping it all up is a chance to see the Warren Blackwood Chapter of the Veteran and Classic Car Club of WA Classic Car Show and Parade who will drive through both Bridgetown and Greenbushes showing those curves of cars of a bygone era.

There are so many reasons to celebrate heritage in the area of Bridgetown-Greenbushes. When we start to understand the history, we can learn to care for our natural, built and cultural history with a deeper sense of meaning. There is always more to learn and heritage skills are making a comeback. We are lucky to have so many artisans selling products and returning to these ways of creating that leave a light footprint on the earth. You only have to walk down the Bridgetown main street to see these skills in action through our talented local businesses. Try to explore something new this heritage festival, if you live in Bridgetown, maybe you haven't been to the Greenbushes Discovery Centre, and if you are in Greenbushes, maybe this is your chance to visit the Police Station Museum. It is what connects us together that makes us stronger, our stories intertwined to create the unique place, that we call the Heart and Soul of the South West. Karen Hill

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## Heritage Festival

In its second year the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Heritage Festival will take place over the second week of the April school holidays, from Monday 8th April – Sunday 14th April. With something on each day of the week, the local community and visitors have lots of interesting events to choose from to learn about our area. There is a mix of exhibitions, guided walking tours, museum openings, high teas, concerts and even Yoga in a heritage space. The theme for this year's festival is Connections.

The Bridgetown Pottery Restaurant and Tearooms will host an exhibition "The Gallery That "Never Was" 1986 – 2020" focusing on the private and public fine arts and multimedia that have graced the walls over 34 years. From 10am – 2pm running from the Monday to Sunday.

Available every day of the festival also is the popular Bridgetown History Walk by Richard from the Bridgetown Historical Society. Tickets are half price for the festival, and bookings essential, see online event listing or trybooking.

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>, The historic and beautiful Maranup Ford Garden will have a guided tour and talk with a Devonshire Tea from 9.30 – 11:30am and again Friday 12<sup>th</sup>, bookings essential

Tuesday night you can experience Yoga with a Heritage Twist provided by Christine Ashbil inside Maslin House, the Bridgetown Pottery Restaurant, preceded by a talk on the heritage of the area and the house.

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> the Bridgetown Historical Society will lead a Cemetery Walk, exploring the stories of Bridgetown characters who left their mark on the town.



Old Gaol c. 1880. Hampton Street, Bridgetown WA.

Wendy Hoorn, Artist, Bridgetown WA.

The Bridgetown Police Station Museum and the Greenbushes Discovery Centre will be open on the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and are great places to learn about the area

There is also an event for the youngsters with Heritage Rhyme Time on Wednesday morning at the Bridgetown Library.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> being an Open Day for the Greenbushes Discovery Centre, with Free Entry. If you have ever wanted to take a look inside, now is the chance.

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> the Bridgetown Art & Craft Centre will open their doors, showing heritage craft skills of weaving, looming, knitting and many more. All are welcome to come and learn these popular crafts and items will also be for sale and will also open on the Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>.

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> in the morning the WA Bushfire Museum will extend its opening hours and will have Vintage Firetruck Runs through the town at 10.30am and 12.30pm.

...Continued on page 15

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