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August 5th 2025

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# THE MAILBAG

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## Hotel Sorrento

Bridgetown Repertory's next production is Hotel Sorrento, a well written Australian play depicting family drama.

The play is based on Hannie Rayson's award-winning play, Hotel Sorrento and is centred around three sisters who lived their childhood in Sorrento but have gone on to live three very different lives.

Hotel Sorrento is not a hotel as such; it's a family home but is treated by family and friends as a hotel, hence the name 'Hotel Sorrento'.

Meg is the oldest sister living in London; a successful writer with her first book just being published. She and her husband are residing in the cultural melting-pot of a large city and they cringe when talking about the Australian culture she grew up in.

Pippa, is a fast-talking very successful business-woman has just flown in from New York. Pippa, when visiting Sorrento, learns that Meg has written a novel, one evidently situated in Sorrento, and one that has been nominated for the Booker prize. Then she is further surprised with the fact that Meg and her husband are imminently returning home for a visit.

And there is Hilary, a widow who is a reserved single mother raising her teenage son Troy.

She lives in the family home in Sorrento where she looks after her dad Wal, following the death of their mother and then that of Hilary's husband, Gary.

Meg arrives just after their father's disappearance in the ocean. She carries with her a stifling attitude, and a long-held mystery.

Her other siblings never mention her book, which unsettles Meg. Though she feels sure both sisters have read the novel, neither even mentions it. And it's not due to indifference, but more to do with not wanting to start an argument.

Although the sisters never bellow at each other, their disappointment and disapproval is expressed through facial expressions and body jesters...*Continued on page 15*



Kath Fazackerley, Meegan Cullen, Glenn Turner, Angela Paget-Stedman, Julia Robinson and Ray Galloway



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Audrey, Lilly, Tyler, Sol and Miles - Carnabys 9997 team

## Bridgetown High Students Take on State Robotics Challenge

Bridgetown High School students are rolling up their sleeves and diving into the world of robotics, building a competition-ready robot for WARP2025 (WA Robotics Playoffs). This marks a significant step for the school's new robotics program, which is giving country students the chance to explore cutting-edge STEM learning through hands-on experience.

The newly formed team, known by the students The Carnabys, after the critically endangered Carnaby's black cockatoo, which is a proud symbol of local identity.

Students have embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and persistence, working during class, after school on coding, wiring, mechanical assembly, and strategic planning - solving problems and troubleshooting just like real engineers. It's an immersive learning experience that's helping students grow not only in technical skills, but also in teamwork, leadership, creative thinking and confidence.

WARP2025 will see 33 teams from across Western Australia descend on Curtin Stadium from August 22-24 for a weekend of competition, collaboration, and inspiration. The game involves ever changing alliances of fast-moving industrial sized robots competing on a basketball-sized field in rapid rounds of 2 minute 3-on-3 matches. Collaboration and the need for careful strategy are baked into the design of the game, making it a rich and exhilarating experience for everyone involved.

For The Carnabys, it will be an exciting opportunity to test their skills, connect with like-minded peers, and proudly represent Bridgetown. They'll also receive mentoring from more than a dozen university students who were team members at high school, and remain passionate supporters of the competition. They are now keen to volunteer their time to give back to the next generation of aspiring engineers and STEM professionals...*Continued on page 13*

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# 2025 Bridgetown Ringing Weekend

The Alphabet Ring is a mini-ring owned by Corinne and Adam and located in Bridgetown. A 'mini-ring' is a term used to describe a set of bells hung for full-circle ringing, where the heaviest bell, the 'tenor', typically weighs less than 50kg. Bells hung in this way are the normal installation in Anglican churches in the UK, and since the 1700s, this style of bellhanging has been introduced to countries such as USA, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. The reason for hanging the bells in this particular way is that they can be rung in a controlled pattern, to create patterns, which bellringers call 'changes' or 'methods'. Free-swinging bells, which are almost universal on the European continent, cannot be rung in a controlled way, but chime at their own pace.

Mini-rings have become popular in the last twenty years or so, with the Alphabet Ring being the second to be constructed in Australia, and indeed the Southern Hemisphere, they allow for keen ringers who live far from the nearest 'fixed', full-scale ring (in our case this would be St Patrick's Cathedral, Bunbury), to have their own set of bells which they can ring at times of their own choosing, rather than at the discretion of church authorities.

Since setting up the Alphabet Ring in Bridgetown in late 2021, we have hosted several ringing weekends, at least one of which has previously been covered by the 'Mailbag'. This weekend we have hosted a total of 15 ringers from Perth and Bridgetown, who have come together to practice their art and enjoy the atmosphere of Bridgetown! We have rung several set pieces, which we call 'quarter peals', and additionally practiced ringing different patterns of changes, called 'methods', allowing the ringers to expand their skills. We have also offered two 'open' sessions, where interested non-ringers can come and



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*Here for you when life's season changes.*

# GROUNDLED Festival 2025

GROUNDLED festival is for farmers, growers, soil lovers, food systems thinkers, nutritionists, school garden enthusiasts and their friends.

It's a weekend that will deliver information on how to grow food better as it explains the importance for ecosystems, food systems, health systems, financial systems and communities.

This year's festival will be held on the weekend of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September. It will be hosted by Raquel and Murray Johnson on their property, Galloway Springs Farm, which is situated ten kilometres from Bridgetown along the South West Highway, just before Yornup.

Galloway Springs is a 200-acre property on which Raquel and Murray run a diverse farming enterprise which incorporates agricultural tourism, and where they grow garlic, run cattle, stage events and have a farm shop selling vegetables.

Raquel Johnson explains enthusiastically about the weekend. "GROUNDLED festival is run by Matthew Evans, a celebrity Chef and better known for his SBS series the Gourmet Farmer.

"After he attended an event called Groundswell in the UK, he decided to bring a similar event to Australia in 2024, to his farm in Tasmania called 'Fat Pig Farm'.

"With the festival an initial outstanding success, he now plans to hold this event in a different Australian state on a yearly basis, this year Western Australia.

"The festival will feature over thirty local, interstate and international speakers and panellists.

"Speakers including Dan Kittredge, Felice Jacka, Jade Miles and Mary Retallack, all curated by GROUNDLED director, writer and farmer Matthew Evans.

"There will on-farm demonstrations, you will be able to get hands-on in the field with demos from the likes of Blythe Calnan from



Murray and Raquel Johnson

Muster Dogs and local biochar expert Kathy Dawson.

"It includes a Long Table Feast and Tastings to celebrate local producers with great food, Rocky Ridge beers, and Blackwood Valley wines.

"There will be live music from Formidable Vegetable and Lemon Myrtle that will allow you to unwind from the day's events.

"GROUNDLED festival is a safe space not just for farmers but for anyone interested in food.

"The festival is a cross between a world class conference, an informative field day and a food festival.

"A place where you can come and listen to ideas on ways to make farming better, how to create more bio diversity, why you should use less chemicals, and to use methods which make you a better profit, and, importantly, how to maintain a good mental health.

"The Grounded festival creates knowledge, delivers inspiration and makes social connections, all this in one place over two days.

"Participants leave not only with the tools to run their enterprise better, but also with the confidence and inspiration to make it so.

"Over the weekend the idea is to disseminate as much incredible knowledge as possible between landholders and food systems thinkers of all ilks, helping growers with real life skills to heal the land while making money.

"Murray and myself will be hosting this event to provide a joyous, inclusive festival on a working farm, where knowledge is key."

Booking to the event can be made through the web site [www.groundedaustralia.com.au](http://www.groundedaustralia.com.au) or for further details you may telephone Raquel or Murray on 0411 468 480.

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## Games Evening

The Board and Card Games Evenings held on Thursday evenings during the month of June at the Shire Library were a small example of how community groups collaboratively promote community engagement.

Participants in these evenings got to choose from a wide selection of games including old favourites like chess, dominoes, UNO, and newer, popular ones, such as Catan, Azul, and Ticket to Ride. Some of the games for the younger ones contributed to developing mathematical skills in a fun way and others promoted cooperation to achieve a common goal.

Everyone also got to share a cup, or couple of cups, of soup choosing from the delicious variety kindly prepared by volunteers in our community.

More board and card game get-togethers will be held at a variety of venues during the Fidgetown Fest. Details will be posted on the Bridgetown CRC Facebook page and flyers will be posted around town. If you wish to join in, please RSVP.

Thanks are extended to the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes for providing the Library venue, Activate for highlighting the importance of promoting volunteering and community engagement in their Action Plan, the BGTA for organising and marketing the Fidgetown Fest, and Talison for supporting the 'Building On' project coordinated through the Bridgetown CRC with the aim of perpetuating Bridgetown-Greenbushes proud history of volunteering.

A little further down the track on the 22nd August a 'Fun Raising' quiz night will be held to thank volunteers. Everyone is welcome and there will be lots of prizes to be won including Community Cash Vouchers. To find out more check out the posters around town and, for catering purposes, please make a booking. Kaye McLennan



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# August Update



## Talison Launches Stakeholder Reference Committee to Strengthen Community Engagement

Talison is proud to launch the Stakeholder Reference Committee (SRC), a new initiative that brings together representatives from across community to support meaningful communication and consultation around both current activities and future operations.

The SRC will be a key platform for improving transparency, encouraging open dialogue, and ensuring that Talison is supported in making informed decisions about its activities that impact the community.

This initiative responds directly to feedback from the 2022 and 2024 Community Perception Surveys (CPS), which highlighted a strong desire for more meaningful engagement opportunities.

### Why the SRC Matters

As the Greenbushes Lithium Operation continues to grow to meet global demand, delivering around 20% of the world's lithium, Talison remains committed to operating in a way that is safe, sustainable, and respectful of the people and environment around us.

We recognise that recent rapid growth has brought challenges and at times, our responses haven't been as timely or clear as they should have been. The SRC is one of several steps we're taking to improve how we engage with our community. It reflects our commitment to delivering long-term economic, social, and environmental benefits for Greenbushes and beyond.

The SRC is not a replacement for Talison's regular engagement with stakeholders, rather it's an additional way to listen, learn, and collaborate.

### Who will be on the SRC?

The SRC will be made up of independent community members who are open to sharing their perspectives on Talison's activities. While the views expressed by the SRC may not represent every stakeholder, they offer valuable insight into the broader sentiment within the community.

We're seeking members who reflect the diversity of our community, including local government representatives and residents from areas directly and indirectly affected by the Greenbushes Lithium Operation. A broad range of views and experiences is welcomed and encouraged.

### How to Get Involved

Talison is currently seeking Expressions of Interest from community members who would like to join the SRC. Committee members will play an important role in shaping the future of the Greenbushes Lithium Operation by contributing their perspectives and helping build stronger community understanding of our operations.

For more information about the SRC, including the Terms of Reference and the Expression of Interest form, simply scan the QR code or visit the Talison website at [talisonlithium.com/community](https://talisonlithium.com/community).

For any enquiries regarding the SRC, the Community Team is available to assist, please contact them at: [gbcontact@talisonlithium.com](mailto:gbcontact@talisonlithium.com)

Expressions of Interest will close on 21 August 2025 and the first meeting is scheduled for early September.



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## Reducing Noise, One Truck at a Time

Earlier this year, we shared that Talison is working with our mining contractor, Macmahon Contractors, on a project to reduce noise from our haul trucks. As our fleet has grown, we know the sound from our operations, especially at night, can affect nearby residents.

Following a successful 2024 trial, which showed promising results using noise attenuation technology, we're now moving ahead with a full rollout across our haul truck fleet.

The first milestone in this project was recently achieved: we've fitted our first CAT 785C truck with the noise attenuation equipment. The results are encouraging, noise levels have been reduced from 121–123 dB(A) to our target of 117 dB(A). To put that into perspective, every 3 dB(A) reduction represents a halving of sound power, so this change equates to roughly a quartering of the truck's sound output.

This is just the beginning. Between now and the end of the year, we'll be progressively fitting the remaining 32 trucks in our fleet with the same technology, one down, 32 to go!

While this initiative will make a noticeable difference and we remain committed to exploring further innovations and continuing open dialogue with community members affected by operational noise, along with other impacts.

As always, should you have any feedback relating to impacts from our Greenbushes Lithium Operation, please do not hesitate to contact our Community Team, at [gbcontact@talisonlithium.com](mailto:gbcontact@talisonlithium.com).

## Talison Helps Bring Inclusive Play Space for All Ages and Abilities to Life at Sandakan Park in Boyup Brook

Talison was proud to recently join the Shire of Boyup Brook and the local community to celebrate the official opening of the new all-ages, all-abilities playground at Sandakan Park, a project proudly supported through our Community Investment Program (CIP).

Talison contributed \$1.716 million to the project, replacing the aging playground and launching a broader transformation of Sandakan Park into a vibrant, inclusive space for families, visitors and tourists.

Talison CEO Rob Telford spoke at the event, reflecting on the deeper meaning behind the project: *"This playground pretty much represents what's most important to us at Talison. When I talk to our people, we talk about safety, about making it home each day, because there are more important things than work. And the thing I always talk about is family, which is everyone we have here today. Thank you all for coming along. Kids, I hope you think this is awesome, because it's all for you."*

The Shire of Boyup Brook were fantastic partners throughout the project, working hand-in-hand with the community.

It was clear at the official opening that this is more than just a playground, it's a legacy. It honours the rich history and heritage of the area, including the iconic flax mill, now immortalised in the 8m slide.

The play space is a symbol of what can be achieved when industry, local government, and community come together. The result is a vibrant, inclusive space that will benefit generations to come.

Well done to all those involved.



Talison Lithium and representatives from the Shire of Boyup Brook celebrating the official opening.

FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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# A Crazy Chick and her Rooster

Estelle Rowcliffe Carlson and Bruce Carlson took part in the Winter Shitbox Rally this June driving their yellow Camry, which they have dubbed 'Chickamry'.

This year's route was Perth to Darwin via the Gibb River Road.

For Bruce this was his first rally, he speaks of the venture, "The rally more than lived up to my expectations, it was an excellent experience.

"The ingenuity of the bush mechanics and support crew was outstanding, lots of knowledge had been learnt from previous rallies and it was put to good use thinking outside the box.

"Around Auski Roadhouse our rear shock absorbers failed. The mechanic in our buddy group suggested we put tennis balls inside the springs to work as 'air shocks'. Apart from the obvious question of where the hell I am going to get tennis balls out here, I had my doubts if it would even work.

At camp that night, I made a call on the 2 way to everyone in the rally for tennis balls please. Someone responded, and I was given eighteen tennis balls which are keep just in case for just such an occurrence

"Putting half the tennis balls into a stocking sleeve and then inside each rear spring did work and it worked very well.

"My first purchase once we arrived in Broome was for back-up tennis balls.

"When driving across the Pentecost River crossing, a car from another buddy group punched a hole in the sump casing. It was fixed with a front number plate being wrapped around the sump and with the use of silastic and some screws was held in place, the repair not only lasting the rally journey but also lasting the trip all the way home

"For me, the biggest disappointment I had was I didn't get to drive across the Pentecost River crossing. Being the co-driver, I merely had to watch and learn how it was done."



Estelle Rowcliffe Carlson and Bruce Carlson

Estelle explains about how much the rally raised this year. "Our Chickamry raised \$6,020 in total for the event from folks in Bridgetown, and we of course would like to thank everyone for their support.

"The total raised by the rally this year was \$2.8 million dollars, this being the 39th rally, the total monies raised now is over \$58 million dollars. All the money raised goes to cancer research through the Cancer Council.

"Raising money for the entry fee is the task, the reward is the road trip and the adventure it brings."

Estelle and Bruce purchased the 'Chickamry' back from the organisers and drove the car back home to Bridgetown, still on tennis ball suspension. Having had such a wonderful experience, they intend to do it all again in a couple of years.

## Bridgetown Historical Society

In 1911 a young woodcutter emigrated from Scotland to Western Australia. John Cowe McIntosh, barely 19 years of age, headed to Bridgetown and the forests around Yornup where he spent the next three years as a sleeper cutter, camped amongst the jarrah with his fellow timber hewers.

Like many young men he didn't hesitate to enlist with the AIF at the outbreak of war and was in the ANZAC day landings at Gallipoli as a stretcher bearer.

However, he had a hankering to be a pilot. His journey over the next six years would ultimately see him completing an odyssey "which would long live in the annals of Australia... an adventure possibly without equal in the history of man", so said Prime Minister Billy Hughes at the time.

Richard Allen will present his remarkable story at the Bridgetown Historical Society office at 10am on Saturday 30th August.

The talk will be repeated at the former sleeper cutter camp site near Yornup the following day, Sunday 31st August at 2pm. Entry to either talk is by donation to the Historical Society.

Enquiries 0487 592 704 Lee Wittenoom BHS



John Cowe McIntosh

## Bridgetown Historical Society Presents a talk by Simon Walker JP

The Loss of the White Ship and the resulting Anarchy

On 25th November 1120, the White Ship (Le Blanche-Nef) sank off the Normandy coast with only one survivor. Amongst those who drowned was William Adelin, the only legitimate son and heir of Henry I of England. This disaster set of a succession crisis which resulted in a period known as the Anarchy (1135-53), described by one chronicler as "when Christ and His saints slept".

Readers of the Ken Follett historical novel 'The Pillars of the Earth' may be familiar with this event, also readers of Ellis Peter's 'Brother Cadfael' novels.

WHERE - BHS Office, 5 Civic Lane  
WHEN - Thursday 24 July at 10.00  
Queries 0487 592 704

# Art Awards Celebrate Connection Through Art

The People and Places 2025 Bridgetown-Greenbushes Art Awards have once again brought our community together to celebrate creativity and the powerful stories that connect us to people and place.

Held across June and July at the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Visitor Centre galleries, this year's two exhibitions, the Archies (Portraits) and Landscapes were open to artists from across Western Australia. The result was an inspiring mix of local and visiting artists, all exploring what people and place mean through their eyes and hands.

June saw the return of the much-loved Archies Portraits Exhibition, which culminated in a lively awards evening on 2 June 2025. Congratulations to Gabriel Evans, who was awarded Best Overall Portrait for Red Hat; John Garde, who received Best Local Identity for Laurel; and Tessa Chambers, who took out the Youth Award for her work Shaz, Sharon Gardner. Chris Latham and Jean Barrett were also recognised with Highly Commended acknowledgements for their compelling portraits. A highlight of the Archies is always the People's Choice Award, which this year went to Joanne Francis for her moving piece Connected. Depicting a mother and daughter at a quiet waterhole in New Zealand Gully, Greenbushes, Joanne's work touched many with its emotional depth and strong sense of place.

The celebration of connection through art continued in July with the Landscapes Exhibition, which shone a light on works that explored the diversity, beauty and stories within our natural and built environments. The opening and awards night on 3 July was a wonderful gathering of artists, community members and visitors alike. Congratulations to Wesley Nash, who received Best Overall Landscape for Phillips Street Bridge; Joanne Butler, who was awarded Best

Local Landscape for Blackwood, Now and Then; and Tye Chambers, who won the Youth Award for Boat Park. Highly Commended acknowledgements went to Martin Sherlock for The World Beneath My Feet and Christine Blowfield for Snappy Gums in Hancock Gorge.

The return of the People and Places Art Awards is especially meaningful for the community, as the awards had not been held since 2016 when they were hosted by the much-loved Bridgetown Pottery-Restaurant. Now, with a fresh home at the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Visitor Centre, the event has been revived with new energy and strong community support.

A special thank you goes to all the artists from across WA who shared their creativity with us, and to our dedicated judges — Bev Bagby, Dee Mosca, and Murray and Lilly Johnson — for their time and thoughtful consideration. The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes also extends its sincere thanks to Talison Lithium, Bridgetown Rotary and the Shire itself for generously supporting the prizes awarded across both exhibitions.

The final piece of this year's celebrations is the People's Choice — Landscape Award, which will be announced on 31 July. Thank you to everyone who visited, voted and supported our local and regional artists.

Planning for the 2026 People & Places Bridgetown-Greenbushes Art Awards will start soon, and the Shire is excited to see these exhibitions continue to grow. Local artists are encouraged to start planning their submissions for next year — we can't wait to see what new stories and connections will be brought to life through art in 2026.

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes is proud to support these exhibitions and the talented artists whose works remind us of the stories that live within our people and our places, and the vital role art plays in bringing them to life. Karen Hill



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## Transition Bridgetown

### Creative Actions for Climate Hope

In a world that seems so often to be consumed with disharmony, greed and the devastating effects of a changing climate created by mankind, we can look beyond and absorb the beauty and harmony of the natural world. And it gives us Hope.

Join us on Sunday 24th August 2pm-4pm at the Uniting Church Hall in Roe St, our Open Space is a joint event in collaboration with Gondwana Link and is entitled "Creative Actions for Climate Hope".

Keith Bradby and Margaret Robertson from Gondwana Link will present the film which is a documentary on the large-scale community dance project 'The Stars Descend' created by Annette Carmichael Projects with Gondwana Link. The film is by Josephine Jay of Gneiss Design and runs for 78 minutes.

In early 2023, 'The Stars Descend' dance performances took place in five chapters across the Gondwana Link ie Wooditchup/Margaret River, Northcliffe, Borongur/ Porongurup, Fitzgerald Biosphere/Ravensthorpe and Karkula/Garlgula/Kalgoorlie.

The Stars Descend created a vast trail of contemporary dance performances, aimed at transforming how people see and care for our country. Inspired by eco-restoration efforts across the Gondwana Link, it showcased the importance of climate action and restoring health to the land, as well as conveying hope to audiences.

We will also have updates from the Save Dalgurup Campaigners and the Shire's support for this. Join us for a couple of hours to inspire and renew our hopes for making a difference.

**Repair Cafe:** By thinking globally and acting locally Transition Bridgetown has struck a little blow against our throw-away economy. It's Repair Café, which was run with the Shire's help at the Greenbushes Hall on Saturday the 12th of July, brought together some skilled volunteers keen to put their know-how together to repair household goods.

By 9.00am it was a hive of activity as some of the community's best fix-it people, armed with everything from sewing machines to glues, and toolboxes set up their repair stations. Bunting from recycled cloth adorned the walls, bringing some colour to a drab, wet day.

Repairing the earth was front of mind for Lynn Canes who was really creating some interest with "eco bricks". It's a simple concept – find a plastic bottle, stuff it with small plastic waste using something as simple as a stick, then use it as building brick...*Continued on page 11*

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## Creative Actions for Climate Hope

Continued from page 10...The idea's slowly gaining ground world-wide as a pragmatic way to reduce waste entering the environment by isolating it as a useful product, while also raising awareness of the mounting problem of plastic waste. "We'll do something with them soon, so that people can see the fruits of their labours," Ms Canes said.

Further down the hall Robb Gibb was willing to have a go at anything on wheels needing repairs. From early in the morning he was deep in the innards of a troublesome e-scooter.

Lee Goodall was doing general fix-it work and found himself pulling apart a carpet cleaner that had given up the ghost.

Meanwhile the ladies on the sewing table were busy repairing clothes and even running impromptu workshops.

There was even a big range of local seeds from the Greenbushes Community Garden that were guaranteed to grow well in Greenbushes. All the garden's seeds are sold for a donation but given free to the cash-strapped.

For the youngsters who turned up it was a great opportunity to learn some practical skills, like sharpening tools and darning socks.

Despite everyone's efforts, however, organisers were disappointed at the poor public turn out, though the cold

rainy day didn't help. Those who made the effort enjoyed a great social event with some excellent morning tea from the kitchen of the indefatigable Lisa Gibson.

Keep an eye out for the next Repair Café in Bridgetown on Sat October 4th. In fact, here's an idea for you: collect everything that needs repairing in a box over the next 2 months and bring it along. Because you might be surprised at what you can get fixed.



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## Postcode Pizza 6255

Since the start of the year Jo and Mike Kaye, along with their two children, eleven-year-old Xavier and nine-year-old Sierra have started up a new family business in town which makes and sells artisan pizzas from a mobile pizza oven.

This little enterprise has started small: since January this year they have been operating at the rear of the Llama Lounge Bridgetown, at 106 Hampton Street in Bridgetown, most Friday nights from 5pm until 8pm.

Mike Kaye explains the process, "Pizza is my favourite food, and I simply love making a variety of pizzas showcasing locally sourced ingredients.

"Everything is made fresh, we make a 'biga' dough the night before and let it ferment for 24 hours.

"Using a biga dough adds complexity to the flavour and it gives the pizza base a light, open texture with holes.

"The secret to a good pizza is all in the dough, you get that right then the rest is easy.

"We are very passionate about finding and using local ingredients. We source local Regen farmed produce that is spray free. We also source from farm stalls and use home-grown ingredients and herbs from our garden.

"We only use Bio-Dynamic flour, and organic grown tomatoes in our paste.

"We aim for our pizzas to be an avenue to promote local producers who are doing amazing work in our community.

"We usually make a variety of four pizzas each night, we always have a margherita style pizza, cheese and sauce, then we have other pizzas inspired by seasonal local produce.

"Some of the pizzas we make are: Sweet Potato, totally awesome with pumpkin, red onions and goat cheese; the Rogan - Lone Oak Family Farm lamb curry, mozzarella, raita and fresh herbs;

the Roast Beef - Marinated beef, mozzarella, local roasted royal blue with onion gravy base; the Pork Taco - Pork Carnitas, tomato base, salsa, mozzarella, sour cream and pickled jalapenos,



Mike, Xavier, Sierra and Jo

"All inspired by local produce and made with love."

"Postcode 6255 is our holistic family business comprised of three ventures, Postcode Pizza 6255 as detailed above.

Postcode Permaculture 6255 – "We deliver an annual 2-week intensive Permaculture Design Certificate. We also run a series of workshops from March through to October.

"Postcode Produce 6255 – we hope to offer a variety of fruit, vegetables, preserves, plants and seeds for sale in the future.

"We have been making pizza for over 15 years now and we are super proud of the restaurant quality pizzas we make."

Jo and Mike will be offering Pizza at the Grounded festival in September at Galloway Springs.

Postcode Pizza 6255 is fully mobile and available for functions.

We of course wish Jo and Mike good fortune with this new enterprise. When making a family favourite, the pizza, success is assured.

## BGFF and BES Delighted at Shire Council Support

The Joint Campaign Committee of Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest (BGFF) and Blackwood Environment Society (BES) sincerely appreciate the May decision of the Shire Council to receive and support the Petition by 610 local residents to keep the Greater Dalgarpur Forest free from mining activities.

Council resolved to instruct the CEO to request a meeting with the Premier, relevant Ministers and the Local Member to progress the proposed reserves adjacent to the Dalgarpur National Park, in accordance with the Forest Management Plan 2024-2033 (FMP). This would give the Bridgetown Jarrah Park, Nunn block and Karri Gully / Gregory Brook area greater protection from mining.

To assist council with their decision, Acting Director Development and Regulatory Services Leigh Gutheridge sought an update from Nicola Mincham of the Land Services Unit within the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCAs). She replied that DBCA would commence a process in 2025 to expand the conservation reserve system to meet commitments under the FMP, including the area surrounding the Dalgarpur National Park. "Consultation will be undertaken with the Shire and BGFF, along with other key stakeholders and Traditional Owners, in due course", she said. "The views of all stakeholders will be considered."



Bridgetown Jarrah Park

Council agreed to provide advocacy on the grounds that the community supports the protection of the high environmental values of the Greater Dalgarpur Forest and that any form of mining activity (exploration or otherwise) in this area should be excluded.

To date no Ministers have responded to the Council's request for a meeting, but a response was received from Local Member Bevan Eatts. BGFF and BES were delighted to attend the meeting with Bevan Eatts, Shire President Tracy Lansdell, Acting CEO Morgan Gillham, and new CEO Garry Adams who officially starts on August 4. Bevan has committed to seek a meeting with the Minister for Mines, David Michael, to discuss community concerns. Alison Wright

# Bridgetown High Students Take on State Robotics Challenge

*Continued from page 2...* The event is not only a major milestone for local students, it's also a springboard. The team already has its sights set on Sydney in 2026, where they hope to qualify for an international robotics event, proving that students from small country towns can dream big and compete on the world stage.

The project has received generous support from both local and state partners. Support from Talison Lithium has helped fund parts and travel expenses, while Bridgetown Newsagency has run a successful fundraiser for team shirts. Murdoch University and The Western Blue Tongues, a veteran robotics team from Southern River College have loaned The Carnabys specialised equipment and provided invaluable guidance along the way.

This network of support has made a huge difference, helping turn a bold idea into a working robot and a confident team. Momentum is building, and with each challenge tackled, our students are beginning to see just how far their skills, teamwork, and ambition can take them.

Helen Cockerill



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## Black Wattle

Joanne Patmore is the author of a compelling story of life in the South West. Her debut novel 'Black Wattle' is a work of historical fiction that is centered around group settlement in the South West of Western Australia.

Joanne tells the tale of writing her first novel. "My Grandmother gifted me my grandfather's notes, which detailed the life they endured when migrating to Australia and taking up a block on Group 75 at Warner Glenn which is east of Karridale and just west of Nannup on the Blackwood River. This was when I was 21, and my grandmother asked me 'If I might be able to do something with Pop's book'.

"Over the years the story was always in the back of my mind. I wanted to do something with Pop's book, but as it always does, life got in the way, so it was not till I retired that I had the time.

"As the saying goes, it is never too late to begin.

"What I enjoyed most about writing this book was the research I'd undertaken. I would get lost for days searching through 'Trove' and I spent a lot of time at the Battye Library.

"Writing a novel is a very good excuse to spend a lot of time researching, reading and looking at things and looking up different stories, that's the process I enjoy.

It's also a good excuse for avoiding all those daily chores, when you are required to do a lot of historical research

"I wanted to write about hardships suffered by women on the group settlement, and I sought to write a historical fiction story from a woman's perspective.

"It's a story about family, marriage, betrayal and family secrets as Alice, the main protagonist, seeks refuge as she reinvents herself with a new life as part of the ill-fated group settlement scheme in Western Australia. The novel's second half takes place in Margaret River in the 1960s, when her granddaughter Jarrah begins to unravel the mystery surrounding Alice's life.

"I'd always had a passion for being creative, and writing stories really brings out my creativity.

"I often find myself longing for familiar places and times that are now lost. Writing Black Wattle took me back to my childhood and the memories of growing up near the Blackwood River.

"I completed the book around 2019, but unfortunately, the timing wasn't great with Covid-19, so I put the book away for a couple of years."

The book launch is planned for Wednesday, 13th August at 10:30 at the Bridgetown Library. This event will be opened by Shire President Cr Tracy Lansdell.

To RSVP to this FREE event, contact the library on 97612503 or email [library@bridgetown.wa.gov.au](mailto:library@bridgetown.wa.gov.au). Morning tea will be provided and all are welcome to attend. Signed copies will be available to purchase.

Author, Joanne Patmore will also be at the Nannup Public Library on Tuesday 19 August from 10.30 to 12pm, all are welcome.

Of course it's not easy to have your first novel published, success for novelists publishing their first novel is around one or two percent and Joanne states, "Writing a book is easy compared to having your book published."

Joanne Patmore has been involved in creative writing for many years. She was head of English at Shenton College when it first opened, then taught creative writing to adults in England. At sixty, she started a Master's Course in Creative Writing at St John University in York, England, and completed it with distinction.

"I had my first story published in the Australian Womens Weekly when I was twelve, it was a tale about Marlene Dietrich and her glamorous life. I suppose I also wanted to live a glamorous life."

Joanne's writing is still impressing as she was a finalist in last year's Best Australian Yarn competition with her short story titled 'Savage Daughter', a tale about a girl growing up in Margaret River area in the 1970s.



Joanne Patmore

## Show Talk,

Hi Everyone; Sponsor Thank You's to the generous businesses, groups and families who came forward to support this year's show. The Bridgetown Show is a community event, relying on community support to make it as wonderful as possible.

2025 Membership renewal letters have now been sent out. Appreciation to our many members who support the show! If you would like to become a member, please email [treasurerbridgetownagsoc@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerbridgetownagsoc@gmail.com) or head to our website to print a Membership form. Family memberships are \$30 - and this provides you entry for 2 adults and 2 children U17 to attend the show! Which is a great way to save money on the gate.

The 2025 Schedule Section changes are now complete! Although the printed book is still in production you can view the Sections right now on our website! It's been a mammoth effort by a team of volunteers to get this done and a huge THANK YOU to our 2025 Stewards for getting their sections updated and ready in record time!

This year's event is shaping up to be an amazing day! Lots of children's entertainment for families, information & talks for those interested in native flora & fauna, lots of market stalls for the shoppers, an array of tasty treats for the food critics, plus all the things we love about our show-exhibits in Centenary Hall, Sheep, Poultry, Wool and a reinvigorated Cattle Section, the Sheaf Toss Championship and to top it off Live Music in the evening! Keep an eye on our social media and around town as we share all the details!

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 13th July 7.00pm, in the Presidents Room at the Showgrounds. If you would like to know more about the Committee or the Agricultural Society's role in the Community, contact mob. 0437 602 836 (Calls only - no Texts) or email: [secretarybridgetownagsoc@gmail.com](mailto:secretarybridgetownagsoc@gmail.com) website address is [www.bridgetownshow.com.au](http://www.bridgetownshow.com.au) like us on Facebook 'Bridgetown Agricultural Show' or follow us on Instagram.

## Kim Perrier's Latest Music Videos

Join us for a special three-day event showcasing the World Premiere of Kim Perrier's latest animated music videos in the Bridgetown Town Hall on September 5, 6 and 7, brought to life through his original poetry and writings. Experience these unique creations on the new state-of-the-art video and sound system recently installed at the Bridgetown Town Hall.

Live Music; The Gecko Brothers Jam Band, featuring Elenor Frith and friends, will perform live on the night, adding a vibrant musical layer to the celebration.

Art Exhibition: A curated display of artworks by local talents including John Garde, Emily Smith, Cassie Jo Davis, Tess Chambers, and Margaret Beechey Rothery (bronze works) will be on view.

Additional screenings will be held over the weekend: Saturday - 11:00 AM and 3:30 PM and Sunday - 2:00 PM

Viewer discretion is advised: Some videos contain sensitive material and may not be suitable for children under 15.

Don't miss this immersive, multi-sensory celebration of art, music, and imagination.

## Hotel Sorrento

*Continued from the cover...* The play explores the delicate undercurrent of memories and secrets during the long-overdue family reunion in the seaside town of Sorrento, where shadows of the past catch up with three decidedly different sisters.

It has those ageless themes of; why we might run away or feel the need to get away from the family home, and then the reasons why we might feel the need to return and touches on topics of a life's purpose and the sense of home.

The play is directed by Rob Snelling and is now in its final weeks of rehearsal. Rob is very happy with how the production is progressing and tells of his thoughts. "The set has been completed and we are now tweaking with the lights, scenes and the players roles.

"The cast are telling the story well, the tale they tell is believable, which is really the outcome that any director wants.

"You can imagine your own family with similar conflicts.

"Do yourself a favour, come along and enjoy a wonderful Australian story, one you don't want to miss out on."

Hotel Sorrento will be presented on Thursday 7th, 8th, 9th and a matinee on Sunday 10th of August. Then the following week, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> a matinee. Tickets are available from Try Booking or at the door.

## Farewell to Winter Ball

Continued from back page..."Dance, of course, stimulates the mind as well as the body, dance is a gentle form of exercise which keeps the body supple, and learning the dance steps and remembering the sequence keeps the mind active plus attending dances is the very best social activity around."

For further information on the Social Dancing Group or the Annual Ball you can call Tony on 0427 643 638, or Trish on 0897 611 946.

**Raffle notice:** The winner of the wood raffle held 6 June was won by Kym Nock. The Bridgetown Golf Club thanks the community for supporting this raffle. Glen



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## Farewell to Winter Ball

Dianne Briggs, Kevin Dunnart, Melissa, Mick Blatch, Patricia Martin, Tony Magenta, Karen Pankhurst, David Shuttleworth, Cathy Morris

The Social Dancing Group's annual fundraiser for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), the Farewell to Winter Ball will be held on 30th August this year in the newly renovated Bridgetown Town Hall, doors open 7.15pm with dancing to start at 8pm.

This is the first time in years that the annual ball has been held Bridgetown because of the Town Hall renovations.

It's a glamorous night which sees those who attend dressed in cocktail or formal wear.

Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy a wonderful evening; those who come for the dancing will have their full measure of the night's entertainment, some patrons come to sit and watch the dancing and marvel in the night's theatre with all its glitz and glamour, a glimpse back in time, all contributing to a memorable evening.

All those attending get to participate in one of the best social activities of the year whilst raising money for the RFDS.

Some of those who attend this once-a-year ball come from all over, from Perth, Albany, Mandurah, Busselton, Donnybrook and all towns in between, and this year we have a couple travelling over from New South Wales, who are attending because they like to support RFDS fundraisers.

The RFDS has special significance for many people who live their lives in the rural and regional areas, who will never

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know when they may benefit from the service, but who will be glad the service is there when they or their family need it to be.

The social dancing group make sure that all the monies raised from the evening goes to the RFDS with any associated costs for the evening coming from the group's other revenue.

Since 2011 the Social Dancing Group has raised \$28,598 for the RFDS from the annual ball.

The group also holds dances regularly at the Yornup Hall and from the monies these dances have raised they have also given a further \$26,000 to the other charities they support; Beyond Blue, the Cancer Foundation, Perth Children's Hospital and Men's Health.

When getting ready for the Ball, yes, it is beneficial to know your way around the dance floor but not essential, and if you need to touch up your technique, the Social Dancing Group holds dance practice every Monday night at the Uniting Church Hall on Roe Street starting at 6pm, except if it's a public holiday. Of interest, as the annual ball is imminent, all the dance practice nights until then are being given over to learning the 21 or so dances that will feature at the Ball.

Patricia (Trish) Martin and Mick Blatch are the dance instructors for the group. Trish explains, "The dance style being taught is Sequence dancing, an offshoot of Ballroom dancing. Dance sequences are made up from a certain number of repeated steps which are in multiples of 8. Once you have learnt the sequence the length of the dance is dictated by the music...*Continued on page 15*"

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