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Castaways Sculpture Awards

Now in its 14th year, Castaways is the City of Rockingham's premier arts and culture event held in November.

Castaways gives emerging and professional artists the opportunity to exhibit their creative skills by designing sculptures made from recycled and repurposed materials..



Kim Perrier with his Award Winning 'Fractured Time' Sculpture

In the Main Exhibition on the Rockingham Foreshore, the public chose 'Fractured Time' by Bridgetown artist Kim Perrier as the winner of the Fremantle Ports People's Choice Award.

Kim Perrier, who also won the People's Choice last year at Castaways, said "Castaways is always an exciting exhibition and this year was no exception. I felt honoured to win this award again.

"The sculpture illustrates the 'mother of time' rewinding the clock as numerals spiral down the tapered base, sucked into a black hole where time ceases to exist. Winning the People's Choice communicates to me that people see the value in my work, so it is very encouraging, thank you."

The Sculpture 'Fractured Time' is made from recycled and repurposed materials, the life size 'mother of time' is women cast from recycled aluminium sitting inside a 1.2metre aluminium flange salvaged from a jet engine.

Kim and Marie Perrier have been developing a sculpture park at their property on Dreyfus Street in Bridgetown to house and display Kim's latest contemporary work.

The sculptures Kim has produced over the years have been a mix of different materials, ranging from works in bronze, concrete, resin to remnants from the bush.

The sculpture chosen by the public vote for the 'People's Choice' Award in 2021 was a 'CarboNature' combined with aluminium casting and is also on display in the park.

Kim has five sculptures underway at the moment, one of those being a 'money frog' design. He plans to use this sculpture as an honesty box for when visitors come to view the garden, with the frog being a depository for a cash donation.

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Bently Armstrong, Fletch Mason, Maggie Reeves, Ebony Hanrahan and Minna Tough in the Cheerful Space

Creating a Cheerful Space

An 18-metre long by 3-metre-high nature inspired mural which depicts the fauna and flora of the local area has been painted by the students at Bridgetown Primary school, with every student in the school given the opportunity to take part in the project.

Artist and illustrator Alicia Rogerson workshopped the design of the mural during Book Week in Term 3.

During the workshop Alicia shared her research with the students about local flora and fauna and the local endangered animals. Students from Years 1 to 6 had a go at sketching natural items and images that Alicia had brought in.

Alicia recorded a brief for the students which encouraged them to get out into nature during the October school holidays and draw. She said, "Remember. every item in nature is different. Your drawing is as individual as you and that is exactly what we want for the mural."

Alicia being the guiding hand which brought their conceptions of what was to be included in the mural to life in a stunning 18-metre-long picture.

The Bridgetown Primary School P&C was the body that funded the project. The undercover play area had been an area of concern which the P&C wanted to improve and brighten for the students, the mural turning a plain brick wall into a delightful scene.

Judith Dadson, Bridgetown Primary School Principal is very proud of what the students have been able to create; "Alicia mapped the students' drawings and ideas onto the wall, with some students mapping their own drawings on, then all the students in the school participated in painting the scene. It was like a very large 'paint by numbers' picture which Alicia had prepared.

"With Alicia's guidance the students have created a mural in which they can take a lot of pride as well as having a sense of ownership with the project." *Continued on page 4*



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'Life' Art Exhibition

The next exhibition which will be held at the 'Rabbit Hole' Gallery on Hampton Street during December and January will be a collaboration exhibition by nine artists who are currently in residence at the gallery.

The nine unique artists will make the exhibition an eccentric mix of differing styles, each artist will be displaying in the gallery three of their works, the works being a mix of sculptures and paintings.

To keep the exhibition fresh during the two months display, when an art piece is sold it will be replaced with another piece, in this way the exhibition will always have all of the displayed art for sale, making it a good place to purchase local art.

The 'Rabbit Hole' Gallery has now been opened for six years and is now being run as a co-operative amongst the artists.

Martin Sherlock an artist in residence is pleased with how the gallery is developing. "In my last exhibition I sold around 75% of the art I exhibited.

"Speaking to those visitors of the gallery during the exhibition I've found the gallery is becoming a draw card for those wanting to visit Bridgetown.

"Under the new cooperative management, the gallery is progressing well, the future is bright."

The Gallery is run as a cooperative with artists in residents renting a space where they can create and display their art, visitors can view the works being made and speak to the artists.

In the Art Gallery during an exhibition the gallery takes a percentage of the art work sold. At this point in time the gallery has exhibitions booked up each month for the next twelve months.

The Gallery has been given a grant by the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes which will be spent on improving gallery.

Nikki Powell the gallery's chair person explains how the money will be spent, "The money will be spent initially on lighting and the electrics, which are much-needed improvement.

"Down the track we are hoping to have a ceiling put in, which will brighten the space up to no end as well as help to keep the dust down.

"In the meanwhile, the painting of the walls continues."



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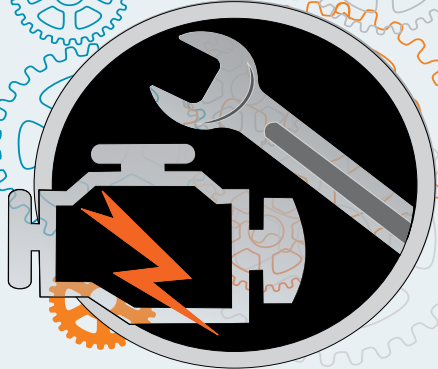
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Bridgetown Historical Society

This month on Wednesday 21st December Bridgetown Historical Society (BHS) will be at the Community Kiosk in Hampton Street with their Christmas stall and raffle. A major fund raiser for BHS. We invite you to pay a visit and support our activities.

The Blackwood-Warren Sentinel in 1950 reported to their readers -

GOOD CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WEEK AT BRIDGETOWN

Hampton Street, Bridgetown main shopping area, presented an animated scene throughout last week as Xmas shoppers went to 'work'.

All business premises report good sales, as residents, including many New Australians, launch a Xmas shopping offensive.

Local post office was very busy throughout the week, reaching a high tempo on Friday and Saturday morning. Staff were thankful for the holiday break.

Many visitors came to the district and numerous residents left it to enjoy a respite at the coast or with relatives in other parts of the State.

A record number of caravans passed through the town from various directions, being towed behind vehicles of all makes, shapes and sizes to holiday resorts.

Xmas Eve presented good swimming weather and many of the town's younger set, with the sprinkling of those a little older, sort relief in the Blackwood River, whilst some more fortunate went towards Bunbury.

Main Xmas Eve celebrations took place on Saturday and Bridgetown's four hotels spent a very busy time attending to the wants of patrons in public bars and lounges.

Xmas day was cool, whilst Boxing Day gave Bridgetown a taste of unseasonable weather.

Some things don't change and Christmas in Bridgetown 2022 could be much the same.

However, if you need to stock up on the traditional Christmas food, we will have shortbread, fruit mince pies, rum balls and gifts for that last minute present. A Christmas box raffle will include Christmas cake and many other appropriate items.

Or you could try out this relaxing punch recipe from Bridgetown which was posted in the Sunday Times 1926



Claret Cup – ingredients, 4 bottles of claret, 8 bottles of soda water, 1 bottle of sherry, 1lb of sugar, 4 lemons, 1 small cucumber, 1lb of ice, a few sprigs of the herb borage.

Method, cut lemons and cucumber into thin slices, put them in a large jug, pour on wine and soda water, then add sugar, borage and ice (chopped small). Let it stand for about an hour. Before serving strain out the lemon, etc. Mrs A.F. Tate, 'Gracwald' Bridgetown .

When you visit the Police Station Museum make sure to look in the kitchen. Used by the policeman's wife for all the cooking at the station. An open fireplace where heavy cast iron pots were hung, a separate bread oven and many kitchen utensils not recognised today by most visitors, although some "still can remember".

Lee Wittenoom

Sing Christmas

Come along and enjoy the singing of Christmas Carols at St Paul's Anglican Church on Monday 19th December starting at 7pm. It's a wonderful evening to look forward to and one that which should not be missed. All are welcome.

There will be individual performances by Mary Evans, Claire Robinson and the Jubilee Singers, and of course many favourite carols will be performed for people to join in and sing along too.

The band members at this stage are Hilary Bardsley who will be conducting, Tabitha Dale and Joel Sherd, violin with Hannah Dale, cello. Brody Dale and Callum Dale play a range of wind instruments and Tim Streeter, trumpet.

Dale Kerber will play the organ, Rosemary Wells on keyboard with Dave Bardsley, electric bass, Mary Evans and Adrian Williams, guitars with Sue Williams percussion.

The service will be conducted by the Reverend Canon Karon Austin.

This year will be the last year the carol concert will be led by Karon Austin, St Paul's Parish Priest, as she will be retiring due to health concerns after her seven-year stint at St Paul's.

Karon reflects on her time as clergyperson at the church; "In the seven years I've been at St Paul's there has always been a carol service held in December, the service acquired its new name 'Sing Christmas' around six years ago. Since then, every year it has attracted more musicians to perform and take part in the service.

"People come together at the service to celebrate a great Christian festival.

"My time ministering at St Paul's has been a memorable one, from my first day at the church I felt welcomed. The congregation is made up of very friendly parishioners, and Bridgetown itself is a beautiful part of the world.



Some of the 12-strong 'Carol Band'. From left to right: Rev Canon Karon Austin, Mary (Myfanwy) Evans, Dale Kerber, Hilary Bardsley, Adrian Williams, Hannah Dale, Brody Dale, Sue Williams

"I will be retiring to Dalyellup, just down the road really, to spend my remaining years around my family who all reside there, I am blessed to have nine grandchildren.

"I'm a Bunbury girl, that's where I grew up, so it's like going home."

St Paul's is one of best performance venues in town. The acoustics are wonderful. Each year a 'wall of music' from the band is met with a 'wall of singing' coming back. It's magical, it's something you can feel.

Tim Streeter, the trumpet player, says it's his favourite musical event of the year.

This year 'Sing Christmas' is hoping to introduce some new, highly talented local musicians, which will provide an additional dimension.

The performance runs for an hour and a half. Tea, coffee and Christmas cake will be offered after the carols, along with joyous conversations. Everyone is welcome to attend.



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TALISON – SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Talison is pleased to support community groups across the Shires of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Donnybrook-Balingup, Boyup Brook, Nannup and Manjimup in 2022, enabling organisations to host events, activities and projects or purchase equipment to make a positive impact. These donations are administered by the Community Team through the Talison Sponsorship and Donations Programme and include in-kind assistance or a cash donation.

Sponsorships and donations queries for GBContact please email GBContact@talisonlithium.com



WA Premier Mark McGowan (second from right) visited Talison's Greenbushes operations with Talison General Manager—Operations Craig Dawson and (left to right) Deputy Premier Roger Cook, Warren Blackwood MLA Jane Kelsbie and Mines Minister Bill Johnston (right).

Talison's Greenbushes Lithium Operation was in the spotlight in November when WA Premier Mark McGowan and Ministers Roger Cook and Bill Johnston took time out from a country Cabinet Meeting and tour of the South-West to check in on the world's leading lithium minerals supplier.

The Greenbushes Lithium Operation has experienced an increase in global demand, driving record production of 361,227 tonnes of spodumene concentrate in the September Quarter and leading to an uplift of 190 new jobs in the past year—bringing the local operations workforce to more than 900.

The McGowan Government has welcomed the increased demand for Western Australia's spodumene concentrate and said the expansion at Greenbushes reinforced WA's strength and ability to supply the world with the battery and critical minerals it needs to transition to net zero.

"My Government is committed to making sure this increase in activity delivers benefits for communities in our regions, including jobs for the future," said Mr McGowan.

Mr McGowan said demand for clean energy technologies like EVs was driving exploration and investment in WA.

Expanding the Greenbushes mine will help increase the State's participation in global battery and critical mineral supply chains, and job-creating manufacturing opportunities.

Construction of a new Mine Services Area is underway at Greenbushes, and further plans are in place to expand the existing mine, increasing production capacity by approximately 50 percent, with an estimated additional 750 permanent jobs over the next five years, in addition to the 550 construction jobs which will be created.

The works include construction of a new chemical grade processing plant (CGP3) and a new Mine Access Road to take heavy haulage out of the town of Greenbushes.

Western Australia is the largest lithium supplier in the world, accounting for 52 percent of global supply in 2021 and accounted for 100 percent of Australia's lithium production in 2021.

The Greenbushes deposit is recognized as containing the highest grade, is one of the largest hard rock deposits of spodumene in the world and its output accounts for approximately 22 percent of the global lithium market.

The Greenbushes mine supplies feedstock to Tianqi Lithium Energy Australia's lithium hydroxide facility at Kwinana (the first downstream processing lithium hydroxide facility in Australia) and Albemarle Corporation's lithium hydroxide plant in Kemerton near Bunbury.

Talison Lithium is a joint venture (JV) arrangement owned by Tianqi Lithium Energy Australia (a Tianqi Lithium Corporation/IGO Limited JV) and the Albemarle Corporation.

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Did someone say Popcorn?

This year's Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Summer Film Festival has something for everyone.

Celebrating the end of the school year, we start with a family animation on Saturday 17th December, Minions: The Rise of Gru. Gru is a fan of a villain supergroup and he wants to join them. To do so he needs to become evil enough. Joining us on the night we welcome the Bridgetown Family Centre who will be selling popcorn and other homemade goodies as a fundraiser for their centre. Bring your picnic from 6.30pm and buy snacks from the Family Centre table. The fundraiser is cash only, as are the films.

New Year's Eve is sorted with the second film in the festival and a live band. The new recently released movie Elvis is directed by Baz Luhrmann will be screening after music by local rock and roll band Common Ground. For a bit of fun Common Ground will be on theme with some Elvis covers. Singing along encouraged. Music starts from 6.30pm.

On Saturday 7th January we're at Thomson Park in Greenbushes screening Top Gun: Maverik. The first Top Gun came out in 1986. Maverik has at least four of the same actors, which is pretty impressive for three plus decades. Which is the better movie? You be the judge.

New Australian film The Drovers Wife: the legend of Molly Johnson screens on Saturday 21st January. This film is based on a book by Leah Purcell. Purcell then went on to develop the film adaptation becoming the first indigenous woman to write, direct and star in an Australian movie.

In a change of pace, the final film of the festival is a documentary about the protests which stopped the damming of the Franklin River in Tasmania 40 years ago. Franklin documents the journey of one of the activist's sons, who follows in his late father's footsteps paddling down this wild river, while exploring the history of this formative Australian event. It includes old TV footage and exceptional scenes of this World Heritage Listed area.

Bring a picnic from 6.30pm, films start at 8pm. Adults \$6.50, Child \$3.50, Family \$13.00.

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We Wish You A Merry
Christmas

We wish you and your family a safe and happy holidays, see you in 2023!

The Outback Lassies Adventure

Bridgetown's 'Outback Lassies', Michelle Wright and Kathryn Holland, are two-person team who participated in the Spring Shitbox Rally in October, the rally being a 'fun way' for 'Outback Lassies' to take part in the largest community-lead fundraiser for the Cancer Council in Australia.

Also, it was the rally which had them travelling from Mackay to Darwin via the Savannah Way in a 'shit box' of a car. So how did they fare, and did their 'shitbox', a 2003 Holden Astra stay the distance?

A very enthused Michelle tells us how she found the rally, "It was a wild experience, one that I will always remember. The nights were hot and the days were very hot, the country was as wonderful and as vast as you could ever imagine the outback to be, the only way I'd ever be able to travel the Savannah Way was in this very well supported way, it was a once in a life time adventure for me.

"There were 500 participants, 200 support crew and 250 cars. Every night along the way the local service clubs such as Lions, Apex or Rotary would cater the meals with the support crews keeping us fed and watered from the hard day of driving.

"The support crews were also the most amazing bush mechanics ever, their ingenuity was tested every day: when windscreens were smashed, the rear window came out as a replacement, when radiators were punctured by stones they had a way of stopping the leaks by using common household ingredients such as sachets of pepper. Cola cans skins and builders bog were used for sump repairs and any other oil leak which appeared. In the morning the engine was purring nicely again and ready for the day ahead.

"We travelled in buddy groups of eight cars. The roads were badly corrugated and the river crossings were challenging and I drove the car like I didn't own it, yes 'thrashed' would be a good descriptive of my driving style."

A still excited Kathryn continues the tale, "It has been such a wonderful experience, it gave me more than I ever expected.

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Really it was the most non-stop belly laughing, exciting experience I have ever had, some of the laughter was because of anxious moments, but mostly it was just a lot of fun.

"Now I want to experience it all over again, I have signed up to do it next year along with a new driving buddy, Estelle.

"As marvelous as the support crew were, our car lasted up until the last day, we hit a large bull dust hole in the road, damaging our steering struts to such an extent the two front wheels were pointing in different directions and the car was deemed unroadworthy so we had to join another car crew and be passengers for the last day.

Continued page on 15



Kathryn and Michelle

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A Good Omen

Don Perks told fine and funny tales about fascinating gems of local history. How many others remember this episode? Here is one of Don's stories.

Greenbushes was once home to herds of wandering goats back in the 1940s. (And probably before that, but the narrator is too young to remember). Where they came from and who they belonged to is anybody's guess. Some people referred to them as 'Green's goats', Green being the name of a Greenbushes family at the time.

At the corner of Blackwood Road and Mica Street there is a sign, which says, "Here stood the Goat Bill Palace". I have been told that an edifice known as the 'Billy goat Palace' once stood there.

The goats wandered all over town and nibbled on anything that took their fancy. Housewives were well advised to keep a close watch on the washing as it hung out to dry on the clothes line, lest some hungry goat should decide to drop in for a snack.

People never locked their doors in those days; in fact, people often went off to the shops without even bothering to leave their doors closed. Any open door or window was an open invitation to the goats to pop in.

My mother had used some of her precious ration tickets to buy material to make new curtains for the 'front room'. On one occasion we returned from a down town shopping excursion to find a goat in our house chewing away at the new curtains. As we entered the house the goat left the same way it had got in, through the open window.

Poor Mum. She couldn't just rush out and buy new material, there were no ration coupons left. She had to repair the goat-damaged ones as best she could. She made a pretty good job of it and apart from signs of wear and tear on one corner those curtains served the purpose for which they were designed for many years.

One story about the goats, involves the Balingup Football Club.



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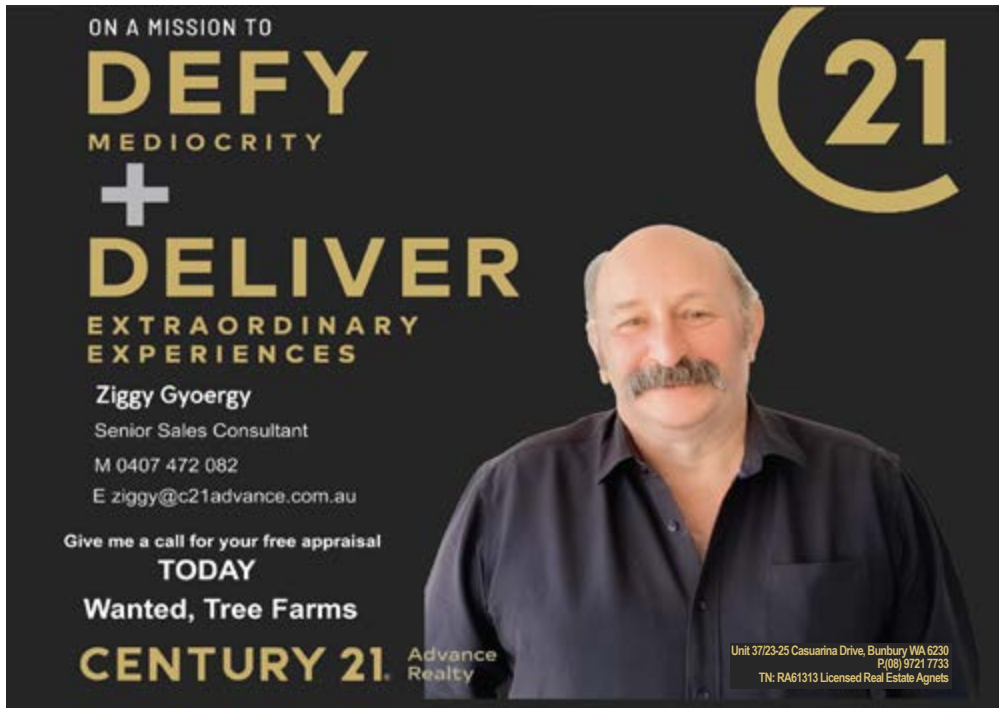
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In 1947 the first Semi-Final of the then Nelson Football Association was played at Greenbushes. The opposing teams were Balingup and Bridgetown Warriors. The game was held up when a small black and white goat wandered onto the field. As Balingup's colours were black and white this was considered to be a good omen for them, and it must have been because they won the game and adopted the goat as their mascot.

The following week, again at Greenbushes, Balingup faced up to Bridgetown Rovers in the Preliminary Final. The little black and white goat was paraded out complete with a number 1/2 printed on a saddlecloth strapped to its back. Balingup were again victorious, this time by an even larger margin and advanced to play Nannup in the Grand Final to be played on the Show grounds at Bridgetown.

On the Grand Final Day at Bridgetown Show Grounds Nannup's colours, red and white, were everywhere. Red and white bunting, red and white streamers, even a red and white umbrella, *Continued on page 12*



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Transition Bridgetown

Well, it seems that the cold winter is fading and spring is here for the next couple of weeks at least! It's been a busy time as usual over the months of Sept, Oct and Nov in our shire and here a few of the things we've been up to!

Our October Open Space was all about "Seed Saving" and how crucial it is for local food security. There is a seedbank operating out of the Bridgetown Community Garden and you can deposit or withdraw seeds on a Tues or Saturday morning. Come along and check it out. It is only a viable bank if the seeds are actually being used!

Transition Bridgetown has been working for several months now on the 'cluster development' project. Things really got going in June when we held a workshop to discuss possible solutions for the housing problem that seems to have no end in sight. The Planning Director of Department of Land Use Planning (DLUP), the State government department responsible for planning/zoning, came along and heard first hand, a number of proposals - one of which involved a 'rural strata' concept that is designed to retain good agricultural land whilst freeing up land for small clusters of housing.

Wendy Trow, Transition Bridgetown member, followed up with DULP and was encouraged by the response. Not only is DLUP interested in the concept, but they asked for real life examples that could be evaluated in discussion with individual property owners and local government.

A group of 21 land owners met in Balingup at the end of October to learn more, and several are planning to submit proposals. We quickly discovered that people had attended for all sorts of reasons - some were interested in building social housing, others for family members and some to raise capital.

The next step is to submit proposals to DPLH and wait with baited breath for the outcome! For further information, please email transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com

On Thursday 24th November there was a workshop meeting in Bridgetown for representatives of community renewable energy groups from across regional and urban Western Australia.

The workshop was the inaugural face-to-face meeting of CREATE Community Energy, a network of community groups who are driving local energy initiatives in their towns.

Bridgetown Energy Transition (BET; a subgroup of TBR) is a foundational member of CREATE, which stands for Community Renewable Energy Alliance of Towns and Enterprises. The alliance group is the new peak body in Western Australia for community renewable energy, whose purpose is to advocate for community renewable energy with government and key stakeholders at all levels.

By signing up to CREATE, BET joins forces with other towns in the greater South West who are actively pursuing local renewable distributed energy projects. These include Augusta Margaret River Clean Community Energy; Clever Clogs of Pemberton; Geraldton Community Energy; Katanning Energy and Totally Renewable Denmark. *Continued page 15*



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Baked by Fiona

By Emma McGuire

It's early Sunday morning at the Bridgetown Markets and locals are already starting to gather. Set against the scenic backdrop of the Blackwood River, this open-air market is a reminder of the long tradition this region holds for buying direct from the farmer. From free range eggs straight from the backyard plot to seasonal fruit from the family orchard, people are falling in love with food produced in their own community.



Local baker, Fiona Roberts pictured above, is an example of the resurgence of small producers in the valley. Tall glass jars filled with organic chocolate chip cookies and rustic wooden fruit crates of fresh produce, create a simple back drop for her range of artisan loaves and wholesome baked goods. Her desire to access healthy food has been the inspiration for her home-based business, Primal Alternative. "I was looking for healthy and nutritious food that could not only help my own family, but my community," said Fiona.

Using seasonal and local ingredients, she often sources vegetables needed for her products, from local growers. Her popular fruit loaves, infused with goji berries, mixed spice and ginger have become a firm favourite, with many customers placing regular orders. Other popular lines include her grain-free zucchini breads and pizza bases made with flour alternatives.

For those wanting to bake their own goods at home, her range of take-home packets, including her chocolate granola and brownie mix, are a great staple for the pantry. Her wholesome range catering especially well for those with specific dietary requirements, including those with food intolerances.

Early morning starts at the market as a vendor, provide Fiona with the opportunity to connect with her community and share stories. Like many of her customers, she has discovered that by going back to basics and eating whole foods, she has been feeling better than ever.

"My health and the health of my family is what drives me, she said smiling. That, and the fact that it is cooked in my

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Cancer Care Raffle

A new local small grant program to help those who are having to have cancer treatment is being set up Bridgetown, and to kick start the funding for the new grant program a raffle is being organised.

Michelle Wright is one of the instigators behind this Cancer Care Bridgetown group and takes us through what she hopes to achieve grant program: "We are hoping to provide support to the families of those going through cancer treatments.

"An area I feel is important is to support the whole family, one service we are hoping to help the family with is providing funding for respite for kids whose parent is going through the cancer treatment. Also helping families financially with small grants to help pay for costly treatment and provide food for the family when needed.

"There is way more support for those living in Perth who are having to go through medical procedures and treatments. Most health support services for patients with cancer are based in the metro area leaving those living in the country faced with travel and accommodation issues, and in a small way we are hoping to redress the imbalance.

Michelle's idea is already gaining support in town, and in early in 2023 raffle tickets will be available, with prizes being: a painting by Nic from Fat Arts, Rocky Ridge Beer Brewing package and two tickets on a Captain Cook scenic river cruise on the Swan.

Small grant programs like the one Michelle is trying to establish makes living in the country all that more pleasant.



Nic and Michelle

A Good Oman *continued from page 9*
 (most umbrellas were black in those days). And Balingup? All they had was their little black and white goat, which they paraded around the trotting track that surrounded the football oval ground.

Nannup were red-hot favourites to win, so when they scored the first goal in the first minute it looked as though they would be the easy victors. But as it turned out, they were to score only three more goals for the remainder of the match. Balingup thrashed Nannup, romping in by about 12 or 13 goals.

As their captain was carried shoulder high off the ground at the conclusion of the game, the little black and white goat was hoisted up into his arms.

What became of the Greenbushes goats? Don't know. They just seemed to fade away. Don Perks

How Could We Have

Forgotten *Continued from back page*

Patrick Scallan was awarded one in 2015 for service to local government and the community. Thomas Nigel Jones was awarded one in 2018 for his service to medicine as a general practitioner. Pamela Mary Hamence was awarded her OAM on Australia Day 2020. Adrian Elder was awarded one in 2021 for service to the community of Bridgetown.

The omission of the names of Pat, Josephine and Pam was rightly brought to our attention by knowledgeable local residents. We're grateful you can correct our record.

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Creating a Cheerful Space

continued from page 2

Around 200 students participated in the painting of the mural across the school Years 1 to 6.

Sarah Muizarajs the school's Library Officer talks about the project; "All the students are now enjoying the transformed, bright and refreshed space the mural has created.

"After the holidays around 100 students submitted their artworks to be included into the mural. Alicia combined her drawings with the students to create a massive scene. Students then assisted Alicia prepare the wall with white undercoat, then together they drew the rescaled art onto the wall and each part was numbered with a corresponding number. Black outlines were the next step and finally colour was added"

"Alicia spent around a week with the students designing the mural bringing their thoughts to life. She then came in to the school during the holidays to map the drawing onto the wall. Later, the students took around a week to complete the mural.

"With Alicia's kind, gentle and encouraging manner generating such a wonderful result, it is amazing to see the mural the students have created."



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Fantastic Mr Fox

The Bridgetown Repertory's end of year shows this year will be 'Fantastic Mr Fox'. This production is based on the book by beloved children's author Roald Dahl and adapted for the stage by David Wood.

The end of year show always requires a huge effort from a lot of people, especially when there is a large cast of thirty-six, and being the Christmas show it has a lot of young ones on stage.

This year's show has brought a couple of surprising talented, creative and willing workers to assist with this production, one of whom is Shirley Hassen, she is handling the costumes.

Shirley has in a previous life worked as a seamstress for the WA Opera Company. That experience taught her one thing and that is 'the show must go on', so with a dogged attitude and lots of help she has managed to outfit the thirty-six cast members.

Shirley confides with us on how she has managing, "We haven't had to make any new costumes, but we have had to alter, dye and repair all the ones we have chosen.

"It was my first time being involved in a production at the Repertory. Going back stage I found there a very extensive wardrobe full of all sorts of clothing that had been made or sourced over the years.

"The way we went about it was, firstly, we divided the actors into colour grouping. For the badgers we sorted black and white costumes, for the weasels we found salmon-coloured clothes, moles are brown and fawn, rabbits grey and pink and the foxes have a green costume.

"I had a lot of help from Lin Ash, Kaye McLennan, who said she'd do just a little and has worked tirelessly ever since, Susan Wheatley and Phoebe and Abi O'Wallace.

"All of the helpers have gone about their tasks and have never seemed fazed at any time by the extensive task we have all taken on. The wardrobe costumes have been blended and combined, shortened or lengthened, laced up or loosened, pleated or gusseted, dyed and of course some have been reimagined into different outfits.

"Because a lot of the characters are underground animals, I thought we may have to dirty the costumes a little, but under the new lighting systems we are finding the costume appear just right.

"We found three sets of dinner tails which were perfect for the rat costumes, not only because there are only three rats, but it suits their roles.

We found just enough fox tails, chicken outfits and some farmers' baggy overalls for the farmers. All the cast are now outfitted.

Shirley concludes "I have really enjoyed being involved with this production, especially the role of mentor I've had with Abi. I've made new friendships and I've met with some interesting people I would not of met if I wasn't part of the show, it's been very rewarding."

Another surprising find has been Abi O'Wallace, a fourteen-year-old who first came to the production of 'Fantastic Mr Fox' as part of the wardrobe team helping with the costumes, sketching conceptual designs, creating forest animal headwear, and then lending her creative talents to the design of the poster for the show.



Abi O'Wallace and Shirley Hassen

Some of her original illustrations will be on display in the theatre foyer.

Seeing the rehearsals and itching to be part of the stage play, Abi's chance came when the role of the rat became vacant. Trying out for the role she read through the script and sang the rat's song. The shows directors Emma and Ella McGuire found her naturally talented and ideal for the role.

Abi, usually quite shy, has found that playing a role is quite liberating, in the way that she is able to express herself through playing an extrovert character on stage, and therein lies another tale.

This multi-generational drama has something for everyone. The storyline follows a clever fox and his family who are living in a den under a tree. The fox is providing an abundance of food for his family which he is stealing from the local farmers.

Angered by the raids, the farmers decide to kill Mr. Fox. They camp out near his den, and when Mr. Fox emerges, they open fire but only manage to shoot off his tail.

Then in the ensuing chase the determined farmers end up demolishing the site and felling the tree with digging equipment while attempting to dig Mr. Fox and his family out from the den.

Come and see how the drama unfolds, there will be lots of unfair moments for you to boo at.

Will Mr Fox be able to save his family from the farmers who are determined to rid themselves of his nuisance? Does the fox have the smarts to outwit the farmers? What clever ruse will he think of to be forever remembered as the 'Fantastic Mr Fox'?

The play will be staged in its second week on Friday 9th, Saturday 10th and a Sunday matinee on the 11th December.

The Outback Lassies Adventure

Continued from page 7

"But our Holden Astra isn't done with just yet, it will start its new life as a 'bush basher' vehicle on a farm. We sold the car to one of the support crew.

"We met with, lived with and struggled through some interesting times with the best people you are ever likely to meet. A lot of those on the rally, participants and support crews, all had in one way or another been touched by that awful disease cancer and they were giving back a little by participating in the rally.

"The rally this year raised \$1.9 million for the Cancer Council of Australia as well as providing a lot of fun for all of us who took part in the venture."

Transition Bridgetown

continued from page 10


The single urban member of the alliance is the White Gum Valley Ecovillage. All but Geraldton were able to send representatives on the day.

The purpose of the workshop was for BET to share their experience and knowledge of the issues and challenges they face in trying to develop a local energy project and infrastructure. The groups shared insights into their common and unique problems, and what solutions were successful for them. The responses gathered will go into a report to government and key stakeholders. They will also help in the formation of a strategic plan for CREATE Community Energy, and a program for advocacy which will be actioned over the coming six to twelve months.

BET is a key to building economic development in Bridgetown and will go some way towards building community resilience. We look to a time when fringe-off-grid energy supply issues are a thing of the past in Bridgetown.

The workshop was co-organised with Murdoch University, the Harry Butler Institute, and Curtin University's Energy Humanities Initiative. It was supported with funding from Energy Policy WA, Murdoch University, the Harry Butler Institute and a private donor. Email: bridgetownenergy@transition20@gmail.com for further information

We hope that you have a wonderful Christmas break and we look forward to cranking up for some more sustainable, resilient, community projects, such as the Blackwood Regen Fest Taster in the New Year. In the meantime, try and avoid soft plastics and unnecessary packaging.



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Christmas Gifts are on their Way

Bridgetown, Boyup Brook and Greenbushes residents were once again very generous with their support for the Operation Christmas Child, 'Christmas Shoe Box Appeal' in 2022. This year our community contributed over 90 boxes to this worthwhile cause. All in all, it was a wonderful effort from so many, with a special mention to the Bridgetown CWA.

The Samaritan's Purse project is a nondenominational evangelical Christian Organisation providing physical and spiritual aid to hurting people around the world.

Contributing to this cause has a positive effect on those taking part, giving an understanding and empathy for the plight of those who's who life is less fortunate than the one we live in Australia. The gifts and the thoughts which go with them will add a little joy into a child's life.

Remembering that childlike joy we had as youngsters opening our presents on Christmas morning, then imagining that joy magnified tenfold, as we think of a child who has never in their life received a present opening their gift, a child who might have suffered the effects of either a war, a natural disaster, poverty, illness or maybe neglect.

Bringing joy and hope is what the Samaritan's Purse project is all about.

A great many thanks go to the people, the families and the groups who participated in this year's Christmas Shoe Box appeal, also to the individuals and companies who donated money and gifts to fill and send the boxes. Somewhere, a very lucky deserving child will love the gift.



Lyn and Anita from CWA

How Could We Have Forgotten

Following our cover story in the July issue, Queen's Birthday Honours, it was pointed out that we had overlooked a couple of local Order of Australia Medal (OAM) recipients, Patrick Scallan and Josephine Helen Spaul.

Another name which we needed to mention is Pamela Mary Hamence.

Pam was awarded the OAM on Australia Day 2020 for her service with the Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades, her service was credited as being well above and beyond normal service.

The ever-evolving story should have read as follows: Robyn McSweeney, from January 2022, is now the eighth person in Bridgetown to receive the OAM. Bernard O'Reilly was given the medal in 1986 for his services to St. John Ambulance, William Harold Rowan-Robinson was awarded one in 1987 for service to the community, Josephine Helen Spaul was awarded the medal in 2012 for her services to the performing arts, particularly dance. *Cont. on page 12*

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Wishing All A Merry Christmas and a Happy, Safe and Wonderful 2023