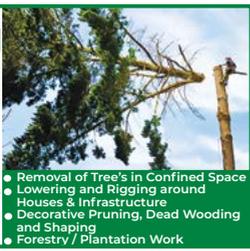


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21 Hearts

On Saturday 7th June just over 200 people from around the district attended the sold-out live performance in the Bridgetown Town Hall of '21 Hearts', a theatrical show which tells the story of Vivian Bullwinkel and the nurses on the SS Vyner Brook.

In some regards that audience was privileged, this show has performed to sold out audiences since its world premiere season opened in the Como Theatre during April 2024.

An absolute pinnacle for the show is that '21 Hearts' has now been selected to be showcased as a Flagship Event in the newly massively refurbished Australian War Memorial in Canberra during the 80th anniversary commemorations of the end of World War II.

21 Hearts will be performed throughout the months of July and August in the War Memorial Theatre, also newly refurbished.

The show pays tribute to the compelling and heart wrenching story of the Australian nurses who were ordered to evacuate Singapore. The story is centred around Vivian Bullwinkel and 65 Australian Army nurses who boarded the Red Cross flagged ship SS Vyner Brooke, a British cargo vessel designed to carry 12 passengers.

Of those on board the ship; 12 nurses were killed during the air attack or drowned following the ships sinking, 21 were murdered on Radji Beach and 32 became prisoners, eight of whom subsequently died before the end of the war.

At its heart is a gripping, true story that commemorates and celebrates women's strength, loyalty and fortitude in the face of adversity.

The play is produced by THEATRE 180; Rebecca Davis is the Executive Theatre Director and has the role of Vivian Bullwinkel; she explains how this extraordinary story has come to the stage, "Stuart Halusz and myself had the great privilege of interviewing Vivian Bullwinkel some thirty years ago in 1995 as we worked for Agelink Theatre.

"Agelink Theatre Company was established by Jenny Davis, my mother, with its core ideal being based on gathering and performing oral history stories...*Continued on page 14*



Matron's passing - Alison van Reeken, Rebecca Davis, Caitlin Beresford-Ord, Alex Jones, Helen Searle, Michelle Fornasier



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Ray Galloway, Meegan Cullen, Kath Fazackerly, David Spooner, Chris Shedley, Julia Robinson and Angela Paget-Stedman.

Hotel Sorrento

Bridgetown Repertory's next production is Hotel Sorrento. A well written Australian play depicting family drama. The play was written by Hannie Rayson and will be directed by Rob Snelling.

The Bridgetown Repertory performed this play back in 1996. The director at that time was Pam Lane and back then today's director, Rob played the role of the father, Wal.

Chris Shedley was also a member of the cast in 1996, at that time he played Dick, a socialist newspaper reporter. This time around he will be playing the role of the old man Wal.

Hotel Sorrento was written in the 1980s. It explores 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.

Rob explains how the play is progressing, "Hotel Sorrento is not a hotel as such; it's a family home situated at number 1 Ti Tree Road in Sorrento. The house is treated by family and friends as a hotel, hence the name 'Hotel Sorrento'.

"It's early days as yet, we have a good mix of experienced actors. The role of Troy, a young boy, is to be played by fourteen-year-old David Spooner, who has come through the youth theatre group.

"All the characters are developing strongly as they develop the play's theme of the family fracturing and coming back together again.

"With this play we have had to add two thrusts, or side stages, to the stage, one being a pier on the left of the stage and the one on the right being the London flat. The kitchen scenes and lounge scenes are middle stage.

"Almost all the set has been constructed by Huge Litson and is looking good, just the finishing touches to go.

"In this production we will also be using a projector to create various back drop scenes on the stage. It's a terrific stage play, one in which you may hear echoes of your own family life reflected as play deals with family drama."

Alive and well, the Bridgetown Repertory has gone from 'The Vicar of Dibley' to 'Hotel Sorrento', this highlights what a wonderful variety of genres and entertainment the Bridgetown Repertory produces.

Hotel Sorrento will be performed in August, a wonderful Australian show, if you miss it, you will regret not attending.

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Fiona Sinclair, Artistic Director and events manager, Corinne Rule

Bringing the Arts to the Community

Southern Forest Arts has been tasked and funded by the State Government for the next two years to present arts events across the Southern Forests and Valley region, encompassing the Shires of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Manjimup and Nannup.

The well attended recent theatrical show in the Bridgetown Town Hall of the highly acclaimed '21 Hearts' was as a result of this funding, plus financial support from the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes.

Fiona Sinclair who is the Artistic Director and General Manager of Southern Forest Arts was very pleased with the community support behind this production and explains her role in bringing arts events to the community, "I have worked for Southern Forest Arts now for around twenty years and in that time the organisation has established a reputation and expertise in bringing art events in to the regions.

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"We endeavour to match events to the individual communities as well as ensuring equitable events across the regions as a whole.

"I feel art in its many differing forms helps people reflect on what it means to be human, it allows a greater understanding of other people, other cultures and the diversity within their own community.

"Last year in Walpole we had the Australian Baroque Orchestra performing Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Earlier this year we presented another THEATRE 180 show in Nannup. Our next production is a ballet for children performed in Pemberton in early July. Later this year we are bringing the circus to Manjimup followed by an improvised comedy show in Northcliffe.

"With the state and local government funding, we are able to take on the inherent financial risk in bringing these diverse high quality touring productions into the regions.

"Southern Forest Arts is a not-for-profit organisation, with an excellent governing structure. We have eight paid part-time staff based across the region, who which do the equivalent of two full time jobs...*Continued on page 15*

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Mark Hollett with the line up of Winning Ales and Cider

Big Awards for a Little Brewery

The Cidery Brewing Company has recently won a swag of awards at the Melbourne International.

Winning four brewing awards for its beer and seven awards for its cider, which for a small Bridgetown enterprises is quite an achievement.

The Melbourne International is run through the Victorian Agricultural Society and is now in its thirtieth year of hosting the award, and is the only international brewing judging competition within Australia.

Mark Hollett is the brewer and cider maker at The Cidery and is very pleased with the result and shares some of his thoughts, "At The Cidery we brew ten ciders, nine beers, we also make wine, a sparkling wine, a punch and a vinegar, and I dare say we would be the only drinks producer in Australia which makes that much variety under the one roof.

"Because The Cidery has relatively small brewing vats we are very versatile in trialling different beers and ciders we brew, of which our Truffle Ale, Chestnut Ale and Honey Cider are good examples.

"In recent times and through the Covid-19 lock down The Cidery has been improving and refurbishing. The beer garden is now around twice its original size, the front bar has been redevelped, new brewing vats have been installed and there is now a new canning line installed which can do around 24 cans a minute.

"Almost all of our beers and ciders now are available in cans, which has made a huge difference, now that we have become quite proficient with its use, after we had a few years of fine tuning on the canning line.

"With the cans being dark inside it gives our products a longer shelf life, cans are easy to pack and stack and we now have no breakages.

"The beers we have on tap are still brewed in the traditional way, no preservatives, no pasteurising and they are cask conditioned, which is a process by which just before the fermenting process has finished the brew vats are locked up, allowing the brew to be carbonated with its own CO2.

"The kegs then sit in the cool room for around a week before being put on the tap.

"My main priority, and one I take full responsibility for, is maintaining a quality product.. *Continued on page 13*

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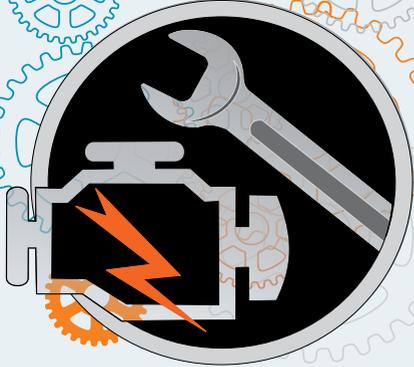
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Show Talk

Hi Everyone;LOOK UP! If you see a dragon flying over the showgrounds on July 19th & 20th - don't fret! It's just the annual Dungeon's and Dragons Winterfest Weekend! The halls will be filled with players from all over the state (and maybe a little farther)! We wish the hardworking Winterfest Committee a successful weekend.

Memberships will be going out soon. If you are not currently a member and would like to be sent a notice, please get in touch with our treasurer or leave your details at the Bridgetown Newsagency.

BIG PROJECTS! There are lots of BIG things happening at the grounds. We have just completed some essential electrical work and are now working on a disabled ramp and permanent disabled toilet, easily accessed from Centenary Hall. Big projects like this take a long time but we are making a start and look forward to our Access Improvement Project coming to fruition.

TREASURER NEEDED – Join a Great Local Team! Are you good with numbers, banking, and happy to learn new tech? Like talking to people and have spare time? Join the Bridgetown Agricultural Society and help run the Bridgetown Showgrounds. You'll help bring events like the Bridgetown Show to life as part of a friendly, supportive committee. Honorarium available.

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



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July Update



2024 Sustainability report released

We're proud to share our 2024 Sustainability Report, highlighting the progress we've made, and the important work still ahead, as we continue to grow responsibly and sustainably in one of the world's most biodiverse regions.

This year's report reflects a renewed commitment to doing better for our people, our communities, and the environment.

As stewards of the world's most significant lithium resource, we take this responsibility seriously and are focused on building trust, strengthening safety, and operating with care for the land and people around us. Scan the QR code to view the report.



EPBC public comment period now open for Capacity Expansion Projects

Talison's proposed capacity expansion projects at the Greenbushes Lithium Operation are currently being assessed at both the Commonwealth and State levels to ensure all environmental considerations are addressed:

- *Commonwealth:* Under the EPBC Act, managed by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
- *State:* Under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA), managed by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)

The EPBC public comment period is now open and will close at 3:00pm AWST on Tuesday, 8 July 2025. This initial consultation invites feedback on whether the proposal should be considered a Controlled Action – one that may significantly impact protected environmental matters.

Scan the QR code to visit the DCCEEW website and view the referral documents and make a submission. Please note:

- Comments must be submitted online
- Submissions via email, phone, or social media won't be accepted
- Late submissions may be considered, but not guaranteed



This is just the first step in the DCCEEW engagement process. There will be more opportunities to provide input as the assessments continue through both the EPA and DCCEEW. Talison will also keep the community informed and involved throughout.

For more information, contact projects@talisonlithium.com or visit our project page for updates: talisonlithium.com/capacity-expansion-projects

Talison helps Golf Club stay a cut above

Talison Lithium was proud to support the Greenbushes Golf Club with a \$74,030 donation for a brand-new greens mower, which will replace the existing mower, which has been faithfully used every day for the last 25 years by its dedicated volunteers to maintain the greens in pristine condition.

FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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Golf holds a special place in the Greenbushes community, with much of the course maintenance carried out by volunteers. The new mower will make a significant difference to their efforts, improving reliability and reducing the burden of ongoing repairs.

Greenbushes Golf Club Course Manager, Dave Malatzky, said

"The new mower is reliable reducing workload of constant breakdowns, on occasions waiting weeks for replacement parts".

"Great new safety features including automatic shut off if someone gets off while blades are rotating".

"We have no issues with getting volunteers to mow the greens now...Smooth, Quiet and the cut on the greens surface is perfect".

If you have a project idea that could benefit from Talison's community investment programs, or if you'd simply like to learn more about them, please get in touch with our Community Team at gbcontact@talisonlithium.com.

We're always keen to support initiatives that make a positive impact in the region.



Pictured: Talison General Manager - Operations, Craig Dawson, with Greenbushes Golf Club members and their new mower.

Update to mine blast schedule

As part of Talison Lithium's ongoing commitment to being a better neighbour, we're updating our mine blasting schedule starting 1 July 2025. These changes reflect feedback received from the community, and were shaped through a period of community engagement to ensure they are appropriate and considerate of local needs, particularly those of Greenbushes Primary School.

What's Changing?

This is not an increase in blasting frequency, just a change to the time windows when blasting may occur. Prior to the change blast time windows were 12:00pm – 1:00pm and 5:00pm – 6:00pm (when required). The new blast time windows effective 1 July 2025 are *Morning*: 9:15am – 9:45am (new), *Lunchtime*: 1:15pm – 1:45pm (adjusted following feedback from Greenbushes Primary School), and *Evening*: 4:45pm – 5:30pm (adjusted). Blasting may occur within these windows based on operational needs and weather, see schedule below for details.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we work to balance operational needs with the wellbeing of our community. For any questions or feedback, please contact our Community team by emailing gbcontact@talisonlithium.com.

Day	Morning 9.15am-9.45am	Early afternoon 1.15pm -1.45pm	Late afternoon 4.45pm – 5.30pm
Monday	Green	Yellow	Green
Tuesday	Green	Yellow	Green
Wednesday	Green	Yellow	Green
Thursday	Green	Yellow	Green
Friday	Green	Yellow	Green
Saturday	Green	Yellow	Green
Sunday	Red	Green	Green
Public Holiday	Red	Green	Green

Green timeslots indicate Talison's preferred morning blasting window, as well as alternative options if conditions prevent blasting at the preferred time.

No blasting will occur during yellow timeslots unless strong northerly winds are present or permission is granted by the Mine Manager.

No blasting is permitted during red timeslots.

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Dunmovin Estate

Not being afraid of hard work and certainly being up for any challenge is the attitude Jim and Donna Read, a husband-and-wife team, have in abundance.

And it was what was needed when they purchased an eighty-acre farm which is situated on the Greenbushes Boyup Road in November of 2021.

The property is very scenic and has rustic charm by the bucket full, it was the sort of place Jim and Donna had been looking for in starting a new chapter in their lives.

“We aptly named our new home as Dunmovin Estate, as we are done moving.”

On the property was 16 acres of vineyards that were planted in 1999 to 2001 and over the years the vines had tapped into the natural water table.

The property had been ‘let go’ for a number of years and in particular the vines had over grown to such a state to almost be unmanageable.

Jim and Donna, having very little knowledge of what was required, sought expert advice on how to manage the vineyard.

“As you might imagine, there was a lot of hard work ahead of us. During the first 12 months we meticulously hand pruned the entire vineyard, repaired all the irrigation and wires, slashing and pruning our way through till we got it just right.

“We have found that for the work, even though it’s not as hard after our third year, we are still hand pruning the vines to obtain the exact style of pruning and fruit and vine structure that we require.

“We have developed a detailed program, including pruning, spraying, vineyard maintenance, and harvesting, and this has resulted in an overall healthy structure of the entire vineyard.

“The fruit flavours and exquisite tastes of our wines are enhanced through our farming, with a hands-on approach.



Jim and Donna Read

“Easter 2025 saw us open our cellar door with our award-winning wines.

Our Viognier 2023, made from handpicked grapes in March 2023 was the winner of three Bronze awards.

The Viognier vintage 2024 also won a bronze award.

We also produce a Merlot 2023, and Merlot 2024, although a year apart are two very different wines.

We also produce a Cabernet Sauvignon 2023 and a Cabernet Sauvignon 2024 that are full bodied red wines with sumptuous fruity notes.

We also produce fortified wines, Red Port 2023, described as ‘Christmas in a bottle’ with its explosion of fruity flavours.

A White Port 2024 which is best explained as Nectar from the Gods. Incredibly smooth, very easy drinking, with a dash of vanilla and a hint of apricot with an absolutely astonishing golden colour.

“On June 15th this year we launched the first phase of our Paddock-to-Plate lamb, raised on our farm, with pork and beef to follow shortly... *Continued on page 15*



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Bridgetown Art Auction

Planning is now underway for the Bridgetown High School and with Bridgetown High School P & C to hold an inaugural Art Auction in the Bridgetown Town Hall on 23rd August. Funds raised will be used to refurbish the students' common room and hopefully purchase some additional playground equipment.

Holly Francke is a full-time teacher at the High School and this year she also took on the role of the Students Leadership Coordinator for events and activities.

Holly explains the planning behind the evening, "At the start of the year the newly appointed student leaders attended the GRIP (Generosity, Responsibility, Integrity, People) Leadership Conference in Bunbury. One of the questions they were asked was 'where do you feel you can go in your school that you enjoy and feel safe?' The students mentioned the Chaplain's room but did make comment that they would like to see the common room developed into a more welcoming and user-friendly space for them all, especially when the weather is not so favourable.

"This conversation then sparked several new thoughts, which then spawned the idea to develop the common room into a more welcoming space for the students to hang out in.

"A space with bright and welcoming décor, new furnishings and possibly a canteen where students could reheat or prepare a meal: A welcoming place where all students could feel comfortable, and one they wanted to be in.

"This plan, a social hub for the school, is one the students will work in conjunction with the staff and school community to develop and a welcome concept.

"I approached the P & C for support and told them of a

successful fundraising venture I had been involved with in another school, an Art Auction of students' and local and well-known artists work.

"I did warn them, Wendy Palmer, Nadine Pitts and Libby Burgess that it would be a lot of work, but the P & C got right behind the idea and have been so incredibly supportive.

"It's a project that all the students will be able to aim towards through the everyday school curriculum.

"A plan which will involve all students in one way or another. The music students, the two school bands, will play three sets of six songs in between the auctioneering, whilst the home economic students will prepare finger food for the evening

"We are hoping for all the creative subject students to contribute one item towards the evening, with works from those students doing wood working, metal work, photography, pottery and those painting and sculpting, to the auction.

"The auction will be run by Zara Hart.

"Tessa Chambers, a current Year 10 student, is leading the whole school years, 7, 8, 9 and 10 in producing five collaborative paintings that will be auctioned on the night, each class year featuring differing designs or scene.

"The evening is planned as a show case of local art, with free entry, free nibbles and door prizes.

A creche for children aged two to ten years will be available, the bar on the night will be run by Cecilia Karafilis Organics.

It will be an event you'll want to attend, one which will benefit local students, and showcase the incredible talent we have in the Bridgetown community and at Bridgetown High School. For further information you can email highschool@bridgetown.wa.gov.au



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Transition Bridgetown

Brainstorming Bridgetown's future

Think globally, act locally was a slogan that could have been made for World Localization Day which was marked in Bridgetown on the 22nd of June when Transition Bridgetown hosted its Open Space event at the Uniting Church Hall.

The event brought enthusiastic participants from Greenbushes, Boyup Brook, Balingup and Bridgetown together on a cold winter's day to enjoy an afternoon tea of local produce, and to discuss their vision of their towns' futures stretching into 2040.

The emphasis was on local food and resources and reflected a world-wide movement towards greater sustainability. Here in Bridgetown the Ashbil Community Garden and recycling efforts are just two examples.

"Strong resilient communities are the first respondent in tough times," Transition Bridgetown's Ingrid Barker told the meeting, setting the theme for the afternoon.

Susie Ascott introduced the film *Town Anywhere* Tooting, which documented the efforts of residents of the town of Tooting in the UK to look towards 2040 and what they wanted for their community.

The documentary looked at the role the residents would like to play in their community with the focus firmly on sustainability.

In the words of one participant "It gave us all a vision we can look into."

Next Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire President, Tracy Lansdell, talked about the Strategic Community Plan and its role in the wider Corporate Business Plan.

She said the plan was currently paused because the Shire believed it could better represent the community's wishes by conducting surveys of the community's thoughts and wishes.

The Shire has undergone big changes in recent months with the appointment of acting CEO, Arthur Kyron and the recent appointment of new CEO, Garry Adams.

Following the film, the meeting broke up into four groups to discuss their vision for Bridgetown's future. Many positive ideas were written up on post-it notes and placed on boards under three themes about Bridgetown-Greenbushes' future.

The meeting ended on a convivial note with participants sharing good conversations and some delicious locally sourced food.

The continuing series of Open Space events remains a central focus of the future-oriented Transition Bridgetown group, but it's far from the only one.

They'll also be putting "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" into good effect at the next Greenbushes Repair Caf e on the 17th of July from 9-12.

"We'd love to see Greenbushes people put their hands up to repair anything on the day and share their skills with the community," said Transition Bridgetown's Lisa Gibson.



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Landfill to Lovely Workshop

In a world rapidly drowning in unsustainable, "fast fashion", it is lovely to have the opportunity to be able to be able to create your own unique jewellery that doesn't cost the earth.

On Saturday the 5th of July from 10am -12pm, the Greenbushes Community Resource Centre, along with local artisan Trish Durham, will present the, "Landfill to Lovely", workshop.

This workshop will provide the skills for participants to create their own earrings,(or necklace if preferred),from a range of reclaimed, rescued & recycled materials.

Having recently returned from travelling in Tasmania, Trish has been collecting all sorts of wonderful treasures that she will make available along with recycled materials that she, and others in the community, have been collecting .

Our own local Waste Warrior, Grace Hitchin, has also been very helpful coordinating with the library for Trish to pick up useful bits from the collection boxes there.

All materials along with tuition & morning tea will be provided.

All findings/ fittings will of course be new and hypoallergenic

The workshop promises to not only be an informative skill-sharing morning but also lots of fun!

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In Memoriam: Elizabeth Walsh, Founder of Henri Nouwen House

Bridgetown is mourning the loss of a beloved community figure, Elizabeth Walsh, the founder of Henri Nouwen House, who passed away recently. Known for her tireless dedication to helping others, Elizabeth's legacy of compassion and service has touched the lives of countless individuals across the region.

As well as her good grace and wise counsel, it was Elizabeth's great gift that she gave her total attention to whomever she spoke and made that person feel special and valued. She encouraged those she helped to "Take one day at a time" and in troubling times to "Just keep walking". Elizabeth never had a bad word for anyone and truly believed that each person had the key to changing their lives for the better, given the right encouragement and support.

Born Teresa Elizabeth Rodoreda in 1932, she spent her early years at home on Ethel Creek Station in Western Australia's Pilbara. Little Elizabeth was just six years old when she made the first of many long journeys that would take her from her North West home down the coast via the State Ship Service to Perth to begin her education at Loreto school. After completing her education at Loreto College, Elizabeth trained as a nurse. She then married Frank Walsh and together they raised their family of five; Jeremy, Jenny, Tony, Simon and Fiona in Perth.

It was in retirement, however, that Elizabeth's life truly flourished as a humanitarian. Relocating to Bridgetown in the early 1990s, Elizabeth became a beacon of support for individuals grappling with issues such as addiction, domestic violence, grief, and mental health struggles. With her expertise in Reiki and Rebirthing, she initially opened The Francis Centre before founding Holyoake South West in Bridgetown.

By 1992 the popular support service was ready to stand independently and it was then she launched Henri Nouwen House, named after a Belgian priest who used his own pain to serve others. The centre, affectionately known as "Henri's," began as a small operation in two rooms of the Tabitha Trust premises at 16 Hester Street and has since evolved into a vital

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resource for the community. Over the years, Henri's has offered a variety of programs, including group support for adults, children's and youth programs, an art program and counselling services.

Elizabeth served as manager of Henri Nouwen House until 1999 and remained on the board for many years thereafter. Her influence is still felt in the centre's work, which continues the long standing adult group support work on Tuesday mornings as it has for all of the 33 years since Henri's inception. Now as Henri's Wellbeing Centre, it also hosts a wide range of allied services including addiction support, therapy services, a number of counselling services, two Philosophy groups and Safe Space Blackwood for those struggling with suicidal thoughts.

Over the years, Elizabeth's work was recognized by local councils, and funding from the Shires of Bridgetown, Manjimup, Boyup Brook, and Nannup enabled the continued operation of Henri's important work. Today, Henri's Wellbeing Centre continues to provide invaluable services to the community and is still financially supported by the Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes.

Elizabeth and Frank Walsh moved from their Steere St home into Geegeelup Village several years ago. After her husband died in 2019, it was time for Elizabeth to move into the Lodge to be cared for, after caring for so many others in her lifetime. A funeral mass was held in her honour at St Brigid's Church on June 4, 2025, where family, friends, and community members gathered to celebrate her life of service.

Henri's Wellbeing Centre invites anyone with stories or memories of Elizabeth's work to share them as part of the centre's history. For those interested, please contact Judi Fletcher on 0402 846 095 or Ingrid Behr at Henri's on 0436 482 027. Jude Fletcher

Big Awards for a Little Brewery

Continued from page 4...across the many and varied ciders and beers The Cidery produces.

"We still wholesale our cellar, mostly in surrounding towns. Visitors as well as locals like to taste local produce.

"Those who come to The Cidery and may not like drinking cider find we have a good range of beers or wines that suit any taste. We really do a good range of assorted beverages to choose from.

The Cidery has a good record of giving our youth in the district their first job, there have been numerous job seekers entering the work force in the kitchen preparing meals at The Cidery.

"During my time as brewer and cider maker, over the last twenty years, I have seen a lot of small breweries and microbreweries start up and then disappear around the south west and in the metro area. I feel the most successful aspect that The Cidery has, is that it has a bar attached to the brewery. By keeping our main focus in house and having a small and varied business model it shields us from the corporate whims of large brewing companies allowing The Cidery to be unique."

The beers which won awards are as follows: Irish Red beer and the Chestnut Ale won a silver and Kentish Ale and Truffle Ale won a bronze.

The ciders winning awards were; Apple Pickers won silver and best in class, Love Child Ginger and Blues Cider each won Silver, Spider Cider, Sweet Rosie, Fruit Punch and Bitter Sweet all won a bronze.

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21 Hearts

Continued from cover...“To meet with Vivian and to hear her story for the first time was so impactful on me, Stuart and I turned to each other afterwards and we said, we have to take this story to the stage, we have to tell this story, but we were not sure when the right time was, but we often talked about doing it.

“It wasn’t until, some thirty years later, we were performing ‘A.B. Facey’s A Fortunate Life’ in Wickiepin in 2021, when after the show a lady came up to us, Libby Heffernan, who is on the Facey Homestead Committee, and asked us we ever thought of doing a play on Vivian and the nurses as her sister Anthea Hodgson, was writing a book about the nurses, their Great Aunt Minnie Hodgson was killed on Radji Beach.

“It seemed incredible timing. On doing some research I also discovered, in actual fact, there were two or three other books being published about the nurses as well, so I’m thinking there’s something in the zeitgeist.

“The company applied for a government grant to do some creative development on the show, again we were not sure what style of theatre it would take, we wanted a big strong cast of women naturally, but we were unsure if it would be in this genre or not, the genre which you will see tonight, a live performance in front of a cinematic display.

“Then during the development, we got in contact with the Australian College of Nursing who were in the middle of a fundraising campaign to raise funds to create a statue of Vivian.”

This sculpture in Vivian’s honour now stands at the Australian War Memorial, a poignant reminder of her bravery and the sacrifices of those who served alongside her. Her statue stands opposite that of Sir Edward ‘Weary’ Dunlop, reminding us of the enduring legacy of their courageous service, defying the odds whilst giving hope to others.

Rebecca continues, “So, we thought, the stars are aligning here, so we needed to do something with the story.

“So, this is when Jenny Davis wrote the script, a truly wonderful play script which handles the story so respectfully.

“In the show we don’t shy away from the horrors which were inflicted on the nurses or on the life they had to endure in the prison camp.

“Jenny’s writing allows you to feel the horror, and feel the impact of its effects without seeing the horror.”

The story is a mix of initial adventure and comradeship of the nurses before the reality of war sets in, having to evacuate Singapore, their ship being attacked and then sunk, with the survivors then having to swim to relative safety on Radji Beach.

In one of the most atrocious acts of war crimes in our history, 22 nurses were forced to march into the sea where they were callously machine gunned.

This is when one of the most memorable scenes takes place, the one which lives in Australian folklore. The nurses knowing their fate, all join hands gaining collective courage from each other, with their matron asking the women to be quietly brave as they walk into the ocean as one, before being machine gunned down.

The only survivor and witness, Vivian Bullwinkel spent the rest of the war in a prison camp, in and around Sumatra for three and a half years, secretly vowing to herself to stay alive long enough to tell of the war crime committed against the nurses on Radji Beach.

Life in the prison camp for the nurses was not easy, but as women do, they gather strength and support from one another, finding support and comfort through companionship, a camp choir, playing games and most of all caring for one and another.

Vivian formed a lifelong friendship with fellow prisoner Edie, a young thirteen-year-old girl when they first met. Asked for her name, Edie responded with ‘Bet’: a name she believed sounded strong. Vivian called her ‘Little Bet’.



Making a pocket mouse from the hankkerchief
Rebecca Davis and Alison van Reeken

Little Bet held on dearly to a couple of her important possessions; a handkerchief her brother gave her and a gold bangle that once belonged to her mother. She covered the bangle in mud to cheapen its appearance to that of a worthless token. When Vivian became seriously ill with dysentery, Little Bet traded the now shiny bangle for limes which were needed to save Vivian’s life.

The announcement of the end of the war was met with shocked silence in the camp. On 18 September 1945, the prisoners were flown to Singapore, the malnourished women in the prison camps needed to be ‘fattened up’ before returning to Australia. Vivian was then ordered to go to Tokyo and testify at the War Crimes Commission and tell the tale of one of the most atrocious acts of war crimes in Australia’s history that was committed on her friends and colleagues, to speak of their bravery, their strength, and courage in the face of death.

In November 1947, Betty Jeffrey and Vivian Bullwinkel set out to promote a fundraising appeal for the establishment of a War Nurses’ Memorial Centre in Melbourne. They visited every hospital in Victoria with more than 20 beds to present their vision of an educational and social centre for the nursing profession that would also function as a living memorial to their fallen colleagues.

Betty Jeffrey and Vivian Bullwinkel together with Edith Hughes-Jones, Wilma Oram and Annie Sage, fellow survivors, were the founding members of this legacy which still proudly offers scholarships for nurses and midwives as part of its mission to act as a living memorial by advancing the nursing profession through education.

“The biggest honour I have had in my acting career is the role I play as Vivian Bullwinkel; it sits above and beyond all the roles I have acted, it affects us all on a deep level, it’s hard not to be, I feel honoured to tell her story every night we perform the show.” Rebecca Davis.

The stage production of ‘21 Hearts’, features an all-female cast of six of Western Australia’s outstanding actors, gives a respectful and authentic voice to those who were silenced, remembers them for who they were and not just for what happened to them. A story of hope, courage, resilience and heart, and if you get the chance, it’s a show you must see and a tale you should retell.

Dunmovin Estate

Continued from page 7... "Our animals are raised on our farm free range, paddock reared, with our sustainable regenerative farming approach. You can purchase on farm at our cellar door. All Paddock-to-plate lamb, pork and beef is frozen and individually priced as per cut."

On visiting Dunmovin Estate, you can see that their plans and dreams exceed the number of hours in a day, so the hard work goes on, as it always does on farm.

Building a life together whilst sharing the same passions has many rewards. They are both on a steep learning curve, but so far, they have done exceptional well and it is easy to see a bright future with their venture.

On the entrance into their property is an old truck piled on top of some boulders, a reflection. I can only guess, to the hard work that has gone before, and to a bright future which lays ahead.

It is certainly worth a visit, by telephoning Jim on 0497 305 297 or Donna on 0456 314 972 to make a time or for further information you can visit their website at www.dunmovingestate.com.au The property is just off the Boyup Brook road, turning into Greenbushes Boyup Road, at the first turning left at 1772 follow the driveway to the truck and then follow the directions.

Bringing the Arts to the Community

Continued from page 3... "Our aim when bringing events to a town is not to be heavily dependent on volunteers. This is only possible because of government support.

"The theatrical show '21 Hearts' in Bridgetown was a success: the show sold out very rapidly, the tickets we didn't sell in Bridgetown were eagerly sought by theatre-goers from Perth, Busselton, Australind and many other towns. This helps support tourism in the community.

"I suspect Bridgetown is 'just thirsty' for more quality productions like '21 Hearts'. Based on enthusiasm for '21 Hearts', we've tentatively booked another THEATRE 180 show for Bridgetown in 2026.

"In my role as an artistic director I have to balance giving the community what they want, with offering opportunities to experiment with something new. This encourages communities to grow in cultural confidence.

"We are keen to hear from the Bridgetown community on what it may like to see presented in the future."

Fiona can be contacted by email fiona@southernforestarts.com.au or by phoning 0418 754 704.



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Ouch Festival 2025

The OUCH festival brings together our talented youth from around the district and gives them a chance to perform their show in front of a live supportive audience for the one night.

The young performers showcase their talents with a wide variety of presentations: there will be dancers, singers, musicians and a variety of stage plays and rock bands, all performed in a supportive space.

The OUCH Festival aims to give young people not only a chance to perform to an audience, but to develop confidence and performance skills. All young people from our district are encouraged to enter.

The first OUCH festival was held in the year 2000, making this year's OUCH Youth Festival reach the milestone of twenty-five years.

Some of the performers this year are children of people who performed in the first Ouch in 2000.

One of those is eleven-year-old Tor Klaassen-Norris. His dad, Dylan Norris performed in the first festival in 2000.

Tor first performed at the festival when he was nine years old and this year will be his third appearance.

He was given a small acoustic guitar by his grandfather at the age of nine, taking to it like a duck to water mastering the instrument quickly.

A shark fin electric guitar with an amplifier was Tor's next gift and challenge along with appearing at the OUCH festival in 2023.

At Tor's first appearance he did suffer some trepidation. The OUCH Youth Festival initially got the name ouch from the feeling of dread and impending pain some get from performing on stage for the first time. Those with the courage to perform also get a euphoric feeling of joy after their performance from an appreciative audience which makes them want to come back and perform again.

Tor is now learning play the trumpet and recorder and has a couple of music teachers,



Tor Klaassen-Norris

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Mark De Vattimo with the guitar and Julia Robertson with music theory and the trumpet.

As part of an ensemble, Tor has also played at the 'Up Close and Classical' concert, and he is member of a band in primary school, surely his musical career is bright.

Those performing on the night come from varying talent pools; Mark De Vattimo music students, along with Emily Dewar dance students, Cecelia Karafilis school and private music students, Bridgetown Youth Theatre and the High Schools drama students.

All the performers are seventeen or under in age. All and any other entries are welcomed if you can sing, dance, play music, tap, juggle, mime, rap or recite, perform solo or in a group.

If you want to perform on the night, you can contact Chris at cshedley@bigpond.com, or Meegan at mee71@yahoo.com or Emily admin@bspa.com

Entries close on Friday 14th August; the festival is on Friday 22nd August at Bridgetown Repertory Theatre. Sausage sizzle and pizzas available from 5PM.

Come and watch the show and support our youth, you are assured to be wowed and thrilled by the vast and high level of talent which resides in our small surrounding towns.

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