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W.A. Bush Fire Museum and Heritage Group

A new exhibition complex is being established in Yornup to house the vehicles and equipment belonging to W.A. Bush Fire Museum and Heritage Group.



Ed Bland and Chris Sousa

The WA Bush Fire Museum and Heritage Group has six members: Chris Sousa is the Chair person, with members Judy Bland, Ed Bland, Ray Harding, Chris Doherty and Lyndon Pearce.

"The group recently signed a lease for twenty-one years on the land alongside the Yornup Hall and has built a large shed which will be the groups new museum building," Chris Sousa explains.

"The shed was built from the proceeds of a grant the group received from the Native Forest Transition Grants Program and is the first step in providing a suitable display area for the group's sixteen vehicles, historical objects, memorabilia and artefacts.

"The Museum will also be an educational facility giving the visitors an insight in to how bush fire control has developed and improved over the years.

"All the sixteen fire fighting vehicles in the museum have had a significant influence on the development of fire fighting in this state, with improvement in safety for the fire fighters, vehicle development and the clothing worn which all go to help tell the story and development of fighting bush fires...Continued on page 14



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'Bubsie'

Roger Millist and Warren May

Imagine a world without highways, bridges, or even road signs. No GPS, no mobile phone, no internet. Just a tattered map, a trusty car, and Australia's vast, untamed landscape. In 1925, two ordinary men, Nevill Westwood and Greg Davies, dared to dream of driving a car right around this incredible continent. Their Citroën 5CV, 'Bubsie,' became their companion on this epic adventure, battling scorching heat, mechanical breakdowns, and the sheer isolation of the outback.

This year to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their remarkable achievement, 'The Incredible Journey', a 9GEM production, will be re-enacting the incredible journey undertaken 100 years before by young Nevill Westwood, who accidentally achieved the record of being the first person to drive right around Australia. A team of enthusiasts will be retracing the steps of Nevill Westwood and 'Bubsie' in a similar Citroën 5CV, reliving their adventure, telling their story, and celebrating the courage it took to conquer a continent and the enduring human spirit that makes dreams a reality.

In an era before reliable maps of the largely unexplored outback, Westwood and Davies relied on their wits, local knowledge, and the welcome and help from the many people they met along the way. Every mile covered was a victory against the elements, every breakdown a test of resourcefulness.

This new venture will start on the 22 June from Bickley in Perth and will retrace the same original route. The restored 'Bubsie' car will be trailed between towns, and then driven to the events. To date 'Bubsie' has more than 300 venues appearances booked all around the country; car clubs, schools, church groups, Rotary and Probud groups are all eager to be thrilled by the car's appearance.

In the south west we were treated to a preliminary showing; hearing the tale and being shown the restored vehicle. It had taken around four solid months of restoration work to bring a new 'Bubsie' to life, and it is a picture.

The original 'Bubsie' can be seen in the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.

Bickley to Darwin was the plan. Adventure is often only a decision away... *Continued on page 12*

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Jess Beckerling MLC (left) and Jenny Dewing as tree huggers

Visitors to Dalgarpur

Dalgarpur has received a visit from the newly elected Hon Jess Beckerling MLC, with a group including Jess Boyce and other representatives of the WA Forest Alliance. The group met with BES Chair Jenny Dewing and members of the Save Dalgarpur Committee at the Landcare Office and then went to Dalgarpur and the Nunn Block.

Just outside the actual Nunn Block in the National Park but still within the approved Mining Exploration Licence area the group made a different type of acknowledgement to country by hugging the 9 metre circumference Blackbutt tree featured in the April Mailbag. A video of this can be seen at: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1352018129415771>

Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest and Blackwood Environment Society are delighted to have shown our forests to the group. Jess was involved in about



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2020 with local supporters stopping logging in the Cassia Road area of the National Park. Her presence in the Legislative Council will be a wonderful benefit to the environment and our forests in particular.

On the following day a picnic visit to the Jarrah Park and the Nunn Block by 26 people enjoyed the sunshine and the beauty of the forest before the planned prescribed burning happens. The group walked and car-pooled from the Jarrah Park into areas of Nunn Block.

Thanks to the Members of the Save Dalgarpur Committee who organised the event. Another such event is being considered but with a simpler walking-only format.

Thank you to those who have signed or organised the Petition to accompany our Appeal to the Minister for Mines under Section 111A of the Mining Act. The closing date for this has been extended for a few weeks as the Appeal is not yet prepared. There will also be the opportunity for emails or letters to be included in the PDF that will accompany the Appeal. Details will be sent out to BGFF members shortly. Richard Wittenoom

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The Eco Freako Show

On Sunday 18th May in an old packing shed on his property in Bridgetown, Rowland Benjamin presented his one man show, 'The Eco Freako Show' to a select audience of around forty people.

The overall theme of the show and the message Rowland was conveying was one of 'We need to act now to save our planet's plant and animal biodiversity through important changes to our laws to modify our behaviour.

For example, we need to live in a recyclable world' where every item we use that is not bio-degradable is returned to manufacturers to be pulled apart and reused, or smelted down and repurposed or separated into its base compounds, so we are not having to send our old and outdated items to the exponentially expanding landfills around the country.

In the one man show, Rowland played three main characters: the Grim Reaper, the destroyer of life; the Green Sower, the facilitator of life; and Dr Freako, the human presenter.

Rowland provided some background to the show, "The three main characters that I present in the stage play, I'd previously performed those roles in various other shows I'd been involved in from 1995 to 2015. The show I presented on Sunday was the first show I had staged in more than ten years.

"The show was an extravaganza of theatre, lighting, costumes, music, political satire and animation.

"To produce the animations used in the show I have worked over many years with Tim Wilson, an artist, drew the pictures and animation used in the show; Brett (Spider) Nelli with his expertise organised the lighting and sound; Trevor Finlay with the filming of the show.

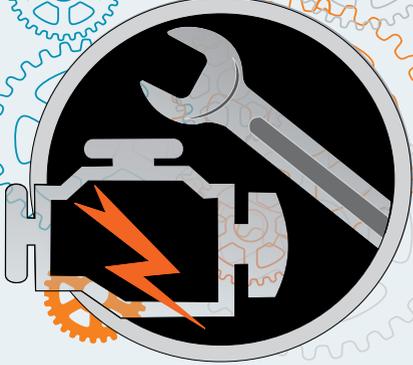
"The show states a harsh reality our planet is rapidly spinning towards, and highlights the urgent need for governments everywhere to act. We need to elect political leaders with the courage to act in the best interests of the planet, by reducing the human population, recycling everything and reducing economic activity to environmentally sustainable levels.

"Earth is the only home we have and the planet's plant and animal bio diversity, which cleans and renews our oceans and land masses, is what makes the earth such a unique and wonderful planet to live on...*Continued on page 13*

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Estelle Rowcliffe Carlson and Tricia Walton with Chick Camry



Shitbox Rally

A Crazy Chick and her Rooster, Estelle Rowcliffe Carlson and Bruce Carlson will be taking part in the Winter Shitbox Rally in June driving their yellow Camry, which they have dubbed 'Chick Camry'. Estelle is the driver; Bruce is the co-driver.

This year's route is Perth to Darwin following along the Gibb River Road.

They have their required vehicle, a licensed car that has a street value of no more than \$1,500, their 2004 Camry cost them \$500. The vehicle has had a mechanical check over, with all issues with the car being repaired, another requirement was for all radiator hoses to be replaced along with a radiator flush. Fishers Tyres generously donated six new tyres.

To take part in the event Estelle and Bruce had to raise the entry fee which is \$5,000, this money goes towards cancer research.

Estelle explains the undertaking, "The entry fee has been raised through the generosity of locals. Our fundraising support team is Tricia Walton, together we have been conducting street stalls, lucky numbers boards, a Containers for Change collection and holding a Quiz night...*Continued on page 12*"



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Meet Adam Malaspina – Talison’s New Chief Operating Officer

We’re pleased to introduce Adam Malaspina, who joined Talison as our new Chief Operating Officer in early May.

Adam brings a wealth of experience, energy, and a strong alignment with the values that guide our operations. With a background in engineering and commerce, he spent the past 19 years with BHP, supporting mining operations around the world to improve performance, sharpen focus, and work more effectively together.

One of Adam’s key priorities is ensuring our operations continue to minimise its impacts while creating meaningful opportunities for the local community.

We’re looking forward to the positive impact Adam will have, not just on Talison’s operations, but in how we continue to work with and alongside the community, now and into the future.

Talison Lends a Hand at Foodbank WA

In May, a group of Talison volunteers (pictured below) took a day out from their regular responsibilities and rolled up their sleeves to cook up a storm at Foodbank WA.

Talison’s volunteers supported both the Kitchen and Warehouse crews in sorting donations, preparing essential meals, and packing food for those in need. It was a rewarding day of giving back, teamwork, and connection. Operational Readiness Manager Fabricio Barros, who volunteered on the day, said: “It was a great opportunity to give back to the community, meet team members we don’t usually work with, and have some fun.”

Together, the team produced 558 meals – an effort made possible by volunteers from across our Perth and Greenbushes teams. A big thank you to everyone who took part!



Update on Talison's Capacity Expansion Projects

Talison was pleased to see the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) recent decision to refer the proposed capacity expansion projects for the Greenbushes Lithium Operation to a Public Environmental Review.

This step is an important part of a transparent and inclusive process that allows for public review and comment on the potential environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures of the proposal which includes:

- Expanding the existing Floyds Waste Rock Landform
- Adding a new waste rock landform to the east
- Increasing water storage capacity
- Constructing a crossing on the South Western Highway with supporting infrastructure

"This is an opportunity to demonstrate how we're designing the project to balance growth with both environmental and community expectations," said Talison CEO Rob Telford.

"We're committed to working with the local community and stakeholders to identify potential impacts and, where possible, to mitigate them."

We encourage community members to participate in the public comment period, which will run for eight weeks once the Environmental Review is released.

To learn more about the process, visit the EPA WA's step-by-step guide at epa.wa.gov.au/step-by-step-through-proposal-assessment-process. You can also stay up to date via our dedicated project webpage: talisonlithium.com/capacity-expansion-projects. We genuinely value your input and look forward to hearing your thoughts. Scan the QR code to sign up for updates.



Proposed Change to Talison Blasting Schedule

Talison is proposing minor adjustments to its blasting schedule to help reduce potential impacts on the community. This change does not involve increasing the frequency of blasting, but rather adjusting the times it may occur.

Current blast times:

- 12:00pm–1:00pm
- 5:00pm–6:00pm (when required)

Proposed changes:

- Add a potential morning window: 9:15am–9:45am
- Shift the lunchtime window to: 1:15pm–1:45pm

Blasting may occur in the morning, afternoon, or evening depending on operational needs and weather conditions, but always within clearly defined and controlled timeframes. It is Talison's preference to blast at 9:30am rather than afternoons whenever possible. No blasting on Sundays and Public holidays and no blasting in the 1:15pm to 1:45pm session on Mondays Tuesdays or Fridays unless there is a strong northerly wind and the Mine Manager's permission has been granted.

Talison is seeking feedback on these proposed changes by Monday June 9. For more information or to provide feedback, please contact the Talison Community Team on 0897825700 or email gbcontact@talisonlithium.com

Keeping the CCR Team in Our Thoughts

Talison would like to acknowledge the recent passing of Craig Gray, Managing Director of CCR. CCR has been one of our local contractors for the past 25 years. They've stood alongside us through the highs and lows, and more recently, during the rapid growth of our operations. Craig was at the heart of CCR. His leadership, dedication, and understanding of the local landscape helped shape the strong and enduring partnership we've built together. Our thoughts are with Craig's family and the entire CCR team during this difficult time. His legacy will be remembered and appreciated by many - through the community groups he supported and by all those who had the privilege to work alongside him.

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Over a 125,000 Riders

The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride (DGR) event this year saw dapper riders out in their biggest numbers since the event's inception in 2012.

Over 125,000 suave and sophisticated participants took part in rides in over 100 countries. Heads turned across major cities in Australia, Canada, Europe and the USA.

But at the heart of all this sartorial flair sits a deeper meaning. And that meaning is that men's health matters. It's why those who took part started their engines. Along with countless conversations around prioritising men's health were many opening up and talking about their own cancer journeys.

Founder and Director of DGR, Mark Hawwa, had this to say: "The number of riders were a sight to see in cities all over the world. Vintage and classic style bikes rolled out in full force, and the community showed up stronger than ever for prostate cancer and men's mental health as we ring in 10 years of supporting our official charity partner November."

Since 2012, the event has raised over \$91 million Australian dollars for men's mental health and prostate cancer research worldwide.

A rider from Bridgetown, Jim Freind, who took part in this year's event tells of his experience, "The DGR is a fundraising motorcycle ride for prostate cancer and men's mental health, something that has touched me and something I feel strongly about.

"Too many men fail to see a doctor often enough for check-ups regarding their general health.

"And as for their mental health, that can get pushed aside too, in general, men can hold on tight with their emotions.

"We can be just too busy for that self-care stuff. It is easier to focus on something else.

"I am very blessed to have so many lovely people in my life, and they have supported me and have generously donated to this cause, I was able to raise \$3,530. I am proud of being the seventeenth highest fund raiser in Australia and 258th worldwide.



Jim Freind and Norma Jean

"Part of the fun is the preparation, not only was I preparing my 35-year-old Harley Davidson, cleaning and polishing to make her look the best she could, and I say 'she' as I have named the bike 'Norma Jean' after my wonderful Aunty who has now passed away.

"So, with Norma Jean ready it was time to prepare myself, so off to op shops to acquire my distinguished riding outfit. In this process I thought by buying most of my outfit from op shops, I was helping other charities, and how cool that was.

"The weather on the day was perfect, sunny and a good temperature, I was one of the first to arrive at the Dolphin Discovery Centre in Bunbury, the meeting point for this year's DGR... *Continued on page 15*



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Linga Longa Lights to Illuminate Winter Nights

July 5th, 6th, 7th, 11th, 12th, 13th

Linga Longa Estate, home to Western Australia's premier private mountain bike park, is set to dazzle visitors with an exciting new event these July school holidays!

Already renowned for its outstanding mountain biking trails and as a sought-after venue for weddings and events, Linga Longa is now adding a breathtaking light and sound experience to its calendar. Set in the estate's stunning natural amphitheatre, surrounded by forest and the tranquil lake, Linga Longa Lights promises an unforgettable winter evening for the whole family.

The event will feature some of Western Australia's finest LED light artists, transforming the landscape into a mesmerising world of glowing creativity. Visitors can wander around Lake Linga Longa, explore the illuminated forest, and marvel at spectacular light installations that celebrate the beauty of winter in the Southern Forests and Valleys region.

Designed as an enchanting outdoor journey, Linga Longa Lights aims to become a much-anticipated annual tradition. Bus transport will be available from Balingup and Bridgetown.

For those wanting to stay the night under the stars, self-camping sites and Luxe Camping Bell Tent hire will be available, making it easy to extend the magic into a full winter getaway. Recommendations for local accommodation is on our website.

Also available is a delicious banquet meal catered by the local Bridgetown Pottery Restaurant in the marquee overlooking the illuminated lake and hills. The cafe will also open serving hot soup, sweet treats at night and breakfast for those staying on site.

A true celebration of nature, and creativity, Linga Longa Lights invites local families to be part of this radiant new winter tradition. For more information please go to <https://www.lingalongalights.com/> or email info@lingalongaestate.com, this is one event you won't want to miss!



The poster features a stylized logo at the top with trees and a rainbow, followed by the text 'LINGA LONGA LIGHTS'. Below this, it says 'July School Holidays, 2025' and '5:30pm - 8:30pm'. The dates '5th, 6th, 7th' and '11th, 12th, 13th' are listed. The text describes the event as an enchanting evening with light tunnels and art installations. Logos for 'SOUTHERN FORESTS & VALLEYS Western Australia' and 'Tourism Western Australia' are present, along with a QR code and contact information: 'Linga Longa Estate, Cassia Road Balingup, WA. More info at www.lingalongalights.com'.



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Transition Bridgetown

What's On the Agenda for Transition Bridgetown

Transition Bridgetown has been supporting the Save Dalgapur campaign since our last Open Space on May 4th which was very well attended.

The meeting heard that some mining companies now have exploration tenements across the Dalgapur/Donnelly forest area which has large stands of jarrah, marri, karri and blackbutt. Many ancient trees have developed large hollows, which are essential habitat for endangered black cockatoos and other animals. Jenny Dewing described how the campaign to protect Dalgapur dated back to the 1990s, with the then Environment Minister Judy Edwards declaring a National Park in part of the area in 2003.

Pip Mills told the meeting that the community had lobbied for a National Park in Dalgapur since 1982. She stressed the importance of the forest to the survival of the endangered Baudin's and Carnaby's Cockatoo species. Small mammals eg quokkas are also at risk. "Once these areas are gone, they're gone forever," was the message.

But supporting the 'Save Dalgapur' campaign is far from the only project of Transition Bridgetown.

The popular Wash Against Waste Trailer has just had a boost thanks to a Lotterywest grant. The grant was a joint application from the TBR group and Blackwood Environment Society. It will fund the construction of a shed to house the trailer, while also providing shelter for the hard-working volunteers at the Community Landcare Nursery.

The Ashbil Community Garden Bridgetown has agreed to see the shed erected on the land that they currently sub lease from the Shire. We are grateful for the support of the ACGB and the Shire with this initiative. The project is expected to be completed by September.

The second Repair Café in Bridgetown-Greenbushes was held on Saturday 17th May. This continues to be a collaborative project between the Shire and Transition Bridgetown, with support from the Waste Authority, to reduce waste to landfill. Volunteer repairers shared their time and knowledge to repair a variety of items; giving them a new lease of life. It was a wonderful morning accompanied by a delicious morning tea and lively conversations.

A range of household materials was repaired including: Clothing: torn jeans, stretched elastic in pants, patchwork quilt, loose buttons, torn formal vest, and torn linen pants. All repairs, no alterations!

Jewellery: beaded earrings, necklaces, and a watch battery replacement.

General: two old bikes brought back to life with pumped tyres, lubricated chains and a tidy up of cables.

Glue: ceramic tea items, wooden hot plate, and garden chime repairs.

The next Repair Cafe will be held on Saturday 12th July in Greenbushes – Save the Date...*Continued on page 11*

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Shitbox Rally

Continued from page 12... Shitbox Rally is not a race, rather a challenge to achieve the almost unthinkable; to drive cars across Australia via some of its most formidable roads, all in the name of charity.

Many of us have been affected by cancer in one way or another. Whether it be parents, family, close friends, people we know or ourselves that have battled or are battling cancer, this awful disease has touched so many of us.

We not only want to raise awareness and money for the Cancer Council, but also want to offer support and a friendly ear to those that have suffered or who are suffering.

Show Talk

Continued from page 14... 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: secretarybridgetownagnsoc@gmail.com website address is www.bridgetownshow.com.au like us on Facebook 'Bridgetown Agricultural Show' or follow us on Instagram.

What's On the Agenda for Transition Bridgetown

Continued from page 10... World Localisation Day is the theme for the group's next Open Space event at the Uniting Church Hall on Sun June 22nd at 2pm. It's part of a world-wide movement to build resilient local economies and flourishing local communities in an increasingly uncertain world.

We'll be showing a movie "Town Anywhere Tooting" before encouraging thoughts and conversations to encourage localisation initiatives in Bridgetown. More than ever, our working together cooperatively as community, is paramount. Come and see how they are doing this in Tooting, Wansworth UK! For more details check out our Facebook page and we'll see you there!



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Shitbox Rally

Continued from page 5...“Purple Plough, the group which operates the Containers for Change program in Bridgetown, had a drop-off container with a donation sign for our appeal, between this, a containers for change bin at Vibe and the generosity of locals around a thousand dollars has been collected.

“We are truly thankful to all those business in town who have contributed to our cause and for all the local support.”

This is not the first run for Estelle, she took part in the event in 2023, the experience she had was exhilarating, and this time around she wanted to share the experience with her husband.

“I was asked to take part in the 2023 rally, the reason I went is because cancer has had an effect on my family, I wanted to contribute to the cause.

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

“In this year’s winter rally there will be thirty-four buddy teams, with seven cars in each buddy group, which means there will be around 480 people taking part.

“This number of participants makes a good opportunity for community groups along the route to raise money for their local causes through arranging the food, water and entertainment for the motley car crews.

“We head up to Perth on the 17th June, there’s a pre-rally meeting on the 19th and we leave on the 20th June from Langley Park at 8.30 in the morning. The first leg is a 600kms drive to Murchison, mostly on bitumen road. The next day we drive towards Mount Augustus and this is when the fun begins as we drive up to Derby, then on the Gibb River Road towards Darwin.

“The trip is an eight-day event, there are a couple of dress up days planned, one being the ‘The era you were born in’, and the other being ‘As bare as you dare’. I am not sure how much I am willing to bare.

“There is also a ‘Memory Day’ planned where you may talk about the effect cancer has had on your life, I can hardly wait.”... *Continued on page 11*

‘Bubsie’

*Continued from page 2...*Perhaps Nevill Westwood understood this.

During Nevill’s first foray into the outback, he rode his push bike more than 1600 kilometres, selling books from town to town. He earned enough money selling books to exchange his pushbike for a motorbike, which would help him cover more ground.

Nevill’s accounts of his travels reveal that he was a man who liked machines. He was also a man who liked to live by the seat of his pants while plunging headfirst into adventure. He rode his motorbike from Perth up the west coast to Port Hedland, only to discover that he had worn out the pistons on his motorbike’s engine by using unsuitable lubricant oil. But Nevill was too intrepid to turn back, the bike stopped finally somewhere north-west of Meekatharra and a long way from anywhere. With no township or pastoral station in sight, Nevill abandoned the bike to the elements and walked about 100 kilometres west to the coast, ending up near Carnarvon.

When he got back to Perth, Nevill began planning his next trip into the outback.

Nevill needed wheels and he decided that four were preferable to two. He found a second-hand 1923 Citroen, which already had 48,000 kilometres on the odometer but was in reasonable condition.

He named the car, a baby Citroen, ‘Bubsie’, it was reddish-brown. The car could work up to a top speed of 50 kilometres per hour and had enough ground clearance to ensure it would not get stuck in difficult terrain.

Finally in possession of a vehicle worthy of his adventuring

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endeavours, Nevill prepared to launch out again, but this time, he decided to take a friend. He persuaded Greg Davies, who was a fellow missionary, to join him, and the two planned to travel up through Western Australia and into the Northern Territory as far as Darwin before making their way home. That was the plan; Bickley to Darwin.

It was a sound plan but one that would eventually be discarded in favour of a far more exciting one.

On reaching Darwin and being somewhat revived, Nevill had decided to go beyond his initial plan of driving only as far Darwin and set his sights on driving right around Australia. He figured the road and therefore the drive would be a better one once they reach Camoowal on the Queensland boarder.

‘Bubsie’ was only serviced twice on the trip, it was checked in to the Citroen dealers in Brisbane and then in Melbourne to be given a service. On reaching Albury on the New South Wales border Greg was offered a job doing nurse training. Nevill, then hearing there was another adventurer ‘having a crack at going around’, drove almost nonstop across the Nullarbor, spending Christmas Day there and completing his journey on the 30th December in Perth being the first person to drive a car around Australia.

The toughest and most testing part of the journey was from Katherine to Darwin. Overall, they went through four sets of tyres, all the tyre repairs kit they purchased and seemingly countless numbers of tubes. Stripped gears in the gear box were repaired by a black smith in Darwin; the first hardening of the gears was not successful, the car was taken back, the second repairs were good. That same gearbox made it all the way back to Perth. Fuel, or running out of fuel was also a source of concern with no conveniently positioned service stations on route they had to rely on the kindness of station owners when their supplies had run out.

The Eco Freako Show

Continued from page 4...The earth's metal core and its magnetic fields protects us from radiation. The earth's atmosphere enveloping our planet is more than just the air we breathe; it's a dynamic and complex system that plays a crucial role in sustaining life as we know it. There really is no alternative planet we know of, so we need to take better care of this one."

Rowland Benjamin and Tim Wilson are also close to releasing their second publication, a book of cartoons depicting the dilemma the world faces. The book is titled, using a variant of that now famous four-letter acronym MEGA, Make Earth Great Again.

The cartoons can be seen at www.ecofreakocartoons.com

At the end of show Rowland encouraged all those present to send an emailed letter to our Prime Minister, Antony Albanese MP, reminding him of what he promised during the federal election campaign in 2022. That promise was that his government would reform Australia's environmental laws with new 'Nature Positive' bills, which would align Australia with the International Nature Positive initiative for ecosystems and biodiversity. A copy of this letter is on Rowland's web site at www.naturepositive.org

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W.A. Bush Fire Museum and Heritage group

Continued from cover...“On the grounds surrounding the museum we intend to have a display of a fire suppressing garden. It’s intended that the plants and trees around the museum will be mostly be a fire-resistant variety with the ground cover mulch surrounding the building made up of roughly crushed building waste comprising brick, cement and stone.

“This new building is the beginning of the plans we have for the museum site, there is a need for us to provide toilets, a parking area, and lean-to buildings along the museum to house the equipment which needs protection from the weather.

“Some of the museum vehicles are now stored in the open in a couple of different locations around town and our intention is to have it all brought onto this site.

“The W.A. Bush Fire Museum and Heritage Group is dedicated to collecting, preserving and displaying the history of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades and other firefighting agencies involved in bush fire prevention and management within Western Australia.

“What this dedicated group have achieved so far is result from a few government grants, raising money by attending shows and festivals with a fire truck display and by working at Blues festival and festivals in Balingup collecting rubbish, along with a ‘containers for change’ program.

“The group is also dedicated to promoting fire safety in the rural environment in an effort to prevent devastating fire from occurring across the state.

“The museum is currently housed in a unit in the Packing Sheds on Hampton Street, opposite the Fire Station. It is open now on the second Saturday of each month.

“The packing shed which is dark and dusty is not a conducive environment for displaying the equipment and vehicles we have in our care and is stifling further growth of the museum, hence the move.”

Chris Sousa has always had an absolute passion for the collection of fire fighting memorabilia, beginning his collection at the age of ten when he started collecting brigade badges, and then fire extinguishers, then through the ages, moving to collecting firefighting appliances and vehicles, it seems he has found his perfect job being a member of the WA Bush Fire Museum and Heritage Group.

Chris concludes with, “It is anticipated the museum will be an important showcase in displaying the history of fighting bush fires in Western Australia.”

The vehicle in the picture is a 1966 C1300 International Tanker with a carrying capacity of approximately 1000 litres.

It was purchased brand new by the then Shire of Armadale for the Roleystone Bush Fire Brigade. It was later transferred to the Westfield Bush Fire Brigade as a Brigade owned tanker.

In 1987 this unit was being used for a controlled burn along Westfield Road when a car hit and fatally injured one of the Brigade’s members, Mr John Giacomelli. After this incident the truck then underwent a major refit of emergency beacons, including grill and rear mounted flashing lights, which was unusual for Bush Fire Brigade vehicles at the time. Roads are now also closed off when units are used for controlled burns or fighting fires purposes.

The Westfield Brigade sold the truck in 1994 after the Armadale Council directed that only Council-owned fire units were permitted. The vehicle was then purchased by the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes for the Greenbushes Bush Fire Brigade (BFB) as a ‘temporary appliance’. It was part of the Greenbushes BFB fleet until 2003, when it was relocated to the Yornup Bush Fire Brigade. It was replaced with a 2.4 Broadacre tanker in 2006, forty years after being put into service.



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Show Talk

Hi Everyone; Sponsorship invitations to those currently on our mailing list were sent out early last month. Our sponsors are vital to a successful show with competitions and entertainment. Nicole has sent out reminders to those who have not yet responded. If you have changed your details since 2024, haven’t received your sponsorship letter yet, or wish to be a new sponsor please get in touch! Nicole’s email is treasurerbridgetownagsoc@gmail.com Please respond promptly to ensure the free Show Schedule booklet can be updated, recognising you and the area of your support. June 23rd is the cutoff date to finalize changes ready for printing and distribution to give exhibitors plenty of time to produce and create their entries. ‘Bridgetown Show 2025’ online will also be updated as soon as the information has been received. Thank you to those who have already responded.

Lots of things are happening behind the scenes. Stewards are putting together their sections for this year’s schedule and our groundskeepers have been working hard building new native gardens around the grounds.

The entertainment committee is excitedly bringing together our WILD WONDERERS theme– Exploring Native Flora & Fauna. The Committee are aiming to provide a great value experience for all ages and especially providing loads of free family activities, with the big rides reduced to \$6 a ride.

Recently a group of our volunteers attended the Shires “thank our volunteers” event in the beautifully renovated Town Hall. Our volunteers work incredibly hard and it was lovely to relax and be spoilt with good food and great company for an evening.

Our next Meeting will be on Wednesday 11th June 7.00pm, in the Presidents Room at the Showgrounds.

...Continued on page 11

Over a 125,000 Riders

Continued from page 8... "The first bloke I met was Paul, who had just ridden from Pinjarra. Being of Scottish heritage, he was changing into his kilt to look the part as he had brought along his bagpipes to play at the start. He was saying to me that he had an experimental clip to hold his kilt together while riding. For this ride he wasn't in full traditional dress as today he was wearing underwear, probably a good thing if the clip failed.

"As everyone arrived including some dapper ladies, I was able to meet many of the participants and we all admired each other's attire and shiny motorcycles.

"After some refreshments a few awards were given; best dressed, best bike, highest fundraiser and scruffiest bike, then we were off.

"I was seen off by my fan crew, my grandkids and my partner Emma and some friends, thank you all for making the effort to come and see me off, I love you.

"Off we went in noise and fumes, and headed into town, up and down the coffee strip, back past the Dolphin Centre, along the Australind foreshore to Buffalo beach carpark, and then back into Bunbury to the Parade Hotel for lunch.

"That is where it ended; I went back to Emma's house feeling happy and very satisfied and there I shared my story of the day."

Jim would also like to bring awareness to our own unique health care facility, Henri's Wellbeing Centre, formally Henri Nouwen House.

"Henri's is a unique health care facility which can offer emotional and mental wellbeing support for the struggles that life can give us at times.

"It's a very friendly welcoming atmosphere, Henri's works in group settings and how much participation you share in is entirely up to you, listening is all that is required.

"One of the most important parts for Henri's to work successfully, is confidentiality. This has always been held with great respect by all, for well over thirty years now.

"I can't recommend Henri's highly enough. If you feel it may help, try not to put it off any longer.

Meetings are held every Tuesday morning starting at 10.00am till 12.30 with a check in on how you are feeling and video on the topic of the day, morning tea supplied and a group discussion following all for only \$20 per session

For further information, Henri's is located at 16 Hester Street in Bridgetown, or you can phone on 0436 482 027, or email admin@henri's.net



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Bridgetown Mountain Bike Group

A small group of riders seeking an active lifestyle meet a couple of times each week to get outside and ride their E-bikes in the beautiful bush around our Town and nearby areas.

The bike riders are part of the Bridgetown Mountain Bike and Cycle Club, and exemplify the benefits of keeping active and staying healthy.

Cycling is a great way of exercising without excessive stress on the body and has low impact on the joints.

Club member Ron Evans took up cycling at the age of 75 and is now in his mid-eighties. He claims he has never felt fitter and he goes on to say, "People ask me about all my aches and pains due to cycling I undertake, but, it's just the opposite, keeping active and maintaining muscle mass reduces aches and pains because the joints are firmer with use."

Another group member Martin Thomas who took up cycling at the age of seventy-five is now nearly 80. He has never felt fitter and says: "I once had a season ticket to the Doctors before I took up cycling, he knew me by first name, now I feel he would hardly recognize me or remember my many complaints."

Pamela Nicholls plans the bike rides for the week in various suitable locations, according to the conditions, and as the spokesperson for the group she goes on to say, "The planned rides we take are around twenty-five kilometres. These rides take place mostly in bushland on dirt tracks, our bikes are equipped with extra wide rear tyres because of the gnarly tracks we ride.

"The rides we take may be around Bridgetown, but we also go to Balingup, Nannup, Donnelly River, Winnijup Manjimup, Yornup and along sections of the Munda Biddi trail.

"The wildlife and native flora that we encounter whilst cycling is as varied as it is interesting.

"Most of us now ride E-Bikes, also known as 'electric assist' bikes, which require us to pedal continuously, but with the benefit that 'when the going gets tough' the motor cuts in and helps us to ascend the steeper gradients.

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"Our members have different fitness levels, but we look out for each other throughout the ride and stay together. We keep risk-taking to a minimum.

"Our group is a really supportive one, the physical and mental benefits we get from riding make us feel truly exhilarating.

"At the present moment, there are nine in our group, and we are looking for more cyclists to join us. If you are interested, please contact Pamela for further information on her mobile 0477 999 570.

Pam concludes with "Cycling and the social interaction with the group keeps is a good way to keep you fit and well."

Are you moving soon

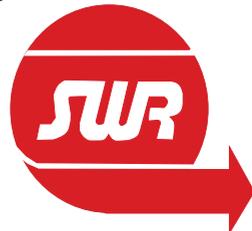
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