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# THE MAILBAG

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### **DOWNUNDER COUNTRY 2024**

The 11th Downunder Country Music & Bush Poetry weekend will be held on the 15th – 17th March 2024 at the Bridgetown Showgrounds.

Interstate Guest Artists include: Ged and Trudy Hintz from Queensland. They are a husband and wife multi award winning singer/songwriter duo. Over the last 13 years they have become well known in the Country Music







circuit, particularly where they live. They are very passionate about their Country Music especially Australian Bush Ballads. Ged and Trudy have recorded many of their own original compositions and they have won and been finalists in numerous awards: Tamworth Songwriters Awards, Gidgee Coal Bush Ballad Awards and Stan Coster Bush Ballad Memorial Awards. To date they have recorded eight albums.

Grant Luhrs is from Wagga Wagga and has been around the Country Music Scene since around 1981. Grant has released many albums and has had many nominations for the Gold Guitar award and an ARIA. He has represented Australia at the Nanning International Folk Festival in China in 2007. Grant has also hosted Bush Poetry Shows on many of the Country Music Cruises. Grant has also been and continues to be a guest performer on Macca's Theatre shows around Australia.

Coming back for his 6th year is the very popular Graeme Hugo from South Australia. Graeme started his country music career back in December 1972 at the age of 18, and has toured extensively around Australia. He has also won the prestigious Starmaker award in Tamworth. Graeme is one of Australia's most popular, hard working and successful Independent Country Artists with a natural appeal and rapport with audiences of all ages. In 2017 he was inducted into the highly honoured Australian Country Music Hand of Fame in Tamworth with a display of his personal memorabilia on display in the museum and his handprint placed in concrete at the "Tamworth Hand of Fame" park.

Action starts at 10.30am Friday with Line Dancing in Centenary Hall...Continued on backpage





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### **Reclaiming Beauty**

Taking part in this year's Blackwood River Art Trail are a couple of uniquely talented Bridgetown artists, Trish Durham and Jay Thiele.

Their open studio will be located in the Uniting Church Hall, at 106 Roe Street Bridgetown. The studio will be opened from Saturday 23rd March to Saturday 7th April from 10am to 4pm on Fridays, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Their exhibition 'Reclaiming Beauty' will be a showcase of a widely diverse range of jewellery, mixed media pieces, paintings, textiles and small sculptures.

Trish Durham commenced her art studies at Western Australian Institute of Technology, (WAIT), now Curtin University. The courses she undertook were in jewellery, ceramics and drawing, and TAFE courses in textiles and sculpture giving her a wonderful background into the creative arts.

Trish loves the open studio concept of the art trail, she took part in Margaret River Regional Open Studios before moving to Bridgetown around fourteen years ago. "We both repurpose and reuse everyday discarded items. I have created my art from old paint brushes, plastic lids, discarded watches, anything which I can reimagine into another purpose.

'I have made angel sculptures from old paint brushes and other items, giving each angel its own name and interesting background story.

"I like finding old watches and clocks, discarded charms and keys, these items all go to make unique and fascinating jewellery, I will also have a wide variety of painting on display," Trish explained

Jay Thiele first came to love Bridgetown from attending Blues at Bridgetown weekends over nine consecutive years, which also happens to fall on her birthday weekend.

Jay's creative background has a family connection, her father was a hoarder, his collection has given Jay a treasure throve of items for her to use. Jay's mother was a textile artist; watching, learning and listening to her has instilled in Jay a want to create textile art.

"I wander into Opp shops and I find the most wonderful bits and pieces to use in my art.

"I will have on display embroideries inside old watch housings, earrings, necklaces, bracelets and brooches.

"Watch and clock faces are a most interesting canvas for art, the dials giving my creations another interesting layer.

"I make paper beads which I embroider, then add unique sourced items like keys or charms to make them special.

"I make earrings and necklaces from a wide variety of objects. My father gathered and left behind a huge stash of wonderous items, three-inch paper clips, plastic coated paper clips, a box full of old keys, copper gardening tags and a variety of charms which all go into creating my unique jewellery," Jay explained.

Trish and Jay both talk enthusiastically about the art they create from everyday discarded items they repurpose. Visiting their open studio and hearing the story behind each piece is sure to be a delightful and inspirational experience.

Their exhibition will be opened on Friday 22nd March at 6pm in the Uniting Church Hall, all are welcome.

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### Suicide Prevention Network

The Bridgetown Greenbushes Suicide Prevention Network was launched in October last year. This initiative is dedicated to making a positive impact on mental health and suicide prevention within our community.

The group was spearheaded by Dr Sarah Youngson and includes on it's committee representatives from local community health services, community groups, the Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes, Henri Nouwenn House, St John of God Outreach Service and Wesley Mission.

The aim of the group is to promote community wellbeing and help prevent suicide by raising awareness, building capacity, fostering collaboration, and improving access to services. The primary goals are to educate and engage all sectors of the community on suicide prevention through the provision of training and collaboration to improve access to mental health and suicide prevention services. By increasing public knowledge and the understanding of mental health and suicide prevention, the group is also committed to reducing stigma and encouraging people to seek help when needed. A website is currently under development.



The group will be publishing regular updates here to advertise courses on offer, community outreach events and advise about new programmes and initiatives – the Cocky Catchup being the latest event on March 14th advertised in this edition of The Mailbag.

For more information please contact Chair of the committee Sarah Youngson on 0421068854.

### **Red Cross Events**

Red Cross month is almost upon us!

On Friday 15th March at the Bridgetown Bowling Club we will be holding the Annual Quiz Nite. Doors open at 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start (tables of six at \$10 per head). The bar will be operating with beer, wine and soft drinks for purchase throughout the evening. The legendary supper will be provided and Adrian Elder will once again be our MC! Come along and shed the cobwebs for a fun night out. First prize is dinner for six at the Bridgetown Hotel who have supported us for many years. There are also prizes for 2nd place, door prize, heads and tails as well as the wooden spoon.

Tables can be booked by contacting Patricia on 97611946.

The footy tipping will be under way by then as the first round starts on the 7th March! Books are currently being sold – contact Jenny on 0419048893. The competition is very keen with entrants spanning the generations!

Save your change for our March tin shake as well. The need is dire all around the country what with the spate of fires and floods as well as the pressure on our purses just to put food on the table.

Finally, just a reminder that new members are always welcome and we look forward to meeting you and working together in the future. Please contact Patricia Martin on 9761 1946 if you would like more information.

### **BRIDGETOWN-GREENBUSHES SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORK**

### **COCKIES CATCH UP**

"LIKE IT USED TO BE AT THE SALE YARDS"...

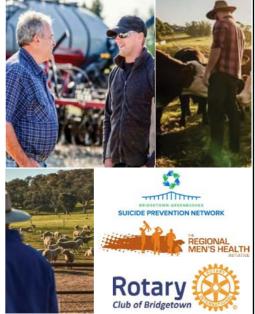
Farmers and those associated with farming are invited to come along for a social catch up; talk to other farmers and related business about the current seasonal situation and anything else you want. Like it used to be at the sale yards before they closed.

There will be a short presentation from Regional Men's Health Initiative about health and wellbeing with a BBQ to follow. The bar will also be open.

14 MARCH 2024 4.30pm to 7.00pm Bridgetown Bulldogs Football Clubrooms

RSVP BY 10 MARCH COLIN BOOTH 0409 965 083 SCAN QR CODE TO RSVP









### Dalgarup Prescribed Burning Plans Discussed

After several years of discussion the prescribed burning of Dalgarup National Park and adjacent nature reserves, including the Bridgetown Jarrah Park, is scheduled to commence this autumn.

Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest invited Ed Hatherley, Blackwood District Fire Coordinator for DBCA Parks and Wildlife, to a meeting at the Bridgetown Jarrah Park last week to discuss their interests, highlight the values present and raise their collective concerns regarding the proposed planned burn.

BGFF President Richard explained that, in the Regional Forest Agreement process in 2000, a number of forest groups complained that their local areas had not been selected as National Parks. The Government appointed consultants to review 100 such cases. The only one recommended was Dalgarup, and this was largely due to the very strong support of the Bridgetown community.

Ed acknowledged the deep and lifelong commitment and connection to the Dalgarup National Park that the members of BGFF shared. Five of those present at the meeting were long term residents of properties adjacent to the Park, and others were long serving members of BGFF and the broader community.

He explained that the Park has not been burnt in its entirety for more than 30 years. It is adjacent to large tracts of state forest carrying long unburnt forest with private assets, flammable pine plantations, steep slopes and local communities nearby. The frequency of severe bushfires in the local area also highlighted that it is only a matter of time before the National Park may be impacted by a severe bushfire. Recent events such as the bushfires in 2005, 2009, and 2021 almost reaching the doorstep of Bridgetown, not including several recent other fires in the Blackwood Valley, combined with increased visitation all mean that the risk of a bushfire from either man made or natural causes is extremely high.

Ed highlighted the complexities of contemporary fire management in the local environment with increasing population growth, critical infrastructure, changed community attitudes and diminishing resilience to the increased frequency of severe bushfire events. This scene was all set against a backdrop of a drying climate, diminishing skills and resources and increased community events.

The burn would be carried out in three stages, the first being the section between Brockman Highway and the Nunn Block, and including the Jarrah Park. A road has been bulldozed from Wetherley Rd along the south boundary of the Nunn Block to act as a firebreak for the first burn.

A detailed plan of how each burn would be implemented was discussed with a number of factors taken into consideration. These included: soil dryness index, fuel loads (comprising bark leaves and twigs) all combining with near surface fuels and shrub layers which contribute to forest fire behaviour. Monitoring surface moisture content of fuels and calculating rates of spread to determine an,,, Continued page 13



# Community Radio Public Meeting

The Blackwood River Community Radio team invites Bridgetown/Greenbushes residents and community group members to a public meeting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday March 12th at The Bridgetown Hub, Corner Roe and Steere Street, Bridgetown. Our goal is to establish a community radio station that will be a voice for all ages, community organisations, youth groups, local issues and events, while playing music to cater for all tastes. After we establish a studio in Bridgetown, we hope to eventually cover Greenbushes, Boyup Brook and surrounding areas. We urgently need more support from the local community to make it happen, so why not come and join us to help our team turn this exciting concept into reality. Enquiries Ph. Brian 0474 736 279. Brian Rose

### Blackwood Valley Mental Health Professional Network

The Mental Heath Professional Network is a regular meeting for professionals involved in Mental Health provision in our area.

It is open to GPs, Counsellors, Psychologists, OTs, Psychiatric nurses, psychotherapists and all other people who are employed in the mental health sector.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, 7 March starting at 6pm at Henri Nouwen House, 16 Hester Street, Bridgetown. Christine Ashbil will be presenting on 'Understanding Hoarding – an Anxiety Disorder. Light snacks will be provided – the event is free of charge.

If you would like to register for this event or learn more about it, please ring the Co-Ordinator, Elisabeth Pellicaan on 0498 228 082.



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### **TALISON - SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY** Craig's Corner - With Craig Dawson

we progress further into 2024 at the Greenbushes Lithium Operation (Mine, Greenbushes), I'd like to acknowledge that, as you may have heard. short-term lithium market conditions have witnessed a marked downward trend in recent months. Whilst this may prompt a few adjustments in the Mine's short-term plans, I want to emphasise that the long-term outlook for the lithium market remains unchanged. Greenbushes is resilient, and well positioned to weather the current market fluctuations. I am confident Greenbushes will continue in 2024 to lead in lithium, just as it has successfully done for the past 40 years.

### Sponsorship and donations

Talison is pleased to have provided sponsorship, donations and in-kind support to the following community groups throughout the first quarter of 2024 through its Community Support Program:

- Kirup Primary P&C Pumpkin Growing Competition;
- Balingup Small Farm Field Day;
- Heart Hub Southwest;
- Mayanup Campdraft:
- Nannup Men's Shed;
- Storm in a Teacup Event;
- Boyup Brook Family Playgroup;
- Donnybrook Apple Festival;
- Bridgetown Football Club
- Warren Districts Ag Society (Manjimup Show) free entry for children;
- Boyup Brook Community Red Fox Shoot;
- Boyanup Primary School P&C Colour Fun Run (Colour station):
- Bunbury Squash Club;
- Bridgetown Basketball;
- Blackwood United Football (Soccer) Club;
- Leschenault Catchment Council Preston River Revitalisation Project; and
- Greenbushes Discovery Centre.

### **Dust Monitor Location Change**

Talison is continually evolving its approach to actively manage dust emissions. Current mitigation measures include minimising bare dust generating surfaces, using surface stabilisation techniques such as non-toxic glues, spraying of water on haul roads, covered conveyors and final goods stockpiles, telescopic chutes on crusher discharge points and use of sweepers to clean up spillage.

As part of ongoing efforts, Talison has installed a new dust monitor on the Greenbushes Primary School Oval near Telluride Street. This provides real-time, five-minute monitor averaged dust levels within the Greenbushes townsite, following Australian Standards. The goal is to offer a representative sample of dust impacts on the community.

The monitor's location was agreed upon with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) as part of an approved Action Response Plan implemented by Talison in mid-December. The TARP aims to significantly enhance dust monitoring and management practices at the Mine.

This dust monitor, along with a second compliant monitor near the Greenbushes Cemetery, sends automatic alerts to environmental and operational departments when elevated dust levels are recorded. This enables Talison to respond promptly. If the dust levels exceed the acceptable limits for an extended period, Talison may have to consider temporarily suspending its some activities until Talison operational can effectively manage and reduce the dust.







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### **Record production**

The Mine achieved a remarkable milestone by setting a new annual concentrate production record in 2023, surpassing the 2022 production record, with a total of 1.522 million tonnes produced. This outstanding outcome stands as a testament to the dedication and hard work of the Mine's entire workforce throughout 2023.

### Presentation to Blackwood Chamber of Commerce and Industry

I look forward to sharing with local businesses how they can be involved in our procurement process in an upcoming presentation to the Blackwood Chamber of Commerce on 11 March. This will be a great opportunity to share how Talison is committed to supporting local businesses through procurement, all the while ensuring the availability of sufficient services and resources for the ongoing sustainability of the towns surrounding the Mine.

### Photo of the year

Talison's survey team plays an important role in monitoring Mine operations and contributing to external drone footage. In 2023, their exceptional images led to the creation of a Photo of the Year competition. I had the privilege of being on the judging panel and extend my thanks to the team for their fantastic work. Congratulations to Steve Ayling for winning the 2023 Photo of the Year with his impressive image capturing Talison's Balga relocation program.



#### Service awards

Congratulations to the following Talison employees who celebrate milestone anniversaries with Talison in the first quarter of 2024:

20 years of service: Jody McDonald; 10 years of service: Amanda James;

5 years of service: Darren Hata, Alan Matthysen. Timothy Mountford. Scott Millar, Mel Smith, Darren Papasergio, Stella Introvigne, Richard Philipps, Gareth Streeter, Scott Hastie, Andrew Smith. Gered Hetherington, Reihana Wybrow, Thomas Mills, Donald , Danny Wilkinson, Glenn Turner, Adam Ferretti, Rebecca Davison, and Lindsay Skelly; and

3 years of service: Jade Millar, Lewis Richings, Shelby Waters, Jason Webb. Trent Dawson, Dylan Blackwell, Adam Mason, Richard Glass, Luke Hill, Ben Oliver, Caitlyn Wheatley, Adrian Henke, Jason Littlefair, Geoff Threlfall, Thomas Butler, Ashlee Robert Evans. Mentlein. Craig House, Victoria Prince, Mitchell Walker, Andrew Brown, and Bobby Taylor.

### **Rail building relocation**

Scheduled for relocation in early March, the historic railway station building in North Greenbushes is set to embark on a new chapter. Talison is proud to be supporting this important project led by the Greenbushes Discovery Centre and Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, which will see the long-term preservation of this historic landmark and cultural heritage for the benefit of the community.

Now, as the railway station finds a new home at the Greenbushes Discovery Centre, it will undergo restoration and be accessible to the public with fresh displays at the Centre. This relocation provides a great opportunity for the building to share its rich history with visitors, ensuring that its legacy continues to be celebrated and appreciated.

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## Balingup Small Farm Field Day 2024 and Farm Visits

The Balingup Small Farm Field Day is being held on Saturday April 6th 9am til 3.30pm on Balingup Town Oval. It is the largest of its kind in the area and has been running every year since 1991 except for COVID cancellations. Farm visits run on 6th and 7th April.

It showcases many aspects of small farming in a local community including caring for the land and animals, growing plants and food, using natural ingredients, making crafts and clothes from natural products, wellbeing and the latest technology and vehicles.

This year the theme is 'Where Nature Thrives' and there are many talks and stalls related to this.

Wadandi-Pibulmun Cultural Custodian Zac Webb will share his knowledge about looking after Country by the Six Noongar Seasons. Troy and Pascale from Free Range Living will be sharing experiences tackling problem weeds with pigs and, the pros and cons of dairy goats, whilst Rod Cary from Geographe Community Landcare talks about growing your own 'bush tucker' & managing natural bushland on your property. Charles Otway will share his skills on compost, growing food and healthy soil, plus Adrian Williams speaks on the critical issue of water planning and auditing for small farms. Beekeeping information is available from the WA Apiarists Society, plus demonstrations of different arts and machinery processes across the Oval all day.

There are other market stalls, food, ice creams, coffee, with wine, cider, and spirit tastings. Live music, and entertainment for the kids – sheep dog demos, climbing wall, sheep shearing, sand pit, camel rides, farm animals to pet, livestock to look at, plus kids' corner workshops (ticketed event) in the Rec Centre. A few more stalls can still be accommodated. *Continued page 13* 





#### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE SLEEP?

When you've had a good night's sleep, you may notice that you feel better, more alert, energetic, and focused. But did you know that if you receive a poor quality sleep, the opposite occurs. You're more likely to have problems with thinking, concentration, memory, reaction times and mood.

Regularly receiving poor quality sleep can contribute to long-term health problems such as:

- Obesity
- Type 2 Diabetes
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Poor Mental Health

### ARE YOU GETTING ENOUGH GOOD OUALITY SLEEP?

Sleep deprivation is common today, with the average adult sleeping for only 6-7 hours each night. Different people need different amounts of sleep, and the Sleep Health Foundation recommends that adults should aim for 7-9 hours of sleep per night.

Some people cope with a lack of sleep much better than others, but if you are sleepy, it will affect your ability to concentrate as well as your mood. Studies show that common distractions from sleep are:

- Browsing the Internet
- Texting & Social Media
- Parents with young children
- Shift-work
- Travelling across timezones
- Illness
- Poor sleeping habits
- Medications

In the short term, people who don't get adequate sleep are more likely to have motor vehicle accidents. Lack of sleep can also lead to problems with productivity and safety in the workplace.

Lifestyle changes can help relieve mild or occasional symptoms but some sleep disorders such as insomnia or sleep apnoea need to be treated clinically.

Ask our team about sleep health or book your free 15-minute sleep health consultation today. Learn more at pharmacy777.com.au/sleep-apnoea.





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What a great turn out we had to the Open Space on "Ageing in our Community". The information provided about the proposed long-term expansion of Geegeelup Village, the concerns related to needing to go into care, the experience of downsizing to live in the Independent Living units, the services provided by Silver Chain, getting support as a carer and other models of looking after each other as we age that are being considered, was just great!

Did you know that nearly 50% of the residents in our Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire are over 55 years of age? We definitely need us all to be aware of and involved with, the plans afoot for our future if we want to be able to stay living in the towns we love as we age. You can help with this by filling in the Shire Community Age Survey on the shire

website, shire office and Bridgetown CRC.

Thanks so much to our presenters: Sean Mahoney and Anthony Flemming from Geegeelup; Angela Lawrence and Carla Logan from Silver Chain; Julie Milloy from Carers WA; Eric Wheatley - local resident from the Independent Living Units and Jane Wittenoom - looking at community based models of looking after each other to stay in our own homes.

Thanks also to the Uniting Church committee for accommodating us as a venue, lavish afternoon tea items generously donated by Blackwood Fresh and IGA and the fabulous Transition Bridgetown committee for bringing it all

Please if you would like to have more information, go to our website to look at the PowerPoint presentations that were shown.

It was our regular TBR driven, bottle top lids washing session at the Ashbil Community Garden market day recently. Thank you to those who brought their lids and washed and sorted and chatted. An extra thank you to Alexa Tunmer [Environment and Sustainability officer from our Shire] and Trish [from E-waste] dismantling the answers to our questions about recycling tricky items! These lids are now ready to be transported to Precious Plastics in Margaret River by our generous volunteers to be made into various usable items. Check out the Precious Plastics website for more info. Our next lid washing and sorting date will be at the Regen Fest at the community garden on Sat 23rd March 9am-1.30pm so if you can't avoid using plastic containers, start collecting your tops from friends and family and don't let them go to landfill!

Speaking of the Regen Fest, elsewhere in this mailbag is a big advertisement and article on this wonderful initiative! Transition Bridgetown are excited to be part of the organising team. Please save the date Sat 23rd March and come along to join in the fun and awareness of regenerative practices.

Our April Open Space [date to be confirmed] will be about starting up a local Repair Cafe! A Repair Cafe is a place where people can have old things repaired rather than sending them to landfill, but also where people learn new skills of how to maintain and repair things. These are skills that we will all need as we move into an uncertain future, but also they are skills that have been lost to many in recent generations. The idea of a Repair Cafe is to encourage conservation rather than waste and to extend the life of our possessions - whether appliances, furniture, clothing, electronics, or whatever. It is staffed by volunteers who are happy to share their skills and expertise with others, in the interests of sustainability. More details to come soon.

Big thanks as always to those who support our efforts to encourage and promote resilience, sustainability and regenerative practices in our community.

Email transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com information and check out our Facebook page.



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### COME AND CELEBRATE OUR 24TH BIRTHDAY!

### Wildlife in the Home Paddock

The Blackwood Environment Society was recently awarded funding through the Talison Lithium's Community Support Program, to run a series of six workshops relating to living with and providing protected habitat for local wildlife.

Living in this beautiful part of the state is a privilege that many could and do only dream of having. With that privilege comes a community responsibility to care for our natural environment and the wildlife that we share it with. As natural bush areas decrease, native wildlife look to rural and urban properties for habitat, water, and food sources. These newfound sources are highly valuable and aid the survival of many species.

Through education, the Blackwood Environment Society wishes to assist landholders in feeling confident to create and enhance protected habitat, food, and water sources on and around their properties. The series of six workshop topics, that has been designed for this purpose, will cover Black Cockatoo's and their habitat requirements, living with Possums, turning old farm dams into thriving wetlands, wildflower identification walks, reptile awareness and a citizen science owl survey.

The Blackwood Environment Society has invited the 'Carnaby Crusaders' from Perth to visit Bridgetown on Tuesday April 2nd, to run our first workshop on Black Cockatoo habitat requirements and creating artificial nesting hollows. Dean from 'Carnaby Crusaders', will educate participants on the three species of Black Cockatoo's, followed by an artificial nesting hollow building demonstration, where participants will be invited to assist.

This is a FREE, family friendly event and we encourage you to bring the kids and teens along, to meet one of Dean's very special winged friends and learn all about this iconic species... Continued page 15

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### **Trotting Club**

The Bridgetown Trotting Club will hold its annual race meetings on the 10th and the 24th of March 2024. The historic club is the "Home of Trotting" in the Lower South West with over fifty locals from Balingup to Pemberton having connections to more than fifty horses through owning, training, and breeding.

Local brother and sister Peter Bloxsome and Sue Waters are members of the ownership of \$740,000 prize winning mare Wonderful To Fly, while Ray Jones from Greenbushes owns and trains \$615,000 winner Lavra Joe along with the consistent Been Scootin. Dave Stringer is a member of several successful ownership groups while horses he has bred continue to win races on a regular basis. Club President Grumpy Waters, who can be seen early most mornings in his distinctive red horse truck heading to the track, regularly has a number of horses in his stables while horses bred from his stallion have performed with credit for other trainers throughout the state.

The season opening meeting on the 10th of March sees the running of the Nev's Steel Pace. Gates will open at 12noon with oncourse tote, bar and canteen facilities, with bouncy castle and fun activities for the kids.

The Bridgetown Cup has a special focus this year with "Ladies Day at the Cup". Race day Cup meetings have special significance for towns large and small throughout the state with many local and visiting patrons turning out to support the event. This year the Bridgetown Trotting Club is presenting "Ladies Day at the Cup" with a number of supporting trackside events including free entry, lucky horse shoe picks, with ladies focus prizes, provided by local businesses and best race day outfit and headwear will also attract special prizes.

Ten lucky ladies will draw a horse running in the Bridgetown Cup with the opportunity of enjoying the spoils of being with the winner.

All the usual facilities will be available at the meeting including a variety of activities for the kids. Shayne Rice





Congratulations to Chris winner of the last months IGA Voucher

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### **Dalgarup Prescribed Burning Plans Discussed**

Continued from page 4.... appropriate Fire Danger Index aligned with weather forecasts would all be carefully considered prior to undertaking the ignition. The difference between Autumn and Spring ignitions with advantages and disadvantages of each was also discussed in depth.

'My team are very experienced and we will apply the upmost diligence to ensure that when the burn is undertaken it will be implemented as carefully as possible." Ed promised.

Those present agreed that it had been a very valuable

meeting and expressed appreciation to Ed for attending.

Richard Wittenoom

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## Balingup Small Farm Field Souwest Glass

Continued from page 9...— so apply today through the website www.balingupsmallfarmfieldday.com.au to check Shower Screens Timber Glazing 2nd Hand Windows Lear Light.

This year, by popular demand, there is a return to Farm Visits on Sat 6 and Sun 7 April. Tickets are on sale through the website – limited numbers available.

To save gate queues for the Field Day, tickets are available online – U16 years accompanied with an adult are free, adult \$20 and Pensioners \$15 and Companion card holders carers are free - great value with so much on offer for a day out!

Tickets for main gates, kids' corner craft workshops and farm visits are through www.balingupsmallfarmfieldday.com.au

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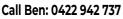


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### Ladies Chat Group, Tuesday Chat

I came to Bridgetown in 2018 from Albany. I had family here but didn't know anybody else, so decided to start a chat group to meet people and make friends. I had started a ladies chat group in Albany and that is still going strong 25 years later.

We have no agendas at our meetings - they are purely for social chat, for ladies to get together for a cuppa and conversation (very lively at times). We meet at the Bridgetown Library once a week. Every now and again we dress-up for social occasions.

We are excited to be celebrating our fifth anniversary this year – we always have a great time and there is always something of interest to share and discuss.

Our age group is 50 and over – we welcome ladies with a bit time on their hands or ladies new to town looking for some friendly company. For further information conact Jennifer Guille on 0417926608 or 97611470.

### Blackwood Regen-Fest 2024

The Blackwood Regen Fest is back 9.00am Saturday 23rd March at the Ashbil Community Garden. The focus of this on how to live a locally focused, regenerative lifestyle through an engaging and entertaining day of activities. Last year's event attracted over 200 people and created a fantastic festival atmosphere. We are excited to take this year's event to the next level with an expanded marketplace featuring community groups, ethical businesses, produce, coffee and food as well as presentations by local experts. The Transition Bridgetown Waste Trailer will once again be

on display and used as a shining example of how easy it is to run a waste free event. Everyone is welcome to come and learn, connect and be inspired to live a more regenerative lifestyle. For more information contact Mike Kaye 0424



partment of bs, Tourism, Science

Applications open for the Community **Small Grants Fund for organisations** in the native forestry regions

Funding of up to \$100,000 is available for eligible organisations to support the local economy and community.

Visit our website or attend a workshop to find out more:

### **Bridgetown**

12 March 12:30pm - 3pm (1pm start)

Nelsons of Bridgetown

12 March 4:30pm - 7pm (5pm start)

Manjimup Wellness Centre Conference Room

#### Nannup

13 March

9 - 11:30am (9:30am start)

Nannup Recreation and Community Centre Meeting Room



### Wildlife in the Home Paddock

Continued from page 11...Each session will run for approximately one hour with a half hour break in between, people are welcome to register for one or both sessions.

Registrations for this event is essential and can be done via email to nrmbridgetown@gmail.com before Tuesday March 26th. Once you have registered all event information will be sent to you along with a reminder the week before (as it is school holidays and easter and I know a busy time of year).

If you would like any more information on the upcoming workshops, please register your interest to the above email and I will let you know as soon as the events have been organised.

We are extremely lucky to be able to run these workshops free of charge for the community and Thank Talison Lithium for their support to do so.

# Smoke and Wheels Vintage Day

Saturday 23rd March 2024; A Tracmach Event on Russell's Farm, 6 kms along Glentulloch Road off the SW Highway.

South of Bridgetown (watch for signs). 10am till 4.30pm \$5 Cash Entry everyone over 12yrs, Incl. Exhibitors

Not to be missed, a great day out for all the Family. Take part by bringing your piece of history or just enjoy the working and static machines. Tractors, trucks, bulldozers, graders, stationary engines, implements and all types of vehicles of every description. Tractor Pull event and Grand Parade.

Enjoy locally catered foods, drinks and ice-cream and Traditional Camp Oven Stew, Billy Tea and Damper with lashings of local jam and honey.

Register your interest if you would like to bring along any items of interest for demonstration, display or sale.

Non-Vintage are also welcome to join in. There's plenty of room for stalls, Hobbies or displays of any description or size. Anything and Anyone are Welcome.

Contact: Ed mob. 0429 379 089 Tel. 9761 9055. Please Note: This is a working farm – No Dogs Thankyou

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32nd year .... The Mailbag March 5th 2024 Page 15

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### **DOWNUNDER COUNTRY 2024**

Continued from cover.....At midday the main stage concert commences with local artists and bush poets performing amongst the Walk-ups (Open Mic) sections of the afternoon.

Tea Break is Old Time Dancing in Centenary Hall with Lyn Hilder (Narrogin).

The evening concert on the main stage features our interstate artists Graeme Hugo (SA), Grant Luhrs (NSW), Ged & Trudy Hintz (Qld), Earl Kyle (NSW) and Kevin & Dehlia Brown (Qld).

Saturday concert starts at 9am. Lunch time is line dancing in Centenary Hall. Concert continues to tea time and an Old Time Dance with Campfire Country. Evening concert till 10pm.

Local artists Kathy Carver, Terry Bennetts, Ric Davies, Kevin Bennett, Jannes Kleinman, Kate Hindle, Rozzi Smith, Katelyn Lansdell and our Bush Poets. All performing alongside our interstate visitors accompanied by the "Downunder Country" backing band.

Sunday Bush Poets Breakfast from 8am – 10am with Peter (Stinger) Nettleton, Bill Gordon, Keith (Cobber) Lethbridge, Roger Cracknell, Christine Boult and Alan Aitken.

10.15am Gospel Section with special guests Sisters of Corn (from Bridgetown) with Daun.

11am onwards all artists perform through to the finale around 4pm.

Cost for a weekend music ticket is \$60 payable in cash at the gate on arrival. Friday

Information: Please contact David and Therese Higginson on 0429 109334 or 0448 387878.

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