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THE MAILBAG

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Telephone: 9761 1717 - Email: mailbag@bigpond.net.au

NAIDOC Celebrations at Greenbushes Primary

Greenbushes Primary School which has thirty-eight students, gives us a wonderful little insight into modern day schooling in Australia.

Mrs Kylie Loney is the principal of Greenbushes Primary and talks about school ideals, "Aside from yearly NAIDOC celebrations, Greenbushes Primary integrates Indigenous perspectives wherever possible in an effort to drive reconciliation.

"Since 2019, Noongar has been the schools' 'language other than English' (LOTE), and students learn not only elements of the language, but also about Indigenous history and culture. This is reinforced through HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences - previously Social Studies) lessons and some of the texts students read in English.

"Having an understanding and an interest in Indigenous culture has given our students a terrific insight into the first Australians."

One of Projects to celebrate NAIDOC at Greenbushes Primary was when Noongar artist, Summer Brinkworth from Myrtle Creative, came to work with the students on a collaborative art piece. The concept is to use six separate canvases, one representing each Noongar season, and these will be assembled together for display within the school, Children picture left shown working on the paintings.

When the canvases are assembled, they will show a tree growing across the canvases with each canvas a colour of the season.

There are six Noongar seasons in Western Australia's South West region, which are indicated by changes in local plants and animals.

Traditionally Noongar people hunted and gathered food according to the seasons, being guided by the signs in nature as to which animal and plant resources were plentiful at those times.

Birak is represented by the colour red as it symbolises heat, sun and fire. (December - January), Bunuru is represented by the colour orange and is the hottest time of the year. (February - March) *continue page 15*



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Time to Nominate for West Australian Country Music Awards

Nominations are open for the 2022 West Australian Country Music Awards presented by LiveLighter, which each year recognise outstanding achievements in music.

Held annually in conjunction with the Boyup Brook Country Music Festival presented by LiveLighter, the awards provide emerging and established talent with industry recognition and popular acclaim.

A total of 10 categories offers the chance for nominees to earn a place at the pinnacle of country music in WA, with honours for musical group, male artist and female artist of the year.

Other titles up for grabs are best independent single, EP, album, music video clip, open song writer, emerging artist and junior vocalist.



Sally Jane

Festival Music Director Sharon Winter called on the community to help shine a bright light on the cream of country music in WA.

"We are excited the awards are making a return in 2022. To carry on our proud tradition of celebrating the very best on the WA country music scene, we invite fans to show their appreciation for their favourite artists, albums and music videos by putting them up for consideration for an award," Mrs Winter said.

"Artists can also put themselves in the running by self-nominating."

Judging is carried out by experienced country music professionals from Australia and overseas, with the public getting the chance to vote for people's choice.

Due to cancellations caused by the COVID-19, 2021 nominees will be carried over to 2022. Those wanting to submit new material, must submit a new nomination form. Nominations close 5pm, Wednesday September 1, 2021.

Award winners will be announced at a presentation during the 2022 Boyup Brook Country Music Festival presented by LiveLighter, taking place from February 18 to 20.

For more information, visit the official event website – www.countrymusicwa.com.au

A Past Winner's Story

Sally Jane is a vibrant young country music singer, songwriter and guitarist from Serpentine, Western Australia. She was raised in Serpentine on a seven-acre property where she has a pony and a horse.

Sally has always liked to sing, she started singing from a very early age and has hardly stopped since. Her early efforts were not always appreciated though, like being asked to go to a lower paddock on her parents' property to pick up sticks whilst singing.

Her love of music and her singing songs whenever she had time help her with being able to hold a tune and the old cliché that 'practicing makes your singing perfect,' worked well, improving her voice to such an extent her parents took notice.

Her father approached the Serpentine Tavern where an audition was held, resulting with, at the age of 15 Sally playing a regular 'gig' in the hotel.

Everyone starts somewhere, her career has blossomed since to such an extent her father has quit his regular job to become Sally's manager as well as her roadie.

Sally made her mark in Boyup Brook in the Australian country music scene with the award in 2019 of Western Australian Country Music Junior Vocalist of the year and then next years People's Choice Award at the 2020 WA Country Music Awards.

Now at nineteen years of age Sally has also recently graduated from the Country Music Association of Australia (CMAA) Senior Academy in 2020 and performed at a number of venues during Australia's largest music festival in Tamworth, including opening the festival on the main stage. *Continued page 15*

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Susie Benson-Parry

The Nature of Places

The invaluable lesson about any art form is to learn that “whatever you think you may know, there is still so much more to learn.”

Susie Benson-Parry will be holding her first art exhibition in Bridgetown at The Rabbit Hole Gallery during August which opens on Saturday 7th from 5.30 to 7.30pm.

Susie’s love for art in the form of painting and drawing was nurtured at an early age. As she puts it, “I am fortunate enough to have been born into a family who were involved in the arts. I was encouraged by my Grandpa, Mum and Aunties, this was important to me.

“My Grandpa, who painted with oils on large canvases, intrigued me with his works.

“My mother, Audrey, had an autograph book where her colleagues not only left words of friendship, but delightful small drawings and paintings alongside. This book fascinated me every time I found it.



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“My Aunt Ruth who went to art college, a matter which slightly miffed my mother because she always aspired to do so, but didn’t have the opportunity. Aunt Ruth came to stay with me when I lived in Fiji for 3 years. She taught me techniques which are invaluable”.

“I was born and brought up in Bruce Rock in Western Australia. I lived and worked in Perth for many years. All my spare time was spent in pursuing painting and theatre.

“Theatre is my other love: being surrounded by a creative community, either as an actor or doing the art work on the set, is what I found challenging, and a lot of fun. The theatre is also where I met my husband, Robert.

“Robert and I have retired to Bridgetown permanently in 2018. It is the best decision we ever made.

“There will be twenty pieces in the exhibition, which are a mix of acrylics, watercolors and pen. The realistic style is a combination of old structures, landscapes, and flowers.

“I consider myself as an amateur artist who has a passion for having a go at art.”

The ‘invaluable lesson’ quote at the beginning of the story is Susie’s. *Continued page 15.*



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A big farewell to Chelsea who has been running our Deli/Bakery for the last year. She is currently expecting her first child and we wish her all the best for the future.

We would also like to introduce Karen, who will be taking over the position. Karen has been with us for 4 years and will make an excellent addition to our management team.



Chelsea
Karen

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Jo and Jenny in the meeting and workshop room



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Bridgetown Chapter, Bridgetown Stepping Stones, Bridgetown Produce Swap, Blackwood Parent Support Group. We are also members of the Blackwood Youth Action Grant Committee and facilitate the networking meetings for the Warren Blackwood Human Services Network.

We offer venue hire that is utilised by Health Providers, TAFE, various community groups and private parties.

Our projects over the years have included the conservation of the Historic Terminus Hotel and the expansion of our meeting and workshop room, Regional Arts WA "Paint by Numbers Mural", annual Pram Walks for Post Natal Depression Awareness, the playground installation of "The Gilgie", grant support for The Winter Festival/Puzzletown programs, and now most recently, a newly formed partnership with the Bridgetown Agricultural Society to support their administration functions and show day planning.

Often we are perceived to be for families only, or mothers with small children. But that is not the case! We cater to everyone and have been working hard to grow our networks and support as many local community groups as we can, through our skills and expertise in grant writing, administration and event planning.

We would love for you to follow us on Facebook – Bridgetown Family & Community Centre. Or email us at btcommunityc@westnet.com.au to be added to our mailing list for regular program updates. We love hearing your feedback and requests, and we love people who want to share their skills, experience and time with us. Jo Moore

Family and Community Centre

Have you been to the Bridgetown Family and Community Centre lately? Located at the corner of Steere and Roe Sreets, it is home to the historic Terminus Hotel and a newly renovated community building. The building and land is owned by the Bridgetown Family and Community Centre (BFCC) on behalf of the people of Bridgetown. It was donated by the Swan Brewery back in 1975 to be used as a community space.

In its current format, the BFCC is funded by the Department of Communities under the "Empowering Communities Program". What exactly does this mean? It means we are funded to provide services for everyone (all ages and walks of life), with our goals being to empower people to have social connections, participate in their community, learn new skills, contribute to their community and feel safe. We do that by providing the following programs:

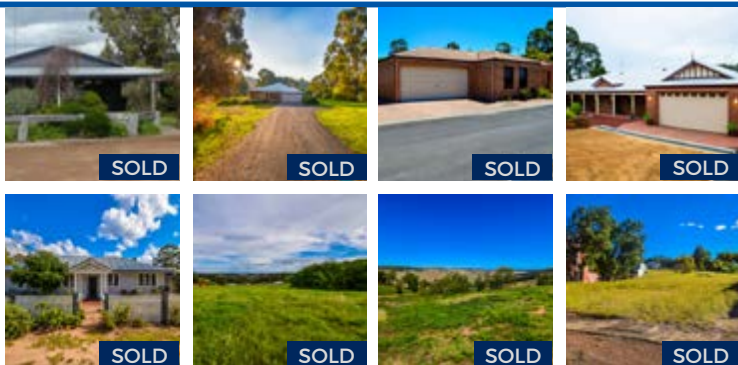
Playgroups, Book Clubs (day time and evening), Parenting Programs, After School Art Club, Social Learning workshops that include cooking, sewing, crafts and gardening, School Holiday Activities, Emergency Referrals Services and Community Events.

We are home to the Child Health Clinic, Days for Girls

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Dorothy and Erica

Quiz Night

The Bridgetown Greenbushes Youth Care District Council will be holding their annual quiz night on Friday 20th August at the Bridgetown Bowling Club, doors will open at 7pm.

The quiz night is raising funds to support Chaplaincy in the Bridgetown Primary and High Schools and the Greenbushes Primary School.

Proceeds go to the Chaplains in the schools to use for such things as Breakfast Club, Lunch Time activities and other programs during the year.

The Quiz Master will be the very entertaining David Bardsley.

There are tables of six to eight persons, tickets are \$10 each. There will be a bar available, no BYO drinks. Tea, coffee and milk will be available, please bring your own snacks.

Please book your tickets at Vibe Service Station or call Estelle on 0407 377 791 or tickets will also be available at the door.

A big thank you goes out to all the businesses that have supported the evening by donating prizes and raffle items.

Spreading a Little Joy

Erica Gale and Dorothy Anderson have for years been attending local hospitals in friendship to entertain residents, patients and the elderly with sing-a-longs, storytelling and poetry reciting.

Erica has been entertaining on a volunteering basis now for 22 years, and for the last 14 years has been joined by Dorothy.

They attend in the sun room at the Bridgetown Hospital every Wednesday.

On a rotation once every six weeks they entertain at Boyup Brook and Pemberton and Donnybrook Hospitals, Geegeelup Village, Tuia Lodge, The Friendship Club in both Bridgetown and Manjimup, Moonya Lodge and the Bridgetown Library.

Dorothy recites poetry and tells stories which have a humorous theme. She also plays the spoons, tambourine and has a little drum kit to accompanying the singing.

"We play the songs our audiences know, we have them singing along with us, you can feel the difference we make." Erica said.

For her volunteering work Erica was awarded the 2021 Bridgetown Senior Citizen of the year.



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Lions Bingo Night

As a fun of way raising money Bridgetown Lions will be holding Bingo Nights.

Nicole Hegney Lions President' goes on to explain, "The Lions will be holding a bingo night on the second Friday of each month. The Bingo will be held at St Brigid's Hall on Roe Street, doors will open at 6.15pm, eyes down at 7.15pm.

"We also thought as a bit of fun we would run them along the lines of having a theme night.

"Because the first night falls on Friday 13th, we thought we would start with a 'Bogan' theme night.

"Raffles will also be conducted through the night, with prizes donated by local businesses.

"We have got a licence to conduct bingo for the next seven months.

"With the licence there are restrictions, children are welcome but no player will be allowed under the age of 12, and we have a strict no alcohol policy.

"We will have food and drinks which will be available for purchase during the night."

Bridgetown Lions also farewelled John Evans, he will be moving to Australind, not completely though as he will be a 'Lion at Large' making him able to float in and out at meeting at times of his own making.

John was made a Life Member of the Bridgetown Club for his 39 years of service, he joined in October of 1982.

"John is still our treasurer at the moment, we haven't let him go completely, he will be training up our new treasurer.

"Lion's fund raising is very important in the community. Last year even with Covid-19 restrictions, we still managed to give \$14,000 to the community.

"Any food left over from the Saturday Sausage Sizzle or the Lions food van is donated to Breakfast Clubs in town or to the Day Care," Nicole was pleased to say.

Red Cross Response to Cyclone Seroja

Cyclone Seroja impacted on 19 local shires – i.e. from Kalbarri to Dalwallinu. The damage ranged from complete destruction of houses, sheds, silos, machinery, fences, trees and chook yards to minor deroofting and cladding removal.

The cyclone impacted on the night of 11th April right at the beginning of seeding. SES was first on the scene for emergency repairs especially putting tarps on roofs. Once the rubbish that was strewn far and wide was cleared by the farmers and their families, seeding began at top speed despite downed power poles and electricity cables across various paddocks. Blaze Aid arrived shortly after and started putting up boundary fences allowing farmers to sort out and confine the (mostly) sheep wandering around on roads etc. Internal fencing will have to wait until later.

It has been all hands on deck for the locals. Where possible, every member of the family took turns on the machinery, including teenagers pulled out of school/ag. college for a term. Many farmers have been fortunate that family and friends arrived from elsewhere giving what help they could with cleaning up the debris.

The Red Cross, hand in hand with the various local governments, has been sending in teams to check on the well being of the farming families and to ascertain what the shires can do to assist. At this stage there has been not much time to stop and reflect especially for the menfolk. The wives and girlfriends have been holding onto the emotional end of the candle and the support by the Red Cross teams will continue to be offered in both the short term and also the longer term – as long as it is needed.

Our team was fortunate in that Josh Kennedy came up to his old stomping ground – the Rams Football team in Northampton – to support the fund raising body he and several other AFL Footballers have set up to aid the local community. As a keen Eagles supporter I was right chuffed. The event was well attended by locals, East Fremantle members and the media and the accompanying auction was well supported. All the children loved the trauma teddies. Patricia Martin

Harcourts Bridgetown Real Estate Matters

I don't know about you but I am a fan of Professor Peter Newman who I believe has a broad knowledge and expertise on planning sustainable neighborhoods. He displays a common sense scientific approach to the climate change issues we are and will experience into the future.

There was a recent article written in the West about "Managing summer fires" and that led me to google research further information, in particular relating to regional lifestyles which has been driving real estate tree change demands over the past 40 years.

It is easy to forget the heat of summer whilst we are in the depths of a cold and wet winter, however some forward planning is to be considered now. After all Bridgetown is within a bushfire zone.

While there may be no way to guarantee the protection of homes there are things homeowners can do to prepare for the summer bushfires.

- Have a water system that allows your house to be doused. This will help minimise ember attack.
- Clear around the outside of your home and plant fire retardant deciduous trees. Remove eucalypts from close proximity to your home.

Whilst this may seem ineffectual in a catastrophic fire it will be of some help in saving property. Protection of property is difficult where we have scattered dwellings on small acreages, which can be hard to defend as is the case in our region.

Professor Newman suggests we radically change our planning concepts for future sustainability. The design of hamlets or eco villages should be the norm rather than allowing subdivision of large urban lots that become a burden for property owners to maintain. Small hamlets can be strategically planned to minimise fire impact with the added benefit of creating a sense of community.



By John Ranieri
0438 996 848

Howard's Hunger

Marietta Diallo has been in Bridgetown for around 18 months. Apart from her schooling she keeps herself busy by playing basketball and soccer, she has also joined the youth theatre.

Marietta is a 13 year old, a teenager who has a vivid imagination which has helped her write a one act play, 'Howard's Hunger', for the Bridgetown Youth Theatre.

The play is a 'black comedy' about a very clever serial killer who eats his victims; The play shows why he is suspected of being the killer, then it reveals the evidence that shows he is the killer.

The taste for human flesh for Howard comes from a life and death incident. Howard was an accident survivor, stranded without food. He has to consume the flesh of his fellow passengers who were fatally injured in the accident, he finds himself in an eat-or-you'll-starve-to-death situation.

This incident then becomes a part of his life that has been compartmentalised in his past, but years later after tasting human blood, it brings back a hunger and a need to eat human flesh again.

There are flash backs to his traumatic childhood which has also contributed to his mental anguish. There are also flashbacks to the accident where he first became a cannibal and then to the current day where he plays the role of the 'lord of the manor', killing and then eating the corpses of his victims for pleasure.

Three different actors play the role of Howard: George plays the role of young Howard being traumatised by his mother, father and brother; Jesse plays the current day Howard and Anne plays the really clever Howard, the lord of the manor who thinks that he is far too clever to be caught by the police.

The forensic scientists who are played by Milli and Katie are the ones who find the evidence to put Howard away.

Marietta explains how the story line has developed,

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"The story first came to me when I had a nightmare, a fast moving and bizarre one, but the story had a compelling theme.

"Meegan Cullen and Chris Shedley have been nurturing and developing the play, and together we are bringing the tale to life.

"The play has four main acting roles, but there are eleven other roles which are played by the cast playing several different roles.

"A warning, even though the play has been written by a teenager, the play has adult themes and horror scenes with drug references, but you will find it highly entertaining, so come down and check it out if you get a chance."

Scenes from the play will be performed during the 'Ouch Festival' in August, the full play will be staged at the end of term three in September.

Meegan Cullen, Bridgetown Youth Theatre Coordinator remarks: "Howard's Hunger is a one act play which goes for about 45 minutes, the story line is quite plausible, the roles are played by a very talented bunch of young actors playing characters that are quite diverse, at times they are funny, then charming and then scary.

"There are many layers to this play all of which give the story an interesting depth, which is both troubling and intriguing, it also has an ending which is quite unexpected."

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Show Talk

Hello Everyone.

Mr Roger Gutteridge is the Society's incoming President. Roger has held the position of Senior Vice President for some time and has actively participated in all activities around the grounds and taken a keen interest in the Society's operation. Mr Adrian Elder has accepted the role of Senior Vice President and Mrs Hayley Thorpe is the Junior Vice President. The Committee is proud of their commitment in ensuring the future of our Society and congratulate them all.

The administration process has been working smoothly with the newly forged partnership with the BFCC. Membership and Sponsorship renewals have been sent out. If you have not yet received either or want to be a member or sponsor, please contact Jo now so the schedule can be finalised and ready to publish. Thank you to the new sponsors who have recently contacted us – we will be in touch with you soon in relation to your area of sponsorship.

URGENT: We have been unsuccessful in seeking stewards for the Sheep Section. This is our last attempt and if no-one comes forward by August 14th the Sheep Section (for the first time in the history of the Bridgetown Show), will be removed from the schedule.

On Sunday six Jacarandas were planted at the Showgrounds on the show embankment, thanks to Michael, Brian and Bev. These are Stage 4 of the Showground Tree Planting Project and the Plaque unveiling for all four stages is planned for showtime.

Continued page nine,



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The Entertainment Committee have ensured that as well as our favourites, there will be an array of new additions to the Show Day entertainment. A large number of locals will play a role in the theme 'Family and Community' and if you have something to contribute get in touch with us now.

CLOSED: The Showgrounds will be closed to the public from 17th August to the 7th September. The Australian Defence Force personnel will be camped at the grounds

and will conduct military training in the general Bridgetown area. There will be strictly no entry to any persons during this time except for RFDS emergency.

The next Meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th August 7.30pm in the Presidents Room at the Showgrounds. If you wish to contact the Ag Society, Jo Moore can be contacted on 0437 602 836 or email info@bridgetownshow.com.au or follow us on Facebook 'Bridgetown Agricultural Show'.

Stay Safe.

Blues at Bridgetown

Our Winter Warmup is just around the corner and we would like to thank everyone who has supported us. The performers all agreed to help us out, as did Totally Sound, and we have been so lucky to get the Repertory Theatre to let us use their fantastic venue. Without all these people we could not have even started to get the Winter Warmup off the ground.

Once we decided to go ahead we have had enormous support from business around town.

A thank you to our Raffle prize donations of vouchers;

Rees Butchers

Oooh La Lollipop

Sew Gentle Era

Wattleseed Barn and FATS.

Auctions items have come from; Tracey Barnett (the first copy of her not yet released album)

Two Dollar Dog (a cigar box guitar)

Tony Pratico (2 hours of the icecream van for a special occasion).

The fantastic people who are supplying food and drinks; Hansen's Bread shop, Pip at Bridgetown Pottery Restaurant, The Stables IGA, The Cidery.

Come along and join us for a fantastic night. Book through the office, 9761 2921 or Tickets. <https://www.trybooking.com/BSQCO>

Announcement!

We're all disappointed that we can't hold a street party this year, but we have been very busy planning a COVID compliant option.

This year we are having a Community Hub. It will be like the street party but in a free venue at Memorial Park. The youth stage, a food court and stalls will all be in the Hub. We will have community groups involved, with activities and displays. If you would like to be part of our Community Hub please contact us in the office, 9761 2921. The Hub will be open 2 to 8pm on Friday, and 10am to 8pm Saturday. This year we will be doing the official opening of the Blues on the stage at 4pm.


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Supporting Local Initiatives

This month sees the 2nd meeting of the Recycling Networking Group, comprising of teachers and parents from our local schools, representatives from the Bridgetown Family and Community Centre, Hastic Waste and our Shire.

The main aims of this group are to support local workplaces with recycling initiatives and to provide education and practical facilities for children and parents in their endeavours to further reduce waste.

The Recycling Hub at the Library is being well utilized! We have taken 2 large bags of reading glasses through to Fettes who post them onto Lions for redistribution, we've delivered what seems like thousands of plastic bottle top lids to Hastic Waste [soboring how many plastic containers we collectively use], household batteries are being kept out of landfill, Seonaid posts off satchels of mobile phones to Planet Ark Mobile Muster, Elizabeth takes the toothcare products and writing implements over to Boyup Brook CRC to contribute to the Terracycle program they have running there and Nell keeps the information board at the Library up to date! Thanks to those volunteers who manage these aspects of the Hub.

Fresh Local Spray Free Markets – TBR are delighted to support this initiative.

Where do you find delicious, nutritious, regeneratively grown produce straight from our local farms to you? Right here in Bridgetown!

A brand new Farmers Market is opening this November and will bring all of the goodness of fresh, low kms, less than 50kms, spray-free and organic food to our Town Square.

The farmers and stall holders are those focused on soil health ad food nutrition and will all come together every Saturday to give you the opportunity to not only support them but to support your health.

The market will be a place to visit each weekend with family and friends to buy your fresh fruit and vegetables and while you are there, to enjoy music from our local musiciaians, delicious food, coffee and cakes as well as educational talks and food preparation demonstrations.

If you would like to be part of the market or know of others food producers, please contact Raquel by email raquel@gallowaysprings.com.au

Bridgetown Energy Transition (BET) Update
 Jim Dixon is providing energy audits for residents within our shire. This is a very generous community gesture which several households have taken advantage of and are now in the process of converting to solar energy. Thank you Jim.

To book an energy audit, please contact Lisa on 0414 550 025 or email bridgetownenergytransition21@gmail.com
Continued page 11.



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Red Cross Events

Red Cross have a couple of fund raising events happening over the next couple of months.

Firstly on Saturday August 21st, we will be holding a Big Cake Bake at St Paul's hall from 8am until noon. Tea and coffee will be available to accompany cakes and scones. Also said baked goods will be available for purchase to take home.

In September we will be holding the Annual Quiz Nite on Friday 17th at the Greenbushes Hall. Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start (tables of six at \$10 per head). A 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.

We should know the results of the footy tipping by then. The competition is very keen with entrants spanning the generations! At the time of writing the first places are held by our oldest and youngest tipsters!

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.

Transition Bridgetown

Continued from page 10. For those who have concerns over how solar panels are disposed of, did you know Australia's first solar panel recycling plant has swung into action in Melbourne's north. This company is Lotus Energy. Reclaim PV Recycling has a plant about to start in October. These two plants have a combined capacity of 900,000 panels to be recycled per year.

Sophie Vorrath May 2021 "Renew Economy"

August Open Space "Waterwise Verge Gardening"

Building Community and helping to make Bridgetown even more 'Simply Beautiful'. Sunday August 15th 4.30-6.30pm at The Cidery Bridgetown

Come along and learn about the Waterwise Verge Gardens Policy that Bridgetown is embracing. Hear from our local Community Nursery managers and local horticulturists about the process of growing local plant species from seed collection to seedlings. Question what plants are suitable to be planted to comply with Waterwise Verge Gardens. Can it include food producing plants? Watch a short video on Communal Verge Gardening that demonstrates how neighbours can utilise their verges to build friendships and community. Bring along a map showing your verge area to get some ideas on how you can utilise the space. See some of the plants mentioned on display and order or purchase them to begin your verge project.

Is there a topic you are passionate about? If you would like Transition Bridgetown to connect you with others who share your passion, please contact us at transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com

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Showing The Way

Coleen Russell

In this issue, 1885 to 1904, sees town lots being purchased, then cleared for the showgrounds, with the Central Southern Districts Agricultural Society being formed.

On Tuesday February 3, the Bridgetown Races took place with five events, the most successful owners on the day being A.W. Moulton, Edward Lee Steere and John Blechynden. That evening a public meeting with regard to the Agricultural Society was held in the Mechanics Institute.

Many attending enrolled as members offering pecuniary help in building yards, sheds and other necessary conveniences. After the meeting, a dance took place with visitors attending from Bunbury and the Vasse. Athletic sports the following day proved Thomas Wheatley to be the best runner and George Minden the most active in the high jump clearing 4ft 11 inches (1.498metres) with ease.

A meeting of the committee was held on Thursday 30 April 1885 and as the Secretary's report was considered favourable, he was then instructed to apply to the Colonial Secretary for a grant of £25 and for two allotments on Bridgetown town lots 29 and 30, the ground being the most central and desirable location. He was also to call a general meeting of paid members to put in place all the affairs of the new society.

The following article was printed in the Government Gazette, 16 June 1885: "296 Notice Crown Lands Office Perth: The two Bridgetown Town Lots, 29 and 30 included in Reserve 274A, published in the Government Gazette 11 September 1877 have been appropriated to the uses of the Central Southern Districts Agricultural Society. Signed; John Forrest Commissioner of Crown Lands. "The Government also allowed an annual grant to the Society.

Surveyor Thomas Campbell Carey, had suggested to the Surveyor General, in his letter from Survey Camp, Geegelup dated 7 March 1868, that the "town lots be sufficiently large enough to give each owner a good garden."

With the layout of the land he had some difficulty in "cutting the town into lots, as the greater part of the town-site is very hilly" and "in some places impossible to find ground suitable for streets. "The lots averaged from two to three acres with the majority at 2 ½ acres. He recommended the larger size as "it will only be a country village " The Society Minutes implied, when describing later enlargements to the grounds of Lots 29 and 30, that they totaled around four acres (1.619hectares) in size. The lots took in the block, which today is encompassed by Steere and Roe Streets and the railway line, with Rose Street cutting through the centre and only as far back as Somme Creek.

On Thursday 25 June at the general meeting of members, the report of the provisional committee was considered highly satisfactory showing a very favourable report on the support of the Settlers who contributed donations towards the erection of yards, fencing, etc. The constitution of the Agricultural Society of W.A. was adopted with slight modifications to suit the district and the following settlers were appointed office bearers under the name of the Central Southern Districts Agricultural Society.

President - The Hon. J.G. Lee Steere, pastoralist and Resident Magistrate, Jayes. Vice Presidents - Messrs; Charles Fox Roberts Thomas Giblett, pastoralist, Balbarrup Council of Management - Messrs. Thomas Longbottom John Allnutt, orchardist, farmer, the Grange John Hutton, Thomas Muir, pastoralist, Warren Charles Rose, pastoralist, Wilgarrup, G.C. Dowden, A.W. Moulton ex policeman, storekeeper and mail service, E.G. Hester, pastoralist, Blackwood Park

Secretary/Treasurer Archibald Knox Brown, Brooklands. The contract for the show yards and sheds was settled and the show was scheduled for Thursday 10 December 1885. The contract to clear the Show Ground was taken up by Tom Asphy (Asphy, Ashbee) and John May. When John May arrived in Bridgetown in 1878 with his wife and two children, he recalled in a later interview that there were only seven



Allnutt Brothers George and Frank c1886 with their Best Collection Produce

dwellings, which included the homes of John Allnutt, John Blechynden, Joe Smith, A.W. Moulton, (ex. Policeman), a General Store with a wine licence and accommodation called the 'Farmers Rest', the Police Station and one other. He worked for John Allnutt at the Grange, later taking up 100 acres at Mattamattup.

The ground clearing and erection of the Show Ground yards totaled a cost of £90. The West Australian reported on the 28 November that the Agricultural Society promised to be a great success both in exhibits and public attendance. "The show yards are nearing completion and Host Fielder, the energetic Bunbury Publican, is coming with his trio of musicians, a swing boat and a merry-go-round." He was also bringing his piano for use at the Ball and Concert on the evening of the show. Mr Roy Doust would mention in later years that Gilbert and William Coverley were involved in building the six-foot solid jarrah slab, post and rail fence around the Show Ground.

The very 1st meeting of the Central Southern District Agricultural Society was held on Thursday 10 December 1885 and was a great success treating the public to an exhibition of high quality livestock and produce and an exciting program of ring events, which included a large entry of competitors in, Best Hack Ridden by a Lady. The Western Mail reported one spectator as claiming, "Such galaxy of beauty as the riders presented could not be equalled in the Colony." Over 300 people were present on the ground and the prize list for the show was

£101 with a total of one hundred and seventy three entries; 63 horses, 43 head of cattle, 12 sheep, 2 pigs, 3 poultry, 31 district produce and 19 dairy produce. Amount taken on the gates was £5. Principal prize winners were Messrs Lee Steere £14 12s, Thos. Giblett £10, and Messrs Harold Brockman, John Blechynden, W.H. Wood, Henry Doust, C.F. Roberts, Thos. Muir and W.B. Mitchell each £5. The Southern Times mentioned that Messrs Venn, Chas. Layman, Jas. Dempster, Capt. Coghlan and many other visitors were present. The show yards were classed as the second best in the colony, the best being the Royal. Every seat was occupied at the dinner on the Thursday night, and on the Friday the athletic sports were held with the Show Ball in the evening.

The Annual General Meeting was held the day after the show on Friday 11 December. The financial position showed a balance of £14 11s. The election of office bearers remained the same with Mr Lee Steere in the chair and newly appointed members to council William Keith Adam and Harold Brockman replacing Thomas Longbottom and John Hutton. From a passing comment by a stranger, the Society had achieved an outstanding event bringing together a scattered community, but more importantly, creating a forum to argue conditions of the area and improvements for all the Settlers, of which they would not be fully aware until 1892.

The Original Minutes Book 11 December 1885 to 12 September 1891, of the Central Southern Districts Agricultural Society, is currently stored in the Battye Library, Perth WA and gives a clear account of all meeting procedures, although little is mentioned of the Shows.



R.I.P. Jim Frith

Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest Honorary Life Member and Past President Jim Frith passed away last Monday, the eve of his 92nd birthday.

I can't think of a better way to recall him, then this email I received:

I send to you all my heartfelt condolences on the passing of Jim. It was Jim who made my membership of WAFA all worthwhile. The long humane conversations Jim initiated with me and continued between us over several years have always been close to my heart. Jim also gave me great pleasure as he walked me over Jim and Mary's farm many times. He explained the way farms should be run, running his sheep between his crop of trees.

Mary, during all these occasions you were the perfect, homely host putting me and the other protestors up in your beautiful historic house. Eleanor shared her house with me one afternoon. None of these occasions are lost. Remembered for ever, especially Jim a true conservationist.

My condolences and love to you all. From Carole who has escaped to the karri country of Northcliffe.

Mary and Jim moved to a retirement home in Kingsley some years ago. If you wish to write to Mary her address is: Mary Frith, Mary Surveyor Centre, 18 Hocking Road, Kingsley WA 6026



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Skills Challenge

From a meeting of Warren-Blackwood School Principals, an idea was put forward for the primary schools in the area to compete in a robotics competition.

Kylie Loney, Principal of Greenbushes Primary School, approached Talison Lithium to help with the funding. Talison's contribution enabled Robotics kits to be purchased for each primary school in Balingup, Kirup, Greenbushes, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown and Manjimup, to compete in the VEX IQ competition.

VEX IQ is a competition for primary school students only. The students design, build, program and drive a robot to complete the challenge as best as they can.

Each VEX IQ Robotics kit is made up of plastic pieces that snap together using pegs, and constructing a robot is fairly straightforward. The students use graphical software to program the robot.

There are two parts to the competition day: Robot Skills, in which a single robot attempts to score as many points as possible, and the Teamwork Challenge, in which two robots attempt to work together to complete the same task.

Mrs Kylie Loney enthusiastically talks about the contest, "The curriculum throughout primary schools includes science, technologies, and even physics, and we understand how important these subjects will be in our students' future.

"Primary school is formative time in a student's life. We work hard to instill a lifelong interest in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by providing fun, engaging and hands-on opportunities to explore and experience it for themselves.

"The Vex IQ challenge helps to build students' passion for STEM subjects. Hands-on experience gives students technical knowledge, and the nature of this competition means that students also build communication and teamwork skills. "We chose the students who would compete from our year six cohort, this



Edyn Hardy, Shenae Woodall, Tobin Russell and Tessa Scovell

being the last year they could enter the contest.

"They did very well and we are proud of their achievements, they came third in the contest."

The four students from Greenbushes Primary who competed were, Edyn Hardy, Tessa Scovell, Shenae Woodall and Tobin Russell.

Let's hear from the Greenbushes students who took part in the challenge, all four students spoke well with a confident manner.

Edyn Hardy said, "I found competition to be lots of fun, we built a standard 'bot' and it worked to our advantage. Another school in the competition had modified their 'bot' and during the competition it had a problem, it kept toppling over.

"I enjoyed the experience, it was a lot of fun, but because I love being outside in the open, I'm not sure if I will pursue robotics in the future."

Shenae Woodall elaborated, "Greenbushes and Kirup schools had a combined workshop on building the 'bots', and once the basics were explained to us, we were underway.

"The 'bot' design we built was the one in the instruction booklet, although this didn't stop us putting pieces together back to front or on the wrong side, but together we worked it out.

"After building our 'bot' we had trouble setting up the wireless operation, but with the instructor's help it was soon remedied.

"We all worked well together, with certain challenges we had to work in pairs, but we certainly did well in the competition."

Tobin Russell was keen to add, "I've really like working with the 'bots', I have a remote-control toy at home, I like computer games and found I was good at moving the 'bot' around the board without bumping into objects.

"That was my advantage."

Tessa Scovell enthusiastically went on say, "We did make a few improvements to our 'bot' which were clever, we added rubber bands to its claw grip, which worked well.

"We practiced a lot, Tobin was certainly the quickest around the board, we were all happy to compete and we enjoy the experience.

"The four of us worked well together and competed well.

"We have other computer programs we work with at school, but these mostly involve coding to move objects around on a screen. The robot challenge involves moving and controlling a machine on a rectangular field; it was different and more of a challenge."

The four students were all pleased with the competition and their placing. Edyn, Shenae and Tessa are all going on to Bridgetown High School next year with Tobin going on to Newton Moore in Bunbury.



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NAIDOC celebrations at Greenbushes Primary

Continued from cover.

Djeran is represented by the colour green as it is the time of the year when the cooler weather begins. (April - May)

Makuru is represented by the colour dark blue as it symbolises rain and cold weather. (June - July)

Djilba is represented by the colour pink as it symbolises growth of wildflowers and plants. (August - September)

Kambarang is represented by the colour yellow as it symbolises the return of the hot weather. (October - November)

"We also held a NAIDOC family concert with Charmaine Councillor (nee Bennell) and her mother Phyllis Bennell singing and performing lullabies in Noongar language. Charmaine is an accomplished writer, artist and musician. Greenbushes Primary have many of her books, which we use in our Noongar LOTE lessons." Mrs *Kylie Loney* said.

Little Lending Libraries

Continued from back page

They are accessible from the pathways, and are an invitation to share in the joys of reading with your neighbours.

"Lending Libraries are a window into the mind of a community; books come and go; no-one needs to check them in or out. People can simply reach in and take what interests them; when they are done, they can return them to the Lending Library.

"If a resident has a book or two that they think others would enjoy, they can just pop it into one of the Little Libraries as they happen to be walking past.

"They are a symbol of trust and hope, a tiny vestibule of literary happiness."

A Past Winner's Story

Continued from page 2

Every musician's dream is to perform on the stage with their music idols, Sally Jane continues to live her dream and has already shared stages across Australia supporting her idols Troy Cassar-Daly, Bradley Hall, Simply Bushed, Kasey Chambers, Adam Harvey, Amber Lawrence, Catherine Britt and more recently Adam Brand.

"During my 'gigs' I sing for around three hours, I just love performing.

"Covid-19 has certainly had an impact on my life, no long after winning People Choice Award at Boyup Brook was the time when the Covid restriction came into play.

"I have continued to tour and perform when I can, my latest concert was at the Karratha Red Country Music Festival in June.

"I am just about to release my debut EP, On which I have written the five songs on the album.

"Country music allows me to express myself and tell my story, I love it that people can dance and sing along and share the experience with me."

The Nature of Places

Continued from page 3

She also added, "I suppose that is why we are our own worst critics, and why I still strive to get it right.

"In the exhibition is a commissioned piece for Phillip (Fox) Giblett, who is a dear friend. He wanted a painting of his original childhood home. However he said, 'The first time I see the painting, it has to be in your exhibition.'"

The Nature of Places, Susie's art exhibition, is being held during August. You should try and get along to the exhibition, you will be pleasantly surprised.



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Little Lending Libraries

One of the latest projects the Bridgetown's Grumpy Old Men's Shed have been involved in has been the construction of 'Little Lending Libraries' for Geegeelup Village.

Michele Finlay, Independent Living Manager of Geegeelup Village was the instigator of the idea to have several 'Lending Libraries' situated about the village and she explains how it came about.

"Grumpy Old Men's Shed have done a wonderful job with the libraries, the Men's Shed made them for us at cost. Geegeelup Village maintenance crew have now concreted the libraries in place.

"In the first while I filled the Lending Libraries with donated books, since then I have seen that the books are being changed on a regular basis.

"There are four Libraries at the moment which are dotted throughout village. During winter the libraries have proved to be a welcome and needed extra in the village, so much so we are planning to place an extra one among the new constructions at the top of Allnut Street.

"The Little Libraries are for use for the Geegeelup residents and with the independent living units and houses all taken up at the moment I'm sure the libraries are in for a lot of use."

Merrick Paget along with his colleagues at the Shed have constructed these libraries over the past few months.

Merrick has been quite pleased with the way the 'Little Libraries' have performed during this wet winter, and on checking he was pleased to say, "We added air vents to the



Merrick Paget, John Dorricott and Michele Finlay

libraries to stop any moisture build up spoiling the books, the vents are doing the job."

Terry Linz, Grumpy Old Men's representative was delighted to say; "The Libraries have been an instant success with the residents. We have received several thank you notes and a donation towards constructing more from Geegeelup residents.

"The libraries work as a book exchange; the residents can take along a book to deposit at the library and come away with another book to read.

"Lending Libraries are a beautiful home for books, situated around the village. *Continued page 15*

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