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# THE MAILBAG

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## Queen's Birthday Honours

The Honourable Robyn Mary McSweeney was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) on the 13th June, 2022.

The Citation was, For service to the people and Parliament of Western Australia.

Through the years Robyn has been involved in a wide variety of community work, she has also served as a Member for the South West Region in the Legislative Council, firstly in opposition from 2001 until 2008 then as part of the government from 2008 to 2013.

Robyn was delighted to receive the award which is in recognition of the work she has undertaken throughout her years of service, in helping to improve the lives of those living in W.A.



Robyn with gracious thanks went on to say, "Receiving the OAM was quite a surprise. I felt a sense of real pride to be given the award, along with feeling humble, knowing the fact this award is shared with those who across the years have supported me, especially my family and colleagues. Without their support I could not have committed as much time and effort as I have with community projects and serving in State Parliament. My thanks go out to all those who have contributed to me receiving this award."

Robyn is now the sixth person in Bridgetown to receive the OAM. Bernard O'Reilly was given the medal in 1986 for his services to St. John Ambulance, William Harold Rowan-Robinson was awarded one in 1987 for service to the community, Patrick Scallan was awarded one in 2015 for service to local government and the community, Thomas Nigel Jones was awarded one in 2018 for his service to medicine as a general practitioner and Adrian Elder was awarded one in 2021 for service to the community of Bridgetown.

Peta Christine Townsing who did live in Bridgetown was posthumously awarded an OAM for her work with the Volunteer Fire Brigade. She was a former Coordinator for Festival of Country Gardens.

It's all too plain to see that Bridgetown, a relatively small town, certainly punches well above its weight in receiving those five OAMs. Or could it be that we are fortunate to live in a shire where a good number of our residents work hard in a selfless way for our community. *Continued page 14*

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Left to right Erica Shedley, Gwen Read, Viv Read and Kathy Collins absent from the photo is Diane Edmonds

## Celebrating 100 years of life

Gwenyth May Read was born on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 1922 in Fremantle Western Australia. Her parents were Lilian May Mundy (nee Parker) and Morris Hunter Mundy.

She married Albert Read on January the 1<sup>st</sup> 1949, they had three children which went on to thirteen grandchildren, eighteen great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild.

Family members came to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in Bridgetown on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, 2022.

The following are some extracts from her book 'My Life', allowing us a small glimpse into her life, Gwen and Burt Read moved to Bridgetown in 1951.

"I'm not sure how or when we were alerted to the Rowley Street house owned by an Egyptian man, but we liked it so much we bought it for £1,800. With our future secured, we drove home to begin arrangements for our early March shift.

"Bert and me said our goodbyes to our family and friends in Perth as we drove off in the Vauxhall, as Bert says, "With wife, new baby and new car to a new future life.

"Then in 1951 we purchased a farm 'Kingsley Downs' which was named from the beginning of our War Service farm by Bert, in memory of Kingsley Fairbridge and the Farm School, where his hopes for a successful future farm life began.

"February 1953," began twenty-seven years of family life for us on the farm."

During these years, music was an important part of Gwen's life, both choral and instrumental. She was in the Bridgetown Repertory Club from 1954 and was playing music during the intervals.

"Back on the farm, life went on as usual, and I often had an urge to write. One day in the old house, or maybe it was in the new house, I gazed out of the kitchen window visualizing the scene and the urge became too strong, hence the following poem:

*continued page 15*

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# Are Bridgetown Boomerang Bags Dead?

Christine Ashbil

A few years ago, a crowd of local citizens, armed with a battalion of sewing machines, got cracking on reducing the use of soft plastics in their little neck of the woods.

Lead by fearless leaders; Sam Mills, Margaret Morton, Diane Della Vedova, Maureen Fleming and myself, together we gathered groups of sewers, along with a 'tonne' of donated fabric from the Anglican op-shop and many other sources and got tangled up in miles of cotton thread.

Sam Mills designed the logo, Phil Holroyd and Rob Snelling built the 'borrow boxes' that stored and displayed the bags in the different shops.

Collections of kids then painted the boxes and a new movement of ecological citizen co-operation had begun.

The concept was that the bags would be made or donated, screen printed with the logo, placed in the depot boxes and people could choose to borrow a bag rather than take plastic bags to carry their goods.

In a shire of 4,300 citizens, we ended up screen printing 3,700 bags but many more were donated. The businesses that promoted the boomerang bags were; IGA, Bridgetown Library, B.P. Service Station, Wattleseed Café, Clovers, Mitre 10, Geegelup Health Food store, Botanical Vault, and the Ashbil Community Garden. As you can count more venues than borrow boxes; one depot box was sent to Boyup Brook.

No other town has decided to have such a plethora of venues. You know Bridgetown, dripping with enthusiasm.

The library, the BFCC, local schools, Sew Gentle Era and Silverchain hosted sewing days and screen-printing events by young and old and those in between. We decided 'a part of the job' would be to sign the screen-printed bags, to add to the adventure, and to let others know who helped make this bag.

Some community groups donated funds for scissors and thread and so Bob's your uncle we were a sewing industry, well I felt it was.

How did it change consumer consciousness? Well, it pre-empted government legislation. Businesses started to



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entertain alternatives to plastics. They began to withhold single use plastics, reuse cardboard boxes, and change signage to remind consumers to bring bags or borrow boomerang bags.

When legislation changed those of us in Bridgetown hardly blinked.

Challenges were cleanliness of the bags; a team would check and wash bags; some people permanently acquired the bags. "Well, I have to shop again. I will use it again next time." Makes sense. One friend admitted innocently, "Oh I thought I could keep them, I have about eight at home."

Me, I sewed heaps, definitely lost count, no I don't own any. To tell you the truth I am a box girl. Being a gardener, I flatten and mulch them. Using the boxes for a third time, whilst reducing future weeding. Leading the project was 150% joy. Community, creativity, co-operation, environmental awareness. Hanging out with other enviro-social citizens, chatting, having fun, teaching children about the environment. Continued page 14



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## Active, Caring and Stubborn to the Last

Farewell to Ella McAlinden (nee Wright). 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1931 – 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

Jenny Wright was to give this eulogy at Ella's burial but the wet inclement weather prevented the tale being told at the time. Jenny now recalls some of the events in Ella's life.

Me, being Laurie Wright wife, Ella was therefore my aunt by marriage.



*Ella McAlinden*

I can honestly say everyone loved Ella. She was one of those lovely people who always seemed to be pleased to see you, and always had time to ask about the family, but she never had time for gossip.

She was a good, hard working, county girl with a great sense of humour. She liked her family to call her Mim as she did not like Nana or Grandma. Mim is a name she chose from a children's story, the Travelling Book Shop.

Ella was born in Northam on the 10th January, 1931 to Mabel Grace and Robert Henry Wright. She was one of four daughters.

In 1946, the family shifted from Southern Brook near Northam to Yornup. At that time Ella (although young) commenced work in the boarding house owned by Mrs. Gardiner.

Ella's Dad, who we all called Pop Wright, sometimes thinned apples and pruned trees in the orchard at Lucieville for my father, Des Pearce. I rarely ever heard him speak, but as he worked, he whistled through his teeth, which highly amused me and my brother Allan. We often raced down to the orchard after school to annoy the poor man.

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1947, Ella married Tine McAlinden and they lived together at Yornup Mill. They had three children, John in 1948, Sherril in 1949 and David (Bim) in 1958

Unfortunately, Sherril had significant health problems as a child and has died in recent times.

In August, 1961, Tine and Ella and the children shifted to Bridgetown. Ella worked in the kitchen at the hospital, and then on from 1964 she worked there as the cook until the old hospital closed in 1978.

During this time Tine worked for Les Reid in the orchard, which Laurie and I commenced leasing in early 1971. Sometimes Ella would also come out and pick fruit on her days off.

Ella and Tine then moved to Roebourne, at Kanny's, while Cape Lambert was being constructed. Ella was camp cook and Tine worked as a storeman.

In 1974, Ella took a job as cook with main roads at Meekatharra, while Tine was working there as a storeman.

Then in 1976 they returned to Bridgetown. Ella then worked in the laundry at the Bridgetown Hospital until retirement.

As outlined, Ella's life was that of a hard worker, I know she liked to do things well, whatever the task.

Although, one of her grandchildren advised that she was a great cook but not such a terrific driver.

I heard about the event which led to this belief, when, on the way home one day, she took the corner too fast in her little 'Bat Mobile' and turned it over in a big pile of black berries. Continued page 13

## Stupid Questions Jack Barrie

A car is spotted in the far distance driving towards the farm homestead. When it pulls up near the farm house, the lady of the house comes out and enquires as to what the driver wants.

The driver says, "I would like to talk to the farm owner."

The woman replies, "I'll call him up, and find out where he is." After a call on the two-way radio, "He's fuelling up a tractor behind the silos. Just follow that road for a bit, down and around, you'll spot him."

The driver finds the farmer standing by the tractor who asks, "Can I help ya mate?"

The stranger says, "I'm the rep for the Australian Workers Union, I would like to talk about your workers. How many are there on the farm?"

"Three" says the farmer, "Why do you want to know?"

The rep then asks, "What do they all do?"

"Well one is a mechanic, he looks after all the machinery, the bikes and then fills out his day by working as a general hand."

"How many hours does he work?" "About fifty, with free meat and rent thrown in."

The rep looks at the farmer like he's a bit strange and asks "what's the job then of one of the other farm workers?"

"Well, there's a handyman, he looks after the water pumps, windmills, keeps all the water troughs in good order and keeps the dogs fed."

"And what are his work hours?" The union bloke enquires.

"Well, he works the same hours as the mechanic."

"So, what's the handyman's wage?"

The farmer patience is starting to wear thin as he replies "Three hundred a week, and he's happy with that."

"And the third worker, what does he do?"

"Well, he's the versatile one, he organizes the two others, looks after the sheep, does the ploughing, seeding, harvesting, orders the fuel, buys and sells the stock, and keeps the books straight."

*Continued page 7*

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## TALISON – SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Talison is pleased to support community groups across the Shires of Bridgetown- Greenbushes, Donnybrook-Balingup, Boyup Brook, Nannup and Manjimup in 2022, enabling organisations to host events, activities and projects or purchase equipment to make a positive impact.

These donations are administered by the Community Team through the Talison Sponsorship and Donations Programme and include in-kind assistance or a cash donation.

Sponsorships and donations queries for GBContact please email [GBContact@talisonlithium.com](mailto:GBContact@talisonlithium.com)



Left to right: Darren Papasergio, Paul Murphy, Matt Rowett (in behind), Tim Hingston, Doug Kirk, Bruce Pendlebury, Tim Clynch, Alan Wilson, Jane Kelsbie MLA, Kirsty Buchanan (in behind), Commissioner Darren Klemm, Bruce Vernon, Craig Dawson, Phil Brandrett, minister Stephen Dawson and Adam Harris

Talison has been awarded a Certificate of Distinction for stepping up to support the community during the Bridgetown bushfires earlier this year.

Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson and Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) Commissioner Darren Klemm AFSM visited Greenbushes on June 30 to present the Certificate.

Talison staff were among the volunteer firefighters who helped protect lives and property as the fire burnt through more than 2,200 hectares at Bridgetown during a weekend of unprecedented bushfire threat.

Talison also provided accommodation to around 150 emergency service personnel responding to the Level 3 Bridgetown fire and with the help of mining contractors SG Mining heavy machinery was mobilized to help fight and contain the blaze.

Amongst the equipment sent out to assist was a CAT777 water truck which provided invaluable in replenishing water supplies to fire tenders and trucks.

The Bridgetown blaze was one of three big bushfires supported by Talison during the recent fire-threat period over the summer months.

Talison provided free accommodation and food

to emergency service personnel responding to the Level 3 Calgardup bushfire that threatened the town of Margaret River in December and for 34 firefighters from the South-West who fought a Level 2 bushfire near Kirup in February.

“On behalf of the McGowan Government, I want to thank Talison for all the support it provided in keeping the community safe on such a challenging weekend for the State,” said Mr Dawson.

“All the volunteer fire fighters who brought the inferno under control can be incredibly proud of their brave efforts,” he said.

During the visit the Minister and Commissioner Klemm were able to speak with members of the Talison Fire Brigade and Emergency Response Team. Representatives from the Bridgetown Golf Club were also there to share stories of the impact of the fire on their historic clubhouse and fairways.

“DFES has developed a strong relationship with the Greenbushes Lithium mine operators since we signed the Memorandum of Understanding in 2020 to formally recognise the Talison Fire Brigade,” said Commissioner Klemm.

“Since then, the Talison Brigade has provided important support to the Greenbushes Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and other volunteer emergency services groups in the district,” he said.



# School Days and the Bridgetown Historical Society

Just recently BHS held a morning tea and an open day to thank our volunteers and for those interested in the work of Bridgetown Historical Society. The Society has its office in the Yornup

School building which is located in Civic Lane and behind the Police Museum.

One of our visitors to the morning tea was Daryl Duxbury who attended school in this building. He showed us where he sat in the class room and recalled the various teachers. He remembered the fire place, that is now enclosed was always alight in the winter and how he and his brother rode to school on their horse. The blackboards that are on the inside walls of the building are now used for different purposes but still serve as a means of communication today.

Yornup Primary School started out as the Springside School, one of the "little schools" of Bridgetown.

Built by the Education Department on land given by Mr Peter Patterson at Springside (South Western Hwy ~ 4.5km North of Yornup) and opened in December 1908 with Miss MacNamee the first teacher. Springside State School was attended by children of farming families in the area and from the Fettleers camp at Glenlynn Siding (opposite the Glentulloch Road turnoff).

The school and quarters were relocated to Yornup in 1929 due to the closure of the Fettleers camp. School was conducted in the Yornup Hall during the schools relocation.

The school was used as a community centre for a varied number of projects until 1996 when the Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes relocated it to the rear of 144 Hampton Street, Bridgetown as part of a proposed heritage precinct.

The building was used for a community craft group and early childhood music classes for some time, following which the Shire decided to wholly lease the building to the Bridgetown Historical Society for use as an office, meeting room and archive space.



BHS office is open on Monday and Thursday mornings and of course at other times for our meetings, accessioning of donated objects, research and planning for future exhibitions and displays in the Police Station Museum.

This building is a reminder that the past can be used in the present to plan for the future.

Thank you to those families and the Education Department in 1908 who were responsible for the construction of the school building.

Lee Wittenoom [www.bridgetownhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.bridgetownhistoricalsociety.org.au)  
M: 0487 592 704 T: 08 9761 4236

## Quiz Night

'It's not just a Rock Quiz' is a quiz night which is to be hosted by the Greenbushes Belles CWA.

The quiz night will take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> July, a 6pm turnout for a 6:30 start at Greenbushes Shire Hall.

During the night there will be three major prizes, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> along with a prize for last place and there will also be auctions and other prizes during the night, bring your gold coins to participate.

It is BYO food, live music will be being played through the night. No BYO alcohol, as it will be for sale.

There will be tables of 6 available for \$150. All proceeds go towards the school's pastoral care in Greenbushes and in Bridgetown. For further information and bookings, phone Sharron on 0407 087 388.

## Stupid Questions ...Continued from page 5

"So how many hours does he work, and what is he paid for doing all that work?"

The farmer has really had this city clown by now with all his stupid questions, so he looks him in the eye and tells him "About two hundred and fifty dollars a week, and he works at least seventy hours a week, although it's probably more."

This fires-up the rep so he snaps with a reply and asks, "So where is that man, I need to talk to him now."

The farmer answers with a big grin, "He's standing right in front of you answering your stupid questions."

Jack Barrie 2020

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# Bridgetown Seeks Adventurers

Bold Adventurers are flocking to Bridgetown for a weekend of adventure.

Blackwood Dungeons and Dragons (DnD) Winterfest, a weekend of Dungeons and Dragons gaming, is on 16th and 17th July - the last weekend of the school holidays.

Dungeons and Dragons, currently a pop-culture phenomenon, is a tabletop role-playing game where characters take on fantasy personas and work together to solve puzzles and battle monsters. Ms Emily Smith, a local artist, has been running DnD sessions for young people in Bridgetown for several years through Blackwood Youth Action and here talks about the advantages of the game.

"DnD helps young people develop social skills and fosters cooperation and problem-solving. It's also a lot of fun!

"DnD is a game which requires players to cooperate to achieve goals. The game is run in an impromptu way where players make decisions collaboratively changing the storyline to achieve their goals.

"The game fosters a lot of life skills like cooperation, working as a team and collaboratively finding solutions to everyday problems, as such they are the skills we require in life. It is a great advantage to those who have social difficulties.

"It's the Dungeon Master who writes the story and fosters cooperation and leads the players in a direction to maintain the storyline, but it's an open-ended story and it's up to the players to solve problems using the players different strengths collaboratively and in a respectful way. The Dungeon Master also has a role as a mentor, helping to develop the inexperienced players' skills.

"DnD is a game for both adults and children, although it is recommended that children be above twelve years of age.

"Game sessions can range from a short game of three hours to a game that I played over the web with my friends that has taken four years.

"Many adults enjoy the challenge of playing as well as helping control

how the story of each game session plays out. Winterfest is a chance for players to come to Bridgetown and enjoy winter in the southwest while they join locals for a fun and social weekend.

"New and experienced players are welcome, and Winterfest is an inclusive and welcoming event." Ms Smith said.

Sessions will be held in the Centenary Hall at the Bridgetown Showgrounds, 38 Peninsula Road, Bridgetown. Some tickets are still available online.

As well as game sessions, vendors like Beyond Games and Hobby from Bunbury will be on hand to sell gaming gear like sourcebooks, miniatures and dice. Wootenforge Gaming Accessories from Perth create exquisite wooden dice trays and DM screens, and they have designed custom Winterfest products.

The event is being run through Blackwood Youth Action - a Bridgetown-based not-for-profit organisation. Its goal is to support marginalised and at-risk young people in the region to improve their health and wellbeing.

Proceeds from Winterfest will go towards running BYA's youth mental health programs.

Further information and ticket booking are available at the event's website. [blackwooddndwinterfest.squarespace.com](http://blackwooddndwinterfest.squarespace.com)



Emily pictured above with the Wall and a Dragon being built for display on the weekend

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## West Australian Country Music Awards

The Country Music Club organise and implement the West Australian Country Music Awards presented by LiveLighter and is dedicated to providing recognition to our WA artists. The Awards celebrate excellence in country music with recordings, songwriting, video clips and vocals. The Awards have been traditionally incorporated into the Boyup Brook Country Music Festival, but as the festival was cancelled, the Club worked hard to plan the Awards under a different process.

On Saturday, 11th June the inaugural event was streamed live from Boyup Brook. President Daly Winter said "We would like to recognise and honour the extraordinary achievements of our West Australian country music artists, who in these especially difficult and trying times have shown incredible spirit, dedication and commitment to the country music industry here in WA."

What an unforgettable night it was. Finalists and winners of 10 categories were recognised for their outstanding achievements with the presentation of the new Golden Guitar Belt Buckle award certificates handed out to the winners on the night. Music Director Donna Forsyth said "I am so proud to be a part of this event. The calibre of talent from Western Australia is outstanding. Over the years I have seen many people take the leap with their music to a new professional level and gain the recognition they deserve. It fills me with optimism for the future and it is really wonderful to see the artists being recognised for their achievements".

Codee-Lee from Eaton topped the night taking home four awards: Single of the Year, EP of the Year, Songwriter of the Year with a song titled "Who I Am" written by herself and Katrina Burgoyne and the prestigious People's Choice Award. Kate Hindle from Collie went home with two awards: Emerging Artist of the Year and Female Artist of the Year. Charlee Jones from Bunbury won the Junior Vocalist of



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the Year and is currently touring through the north-west of the state. Mike Goodwin from Margaret River was joined by his wife Angela to receive the Video Clip of the Year Award with the animated video clip called 'Sugar cane'. Male Artist of the Year was won by the troubadour himself, Chris Matthews who spends most of his time performing around the Kimberley's. The Album of the Year and Best Group of the Year was awarded to The Little Lord Street Band from Eden Hill.

The night finished on a fantastic note with a big jam session incorporating some of the finalists and winners. The Country Music Club of Boyup Brook would like to thank Healthway, promoting the LiveLighter message, APRA AMCOS, the Shire of Boyup Brook, Lomax Media and Totally Sound for assisting in bringing this special night together. This project was also made possible by the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, which supports the arts in regional and remote Australia.

Having won 10 WA country music awards and 2 WAM Regional song of the year awards Codee-Lee has cemented herself as a serious songwriter in the country industry.


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## Transition Bridgetown

Transition Bridgetown held a vibrant and interactive Open Space titled "Recycling Demystified" on the 29th of June at the Cidery. Informative talks from Cleanaway's Education officer, Hastie Waste and our Shire Waste and Environmental Officer were presented, with plenty of time made for discussion and questions. The take home messages of the night were, don't buy it, avoid packaging and last resort, chose packaging that's easy to recycle. For example, composite products like tetra packs are difficult to recycle and there isn't a market for them. In addition, if you must, try to buy things made from recycled material, as there's no point recycling if no one wants the raw products.


If you were unable to attend, or if you'd like to revisit the presentations there is a video recording of the event on the Transition Bridgetown Facebook page. There is also updated information on the Transition Bridgetown website. Recycling packs are available at the library, with bin stickers to put on your recycling bin and a summary of local specialist recycling collection points.

Did you know there is a Recycling Networking Group in town, working on local initiatives to reduce waste? Contact us at [transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com](mailto:transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com) if you are interested to join us. Current projects include supporting waste minimisation at the Bridgetown Blues Festival and Bridgetown Agricultural Show and getting a Wash Against Waste Trailer active at events.


Whilst recycling is important, we must remember that Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Repurpose is always preferable to recycling. Next month we will be focusing on supporting Plastic Free July. This is the perfect opportunity for each of us to take one more step in reducing our purchases of anything containing plastic. Living completely free of plastic purchases is unrealistic for most of us, but we would like to encourage all our community to take one more step in their reduction of purchasing products with plastic packaging. The Plastic Free July website has some useful tips.

Our next Open Space will be in August where we will be screening a short movie from Daimon Gameau (producer of the movie "2020") and hearing from local groups on their activities to help improve our land, health, and life.

We hope that our recycling themed Open Space helped educate our community and build local knowledge and understanding around this difficult subject. Look forward to seeing fresh new faces at our August Open Space where you might find a cause close to your heart that you can join like minded people in championing. Keep purchasing wisely and recycling thoughtfully.



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## Show Talk Hello Everyone

Memberships and Sponsorships have now been sent out inviting past supporters to continue. If you have not received your invitation, please make contact with our Secretary Jo.

Ruth has been in touch with the Section Stewards. Any changes from those who have responded, have now been entered into the new Schedule.

There are vacancies for sponsors in the following Sections: B1 Horses, Champion Thoroughbred and Champion Standardbred; Section L Fruit, Class 13 Home-Grown Fruit Collection and Class 14 16/U Fruit Collection; Section P Photography, Best Entry Open Colour; Section R Fine & Manual Arts, Most Points Painting & Drawing. If any of these Sections are an area you would like to support, please email Jo info@bridgetownshow.com.au. As soon as all the updated information has been passed on and entered, the Schedule can be given to the printer.

Thank you to those people who took up the invitation to pass on any suggestions or something to include in the schedule. We appreciate your interest.

2022 Show Theme: Our theme 'From Seed to Supper' is coming together with some exciting ideas being put in place and growing by the minute (pardon the pun).

2022 Show Support: Helpers are always needed in the Sections for both the day before and on Show Day. If you would like to be involved to help prepare for our 133rd Show on Saturday November 26th, 2022, contact the Society and give your area of preference to help out. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Fridgetown Fest: As part of the Winter Celebrations 2022, Blackwood Dungeons and Dragons will again be happening in the Centenary Hall at the Showgrounds on July 16th - 17th. For further information contact the BGBTA.

Venue bookings: Remember, the Showgrounds is a great venue for your special event and is available for hire. Pricing and information about booking the grounds can be found online [www.bridgetownshow.com.au](http://www.bridgetownshow.com.au) or ask at the Bridgetown Newsagents.

Our next Meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th July 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](mailto:info@bridgetownshow.com.au)

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## Showing The Way Coleen Russell

West Australian reported “the people of Bridgetown deserved a larger hall through evidence of having the right kind of spirit to make things Agricultural move along.”

### A Change of Name 1893 *continued*

1893 Continued from last issue,

West Australian reported “the people of Bridgetown deserved a larger hall through evidence of having the right kind of spirit to make things Agricultural move along.”

The Friday 24 November edition of The West Australian reported that Sir James and Lady Lee Steere were present at the fancy dress ball held on the Tuesday night at Scott’s Hotel held by Mr Walter the Resident Magistrate and Mrs Walter. The luncheon was held in the Farmers Home Hotel. The size of the hall was reported to be “too small to cater for the number of people attending the ball” and that “the people of Bridgetown deserved a larger hall through evidence of having the right kind of spirit to make things Agricultural move along.” Amateur Theatricals filled up the evenings.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Show Day on Thursday 23rd November 1893, under the newly appointed name of the ‘Nelson Agricultural Society’, was opened by the Premier the Hon. Sir John Forrest. Attending were the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Sir James Lee Steere and

Lady Lee Steere, the Director of Public Works Mr Venn (MLA) and the Commissioner of Crown Lands Mr Marmion (MLA).

The weather suited the crowds who attended and winners’ on the day were J. Blechynden, J.R. Walter, Theo. Robins, T. Wheatley, C.F. Roberts, L.C. Moulton, A. Blechynden, T. Giblett, W. Woods, P. Wheatley, Mrs Allnutt, and best lady rider Miss Smith.

The School Room had a display of wildflowers with prizes given by Mrs J. Allnutt and Mrs J. R. Walter for best wildflower arrangement entries in the under 14 years. The winners from first to fifth place were Maud Doust, Mabel Maslin, Harold Moulton, Fred Maslin and Lewis McAlinden.

The afternoon luncheon was given at the Farmer’s Home Hotel with a large attendance and the usual proposal of toasts. There was a lot of political discussion, and Sir John Forrest talked about the resources and climate of the district and responded to a voice in the room requesting a railway.

The development of such a railway to Bridgetown was only a question of time. He had a scheme in his mind that the railway would then proceed to Kojonup, passing on by Lake Muir to Albany, further opening up the colony for settlement.

The revenue of the country needed to be materially increased and with the rapid development of the goldfields it was envisaged the railway could be possible in the very near future.

On show night a number of very talented amateurs, W.A.G. Walter, Miss Allnutt, Mrs W. Walter, Mr Robinson, R.C. Williams and Mr Layman, gave a dramatic performance with two amusing selections of, ‘Which’ and ‘My Turn Next’, in the Mechanics’ Hall. The hall was filled to overflowing, many having to be turned away, due to lack of seats. Amongst those present were the Ministerial Party and Sir James and Lady Lee Steere.

At the meeting on the following day, the Council was re-appointed for the ensuing year with the addition of Messrs W.A.G. Walter and A. Knox Brown. J.R. Walter was unanimously elected Hon. Secretary and J.W. Blechynden appointed assistant Secretary. J.R. Walter read a report from the judge L. Lindley-Cowan on the Prize Farm Competition held for the first time, congratulating the Society on the success of the competition. Mr Lindley-Cowan said he had



*A brief moment to pose for a photo,  
Mr Thmoas Muir and Mr Robert Wheatley*

“judged the farms on a scale of points similar to that in use in the Eastern Colonies for the National prizes, slightly modified to suit the different conditions which prevail here.” He concluded by thanking the Society for their kindness and hospitality.

Entrants in the ‘Best Managed Farm in the Nelson District Competition’, with prize money of £10 10s offered by F.J. Foulkes and the Society, were Messrs. J.R. Walter ‘Peninsula’, J. Allnutt ‘The Grange’, B. Needs ‘Perup’ and Thos. Muir ‘Deeside’. The latter was the winner with 720 points out of 1000. F.J. Foulkes had inaugurated this competition for the Society, which was to encourage settlers to improve their land and progress agriculture.

### 1984 Fruit and Produce Shows

The ‘1<sup>st</sup> Fruit and Vegetable Show’ for the Society, held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 1894 was a tremendous success and exceeded all expectations. The gates opened at 11am. Members entered for free on production of their ticket. Non Members were 1 shilling and Children half price. Special prizes of ten shillings were awarded to Mr W.J. Giblett for Cheeses presented by T. Muir, J. Allnutt for Collection of Apples presented by Clarence Doust and Best Made Dampier to W.J. Giblett presented by Messrs A. and T. Muir.

In the afternoon, J.W. Blechynden held an auction of the exhibits. Although a success it was realized that the grounds and exhibit shed were far too overcrowded.

A race ball took place in the evening. The Annual Bridgetown Races had been held the day before, with the course situated eight and a half miles south of Bridgetown on the Bunbury to Bridgetown Road. The course was noted as “being poor due to the slight hill in the centre, which obscures the spectators view for more than half the race and the course is heavy.”

The Bridgetown Correspondent reported in The Southern Times on 21 April that Sir John Forrest and Sir James Lee Steere were to be thanked for obtaining a grant of £150 towards the cost of enlarging the Mechanics Hall. This being the first contribution received from the Government towards this public building, other than £30 honouring an old debt when Governor Broome first came to Bridgetown. The estimated additions and improvements were to be at least £500.

With the increase in gold discoveries in the Goldfields, many people were leaving Bridgetown to make their fortune. The people of Bridgetown and surrounding areas were aware of the advantage that the annual shows had in sharing information and knowledge about the various methods of farming and the Premier, Sir John Forrest, also saw the need to offer advice to the farmers by setting up a Bureau of Agriculture and appointing Charles Harper, a well known farmer and citizen, as its head. This Bureau produced a Journal of Agriculture, containing articles of interest to the farmer and pastoralist. *To be continued*

# Red Cross Response to Ukraine War

Red Cross teams across Eastern Europe are supporting millions of displaced people from Ukraine during the current military action in that country. As the security situation evolves, the various Red Cross member bodies are responding to the existing and emerging humanitarian needs

Within Ukraine Red Cross teams help transporting people to hospitals and providing humanitarian aid to shelters, medical facilities and temporary accommodations throughout the country where the security situation allows. Health facilities are provided with medicines and equipment. They are delivering much needed water and assisting with repairing vital infrastructure.

The International Red Cross and the Ukraine Red Cross, along with the generosity of their neighbours, are also supporting refugees fleeing the ongoing military action in Ukraine. They are met at railway stations and border crossings with first aid, bedding, clothing, food, hygiene items and shelter and SIM cards. The Red Cross also provides a service to locate and reunite family members. Patricia Martin, President, Bridgetown Red Cross Unit.

## Active, Caring and Stubborn to the Last

...continued from page 4

In hurrying to get out of the overturned car, just in case someone saw her, she received major scratches on her legs. Fortunately, however some neighbours did see her, they came out and tipped the car back on its wheels and she carried on and drove home. On being asked about her scratches she very reluctantly told of how she got them.

Ella was always welcoming and loved looking after her family. She welcomed any of the family friends to share her meals. Sometimes we saw her selling her wares at market stalls.

She was not always perfect; she was well able to call a spade a spade or a bloody shovel if necessary... as all good mums and grandmothers do.

In her last few months, even when she was becoming frail, she loved to help unload the fire wood from the trailer – 'she was active, caring and stubborn to the last.'

Ella's hard work, loving care of her family, welcoming attitude and practical approach to life was her hallmark and I can say with personal knowledge that her loving caring family looked after her in her last months as she started to forget things, in just the same way as she had looked after them in earlier times.

I am proud that we have families like that in our community.



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## Are Bridgetown Boomerang Bags Dead?

Continued from page 3. Showing them, they can make a huge impact.

One cloth bag can save hundreds of plastic bags from becoming landfill. Businesses have a huge part to play in reducing potential waste. Plus, the enthusiasm to create borrow bags, the colours, the fabrics the fashions.

Toward the end of my time, I made a photo album (and gave it to the library) of some our great moments, go and check it out.

Is the project dead? No, the bags are out there, some of the depot boxes are floating around, see if you can spot them, go on donating some bags. Keep being a social citizen and stop accepting plastic. Bring your own bag, or ask for a box. Shopping with consciousness in the 21st century.

If anyone or a community group would like to resurrect a bag making group, please contact me or the BFCC for startup equipment and information on Christine.ashbil@outlook.com

## A New Golfing Day for Women

Continued from back page

The golf course itself is in remarkable condition since the February fire, mostly because of the work of the members who have managed to keep the greens watered. Initially a water tanker was loaned from the Bush Fire Volunteer Support Group to allow for the watering, and for the harder to get at greens a water tank was towed around.

The Bridgetown Golf Club has been supported well by those in our community and by Golf Clubs throughout Western Australia since the fire, and whilst there is no Clubhouse at the moment there is a great shed. The Club will 'Rise from the Ashes' with a beautiful new Clubhouse and facilities.

Cathy also went on to say "I love golf because I see golfers as the 'salt of the earth' people, their resilience and good nature comes from playing a game they love, through sickness and health and in conditions of rain, hail or shine, and don't worry ladies your handicap covers all bases!"

If you are interested in going along to the Ladies golfing Friday and future planned Golfing Clinics or if you would like any further information, phone or text Cathy on 0414 699 021.

## Queen's Birthday Honours

Continued from cover

Robyn has recently published a book about her great, great grandfather Albert Edmund Cockram titled 'King of the Racecourse 1870 - 1943' and in doing so she has brought back some lost recognition for his achievements; he being the largest importer of thoroughbreds into Australia, horse breeding and racing at his Belmont Racecourse.

Her work in showcasing his life is soon to be recognized with an 'Induction into the Racing Hall of Fame' for Albert.

As a by-line Robyn went on to say, "Being a politician I got used to receiving 'brickbats' rather than any compliments, so people congratulating me on receiving this honour is lovely."

Some of the community work Robyn has been involved with covers a wide variety of roles within Bridgetown and Greenbushes.

Robyn did two terms as a Shire Councillor. She was also President of the Child Health centre, President of the Bridgetown Telecentre which is now the CRC, Secretary of Geegelup Village Aged Care for many years, Secretary of the Tennis Club, a netball coach and been a Justice of the Peace since 1992.

Whilst in Government she served as the Minister for Child Protection, Community Services, Seniors and Volunteering from 2008-2013, from 2010-2013 she was the Minister for Youth and also Minister for Women's Interests from 2009-2013.

In all it is a very considerable contribution she has made for the betterment of the country.

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# Celebrating 100 years of life

Continued from page 2

## Painting a Scene with Words

The scene is one of in between green,  
Two horses stand, a light pole between,  
In sheep yards beside a large shearing shed  
Lambs take their drench or they will be dead  
From deficiencies, worms, or an excess of feed,  
An onerous task, but such a good deed.  
The gaze wanders further and stops at a mill,  
Sun silvered and whirling and pushed with a will  
By the wind sending water to paddocks afar.  
In the distance a bulldozer leaves its scar,  
Whilst gazing in awe at this splendourous beauty  
My husband walks in and returns me to duty.

"In 1984, I decided to write seriously and to improve my style, so I attended workshops and joined Janice Kelly's Writers Group, the first of later workshops."

The other major influence on Gwen's life was music and her teaching skills went on to benefit others.

"My reason for becoming a music teacher had a very small beginning but grew in size in time, so it is a rather long story. However, as the song says, 'Begin at the very beginning, a very good place to start,' I'll begin with my beginnings.

Both Bert and I were very keen for our children to learn music and enjoy the musical life we knew, with Bert singing in choir and me playing the cello in several groups.

"I'd had training in both piano and cello by Perth's leading teachers and felt I had the knowledge.

"As they came of age, I gave piano lessons to my four Bridgetown grandchildren Donna, Mark, Anthea and Alana and they all loved the lessons and became very good players with a lifelong love of music.

"A couple of my more outstanding students which went on and had musical careers, one was Cathy Evans, who was an outstanding pupil, and Tracey Barnett was another one of my pupils she has risen to the top, but not with piano.

"I gave up teaching music in the year 2000 at the age of 77/78, after having been a music teacher for 45 years."

Gwen continues to write and is a member of two writing groups, one in Bridgetown and one in Mount Barker.

On her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday the family are enjoying reading the book that Gwen has written 'My Life'.



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## A New Golfing Day for Women

By way of introducing more women who live within our community to the benefits and pleasures of playing golf, Cathy Willis from the Bridgetown Golf Club has devised a new Ladies Golf Day, a Friday nine-hole round of golf where those women who would like to, can come and play or learn the game.

Cathy, who is the Vice Captain of the Ladies Bridgetown Golf Club and Treasurer, explains this initiative, "We are hoping to attract to the golf club women of all ages and those 'stay at home mums', Fly-in-Fly out women workers or ladies with flexible work hours, and introduce them to the game of golf with a format of the game which will only take around two hours to play, a time when the kids are at school or they have time on their hands.

"We are planning to hold these days on a Friday, 10:45am turn out for 11am start. Those who attend will be rewarded with a bit of 'Me Time' and a taste for golf. They will also experience the benefits of playing golf: as well as its fitness regime, it's a great social and a fulfilling recreational activity.

"We will be able to lend those who attend the golf clubs and equipment they will need to get started and to see if they enjoy the game, and also, wherever possible a club member will accompany them around the course to explain the basics, encourage and guide them through nine holes of golf.

"We are making it as easy and as inexpensive as we can for those who have thought they might like to give golf a go, so come along and play a round of golf with us, we will explain it all then.



Lyn Whitney, Di Smith, Denise Nock, Jenny Ingram,  
Cathy Willis, Lorraine Harrison, Lyn Pendlebury,  
Celine Woods and Rita Baldock

"For the new female golfers, we will also be holding 'Taste of Golf' golfing clinics which will be professionally run, these will be conducted by Shani Waugh. She will be holding beginners' clinics to teach the basics of hitting the ball well, and getting your swing just right.

"When I came to Bridgetown some twelve years ago, I had flexible hours at work and being new to town, I joined the golf club. I can honestly say it was the best introduction into the community I could wish for. I now also wish I had started playing years earlier."

The main golf day for ladies is on the Wednesdays when 18 holes of golf is played, the Friday ladies can transition to this format when they have the time or want the benefits of more serious competition. *Continued page 14*

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