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March 1st 2022

VOLUME 30 NO: 6 ISSUE 318

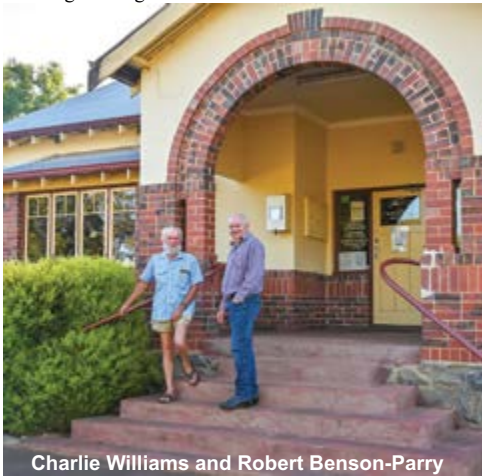
THE MAILBAG

Printed and Published by M.P. & J. Krauze, The Quality Shop, 125 Hampton Street, Bridgetown W.A. 6255
 Telephone: 9761 1717 - Email: mailbag@bigpond.net.au - www.thequalityshop.com.au

Bridgetown Club's 75th Year

Quite a milestone for a quiet achiever. Even in its 75th year the club's membership continues to grow, it now caters for 160 members. It opens 7 nights a week from 5pm till the numbers at the club drop off, so they can send those few remaining patrons home.

The Bridgetown Club's building is listed as a Heritage Building of Bridgetown.



Charlie Williams and Robert Benson-Parry

The building was originally a family home, 'Fort Belvedere' and was the retirement home for Edward Godfrey Hester and his wife Mary (nee Sweeting). The house was built in 1935 by the Bazzo Brothers for a time when Edward and Mary left their farm 'Lillydale' to move into town. They lived there happily until their deaths in 1945.

Soon after, their three surviving sons Evelyn, Reg and Goff decided it would be a good place to have a Men's Club and so the Bridgetown Club was born.

There have been many and various alterations since then, but, except for the removal of the garage on the right-hand side of the house, the front looks much the same as the original.

Charlie Williams has been a club member since 1973, he has served as the club's president, and has held different positions as a committee member. Charlie was nominated to talk about the club because of his long association with it.

"Our membership has never been as strong as it is now, we are benefiting from the new people coming to town, who seem mostly to be of the semi-retired cohort.

"They enjoy our 'English Pub' style atmosphere. We have Kilkeny Draught and Guinness on tap with Hann Light and Swan Draught.

"The club is welcoming and friendly, the membership at the moment is 50/50 males and females, which makes for a pleasant ambience.

"One of the reasons the club is successful is the effort which gets put into our social nights. The club holds Theme Night meals every second month, all the usual special days, St Pat's Day, Christmas in July, Melbourne Cup and Christmas of course.

Continued page 15

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CWA Chicks with attitude

At the AGM held in February, past President for 5 years, Bernie Stringer noted that 2021 has been big year for the Bridgetown Branch and congratulated all branch members on their enthusiasm with which they quickly achieved great things in the community.

So what did we do. Fund raising from two produce stalls, in July and December with our giant Christmas raffle proving very popular with locals and tourist alike.

Other activities we undertake on a yearly basis is the catering for the Blessing of the Roads ceremony at Easter and for the Mystery Tour of Life, an event for high school students to educate them in about the responsibilities and dangers associated with gaining a drivers licence.

We catered for wakes, parties, a combined Fires Brigades learning day, events held at our rooms and the Probus Club and anything else that was asked of us.

As a result we were able to make significant donations to the community including the Blackwood Youth Group for equipment for their premises and St Vincent de Paul, assisting in the provision of 60 Christmas hampers for those less fortunate. We also provided our annual prize for the local Agricultural Show and a book prize for a young girl student at the Bridgetown Primary School. A young mum was given a mother's day gift. We will be making donations in 2022 to the Bridgetown Golf Club and general community following the recent bushfires in Bridgetown.

On a state level we gave 3 donations to the CWA Disaster Relief Fund for the Wooroloo/Wheatbelt and Denmark bushfires as well as communities affected by Cyclone Seroja.

The purpose of CWA worldwide is uniting women and strengthening communities through friendship, education, service and advocacy so if you would like to join us for friendship and fun please call Anita on 0431 374 753. PS You don't have to be able to make scones.

Cidery's Open Mic Sessions

Open Mic sessions provide an opportunity for emerging and local musicians to gain experience performing to a live audience in a welcoming setting. These sessions also provide an outlet for singer-songwriters to test out new compositions on a friendly audience.

The Cidery's Open Mic Sessions have now been running for around eight years and have gained quite a following.

Adrian Williams who hosts the sessions talks about its development, "The sessions started with a sort of folk club format and have grown from that. The music can now include folk, rock, blues and country, really all music genres seem to be covered. For instance, we have had a rendition of the traditional 'Scarborough Fair' followed by a rocky version of 'Stairway to Heaven'.

"There is quite a spread of ages between the musicians from teenagers all the way through to those in their seventies.

"As well as musicians from Bridgetown, we now have musicians and singers regularly coming from as far afield as Manjimup and Donnybrook. A sound system is set up with microphones and instrument plug-in channels.

"The sessions generally have around ten to fifteen performers. So, at a busy session we limit each performance to three songs to fit in as many acts as possible. Musicians who attend are a mixed lot. Some are single artists, some are in groups of four or five-piece bands, others are duets. There is no 'vetting' of performers, those with the courage to show up get to perform."

For enquiries from local musicians or to register, you can call or text Adrian Williams on 0427 086 299. Adrian sends out a reminder e-mail to those on the musicians list a couple of weeks before each Open Mic. It is useful if those who intend to come and perform let him know.

"Knowing those who are going to perform allows me to arrange and distribute the acts to make for an interesting mixed lineup.

"Those interested in performing sometimes attend their first open mike session to just listen and evaluate if this is them. It can also a chance to introduce themselves and have their e-mails put on the musicians' circulation list.

The Open Mic Sessions are held four to six times a year, on Friday evenings 5.30 to 7.30pm or on Sunday Lunchtimes 1pm to 3pm. The next sessions are planned for Sunday 27th of March and Sunday 29th May. The sessions allows the patrons at the Cidery to be entertained whilst having their meal or having a drink.

The Open Mic Sessions are hosted by the Cidery in support of the community and local performers. John Lucey, one of the principals of the Cidery said, "We certainly fully support promotion of the Open Mic Sessions which provide a unique opportunity for regional musicians to showcase their talent. In particular young up and coming musicians gain experience performing in front of an appreciative audience. The whole process which Adrian Williams facilitates and organises allows the Cidery to achieve one of our goals which is to provide a community venue that celebrates Bridgetown."

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Emergency Services Cadets are successful with a Lotterywest grant

The Cadet program run at the Bridgetown High School does a wonderful job in nurturing our young people, helping develop their resilience.

The program has been running for around twenty years and is open for all students at the high school to attend, and at the moment it has a very even spread of males and females and has around 60 to 70 cadets.

The cadets meet and take part in different activities each Tuesday after school.

A dedicated group of volunteers, John Tonai-Moore is the Unit Leader, with Cherie Old, Mike Kneel, Sarah Gardiner, Damon Treloar and Bianca Spice all give their own time to make the program a worthwhile learning experience for the cadets. Three new volunteers have joined the team this year,



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they are Jessica Cicchini and Eliza McDonald who are both physical education teachers and have a lot of experience with outdoor activities and Yuko Tonai-Moore, the school chaplain.

The Emergency Services Cadets received at the end of last year a \$15,000 Lotterywest grant.

John Tonai-Moore who has been involved in the program for over nineteen years is delighted with the monies received and explains how it was spent, "The grant we received at the end of last year was put towards good quality Goretex rain jackets, trekking poles and water shoes. We have received 30 pairs of trekking poles and 47 Goretex Rain jackets. We are still waiting on delivery of the water shoes.

"The cadets use the trekking poles for stability, especially when walking with a heavy back pack, whilst navigating slippery or narrow paths, or a steep decent.

"The water shoes we will use for canoeing and for times when we are in rivers, dams and swamps.

"The rain jackets will allow us to be out and about on those days when the rain just does not stop.

"Over the years Lotterywest has been very generous with the grants to our service cadets. *Continued page 11*

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Ivy, Tess, Kalice and Riyana

Bridgetown Repertory News

The youth theatre groups will be going ahead this year with both Kids Acting On Stage (KAOS) and Bridgetown Youth Theatre (BYT).

BYT is for high school aged youth, and KAOS is for primary aged students.

BYT has commenced for 2022 with sixteen Youth Members, along with Covid-19 restrictions, the wearing of masks is compulsory at all times when inside.

BYT is run by volunteers, Meegan Cullen, Chris Shedley and Eliza McDonald, with a focus on acting, however, music, dance and stagecraft are also explored.

Meegan Cullen explains what they are planning for this year, "Because of the mask mandate and having to wear masks whilst on stage our thought for this year is that of a movement and mime show.

"We will be able to have recorded voice sound bites and music to go with the mime show. *Continued page 13*



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Blackwood Horse and Pony Club

The main objective of the Blackwood Horse and Pony Club is to nurture a love of riding and horsemanship, through tuition and guidance in a safe and encouraging environment.

The club meets on the third Sunday of each month for rallies at its club grounds which are on the corner of Greenbushes Road and the Boyup Brook Road, ten kilometers from Bridgetown.

The rallies cater for all experience levels of horsemanship.

Blackwood Horse and Pony Club is voluntarily run by the families and friends of club members, employing a certified instructor to ensure each member gains regular quality tuition.

Sarah Pratt is the club's Head Coach and is the instructor in horsemanship. Sarah has won lots of awards including for dressage and is a decorated champion as well as being a very accomplished rider. Sarah has a wonderful ability of encouraging and nurturing those she teaches, and is considered an amazing coach.

The club welcomes new members from surrounding shires.

Teena James, the clubs president speaks on the benefits of joining the club, "There really is a lot of benefits from being in a club of likeminded horsey people. Being a member gives you a 24 / 7 insurance cover whilst you are with your horse.

"All aspects and tips on 'Caring for your Horse', what works and doesn't work, conditions you will need to look out for with your horse's health, these are always talking points, as are the topics such as the Dos and Don'ts with your riding tackle, what you may require and how it is used.

"The club also caters for those who are competitive and wish to compete at shows. There is a wealth of knowledge among the volunteers at the club to give you tips on grooming, tips for your horse as well as for the rider, how to polish the hooves, plaiting techniques for the mane and tail and the hair of the rider. Tips on using makeup on your horse, allowing your horse to shine, which uniforms to be worn, all these are worthwhile tips in preparation for a show.

"We always manage to find time for games and shenanigans."

Continued page 11



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TALISON – SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Talison supported more than 60 community groups across the Shires of Bridgetown Greenbushes, Donnybrook Balingup, Boyup Brook, Nannup and Manjimup in 2021, 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.

Some of the highlights of 2021 were the purchase of audio equipment for Bridgetown Transition Towns, robotics kits for schools in the Warren Blackwood District, children's entry to the Bridgetown Show, support for the Rotary tour of The Blackwood Cycle Race for youth mental health programmes, the Rotary Blackwood Marathon and sporting clubs including Bridgetown Basketball Association and Bridgetown Swimming Club.

For further information contact the Community Team at Talison on GBContact@talisonlithium.com



2022 Bridgetown Swimming Club Busselton Jetty Swim team of 4 swimmers (left to right) Mischa Collin, Tessa Chambers, Tilly Butler and Evelyn White.

Talison Community Support Helps Boost Bridgetown Swimming Club

Bridgetown Swimming Club is going from strength to strength in the 2021/2022 season, thanks to the generous support of Talison Lithium Pty Ltd (Talison), the dedication and help of the club parents and the unwavering energy and determination of the coaches and the kids who participate.

The club successfully applied for \$2,000 through the Talison Community Sponsorship Program, which was used to purchase equipment and give young swimmers more opportunities to participate in the WA Open Waters Swimming Series at beaches and lakes in Western Australia.

Bridgetown Swimming Club Coach Ben Chambers said the club had 48 swimmers enrolled in the current season with all gaining skills and confidence.

He said participating in the Open Waters series tested the young swimmers' endurance in a natural environment rather than following the blue line on the bottom of the pool.

"The kids who swam in these events are swimming either 500m and 1.25km and really enjoying themselves as it provided them with an experience outside the pool. It also helped to continue to build confidence, strength and a real team spirit" Mr Chambers said.

"We are keen to get more of our swimmers involved in the Open Waters Series later this year, based on the success of those who participated this season," he said.

As part of the WA Open Waters Series, a team of four girls from the Bridgetown Swimming Club participated in the Busselton Jetty Swim recently and finished in eighth place in a field of 44 and a two-girl team finished 38 in the field of 94 teams.

Several other members of the club participated in the 222m event around the smaller Busselton Jetty and are keen to try the longer 3.6km swim next year.

Talison General Manager-Operations, Craig Dawson, said Talison was pleased to provide funding for the Club to purchase additional equipment and to participate in the Open Swim Series season.

"The Bridgetown Swimming Club plays an important role in improving the swimming survival skills of young people in our community aside from providing them with fitness and fun," said Mr Dawson.

The club has four time-trial events, a long distance and an aged championship event throughout the season for the swimmers to compete against their own times and gain points throughout the season where they better their previous times in each stroke (Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly).

Recently, at the Club's third Time Trial event, every child had multiple Personal Bests, which demonstrated the effort the swimmers are putting in at training.

There is also a lot of comradery at each event, with the kids cheering each other to the end.

Mr Chambers said new members were welcome along with spectators to watch the Club events at the Bridgetown Leisure Centre.

If your child is interested in joining the club, feel free to go to the Pool and talk to the coaches at training on Tuesday and Friday afternoons.



2022 Bridgetown Swimming Club Busselton Jetty Swim team of 2 swimmers Emily O'Neil and Tara Chadwick.



Natasha, Jenny and Jo

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The Bridgetown Family & Community Centre have reopened services for 2022 after our annual summer break. There are many exciting things planned for this year, as well as the continuation of our favourite programs.

Our first workshop for the year was a sold out Valentine's Chocolate Lesson with Natasha of Tash's Cottage Industries. When Natasha isn't busy in the kitchen of Gusto's restaurant, she is often running community food workshops for us here at the centre. Her upcoming Vegan Workshop is another sell out, and we are excited to see what she has planned for March!

We also introduce a new workshop presenter in March - Marta Sandberg, who will be introducing us to some special Swedish Easter treats.

Our Playgroups continue to thrive, particularly with so many new families moving to town and the very exciting baby boom we have been experiencing! There are so many bouncy babies in our Thursday morning group.

While our programs are thriving, we are also busy behind the scenes with our administration functions, including supporting the Bridgetown Agricultural Society and Grant Support Services. We are excited to be working with Agricultural Society to plan the 2022 show and support their

wonderful team of volunteers.

Grant Support Services is still in its pilot year, thanks to the sponsorship from the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire. If your community group is looking to apply for a grant but don't know where to start - please give us a call. We can help you find the right grant, as well as talk you through the process and assist with putting together supporting documents. We love to see community groups succeeding and winning those grants.

Like everyone in the community, we are looking at what we can do to help rebuild and support those affected by the recent fires. While our approach has been to deal directly with individuals, we have also been able to connect with Blaze Aid who have set up camp at the Show Grounds. This group of volunteers come from far and wide to assist with the clean up and rebuild, particularly things like replacing fencing. Our role has been to support the camp with food donations, kitchen supplies and even help in the kitchen. Thank you to everyone who contributed so far. If you would like to help out, such as donate a meal, ingredients, baked goods, eggs, please get in touch. We can arrange drop offs and volunteer rosters.

Thank you again to everyone who contributes to our centre. We are looking forward to another great year. Phone 9761 2139 or email btcommunity@westnet.com.au.

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A Strong Community Works Together in Times of Need

Saturday 5th February 2022, was certainly one of those days, it has to be said; the heat had been building up all week, Friday night was hot, and when we awoke on Saturday morning it was already uncomfortably hot, with a north easterly blowing hot winds.

What we didn't need on this catastrophic fire day was that bit of rotten luck we got, a branch falling across power lines and starting a fire.

When the fire started near Hester Cascades Road It was the prime time for the fire to burn uncontrolled with strong winds fanning the blaze causing a natural disaster.

Town residents were advised to evacuate to Manjimup, because the safety of the town could not be guaranteed.

With ambulances and fire trucks racing through town, fire bombers and spotter aircraft overhead, it certainly was a tumultuous time.

When called upon, the volunteer firefighting organisations and bodies around our rural communities and neighbouring towns, along with those many others who could make a difference all worked together and did. So many in our community got out there with what they had to help their neighbours and to fight the fire, and in fact they probably saved the town as well, as it was close.

Only one occupied house was lost, thanks to the efforts of those out fighting the fires and protecting our assets as best they could in the horrendous conditions.

One fire stricken Bridgetown farmer related, "I am sure many in the fire zone will have similar stories to mine.

"My extreme gratitude goes to the local farmers and community members. From those who were first on the scene on my farm, driving through smoke and fires, opening gates and trying to get the sheep which we had not had time to round up and get them towards the relative safety of a

damp area. Then fighting to protect our assets, and later doing patrols for flare ups during the subsequent nights and days to come. With flare up still happening as trees and tree roots continue to burn weeks after the fire swept through, willing helpers are just a phone call away.

"Grateful thanks also to the local farmers who saved our shearing shed and yards where some of our sheep were yarded. These sheep could have died from the radiant heat of the fire. If we had lost those yards and sheds, we could not have yarded our surviving sheep to have them trucked off to agistment.

"One of these local heroes was working to save our place while his own paddocks burnt. Others came despite their own properties and livestock being only a few kilometres from or within the fire warning areas.

"I keep hearing stories of "I was on your place"; one person who was even trapped by the flames was forced to sit out the worst force of the fire down in a damp area, fortunately safely.

"Another who cut a line through our paddocks and our adjoining neighbour's burning bush in the early hours of Sunday morning with his earthmoving equipment when there was a breakout, thus also saving other neighbour's properties from further fire spread.

"The smoke was so dense, and the noises so loud. I could not see these heroes, yet they were out in the thick of it, working in conjunction with fire brigade units, both local and from other areas. Fire brigades came from many other areas, as far as north and east of Perth. Locals continued patrolling and damping down flare-ups for days."

Behind the scenes, many other played vital parts in keeping the firefighters going, like those who had water tankers, filling fire trucks and farmers' tanks closer to the fire than the standpipes were, thus avoiding delays and having to line up at a standpipe. *Continued page 12*


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Shining a Light on Local Talent

One of the very talented performers on the 'Open Mike Night' at the Cidery is Claire Robinson, who has a wonderful soprano voice. On these nights she sings *acappella* to hushed audiences.

Performing without the accompaniment of instruments or a backing track, her voice provides all the musical instruments needed. The only sounds come from her voice and are natural, this is a special way of showing off the power of her voice.

Acappella is an Italian phrase which roughly translated means 'in the church style'. It stems from the popularity of gospel music and other similar genres of music and suits songs that have a strong melody.

Claire's story is still playing out, she started having singing lessons at the age of six, only for the reason she enjoyed singing and wanted to get better at it.

Whilst she was attending St. Mary's primary school in Donnybrook, the music teacher there was Stephen Crabbe. He had connections with Bridgetown and introduced Claire to singing at the Christmas Carol nights at St. Paul's.

Through her teenage years she also performed on Open Mike Nights, usually singing folk songs along with her younger brother Timothy, with whom she sang harmonies; being siblings, their voices harmonized naturally.

Claire is now being taught by Myra Easton, a classical music teacher in Bunbury, Myra is developing Claire's soprano voice.

Claire goes on to talk about her love of singing, "In the classical sphere of music I'm learning to sing in, I sing in five languages, French, Italian, German, Spanish and Latin.

"This gives me a different insight into music. I listen to songs being performed, I read the English translation, giving me an understanding of what is being said and then I can sing in those languages.

"Singing in different languages hasn't allowed me to

speak in those languages, more's the pity.

"The lessons have also allowed me to perform in the Bunbury Eisteddfod. During this festival I sing accompanied by a piano.

"In 2013 I joined the 'Gondwana Choir' in Sydney and from those connection in 2019 I sang in the choir at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, which was performed in Sydney, a truly wonderful experience."

Claire has also performed as a soloist at the 'Up Close and Classical' concerts in Bridgetown.

In recent years Claire has been a soloist at the Carol Service at St Paul's Church, Bridgetown.

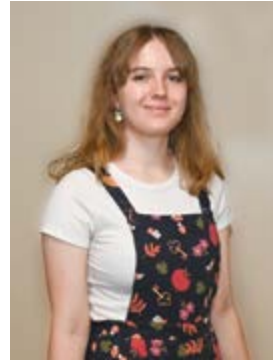
"I have also performed in live theatre, I had a role in the 'Waltz of the Toreadors', I was the ugly daughter Sidonia."

Claire who is 21, is in her final year of her teaching degree, and as a teacher she will be specialising in music.

"I'm a practical person, I wanted something sound, a degree, to fall back on, a job which would support my first love, singing."

Claire, like a lot of talented people, owes a lot to her parents, their support and patience has helped develop her talent and has set her on a path to a career she loves, although her parents are still a bit bewildered as to where the talent has stemmed from.

To listen to Claire sing is one very good reason for attending the next 'Open Mike Night' at the Cidery.



Claire Robinson

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Transition Bridgetown

Wow, it's been a long hot summer! The fire, the heat and the wind have made for difficult plant growing conditions. We hope you and your food gardens are managing ok and we are receiving and giving support to each other in our wonderful community. At these times, the resilience of towns such as ours are tested. Please contact us if you are interested to help establish a Community Food SeedBank to better ensure our future local food security.

This month we are holding an Open Space Forum on "Sustainable Housing".

Local owner builders and company builders as well our local Hempcrete company will be speaking and there will be plenty of time for input and discussion. The focus will be on the design, supply and building of future homes and renovations. With weather predictions being more extreme due to climate change, our homes need more than ever to be designed, built and renovated to utilise minimum energy whilst offering maximum protection.

Come and join in the discussion on Sunday 20th March 4pm - 6pm at the Lesser Hall. Drinks and Nibbles Provided. Please register by phone/text 0432 105 754 or email transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com

Due to fire damage at our Waste Management Facility, Containers for Change are operating out of the shed that stores the mattresses. It is still possible to drop off your bags of empty drinking containers at any time that the WMF is open. Please label the bags with the community group ID number that you want to donate the funds to. The more containers that can be received for recycling, the more staff CFC can employ for the processing. It's a win all round. Please encourage your community group to participate.

Several of our shire community groups have got together to plan and co-host events that are aiming for increased self-sufficiency, sustainability and resilience.

The Greenbushes Community Garden, Ashbil Community Garden Bridgetown, Permaculture Group, Blackwood Valley Small Landholders, LandCare and Transition Bridgetown are working on coordinating events.

Look out for "Blackwood Valley Events for the Earth" and join in the myriad of fun, informative, community events that are organised for us all to enjoy and learn more about sustainable living!

Finishing with a quote from Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. For indeed it is the only thing that ever has".



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Emergency Services Cadets are successful with a Lotterywest grant

Continued from page 3 "We apply for grants for equipment every two years or so. We submit a comprehensive plan for equipment we like to buy, then explain the use we will put the equipment too, it really has been as easy as that, Lotterywest are good supporters of our group.

"Covid-19 keeps throwing spanners into the works, at present there will be no overnight or two or three day training camps. So, at the moment we are planning three one-day excursions this term. Absailing with our year 9/10 cadets, Cycling with the year 8 cadets and Hiking with the year 7 cadets.

Funding for the cadet program is from the state government through the department of communities.

This allows us to issue a uniform to each cadet, consisting of a shirt, hat, jacket, pants and boots.

"The funding allows us to offer the program free to our cadets so that it is accessible to everyone, no matter their financial situation.

"The most important element of the program to me is when I witness the cadets, who give each challenge that we present to them their best shot, which is not always successful, but time and again I see cadets rise to meet the many challenges they are faced with, then when they succeed, they triumph."

Emergency Services Cadets nurture and train our future generations of emergency services volunteers.

Blackwood Horse and Pony Club

Continued from page 5

Riders of all ages are welcome at the club, there is a membership to suit everyone, including a come and try day membership which gives the ability to join in for a day and see if it's for you, whilst still being covered by the necessary insurance.

The committee have an exciting year planned, they welcome you to come and socialise, ask questions or join with a membership.

For more information or for further details please call Teena James on 0403 951 950.

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A Strong Community Works Together in Times of Need

Continued from page 8

Those who were at the control centre, and those at the showgrounds meeting point, all played their part. I know there were other supporting roles, but do not know them all. So many came together for one cause.

Air support crews were working up there in the thick smoke, and helping make containment lines. 425,000 litres of water were dropped from the air during the fire. Air crews returned over several days dropping their retardant on the edges of the burning bush to help contain the fires as the weather heated up again.

Then community members offered assistance. Landholders with spare hay or silage offered what they had to fire victims with livestock. Even the simple but welcomed and necessary things like offering and bringing drinking water were all very much appreciated. There were too many kind deeds to recount. Rio Tinto has donated 500 export sized bales of north west hay to Bridgetown.

Thanks to the volunteer organisers of BlazeAid here, who acted quickly to set up a camp for further volunteers to move in and be on hand to help with boundary fencing removal and replacement. Many of these volunteers are retirees who come with their caravans to fire stricken areas to help.

The change of weather late on Saturday night made a difference, with the north westerly wind dying down and the cooler southern breezes coming in, it certainly made the fires' job easier, but it was not all over. In Hester, at Timber Treators Bridgetown, the treated timber stock pile of Copper Chrome Arsenate treated logs caught fire late in the afternoon, creating a hazardous environment for residents and firefighters.

Sunday morning the town now safe, we woke to a completely different and cooler day. It started to rain that day, we got 5mls of rain fall, it seemed like a lot more, but it did little to dampen down the heat of the still burning fires. The work goes on, three weeks have gone by and there are still flare ups.

Show Talk

Hello Everyone.

With the way the Pandemic has impacted our lives it is hard to get enthused about putting your heart and soul into organising a large event. The day to day uncertainty still hovers over us. We were so disappointed when 2020 resulted in many events being restricted or cancelled including our Bridgetown Show. 2021 was the same for many events and fortunately our Show was able to go ahead in November. 2022 should have been the year to put the worst behind us, but sadly that has not been the case. Every day another event is cancelled. For every one of those

events there is a devastated committee of volunteers who have spent untold hours of commitment and hard work. David and Therese Higginson's Downunder Country would have been celebrating its 10 year this month at the Showgrounds, but sadly for the third year in a row, it is one of those events that has had to cancel at the last minute.

For the first meeting of the year the Committee, due to new Covid restrictions, met on the Junior Farmers verandah. The evening was very pleasant and once the business side of things was dealt with our discussion led to the recent fire that impacted on our little piece of paradise. Our thoughts go out to all those who were impacted by the fire and acknowledgement to all those who fought the blaze and gave support both during and after, including those awesome Bombers. FESA set up base camp at the Showgrounds with all facilities at their disposal. A Blazeaid division has now set up their base at the Showgrounds. Blazeaid is now a household name around Australia for the wonderful support the give to those affected by devastating circumstances. The Ag Society is pleased to be able to support Blazeaid in their efforts to help those affected in our community.

A reminder to dog owners that the grounds are permanently closed to all dogs. To those vehicles seen driving across the oval to dump their garden waste, please, no more dumping at the grounds.

The next Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th March 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'.

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Bridgetown Repertory News

continued from page 4

"All the youth members are very keen to get the show underway, lots of ideas are being bandied about, so it will be a wonderful show."

Riyana, Kaliee, Tess and Ivy took some time out from rehearsing to speak about what they like about being in the theatre group.

Riyana is happy to see the commencement of the BYT theatre group. Riyana has had roles in previous productions at the repertory, she was in 'Darling Buds of May' and also had a role as a munchkin in 'Wonderful Wizard of Oz'. She has been participating in the drama classes at her school and was a member of KAOS; she is eagerly looking forward to being involved with BYT group. When talking, she is naturally expressive with her hands and her facial expressions.

Kaliee simply likes acting, the dressing up and the role playing. This is also her first year with BYT but she has been enjoying drama at school also. She has played roles as the matriarch or a caring grandma or grandpa; she likes those roles of wise, caring leadership.

For Tess, this is her second week in BYT. She also had two years in the KAOS theatre group. She loves the theatre for its lack of strict rules, or more 'not sticking to the rules', she likes to ad lib as she goes along.

Last year she acted in a comedy play which she wrote. In that play she played the role of an angry mum whose naughty children had broken the family's lap top. So she took the computer to be repaired at 'The Everything Shop' where the store owner was confusing items with old world meaning and the modern world meaning. Confusing an apple laptop with an eating apple on your lap. He thought an I-pad was a patch you put on your eye. With the enthusiasm and laughter she displayed whilst talking about the play it was obviously a play that was a lot of fun and very funny.

For Ivy, this is her first year at BYT. She joined the drama classes at school and she was also in the KAOS theatre group, for the reason that her friends had joined and she didn't want to miss out, but once she experienced having the freedom of being someone else whilst playing a role, she was hooked, hooked into the whole gig of dressing up and acting. Ivy also had a role as a munchkin in the Wonderful Wizard of Oz. One scene she excelled in whilst in KAOS was from Shakespeare's play 'Romeo and Juliet'. Only the Balcony scene was performed by the drama group, Ivy played the role of Juliet. She was happy to perform the famous Balcony scene where she got to say, 'O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?' Ivy loved the plot, the language, the verse and the prose, and she loved the role of Juliet.



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Bridgetown Golf Club

On Saturday 5th February when the fire hit the top of Hester Hill the Bridgetown Golf Club facilities were burned down.

The Club House, the Caretaker's Cottage attached to the club house, and two sheds were all consumed in the blaze.

Alan Wilson, the club's secretary, explains the circumstances on that day, "It started out a very hot day, a golf day was planned and the match started at 8am finishing around 12 noon. Smoke was spotted to the north of the club house around 12.30 and the players who were still around the club house were advised to leave.

"But no one foresaw what was to unfold, and there was little idea as to how quickly the fire would consume the buildings.

"When I was first told the Club House was burnt down, I really didn't believe it, but I was convinced when I saw photos of the burning building posted on the net.

"The buildings and sheds were all insured, the sheds held two mowers, chainsaws, blowers and a large assortment of general gardening tools.

"The other shed contained the fire fighting gear, all in all what was lost can be rebuilt and replaced.

"The club house was a 'treasured headquarters', it was there from the beginning, 1915. It held the honour boards, photographs and memorabilia through its 107 years of local golfing history. It was a building which held a lot of special functions over time. With the building history on display, members and visitors would recognise names on boards and the faces of those in photographs of members from long ago, it was always a talking point.

"The Club House was continually being improved upon with its more than a hundred year of use; we had recently installed a much-appreciated air conditioning system. The bar fridges were also recently refurbished. Improvements always came after much debate, what always slows the improvements down is having to find the money to pay for the development.



Will Stock, Steve Heron, Peter Davis, Stan Holroyd and Mike George attending a busy bee day to water the greens

"The Club currently has around sixty members, for now the club has suspended the playing of golf, but the resilience of the club has shown through and plans are underway to hold a 2022 season around April.

"Talisun have offered to supply us with a couple of converted containers. One is a mixed toilet block and the other is an office building which we can use for administration. So, we keep the scores of those playing golf through the year."

Insurance companies have been contacted and the assessments are underway, sheds, tools, and equipment are easy to replace, the club house and caretaker's residence will take a while to replace.

Busy bees are being organized by club members, using tools from their homes, to clean the course and remove any hazards the fire may have produced so they can resume playing.

A 'GoFundMe' page has been established by the Bridgetown Golf Club to raise funds for those items not fully covered by their insurance, the mowers and some equipment which was too old to get replacement value back from the insurance.

The Members of the Bridgetown Golf Club would like to thank all those involved in fighting the fire that weekend, it could have been a lot worse for the town without their response. Bridgetown became a priority; Fire fighting appliances and ambulances came from all the near-by towns with the water bomber aircraft diverted to save Bridgetown. The quick and overwhelming response of the emergency services saved the town.

Bruce Pendlebury the golf club President would also like to acknowledge the great support the Bridgetown Golf has been receiving. "Initially we have had the lend of a mower from the Manjimp Golf Club and another from Adam Davy which has enable us to maintain the greens.

"The Fremantle Public Golf Course has donated us a mower and we are also now in negotiations with buying a mower.

"The Bush Fire Volunteer Support Group have given us the lend of a 12,000 litre water truck so we can water the greens. Club volunteers tow a trailer around with a water tank to water those greens the truck cannot reach.

Busselton Golfing Vets held a raffle raising \$490. The Bridgetown CWA have donated \$500. The Bridgetown Newsagency have run a raffle for us raising \$305.

The Margaret River Golfing Club have also donated a sum of money on our 'GoFundMe' page which at the time of printing, stands at \$11,000.

WA Golf and the Veteran Golfing Association are both in the process of raising money for the club.

We thank all those who have given us their support.

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BlazeAid at the Showgrounds

Continued from back page

"The natural disaster affected Shire usually approaches BlazeAid with a register of farmers and landowners who have lost fencing and need help. The BlazeAid coordinator takes over the task from there.

"Farmers are a self-reliant lot and can be reluctant to accept help, I'll sometimes hear, 'I'll be right, but so and so down the road can do with some help. They come around and accept a little help when they see how quickly and skillfully the fencing can be replaced on a neighbouring property.

"Fencing and its insurance is one of expenses which is first to be pruned when things get tight, so most farmers welcome our help.

"Usually, the farmer or landowners supply the posts, gates and fencing wire and the BlazeAid volunteers do the rest.

"There is also an account set up at Richfeeds in town, you may contribute any amount you can afford with the monies going to BlazeAid to cover fencing costs.

"Anyone can be a BlazeAid volunteer, there literally is a job for every willing worker.

"BlazeAid crews are made up of four to five people who are always accompanied by someone who knows the 'ins and outs' of fencing and who is trained on the fencing equipment.

"Locals are welcome and may volunteer on a daily basis, or for a week. The jobs vary from fencing, cleaning, administration and preparing lunches.

Some of the jobs require little training, like wire twitching, applying wire ties or the rolling up the old fencing wire.

"Meals are provided for the volunteers, Breakfast, a cut lunch and a two-course evening meal. All those who work for BlazeAid are covered by its insurance.

If you would like to volunteer and would like some more information you can call Judy on 0427 614 546.

Bridgetown Club's 75th Year

Continued from front cover

"Other members are thinking of new ideas to keep the club an interesting place to be. Mahjong is played on the second Tuesday of each month, Bolivia card game is played every Wednesday with tables of six. We are hoping to get a pool competition happening again between the various venues going in town.

"The snooker table has its regular players. Eddie Charlton, a wonderful Australian and the world champion snooker and billiard player, help set up our table and played a demonstration game in the 1970s.

"In my time with the club I have certainly seen changes. One change which had a huge impact was the drink driving laws. These laws have certainly moderated the drinking habits of the members and for a while reduced the membership.

"It stopped being a men's club in the '70s, and has since benefited from the mixed company.

"Darts, Pool and Snooker were always a major draw card back then, the club ran several competitive teams with each game running male and female teams.

"The committee is now considering expanding the club premises. As the membership grows, we need more space and there is also a need for a larger function area. The building is shire heritage listed, but we are considering extending out the side keeping the front façade the same.

The bar staff work six days a week with member volunteers working the bar on Saturdays.

The club is a member's only club, the joining fee is \$100 a year. The club is a social club, if you are new to town, it's a pleasant place to meet people.

"So you may come down and be signed in by a member for a night visit and see what the club has to offer."



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BlazeAid is at the Showgrounds

Bridgetown Agricultural Society has made the Showgrounds and its amenities available for the BlazeAid volunteers with the invitation "There is plenty of space for you to bring your own caravan, motorhome, swag or tent. Toilets and hot showers are on site." The welcome is there because a lot of the BlazeAid helpers are travelling grey nomads who are willing workers.

BlazeAid is a volunteer-based organisation that works with families and individuals in rural Australia after natural disasters such as fires and floods. The volunteers help to rebuild fences and other structures that have been damaged or destroyed.

Ed and Judy Bland are on the BlazeAid board and are the coordinators for BlazeAid in Western Australia.

This is Ed and Judy's tenth camp with BlazeAid and this year they are coordinating four camps in the West.

Camps at Bruce Rock and Bridgetown are underway with two further camps being organized, one for Denmark and another for Narrogin.

Judy spoke about the work BlazeAid was carrying out in Bridgetown, "The camp opened up on the 20th February and we have at this time twelve volunteers at the showgrounds, there are more on the way, but we will limit the camp to thirty volunteers.

"The damage to fencing from the fire in Bridgetown has been estimated at somewhere between 50 and 70 kms of fencing that needs to be replaced.



Stewart Gillam Ed Bland and Judy Bland

"At the moment we have seven 'combat' trailers. Each one is full of the gear which is required for putting up fencing. The trailers are equipped with post hole diggers, chain saws, post drivers as well all the assorted tools like shovels, rakes and fencing tools. There is another ten on the way to the West for the other camps.

"Fencing is a priority, with stock control issues. It is also the job when tackled by a lot of hands can make a big difference in small amount of time. *Continued Page 15*

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