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March 4th 2025

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The 12th Downunder Country Weekend of Traditional Country Music and Bush Poetry



Lindsay Waddington



Kathy Carve



Connie



James K

Will be held at the Bridgetown Showgrounds on the 14,15 and 16 March 2025. Entertainment starts Friday lunch time with Line Dancing in Centenary Hall followed by the main stage concert featuring local guest artists, bush poets and open mic walk-ups.

Friday night main stage concert with interstate visitors Graeme Hugo (SA) Grant Luhrs (NSW) Kevin and Dehlia Brown (Qld) and Lindsay "Waddo" Waddington (QLD) (2025 Tamworth Golden Guitar Winner).

During the tea break there will be an Old Time Dance in Centenary Hall.

Saturday the main stage concert starts at 9am with local and interstate artists backed by the Downunder Country backing band. There will be Line Dancing and Old Time dancing in the hall during meal breaks. Concert continues until 10pm.

Sunday morning 8-10am there will be a Bush Poets breakfast. Main stage concert starts at 10am with Country Gospel featuring local and interstate artists, including Bridgetown's Sisters of Corn. Concert continues all artists featured with the finale around 4pm.

The weekend finishes with walk-ups (open mic) in the hall at 5.30pm and a sausage sizzle at 6.30pm.

Prices are as follows: Weekend pass \$70pp : Friday \$20pp : Saturday \$50pp : Sunday \$20pp. Under 16 free. Food available all weekend. BYO low back chairs.

Interested in coming along for the open mic? Friday 12.30pm and Sunday 5.30pm.

Contact for further information: David and Therese Higginson (Campfire Country) 0429 109334 / 0448 387878 Colleen Russell 9761 9055. Email: w.a.downundercountry@gmail.com

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Jen Schofield, Richard Brooks, Wendy Stewart,
Shire President Tracey Linsdell, Alexa Tunmer and Harry Welmink

Waste to worms: making landfill the last resort

Following the successful launch of the Repair Café, the second initiative under the WasteSorted project funded by the Waste Authority, is all about tackling food waste.

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, in partnership with Ashbil Community Garden, is encouraging our community to try worm farming – a simple yet effective way to reduce food waste and keep it out of landfill. We've designed a range of opportunities to support you, whether in person or online to help build your knowledge around transforming food scraps into a nutrient-rich fertilizer for your garden.

As part of this initiative, we're offering four workshops at the Ashbil Community Garden presented by Ann Bentley from Beaufortia Environmental. These sessions will cover everything you need to know about worm farming, including what food items can and cannot be added, how to set up a system, and tips for maintaining it effectively.

In addition to the workshops, we will be developing additional resources, including:

A "How to Worm Farm" video for those unable to attend in person. This will focus on using recycled materials to create a worm farm at home and will be available on the Shire website for easy access.

A program of online content throughout the year, highlighting the benefits of worm farming, simple ways to reduce food waste, and celebrating success stories from our community.

In line with the grant's goal of prioritising reuse and making landfill the last resort, we're repurposing 60 old kerbside bins into functional worm farms. Attendees of our in-person workshops will receive one of these worm farm systems free of charge! ...Continued on page 15



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RUN ARMY 2025

This year the Bridgetown RSL sub-branch is hosting a virtual 5km Run Army run/ walk in Bridgetown.

Run Army is a significant annual event that brings us closer to the people we serve, the shared benefit of fitness as we run or walk alongside friends, family and our community in aid of legacy. A great cause as it supports our veterans and their families.

Last year's run army was a massive success, we had over 7000 runners participating in events across Australia. Since it started running it has raised more than half a million dollars for legacy, an incredible achievement.

Members of the police, fire and ambulance along with the community as well as serving and ex defence members are asked to join us bringing together everyone for this year's Bridgetown Run Army 2025.

It will be held at 8:30am on Sunday the 6th of April at the Blackwood River Park in the weeks leading up to Anzac Day. It's going international again this year with virtual events around the world (and in Bridgetown) and we want everyone to participate, soldiers, families, anybody who wants to be part of a great community event.

Run army is a great way to come together to show your support for Legacy.

More details can be found on the RSL Bridgetown Facebook page. We look forward seeing you. Not participating but want to help on the day, then contact us on 0413447958.

Photo: Don Roberts, TerryLinz, Cathy Goldsworthy Slater, Brian Slater, Robert Robb, Bill Gorman, Jeff Kirkup, Judy May, Glen Norris, Jane Horler and Peter Sarles





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Back row: Joan, Maureen, Margaret and Bev,
front row: Ann, Doreen and Faye

Social Club

Two days a week, on Tuesday and Wednesday, between 10am and 2pm, there is a Social Club gathering of senior citizens at the Silver Chain facility on Peninsular Road, in Bridgetown.

"We are very keen to welcome new members and share the good times we have together. We also have a need for more volunteers to help the staff extend our activities". Margaret Cockerill spokesperson for Social Club explains.

"It is a happy place, and it is the highlight of the participant's week. Our aim is to enjoy the friendship and laughter and share our life's experiences in a safe and comfortable nonjudgmental place.

"We spend our time in a variety of ways, and the staff do their best to fulfil any requests we have. We do like to have people come and talk to us and we are interested in a wide variety of topics. We might be old but we are still very interested in the lives and experiences of others. "Sometimes we go out on visits and out to lunch, we have a very useful bus. We do puzzles, games, occasional bingo and easy exercises.

"Some of us are lucky enough to have family support locally but others live alone and suffer from great loneliness. Some of us have problems remembering things and others have mobility issues but there is always a sympathetic and helpful friend nearby. The young ladies who look after us are dedicated and unfailingly kind and generous.

"I think the people of Bridgetown don't need to be told what a beautiful place this is. Not only is the environment attractive and easy to live with, the people are amazing. Over the years the residents have nurtured and cherished the community make it a safe place to make your home. Some people are third and fourth generation residents and the culture of caring has continued through later arrivals to the benefit of us all. Thank you to all those wonderful people."

If you are interested in taking part in the Social Club or would like further details you can telephone Silver Chain on 1300 650 803. Anyone interested in volunteering can email volunteer@silverchain.org.au or 1300 650 803.

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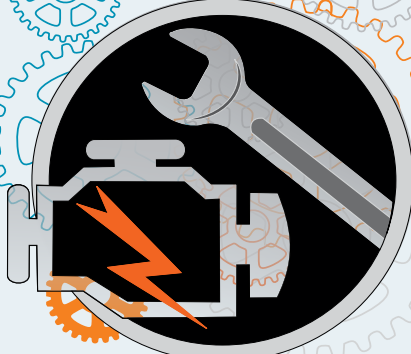
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The Bridgetown Harness Racing Club will hold its Autumn Racing Carnival on Sunday 23rd of March Sunday 6th April 2025. The historic club, the "Home of Trotting" in the Lower South West with over fifty locals from Balingup to Pemberton having connections to more than fifty horses through owning, training, and breeding.

Local brother and sister Peter Blossome and Sue Waters are members of the ownership of talented mare Wonderful To Fly, while Peter has connection to several other runners in his own right.

Ray Jones from Greenbushes owns and trains Lavra Joe a consistent performer at Gloucester Park this season, along with his other solid performer Been Scootin. Dave Stringer is a member of several successful ownership groups while horses he has bred continue to win races on a regular basis. Club President Grumpy Waters regularly has a number of horses in his stables while horses bred from his stallion have performed with credit for other trainers throughout the state.

The season opening meeting on the 23rd of March sees the running of the Nev's Steel Pace. Gates will open at 12noon with oncourse tote, bar and canteen facilities, with bouncy castle and fun activities for the kids.

Bridgetown Harness Racing Club enjoys wonderful support from the local community and looks forward to continuing the relationship.

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at the Bridgetown Cup

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6th April
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Greenbushes Lithium Operation Capacity Expansion

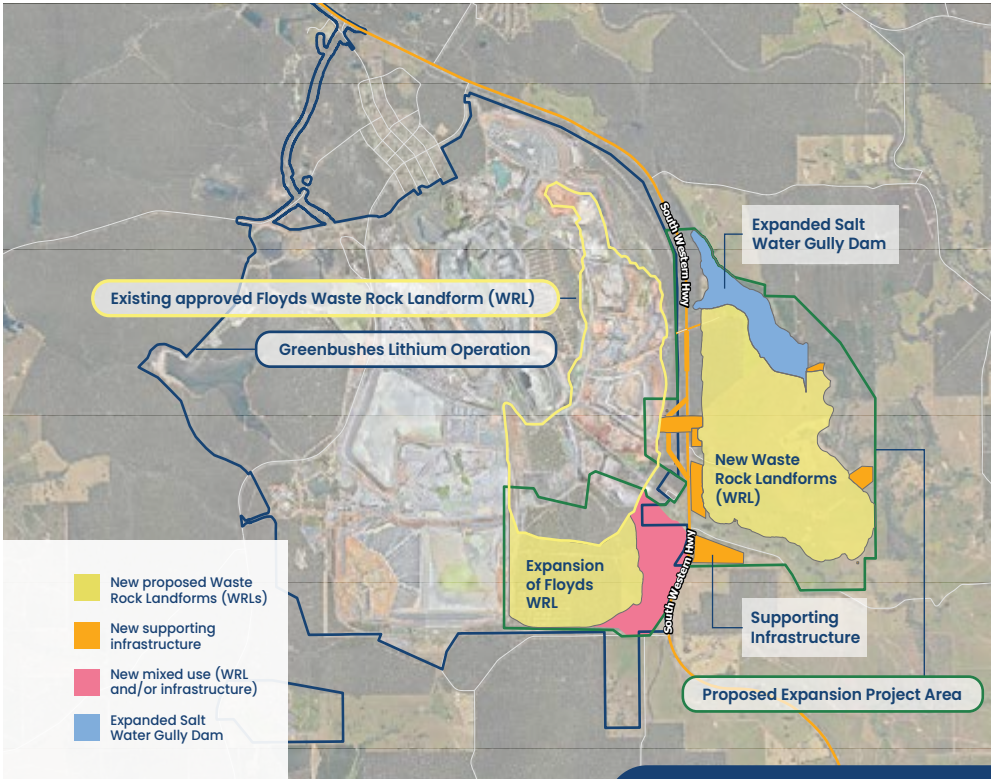
Talison continues to play an important role in achieving net zero emissions globally, supplying 20% of the world's lithium, and Greenbushes Lithium Operation needs to expand to meet growing demand.



We're proposing to expand the mine to the east and south to deliver new and expanded waste rock landforms, expanded water storage capacity and supporting infrastructure – subject to state and federal environmental approvals.

Find out more, book to attend a community information session or register for updates on our project website.





Why do we need to expand?

Lithium is fundamental for manufacturing electric vehicles and power storage batteries. To continue to meet global lithium demand, Talison's Greenbushes Lithium Operation needs to expand. As we grow, we need more space to store waste rock and, with less rainfall due to climate change, we require greater water storage capacity.

What will the expansion mean for locals?

Our expansion will lead to benefits such as increased employment opportunities, community investment and support of local businesses. However, we understand those living near the mine may see

changes in the amount of light, noise and dust so we will work hard to minimise these impacts on our neighbours, our environment and anyone living in, or visiting, the South West.

What happens next?

Over the coming months, as part of the environmental approvals process, Talison will progress the detailed project design. We genuinely value the input we receive from members of our local community and we look forward to discussing our plans and hearing your thoughts.

How can I find out more?

Talison is hosting a series of community information sessions in Greenbushes, Bridgetown and Balingup from 22 – 26 March.

To register for attendance, scan the QR code, call 1300 904 650, or email projects@talisonlithium.com.



www.oseca.com.au



MY HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

Community Workshop



Aged Care Process

Date 27th March 2025
Time 9:30am - 12:30pm
Venue Manjimup Health Hub

For those unable to attend in person, this event will be live streamed to Bridgetown CRC

Details

Oseca, in collaboration with WACHS Regional Aged Care team, invite community members to an education session to learn more about the aged care assessment process, accessing My Aged Care funding, and recent aged care reforms. We are delighted to have Kylie Pettit, Acting Regional Aged Care Manager, to facilitate this event. Q&A from 11am.

RSVP by 21st March for catering purposes. Morning tea provided

1300 680 431

manjimup@oseca.com.au

Red Cross Events

Red Cross month is almost upon us!

On Friday 21st at the Bridgetown Town Hall we will be holding the Annual Quiz Nite. Doors open at 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start (tables of six at \$10 per head). Come and check out the renovated hall. The bar will be operating with beer, wine and soft drinks for purchase throughout the evening. The legendary supper will be provided and Adrian Elder will once again be our MC! Come along and shed the cobwebs for a fun night out. First prize is dinner for six at the Bridgetown Hotel who have supported us for many years. There are also prizes for 2nd place, door prize, heads and tails as well as the wooden spoon. Tables can be booked by contacting Patricia on 97611946.

The footy tipping will be under way by then as the first round starts on the 6th March! Books are currently being sold – contact Jenny on 0419048893 or Hayley at the Newsagency. The competition is very keen with entrants spanning the generations!

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

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

Show Talk

Hi Everyone, The Tom Curtain, Good Life Tour, which was held at the showgrounds on Friday 31st January was a roaring success with good feedback from the big crowd who attended.

Spokesperson Annabelle Curtain said how impressed they were with the grounds, the layout and the enthusiastic crowd and are very keen to come again.



Looking to sell?

I'd like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all my wonderful clients who have supported me over the past year. I have just been awarded "Agent of the Year" by Rate My Agent for Bridgetown for the second year running! Whether you're looking to sell now or in the future, or are simply curious to know what your home is worth in the current market, I can help!

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Our next event will be Downunder Country Music on the 14th, 15th and 16th March. This event was first held at the Showgrounds in 2011 and has continued to host Traditional Country Music and Bush Poetry, including Walk-ups, Guest Artists, Gospel, Old Time and Line Dancing. A real laidback enjoyable weekend with day or weekend tickets available from the gate.

We welcome a new Committee Member, Natasha, who has had past experience in the organising of agricultural shows and she is keen to help promote our Bridgetown Show.

The grounds are starting to look loved, with improvements to the areas with lawn and the creation of some native gardens. The grounds personnel have kept busy over the December/January period and their creative touch is slowly transforming the area.

Our next Meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th March 7.00pm, in the Presidents Room at the Showgrounds. If you would like to know more about the Committee or the Agricultural Society's role in the Community, contact mob. 0437 602 836 (Calls only – no Texts) or email: info@bridgetownshow.com.au website address is www.bridgetownshow.com.au like us on Facebook 'Bridgetown Agricultural Show' or follow us on Instagram.

Bridgetown Historical Society

The Southern Forests and Valleys Heritage Festival 2025 takes place between Saturday 19 April and Sunday 4 May throughout many towns in the South West.

Here in Bridgetown the Police Station 1880 Museum will have free entry to the Museum from Monday 21 April – Saturday 26 April. This building is of important historical significance to Bridgetown and the Museum is curated by the BHS.

Tenders for a new police station located in the centre of town were called for in 1879, and the building was completed by James Gibbs in October 1880 – it was built for a total of £423 . Constable Bovell moved into the new premises on 18 October 1880, which at the time had living quarters for the Police...*Continued on page 14*



COUNTRY

Traditional Country Music and
Bush Poetry Weekend

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Celebration of Friendship

15TH MARCH 2025

12.30PM


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Please join with us as we celebrate the many friendships we have enjoyed over decades at Bridgetown Church of Christ. Many have passed through the doors of our church and we will be gathering for a light lunch to remember and celebrate them all.

We would love to reconnect with as many people as possible - everyone is invited! There will be a memorial board to remember those who have journeyed on.

Spread the word!

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Transition Bridgetown

Transition Bridgetown Waging War on Waste. The war against waste continues in Bridgetown led by our community's tireless champions of sustainability, Transition Bridgetown.

The Uniting Church Hall was the venue for an engaging discussion on reducing waste on February 23, when Michael Coghill spoke on the challenges of eliminating e-waste, something he's been pursuing through his business Total Green Recycling since 2008.

In a well-attended Open Space the Shire's Sustainability and Environmental Officer Alexa Turner updated the community on our joint Shire/TBR initiative to start up a series of Repair Cafés. This project is supported by the State Government and the Waste Authority, encouraging repair and reuse over disposal to landfill.

The Waste Warriors updated us on their plans and progress on rethinking waste as a resource. This was followed by a vibrant Q&A where our community brainstormed ideas. The first Repair Café will be held at the Lesser Hall 10am till 2pm on Sat March 8th. Please call in while you're in town voting, enjoy a cuppa and find out more.

It's all part of Transition Bridgetown's ambitions to reduce waste in our community, which is something we'll be putting into practice again at this year's Blackwood Regen Fest on Saturday 22nd of March at the Ashbil Community Garden. You'll find the Regen Fest a great celebration of education, inspiration and fun, with free workshops sharing knowledge on regenerative practices. There's something for everyone at the Regen Fest, with farm animal displays, a vintage clothes market, gourmet food and coffee and more. Please find the advertisement for Regen Fest '25 elsewhere in this edition of the Mailbag.

Speaking of the Ashbil Community Garden, Transition Bridgetown is looking forward to hearing progress on its Lotterywest funding application for a shed onsite. It will house our Wash Against Waste Trailer and provide shelter for Bridgetown Community Landcare Nursery volunteers. One thing that's already been approved, thanks to a generous grant from Talison, is a rainwater tank for the shed.

Transition Bridgetown's committee voted to introduce an annual membership fee of \$20 per person per annum at the AGM last year. As from the end of Feb, non-members will be asked for a \$5 entry donation at Open Space events to help with hall hire and insurances. Financial members will have free entry.

Members will also receive a copy of the Minutes of our committee meetings, notification of upcoming events, and input into what priorities we work towards, newsletter updates from Transition Australia and Transition Margaret River - and more! So why not join us today and connect with others as we strive to care for ourselves, our community and our planet. Email us on transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com



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Blackwood Valley Toastmasters

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Toastmasters is a supportive, non-profit educational organisation where you can develop communication and leadership skills in a safe, supportive, and welcoming atmosphere. We cater to all skill levels, offering positive, constructive feedback and valuable networking opportunities.

The Blackwood Valley Toastmasters Club is sponsored by Talison Lithium and kicked off in October last year. We've already held seven fantastic meetings, and our membership has grown from eight to fourteen! Each member is reaping the benefits of the training they receive at every meeting.

Our meetings start at 5:30 pm on the first and third Thursdays of each month with networking from 5:15pm. On the third Thursday, we meet at Greenbushes CRC and follow it up with an optional dinner at the Shamrock Hotel. The first Thursday is on Zoom, offering a chance to hone your online presentation skills without needing to travel.

Our meetings feature diverse speeches and activities, with positive and constructive evaluations. Members acquire speaking, leadership, and other communication skills, helping them become confident communicators and leaders. We are actively seeking to attract employees from Talison, as the leadership and communication skills they gain will be invaluable in their roles.

If you appreciate hearing others' stories and wish to learn how to present effectively to an audience, Blackwood Valley Toastmasters Club is your answer. Build these skills in a well-organised and encouraging environment where you'll always have a supportive team backing your success.

We can't wait to welcome you! For more information, please contact Morrie Goodz on 0429 834 912.

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ANZAC Day Services

Details of the Anzac Day Services being conducted at Greenbushes, Bridgetown and Balingup are:

Greenbushes:

5.45am Parade to form up at the RSL Hall on Blackwood Road, March to be led by the First Light Horse troop, Pipers and a Drummer to the Cenotaph. If inclement weather the service will be held at the District Hall adjacent to the Cenotaph. 6.00am Service commences. 7.00am Service is followed by a full Gunfire breakfast.

Bridgetown:

9.30am Parade to form up at the Post Office carpark in preparation for 9.45am departure. March to be led by the First Light Horse troop, Pipers and a Drummer to the Cenotaph in Memorial Park. If inclement weather the service will be held in the Bridgetown Town Hall. 10.00am Service commences followed by light refreshments in the Bridgetown Lesser Hall

Balingup Service:

10.45am Parade forms up at the Town Centre on the South West Highway. 11.00am Service followed by a sausage sizzle

For further information on Greenbushes and Balingup Services please contact Patrick Scallan at greenbushes.secretary@sb.rslwa.org.au or phone 0427 643 508

For further information on Bridgetown Service please contact Glen Norris at glennorris29@gmail.com or phone 0438 611 628



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Talison to Launch Community Advisory Committee

Talison is forming a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to strengthen local engagement and transparency.

We listened to feedback from the 2022 and 2024 Community Perceptions Surveys, which highlighted a strong community desire for enhanced stakeholder engagement.

In March, we'll provide more information about the CAC on our website and social media pages, and invite Expressions of Interest from community members who want to share insights, collaborate, and contribute to decision-making.

In the meantime if you have any questions please contact gbcontact@talisonlithium.com.

Together, we can shape a better future!

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A Step Ahead for Dalgarpur

After a worrying two weeks in discussion with Solicitors for the large Mining Exploration Claim over the Greater Dalgarpur Forest (Dalgarpur National Park, the Bridgetown Jarrah Park and the Karri Gully Nature Reserve), the Mining Company has proposed a 6 month deferral of this claim, to allow time for further negotiation.

This provides a time slot during which we can seek to have the classifications of the two reserves updated AND the Nunn Block included into the National Park.

The two reserves would then be substantially protected if the Exploration Claim was approved. Last night the Shire Council resolved to accept our Petition to seek Government support to protect Greater Dalgarpur Forest against Mining. This has been signed by 610 local residents. An Officer proposal for action will be prepared for consideration by the March meeting of the Council.

Many thanks for the BGFF Committee and friends who made this possible. BGFF will have a stall at Transition Bridgetown's Blackwood Regen Fest on March 22, where you can find out more about these beautiful forests and our campaign plans. Richard Wittenoom

Bridgetown Historical Society

Continued from page 9... It is Bridgetown's only award-winning Museum and has undergone an extensive revitalisation in its displays, using interpretive panels to create a contemporary museum showcasing the story of policing in Bridgetown and the effects on the Indigenous people of this region. Take this opportunity to learn more about the history of our town.

Work is well underway to establish an Orchardring Museum in the rear shed behind the Police Station Museum. This will provide a display on another significant feature of Bridgetown's history – APPLES. The orcharding museum is expected to be opened later this year once all the renovations/improvements have been completed. Lee Wittenoom, BHS.

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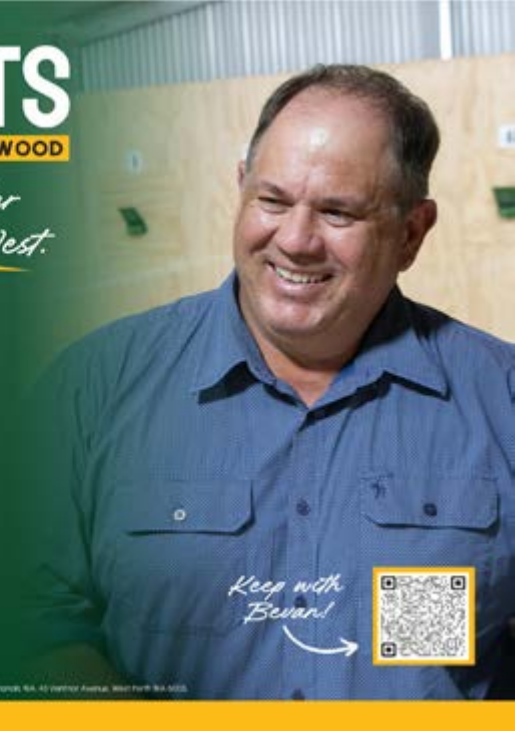
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Authorised by | Treasurer, The Nationals WA, 45 Lorimer Avenue, West Perth WA 6005.



*Keep with
Bevan!*



Waste to worms: making landfill the last resort

Continued from page 2... To qualify, you must: Be a resident of the Shire; Not currently be worm farming; Attend an in-person workshop in 2025.

Since these repurposed bin systems are a trial, we'll be seeking feedback from participants on their effectiveness and potential improvements.

Workshop Dates: Saturday mornings, 9:00 – 10:30 AM at Ashbil Community Garden on these dates: 29 March, 28 June, 30 August and 29 November.

Mark your calendars! Registrations are now open for all the workshops. Spaces are limited.

Register Now! Places are filled on a first-come, first-served basis - don't miss out! We have a few different registration options:

Digitally at www.surveymonkey.com/r/wastetoworms or via the QR code

Email bridgetowncommunitygarden@gmail.com to express your interest and request a fillable form

Fill in a printed copy from the Shire Administration Office, Ashbil Community Garden or the Greenbushes CRC.

Giving Back to the Community

Continued from back page... "We cater for all levels of fitness; beginners are welcome if you have any injury, we can work around it so don't let that stop you.

"Classes consist of some boxing and kicking combinations, we include a circuit which will boost your fitness and strength."

If you would like to take part in the remaining classes in the first term, or if you would like to donate to the cause please telephone Kim on 0405 997 393, the classes are conducted in the gym, in the car parking area behind the shops, the gym is alongside IGA. Casual comfortable clothing should be worn and because there are mats on the floor, no footwear within the gym.

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Giving Back to the Community

Through the fitness club, Bridgetown Jiu Jitsu, Boxing and MMA, Mixed Martial Arts, Kim Reeves has been running two Kickboxing one-hour sessions on Tuesday and Thursday's starting at 9 am. The sessions are open to all ages and cater for all fitness levels and are designed to improve participants fitness and strength levels. The sessions are paid for by the participants donation.

"I ask those taking part to give whatever they would like to contribute to the cause.

"I wanted to help and give back to those struggling in our community so I thought I could donate my time, run some kickboxing classes from which all of the money raised can go back into our local community", Kim Reeves explains.

"All funds raised will go towards purchasing goods or services that are genuinely needed within our community.

"I have been given feedback that there is need for some assistance with cost and the changing of taps and door knobs for the elderly suffering arthritis in their hands, and the need to support struggling families with food and hygiene products.

"Where the monies are to be spent will be determined by those contributing and supporting the kickboxing sessions.



Tash Viles, Evita Oisma, Amanda Mitchell, Kim Reeves, Darren Reeves, Ben Ducker, Katy Lawrence, Casey Whitton, Jenna Welch, Tomica Terry, Melissa Fullam, Amber Jane, the little boy is Ronin Jane.

"We cater for all levels of fitness; beginners are welcome if you have any injury, we can work around it so don't let that stop you. Classes consist of some boxing and kicking combinations, we include a circuit which will boost your fitness and strength."

Kim was a professional MMA competitor, with her experience, all those taking part will be learning how to punch and kick with technique, a valuable skill to learn, there will be no sparring just kickboxing fitness classes.

Kim goes on to explain, "There will be complete transparency with money raised. It will be counted and tallied up after each session, there is a total of 16 sessions. The monies raised will go to help make a difference to the lives of those living within our community..." *Continued on page 15.*

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