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November 1st 2022

VOLUME 31 NO: 3 ISSUE 326

THE MAILBAG

Printed and Published by M.P. & J. Krauze, The Quality Shop, 125 Hampton Street, Bridgetown W.A. 6255
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133rd **LIVELIGHTER** Bridgetown Show

SATURDAY, 26th NOVEMBER, 2022
 Peninsula Road 9am - 9pm

From
Seed to Supper



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Save the date, Saturday 26th November and join in the "Seed to Supper" themed, LiveLighter 133rd Bridgetown Show. Talison Lithium are sponsoring free entry for 12yrs/ Under. It is a pleasure to have Debbie Walsh open our Show. Debbie has worked quietly in the background for many years encompassing many and varied things to do with 'community' including coordinating Talison's Bridgetown Show marquee and informative displays, and the very popular, 'kids' sandpit' with the big mining toys.

It's not too late to be a part of the Competition to win outstanding prizes and cash. If you haven't been able to grab a Schedule then go Online where you will find all the Sections and entry forms. Entry Forms close on Monday 21st November. We appreciate the tremendous support from our sponsors, who contribute to the prize money, trophies and entertainment; to our Stewards who keep the wheels turning in their sections ensuring everything runs smoothly throughout the Show, including the incoming entries, judging and award placings.

2022 Show Theme: Visit the 'Seed to Supper' Junior Farmers Open Shed activities. This area will be absolutely amazing. From 10am to 5pm you will be inspired by local presenters sharing their knowledge relating to cooking, gardening, seed saving and swapping, soils, herb drying, flower crowns, smoothies and "10 things you didn't know about Cider". Be sure to check the timetable at the Shed, before you start planning your day at the Show.

Entertainment: Make sure you grab a Show Flyer on the day with times and places of events around the grounds.
Continued page 14

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Some of the cast rehearsing on stage

Fantastic Mr Fox

The Bridgetown Repertory's end of year shows this year will be 'Fantastic Mr Fox'. This production is based on the book by beloved children's author Roald Dahl and adapted for the stage by David Wood.

The stage play will be co-directed by a mother and daughter team, Emma McGuire along with her daughter Ella.

Emma gives us some insight in to how the production is unfolding, "There is a cast of thirty-six, the cast is made up of twenty children aged over eight years with four teenagers and twelve adults.

"Some of the young ones cast in the play have come up through the ranks in Kids Acting on Stage (KAOS) and Bridgetown Youth Theatre (BYT) repertory theatre programs.

"They are a wonderful group. We have divided the young actors into mentored groups with adult actors. This has provided them with an opportunity to workshop their parts in the show, coming back with thoughtful and creative input into their roles.

"We have also brought together some talented creative people to assist with the production, Shirley Hassen is handling the costumes, Caroline Morling is the Music Director and musician Jeff Sheahan has composed four songs especially for the play. Robert Benson-Perry has designed the set, which will be on a split level to create an above ground scene and an underground setting for the animals.

"Artist Emily Smith is painting the Woodland scene backdrop and we have Abi O'Wallace, who is fourteen, designing the illustration for the poster.

"Mrs Fox is being played by newcomer Erica Caldwell with Mr Fox being played by Anthony Flemming.

Emma continues, "This is my daughter's and my first time directing at the Repertory. We have had only six weeks of rehearsal time to have everything to come together, but so far, we are on track and hope it will be a memorable play.

"At the heart of the play is the journey of Mr Fox and his family. It is written as allegory, exploring the moral issue of stealing and the effects it has on oneself and others. It is also a play that celebrates the importance of family and community and the world as a 'village' where everyone helps each other." *Continued page 15*



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Julie Knopper and Joanne Hoffmann visitors to the exhibition

The Old Shed Exhibition in Balingup

The current exhibition in the Shed is the Italian Contribution to the Establishment of Balingup in the years 1865 through to 1962. It shows us a little of the life journey taken by Italian families leaving their homeland during the time before the first World War, through the depression years then after the second World War to build a better life for themselves in the South West of Western Australia and here in Balingup and Mullalyup.

Many who arrived to make a new life in Australia were married, and had to leave behind their parents, wives and young children (to make a new life in Australia,) in the hope their families would eventually be able to join them in a country which offered far better opportunities.

Their stories are all varied, some were sponsored by earlier arrivals and had somewhere to go, others made their own way. On arrival at Fremantle some went on to learn a trade or worked in the timber industry, in particular cutting sleepers for the railway and mining industries. Others worked in



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orchards, all those who worked here were always sending money back to support their families in Italy.

These hard-working migrants were separated from their loved ones for long periods, some for seven years, sometimes ten years.

Many of the Italian migrants went on to eventually own their own farms and then were able to pay the passage for their loved ones so they could be reunited as a family.

When the families did arrive, there were many difficulties to overcome such as language, isolation, and culture, particularly for the wives.

Their new life in Australia could not have been any more austere. Below is a passage from one of their stories which tells the tale of an Italian migrant Vittorio from Messina in Italy who arrived in the south west in 1928. He is famously remembered for having a 'never giving up' attitude, a resilience which was needed to be successful in forging a new life in a developing country.

Vittorio had lived and worked in the south west for eight years, during that time he saved enough money to buy a property, on which he grew vegetables and then was able to sell them at his shop in Balingup, having finally saved enough money to bring his family out to Australia to join him. *Continued page 14*

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Bridgetown Historical Society

"Sharing our stories"

One of the most-asked questions from school group visits to the Police Station Museum is 'has anyone escaped from the lock up'.

Well, the answer is yes – The Bunbury Herald and Blackwood Express in 1928 reported a break out:

THREE CHARGES AGAINST BRIDGETOWN LABOURER

"In the Bridgetown Police Court on Monday morning last before Messrs A. E. Bartlett and H. Lake, JSP. James Wilson, a married man with four children, working at Pemberton on the erection of cottages, was charged with having at Bridgetown on June 4, been disorderly by making use of obscene language in Steere Street: that on the same date assaulted Const. Styans in the execution of his duty. He was further charged with having on the same day escaped from legal custody to wit, from the Bridgetown lock-up and was thereby deemed to be an incorrigible rogue.

The charges were laid by Const. Styans. Const. Styans stated that at 3.45 he went to the cell, and the accused was then there, but when he again visited the cell at about 5pm Wilson had made his getaway, by removing the wooden lining of the cell near the window, working out a number of bricks from the wall, thus making a small opening through which he escaped. He was arrested in the evening when endeavouring to board the train to Manjimup and was again lodged in the lock up. This time he was handcuffed for safe keeping."

In 1936 the newspaper West Australian posted the account of a 13-year-old boy who had found his way down to Bridgetown, possibly by hiding on the train. In Perth he had been involved in, and charged with, a series of breaking into houses, stealing and giving false names. He was obviously homeless and without family support.

In Bridgetown he was arrested and placed in a cell. He lifted the floor boards and hid underneath. The police, thinking he had escaped, left the door open and he fled the Police Station. He was recaptured and sent back to Perth where hopefully he was able to receive help and care.

A visit to the Police Station Museum will reveal the cell where these escapes took place. The Museum is open on Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 3pm and Saturday from 10am to 1pm.

The Historical Society welcomes new members to help keep the stories of our town alive and responsive to our Heritage status.

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8.45pm	11.30pm	The Doozy's

Free Entry

Saturday **12th November**

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6.30pm	8.30pm	Stumptown
8.45pm	11.30pm	The Whiskey Dogs

Sunday **13th November**

Free Entry

11.00am	3.00pm	Black Robin
---------	--------	-------------



'The Doozys are a 5-piece string band hailing from Bunbury, W.A. Each musician brings their own unique musical taste to the mix, with influences ranging from Irish folk and bluegrass to top 40 and pub rock. The Doozys effortlessly create their own style, proving that genre is no barrier. Think all your favourite tunes, performed by 5 men armed with mandolin, banjo, guitars, a tiny little bass, cajon, and cracking harmonies. Their varied repertoire ensures there is something for absolutely everyone and though they bring a laid back, easy-going vibe, they are also sure to have you up on your feet dancing the night (or day) away'.

The Whiskey Dogs



The Whiskey Dogs are an authentic 50's Rock 'n' Roll three piece band comprised of Double bass 'Dean Napoli aka D Dog', Baritone Sax 'Johnny Westwood aka J Dog' & Electric guitar, vocals and foot drums 'Kris Buckle aka...(you get the theme here) K Dog'. The band have a long history in the music industry and between them have worked with acts such as 'Jools Holland & His Rhythm & Blues Orchestra in the UK to big band outfits here in WA such as Skeleton Jump. Along with their timeless original songs their set brings the likes of Bill Haley, Eddie Cochran, Little Richard & Elvis to the audience live and direct with the professionalism only seasoned musicians can.



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Meet the Team

John Rich Real Estate is run by husband & wife team John & Lisa Rich. John has been working in the industry for 22 years as an independent agent & has worked with other franchise agencies, Lisa has been working in the industry for 4 years. With combined experience in residential, strata, rural, lifestyle, commercial and business sales. They love living & working in the Blackwood Valley Region.



Jo Burston in her studio

Open Heart

The next art exhibition which will be held at The Rabbit Hole community Arts Hub in November will be Open Heart by Jo Burston.

Jo has recently retired from being a Veterinarian Nurse. Over the last 18 months she has started a journey in the pursuit of creative wellness for herself through art on her 160-acre farm.

"I've always been a creative person and now that I've retired I can spend a lot more time on my passion, art.

"Art is magic, it's a journey of discovery for me and I am enjoying every minute of it.

"My paintings are an eclectic mix of styles, a product of feeling what I see and putting it on canvas. I mostly create

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instinctively, with no planning or thought as to what the end results will be.

"In the exhibition I will have around twenty painting on canvas and others on weathered jarrah pieces from timber mill cottages which have painted scenes of rustic and weathered vehicles and farm scenes.

"My art evolves as I paint, using the sense of feel and intuition to create.

I love to play with mixed media and styles including abstract, rustic and cottage craft.

Nature is always at the heart of what I paint. If I see a subject that I like I will then interpret it in my own thoughts and then create my interpretation on canvas.

"When people see my art, a smile may creep across their face as they get joy from what they see, or it may remind them of a past happy memory, these emotional responses from others is what I seek from my art.

I'm always looking forward to my path of artistic discovery, through kindness and with the collaboration of others.

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Corinne first on the left and Adam on the far right with the Bell ringers

The Bell Ringers

Corinne Rule and Adam Beer moved to Bridgetown around a year ago, the couple are experienced bell ringers. At different times they both have been in charge of ringing the bells in the Bell Tower in Perth. They are the owners of The Alphabet Ring bell setup which is housed in their shed on Roe Street.

The Alphabet Ring is a musical instrument like no other you will have seen. It is known as a mini-ring and consists of 8 bells tuned in a diatonic major scale of E flat.

The bells are rung using a rope and wheel. This is a small version of the church bells you would hear ringing for special occasions.

Most bells hung in this way are usually hung in church towers. There are also 'civic towers', such as the Bell Tower in Perth and the Civic Centre in Rockingham. Bells sets typically range from 5 to 12 bells.

The Bell Tower in Perth is unusual in being one of only three sets of bells in the world which have 16 bells in a musical scale.

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The Alphabet Ring is the first privately-owned mini-ring in Australia, and indeed in the southern hemisphere. The bells were cast in the UK and exported to Australia in 2015 along with the wheels and bearings that enable them to be rung. The bell ropes were donated. Adam designed and built the frame housing the bells whilst they were living in New South Wales. There are 8 bells in the Alphabet Ring, the heaviest of which weighs just over 7kg.

Corinne and Adam moved from Kalgoorlie to Bridgetown because they wanted to live rurally and they also wanted somewhere to live that was close enough to Perth to ring on the bells with their friends at St. George's Cathedral and Christ Church in Claremont.

Adam learnt the skill of ringing bells at the All Saint's Church in Tuckingmill, a village named for its fulling mill (used to treat woollen cloth), in Cornwall England. Bell ringing was so much part of his life that before he left England to come and settle in Australia, he made sure there was a bell ring fraternity here. There is, it's the Australia and New Zealand Association of Bellringers (ANZAB).

Continued page 11

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Transition Bridgetown

For our October Open Space we screened the film "Seed - the Untold Story". The message from the film really brought home that a healthy diverse seed bank is crucial to the level of food security that we will have in the future.

Jenni Oliver spoke about the seed bank [a degassed fridge] that has been set up at the Ashbil Community Garden. It's an informal honour system where you can put your surplus seeds into the bank and take out other varieties you need. There are some small forms to fill in about the details of your seeds, place them into the glass jars provided and pop them into the fridge.

If you would like to be more proactive in organising the seed bank, please email us at transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com

This was our last Open Space for 2022.
 We are really pleased to know that there will be some recycling of drinking containers via the Containers for Change program at the Blues and the Bridgetown Show this year! Good on both of these committees, CFC and the shire for taking on the challenge. Let's help support and promote these initiatives!

Transition Bridgetown will be joining local food producing groups in the Open Shed at the Show this year. The theme of "Seed to Supper" really emphasises the importance of growing our food at a local level, reducing travel kms and eating freshly harvested food that is nutritious and flavoursome. It also can represent the 'seed' of an idea which if we follow our dreams, can lead to fruition, the 'supper'! Come and see how the different community groups have interpreted the theme and join in the activities and presentations in the Open Shed.

Did you know that the priorities of Transition Bridgetown include these?

- To build a more connected community
- To increase recycling awareness and doing recycling well in our shire
- To reduce waste - esp plastics
- To reduce carbon emissions wherever possible
- To encourage growing and sharing of food locally
- To work with the shire to promote sustainable practices within our town
- To promote health, happiness and a positive outlook for our future

We hope that in March '23, together with other local sustainability focused groups, we can put together a local Regenerative Taster Festival. Plans are afoot.



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The Bell Ringers *continued from page 9*

Adam talks enthusiastically about bell ringing, "The Alphabet Ring is a miniature version of bells hung for full-circle ringing, after the English fashion.

"Hanging bells in this way allows full control over when the bells strike, allowing for patterns or 'methods' to be rung. Tunes in the normal musical sense are not rung.

"The bells ring in sequence, but that sequence changes each time the bells are rung. The objective is to ring sequences which do not repeat in a given performance, which, depending on the length, may be called a 'touch', 'quarter peal' or 'peal'.

"Each bell (rope) needs a bellringer who knows what they are doing and so to be able to demonstrate this properly we would need either 6 or 8 trained bellringers.

"When the bell ringing commences, we start with a descending scale, then we adjust our time, rhythm and speed to the 'method' we are using. Bell ringers have different ways of learning the sequences: after years of practice some can visualise the 'method', some use mnemonics as a way to remember.

"Recently we had bellringing friends visiting from Perth. On that weekend, the bell ringers took part in a ring of two previously un-rung 'methods' using half-muffled bells, in recognition of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of the new King.

"Bell ringing for me is a passion, the larger the bell the more finesse is required. I have rung a bell which weighs around four tons, this come with its own danger: to ring a heavy bell you must stand on a box; if your stand on the ground the coiling and uncoiling of the rope around your feet can tangle around your legs hoisting you upside down into the air, leaving you bobbing up and down, which isn't a pretty sight."

Bell ringing, how hard could it be? As it turns out, it is not as easy as it looks. You pull the rope down until the bell is upside down and you hold it there, then on your turn, you pull the rope down, you let go of the rope, the bell strikes then when the rope reaches a point when the rope stops rising you hold the rope on the balance of the upside-down bell. The bell should only ring when it's upside down and only strike the once on each pull, or so it should - only after months to years of practice.

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Oliver Morling, Sebastian Goulder and Seraphina Norris,

The Gifted and Talented

Three Bridgetown Primary School students, Seraphina Norris, Sebastian Goulder and Oliver Morling have been selected for the Gifted and Talented Online Program in 2023.

Amazingly, only 25 online positions were offered state wide for 2023 and three of the successful students who qualified are from Bridgetown Primary School.

The program is an online academic program for gifted country students. It has an enriched curriculum designed for the students and is delivered by teachers with expert skills and knowledge.

It has two main subject grouping, Science and Maths, and English and Humanities.

The program is designed to provide the opportunity for exceptionally able students to study in learning environments that challenge, inspire and empower them to excel in the every day.

With the online program the students will be taking part in a mixture of online computer studies, Zoom lectures and extra class room studies.

Sebastian explains that whilst he is enjoying basketball and netball, "I also really enjoy solving math-based puzzles.

"I will be going on to Bridgetown High School next year, the online course allows me to live locally surrounded by my family and friends."

Seraphina gives her perspective, "My main interest is in reading books, mostly books in the genre of science fiction.

"My other interest at the moment is with trees, I like drawing trees, viewing the majesty of trees as well as studying the differing types of trees.

"I will be attending Bridgetown High School with the option of maybe going to the Manjimup Senior High School."

Oliver also has sporting interests, "I like playing soccer and basketball but my other main interest is with 'Star Wars'.

"I've been so intrigued by the story line I have been studying the movies and books; it has become my expert subject. I now know all there is to know about 'Star Wars'.

"Next year I will be going to Melville Senior High School to do the Gifted and Talented program there."

This is a follow on from last year where Blake Giblett, a former Bridgetown Primary School student who is currently in Year 7, was also successful in being selected for the online program.

Being identified as a student who will benefit from this program and then to provide them with the opportunity to take part is a worthwhile endeavour. Congratulations to those students selected.

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A Happy CWA Christmas

Supporting those in need has always been an aim of CWA, whether it be each other or in the general community and your local branch has been very busy with projects and events to make a lot of people happy.

Our Monster Christmas Raffle will be on again on the Saturday 26th November, outside IGA from 8am until sold out. Last year we had eight prizes, will there be more this year? Come down and take a look and while you're there check out the Community stall where we will have lots of baked goods and Christmas goodies for sale. Funds raised will go back to the community.

We will be supporting local St Vincent de Paul society with a donation to their project of providing Christmas hampers to those in need.

A new project for us this year was the Operation Christmas child, filling shoe boxes with goodies for children.

For more information contact Anita on 0431 374 753

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The Old Shed Exhibition in Balingup *continued from page 3*

In 1936 Vittorio's wife Maria and son Napolini, who was eight years old and the young son Vittorio had not yet seen, arrived in Fremantle on board the ship 'Esquilino'.

Vittorio had not received the letter informing him of their arrival times and was not there to greet them on their arrival. Mail to Italy took six weeks. Eventually though, he was able to reunite with them after they travelled by train to Balingup.

On arrival at the property Maria was very disappointed with the house which was not very appealing. It consisted of four small rooms and was made from jarrah face cuts, it had a dirt floor in the kitchen, unlined weatherboards on the walls and railway sleepers for flooring with three very small windows that did not open. A very sad depressing situation to be greeted with, after travelling half way around the world.

As time went by Maria began to adapt to life and improved their house, using bags for curtains and for insulating the walls. Cleaning was almost impossible, with no running water, only a tub which was used as a bath with the washing up done in a dish. She had a very old wood stove which had holes in its oven. She even made her own soap.

Both Maria and young Napolini worked hard on the land and helped in the garden while Vittorio made deliveries to his shop and customers. Napolini attended the Lower Balingup School where he learnt to speak English and made friends with the other children.

During the second world war, many Italian immigrants were interned as 'enemy aliens' and were sent to internment camps around the South West. Those whose wives were here, were left to run the farm or family business. While, of the men who were interned some were allowed out to work on farms and those left behind were able to grow vegetables for the camps.

Whilst the stories of every Balingup/ Mullalyup family could not be collected, it is hoped you enjoy reading about the journey of these courageous people.

Many of these families are still living in our community today.

The exhibition will run for six months. If you know of anyone who may like to contribute information to this current exhibit, please phone Helen 97641291 or Noelene 97641080

133rd Bridgetown Show

Continued from cover... Stalls, trades, showbags and foods. In addition to all the family favourites and music all around the grounds, we will have K9 Connections Dog Agility, Critters Up Close, Fantasy Pony Rides, our Local Emergency Services and the RAC Rescue Helicopter Experience, Lazer Tag, Super Heroes and Jamie the Clown. Visit Blackwood Ravens Chillout Zone at Pig Pen Alley funded by Healthway.

There is so much to see and do. Look out for the Pink Flags showing you where all the FREE EVENTS are placed and also stay tuned to the facebook page which keeps you in touch with all the latest happenings. All the farming favourites; horses, sheep, cattle, chickens with the pet section for the kids and the wool pavilion, will be on display and the outstanding creative handmade, homemade and homegrown items which brings Centenary Hall to life including the schools displays and Rowan Hall with brew tastings, sweets and treats, is not to be missed. The popular Passports will take you on a journey around the grounds to learn all about the Bridgetown Show; the Puzzle Pit Stop Fun Zone keeps the Mums and Dads happy too. Competitions galore with prize money up for grabs, the free guessing competitions, the Sheaf Toss and the \$1000 Richfeeds Bucking Bull event. And it wouldn't be the Bridgetown Show without the day ending with the fabulous, awesome, Fireworks Spectacular.

Our next Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th November 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

Vale Vernon Daulby

26/09/1926 to 08/09/2022

Vern was born on the 26th September 1926 in Colonel Light Gardens in South Australia. Amidst WWII, Vern joined the Royal Australian Navy on the 4th of January 1944 at the age of 17. Based in Western Port Bay, Victoria, at HMAS Cerberus, Vern trained as a Morse code expert. He was then seconded to the Army and trained at Canungra, QLD, before transferring to Naval Beach, setting up ship to shore communications.

In June 1945, Vern went to Borneo where he served on the HMAS Hobart and Warrnambool. He witnessed the American General MacArthur, the man in charge of all operations in the Pacific, be carried ashore from a naval barge. Unfortunately, Vern contracted malaria and was evacuated to Port Moresby in PNG. Vern was discharged from service on the 5th December 1946.

After the war Vern met his wife Elizabeth (now deceased, 27/5/1925 to 04/09/2022) at a dance in Yorktown, South Australia. He followed Elizabeth back to WA and they were married in 1951. Soon after, they moved to Mullewa where Vern was the postal clerk and Elizabeth, a nurse. There they had their first two children, Jan & Garry.

In 1955, Vern and Elizabeth moved to Bridgetown where their third child, Terri was born. Vern was in charge of the Post Office until his retirement in 1986. He was a Life member of the Bridgetown RSL



Vern and Elizabeth

and member of the Bridgetown Club and Bridgetown Golf Club. Vern and Elizabeth's legacy are their 3 children, 11 grandchildren and 13 great children.

We will always be grateful to Vern for his service, his character, sense of humour, stories and his contribution to our community.

Shipping container scam victims drowning in losses

Losses to shipping container scams in WA have escalated to a total of \$375,000 so far this year, prompting a renewed urgent warning.

WA ScamNet at Consumer Protection has received 79 reports from consumers about numerous fake websites selling containers. A total of 60 victims have reported losses with the highest individual amount being \$35,000.

The fake websites that offer the containers at low prices are promoted via advertising on online classified websites such as Facebook Marketplace and Gumtree. The shipping containers are in high demand for storage or transport and can be converted into living quarters.

After purchasing online, the victims are sent an invoice requesting a direct bank transfer. Once paid, the container is never delivered. More information about scams is available on the WA ScamNet website where online scam reports can be lodged and enquiries can be made by email consumer@dmirs.wa.gov.au or phone 1300 30 40 54.

Fantastic Mr Fox *continued from page 2*

The Roald Dahl book 'The Fantastic Mr Fox', was inspired by a 100-year-old tree that Roald Dahl had in his back yard, in which he had imagined a fox family living underneath it. The story came out of the wonderful tales he told his children about the tree and the fox family.

This multi-generational drama has something for everyone. The storyline follows a clever fox and his family who are living in a den under a tree. The fox is providing an abundance of food for his family which he is stealing from the local farmers.


Angered by the raids, the farmers decide to kill Mr. Fox. They camp out near his den, and when Mr. Fox emerges, they open fire but only manage to shoot off his tail.

Then in the ensuing chase the determined farmers end up demolishing the site and felling the tree with digging equipment while attempting to dig Mr. Fox and his family out from the den.

They discover the Foxes have dug an escape tunnel. So, the farmers decide to wait it out, to be there at the ready for when the foxes must, at some time surface for food and water. So meanwhile, the farmers wait at the tunnel mouth armed with guns.

Does the fox have the smarts to outwit the farmers? What ruse will he think of to be forever remembered as the 'Fantastic Mr Fox'?

The play will be staged on Friday 2nd December, Saturday 3rd and a Sunday matinee 4th, Friday 9th, Saturday 10th and a second Sunday matinee on the 11th.



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The Great Library Mystery

Bridgetown's Primary School librarian, Sarah Muizarajs, when tossing up several different ideas on how to celebrate Book Week this year had the thought of creating a mystery around the library.

She then wondered if maybe the Bridgetown Police might render some assistance in creating a crime scene. When discussing the idea with some fellow staff members as to whether they thought it was a good idea or not, she found out one staff member's husband was in the police force.

Sarah happily tells us how it all unfolded, "It all grew out of an idea to promote Book Week, along the lines in the mystery and suspense genre.

"I had a thought that maybe the police may give us a little of their time, but as it turned out, police officers Ben and Mike, on their day off, spent the whole day at the school helping to set the scene, solve the crime and then arrested the villain.

"Students arrived at school that day to find the library a mess. Some books had been stolen, cupcakes were half eaten and there were big messy footprints everywhere.

"The library was declared a crime scene. Police Officers Ben and Mike were on hand to help solve the mystery.

"The students learnt how to gather the clues, identify the suspects, all of who were staff members, and they then worked together in teams to solve the mystery of the missing books.

"Fingerprints were taken, mug shots of the suspects were captured, clues were spotted; the messy footprints, the fact that keys were used to enter the library, the perpetrator's coffee mug was left behind and the discovery of what was stolen from the library, which were books on plants and gardening.

"As you may have guessed, the gardener became the prime suspect and was duly arrested, pictured right.

"The day was a huge success and we are very grateful for the involvement of our local police officers' this being an example of community policing at its best, and my thanks go out to all the staff who help create and took part in this memorable whole of school event.

"Having been shown such a fun aspect of the mystery and suspense genre during Book Week it is hoped it helps to reignite the spark into students reading more books, (especially mysteries!) and there was a secret bonus of having several students consider careers and making wonderful connections with the police in our community."



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