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THE MAILBAG

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The Rotary Blackwood Marathon

In its 42nd year, the Rotary Blackwood Marathon Relay is on again on Saturday, 30th October 2021. So, it's time to get your teams together and get training!

"The Marathon is one of the Bridgetown Rotary Club's major fund-raising events for the year, we are excited to see it back", Brendan Punch Rotary spoke person was pleased to say. He went on talk about the event.

"Covid-19 spoilt last year's Marathon, this year because of the ongoing pandemic we are having to run the event with certain protocols.

"Our participants, support crew and spectators will have to adhere to WA Health regulations including filling out or scanning into contact registers. Also, we have had to comply with a more complete cleaning regime, particularly at the start staging site in Boyup Brook, then at Jayes Bridge, the changeover points and with the finish at Bridgetown Sporting Grounds.

"We are grateful to have our regular caterers return, including Tony Practico's ice-cream van, Lion's food van, the football club's bar and the Cidery.

"This year, to cover the increase in our running costs we have new business partners sponsoring each leg of the event: Clovers Store, Apex Radiology, Talison and the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes. We appreciate their support as it helps make the event such a successful one.

"Jamie and Sue Doust have been stalwarts over the years with the keeping of time records for each competitor. This year they will be using digital timers, the ones we use in the Tour of Blackwood bike race, this should make their job a lot easier.

"As you can imagine it takes a lot of work to run an event like the Blackwood Marathon. We are looking for volunteers to help run this event, so if you would like to get involved as a volunteer you can email us at blackwoodmarathon@gmail.com

Continued page 15



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Emergency Services Cadets

The Cadet program run at the Bridgetown High School has been recognised for the work it is doing in nurturing our young people and 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.

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, Damion Treloar and Bianca Spice all give their own time to make the program a worthwhile learning experience for the cadets.

The cadets are split up into groups along the lines of the school year they are in, Year 7, 8, 9 and 10.

The training and experience they receive whilst being in cadets includes; First Aid, Orienteering, Map Reading and Compass skills, Rope work, Fire Safety, Abseiling, Water Base Rescue and Drill work.

The drill work is not only for discipline but so they can march in the ANZAC parade. The Cadets also take part in clean ups, bushfire prevention tasks and helping out the community in times of need.

Each year the students also take part in an overnight camping trip, year 7s will do an overnight stay, building up to year 10s camping for three days and nights.

John Tonai-Moore who has been involved in the program for nineteen years and is the Unit Leader talks about the cadets, "Each year the cadets numbers start off at around seventy, with some students finding it's not for them, but over the year we have a steady number of fifty cadets taking part in program during the year.

"It is a great cadet program we run at Bridgetown High School, nurturing



our young people and helping develop their resilience.

"The thing that really makes the program a success is the input from all the amazing volunteers at the school and in the community. The support we receive from all the local emergency services makes the program more "real" for the cadets.

"Funding for the cadet program is from the state government through the department of communities. The funding allows us to offer the program free to our cadets so that it is accessible to everyone, no matter their financial situation, and also enables us to issue a uniform to each cadet, consisting of a shirt, hat, jacket, pants and boots.

"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.

"I am very happy to be able to help nurture our future generations of emergency services volunteers."

The school has won the 2021 Resilient Australia Award, Western Australian School Award. Therefore, the school as a WA winner is now a finalist in the national Resilient Australia Awards that will be held in November.

The Bridgetown High School Emergency Services Cadets program is certainly a worthwhile contender for the award.

Bridgetown Golf Club

Cancer Council Fundraiser

The Bridgetown Golf Club would like to invite members of our community to join us on the 8th September at the Clubrooms for our Annual Judy Wheatley Memorial fundraiser.

Everyone is welcome to come join us for afternoon tea at 2.00 pm, for a small donation and participate in our raffles and trading table. If anyone would like to join us for a game of golf beforehand we tee off at 9.30.

We will also be holding a wood raffle on Friday the 1st September, so good luck.

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Martin in his studio above



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River Valley Dreaming

Martin and Wendy Sherlock moved to Bridgetown eight years ago with the idea of retiring.

Being a very creative couple who are ‘always on the go’ they had to settle for semi-retirement lifestyle.

The property they lease in Bridgetown is named ‘Mithendell’.

The house, now art studio, is where Martin paints is also where he produces sculptures out of air-dried clay which are one-of-a-kind pieces, and where Wendy crochets all sorts and types of cute animals, dolls, fairies and beanies. They mostly sell their wares on-line.

Martin is now about to have his first art exhibition ‘River Valley Dreaming’ which will open on Saturday September 4th and run until 31st September at the Rabbit Hole in Bridgetown.

Martin talks about the inspiration behind his paintings, “We live in the most beautiful part of the world, I doubt if we really appreciate its beauty and uniqueness. As someone who is new

to the district, I still get dazzled by its splendor.

“With my painting I try to evoke a sense of calm and relaxation with the beauty in bush scenes I have painted.

“When I display my paintings, the people who come along to the exhibition will be among the first to see my art.

“I will have around forty painting in the exhibition, the sizes of the painting vary, some being photograph size all the way up to around 900mm square, all at affordable prices.

“I feel it is a bit daunting, displaying my art, I paint for myself, the scenes I’ve painted are the ones I wanted to paint, I hope the people who come along are taken by my work.

“When I came to Bridgetown, I thought I would like to be artist, the reality is now very real with this exhibition.

One of Martin’s life inspirations is the play ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ which is William Shakespeare’s romantic comedy about the difficulties of ‘young love’ with a very mischievous Puck fairy who is King Oberon’s jester, who delights in playing pranks on mortals. *Continued page 15*



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Quiz Night

The Bridgetown Greenbushes YouthCare District Council held their annual quiz night on Friday 20th August at the Bridgetown Bowling Club, and it was a truly successful night.

Estelle Rowcliffe Carlson, a quiz night organizer, was pleased to talk about the night, "In all ninety contestants took part in the quiz night making up 13 tables, and we picked the weather just right, it was just warm enough not to be a cold night."

"The people who turned up were all an enthusiastic happy lot, and a good night was had by all.

"Throughout the night we held raffles and there were plenty of table prizes, the silliest answer prize went to Steve.

"Quiz Master, David Bardsley was in top form keeping the quiz entertaining.

"There was a very good stumbling block question which no one got right.

"The winners, The Principal's table, received a bottle of wine and a pot plant for their efforts.

"We managed to raise \$2,004.60, an amount which delighted those of us on the council.

"Covid-19 spoils our plans for a quiz night in 2020, which seems to have made this year's quiz a bit special.

"All the feed back we have received about the quiz night this year has been wonderfully positive, so the planning is



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now underway for next year, including finding those questions which baffle, and therefore leveling the playing field amongst the contestants."

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

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

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

Bridgetown Repertory

The next production at the Repertory will be the pantomime 'The Wonderful World of Oz'.

Margaret Korver, the play's director, has been working on bringing this production to the Bridgetown Theatre for around twelve months.

The auditions for the play were held on Sunday 22nd of August with an overwhelming number of prospective actors attending the auditions.

Margie talks about the show, "It was truly a wonderful turnout to the auditions, giving me the best choice of actors for the roles.

"Every young person attending the auditions wanting to be a munchkin has been given a role, they are mostly highly enthusiastic children.

"The show has now been cast and I have a wonderful mix of seasoned and new actors, and the crew is the best.

"With the pantomime we have added bonus characters of Ugg and Lee, together they become Uglee, really fun characters.

"Another fun character is Prince Smarmy, who is a pantomime Prince, but in the wrong pantomime, his antics leads to a lot of comedy.



Most of the Munchkin's on stage

"The pantomime will have a touch of magic and mystery, adventure and friendship and of course love."

The pantomime will be presented during December. It will be a show not to be missed.

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Ruby Medical Centre

A new medical practice has been opened in Bridgetown by Dr Nandhini Rangarajan and her husband Srikanth.

The couple first arrived in Australia eight and half years ago with their two children. Feeling welcome and wanting to stay the couple then decided to make Australia home.

Nandhini is a highly qualified Doctor who was trained in India. She had completed several degrees and was a Professor in a Medical University, while also practicing medicine.

Wanting to practice as a doctor in Australia meant she had to qualify again, and after three and half years of re-qualifying she was allowed to practice in Australia, but to obtain a Medicare Providers License she then had to practice in a regional area for a further three and half years.

Being given a choice of places to practice and having to choose between Geraldton, Kattanning, Jurien Bay or Manjimup, she chose Manjimup because it was very similar to where she grew up; lush forests with tall trees and a mild climate.

Nandhini's husband Srikanth works in IT. One of the better work practices that Covid-19 has brought about is less travelling, so, he can work from where ever he lives. Before Covid-19 when living in Manjimup he was having to fly to the eastern states once a month to visit the office, all that has changed now and for the better.

Now with both their children settled into university life, and with Nandhini passing all the requirement to practice, the couple has chosen to establish a practice in Bridgetown.

Nandhini who is a softly spoken lady talks of her ideals, "My philosophy is to care for the community I'm in; my background and upbringing have instilled these values within me.

"'A Service to Humanity' is part of the company logo and is also the principle and way I use my training, skills



Srikanth, Dr Nandhini Rangarajan,
Dr Chris Rose and Amanda above

and talents as a doctor.

"Bridgetown is such a wonderful place; this is why we have made the investment to establish a medical practice here.

"Being a female doctor who is working full time, five and half days a week I will be able to give my patients the time and care they require.

"I feel Ruby Medical Centre is going to be a wonderful new service which Bridgetown will have to offer."

Nandhini and Srikanth are now gathering a team of professionals to work within the practice.

Two highly experienced General Practitioners, Dr Peter McKenna and Dr Chris Rose will both be working two days a week.

Alongside Allied Health Professionals which will include audiology, psychology, pathology and physiotherapy, all services are well supported by an experienced and friendly reception and administration staff.

Dr Chris Rose and his wife Amanda moved to Bridgetown eighteen months ago. The plan was to have a tree change and to semi retire. *Continued page 15*

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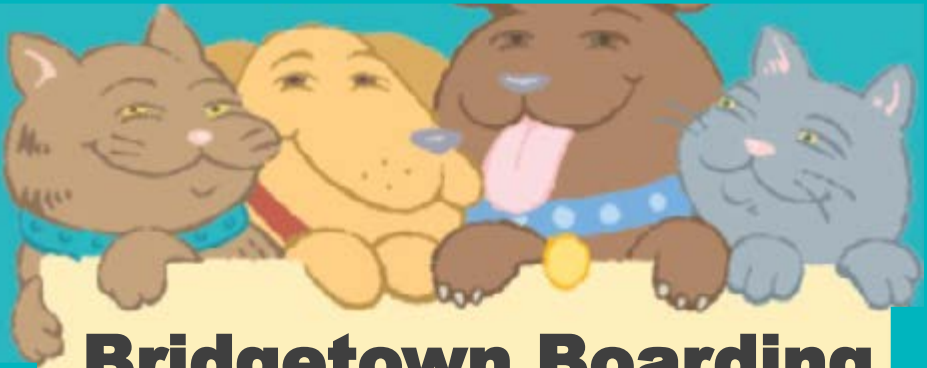


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Lions Members running the show above

Lions Bingo Night

As a fun way of raising money a 'Bogan' Bingo Night held last month that saw around sixty-five players taking part.

Nicole Hegney Lions President tells us how the night unfolded, "Lions Club was very pleased in how the evening went.

"The Lions members running the show all turned up in 'Bogan' outfits adding to atmosphere of the night, a prize was given out to the 'best bogan' outfit amongst the players.

"Lots of planning went into the night, we held raffles throughout night, we also had lucky seat spot prizes.

"We also had food and drinks available for purchase during the night.

"Not having run a bingo night before the first night was a steep learning

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curve, the Lions carried the night off very well.

"Not knowing what to expect we had eleven Lions volunteers on the night, all adding atmosphere to the night and sharing the work load.

"It proved to a successful night for the Lions. The money raised always goes into the community, the Lions catering van is in need of major repairs, there is the possibility of Lions having to purchase a new van.

"This will be expensive investment, but one for the future, the food van is relied on in our community, and another good fundraising service.

"The Lions will also like to thank the local business who donated prizes for the raffles.

"The Lions are looking for Volunteers to help run the Bingo night in the future, so if you are will to help you can email me on pnhegney@bigpond.com

"The next Bingo night will be Friday 10th September, come along it's a terrific night.

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There are approximately 16 weeks to the course and they can be started at any point and in any sequence. Both men and women have attested that Henri's has brought them to a place of psychological healing and of 'letting go' of challenges they might have been struggling with for many years in their life.

Sessions are held on Tuesday mornings 10am – 12.30, starting with a Relaxation session, a lecture, followed by delicious morning tea and finishing with a group discussion. A donation of \$20 is gratefully received but not essential, so that no-one who seeks this self-development needs to miss out.

If you take the first step and come to check us out, you will be made very welcome. We are at 16 Hester Street (behind the Memorial Park) For more information please ring 9761 2027
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Years Nine and Ten Drama

Drama is a subject the students at Bridgetown High in years seven and eight do as a one term subject.

For year nine and ten students, who have had a taste and like what drama has to offer, they can then partake in the subject for a full year, building on skills, with marks and grades going towards their end of year overall results.

The current year nine and ten drama class has ten students. Each student brings different abilities to the class, with each student expecting drama to give them different life skills to take into the community.

The students performed self-scripted 'pantomime' plays in term one. Recently, they wrote and performed monologues, these solo acts made up a staged performance.

The monologues were set in a hospital, with each student playing varying roles. The roles they covered were, an overworked nurse, a distressed pregnant single mother, a surgeon who had experienced loss, and other impatient patients with varying ailments and attitudes.

The characters they played had completely different personalities to their own. The students needed to bring these characters to life by talking and behaving in ways they could only image, thus bringing drama to the story. This was all played out in a supportive environment in front of their peers.

A few of the students would like to share some of their thoughts with you; Amity said, "I like drama for the confidence it gives me, I particularly like playing characters which are male roles, and I like acting where I have an assertive role.

"One day I would like to open a 'themed café' where

the staff play characters. I'm not sure what the theme would be, but the staff would certainly be in a costume."

Adia went to add, "I like memorising scripts, then adopting the personality and troubles of a character who is living a completely different life to that of my own, just for a while, before returning to myself. I also find performing gives me confidence in how to express myself."

Mia said "I love playing 'whatever character'. The dressing up and acting outrageously is what makes it fun, I also like boy roles."

Tess also likes playing 'out there' roles, "When I play a role of someone who is hilarious, or has a dim wit which makes people laugh at their silly antics, these are the roles I like.

"When I am in character others have said 'you are so funny', I really like entertaining people. I would like to pursue a career in theatre or film."

Katie is another one of the students who has been involved in repertory theatre for quite some time, "I like the pantomimes, the dressing up, the challenges of the roles, and just being part of the theatre,

"I feel I will always like to be part of an amateur theatre, as a hobby, it's a pastime which is something worthwhile to do, I like being part of a stage production, onstage and backstage."

Ellequin wanted to say, "I like dressing up and playing the role of a princess, or one as a fairy, just being someone who's special, these are the roles I like."

Taking a part in and becoming another person's character, even for a little while, allows students to explore a different perspective.

Whether the role is to be a magical one living in a fantasy world, or the other extreme, playing the part of a person who has found themselves caught up in a life changing event and dealing with the consequences, students gain an insight into others' lives and the world around them.



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We thank the Bridgetown community for their participation and feedback in our Open Space Community Survey which will be reflected in our Transition Bridgetown (TBR) topics for the coming months.

The priorities that were identified, in order of popularity, are: 1. Discuss, have input with Council, Shire on sustainable ethics. 2. Form sub-groups we currently have sub-groups for a Recycling Networking Group and a Bridgetown Energy Group (BET). 3. Power (local energy systems/off-grid) 4. Environment, Biodiversity, Water and Forests. 5. Waste Management, Waste Reduction, Recycling. 6. Education of the community. 7. Support for ageing population. 8. Support for young adults. 9. Local Food (We support the Spray-Free Fresh Food Markets group). 10. Verge Gardens and how they can be utilised within shire policy

Verge Gardening Open Space

On the topic of Verge Gardens, the recent Open Space on Waterwise Verge Gardens was an informative event with presenters Jenny Dewing from the Bridgetown Landcare Community Nursery and Dr Erica Shedley from Southern Flora, speaking about the brilliant array of low maintenance native plants that could be suitable for planting on our verges. Shire will be reviewing the Verge Garden policy later this year and hopefully incorporating the Watercorp Waterwise Verge Gardens policy. We certainly have a wealth of knowledge in our community to assist with this.

A Power and Water Saving Tip from Bridgetown Energy Transition (BET)

Like to save both power and water? Yes? Then only boil the water that you need right now. Reboiled water loses its fresh taste too. If you only need 2 cups of water (500ml) then only boil that amount. This uses only 35% of the power needed to boil a full 1.7lt kettle.

A full kettle uses about 0.200 kwh of power to reach the boil, a ½ litre of water uses 0.0700kwh. This saves about 70% of water and power and at the years end, about \$150 off your power bill.

Waste Collection

Thanks to Seonaid for organising, and the crew who participated in, a Community litter pick up event for Keep Australia Beautiful week. They recovered a significant amount of rubbish around and central to the Bridgetown Library area. So many plastic bottles, drink containers of various sorts, soft plastics, condoms and just more and more plastic.

What can we do to get people to use the bin facilities, take their rubbish home, use their own drink bottles and generally be more conscious of purchasing and disposing of packaging. We aim to continue raising awareness, perhaps you can make it a priority to do so in your community group too.

Transition Bridgetown Open Space Events will now be held on the 4th Sunday of each month, Sunday 26th September 4.30 – 6.30pm with the Screening of Film "Love in our own Time" and discussion. This is an Australian Documentary on Living, Loving and Dying and all the bits in between.

Free entry, hot drinks provided phone or text 0432 105 754 or email transitionbridgetown19@gmail.com

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Blues at Bridgetown

Count down to the Blues has started! We have stopped counting months and we're on to weeks.

Blues at Bridgetown venues this year are Geegelup, our main venue, and the bakery car park which will be the Central Stage, where we are aiming for a Festival Club vibe, and we're combining with the Repertory Theatre to have the House of Blues. These venues are all ticketed.

Of course, there will still be venues around town where you can head to listen to some great music even if you don't have a ticket. We are also having busking and of course there will be music in our Community Hub.

No street party means the road won't be closed but it doesn't mean that we aren't having a food court and stalls. This year we are having the Community Hub in Memorial Park. The area is a fenced, COVID compliant, family area focusing on bring community and festival goers together.

The official opening of Blues at Bridgetown 2021 will be held on Friday afternoon. Local youth will start the afternoon, leading into the opening and moving onto some of our Blues performers.

Due to COVID we have gone with a totally WA line up, and sourced an amazing variety of top quality performers. With names like Matt Taylor, Vdelli, and some of our favourites like Blues Shaddy, Toby, Two Dollar Dog and Tracey Barnett, along with some new faces and a couple of very special surprises.

Our Festival wouldn't run without the hard work of volunteers. If you feel you could volunteer for the Blues email volunteers@bluesatbridgetown.com.au or fill in a volunteers form on the website or call the office 9761 2921. Volunteers are wanted for a variety of jobs pre/post fest and also on the actually weekend.

Ashbil Community Garden

Finally some sun shine now sit back and watch the weeds grow. With a lot of willing hands the garden has been weeded and mulched and is looking very tidy. Well done every one. Now is the time to clean out beds and prepare the soil for planting.

Fertiliser is not the answer to growing the best plants; soil quality is. Add organic amendments such as compost and well-aged manure to your soil. The best soil structure is crumbly, easy to dig, accepts water easily, and is loose enough to provide oxygen for plant roots. If you choose to use fertiliser, use an organic one to add nitrogen, phosphate, and potash (the form of potassium plants can use).

The list of plants to plant in September is extensive, the garden plans to plant asparagus crowns, beans, beetroot, eggplant, kale, lettuce, pumpkin and tomatoes.

The July market and workshop has passed with Bronwyn being very informative regarding the Qualities and Benefits of Herbs and Herbal Teas.

Also Blackwood Biodiversity Inc. informed us of the course of Bridal Creeper and how to control it.

Continued page 13

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Showing The Way Coleen Russell

The Years of Progress 1886 – 1887

A time when a new post office was built and the telegraph line down to Bridgetown was opened to the public. Also a time when the second bridge was failing and the third bridge was being built.

On Saturday 24 July the Western Mail informed the public of a report from: “the Resident Engineer in the Southern Districts - that the Blackwood Bridge, at Bridgetown, is Unsafe for Heavy Traffic; all persons crossing the same with Loaded Teams, or Mobs of Cattle, are hereby warned that they will do so at their own risk and loss in the event of the bridge giving way. Jas. G. Lee Steere, Chairman Blackwood Roads Board. July 12th, 1886.”

At a general meeting on Thursday 30 September 1886, the Society Secretary reported that the proceedings and accounts of the Society had been examined by the President Lee Steere and A.W. Moulton, and certified by them as correct. The balance of cash, together with the Government grant for 1886 totaled £39 11s. With sixty good members on the books, this gave a healthy balance of £100. Following the death of Charles Rose, Jas. G. Thomson was appointed to council.

On 20 August, James S. Gibbs was let the tender for the construction of a new Post Office at Lot 39 Hampton Street. On 29 November, William Carey, Superintendent of Telegraphs and E Woodrow, Postmaster of Bunbury opened the Telegraph line to the public with May Moulton as the Postmistress and Telegraph Operator.

For the Central Southern Districts Second Annual Show held on 9 December 1886, two hundred and twenty two entries were received. Prize money offered was £103 and £93 was paid out, with £4 2s. taken on the gate. At an early hour on Show morning, exhibitors were allotted their respective places by a very energetic Secretary Mr. A. Knox Brown.

The West Australian Monday 27 December stated, “When the hour arrived for judging, through his good management, the gentlemen who kindly undertook to act as judges were enabled to enter without delay upon their arduous duties,” and “Mr. Knox Brown was ably seconded by Mr. James Inglis who took charge of the produce shed, and by Mr. Lee Steere who acted as master of the ring, also by Mr. Moulton who was generally useful.” Special mention was made of the flowers which “for variety and beauty surpassed anything ever seen at an agricultural Show in the Colony.” The improvement shown in the quantity and quality of the exhibits was most marked, and the great interest taken by the settlers and outside visitors showed what could be done when people tried.

The year closed with a credit of £21 12s. 6d. Due to the distances travelled by horse and or buggy, council meetings were restricted to two per year, with the AGM always following the day after the show. The annual meeting of the Agricultural Society was held in the Institute and was one of the largest meetings ever held at the Bridge.

The Secretary reported the show's finances to be satisfactory. About twenty new members were elected. Mr. Lee Steere was again elected President Messrs. A. W. Moulton and Thomas Muir, Vice-Presidents, Messrs. W. K. Adam, John Allnutt, Chas. S. Brockman, O.C. Dowden, Thomas Giblett, E. G. Hester, James Inglis, James Guy Thomson and C. F. Roberts the Council and Mr. A. Knox Brown, elected Secretary and Treasurer. The Southern Times printed a list of the forthcoming events and a full report after the show. The larger stock entered were walked from the owners property to the grounds, some coming from the area which is now Manjimup (36 kilometres South) and even further from Bunbury (92 kilometres North). The West Australian Monday 27 December printed “The dance was given on Friday evening, when the famed beauty and manhood of the south had a good time of it. The dancing

was kept up with great spirit till after daylight, when several of the gentlemen sang songs before the regretful parting till another year.” Further mention was made of the kindness of Mr. W. K. Adam of the Lower Blackwood who gave the Mechanics’ Institute a piano, which would greatly assist the future dances held in the Institute.

1887

In this year the Nelson Road Board established its own office in Bridgetown, separating from the Bunbury Road Board District, taking in the Warren and Upper Blackwood Districts. The members of the first board were Chairman John Allnutt, Edwin Padbury, Edward G. Hester, Thomas Giblett, James Lee Steere and Charles Rose of ‘Wilgarrup’ with J. Kurtze as Secretary. (Part of the buildings interior is shown in the 1912 photograph of a meeting of the Nelson Agricultural Society Councillors)

The Governor, Sir Frederick Broome, set up a Commission of Agriculture in 1887, where its members, all prominent men in rural enterprises, looked into each Districts farming practices in an area covering the South West section (outside of the Pastoral and Wheat Belt area) which started above Perth and included Bridgetown. In 1891 they presented a report giving a colourful account. Many long established farmers knew that superphosphate and guano, (bird excreta mined from 1884 at Houtman’s Abrolhos, west of Geraldton), would benefit their crops, but due to the cost of its purchase and transport they still relied on the practice of animal manures and fallowing (resting the land to restore its fertility).

Documentation in the Police Occurrence Book for 1887, showed Henry Doust being given permission to trade at the Showgrounds for the Third Annual Show Day of the Central Southern Districts Agricultural Society held on 15 December under the presidency of the Hon. J. G. Lee Steere, M.L.C., M.F.C. There was much enthusiasm with plenty of visitors from Bunbury, Vasse, and Albany and an excellent attendance. Altogether the show was a most successful gathering in every way. The West Australian Saturday 31 December gave a large and full account of the exhibits which were good all round. The horse sections were well represented and special mention went to Mr. James Inglis’ imported Clydesdale, bred in Victoria. Other winners in the horse classes were George Layman, M.L.C., John Allnutt, A. P. Tumball, Henry Doust, Joseph Mortimer, W. K. Adam and A. W. Moulton. Thomas Giblett and Thomas Muir were both credited with having a polled Angus bull, both fine animals, with the former carrying off first prize. “...it would be better if a few more of our settlers imported some real good new blood. The Angus breed, owing to their fine temper and beef carrying capabilities, are just the cattle wanted here.” Others noted for fine cattle were, John Mottram, Thos. Giblett, Geo. Layman Jr., Mr. Moulton and Henry Doust. The exhibits, especially in the show of produce were most creditable, impressing the judges of this section, Messrs. D. A. Hay, G. R. Teede, and Thos. Muir. “The readers must imagine a table, sixty feet long with a hanging shelf over it, and these were both filled, besides a large number of splendid exhibits on the ground.”

Through family research by John Maslin, official documents list Henry Doust as opening a Wayside Inn in 1878 and it was noted that the business went under a variety of names during the registering of the licensed business each year. Farmers Arms 1878, Farmers Rest 1879 and Farmers Home 1886 - 1890. A Book by Amelia McAlinden mentions a Mr Beadle (Beadell) as being the first owner, with Henry Doust purchasing the property when Mr Beadle returned to England. This was later verified in the 15 June 1901 edition of The Southern Times newspaper. The WA Government Gazette Records for 1880 showed there were two Publican General License holders in Bridgetown, that of Henry Doust of the ‘Farmers Rest’ and Thomas Ashbee of the ‘Emerald Isle Hotel.’

Show Talk

Hello Everyone.

How quickly the weeks are flying, ever closer to getting your entry ideas ready for the 132nd Bridgetown Show on Saturday 27th November, with this year's theme "Family & Community". The Society is proud to announce that Talison Minerals will again be sponsoring free entry for all Children 12years/u. We are still uncertain of how many sideshows will be attending due to the apparent ongoing insurance issues facing some large ride operators; an issue that is impacting on every show across Australia. Therefore, we are actively inviting extra trade stall holders to get in touch with our Show Administrator Ruth on Ph: 97612590.

Are you aware of the financial benefits your group could gain by supporting the Agricultural Society on show day and raising funds for your own group? If this interests you then get in touch with Jo or Ruth.

MEMBERSHIP: If you have not yet paid your membership and wish to do so, contact Jo now, or the Society via the numbers below.

CLOSED: As previously notified the grounds are currently closed due to the occupation of the Australian Defence Force. As we have stated before, the grounds are a private venue, held in Trust by the Bridgetown Agricultural Society and its Councillors, a dedicated group of local volunteers. The grounds are used for public hire, event camping, the annual show and general recreation. Every improvement to the grounds is made through raising and carefully considering the use of the funds to affect those improvements. We encourage outdoor activities on the oval and do our best for the community and visitors who use the grounds, by maintaining the facilities and grounds as a user-friendly venue. It has come to the point where we can no longer tolerate the high incidence of irresponsible dog owners (who have been identified) and their Dog Poo (which they refuse to pick up in the bags provided and place in the bin provided). This is an ongoing issue for our groundskeepers and very unfair to those who hire the grounds. The actions of some are not acceptable and there are now consequences. The Showgrounds will be closed for October and November to the dog walking public to allow us to clean up and get rid of the dog poo before Marathon and Blues camping and show time. The grounds will then be reopened after show day.

The next Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th September 7.30pm in the Presidents Room at the Showgrounds. If you wish to contact the Ag Society, Jo Moore can be contacted on 0437 602 836 or email info@bridgetownshow.com.au or follow us on Facebook 'Bridgetown Agricultural Show'. Stay Safe.



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Wildflower Walks with Dr. Erica Shedley: during September and October.

We all know how beautiful and fantastic our south-western wildflowers are, here is an opportunity to go on a series of guided wildflower walks with local botanist and wildflower enthusiast Erica Shedley who can let you know so much more about these fabulous flowering plants than just their names.

The Community Landcare Office, as a part of our Reserves Management Plans project that is supported by funding from the Western Australian Governments State NRM Program, has joined with the Blackwood Environment Society to present this series of bush walks-

28th September, Tuesday at Bridgetown Jarrah Park. 5th October, Tuesday at Winnejump Reserve. 6th October, Wednesday Sunnyside Reserve. 12th October, Tuesday at Eight Mile Well Reserve. 19th October, Tuesday at Dorothy Scott Bushland. 20th October Wednesday at Wandoo Valley Walk Trail. 26th October Tuesday Old Abattoir Walk Trail.

Bookings are essential as group numbers are limited so that everyone can hear what Erica has to say. Each of the wildflower walks will include morning tea when we finish walking.

Please book through the Community Landcare Office on 0428 723 111 or email nrmbridgetown@gmail.com to confirm your place and to receive directions to each of these lovely bushland reserves.

Bridgetown Family & Community Centre

Thank you to all of the Mailbag readers who got in touch with us after last months story about our services. It is always great to connect with new partners and such passionate community groups.

This month, we have an exciting new project to tell you all about. Thanks to funding from the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, we are now able to offer Grant Support Services to community groups and sporting clubs.

This service is to empower and support our community to write their own funding applications, that will align with the goals of our Shire's Corporate Business Plan. We can help you find the funding you need, sit with you and go over the application forms, make calls to funding bodies on your behalf, provide examples of supporting documentation (budgets, project plans, letters of support), proof read your applications and provide general advice.

Here at the BFCC, we have many examples of approved applications through Lotterywest, Healthways, Regional Arts WA, FRRR.org, Volunteers Grants, DLGSC - Arts Under \$15k, Rural Schools Breakfast Club, Landcare and more. We have partnered with groups such as Days for Girls, BGBTA, Agricultural Society and Blackwood Youth Action to support projects and apply for funds.



We believe this service will not only bring more money into our community, we will create a team of experienced and confident grant writers who will support each other. It will lead to more partnerships, sharing of skills and resources and greater outcomes for us all.

If you have a project you would like to discuss, please come and see us at the Bridgetown Family & Community Centre. btcommunityc@westnet.com.au or call 9761 2139, Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm.

Wanted

Approximately 60 hectares to lease for 30 cow and calves. Needs good fencing and yards if possible. Please phone 0428 720 021

Sunnyside Bush Fire Brigade

AGM will be held on Tuesday 21st September at 6.30pm at 549 Glentullock Road Sunnyside
Enquiries Marty (FCO) 0427 619 085

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The Rotary Blackwood Marathon

The Marathon is a unique event where competitors enter in teams comprising 4 or 5 members, or a single ironman or ironwoman. Starting in Boyup Brook and finishing in Bridgetown, competitors run, canoe, swim, horse ride (which is optional) and cycle across 60 km of picturesque Blackwood River Valley countryside.

The event is a mix of fun and sweat for the competitors, and excitement for the support teams and spectators. With many top athletes coming miles to compete alongside the many teams just joining in for the fun of it, it is a great and renowned event on the state's annual sports calendar.

The race concludes at the Bridgetown Sports Ground where everyone meets for good old-fashioned country hospitality, local music and then presentations to the winning teams. Whether teams enter each year to be highly competitive or simply to be part of this great weekend, they enjoy catching up with fellow competitors and friends, and enjoy the tranquil beauty of the countryside that is the South West.

This highly organised and superbly run event would not be possible without our sponsors. The event is a credit to the Bridgetown Rotary Club and the many local volunteers and associations who ensure the day runs like clockwork.

If you'd like to take part of this fantastic event, visit www.blackwoodmarathon.org for full details or email blackwoodmarathon@gmail.com.

Ruby Medical Centre *Continued from page 5*

Amanda is enjoying her move to Bridgetown and is very involved within the Repertory.

Chris has been working at a medical practice in Bunbury for two days a week. Being welcomed to work at the Ruby Medical Centre has some benefits, "Living and Practicing in Bridgetown is an ideal outcome, and will certainly rid me of that tedious travelling back and forth to Bunbury, which I must admit at first didn't seem to be such a task, but driving it on a regular basis certainly makes for a long day."

As with everyone who is willing to invest a lot of time and money in establishing a business in Bridgetown, we thank them and wish Srikanth and Nandhini Rangarajan a hearty welcome and a very successful future with their venture.

River Valley Dreaming *continued from page 3*

Robin Goodfellow the puck fairy, at the end of the play addresses the audience directly with an epilogue that bridges the world of imagination, which is the play to our reality:

"If we shadows have offended, think but this, and all is mended, that you have but slumbered here while these visions did appear".

Ashbil Community Garden *Cont. from page 11*

A questions and answer session was followed along with donations of Bridal Creeper Rust for attendees to take home.

Sat 25th Sept 9am to 11 am produce market and workshop on " Making Homemade Fruit Fly Bait "using common household ingredients.

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Operation Christmas Child

It's that time of the year for people to put together their shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child. A time when we can have the fun of putting together a shoebox filled with gifts for children in countries where children have really very little in their lives.

Remembering or imagining the childhood joy of your children as they open their presents on Christmas morning; now, imagine that joy magnified tenfold as a child who has never received a present, who might have suffered the effects of either a war, a natural disaster, poverty, illness or maybe neglect receives a shoebox overflowing with gifts. Bringing joy and hope is what the Samaritan's Purse project is all about.

The boxes can be filled with a variety of items from 6 categories. 1. Something to love; a soft toy or doll. 2. Something to play with; a Yo Yo, marbles, tennis ball, skipping rope, etc. 3. Something to wear; T-Shirt, beanie, thongs, etc. 4. Toiletries; soap, face washer, brush, comb, toothbrush etc. 5. Stationery supplies; pencils, coloured pencils, sharpener, eraser, exercise books, etc. 6. carry bag to keep their treasures in. Also include \$10 per box to cover the costs of getting the gift into the hands of the child, or pay online and follow your box with a bar code to its destination.

The Samaritan's Purse project is a non-denominational evangelical Christian Organisation providing physical and spiritual aid to hurting people around the world.

Brochures can be obtained from The Quality Shop, as well as Shoe boxes to be filled. The boxes can then be returned to The Quality Shop in October. Don't forget to put a rubber band around the box. Think about it now and start filling your box, some child will love you for it.

Christmas Shoe Box

Appeal 2020

In 2020 The Quality Shop did manage to participate in the Operation Christmas Child, but, as you may have imagined, Covid-19 had its impact on our efforts. It also undermined this endeavour right across Australia.

Bridgetown, Boyup Brook, Greenbushes and Balingup residents who were familiar with this worthwhile cause contributed without any prompting and were once again very generous with their support for the Operation Christmas Child 'Christmas Shoe Box Appeal'. In November 2020 our community contributed around 65 boxes, it was a wonderful effort.

A great many thanks go to the people, the families and the groups who participated in last year's Christmas Shoe Box appeal, also to the individuals and companies who donated money and gifts to fill and send the boxes.



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