



STAY ON YOUR FEET®

Move Improve Remove

Tuesday October 11 – Tuesday November 29

All Sessions are \$4.50 per person

DATE	WHATS HAPPENING	TIME
Tuesday 11 October	Safety in the Home and Falls Prevention Presentation	10.30 - 11.30am Followed by morning tea
Tuesday 18 October	Seniors Yoga Class	10.30 - 11.15am
Tuesday 25 October	Balls, Bands and Balance Class	10.30 - 11.15am
Tuesday 1 November	Exercise and Balance Physiotherapy Presentation	10.30 - 11.30am Followed by morning tea
Tuesday 8 November	Seniors Circuit Class	10.30 - 11.15am
Tuesday 15 November	Eating for Health and Wellbeing Dietician Presentation	10.30 - 11.30am Followed by morning tea
Tuesday 22 November	Chair Pilates Class	10.30 - 11.30am
Tuesday 29 November	Seniors Aqua Splash Class	10.30 - 11.15am

For all outlined classes other than Seniors Aqua Splash Class please wear appropriate foot and exercise wear. Swim wear is necessary for the Seniors Aqua Splash Class as this is held in the pool.

For all presentations casual wear is appropriate.

POOL OPEN

From Saturday 5 November
Monday to Friday 6am to 6pm
Saturday & Sunday 8am to 6pm

All enquiries welcome, please contact the Bridgetown Leisure Centre on 9761 2966

INSIGHT



Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire Newsletter

October/November 2016

Greenbushes Tidy Towns Winner!



Greenbushes is celebrating being selected as the winner of the Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards for 2016.

After being a finalist in several categories over 20 years of entering the Tidy Town's Awards, the town's Tidy Towns Committee has expressed great pride in being selected as the overall winner in 2016.

The initiatives which got the town over the line in 2016 included:

- The Greenbushes Community Garden free morning teas on the first Saturday of the month and the new nature playground established in the garden.
- The Tidy Towns School Bush Block Project which is harnessing school and

community volunteers to rehabilitate a stand of natural bush in the townsite.

- The Water Without Waste project which provides a portable water station to deter people from using plastic water bottles at community and sporting events
- The Blackwood Basin Group's Priority Bittern and Waterbird Biodiversity Project at Schwenke's Dam which is transforming a former mining void into a wetland supporting a variety of birds and mammals.
- Heritage sculptures on the South Western Highway created from recycled materials to celebrate the town's timber milling, mining and agricultural industries.

Tidy Towns judges also

Continued over

President's Comment

On September 13, I had the privilege of attending the 25th Anniversary of the Sandakan Memorial Service in Boyup Brook where I had the opportunity to lay a wreath on behalf of the Shire and its residents.

Later in the week I was also very pleased to be able to meet with local youth leaders in Bridgetown who are working with Shire Officers and consultants to identify the needs of youth in our community. These findings will help form the Shire's Youth Strategy going forward. I was very impressed with their ability to work cooperatively on this project and with the breadth of options that they had devised to ensure that the relevant data is collected. After all, a Youth Strategy needs to have significant and effective input from our youth themselves.

Needless to say that last month was dominated by a wide range of discussion and opinion regarding our beloved geese. The reality is that as concerns had been raised with the Shire there is an expectation that they will be taken seriously and that some action will eventuate. The Shire is very much aware of the community's feeling towards these birds and at no time ever contemplated taking action that would see them removed. In dealing with these issues, the Shire has now developed a Risk Management Strategy for the birds, as it would in like situations, and the issues raised by complainants will be managed within this strategy.

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John Nicholas JP,
Shire President



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highlighted the town's volunteer hours with 424 volunteers putting in around 14,291 hours of work on community projects in 2015.

Greenbushes Tidy Towns Committee Coordinator Leonie Eastcott said the Greenbushes win, following the City of Albany's in 2015, was proof that small towns could be an inspiration for others.

She said entering the Awards over a long period of time had driven great changes in the town's environment and cultural development.

"If we look back at our very first portfolios from the Tidy Towns Awards we can see a great deal of progress over the years across many facets of our community with an increasing emphasis on sustainability," she said.

Greenbushes Community Garden Coordinator Tracy Lansdell said the Tidy Towns Awards had evolved to encompass projects and initiatives with a focus on environmental sustainability and resource management to reflect a growing awareness of the importance of community-led environmental action.

"The Tidy Towns name has always been synonymous with community pride, cohesion and above all community action and they encourage, motivate and celebrate the sustainability achievements of grassroots rural and regional communities across Australia," said Ms Lansdell.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob said Greenbushes' achievements reflected the town's community spirit and commitment to conservation, education programs and sustainable living.

"Out of a population of about 600 people, more than 400 volunteered their time to contribute to some outstanding sustainability initiatives – that's a remarkable effort," Mr Jacob said.

Greenbushes will now go on to represent Western Australia in the National Titles at Triabunna in Tasmania next March. National judges will visit the town late in 2016.

Congratulations to the Greenbushes Tidy Towns Committee and its volunteers for this incredible and well deserved award.

Fire Season Hazard Reduction Works Compliance Date Change

ALL firebreaks and hazard reduction works need to be completed by **1 November 2016** (for Plantations) and for all other properties **15 November 2016** (*please note this is 2 weeks earlier than in previous years*) and maintained until **26 April 2017**.

Property owners and occupiers are encouraged to read their 2016 - 2017 Firebreak Orders carefully to ensure they are aware of ALL conditions.

If you would like any further information, please contact the Shire's Rangers on 9761 1555 or 0428 911 847.



Find us on Facebook

[https://
www.facebook.com/
bridgetown6255?ref=hl](https://www.facebook.com/bridgetown6255?ref=hl)

Impounded Vehicle Available for Purchase

Under Section 3.47(2) of the Local Government Act 1995 a local government may dispose of an impounded vehicle that not been claimed within two (2) months of notice being given of the impounding. The following vehicle has been impounded and despite notices being issued the owner has not sought to collect it. Accordingly the following vehicle is offered for sale in accordance with Section 3.58 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 30(3) of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996:

Toyota Landcruiser
Model FZJ80R
No Plates

Written bids for outright purchase of the vehicle can be lodged at the Shire Administration Centre, 1 Steere Street, Bridgetown, or posted to the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes at PO Box 271, Bridgetown WA 6255. Bids are to be placed in a sealed envelope with the outside of the envelope clearly marked with "Offer to Purchase Impounded Vehicle" and must be received by 4.30pm, Monday 31st October 2016. Any queries, including requests to view the vehicle are to be directed to the Rangers 9761 1555.



Me 2! is a BRAND NEW Program offered by The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes.

Me 2! Activities will be available in a term program format over the next 18 months as a way of encouraging community members with all levels of ability and skill to be involved in these activities.

Each term program offered under the Me 2! banner will be FREE for all participants and will be offered once per week, over one term for each activity.

Each of the term programs will be facilitated by one of our shire facilitators, trained specifically to encourage participation in a non-competitive environment.

For something completely different the Bridgetown Library is offering;

Find it @ my Library

Where: Bridgetown Library
When: Saturday 15 October to Saturday 10 December,
Age: All ages welcome
Time: 9.30 to 10.30

Each week learn, use and explore something your local Library has to offer!

Sessions are hands on and aim to introduce participants to resources that can be used or borrowed from the Library.

Come with family or friends and click on to a computer, try out a talking book, put together a puzzle or get lost in a book.

Program details available from Bridgetown Public Library on 9761 2503 or library@bridgetown.com.au

There are opportunities for people with disability to receive **reduced cost personal training and gym memberships** (minimum age 16 years to attend the gym alone).

For enquiries into reduced rates call Bridgetown Leisure Centre on 9761 2966.

Accessing Your Community

Parking Bay Confusion Leads to Important Council Decision

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes sits well above the national and state averages for indicators of an ageing population with predicted figures only increasing this trend in the near future. The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes is the only Shire in the State that has offered mobility restricted community members' non-ACROD permit parking, in the form of infirm parking bays. This has been due to a combination of factors including an ageing population and the difficulty of locating sites that are suitable for ACROD parking bays due to the town center design and topography.

There are currently 5 infirm parking bays located as follows:

- Outside Hansens Bakery (1 bay) on Hampton Street
- Outside IGA (2 bays) on Hampton Street
- Outside the Post Office (1 bay) on Hampton Street
- In the Shire Administration Building (Steere Street) Car Park (1 bay)

There are currently 9 public ACROD Parking Bays in Bridgetown located as follows:

- Town Square (2 bays)
- Library (2 bay)
- Leisure Complex (2 bays)
- Forrest Street (1) school end
- Roe Street (2) Bridgetown Primary School

There are also a number of "private" ACROD parking bays in privately owned car parks throughout Bridgetown including the Doctor Surgery, Dentist, Nelsons, Hospital and Old Railway Barracks. There are currently 6 active infirm parking permit holders who are entitled to use the infirm bays and 248 active ACROD parking permit holders who are entitled to use the infirm parking bays and ACROD Bays.

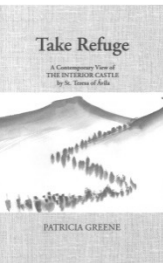
The process and requirements to obtain an ACROD permit and an infirm bay permit are the same. Both involve a Doctors or Occupational Therapist authorization and require a demonstrated reduction in mobility. Due to the implementation of the National Disability Service ACROD permits are now free (other than the Doctor appointment). ACROD permits can be used throughout WA whereas infirm parking permits are specific only to the shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes.

During the review of the infirm parking bays requested by the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, it became apparent that providing the infirm parking bays has been creating a level of risk for both Council and users that needed to be reconsidered. This is mainly due to the dimensions of the infirm parking bays not meeting the requirements for providing parking for people with disability and mobility challenges to ensure the user's safety as they leave and enter their car.

Therefore the Committee has recommended to Council that it investigate potential off-road ACROD parking bays to replace the current infirm bays. Some of these proposed off-road bays would be on private land and discussions with those land owners is to occur.

If the investigation into an increase in the number of ACROD bays in the town centre is successful the infirm parking bays will be converted back to normal parking bays once the ACROD bays are available for use. In this circumstance current infirm parking permit holders will be able to use their infirm permits to access the local ACROD bays until their current permit requires renewal once the infirm bays are phased out.

Between the Lines *at your library*



"Take Refuge" Book Launch – Saturday 15 October 10.30am

Local author Patricia Greene will launch her book "Take Refuge: A Contemporary View of Interior Castle by St Teresa of Avila", at the Bridgetown Regional Library. Local artist Wayne Shalders designed the cover. Lance Chambers will give a brief introduction on the Camino Santiago and morning tea is provided.

Festival of Country Gardens Exhibition Thursday 3 – Tuesday 8 November

Visit the Bridgetown Regional Library during the Spring Festival of Country Gardens, to take in an exhibition of garden-related pieces from the Bridgetown Camera Club from 3 - 8 November. For more photographs, visit our Gordon Holdsworth Exhibition Space in the Library to enjoy a pictorial display of the Festival of Country Gardens over the last 17 years and an exhibition of gardening-related resources.

While you're at the library, why not take a stroll around the Somme Creek walk path to discover the sculptures and admire the library landscaped gardens, then enjoy a coffee from the library vending machine on the outside deck.



Photographic Exhibition– Wednesday 9 – Friday 18 November

Bridgetown Camera Club will exhibit photographs of "The Unseen Shire: Images of places not normally seen by visitors", in the Gordon Holdsworth Exhibition Space in the Bridgetown Regional Library. Take the opportunity to see the photographs when you visit the library during this time.

Ancestry.com

Are you interested in family history? The library has Ancestry.com available for the use of the public, provided on behalf of the State Library of WA. Library staff members are trained to give initial assistance to get you underway. Searching can be time consuming, so if coming in to use Ancestry.com it's best to book a time during the day to make sure help is available.



Continued from President's Comment

It seems that the CEO and I both spent an inordinate amount of time on such a small issue which could have been avoided with the appropriate dialogue.

Council has recently reviewed its Local Laws and agreed to amend the following; Cemeteries, Welfare and the Keeping of Cats, Parking and Parking Facilities and Health. Additionally the Cut & Fill Policy has been amended, which will make the policy more workable and less onerous. The Shire has also made submissions to the WA Planning Commission in respect of planned changes to the Residential Design Codes ("R Codes"). Council will be considering the replacement of the "infirm parking bays" in the townsite area with more appropriate ACROD parking bays (see article page 11). This process will require negotiation with landowners to make available suitable space for such bays, but will if successful provide more appropriate parking for eligible community members.

I would like to congratulate all those responsible for Greenbushes being chosen as the 2016 Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Award winner. This award reflects the community's spirit and commitment to the environment and sustainable living. Similarly, I would like to also congratulate the Blackwood Basin Group which won the Fairfax Media Landcare Community Groups Award at the National Landcare Awards 2016. Well done to both groups.

Council was saddened by the recent passing of former Councillors Sean Grant and Gerry Cartmel. Sean was a Councillor between 1988 and 1997 including 4 years as Shire President, while Gerry was a councillor between 2001 and 2008. I would like to express the sincere condolences of current and former Councillors to their families on their sad loss.

John Nicholas JP
Shire President

Hack Day Fun - A Resounding Success for the Shire's Youth Leadership Group

On Saturday 17 September a group of 8 young people chosen for their innovation and enthusiasm came together for a day of brain storming, team building and problem solving.

This dynamic local team were supported by members of a not for profit group known as "The Makers". This group is led by Rhys William, a recipient of 2015 Young Western Australian of the Year and the youngest person to serve as a local government elected member in WA. Rhys and his team, Declan Conlan (youth consultation), Skipper van Peer (IT) and James Cherry (youth consultation) are all between the ages of 19 and 24.

After a few team building activities the challenge was set down for the local team of young leaders to come up with a few different, achievable and fun ways to consult with 50% of the young people in the Shire (or approximately 250 people between the ages of 12 and 18). The purpose is to engage with local young people about what they like about living in this Shire, ways in which they feel their community could better meet their needs and ways in which young people can help make this community a better place to live. The leadership group then presented their ideas for engagement to the Shire President, Councillors, parents and the Shire CEO to gain support for their ideas. The leadership team worked and



played hard for 9 hours, achieving these outcomes within one day with pizza at the end!

The focus of the process is known as 'participatory decision making' and directly involves young people in the community giving them the opportunity to speak and be listened to regarding their life experiences, and detailing and prioritizing what is important to them.

The group formulated 3 activities to engage with young people which will be promoted through the schools, on social media and posters around town - so keep your eyes open so you don't miss the opportunity to join in! There will be an activity at the Blues (which could include a number of high profile community members getting really wet!), and a day where young people take over the Bridgetown Leisure Centre, as well as a photography competition. More details will

be available soon.

The Hack Day and youth consultation projects are working towards ensuring the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes is a youth friendly community that values, supports, respects, provides for - and actively includes - young people. We want to be a community that considers the voices, needs, priorities and rights of young people when developing public policies, programmes and decisions.

As a result of the current engagement with young people the Shire will develop and implement the Youth Friendly Community Plan (YFCP). Once developed, the YFCP will assist Council to make decisions based on a greater understanding of the interests, needs and challenges of young people within the Shire.

Remembrance Day - 11 November

The Bridgetown RSL will host an informal service at the Cenotaph in Memorial Park commencing at 10.45am.

Members of the Greenbushes RSL and Greenbushes Primary School will host a service at the Cenotaph in Thomson Park commencing at 10.50am.

During both services, members of the public will have an opportunity to lay a wreath in memory of those who fought during World War I.

Blackwood Basin Group recognised at National Landcare Awards

The Blackwood Basin Group (BBG) has been recognised at the recent National Landcare Awards by winning the National Community Group Award.

The BBG won the award for its work with Talison Lithium and the Greenbushes community to transform old mining pits into wetlands to conserve threatened bird species. The Priority Bittern and Waterbird Biodiversity Enhancement Project involved designing and establishing a mosaic of freshwater wetlands from historical mining pits across the Greenbushes region to provide habitat specific to the needs of endangered water birds and migratory species. This project has led to the development of improved revegetation techniques, community based volunteer programs, involvement with local schools to build and install black-cockatoo nest boxes, and landscape-scale invasive species control.

Congratulations to the BBG and all community helpers who have assisted in this great project.

Call to stop trail bikes in Maslin Reserve

There is growing concern about the illegal use of Maslin Reserve as a trail bike venue.

This usage is contrary to the Reserve's vesting order (1993) and the Shire's Reserve Management Plan (2003).

This trail bike activity is an environmentally destructive process which forms multiple tracks through the reserve and in doing so spreads the existing jarrah dieback disease, spreads weed seeds, creates channels for water to move along thus causing erosion, presents a possible serious risk of harm to other users, and creates noise pollution that the residents surrounding this reserve may find offensive.

Many hours of community work have gone into the restoration of the floral diversity of this Reserve for all to enjoy.

Please find a more appropriate area that does not destructively impact on one of the Shire's iconic Reserves.



AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS HONOURING OUR LOCAL HEROES

The nomination process for the Australia Day Awards has changed. Nominations must now be made on-line at the Australia Day website: <http://www.citizenshipawards.com.au/nominate/>.

The Australia Day Awards recognise and reward individuals and organisations making a notable contribution during the current year, and/or to those who have given outstanding service over a number of years. Outstanding contribution and community service includes areas such as; education, health, fund-raising, charitable and voluntary services, business, sport, arts, the environment or any other area that contributes to the advancement and wellbeing of the community.

The criteria will remain similar to previous years, though now you will be able to recognise a wider range of your community champions through four categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Citizen of the Year – Youth (under 25yrs)
- Citizen of the Year – Senior (over 65 years)
- Active Citizenship – Group or Event

Nominations will open on Thursday, 15 September and close on Monday, 31 October.



Road Safety Message from the Roadwise Advisory Committee

Mystery Tour of Life

On 6 September, 49 Year 10 students from the Bridgetown High School and Boyup Brook District School participated in the annual *Mystery Tour of Life* organised by the Roadwise Committee with assistance from our local emergency service providers, Police, St John Ambulance, Bridgetown Volunteer Fire & Rescue and Bridgetown Hospital. This annual event exposes students to a simulated fatal crash scene with the aim of providing a level of awareness amongst our young people of the realities they face when they have the opportunity to obtain their driver's licence. The "Tour" commenced at the Bridgetown Court House where students watched DVDs relating to motor vehicle accidents after which they were taken onsite to a simulated accident scene, then onto Bridgetown Hospital and the morgue before returning to the Bridgetown Court House where students heard first-hand accounts from people regarding their own experiences from serious motor vehicle accidents.



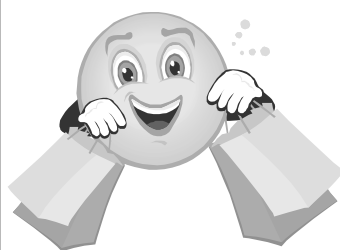
Roadwise – caring for the safety of our community

Local Sporting Champions Grants Program

The Local Sporting Champions program is designed to support young people participating in state, national and international level sporting championships as either an athlete, coach or official. In order to be eligible to apply for a Local Sporting Champions grant, young people must meet the following criteria:

- Be turning 12 to 18 years of age in the same calendar year as the nominated sporting championship.
- Be an Australian citizen or have been granted permanent resident status, residing in Australia.
- Be participating as an athlete, coach, umpire or referee in:
 - an official state championships endorsed by the relevant Australian Sports Commission (ASC) recognised national sporting organisation (NSO), or
 - an official state school sport championship endorsed by a School Sport Australia member body, or
 - an official national championships endorsed by the relevant ASC recognised NSO, or
 - a national school sport championships endorsed by School Sport Australia
 - an international competition as a member of an official Australian team, endorsed by an ASC recognised NSO or School Sport Australia.
- Be living more than 125km from the championship venue, and travelling greater than 250km return to participate in the nominated championship.
- Must complete and submit application to the ASC prior to the nominated championship commencing.
- Must not have received a Local Sporting Champions grant for an application submitted in the same allocation year (1 March - 29 February).
- Must not have received \$500 or more in federal government funding for the nominated championship.
- Must not be participating in a professional competition that involves prize money greater than \$500.

Round 2 of Grant Applications is open until October 31, go to http://www.ausport.gov.au/participating/local_sporting_champions for further information.



Greenbushes to Bridgetown Shopping Bus Run

The Community Bus "Rosie" shopping run service continues to operate on alternative Tuesdays from Greenbushes to Bridgetown (and back again!). This service is available at a cost of \$8 return to ANYONE living in Greenbushes who would like to come to Bridgetown for the morning – shopping, medical appointments, whatever you need!

The bus run operates every second Tuesday departing Greenbushes Roadhouse at 9.00am then leaving IGA at 11.30am. Anytime between arrival and departure of the bus in Bridgetown, parcels may be deposited in the bus, so heavy shopping does not have to be carried.

Scheduled Dates: **11 October, 25 October, 8 November, 22 November, 6 December**

For more information, please contact Rebecca Redman at the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Community Services Department on 9761 1555.

Planning Department News

Cut & Fill Policy Review

Council in June 2016 commenced a review of the Shire's Cut & Fill Town Planning Scheme Policy, with the intent to remove requirements for submission of a pre-landscaping plan and payment of a landscaping bond.

Following public consultation, Council at its meeting on 25 August 2016 adopted a modified policy with revised requirements including instead the submission of a post-landscaping plan and a reduced earthworks bond.

A copy of the new Cut & Fill Policy is available on the Shire's website www.bridgetown.wa.gov.au or by contacting Scott Donaldson, Manager Planning on 9761 1555 or via sdonaldson@bridgetown.wa.gov.au.

New Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance Policy

Council in April 2016 adopted a new draft Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance Policy to guide the Shire and landowners in assessing the cultural heritage significance of places within the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, to coincide with the review of the Shire's Municipal Heritage Inventory. Following public consultation, Council at its meeting on 25 August 2016 adopted the draft Policy incorporating minor modifications suggested by the State Heritage Office.

The two objectives of the Policy are to provide a clear framework for the accountable, consistent and comparable assessment of cultural heritage significance for individual places and heritage areas within the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes; and to provide improved certainty to landowners and community members about the formal practice involved in heritage identification and management within the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes.

The Policy includes consideration of the four levels of significance to warrant inclusion on the Shire's Local Heritage List and/or formal adoption of a heritage area, plus three levels of contribution that individual places may give to an identified heritage area.

A copy of the new Assessment of Cultural Heritage Places is available on the Shire's website www.bridgetown.wa.gov.au or by contacting Scott Donaldson, Manager Planning on 9761 1555 or via sdonaldson@bridgetown.wa.gov.au.

BRIDGETOWN-GREENBUSHES VISITOR CENTRE

Are you always the last to know?!

Would you like to know what kinds of things are going on in Bridgetown from week to week?

Each Wednesday afternoon the Visitor Centre publishes 'What's On in Bridgetown' and distributes it far and wide (via email). Copies are also printed and kept at the Visitor Centre, Leisure Centre, Library and Shire front counter for anyone who would like to pick one up.

If you would like to receive the 'What's On' email, please come into the Visitor Centre and provide your name and email address, or alternatively send an email with your details to visitors@bridgetown.wa.gov.au asking to be put on the What's On distribution list.

If you have an event coming up that is open to both residents **and visitors** and you would like to see it published in the 'What's On', you can send it to us using the email address above. As long as we receive it by Tuesday, and provided we have the space to include it, it will be on there in glorious colour the next day.

We really don't want anyone to miss out on anything, so here's your chance to read all about it!

The Saga of Bridgetown's Geese

In September a considerable amount of discussion occurred in the community about the status of the geese that frequent the River Park, Blackwood River and surrounds. This discussion was triggered by the Shire making enquiries about the ownership of the geese and how the geese were managed.

The Shire initiated these discussions after receiving some complaints and comments from members of the public. Without going into detail of how many and in what form, a summary of the concerns/complaints raised about the geese were:

- Owners of animals or pets have a responsibility to keep their animals under control, usually within their own property boundaries – why has the Shire allowed the owners of the geese to ignore this requirement or responsibility? Comparisons were made to the keeping of dogs, cats, horses, etc.
- Concerns about geese biting people – usually children
- Environmental damage caused by geese feeding on plants on the banks of the river and effect on water quality of the adjacent river

The first issue the Shire had to address when determining how to respond to the people that raised these issues was – “who owns the geese”?

Discussions with the owner of Ford House confirmed that whilst technically she isn't the owner, she does care for the geese and has a keen interest in them. One option was for the Shire to simply declare the geese as being wild and therefore no different to wild ducks, birds, etc. However in discussion with the owner of Ford House she was reluctant for the geese to be declared as wild as this would mean she

would potentially have no say in their future management.

After those discussions the Shire conducted a risk assessment on the geese to determine the extent of risk and whether any identifiable risks can be managed. A number of potential risks were identified and were assessed against consequences of health, financial impact, service interruption, compliance, reputation, property and environment.

The risk assessment was based on visual inspections and the extent of public feedback and complaints received over the approximately 25 years the geese have been in the park and surrounds.

The overall risk was assessed as **low** therefore the Shire will **not** be taking any action in requesting controls on the geese or removal of the geese from the park and other public areas.

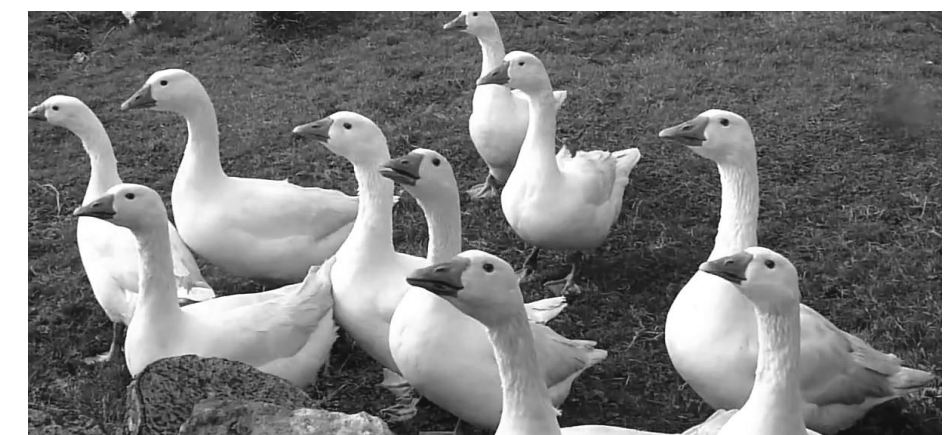
As with any risk assessment it will be subject to regular review and if in future it is determined that the risk has changed (increased) alternative actions may be recommended as a consequence.

The Shire recognises that the issue generated an outpouring of comments in support of the geese and that many of those

comments were critical of the Shire for making this an issue. However the reality is that some people took the time to raise concerns or complaints and they have an expectation that the Shire will look into their concerns. This doesn't always mean that the eventual action taken by the Shire will be to a complainant's satisfaction, but at least the complainants will know that their issues or concerns have been appropriately investigated. Any member of the public who takes the time to express a view or lodge a complaint would have that expectation.

Also many of the comments made to the Shire were critical of the Shire wanting to dispose of the geese. Disposal of the geese was never the intention, instead it was an attempt by the Shire to determine how the geese are currently managed and to determine if it was necessary to review that form of management.

People can continue to enjoy the presence of the geese in the park albeit the Shire acknowledges that not everyone is necessarily a fan of the geese. However the issues of concern raised by some members of the public have been appropriately investigated and an informed decision has been made, taking into account risks and consequence.



Welcoming new faces at the Shire



Emma Pickering started working as the Bridgetown Leisure Centre Manager on 4 October. Emma is newly arrived in Bridgetown and brings a unique skill set to the role. Emma is an accomplished professional with a diverse management background and extensive experience in managing the daily operations of new and existing programs, developing innovative teams, as well as program development and implementation leading to operational growth. Emma has an extensive background in marketing, public relations

and sales and has operated a dance studio in Mandurah, training students aged between 4 and 18 years to participate in productions such as the Mandurah Dance Festival and Make a Wish Foundation for over 10 years. Please pop in and say hello to Emma at the Leisure Centre if you are passing by!



The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes has also welcomed Rebecca Redman to the role of Community Services Administration Officer. Rebecca has previously worked in motor sport administration and has moved from Perth's southern suburbs to enjoy a tree-change in Bridgetown.

The Shire bids farewell to Julie Pike who has done a fantastic job in the role for the past five years and is relocating to the coast for a sea-change.

Time to Start Thinking About the Bushfire Season

Having an emergency kit is an important step to prepare and protect your household for an emergency such as a bushfire.

Keep your Emergency Survival Kit in a storage container in a location that is easy to get to and where the whole family knows about.

Things to include in your kit are:

- Portable battery-operated AM/FM radio
- Waterproof torch
- Spare batteries
- First aid kit with manual
- Candles with waterproof matches
- Clothing and Woollen blankets
- Phone and charger
- Water
- Money
- Toiletries
- Scans of Important Documents
- Copies of important photographs
- Photographs of valuable household items
- Emergency contact numbers

And don't forget to prepare for your pets as well. Make sure your pet is wearing an identification tag. If you're leaving, take a leash, basket, medication, food and a familiar toy for your animal. It will help reduce stress.

For more information:

- Visit the DFES website at www.dfes.wa.gov.au
- Contact DFES Community Engagement on 9395 9816
- Visit the Red Cross website at www.redcross.org.au/prepare.aspx



New Meth Helpline provides free 24/7 support

- Increased support for users, family and friends impacted by meth use
- Professional counsellors to refer people for treatment and support
- For meth help call 1800 874 878 or visit <http://drugaware.com.au>

The Liberal National Government has launched a dedicated, free Meth Helpline to expand the fight against methamphetamine use in Western Australia.

Mental Health Minister Andrea Mitchell said the important service was another initiative of the \$14.9 million Western Australian Meth Strategy announced in this year's State Budget.

"I urge people with meth-related issues to call the Meth Helpline and talk with the professional counsellors about the treatment and support services available to them," Ms Mitchell said.

"The Mental Health Commission has allocated \$300,000 over two years for this dedicated helpline to provide telephone counselling, information and referral services for anyone concerned about their own, or another person's, meth use."

The Minister said she had been listening to desperate stories of parents and others at public forums across the State in recent months, asking where to get help and information.

"Now I can simply say 'call the helpline' and know that the start of something potentially life-changing is just one phone call away for people," she said.

"It's important to remember that it helps to get help.

"No matter what the circumstances, helpline counsellors will be there to listen and provide help and support."

Helpline counsellors are professional and non-judgemental and will work with people who are concerned about their own meth use or that of someone else.

Parents, families and friends are encouraged to get support through the helpline.

Helpline counsellors can also link parents and other family members to a network of trained parent volunteers who have experienced their own child's alcohol or drug use.

The Meth Helpline also provides support via email and the live chat online messaging service.

The Western Australian Meth Strategy also includes funding for 60 dedicated meth withdrawal and rehabilitation beds, a specialist meth clinic, placement of specialist nursing resources in hospital emergency departments and expanded school drug education.

- From the office of the Hon Andrea Mitchell, MLA, Minister for Mental Health; Child Protection

'Christmas in the Park'



The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes invites you and your family to attend

'Christmas in the Park'

Friday 16 December
Memorial Park
4pm to 6.30pm

Santa
Food Stalls
Jubilee Singers
Coconut Shy
Bouncy Castle & Slide
Firies Foam
and
A Giant Slip 'n' Slide!!

Bring your bathers, towel & dry clothes!

Stallholders wishing to set up a stall are required to complete a Stallholders Form which is available from the Shire office. Local not for profit organisations interested in running food stalls during the evening are encouraged. All forms need to be returned prior to the close of business on Tuesday 6 December.

If you have any queries please contact Tania Lockley on 9761 1555. Please note times have been bought forward after community feedback.

We hope to enjoy your company at this year's festive season celebration!

Restricted Burning Time is in effect 1 Nov to 14 Dec 2016

The Restricted Burning period will commence 1 November 2016. From this date up to 14 December, any property owner or occupier of land wanting to burn a fire at their property (including garden refuse and rubbish) will need to obtain a Fire Permit from their Fire Control Officer. A Permit is required for all cooking and camping fires during the restricted burning period. Gas barbeques can still be used during the restricted and prohibited burning period.

Fire restrictions can start earlier and finish later than the dates indicated dependant on conditions. Check with your Fire Control Officer or the Shire Office for any variation to the fire restriction dates. Fire Control Officers for each area are listed in the Fire Break Order received with your land rates or available on the Shire website, www.bridgetown.wa.gov.au.

No Permits will be issued for burning on Public Holidays (or, within the Bridgetown townsite, on weekends) during the Restricted Burning Periods.

Any queries should be directed to the Ranger Services on 9761 1411 or 0428 911 847.