

Bridgetown Leisure Centre

Shire of
Bridgetown-Greenbushes



	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
9.15	Hatha Yoga 60 minutes				
9.30	FIT50s Aqua-Fit 45 minutes				
10.30	LIVING LONGER LIVING STRONGER COTA GYM 60 minutes		FIT50s GENTLE YOGA 60 minutes		LIVING LONGER LIVING STRONGER COTA GYM 60 minutes
11.15		FIT50s PILATES 45 minutes		FIT50s PILATES 45 minutes	
11.45	FIT50s FITNESS CIRCUIT 60 minutes		LIVING LONGER LIVING STRONGER COTA GYM 60 minutes		FIT50s FITNESS CIRCUIT 60 minutes
1:00			FIT50s FITNESS CIRCUIT 60 minutes		
4:00		KIDFIT CIRCUIT *Commences 19 th Feb* 45 minutes			
5.00		TEENFIT GYM *Commences 19 th Feb* 60 minutes			
5.15			FIT50s Aqua-Fit 45 minutes		
5.30	LES MILLS BODY PUMP 60 minutes		LES MILLS BODY PUMP 60 minutes		

Memberships start from
\$20.84 per month and
include:

- ✓ 24 hour gym access
- ✓ No additional joining fees
- ✓ New gym membership options available!

Important information during a Fire Emergency

During a fire emergency all residents and landowners are encouraged to listen to ABC radio as it is the official emergency broadcast station.

Local AM frequencies are 588, 684 and 1044.



Visit: www.areyouready.wa.gov.au

INSIGHT

Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire Newsletter

February/March 2019

Warren Blackwood Stock Route officially opened

L-R: Terry Redman MLA, Nannup Shire President Cr Tony Dean, Shire President Cr Tony Pratico, Cr John Nicholas, Manjimup Shire President Cr Paul Omodei and Darren West MLC



The Warren Blackwood Stock Route, a trail of great historic and regional significance, was officially opened on 5 February 2019. Six years has gone into the planning and execution of this regional project, and the opening was both an important milestone and a signifier of the collaborative work of the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and other State bodies, that has brought the trail from conception to reality.

The aim of the Warren Blackwood Stock Route was to create a regional tourist attraction based on the original stock droving routes used by the

first farming families of the region. The 320km trail traverses three shire districts and is located mainly on back roads managed by each of those local government authorities and the Department of Biosecurity, Conservation and Attractions. There are eight camp sites dotted along the length of the trail.

Stock routes are living history. They offer an interpretive learning experience for trail users and a unique opportunity to experience physical activity within its historical context. There are a number of communities dotted along the trails that are

Continued page 15 ➡

President's Word

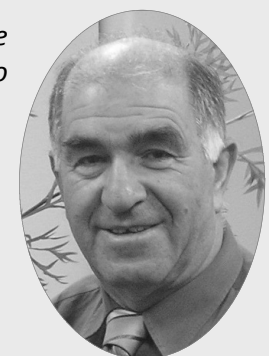
I would personally like to extend a special thank you to all those who gave their time and energy to assist with fighting the fires in our region over the last few weeks. Your selfless commitment to ensuring the safety of the community is sincerely appreciated.

The last few weeks have also seen interviews conducted for the positions on the Local Tourism Organisation (LTO) Board. I extend my appreciation to everyone who applied for a position and congratulate those appointed.

An article on page 10 of this edition of the Insight outlines the review of the Visitor Centres services. Community members will be invited to offer their contributions once the community consultation period commences. A newsletter will be distributed to all households outlining more details in the next few weeks encouraging you to be part of a 'community brainstorm'. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details of when this will occur.

The Shire's Roadwise Advisory Committee will be holding it's annual 'Blessing of the Roads' prior to the Easter break at Memorial Park on Wednesday 10 April at 9.15am.

Community members are welcome to attend.



Cr Tony Pratico,
Shire President



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Restricted Burning Time - Commences 15 March 2019

The Restricted Burning period will come into effect from 15 March (subject to weather conditions). From this date up to midnight on 26 April 2019, any property owner or occupier of land wanting to have a fire at their property (including for garden refuse and rubbish) will need to obtain a Fire Permit from their Fire Control Officer. Bridgetown townsite permits are issued by Shire Rangers, Monday to Friday. A Permit is required for all cooking and camping fires during the Restricted Burning period. Check with your Fire Control Officer for any variation to fire restriction dates. Fire Control Officers for each area are available on the Shire website, www.bridgetown.wa.gov.au.

No Permits will be issued for burning on Public Holidays during the Restricted Burning period. Any queries should be directed to Ranger Services on 9761 0800 or 0428 911 847.

Community Bus available for hire

The Shire's Community Bus 'Miss Rosie' is available for hire by community groups, businesses and individuals for journeys around the south-west and beyond. The bus seats 20 including the driver.

The driver must hold a minimum current LR driver's licence – however an F-endorsed licence is required if the driver is transporting school children or receiving a reward for driving.

Bus hire fees:

- Booking fee (Includes administration and cleaning) \$50

Hire fees (per km driven)

- Community groups \$1.30/km
- Private Groups/Individuals/Businesses \$1.70/km
- A \$300 bond applies to all hires.

To book 'Miss Rosie' or find out more, call 9761 0800



The end of an Era

Just shy of a total of 33 years of service to the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Glen Norris has decided to hang her mouse and keyboard a second time around to pursue a life of well deserved rest, reading and travelling with husband Mark.

Glen originally commenced employment with the Shire in January of 1984, eventually becoming Senior Administration Officer and later Executive Assistant, and first retired in November of 2008. However, not quite ready for permanent retirement, Glen returned to the Shire in a part time position as Senior Administration Officer in January 2010 and, at the beginning of February this year, we bid her a second and final farewell.

In Glen's many years with the Shire, she has seen twelve Shire Presidents, five CEO's, over one hundred elected members and hundreds of staff. In addition, Glen has also served many years on the board of the Cemeteries & Crematoria Association of Western Australia, most recently as its President, and on both the Yornup Hall Committee and the Roadwise Committee. Glen will still remain in her voluntary role as Emergency Recovery Co-Ordinator as part of the Shires Local Emergency Management Committee.

Glen has been a highly valued member of staff. Her professionalism, dedication, knowledge and commitment will be missed by all. We wish her and Mark all the best for the future.

← from front cover

now reconnected, as they once were, by stock routes. There is a strong cultural heritage associated with the Southern Stock routes that needed to be recorded and maintained before all direct knowledge of them is lost over the next decade.

To develop and record the cultural aspect of stock droving in the south west, funding was successfully secured by the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes to undertake a collection of oral histories. An oral historian was commissioned to record the histories of several of the prominent regional farming families who had participated in stock droving. Three families from the Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes, two families from the Shire of Manjimup and one family from the Shire of Nannup were nominated by relevant Shires to be involved in this project and have agreed to participate.

The trail's development has been a primary focus of the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils, with the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes electing to take the lead agency role in this project. The project was identified in the Warren Blackwood Regional Trails Master Plan and has linkages to aspirational bridle trails in the Shires of Augusta-Margaret River, Busselton, Plantagenet, Cranbrook, Boyup Brook, Denmark and Collie.

The Shire would like to extend sincere acknowledgement and appreciation to the funding bodies that supported the project: South West Development Commission, Lotterywest, and the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries. This is a historically and regionally significant trail that will serve both locals and visitors to the South West for decades to come. We would also like to thank the farmers who were involved in the project: Tom Wheatley, Tom Muir, Anthony Egerton-Warburton, Doddy Davies, David Mottram and David Dunnet and their families.



L-R: Tom Muir, Doddy Davies, Terry Redman MLA, Anthony Egerton-Warburton, Darren West MLC, Tom Wheatley, Nannup Shire President Cr Tony Dean, David Mottram, Shire President Cr Tony Pratico, Manjimup Shire President Cr Paul Omodei



L-R: Tim Glynn CEO, Manjimup CEO Andrew Campbell, Shire President Cr Tony Pratico, Cliff Winfield, Manager Community Development Megan Richards, Cr John Nicholas, Bob Longmore, Nannup Shire President Cr Tony Dean, Nannup CEO David Taylor, Manjimup Shire President Cr Paul Omodei

Find us on Facebook

[https://](https://www.facebook.com/bridgetowngreenbushesshire/)

www.facebook.com/bridgetowngreenbushesshire/



Between the Lines *at your library*



Free Online Tutor Support for Library Members

Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Library members have free access to Studiosity which provides online, after-hours, one-to-one help with homework and study questions.

Studiosity has two services to help students:

- **Writing Feedback** - Students can upload any writing draft and receive feedback that helps them think about and improve their own work.

- **Connect Live** - Students can ask a question or draw a diagram and get immediate help via live chat with a qualified Subject Specialist, across all core subjects.

Studiosity is a service that can help you with questions after school, on weekends and during holidays. Their friendly, qualified subject specialists are perfect for when you need that extra support.

Accessing Studiosity is easy – just log in at www.studiosity.com/access - all you need is your Library member number. If you are not a Library member you can easily join by visiting the Bridgetown Library.

You can also download the Studiosity mobile app, available in the App Store and Google Play Store, and link it to your account for extra features like saving a question for later, snapping a quick photo of a problem or using voice-to-text technology.

Happy studying!



Greenbushes to Bridgetown Shopping Bus Run

The Community Bus "Miss Rosie" shopping run service continues to operate on alternative Tuesdays from Greenbushes to Bridgetown and return. This service is available at a cost of \$8 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 and departs Bridgetown for her return journey from outside Blackwood Butchers at 11.30am. Parcels may be deposited in the bus anytime between arrival and departure, so heavy shopping does not have to be carried.

Scheduled Dates: **19 March, 2 April, 16 April, 30 April, 14 May, 28 May**

For more information please contact Rebecca Redman at the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Community Services Department on 9761 0800.

SHIRE BYTES

Want to know about upcoming Shire events, special meetings, fire and weather alerts and more?

Email your details to Tania Lockley at flockley@bridgetown.wa.gov.au

Happy New Year, Bridgetown 150 Years Young



The final celebration of Bridgetown's sesquicentenary was held on New Year's Eve. Andrew Winton entertained a large, enthusiastic crowd at Memorial Park before the screening of the Australian film *Breath*. Both the live entertainment and film were well received with many friends and family gathered to celebrate the end of 2018 with a picnic and great company.

The Bridgetown Art Trail was officially launched at the New Year's Eve event in Memorial Park. Shire Deputy President, Councillor Alan Wilson and community member and project driver, Trudy Clothier each addressed the gathered crowd to officially open the Trail.

The Trail itself spans a 4km stretch of Bridgetown, from River Park all the way to the Big Peg at the Repertory Theatre and along Steere Street to the Bridgetown Library. The Art Trail features a variety of murals and sculptures by local artists. Art Trail booklets, featuring descriptions, snapshot photos of each work and a map to indicate their Art Trail locations - depict the Trail for walkers to traverse and enjoy each artwork. Art Trail booklets are available from the Visitor Centre, Shire administration and around town.



Greenbushes Mine access road approved in principle

The current and future expansion of the Talison Lithium mine at Greenbushes will increase the production of spodumene ore and mineral concentrate from the mine which in turn will result in an increase in traffic movements to and from the mine.

Talison Lithium has been investigating options for construction of a new access road between South Western Highway and the mine site as an alternative to using Stanifer Street through Greenbushes townsite as its principal access route. Investigations and studies undertaken by Talison Lithium led to a route being identified for a new mine access road commencing near the Greenbushes Sportsground and ending opposite the mine entrance on Maranup Ford Road. Although still a conceptual design the new road would intersect with South Western Highway near the existing northern town entrance with a new slip lane being constructed on the highway to tie into the existing passing lane further north. The existing access road into Greenbushes Sportsground would be removed with a new entrance road into the Sportsground to run off the mine access road. From the sportsground to Maranup Ford Road the new mine access road would generally follow the alignment of an existing old haul road with minor deviations/modifications to take account of geometric safety concerns and higher value vegetation. At the Maranup Ford Road end the mine access road would intersect at the mine entrance.

The proposed mine access road would be a public road and

would not be restricted to mine trucks/vehicles only. The road would be created as a public road reserve under the care and control of the Shire, noting however that construction of the road would be fully funded by Talison Lithium Pty Ltd.

Upon receiving the concept plan for the road the Shire undertook a community consultation exercise including providing an opportunity for persons to make submissions either for or against the proposal. A total of 22 submissions were received.

A number of the submissions opposed to the proposal suggest alternatives to the road such as reopening the rail line or constructing a road on another alignment. Council was limited in its considerations of these alternative suggestions and could only approve or reject the road proposal. If rejecting the proposal it didn't have any power to direct Talison to investigate alternative road options such as on cleared land or to reject the proposal so that the use of rail can occur.

Council has been kept informed on the status of the current investigations into the reopening of the rail line noting these investigations are continuing with the estimated costs being determined for the reopening of the rail line to Picton and improving capacity on some sections north of Picton. A business case for funding of these works and for the cost of using the rail line is currently being developed however no guarantees have been provided by either government or industry that the rail line will be reopened from Greenbushes. Even if the rail

line from Greenbushes was to be reopened there would still be a need to transport the product from the mine site to the rail head noting that it is unlikely that a rail spur would be constructed to the mine. Therefore the need for a transport route to bypass the townsite would still be a consideration.

In considering the concept plans and the submissions received from the community consultation Council arrived at the following decision:

That Council:

1. Notes the submissions received on the mine access road proposal.
2. Notes that in addition to its approval the approval of relevant Government agencies will be required for this proposal to proceed.
3. Approve in principle the proposed route of the mine access road noting that detailed road design plans will be required for local government approval.
4. Notes the potential reopening of the rail line between Greenbushes and Picton, with further upgrades to the line between Picton and the Bunbury Port, Picton and Kemerton complete with in-loading and out-loading facilities at Greenbushes, Bunbury Port, Kemerton and Kwinana, is currently being investigated by State Government agencies, the rail corridor lessee and industry, including Talison Lithium. In-principle Council supports the reopening of the rail from Greenbushes northwards but acknowledges the need for a full business case to be developed to the satisfaction of all parties for this to be progressed, and that the community impacts of the reopening of the line be evaluated against the potential benefits of mitigating some of the future truck movements.



Road Safety Message from the Roadwise Advisory Committee

Schools are Back

The new school year has commenced and drivers are urged to be very aware of children, especially some of our very young children, crossing streets on their way to and from school. Several children will have new scooters, skateboards or bikes that they received as Christmas gifts and they may still be learning how to ride these safely.

Drivers are reminded to slow down to 40kms during the "school times" in the nominated School Zones. School times are 7.30–9.00am and 2.30–4.00pm.

Blessing of the Roads For Zero Deaths This Easter

The Shire's Roadwise Committee will again host it's annual 'Blessing of the Roads Ceremony' in the lead-up to Easter and encourages residents from our community to attend.

The *Blessing of the Roads* campaign is aligned with *Towards Zero*, WA's road safety strategy 2008 – 2020, which has a long term vision of a road transport system where crashes resulting in death or serious injury are virtually eliminated. Achieving this vision requires shared responsibility where we all have a role to play in working towards a safe system.

The date this year will be Wednesday, 10 April commencing at 9.15am at the music area in Memorial Park.

Roadwise – caring for the safety of our community

AUSTRALIA DAY – JOURNEY TO ZERO WASTE

The Shire has received positive feedback in its efforts to create a low waste event at the Australia Day celebrations earlier in January this year, so much so that we will **not** be providing any plastic at all for our 2020 event. Community members will need to supply their own plates, cups and cutlery. A wash up station will be provided so you can rinse your dishes prior to leaving.

CONSIDERATION OF NEW VENUE FOR 2020 – OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

Council is considering holding the 2020 Australia Day event at Bridgetown Memorial Park, utilising the beautiful treed and lawned area, and terraced limestone seating (some tables and chairs will still be made available). Comments from community members on the proposed venue change would be appreciated, please email Tania Lockley at tlockley@bridgetown.wa.gov.au by Friday 12 April 2019.



Is Your Dog or Cat Registered?

Residents are reminded that dog and cat registrations are due annually on 1 November. There are 3 payment categories – "1 Year"; "3 Years" or "Lifetime" with concessions being available for eligible Pensioners.

It would be appreciated if pet owners could advise the Shire office of when their registered dog or cat is deceased to enable the Shire's records to be updated.

For further information on registering your dog or cat please speak to one of our helpful Customer Services Officers on 9761 0800.

Guide Dogs Can Go Anywhere



guidedogswa.com.au

Guide dogs perform an essential service to visually impaired individuals in our community. A public understanding of the role of guide dogs helps the visually impaired to be able to go about their day independently.

Where can Guide Dogs go? Guide Dog Handlers and their Guide Dogs are legally allowed to enter public places including:

- shops and supermarkets, cafes and restaurants
- pubs and clubs
- cinemas and theatres
- hotels, motels and other accommodation
- medical/dental practices and hospitals (except in an operating theatre)
- all forms of public transport, including taxis, buses, trains, trams and airplanes

Guide Dog access rights are governed and protected by a number of federal Acts and Standards.

How should I interact with a Guide Dog? When a Guide Dog is in harness, whether it is walking, sitting or sleeping, it should not be patted, fed or distracted. It takes a lot of training and concentration for a person with vision loss to work safely with a Guide Dog.

The Guide Dog must not be the centre of attention. A well-intentioned pat can undo months of intensive training.

- Please don't grab onto the person or the dogs' harness. Always ask if they need assistance.
- When you provide guiding assistance, please walk on the person's opposite side to the Guide Dog.
- Please ensure your pet dog is on a leash or under control when near a Guide Dog. When approaching, it may be helpful to let the person know that you have a dog.
- If you see a loose Guide Dog, please contact the local council.
- According to government legislation, you must allow a Guide Dog to go anywhere that the person working with it can go.

For more information on Guide Dogs, visit guidedogswa.com.au

IS YOUR PROPERTY

BUSHFIRE READY?

Fire breaks must be maintained and fuel hazard reduction must be continued until the end of the fire season on 26 April 2019. Conduct regular checks and work to ensure that your property remains compliant and safe. Copies of the 2018-2019 Firebreak Order are available at Shire administration.

YOU CAN'T OUTRUN IT, OR OUTLAST IT.
SO TAKE 5 MINUTES TO OUTSMART IT.

ARE YOU
BUSHFIRE
READY?

5. Requests the CEO to liaise with the proponent to ensure that the following areas of concern are addressed in the detailed design plans:

- Pedestrian crossings near the Greenbushes Sportsground and any walk trail crossing points;
- All intersection design and treatments;
- The need for fencing in proximity to Greenbushes Pool; and
- Noise attenuation design especially in proximity to Greenbushes Sportsground.

Once detailed plans are completed these will be presented to Council at which time the matter of further community consultation will be determined.

A full copy of the report to Council can be viewed by reading the minutes of the January 2018 meeting. This can be viewed on the Shire's website at: <https://www.bridgetown.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/council-meeting-31-january-2019/86>



Resignation of Cr Chris Wallace

In January Cr Chris Wallace tendered his resignation as a councillor for the South Ward. Chris had been a councillor since the ordinary Council elections held in October 2017. Chris cited work and family commitments for his decision to resign. Shire President Cr Tony Pratico thanked Chris for his contributions to the community during his period as councillor and wished him and his family all the best in the future.

The next ordinary council elections will be held in October 2019. Rather than holding an extraordinary election to fill the vacancy in the South Ward Council sought and received the approval of the Western Australian Electoral Commissioner to defer filling the vacancy until October. Council believes that good governance can continue to occur with 8 councillors rather than the normal number of 9.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP)

An opportunity to share your views with the Shire

The Shire of Bridgetown's DAIP 2013-2016 is currently under review and we are undertaking the community consultation component of the review process by survey.

The survey is open to all interested residents and visitors to the Shire.

You can access the survey at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LPN3H37>

The purpose of reviewing the DAIP is two-fold;

- To assess how successful the strategies outlined in the previous DAIP have been at overcoming barriers and achieving positive outcomes for people with disability in the community.
- To understand and identify any new or existing barriers within the community for people with disability.

Your feedback is a vital element in improving access and inclusion within the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes.

The Disability Services Act 1993 (amended 2004) requires local government authorities to review their DAIPs at least every five years. Local government authorities must undertake community consultation, in accordance with the regulations, whenever reviewing or amending a DAIP.

Development of Dump Point in Bridgetown

Council's 2018/19 budget contains a small allocation for obtaining the necessary approvals to allow for the installation of a dump point in Bridgetown. A dump point is a facility where wastewater can be disposed of from a caravan or recreational vehicle via a sewer connection or into a holding tank. Note the State Department of Health doesn't allow dump points to be connected to an onsite wastewater system such as a septic tank/leach drain system.

Council has selected the railway car park as the appropriate site for a dump point and currently cost estimates and approvals are being obtained for the sewer connection option as the holding tank option would require regular pump outs and transport of the wastewater to the liquid waste facility at the Bridgetown Waste Disposal Site.

Assuming the necessary approvals can be obtained the intent is for Council to include funds in its 2019/20 budget for installation of the dump point.

Bridgetown-Greenbushes Community Landcare

Annual Report 2017-18 Summary

Community Landcare helps people manage and improve their land. In doing this the Community Landcare Officer (CLO) has run workshops, done property visits, and supplied information for best practice landcare in the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire (the Shire). The CLO has worked with town and rural residents, community groups, the Shire, and people planning to purchase property in the area.

The CLO is funded two days a week by the Shire and until 30 June had an extra day per week funded by South West Catchments Council (SWCC). The Blackwood Environment Society (BES) manages the position at no cost to the Shire so funds provided are directed to on-ground outcomes. This maximises services for residents. Where possible, funding is spent locally.

HELPING HANDS BUSHCARERS GROUP AND SHIRE RESERVES

The Helping Hands Bushcarers are volunteers who work with the CLO preserving bush Reserves within the Shire. Activities over the past year, have included monitoring and control of environmental weeds, general rubbish collection, site preparation and infill planting, walk trail maintenance, native seed collection, and flora surveys. Activities totalled **400 hours** valued at **\$14,000** over 32 events, with **167.5 hours** of support from the CLO and BES. Successful grant applications saw 13 artificial nesting hollows for the endangered Black Cockatoo installed in four reserves.

Shire Reserves benefitting from works were: Maslin Reserve, Layman St Reserve, Sunnyside Reserve, Tweed Rd Flora Reserve, Winnejup Reserve,

Dorothy Scott Bushland, Eight Mile Well Reserve and Dreyfus St Reserve.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

The CLO has run a range of workshops, field days, demonstrations and displays including:

- National Tree Day planting and bat box installation at Layman St Reserve with Donnybrook High School Sustainability students.
- A "Nest Boxes for Wildlife" workshop which installed artificial nesting hollows for pardalotes, possums, bats and cockatoos in Layman St Reserve.
- Displays for the Bridgetown Show and the Balingup Small Farm Field Day.
- Two "Hunting for Mini-beasts" and "Mini-beast Night Stalks" at the Blackwood River Park in Bridgetown and the Greenbushes Pool.
- Two "Developing a Weed Management Plan" and "Successful Revegetation" workshops for the Virtual Innovation Hub project.
- A "Noongars Knew Best" workshop on traditional and historical burning practices with a practical demonstration near the Bushfire Control Centre.
- An "Enhancing Local Landscapes" end-of-project roadshow for all landholders involved.
- A public Information session for the State NRM Office Community Stewardship grants.

WATER MONITORING

Monthly monitoring was carried out at the Blackwood River Park, Somme Creek and Geegeelup Brook for the Blackwood Basin Group and the Shire Council. The CLO provides a free water testing service for local landholders to monitor the water

quality of their dams, creeks, springs or bores.

COMMUNITY LANDCARE SUPPORT

- **Residents** using the CLO benefited from: site visits which identified native plants and weeds; assistance to develop practical and achievable property plans, including for weed management and revegetation; and advice, information, resources, and equipment to help achieve the best outcomes for people to manage their land.
- A "Landcare Updates" news email is sent to residents registered for it. The Community Landcare Facebook page is updated regularly, and events promoted through the Bridgetown Community Page.
- **The Shire** contracted the CLO to carry out works in the River Road Subdivision Conservation Zone. Local contractors were engaged for weed control, ripping, and rabbit warren destruction prior to planting (winter 2018). This site was used as a trial release area for the K5 rabbit calicivirus (December 2017).
- **Grants** were received for: accredited training for three volunteers in "Safely Operate and Maintain Chainsaws", and "Cut Materials with a Hand-held Chainsaw" for woody weed control; and to run "Hunting for Mini-beasts" and the "Mini-beast Night Stalk" at the Greenbushes Pool (2017 Christmas school holidays).

SWCC STRATEGIC GROUNDWORKS 'ENHANCING LOCAL LANDSCAPES' PROJECT

The Australian Government's National Landcare "Enhancing Local Landscapes" project funded through SWC was

discussions occurring in the community about the future of the visitor centre. The role that the visitor centre plays is valued however with the changing circumstances brought about by the creation of the SFBVTA and the declining financial performance in recent years Council believes it is timely to review how local visitor services

are delivered including from where they are delivered.

Whilst the Shire is currently going through an organizational restructure that has some impacts on staffing at the visitor centre the issues concerning future management models and location of the visitor centre are being dealt with as a separate project.

In the next month or so more specific information will be distributed to the community about these issues for the purpose of seeking feedback.

Please keep an eye on your mail box, on the Shire's Facebook page and on the Shire's notice boards for more information.



FREE
Online Food Safety Training

Now available through the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes website.

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes takes food hygiene within our shire very seriously. All food businesses have obligations and the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes is assisting food businesses to meet these obligations by providing free access to this exciting new training tool.

There is a high demand for training within the food sector. This training will assist food handlers in developing the required skills and knowledge to ensure food is handled in a safe and hygienic manner.

The program is easy to follow, includes an entertaining presentation as well as interactive quizzes and the ability to view Chinese text and captions. A training acknowledgement form can be printed upon completion and be kept as a part of your staff records.

Visit www.bridgetown.imalert.com.au to conduct the training now.

Visitor Centre

COACH AND TRAIN TIMES

South West Coachlines departs Bridgetown at 6.55am
Arrives Bunbury at 8.30am via SWIT, arrives Perth at 11.45am via domestic and international aviation terminals.
Departs Perth at 1.30pm via domestic and international aviation terminals and arrives in Bridgetown at 4.20pm.
NOTE: They do not operate on weekends or public holidays.

TRANSWA Coach departs Bridgetown every day at 12.47pm, arrives in Bunbury at 2.00pm and connects with the Australind train at 2.45pm, arriving in Perth at 5.12pm.
Departs Bridgetown on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 9.43am, arrives at East Perth terminal at 1.55pm via Mandurah and Cockburn Central.
Departs Bridgetown on Saturday at 9.00am, arrives at East Perth Terminal at 1.55pm via Boyup Brook, Collie, Bunbury and Mandurah.

TRANSWA Australind Train departs Perth every day at 9.30am, arriving in Bunbury at 11.55am connecting with the 12.00pm coach to Bridgetown, arriving at 1.17pm.
Coach departs East Perth Terminal on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 12.15pm, arriving in Bridgetown at 4.32pm.
Coach departs East Perth Terminal on Sunday at 1.30pm via Cockburn Central, Mandurah, Bunbury, Collie and Boyup Brook, arriving in Bridgetown at 6.30pm.

Please contact the Visitor Centre for more information or to book.

Review of Visitor Centre Services

In January Council, after receiving a considerable amount of feedback from members of the public, resolved to discontinue any further investigation into the possibility of co-locating visitor information services at the Bridgetown Library. No work on this proposal had commenced and it had been the intention to conduct a full community consultation program once conceptual plans had been prepared showing how the two services would co-exist in the same building. Nevertheless Council accepted the views expressed by many people that moving visitor information to the library was not an appropriate model.

Notwithstanding this decision Council still proposes to review its model for delivering visitor information services and will shortly be commencing a comprehensive community engagement program to discuss some options for different management models and locations (including the existing visitor centre building) for delivering visitor information services.

Council's reasons for reviewing how local visitor information services are two-fold. One is to ensure that the functions and services of the visitor centre don't conflict with those of the recently established 'Southern Forests Blackwood Valley Tourism Association' (SFBVTA). The other reason is to arrest the declining financial performance of the visitor centre that is funded by the Shire and thus the ratepayer.

The SFBVTA is a brand-new industry led tourism organisation which has been progressed by the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils (WBAC) to represent the Shires of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Manjimup and Nannup. The SFBVTA will

promote visitation to the Warren Blackwood Region instead of having individual towns, visitor centres and tourist businesses competing against each other in a limited market.

The role of visitor centres will change with the establishment of the SFBVTA. No longer will they have members and sell accommodation and other tourism packages, therefore there will be a considerable loss of income for them. The visitor centres will have to modify their role to that of directly servicing visitors at the local level.

The establishment of the SFBVTA is being completely funded by the three participating local governments. The local governments will continue to be a major financial contributor to the operations of the SFBVTA, contributing 61.4% of the SFBVTA's income in Year 2 (2019/20), and 48.4% in Year 3. By Year 5 (2022/23) this is expected to be reduced 23% as the LTO generates income from membership and website booking commissions.

A 5-year budget has been developed for the SFBVTA model. This budget shows that the three local governments will contribute the following sums over the 5 years:

- Shire of Manjimup \$293,468
- Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes \$195,705
- Shire of Nannup \$122,317

The financial contributions by the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes for the first 5 years of the SFBVTA are:

2018 – 2019 - \$30,800
2019 – 2020 - \$45,320
2020 – 2021 - \$52,819

2021 – 2022 - \$39,852
2022 – 2023 - \$26,914

Council has determined that its annual contribution towards the SFBVTA needs to be funded by equivalent savings from its visitor centre budget. Council is also cognisant that the financial performance of the visitor centre has been declining in recent years, as illustrated by the following statistics:

- For the 5 years from 2013/14 to 2017/18 operating income at the centre decreased by 33% (from \$98,543 in 2013/14 to \$65,723 in 2017/18) whilst for the same period operating expenditure increased by 3.3% (\$190,375 to \$196,665).
- Accordingly the cash subsidy (operating expenditure less operating revenue) for the running of the centre increased by 42.5% between 2013/14 and 2017/18. This was an increase in the operating loss/subsidy from \$91,543 in 2013/14 to an operating loss/subsidy of \$130,942 in 2017/18.
- The significant increases in operating loss/subsidy at the centre is due to significant reductions in revenue with examples over those 5 years being: a reduction of 40% in stock sales, a reduction of 49% in accommodation commissions, a reduction of 33% in bus ticket commissions, a reduction of 37% in display fees and a reduction of 12% in membership fees. These will decrease further when the LTO commences operation due to further reduction (eradication) of ability to generate accommodation commissions and membership fees under the regional LTO model.

Council feels that it is important to convey this information in order to put some context into

- completed in June. **The project exceeded the projected outcomes.** The outcomes were:
- 25 cockatoo nest boxes and 5 micro-bat roosting boxes installed on private and public lands;
 - 2.7ha tunnel erosion control through strategic revegetation plantings completed;
 - Seven community workshops and events delivered;
 - 6.67kms fencing erected to protect 46.54ha of remnant and riparian vegetation;
 - 31,180 native seedlings planted and tree guarded plus 2.22kg native seed direct seeded over 15ha on eight properties and three Shire Reserves, to create wildlife corridors, re-establish creekline vegetation, treat tunnel erosion, and enhance degraded bushland;
 - One extra day per week

funding for the CLO position to provide project support; and

- Survey, map and seed collect from isolated remnants of the River Banksia (*Banksia seminuda*).

The in-kind contributions of the BES, CLO, landholders, volunteers, Green Army teams, Shire staff and others who provided **6,270 hours** was valued at **\$209,994** which more than matched the **\$175,000 project grant**.

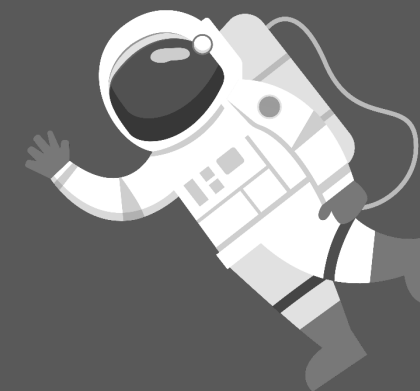
OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Collected native plant seed for the Community Landcare Nursery and landholders projects.
- Worked closely with Emergency Services to achieve best practice outcomes from fire mitigation and management activities in

- Shire bush Reserves.
- Picked up and distributed a load of donated natural timber hollow logs to interested local people.
 - Gained a Federal Grant on behalf of a landholder for a Quagamirup Brook restoration project.
 - Arranged with BES to donate over \$1000 of seedlings for infill planting on Shire Reserves.
 - Helped with information and plants for the Ashbil Community Garden Bush Tucker Display Garden.
 - Promoted the Grumpy Old Men's Shed who made the artificial nest boxes for our projects.

In these times of reduced State and Federal funding the Shire is to be commended for their support of the CLO.

You wouldn't go to space without a space suit.



Free condom trial at Bridgetown Library set to commence.

Protect yourself. Using condoms prevents sexually transmitted illnesses and unwanted pregnancy.

Free condoms will be supplied in partnership with Blackwood Youth Action and will be available for a six month trial period.

Please be responsible with the use of the condoms. If this does not occur, the free supply will cease. It's up to you!



Celebration

of
Volunteers
2019

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday 23 May, 6pm



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
Making a world of difference
20-26 May 2019

Shire Organisational Restructure

The Shire has recently prepared a new Workforce Plan which incorporated a comprehensive review of its organizational structure.

The Workforce Plan identifies and reports on the internal capacity to meet current and future needs of the goals and objectives of the Shire and the community, both in capacity and capability.

It identifies the gaps or surplus in human, assets or financial resources and identifies strategies to ensure there are the right people in the right place and at the right time to deliver on objectives and realistic expectations. The Workforce Plan is to address gaps between current and future workforce capability, identify areas of skill or capacity shortage, and outline strategies to address them.

It is healthy for an organisation to review its structure. The demands and expectations imposed on the organisation by the community, the Council, other tiers of government and business are fluid and it is important that the organisational structure can cater for these. Maintaining the same organisational structure just because that is how we have always been is not a reason to continue with that structure. Private enterprise reviews its organisational structure on a regular basis and a local government needs to do the same to ensure that its services and infrastructure are delivered efficiently and effectively.

As part of the organisational restructure 8 (either full-time or part-time) existing positions are to be discontinued and 9 new positions created. Four of the discontinued positions are either currently vacant or the

incumbent is leaving the organisation. One of the other positions is a fixed term contract position expiring in October 2019.

Some of the main proposals in the restructure are:

- Amalgamation of Works & Services and Planning & Environmental Services to form new 'Development & Infrastructure' Division.
- Creation of a new 'Executive Manager Development & Infrastructure' position.
- Current 'Executive Manager Works & Services' position to be discontinued.
- A new 'Technical Officer Infrastructure & Safety' position to be established.
- The 'General Operations Coordinator' position has been discontinued.
- A new part-time Works Admin Officer position will be created.
- A new position of 'Coordinator Building Assets' is to be created and will be responsible for managing building maintenance and building operations.
- The Principal Building Surveyor will focus on building control. A 2nd Building Surveyor is only required for partial leave coverage.
- The current 'Planning Administration Officer' position is to be discontinued.
- A new 'Planning Officer' position is to be created to enable the Manager Planning to take on more strategic work.
- A new position of 'Customer Service Officer – Development & Infrastructure' will be created. This will be a 'job-share' position to ensure that coverage occurs during all opening hours.
- The Leisure Centre Manager and Library Coordinator positions (both currently vacant) are to be discontinued.

- The Visitor Centre Manager position is also to be discontinued.
- A new 'Manager Recreation Services' position is to be created with the position being responsible for management of the leisure centre, library and visitor centre.
- Current 'Senior Admin Officer' position to be replaced by a new 'Administration Officer – Governance' position.
- A new 'Emergency Services Coordinator' position is to be created. This position will coordinate and report on fire mitigation works as well as carry out on-ground mitigation activities and other bush fire related tasks.
- The current Fire Protection Officer position is to be discontinued.
- There will be a small increase in hours for Youth Officer(s).

One major outcome of the restructure is to improve our levels of customer service across the organisation so that customers can be better serviced, particularly when enquiring about development and works related issues. The creation of new positions in planning and building maintenance will free up other staff in the organisation to deliver planning and building services to customers. There will also be an increased focus on bush fire mitigation, including forward planning.

The restructure is being phased in over 2 financial years. Using current figures, once the restructure is completed the total employee costs for the organisation from 30 June 2018 to 30 June 2021 will increase by \$86,164.

In its current budget Council allocated the sum of \$90,000 for costs associated with

implementation of the Workforce Plan. This means that the annual increases to employee costs in 2019/20 and 2020/21 under the Workforce Plan can be funded without a significant need to increase rate revenue beyond projections in the Long Term Financial Plan.

Recruitment for the newly created position of 'Executive Manager Development & Infrastructure' has commenced and advertising for other new positions will occur over the next 18 months.

Comment sought on removal of two parking bays in Steere Street

In 2017 Council's Access & Inclusion Committee requested a safety assessment of Steere Street near the railway crossing be carried out, with particular attention to be paid to addressing the poor sight distances for vehicles exiting the civic centre car park (Civic Lane) and for vehicles trying to turn right from Stewart Street (railway station road) into Steere Street.

The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee are a group of community members and service providers that represent the interests of seniors and people with disability and advise Council on issues relating to access and inclusion. In this case access and inclusion means the removal or reduction of barriers (physical and attitudinal) to participation in the activities and functions of the community.

A safety assessment was done and this confirmed that the sight distances at both intersections were well below the minimum standards. Steere Street is a road under the control of Main Roads Western Australia and discussions with that agency determined that sight line improvements could be made by removing one parking bay on each side of the street. These bays are:

- On the north side - the single parking bay located between the two entrances to the civic centre car park; and
- On the south side - the easternmost parking bay in front of the newsagency – being the parking bay closest to the intersection with Stewart Street.

If removed both parking bays would be replaced by brick paving to form a widened footpath. Removal of the parking bays will allow vehicles exiting the two intersections to ease out to improve visibility without entering the lanes of traffic.

Council recognises that parking in the Bridgetown town centre can be limited and the removal of two on-street parking bays will further reduce parking opportunities. There is also the impact on nearby commercial businesses from the loss of the two parking bays.

There is no intention to remove any of the Queensland box trees on the footpath adjacent to the civic centre car park. This was a consideration at one point in time but with the proposed removal of the parking bay on the northern side of Steere Street visibility can be improved without the need to remove any trees.

Council is seeking community feedback on the proposal to remove the two parking bays. Written comments can be provided to the Shire by the closing date of 4.30pm, **Monday 15 April 2019**.



Karl Sullivan and Sam Wardell-Johnson

Our new faces ...

If you have been into the Shire Administration Office recently, then you might have noticed Emily and Katie's absence and two fresh new faces at the front counter. Karl Sullivan and Sam Wardell-Johnson are the latest additions to the Corporate Services team and are ready to serve the community with all their Shire related enquiries.

As trained Licensing Agents, Karl and Sam can help you with all you Department of Transport questions as well as animal registrations, Civic Centre hall hire, Community Bus hire and anything else Shire related.