

INSIGHT



Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire Newsletter

February/March 2016

Another Successful Australia Day Celebration

The weather was mild and Councillors and their partners, along with some Shire staff members were kept busy preparing and cooking breakfast for around 360 members of our community at the annual Shire hosted Australia Day "Aussie Breakfast".

The connection between Australia Day and Local Government is an important link in our community's celebration and this is demonstrated by the presentation each year of the Australia Day Awards. For 2016 the winners were:

- The Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award – John Jones
- The Active Citizenship Award for a person under 25 years – Max Curry
- The Active Citizenship Award for a community group or event – Bridgetown St John Ambulance Sub Centre Volunteers

All category winners were very worthy recipients of their awards.

This year President John Nicholas conducted an Australian Citizenship ceremony and formally welcomed Helena and George Wall as "Australians".

The Greenbushes Ratepayers & Residents Association hosted their first Australia Day Breakfast in Greenbushes this year with an excellent turnout making this inaugural event very successful.



Pictured left - Craig Sisson, Chairman of St John Ambulance; Max Curry, President John Nicholas, Helena Wall, George Wall and John Jones

Pictured right - Award winners – St John Ambulance volunteers, John Jones (back row), Jessica Jones (back row), President John Nicholas (back row) and Max Curry (front row)



Presidents Comment

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and had time to catch up with family and friends during the festive break. I am looking forward to a positive and productive 2016 commencing with the Australia Day celebrations and the opening of the new swimming pool complex which will now form part of the Bridgetown Leisure Centre. Although its opening will be later than originally planned this part of the Leisure Centre will be a facility that the community can be proud of. It will allow all community members to take part in aquatic activities and enjoy the picnic type environment which has been developed. I would like to add my personal congratulations to John Jones, Max Curry and the St John Ambulance Bridgetown Sub-Centre on being awarded their respective Australia Day Awards. Each was a very worthy recipient.

One of the prime issues that will be considered this year will be your feedback on the Shire's Strategic Community Plan. This document details our visions and aspirations for the future and how we will achieve those goals. I hope you had your say as it is important that we get a good representative sample of community opinion to guide us in our deliberations.

In light of the recent devastation caused by the Waroona/Yarloop fire I urge all residents to be vigilant and pro-active in all aspects related fire hazards. It is important that we all understand the bushfire warning system,

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John Nicholas JP,
Shire President



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2016 - 2017 Community Grants & Service Agreement Applications

Application packs for Community Grants and Service Agreements for the 2016 - 2017 financial year have been available since early December and can be collected from the Shire Office (Customer Service Front Counter) and the Shire's website (www.bridgetown.wa.gov.au).

It should be noted that while applications close on 26 February 2016, the grant funds will not be available to the successful applicants until later in the year, once the 2016 - 2017 budget has been adopted by Council. This will most likely occur at the July or August Council Meeting.

All applicants will be advised in writing of the outcome of their application.

Applicants MUST have submitted grant acquittals for any previous service agreements and community grants received.

Bushfires Are Your Legal Documents Safe?

The recent tragic bushfires in the Waroona and Harvey Shires have again highlighted the importance of keeping your legal documents and other important personal documents and/or photos in a safe place. This cannot always be possible as the safe place you use may come under threat from fire. One way of covering this is to scan these documents/photos onto a USB thumb drive.

The Shire's Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) has been able to purchase 100 "Bushfire Emergency USBs" and would like to give these to eligible 'Age Pensioners' or 'Seniors' card holders to enable important and legal documents to be scanned to them so that in the event that personal documents are lost due to fire, a back-up copy would be available. The USBs look like and are the same size as a credit card so will fit easily into a wallet. The cards come pre-loaded with the following documents:

- DFES – Bushfire Homeowners Survival Manual
- DFES – Prepare, Act, Survive Booklet
- Red Cross – Emergency RediPlan Household Preparedness for Seniors

Representatives from the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) have volunteered to scan legal and personal documents and photographs onto the USBs for eligible residents. The contact for this is Glen Norris at the Shire office (Monday or Tuesday).

Although the current stock of USBs is being made available to our senior residents the LEMC committee would be interested to hear from other residents who would be prepared to purchase the USB cards. It is anticipated the cost per card would be less than \$10. Interested residents are invited to email Glen Norris – gnorris@bridgetown.wa.gov.au.

ARCHIE & LANDSCAPE art exhibitions

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, in conjunction with Bridgetown Pottery Restaurant and Blackwood Valley Arts Alliance, invites Artists to exhibit works in this years Bridgetown Archie & Landscape Exhibitions.

The Archie Exhibition - 6pm Thursday 2 June to 27 June 2016

The Landscape Exhibition - 6pm Friday 1 July to 1 August 2016

Entry forms are available from the Shire Office (Customer Service Front Counter) and the Shire's website www.bridgetown.wa.gov.au

Please contact Julie Pike at the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Community Services Department on 9761 1555 or Pip Mills at Bridgetown Pottery Restaurant on 9761 1038 for more information.

Road Numbering, Naming and Emergency Response

This Could Save Your Life or Your Home

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, in consultation with Landgate, has now completed the review and allocation of urban street numbering for Bridgetown, Greenbushes and Hester townsites. Through this review many road naming anomalies have been discovered, triggering rationalisation of some road names to improve road legibility and allow allocation of appropriate urban and rural street numbers.

Landowners and tenants are requested to clearly display their street numbers at the front of their house, shop or factory, and to remove any lot or incorrect street numbers. Additionally, the rollout of Rural Street Numbers (RSNs) was completed some time ago with new RSN tags allocated for new properties as needed. Rural Landowners can still display their lot number and/or family name on the front fence if they wish to but need to start using the RSN address.

Chris Sousa, Community Emergency Services Manager encourages *"landowners in town and built up areas to clearly display their street numbers and rural landowners to start using their RSN when requesting emergency assistance. Finding the right property, even within town, can be difficult given the terrain and dense vegetation, and sometimes dwellings are set well back from the road. Responding quickly to a house fire or other emergency is critical to save a house or more importantly to save a life."*

Chris Mott, Senior Ambulance Officer says *"In an emergency when minutes and seconds can literally mean the difference between life and death, finding the right address is crucial. Landowners should display their house or shop numbers clearly to help the Ambulance or other emergency service find their property. Using reflective or illuminated numbers is also helpful. Too often valuable time is lost trying to find the right address, and taking five or ten minutes to put up a number could actually save the life of a loved one."*

Landowners are encouraged to contact Shire staff with regard to any road naming issues, and urban or rural street numbering matters, with all queries to Michelle Donaldson, Planning Administration Officer on 9761 1555 or mdonaldson@bridgetown.wa.gov.au.

Presidents Comment continued

and if you believe you may be in danger act immediately to stay safe.

Your understanding of the risks and what is appropriate action will not only benefit you personally but will also assist those who are fighting the fires.

Is Your Dog Microchipped?

The Dog Act 1976 provides that on and after **1 November 2015**, the owner of a dog that has reached three months of age must ensure that the dog is microchipped.



How do I get my dog microchipped?

A veterinarian (vet), veterinarian nurse or a person with the relevant qualifications from a registered training provider is able to implant a microchip in your dog.

To find out how you can arrange for your dog to be microchipped, contact your regular vet or local government to obtain information on where you can take your dog to be microchipped.

My dog is old and unwell, is it still required to be microchipped?

A dog is exempt from the microchipping requirement if a vet issues a certificate stating that the implantation of a microchip in the dog may adversely affect the health and welfare of the dog. Such a certificate cannot apply in respect of a dog that is under three months of age.

When will I be required to prove my dog is microchipped?

When you re-register your dog, you will be required to provide proof that the dog has been microchipped by providing the local government with the microchip number.

How will microchipping my dog assist me?

If you lose your microchipped dog, it will make it easier for you both to be reunited. The dog's microchip can be scanned by the ranger or a vet, which will reveal the owner's contact details.

If your dog is impounded and it is discovered that it has not been microchipped, you may be liable for a fine. So it is in your best interests to ensure your dog is microchipped.

What happens if I do not get my dog microchipped?

A person who fails to ensure their dog is microchipped on and after **1 November 2015** is liable for a fine of up to \$5,000.



'Most Outstanding Regional Instructor'

~ Tina Christensen ~

Tina Christensen was recently recognised as the Living Longer Living Stronger **Most Outstanding Instructor** in a regional area. The announcement came from Council of the Ageing, Active Ageing Manager, Phil Airey during Seniors Week on Monday 9th November 2015.

Tina a qualified Health and Fitness Instructor at the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Recreation Centre is passionate about the fitness industry and is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of individuals. Tina has been supervising the Tuesday and Friday LLS group since becoming an Accredited Living Longer Living Stronger Instructor in 2011.

Phil Airey from COTA WA will be presenting Tina with the award in person at a special award ceremony to be held at the Bridgetown Regional Library on Friday 26th February 2016. In announcing the award Phil stated "Tina has won the Excellence Award for Regional Instructor for 2015 due to great ability and dedication. Tina has built a loyal following amongst her participants from embracing core values she feels form the central part of Living Longer Living Stronger – Fitness, Fun and Friendship.

"Tina brings all of her skills as a Group Fitness and accredited fitness instructor with additional commitment and pursuit of further training and advice from Exercise Physiologists when required. Tina's skills have seen her mentor a local colleague in Fitness Instructor accreditation, developing their skills through the client base of Living Longer Living Stronger, to promote local professional understanding and demonstrate the sensitivities of working with senior clients. Tina's warmth and generosity of spirit are noted by her participants, and she has arranged monthly café sessions for informal catch ups, contacts and supports participants on holiday, and supplements Centre facilities with personal equipment.



"During a change to the facility, her participants viewed a smaller work out area with some trepidation – but Tina was able to promote a positive attitude and acceptance of change, and she also took initiative to promote accessible print sizes in promotional materials for her participants. Tina represents the best of the compassionate attitude of our Instructors and their positive impact on their communities. This is a feather in the cap for the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes"!



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: **16 February, 1 March, 15 March, 29 March, 12 April**

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

Accessing Your Community

Age Friendly Communities Plan

A thorough review of Council's Age Friendly Communities Plan has been underway throughout October, November and December. The review of the plan has included a community wide online and hard copy survey, one on one meetings with stakeholders and 2 community forums, one in Bridgetown and one in Greenbushes.

The results of the community consultation and review have been compiled and used to inform the next Age Friendly Community Plan. The draft plan is expected to be available for public comment in March and will be available to the community for comment from the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes website, Bridgetown Library, Shire Administration Office and the Bridgetown Leisure Centre.

Once adopted, this plan will guide Council's decision making over the next 5 years. If you are interested in the issues facing people over 55 within the community, or you would like to comment on the draft plan when it is released for public comment but are unsure how to go about it, please contact Megan Richards on 9761 1555.

Council Sponsored Morning Tea

Council has an active interest in ensuring all members of the community have equal opportunity to be involved in every aspect of life in the Shire. Council understands that inclusivity means providing "universal access". Universal access is a term that relates to more than accessing a facility, it also relates to accessing services, information and being part of the community.

Council's focus is on ensuring that residents and visitors within all towns and settlements of the Shire are welcomed and included in events, facilities, services and civic life. Council's vision and commitment is reflected in the Strategic Community Plan, Age Friendly Communities Plan, and the Youth Strategy and Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. Council's strategic plans can be viewed on the Shire website www.bridgetown.wa.gov.au.

Council also invests in access and inclusion by supporting the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee which advises Council on the issues affecting residents and the implementation of relevant community strategies and activities. This Committee is a direct link between residents and Council in relation to access and inclusion matters and is made up of service agency representatives and community members.

The Access and Inclusion Committee is hosting the biannual community morning tea for residents over the age of 55. The morning tea is a great way to stay connected and share information with Councillors, Shire officers and the Access and Inclusion Committee members. The Committee invite all Shire residents (55 years and over or 45 years and over for people with disability) to the Emporium for morning tea. This event is sponsored by Council. This biannual event offers residents the opportunity to meet and familiarize themselves with members of the Committee, Officers and Councillors. It is hoped that this will facilitate an ongoing community conversation. The Free Morning Tea will be held at the Emporium Bistro on 24th February between 10am and 11.30am. The next Morning Tea will be held in Greenbushes in September 2016.

For more information please call Megan or Julie at Community Services on 9761 1555.

Contact Group

The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee have started a Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes email Contact Group for people over 60. The Contact Group facilitates two way communications between members of the community and the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes. This Group ensures community members stay in touch and up to date with what is happening in the Shire. Members of the Contact Group will receive information on up coming events and current issues. Please contact Megan Richards on 9761 1555 to have your name and email included in the contact group.

For further inquiries please call Megan Richards or Julie Pike on 9761 1555.



VOLLES CORNER



Over the next year the Shire will be shining a light on the many volunteers who work tirelessly for the betterment of the community. The Shire would also like to express its gratitude to the many people volunteering through "Vollies Corner". Each edition of the Insight will feature one of the community's numerous volunteers.

since.

Around the same time Harold also became a member of Club B. Harold also continues his regular participation in Club B.

Harold has a talent for assisting clubs through the rigors of incorporation and has been involved with many clubs in their formation and incorporation. The clubs Harold has assisted with their incorporation include Bridgetown Community Gardens and Blackwood Valley Arts Alliance (BVAA). Harold has also redrafted the constitution for Meals on Wheels and the Historical Society.

Importantly, Harold has been the Lions representative on the Swimming Pool Committee which recently wound up having raised approximately \$220,000 for the pool redevelopment. Harold also volunteers as a committee member on the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee and the Participate Mate steering group, a subcommittee of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Harold said that volunteering was an important part of his life as it provides purpose, satisfaction, social networking opportunities, and a way to give back to the community. Studies also suggest that volunteering helps you stay physically healthy. The physical

activity involved in certain forms of volunteering—such as environmental projects in parks, nature reserves, or beaches—can be good for your health at any age, but it's especially beneficial in older adults. Studies have found that those who volunteer have a lower mortality rate than those who do not, even when considering factors like the health of the participants. Volunteering has also been shown to lessen symptoms of chronic pain or heart disease.

Harold's most important achievement through volunteering has been identifying the need and successfully accomplishing the provision of a memorial to the 3 children and 1 adult who perished in one of the worst electrical accidents in WA's history in Bridgetown in 1954. There is a stone and plaque memorial close to the actual site of the accident, on the corner of Gifford Road and Forrest Street, and a memorial chair outside IGA to commemorate this unfortunate and tragic accident.

If you are involved in a not-for-profit community group that is seeking volunteers and would like to outline the opportunities your organisation can offer a volunteer or if you are interested in volunteering and are unsure where to begin please call Megan on 9761 1555.

This edition of the Insight's Vollies Corner features Harold Thomas. Harold "escaped" the metro area and moved to Bridgetown in 2010. He spent a large amount of time in country areas during his working life and realised, once he retired, that the country was where he belonged.

Harold worked with Telstra for 37 years. He began as a telegraph messenger and worked his way up the corporate ladder to spend the last 15 years of his time with Telstra as a Human Resources Consultant.

Harold was retrenched at 53 and spent 3 years working as a handyman before he "fell" into his second career in property settlement and conveyancing. Harold's second career lasted another 10 years before he retired in his late 60's.

Shortly after moving to Bridgetown Harold decided to donate to the Lions Club at a fundraising drive. By the time he had finished donating he was signed up to attend their next meeting and has continued his involvement and membership with Lions Club ever

RURAL IN REACH PROGRAM

- Free video conferencing and phone counselling support
- Health and well-being community information sessions and workshops
- Privacy and confidentiality

To find out more call 1800 998 399 (Women's Health & Family Services) or 1800 673 350 (South West Women's Health and Information Service). www.ruralinreach.whfs.org.au

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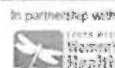
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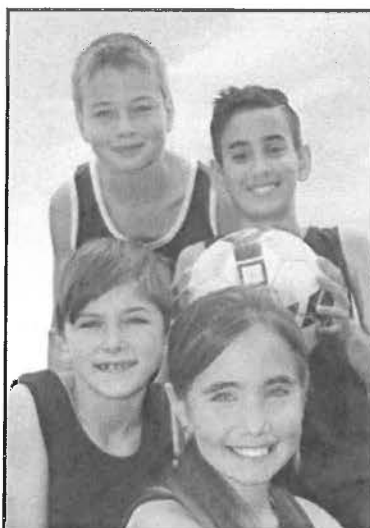
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KS KIDSPORT

GIVING OUR CHILDREN A FAIR GO

Sport is not a luxury. It should be a fun part of every child's day and is a vital part of a well-rounded and long, healthy life. Active children are more likely to mature into physically-active adults and participation gives your child a better chance of doing well at school, improves coordination and balance, helps them sleep better, improves social and life skills and creates a greater sense of well-being.

KidSport is a partnership between the Department of Sport and Recreation and local governments. It's a voucher scheme which gives eligible youth aged 5-18 years up to \$200 a year per child towards club fees. So far, more than 36,000 Western Australians are KidSport kids!

Sign-up for KidSport or if you're a club who wants to welcome new members, talk to your local government or get further details from www.dsr.wa.gov.au/kidsport



dsr.wa.gov.au/kidsport

Bridgetown Swimming Pool Fundraising

At its December 2015 Meeting the Council formally accepted the proceeds of the swimming pool community fundraising initiative estimated to be approximately \$220,000. The final amount is still being determined pending receipt of all proceeds from final fundraising activities.

Council expressed its gratitude and congratulated all members of the swimming pool fundraising working group for their outstanding efforts and the generosity of the community in supporting those efforts.

Council also expressed its gratitude and appreciation to all individuals, businesses and community groups that donated to the swimming pool community fundraising initiative, with special acknowledgment of the donation made by Talison Lithium of \$100,000 plus their matched funding of \$ to \$ up to an additional \$100,000".

In considering the additional elements to be purchased with the extra funds, Council endorsed that as a first stage, an amount of \$96,600 be expended on the following items:

Gazebo Roof Insulation (3)	\$ 3,930
Volleyball Pit	\$ 1,180
Additional Water Feature	\$ 9,000
Additional Shade Sale (Leisure Pool)	\$ 6,945
Additional Shade Sale (Volleyball Area)	\$ 8,000
Electronic Door Modifications (2)	\$16,520
Water Wheelchair	\$ 2,500
Additional Landscape & Fencing & Gazebo Furniture	\$26,710
Additional Software & Point of Sale Elements	\$ 6,815
Furniture for Volleyball Items	\$ 5,000
Minor Items TBC	\$10,000

Council subsequently resolved to place the balance of the funds raised in a reserve account for the specific purpose of funding further new initiatives at the pool.

Improvements to Health and Fitness Room at Recreation Centre

In 2015 the gym at the Recreation Centre was relocated from the mezzanine level to the former meeting room/crèche on the ground floor. Work to provide for 24 hour access to the gym is proceeding. The freeing up of the upstairs space formerly occupied by the gym allowed for the creation of a dedicated health and fitness room and will in turn free up court space for other sporting activities.

Since these changes were implemented, Councillors and staff received feedback from users regarding the poor condition of the mezzanine level. Subsequently Council, at its December meeting endorsed an upgrade of the Health and Fitness Room which will see the room painted and a new semi-sprung floor installed.

Painting has recently been completed and a contractor has been engaged for the floor work. That work is scheduled to occur and be completed in February.

Availability of Water from Greenbushes Standpipe

Normally the only water standpipe in the Shire district available for public use is in Rose Street, Bridgetown. A standpipe controller is installed on this facility and allows 24 hour access subject to the user having an appropriate swipe card.

Late last year requests were received from residents in Greenbushes and surrounds for Council to consider ways to open the Greenbushes Standpipe for public use in order to eliminate people having to travel to Bridgetown and back to fill water tanks.

Council agreed to trial the opening of the Greenbushes Standpipe from Saturday 9 January 2016 to Saturday 27 February 2016 during the hours of 10am and 12pm.

The CEO has been authorised to continue the trial after 27 February if demand is evident.

Some conditions have been imposed on the use of the standpipe, including:

- Charge is \$3.40 per kilolitre (1,000 litres). Minimum payment is \$1.70 (equivalent of 500 litres).
- All payments to be made in cash.
- Only a limited amount of change is carried by the Shire staff member manning the standpipe therefore only notes of \$20.00 and under will be accepted.
- In the event that there is a queue of customers, the filling of tanks will be limited to a maximum 1,000 litres at a time. If a customer has a tank in excess of that size and other customers are waiting they can fill 1,000 litres and wait until other customers have been served before continuing to fill the tank.
- Due to Water Corporation conditions only water tanks used for the carrying of domestic water supplies are able to be filled. Tanks used for spraying or other purposes involving the use of chemicals are not permitted to be filled as there is a risk of contamination to subsequent users of the standpipe.



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.inialert.com.au to conduct the training now.

Proposed New Policy Dealing with Mobile and Itinerant Traders – Opportunity to Comment

In 2015 two separate applications were received for the establishment of semi-permanent mobile trading at locations in Bridgetown. Council rejected both applications on the grounds that the uses were incompatible with the areas proposed for the trading.

After dealing with those applications Council determined the need for a policy to guide any future considerations of such proposals, in particular noting the rising prevalence of food vans and other mobile trading.

A draft policy has been prepared and has been released for public comment.

The main difference between an "Itinerant Trader" and a "Mobile Trader" is that a Mobile Trader can solicit business from a parked location whereas an Itinerant Trader has to be stopped by customers (an ice cream van is an Itinerant Trader whereas a vehicle parked selling fresh flowers or produce is a mobile Trader).

Some of the features of the draft policy are:

- Definitions for Mobile Traders, Itinerant Traders and a public place.
- A time restriction of 4 hours for mobile traders to trade from any one spot on any one day. This would preclude applications for semi-permanent proposals such as the two applications considered in 2015.
- Minimum standards for mobile trading locations (access, safety, car parking, rubbish collection, etc.)
- A presumption that approvals for mobile trading will not be given to sites within the townsite boundaries of Bridgetown.
- Sites within Greenbushes Townsite can be considered however specific attention will be paid to the competition with nearby established commercial premises
- Notwithstanding the site criteria, based on experience of the impacts of previous/similar activities (within or outside the District), the fragile nature of certain areas, and/or the dominant public use of certain areas, certain activities may not be supported in certain areas and, a restriction on certain activities in certain areas may be prescribed.
- Restrictions on the locations that itinerant traders can trade in and a reminder that the use of amplified music is to comply with the relevant noise regulations.

Note the proposed policy isn't applicable to the placement of tables and chairs (alfresco dining) on footpaths outside of eating establishments, the sale of retail merchandise from the footpath outside a retail premises or the trading of stalls and other commercial activities within a thoroughfare during a festival or event. In those situations Council's 'Commercial Activities on Thoroughfares' Policy is applicable.

The Policy is also not applicable to the use of the community stall in Hampton Street, Bridgetown or the operation of community health mobile clinics and other government/community like uses.

A copy of the proposed policy can be viewed on the Shire website at <http://www.bridgetown.wa.gov.au/your-community/public-comment>.

Written submissions on the proposed policy are invited by a closing date of Thursday 31 March 2016.

SHIRE BYTES

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

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

A message from Council's Sustainability Advisory Committee

Each edition of the *Insight Newsletter* contains an article from Council's Sustainability Advisory Committee. For this edition the Committee asked one of its members, Cr Doreen Mackman to provide an article on a recent visit to her property by the Community Landcare officer, Cheryl Hamence.

What a satisfying afternoon I had today. I've planted lots of plants, shrubs and trees over the last couple of years, planning to create a revegetated corridor link (I hope!) for any wildlife that wanted to make use of my two acre property. Then I realised I didn't even remember all of what it was I'd planted, or how big it grew or even if it really was a specimen native to the Bridgetown area.

But I valued the increasing numbers of birds visiting my patch, and I started seeing a bobtail or two. I was telling this to fellow-volunteers at the Shire's community nursery, including a visitor, Cheryl. To my surprise, she immediately offered to come and walk over my block with me, to help identify some of my 'unknowns' and advise whether I'd under- or over-planted, or whether something was quite in the wrong place because of sun/shade requirements or likely eventual size.

Turns out Cheryl is Bridgetown's Community Landcare Officer - and boy, does she know her stuff, and boy, did I learn a lot - including that I still have patches of perennial native grasses on my place (how lucky am I!). Cheryl explained that 'walking over a property' to assist owners to make the most of their little patch of earth is part of what she does.

I learned that anyone can benefit from Cheryl's enormous experience and knowledge - and this lovely, unassuming person will help you help Nature use your block in the best possible way. She can also regularly test your dam, bore, spring, creek or river water for salinity and pH, so that you can see if there is any seasonal variation and what it can best be used for.

Here's how to contact her by phone or email or in person:

Cheryl Hamence - Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Community Landcare Officer

Phone: 0428 723 111, Email: nrmbridgetown@gmail.com.

Office: Up the ramp at the side of the CWA Building, Hampton Street, Bridgetown.

Work days: Tues-Thurs 8.00-4.00

Survey – Opening Hours of Bridgetown Waste Disposal Site

Council often receives feedback from members of the public that the opening times of the Bridgetown Waste Disposal Site should be amended to better meet the demand from users. Council has therefore resolved to undertake a survey of interested members of the public to determine if any changes to current opening times are required.

Currently the site is open for a total of 26.5 hours each week, consisting of:

Wednesday	7.30am-12.00pm (4.5 hours)
Thursday	7.30am-12.00pm (4.5 hours)
Friday	7.30am-11.00am (3.5 hours)
Saturday	9.00am-4.00pm (7 hours)
Sunday	9.00am-4.00pm (7 hours)

Council has resolved that the survey is predicated on there being no increase to the total current opening hours of 26.5 hours per week. Any extension to this number of opening hours will increase the costs of operating and managing the site and these cost increase would have to be passed on to ratepayers.

The survey can be obtained by any of the following means:

- Online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JLYG22V>
 - Hard copy at the Shire Office
- Hard copy from Gate Attendant at Waste Disposal Site

The closing date for return of surveys is
Thursday 24th March 2016

The Shire's Youth Friendly Communities Plan

A youth friendly community is a community that values, supports, respects, provides for, and actively includes young people. They consider the voices, needs, priorities and rights of young people in the development of public policies, programmes and decisions. The Shire is currently working toward increasing its "Youth Friendliness" by developing and implementing a Youth Friendly Community Plan (YFCP). Once developed, the YFCP will help Council make decisions based on a greater understanding of the interests, needs and challenges of young people within the Shire.

How will it happen?

The aim is to establish and work with either one or several focus groups made up from a broad cross-section of young people living in the Shire. The focus groups will explore what is great about living in the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes and what could be better. The focus groups will also consider the community's assets (including the Bridgetown Skate Park, Greenbushes Skate Park), opportunities, issues and challenges important to young people.

When will it happen?

Starting in early 2016, Shire officers and a community development consultant will begin looking for interested young people and stakeholder groups/organisations to engage with to develop the focus group/s and a greater understanding of the current needs of young people. The focus group/s will determine the frequency, duration and location for each meeting. The focus group/s members will be encouraged to connect and engage with other young people. Together, the focus group/s will identify and prioritise ideas and projects.

This process will also provide the focus group members with an opportunity to learn more about how decision-making works in local government, the competing projects, expenditure and focus areas that must be considered, and the importance of working in partnership with others to assist in the delivery of priority youth projects.

The anticipated outcomes of this process are as follows:

Young people will have –

- Ownership of the Shire's Youth Strategy
- Influenced Council's decision making process
- Increased awareness of the processes of governance and local government
- A sense of understanding and empathy for the needs of others.

And, Council will have –

- Developed a strategy and vision that is representative of the needs and wants of young people
- A set of priority projects to implement based on the participatory decision making process involving our young people
- Created a group of young people experienced in engaging with the Shire in a constructive and pro-active manner.

If you would like to become involved in this process please call Megan on 9761 1555 or come in to the Shire office and ask for Megan to register your interest.

SolarisCare Red Sky Ride

The SolarisCare Red Sky Ride is WA's premier endurance cycling event, focusing on ordinary people doing something extraordinary.

Riders cycle 1000 kms over eight days across the South West of WA, testing the limits of their endurance, and engage in an event that offers unparalleled fellowship during a demanding and gruelling journey. Providing opportunities for participants to build and maintain connections with a diverse network of professionals as well as improve their health and fitness to an elite level.

The Red Sky Riders are people who want to make a difference in the lives of those living with cancer and their loved ones. Participants not only commit to the ride itself, but also to raising significant funds in order to reach fundraising totals. Over the years, participants raised more than \$2.5 Million to help the SolarisCare Cancer Support Centres maintain and increase their operations and delivery of free services to cancer patients and their carers.

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes host an annual morning or afternoon tea for the Red Sky Riders as they pass through our town. This year a group of 19 riders are expected on Saturday 27 February.

For more information on the Solaris Red Sky Ride visit <http://www.redskyride.org.au/home/>

Restricted Burning Time

Comes into effect 15 March 2015 to 26 April 2015

The Restricted Burning period will commence Tuesday, 15 March 2016 (subject to weather conditions).

From this date up to 26 April 2016, 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. 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. Gas barbeques can still be used during the restricted and prohibited burning period. Check with your Fire Control Officer for any variation to fire restriction dates. Fire Control Officers for each area are listed in the Fire Break Order you received with your land rates or 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 periods. Any queries should be directed to Ranger Services on 9761 1555 or 0428 911 847.

Amendment No. 71 for the former Paterson & Co Packing Shed Site

Council in July 2015 resolved to support Amendment No. 71 to Town Planning Scheme No. 3, for the site of the former Paterson & Co Packing Shed at 166 Hampton Street, Bridgetown. The amendment sought to rezone the site from Industrial to Commercial to facilitate potential redevelopment.

The Shire received advice in late December 2015 from the Western Australian Planning Commission that the Minister for Planning had granted final approval for Amendment No. 71 with a notice published recently in the Government Gazette.

Any queries should be directed to Scott Donaldson, Manager Planning, on 9761 1555 or via email sdonaldson@bridgetown.wa.gov.au.

Emergency Services Organisations

Our Shire's Emergency Service organisations – St John Ambulance, SES and Fire Brigades are all manned by volunteers. These 'ordinary' people undertake 'extraordinary' tasks to keep our community safe. During **November & December 2015**, our emergency services attended the following call-outs:

St Johns Ambulance

Total call-outs: 104

Total volunteer hours: 416

SES

Total call-outs: 1

Total volunteer hours: 118

Fire Brigades

Total call-outs: 9

Total volunteer hours: 314 (224 hours spent assisting Donnybrook-Balingup Shire at the Irishtown Fire)

Our emergency service organisations need more volunteers – being a volunteer is a rewarding experience so if you have the time and would like to become one of our 'local heroes', please contact the following for further information:

St John Ambulance

Karyn Connor, Admin Officer

Ph: 9761 1049 Email: sjabridgetown@westnet.com.au

SES

Ann O'Keefe, Manager Bridgetown SES

Ph: 9761 1877 Email: annieok@bigpond.com

Fire Brigades

Chris Sousa, Community Emergency Services Manager

Ph: 9761 0901 or 0428 611 125 Email: csousa@bridgetown.wa.gov.au



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

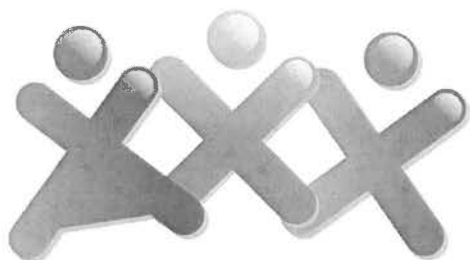
The Shire's Roadwise Committee will again host its annual 'Blessing of the Roads Ceremony' in the lead-up to Easter and encourages residents from our community to attend.

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 Blessing of the Roads campaign pleads with all road users to make this Easter the safest on our roads. Remember to slow down, don't drink and drive, wear seatbelts, ensure children are properly restrained and take breaks to avoid fatigue when travelling.

The ceremony for 2016 will be held on Wednesday, 23 March in Memorial Park, commencing at 10.00am.

Roadwise – caring for the safety of our community



International Volunteer Day

The Shire extends an invitation to our local volunteers,
partners and family to attend a special event to say
THANK YOU!

Memorial Park
Friday 26 February 2016 ~ 5pm to 8pm

Sausage sizzle, local non-alcoholic drinks,
live music and a bouncy castle for the kids!

RSVP is ESSENTIAL!

Please email your attendance to
tlockley@bridgetown.wa.gov.au or phone
Tania on 9761 1555 by no later than Friday 19 February!

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

Between the Lines *at your library*



SHORT JOURNEY INTO THE ART OF BRIDGETOWN ARTIST JANN BARRY

Waking up one morning 18 years ago at 60, Jann thought she might paint. Never having wanted to paint before, she thought this curious, but went out and brought a canvas, some paints and brushes.

Now the whim that started as an interest, turned into an obsession and has become an addiction – she can't stop. She will be painting on site some days.

EXHIBITION FROM FEBRUARY 8 - 26 FEBRUARY 2016 IN BRIDGETOWN REGIONAL LIBRARY



JOIN THE LIBRARY TODAY AND RECEIVE ONLINE HOMEWORK HELP WITH YOUR TUTOR

The library has free online tutoring service for students in years 3 – 12, TAFE and UNI FOUNDATION. It is available from 1.00pm – 10.00pm Sunday to Friday except for national public holidays. Students may contact the online tutors through a link on the library webpage <http://www.bridgetown.wa.gov.au/your-community/library> or by going to www.yourtutor.com.au and click on "Login", find the Bridgetown Library and then simply enter your library card number.

The following subject help is available:

- Research - assignment and project research
- English Skills - grammar, spelling, punctuation, ESL support
- Mathematics - maths fundamentals and advanced math
- Science - general science, physics, chemistry and biology
- Business - economics, business studies, commerce
- Writing - essays, reports, speeches, business letters.
- English - support for English as a second language (ESL) and International English Language Testing system (IELTS)
- Library Skills - database research, online search skills
- Study Skills - time management, note taking, revision
- Job Skills - job application and writing tips, public speaking



RHYME TIME WILL RECOMMENCE ON WEDNESDAY 10 FEB AT 10.00AM

All children up to pre-school age are welcome. The sessions are introduced by the Child Health Nurse and are part of the Better Beginnings program. Parents, babies and toddlers can come along to have lots of fun learning rhymes and songs together. We will be introducing children to the rhythms and patterns of language. This program promotes social, cognitive and motor skills for language and literacy development.



Once in a Decade Opportunity for Landholders to join Blackwood Biosecurity in Controlling Rabbits

...A message from Blackwood Biosecurity Inc.

We have a once in a decade opportunity to make a real impact on rabbit numbers in our Shire. The Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) is expected to release a new and more effective strain of Rabbit calici virus later this year. The new strain (K5) should be available soon after it has been approved for registration by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). Approval was expected in autumn 2016 but has been postponed until later this year (spring 2016), or autumn 2017. The Invasive Animals CRC rabbit scientific committee is confident that Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHDV1 K5) only affects rabbits, is humane, has a wide reach, and will reduce the number of feral rabbits in Australia.

The proposed new strain of RHDV from Korea (RHDV1-K5) has been selected as it appears to overcome the protective effect of the endemic, benign calicivirus strains.

Blackwood Biosecurity Inc has registered to coordinate the release of the new strain in the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes. We would like to inform our community, and call for expressions of interest, during early 2016. We want to roll out an effective, wide-scale release, so we can achieve maximum benefit from this unique opportunity. We will be monitoring rabbit numbers pre-release to gain a measure of the new strain's impact.

The Invasive Animal CRC estimate that rabbits are the most costly pest animal to Australian agriculture, with an annual cost exceeding \$200 million. This estimate is based on

the rabbit population being kept down to 15% of its potential by the current Myxomatosis and calici viruses. Without this, the annual cost is estimated to be over \$2 billion. In addition, rabbits cause extensive impacts to at least 75 native plants and five threatened ecological communities.

Rabbits have colonised about 70% of Australia. One of the key components of this expansion is their reproductive potential. The females reach sexual maturity at about 3-4 months of age, have a short gestation of about 30 days and a litter size of 4 to 8 kits. The female can re-mate 1 hour after birth. With good nutrition, one female can produce 6 to 8 litters per year. This represents a potential population growth of 50 to 60 offspring over one year. With this reproductive potential, it means that even when one short-term treatment type eradicates 90% of the population and is then stopped, the population can recover to pre-treatment levels in one year.

Given the mobility of rabbits, it is highly desirable that a control program involves as many adjoining properties as possible in a coordinated manner to minimise the rate of return from untreated properties.

The potential tools available for an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Rabbit Program include:

- Biological control with RHDV and Myxomatosis
- Warren destruction / harbour removal
- Poisoning with 1080 / pindone
- Fumigation
- Shooting
- Trapping

For our area, we plan to start with a coordinated program in the autumn of 2017. However, in keeping with the IPM principles, we will promote a start this autumn with the most appropriate property-specific additional 'tools', such as poisoning and warren destruction. In addition, a coordinated rabbit population survey before and after the release of the calicivirus will also be undertaken.

The delay in approval of the release of the virus is disappointing, but it provides us with an opportunity to learn more about the strains currently present in our rabbit population. This can be undertaken by conducting serological tests on the blood of shot rabbits.

Please register your interest now by contacting:

Sarah Ekin:
info@blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au
PO Box 954, Bridgetown, WA 6255. Ph: 0477 865545

John Karlsson:
johnkarlsson@bordnet.com.au
For technical information and coordination of this proposal.



Find us on Facebook

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

New Program Les Mills CXWORX COMING SOON!

CXWORX™ exercises core muscles and provides the vital ingredient for a stronger body. A stronger core makes you better at all things you do, from everyday life to your favourite sports – the core muscles are the glue that holds everything together.

All the moves in CXWORX™ have options, so it's challenging but achievable for individual fitness levels and goals. During the 30-minute workout you are guided through correct technique working with resistance tubes and weight plates, as well as body weight exercises like crunches, and hovers. You will also get into some hip, butt and lower back exercises.

What is Living Longer Living Stronger?

Living Longer Living Stronger (LLLS) is a progressive strength training program dedicated to improving the health, wellbeing and independence of people over 50. This program is fully endorsed by the Council on the Ageing and the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Recreation Centre is a Registered LLLS Provider. If you are interested in joining the Living Longer Living Stronger program or would like further information on the program please contact the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Recreation Centre on 9761 2966.



2016 STAMP YOURSELF FIT CHALLENGE

We want to take YOU on a fitness journey. Are you up for the Challenge?

Get into the Centre for a chance to win some great prizes and be your best. Achieving fitness requires dedication, consistency and variety. The Group Fitness Challenge has it all. Apart from the great benefits to your health there are also some fantastic prizes up for grabs.

To enter simply pick up a challenge card at reception from 1 March 2016 and have it stamped by the instructor at the end of each group fitness class. Once you have completed your card return the card with your name and contact number on it to reception to enter the monthly prize draw.

You can enter as many times as you like. The more cards you complete the more chances you have to WIN! For further information please contact the friendly staff at the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Recreation Centre on 9761 2966.

GROUP FITNESS TIMETABLE (Commences 1 st February 2016)						
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8.00am						
9.15am	TUBE 30	<i>Martha Yoga</i>	Kettle Bell Step & Tone			
9.50am						
10.30am						
11.45am						
4.00pm						
5.45pm						