



20 December 2015

## NEWSLETTER 4/15

Hello Everyone

Christmas is almost upon us, so we would like to wish all our members a Happy and Joyous Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

### NEW INITIATIVES

#### FACEBOOK "Visit the Blackwood Valley"

[www.facebook.com/visittheblackwoodvalley](http://www.facebook.com/visittheblackwoodvalley)

Have you visited and "liked" our new Facebook Page yet? Designed to promote our local area to both visitors and locals, it's been up and running since mid-September and we are still attracting new followers. You can post your news directly to our Page, as long as it is news promoting our area. This incorporates a large range of possibilities - events (both big & small), local news, scenic photos, local business sales or specials, etc. Before your Post can go "live", one of our administrators must review it and approve it for publishing. With five fabulous administrators this should not take long. Please feel free to tell all your contacts about this option.

Your local administrators are: Jacqui Broockmann for Boyup Brook, Tanya Beechey for Balingup, Darriel Hodgins for Bridgetown, Angie Cornish for Greenbushes and Louise Stokes for Nannup.

#### Boyup Brook Country Music Festival

We will be holding a raffle at our stall at the Country Music Festival. We would appreciate any donations of produce, services, crafts, accommodation, wines etc. from the Nannup and Balingup areas. Any funds we raise will be directed towards one of our new initiatives in 2016. We are also seeking six people to man the stall from 8am to 2pm – two people per shift. If you are able to assist, please complete the attached roster and return to [info@blackwoodrivervalley.org.au](mailto:info@blackwoodrivervalley.org.au) or phone Jan Retallack on 9761 4803 to discuss.

#### Organic Garden Trail

We have spoken with the organisers of the Margaret River Organic Gardens Trail about possible collaboration with them to produce our own Blackwood River Valley Trail. Gardeners from Nannup and Bridgetown have expressed an interest in this project. If you would like to part of this trail, please **register your interest with us**. We are planning to meet with the MROGT organisers in early 2016 to discuss this opportunity further.

#### Blues at Bridgetown Street Stall

We were thrilled to have approx. \$1500 worth of goods donated for the raffle, mainly from our wonderful Bridgetown and Boyup Brook sponsors. The winner of the raffle was Alan Lloyd of Wilgarup, he celebrated his birthday on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, so was a very happy and appreciative winner.



*Our stall*



*Merle Davis drawing winning ticket*



*Raffle winner, Alan Lloyd*

## ONGOING PROJECTS

### **Rally in the Valley 2016**

We are looking forward to an even better Rally! The Rally will be held during the month of **April** next year, with the format remaining basically the same as this year's rally, except that entry for competitors will be **FREE**. This is a great opportunity for our local businesses to promote themselves to a broader audience. It only costs \$25 for you to participate, which ensures your business is listed in the entry form and encourages entrants to visit you. A bonus point system is available to inspire visitors to spend money with you. Our 2015 Rally saw an excellent conversion of visits to sales. In case you haven't yet completed your Participant Form, a copy is attached. Participant Forms must be returned **by 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016**. This is essential to allow Shirley Broadhurst time to design the Entry Forms.

### **Blackwood River Valley Map**

Unfortunately we missed out on funding from the Friends of South West Community for our Regional Map and have been seeking other funding opportunities. So far we have managed to secure sponsorship from Royal Gala Tours and Talison -THANK YOU. RAC have also expressed their intention to sponsor the map, which will enable us to proceed with the design. We plan to have this map available in the second half of 2016. Members will be listed on the map for free, with advertising spaces available for those who wish to take advantage of them. More details will be released as they come to hand.

### **Brochure Racking At BRV Events**

This year we attended four events throughout the Valley to spread the word about all the Blackwood River Valley has to offer and feel positive about the response that we have had. We had added the Country Music Festival in February to these events. We have decided not to offer brochure racking for individual members in 2016, but instead each Visitor Centre will provide a promotional pack that contains information on their area.

### **Grant Applications**

This last quarter grants were submitted to the South West Development Commission and Foundation for Regional & Rural Renewal for different aspects of Rally in the Valley. We are pleased to announce that SWDC has approved our application and will fund a print media campaign in the month leading up to the Rally.



We were unsuccessful with our grant application for FRRR. Once again we were advised that it was a strong grant application with good letters of support, however a WA sponsor is currently unavailable. They have offered to roll the application over to the next round (29). The result of this application will be known about June 2016. Third time lucky??

### **SUB-REGIONAL TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS (now referred to as a Local Tourism Association)**

Both the Bunbury-Wellington, Boyup Brook and Southern Forests-Blackwood River Valley LTO's have reached the point where they are almost ready to release the proposed models for each Association for public comment.

**WEBSITE STUFF**     <http://www.blackwoodrivalley.org.au/>

### **Event Calendar**

Did you know that our webpage has an events calendar which will list your event/s for free? If you are involved in organising an event, please either contact your local Committee member or email [info@blackwoodrivalley.org.au](mailto:info@blackwoodrivalley.org.au) with event details.

### **Links to members' websites**

We have reviewed members' listings on our website and have put in place hyperlinks from our website to member's individual websites. It was expected that this would be completed by the end of January 2016, but our wonderful webmaster, Pam Williamson (9764 1606), has finished well ahead of time. **Please enjoy this Christmas membership bonus.**

### **Mobile Responsive Website**

Pam Williamson has also spent considerable time converting our website to a mobile and tablet friendly platform, and has installed a link on our Home page to our Facebook page Visit the Blackwood Valley. This was completed in early October, again well ahead of the projected finish date. THANK YOU, PAM!

## MEMBER PROFILE – BALINGUP PHARMACY



Inspired by her recent experience working in a small rural community pharmacy, Kate Wooldridge and her partner Tim Colegate have just opened a new pharmacy in Balingup. Over the past few months, they have been renovating the premises in 'The Packing Shed' (across the road from the Balingup Visitor Centre), and are very excited to be open the business.

Kate has been working in the pharmacy profession since 1999. She has since completed a post graduate degree in clinical pharmacy, and is also accredited to undertake home medication reviews. Most recently, she worked at the Gidgegannup Pharmacy. She loved the friendly community environment and enjoyed providing customer service to a level not often achieved by larger pharmacies. She is looking forward to being able to provide quality advice and a high level of service to the Balingup and surrounding community.

Balingup Pharmacy opening hours:

8:30am to 5pm Monday-Saturday

10:00am to 5pm Sunday

Address: 32 Bridgetown Rd, Balingup

Ph: (08) 9799 0346

Email: [info@balinguppharmacy.com.au](mailto:info@balinguppharmacy.com.au)