



Blackwood Valley Small Landholders' Newsletter

Summer 2013

Contents

Page 1 Next Expo

Pages 2 to 4 Annual report

Page 4 Dugites

Page 5 Pest management

Page 7 Insecticide recipes

Pages 8 Using your Summer produce

Pages 9 & 10 The older garden

Page 10 Diversity Expo report

Page 11 Facebook

Page 12 Website news & Fire information

Innovation and Invention Help needed

Country people are renowned for their flair in making do with whatever comes to hand so with this in mind the Committee has decided to hold another Expo in 2014 incorporating a section for innovation and invention, possibly as a competition.

Help is needed to form a sub Committee to do the initial planning, probably meeting bi-monthly starting in February next year. The sub-Committee will get all the help it needs from your elected members.

Please consider volunteering for this exciting project, and if you have any useful gadgets keep them in mind for the Expo.

We now have a Facebook page. See page 11 for details



Sculpture at Bellavista



Tawney Heights

President's Report 2013 AGM

By Kathy Dawson

President Report 2013 AGM

Blackwood Valley Small Landholders Group was formed in 1999 with two objectives:

- To foster and assist small landholders to achieve their goals
- To collect and disseminate information relevant to the Group.

Although the group's demographics and their goals may have changed over the intervening years, as well as the means of collecting and disseminating information, the function of BVSLG remains as relevant today. Whether it is still perceived as a member-driven association or is seen by members as a service agency is questionable, but more on that later.

It was left to the Executive and Committee to resolve the problem of a vacant presidency after the 2012 AGM. John Nicholas agreed to take over the Secretary role to allow me,

Kathy Dawson, to assume the Presidency position. I would like to acknowledge the work of Executive and Committee at this point. John Birks, as the immediate past President, has been an invaluable support. Experience can never be over-rated and, when not trekking the Bibbulmun or travelling overseas, John has been able to provide advice or contacts or carry out a million and one other jobs like his involvement in the recent Expo. Similarly, Vice-President Eric Wheatley managed to squeeze in editing the quarterly Newsletters, help transition the new website and other Committee functions between his travelling trips. Geoff Robb has continued his sterling work managing the association's finances, endorsed by the glowing auditor's report as you will see later. Geoff is constantly looking at ways the association could improve its effectiveness. John Nicholas's efficiency in managing administrative affairs indicates why he will be a valuable acquisition to the Bridgetown -Greenbushes Shire Council and a loss

to BVSLG as John is not seeking renomination this year. Also retiring is Doreen Mackman. Doreen probably typifies the original members - a new owner of a small holding keen to learn anything and everything! Doreen has been an invaluable member of the Committee but feels her Shire Councillor role doesn't allow enough time to serve on the BVSLG Committee. We also accepted the reluctant resignation of Dagmar Dixon mid-year. Dagmar's pragmatic and thoughtful input at Committee meetings was appreciated and we hope to see more of her in the near future. Two Committee members elected last year, Dennis Angelatos and Mike Boud, have withstood the increased load caused by a reduced Committee and have contributed fresh ideas and support. Mike has been the main architect of the Constitutional amendments before you tonight. To all the office bearers and Committee I owe a debt of gratitude, not only for the help you have given me but the services you have provided to the membership this year.

We started the year with the goal of conducting formal and social events on alternate months but a reality check forced a review when social events were not supported by attendance and



President Kathy Dawson

Advice on property development and management

- Independent, practical advice to help you develop and manage your dream property in the South West
- Advice on enterprise development
- Advice on adaptation to climate change
- Property inspections and organisation of contractors for absentee owners

Adrian Williams, MSc

40 year career in many aspects of agriculture and land and livestock management

Tel: (08) 9761 4370

PO Box 841, Bridgetown, WA 6255

adrianwilliams.pdms@gmail.com

demands on Committee time or conflicting community events made it difficult to keep to this program.

Another factor influenced the organisation of activities: the successful establishment of Bridgetown's Ashbil Community Garden. Many of the garden-based workshops previously conducted by BVSLG were now offered by BACG so we sought to collaborate rather than duplicate, particularly as we have many common members. To this end, BVSLG sought to direct attention to topics that encompassed landholders who were operating commercially as well as those on lifestyle properties.

Since the last AGM we have held a Christmas gathering at the Kangaroo Gully Fire Station and in the new year invited Dr Erica Shedley to advise the group on how to establish bird attracting gardens. Erica presented a very interesting talk on bird attracting plants suited to the region and has generously made the powerpoint used accessible to the group. Despite the small number attending, it was a very enjoyable evening. Unfortunately it was also a night of disaster - the Southampton fires.

Ron and Christine King appreciated the assistance from fellow members, clearing fencelines, rolling up melted

irrigation hosing from the vineyard and olive orchard. Driving in to their property raised awareness of the ferocity of the fire and how lucky they were - though well prepared - that the house and sheds were saved.

Gillian Wheatley generously shared her knowledge at the very successful Sourdough workshop held at the Bridgetown Gardens venue. Fermented foods is a popular topic and may warrant another workshop. Attendees (members) came from far and wide - from Northcliffe to Perth.

BVSLG was again represented at the Balingup Small Farm Field Day, sharing a tent with the South West Catchments Council and other community natural resource management groups. It was an opportunity to promote the Soil Health workshop held at Geoff and Diana Robb's organic apple farm at Newlands. The biological agronomist presenting, Anthony Quinlan, also granted BVSLG access to the powerpoint presented on the day. This workshop was funded by the Australian Government's Regional Landcare program.

A social gathering was held at my Yanmah property with a brief tour of the green tea patch. Although very few were able to attend, visits to one another's places to pick up tips and be

exposed to new possibilities is a fairly painless and very effective way members can help one another. I'm hoping more will offer their properties for this purpose in the new year.

Doreen Mackman organised an orchard care workshop with local orchardist Anthony Fullam demonstrating how to prune established trees, especially those from a 'neglected' orchard. Those attending were keen to take advantage of Anthony's experience, plying him with a range of care and maintenance questions.

Once again the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes approved an application for funds from their community support program to conduct a second Expo, building on the success of last year's Sustainability Expo. This year the Expo focused on Diversity - small landholdings are ideally placed to accommodate a wide variety of diverse pursuits. The Committee, acknowledging the enormous effort Adrian Williams invested in last year's Expo, recruited Di Rayner to assist coordination of the event. Although the weather was not kind, the degree of participation by stall holders and exhibitors is in large part due to Di's hard work.

Continued next page

THE RIGHT STUFF
For Landholders

Sales

We repair all types of garden machinery and pumps.

Service

Now's the time to install that new tank

Hire

Allpower GARDEN MACHINERY CENTRE

12 Rose St. Bridgetown. Phone 9761 4725

The advertisement features a collection of garden machinery including a riding lawnmower, a chainsaw, a chainsaw with a brush-cutting attachment, a trimmer, a pump sprayer, a water tank, a hedge trimmer, and a power brushcutter. The text is arranged around these images, with 'Sales' and 'Service' on the left, 'Hire' on the right, and the contact information at the bottom.

An opportunity presented itself to conduct a beekeeping workshop in conjunction with the Expo as Dan Dowsett, "the Bee Whisperer", was engaged to be one of the speakers. Due to insufficient interest the workshop will be rescheduled to next April.

The keynote speaker was Barry Green who runs a farmstay business on his historic Donnybrook organic apple and beef property. Barry also runs WA Tourist Radio and website which promotes farmstays and other local opportunities. This may be an area to revisit.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to members and friends who assisted in site preparation and clearing away, and also to the stallholders and exhibitors who endured the damp with good humour and took home most of what they brought!

In the process of organising the Expo, Di set up a Facebook page for BVSLG. This may be a more convenient way to keep members abreast of events than maintaining the website. Any IT expertise

amongst the membership would be gratefully accepted!

And now we return to the topic of membership. At the outset I mentioned BVSLG is a member-driven organisation, not a funded service agency. It relies on members who need and want to be an active part of the organisation, as well as the loyal supporters. Part of that action is recognising potential new members who could benefit from the various ways we disseminate information - whether it be formal workshops, visits to members' farms/small holdings and social gatherings, Facebook/email interaction, website resources or other. Why are you a member? What are your needs? How can you help others in the group and beyond? BVSLG is a unique organisation with a proud and productive history - how can you be part of its rejuvenation?

Once again I thank my fellow Committee members for their hard work this past year and also those members who have supported our activities whether through helping in their organisation or by participating. If re-elected, I hope to continue working to make BVSLG as vital, relevant and enjoyable as possible.

Dugites and you

Dugites are coloured grey, green or brown. The colours vary widely between individuals and are an unreliable means of identifying species. The most distinguishing characteristic is the shape of the head, this is small compared to the neck, and grades imperceptibly into the body. They can grow up to 2m long.

Like most snakes they will not normally approach populated areas but may be seen if looking for food and water.

Like other brown snakes, dugites are diurnal. The female dugite lays 10 to 20 eggs at a time.

Its venom is potentially one of the most lethal in the world, Dugites generally avoid biting humans, but risks of encounters rise when they are most active during the mating season through October and November.

The last death attributed to a dugite was in 1993 after an elderly woman died in Spearwood, Perth.

In January 2011, a seven year old Perth boy was bitten and temporarily paralysed after a Dugite crawled into his bedroom and wrapped itself around his arm while he slept. After seeking medical attention quickly, he made a full recovery.

There is a fine of up to \$4000 fine for killing or injuring a snake so if you have a problem snake please contact the shire.

RICHFEEDS AND RURAL SUPPLIERS
THE FARM MERCHANDISE SPECIALIST





**170 Hampton Street
 Bridgetown 6255
 Phone: 9761 1520
 Fax: 9761 2292**

- Household Gas
- Portable and Permanent Stockyards
- Pine Posts • Fire Fighters
- Rainwater Tanks
- Full Range of Fencing Products and Strainers
- Potting Mixes, Garden Supplies
- Stock Feeds and Supplements





DAMROCK ALPACAS



Certified Black, Gray, White and Brown males at stud.
 Mobile and Farm Matings.
 Alpacas for sale, starter packages, pets and guards.
 On farm inspections and friendly advice given.

Paul and Margaret Murphy
 Lot 3 Warburton Rd ,
 23934 Southwest Highway,
 Bridgetown, WA, 6255
 Ph 08 9761 2542
 Mb 0417 904 585
 Mb 0417 772 546
 Spudmeg@bordnet.com.au

Insect Pest Management (IPM)

From Kathy Dawson

IPM is a systematic approach to controlling damage to crops. Crop rotation was regarded as critical to reducing potential pest damage. Although it remains sensible advice, evidence suggests a fully functioning and balanced soil ecosystem eliminates much of the threat. This principle of balance applies equally to the insects observed above ground. Many are predators which help keep the undesirables, like weevils and aphids, under control. One way to encourage predators is to grow their habitat, the umbelliferous flowers of aromatic herbs like fennel, parsley, dill, celery and carrot, are home to predator wasps that lay their eggs in caterpillars. The larvae eat their way out, much to the distress of the leaf munching caterpillar!

Recently BVSLG members Christine, Ron and I were in a contingent undertaking a biological fertiliser study tour of Mexico, Costa Rica and Ecuador. One young Mexican farmer had developed a wide array of plant extracts which she used in rotation to provide crop protection - each spray had different effects ranging from distraction to death. Having a biologically healthy soil growing

resilient plants (rather than the fast food NPK fed plants) discourages insect and disease attack - but that's another story!

Gardeners and farmers are often too quick to treat invading pests; predators need a food source before they turn up. If non-selective chemicals are applied the good bugs are annihilated along with the pests. Can you identify all the insects in your garden? Do you know which ones are the good guys?

Would you like to have an insect and/or disease identification workshop or a practical session on making plant extracts for insect control? The Committee is in the planning stage for next year's agenda. Send in your feedback to any Committee member listed in this Newsletter.

If you already have some good recipes to share, post them on the Facebook page <https://www.Facebook.com/smalllandholders>



Pesticide and predator factory

Barry Green - Expo Keynote Speaker

It was a busy weekend for Barry Green. On the Friday evening he attended the WA Regional Achievement and Community Awards where he was a finalist in the Primary Producer of the Year category. In addition to running an organic farm producing beef and apples and operating a farmstay, he is a Director of Organic and Biodynamic Meats WA Co-operative and also operates Western Tourist Radio.

Barry's address at the Expo focussed on urban consumers' growing interest, especially young families, in finding out about the origins of their food. Small landholders are ideally placed to capitalise upon these agritourism opportunities to reconnect consumers with producers. Feedback the Greens receive from visitors to Boronia Farm indicate luxurious accommodation is not an important factor with this market - it is the genuine farm experience and refreshing immersion in nature that is appealing. Western Tourist Radio website hosts a page for Farmstay West - a community of farm accommodation

Continued next page



Phil
and
Jock

For All Your Building Requirements

46 Rose Street, Bridgetown,

Ph: 9761 2525 Fax : 9761 4077

Mon - Fri 8am - 5.30pm, Sat 8am till noon.

**Timber Doors Gyprock Insulation Plumbing
Hardware Roofing Cement Limestone Blocks
Treated Pine (Posts, Strainers) Mini Orb**

Post and Rail Sleepers Garden Arbours Door Frames (Timber, Metal)

Large Range of Lattice, Gates (Jarrah and Treated Pine), Pickets (Gothic and Plain)

MDF Sheet, Polycarbonate Roofing, Provide cutting service for board products.

Continued from page 5

providers. This cyberspace tourism avenue is proving to be a very effective adjunct to conventional tourist bureaux. According to Mr Green, the internet is providing stability through diversity. Small enterprises can take advantage of the one-stop-shop by joining this community for a nominal fee. They will need their own website or web presence to participate as the listings of farm stay destinations are hyperlinked so individual organisations maintain control of their content. More information can be obtained from <http://www.touristradio.com.au/>

Barry floated the premise that small organic farms are in a unique position to provide leadership in agriculture - in the movement to work with the soil to produce as much as possible with as few synthetic inputs as necessary because bigger organisations find it harder to change. Producers of small herds can join the Organic and Biodynamic Meats Cooperative and take advantage of the premiums paid in this niche market. The group's representatives at the Expo stall fielded queries from beef and sheep producers. If you would like to find out whether joining the cooperative

will benefit your enterprise visit <http://www.organicmeats.com.au/>
Barry's favourite quote: "If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world." (JRR Tolkien) This seems to be a sentiment shared by many small landholders - the main objective is to enjoy the lifestyle but to do so with return on investment (time, money, effort and emotions!) would be preferable. Do you have ideas for workshops for next year that will build skills and knowledge that may lead to increased profitability?



Organic vegetables

Home Made Insecticide Recipes

presented by Colin Campbell

Fact Sheet courtesy Gardening Australia, ABC1



Colin Campbell gives instructions on how to make some popular home-made garden remedies

When insect pests invade your plants you've got to get on to the problem right away. Colin prefers to use home-made remedies where possible because they're generally

NEIL GIBLETT

SPRAY CONTRACTOR

Bridgetown and surrounding areas

- ♦ **Boom Spraying**
- ♦ **All types of Pest and Weed Control**

NO JOB TOO BIG

NO JOB TOO SMALL

PO BOX 718, Bridgetown 6255

Phone 9761 1065

Mobile 0428 933 352

BLACKWOOD VALLEY Real Estate

See us for all your real estate requirements including rural, semi-rural and special rural properties.

PHONE: 9761 2722 all hours

106 Hampton St, BRIDGETOWN 6255

www.blackwoodvalley.com

Licensee: Blackwood Valley Properties Pty Ltd ACN. 111 776 893

safer for the environment and more economical. However he advises, "Be careful of these solutions around children, as they should not be ingested. Don't store them in soft drink bottles and make sure you keep them out of reach of children."

Scale and Mealybugs: Make an oil preparation that suffocates them by mixing four tablespoons of dishwashing liquid into one cup of vegetable oil. Mix one part of that mixture to about twenty parts of water, put it in your sprayer and spray the affected plants.

Aphids, Caterpillars and Other Insects: Add two tablespoons of soap flakes to one litre of water and stir thoroughly until completely dissolved (this is quicker in warm water). There is no need to dilute this further, just spray it on as is.

Black Spot Fungicide: In Queensland, Black Spot is a major problem with roses, but this fungicide mixture works miracles. Add three teaspoons of bicarb soda to one litre of water. Don't get carried away with the bicarb-soda because if you make it too strong, it will cause all sorts of problems. Add a few drops of either dishwashing liquid, or

fish emulsion to help the solution adhere to the leaf more effectively.

Fungicide: Mix one level teaspoon of bicarb soda into one litre of water. Add one litre of skim milk and a pinch of Condy's Crystals which you can get from a produce agent (someone that supplies to horse owners). Shake thoroughly.

Grasshopper, Caterpillar and Possum Deterrent: Mix a cup of molasses into one litre of water and spray it over new foliage.

Nematodes: Add half a litre of molasses to two litres of water and spread over one and a half square metres of affected garden area.

All-round Insecticide: Chop four large onions, two cloves of garlic, and four hot chillies. Mix them together and cover with warm, soapy water and leave it to stand overnight. Strain off that liquid and add it to five litres of water to create an all-round insecticide.

Pesticide: Crush a whole bulb of garlic and cover with vegetable oil. After two days, strain off the liquid, add a couple of drops of dishwashing liquid and use one millilitre of concentrate to one litre of water.

Herbicide: Add a cup of common salt to a litre of vinegar. After it's dissolved, brush it directly onto weeds. Remember, it's not a selective weed killer. It'll kill anything it touches so be very careful how you use it.

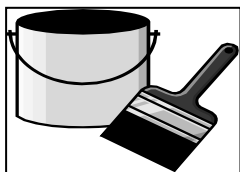
Predator Attractor: Predators that prey on pests are great things to have in the garden. Lacewings are particularly desirable because they consume aphids and many other pests. To encourage them into your garden, dissolve one teaspoon of a yeast based sandwich spread in water and spray it all over the plants.

Watch the story on the ABC website

Information contained in this fact sheet is a summary of material included in the program. If further information is required, please contact your local nursery or garden centre.

Copyright Restrictions: This fact sheet is for private and domestic information purposes only. It may not be copied, reproduced, sold or used for any other purpose without the express permission of the ABC.

Bridgetown Paint Sales



Agents for Wattyl Paints and Accessories,
Reticulation and Design

Electrical Fittings and Lighting, Tiles and Accessories

Craig and Nadine Pitts

46B Rose Street, PO Box 263, Bridgetown WA 6255

Ph: (08) 9761 4422 Fax: (08) 9761 4170

Email: btnpaint@bigpond.net.au

Stu's Mobile Shearing Service

All you need for the welfare and maintenance of your sheep
All you need for the welfare and maintenance of your sheep



Pets
Mobs
No job too small

Shearing
Crutching
Lice Treatment
Worm treatment

I'll bring over 25 years experience in shearing and sheep farming to your paddock.

Stu 0487 147 141 A/H 9799 3332

Please leave a message—Stu or Ari will return your call the same day.

Servicing Bridgetown, Manjimup and surrounding areas

Using Your Summer Produce *By Gillian Wheatley*

Summer is finally with us and it's time to be thinking of easily prepared meals like barbecues, salads and luscious deserts. What could be nicer than to go into your garden and make a selection from your own produce, then sit on your veranda and enjoy the fruits of your labours, while sipping a glass of wine.

These salads are great either alone with crusty bread or as an accompaniment to barbecues.

Tomato & Green Bean Salad

prep. 10 minutes - cooking 2 minutes

250g thin green beans
250 gm mixed yellow and red baby tomatoes
mint - a small handful chopped
clove of garlic chopped finely
olive oil, 4 tablespoons
balsamic vinegar, 1 tablespoon
salt and pepper

Cut tomatoes in half
Cook beans for 2 minutes, drain and add to tomatoes
Add mint, garlic, olive oil and vinegar
Season and mix well.
Serve either warm or cold

Griddled Eggplants with Lemon Pesto

prep. 10 minutes- cooking 20 minutes

eggplants 4 sliced
basil large bunch
pine nuts 75 g toasted
garlic clove 1
parmesan cheese 75 g grated
lemons 2 grated rind
lemon juice 4 tablespoons
olive oil 3 tablespoons
salt and pepper

Heat the griddle and griddle eggplants for 5 minutes each side
Make pesto by putting all the remaining ingredients in a food processor until smooth.
Season and drizzle over the eggplants.

Eggplant (or Capsicum) and Feta Rolls

Prep, 30 minutes - cooking 10 minutes

Eggplants, 2 sliced, sprinkled with salt and drained in a colander for 30 minutes, then rinse and dry.
Pan-fry in oil until golden, approx 5 minutes on both sides and cool
Top with shredded basil and crumbled feta and roll up. Serve immediately.

This is an all-time classic British desert that I am sure most of you know. It is delicious and extremely easy to construct, especially if you buy the meringues. Of course if you don't grow berries then you could buy those as well!

The origin of the name is thought to have come about when a Labrador dog sat on a picnic basket thereby squashing a strawberry and meringue desert which was inside. No doubt there are many other stories about its origin.

Eton Mess

Besides the meringues, you will need
750 g berries (strawberries, raspberries or any mix you like)
110 g caster sugar
200 ml thickened cream, lightly whisked
125 g crème fraiche (or just use more thickened cream)
55 g pure icing sugar, sieved
vanilla essence

Toss the strawberries with the caster sugar in a large bowl and rest for 20 minutes.


Whisk cream, crème fraiche, icing sugar and vanilla together until soft peaks form.

Layer the berries, cream mixture and the coarsely crumbled meringues, repeating until all the ingredients are used up. Decorate with extra berries.

And there you have it! I like to sometimes colour the meringues or cream a very pale pink. A nice accompaniment is shortbread.




eggplants



SOLARWEST


PROVIDING EARTH FRIENDLY ENERGY


Beat rising power costs.




Quality Service
Quality products
15 years exp. in Renewable Energy
Leading Warranties
State Wide Service

EC 538
Grid Connect
Stand Alone
Wind/Solar/Hydro





bp solar
Certified Installer



clar
iler

solarwest@bigpond.com.au

Ph: 08 9756 3076

www.solarwest.net.au

The Older Garden *From Peta Townsing*

Recently I had the privilege to visit an historic garden that has been in the same family, the Peirce family, since 1921. Its origins were much earlier when the property was owned by the Bussell family who built the first house known as Bridge House in the 1880s, as well as Wallcliffe House and Ellensbrook. This fascinating garden is now known as Old Bridge House and is on the banks of the Margaret River along Caves Road. Its location is significant as it was a staging post approximately halfway between Vasse (now Busselton) and Augusta.

Thus the property represents an important part of the early history of Western Australia. In fact its history has been documented in a book written by Gillian Lilleyman, "A Garden on the Margaret, The Path to Old Bridge House", published by Gillian Lilleyman. Gillian has been a member of the Australian Garden History Society for many years as I have.

I have often thought that gardening, the creation and maintaining of a garden, is something of a metaphor for life. A tree will start as a juvenile, will gradually grow and mature and will eventually grow old

and die. A garden and its components will change from one year to the next, just as our lives change. Some plants will succeed, others will fail to thrive, just as we see projects or businesses come and go. The history of a garden can tell us not only about plants and how they will grow, but also about the people, their lives and our changing world.

The garden at Old Bridge House is something of a time capsule. Plants that have long since fallen out of fashion are seen here as large, sometimes very large, mature specimens. An example is the *Rondeletia* which was in my mother's garden, but not seen so often these days. Its salmon-pink clusters of small tubular flowers set amongst glossy green leaves are showy.

Cotoneasters are plentiful, looking more like medium-sized trees than shrubs, and have been pruned up over decades so that there are one or two main trunks with a light crown of foliage providing dappled shade beneath. According to the three sisters who now own the property, these and other large shrubs have been pruned up to provide more space below for bulbs and perennials to prosper in the light shade conditions. A large Bunya pine

has pride of place in the garden, though care must be taken when walking near the tree because there is a very real danger of being struck by a falling cone as big, if not bigger, than a large pineapple, but not at all soft.

As with many gardens in the South West there are problems. One is with water supply and by the end of summer, their main source, the Margaret River, drops too low to be able to pump from. As well there are maintenance issues and the fact that some plants die or are storm damaged and need taking out. The garden is constantly changing, though there are some plants that could be described as stalwarts; one is a massive, old wisteria which has a huge trunk and could well date from the time of the original house. Old fruit trees are also hardy survivors.

Gardens in Western Australia are often ephemeral. With the change of owners or of fortune, a garden may not survive. Let's hope in this case that there will be a way to keep this garden as an important component of Western Australian history, when the three sisters no longer own the property.

Continued next page



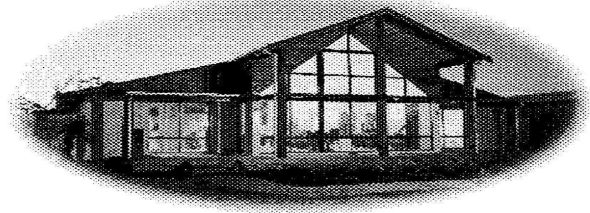
Levanda Grove Alpaca & Olive Farm



Free Olive Oil Tastings
Contract Pressing Available
Olive Oil and Olive Oil Products for Sale
Alpacas for Sale to suit your needs
Alpaca Merchandise for Sale
Quality Males standing at stud

NOW OPEN
Friday - Monday - 10am - 4pm

Dennis & Evol Angelatos
142 Tweed Rd
Bridgetown WA
Ph: 97611258 M: 0417902201
dennis@levandagrove.com.au
levandagrove.com.au



We view things differently

The Rural Building Company's architect and design consultants will design a home for you that is exciting and different. Like the Bushland Retreat pictured, which features a central core living area with a wall of glass to take in the sweeping exterior views.



We understand.

Contact Beryl Thompson
Shop 1, 84 Hampton Street. Free-call: 1800 642 377

Continued from page 9

Diversity Expo

Peta Townsing - Chairman
Blackwood Country Gardens Inc.
Ph: 9764 1111

Fax: 9764 1900

Mob: 0427 426 160

Check out the **Official Festival website:-**

www.countrygardens-australia.com for news of the 2014 programme.

Find us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/#!/Festive_gardens
And on Facebook: Festival of Country Gardens

Farming is always dependent on the weather, and farmers are always watching and talking about the weather. So too are event holders. In 2012 it was very hot and people complained about burnt feet and sun burn; this year wellington boots and umbrellas were the order of the day. **Next year we are having perfect spring weather!!!!!!**

The expo, held at the Town Square, on October 19th, even with the rain, managed to highlight the diversity of our area and in particular small land holders. A slightly changed format saw the entertainment and guest speakers combined into one program. This year the main speakers were Barry Green, from Western Tourist Radio, who spoke on "Stability through Diversity", and Dan Dowsett and Ian Beeson spoke on "The Birds and the Bees." Both Dan and Ian are from the WA Apiarist Society. Some of the entertainment included Rising Stars junior jam singers, Chelsea McGrath, Deb "spoons" Perry, Mary Myfanwy

Evans and Maureen Graham. The entertainment marquee finished with Brian Sweetman.

Seventeen brave stall holders and displays were there for the limited people who ventured out in the weather. The stalls and displays offered an interesting and varied look at some of our local products and agencies. Ian and Dan had a bee display to support their presentation and Barry put on his other hat and spread the word about organic and bio dynamic meats. The Lions and the Bushfire Support people gave us lots of tasty food options.

Special thanks to the Bridgetown Greenbushes Shire for their continued support of the Blackwood Valley Small Landholders Group's expo days.

The atmosphere and positive approach to a very wet expo was amazing. It was inspiring to see how people set up knowing we were in for bad weather all day, and greeted people with bright happy smiles for 4 hours.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the "perfect weather" expo in 2014.



Balingup succulents

Gardens Opening for 2014
Enjoy garden visiting and the countryside.
Be part of this community event.
Help stage the Festival, become a member.



Autumn Delights: Early May
Spring Festival: Oct/Nov
Find us on Facebook and Twitter
www.countrygardens-australia.com

Festival of Country Gardens

Enquiries: 0427 426 160



BLACKWOOD RURAL SERVICES
BLACKWOOD HYDRAULICS and
BRIDGETOWN CHAINSAW SERVICE
13-17 Steere St, Bridgetown

For all your farm and machinery needs



Call Bill Anderson Ph 9761 1515

**List of stalls and displays,
please support our stallholders**

Sarah Evans,
sarahevanzz@hotmail.com,
books, cards and illustrations

Community Gardens

Yolande Jones, Dept of Ag small land
holders,
Jones, yolande.jones@agric.wa.gov.au

Hayley Thorpe,
Bridgetown Agricultural Society,
hayleythegreat@gmail.com

Natalee Kuser,
blackwoodwaterwatch@gmail.com

Kathy Dawson

Felicity Willett, blackwoodbasin-
group@westnet.com.au

Heather Walford,
lavenderfarm@westnet.com.au

Geoff and Diane Robb,

Laura Wood, face painting,
sl_wood@bigpond.net.au

Dan Dowsett and Ian Beeson, bee
people,

Donna Henning, Chef's Kitchen,
0428732042

Eric Wheatley

The Wandoo Grove, David and Lyn
Burt, davlyn@thewandoo Grove.com.au

Dennis Angelatos,
evol@westnet.com.au

Barry Green,
barry@touristradio.com.au

Mrs Bakervale's, cold pressed fruit
drinks, Sherie, 0438412268

Facebook, friend or foe

by Di Rayner

**Facebook ... social media ... liking ...
posting**

Scary stuff for many people. On the
other hand it can be a useful tool to
communicate information and even
build your business.

We have all heard about cyber bullying,
and the lies and scandal that have
been spread over Facebook. One of
the common Facebook faults we hear
about is of the party that was
mentioned on Facebook and ended up
as a riot with people coming from
everywhere. Facebook was once the
domain of young people, now Facebook
is becoming an everyday part of
most people's lives. If it can bring
hundreds of people then it can
increase the efficiency of our
communications and potentially
increase our rewards.

People often say, "But I don't want
people knowing all about me." People
will only know what you want them to
see, and if other people are going to
put things up, then you not being on
Facebook won't change that. You get
to choose who sees what you write,
and also whose posts you can see. "It's
a time waster." Is going to the mail
box, or opening your email a time
waster? It uses as much time or as
little time as you want. Checking your
home page every couple of days is a
very quick, and simple task.

Where is all this going?

We now have a Facebook page,
[https://www.Facebook.com/
smallandholders](https://www.Facebook.com/smallandholders)

You don't have to be a Facebook
"member" to view the page; however, if
you do join then all the information will
automatically come to your Facebook
page. By being a member of Facebook

you will also be able to comment and add
things to the page.

Another excellent "group" is [https://
www.Facebook.com/groups/
162388323957512/](https://www.Facebook.com/groups/162388323957512/)

This is the Bridgetown-Donnybrook-
Balingup - Manjimup -
Boyupbrook FOODSWAP.

This group swaps excess produce,
seedlings etc. Once again you would need
to join Facebook to take full advantage
of this group.

Please have a look at our Facebook page
and "like" us. This will be a great way to
see what is happening.

Your input needed

Any contribution, funny,
serious, practical or
just a story or picture
from your Bridgetown
property will be
welcome. We particu-
larly need animal and
caring for animal
stories. Please send
copy (preferably in
word format) to the
Editor at:-

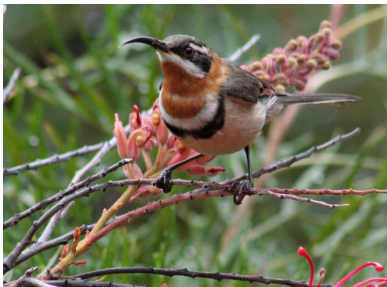
snottygobble@westnet.com.au

Website news

Dr Erica Shedley's powerpoint presentation can be viewed on the past events page of the website. All members can access past newsletters through the members' section.



*Spotted pardalote,
from Dr Erica Shedley's
Presentation
See website*



*Western spinebill,
from Dr Erica Shedley's
Presentation*

An ABC1 (TV) Catalyst program was broadcast on 1st December called "Dont Panic," which uses live scenarios to demonstrate how people behave in disasters and why plans, and practising are so important. This major TV event was put together with the assistance of the BoM, NSW RFS, NSW SES, Dr Rob Gordon, Prof Sandy MacFarlane and some funding came from EMA. If you missed it the program will be posted on the ABC website www.abc.net.au. The program encourages people to go online to their local web sites to get a plan and fill it out. Excellent plans and information can be downloaded from the dfes site. <http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation/pages/survivalplans.aspx>



How to contact us

Post:

Blackwood Valley Small Landholders' Group, PO Box 135, Bridgetown 6255

Email:

secretary@smalllandholders.com.au

Visit our Website:

www.smalllandholders.com.au

Facebook

<https://www.Facebook.com/smalllandholders>

President

Kathy Dawson Ph 97718180

Eric Wheatley Vice President
Ph: 97611274 Editor
webmaster@smalllandholders.com.au

Di Rayner Secretary

secretary@smalllandholders.com.au

Geoff Robb Treasurer
treasurer@smalllandholders.com.au



*The beautiful Wedding bush.
This hardy native is growing in very
harsh conditions and a bonus is its'long
flowering period.*



Want to
know more
about bees?

Beekeeping course

The proposed October course, to be presented by Dan Dowsett, "The Bee Whisperer", has been postponed until a weekend in April.

If you would like to attend or to help organise the event please contact Kathy Dawson 97721381 or kdawson6258@gmail.com