



bridgetown  
art trail

## about the trail

Bridgetown has long provided both a home and a haven to artists and creators of all types. Some of them have become well known, but there are talented and accomplished artists masquerading as shop-owners, hairdressers, mechanics, teachers, neighbours and the smiling faces you see along Hampton Street daily. The Bridgetown Art Trail was conceived with the goal of bringing the art created in our community to the public. Existing art pieces have been joined by new installations, creating a trail of artworks along a four kilometre stretch of Bridgetown's streets. This booklet is designed to aid trail-goers in finding, interpreting and enjoying the exhibits and contains information on each installation and its creator.

Several installations - Lifecycle, @ Home, Kaleidoscope and Francis - were initiated due to a generous bequest by Dr Henry Schapper. A renowned academic and author, Schapper introduced the field of Agricultural Economics to Western Australia and transformed the way farmers manage their farm business accounting. A former resident, Schapper left a generous bequest to Artsource for the development of public art in Bridgetown. In 2013, Artsource began the process to commission a number of artworks for the town which would reflect the community and the natural environment. Concepts for the pieces were drawn from the passion Dr Schapper held for the town and surrounding countryside, sustainable farming, and the tight knit community he joined in his retirement from academic life. These pieces formed the basis of today's art trail.

The Bridgetown Art Trail is a dynamic, ongoing project. New pieces will be added and the trail will continue to grow, reflecting the history and future of our evolving community as time goes on. The Art Trail was officially launched as part of Bridgetown's sesquicentennial celebrations in 2018.

Many thanks are extended to those who have made this project possible. To Trudy Clothier, whose original vision for the Art Trail put everything into motion, and ongoing organisation and commitment brought it all together. To the trail's primary sponsor, The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, without whose generous contribution this project could not have been realised. To the other sponsors: REA Group, the Bridgetown Greenbushes Business and Tourism Association, Bridgetown Rotary, The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Talison Lithium, Bankwest and Blackwood Environment Society - thank you for your generosity. To each of the artists, their families and supporters, who generously - and largely voluntarily - contributed their time and imagination to share their creative perspectives with the public. To the walkers of the trail, locals and visitors alike, we hope the trail delights, entertains and inspires you.





1. In, On and Along - Nic Fabiszak
2. From Life to Life - Fredrick White
3. A Fragile Balance - Glenn Hywood
4. Ashbil Community Garden - Various contributors
5. The Rabbit Hole - Various contributors
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15. @ Home - Helen Seiver
16. Kaleidoscope - Damien Butler
17. Francis - Russell Sheridan



## in, on and along

Nic Fabiszak

Location: Public toilet block wall, River Park Foreshore

In Bridgetown, life happens along the river. This multi-layered artwork showcases some of the recreational activities that can be enjoyed in and along the river: cycling, running, kayaking, swimming and horse riding. Coincidentally, the five activities portrayed also represent the five legs of the Blackwood Marathon. The mural sits between the highway and the river, reflecting some of what happens along the river to passers-by.

Nic describes her style as “quirky with no serious subject matter.” She specialises in caricatures and finding the colourful aspects of everyday life. When Nic isn't busy painting dunny walls, she runs Fat Arts gallery and the Christmas Shop on Bridgetown's main street.



# 01

## from life to life

Fredrick White

Location: Corner of South Western Highway and Brockman Highway

From Life to Life uses the language of plumbing as a metaphor for life. Just as the implied flow of water through the pipe structure is not visible, travelling through life our arrival and departure are not known. Through its physical connection to the ground, From Life to Life acknowledges the earth as the source of our existence, something which must be protected if we are to create a sustainable future for all living beings. From Life To Life was sculpted in Bridgetown before being cut into sections and shipped back to Castlemaine in Victoria for casting. It was then sent back to the Greenbushes Mine who generously provided space and a crane in which to assemble the piece. It was moved to site in two sections and welded together by Toby Jarvis.

Fredrick White is a Melbourne-based sculptor with over 30 years of experience creating public art. Fredrick moved to Bridgetown in 2006 and began work on From Life to Life. Due to personal reasons Fredrick had to return to the eastern states in 2007 after completing the sculpture. “From Life To Life is still at the pinnacle of what I set out to achieve as an artist, a distillation of ideas about connection and mortality that have been there from the beginning of my career and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to create it.”



# 02



## a fragile balance

Glenn Hywood

# 03

Location: Bridgetown Mini Mart

The animals represented in the mural, all native to this area, are just a few of the animals that have to somehow adapt to the ever-spreading sprawl of civilisation into the bush. Some animals are endangered, on the verge of extinction. The mural depicts our place in nature and the fact that we live amongst other animals that need the natural world to survive as well. The artist says “to live in the southwest is a privilege, and the survival of its natural environment is our responsibility.”

Glenn is a signwriter from an era when signwriters were “recognisable by the flare of their layouts and the colours or fonts they used.” Apart from signwriting, Glenn’s artistic skills have been developed through the occasional life drawing class, where he has also been known to volunteer as a model from time to time! Glenn is a passionate environmentalist and volunteers in projects to protect threatened species.



## ashbil community garden

Various

# 04

Location: In and around the garden, on Stewart Street

Take a wander through the Community Garden and delight in the artistic creations of nature and humankind. The garden features a Carbonature sculpture by local artist Kim Perrier, plus an ever-evolving collection of pieces created by community members young and old. As it’s a working community garden, please be mindful of your step and respectful of the hard work of the gardeners who grow produce here.



## down the rabbit hole

Location: The Rabbit Hole

Various contributors

# 05

**Down The Hole by Kylie Hinchy.** Is it a hole? Or a portal that will transport you from the real world, down the rabbit hole to the wonderland of artists below? "Hop in" for an illusive photo opportunity with a difference.

### Artists of the Rabbit Hole - Various

Bridgetown is home to so many artists, each with differing styles and modalities. The Rabbit Hole is an open artist's workspace and each figure on the side of the building was created by a resident artist and depicts their unique viewpoint. Just as The Rabbit Hole is an evolving and dynamic space, so too is the mural a work in progress, making it an interesting part of the Art Trail to watch into the future.

**Yoga lotus pose by Tamara Moore.** The design represents a change of life, transitioning from a career in finance, following one's heart and coming home to Bridgetown to pursue art.

**Steel and wire man with ball by Wayne Shalders.** A Bridgetown resident for 35 years,

Wayne is a successful exhibiting artist with a passion for protecting our local environment. He produces artwork that he hopes helps the viewer discover the sacred in nature.

**Artist with palette by Jean Barrett.** The minimalist design represents a blank canvas, and the freedom of the artist to transform it using any technique, any inspiration and any medium, as they continue to learn and their style evolves.

**Figure holding cigar box guitar by David Barrett.** The finish of this piece maintains the raw appearance of the material from which it is made. This is reminiscent of the cigar box guitars and amplifiers the artist constructs from discarded and recycled items, which have found homes around Australia and the world.

**Running pose carrying eucalyptus branches by Christine Latham.** Decorated in the colours of the Indigenous flag; yellow, black and red, the design represents the artist's continual education in Indigenous culture and her Indigenous heritage,

despite her Caucasian appearance. The dots and circles represent connection through energy.

**Fairy with rabbits by Kylie Hinchy.** Celebrating nature and whimsy, the piece takes inspiration from the artist's life in Bridgetown. The rabbits represent the artists of The Rabbit Hole and the myth of the Rabbit in the Moon, while the blue tone represents Blues at Bridgetown

**Mosaic tree woman by Carol Jay.** Inspired by the "fountain of joy" that art allows her to tap into, Carol's piece reflects her blossoming journey into the world of art, the meditative process of creating art, and the significant oak tree (the largest of its kind in Australia) on the outskirts of Bridgetown.

**Photography/mixed media collage by Davina Jogi.** Originally from Zimbabwe, Davina has incorporated images and artefacts from her work there and in Bridgetown. The piece takes inspiration from photo collage diaries of photojournalist Dan Eldon, who was killed in Somalia in 1993.

**Abstract woman holding sewing pin by Jane Bell.** Representing the sensory nature of the textiles, this figure wears a skirt filled with stitches which symbolise the "stitching together" of the fabric of the Bridgetown community - many interesting characters who share a love for the town.

**Dripping paint figure by Colleen Currey.** The clay face and hand, and fish motif, represent elements the artist uses in her work. The dripping paint represents the "all encompassing" nature of creativity, that can sometimes end in a bit of a meltdown!

**Side profile silhouette holding camera by Victoria Baker.** Filled with portraits of 'Bridgetownians' from Victoria's book project '150', the collage of portraits "shows how hugely diverse this little town actually is." Victoria continues to photograph of the human faces of Bridgetown.



## dream flying

Gabriel Evans

# 06

Location: Wall to the north of Bridgetown Masonic Lodge

Depicting a girl flying through the wind on a kite, the mural reflects the idea of Bridgetown youth growing up surrounded by the heritage and nature of our environment before leaving to follow a dream. While viewing the artwork, the artist hopes you'll be able to hear the wind howling and the Carnaby's cockatoos calling.

Gabriel Evans is a published children's book illustrator and author. Growing up on a hobby farm alongside the Blackwood River, Gabriel's whimsical style evokes nostalgia and affection for childhood and nature. His claim to fame? Sitting next to Morris Gleitzman at a writer's festival book signing: "His queue was slightly longer - give or take a kilometre," says Gabriel.



## the eagle and its nest

Dennis Wilson

# 07

Location: Behind the Community Kiosk, next to the Christmas Shop

Constructed from recycled wine barrel hoops, old railway iron, recycled steel and discarded insulators, The Eagle and its Nest is the result of the artist's passion for birdlife and waste-free creativity. "I have a passion in creating different birds. Birdlife is very important to the environment and Bridgetown," Dennis says.

A Bridgetown resident for over 60 years, Dennis is an awarded sculptor, trained stonemason and enthusiastic rose gardener. Whatever materials are available at the time go into the creation of each of Dennis's pieces, making each design completely unique.





## a hill of a great place

Nic Fabiszak

08

Location: Geegelup General Supplies

This triptych (set of three) murals depict aspects of Bridgetown in a fun and quirky way - selfies are encouraged! It is filled with references to Bridgetown life, events and culture. Can you spot them all? While we encourage visitors to enjoy interacting with this piece, many hours of work has gone into its creation. Please treat it with care and keep an eye on the little ones to ensure it is not damaged.

Nic is a Bridgetown resident of 20 years. She's an inventor at heart, loves a challenge and is a bit of a jokester, as is evident in her work. Be sure to head to the River Park Foreshore to see Nic's other piece "In, On and Along."



## lifecycle

Rod Laws

09

Location: Town Square (corner Steere Street and Spencer Street)

The one metre diameter metal orb is constructed of found objects from around the area, including recycled parts from Dr Henry Schapper's old bicycle, whose bequest funded this piece and others along the trail. If you've got some time to spare, why not see how many circles you can count?

Dr Rod Laws has a strong connection to Bridgetown as the birthplace of his three children. He is inspired by the forms found in nature, from the planets and stars to the tiniest of insects. Dr Laws currently resides in Nannup.



## bicentennial tapestry

Arts & Craft Group 1986

Location: Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes office (inside building, on entry ramp)

# 10

## polychromatic

Vicki Baker & Ruby-Mae Baker

Location: Blackwood Fresh

# 11

Meticulously sewn by the needlewomen of the Arts and Craft group, the 4.5 metre long tapestry was created to commemorate the Australian Bicentenary in 1988. It illustrates the history, culture and lifestyle of the area from 1868 to 1988, featuring the Blackwood River, wild flowers and native animals plus many icons of the locality. Can you spot St. Paul's Church, the timber mill, orchard trees, packing sheds, our famous bridge and images of the Aboriginal settlement that existed here?

Documented history includes detailed instructions given to each needlewoman, including the careful washing of yarn and hands in a substance to remove acidic residue, with a view to prolonging the life of the piece. The tapestry was designed by Mrs Marion Wardell-Johnson and Mrs Joan Krauze. Other contributors included Dorothy Grigson, Pam Clothier, Coralie Cockram, Madge Meares, Joan Mitchell and Lal Martin-White. The tapestry was completed in 10 sections, with each section taking approximately 200 hours of needle work to produce.

The spectacular sunsets over the Blackwood Valley, particularly those seen from the home of the artists, were the inspiration for this abstract piece. The geometric pattern was included as a contemporary design element. Many thanks are extended to the community members who assisted in the installation of the mural - a true showcase of the generous "lend a hand" spirit of the Bridgetown community.

Vicki Baker trained in silversmithing and metal work in the UK and is currently studying botanical art. Ruby-Mae is Vicki's daughter (aged 13). She is a digital artist and enjoys creating characters with manga and pop culture influences. Vicki and Ruby-Mae collaborated on the mural and live in Bridgetown with their family.





## Karak country

Christine Latham

Location: Bridgetown Community Resource Centre wall

# 12

Inspired by the visually arresting wildlife of the region, the mural and sculpture feature stylised depictions of iconic red-tailed black cockatoos and bottlebrush flowers. The subjects were chosen because they can be commonly seen in gardens and bush landscapes throughout the local area. The piece plays with dimension and perspective, while serving as a reminder that our natural heritage needs to be treasured and protected if it is to be enjoyed by future generations.

Christine is an accomplished painter, printmaker and sculptor. The discovery of her Yamatji Indigenous ancestry at age 35 helped Christine make sense of her creative style, which blends western and Indigenous influences. A Bridgetown resident since 1992, Christine has held successful exhibitions around WA but now prefers to exhibit in her home town.



## the big peg

Bridgetown's Grumpy Old Men Inc

Location: South Western Highway, in front of Bridgetown Repertory Theatre

# 13

Constructed from local marri timber, the Big Peg is distinctively recognisable, yet also confounding. Some say it just means that Bridgetown is a great place to "hang out" and when you visit, you'll "pinch yourself." Other unsubstantiated accounts say the sculpture was originally supposed to be The Big Pig. Art critics say the piece democratises art by bringing a familiar domestic object into an unusual context. Whatever the meaning, it surely reflects the quirky attitude of the Bridgetown community. Similar pegs can be found in Belgium and the USA.

Bridgetown's Grumpy Old Men work from their shed on Peninsula Road. John Van Tilborg was the primary craftsman who worked on The Big Peg. The Men's Shed is home to local residents who work on a range of projects for members of the public and community groups. The Grumpies also use this forum as a way to bring awareness to men's health issues. When they are not busy with timber and tools, the Grumpies enjoy gathering for morning tea.



## the totem poles

Tony & Merle Davis, & students

Location: Along Roe Street, in front of Bridgetown Primary School

# 14

## @ home

Helen Seiver

Location: Somme Creek

# 15

Created through a series of collaborative workshops, the totem poles act as an entry statement to the school. Installed in 2014, they mark the centenary of the primary school at its site on Roe Street. The designs were completed by students with the support and guidance of Merle Davis and carved into the poles by Tony Davis. The students then painted the totems. When completed, they were erected with the help of Greg Giblett and a collection of willing parents.



Consisting of three oversized and intricately designed eucalypt tree nuts, this set of sculptures honours the forests that were once in abundance in the region and references Bridgetown's timber milling history. Two tree nuts sit on furniture signifying the domestic use of forest products. The last tree nut sits within the frame of a house, signifying the need to protect our precious natural environment. @ Home was installed in 2014.

Helen Seiver creates large-scale sculptures with recycled materials that reflect on feminine identity and our cultural and environmental values by focussing attention on common things that we have forgotten to see.





## kaleidoscope

Damien Butler

Location: Somme Creek

# 16



## francis

Russell Sheridan

Location: Somme Creek

# 17

The striking three metre artwork is made from locally sourced materials. Using mirrors, it plays with the changing light of the day and reflects snapshots of natural textures in the surrounding bush and creek. At night time, ground lights truly bring the piece to life, amplifying the kaleidoscope effect. Walk inside, outside and around Kaleidoscope to get the full experience in three dimensions.

Damien Butler creates artworks that seek to bring art out of galleries and into the broad public domain. He experiments with sustainable production and alternative methods of creative practice in Australia and Germany.



Francis is an enigmatic sculpture depicting a woman and her dog, sitting overlooking the Somme Creek. Created especially for and in response to the space, it's designed to slow down passers-by and draw their attention to the surrounding environment. Who is Francis, and what could she be contemplating?

Russell Sheridan's whimsical artworks exemplify humanity in innovative and quirky ways, reflecting on the character of the larrikin Australian. Russell lives in Dardanup and has public art on display around Perth and regional WA.



