

Bridgetown

By Bridgetown Historic Society

<https://www.bridgetownhistoricalsociety.org.au/>

Bridgetown celebrates its 150th anniversary of gazettal on 9th June 2018. WA State Heritage recognised Bridgetown as a heritage town in 2000 and the main street, Hampton Street, remains very similar to 19th century photos. The townsite has grown along with the population, but it remains a close-knit, welcoming community, with many residents directly related to the original settlers of this region.

Bridgetown lost many men during WWI, mostly in France but also in the Middle East. This impacted on farming families who relied heavily on male workers. It left women trying to cope with livestock and cropping.

The biggest changes are in the source of income. Initially orchards and mixed farming were the main source of income for the community, supported by tradesmen and women in the town, however, with the downturn of apple exports and the coddling moth disaster in the 60s, and the lower returns for sheep and cattle, the town turned to tourism for sustenance. This has proved to be a valuable commodity for the community and Bridgetown continues to grow.

The Bridgetown Historical Society Inc. offers historical town walks to visiting groups. These take place on demand and are generally 1 - 2 hours long. We also offer ghost walks during the July school holidays around the town, for school students.

The Bridgetown Police Station Museum 1880 is a fine example of early police stations, with adjoining police quarters (that aren't open to the public). Tours can also be arranged around this museum that also features rural equipment and apple sorting machinery.

There are heritage walks through bushland close to Bridgetown, and along the river. These are self-directed walks, but guides can be arranged.

Please visit the Historical Society website for more details.

www.bridgetownhistoricalsociety.org.au



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