

# The Toodyay Herald

VOLUME 277

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## TOODYAY'S DAY OF DARKNESS



**“We** come together as Australians who know something of the regenerative power of fire in our bush, the seeds that break open, in the midst of the flames, and quickly become signs of new life. We come together as people of hope. May we all be able to move from darkness to light.”

Victorian Bushfire National Memorial Service, February 2009”

TUESDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> December was a day that our community will never forget.

The bushfire, suspected to have ignited from fallen powerlines, began near River Road and travelled up into the hills, sweeping through Majestic Heights, Majestic Waters, Mountain Park and Wicklow Hills.

An estimated two hundred firefighters attended the fire, including metropolitan brigades.

FESA District Manager Mark Bowen said that the outcome was largely due to the quick turnout and huge resources deployed

to fight the fire.

“Helitacs and resources were activated immediately, which made a huge difference to the outcome,” he said. “There were lessons learned at the Chatcup bushfire which were implemented this time – from a firefighting perspective, all personnel did a tremendous job in saving lives and property.”

Thirty eight homes were destroyed along vehicles, outbuildings and over 3000 hectares of bush and pasture. The damage bill has been estimated at approximately 100 million dollars.

Part time resident Premier Colin Barnett travelled to the area on the 30<sup>th</sup> December and declared the area a state natural disaster, announcing emergency assistance grants of up to \$3000 for those who had been left homeless by the fire.

“Like all West Australians, I was stunned by the sudden and devastating impact of the fire,” said Mr Barnett. “I want to express my sympathy to those who have lost their homes and acknowledge the efforts of firefighters and the police and the Shire of Toodyay.”

Recovery from the disaster is expected

to take several years and is expected to have a significant impact upon the community. Flowerdale resident Trudie Goudge, who travelled to Toodyay after her town, Flowerdale, was lost in the Black Saturday fires, said that the community...

“can get through this by working together. “Put aside all of your differences and work together, this is vital,” she said. “Your community is only as good as what you put into it.”

The recovery and relief efforts continue.

*Photograph by Greg Winning*

### FROM THE ASHES



### SPECIAL EDITION

- ‘From the Ashes’ fire liftout
- Photographs and survivor stories
- Upcoming events
- Fire information
- Recovery information
- Information for the community

the survivors

the volunteers

the recovery

the events



The *Toodyay Herald* is a monthly publication. The deadline for all contributions is the **DAY BEFORE THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH** and the paper will be on the streets on the following **THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH**.

All contributions and advertising may be left at the office of *The Toodyay Herald*, 92 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay, or posted to P.O. Box 100, Toodyay, 6566 or emailed to toodyayherald@westnet.com.au. Website: toodyayherald.com.au

## The Toodyay Herald

*The Toodyay Herald* is a community paper and as such welcomes contributions of letters, articles and photographs from all members of the community. Contributions on computer disk are appreciated. There is no charge for articles which appear in the paper.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are available at \$2.00 per issue (postage and packaging) by writing to P.O. Box 100, Toodyay 6566, enclosing a cheque for the number of issues required.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership of The Toodyay Herald is available to residents of the Shire of Toodyay at \$10 per member per year (July - June). Send your name, phone number, residential address and postal address with your membership fee to P.O. Box 100, Toodyay 6566 or leave it at 92 Stirling Terrace.

Readers who reside outside the Shire of Toodyay are not eligible for membership but for \$10 per year are invited to become a 'Friend of the Herald'.

Members receive \$15 free advertising per annum.

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### DISTRIBUTION

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## THANK YOU

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**DEADLINE**

**ISSUE 278**  
**Tuesday 23 Feb**

**NEXT EDITION**

**DUE OUT ON**  
**Thursday 4 Mar**

TOODYAY HERALD ACCOUNTS HOTLINE

**0429 896 860**



"Some people give time, some money, some their skills and connections, some literally give their life's blood. But everyone has something to give."

-Barbara Bush-

The Hope from Ashes auction will run online over the next month. This online auction will raise awareness and funds and give people all over Australia the opportunity to bid on donated items to help Toodyay people who are rebuilding after the fire.

We have tried to gather together a range of diverse and high quality items and services that in some way reflect the diversity and creativity of the Toodyay community. In finding a gift for yourself you will be giving to the Toodyay community and we hope the excitement and high energy of the auction will be uplifting and inspiring it its way.

The auction has the Hope From Ashes flavor celebrating and demonstrating the generosity, positivity and support that has flowed so readily for and within the Toodyay community.

As well as people from Perth many local Toodyay businesses and individuals have also contributed to the auction, some although deeply affected by the fires through loss of home or workplace. Artworks, craft items, trips away fantastic meals and even life coaching sessions, massages, motoring items, clothing and collectors plates are just a few of the amazing items we can offer you. The list grows every day so 'no napping' or you may miss a fabulous item...which is just what you needed!

We hope you will enjoy the items on offer and we hope you have fun whilst you bid big as we pull together to raise much needed funds for the survivors of the Toodyay Bush-fires.

Items are to be auctioned on EBay later this week.

We are very grateful for all support and donations from sponsors.

Just a few of the services available at the auction - Margaret River Hotel - Two nights accommodation in a Spa room at the Luxurious Margaret River Hotel and dinner on one night in the MRH Bistro/wine Bar to value of \$80 to be taken during your stay. Package value \$370

Hainault Vineyard and Cafe Hainault Vineyard and Winery is ideally suited for those groups looking for the "iconic" Bickley Valley escape. Whether it be a car rally, a special birthday, or just a group of friends looking for something different, We have Lunch voucher for four to the value of \$70. Open week-ends and public holidays. Also available on Fridays. Bookings Highly Recommended.

( Expiry Date: 30th October 2010 Not valid Mother's Day or Easter Sunday )

Must Wine Bar Margaret River - classy venue....sip in style with a \$50 Voucher

Boshack Outback Eco Accommodation and day trip. Adventure close to Perth . One night Humpy Stay and Day Tour for two children and two adults Voucher Value \$275

Lucky Shag Waterfront Bar \$100 Voucher ( we have three of these)

Jenna Tavern - Accommodation and Dinner for two Value \$160 in this celebrated Wheatbelt venue.

Break of Day Guest House - Set in tranquil Bridgetown . Two night stay with full breakfast both mornings and one dinner with bottle SW wine Value \$350

Taylor 's Café Studio/Gallery - Voucher \$50

Captain Cook Premium Swan River Cruise. Swan Valley Lunch Cruise for two departs daily 13.15 ( Sept - Apr) wed- sun ( may - Aug) is valued at \$182.00 Cruise includes 13:15 Buffet Lunch with glass of wine onboard with Chequers Catering 14:40 Wine Tasting in underground cellar with Waters Edge Estate 15:15 Return Cruise with Afternoon Tea & Cakes with Entertainment 16:45 Tour concludes at Barrack square( Perth )

Australian Body Fitness& Performance Training - Health, Fitness and Lifestyle Screening Consultation and Personal Training Session. (value \$205).

Australian Body Fitness - Swedish Therapeutic Massage Swedish relaxation massage uses light to moderate pressure. Value \$80.00

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Regenerate Fitness - Full Gym Membership valued at \$ 649.00 - Peter Alan Gentlemen's Hairdresser Claremont - We are offering The Full Works - "shampoo , conditioning head massage, haircut ,and blow dry, and products and a drink of your choice" Value \$60

Vmoto Motorcycles Australia - New Vmoto Monza The package includes 12 months warranty, 6 months registration (colour subject to availability in stock) and a helmet ( Open face to value of \$80) .Makes a bold statement on the road. Sporty styling and a zippy reed-valve 50cc engine, enough power to carry two people with ease.You can buy and ride straight away without a motorcycle licence, an everyday car licence is all you need.

Convair Compact Magicool Portable Air Conditioner free standing. Company Australian made and owned. No harmful refrigerants Easy to move very low running costs . We have two of these. Thank you to CDA Airconditioning and refrigeration specialists....and much, much more!

[www.hopefromashes.com.au](http://www.hopefromashes.com.au)



Despite the fires, Toodyay celebrated Australia Day and welcomed our newest citizens.

TOODYAY'S newest Australians, Nicole Klein and Susan Burley (left to right) joined a crowd of Toodyay residents to celebrate Australia Day, 2010.

Determined to celebrate Australia Day after the Toodyay bushfire, families turned out in force to remind each other what mateship and Australian values meant.

In South Perth, WA's governor praised the Australian spirit of those involved in fighting the Toodyay fires.

An address by Shire President Chris Firms reminded local people what it meant to be Australian, and praised our volunteer organisations, including Toodyay's fire fighters.

Members of the 1st Toodyay Scout Group raised the flag to the tune of the National Anthem, followed by breakfast, which was served by Shire Councillors.

The Shire of Toodyay Australia Day Awards were awarded to;

**Community Group nomination**

Toodyay Miniature Railway

**Junior Citizen Award Nomination**

Ben Jenkins (winner)

Beth Findlay

**Citizenship Awards**

Paul Sutton

George Murray (winner)

Jim Page

Robyn Hansson

Michael Morgan

Shirley Patton

Patricia Young

The winner of the Citizenship Award was George Murray, who has given 31 years of commitment to his role as a volunteer of St John's Ambulance.

George has been instrumental in ensuring the financial stability of the sub centre which will service the community well into the future. He became a first aid trainer in 1983 and continued training community members in first aid well into the 1990's.

George became a life member of St Johns in 1983.



Australians all let us rejoice,  
For we are young and free;  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;  
Our home is girt by sea;  
Our land abounds in nature's gifts  
Of beauty rich and rare;  
In history's page, let every stage  
Advance Australia Fair.

In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross  
We'll toil with hearts and hands;  
To make this Commonwealth of ours  
Renowned of all the lands;  
For those who've come across the seas  
We've boundless plains to share;  
With courage let us all combine  
To Advance Australia Fair.

In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.



Winners and volunteers at the Australia Day Awards with Shire President Chris Firms

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# letters

## Toodyay Fire

AS ONE OF the very fortunate fire victims who did not lose their home or shed, my wife and I would like to acknowledge and thank all those people, organisations and businesses that assisted during the recent Toodyay Fire Disaster.

The first big thank you on behalf of everyone is for the volunteer fire fighters who did a fantastic job on the ground and in the air. Without them I believe we would have suffered a lot more.

Our situation started with a phone call from a friend at about 1.30pm asking where the fire was and, having just woken from an afternoon kip, we were unaware of the unfolding situation. Robbie Pearce then arrived at our home with his own fire fighting unit and warned us that the fire was heading our way fast (our thanks to Robbie for his great support during the fire) and, because of this warning, we had about 15 – 20 minutes to gather some essentials and get away from the property.

Not being able to get access into town as Toodyay Road was closed at the Toodyay – Northam Road Intersection, we returned to the Industrial Estate where Paul Kraft extended his hospitality to our neighbourhood and opened his air-conditioned premises to us all.

Being so close to home we were able to return to our property just after 3.30pm and found our home and shed undamaged – only our property burnt out and still burning. I was able to then continue around our internal roads to also find Richard Walkey's and Sean Bryon's home untouched but, due to fallen trees couldn't access further neighbouring properties.

We would also like to extend our personal thanks to Charlie Wroth and his team for their coordination during and after the fire. Without the personal support given to both Sue and me by Charlie, the fire crew and Steven Ferguson who attended our home while we were in town having tea with Karen Jacomelli and Peter McIntosh, I believe we would have lost our home as a burning tree fell down onto the side of our carport and, without their quick reaction, the tree would have burnt onto our carport and house. Charlie called up Steven who came over immediately and was able to push the burning tree away from the carport. Later the power pole servicing our home and shed was saved by the ongoing patrols of the volunteer fire-fighters – on this occasion, Geoff Ludemann and his crew; our sincere thanks. Steven Ferguson continued to come over to our property to ensure Dr Walkey and we had access by removing fallen trees from our access roads.

All we lost was a small amount of plastic water line, fencing, saw bench and fire wood (a lot more will be available next year from fallen trees), and some fridge food (due to the

loss of power), and tyres on the combine and moped.

The daily meetings kept us well informed of the current situation and, from my own past experiences, I believe no one could have done a better job in disseminating information as soon as it was to hand, organising and coordinating the various tasks that were required.

Much criticism is levelled at our CEO, Graham Merrick, and, as a past CEO of our community, I can appreciate some of it but again I feel Graham, who came back from holidays and his team and all the councillors, have excelled themselves throughout the ordeal and deserve a great vote of thanks for all their time and co-ordination.

Although the fire is alleged to have been started through power lines, our anger (for the lack of better terminology) should be directed at previous governments over the past twenty years (who took money out of Western Power rather than allow them to start on replacing infrastructure as they should have done) and not Western Power staff who do a great job with the resources they have. After such a devastating fire, we had power back onto our place the following night and from where we live, we were able to watch the various crews do a fantastic job replacing poles and lines in such a short time.

Ongoing acknowledgement must be given to those many volunteers and agencies that have been a tremendous assistance to the whole community, particularly those manning the Memorial Hall and Showgrounds.

Our clean-up will be relatively easy in comparison to the many that have lost homes, sheds and their livelihood. Over the next few months and after our property has the many trees cleared, we would like to acknowledge the whole community's assistance and support by inviting all those volunteers, agencies and support crews to a large bomb-fire evening (when things green up and our fire season opens), making it a type of old fashioned Guy Faulks evening.

Again, our sincere thanks to our very supportive and generous community.

*Robert Millar*

THE CATASTROPHIC EVENT of 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 has given Steve and me cause to write and express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to so many people.

Our heartfelt thanks go to both the volunteer and professional fire fighters. We witnessed the speed of the fires on that day and just have the greatest admiration for the men and women who braved horrendous conditions and put their own lives at risk to try and contain the fires.

We thank the Western Power and Telstra crews who had to endure unbearable heat to restore services, surrounded by a dangerous

and, no doubt, disturbing landscape.

A special thank you to Daniel and the staff at Stewarts Pharmacy in Northam who came to my aid and allowed me unlimited access to their telephone, made me a cuppa and were all just so helpful and lovely.

Thank you to every individual and organisation who donated their time, energy, knowledge, resources and money. Thank you to family, friends and neighbours for their concern and support and a huge thank you to the amazing community of Toodyay who continue to work tirelessly.

I would also like to thank my brave husband. It was certainly not my wish for him to stay and defend our home. However, he had been given the OK to do so by a person of authority and I am extremely proud of him.

To the people of Toodyay who lost animals, homes and cherished belongings, please accept our deepest sympathy. We will be eternally grateful that no human lives were lost that day.

*Vicki and Steve Westerink*

I WOULD LIKE to thank Josh Ferguson for helping to save the house we are building and to the wonderful Toodyay community for all the support you have given us.

*Michael and Genevieve Shepherd*

THE FIRE HAS created much sadness and grief for so many people in Toodyay; my heart goes out to them.

What it created for me (and I think for many other folks) was an opportunity to help in a way that I have never before helped.

I would like to thank all those shattered and shell-shocked people who shared their story with me in the days after. Also, my acknowledgement of the difficult feelings around receiving. Without your need and then your ability to receive from us, I would never have had such a beautiful opportunity to serve.

*Name and address supplied*

DEAR TOODYAYIANS

How does one write a letter of "thanks" to a Community such as yours?

As a member of a town in Victoria called Flowerdale that was annihilated in the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2009 Black Saturday fires and a member of the C.F.A., my visit to your town brought back many memories, some sad but also some wonderful ones of support and love – especially that which we received from the Coondle – Nunile VBFB and you as a Community.

It's easy for me to say, 11 months and 5 days (who's counting) after the event that 'things' will get better/easier. You will notice the regrowth, rebuilding and the renewing of your spirits.

Be caring for one another; an event such as you have endured effects everyone – right down the line. Be free with your cuddles/hugs/smiles as these cost nothing, but lift you up to the sky.

To all the volunteers I have had the privilege to meet and those I haven't, my love and gratitude to you all. Remember YOUR COMMUNITY is only as good as what YOU put into it. Put aside all your differences and work together, this is vital.

Both my husband and I still suffer from 'Fire-Brain' (if nothing else it's an ideal excuse when you forget things or things don't go as planned – great to use with your kids/grandkids.)

I may not have been a huge help to Toodyay but thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to be with you and be part of your community.

To Coondle – Nunile Brigade, Gail and Fred Fellowes for housing Lyn and I and the friendships that have been formed through 'Fire' my sincere thanks; this will be part of me forever.

A positive message we as 'Flowerdalian' can extend to you is, "WE CAN/WE WILL get through this by working together."

We wish you all the best of luck, and that your community recovery is without hurdles.

*Trudie Goudge  
A Proud and grateful "Flowerdalian"*

I WOULD LIKE to publicly thank the Makita team for setting up the tool library in Toodyay.

I was devastated to hear that my Uncle Paul's place was destroyed by the fires, and I cannot describe the emotion I felt when I heard that he made it through OK with his dog and rusty old Holden. I love him dearly.

Being so far away (Darwin), I couldn't

think of what I could do to help best. Then I thought that maybe I could help to organise some tools so he could start to demolish and rebuild. He is a survivor and I knew he would want to get on with the job, not sit around waiting for someone else to sort it out.

I sent a couple of emails out to Perth tool stores asking them for donations of power tools or at least cost price, so that the Government money Uncle Paul got would go a little further. I got a reply from Makita in Perth who said they were already working on a tool library to be based in Toodyay. Fantastic idea, I thought, this would help out a whole bunch of people, not just one person.

Uncle Paul called me a couple of days ago to say that the tool library was up and running, and, as a proud 'Makita man', I thank Stephen and his team at Makita for 'walking the talk' and providing a great community resource.

Best wishes to all in Toodyay,

*Morgan Hoyes  
Business Credit Manager  
Traditional Credit Union, NT  
Darwin*

THE HORRENDOUS FIRE that Toodyay suffered has brought home one very important point; particularly given the extended period in which the Shire fire crews have been engaged in mopping up and patrolling. There simply are not enough volunteers to man the Bush Fire Brigades. The Central Brigade even had difficulty in manning its appliances from the start.

I wrote to each Councillor in early December highlighting the manning problem. I also suggested a means by which the pressure on the Brigades could be alleviated. The manpower is there - it just needs to be positively encouraged by the Shire with incentives. No amount of pleadings in the columns of The Herald by the Brigades is going to have the same effect.

That incentive should be a rates rebate of, for instance, \$200 per household for a member of the household who has actively participated in a Brigade. I am convinced that this would ensure the sufficient availability of volunteers so that manning ceases to be a problem.

If we say that the ideal rostered manning situation of a Brigade is 30 plus 10 active auxiliaries then, over the 5 brigades this would total 200 posts. This would give a total cost of \$40,000 a year. The sum would actually be less as, in many instances, there is more than one brigade member in a household. Payment of the rebate would be in arrears and would require a full year as an active fire fighter with completion of the necessary training before payment would be authorised.

While \$40,000 sounds like quite a sum of money it pales into insignificance when compared to the 25% rates subsidy (was 40%) given to the large landholders in the Shire over the past 7 or 8 years who, in any event, can claim rates against their annual tax! At least Council can be reassured that the \$40,000 is not being wasted and will achieve a positive effect for the safety and well-being of all the population of the Shire.

However, with the self-interest and entrenched positions held by some on rates concessions, I doubt that this proposal will get a guernsey... unless we tell our Councillors that this is what we want.

*Allan Henshaw*

I LISTENED WITH loathing and disgust to stories of people trying and in some cases succeeding in gaining money and goods donated to the fire relief fund to which they were not entitled.

I heard of people claiming to be disadvantaged by the fire but they live nowhere near the affected area. You people are no better than looters and should be ashamed of yourselves. How do you sleep at night?

I was one of the lucky ones, the fire was stopped 70 metres from my house, but some of my friends lost everything and it disgusts me to hear of people taking advantage of others' misery.

Grow a conscience people, it could happen to you for real one day.

*Terri Watson.*

MAYBE WE NEED to go back to a local warning system, like the really loud windup sirens? They can be heard for miles and everyone could afford to have at least one on their property.

*Marie Connolly*

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**Being human**

TRAGEDY SEEMS TO bring out the best and worst in people.

In Haiti there are those who are giving everything they have to assist – the solution people; the ones whose basic motivation is love and freedom and life. And there are those who are taking everything they can – the problem people; the ones whose basic motivation is fear and self-imprisonment and death.

In Toodyay it is similar. The solution people are selflessly, generously giving their all from the abundance of their good human hearts. These are the life-givers; the community builders; the enablers. This is the great majority of the residents of Toodyay.

And, sadly, there are those few who are yet too frightened and immature to give and care for anyone other than themselves. These are the ones who don't yet know what it means to be human. They criticize, judge and condemn and, in so doing, judge and condemn only themselves. These are the life-takers; the community destroyers; the disablers. These people are part of the problem.

I am encouraged and delighted that there are overwhelmingly more enablers than disablers in this great community of ours. I believe and hope we can sustain the enabling into the future. I hope we will all courageously, gently and firmly challenge the disablers anywhere we meet them to give up the known, terrifying, illusory 'safety' of their personal prisons for the unknown adventure of excitement and manageable anxiety that is the abundance of the truly human life. And I hope we don't fall into the error of focussing on anyone other than our own little self when we consider who might be part of the problem (disabler), and who might be part of the solution (enabler).

*John White*

**Singing the Praises of Toodyay**

WE OWN FOXBURROW Holiday accommodation and, a few weeks back, we had a very nice couple stopping for a couple of days with us. They had travelled through various country towns and had stayed overnight.

They then told us that they thought Toodyay was the cleanest, friendliest town that they had been to; also, the Visitors Centre was great and the staff was so helpful and, thankfully, they were very complimentary to us also!

What a pleasant change to hear all good things about this lovely town as so often there are nothing but moans about it.

What we have all seen over the last few weeks has been both horrifying, sad and unforgettable but are we glad that we live here to see how the town all pulls together and to help all those poor people who have been so dreadfully affected by the fires.

So, like our guests that sung the town's praises, we do too.

*Angela and Mel Fox*

**Parliament Comes to Toodyay**

ANYONE WHO HAS heard question time from parliament knows that it is all about politics and not about the business of running the country.

A similar scenario was played out at the January meeting of Council. The gallery was packed with residents ready to participate in the democratic business of Council – or were they?

It appears that the word had got out – there was going to be an attempt to impeach the Shire President and anyone with an axe to grind was apparently invited to attend.

I think that members of the community should ask themselves whether Councillors, who freely give their time to serve the community, should be subject to personal abuse from other councillors or the public in the gallery.

Toodyay has just been through a serious bush fire emergency. The community spirit that prevailed has been justifiably held out as an example of the 'Australian Way'. There are other examples of Australian values such as tolerance; a fair go; and presumption of innocence.

One Councillor showed off a new talent at the meeting. At one point, during a debate, he stood up and made a comment about a fellow Councillor. His comment drew laughter from a section of the gallery. When it was requested that the comment was recorded in the minutes and the wording was being discussed, those members of the gallery who had laughed claimed that they had not heard what was said. When asked to repeat his comment for the record he could not remember what he had said two minutes earlier, which is a bit of a worry.

The motion from Councillor Lloyd to form a new Recreation Advisory Committee was not on the agenda for the January meeting of Council. Although Councillor Lloyd sent the notice of motion to the CEO by e-mail in plenty of time for the agenda it seems that the CEO did not receive the e-mail.

Councillors Wroth, Larkin, Somers and Jackson voted against rescinding the August 2009 resolution of council to collocate all recreational facilities at the showgrounds site. Members of the previous Recreation Strategy Committee and seemed reluctant for the matter to be reconsidered even though the council decision was considered to be against the wishes of the community.

The streetscape plan that was also rejected by the community is in limbo although the CEO has purchased planter boxes for some \$21,000.

The CEO awarded a contract for the development of detailed plans for siting recreational facilities at the showgrounds site just before the motion to rescind that decision was considered by council.

Is this the action of a prudent CEO with the best interests of the community in mind?

There are also now the questions being asked, but not answered, on whether the emergency and recovery committees were properly constituted in accordance with the

relevant legislation.

If the motion of Councillor Larkin to force the Shire President to take leave of absence had succeeded the vote of council on matters such as these could have been affected.

Councillor Firms was elected to represent the interests of the community on council. Attempting to prevent him from representing those interests for the reasons given seem simply opportunistic.

The front page of the recent Avon Valley Gazette contained an article which quoted a Toodyay resident as stating, "It's time certain councillors took responsibility for unifying the whole council."

I think that this is fair comment. The Shire of Toodyay council is not State or Federal Parliament; there is no place in council for an opposition who see their role as being as non-cooperative as possible. At the last election the community voted for a change in the way that the Shire was managed. Some councillors need to accept this and get on with the business of council in accordance with the wishes of the community.

*Phil Coffey  
West Toodyay*

AT THE SPECIAL Meeting of Council held on 1 January, it was moved that the Chief Executive Officer be required to advise the Shire President the power, authority, or Act under which the Recovery Committee and Local Emergency Management Committee are acting. Two Councillors were absent during the vote and two voted against the motion.

Why would any Councillors object to the Shire President knowing under what legal authority the committees are operating?

The minutes of the meeting show that Councillors Wroth and Somers were absent from the chamber and that Councillors Larkin and Jackson asked for the minutes to record that they voted against the motion.

*Peter Ruthven*

AS EVERYONE IS aware, Toodyay suffered a terrible bushfire last month which destroyed and devastated homes, families and bushland. Our sympathy and support go out to all those affected.

What everyone might not be aware of is the other fire burning in the Shire. This is the one in the Shire Council. I fear it will take more than the helitacs to extinguish this one.

I attended the last Council meeting on Thursday night after hearing about the goings on at the previous meeting. I came away appalled and depressed at the antics shown at that meeting. At a time when Toodyay has the whole country's goodwill in supporting people to rebuild their lives, we have factional politics at its worst being played out in our Council. My take on the situation is basically this – one side wants to see the Shire President go and the other side wants to see the CEO go, though that position seems to have changed temporarily to questioning the legality of the Recovery Committee structure and so try and put pressure on the group who appear to support the CEO.

Of the 2 ½ hours that I was at the meeting before it was closed to the public, 1 hour was spent on what I considered Council business i.e. Appointment of Auditor, Policy adoption, Targa West Rally, Financial statements etc and the other 1 ½ hours was spent trying to score points against the other side.

If this is the best that this Council can do at such an important time to the Community then heaven help us. Some mediation or intervention is urgently required. I encourage all concerned ratepayers to attend the next Council meeting to see for themselves.

*Sally Martin.*

A SMALL but vocal group of ratepayers with influence over a number of councillors continue to nurture dissent and harbour a culture of dissatisfaction with the local government administration. I do not believe this is helpful in achieving a cohesive functioning local government.

Even though these ratepayers have succeeded in gaining control of the council through endorsement of candidates and factional voting this has proved to be very unproductive as councillors degenerate into unethical and unprofessional behaviour which results personal attacks on each other. It is my belief that council's time should be used efficiently to debate and vote on the merits or otherwise of local issues and policy, not to launch a constant barrage of personal attacks and points of order. Although entertaining, it is not a revolution as some would like to think it is.

It is a possibility that the State Government could appoint an administrator which would replace all councillors. It is time for elected councillors to bring motions and vote on issues based on their independent assessment of their constituents' requirements and not just to vote predictably along factional lines. It is better for the ratepayers and councillors to work together for the good of local government, not to work against each other and destroy it.

*Joshua Jackson*

IT HAS BEEN wonderful to see the community spirit in Toodyay with so many people volunteering their time to help in our recent emergency.

However, it is disappointing to see a few people, including some councillors and ex-councillors, who claim to encourage and support the volunteers' work, but are actually debasing that work by using it for their own political manoeuvrings.

*Peter Ruthven*

AT THE ORDINARY Meeting of Council held on 21 January it was disappointing to see the way several Councillors and some members of the gallery, including two ex-Councillors, reacted to some of the questions from the gallery. The questions related to concerns regarding how the Local Recovery Committee was created and some legal aspects of the Committee.

These people were unconcerned about the answers and, instead, they attacked those who asked the questions and accused them

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# letters

of denigrating the work of the volunteers. As one of those asking questions I totally reject this line of attack.

My questions were aimed at finding out if the Local Emergency Management Committee and the Local Recovery Committee were formed legally.

Fire brigade members are covered for personal injury, death and public liability, but what protection is there for the many volunteers who have worked and are still working to assist and support the victims of the fire? If the committees were not formed legally, are all these volunteers protected against personal injury and any legal action? Would the Shire take responsibility or would the volunteers be left out on a limb?

Given the hostility of those objecting to questions about the formation of the committees, I hope we never have to find out the hard way.

*Beth Ruthven*

CHRIS Firms - new El-Presidenté of the Shire of Toodyay - I applaud your vision and your goals as stated in the president's report in the December edition of the Herald. I hope you and your council will be able to maintain that line of thought and operation and give Toodyayites the administration we want - although I do realise that you can never please everyone all of the time.

If the focus is more on common sense and requirements of ratepayers, nature and animals and less on the strict adherence to the ugly monster of bureaucracy and its sometimes idiotic rules which are mostly concocted by city-bound bureaucrats with little understanding of what goes on in the real world, you will indeed be a worthy administration. What most administrations seem to forget is that systems and rules - and that also includes public servants - are there to serve us, not the other way around. Sometimes they need to be manipulated or bent in order to suit.

In order to achieve the desired outcomes, it may be necessary to review the employment or management of our administrative staff, so that we may have public servants in our

shire who will assist rather than hinder the people who pay their wages.

If you will do the right thing by us, we will do right by you and the council. Best of luck.

*Tom Kress*

## Clearing Should Be Controlled

IT IS WITH some concern that I write in regard to the cleanup of fire affected areas. Although I appreciate that for the safety of residents and workers in the area it is necessary that some trees and vegetation be removed, this needs to be done in an intelligent way and mindful of the future. This is an environmental consequence of indiscriminate clearing with earthmoving equipment as appears to have happened through the Racecourse and Sandplain Road areas.

This total clearing of trees and understorey plants will lead to erosion problems, already seen with the dust clouds from the road verges; this will be highlighted again when we get some rain.

Another issue with this type of cleanup is that of the loss of topsoil and excessive soil disturbance. When winter comes around native plants won't get the opportunity and protection to recover and regenerate. We will see an increase in weed species and annual grasses taking hold in these areas which, if not managed quickly will become a fire risk next year and in years to come.

This will also lead to the loss of native animals that used the road verges and larger affected areas for their homes and as corridors to move from one area to another.

I would like to ask what the procedure was for awarding the contract to carry out this cleanup, who is advising them on what is appropriate/inappropriate practice and who they are reporting to? The cleanup along the Toodyay/Northam road appears to have been handled differently and with more thought for the environment with trees being pruned to ground level instead of bulldozed.

I'm sure that in time the residents and local landcare groups will be able to re-establish the bushland but I doubt very much that those doing the clearing will do much to help and I question whether the shire will restore the road verges. I would have thought that with two prior large bushfires in the shire in the

last few years that these lessons would have been learnt then.

In conclusion, I would like to say that it is always cheaper to maintain or improve bush than to restore or recreate it. Clearing is an irreversible action in the medium term. While it may be easy to establish individual trees or shrubs on cleared land they take many decades to mature, and the hundreds of other species found in native vegetation may not return for centuries.

*Paul Steele*

## Bring Back Parents' Rights

EVERY TIME THAT there is graffiti or a senseless act of vandalism by children, the first thing people do is to blame the parents and question why they don't do something or control their children. But the laws are against the parents doing something or from controlling their children.

Spanking your child is frowned upon and classed as barbaric and detrimental to your child's wellbeing and even as assault. You can't stop your child from leaving the house any time of day and night because that is classed as deprivation of liberty and even assault. You can't remove your child from off the streets because that is classed as deprivation of liberty and even assault.

Schools don't enforce discipline or respect and your kids pick up bad behaviour and attitudes from other kids. The children's courts are weak and only give child offenders a slap on the wrist or send them to mediation or for counselling. If your child runs away from home and lives on the streets they can get welfare but if they stay at home and go to school they get nothing, so it only encourages them to run away.

The Avon Valley has a number of families who are socio-economically disadvantaged and whose children display disruptive and antisocial behaviour.

Parents' rights have been replaced with children's rights and action groups, experts, psychologists and do-gooders are always changing the system in favour of children, while parents get no support and no help and are often seen as the villains and abusers.

Being a good parent is an uphill battle and, when it comes to discipline, parents are damned if they do and damned if they don't - parents just can't win.

Let's bring back parents' rights such as spanking, the cane, school uniforms and

marriage before you have children and put some morality back into society. Only then will we see a change in attitudes and some good old-fashioned values and respect; it's not too late.

*David Hickling Northam*

## Country Students Disadvantaged

I WONDER HOW many country dwellers have recently received the same rude shock I did when I discovered that my daughter does not qualify for any government assistance to relocate to Perth in order to attend university.

We are expected to fund a second household in Perth for our daughter. With a mortgage and two younger children, this is impossible.

Centrelink helpfully informed me that she should take a year off, earn \$20,000, struggle through first semester and then, after 18 months, she would qualify as independent and get government assistance from second semester onwards. However, with new legislation now in the senate, this will no longer be an option.

Students will have to work a minimum of 30 hours per week for 18 months in order to qualify for government assistance. Earning \$20,000 in what is effectively 6 months is hard enough in a small country town; working a minimum of 30 hours per week is just about impossible for a school leaver with no experience who is wanting to leave and go to university in a year's time. On top of that, the universities will only defer entry for one year, so my daughter will lose her place and have to reapply next year.

I wonder how many country students will give up on their dream of attending university as it all becomes too hard. I only hope that my daughter is not one of them. Country dwellers, contact Julia Gillard and your local MP to voice your opinions on this grossly unfair legislation before it is too late!

Yours sincerely,

*C. Prater*

## Scout Jambouree

I RECENTLY ATTENDED the Scout Jamboree 2010 in Sydney, for 2 weeks.

I got to see the city, do lots of activities (eg. abseiling, water slides, concerts, etc), meet lots of people - it was great!

Thanks to many for making my trip possible, especially Mr and Mrs Gulbransen, Mrs McKay, Racha (Danielle), Rocky (Rob), Drop Bear (Sam), Iron Bark (Paul), and Joey/Cub/Scout parents; Mr and Mrs Clarke and the Central Fire Brigade; Mr and Mrs Ferguson (Recycle Can Depot); and the Toodyay Shire.

We'll be fundraising for the next 3 years, ready for the next lot of Scouts to attend the next Jamboree in 2013, in Maryborough in Qld.

*Gabby King*

*APL of Penguin - Toodyay Scout Group*



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In an effort to provide more permanent living arrangements for fire victims, we have managed to arrange a number of new rentals - one being fully furnished down to the tea towels.

Fire victims will have priority over these and other rentals until they are able to rebuild.

*We acknowledge the excellent work by all volunteers and wish all those affected by the fire a speedy return to normal life.*



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# fire chat

## a look at events from our local volunteer bush fire brigades

### coondle

**Allan Gregory**  
1st Lieutenant

IN the aftermath of the 29th December fire, our Brigade, like others, has been doing some serious soul-searching, to determine how we might have done even better. While we are pleased that we managed to save so many houses, we feel deeply about the losses incurred on properties affected during that hectic time. A de-briefing session was held on 17th January, at which important issues were analysed with a view to improving our procedures in future, if possible. Further sessions are to follow.

The initial approach on the day was to fight the fire in the usual manner: to extinguish the flames on the flanks, in the hope of catching up with the head-fire, and thus snuff it out before it reached residential areas. That approach proved futile, with the head of the fire rapidly advancing into steep terrain where access by fire trucks was very difficult. At that time, less than one hour after the first fire appliances arrived on the site, the priority was altered to purely saving lives first and property second. The evacuation of homes under threat was achieved thanks to the residents themselves, most of whom evacuated promptly and it is to their great credit that no lives were lost. We are thankful to the fire-fighters who placed themselves in danger in order to get that important message to those in the path of the oncoming flames. To the select few who chose to stay and defend their homes, we congratulate you on your bravery and your achievements.

Subsequently, a return to normal operational procedures saw the fire overcome but, as we all know, not without substantial losses.

The greatest admiration we feel is for the pilots of the helitacs – helicopters equipped to dump water directly in the path of the fire – especially when homes and other structures are under threat. Those pilots did a tremendous job and our community owes them an enormous debt.

Of course, they don't work alone, and credit is due to others who participated on the ground in overcoming this awful threat. Apart from the bushfire Brigades and FRS, many private units were deployed by farmers and local residents, and all contributed in countless situations in saving homes and out-buildings both in the path of the fire-front, and in its aftermath. In addition, machine

operators – driving graders and loaders, even bull-dozers – played a great part in slowing the advance of the fire, and we express our admiration and gratitude to those brave people.

Heartfelt thanks to the local businesses, cafes, hotels and private individuals who helped the effort in providing meals for the fire-fighters and incident management team members – your input is greatly appreciated, as are the untiring efforts of our own auxiliary members and radio operators, in particular Fred Fellowes, who did more than his share.

To the kind people who have seen fit to contribute funds to our Brigade, and others, since the fire, many thanks for your support. Volunteers willingly give their time in this type of cause, but it is especially gratifying to know that our efforts are recognised and valued.

To those of you who are contemplating joining a volunteer bushfire brigade as a result of this event, we say - please do!

And to the people who are most affected: we express our sincere regret that our best efforts were not good enough to save your homes.

### Coondle Goes 'A Little Bit Country'

SOME very lucky members of the Coondle-Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade were recently treated to an evening of country music by world famous, international recording artist, Wayne Horsburgh at the Coondle Fire Shed.

Touched by the recent tragedy of the Toodyay fire, Wayne stopped off in Toodyay (on his way to perform at the Tamworth Country Music Festival) to show support for his brother, Coondle brigade member, Ross Horsburgh.

The impromptu performance was typical of Wayne's easygoing nature and, coupled with his free-flowing banter with the appreciative crowd, showed what a wonderful entertainer and great guy he is.

The highly-respected Wayne has a large fan base in the United States and around the world and has won many awards including an ACE (Australian Club Entertainer) Best Country Male in 2004 and was nominated in the same year as Australian Show Business Ambassador alongside Hugh Jackman, Keith Urban, James Morrison, Dame Edna and Kylie! In 2008, Wayne won the Australian Entertainment Award (MO Award) Slim



Wayne with Coondle members, Kerry Gregory, Millie Heath and visitor from Flowerdale (Vic), former Mayor, Lyn Gunter

Dusty Country Male Vocal Performer.

Old fans and new were thoroughly entertained by the talented, multi-award winning singer / guitarist as he played a selection of requests from one of his many albums (22 released to date.)

Due to concert commitments in the Eastern States and New Zealand, Wayne's visit was all too brief. However, he has promised to try and schedule a full concert into his hectic timetable later in the year as he would love to return to Toodyay.

Yee haa!

### central

**Desraé Clarke**

THE weeks following the December 29th 2009 catastrophic fire have been a 'heavy going' period for the fire brigade vollies of Toodyay. 'Callouts' have continued through to the time of writing (26th January) with frequent 'flare-ups'. Although most of these flare-ups have been in the middle of burnt areas, it is still terrifying for the landowners to see it occurring.

As the fire was in the Central Brigade's Fire District, the members were getting very little respite from the many call-outs with member numbers down due to holidays and hospitalisation. Captain, Kevin Hug, and his troops were extremely grateful to the brigades that gave them a break over several days - it was certainly appreciated - THANKYOU!!!

The Fire Brigades greatly appreciate the support given to the brigade members by so many volunteers. There was kitchen help for the preparation of the many, many meals for those out at the fires and those returning from

the fire front, incredible donations of food, donations of water and drinks plus assistance with the mountain of administrative needs. Gratitude is extended to the two ladies, Trudie and Lynn, who came to Toodyay from the Victorian area of Flowerdale, devastated in February 2009, to give comfort and ideas they have found to be of help post-fire. They spoke on a number of occasions giving hope of coping, not only with the present, but with the emotional trauma that lingers.

Although Toodyay folk lost homes, sheds, fencing, some livestock and many native animals we are forever grateful that there was no loss of life or nasty accidents. The community has been overwhelmed by the generosity of local people and those from far afield. The time and effort given to those who have suffered both emotional stress and material loss has been exceptional and is so appreciated – THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!!!

Central held its first General Meeting of 2010 on 26th January and welcomed new members John Duckworth, Chris Farrell, Layf Erickson and Stewart Dodemaide - great to have you on board! Our Captain, Kevin, is holding an orientation to the Brigade on Tuesday 2nd February at 6.30pm at the Fire and Emergency Services Centre Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

The next General Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 23rd February 2010 at the Fire and Emergency Services Centre commencing at 7.30pm. Enquiries may be made to Captain, Kevin Hug 9574 2612 or Secretary, Wayne Clarke 6364 3609.

### julimar

**Grant Scobie**

THANK you to everyone who helped us in the recent fire – not just the fire fighters and auxiliaries from the Julimar Brigade but to all the other Brigades from Toodyay and all over WA, those who assisted with the logistics, the caterers, the Shire and all who have helped the people of Toodyay in any way, shape or form. I would also like to thank our families for their assistance: without them, we wouldn't be able to give the time to help. Acknowledgement must also be given to employers who were able to allow members to take time off work to help fight this fire.

We have also been touched by the generosity  
*Continued on Page 9*

## What will be your new years resolution?

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## Become a Volunteer Fire Fighter

**Our equipment has improved a lot from this photo but our commitment to our community hasn't.**

**Contact your local Fire and Rescue Service or Bush Fire Brigade to see how you can help.**

Toodyay Volunteer Fire and Rescue	9574 2083
Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	9574 2612
Coondle Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	9574 2951
Morangup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	9572 9405
Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	9574 4759
Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	9574 5106

# fire chat

*Julimar VBFB continued from Page 8*  
of groups (far too many to mention) which have made donations to the community and to the Brigades. From the Brigades' point of view, our Captain, Heather Wearmouth, at the presentation of donations from one group to start a collection to aid all the Brigades in purchasing a Troop Carrier to transport food and fires, etc onto the fire ground, had this to say, "We are overwhelmed. We do this for our community, not to receive accolades or donations."

The enormity of this situation is still coming home to haunt us all. We, as fire fighters, were lucky to be able to have something tangible to do to assist in the operation but, with the fire fighting all but over, we too are seeing the horror of what has happened.

We were unfortunate to have one of our fire fighters come down with heat exhaustion and we must thank those who helped, especially the St John's people and Shire CEO, Graham Merrick, who kindly drove the fire fighter home to Julimar at 4am, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December.

Our vehicles were also not without damage with a clutch going in the 2.4, a cracked and chipped windscreen and other small problems to both units. These have now been fixed and, with more hot weather on the way, we are grateful that the work has been able to be done to make sure they are back on the road and ready to go back into action.

And, as we are still looking towards the two hottest months of the year, that's still a distinct possibility. Toodyay is certainly not out of the woods for this fire season, yet.

One of the lighter moments experienced during the mopping up phase was when one of our newer fire fighters, unaware of the water pressure at the town stand-pipe, left the hose to its own devices and ended up wearing a serious amount of water. To add insult to injury, the detergent we use to help break down the water tension managed to find its way into our tank. The poor fellow, sopping wet let out a plaintive cry, "I didn't come here to do the dishes, you know."

If you wish to know more about your fire brigade or more about fire and how it may affect you in your community or even if

you just want to get to meet some of your neighbours, get down to your local fire shed, ring the contact number listed on any of the Brigades' articles in this paper or contact the Shire of Toodyay for information on which fire area you're in and to whom you should address your queries.

'The Fireplace', behind the Julimar Fire Shed is open from about 5pm on Friday nights for some casual interaction with Brigade members. Even if you're not a member, come along and have a chat about your fire prevention plan, find out about your brigade and get to know the people who hope they never have to be called to your home (except maybe for dinner!).

You can also contact Heather Wearmouth, Captain, on 9574 4759.



*A very wet Graham Barber doing the dishes!*

## What are Your Bush Fire Brigades?

MEMBERS of the Toodyay Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades were disappointed to read in the Toodyay Shire's on-line brochure 'News From Our Shire' that the Shire was unable to get the names of the Brigades correct.

- The Brigades are:
- Bejoording
  - Coondle Nunile
  - Julimar
  - Morangup
  - Toodyay Central

See the advertisement on the previous page for more details.

## Toodyay Scout Group

USUALLY, the February column for the Toodyay Scout Group is difficult to write. We've been in recess for months and there is little to talk about.

This month, there is too much to write about, but I'll try to keep it short and sweet. There will be an article elsewhere in this newspaper about the Scout's trip to AJ2010, the 22nd Australian Jamboree. On behalf of the Group, I'd like to offer our support and well wishes to the bushfire survivors of Toodyay and congratulations to all our community groups and volunteers, especially the firefighters. Although this disaster has changed the town in many ways, the one thing that has not changed is that Toodyay remains a fantastic place to live and is full of wonderful people. Well done to all of you for supporting and caring about each other.

A couple of housekeeping items - boring, but completely necessary!  
Firstly, the Hall is being used as a collection point for furniture.

We're asking our Scouts to be patient whilst arrangements are made to move the furniture to a storage facility. Scouts and Cubs will recommence this week (Thursday 4th February) and convene at the Pavilion (Cubs) and the Oval (Scouts). New people welcome - please phone Danielle on 9574 4005 or Samantha on 9574 2106.

We farewell a number of our Scouts and Venturers who have finished last year - thank you to all of you for your hard work in 2009, we'll miss you. Expressions of interest are being sought from young people between 14 and 26 for the Rover and Venturer sections - please call Samantha at the above number. A Joey leader is also being sought - please talk to Samantha or Evie Luke. Many thanks to our Joey Leader, Lee Street, who is leaving us this year - we'll miss you, Lee.

We're in urgent need of a scarf maker - if you can sew a triangle and would like to help, contact Samantha on 9574 2106.

We'd like to sincerely thank the Shire of Toodyay for their generous donation of \$4,500. Council resolved in March 2009 to sponsor the Scout group to send six of our young people and three leaders to Jamboree. We would like to thank the parents who covered the costs for the young people to

attend and we look forward to receiving a cheque from the Shire of Toodyay sometime in the near future. Many thanks for your support.

And now to business as usual...its 2010! The Cub section have their programme mapped out for the year but it is top secret - you'll have to talk to Ratcha at Cubs!

The Scout, Venturer and Rover sections will meet as usual at ADVENTURE WORLD on 21st February for our planning day. This is a few weeks away but necessary to arrange some details including meeting places. On the table for discussion (and this includes you, Scouts) is the World Jamboree in Sweden next year; service activities for the bushfire recovery including assistance at the Racecourse and at people's homes; building and construction projects; an environmental recovery programme with the Nats; air activities; a Patrol adventurous (four hour) caving activity in Yallingup for the group who attended the Vasse camp last year; Jamboree camp at Broome; CAMS motosport racing and Baja; Mission Impossible...and lots more!

Congratulations to our Rover Scouts, who have taken an active part in the recovery effort during the recent bushfire. A facebook message from Josh Donders, Crew Leader at Kalamunda Rover Crew, to the Toodyay Rovers; 'To my fellow brother and sisters you have made this state proud of your efforts. We will be up to you next meeting and we will address you all. Hope you are all safe and well.'

Congratulations also to our Jamboree Scouts for achieving their first Jamboree - we hope that you'll remember your experience and Jamboree friends and carry your achievements with you through the rest of your lives. A special thank you to parents and leaders for supporting the Scouts and also to Ironbark (Paul Steele) for working as Troop Leader for the Toodyay, Kalamunda and Broome Scouts - you did a brilliant job, Paul. On to another year of Scouting in 2010!

*Yours in Scouting,  
Dropbear*

"There's a thread that binds all of us together, pull one end of the thread, the strain is felt all down the line"

*Rosamund Marshall*

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## Fly on the Wall

Peter Robinson

A SPECIAL meeting of Council was called on 1st January 2010 to discuss issues relating to the setting up of the Bushfire Recovery Committee, with Cr. Charlie Wroth as the coordinator. For some inexplicable reason, the Shire President was totally ignored by the Recovery Committee and kept in the dark in relation to the structure and workings of that committee. This was the ugliest and most spiteful of Council Meetings I have seen in my time in Toodyay, which covers approx 150 meetings.

It was clear that an argument was going to happen but, soon after the meeting started, I wished the gallery (including myself) had been excluded. To see and hear the way our councillors and the CEO behaved and spoke to each other was shameful and this only a few days after 38 of our residents had lost their homes. Politics has played a significant role in the days following the fire, when all politics should have been set aside. The Shire President should have, at the very least, been an observer at all the Recovery Committee meetings.

I also believe the Shire President made a mistake in calling this meeting when an argument was so inevitable. Cr Firms should have taken his issues up with the relevant Government Department or State Minister. Those Councillors who spoke the least, came out of it the least damaged. The CEO's actions and attitude was deplorable; he even stormed out of the room at one stage.

I regret reporting this bitter division between our Councillors but it happened, and the community has a right to know, not just those dozen or so in the gallery. Even the gallery was referred to as Cr Firms' 'posse'. That accusation backfired, as the only applause was for one of Cr Wroth's statements.

Councillors who attack the person and don't debate the needs of the community on merit don't make worthwhile representatives and will be harshly judged at the next elections. Cr Firms was democratically elected onto Council and then democratically elected as Shire President. Accept that fact and get on with the job at hand.

In 20 months time (the next elections) both the west ward ratepayers and the

Councillors have a chance to pass judgement on his performance. I was so shocked with the behaviour that I can't remember if any significant motions were passed.

The regular monthly meeting held on 21st January was only slightly better, the exception being the CEO who was much better behaved.

The main motion on the agenda was for the adoption of a policy regulating all aspects of sheds, etc in Rural Residential zones. After some debate, this was deferred for more discussion. Cr Larkin then moved a motion of 'no confidence' in the Shire President. This motion was heard behind closed doors. Given the depth of feeling within Council and the general community, it was probably just as well it was behind closed doors. The motion was defeated 5 votes to 4.

Cr Somers then moved a motion to endorse the actions of the Recovery Committee. After some discussion and opposition, Cr Somers withdrew his motion. Some Councillors and members of the gallery took great offence to what they saw as a slight on volunteers. This is most regrettable, as no volunteers should have anything less than wholehearted support from all sections of the community. However, endorsing actions usually refers to a specific action carried out to fill an urgent need, not a large and ongoing series of non specific actions. It will be some time before we get to a major debrief and wash-up and we can look at all the actions and see what worked well and what could have been done better or sooner or differently. That is when an endorsement of actions can be contemplated. After Cr Somers withdrew his motion some other Councillor should have moved a motion congratulating all volunteers on their time and effort and dedication. Once again, no Councillor came out of this meeting with any brownie points.

The community is as divided as the Council and administration, which is bad for everyone. Some people are supporting Cr Firms simply because of the way he has been treated. It is the Aussie 'give a bloke a fair go' attitude. One thing that I have a concern about is the future. I would not like to see the Council descend any lower as this could lead to an administrator being appointed. If this happened then we would be left with the current CEO and an administrator running the show! That will quickly lead to an amalgamation.

If you don't like either of those scenarios

then now is the time to talk to your Councillor and get him/her to work together for the good of Toodyay. There is a whole raft of volunteers, as well as survivors that deserve a lot better from our leaders.

WA has been very generous to Toodyay, which is a most humbling experience. We need to show our gratitude by conducting ourselves well. The support and unity in the town is wonderful and must be seen to be occurring right across the whole spectrum of our community.

## News from Bolgart and Surrounding Areas

Doris M. Martin

SCHOOL has resumed for 2010 and we welcome all new students to the Bolgart School. Five students who have completed their time at Bolgart Primary School and ventured on to other areas this year are Alex Bain, Isobel Camerer, Jarrard Clarke, Whitney Crane and Stephen Cullen. We wish you all well in your new field of study.

Farewell to Kevin and Dianne Clarke who have sold their farming property and left the area to live at Ellenbrook.

Sympathy to all those folk in the Toodyay area who experienced any losses in the recent fires. It has been heartening to see the response to the call for clothing, food and goods in general for those who have suffered many losses. A fund-raiser lunch and dinner were held recently at Bolgart to help with the cause and \$750 was raised. Thanks must go to Kathy Tree and family members.

It was with sadness that I recently learned of the death of Patricia Shepley Overington (Nee - Lee) of Beverley. Sympathy is being extended to husband Eric and family on the loss of wife, mother and grandmother. Pat was formerly a Toodyay girl and was the daughter of the late Sydney Gerald (Peter) Lee and the late Muriel Shepley Lee (Nee - Walker).

New Year resolutions would have been made and some would have been broken already whilst many of us are bemoaning the extra kilos put on over the Christmas period.

Over the holiday period Ray and I visited Rex and Gloria Thorpe at their Bindoon property and marvelled at the amount of work that has been done around their home. Rex and Gloria at one stage owned a grocery and hardware store at Calingiri.

## Bejoording Babble

Kim Leonhardt

HAPPY New Year everyone! Well... except for Santa of course. The old codger slapped a court injunction on my last article to stop it going to press! Something about inducing mental stress on his reindeers. It's a new year and I'm quite prepared to let that one

go through to the keeper. Though quietly, and just between you and me, venison will DEFINITELY be on the Xmas menu this year!

A casualty of the last article not going to press, was the news story of the Bejoording Brain Bank. That's right! We have brains right here in Bejoording! Well... young ones anyway. At the end of the school year, Emma Grey walked away with awards in Business Management and Enterprise, Applied Info. Tech and received Dux. Nikki Smith attained highest achiever and score in Health Studies. New news since the last article is Bonnie Glossop receiving the Citizenship Award, Samantha Glossop attaining an Award in Health and Physical Ed, Ashlee Leonhardt receiving a Commendation on her TAFE studies, Citizenship Award and the All Rounder Award and Shane Glossop finishing his studies with a 100% score! Well done everybody. In years to come, we humbly expect nothing less than Nobel prizes all around!

Graduation Night was the next event of the year. All the girls and boys dressed up to... no... let me rewrite that. All the young women and men dressed up to the nines. And why in the Dickens is it called nines anyway? I looked up the dictionary and it said 'to dress elaborately'; well I KNOW that! On with the story. No one fainted, tripped, looked nervous or giggled inappropriately. Everything ran like clockwork... until the Barn Dance.

Let's get specific. The young men and women's barn dance went without a hitch. Then they had to go and drag their respective mums and dads up to the dance floor. The sons tried to keep up with the mums, the dads tried to keep up with the daughters. The daughters were yelling all sorts of instructions to the dads, not all instructions being overly polite OR helpful. The dads started the inappropriate giggling or just ignored the instructions and carried on regardless. By the end of the number, I think it had the rhythm and grace of a Demolition Derby on Speedway Night. Still, WE had fun!

Next up was the Bejoording Xmas Party. We had a big crowd this year. Even Santa arrived! Nice big smile and jovial to the kiddies, curled his lip, but, every time he saw me. He left his reindeer behind (no doubt to paint their hoof nails or whatever they have) but managed to hitch a lift with the fire truck. All the kids sat on his knee, not all at once obviously. Even Reggie the Dog managed a sit - not sure what he asked for, though. Once Santa finished all his cheer and goodwill spreading, we turfed him out and got stuck into the tucker. And, I believe, a good night was had by all! Oh, and thanks to Santa's little helpers, Renee (I know I've spelt it wrong, sigh) and Bonnie.

Next up was Boxing Day Mud Footy. There was an international flavour this year with warriors from Denmark, three of them, an exchange student from Switzerland and a Pommy. Laughingly, the Pommy thinks he's

*Continued on Page 11*

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Ratepayers continued from Page 11

ensure that council and volunteers have the legislative powers and PROTECTION afforded by the EM Act.

This is why the Toodyay Ratepayers and Residents Association have been seeking to clarify the situation.

The CEO is required under the Local Government Act to provide unbiased professional advice to the Shire President and council.

He has been unable to provide that advice in relation to the creation of these council committees or council's legal obligations under the Emergency Management Act

The questions relating to these committees will have to be answered at some time and the lack of cooperation of the CEO and some councillors to provide clarification will have to be brought to an end.

It is a bizarre situation that the Shire President and Council cannot obtain sensible answers to simple questions

The Shire President must continue to seek the answers to these questions on behalf of the Council and the Community.

#### Recreation Advisory Committee

The motion on the convening of a new recreation advisory committee was not on the agenda for the January meeting of council.

Although Councillor Lloyd sent the proposed motion via e-mail in plenty of time for the item to be included in the agenda the CEO advised that he did not receive the e-mail.

Councillor Lloyd raised the matter as an item of urgent business; however, the format of the motion to create the new Recreation Advisory Committee was ruled not to be in accordance with the Local Government Act.

Consequently the motion was deferred until the February ordinary meeting of council. It is understood that Councillor Lloyd will now submit the motion to the CEO in plenty of time for him to advise on the structure of the motion to ensure it is correct for inclusion in the February meeting agenda.

It is to be hoped that this time, the community's preferences and wishes will be heard.

Finally, I am sure you will all endorse this Association's best wishes for a speedy recovery and return to normality for all those residents affected by the bush fire emergency.

## Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry

#### The Street Party Coordinator

THE Toodyay Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Inc.) would like to thank everyone involved with the 2009 Christmas Street Party. Thank you for donating your time on the evening and your efforts are appreciated because we are very aware of the important role that volunteers play within all events held in Toodyay.

The Chamber would also like to thank our sponsors – The Bendigo Bank, the Toodyay Op Shop and Toodyay Hardware and Farm. Your continued support allows the Chamber to have entertainment on the night.

We would like to mention the following businesses as they continually support our 'free' raffle for the Community members:- Avon Valley Jewellery Gifts & Homewares, Bar-Bar-A-Black Sheep, Brewbakers, Clare Love Beauty Therapist, Coorinja Winery, Courtyard Antiques & Collectables, Full Circle Gym, Getting Framed with Pam, Innovations in Meat, Ladyraven's Clothing & Giftware, Lareema Fashions, Lime Fusion, Moondyneer Cafe, Oliomio Olive & Lavender Farm, Pitwillow's Alpaca Stuff, Toodyay Emporium, Toodyay Hair Studio, Toodyay Homefresh, Toodyay IGA, Toodyay Post Office, Toodyay Traders, Toodyay Newsagency, Top of the Terrace and Wendouree Tearooms. Thank you all for your generous donations of gift vouchers.

The winning business for the 'Best Decorated Business' Competition was Avon Valley Jewellery Gifts and Homewares. The Judges had a difficult decision to make at this event as the standard of entries was very high. So, we let the Junior Judges have the final say.

Once again we thank the Community for attending the Christmas Street party and hope that you enjoyed the Chamber's attempt at bringing some festive spirit to town. Also thank you to the people who walked the length of the Street Closure and cleaned up the road of all signs of rubbish. Happy New Year to all.

## Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee

Wayne Clarke  
Chair

THE Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee (CSCPC) had a workshop in January 2010 to collate the responses to the survey they had recently undertaken, and to place them into the Plan being developed for Toodyay. The responses were many and varied, and provided information on the kinds of safety issues various sectors of the community had about crime and safety.

The Plan is now being developed into a draft document for community comment. The CSCPC aims to have the document printed and available for public comment by the middle of February. To make the most of government funding initiatives, the timing of public comment, and its incorporation (where relevant) into the plan, is urgent. Comment period will be 30 days, after which it will be finalised, and sent to the Office of Crime Prevention for endorsement by the state government.

The CSCPC arranged to have the film *Lord of the Rings* shown during January. However with the traumatic issues associated with the recent bushfire, the showing was cancelled. The committee apologises to those members of the public that were inconvenienced by this cancellation; we hope to show it later at a more opportune time.

## Toodyay Neighbourhood Watch

'Neighbours Looking After Neighbours'

Desrae Clarke

#### CRIMESTOPPERS 1800 333 000

CRIMESTOPPERS 1800 333 000 is a telephone hotline that members of the community can utilise to provide information, anonymously, of suspected criminal activity. This information is then sent to police, local to the crime scene, to be acted upon.

#### GOODBYE GRAFFITI 1800 44 22 55

GOODBYE GRAFFITI 1800 44 22 55 is a telephone hotline that can be used by the community to report, anonymously, a graffiti offender.

In Western Australia the Office of Crime Prevention is working in conjunction with CRIMESTOPPERS to reduce the presence of graffiti. Rewards of up to \$1,000 are offered with the provision of information that leads to either an arrest or caution of a graffiti offender.

Police coverage of the Shire of Toodyay is 24 hours each day and 7 days per week! Our Police are 'out and about'. If you need to call our Police service on 9574 2212 and your call is transferred to the Wheatbelt District Office in Northam; PLEASE DO NOT HANG UP. Ask your question or give your information as asked by the Police staff. Your call will be assessed as to its urgency and relayed to Toodyay's staff that may in the next road from where you are calling!

If your call is urgent, DIAL 000.

Remember:

Toodyay Police	9574 2212
CRIMESTOPPERS	1800 333 000
GOODBYE GRAFFITI	1800 44 22 55
URGENT	000

## Inside the Shed

"Blokes Supporting Blokes"

Karl Walsh

GREETINGS to all our members and to the great people of Toodyay.

The New Year certainly got off to a fiery start but, thankfully, there was no loss of life. There are many stories told and, no doubt, many still to be told. On behalf of our members and steering committee, may I say a big thank you to all the volunteers, from our fire crews and helo pilots to our recovery vollies in the 'sheds'. Sweltering, day in and day out, they have brought order to chaos unflinchingly. I refer to our Lions and Lionesses and all those other selfless people who have toiled.

The Toodyay Men's Shed stepped to the fore in organising the tools and implements arriving en masse at the Pavilion and being able to speak to the survivors as they came in and assisting them in locating the tools they needed to help them along on the road to recovery. Very often they just needed to talk to a bloke and we were very pleased to be able to do this.

From this the Men's Shed has been able to establish a Tool and Equipment Resource Centre providing electrical tools and specialist equipment such as laser levels, heavy duty jack hammers, painters' trestles and planks. All electrical equipment has been safety tagged and will be issued with a safety sheet. Once these tools have done their job, they can be returned for the next needy person. This Resource Centre is for the benefit of those affected by the fire and will operate for the foreseeable future.

As in all disasters, there are those who try to run scams and one popped up with an anonymous caller phoning a gentleman and asking for one thousand dollars donation for the Toodyay Men's Shed; happily he did not comply. Under no circumstances is the Toodyay Men's Shed soliciting for donations of money over the phone or otherwise. Please let us know if you have been scammed.

We have one more meeting on the 2nd February in the Anglican Church Hall to prepare for our inaugural general meeting. This meeting will be held in the Baptist Church Hall on the 23rd February and invitations will be extended to the Premier, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Lions, Local Fire Units, RSL, Men's Health Services and our own members and wives. This inaugural meeting will see the disbandment of our steering committee and the election of our first Management Committee. We have arrived. It has been a busy year for the steering committee and they have done a superb job, as I know the incoming management committee will continue to do. We now have 40 plus members at time of print and the numbers are growing.

For those wishing to access the tools resource and membership please phone Barry Bodle on 9574 4268, Karl Walsh on 9574 5767, or Bob Adair 9574 5002.

So hang in there fellas, you're going great and we'll see you - In the Shed.

## Churchill Fellowships

WITH applications closing soon for The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowships, all residents of Toodyay and surrounding districts who are Australian citizens and over the age of 18 are eligible to apply for a Fellowship to pursue their passion.

Each year The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust awards more than 100 Fellowships at an average value of \$25,000 each. This funding covers air travel, accommodation and living expenses.

"Over the 45 years since the first Churchill Fellowships were awarded, we have seen some amazing everyday Australians make a real difference to their field", said Paul Tys, Chief Executive Officer of The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. "During the past year Australians lives have been affected by events ranging from the financial crisis to unprecedented weather events, and inspiring, many of our recent applicants are demonstrating a desire, and also the ability, to undertake programmes of research that will aim to make a real difference in how we as a Nation come through events like these in the future.

"In 2009 there were thirteen Churchill Fellowships awarded in Western Australia, covering areas such as abuse intervention strategies, sustainable bee breeding practices, software development for vision impaired people and crustacean conservation in relation to climate change.

"The expenses associated with the Fellowships from 2009 were valued at over 2.6 million dollars; however the value of the knowledge, skills and ability contributed to industries and fields throughout Australia are priceless", said Mr Tys.

Churchill Fellowships allow applicants to devise their own programme of research, encouraging recognition of opportunities for advancement within Australian society, both practically and intellectually.

Applications for 2010 Churchill Fellowships are open until the 26th of February 2010. Further information and an application package can be obtained from [www.churchilltrust.com.au](http://www.churchilltrust.com.au).

# Toodyay Christian Fellowship

**GETTING BACK TO BASICS**

We welcome everyone to join us for communion and worship at 9.30am Sunday mornings in the Toodyay Community Centre

If you are interested in getting to know more about God then we have groups that meet informally.

For further information call 9574 5002

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## Avon Woodturners

Max J Heath  
Convenor

WELL here's the news from the Wool Pavilion. We have had a quite a bit to do since our last communication as with most people in Toodyay.

We had our Christmas breakup with a breakfast and most people turned up and had a great morning. We didn't meet on the fourth Sunday due to Christmas etc.

We, of course, then had the fire and then we offered part of the Wool Pavilion for storage and also, as we had bench space, the recovery people used the pavilion for the piecing together of wheelbarrows, etc.

Our first Sunday in January started at 8am and was spent assembling a few wheelbarrows for the recovery committee and then found no axles, etc to finish the job. As there was enough on the wheelbarrows some undertook some woodturning.

We also decided that we didn't need all the room at the pavilion and so offered some of the area for storage and so some number of boxes of gear is stored there.

On the fourth Sunday we had our meeting first and then into woodturning. At the meeting it was decided that at the next meeting we would have a barbecue lunch and get together.

Well that's about all now from the Avon Woodturners and so see you next month.

## Recipe Corner

Desraé Clarke

### Macaroni and Savoury Mince Pie

ALTHOUGH this recipe will appear long, it is very easy to make. I like to make my own pastry but, for those who prefer to buy their pastry, the finished dish will be that much quicker. I also, as with most meat dishes, like to make my savoury mince filling a day or two before it is to be used giving the meat time to absorb the added flavours.

The term 'sauté' is found in many recipes. All it means is to very gently fry the onion in a small amount of oil, margarine or butter until the onion is clear. The directions often follow with 'then add the meat and cook until the meat changes colour' which is when the

meat turns a greyish colour.

The term 'blind bake' is used when making a pastry shell. It means to cook the pastry shell for a short time, 7 to 10 minutes – to 'par cook only' and not brown the pastry.

I always cover my pastries, cakes, scones, muffins, etc with a cloth after taking them from the oven. This prevents the cooked article from drying out especially scones and muffins - otherwise the tops become as hard as rocks!

#### Ingredients:

##### Filling:

500gms fat-free mince  
1 onion, chopped  
60gms margarine  
1 cup tomato soup or paste  
1 pkt Cream of Mushroom Soup

##### Pastry:

2½ cups wholemeal plain flour  
100gms cold margarine  
Approximately ¾ cup cold milk  
1 egg, beaten  
2 x 20cm pie dishes

##### Topping:

2 cups cooked macaroni  
120gms margarine  
6 tablespoons plain white flour  
2 cups milk  
250 gms grated tasty cheese

#### Method:

##### Filling:

Sauté the onion in a small amount of margarine. Add the mince, continually stirring, until the meat changes colour then stir in the tomato soup (or tomato paste) and the mushroom soup. (The meat mixture will be rather stiff but that is how it is meant to be - DON'T add any water). When the filling has cooled it can be stored in a covered container in the fridge.

##### Pastry:

Pastry is not difficult to make as long as you do not add too much moisture resulting in it becoming 'sticky'. I wear plastic gloves as I hate the pastry mixture getting under my fingernails.

Rub the margarine into the flour until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the beaten egg and enough of the cold milk to make a soft dough. (Add the milk a little at a time, mix, and then add a little more). Divide the dough into two equal portions. Roll each portion out to cover the two pie dishes. Place the pie dishes in plastic bags and leave in the fridge for about an hour. (Placing the pie shells in plastic bags prevents the pastry from drying out).

'Blind bake' in a 180°C oven for 7 to 10 minutes. Cover with a cloth and allow to cool.

##### Topping:

Gently melt the 120gms of margarine over heat (or in the microwave) then add the plain white flour and stir out all the lumps. In the meantime, gently heat the milk then add it, a little at a time, to the margarine/flour mixture stirring out all the lumps. Return the mixture to the heat and continue to stir until it begins to thicken; this mixture is known as 'white sauce'. Stir the cooked macaroni into the white sauce.

##### Finishing of your pie:

Take the two pastry shells, divide the meat mixture and spread over the shells. Divide the macaroni/white sauce and spread over the meat. Sprinkle half the cheese over each pie, cook in the oven of 200°C for 15 to 20 minutes or until the pies are golden in colour.

On taking them from the oven, once again cover them with a cloth.

Enjoy this delicious pie with a salad to your liking, or all your favourite vegetables. The pie freezes very well!!!

## Farming Landscapes for the Future

'FARMING Landscapes for the Future' is a new interactive decision support tool that will be released through a series of workshops running from 23rd February through to 4th March throughout the Avon Wheatbelt. The tool builds on CSIRO's Scenario Planning and Investment Framework (SPIF) and Agricultural Production Simulator (APSim) modelling tools, and is specially calibrated for the Avon Wheatbelt to help land managers and their advisors develop new agricultural enterprise combinations for the future.

SPIF 'mines' through multiple layers of information (soils, rainfall, transport...) to create scenarios at farm and landscape scales. This includes agricultural enterprise information in conjunction with growth and carbon sequestration data of typical Wheatbelt tree crops. Land managers will be able to generate reports for different scenarios and compare the economics of multiple scenarios before making a decision

to act.

Individual farm photos with underlying data layers will enable each land manager to run a range of 'what if' scenarios:

- what if I keep my current rotations and the rainfall is less?
- what if I incorporate brushwood / sandalwood / mallees on that part of my paddock?
- 'what if...?'

Developing 'Farming Landscapes for the Future' has been a \$400,000 collaborative Caring for our Country project involving CSIRO, AVONGRO Wheatbelt Tree Cropping, Department of Agriculture and Food WA, Australian Sandalwood Network, Oil Mallee Association, and Wheatbelt Brushwood Growers.

Dates and venues for the workshops are listed in a separate advertisement elsewhere in this paper.

## Bush Fire Appeal - Hyde Park Torchlight Concert

MORE than 300 people came together on Saturday night, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2010, to raise \$6000 for survivors of the Toodyay bush fire at a family concert in Perth headlined by Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan's band *The Filth*.

Accompanying the band were guest performers, jazz singer, Libby Hammer, and Channel 7 news presenter, Tina Altieri, who each performed several songs. Channel 9's Matt Tinney acted as MC for the event and a range of Perth-based children's performers, as well as a high-wire trapeze act, added to the carnival atmosphere.

Event organiser, Public Affairs Officer, Brett Dias, said the turnout of spectators and entertainers was impressive.

"Given that people had very short notice before the event, we had a good number of people in the crowd and plenty of performers," he said. "When you're running a charity event like this, people are so willing to help out and all the entertainers donated their time and talent free of charge."

Australia Post provided sponsorship for general event costs and all funds raised went to the Lord Mayor Relief Fund.



### TOP OF THE TERRACE

Introducing Bradley Jenkins – newly appointed head chef. Bradley is a highly awarded chef who comes to us from Karri Valley Resort.

He and his wife Wendy (also a chef) and their 7-year-old daughter have relocated to Toodyay and endeavour to re-vitalise the menu and delight you with the pleasure of dining out locally.

*Top of the Terrace*  
Toodyay

THE PLACE TO BE SEEN

9574 5425 for reservations

## Special Events

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Newspapers daily, Fashionable magazines, great ambience, great food, comfy couches and a panoramic view of Toodyay.

## Toodyay Horses Post-Bushfire

**Diane Bennit**  
WAHC Chairperson

ON the evening of Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December, the WA Horse Council contacted local Toodyay equestrian identity Christine Maroni to establish how many horse owners had been affected by the Tuesday bushfires.

We were advised that a significant number of horse owners, if they had not been burnt out, had suffered considerable damage, and that basic equipment like halters, lead ropes, buckets, feed, etc. were desperately needed.

On the morning of Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December, the Council rang a number of equestrian saddlery and feed businesses, asking for donations to support a Rescue Package for these people. The response was amazing and by 3pm a car and float had picked up sufficient goods to get horse owners over the long weekend, and was on its way to Christine Maroni's property in Toodyay. Luckily the Toodyay road was reopened shortly before we arrived!

Christine did a super job of delivering the goods Thursday evening.

The Council would like to express their appreciation to the following businesses, who supported the Council's Rescue Package: Milne Feeds, Wesfeeds, Thompson & Redwood, Wellstation Chaff (all of whom are providing ongoing feed), Europa saddlery, Horseland and Bio-John.

## Co-ordinated Approach Needed to Prevent Repeat Catastrophe

THE devastation of the recent Toodyay fires should provide a valuable lesson to Government if a repeat performance is to be avoided, according to Hon Max Trenorden MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region.

Mr Trenorden called upon both Government and non-Government agencies to come together in a co-ordinated, holistic approach

to fire preparedness in the wake of the December fires that destroyed more than 30 homes and saw over 200 animals lost.

"I call upon the Minister for Planning, Hon John Day MLA and the Minister for Local Government, Hon John Castrilli MLA, to lead stakeholders in a comprehensive and wide-ranging discussion on bush fire preparedness," he said. "There are parts of regional Western Australia that are arguably some of the most fire-prone areas in the country and this means there is a range of planning issues that need to be considered."

Mr Trenorden said co-ordination was the key to discussions if a meaningful outcome is to be achieved. "We were fortunate on this occasion that lives weren't lost," he said. "However, there was significant damage to property and in light of this issues like housing specifications, block development, road design and water access all need to be examined closely if we are to minimise future losses."

"Regulations for the clearing of land, for example, need to be streamlined and the time taken for approval reduced significantly. It may well be that if you live in a bush fire risk zone your application for clearing is expedited or perhaps even assessed by a local authority."

"After visiting Toodyay last week I'm adamant that a roundtable approach to fire prevention is necessary. My visit convinced me that there was too much of the left hand not knowing what the right hand was doing, something that benefits no one."

Mr Trenorden said he had a number of ideas in mind to start a public debate and believed there may well be lessons to be learned from Victoria's Black Saturday Royal Commission.

"Spending an extra \$25,000 in the building stage of a house is a serious burden on anyone but, if it means there's a good chance your house might be standing after a bush fire, then perhaps it's something we need to consider," he said. "It may even mean a discount on insurance premiums."

"I am asking the respective Ministers to pull together a broad range of agencies with responsibilities in areas like water and power, as well as companies like the Insurance Council of Australia and Telstra."

"Agencies must work together now to plan for disasters so when they do occur the response is co-ordinated and harmonised; it is not something that should be left to chance."

## REIWA Pledges Funds to Bushfire Appeal

THE Real Estate Institute of Western Australia has rallied to support the bushfires appeal with a donation of \$5,000 to the Toodyay Men's Shed organisation. REIWA President Alan Bourke said the institute was keen to help and wanted to do something practical.

"We were hearing from our members in the Avon valley that there was a specific and urgent need for tools and equipment, and so we have targeted our donation directly to that cause," Mr Bourke said.

Mr Bourke said that Bob Adair and his committee from Men's Shed Toodyay were co-ordinating the collection, storage and distribution of tools and equipment for those affected by the fires. Men's Shed is a national programme which offers social support to men living in rural and regional Australia; however, the tool library will be made available to all deserving local families.

"Men's Shed is collecting a range of suitable equipment which they can lend to those who most need it, and which will ultimately remain the property of Men's Shed as part of a tool library for ongoing local use," Mr Bourke said.

Men's Shed has indicated that items which people cannot easily afford or might need only once will be a priority for the library. This might include such things as scaffolding, 15 foot ladders, welders, chain saws, large drills and so forth.

Real estate agents from the Avon Valley shifted their regular breakfast meeting from Northam to Toodyay, so they could be in town on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February as a show of solidarity for locals.

Mr Bourke said that along with REIWA's CEO, Anne Arnold, he had looked forward to catching up with Avon Valley agents at the breakfast meeting and was keen to hear from Bob Adair about how the tool library was coming along.

"Apart from the institute itself, REIWA members have also individually pledged a further \$5,000 towards the appeal and this additional money will be directed to a worthy and relevant community group shortly," Mr Bourke said.

Mr Bourke expressed his thanks to local agents Michael Watts, Tony Maddox and John Butler for helping REIWA to get involved in the bushfire appeal.

"It's always nice to be able to give something back to the community," he said.

## Toodyay Fire Victims should Seek Assistance

MEMBER for the Agricultural Region, Mia Davies, has urged people in the community of Toodyay to seek assistance if they are having difficulties coping following the devastating bush fires.

Ms Davies said once the initial emergency response effort is completed and volunteers leave the area, people may feel upset or depressed.

"At the moment there is a flurry of activity in Toodyay with people busy organising and cleaning up. Once that activity is over, people may find they feel a bit overwhelmed," Ms Davies said. "It is important to know there are people out there who can help."

People in fire affected areas can contact:

- Wheatbelt Support Service (9622 5539) for free counselling and personal support;
- Social Work Service (9690 1312) for counselling, health information and resources;
- Wheatbelt Mental Health Service (9621 0999) to discuss depression, anxiety and stress;
- Rurallink (1800 552 002) for specialist after hours mental health advice; or
- Department of Agriculture and Food WA's Cropline (1800 068 107) for advice on agronomic issues.

Ms Davies visited Toodyay early in January and was impressed by people's resilience and community spirit. More than 30 homes were destroyed in Toodyay during the fires and the community has been inundated by donations and offers of assistance.

FESA, Western Power, the departments of Local Government, Environment and Conservation, and Child Protection, and WA Police have been working to ensure these communities are adequately resourced to re-build and move forward.

## Keep Children Safe from Allergies

SCHOOL uniform fits? Check. School shoes fit and polished? Check. School bag ready for packing? Check. Sunscreen and hat packed? Check.

As millions of children start or return to childcare centres and schools across Australia this month, parents and teachers alike are adding life-saving measures to their back to school checklist to ensure the safety of our children.

*Continued on Page 15*

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**BAKERS HILL  
VET. CLINIC  
TOODYAY DAY  
EVERY WEDNESDAY**

- Our regular day in Toodyay, at a reduced charge, is proving very popular. Remember, bookings must be made prior to each Wednesday.
- A great way to save on routine work such as drenching, vaccinations & preg. testing.
  - House visits for pets - farm visits for large animals.
- No travel charge from Bakers Hill to Toodyay or within 5km of Toodyay PO.
  - Travel charged from Post Office for farm visits.
  - Our usual service applies any other day.
- Please phone **9574 1061** to book appointments or make enquiries.

*Keep Children Safe... continued from Page 15*

The potential for life-threatening allergic reactions in children is now a significant health issue for schools and all parents. Latest research shows that one in every seven schools will have to manage an emergency reaction, so every school needs to be prepared.

A 2008 WA-based survey documented that almost nine out of 10 schools had at least one student at risk of anaphylaxis, with more than half the schools surveyed having three or more at risk students.

"Although the community is more aware of severe allergic reactions, we cannot ever say any environment is totally safe. Peanut and egg are often found in supposed 'peanut or egg free' facilities," said Maria Said, President, Anaphylaxis Australia. "Our focus on how to manage food allergy needs to be multi faceted but even then, accidents do happen and we need to be prepared.

"It's essential that parents, teachers, caregivers and friends of those with severe allergies are ready and able to act quickly when an emergency occurs. If we all take some small steps, we can reduce the risk factors and help keep all our children safe."

Latest US estimates cite 2 million school-aged children with food allergies, with up to a quarter of severe allergic reactions at school striking students or staff with no previous history of severe allergies. With up to a quarter of children with peanut allergies suffering their first reaction at school, all school communities need to be prepared so they can react quickly and effectively in an emergency.

The research helps provide greater insight to help childcare and school communities keep all children as safe as possible.

Some of the things that make management easier and safer include:

- Ongoing Education - Regular anaphylaxis education sessions for staff are required so they can recognise the signs and symptoms of a severe allergic reaction and know what to do in an emergency. The WA government survey of schools and childcare facilities found just under half the teachers at schools and only a third of childcare workers had attended EpiPen training in the last 12 months;
- Increase community awareness - Ongoing communication with the school community via newsletter notices, information sessions, class discussion etc;
- First line emergency treatment – lifesaving adrenaline medication (EpiPen or Anapen\*) must be quickly accessed and given in the case of severe reactions. The parent of a child known to be at risk of anaphylaxis must provide the school or childcare facility with a medical kit containing an Anaphylaxis Action Plan and appropriate medication including an adrenaline auto injector;
- Be prepared - for severe allergic reactions anywhere – one in five anaphylactic reactions in schools occurs in a playground, travelling to or from school or during school excursions or trips;
- Practice makes perfect – Regularly practise with your EpiPen Trainer device and revise the signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction. Consider having an emergency drill at home, school or childcare. Check that your older child or teenager always carries their medical

kit; and use the start of each term as time to check your medical kit including the expiry date of medication.

"Taking some small steps on a regular basis can help make our schools, homes and communities safer for children with severe allergies," Ms Said added. "Whether it's being a label detective when buying food for your child's lunchbox, spending time discussing food allergy at home or simply reminding your child not to share food, we can all help keep children at risk of anaphylaxis safe."

For more information about starting school or childcare with severe allergies, tools for schools/childcare or just to become more allergy aware, visit [www.allergyfacts.org.au](http://www.allergyfacts.org.au).

\* Anapen – another adrenaline auto injector, to be launched in Australia early in 2010.

## Toodyay Masterchef

WHAT if your working day meant watching a cooking masterclass from one of Australia's top chefs, then eating their culinary creations?

This could become a reality for one lucky Toodyay workplace, if they win this year's A Taste of Harmony 'Win A Chef' competition.

Kate Lamont, of Lamont's restaurants across Western Australia and regular guest chef on ABC Perth Local Radio, will come to the winning workplace and give workers an exciting chef masterclass and lunchtime treat during A Taste of Harmony.

A Taste of Harmony is Australia's biggest celebration of cultural diversity at work, starting on March 15 and ending with National Harmony Day on March 21, 2010.

The concept is simple. Register your workplace, set a lunch date in March and ask your colleagues to bring a dish reflecting their cultural background.

The result is a multicultural feast where workers have the opportunity to learn something new about the different cultures that exist in their workplace.

To be in the running to have Kate attend your event, all Toodyay workplaces need to do is register for A Taste of Harmony at [www.tasteofharmony.org.au](http://www.tasteofharmony.org.au) and tell us in 25 words or less: What do you think are the key ingredients for celebrating cultural diversity in your workplace?

The competition is open to all workplaces in Australia who register for A Taste of Harmony before March 1, 2010.

More than 3,700 workers from Western Australia participated in A Taste of Harmony in 2009, with this year shaping up to be even bigger.

"Australia has a real mishmash of food styles and it doesn't seem wrong to us to mix cultures," Kate said.

"Our food reflects our lives, it's so Australian to be able to borrow ideas, share between cultures and understand how to work together."

A Taste of Harmony is an initiative of the Scanlon Foundation and is supported by the Australian Multicultural Foundation and the Department of Immigration and

Citizenship.

Cultural diversity defines Australia and has greatly contributed to our nation's success, Scanlon Foundation chairman Peter Scanlon said.

"Australia has, and always will be, a nation of immigrants," he said.

"A Taste of Harmony gives all Australian workplaces the opportunity to recognise and celebrate cultural diversity, to achieve greater understanding and appreciation of our nation's key strength."

"Getting together to share a meal is a simple way to connect with your colleagues and community, which increases a sense of trust and belonging."

Registering is free and easy and the campaign has no fundraising component – it's simply about celebrating Australia's rich cultural diversity.

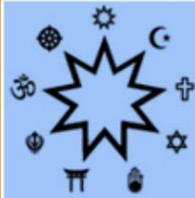
For more information on how to enter the 'Win a Chef' competition visit [www.tasteofharmony.org.au](http://www.tasteofharmony.org.au) or call 1800 077 067.

## A Thank You From the Toodyay Bush Fire Recovery Team

*We wish to recognise the wonderful effort by Kathy and Julia Robinson on taking the information from the Public Information Meetings to the community over the past month following the fire.*

*This has been a valuable way to keep those who were affected by the fire and their families, friends and neighbours up to date along with other pertinent information published.*

*Thank you to Kathy, Peter and Julia Robinson*



### Bahá'í Faith

One God, one Religion  
and one Humanity



Dr John Ebenezer Esslemont of Aberdeen, Scotland, heard about the Baha'i Faith from a friend in 1914. He immediately took up the Bahá'í teachings with enthusiasm. Esslemont was a good linguist; he knew French, German, and Spanish, and was a keen Esperantist. After he became a Bahá'í, he also began to learn Persian and Arabic. To introduce the new religion to the people of Europe, he began to write a book about the Baha'i Faith in 1916. His book entitled 'Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era', was published in 1923 and has remained a valuable introductory source on the Baha'i Faith. Following are two passages from his book:

*"Bahá'u'lláh teaches that the universe is without beginning in time. It is a perpetual emanation from the Great First Cause. The Creator always had His creation and always will have. Worlds and systems may come and go, but the universe remains. All things that undergo composition, in time undergo decomposition, but the component elements remain. The creation of a world, a daisy or a human body is not "making something out of nothing"; it is rather a bringing together of elements which before were scattered, a making visible of something which before was hidden..."*

*"Bahá'u'lláh confirms the scientists who claim, not six thousand, but millions and billions of years for the history of the earth's creation. The evolution theory does not deny creative power. It only tries to describe the method of its manifestation; and the wonderful story of the material universe which the astronomer, the geologist, the physicist and the biologist are gradually unfolding to our gaze is, rightly appreciated, far more capable of evoking the deepest reverence and worship than the crude and bald account of creation given in the Hebrew Scriptures. The old account in the Book of Genesis had, however, the advantage of indicating by a few bold strokes of symbolism the essential spiritual meanings of the story, as a master painter may, by a few strokes of the brush, convey expressions which the mere plodder with the most laborious attention to details may utterly fail to portray..."*

For information, email: [info-toodyay@wa.bahai.org.au](mailto:info-toodyay@wa.bahai.org.au) or call 08 9330 6999

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## AAFC 708 SQUADRON

Australian Air Force Cadets 12 ½ to 17 year olds, male and female. Building J1, Northam Army Camp Grt Eastern Hwy. Friday 6:30pm to 9:30pm, during school term. 708squ@cadetnet.gov.au

## AFRICAN DRUMMING

Thursdays (adults) 6 - 7.30pm at The Factory Baptist Church All instruments provided. Enquiries: Heather on 9574 5463.

## ARTS TOODYAY INC

Meets first Tuesday of the month, 7pm at The Old Police Station in Duke St Sth. For all interested in arts/crafts, workshops. Enquiries to Wendy on 9574 4172

## AUSTRALIAN BREASTFEEDING ASSOCIATION

For breastfeeding information and the company of other mums. 2nd Tuesday of month at Parent Information Centre, Gordon Street Northam 10am-noon. 4th Tuesday of month Toodyay Playgroup 10am - noon. Contact Louise for more details on 9574 0229

## AUTUMN CLUB

Every Wednesday, 1pm to 4pm. Toodyay Sports Pavilion Contact Glenyce Bosnjak 9574 4587

## AVON VALLEY ADULT RIDING CLUB

Meets 4th Saturday of each month (Feb - Nov) at Toodyay Race Course. Contact: Sandra 9574 4429

## AVON VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL SOC.

3rd Friday of each month at Dept of Water, 254 Fitzgerald Street Northam, noon.

## AVON VALLEY VINTAGE VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

3rd Thursday every month, 8pm at the old engineers quarters, next to Northam Railway Museum, Fitzgerald Street, Northam. ph 96221192.

## AVON WOODTURNERS GROUP

Monthly meeting 4th Sunday 9am to 10pm, Workshops 2nd and 4th Sunday 9am - Wool Pavilion, Toodyay Sports Ground.

## BEJOORDING VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

Meet at Bejoording Fire Shed, 3rd Saturday 5pm

## BINGO

Every Wednesday, eyes down 7.30pm Community Centre

## CENTRAL VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

4th Tuesday of each month, 7.30pm at the Toodyay Fire and Emergency Services Centre. Training 2nd Thursday of each month.

## CHILD HEALTH IMMUNISATION CLINIC

The next immunisation clinic: CALL for details. Please call Sheree on 9574 4577 to book an appointment.

## COONDLE NUNILE VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

Meets 2nd Saturday of month from October to April, June and August, 5pm at Coondle Fire Shed.

## COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (CWA)

General meeting - 4th Thursday of each month, 1.30pm, C.W.A. Hall. New Members very welcome.

## CUBS, JOEYS & SCOUTS (only during school term)

Youth Hall, Showgrounds, Cubs & Joeys 4.00pm - 5.30pm Scouts, Thursday 6pm - 8.00pm Ph: 9574 2363

## DRAMA CLASSES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Monday 4-5.30pm, Call Anne on 9574 2458.

## EARTH SOLUTIONS - AVON VALLEY

Third Tuesday of each month, 6pm at the PB Kirby Centre, cnr Gordon and Wellington Sts, Northam. New members welcome. Contact Caroline Barr on 9622 8043 or Belle Moore on 9622 5203 for additional information.

## FITNESS & FUN FOR THE OVER 55's

Wednesday 9am, Sports Pavillion.

## IDA'S HIDEAWAY

Every Saturday, 1pm to 4pm at Butterly House. Contact Ida Edwards on 9574 2858

## JULIMAR VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

Meets 1st Saturday of month, 6pm at Julimar Fire Station followed by BYO BBQ. Training Sunday following meeting, 10am, Julimar Fire Station.

## MOERLINA

Every Tuesday and Thursday Toodyay Sports Pavilion

## RAG BAGS QUILTING GROUP

1st, 3rd Wednesday, 10am CWA Hall

## ST STEPHEN'S MOTHERS' UNION/GUILD

3rd Tuesday of month, Anglican Hall, 2pm from March to November

## SHIRE OF TOODYAY COUNCIL MEETING

3rd Thursday of each month Council Chambers 7pm

## SILVER CHAIN AUXILIARY

Meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month, 10am at Toodyay Telecentre.

## SIMPLY MUSIC

Piano lessons for all ages. CWA Hall Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Contact Jan 0416 054 942.

## SOCIAL TENNIS

Tuesday 8.30am Ladies and senior men

## TOODYAY 4WD CLUB

Meets every 3rd Saturday of the month. Please contact Dave Isbill 9574 4035 for location and time.

## TOODYAY BALLET SCHOOL

Classes in Classical, Jazz and Tap held at 507 Julimar Rd, new studio. Ages from 4yrs to Adults, girls and boys. 9574 4459. Saturdays 9am - 2.30pm (except school holidays)

## TOODYAY/CLACKLINE KARATE CLUB

Wednesday 3.30-4pm, under 8, 4-5pm under 11, 5-6pm under 14, 6-7.30pm seniors. Friday 3.30-4pm Peewees, 4-5pm juniors, 5-6pm intermediate, 6-7pm seniors at the Youth Hall

## TOODYAY DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL P & C

Every 3rd Wednesday (except school holidays) School Library, 7pm

## TOODYAY DISTRICTS HORSE & PONY CLUB

4th Sunday of every month (Feb - Nov), Toodyay Race Course. Contact Tanzi 0427 859 493

## TOODYAY FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

3rd Sunday of each month Duidgee Park (near Bolgart Bridge) at 8am October to April and 9am May to September. Enquiries 9574 2578

## TOODYAY KINDERGYM

Kindergym Fridays (except school holidays), Toodyay Sports Pavilion. Contact: Debra Andrijich 9574 2676

## TOODYAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

3rd Wednesday of each month, 7pm Donegan's Cottage

## TOODYAY / JULIMAR JEWELS

Tuesday 16th February, Wendouree Tearooms. Ph Shiril 9574 5077

## TOODYAY LIONS CLUB

1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month Hotel Freemasons

## TOODYAY MASONIC LODGE

3rd Friday each month (except Jan) Masonic Hall, Fiennes St, 7.30pm

## TOODYAY MINIATURE RAILWAY (Inc)

1st and 3rd Sunday commencing Easter Sunday. Enquiries 9574 4462

## TOODYAY MONTESSORI

Monday and Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30am Enquiries phone Sally on 9574 4184 or Jodie on 9574 5569.

## TOODYAY MUSIC CLUB INC

2nd Friday of the Month from 7pm CWA Hall. Contact Teddy or Spencer 9574 4492.

## TOODYAY NATURALISTS' CLUB

3rd Saturday each month, at CWA Hall 7pm. Enquiries to President on 9574 5445 or Secretary on 6364 3609. Visitors and new members will be made very welcome.

## TOODYAY NEIGHBOURHOOD/RURAL WATCH

2nd Tuesday each month commencing 6pm Toodyay Police Station (General Meeting bi-monthly - Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec) Enquiries 9574 2212

## TOODYAY OLIVE GROWERS

Contact Francis Moran for meeting dates 9574 5786.

## TOODYAY PLAYGROUP

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9.30am - 11.30am, Playgroup Hall, Community Centre, Brenda Hutchinson 9574 4489

## TOODYAY RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (INC.)

General Meetings 3rd Tuesday each month @ the CWA Hall, 7pm. Committee meetings fortnightly on Tuesday evening. Contact Roger Bray (Chairperson) 9574 4562.

## TOODYAY RED CROSS

2nd Monday of month, Anglican Hall, 1.30pm

## TOODYAY SPINNERS

Wednesdays and 2nd Saturday from 9am Parkers Cottage. President: CARol Worrell 0407 429 047; Secretary: Phil Harmer 9574 2015

## TOODYAY SUB -BRANCH RSL

1st Saturday of March, May, July, September and November at 2pm at the Bowling Club. AGM second Saturday in February at the Bowling Club. Contact Lou 9574 4310

## TOODYAY SWIMMING POOL ACTION COMM.

12.30pm on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Freemasons Hotel.

## TOODYAY VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

1st Monday of each month Fire Station, 8pm

## UNITING CHURCH

10am, St Stephen's Church, Toodyay

## YOGA

Friday 9am Friday CWA Hall. 9574 4184

## Australian Etiquette

### IN GENERAL

1. Never take an open stubby to a job interview.
2. Always identify people in your paddocks before shooting at them.
3. It's tacky to take an Esky to church.
4. If you have to vacuum the bed, it's time to change the sheets.
5. Even if you're certain you're included in the will, it's rude to take your ute and trailer to the funeral.

### DINING OUT

1. When decanting wine from the box, tilt the paper cup and pour slowly so as not to bruise the wine.
2. If drinking directly from the bottle, hold it with only one hand.

### ENTERTAINING IN YOUR HOME

1. A centrepiece for the table should never be anything prepared by a taxidermist.
2. Don't allow the dog to eat at the table, no matter how good his manners.

### PERSONAL HYGIENE

1. While ears need to be cleaned regularly, this should be done in private, using one's OWN ute keys.
2. Even if you live alone, deodorant isn't a waste of money.
3. Extensive use of deodorant can only delay bathing by a few days.
4. Dirt and grease under the fingernails is a no-no, it alters the taste of finger foods and if you are a woman it can draw attention away from your jewellery.

### DATING

1. Always offer to bait your date's hook, especially on the first date.
2. Be assertive. Let her know you're interested: 'I've been wanting to go out with you ever since I read that stuff about you on the dunny door two years ago.'
3. Establish with her parents what time she's expected back. Some will say 11:00 PM, others might say 'Monday.' If the latter is the answer, it's the man's responsibility to get her to school on time.

### THEATRE/CINEMA ETIQUETTE

1. Crying babies should be taken to the lobby and picked up after the movie ends.
2. Refrain from yelling abuse at characters on the screen. Tests have proven they can't hear you.

### WEDDINGS

1. Livestock is a poor choice for a wedding gift.
2. Kissing the bride for more than five seconds may cause a drop in your popularity. (Excessive use of the tongue is also considered out of place)
3. For the groom, at least, rent a tux. A tracksuit with a cummerbund and a clean football jumper can create a tacky appearance.
4. Though uncomfortable, say 'yes' to socks and shoes for the occasion.

### DRIVING ETIQUETTE

1. Dim your headlights for approaching vehicles, even if your gun's loaded and the roo's in your rifle sight
2. When entering a roundabout, the vehicle with the largest roo bar doesn't always have the right of way.
3. Never tow another car using panty hose and duct tape.
4. When sending your wife down the road with a petrol can, it's impolite to ask her to bring back beer too.



**COUNTRY BINS**

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1300 475 472

COMMERCIAL, DOMESTIC  
and RURAL  
PERMANENT or TEMPORARY

# public notices

## Avon Valley Art Society

### 'The Image Makers'

AVAS exhibition for February is 'The Image Makers'. With works from regional artists Rob McCaffrey, Ben Littleton and Kaye Devlin. In the Old Post Office Gallery, Northam Arts Centre. Opening 6th February at 6pm. Open daily 10am-4pm.

### Art Workshops

Art workshops at the Old Girl's School 13th February – 6th March. Try Batik, Leadlighting, Mosaics and Screenprinting. Phone AVAS for more details.

### Avas Projects

AVAS is calling for Expressions of Interest for projects and annual programme Sub-Committees members for 2010. If you are a member and interested in supporting AVAS with delivery of specific projects, particularly the AVAS Eisteddfod, please advise us now. As sub-committees are now being formed, with background work starting in mid January-February.

### The Fred Killick Memorial Art Award 2010

The Fred Killick Art Award is for AVAS artist members. AVAS invites artists to become a member and enter your artwork in this prestigious award. Entry forms must be in by 4pm 22nd February and works delivered by 4pm 28th February.

### Culture Vulture

Our bus trips include: Cliff Richard and the Shadows at the Burswood Dome Sunday 7th February at 7.30pm (some tickets may be available!). CATS at the Burswood Theatre Wednesday 28th April at 1pm. What about 'CHIGAGO'?

### Magic Sounds

The Magic of Gongs and Quartz Crystal Singing Bowls held in the P.O. Gallery 28th February. Phone Rhodda for more details on 9621 1373.

### Annual General Meeting

Avon Valley Riding Club will hold their Annual General Meeting on February 13 at 3pm at the Toodyay Racecourse. Enrolment prior to AGM from 2.30pm onwards. Enquiries phone 9574 1407.

### Toodyay Men's Shed

The Steering Committee of the Toodyay Men's Shed is happy to inform the Toodyay Community of the calling of the Inaugural Meeting of this organisation.

It will be held in the Baptist Church Hall, Stirling Tce at 7pm on Tuesday, 23rd February. All current members are welcome.

If you are not a current member and wish to attend, please contact Barry Bodle on 0417 929 881.

### Crime Club

I am looking for any interested people to form a Crime Club.

The objectives will be to analyse and investigate true crime..

Please phone 9574 5967 to register your interest.

### First Aid Courses

The next senior first aid course will be held at St John Ambulance Toodyay on Saturday/Sunday 13th/14th March. The following weekend, 20th/21st March will be held at Bolgart. Registrations: contact Jenny Willgoss at LJ Hooker Toodyay 9574 2455 a/h 9574 2412 or, for Bolgart, Valerie Cale 96275 248.

## World Day Of Prayer

### Theme Country: Cameroon

Service to be held at St John the Baptist Church, Toodyay on Friday, 5th March, 2010 at 10am followed by morning tea. All welcome. Contact Gretta on 9574 2868 or Gina on 9574 2893.

### Grand Final Plaques

Any person who would like to purchase, at a cost of \$100, one of the Toodyay Football Club Reserves Grand Final Plaques, could they please let Tracey Wacura know ASAP on (08) 9574 5436 or 0409 089 534 so they can be ordered.

### Wanted

Tools from trades of long ago, such as farriers, blacksmiths, carpenters, boilermakers, welders, and other trades that have contributed to this great community, these tools will become part of a museum within the Toodyay Men's Shed Inc.

Please contact Jeff Roberts, on 9574 2498 or email roberts138@tadaust.org.au.

## Thank You

The Seivwright/Egerton families would like to thank the numerous people who have rung/sent their best wishes and prayers for Geoff/Dad after his terrible motorbike accident on Saturday 19th December. Your support has been amazing!

We would especially like to thank Georgie for her medical skills at the accident site, Mick, Flemming- Richards family, Fred, Helmien, Eduard and kids for looking after dad and myself until ambulance and chopper arrived, Toodyay Ambulance crew of Jaap and Michael for their care in getting Dad ready for the flight, and the Rescue Helicopter crew for getting Dad to RPH Intensive Care Unit where Dad has been for the last 4 weeks. Hopefully by the time you read this Dad will have been transferred to Shenton Park where he will begin intensive therapy for his spinal injuries.

Special thanks to our 'caretakers' Kevin and Deb for looking after home and Fred and Geoff for fixing up the much needed water pump!

My five angels - Helmien, Kate, Simon, Esther, and Veronica, thank you for keeping me going and, last but not least, my wonderful husband and girls for being so understanding and supporting our family.

Dad and our family do have a long and challenging road ahead, but we know that Dad is strong and very determined, and with all the love and support we have, we will make it the best we can.

To all the families who have lost their homes in the fire, our thoughts are with you.

## Anniversaries

### GARY AND JULIE HENDERSON

Congratulations on your 37th wedding anniversary. We are proud to see you have stuck together through thick and thin (fat and skinny?!) Hope you had a wonderful day together. Lots of love from your children and grandkids.

Wayne and Desrae Clarke  
Sharon and Trevor Turnbull  
Fred and Shirley Hacking

## FAMILY LAW

### DEFACTO RELATIONSHIPS

- \* Separation
  - \* Child Support/Maintenance
  - \* Divorce
  - \* Property Settlement
  - \* Contact/Residence - Children
  - \* Restraining Orders
  - \* Prenuptial Agreements - Binding Financial Agreements
  - \* Legal Aid Accepted
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## Births



### ROGERS

Tony and Misty are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Oliver Anthony Rogers on the 20/12/09, 9Lb 14. Many thanks to staff of Swan District Hospital. Another brother to Vincent, William, Ben and Toby. Third grandson to Gary and Julie Henderson, tenth grandchild of Bill and Carol Rogers.

## Birthdays

Margaret Gill  
Frank Danger  
Kathy Robinson  
Nicholas O'Sullivan  
Mal Johnson  
Jeanette Jones  
Denley Jones  
Brad Taylor  
Lorraine Turnbull  
Phil Smith  
Terry Flowers  
Letiah Broderick  
Ryan Broderick  
Michelle Sloper  
Ace Eddy  
Maria Seed  
Benn Gladden  
Clinton Yarran  
Samantha Smart

## Bereavements

### OLIVER, GARY ALAN.

Passed away 7-12-2009.

Wonderful brother of Terri, brother-in-law of Phil, uncle of Kylie, Sheree, Aimee and Nathan, Cody and Rikki and Johnny, and great uncle to Lachie, Caleb and Kira.

As hard as you fought Gaz, this was one battle you lost and now you are in the 'Big Shed in the Sky' with Dad doing woodwork.

We all miss you very much but you will be in our hearts forever.

I know you are in a nice place now, eating juicy steaks and not in pain.

You were a very good person with a big heart and I was proud to have you for my big brother.  
Love from Terri.

RALPH, TREVOR.

Born 4-4-1947, Passed away 22-1-2010

*They say it's a beautiful place  
From the old world to the new  
One day we'll climb the staircase  
To lead us back to you  
And when we reach the garden  
We'll all be free of pain  
We'll wrap our arms around you  
And we'll never be parted again.*

From your loving family  
Wife, Norah, Daughters, Rosemary and Allison, Son-in-law, Joseph and Grandsons, Michael and Mark.

SINCLAIR, ALAN MURRAY

### Alan Old Mate

*Now that you've gone from this earthly place,  
I wish you peace in your heavenly space.*

*And if you have to work and can't sleep in late,  
I hope the sheep are small and straight.*

*May the wind be gentle and the rains come when they're due to fall.*

*Your crops grow straight and thick and tall.  
I hope the soil is soft, beneath your bare feet*

*And the beer is cold and plentiful and sweet.*

*The meat is tender and cooked just right.  
The fish are big and full of fight.*

*When hunting your aim is straight and true  
And when you're resting you've got a big mug of brew.*

*You enjoy yourself but don't forget us old mate,  
'Cause we'll be looking you up when we finally shout our own life's gate.*

Dedicated to a true mate who had a huge impact on my life. Rest Easy.  
Wal' (Greg)

*Alan was a man who forged his own path,  
Always ready to share a beer and enjoy a good laugh.*

*Hard work and family was what his life was most about  
With a staunch partner and good mates, he charted his own route.*

*He loved the bush and the farm from it that he carved,  
I've seen him shearing wool off of dead sheep, that the drought had starved.*

*As a shearer he was sought after because he was reliable and very clean,*

Continued on Page 18

# THE FACTORY

## Toodyay Baptist Church

### Jesus Works

### Sunday Service

## 10.30am

18 STIRLING TCE, 9574 4546

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# public notices

Continued from Page 17

*He was down on cockies who were too tight to shout a beer coz they were too bloody mean.*

*He loved his hunting and fishing too And of good catches I can recall quite a few.*

*He loved to tell a bit of 'bull dust' and he loved to listen to it too And when he started laughing, he'd have you laughing, even if he was laughing at you.*

*Alan carried his trials in life with the dignity of a true 'Aussie Battler', A determined man, with his mind made up he'd go for it like an 'old steam rattler'.*

*He had a quiet wisdom about him and an attitude on life that was down to earth, A big scruffy beard and an open laughter that held its own quality of mirth.*

*From the loamy earthen hills of "Rose Valley" to the windy sandplains of "Yakka Flats" There will be so many with his passing, who will stand in respect, and to him, dip their hats.*

*A man who was "his own man", a dedicated*

*family man and a trustworthy friend. With prompts in our ongoing daily lives, his memory and friendship, will never really end.*

Written with deep respect, recollections of my brother-in-law, Alan Murray Sinclair.  
Greg Cook

## Lost and Found



This cat wandered into our house a few days after the Toodyay fire. It is very friendly, needing some love and care.

As we cannot keep it, if it is not claimed, we would like to offer it up, free, to a good home.

Phone 9574 5050.

## Toodyay Medical Centre

Richard Walkey

STRESS affects us all in our daily lives. For some it may revolve around paying weekly bills or the illness of a loved one. Other times it is a catastrophic event such as the recent fire here in Toodyay. How we handle it is different for each of us. It has a unique course, even if the phases at times are similar. What is stressful to one person may not be to someone else.

What affects one with feelings of helplessness may arouse anger in another. For some, stress can be measured in days but for others it can be months.

With the recent fires I have seen people beside themselves yet they have suffered no personal loss or damage in the fire. Why could this be? Sometimes an event like this scares people with what could have been or what might have happened or released memories of events in the past.

I have seen people who feel guilty because their house stands but their neighbours don't. How can they look their neighbour in the eye?

I have seen people who have lost everything. What can you say?

Situations like the Toodyay Fire can and did bring out the best in so many people. My sense of gratitude and admiration for the local fire fighters who volunteer to put themselves in dangerous situations to help others knows no bounds. But even as the fires are raging there are others helping the lost and needy, there for those beside themselves not knowing what if anything was left and unable to get home to find out and now for the recovery period which will go for months and months.

The work of all those at the Memorial Hall and The Lee-Steere Pavilion was outstanding and I wish they and others could have been privy to the heartfelt praise that so many people expressed when I was seeing them at the surgery. The ability to drop in somewhere, have someone listen, find food, offers of accommodation, the work of the water truckers delivering load after load of water, the dozer drivers opening roads, the roof washers. So many people and this is not scratching the surface of what they

coordinated and provided and does not encompass all the varied offers of help that is still out there.

Things like that are a great help and provide a sense of belonging and being cared for when your normal routine and life have been destroyed.

For some the acute stress has receded. There is a job to be done and they will manage although in some months they may be surprised to find not as well as they thought or not without repercussions. But for others the problems remain and get worse as the enormity of what they lost and the task ahead becomes all too clear and too daunting. They may have lost memories or treasures that money cannot replace. It may place extra pressures on relationships that were already strained. It may crush their sense of independence and self reliance.

Pressures like this can lead to poor sleep, tiredness, irritability, loss of self esteem. With support, life can pick up but it can take time.

That support may come from the community such as the drop-in ability at Memorial Hall or the Tuesday evening meals taking place there. It can be from friends and relatives, from neighbours going the same road but at times professional help such as the Red Cross or Clinical Psychologists will provide the invaluable help. I will be involved in giving support, possibly referrals with, at times, the addition of medication if depression results.

The house may have gone in seconds but the rebuilding and trauma doesn't.

I was asked by someone to do an article about teenage depression but that was before the fire. In some respects there are parallels. Growing up can be traumatic for some where others seem to sail on as if nothing troubles them. Self esteem and identification of who you are and what you stand for, your values, can all come under pressure.

The sleeping-in, lethargy, 'laziness', mood swings may be symptoms of depression. This does not mean medication is the only option and in fact identification of the problem and support should be the initial management leading to other treatments if required.

On a lighter note I would like to thank everyone who brought in toys and gifts for the surgery Christmas tree last year. They were distributed locally helping those in need with the help of St Vincent de Paul.

I would also like to thank everyone for

*Continued on Page 19*

Laurie Biggs  
Authorised

### MARRIAGE CELEBRANT

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Any Time, Any Place

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Discount on bulk orders

Toodyay Medical Centre - continued from Page 18

their drawings in the colouring contest, All your contributions were much appreciated and congratulations to the winners.

The year 2010 could be a big one but with the community spirit we have in Toodyay one we should look forward to.

## Psychological Health

**Richard Taylor**  
Registered Clinical Psychologist

**Trauma: coping after the Toodyay fires**  
HUMAN lives generally are not tidy. We are filled moment to moment with feelings, memories, sensations, urges, and thoughts – and they can be messy, painful and conflicting. Life itself can produce unpredictable challenges. No one knows this better than trauma survivors.

Traumatic experiences can happen to anyone. The word 'trauma' generally refers to a wide range of intensely stressful situations that involve high levels of danger, fear, helplessness, or horror that evoke high levels of stress. Natural disasters such as the recent bushfire is an event that can induce trauma.

Most people experiencing trauma recover and are able to go on and live normal lives.

However the effects of trauma are diverse. The symptoms or problems people experience can vary in intensity and from individual to individual. Some experience slight adjustment issues immediately following a trauma and then fully recover. Others can have recurring psychological difficulties especially during times of other life stressors. In others, symptoms can build over many years resulting in complex and long lasting outcomes referred to as posttraumatic stress disorder.

Having difficulties admitting and talking about psychological problems is a very common response, particularly if it seems others cannot relate to the trauma you have personally experienced.

*Acute stress disorder* involves stress reactions within one month of experiencing the trauma. The symptoms include:

- Numbness or detachment: which involves not feeling emotions very strongly or no longer having loving feelings for other people;
- Reduced awareness of surrounding: feeling 'out of it' or in a daze in certain situations;
- Derealisation: where the world around you may feel different or unfamiliar, or you have a sense of detachment from your surroundings;
- Depersonalisation: which is a change in self-awareness, feeling detached from yourself, your experiences, or your body;
- Dissociative amnesia: in that sometimes people are unable to remember parts of, or important details of, the traumatic event.

During the acute stress phase most cases of traumatic stress can disappear spontaneously. Therefore psychological interventions during this period have to be very carefully considered so as not to increase the likelihood of abnormal stress reactions in some individuals.

### *Vicarious trauma*

Volunteers and emergency workers in the helping field must recognise their vulnerability to exposure to trauma or being secondary witnesses to trauma. They must recognise the warning signs and be prepared to care for their own needs to cope with vicarious trauma. The pain is taken in and by the end of the day bits and pieces of accounts of trauma have been collected. As a result pictures can run through the mind or intense feelings run through the body. The warning signs are there when an event is consuming your thoughts, the workday, or your personal life. Recognising that it is 'normal' to be affected by this type of work is the most important coping skill that you can give to yourself. You are not alone. It is okay to feel horrified, shocked, saddened or vulnerable.

## Plan it and you'll do it!

THE Heart Foundation's Find Thirty® every day campaign is urging all WA adults to get out their diaries and plan to build 30 minutes of physical activity into their daily routine starting today; and the call is supported by

## Demons Visit Toodyay



### Natalie Prowse

On the 16th January the Perth Demons Football Club came to Toodyay.

Their first stop was Craig and Yvonne Patching's property as their son, Michael, plays football with the club. They had come up to Toodyay to assist in the clean-up of the Patching's property along with some of the locals from the Toodyay Football Club.

After the clean-up they headed to the Toodyay Oval where Andrew Jarman (Coach of Perth Football Club) introduced himself and his players to everybody that had arrived there. He and some of his players then proceeded with giving a coaching clinic for

the Toodyay Junior Football Club.

As he was going around coaching the kids, he asked me how the community was handling everything. I replied that the spirit of the community was fantastic. He also commented on how shocked he was to see what damage was caused by the fires.

After the junior clinic had finished, the kids enjoyed a sausage sizzle and gifts like footballs, hats and flags which had been donated by the Perth Demons Football Club.

A senior coaching clinic was then held and followed by a few beers and a sausage sizzle.

Before everybody left the oval Craig and Michael Patching thanked everybody for their help and support.

research.

People who plan physical activity into their daily routine have more success in achieving the daily 30 minutes of moderate physical activity required for good health says Heart Foundation Cardiovascular Health Director, Trevor Shilton.

"Only a generation ago we were getting much of the physical activity we need from walking, cycling and going about our everyday work and lives," he said. "Today in our busy lifestyle, where we drive everywhere, sit down at work and watch television at night, it is easy to go through an entire day doing little or no physical activity."

"What we once took for granted we now need to plan. We need to put back into our lives what we have engineered out. The research also says that setting a goal can be a

powerful motivator for physical activity".

"February is a ideal time to start planning physical activity into your day as most people are back at work, the kids are back at school and the Christmas and New Year holidays are over", he said. "Look for opportunities to be active that can become a regular part of your lifestyle such as riding your bike to work, walking the dog or joining a dance class".

There are many ways to Find Thirty® every day in local communities with activities to suit all ages, abilities and interests, from regular walking to active family outings to more vigorous sport and recreation.

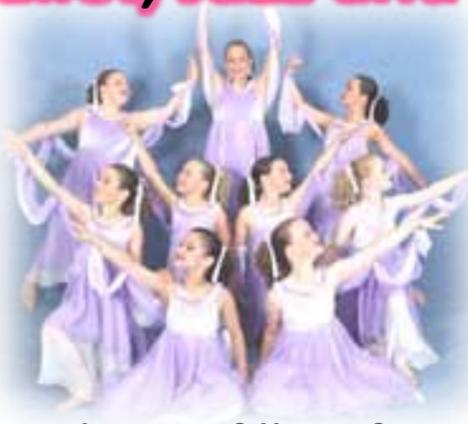
"Making a set time to be active with a friend, playing a team sport or joining a walking group are all ways that can help you make physical activity a regular and social part of your life."

# Toodyay Ballet School

## 2010 Enrolments now being taken

### First Class Free!!!!

## Classes in Ballet, Jazz and Acrobatics



Classes filling fast

Term begins the first Saturday after school goes back

Please phone 95744459

Or email

[lanimc@bigpond.com](mailto:lanimc@bigpond.com)

For an info and enrolment pack



## Computer Workshops for Wheatbelt Farmers

COMPUTER workshops will be offered to farmers in the wheatbelt over the coming two months by Partners in Grain (PinG).

Spokeswoman for PinG, farmer Ali Cooke, said there was a growing need for Information Technology workshops for people running farm offices in the bush.

Ms Cooke, a PinG Reference Group member from Badgingarra, said people working in big organisations and in major centres had access to IT help desks.

But she said many farm offices struggled along having to deal with many computer issues with little assistance.

The PinG workshops will deal with a wide range of topics including electronic filing, backing up and dealing with power surges, virus software, email systems, and setting up

a computer for a farm office.

Farmers who participate will be able to use Small Business Smart Business vouchers towards the cost of the workshops.

Workshops will be held on:

15th February at Jerramungup Telecentre  
16th February at Ravensthorpe Telecentre meeting room

17th February at the Esperance Department of Ag and Food meeting room

18th February at the Gibson Soak

19th February at the Scaddan Country Club

2nd March at the Williams Telecentre

3rd March at Narrogin

4th March at Katanning Department of Agriculture and Food

5th March at Hyden Telecentre

Registrations can be made online at [www.partnersingrain.org.au](http://www.partnersingrain.org.au) or phone the Co-ordinator, Julianne Hill on 0408 908 989 before 1 February.

PinG is a national project funded by the Grains Research and Development Corporation, with Diamond Sponsorship from ANZ Banking Group, and supported by the Department of Agriculture and Food. It aims to help the WA Grains Industry grow through education for people involved with farming.

## Young Artists can JUMP Start Careers

ARE you pursuing a career in the arts? Propel Youth Arts WA now offers young people from Western Australia the opportunity to participate in *JUMP*, a new national mentoring programme for young and emerging artists.

*JUMP* is the first programme funded by the Australia Council for the Arts that supports young arts' practitioners who demonstrate excellence, commitment and drive to work with an established professional of their choice. Successful applicants receive funding of up to \$5,000 for a creative project to be achieved through a one-on-one relationship with their chosen mentor. The programme also provides access to professional skills development, online profiling, showcasing of project outcomes and opportunities to engage with national artistic networks.

In 2010, eight mentorship places of up to 10-months are available for Western Australian artists aged 18 to 30 and in the first five years of their career. More mentorships will be available in 2011 and 2012.

Libby Christie, Executive Director of Arts Funding for the Australia Council for the Arts, acknowledges that getting established as a professional artist is challenging.

"There is no one better to help young artists establish themselves than a successful arts' professional. We are excited about the *JUMP* programme as it will create real career prospects for young artists and help nurture the future of our next generation of arts leaders."

*JUMP* is managed nationally by Youth Arts Queensland (YAQ) and will be delivered in 2010 in collaboration with inaugural state delivery partners, Carclew Youth Arts and Propel Youth Arts WA.

Sonja Basic, General Manager of Propel Youth Arts WA, said that the company is thrilled to be one of the first *JUMP* programme partners.

"It's exciting news for WA to be one of the first states to participate in a national programme of this nature. *JUMP* is a fantastic opportunity for young and

emerging artists across Western Australia to access resources and one-on-one skills development through the mentorship process.

"We are looking forward to working with our local community to get behind this initiative and create sustainable long-term opportunities in the WA arts industry."

For more details, application forms and FAQs, visit [www.jumpmentoring.com.au](http://www.jumpmentoring.com.au). Artists from a range of backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Applications close Friday, 26th February 2010.

*JUMP*, the National Mentoring Programme for Young and Emerging Artists, is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts, the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body, through the Opportunities for Young and Emerging Artists initiative.

## Active Lives, Active Minds

ACADEMIC success and good health are outcomes most parents and schools prioritise and strive to attain for their children and students, but many don't know there is an even more significant link between the two.

According to the Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR), parents and teachers should be looking at increasing the time children spend in sport or physical activity as a strategy to potentially optimise children's learning.

"With a new year now upon us, and with parents being a major influence in their child's participation in sport and recreation, parents are being urged to make it their resolution to encourage their children to be more physically active – whether it be joining a local sport or recreation club, throwing a frisbee in the park or walking them to school," said DSR Director General Ron Alexander.

A review of Australian and international research by UWA academic, Karen Martin, surrounding the relationship between physical activity and academic success supports the theory that children who are more physically active are more likely to achieve better academically.<sup>1</sup>

The great majority of university-based, internationally published research in this field found a positive association between children's levels of physical activity – or sport – and cognitive functioning – or academic success – at the time of study or at follow up.

The review found study groups that received extra physical education from a trained specialist or specially trained generalist teacher had an advantage over control groups, in teacher ratings of classroom behaviour. Study results showed increased learning per unit of time when children were engaged in higher levels of physical activity, and supported the theory that increasing physical activity has a positive effect on learning.

For more information, see the 'Value of Sport and Recreation' section on the DSR website at [www.dsr.wa.gov.au](http://www.dsr.wa.gov.au). Parents can also find sport and recreation clubs in their local area using the 'Find a Club' tool on the 'Clubs' section of the website.

1. Martin, K. (2006). *Improved learning through physical activity*. Perth: WA Department of Sport and Recreation.

## From Sue

OUT of the blackness I came a-hopping,  
'Til I reached the park, I was not stopping.

People here walking around,  
Everything burnt on the ground.  
I went to a van, nobody was home,  
Around the caravan park I roam.  
My feet are burnt, some fur as well,  
That fire was really living hell.  
A lady saw me and called me Sue,  
I turned and slowly recognised you  
As someone I went to for a feed,  
I have come to you out of need.  
The fire has burnt what I eat,  
Lucky me, you gave me a treat.  
Apples, carrots, cauli or grain,  
This fire really was a strain.  
I love these people at the park  
I occasionally visit after dark.

Written by Jes  
02/01/2010

## The Call

We headed home when the call did come,  
The caravan park was on the run.  
All our streets were evacuated  
Because of something we fear and hated.  
It came over the hills at lightning speed,  
We listened to warnings, taking heed.

Toodyay on fire was the call,  
Help required from one and all.  
Grabbing what you could before you run,  
The fear of bush fire is no fun.

To the evacuation point you go,  
What is left behind you do not know.

In the panic comes the fear  
Making our thinking quite unclear.  
Town people start answering the call,  
Beds, blankets and shelter for all.

Plenty of food for all to eat,  
Even footwear for people's feet.

The fire fighters were doing their best,  
But many of us could not rest

Watching the helitacs from the air  
Considering what happened very unfair.

Written by Jes  
01/01/2010

## Toodyay Fire

I started as a little fire,  
Oh what hell I raised,  
46 degrees and winds as well  
Made my life pretty swell.

I burnt with fury out of control,  
Up and down hills I did roll.

10 kilometres per hour, I was on the move,  
Embers 1 kilometre ahead really groove.

What was in front of me I did take,  
Now and again I made a mistake.

To all you fire fighters,  
You certainly have my praise.

To policing staff and S.E.S,  
Everything you did was for the best

Making sure nobody was or could stay,  
You cleared people out of my way.

The mess I've made, seen from the air,  
Burnt ashes and embers everywhere.

Firebreaks now what were they,  
Something else to make me stay

Where I was so I was beat.  
Oh no, I turned up the heat.

Water bombers from the air,  
Ground level fire fighters everywhere;

They have contained me now,  
I do not know how.

Contained maybe but not yet out,  
Little fires burning all about.

Fire fighters slowly winning this race,  
Contained I am, I've run out of pace.

They have beaten me now and I am out  
But turn around and look about.

What chaos I caused and damage done,  
For every human and animal, it was no

fun.

To fire fighter, police and all involved,  
Let's hope the recovery can be solved.

Written by Jes  
30/12/2009

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**Volunteers  
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Join your local bush  
fire brigade.

See page 8 for more  
information.