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Toodyay Bowling Club

June Eastwood

MEN'S Results: Championship 4s was played in very hot conditions Sunday 24th January with the winners being a team comprising P. Healey, K. Adams, P. Forward and J. Paulson.

Ladies: Recently underway was the Judith Walton trophy, being played as an evening event over January. Two ladies' teams contested a Gala Day at Cunderdin on Thursday 21st January and enjoyed the social outing although they were not in the Winners' Circle. Ladies Pairs will commence Wednesday 3rd February.

The ladies held a highly enjoyable morning game on Wednesday 20th January. This was an open day and we welcomed four other ladies to the game which was followed by a light lunch and a highly enjoyable auction to raise funds for the Cancer appeal. The ladies hold one charity day per season. Everything from plants, to gifts, household goods and books, DVDs, garden ornaments. All items were enthusiastically offered by auctioneer Margaret and offsideer Dee and we are proud to announce over \$400 was raised for this worthy cause.

Corporate bowls begin 2nd Tuesday February. This trophy will be contested for over 3 nights per week for the next 6 weeks.

The really big event on the bowling club calendar will be in the form of a fundraiser for those affected by the disastrous Toodyay Bush Fire. This event is scheduled for Friday 19th March 2010.

Austral Bricks are sponsoring the event to the tune of \$10,000. Bowls W.A. is bringing up 14 State bowlers, 8 men and six ladies. The State players will each be in charge of a team of 4 who will pay \$50 each for the privilege of playing. There will be a barbecue with the British Sausage Company donating 1,000 sausages, 250 burgers and even caps and aprons for the cooks! The Good Guys have donated a range of electrical goods and Carlton Brewery will donate an item of framed, signed, cricket Memorabilia. Anyone who has been watching the current matches will know the value of such a work. Other items include an outdoor setting and 'mystery' parcels. A full list will be published

in the next Herald. Capable auctioneer Tony Maddox will auction all donated items so please keep this date free. It promises to be a really fun event with the lure of picking yourself up a great prize while helping those who need it most, the victims of our Toodyay fire.

Ida's Hideaway

Greasy Sleave

WELL, Christmas has come and gone once again and I hope you all had a good time. We are now into the new year and we start it all over again.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all those who were affected by the recent bush fire all the very best for the future.

Our street stall raffle on 12th December was a great success; thanks to all who supported us and to all our helpers. The winners of our raffles were:

- 1st Christmas Hamper Helen Evans
Red Ticket C5
- 2nd Breakfast Buffet Peg Nelligan
Blue Ticket E6
- 3rd Clock Michael Cox
Green Ticket F18
- 4th Tea Set Jo Peters
Red Ticket C12
- 5th Fruit Garden Set Mick Dodemaide
Red Ticket C21

The money board 1st prize was won by Dink and Jenny Lloyd and 2nd prize was won by Wes Smith.

Birthday wishes this month go to Lynette Hooks (11th); Happy Birthday Lynette. Last month's birthdays were Mena Chapman (10th) and Jim Short (23rd); we hope you both had a lovely day.

If you are a senior and like to play cards, why not come along to Ida's Hideaway on Saturday afternoons; we would love for you to join us. Contact Ida on 9574 2858. Ida's Hideaway is a voluntary organisation to assist the seniors of Toodyay. We meet every Saturday afternoon at Butterly Cottage from 1pm 'til 4pm.

Out of Date

After seeing his patient, the doctor had a talk with the husband. "Have you any idea how your wife caught such a terrible cold?" he asked.

"I've a pretty good idea," said the harassed husband, "I think it was her coat."

The doctor nodded, understandingly. "Too thin, I suppose?" he replied.

"No, I don't think so, Doctor," said the other, "It was last winter's coat and she wouldn't wear it."

Butterly Bits

Jo Sutton Secretary

THIS is the first report for the New Year, so there isn't much news to tell you all.

We held our street raffle on the day of the street party, and the results were as follows:

- Hamper Margaret Sutton
Q30 Yellow
- Cleaning Gear Jim Short
Q16 Purple
- Bendigo Bank Pack Helen
Q19 Green

Thank you to all who supported us with ticket purchases, and better luck next time to those who didn't win.

We are still looking for more volunteers to join our Committee, so if you want to help, call me or Paul on 9574 2698.

We say farewell to one of our tenants, Pim Nouwland, who has moved to pastures new, and we will welcome a new member of our little family quite soon.

It's the beginning of the year again and I would ask all people who have their names on our waiting list to please contact me with their details. I have experienced some difficulty in reaching some of you because a lot of the telephone numbers I have on file are unreachable, possibly because of the recent fires.

Uniting Church

THE thoughts and prayers of the Uniting Church Congregation are with all the victims of the bushfire that claimed so many homes and destroyed gardens and livelihoods.

We are thankful that no lives were lost or serious injury to the fire-fighters and those who defended their homes.

On 10th January 2010, Julie and Luke Seibermaier presented their baby daughter Clare Monica for baptism. The Uniting Church service of baptism was celebrated by the Rev Lorraine Stokes at St Stephen's Anglican Church.

The General Secretary of the Uniting Church Synod of Western Australia Kay

Dowling attended the service and conveyed the greetings of the wider church to all the people of Toodyay in the light of recent events.

The Toodyay congregation will continue to join with the Anglican congregation for worship each Sunday at 10am.

Chaplaincy Notes

Millie Heath

WE look forward to the new School year and to meeting Staff and Students. Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd February at 2.00pm at the school. This looks like being another busy year so please watch for notices of up-and-coming events.

January has seen a wonderful community come together following the dreadful fires. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who have been affected; may we all continue to offer comfort and help through the ongoing recovery time.

Best wishes to all for this New Year of 2010.

A Prayer

Edna Carr

GOD of goodness and love, in whom we can trust in every hour of need, have mercy on all who are faced with fear and distress caused by the bushfire in our lovely town of Toodyay.

Be with all who have survived this devastating fire; be with those who lost all that was precious to them.

Minister to their needs of body, mind and spirit. We ask that help my be given speedily and that this emergency may be turned into an opportunity to strengthen the bonds of love and service which binds us all together.

Give comfort and strength to those who have lost their homes, be with them as they make the decisions about their futures.

Be with those who are working to bring relief and restore order, give them strength and resilience to do their work well.

Give thanks to all the volunteers, those who fought the fires, those who prepared meals, the organisers, those who attended to the families in distress, all who donated food, clothing, financial support and a place to stay.

Grant us your grace, mercy and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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Toodyay Miniature Railway Inc.

June Eastwood

WEDNESDAY mornings are set aside for the weekly busy bees.

Stan was driving Percy who was pushing, rather than pulling two wagons. In one wagon was Micaile who was facing back towards the engine but his vision was blocked by Phil travelling in the wagon immediately in front of Percy. In contrast, Phil was facing the way they were travelling.



They had hardly left the station when the two wagons detached from Percy and set off down the hill. When Stan overcame his surprise (and stopped laughing) he set

off in pursuit. Meanwhile the wagons were gathering more and more momentum and



though poor Percy's wheels were turning madly, he could make no impression on catching the runaways. Phil became quietly concerned at the rate at which, as he thought, Stan was pushing them. Further down in wagon 1, Micaile was becoming more than concerned and as he leaned out to peer round Phil's bulk he was horrified to see they were completely freewheeling with Percy coming a long last. Stan was giving Percy's 5 H.P. Honda everything it had but round the first bend went the runaways and he lost sight of them. On coming round the bend he caught a fleeting glimpse as the two wagons roared round the next bend. Further round the bend Stan saw a cloud of dust rising and feared the worst, but it was just quick thinking Micaile frantically dragging a plank of

wood in an effort to reduce their break neck run. Turtle Crossing hove into Stan's view and to his immense relief, no overturned wagons. Finally Percy manages to catch the speedy pair when their run was slowed by the upgrade on the loop. The wagons relieved passengers were wiping the sweat from their brow as had they been taken on round the loop they felt sure they would have been pitched headlong into a very muddy Avon river bottom.

On the bright side, Phil confidently announced (when the danger was past) that our track can be certified to 30 kph, bends and all.

The railway members were thrilled to receive the Shire of Toodyay Community Group of the year award with Benny having the honour of the medallion attached to his collar for the morning.

Many people availed themselves of a free train ride during the morning's celebrations and our staff members certainly enjoyed the tasty breakfast on offer.

Our trains will now go back under the covers till the start of our official running year at Easter. Two thousand new flyers have been printed and are available from the Toodyay Visitor's Centre.

Toodyay 4WD Club

TOWARDS the end of 2009 we held a Visitors' Day visiting the area around Clackline and Bakers Hill.



Four club vehicles were accompanied by two visitors' cars on a day driving on gravel roads, enjoying the bush surrounds. A stop for morning tea was enjoyed in the Clackline Reserve on the site of an old artillery range, which was later used by Clackline Refractory to make bricks.

Some 4WDing was undertaken on loose surfaces before stopping for lunch in the Woondowing Reserve on the site of an old gold mining operation. It was interesting to

visit our local area and learn a little of its history, and share a day out with our visitors.

Visitors are most welcome to attend our monthly meetings and outings. For more information please contact Dave Isbill on 9574 4035 after 7pm.

Toodyay Music Club Inc

Jenny Edgecombe

'SEVEN Deadly Sins' - it's the theme night coming up in February and I have been wondering what we will make of this one? I have a feeling that at least some of the choices will be centred around over-indulgence, following the excesses of the festive season.



We also have plans for some 'Special Requests' at the March meeting. Ask at the February meeting if you would like people to repeat particular items they have done in the past, so that they have time to practise.

The December meeting was a cheerful affair, as always. Members and visitors were coming and going throughout the evening, since it coincided with the Street Party and various other events. Everyone joined in the well-known Christmas songs with gusto for the 'skiffle' sessions, and then we were treated to a wide range of beautiful carols as well as some not so serious items in the individual performances.

Just before supper, visitors might have been excused for thinking it was the Toodyay UnMusic Club. Santa's treats this year included a tiny plastic instrument for everyone. You never heard such a racket, with 20 or so 'grown-ups' merrily tooting and screeching away on the assorted whistles,

Continued Page 25

Toodyay Walkie Talkies

Keeping Fit By Walking

LET'S get together to discuss what you would want for our programme for 2010. Meet at Wendouree Tearooms at 3.00pm on Monday 15th February. We would love to see new walkers come along and have your new ideas.

Walks vary - easy - and not so easy. (choices) Monday and Friday mainly around

town, Wednesday further out and more difficult.

As usual we strongly recommend all walkers wear sensible appropriate footwear and take plenty of water.

We would like to see more people join us on any of our always interesting, healthy and sociable walks. No cost!!
Phone Sally 9574 4184 or
Prim 0419 917 266

DAY / DATE	THE WALK	MEETING PLACE
February		
Fri 5	West Toodyay	Donegan's Cottage
Mon 8	South Toodyay	Duidee Park
Wed 10	Horseshoe Road	Cnr Timbercreek Cr & Horseshoe Rd
Fri 12	Deepdale	Corner Deepdale Rd and Julimar Rd
Mon 15	Two Bridges	Duidee Park
Wed 17	Wongamine Reserve	Entrance off Bejoording Rd
Fri 19	River and Mini Rail	Duidee Park
Mon 22	James Cottage	Next to Old Catholic Church
Wed 24	Windmill Walk	Jn Conostylis Wy & Coondle West Rd
Fri 26	River Walk	Duidee Park
March		
Mon 1	Deepdale	Corner Deepdale Rd and Julimar Rd
Wed 3	Blackboy Walk	End of Eucalyptus Rd
Fri 5	Two Bridges	Duidee Park
Mon 8	River Gum Trail	Duidee Park
Wed 10	Springbank Walk	Cnr Nerramine Dve and Julimar Rd
Fri 12	James Cottage	Next to Old Catholic Church

Toodyay Theatre Group Inc Auditions

Opportunity Knox

A close similarity to a Judith Prior play

February 15 at 7.30pm
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Toodyay Music Club continued from Page 23

blowers and flutes.

The club provided entertainment for the Beth Avon Christmas party at Northam once again this year. We had an excellent turnout and the afternoon was declared the 'best ever'. Thank you to President Joe for organising the audio equipment, which is essential in a large venue.

A faithful band of stalwarts attended the January meeting, which began with a unanimous decision that the club would make a donation to the bushfire appeal.

Many of us chose to perform some of our own favourite songs and pieces rather than new ones at this meeting. Allan did branch out into some Leonard Cohen, and Peter on ukulele with Leila on double bass produced a lovely 'Pearly Shells'.

Joe entertained us with a ditty about a certain unfortunate incident involving Spencer and a very hot meat pie, and the Missing Chords and Keys presented 'The Best of' their 2009 performances, bringing the house down with their extraordinary sound effects in 'The Pushbike Song'.

Other highlights included Jeanette's moving performance of 'Now I'm Easy', the Eric Bogle song of a farmer looking back over his life, while Spencer and Teddy lifted the mood with 'Clip Cloppy Cloppy'. It was great to hear Frank again, with the Cat Stevens song, 'Father and Son'.

Next Meeting: 7pm Friday 12th February. Theme Night, featuring songs and music about all manner of wicked goings-on. Any style of singing or instrumental performance is welcome, so long as it is 'acoustic'. Come to our monthly meeting as performer or listener - Second Friday of each month at the CWA Hall. For further information contact Teddy or Spencer on 9574 4492.

Toodyay Agricultural Society

Founded 1852

Pam Jackson
Committee Member

THE Annual General Meeting of the Toodyay Agricultural Society will be held on Monday 8th February 2010, 7.30pm at the Youth Hall, Showgrounds. Please come along and show your support for the Toodyay Show, a major community event which this year will be held on 9th October.

Membership

If you would like to become a member of the Toodyay Agricultural Society, please send your name and address plus membership fee to the Secretary, Toodyay Agricultural Society Inc, PO Box 362, Toodyay, 6566 or bring it along to the AGM on the 8th February 2010. Membership fees are \$20 for one year or \$45 for three years.

Your membership helps to support the Toodyay Show, and it ensures that your copy of the schedule and tickets to the show will be posted out to you.

Logo Competition

Would you like to win \$200? Then get creative and design an ORIGINAL logo for the Toodyay Agricultural Society Inc. The logo will be used on stationery (letters, forms, etc), posters, and other documents.

We would like a logo with an

AGRICULTURAL theme, a logo that looks good printed in colour or black and white. Your design MUST be an ORIGINAL (ie. no clip art, no photos/diagrams or drawings from the internet or anywhere else); your logo must be scalable (ie. effective large or small.) Please submit your entry as a JPEG image (in black and white and in colour).

No late entries accepted. To be eligible, entries MUST be received by 4pm Wednesday 24th February 2010. The judge's decision is final. Submit your entries for our Logo Competition by emailing to:

SecretaryTAS@bordernet.com.au
Don't forget to include your name, address and phone number.

We look forward to receiving your entry.

RSL Toodyay Sub Branch

John Adams
Secretary/Treasurer

WITH the Toodyay bushfires, the past month has been very busy and stressful. To the many RSL members involved in fighting the fire and the subsequent relief effort, we give our sincere thanks. We have identified eight ex service personnel who have been affected by the fire. Two have completely lost their homes. Along with the general effort, the sub branch is working to assist these victims as much as possible. The support we have received from the veteran community has been outstanding.

The trustees of RSL Welfare Funds at State level and the RSL State President Mr Bill Gaynor have provided significant financial assistance to the eight ex service people affected. We have also received very substantial donations of funds and goods from:-

The Northam Sub Branch
The York Sub Branch
The Yancheop/Two Rocks Sub Branch
The Quinns Rocks Sub Branch
Mr Greg Morley (Sub Branch member)
Flightline Travel - Mundaring.

Along with our own Welfare Funds and the above donations, the Toodyay Sub Branch will be providing further assistance as needed.

The Sub Branch wishes to convey our sincere appreciation to the above donors.

We are pleased to advise that Miss Sara Catto has been selected to receive the Sandakan Memorial Travel Scholarship for 2010. Congratulations Sara and we hope you find this experience an important part of your own personal development. We look

Laurie Biggs
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forward to your report on your return. In respect to this scholarship we wish to thank those sponsors who have made donations or pledges i.e.

Shire of Toodyay
Lions Club of Toodyay
Toodyay Op Shop
Bendigo Bank
Dr Michael McGuinness
Hon. Judi Moylan M.P.

The next meeting of the sub branch will be held at the Toodyay Club at 2.00p.m. on Saturday, 6th February, 2010.

Toodyay Olive Growers

Margaret McKeown

UNFORTUNATELY, the bushfire of the 29th of December severely damaged three olive groves in Toodyay: Amberfield in Folewood Rd and Place of Plenty and Eidran in the Northam-Toodyay Rd.

Amberfield was burnt early in the afternoon. At about 3.30pm, the fire jumped the Toodyay Rd and, by 4pm, it had burnt through Place of Plenty where it took just two minutes to pass through the 15-year-old olive grove. Eidran was the next grove to suffer as the fire burnt further eastwards.

Although the three groves appear devastated, there is hope that most trees will recover in time. The first priority at all groves was to restore irrigation and get water to the trees. Thanks go to all the volunteers, including neighbours, family and friends, who helped with this work particularly the fitting of drippers. One neighbour even worked at night using a cap lamp! A few trees have already started to shoot, a great sign of hope.

Although trees with trunk diameters less than 20mm are at the greatest risk, larger trees with their larger established root systems should recover. Once the trees have properly re-sprouted, the major task of selective pruning will begin. In the meantime, we must wait to see how much of the anticipated 2010 harvest will be viable.

Our thanks go to all those who helped to fight the fires, especially the volunteer fire-fighters and farmers' units. Thanks also to those who have telephoned or called in person to see how we are all coping. The fire

was an event we hoped would never happen but it has shown the great caring spirit of Toodyay.

Toodyay Spinners

WELL, the holiday season is over and I hope everyone had a Happy Christmas and New Year and the resolutions have not been broken yet.

A big THANK YOU to the Toodyay Shire for the prompt attention to the request for the repair of the items at Parkers Cottage.

Share table: Vest (blue) of merino-silk and commercial wool by Margaret Grassick; knitted teddy bear from merino-silk by Glynn Bartlet; needle felting of a rabbit by Margaret Masterlerz (first attempt); Val Richards received a purple and yellow scarf from the scarf exchange; skein of wool blend in merino silk by Glynn Bartlet; shawl in black and red, spun by Andrew McCann and knotted by Margaret Rankin; sleeveless, open-front vest in merino-silk by Audrey Elson.

A big THANK YOU to Andrew Carr for the donation of the alpaca. Also thank you to Jenny Cornwell for demonstrating needle

Continued Page 26

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Toodyay Spinners continued from Page 25

felting to some of the club members.

Spinners meet every Wednesday from approximately 9am to 12noon and also the second Saturday of the month at Parkers Cottage, Toodyay Showgrounds.

For more information, contact Carol Worrell (President) on 0407 429 047 or Phil Harmer (Secretary) on 9574 2015.

The Toodyay Historical Society

Beth Frayne
Secretary

HOPE everyone had a Happy Christmas and is enjoying/surviving the hot and dry New Year. We send our thoughts and best wishes to all members and residents who were affected in any way by the 29th December 2009 bushfire. Our community has been wonderful in how it has come together to get through this disaster which has affected us all in different ways. We have also appreciated all the assistance and donations from Perth and places much further afield.

Volunteer Grant application successful:

The Society was very pleased to learn recently that we were successful in our funding application to the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs for a Volunteer Grant. Through the good work of our archivist, Jenny Edgecombe, we can now purchase portable display panels, easels and pinboards to make it easier for us to transport displays that promote our Society and the community's history. Our grateful thanks to FaHCSIA.

On the Street Party night, many folk stopped to chat and even ask an historical question or two. Our Christmas Hamper winner Helen Evans was awarded her prize on the night, as she was partying with the Toodyay Community Singers on St Stephen's green. Many thanks to all those members who donated items.

Our Christmas Sundowner BBQ on 12th December at President, Len Leeder's home was very well attended and enjoyed by all (thanks, Lois and Len!) It was notable for the unveiling of a new sign for the property, featuring its old name of 'Keynsham'. Len did a marvellous display on the history of

Keynsham, for us to admire whilst sipping fizzy wine in his old shearing shed, shaded by an enormous old Morton Bay fig tree. Len also gave us a tour of the remains of the former Demasson cottage and garden.

At our first meeting for this year (our 30th Anniversary Year), held on Donegan Cottage's breezy front verandah in January, the Society discussed such topics as Toodyay's 175th Anniversary (2011), Federation Square plaques, Toodyay's tabletop models, the Shire Museum Advisory Committee, and the Nunyle Agricultural Hall foundation stone.



In spite of the hot weather, Jenny Edgecombe reports that we have had a steady stream of visitors at Donegan's on a Thursday, and, of course, many enquiries are still coming in via phone and email. Jenny's great new displays for our Australia Day stall were: a cross-Australia balloon flight in the 1970s that happened to pass over Toodyay; and what was in Duidgee Park that is there no longer? Congratulations to the worthy winners and nominees for the Toodyay Citizen of the Year Awards.

Our bi-monthly newsletter, 'Duidgeeana', will be out in February, so watch out for more snippets of news, and our monthly informative research article (still a secret!) We will include a report on the moving Memorial Service that celebrated the life of our late Patron Rica Erickson, held in beautiful Kings Park on 9th December 2009.

Next event - Sunday, 7th February 2010, 2pm. THS Planning Meeting, at 'Keynsham', the Leeders' home (air-conditioned!), 179 Julimar Road (1.79 km from town, on the left-hand side). Ph. 9574 4343. All welcome. Please bring something to share for afternoon tea and stay for a sundowner afterwards, if you wish. We have a lot to discuss as this our 30TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR. The Toodyay Society (our original name) was formed on 25th November 1980.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, 17th February 2010, 7pm at Donegan's Cottage.

For information about any matter to do with the Toodyay Historical Society, or how we may assist you or your group, please contact our Secretary, Beth Frayne - 9574 5971, President, Len Leeder - 9574 4343, or Vice President, Robyn Taylor - 9574 2578.

Our headquarters are at Donegan's Cottage, which is open to the public every Thursday from 1pm to 3pm. You will find us on Toodyay Street in the Toodyay Showgrounds. Membership is \$10.

Can You Help? Photographs or Information about the Old Boarding House near Newcastle Bridge.

The Historical Society is looking for information about the two-storey building that stood opposite Butterly Cottages, near the Newcastle Bridge, where Duidgee Park is now.

We have some details about its origins and later history, as a store and stables built and run by various members of the Monger family, then as a private residence owned by the Davey family, later leased out as a rental property, and finally run as a boarding house until it was demolished in the 1960s when the road was realigned and a new bridge built over the Avon.

Our oral history collection also includes some stories and details about the people who lived there when it was a rental property and a boarding house, but we would be very interested in collecting more information about people who lived or worked there.

We would be especially interested in permission to copy photographs of the building, because the ones in our collection only show portions of it in the background of other shots.

Contact: Jenny Edgecombe, Toodyay Historical Society Archivist, on 0417 910 050 or at Donegan's Cottage in the Showgrounds, Thursdays 1-3pm.

Puggles Playgroup an early Montessori experience

PUGGLES Playgroup meets every Monday morning (except school holidays) in the Toodyay Community Centre, Stirling terrace. We are currently enrolling children from 18 months to 4 years old. However, please don't hesitate to come down if your child is younger and ready for stimulation,

as an introduction into the Montessori way could only benefit you and your child. If you would like to arrange a 'trial morning/enrolment' please contact Felicity on 9574 4254.



We would like to bring you some insight into the Montessori philosophy of education:

"And so we discovered that education is not something which the teacher does, but that is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the human being. It is not acquired by listening to words but in virtue of experiences in which the child acts in his environment. The teacher's task is not to talk but to prepare and arrange a series of motives for cultural activity in a special environment made for the child."

Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*

Little Rascals

Little Rascals Child Care Centre's special visitor for December was of course Santa. Santa is pictured with caregiver, Kerry, and the children.



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Toodyay Kindergym

WELCOME to the New Year!

As we lose the older children to school we are left with the younger children at home needing constant entertainment.

Bring them down to Kindergym, a fun and stimulating environment where parents and children have fun exploring and developing social skills. A circuit is set up every week to climb, balance, crawl through or jump on.

So bring your active young kids down to the Toodyay Sports Pavilion, 9.30am every Friday during school term, and enjoy a non-stress hour in a fun environment.

As we will be an active playgroup there will be minimum fees. Any questions or queries please contact Karen Gale on 0421 357 333. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Ethan on rolla board

Country Womens Association of WA

THE Country Womens Association extends support to those who were impacted by the bush fire and we convey a big thank you to the community and government departments, and the Toodyay Shire officers that were there for those affected. The work continues and we shall prevail.

CWA also extends heartfelt thanks to our State President and all CWA branches that offered help and cash donations. This is very much appreciated and the funds are being put to good use.

Our CWA Hall was made available in the early stages of recovery thanks to the efforts of the wonderful ladies from the Op Shop. Tricia, Linda and Lorretta who did, and are still doing, a fantastic job sorting donations. It wasn't an easy task in the sweltering temperatures, but their smiles and good humour were wonderful.

We continue to support and assist the community and are happy to fulfill requests for help. Thank you everyone for a wonderful effort.

The next CWA meeting, the AGM, will be in the CWA Hall on Thursday February 25th at 1.30pm.

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Be proud you live in Toodyay

Toodyay Garden Club Inc

Wendy Lewer
Secretary

THE final garden visit for the club for 2009 was held at John and Melanie's delightful property, Julimar Cottage and included our Christmas windup party. Members contributed fabulous food and drinks were provided by the club. We all agreed that the year's garden visits were great fun and we met some wonderful people and hopefully learnt all kinds of interesting garden hints and ideas.

The year has flown by so quickly and we have gained a number of new members who, together with all the stalwarts, hopefully will continue to support our club in the future. It is certainly a wonderful way of meeting new friends and gaining all kinds of snippets of garden lore to help us develop and maintain our gardens.

The awful bushfire in Toodyay at the start of the New Year has been disastrous for some of our members and our hearts go out to them. At the AGM, we will be discussing ways of helping at a later date with cuttings, plants or any other items that may assist members to re-establish gardens destroyed or damaged in the fire.

Please Note:

The Annual General Meeting of Toodyay Garden Club, Inc. will be held on 11th February 2010 at the CWA Hall in Stirling Terrace, commencing at 11am.

If a member requires an item to be included on the agenda for the meeting, please contact Wendy Lewer, Secretary, on 9574 4172 by 10th February 2010.

Arts Toodyay

Margot Watkins

"ALL the arts we practise are apprenticeship. The big art is our life." [M.C.Richards]

And so our love goes out to all those people whose lives were so suddenly transformed and remoulded by the fires in December, and who survived, and are courageously rebuilding from scratch; truly a major life's work to begin again so bravely.

Our special thoughts go to our group's ever generous member, Tom, and Carlos from Toodyay Home Fresh, who lost everything, and also to fellow artist Caroline who also lost all her work and possessions. We can

barely begin to imagine how devastating it must be to be in that situation. And our huge thank you to all those volunteers working so hard and long and under such horrible conditions [including Arts Toodyay members slaving in the pavilions] to restore our community [and to those who *saved* it!] No doubt many words elsewhere in the paper will have greater detail about all these incredible and extraordinary efforts.

Arts activities have been low key over the last few weeks. There was a clean-up of the little house and yard, and a workshop involving fabrics and dyes, and frivolous flamboyant gestures! On the 6th February there will be a further exploration of the 'Textile Taster' workshop held a few months ago, this time manipulating fabrics with some interesting layering techniques. Previous attendance is not essential. Enquire from Bev on 9574 2898 for details.

We have various other group activities planned during the year such as painting picnics, charcoal drawing, and sculpture workshops, so it will be well worth joining up - only \$15 pa. Also there's our annual 'Vino' Exhibition at Coorinja Winery in September, which was such a success last year.

Only a few months to May, and Moondyne, and the Wearable Art Show we will be setting up. Collect anything and make an 'objet'. Who said "give an artist a kilo of anything and it will end up in the next artwork"? Imagine.

Also watch out for the Sculpture by the Sea Exhibition at Cottesloe Beach coming up in March. This event gets better and better every year and is a great way for everyone to enjoy art in such a fabulous and informal yet stunning setting. The artists often use the beach environment itself to inspire their works. Definitely worth the effort to visit, and cool off too!

If you have any arts information you think would be interesting please let Margot know on 9574 2823 before the Herald deadline. Other enquiries to Wendy on 9574 4172.

Avon Woodturners

Max J Heath
Convenor

WELL here's the news from the Wool Pavilion. We have had a quite a bit to do

Little Rascals
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0-12 YEARS -
BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL

since our last communication as have most people in Toodyay.

We had our Christmas break up 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.

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environmental matters

weeds of the month

Wayne Clarke

FOLLOWING fire, the risk of weed invasion, with the increased risk of further fire, must be seriously considered. This problem is compounded through the emergency response, and the recovery phase, where the spread of weeds is often overlooked.

It may be some months before the impact of weed invasion is noticed. The cost of controlling weeds for farmers and small landowners, and on the environment, could become a significant burden following the recovery phase of a major fire.



Weeds that will easily carry a fire.
Photo Wayne Clarke

The first weeds to emerge will be the grassy weeds. These are the ones responsible for carrying a fire at great speed. Trees introduce a shading effect on these grassy weeds, and although they won't prevent the growth of grasses, they do inhibit their growth considerably. Little (if any) of the 29th December 2009 fire was carried through the crowns of trees - it was mostly leaf litter, and grasses that allowed the fire to travel at such a great speed.

One activity that will pose a great risk in the spread of weeds is the movement of hay

and other stockfeed into farmland, or to small properties with horses or other animals. To reduce the impact of this potential weed source, try to feed in a confined area. If your feed is coming from an area outside of Toodyay, be particularly careful that you are not introducing new weeds onto your property. Inspect the feed area constantly for the signs of unusual plants, or plants you have not previously noted. Monitor your stock routes for similar signs.

Fire suppression and recovery activities may spread weeds. Monitor any areas burnt for signs of germination of plants, and check to see some of the unwanted weedy plants have not been accidentally introduced to your property.

By being vigilant over the next twelve months, you may save yourself an enormous amount of time and money. You may also be protecting your property from damage by the increased risk in any future bushfire.

Toodyay Naturalists' Club

Lee Francis

THE Toodyay Naturalists' Club extends its sympathy and best wishes to everyone affected by the bushfire on 29th December 2009. A number of our members were directly impacted, and we offer our support particularly to them. We also give our thanks to all those in the community, including some members, who risked their own safety to fight the fires and/or are working so hard to ameliorate the damage. Thanks also to our friend and colleague from Land for Wildlife, Zara Kivell, who not only offered her home to anyone needing it, but intends to participate and assist people when they are ready to consider replanting or other land management plans.

Some of our members stayed and protected their properties as best they could, then, with many others, spent anxious days wondering what was left and whether their animals were alright. Other members have

offered help with locating and caring for injured wildlife, or those which simply have no food or water. I've spoken to a number of people who have been making special efforts in the face of their own personal losses, to ensure that the wildlife which has survived nearby is being looked after as well as possible. Members provided emotional and practical support to each other and one has collected seed from some of the burnt roads which it is intended will be propagated and made available for replanting.

Someone who is a young example of these caring people is Aaron Hug, who has been looking after some burnt bobtails, so on Australia Day 2010, the Club presented him with a book about reptiles, and a copy of the Club's book, *The Avon Valley: The Naturalists' View*.

In a few months, it is intended that the Club will help to organise and promote some workshops for people who want to know how to re-establish their garden or bushland. In the meantime, anyone with enquiries is welcome to contact us, and we may be able to direct you to the best information. Advice from Agriculture WA is available from the Memorial Hall, and the Department of Environment produces leaflets which might be helpful. At present, the best thing which can be done is to protect the soil as much as possible from heat and wind and leave whatever can be safely left as ground cover and potential habitat.

Although the devastation of people's homes and gardens is awful to contemplate, it is worth reminding ourselves that we know the bush recovers, and we might be treated to a wonderful resurgence of plants which don't flower or thrive without fire. Club members will be watching this process, and we welcome any sightings or questions from anyone in the community.

The Club had a very pleasant and productive annual planning day on Saturday 23rd January at the home of Greg and Vicki, and we thank them for their hospitality. We managed to devise a draft programme for the year, and also agreed that we would change our monitoring site (bird surveying in Morangup) so that we can devote our resources to monitoring the recovery of selected areas damaged in the fire.

Our first meeting for the year will be at the CWA Hall, Stirling Terrace, at 7.30 pm on Saturday 20th February. Greg Warburton will be giving a presentation about his trip down the Blackwood River and the Bibbulmun Track, entitled *Battlefields to Florabunda*. Intriguing!

Everyone is welcome to attend, and we look forward to a year of useful and enjoyable activities, as we take part in the recovery of our community.

This year's programme will be available soon, and will be sent to all members. As usual, information about the next month's activity is always included in the Herald article or you can check with any of the people below:

President Lee 9574 2560, Vice-President Greg 9574 5445 or Secretary Wayne 6364 3609.

python watch

reticulated
velvet gecko -
pulcherrimus

Desraé Clarke

Member of the Toodyay Naturalists' Club

WITH the devastating effects on our community from the fire commencing 29th December 2009, it is very sad to see the loss of our beautiful native vegetation. The fire has had an enormous effect on the wildlife from the smaller creatures such as geckos, small birds, legless lizards, etc, that depend on the tiny creatures that inhabit the leaves and bark of trees, to the larger animals that depend on the hollow logs, large trees containing tree hollows as their homes and the vegetation.

An enquiry came from a resident who had lost much vegetation and found numerous geckos that had taken refuge in her shed. "What were they to eat?" she asked. Contact was made with the wonderful naturalist and Patron of the Toodyay Naturalists' Club, John Dell, and here was John's reply.

"[I was able to reassure her that] as long as the geckos had plenty of shelter in the sheds etc they should be fine. Most reptiles have finished breeding and are now in their quiescent summer phase during the heat of the summer during which they rarely come out to feed. The geckos would have good fat reserves in their tails to get them through this time. March-April will be their normal autumn feeding time to put on more fat stores to get them through the winter sleeping stage. Hopefully, by then some of the invertebrates that have survived under rocks etc and in burrows would have started to rebuild their populations and will provide increased food resources. Other invertebrates will no doubt start to recolonise the area.



Photograph courtesy Wayne Clarke

"Many reptiles would have been badly affected by the fire. Most species that live above ground either in leaf litter, trees or shrubs etc would have been killed outright. A gecko study site that we had set up near Wongan Hills a few years ago suffered a wildfire. In the site none of the 100 or so Reticulated Velvet Geckos survived the fire.

Continued



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Tues Feb 23	1.30 - 5pm	Kellerberrin TAFE
Wed Feb 24	8.30am - 12	Northam Dept of Agriculture and Food
Wed Feb 24	1.30 - 5pm	Quairading Telecentre
Thurs Feb 25	8.30 - 11.30am	Merredin Dept of Agriculture and Food
Thurs Feb 25	1.30 - 5.30pm	Bencubbin sports ground
Tues Mar 2	1.30 - 4.30pm	South Perth, Dept of Agriculture and Food
Wed Mar 3	9am - 12	Wongan Hills Telecentre
Wed Mar 3	1.30 - 4.30pm	Dowerin Lesser Hall
Thurs Mar 4	8.30 - 11.30am	Corrigin - venue to be confirmed
Thurs Mar 4	1.30 - 4.30pm	Northam Dept of Agriculture and Food

For bookings and registration form contact
Tom Sweeny: 9690 2154/thomas.sweeny@agric.wa.gov.au
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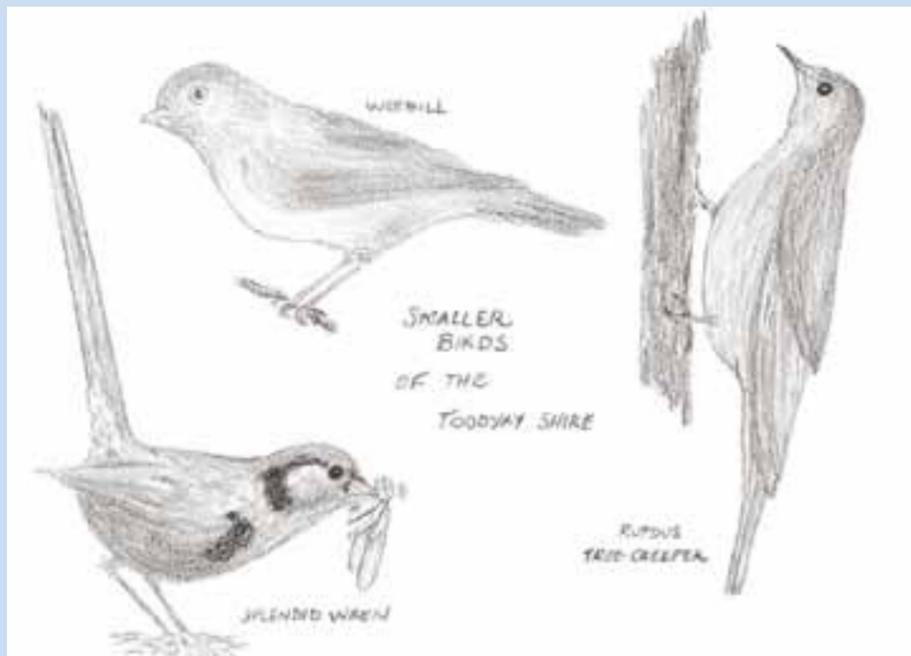
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environmental matters

Fauna of the Shire of Toodyay



Most of their habitat trees, especially the Gimlets, were incinerated by the fire and burnt to the ground. Also most of the habitat logs were completely burnt.

“Reptiles occupying deep burrows or living under rocks usually survive a fire. However, after the fire there is usually little cover against predators and so mortality levels are pretty high especially from birds such as Ravens.

“Populations of reptiles will gradually recover with recruitment from breeding the next spring plus recolonisation by the more mobile species into the perimeter of the burnt area.

“In the meantime, not much can be done to assist survival. Replacement of habitat logs would provide protection and long term retreats for some species. If fallen trees have to be moved they could be located in suitable areas to supply sites for reptiles and dens for small mammals.

“Many of the better flying small birds would have got out of the way of the fire especially the honeyeaters etc. But the poorer fliers such as the babblers are likely to have perished. It will be interesting to see which birds return and how long it takes for that to happen.”

As John has stated, it is so important to leave fallen logs about, if possible. They don't only provide habitat but also assist in the prevention of erosion. Soil and litter can accumulate behind the log thus 'damming' the soil once our rains begin. Also a fallen log holds the soil when winds eddy around an area; if the area is bare there is nothing to hold the soil so it is blown away.

The Toodyay Naturalists' Club is always interested in your sightings, observations, etc. A photograph assists with correct identification so, if it possible, take a photograph as there are many creatures that are moving into areas in which they were not noted beforehand.

Toodyay Seed Orchard Group

Bethan Lloyd

Recovery after fires

OUR group is growing seedlings and is accepting offers from those wanting to donate plants for revegetation to those affected by the fire.

We have been offered seedlings from various nurseries and offers of help from gardening groups around WA and other people have seed which they picked from areas before the fire. There are also offers from people who want to help plant, so please call to let us know what you need so we can allocate these generous offers and distribute them at the beginning of winter. We understand that most people will be concentrating on getting their homes in order but guess your attention will move to your land and garden in the coming months.

If anyone wants some immediate advice about repairing and managing the land after fire and would like a site visit please call Bethan on 9574 5882.

We are also organising a Heavenly Hectares workshop in early April presented by Chris Ferraira and Gary Heady. This will be a fun positive workshop with lots of spot prizes and giveaways as well as lots of practical advice about getting your garden or block back in order and how you can manage the regeneration in your bushland and plan for your future safety.

Anyone who wants to join our group our meeting times at the shade house are as follows:

Wednesday	February 10	4pm
Saturday	February 20	7.30am
Wednesday	March 10	4pm
Saturday	March 20	7.30am
Wednesday	April 14	4pm

Contact details: phone 9574 5882 or email bethanlloyd_8@msn.com.

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 Mob: 0438 919 932

Desraé Clarke
 Member of the Toodyay Naturalists' Club

THE follow-on effect on our fauna of a fast moving fire, as was experienced on December 29th 2009, is profound! The incident that Toodyay experienced will have results similar to that of the devastating fires, in other states of Australia, with the loss of habitat, food sources, nesting areas and such like, for thirty years and upwards.

Bird life of the larger sizes of the Raven, Magpie and Red Wattlebird can fly longer distances that may reduce their loss but those of the smaller birds, such as the Scarlet Robin, Weebill and small Honeyeater, are inclined to fly shorter distances from protective shrub to protective shrub or

small bush. With the loss of this protective covering the smaller bird will find it difficult to survive in reasonable numbers with, not only loss of covering, but from predation. However, it is well known that in such an incident as we experienced even those birds that are able to fly a greater distance will drop from the skies because oxygen has been sucked up by the fire head.

With the loss of insects, nectar producing plants, small reptiles, earthworms and the little bugs that inhabit the canopy of our eucalypts, (which the tiny Weebill gleans for its dinner), what can we do to help?

WATER is so important! If there is any vegetation left on your property place shallow bowls or birdbaths in its protection. It is preferable to place several about as then the larger birds will use some to give the small birds a chance to drink from others

without any harassment.

LOGS and DEAD TREES can be left in place as, eventually, they will become the home of bugs, insects, small reptiles, etc. The logs and trees can also trap soil and leaves when the rains arrive to assist in the prevention of excessive erosion.

WILD BIRD SEED can be sprinkled about the ground in the vicinity of the water supply. Not a lot is needed per bird but it will subsidise what they can find naturally. Many of our birds are described as 'insectivorous' but it has been found that most of these birds are also 'seed eaters'.

KANGAROOS AND WALLABIES

Unfortunately, this fauna has suffered dreadfully from the fire! Severely burnt bodies, burnt and infected feet, broken limbs and many other dreadful injuries and, with the loss of food source, protective resting areas and infected burns, the animals are facing a slow, painful decline. Signs that an animal may be injured can be some of the following observations:

- extremely slow movement;
- 'walking' with its back legs rather than hopping;
- finding it difficult to eat;
- gross loss of body weight;
- the animal is observed day after day in the one place.

Please contact the Shire Rangers if you feel an animal is showing signs of injury.

As there is very little food stuff available for these grazing fauna it can be suggested that hay is appreciated by them and they enjoy salad foods such as outer lettuce leaves, tomato, cucumber, cabbage leaves, carrots, etc, and, of course, water is very acceptable!

NB - Although it is seen that all animals enjoy bread, it can cause a nasty complaint in kangaroos and wallabies known as 'lumpy jaw', a complaint that eventually prevents them from eating and they starve.

Drawings by Desraé Clarke

Bobtails and Roos

Sue Eldridge
 Area Representative for the Western Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council

DUE to the recent fires, many bobtails (Shingle Back Skinks) and Western Grey Kangaroos have become disorientated and, with the lack of food, they are having a bad time. I know many of you are willing to help these animals; a very noble thing to do.

If you are able, the roos will do well on Alpaca Mix or Goat Muesli; hay will sustain them if that is all you can get, and, of course, water.

The bobbies will be fine on bananas, strawberries and pet meat, (roo meat.)

I am available for any other information you would like on 9574 5407 and I also go to Kanyana Wildlife Hospital on Thursday so, if you have any sick bobbies, I will gladly take them at no cost to you.

Bobbies can suffer from the flu; the symptoms are shut eyes and a very emaciated body. The virus upsets their smell sense and they then cannot eat. At Kanyana we have successfully cured these bobbies and have been able to release them where they were found. Bobbies mate for life and are very territorial.

I hope this will help those of you who care about our native wildlife.

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environmental matters

Toodyay Friends of the River

Desraé Clarke

THE New Year has begun with the purchase of a beautiful sign advertising our whereabouts whether we are working along the River, fundraising or holding a meeting in Duidgee Park. We also hope it will bring us new members who may feel inclined to enquire about the Friends when the sign is seen during our activities.

New members are always very welcome. We need both active members and those that may be able to fill an auxiliary role. The following are the objects of the Toodyay Friends of the River.

'...to work towards the conservation and rehabilitation of the Avon River and its environs. In the bigger picture of natural resource management, we are committed to implementing the Avon River Management Program and its associated River Recovery Plans for each of the four sections of river that pass through Toodyay.'

The Catchment Connection

The Avon Catchment, from which the Avon River and its tributaries develop, covers an area of 120,000 square kilometres, an area almost twice the size of Tasmania!!! Although restoring the foreshore and pools of the River will not solve all the River's problems, Rivercare begins with Landcare. Caring for the land includes:

- Development of foreshore management plans to
- Preserve the landscape and
- Protect the floodplain
- Rehabilitation of river pools
- Development of a fire management plan
- Controlling of bank erosion
- Investigation and controlling pollution
- Monitoring of water quality
- Eradication of weeds
- Feral animal control
- The monitoring of the native wildlife
- Provision of access to the public for recreation
- Protection of important conservation and

heritage sites.

The Toodyay Friends of the River had its beginnings in 1994. At that time the first seeds were sown to create such a group and, since its incorporation in 1998, much work has been done. This achievement was recognised in October 2009 with the group winning the State Rivercare Award presented at the State Landcare Conference held in Geraldton.

What do the Friends do?

The Friends work together as a great team in an endeavour to achieve the objects as cited above. Many, many hours have been spent in the treatment and removal of weeds.

Unfortunately, the Avon River is host to a vast number of weeds including the 'Weeds of National Significance', Bridal Creeper and Tamarix. Other notorious interlopers are Castor Oil, Nasturtium, Dock, Sour Sob, Paterson's Curse, Prickly Lettuce, Green Fat Hen and False Bamboo.

Much planting of indigenous plants has been done along the River foreshore and flood plain; also plantings on small islands within the water flow have been very successful. This not only stabilises the mid-river soil but also provides habitat for the many water birds that frequent the area.

The Friends have assisted in the making of 'riffles' in several areas of the Avon that passes through the Shire of Toodyay. A riffle is a man-made structure that reduces the speed and velocity of the river flow. A riffle may be built from either large boulders or smaller rocks. The construction quietsens the water as it cascades over the rocks protecting the river banks and reducing erosion.

A 'Management Agreement' is held by the Friends for overseeing the care and maintenance of Lloyds Reserve. This glorious piece of river foreshore and floodplain was gifted to the Western Australian Government by the Lloyd Family of Toodyay. A sub-committee of the Friends Group, the Toodyay Seed Orchard, has developed a 'seed orchard' for the collection of seed of indigenous plants to follow on with propagation. These plants

are sold to the community, at a nominal cost, for revegetation projects on private holdings and will benefit from being propagated in weather and soil conditions most suitable for that particular area.

The Friends have cleaned up a number of areas along the River that were inclined to be used as 'rubbish dumps'. The variety of trash was unbelievable!!! Included in the waste have been tyres, electrical goods, pieces of concrete, water piping, wire netting, and the list goes on.

Newsletters produced by the Friends are extremely interesting reading. Members are encouraged to contribute with their thoughts, experiences and photographs. In 2008 a history of the Toodyay Friends entitled 'The First Fourteen Years (1994-2008)' was completed; it was especially interesting to obtain copies of photographs of the Avon River of yesteryear, something we continue to ask of our community. If borrowed, photographs are treated with extreme care and returned promptly following scanning; if permission for publication is granted photograph ownership is acknowledged.

Following the celebrations of Australia Day, the Friends adjourned to the 'board room' of the Frayne's residence. Planning of the 2010 activities resulted in lively discussion and the production of an excellent year of works to be undertaken.

If you would like to meet the team come along to Duidgee Park on the third Sunday of the month at 8am during the summer months and 9am during the winter months of May through to, and including, September. A monthly article is included in the Toodyay Herald as an update as to what the Group would be expecting to do in that month. For the month of February the Friends are inspecting and controlling Tamarix reinfestation. Gloves and tools are supplied. Enquiries may be made to President, Gaven Donegan on 9574 5347, or Vice-president, Desraé Clarke on 6364 3609. We look forward to meeting you.

Land Management After A Bushfire

WHILE the clear danger of a bushfire is the fire itself, there are several issues that can last a lot longer and do serious damage to land.

The most obvious of these is erosion. As the bushfire goes through, it consumes all the low vegetation that protects the soil from being swept away by wind and water flow. To minimise erosion after a fire, traffic to the worst-affected areas should be restricted and all livestock should be moved to areas with better ground cover. In badly damaged or highly valuable areas, soil stabilisers such as chemical sprays, claying and old straw can help limit erosion damage.

Established native vegetation will regenerate after a bushfire, providing new growth quite rapidly. These areas of regenerating bushland can be quite useful as windbreaks, to help with the erosion, and simply as part of the recovery of the land. Several varieties of native plant, in particular eucalypts and casuarinas, are also flame retardant, which will help protect your property from future fires. Fire retardant plants will burn, but they burn at a much slower rate, meaning they do not have the same intensity as other, non-fire-retardant plants. As the majority of property loss in a bushfire is a result of flying embers – burning scraps of vegetation – these plants lower the risk of serious property damage, within reason.

To aid regeneration of native plants, livestock should be kept away from the recovering areas and management of the areas should be limited to what is necessary – the burnt undergrowth and dead leaves all provide fuel for regrowth.

Water sources in bushfire affected areas should be assessed for safety, both for human and livestock consumption. The PH should be within 6.5 and 8.5 and issues such as salinity and contamination should also be assessed before using a water source.

While the damage caused by bushfire to property is never pleasant, land and livestock can be encouraged to flourish again if proper care is taken.



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Quo Vadis

Will and reason

ONE of the most discussed proponents of the dichotomy/dialogue between will and reason was Jean Paul Sartre who, amongst other philosophical ideas, used an attempt to synthesise Existentialism and Marxism. He argued that the central fact about human beings, is that they have no essence/nature, but only existence; hence there is no 'natural law' and no objective morality! Each person is alone in the world with a freedom, which is a precondition of all their acts, for which they must take full responsibility.

According to the Danish philosopher, Kierkegaard, this leap into the unknown constitutes the sole legitimate premise of all subjective consciousness, which needs to be uncovered by philosophic meditation.

However, it returns us to that 'small voice of conscience' into the realm of the virtues and into the ethic of moral(s)ity.

Perhaps, then, we need to seek that maxim standing outside of the philosophical orbit but enfolded by the reality of monism of which there are applications to particular circumstances. For our present (but ongoing) theme-historical materialism asserted as the transformation of relations via production relativities, which contribute to historical development; in accordance with a single kind of law on which 'economics' is based (for our purpose) on 'homo economicus', which is an abstraction employed by much economic theory, offering to explain human economic behaviour in terms of an ideal rational choice, motivated by interests or preferences to be optimised, not to be deflected by interests, other than their own, regardless of moral, ecological laws/values-being caught up in the ethical bind of how the system operates.

Therefore, inculcating the existentialism of Sartre and others, based on the premise that the person is solely responsible for that self, has no greater responsibility than the realms of ego/narcissism, hence there is no 'natural law', no objective morality, the individual is alone in the world burdened only by the freedom/responsibility of action. This is in contradistinction to that denoted by the Greek word, 'praxis', which means the general propensity to act so that its objective/intent, is in harmony/affinity with the psychic/physical laws of our humanity and those of ecological/cosmic physics. Even inculcating the Kantian categorical imperative of 'universality', the extension of 'praxis', is that all other activity falsifies the world and hides from the person their true social nature. It has become a false consciousness, which is an aphorism levelled at the modern university since it parted company with the monastery, whose *raison d'être* was patient humility before the truth (love of the created whole!)

A civilization is lost when it disassociates itself from the exegesis of the monastery. The church and uni should have, not only spiritual aims, but unite them in/ with the task of moral and intellectual socialisation; the uni has little to do with morals and, to the extent, that the church still has a continuing task of moral socialisation, it has little to do with intellectual (refined) development, which, in combination, is where 'hope' lies, for, unless humanity is intrinsically decent,

heaven help the world indeed, for more and more are we going to see humankind naked. There is no stopping the world tendency to throw off imposed restraints: the religious knowledge that is based on the ignorance of the many; the political authority based upon the knowledge of the few. The time is coming when there will be nothing to restrain people except what they find in their own bosoms, and what hope is there if, unless it is true, that, freed from fear, we are naturally predisposed to be upright and just (as Micah 6.8 says, "What does the Lord require of thee, O man?")

For various historical reasons, the church remains identified as a socialising agency when, in fact, it is being reduced perilously close to its fundamental maxim: the realm of the 'spirit'. For the church, the problem is how to articulate the right relation between moral socialisation and the spiritual dynamism of the gospel. For the uni, it is even a more complex task of articulating the right relation between economic and technical imperatives, intellectual socialisation, and the urge to moral and spiritual activism.

Into this void crept a theology/theory giving rise to the confusion of true and false consciousness, where the distinction, though related to, is not identical with, the distinction between 'truth' and falsehood; the confusion of which results in spiritual false pride, intellectual antinomianism and indiscipline of every kind (anarchy). A vital relationship is converted into a near identity, learning is not therapy, knowledge is not ideology (ideas not basic to reality) because contemplation and action are neither identities, nor rivals, but complementary. It attempts to counteract acquiescence, consensus politics, the divisive character of multiplying roles, anonymity, the elongated structure of bureaucratic power, the whole process of rationalisation conceived apart from overriding human purposes; it rejects knowledge without understanding, process without community, power without purpose.

It was Gramsci, quoting such sages as Solon, Socrates, even poet, Novalis, "the supreme problem of 'culture' is to gain possession of one's transcendental self." Of being at one and the same time the self of oneself. Lacking understanding of ourselves, we can never really hope to know others. Culture is organisation/ discipline of one's inner self, of coming to terms with one's own personality, of a higher awareness of one's own rights, and responsibilities, and function in life, for, above all, we are mind, the product of history and, by this, consciousness is as a result of intelligent reflection - consciousness of the self and, having set a goal, can judge facts and events, insofar as they tend to drive history either forward or backward, by aligning with, or freeing oneself from chaos. To exist in a state of the order of one's own discipline and ideal, of knowing the laws of nature, in order to know the laws governing the health of the mind, without losing sight of the ultimate aim of knowing better of the self through others, and, of others, better through oneself.

It is a truism, that universal history is a chain made up of the efforts of humankind, to free itself from privilege, prejudice and, latterly, from the idolatry of the golden calf, that incorrectly connotes prosperity divorced from the welfare/ being of a sane

and coherent communal purpose!

Who, and what, will espouse, inspire, supply, such a future vision first and soon?

Healing in the Hills

Bob Adair

Toodyay Christian Fellowship

Conversations that mean something

TOO often our communication with people around us is superficial and polite, but meaningful and enjoyable contact and conversations are rare and usually take place with real friends and family.

Don't you love it when you bump into a friend you haven't seen for ages, the kind of friend where it feels like the conversation just takes off from where it was last time, even though it might've been a couple of years before? It reflects a deep precious connection not affected by time and space.

One of the few blessings to come out of the Toodyay fire is that people are engaging in conversations that mean something.

My granddaughter had a meaningful conversation when she asked God to protect people. It was a good thing that He listened, you see meaningful conversation needs a good listening ear. A prayer should be a meaningful conversation with God and children know how to do it. Jesus reminded us that we should come to Him just like children; I think it is because it gives our conversations with God more power.

In a prayer, moments before he was betrayed, Jesus prayed for all of his friends both then and right down through the years until now. One of the crucial things he asked for was that all of us who live lives of connectedness with him would be of one heart and mind with Him and His Father and that the love of His Father would be very noticeable in us.

Human nature seems to have a brilliant habit of accentuating the negative so it appears we're not of one heart and mind. But, each time we walk back into the running conversation with Jesus that'll eventually last beyond time and space, we realise the love and unity that already exists is just a taste of what's still to come.

If this connectedness with Jesus has never been your experience, ask yourself the big question: do I really want a oneness, a spirituality, a God sense that is forever?

A Prayer

Alison Jones.

Anglican Church

LET us pray for all people and for the Church throughout the world.

"Oh God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home."

Father God, the words of this hymn resound in our hearts today. Take our shattered community into Your arms and give us the strength to work together to rebuild our lives.

Let us take comfort in the words from today's readings: God's promise to Jeremiah: "I will comfort them and turn their mourning

into joy, their sorrow into gladness."

Psalm 147 Verse 3: "He heals the broken-hearted and bandages their wounds"

And earlier in Jeremiah a message of hope: "Once again you will plant vineyards and once again you will take up your tambourines and dance joyfully."

Comforting God, embrace your grieving, suffering people of Toodyay. Help us as we stare in horror at the blackened bushlands, the wasted gardens and pastures and the smouldering remnants of what were once our homes.

Help us all in this community to continue our loving care and nurture of those affected by Toodyay's bushfire. Give us the strength to continue to fight the fires, provide food and accommodation and a listening ear or a shoulder to cry on.

Help us remember that healing comes gradually and only with the help of sympathetic and patient friends as well as the practical support, that is so necessary.

Be with all those who have lost homes or property.

Thank you God for the amazing, brave members of our community and from further afield, who have worked ceaselessly to fight the fires and protect us.

Thank you for the organizational skills of those supervising disaster relief.

Thank you for the extraordinary efforts of ordinary people, who have been making food, sorting out clothes, furniture and supplies.

Thank you for the teams of helpers involved in animal welfare.

Thank you for the offers of help and support that have kept our phones ringing constantly.

Thank you God for reminding us that we are part of a greater community and that people from all over the world are concerned about us.

It is a blessing that no human life was lost, but please be with those who have to put down their suffering animals.

It's January 2010: the beginning of a new year and a new decade, usually a time of rejoicing and making New Year's Resolutions.

A time of examining our lives and resolving to live a better life.

Let us make just one resolution this year. "To live and work to Your glory and for the benefit of all mankind"

Let us pray for the church throughout the world, be with our Bishops, Priests, Deacons and lay people as they work to spread Your word.

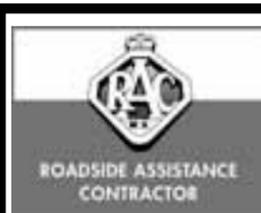
Be with those who are troubled and help us to include them in our lives. Comfort those who are grieving the loss of a loved one and who need our reassurance. Strengthen those who are carers and remind us to provide them with respite opportunities.

Understanding God, Today's prayers have been a long list of "asks" but we do want to thank you for our blessings.

Let us give a heartfelt thanks for our wonderful community of Toodyay, our churches and other community groups and for the hope and comfort that our faith in You brings to us. May we continue to nurture each other and do what's best for all of us. The road ahead will be difficult but we know that You are with us every step of the way.

We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.



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toodyay sports

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Karate Club News



L-R Helen Bainbridge, Samantha Douglas, Todd Haggarty, Jakob Kidd, Russell Johnson, Daniela Adams, Jordan Turnock, Chris Cording, Michael Currell, Saxon Jensen

Black Belt Grading

10 MEMBERS of the Toodyay Karate Club became the first Black Belts of Avon Valley Shotokan at a major grading in December.

It is an outstanding achievement for the club that such a large group of students have continued their training up to this level. Instructor Ken Bainbridge said "Some of these kids have been learning karate since they were 8 years old. They have represented this club interstate and overseas and I hope they will continue with their karate all their lives. I am very proud of them."

The panel of Shotokan experts placed the standard of the students in the top 10% of every grading they had been to, and thanked the club committee for hosting such an enjoyable day.

The morning session was for coloured belts – and boy, did they set the standard for the day!

The examiners were blown away by the level of enthusiasm, commitment and expertise shown by the upper belt students of the club.

- 4th Kyu Purple Stripe
Regan Flaherty, Aaron Watson, Roslyn Bowman
- 3rd Kyu Brown Belt
Jacob Blankendaal, Conrad Elliss, Mitchell Cording, Thomas Williams
- 2nd Kyu Brown Stripe
Jayden Elliss
- 1st Kyu Black Tip

Patrick Cording, Saige Witt, Nick Cording

Watch these students – the next Black Belts!

The Clackline/Toodyay Karate Club welcomes new members at the Toodyay Youth Hall on Wednesdays & Fridays and Bakers Hill Rec Centre on Thursdays. Enquiries ph 9574 1357.



Toodyay Football Club

TRAINING starts 5th February at 6pm with a BBQ afterwards.

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



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toodyay sports

Toodyay Horse and Pony Club

OUR little Pony Club was totally shaken to hear of the loss of our Cross Country Course, some arena fencing and a shed containing some equipment in the fire on 29th December. We already had a busy year planned that was going to require a lot of member support raising funds to cover rising expenses and to lose such valuable assets as a community-run organisation was upsetting to our young pony clubbers and their dedicated parents.

Before we'd even had time to think, founding member and Toodyay Pony Club and coach for some thirty years, Rhonda Kobulniczky received the most generous and amazing offer from Jaqui Moon of Gidgegannup Horse and Pony Club. Gidgegannup H&PC was going to run a Dressage and Showjumping Day on their club grounds with all proceeds going to help Toodyay H&PC. Donations were being sourced, raffles organised and competitor entries started flooding in.



Jaqui Moon and Diane Bennit with Toodyay Horse and Pony Club Representative Rhonda Kobulniczky thanking everyone for their support.

The event day, Sunday 24th January, was a warm one but that didn't deter hundreds of competitors, horses, organisers, volunteers and supporters flooding the Gidgegannup showgrounds for the bright and early 7am start. A fantastic day was had by all with the programmes running smoothly. Such high entries were an absolute credit to everyone involved.

We cannot thank the Gidgegannup H&PC enough for organising such a wonderful day. As a result of all their hard work, we have been blessed with support from the entire horse community and are very humbled by the experience.

We are so grateful to EVERYONE who made the day a huge success. The Judges and Stewards on the day, Neville Westlund



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for setting up the showjumping course, Diane Bennit for commentating all day, the Gidge H&PC families and the Toodyay H&PC families for helping when and where it was needed. Also huge thanks to everyone who entered their horse and supported the raffles.

A staggering number of businesses donated goods, services and money and each one of them deserves recognition of their assistance.

We would like to thank: Europa Saddlery Midland, Saddleworld Maddington, Horseland Midland, Ronson & Mackinlay Solicitors and Conveyancing, Big Trac, Lou Collins, Alkoomi Wines and FWW, Dr Anita Tasovac, Linley Valley Meats, Jenny Sandford, Kentucky Equine Research, Equineworld, Bio John, Flyveils by Design, Biobean Coffee & Bradken Industries, Subaru Osborne Park, All Machinery Transport, Department of Corrective Services, Red Fotos, Gail Shannon, Jane Thurley, King Family, Kristine Pilkington, Steph and Emma King, Clip Clop Movies, Christine Erskine and Wayne and Alison Cook!

We would also like to thank The Jacksons, Patrick Ferguson and Murray McBride for depositing a rather large tree trunk, taken from the roadside clearing, in the middle of the racecourse oval. The kids are going to love attempting that as a jump! Thanks also to Western Power and the Toodyay Shire for the timber that will be made into jumps of varying style and size.

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of so many people, we are now able to rebuild our Cross Country Course! The original course was designed and built for Toodyay H&PC over 20 years ago by accredited course builder Neville Westlund.

Luckily, Neville is still a very big part of our Pony Club today and he will be offering his assistance in the new course design.

We are now looking forward to a bright and happy 2010 Pony Club season which will be kicked off with the Enrolment Day on Saturday February 6th at Duidgee Park from 4-6pm. New members are very welcome to come and meet the coaches, view the Calendar and join us for a free sausage sizzle.

Rallies are held at the Toodyay Racecourse on the fourth Sunday of the month with the first one scheduled for the 28th February. Please contact Tanzi on 0427 859 493 with any enquiries.

Avon Valley Adult Riding Club

Caroline Venables-Kyrke

WELCOME everyone to the start of the Avon Valley Adult Riding Club's 2010 season.

The first event on the calendar is the Annual General Meeting and enrolment to be held on Saturday, 13th February. Enrolment will be at 2.30pm, followed by the AGM at 3pm. All members are requested to attend the AGM as all office bearing positions will be vacated and will need to be filled.

Last year's members will have received the 2010 enrolment form and should bring this completed plus the subscription fee with them on 13th February.

Next event will be the half-day orientation rally on 27th February starting at 8.45am, when new and old members meet and will be assigned a riding group by the instructors. After the morning session, the instructors and committee will be on hand to discuss any matters arising from the group allocations, club rules, uniforms etc.

At the time of writing it is not clear whether lunch will be provided on the 27th as, due to the fire damage, water and electricity were not connected, more on this later.

The next rally on 27th March will be a full day rally and the normal rules apply in that if you cannot attend or if you wish to bring a guest, you let the Rally Organiser, who will be appointed at the AGM, know.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the AGM - remember a club's strength lies in its membership and a good working committee.

For any more information on the club, please phone Caroline on 9574 1407 or Sandie on 9574 4429.

Toodyay Tennis Club

Angela Fox

WE have another new year and a hot one at that.

Christmas has come and gone and our poor old town experienced the most awful bush fire at the end of last year.

Two of our members were very badly affected. Beryl and Tim Officer sadly lost their beautiful house and sheds and Mike and Pam Edwards lost their lovely garden. Our hearts go out to you; we sincerely hope that you all will be able to get back on track and look forward to starting to rebuild what you have lost.

We have had a few quiet Tuesdays; the fires really had a big impact on us all; also the weather hasn't helped. However, we had a good show last Friday night so let's hope they continue to be well attended.

We intend to hold our Father/Son, Mother/Daughter Tournament on 21st March so watch out for that; it's a very enjoyable day.

Incidentally, whoever decided to help themselves to our cans of Coke at the club house via the window (thankfully, nothing was broken), perhaps one day, when your children are playing sport, they might be thirsty... shame on you!

Junior Open Day

The Toodyay Tennis Club held a very successful Junior Open day on Sunday December 13th with 68 players entered.

Thanks must go to our major sponsor Toodyay IGA community chest, and also to Sunsmart for their support.



Winners were:

Boys 15 and under James Whitley and Mat King (Gingin) Ru/up Keiran and Aaron Hug (Toodyay)

Boys 13 and under Mat and Corey Taylor (Wannamal) Ru/up Mat Haines (Toodyay) and Lewis Rowe (Gingin)

Boys 11 and under Jacob Morris and Kobe Haywood (Goomalling) Ru/up Ollie Sanderson and Wade Southcott (Wubin)

Girls 13 and under Andrea Chitty and Kristen Twine (Toodyay) Ru/up Taylor Ferguson and Dresden Moffett (Toodyay)

Girls 11 and under Tsige Lacey and Brittany Norrish (Northam) Ru/up Olivia Ferguson and Chloe Donegan (Toodyay)

There was a 9 and under division of fast tennis which is a participation event and 6 pairs were entered, even though score sheets were not officially kept Regan Clarke and James Bain from Bolgart won all of their games.

A big thank you to all parents and players who braved the 42 degree day, especially Liz Ferguson who ran the kitchen and Judy Dow who helped with the scoring.

Some of our players attended the Dowerin Singles tournament Sunday December 6th. Achieving great results were Andrea Chitty, winner of the girls 13 and under, and Taylor Ferguson the runner up.

Junior Club will start up again after the holiday break on Thursday 11th February.

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\$199,000



WELCOME TO ONE MAN ROAD

Completely private 10 acres, elevated with glorious views & a tree-lined winter creek for shade and shelter. Ready with a 20,000gal water tank, so you can build your dreams from there. This is a quality piece of land, just ready for you.

\$245,000



ON THE RIVERSIDE

Neat 3 bed cottage set on shady block overlooking the Avon River, just around the bend from the Toodyay Showgrounds. This lovely little home is a great spot to retire and invest. On a 1,138sqm lot with circular driveway and two car ports.

\$269,000



BOLGART

Safe, quiet environment for family living. 3 bed double brick bungalow with 2 WCs, new extension & open plan a/c kitchen/living area. Located across from Bolgart Primary School on generous 1,012sqm with scheme water & powered w/shop.

\$285,000



HIGH ON HORSESHOE RIDGE

Fully renovated with modern decor 3 Bed, 2 bath home with stunning views. 5 acres, shaded hillside with dam, 3 giant water supply. Small animal and horse paddocks, stables and sheds. A COMPLETE COUNTRY PACKAGE

\$415,000



NEAR NEW HOME

This is a low maintenance, easy care property with established fruit trees and gorgeous views. Near new 3 bed 2 bath home with picture windows, timber decking, rear patio and double secured carports. Situated on a 740sqm corner block this property is ready to view now.

\$379,000



ONLY MINUTES FROM CENTRAL TOODYAY

3.7433HA 9.2AC
Big 4 bed 2 bath family home with view watching the Avon River. Built over very large undercroft area providing a great play room & workshop. Divided into several shady paddocks the lot provides for the owner's horses. Plenty of tanked rainwater with stock & gardens serviced from a good bore.

\$489,000



VIEWS—VIEWS—VIEWS

That's what you will get with this 7 acres. The 6 year old dble brick home has ducted A/C, 3x2 + study or nursery, triple carport and A/G pool. Situated in the ever popular Coondle area and secluded from the road, this happy family home could be yours.

\$595,000



HIDDEN VALLEY

25 acres of pristine bushland with 7 deep waterholes, a BIG 5 bedroom home overlooking below-ground pool. A great getaway.

\$699,000



221 HA (546 Acres) OF PRIME OLD FARMLAND

Close to Town Centre THREE ROAD FRONTAGES, power crossing. Arable land, cropping, grazing, dam & bore water supplies. Secure investment in tightly held area surrounded by generations of Toodyay history.

\$1,190,000

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