

# The Toodyay Herald

VOLUME 278

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Shocked residents listen to the EnergySafety findings; and inset, Western Power Managing Director Doug Aberle listens to residents

## Residents Call for Independent Review

**Samantha Connor**  
Editor

A LAWYER representing about 70 Toodyay residents in a planned class action against Western Power says that an independent engineering report should be commissioned immediately into the cause of the December 29 blaze.

Kevin Banks-Smith said that it was of concern that there was no independent engineers' report commissioned by EnergySafety in the wake of the fire.

"Bearing in mind that they state that they don't know how it started, it is disconcerting that an exhaustive review was not commissioned," he said. "Given that an independent report was commissioned in the wake of the 2007 Toodyay Chatcup fire, I am very surprised that they have made their findings without further expert advice."

"Conspicuously absent from the EnergySafety report is an explanation of the arc marks on the wires, how they could have happened and how they could not. It is simply unacceptable that 40 homes were lost and that the powers that be offer us a question mark."

"My clients will wait for the outcome of a call by Toodyay Shire President Chris Firms for an independent review and we are hopeful the obvious next step will take place. It is up to the Premier to rethink his comments and provide us with some genuine assurance that this will not recur in the future."

Shire President Chris Firms supported the residents' call for an independent review.

"The Premier needs to act immediately," he said. "Toodyay residents deserve an answer."

## No Blame, Says Energy Safety

**Grant Scobie**  
Assistant Editor

ANGRY residents are disappointed at a report released by EnergySafety, which claims that they are unable to determine if electricity from Western Power's distributions system was the cause of the ignition.

It was originally thought that downed power lines in a paddock near Folewood and River Roads were the cause but the report conducted and recently released by EnergySafety, the arm of the WA Government's Department of Commerce responsible for the technical and safety regulation of the state's electrical industry, says no.

The Director of Energy Safety, Ken Bowron, said that he and his senior staff had conducted a thorough and independent investigation.

"We had an electrical engineer and a senior inspector on site the day after the fire," Mr Bowron said.

"This was followed up by several more site visits by experienced engineers and electrical inspectors to collect and assess evidence.

"While the Fire and Emergency Services Authority and Police arson investigators identified the area of origin of the bushfire,

all the evidence confirms that Western Power's electricity distribution poles in the area were all standing but burning, well after the fire front had passed.

"Clearly the fire was not caused by an electricity pole falling over," he said, "and a pole-top fire had not occurred.

"We identified arc marks on the electricity conductor and earth return wire near the source of the fire which are consistent with a short circuit between the two conductors.

"But we have been unable to determine the cause of these arc marks. The investigation has also not been able to establish when the marks occurred."

Is there any way the cause of the fire can be determined?

It is certain that there was no lightning on the day to ignite the paddock but determining what else may have caused the blaze has proven very difficult.

Premier, Colin Barnett, said it now just remained for the people of Toodyay to 'get on and rebuild the homes.'

"I doubt that anyone will ever know ultimately what the source of the fire was," he said.

"After the fire it was thought the most likely cause was the power line. Had it been established that the source of the fire was Western Power then there would have been

some case for compensation."

He doubted whether there were grounds for any private legal action against the state-owned company.

Opposition leader, Eric Ripper, called on the government to hold a further inquiry, but Mr Barnett ruled that out. However, Mr Ripper said the people of Toodyay wanted to know what caused the fire, whether it could have been prevented and whether fire fighting efforts were properly managed to prevent loss, and the report addressed none of those things.

"Western Power needed to do better with its maintenance programme, and the government needed to ensure it spent more money on maintenance," Mr Ripper said.



Above: Fire devastated paddocks in Toodyay. Photograph: Shutterstock

## Independent Assessor Claims New Evidence

**Samantha Connor**  
Editor

AN independent fire assessor has called for investigations to be reopened after he has claimed to have found evidence that the Toodyay bushfire began in a different area.

Paul Allardyce, a private investigator who is providing his services free of charge to Toodyay residents, says that a photograph taken by a nearby resident proves that the fire started about 450m further east.

Mr Allardyce believes that there is evidence that trees have clashed with powerlines, causing the blaze and that the distance between the wires and the trees was less than three metres.

A spokesman for Western Power said that the line had been inspected after it was replaced and that no branches would have breached the safety guidelines.

Police have seized the tree branches which are thought to have caused the arcing.

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## 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.

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### ENERGYSAFETYREPORTSUMMARY

EnergySafety has been unable to determine if electricity from Western Power's distribution system caused the bushfire on 29 December 2009.

A farm manager in a neighbouring property noticed smoke in a paddock to the south side of River Road near the intersection of Folewood Road west of Toodyay on 29 December 2009 at approximately 12:53 hours. The bushfire was noticed when it was sufficiently advanced to produce a column of smoke visible at some distance above a line of trees.

The farm manager reported the bushfire through a 000 emergency call at 12:57pm. FESA and WA Police Arson Squad fire investigators have tracked the bushfire's path back to an "area of origin" but the exact "point of origin" was not able to be established.

The area of origin is in the vicinity of Western Power's T303 spur power line between wooden poles numbered T303-42 and T303-43.

Western Power's T303 spur overhead single-phase high voltage 12.7 kV power line crosses the paddock where the fire originated. This power line emanates from Toodyay and is protected by an automatic reclosing circuit breaker (recloser) and two sectionalisers (another type of automatic switch). The recloser (T303-1A) is designed to open and then reclose if a fault occurs on the power line.

It will reclose three times and, if the fault is still present after these reclose attempts, it locks out (stays open) on the fourth operation. The sectionalisers are designed to operate and isolate the faulty part of the power line before the recloser can lock out, thereby, maintaining electricity supply to the power line section that is not faulty.

The recloser on the T303 line detected a fault at 12:53 hours, attempted three rapid re-close operations and then locked out at 12:54 hours. The T303 spur power line was and remained de-energised from that time.

Witness statements, expert advice and on-site examination lead to the conclusion that Western Power's wooden poles T303-42 and T303-43 were standing, but burning, well after the fire front had passed. This indicates that the fire did not originate due to either

pole T303-42 or T303-43 failing. Both poles eventually burnt and fell to the ground well after the fire was established.

The sectionaliser at pole T303-40 would have operated if a permanent fault had occurred at poles T303-42 and T303-43. This sectionaliser did not operate but the recloser (at the beginning of the powerline T303-1A) operated and locked out. This indicates that the fault was upstream of the sectionaliser and closer to Toodyay. The actual fault which operated the recloser could not be found due to the extensive fire damage towards, and just south, of Toodyay. A schematic diagram of the T303 spur power line is shown below.

The area of origin of the bushfire was located between poles T303-42 and T303-43. The T303 spur power line commences at Toodyay (right hand side of the map).

Recent marks of metal melting (arcing) were found on the steel active and earth return conductors 14 metres from pole T303-43 towards pole T303-42 in the vicinity of the origin of the fire. These marks indicate that a short circuit occurred between the conductors. Field tests confirmed that it is possible for the conductors to be brought together within 14 metres of a pole but significant force is required. In EnergySafety's opinion, such wind generated clashing so close to a pole, given the force shown to be required, is very improbable. EnergySafety's investigation was not able to establish how or when this short circuit occurred and if it contributed to the cause of the fire.



Pole T303-42. Photograph taken by FESA on 29 December 2009

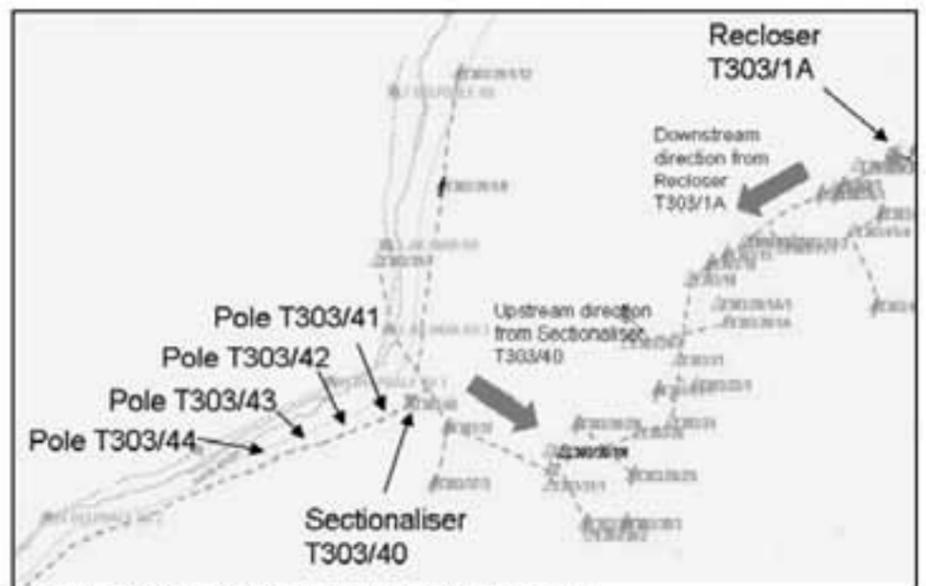
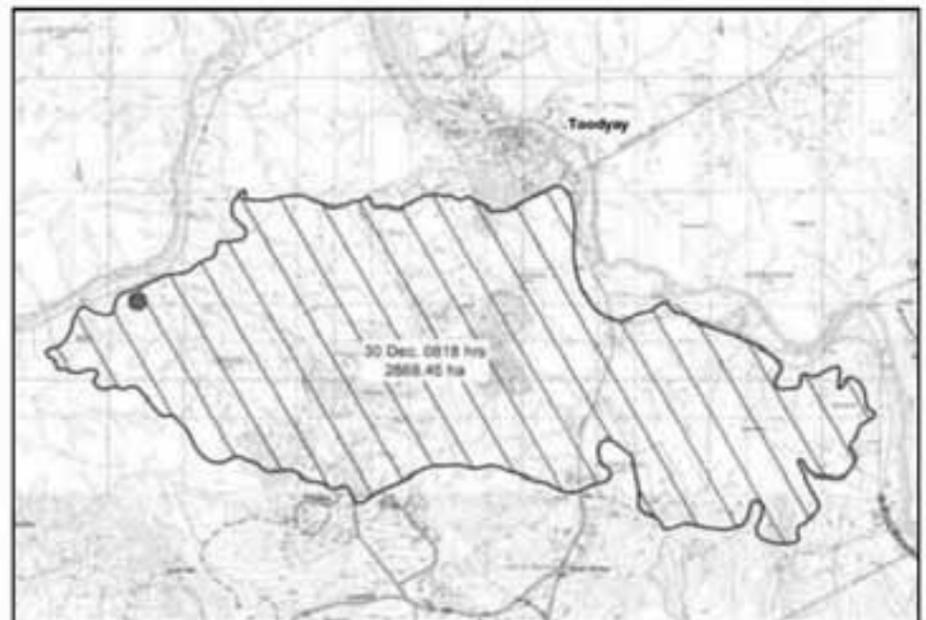


Diagram of T303 Spur Power Line Supplied by Western Power



Map Supplied by FESA



## CEO Agreement Confidential, Says Firms

SHIRE President Chris Firms says that an agreement which was discussed and approved last month between Council and the CEO, Mr Graham Merrick, is confidential and will not be discussed.

"A confidential item of business was discussed with the recommendation that the Shire of Toodyay President is authorised to enact the deed settlement with chief executive officer, Mr Graham Merrick," he said.

The public was excluded from discussions during a Shire Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> February, which was attended by Mike Fitzgerald of Fitzgerald Strategies, an industrial relations consultant to the Shire of Toodyay.

A report by the West Australian several days later cited an unknown source as saying that Mr Merrick was 'ambushed'. Sceptical residents pointed out that the nature of some of the questions at public question time made it likely that others knew about the issue prior to the meeting.

Although the Shire President refused to confirm whether Mr Merrick had received a payout, a payout figure is estimated to be in the vicinity of over \$200,000. Expenditure for the termination of senior staff is not budgeted for in the Council budget.

Mr Merrick is expected to vacate the position at the end of March, 2010.

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## Random Acts

FOLLOWING the devastating bush fire of December 2009 / January 2010, there seems to be no limit to the generosity of people, some of whom have never heard of Toodyay, yet are willing to make donations to help make the survivors' lives a little bit better.

Some time ago, Paula Markwell gave Tom Carter of Toodyay Fresh, the local greengrocer's store, a gift of an apron from Harrods, London. The apron was destroyed in his home during the fire.

Paula wrote to Harrods explaining that Tom had worn the apron with pride and was sad to lose it. Susan Barrowman, Charity and Donations Manager from Harrods, sent Tom a package containing two Harrods aprons.

In the accompanying letter, she said, "We would be honoured if you would accept a couple of new aprons that we hope you will be just as proud to wear as your old one!"

"I understand that your community recently went through a devastating bush fire but everyone was pulling together and looking forward to the future with optimism, which is great to hear.

"I do hope you enjoy wearing your new aprons and would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your neighbours all the very best for the future. Our very best to you and your community from all of us here in Harrods."

Tracey Hunter, although her new home was saved, lost a shed filled with antique furniture, family heirlooms, baby photos and all her spinning equipment in the fire.

Carol Worrell, president of Toodyay Spinners, put a call through to Ashford in New Zealand, asking if they could help. They had a reply in no time and a wheel was dispatched and presented to Tracey on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at the Spinners regular meeting time.

Carol stressed that, although the wheel was

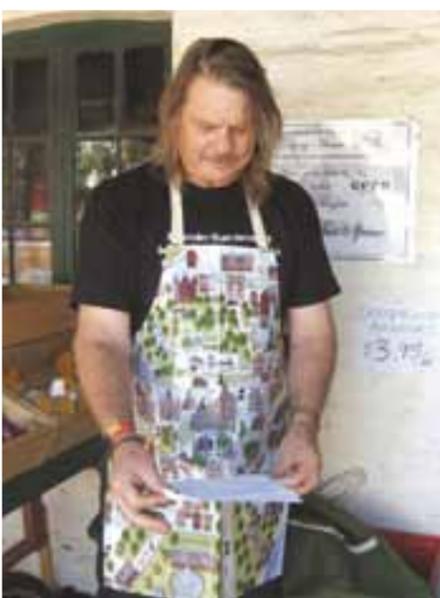
not what one might think of as 'necessary' when so much has gone, it's important for people to get back to some part of normality and craft is one way to do this.

And finally, from Harvey, a group of people, not under any particular banner, but just members of the community, has got together to grow plants to help people who need to re-establish their gardens.

The plants are just now being propagated and should be ready as new homes are being completed.

They hope to come up in a few months with help from the Harvey Rotary Club to deliver the plants.

*Above: Tracey Hunter, daughter Charlotte and members of the Toodyay Spinners with the spinning wheel donated by NZ's Ashford.*



*Above, below: An emotional Tom Carter receives his apron from Harrods*



# AQUARIUS

## FREIGHT



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## Spot the Difference

AT THE OCTOBER 2008 meeting of council, Councillor Larkin proposed a motion to create a Local Emergency Management Committee with the following members:

1. President of the Shire of Toodyay as Chairman;
2. The Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Toodyay or his delegate;
3. The District Manager of Fire and Emergency Services Authority Operational Services;
4. A representative of St John Ambulance Toodyay/Bolgart Sub Centre; and
5. Officer in Charge of the Toodyay Police as the Local Emergency Coordinator.

The motion was passed unanimously.

At the special meeting of council held on the 9th February 2010 Councillor Larkin proposed a motion to create a Local Emergency Management Committee with the following members.

1. The Shire President who shall be appointed as the Chairperson;
2. Shire of Toodyay Chief Executive Officer or Delegate;
3. Toodyay Police Officer in charge – local emergency coordinator;
4. FESA District Manager;
5. Local St John Ambulance Representative;
6. Fire and Rescue Services Representative;
7. Chief Bush Fire Control Officer;
8. Local Government representatives;
9. Other persons as required and invited by the LEMC.

The motion was passed 5 votes to 4.

Councillors' Wroth, Larkin and Somers who had voted for the October 2008 motion voted against the February 2010 motion and in doing so were joined by Councillor Jackson. Why?

In his letter in the February edition of the Herald Joshua Jackson referred to factional voting and its negative impact on the operations of the council. Would the above be a prime example of factional voting? I can see no other reason for these councillors voting against the motion.

Perhaps a second example would be Councillor Lloyd's attempt to get the new recreational advisory committee established and working to progress the development of recreational facilities for the residents of the Shire, particularly for the younger members

of the community.

The motion to establish the committee was not on the agenda for the January meeting of council because the CEO stated he did not receive the e-mail containing the motion from Councillor Lloyd.

An attempt was made to include the motion in urgent business but failed because the motion was ruled to be not in accordance with the Shire's Local Laws.

Councillor Lloyd decided to play it safe to get the motion on to the agenda of the February meeting of council and sent a copy of the proposed motion to the CEO for him to provide advice and guidance on its format.

The motion again failed to be on the agenda for the February meeting of council.

In response to a question during public question time at the February meeting the CEO advised that Councillor Lloyd had sent the motion to him on the 22nd January.

He had replied by e-mail on Friday the 12th February (the day the agenda is finalised).

Councillor Lloyd sent a revised motion that incorporated the suggestions of the CEO back to him but the CEO ruled that it was too late, the agenda had been finalised.

Councillor Lloyd again proposed that council deal with the motion as urgent business and Councillors Wroth, Somers, Larkin and Jackson opposed this.

Given the purpose of this committee why would these councillors, who six months ago gave total support to the recreation advisory committee, now continue to attempt to prevent it from proceeding?

During the debate one councillor berated Councillor Lloyd and said that it was her fault if, perhaps due to ignorance, she could not get her proposed motion on the agenda.

Is this the way for a councillor to behave towards another councillor? Would it not be more conducive to the good operations of council for the benefit of the community to give Councillor Lloyd some assistance instead?

I hear councillors talk about 'good governance' and 'meeting the needs of the community' but it appears that for some these needs have to coincide with their own.

Council did however pass a resolution to send out a survey to all ratepayers and residents to see what facilities they would like to see in Toodyay.

Some councillors feel that times may have changed and that the swimming pool and recreation facilities may no longer be top of

the list and perhaps a nursing home or some other facility not yet thought of by council may have a higher priority.

The cost of this survey has been estimated at \$3000. An amount the administration considers to be minuscule.

So, all the community groups that failed to get any assistance from the Shire last year and all those seeking funds for 2010/2011 should perhaps bear in mind that \$3000 is considered to be an insignificant amount of money by the Shire.

*Phil Coffey*

## Sleepless in Toodyay

SLEEP EASY IN your beds, good people of Toodyay, if sleep you can, as a result of one of the latest decisions by our Council.

At a special meeting of Council, the purpose of which was to discuss and make any resolutions required (as determined by the Council at that meeting) on the following matters: to appoint a Local Emergency Management Committee as specified in the Emergency Management Act 2005.

Yes, you did read that right, a meeting called for the sole purpose of deciding a committee to deal with emergencies within the Shire. Apparently the people that dealt with the devastating fire of last December, and who performed their duties in an exemplary manner, were not there in a dot the i's and cross the t's accordance with the relevant Act, hence the special meeting.

As part of a motion, put forward by Cr Larkin, that defined the spectrum of positions that she proposed should be on that committee, such as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Officer in Charge Police Toodyay, etc, one suggested position was for a representative of the Toodyay Council to be the Chair of that Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC, formally known as LEMAC), and hence the 'debate' began.

Our Shire President wished for the Council representative to be deleted and replaced with, I'll give you a guess, yes, that's right, the Shire President and, when it came to the vote, the Shire President voted for himself and, with the supporting votes of the famous four, Cr's Prator, Hogg, Lloyd and Noulund, the motion to make the Shire President Chair of our Local Emergency Management Committee, was passed.

So, I might hear you say, is that such a biggie? Consider this good people of Toodyay before answering that question.

During public question time, a question was asked of this same Shire President if he would detail any experience, skills, knowledge, successfully completed courses and qualifications he might hold in relation to emergency or disaster planning and emergency and disaster recovery, highlighting bush fire planning and recovery. My understanding is that the answer was that he had nothing in that regard, nothing.

With all Councillors aware of that fact, the five still went ahead and voted to make him head of the body that is there to plan and protect us from those catastrophes.

As was said at another meeting, the LEMC is not a committee that you attend to learn, it is a committee that you bring those essential skills and knowledge with you.

So sleep easy good people, but I for one will be sleeping with one eye open, and you?  
*Mark d'Alton*

## How Proud?

IT'S NOT VERY often that any advertisement really stands out from the rest but the full page taken out by Country Realty in the February issue of *The Toodyay Herald* has earned my congratulations for providing an outstanding community service.

Almost half the page was devoted to thanking all the people who contributed to the effort of halting the fire and to those volunteers who then stepped forward to assist in the rehabilitation process (and who continue to do so.) The remainder of the page is devoted to matters of helping to reaccommodate those who were deprived of their homes.

Thanks very much to Lui Marcelli for his financial contribution in funding the advertisement and to all the collectively creative people involved who contributed towards such a meaningful message.  
*Milton A Baxier*

## Factional Voting?

IT MAY HAVE slipped your mind, Joshua (Letters, February 2010), but you must know that three out of the four seats in the last Council election were unopposed and therefore there was no 'influence' or 'factional voting' involved at all.

Do you realise how insulting these comments are to the strong, fair-minded people who are in Council to try to right the wrongs which have been meted out to this Community over a period of many years?

The only seat that was contested was Central, where you stood against Councillor Pim Nouwland. We do not 'influence' him at all but we do understand and support his stance on trying to better the conditions in this town for the disabled and will continue to do so as it is an admirable cause. The only input we had in his election was to inform him that Councillor Neville Tanner, the previous seat-holder, was not nominating again, as Pim had expressed an interest in standing but not against Cr Tanner. And yes, we did assist him in any way we could. I don't think there is anyone in this town who would see that as a bad thing.

I agree that there is a lot of dissension in Council at the moment but I think anyone going to see the meetings in action with an open mind would see that the bad behaviour is coming from the disenfranchised personnel who have lost the power they feel they used to have. I am quite sure that this will all settle down in a short time with the steady hand and superb control of our Shire President. He has already begun the procedures and we can now look forward to a more settled and happy township.  
*Mona Coffey*

## Shame, Premier

PREMIER, COLIN BARNETT has failed to support the community of Toodyay.

To read that 'the State Government was pleased to be able to help provide up to \$3000 paid to everyone who, in some instances, had lost all their possessions' is pathetic! That equates to a payout of less than \$150,000.

The damage bill has been estimated at approximately \$100 million.

What a contrast to the immediate offer of \$5million pledged to Barbagallo Raceway to improve the track in February 2010 (less than 6 weeks after the Toodyay Bush Fire).

Shame on you Colin. Toodyay would have appreciated a similar offer.  
*Sally Allen*

## Thank you, Toodyay

WE WOULD LIKE to give a huge thank you to all the wonderful people who have assisted us with the fire and the aftermath.

I have been a Toodyay resident for 20 years and the support, care and sense of humanity that emerged from this crisis filled me with an overwhelming sense of respect and love for the community. I feel blessed.  
Cheers  
*Miranda Munro*

## Thank you from Holly

WE WOULD LIKE to say a very big thank you to Dr. Philip Lawton of the Avon Valley Veterinary Clinic for his care and patience (mostly with us) after our dog, Holly, was seriously injured by another dog whilst we were walking on the Showgrounds.

After two operations and six weeks of trauma she has now fully recovered and is happy and healthy.  
*Janet and Richard Wilkinson*

## Honesty Lives

ON SATURDAY WHEN the 'Hope for the Ashes' concert was held, I foolishly left my iPod at the IGA store. Not realising that I hadn't picked it up, I searched for it for the next week but it wasn't until the following Sunday that it occurred to me that I might have left it at the supermarket.

When I called the staff, they were very helpful and, to my relief, my iPod had been put away for safekeeping by the staff.

I would like to thank Amanda, Dean and all the staff at IGA.  
*Ricci Burgess*

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# letters

## 'Rural Character' Under Threat

IS EVERYONE AWARE that the period for public comment ended at 4 pm on Wednesday 17th February for a proposed development at Lot 1 Goomalling Toodyay Road? According to the proposal, the plan is being developed "... under the provisions of the Shire of Toodyay Local Planning Scheme No 4 and the Development Plan is proposing to subdivide the site into approximately 762 residential lots ranging in size from 300 to 1000 sq mtrs."

It's interesting that many of us weren't aware of this, isn't it? Strange that the Shire no longer publishes its newsletter in the Toodyay Herald - I wonder if the two are linked. But this also brings up another matter, one that is far more foreboding. The CEO, Mr Merrick, stated in a public meeting in May 2008 that his vision for the future of Toodyay included the fact that land use should be in accordance with Toodyay Local Planning Scheme No 4. You can rest assured that this particular proposal will be very carefully crafted to fit nicely within the framework of the Scheme. LPS 4 will rezone the development site to 'Residential Development' and the site will be zoned R10. If you look carefully at the design of LPS 4 itself, you'll see that the residential development sections of the Plan are more or less the same as what you would see in, say, Victoria Park in Perth.

The Toodyay Plan for the Future stated very clearly that the residents of Toodyay believe very strongly that the Shire should retain its "rural character". But the only references to anything rural in LPS 4 are in regard to building in areas that are zoned rural. So there is no way that the proposed development can help retain the rural character of Toodyay, because it's not in LPS 4.

If the Shire was interested in transparency in government, in community participation in the strategic future of the Shire, in communicating with the community and valuing the community's voice, in carrying out the key focus areas in the Toodyay Plan for the Future, and in retaining the rural characteristics of the Shire, it would do so. Obviously the Shire has been interested in something else. What is needed is for the community to have a seat at the strategic planning table long before a given proposal arrives for public comment. What is needed is a strategic planning steering group comprising key members of the community, such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Historical Society, the TRRA, and other stakeholders in the community. The steering group's purpose would be to make known the community's voice on matters of strategic importance to the entire community.

Otherwise the future of Toodyay is summed up very nicely in the introduction to the Lot 1 Goomalling Toodyay Road Development proposal:

"The locality on the eastern side of the Avon River is likely to undergo urban

development over the next few years, which will result in a significant increase in the local population as new residential estates are created. An increase in population will also see the introduction of retail and educational facilities [sic] as well as other urban infrastructure."

Finally, I am neither in favour of, nor am I opposed to, development. I am in favour of managed progress and I feel very strongly that the community should be a partner with the Shire in the strategic planning for the future of Toodyay.

*Allen Clabaugh*

## An Ambush?

RECENTLY THERE was an article in *The West Australian* about the dismissal of the CEO of the Shire of Toodyay. It was interesting that the newspaper's unnamed 'source' claimed that it was an ambush. The proposal to enact the deed of settlement was an item on the agenda, albeit confidential, so the Councillors should have known about it prior to the meeting. From some of the questions asked in Public Question time, it seems likely that some non-Councillors may have known about it too.

This is unlike the attempted vote of no confidence in the Shire President at the January Council meeting. This was not in the agenda, but raised by Councillor Larkin at the meeting as a Matter of an Urgent Nature.

The Macquarie dictionary defines an ambush as "the act of attacking unexpectedly from a concealed position." Now, which was the ambush, the item on the agenda in February or the one raised at the meeting in January?

*Peter Ruthven*

## Spontaneous Combustion?

COUNTRY SHIRES HAVE long had total fire bans during the summer as they know that welding or using machinery on a dry and especially windy day can cause sparks to fly and set off spot fires, often at a distance from where the work is being done. That is why it can be hard to stop the fires from spreading.

The Toodyay Fire report agrees that there is evidence that the power wires short circuited, that this can produce sparks as if the wires were being welded. The strong winds would carry these sparks further out into a paddock. The fact the fire was not directly beneath the power line or where a pole is does not change the facts.

There was no arsonist or cigarette butt or lightening strike.

There was 'arcing' or burn marks on a power line detected in the area of the fire.

So the cause of the fire is ... ?

Or is spontaneous combustion a new science in Western Australia?

*Dr Richard Walkey*

## Bowling Club Fundraising Day

A VERY special day is planned for Friday 19th March which it is hoped will raise a large amount of cash for victims of the Toodyay Bush Fire.

Austral Bricks have donated \$10,000 to the cause while 14 State Bowlers will travel up to take part in a novel fund raiser. The eight men and six ladies will each Skipper a side of four bowlers who will pay \$50 each for the privilege of a game.

Play begins in the morning with a recess for lunch. The lunch will be in the form of a barbecue with the German Sausage Company donating sausages and hamburgers - even the fancy aprons our 'chefs' will don to cook these offerings. Crusty rolls, also donated will complete these gastronomic delights.

With the hunger appeased comes the exciting auction/raffles and the bargains to be had are true gems.

Among items so far donated is Carlton Brewery's offering of a large, framed limited edition Cricket Memorabilia 'Eleven Australian Heroes'. An Air Conditioner valued at \$1,200 is one item which will surely be eagerly sort after.

There is a large brand new refrigerator - no more arguments in pre Christmas kitchens - beer versus the turkey. An outdoor setting for 6, wonderful for the evening barbecue. There are even shining barbecue kits, a set of very sharp knives as well as 4 blocks of kitchen knives. There is a new ladies bike, just right for that vital 30 minutes daily exercise. Gardeners are not forgotten with wonderful hose kits, 6 garden secateurs and a magical spray cleaner to rid the grime from your hands.

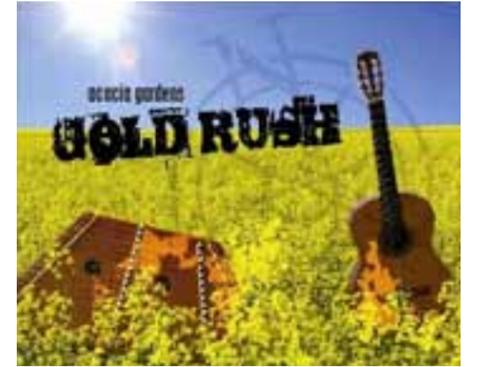
There is a host of electrical products. Twelve of the Good Guys stores will each donate one item, while other businesses have also added their contributions. Dreary rooms can be transformed with 60 litres of paint on offer as well as 10 sets of brushes and Roller trays. Bowls W.A. have donated a beautiful set of modern blue bowls and a luxurious case; you could be the best equipped Corporate bowler in town! Holiday accommodation would be welcome after all our heat and with more exciting items still to be added no one

should miss the chance to snap up a bargain. We are assured it won't be just any auction but a thrill a minute happening with mystery prizes and a lot of fun with Auctioneer Tony Maddox.

For the honour of playing with the best, give Men's Captain Peter Healey a ring on 9574 4778. Spectators are very welcome to witness what will undoubtedly be some close exciting encounters. However you do not need to be a top bowler to enter this competition, all are welcome to try their luck in what will be essentially fun games. However you will also be privileged to watch the State's best Skips trying each to outdo their opposite number at the conclusion of each end.

This is not just a day for the bowling fraternity; we want many members of the public to join the fun. It will not only be a novel day's entertainment, but your chance to help out those who lost their all so please, dig deep, enjoy yourselves and have the greatest day.

*June Eastwood*



## Gold Rush

WHEATBELT musician Adam Harris has launched his second CD, 'Gold Rush'.

Featuring Naomi Millet (harpsichord) and Adam Harris, (acoustic guitar and hammered dulcimer), the album was sponsored by Avon Valley Arts and the Slater Homestead Group in Goomalling.

Adam will be promoting the CD at the Toodyay Music Club on March 12 after 7pm and Toodyay Markets on March 20 from 9am onwards.

For more information ring Adam on 0414 291 770.

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**AND!!! TIFFANY MADDOX—THE BOSS’S DAUGHTER**

It has taken 10 years but at last Tony has convinced Tiffany to come and learn real estate— starting with the enviable task of Property Mangement in Merredin. Yes typical Father, given her the worst job first! Seriously though Tiffany brings to the office a wealth of office management experience, we all welcome her to the office and look forward to a long and lasting relationship between Father & Daughter.

All the best from Lang, Judy, Amy and Alodie (and Simon even though he is the new boy).

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**PRINCIPAL’S PEN**

A short message from me this week as Jude has taken up all the advertising space!!! Just a quick thank you to the Ray White Franchise Group for the excellent fund raising effort made by all the offices for the Toodyay Bush Fire appeal. It makes me proud to be part of such a group. The donation made was a personal gesture from the offices themselves. We are pleased to announce that a donation of just over \$30,000 was given to Richard Dymond, the representative of the Toodyay Community Bank by Mark Whiteman, Ray White CEO WA in Toodyay on Tuesday 16th February.

On another note, work on our building is progressing with all demolition now complete, plans will be submitted to the Shire shortly and we are hopeful construction will commence in April. WATCH THIS SPACE!!!

*Cheers, Tony Maddox*

**Ray White**  
**Avon Valley**  
 Phone 9574 2917 Fax 9574 4081



## Bead Guild Helps Fire Survivors

**Kathy Robinson**

LAST month Leslie Duxbury and Jackie Johnson from the Bead Guild of WA arrived in Toodyay with a car overflowing with craft items for the survivors of the bush fire. These items had been collected and donated from members of the Bead Guild.

Just some of the items donated include materials, long lengths for dressmaking and sized pieces for quilting, embroidery kits, scrapbooking items, cross stitch patterns, Aida cloth, tapestry kits, wools and cottons for knitting or crochet, art supplies, paints and canvas, needles and hooks, lace as well as several boxes of craft books and patterns for many genres.

The members of the Bead Guild understand that for many people, their craft is more than just a hobby; it is a way of relaxing after a long day and can be very therapeutic. It is wonderful to see people thinking outside the box and realising that our survivors need more than the basics now that they have settled into what passes for normality for them. Many people like to keep their hands

and minds occupied and knitting, crocheting or other art/craft activities are perfect for this.

The craft materials are at Bar-Bar-A-Black-Sheep, 95 Stirling Terrace (opposite the library). Contact Barbara Mottershaw on 9574 5652 regarding your needs. On behalf of the survivors of our fires, I thank Leslie, Jackie and the members of the Bead Guild of WA for their wonderful donation.

*l - r: Leslie Duxbury, President of the Bead Guild of WA, Barbara Mottershaw from Bar-Bar-A-Black-Sheep and Jackie Johnson of the Bead Guild of WA with some of the donated items.*

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## Recovering Lives

THERE are many individuals and agencies currently working on disaster recovery in Toodyay, but the complexity of the many committees, organisations and systems which are currently being managed are difficult to understand, especially whilst processes are being implemented. 'Recovery' - what is it?

Recovery is essentially the preparation of those steps that will be necessary from a disaster or other crisis situation. The key elements of disaster recovery is that the process is a coordinated one involving the community; that affected communities are supported; that physical infrastructure is rebuilt and that the emotional, social, economic and physical well being of the community and its members are restored.

How is the Toodyay recovery going? Experience has shown that the recovery process is most effective when individuals and communities actively participate in the management of their own recovery and when the management of emergency recovery is entrusted to the local community. This process is being adhered to by the managing authority, the Shire of Toodyay, and there have been few complaints about the recovery process.

A finance subcommittee has been set up to oversee and make recommendations to the Local Recovery Committee to ensure funds are dispersed as quickly and fairly as possible. Members of the committee include community members, agency representatives and members of the recovery committee. Representatives from the Recovery Committee also sit on the Bendigo Bank finance subcommittee, who are currently debating how to equitably distribute funds from a separate trust account.

Callum Wright from the Community Enterprise Foundation says that funds are being distributed in conjunction with the Salvation Army, Toodyay and Districts Community Financial Services Limited (the operators of the Toodyay and Districts Community Bank® Branch) and the local Community Recovery Committee and representatives of impacted residents.

"This group makes up a local advisory committee who meet regularly (and are in constant correspondence by e-mail) to review community needs," said Mr Wright. "The trustees of the Community Enterprise

Foundation™ seek advice from this local advisory committee in relation to how funds raised should be distributed to the greatest benefit of the fire affected residents and Toodyay community on its road to recovery."

"To date funds have been distributed to meet some immediate needs identified by the community, such as assistance in managing the costs associated with travel needs for fire affected residents (petrol vouchers etc) who have been required to travel to and from Perth with much greater frequency."

"The Salvation Army have also made some significant contributions to each affected resident and the advisory committee is currently considering some larger distributions based on an increased understanding of the compensation that may or may not be available to local residents."

The local advisory committee will continue to work closely with the Toodyay community on an ongoing basis, said Mr Wright.

"We will be considering all requests and requirements for funding, in line with relevant charitable distribution laws, the Salvation Army's local capacity and philanthropic best practice," he said.

## FAMILY LAW

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# fire chat

## coondle

Beth Ruthven

WHEN will this scorching weather end? By the time this article is published the summer of 2009/10 will officially be over but it is certainly not giving up without a fight.

Just because summer is over it doesn't mean that the fire season has finished. What do we mean by the term "fire season"? It is really a loose term for the period between one winter and the next. Officially it starts with a restricted burning period, when a permit is required before a fire may be lit, from 1 October to 31 October, then a prohibited burning period from 1 November until 8 March the following year. This is followed by another restricted burning period from 9 March to 30 April. However, these dates are varied, depending on the weather conditions. With the current hot, dry conditions continuing, **the prohibited burning period has been extended until 22 March. NO FIRES UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!**

During the last month or so several new members have signed up to join the Coondle brigade. Welcome and thank you to those people. The more members we have, the more we can spread the workload around and it's not just fire fighters that we need. There are many other jobs people can help with.

With new members from Coondle and a big group from Central Brigade, Brian Salmond, Coondle's training officer, is running FESA's basic training course, Introduction to Fire Fighting, on Saturday 27 February. This course is required before new fire fighters are allowed to join crews on the fire ground and we also recommend it for new auxiliary members.

The topic of the February training held at Coondle was briefing and debriefing – in other words, handovers from one shift to the next. Allan Henshaw ran this session, outlining what should be covered so that the new shift knows exactly what the situation is and what they are expected to do.

Coondle's next meeting will be held on Saturday 13 March, starting at 5pm. Meetings are usually finished within an hour and are followed by a social function. If you would like more information about the function, contact Kerry Gregory on 9574 4470. If you can't make it to the meeting, come and join us any Friday night for a bite to eat and a relaxed get-together at the Coondle Fire Shed on Coondle West Road. No matter where you live, a visit to **your local Brigade** is a great opportunity to meet other people from around your area and obtain advice about maintaining your property to restrict the chances of fire.

If you can't get to the shed on Friday night, but would like to know more about Coondle Brigade or would like information about any aspects of fire prevention and safety, phone Peter Ruthven (Captain) on 9574 2951.

## julimar

Grant Scobie

WHAT a scary month February has been. For so many days of the month there were high temperatures, strong winds, low humidity and, most importantly, no rain!

Most of us fires just waited for the dreaded pager to go off, expecting the worst. Thankfully, we were spared – mostly.

There were still a few calls to the December fire zone to attend to flare-ups and so on and one call-out to a fire at Picnic Hill. Toodyay Central Brigade mostly dealt with the flare-ups in the fire zone but it was all hands to the task at Picnic Hill.

Luckily, it was possible to contain the Picnic Hill fire quickly and all units poured their water into the area to make sure there was absolutely nothing to cause us to return. Keeping the attendance time down to less than a couple of hours made sure our Sunday afternoon was not completely ruined.

Our training session for February examined some of the concerns our members had with their training that came out of the big fire. We looked at various aspects of fire suppression and managed to get (some of us, anyway) quite wet; not such a bad thing on a hot Sunday morning. March training will be held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 10am at the Julimar Fire Shed.

We have finally been able to get the ceiling lined in 'The Fireplace'. This should help with insulation, noise and cleanliness.

Our March meeting (6<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm) is the last before our AGM. The date for the AGM is Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 6pm. All are welcome.

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.

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## central

Desrae Clarke

CENTRAL saw three new members at the General Meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> March; they were Faye Walton and Matt and Joe Fleahy; we are very pleased to have you join our team - WELCOME!

With the welcome to our new members, we are also saying 'goodbye' to three members with Corley Hug and Jay Smith moving to Canberra, and Rex Reynolds to live in the city to begin university. We thank them, most sincerely, for their service to the brigade and the community and wish them well in the future.

Following Central's commitment to the frequent call-outs after the December fire and the great assistance given by other brigades in relieving Central, the past few weeks have been somewhat quieter; there have been seven 're-ignition' calls, (one only two days ago) and one callout to Picnic Hill area.

### Training:

An Induction Training day was held Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

For those who could not attend on that day an Induction Course is to be held in Northam at the FESA Complex. It will comprise two segments:

Friday April 16<sup>th</sup> from 6pm till 8pm;  
 To be completed the following morning, Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Enquiries may be made to Captain, Kevin Hug 9574 2216, or Secretary, Wayne Clarke 6364 3609.

## Wildlife Also Victims of Toodyay Fires

TOODYAY residents are struggling with the financial burden of supporting kangaroos and other native animals left starving by the fire that devastated Toodyay last month.

Following the work done by Chris Maroni, Jo Broderick and others in aiding both animals and native animals, the task of looking after the wildlife has been handed over.

The kangaroos, which are territorial, have had their natural food sources destroyed and there is little available food within an area of approximately three thousand hectares.

Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitator and Western Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council regional representative, Sue Eldridge, is concerned about the animals and the people caring for them.

"Water is being put out by a lot of people," Ms Eldridge said, "but the kangaroos need proper roo mix, which costs around \$30 for a 35 kg bag. The animals are going to need feeding until the season breaks and new growth comes up for them to eat."

The cost of feeding the kangaroos is being met by Toodyay residents out of household budgets. Ms Eldridge alone is spending over a hundred dollars per week keeping the kangaroos from starving.

There is currently no financial support available from the government to help the wildlife affected by the Toodyay fire. Local feed supplier Thompson and Redwood has kindly donated 24 bags of roo mix, but more assistance is needed.

As well, Toodyay Freight has supplied free freight transport for the Kangaroo Mix, and

Greg Downie from Toodyay Hardware and Farm has offered to store the feed and serve as a distribution point.

Whilst the size of the donation of Kangaroo Mix by Thompson and Redwood is extremely generous, spread between the 12 Toodyay landholders also involved in this exercise, it's not going to keep the roos going until the rains arrive.

On behalf of WAWRC and the fire affected residents of Toodyay, we are extremely grateful to these three companies for their generosity in this matter. Stock foods supplier, Thompson and Redwood, has previously donated stock feed, so the Kangaroo Mix is a second donation from this company.

The Western Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council is hopeful that by raising awareness of the plight of these native animals, concerned companies and individuals might be prepared to donate bags of roo mix or help out with monetary donations to help buy feed to keep the animals from starving over the summer.

If you can help, please contact Sue Eldridge on 0408 944 981.

## Reconstruction

A MEETING was held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7pm in the Memorial Hall with the purpose of informing those directly affected by the bushfire about building regulations and to establish a re-building action group.

The Shire CEO, Mr Merrick, was extremely helpful in providing a great deal of pertinent information regarding re-building on the fire affected sites, options that are available and procedures to achieve positive outcomes. Mr Merrick also stated that the Shire has contracted a building surveyor who will be available for two days each week to provide advice.

Approximately 50 people attended this meeting and it was decided that it would be most useful to conduct another meeting in two weeks time; time and place to be confirmed.

Property owners who have been affected by the fire and lost their home or infrastructure are encouraged to come forward if they have an interest in common for infrastructure building as an action group has been formed for the purpose of strengthening buying power and co-ordinating their reconstruction projects.

The Local Recovery office along with an experienced Australian and international construction manager will be directly involved to assist your projects to move forward.

The aim of this group is to have everyone accommodated on their properties by Christmas.

Where people are needing time in the process of rebuilding their home, it is proposed that a shed be erected on each property to a minimum habitable standard (Class 1) in accordance with appropriate building and planning regulations.

It needs to be emphasised that this standard is not difficult to achieve. Once the new home is built, the shed is then decommissioned for habitation and returns to being used as a shed, unless prior arrangements are made with the Shire Council regarding other uses. The shed does of course then remain as an asset for the property.

This process does not preclude people from alternatively using caravans or dongas on their property.

Many people have already joined the re-building action group and if you wish to express your interest and gain further information regarding this group, please call the Local Recovery Office on 9574 4621.

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### Ready, Set...Start Your Trolleys!

SHOPPING trolleys have never been much fun to push but Toodyay and Northam Lions Clubs have banded together to make the experience a whole lot more enjoyable and, maybe, pushers can win some prizes along the way.

On 16<sup>th</sup> May, 30 relay teams will push 30 trolleys from Toodyay to Northam in *The IGA Shopping Trolley Dash*. Any moneys raised will be shared between Toodyay and Northam Lions Clubs for community works.

Teams will be made up of four people with only one team member pushing at any one time and the other members riding along on bicycles; that's right, no motorised transport allowed! Each trolley will carry a load of food to be delivered to a food bank in Northam. Prizes will be given for the Best Trolley Design and Youngest/Oldest aggregate team age.

There will be manned interval stations along the route with bottled water and first aid available as required.

The shopping trolleys must be purchased through either Northam or Toodyay Lions

Clubs in advance and can be picked up from Toodyay Classic Cars, 8 Stirling Tce, Toodyay. They can then be modified / decorated to improve performance.

So get some friends / members of your club or association and form a team. Approach a member of the Lions Club in either Toodyay or Northam or pick up an entry form from Toodyay Classic Cars for *The IGA Shopping Trolley Dash*.

The Lions Clubs would like to pass on a massive thank you to IGA for a \$1000 donation and the Northam Water Corp for the bottled water.

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### Morangup Kids Score Bike Track

YOUNG people in Morangup now have a place to ride their bikes, thanks to an incentive by the Morangup Progress Association. President Petar Drazic said that the Morangup Dirt Bike Track has been very much a community project.

"We've been working for some time now towards creating a recreational/meeting area for local youth, and over the past six months have seen that vision come into fruition," he said.

"This could not have happened without the efforts of the Shire of Toodyay, Morangup Progress Association, Morangup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, local youth, Midland Brick and Langham Earthworks."

The event attracted around sixty local youth and parents and included a free sausage sizzle, the YMCA bus and the opening of the track for use by young people.

"The event was hugely successful," said Mr Drazic. "The MPA has also been working towards building a skate park in the same area, and if all goes well could be up and

running in the near future." For more information phone the Morangup Progress Association on 0439 377 907.

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# school news

## TDHS P&C

**Owen Catto**  
P&C President, 2010

### Welcome to new children, parents and families

ON behalf of the Toodyay District High School (TDHS) P&C Executive Committee, I would like to welcome new children, parents and families to our school community for the 2010 year.

It's always challenging when settling into a new town to make friends, establish links with community organisations and to become part of that community; it takes time. Becoming involved with your/our school is one way to facilitate this process.

There are many ways to get involved with your/our school. Come along to the monthly general P&C meetings, volunteer for School Council and/or the many fundraising and school functions that are organised throughout the school year.

As part of your school voluntary contributions please include your P&C payment. The P&C needs your help. The research shows educational outcomes for our children are always enhanced when we as parents are involved in our children's education.

Our school, with your help, will provide a positive educational experience for your children.

The wider Toodyay community is a fantastic community which has diversity, strength, goodwill and resilience, many characteristics that were brought to the forefront with the disastrous bushfire that happened on the 29th December 2009.

Enjoy your move to Toodyay.

I look forward to meeting as many new parents and families over the course of the year at the numerous school functions and of course the monthly general P&C meetings.

### News

Welcome to the Toodyay District High School (TDHS) community for the 2010 School Year. The new P&C Executive Committee for 2010 was elected at the AGM held on Wednesday, 17th February, followed by a general P&C meeting. 21 people were at that meeting which was a good attendance. More on that later!

My name is Owen Catto and I am your new P&C president for 2010. My family has lived in Toodyay for four years. We have one child at TDHS in year five. Feel free to contact me on 9574 4682 or any of the new P&C Executive Committee regarding P&C matters or, better still, come along to the monthly general P&C meetings.

As the new P&C president I would like to take this opportunity to briefly comment on a number of relevant issues.

### The Role of Your P&C

The main objective of the TDHS Parents and Citizens Association (Inc) is to promote the interests of the school; its charter is to do this through:

- co-operation between parents, teachers, students and members of the general community;
- assisting in the provision of resources, facilities and amenities for the school; and
- the fostering of community interest in educational matters.

In essence the P&C provides a forum for parents and citizens of the Toodyay school community to engage with the school, participate in fundraising activities to enhance the children's time at the school and promote interest in all things educational at the school.

For positive educational outcomes for our children, I believe the education process encapsulates three encompassing areas:

1. the school,
2. us as parents and
3. the community

It is the partnership between these three aspects that will allow our children to have positive outcomes at school and lay the foundations for their future.

### MySchool

Recently the *MySchool* website was established by the federal government and has received a wide variety of comments from various academics and schools. It was primarily established to compare the academic performance of schools around Australia.

As parents we have to question the usefulness of comparisons with schools in other states and the grouping of like schools within our state. These simplistic comparisons definitely don't take into account the true social context of our children's learning environment. There is much more to our school than is presented here. The best benchmark for improving our literacy and numeracy has to be our own school and constantly working at improving these outcomes.

In my opinion the only positive outcome of the *MySchool* website will be the refocus we have as a school in improving our own educational outcomes. Two ways we can help in this process are by having:

- regular feedback and communication between each child and parent; and
- regular parent - teacher meetings with both academic and pastoral focus.

### School Council

The role of the school council is essentially to be involved in the governance of the school. This means it has the responsibility for endorsing the school development plan, including the school budget. It is also responsible for endorsing and monitoring policy development in a broad range of areas, including aspects of curriculum, student welfare and behaviour and school dress codes.

School Council meets once a month. Your P&C has a representative on the School Council and for 2010 it is Petrina Moffet. This important position for the P&C helps us to participate in the school council process.

### School Redevelopment

The school is currently being redeveloped in terms of refurbishing current buildings and then the building of a number of new buildings courtesy of the federal government's stimulus policy initiative last year (our money as taxpayers.) This is very positive and exciting for our school.

### Toodyay Fire - 29th December 2009

Our thoughts and best wishes go out to the citizens of Toodyay who were affected by the fire on that disastrous day in December, some being students and families from our school. The help and resilience from within the Toodyay community underlies the strength, diversity and goodwill of a fantastic community that we live in.

## Bolgart Primary School

WELCOME back everyone. It is wonderful to see the familiar faces of our students again and meet our new students.

I sincerely apologise to everyone who enjoys reading the happenings at Bolgart Primary School and have missed this column. I do not envision any unusual difficulties presenting themselves in the future. I wish to say a special thank you to Karen Kesic for her assistance in enabling me to write about our end of year concert. Thank you.

Last year, we sadly said goodbye to our 5 wonderful Year 7 students at the end of year concert which was, as usual, wonderful to watch. I was very pleased to see several community and shire members in our audience this year which, in discussions over the delicious supper, showed genuine pleasure at being entertained by the children.

The children put on some great shows that took a lot of effort on everyone's part. Well done to all involved.

Our leaving Year 7s were Alex Bain, Isobel Camerer, Whitney Crane, Jarrod Clarke and Steven Cullen. We wish them the very best in their future schooling and endeavours.

The concert started with our youngest performers singing 'Howdy do' and we have some beautiful little voices coming through. Our Yr7 children then did a wonderful dance

routine for us. The senior room performed a dynamic, modern version of Snow White. 'Six White Boomers' was performed by the junior room and included the children using musical instruments which added so much to the performance. The middle room put on an upbeat and colourful Christmas themed performance which got feet tapping. There is nothing like seeing children performing Christmas shows and listening to their beautiful voices and music to bring the Christmas feelings alive.

Several children received special awards within their class groups. In the junior room the citizenship award was presented to Lee Quadrio; most consistent was awarded to Bronte Feathers; the Academic Endeavour award was presented to Alex Kennedy; and the Academic Excellence award was presented to Chloe Denning.

In the middle room the Academic Endeavour award was presented to Toni Westerside; Most Consistent award was presented to Emma Watson; the Citizenship award was presented to Sarah Jackson and James Bain.

In the senior room The Outstanding Academic Achievement award was presented to Alex Bain; Most Consistent effort was awarded to Caitlin Donovan; Academic Endeavour award was presented to Kyle Martin.

The CWA representative, Mrs Di Edmonds, presented environmental awards to Tristen Clarke, Curtis Guthrie and Cheralee Wallis. Gus Clarke presented the Albert Clarke Memorial citizenship award and trophy to Alex Bain. The Woodside SciTech was provided due to Mrs Furey's efforts and awarded to Isobelle Camerer and Steven Cullen. Kate Bain was also given a special mention because of her acting skills.

After all the fun and certificates our Yr 7s gave their farewell speeches. All the children mentioned friends they have made over the years including friends that have already left Bolgart Primary. The children passed on words of wisdom for the new Yr 7s. All the speeches included fond memories of their time at Bolgart and they all appreciated their teachers and their learning experience. Isobelle hopes to work with animals, Steven is planning on joining the Navy, Alex is looking forward to the next stage of her life, Whitney would like to be a teacher and Jarrod is looking forward to attending boarding school. Jarrod also made special mention and thanks to his bus drivers who have delivered him safely to and from school over the many years.

Our new Year 7 students are Paul Cullen, Jasmine Mulgrew and Bradley Watson. Jasmine and Paul are the Communications and Sports officers and Bradley is the Technology and Library Officer. Various children assist these officers at different times and it's a team effort that keeps the school running smoothly with the Yr 7s setting a wonderful example. All our new Yr 7 students have been at Bolgart Primary for many years and we look forward to watching them thrive with the new responsibilities as they prepare for the next stage of their lives.



### Little Rascals

Little Rascals special visitor for January was hairdresser, Sarah.

And the special visitor for February was

our lovely dentist, Michael and his nurse, Kayla. Pictured with Michael is Dakota with Lhea, Reigan and Jemma in the background. Thank you to all the visitors who support us by coming in and talking to the children.

## Worm Workshops

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## Arts Toodyay

Margot Watkins

WE had an excellent turnout for our first meeting of the year, with some new and returning members, and many interesting issues to discuss. The year ahead will be busy, with a variety of arts-related activities and public events planned. If you are not able to come, do let Wendy know so that you can be put on our emailing list and be updated with relevant information.

One idea that is being discussed is printing a perpetual calendar with art images of Toodyay that could assist with fundraising and promotion, and would also be fabulous to own. Maybe a collector's item down the track? Perhaps your artwork will be part of it? Our March meeting will decide on this and a number of other proposals that are floating in freefall.

During February, Bev enthusiastically organised two textile workshops which were fantastic with some very colourful effects being produced. One was on 'layering' and texture which was fabulous fun for all participants; the room was a buzz of excitement. The other was a follow-up of a previous dyeing workshop, with some great

results. Many thanks, Bev. A Visual Art Diary workshop will be described next month.

Member Sam Connor's exhibition opened on 12<sup>th</sup> February at the Moore's building in Fremantle and has just finished. Entitled 'Accidental Secrets', it involved a series of installations and works around the theme of disability and relationship in the arts with some thoughtful issues to ponder. Kaye Devlin also exhibited works at the Northam Art Gallery recently.

Charcoal is a brilliant drawing medium to use so come to Wendy's workshop on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 10 to 3pm. Bring your lunch. Cost is a teensy \$10 plus a small amount for materials. Ring Wendy 9574 4172 for more information and to register

Like the whole of Toodyay, we are looking forward to a weather change to renew energies for the 'creative' months of the year, and to work outdoors without frizzling into crisps. I will leave you with this quote, printed in the 'Connect' magazine of the Australia Business Arts Foundation, by Julian Burnside AO QC:

"If we don't support the arts, if we don't do what we can to encourage a vibrant and continuing arts sector in this country, then we might be looked at in later ages as the black spot, that little charcoal line in the cliff face where nothing really happened."

## Youthcare News (Chaplaincy and CRE)

Millie Heath

OUR first meeting for the year was held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February and the Committee was very happy to see our Principal, Alan McLaren, back with us.

It seems we will have another busy year starting with the CRE (Christian Religious Education) street stall. This enables us to provide the necessary materials for the students from PP to Year 7.

The stall, held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February was a great success. Our grateful thanks to all those wonderful people who donated cakes and goods, and those who purchased the items. Raffle winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Stan Eastwood; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Tracey Salmond; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Jenny Carlin.

A Pancake Night was held at the home of Trish and Jim Page for Shrove Tuesday and raised \$157. Compliments to the ladies who provided the pancakes and the delicious savoury and sweet fillings.

The Annual Chaplaincy Church Service will be held at the Anglican Church, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. Everyone is welcome at this service.

A reminder that World Day of Prayer will be held at St John the Baptist Catholic Church on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 10am. This is an inter-denominational service with the programme provided by a different country each year. This year that country is The Cameroon. Everyone welcome.

## Puggles Playgroup an early Montessori experience

THERE are only a limited number of positions left with Puggles Playgroup. So, if you are after a constructive, hands-on approach to stimulate your child, come down at 9.30am every Monday morning (except school holidays) to the Toodyay Community Centre, Stirling Terrace. Join us in play, craft, morning tea, singing and games.

If you would like to arrange a 'trial morning/enrolment', please contact Felicity on 9574 4254.

We are also holding a NEW Young Playgroup for birth to 18 months on Mondays from 1.30 – 3pm. This will also be held at the Community Centre. Once again, please contact Felicity for details.



## Toodyay Kindergym

WELCOME to all our new members who join us now as a playgroup. It's fantastic to see all the mums and dads helping their children in navigating the physically challenging circuit. It's more than just climbing, balancing, crawling through or jumping on, there is also singing, stretching, dancing, musical instruments, puzzles and blast-offs.

So bring your children who are walking down to an air-conditioned, social and safe environment to burn off energy and improve their fine motor skills at the Toodyay Sports Pavilion, 9.30am every Friday that school is on and enjoy a non-stress hour in a fun environment. Cost is five dollars a session for the term or ten dollars for infrequent visitors whenever you choose with a playgroup membership. Any questions or queries please contact Karen Gale on 0421 357 333.

Can't wait to see you there!

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**Toodyay Ratepayers  
and Residents  
Association**

**Important information for the  
community to consider**

Well, well, well! It seems there is to be movement at the station! Rumours abound, time will tell. Is page four of the West Australian of 23<sup>rd</sup> February correct? Let's wait to see what month's end brings.

**Local Emergency Management Committee**

The establishment and functioning of the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and Local Recovery Coordinating Committee (LRCC) continued to dominate question time at council meetings in February.

The confusion surrounding these committees is not helped by the lack of information being provided by the CEO.

The special meeting of council held on 9th February was called primarily to correctly establish the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) as a committee of council and in accordance with the Emergency Management Act 2005.

Prior to the meeting, there was an information session held for councillors to acquaint them with council's legal obligations to establish the LEMC and to ensure that they understood the functions of the LEMC. Providing this information were representatives from the Department of Local Government, West Australian Local Government Association, FESA and the Toodyay Police.

It soon became clear from the questions asked at the meeting and submissions made to council that some members of the gallery were confused and unable to distinguish between the purpose and functions of the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and the Local Recovery Coordinating Committee (LRCC). This is perhaps understandable.

What is not understandable, however, is that some councillors showed that they had the same problem.

During the debate these councillors continually argued against changing the members of the LEMC because it could affect the recovery process that was going ahead so well. The argument was even raised that to do so would be a slap in the face for all the volunteers. One councillor argued against the Shire President being chairman of the committee because he had no experience or credentials in emergency management.

The fact is that the LEMC has an advisory role only and is responsible for the development of plans and to "provide the network of skills, knowledge, and advice to assist the local government in ensuring that local emergency management arrangements are established for its district."

The LEMC, therefore, has a planning and coordination role. Even in the management of recovery following a disaster, the guidelines for the establishment of the

LEMC by the local government state quite clearly: "Local government does not need to be an expert in recovery, it does however need to understand the principles and how each agency assists components of your community. This will be established in your Local Recovery Plan."

The guidelines also state: "LEMC is not an operational response committee and is often confused with the functions of an Incident Management Group or at a larger emergency, the Operations Area Management Group (OAMG). Members of the LEMC may well be involved with the operational management of an incident as a member of the Incident Management Group (IMG), OAMG or the Local Recovery Coordinating Committee (LRCC) due to the roles they hold in their parent agency."

Councillors should have understood that the appointment of the Shire President as the chairman of the LEMC would have no impact on the composition and continued operations of the recovery committee, recovery activities and volunteers.

The TRRA feels that the arguments of these councillors resulted in maintaining discord in the community at a time when unity was required.

The Emergency Management Act and associated regulations specifies the actions required to be taken by the LEMC including periodicity and objectives of meetings, development of emergency plans etc. There is no evidence that these have been carried out effectively to date and it is expected that the LEMC created on the 9th February with the current Shire President as presiding member will correct this.

Anomalies in the meetings of the LEMC and the appointment of councillors to the LEMC have emerged. Questions asked on these at the February meeting of council have been taken on notice and it is hoped that the answers will determine whether the council was provided with sufficient and accurate information to enable it to make informed decisions on the appointment of councillors to the LEMC.

If misleading information was provided to council and there has been a failure to correct that information when opportunities have been provided to do so, then council will have to consider what actions to take to prevent it happening in the future.

**Recreation Advisory Committee**

The motion for council to establish the Recreation Advisory Committee was not on the agenda for the February meeting of council.

In order to ensure that the proposed motion was correctly structured to be included in the agenda it was sent to the CEO for his advice on the 22nd January.

The CEO responded on Friday 12th February, (the day the agenda was finalised), with his suggestions. The motion was amended accordingly and e-mailed back to the CEO but he ruled it too late to go on the agenda.

The proposal that the motion be heard as urgent business was strongly opposed by four councillors who seem to appear not to want the new recreation advisory committee to be established and therefore to prevent the progress of providing aquatic and recreational facilities for the Toodyay community.

It is hoped that more cooperation will see the item on the agenda for the March meeting of council.

**New council depot in Railway Road**

The TRRA, at the request of some concerned residents living near the new council depot, has requested that the council provides copies of the documentation relating to the removal and clean up of any contamination on the site.

At a public information meeting the CEO advised that the site was contaminated with asbestos. The removal, cartage and disposal of hazardous contamination such as asbestos is strictly controlled.

The CEO also stated at the public information meeting that the Shire had all of the necessary documentation to show that the removal of the asbestos had been carried out in accordance with the relevant policies. Hopefully, this information will be provided in accordance with statutory timescales. We are also assured that contamination by groundwater run-off from the depot site will not be a problem.

**Winter will tell.  
Toodyay Men's Shed**

Now that the Toodyay Men's Shed has been officially launched, a location for permanent premises is being sought.

We wish this organisation well and all success in the future.

**Real Estate Agent  
Extradited**

**Samantha Connor  
Editor**

TOODYAY real estate agent Max Healy has been extradited to Queensland over an alleged extortion attempt in the \$100 million Firepower scandal.

Mr Healy, who is the Bindoon Branch Manager of a local real estate agency, was arrested last week and flown to Queensland, where he will appear in Southport Magistrate's Court on the Gold Coast this week.

A report in last weekend's West Australian said that Mr Healy, a former bankrupt, is alleged to have approached Firepower chief Tim Johnston with threats soon after Mr Johnston's court hearing in January. Mr Johnston made claims that he had been intimidated by a number of individuals over the Firepower saga, including property mogul Warren Anderson, underworld identities and Firepower creditor Shane Drew.

Anderson and Drew claimed last week that they had never met Mr Healy.

In 1994 Mr Healy was charged with trying to defraud Rothwells chief Laurie Connell over the 1983 AHA Bunbury Cup scandal. Connell was charged with conspiring to rig the race and pervert the course of justice by paying jockey Danny Hobby to stay out of the country. Mr Healy was charged with trying to defraud Mr Connell and with attempting to pervert the course of justice. Healy was convicted of the latter charge and jailed for two years.

A spokesman from the Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board (REBA) says that although a person who applies to hold a real estate licence must satisfy the Board that they are a person of good character and repute, the system may exclude individuals who have been convicted in other parts of Australia.

An inquiry by REBA in 2004 on a separate matter found that no cause existed to render Mr Healy unfit to hold a Real Estate and Business Agent's Licence.

**Chown Launches  
Toodyay Men's Shed**

TOODYAY Men's Shed, an organisation of 'Blokes Supporting Blokes' was launched on 23rd February 2010 by Agricultural Region MLC, Jim Chown, who was representing the Premier of Western Australia, The Hon Colin Barnett MLA.

"In the wake of the disastrous fires of 29th December, I am heartened to see the men of Toodyay rallying together to support the community as a whole," Mr Chown said. "The Toodyay Men's Shed has members from all walks of life with a great variety of knowledge and skills, and will be an invaluable asset to the Toodyay Community."

Corporate Sponsors, including Makita, Bunnings and REIWA, contributed funding, equipment and tools to the organisation, which is set up to run as a hardware library.

REIWA donated a total of \$10,000, which included staff donations, towards the purchase of equipment and machinery.

Mr Chown said that REIWA had contacted his offices in the wake of the fires.

"REIWA contacted me, requesting information about where to donate funds. I suggested that Toodyay Men's Shed would be an appropriate association," Mr Chown said.

Mr Chown presented the Toodyay Men's Shed with a commemorative cake that was hand-made by Sneska Saliba in the shape of a Tool Box filled with tools, including a hammer, screwdriver, tape measure, and paint brush. The cake was enjoyed by all who attended the launch of the organisation.

President of Toodyay Men's Shed, Mr Jeff Roberts, mentioned the issue of male depression in rural Western Australia, saying he hoped that Toodyay Men's Shed would grow to be a place for men to share their problems and experiences in a friendly environment.

"I hope that Toodyay Men's Shed will help to heal the scars of the recent fires – and there are a lot of scars," Mr Roberts said.

Mr Chown hoped that the organisation would also work to mentor the youth of Toodyay and surrounding areas, providing support and skill training.

"Toodyay Men's Shed has a tremendous opportunity to reach out to those in need and offer skill training and advice to those in need," Mr Chown said.

The organisation currently has around 50 members, which is expected to increase to over 100 by the end of the year.

"I congratulate the Toodyay Men's Shed Committee on their initiative to start this wonderful Men's Shed community in the Toodyay Shire," Mr Chown said.

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## A Speech by Judi

Excerpt of a Speech by the Hon Judi Moylan, given in Parl 3 Feb 10 at 7:30 pm

Mrs MOYLAN (Pearce) (7.30 pm)—I am sorry that I do not have sufficient time tonight but I did want to acknowledge the fires that ravaged the town of Toodyay in the electorate of Pearce and those who were responsible for fighting that fire and saving lives. As we prepared to ring in the New Year, the residents of Toodyay, which is 80 kilometres east of Perth, were fighting a catastrophic fire that risked lives; threatened firefighters; burned down 38 homes; took a terrible toll on farm animals, pets and local fauna; and burnt out 3,000 hectares of land in its malevolent path. The landscape will for many years bear the scars of this fire, as will the vibrant and close-knit community of Toodyay.

The ordeal will long be remembered. Stories abound of heroic deeds and close escapes. We are all very grateful that no human lives were lost. Tonight I would like to acknowledge the incredible work of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia, FESA, and the volunteer bushfire brigades under the direction of Murray McBride, the Chief Bushfire Control Officer, and Alan Knapp, the Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer. As well as being deputy chief, Alan is the ranger for the shire and was the first person on the scene. I went out with Alan to visit the worst affected areas. I was grateful for his excellent briefing and his obvious dedication to his job. I was very grateful for the constant updates and I thank the deputy director of FESA, Frank Pasquale, for assisting me.

There was literally an army of people assisting the community: the local police; the Shire of Toodyay Chief Executive Officer, Graham Merrick; and the President of the Shire, Chris Firms. I have to mention the recovery team, which was led by Charlie Wroth. They did a mighty job in the professional way the team worked, from the daily briefings in the memorial hall to the practical coordination of assistance to individuals. The Red Cross, the CWA and the Salvation Army were there; as were Marlene Andrich, the Sinclairs and the entire volunteer team in the kitchen which kept up the supply of food and drink to volunteers and anybody else who needed it. In 40-degree heat I found Melanie Pree, John Minchinson and their team of volunteers. They set up a coordinating post at the local showground

doling out and receiving donated goods.

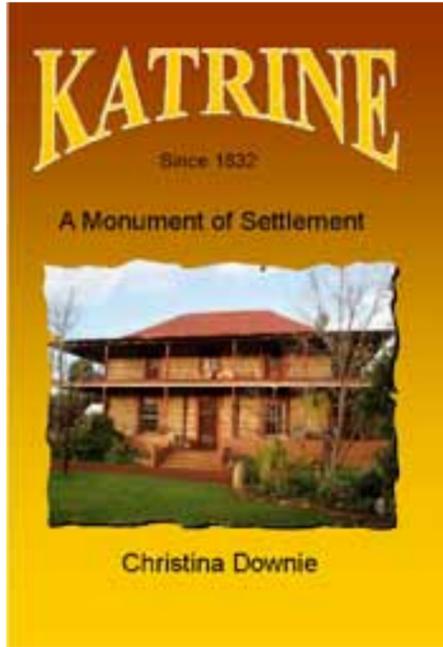
I know that the local people appreciated the quick action and personal visits of Premier Colin Barnett and the state and federal government agencies that quickly swung into action. The member for Brand briefed me on federal government assistance being offered and I thank him for the timely briefing that he provided to me. In particular I would like to thank Peter Clarke the WA manager of Centrelink, and his team for the excellent work they did working over the whole New Year weekend and well beyond to provide the services they did to the community. I am sure that those on both sides of this House would want to join me in wishing the people of Toodyay a speedy recovery. Personally I feel very proud of the spirited way that the town has faced this catastrophe. I have been inspired by the acts of friendship and generosity that I witnessed over those days following the fire.

There were many others who assisted, and I am sorry to those I have not been able to acknowledge here tonight either through lack of detail and information or the short time allowed for this adjournment debate. But I would like to thank the member for Greenway and the member for Ryan for moving aside this evening and allowing me time to speak in this debate. As I said, in the aftermath of the fire there have been so many acts of generosity. We have had people from Victoria who lost their homes come to Toodyay to help others who they obviously have great sympathy for. We also had the tireless efforts of people who fundraised to assist. I know that on Saturday night there was the 'Hope from Ashes' concert, which was organised by Heather Ham. I hope that also added to that fund to assist people to rebuild their lives.

It is tragic especially to see young families who lost everything in that fire. It is bad enough to lose things of monetary value but we know that there are many things that people lose in these catastrophic events that have greater than monetary value. So I join with other members of the House to wish the community of Toodyay well in this reconstruction phase and in rebuilding the facilities and restoring the personal

possessions that they have lost.

The SPEAKER—I am sure that honourable members would allow me to associate them with the remarks of the member for Pearce and pass on our hopes and aspirations for those within her electorate.



## A Hidden Gem Revealed...



A SHORT distance down the Katrine Road to Northam, across the old convict-built causeway, lies the 'Katrine Homestead' hidden in the trees. Many will have passed by the old stone barn and, perhaps, might

have noticed the plaque set in the granite rock which hints at the history of this place. Not many will have realised the work that went into rescuing the near ruin of 'Katrine'.

Christina Downie has documented the story of the reconstruction of 'Katrine', an important grouping of colonial buildings, being one of the very few remaining such complexes in the Avon Valley and indeed, the State of Western Australia.

Driven by a passion to "fix what is broken", Chris and her husband, Rex, committed their time and their own funds to the saving of this historically important complex which includes one of the earliest post offices in country WA.

Having retired from the farm at Koorda, they began this mammoth task in 1988. It was a journey of discovery, fuelling an existing deep interest in history. It also gave them the opportunity to call upon their ingenuity and skills learnt on the farm; the space to create a beautiful garden and orchard; the pure enjoyment of the birds, animals, picturesque hills, river and the satisfaction of the resurrection of 'Katrine'.

This book describes the pleasures and the pain of the restoration; the innovative and practical ways of overcoming massive engineering problems; the people who have passed through this journey of resurrection as well as looking at the history of the complex from first settlement.

For anyone with an interest in the Avon Valley or the first settlements in inland Western Australia this lavishly illustrated book is a must.

Copies are available by email: [katrine1@westnet.com.au](mailto:katrine1@westnet.com.au) or PO Box 480, Toodyay, WA 6566.

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## Toodyay Scouts

WHAT a busy month!

Scouts attended their annual planning day at Adventure World, with fantastic outcomes. Thanks to our supportive parents for the Scouts' attendance – the Scouts had a great time.

On the calendar this month is the beginning of our Landcare badge work, with Scouts growing seed from the fire devastated areas and marking out areas for replanting. Thank you very much to Renee and Rob for providing the soil, seed and pots and to Wayne Clarke for talking to the Scouts about revegetating and the effects of bushfire on the natural habitat.

The first seeds have germinated and we look forward to planting them out at the end of June. The Scouts went for a bushwalk to map out an area and learnt about trail signs, which should come in handy for a camp next term (that was a big hint, guys).

*Seedlings planted by the Scouts*

Welcome to our new Scouts – it's great to have you on board!

Next weekend is our Mandejal camp where Scouts will learn camping skills and some seriously awesome required skills for the survival camp. You'll get your camp list and information on Thursday, Scouts – we'll also be doing our camp menus and shopping for food items with your camp budget.

Upcoming events include the Dangerous Things night – introduction to pocket knives, gas stoves, axes and paintballing guns and firearms – a visit to the fire shed for your Citizenship Badge, iceskating, an ANZAC vigil, climbing and much, much more!

Cubs attended the Lake Leschenaultia with Ratcha and some dedicated parents – we look forward to hearing about it next month. Rovers also attended SandMoot and we're sure there will be some pictures that we can print from the Rover weekend!

Take care of yourselves and each other. Yours in Scouting, Dropbear

**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

We are a child friendly church

**THE FACTORY**

**Jesus Works**

**Sunday Service**

**10.30am**

18 STIRLING TCE, 9574 4546



## President's Report

On the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of this month I attended the WALGA zone AGM and forum conference at Wongan Hills. After electing a new zone President (Pat Hooper of the Shire of York) the main topic of discussion was of course local government structural reform ("amalgamations)."

Along with ourselves, most of our neighbours have been identified as suitable for joining or forming Regional Transition Groups. These groups are required to undertake a business plan to determine the benefits that are expected to arise from amalgamation. It was stressed that any Local Government would have the option of withdrawing from the process after the business plan is complete, regardless of the outcome of that process. There was continual and strong emphasis that amalgamations are to be voluntary and would not be forced onto any local government choosing not to participate.

However, the forum following the AGM was addressed by the Hon Brendan Grylls and Alannah McTiernan who both emphasised that in the future funding to local governments would be delivered to those local governments that could deliver regional services in preference to those that cannot demonstrate regional benefits.

Other issues that arose were the grain freight network and the erosion of rail services throughout the Wheatbelt and the introduction

of Development Assessment Panels. The DAPs further erode the decision making capacity of local communities and local control over matters that affect our communities.

The biggest news is that the Energy Safety WA report into Western Power's role in the cause of the recent bushfire is inconclusive. Although the conclusion stated that there is clear evidence of arcing in the area where the fire started it is stated that the cause of 'the ignition of the fire could not be determined.' This report has been received with disappointment by many as it provides no closure and seems to leave little room to pursue compensation without potentially lengthy and costly legal action.

There has been some misunderstanding about the need to properly appoint a Local Emergency Management Committee in accordance with the appropriate legislation. This was a necessary administrative procedure to provide assurance that valid structures are in place to manage the ongoing issues associated with our recent disaster. We must also review and refine arrangements to ensure that any future incidents can be responded to with the same or better outcomes.

In closing I will again express my appreciation on behalf of the Shire and thank all of the volunteers that are continuing to support the people affected by the fire. One group of people that deserve express recognition are the Shire's cleaning contractors. They have volunteered their services at the Memorial Hall twice daily every day that the hall has been used since the fires occurred. Without wages, and with good humour and laughter, they have maintained the Hall so that the entire community can continue to offer support to the survivors, so thanks Tom, Pat, Julie and Janine.

Chris Firns



## My View

Anne Skinner

I'M sitting outside our home – yes we do have a home. I'm on the only piece of outdoor furniture useable, looking out at the horror of 29th December. We are now one of the 'Toodyay Survivors'.

Words, even written words, are so inadequate to completely describe our utmost appreciation to those wonderful fire fighters who put their lives on the line to save our town and, especially where we are concerned, the volunteer fire fighters who saved our home. Nearly six years of work and everything has gone but, more importantly, we are safe, along with our very confused one-eyed dog, Cody. We will never be able to thank all those tireless volunteers who comforted and assisted us when we needed it most. For the umpteen cups of tea and sandwiches, we thank you. For the hugs and the listening ear, when I probably wasn't making much sense, I personally thank you. We will remain eternally grateful to everyone involved with helping us come to grips with this life changing event.

To our daughter, Tammy and husband Aaron, for putting us up for the interim period, thank you. For our grand children, Jay, Kelsey and Atiya for their hugs and their reassurances, thank you.

I need to make a public thank you to Tammy for your selfless, albeit dangerous, act, to drive through the fire to wake your heavily medicated, sleeping father from his afternoon nap to rescue him and Cody from some unknown fate, just in time before the area was closed off. We know he had no idea that there was a fire and that he had not smelt smoke coming in through the air-conditioning unit. THANK YOU SWEETHEART.

Our deep and profound sorrow goes to those neighbours who had experienced huge losses to their homes and livestock. We are still coming to terms with mixed emotions, the feeling of guilt and joy all mixed up with gratitude. But our thoughts and prayers are with you. We wish we could help you more.

Those of you who had read my previous articles will have some understanding of the passion I have for this land and all its beauty. I have tried to convey my delight at the sights I have been blessed to enjoy.

The sounds that accompany my daily living from the gentle rustle of the leaves on a balmy evening to the furore and strength that can come in an instant, changing all around into whirlpool of madness, these have all

gone for the time being; how I miss them. We have just over two acres in Majestic Heights and our lives have been changed, yet again. We wanted a 'Tree Change', my husband and I. We no longer have trees to enjoy but we do, however, have a home. There was no loss of human life, but Mother Earth and her creatures have been burnt and scarred, until time will have done its healing.

Our fruit trees have gone, along with many varieties of native flora that we planted and all the natural vegetation; only a few survived, amazingly, although burnt beyond identification. The Gallery that I wrote about, being a showplace of God's handy-work has gone, together with garden benches, swings and quiet shady little secluded corners. I am, however, assured they will all return in time, along with the accompanying birds. A few parrots have been tempted by our bowls of water and seed, along with our faithful family of Maggies.

WE HAVE A HOME. The fire came up to the house, destroying the verandas, and then changed its mind, I'm sure, with the help of our wonderful heroes, the fire fighters. Thank you seems so pathetic somehow. I am at a loss for enough words to describe my feelings right now.

For those of you who, like me, enjoy our beautiful country-side, I am afraid I have to report the death of my much beloved 'Old Man Gum Tree'. It was decided that he needed to go. It was in last May's issue that I wrote about my deep appreciation for this fine fellow. He gave me so much pleasure and inspiration; I will miss him. He now lies on his side, torn from the earth that held him bound for so many, many years. His huge roots exposed in some grotesque display of nudity, so unbecoming for a man of his standing on this property. I wish I could give him a funeral/cremation befitting his high rank, to no avail, I fear. I'm afraid his once reported determination to prevail against all odds has now come to a very sad end, along with many more fine specimens, just to end up as landfill or firewood.

Please don't laugh, but I managed to save a little piece of bark as a memento.

As I sit here now surveying the scene, I can get very sad and depressed but, along some of our trees, there are signs of regrowth and the palms have thrust forth their spiky branches all over our property. Even the Grass Trees have doggedly stood up and shown their determination to remain. In the dark recesses of my mind, over the last few weeks, when I have thought, "It's all too much," I'm reminded about a stout little spider that I watched a few days after we came home. He was spinning his web in the remaining blackened branches of a little bit of dead Lavender bush. All things large and small get up and get on in the animal kingdom. We, however, need time to gather our thoughts and regroup. Like him, we will not give up nor will we leave our chosen town. We will go on and rebuild our lives here in a town where we have received so much love. How could we give up?

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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.

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 P.O. Box 827 TOODYAY 6566

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- \* Information & referral centre available to Wheatbelt community by friendly, approachable staff
- 123 Fitzgerald Street Northam  
 PO Box 601 Northam 6401  
 T: 9622 5200  
 F: 9622 5700  
 E: wheatbeltclc@bigpond.com

RuralCommunityLegalServiceInc



WHEATBELT artists came out in force last week at the Fremantle opening of an exhibition by Toodyay artist Sam Connor.

Avon Valley Arts coordinator Christine Elaine and York visual artist and film maker Tim Burns worked as arts mentors for the duration of the Accidental Secrets project, which was funded by the Department of Culture and the Arts.

"Having experienced and talented artists working with me made a great deal of difference," said Ms Connor. "Holding an exhibition which is strongly conceptual in nature was a departure from the type of work I usually present, and having Tim and Chris's input was invaluable."

A fourth Wheatbelt artist, Hayley Bahr, assisted with production and post production of the exhibition.

Accidental Secrets is an exhibition about disability and function – it used art as a vehicle to discuss issues relating to people with disability and to share stories by Wheatbelt people with disability. The approach taken by the artist is firmly tongue in cheek – one work discusses a vision impaired person's experience with the Art Gallery of WA's audio tour. Based on the comment that 'I might well have been in an airplane hanger, because I couldn't touch the work', an installation was set up for Pim Nouwland, a Toodyay Councillor who is blind, to touch and describe. The subsequent recording was then placed in a packing case, with the sighted viewer being unable to access the sculpture except through the 'eyes of a blind man'.

The Accidental Secrets exhibition opened at the Moore's Building, Henry Street, Fremantle and ran until the 21st February. Over 1000 people attended the exhibition.

## In Days Gone By

### Some of the Waters' Family History

#### Ron E Waters

ON the 26th of March 1849, Mrs Mary Waters wrote a letter addressed to Mr Robert Waters (her son), Barn Elms Farm, Toodyay, No 8 Swan River, Western Australia. Shortly after writing this letter she died. In the letter she told Robert she was upset because she had not heard from Thomas for a long time and she was hopeful he was well.

Her best friends over in England were Mr and Mrs Cook. They helped her gather some old books made of rag (some needed stitching) to send out here for the children. The Cooks sometimes bought her a nice dinner; her husband had died many years before. She told Robert she had sold the Beer Shop in Barns as her one leg was very lame and she could not attend to it properly and the people could not pay for the beer anyway. Things were very bad in England with high taxation and monopoly. She told Robert to tell Thomas to stay out here, as they were well accepted, and never come home to England and she hoped one day they would meet again in heaven. She gave up her sons to this land where they and their families would do well.

Meanwhile, out here, Robert had taken on the mail run to get some money walking from Toodyay to York with the mail once a month for £12.0.0 a year – that's \$24.00 today – \$2.00 a trip making friends with the aboriginal people and, after a short time, learning to speak their language. They often walked with him part of the way.

Robert's wife at the start was quite nervous being on her own while Robert was away as she had young children to look after. She had

a little silver revolver she used to practice shooting at a target on the mud wall above her kitchen fire place in case anyone tried to harm her or the children.

Robert grew a very big garden and lots of fruit trees to feed his family. They had fourteen children, four boys that survived and one little boy, William, died a baby, eight girls that survived and one little girl, Ester Emily, died at six months. The house was made of mud with a thatched roof and was quite small. Seven of the girls married and had children and the four boys married and had children.

This is how Toodyay started from this large family. Mrs Waters made friends with the aboriginals and she and her husband saw what was believed to be the last coroboree on Picnic Hill at the end of their field.

Some babies from our early families are buried in the top orchard near a slab of fence under a plum tree on Spring Gardens Farm. Cousin Bob and cousin Jack showed me their graves many years ago and cousin Kathleen used to kneel down and pray there. My wife Rita went to England and found the graves of the Waters Family over there and put flowers on them. She then went to Wales and found her mother's grave. Her mother had died when she was a baby; she put flowers on that grave as well. She found her sisters and brothers and half sisters and brothers. Rita had been adopted and I bought this land and had not met her dad's second family.

I should mention that Robert's and Susan's four boys married Mary's:

Robert Betty Waters married Mary Ferguson;

Thomas Waters married Mary Ann Rumble;

Richard Waters married Mary O'Donohue;

Edwin James Waters married Mary Lee of Deep Dale (my grandparents).

My children loved Cousin Jack, he used to play his accordion and sing to them in the aboriginal language.

My Dad, Albert Waters, and his father, Edwin James Waters, also could talk a lot of aboriginal words. My Granddad, Edwin James Waters, could not read or write because he did not get any schooling but he did learn a lot of aboriginal language.

My Dad used to come over to our house most days and teach my two-year-old son a lot of aboriginal words. We didn't think our son, Brooklyn, would ever learn English.

I have been told there is a school in Northam that teaches the aboriginal language. I think the children in Toodyay today should be taught the aboriginal language of this area; after all they had to learn our language.



## Toodyay Scouts Test their Limits

SCOUTS from Toodyay joined 13,000 other young people in January to 'test their limits' at the biggest event on the Scouting calendar – the 22<sup>nd</sup> Australian Jamboree.

Six youth members and three leaders travelled to Cataract Park, near Appin, NSW, for ten days of extreme adventure. Scouts travelled to Jamboroo Action Park, visited Sydney for the City Cyber Trek, participated in activities such as abseiling, mountain bike riding, laser skirmish, caving, kayaking and air and water activities – the list goes on.

Troop Leader Paul Steele said that the Toodyay Scouts had a great time and acquitted themselves well during the Jamboree.

"Toodyay joined Broome, Kalamunda and one Scout from Christmas Island," he said. "There was heaps to do and see – the theme was 'test your limits' and I think the Scouts from Toodyay did that!"

Attending Scouts came from all over Australia and the world, giving the 13,000 participants plenty of opportunities to meet new friends and learn about new cultures.

Night time activities included bands such as Bluejuice, Art vs Science, My Future Lies, Urthboy, Children Collide and also Krusty Demons performances.

The Scouts thanked the individuals and organisations that made it possible for them to attend, including the Cubs, the local recycle can depot, other Scouts in the Troop and the Shire of Toodyay.

## Avon Valley Business Awards

THE inaugural Avon Valley Business Awards will take place in 2010 with the Awards Night to be held on 20th August in Northam.

The Awards are managed by a partnership made up of representatives of the Northam Chamber of Commerce, the Toodyay and York Chambers of Commerce and Industry the Small Business Centre Wheatbelt West and CY O'Connor TAFE.

This is an exciting initiative that builds on two successful years of the Northam Business Awards. Offers of support and/or sponsorship have come so far from the Shires of York, Northam and Goomalling, the Small Business Centre Wheatbelt West, CY O'Connor TAFE, The Small Business Development Corporation, the Avon Community Development Foundation, Experience Perth, Bendigo Bank, Telstra, GWN, Radio West, W.A. Country Builders, McDonalds, Linley Valley Pork, Purslowe Tinetti Funerals, the Avon Valley Advocate and other corporate sponsors.

An application has been submitted to the Wheatbelt Development Commission for a Small Grant from Royalties for Regions funding to facilitate this event and future collaborative activities.

For this first year Toodyay York, Northam and Goomalling will each have their own categories. For Toodyay and York these are Small Business (including home Based Business) and Tourism/Hospitality. Competition is initially with other local businesses. The local winners will then be eligible for the major awards of Avon Valley Business of the Year and Avon Valley Business Person of the Year. There will also be awards for 'Not for Profit' community organisations and Customer Service. All awards will be presented on the 20<sup>th</sup> August at the event in Northam.

So if you are a Toodyay Small Business or Tourism/Hospitality Business get ready to stand up and receive greater recognition in the region. The Awards will be launched in the first week of April but you can make enquiries now by contacting the Awards co-ordinator Pat French on 0427 472 729 email patfrench@westnet.com.au or Steven Stanbrook on 0407 278 272 email steven@littelfarm.com.au.

## Recipe Corner

Desraé Clarke

### Choo Ching Chow

I'M sure many know this recipe but, for those that haven't made it, I'm sure you will enjoy this inexpensive and delicious dish. It may even help to encourage the younger generation who don't particularly like their vegies!

#### Ingredients:

500gms fat-free mince  
1 onion, chopped  
60gms margarine  
½ teaspoon curry powder  
¼ teaspoon white pepper  
1 stick of celery  
2 cups shredded carrot  
2 cups shredded cabbage  
1 cup water  
1 pkt Spring Vegetable Soup  
Cooked rice to serve

#### Method:

Saute (gently fry until the onion becomes clear) the onion in the margarine. Add the mince, continually stirring, until the meat changes colour. Stir in the curry and pepper. Add the vegetables, water and packet of Spring Vegetable Soup and cook gently until the vegetables have slightly softened or till cooked as you like them.

Arrange the cooked rice around the plate with the mince mixture in the centre.

NB - Quite a different flavour results if you add Chicken Noodle Soup instead of Spring Vegetable Soup.



## Bahá'í Faith

One God, one Religion  
and one Humanity



The Baha'i Faith teaches that the beginning of the existence of man on the terrestrial globe resembles his formation in the womb of the mother. The embryo in the womb of the mother gradually grows and develops until birth, after which it continues to grow and develop until it reaches the age of discretion and maturity...So also the formation of man in the matrix of the world was in the beginning like the embryo; then gradually he made progress in perfection, and grew and developed until he reached the state of maturity, when the mind and spirit became visible in the greatest power."

A child goes through the stages of childhood, adolescence and maturity and needs education appropriate to each stage of its growth. Humanity as a whole has passed through its early years and is at the threshold of adulthood. The Creator, the Heavenly Father, has always sent Divine Educators to teach mankind according to its capacity. When a person reaches maturity and enters university, he cannot solve university problems with primary school teachings. Fortunately the mature person does not cling unto the teachings of his elementary years, whilst, sadly, humanity refuses to embrace the instructions of new Divine Teachers sent by God and clings unto teachings suited to former ages. The Jews, though expecting the coming of the Messiah, rejected Jesus and His teachings when He came to them. The Baha'is believe that humanity made the same mistake in the middle of 19th Century when Baha'u'llah appeared with teachings appropriate for this age. Moslems rose against Him and the world in general ignored Him. Hence the social and economic problems that refuse to go away because humanity has remained unaware of their cause as identified by Baha'u'llah through His divine knowledge:

"The well-being of mankind, its peace and security, are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established. This unity can never be achieved so long as the counsels which the Pen of the Most High hath revealed are suffered to pass unheeded."

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

# when and where they meet

## Sustainable Cities Awards

ENTRIES for the 2010 Keep Australia Beautiful (WA) Sustainable Cities Awards are now open and it is expected that this year's competition will be bigger than last year's. Cities and towns on track to a greener future have the opportunity to show the rest of the State how they are going about becoming a sustainable city.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council Chair Mel Hay said since the awards started in 2008, interest in the programme had grown considerably.

"Last year we had more than double the number of entries in 2008 and we hope this trend will continue," he said. "Living in a sustainable way is now recognised as an important challenge and an issue that has to be addressed at many levels.

"It requires effort from each and every one of us but some individuals and organisations are working hard to reduce their environmental footprint. It is important that we acknowledge and reward these efforts."

The Sustainable Cities Awards recognise urban communities across the State that are working towards environmental sustainability and are open to schools, local government authorities, environmental groups and businesses. Groups can enter five categories and suitable projects include: minimising and controlling waste; conserving bushland to encourage biodiversity; conserving water; celebrating diverse community cultures; managing and preserving heritage buildings and developing strong partnerships.

Brunswick River Restoration Action Group picked up the overall State award in 2009 for its work in sustaining the health of the Brunswick River through extensive partnerships. The group represented WA at the national awards and was highly commended for Environmental Innovation and Protection.

Entries for the Sustainable Cities Awards close on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Details and application packages are available from [www.kabc.wa.gov.au](http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au) or call 6467 5169.

Keep Australia Beautiful (WA) is supported by the Department of Environment and Conservation.



Spotted at Toodyay Auto Centre

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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 AND 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

### MURDER MYSTERY CLUB

Meets Third Friday of the month, St Stephens Church Hall, 10am - 12.30. Ph Liz 9574 5967 or Linda 9621 1620

### 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 KINDERGYN

Kindergyn 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 Shirl 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

# public notices

## THE FRED KILLICK MEMORIAL ART AWARD 2010

Opening night and presentation of awards is on Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Entertainment and refreshments will be served. Held in the Old Post Office Gallery, Northam Arts Centre. This exhibition is on display for the month of March.

## CAOGS

AVAS has the Community Arts Group at the Old Girl's School back for 2010. All are welcome to join Anne Ashman and explore any mediums, whether you are an artist, craftsperson or just interested in trying something new! Held every Friday 10am – 4pm, come for an hour or all day. Gold coin donation.

## 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.

## CULTURE VULTURE

Are you interested in seeing the musical 'CHICAGO' at the Burswood Theatre Thursday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. Group concession price is \$110, which includes \$20 for the bus fare. Bus leaves AVAS at 5.30pm. Book now!

## FIRST AID COURSES.

BOLGART 20 & 21 March, TOODYAY 13 & 14 March, 18 & 19 Sept, FLEXIBLE LEARNING for those whose Senior First Aid Certificate is due for renewal, TOODYAY 8 May, 11 July, 7 November. For details and registration forms contact Jenny Willgoss at L J Hooker or ring 9574 2412 a/h.

## TENDER FOR CLEANING

St John Ambulance Toodyay & Districts subcentre is calling for tenders for the following:- Cleaning of the ambulances, cleaning of the sub centre building and some small garden maintenance. Details of the contract are available by sending your details to P O Box 364, Toodyay 6566. Applications close Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

## TOODYAY JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

**REGISTRATION DAY** Notice Registration Day 13th March 2009 10am-12noon at Federation Square (next to the post office)  
Please come and register your kids for football on the day or alternatively you can collect a registration form at IGA Toodyay Registration Fees – 1 child \$50, 2 children \$90, 3 or more children \$120 Attention DADS & MUMS -  
We also still require a coach for the Under 9's team. If you are interested in the position please send in writing an expression of your interest to Toodyay Junior Football Club, PO Box 724, Toodyay WA 6566, or for further details please do not hesitate to call any of the numbers listed - President: Dave Flaherty 0407 083 350, Secretary Michelle Haycock 0439 754 144, Treasurer Sharon Ferguson 9574 4042

The club is also continuously looking for new helpers/volunteers, to either keep time, umpire, goal umpire etc. Every week these jobs need doing and it would be great to see some new faces at the club

contributing. Please keep this in mind, it is great fun helping out the club and a rewarding experience.

We are all looking forward to the new football season and can't wait to see you down at the oval!

## WANTED

By town bus committee, a Treasurer – no background needed. Phone Jim Bavin on 9574 2038

## MORANGUP VOLUNTEER BUSHFIRE BRIGADE

Notice of Annual General Meeting 18th April 2010 at 10 am at the MVFB shed Wallaby Way Morangup. All residents welcome, sausage sizzle to follow. Enquiries 9572 9556

## SHIRE OF TOODYAY PROPOSED TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

An application has been received for a temporary road closure in Stirling Terrace, Toodyay from Piesse St to Oddfellow St between 7.30am and 4.30pm on Sunday 2 May 2010 for the Moondyne Festival.

Concerns, comments and submissions from the public are welcomed and should be presented in writing and will be received until 4.00pm Thursday 1 April 2010 at the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre, 15 Fiennes Street (PO Box 96) TOODYAY WA 6566.

Graham Merrick  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## JULIMAR VOLUNTEER BUSHFIRE BRIGADE

Notice of Annual General Meeting 3rd April 2010 at 6pm at 'The Fireplace' Julimar VFB shed, Julimar Rd, Julimar.

## Bereavements

CASWELL, BRAD  
Deepest sympathy to Simone and family. Brad was such a kind and gentle man and a good friend. You're now at peace with your mum, Harry and Billy. Love always, Nat, Ken, Jess and Jayden.

## Birthdays

Bonnie McGeady  
Eryn Louise Evans  
Latisha Menner  
Greg Downie  
Misty Harrington  
Nicholas Groves  
Desrae Clarke  
Kirsty Nelmes  
Samantha Sloper  
Graham Boston  
Robert Broderick  
Ida Edwards  
Brooke Taylor  
Daryl Morrison  
Maureen Adamson  
Michael Orr  
Joshua Cording  
Lyn Bolton  
Lyndell Siebermaier  
Mary Ellen danger  
Mitchell Kelly  
Adelle Currell  
Joan Cook

## Anniversaries

Sara & Rob Welburn



### EXTENSION OF THE PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD

Pursuant to Section 17 of the Bushfires Act 1954 (as amended) it is hereby notified that the Prohibited Burning Period within the Shire of Toodyay has been extended until

**MONDAY 22 MARCH 2010.**

During this time NO BURNING is permitted for any reason. This includes open cooking or camp fires.

For further information please contact the Shire of Toodyay Ranger and Emergency Services on 9574 4555

## TOODYAY BOWLING CLUB

# BUSHFIRE BENEFIT DAY

## FRIDAY 19TH MARCH

Come and Play with the WA State Teams



<p><b>PLAY COMMENCES 9.30AM</b> Format: 4's ..... 4 x 5 ends Barbecue lunch provided <b>COST: \$50 PER PLAYER</b></p>	<p>Nominations To: Peter Healy 9574 4778 Kaye Rewell 9574 2056</p>
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PLUS

AN AUCTION OF QUALITY DONATED GOODS FROM MIDDAY TO 2PM

SPECTATORS ARE WELCOME

All proceeds go to the Toodyay Bushfire Appeal  
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**9361 1964 a/h**

**The Toodyay Herald**

**Notice of Special General Meeting**

The Toodyay Herald Inc will hold a Special General Meeting of members to be held at 5.30pm on Wednesday, 14th April 2010 at the offices of The Toodyay Herald, 92a Stirling Terrace, Toodyay for the purpose of endorsing changes to the constitution.

Members will soon be receiving a copy of the changes for their perusal prior to the meeting.

**PE & SM FERGUSON**

**BULLDOZING CONTRACTOR**

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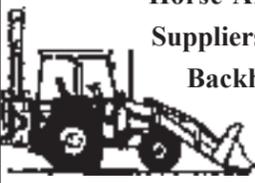
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**In Days Gone By**

**The Black Boy Tree or Grass Tree**

**Ron E Waters**

THIS tree had many uses. The Aborigines used the black gum from the trunk to weld a sharp, granite stone into a wooden handle to make a stone axe. They would cut a stick about 14 inches long and 1½ inches thick then, about an inch from one end, cut a 3 inch long groove about ¾ of an inch deep, then put the stone the full width of the groove into the cut. The piece of stone had to protrude about 2½ inches out of the handle. They pushed fresh kangaroo dropping around the stone to keep it tightly in place, then melted grass tree gum and welded the stone and handle with reeds or kangaroo sinew from the kangaroo tail and tied them tight to keep the stone head in place.

The rushes from this tree were used to thatch hay stacks to stop the hay from getting wet. Both aboriginals and the white people used the dry rushes and the trunks when dead to start their fires. Also, if someone were lost in the bush, the green rushes were good to sleep on. Some little birds made their nests in the rushes.

The heart of the tree was used for stock to eat in drought years. People would eat it too if it lost in the bush.

The flower spike was carved by aboriginals. If a person was lost in the bush, the spike would always flower on the north side first so you could get directions home. White people burnt the spikes and they were used for charcoal drawings.

**Ida's Hideaway**

**Greasy Sleeve**

**INVITATION**

**To:** All Seniors 50 years and over  
**From:** Ida's Hideaway  
**Where:** Butterly House  
**When:** Every Saturday from 1 – 4pm  
**Cost:** Free  
**Occasion:** Social afternoon playing cards, Bingo, variety games or just a social call. There is a computer, TV and much more

Afternoon Tea supplied

We are sure you will have a great time. We're looking forward to seeing you there.

**Ray and Ida Edwards**  
**Ph 9574 2858**

Birthday wishes for this month are Margaret McKay (7<sup>th</sup>), Joan Hubie (9<sup>th</sup>), Ida Edwards (10<sup>th</sup>), Maureen Langham (27<sup>th</sup>) and Christina Wright (28<sup>th</sup>). We hope you all have a very Happy Birthday.

He had come home late and was listening to some telling home truths from his wife. "I don't care, my dear," said he. "I mean exactly what I say. I'm a man who calls a spade a spade."

His wife nodded. "Maybe, John," she replied, "but you don't call a club a club; you call it working back at the office."

**Toodyay Agricultural Society**

**Pam Jackson**  
Committee Member

THE Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 8th February 2010.

Thank you to all who attended. It is great to have your support.

All 2009 committee members remain on the committee for 2010 and no new members were elected to the committee.

**President:** Gaven Donegan  
**Patron:** Brian McGill  
**1st Vice President:** Robert Millar  
**2nd Vice President:** Alison Wroth  
**Treasurer:** Robert Millar  
**Secretary:** Tracey Salmond

The next general committee meeting will be held on Monday 8th March at 7.30pm.

The 2010 Show date is Saturday 9th October. It's not too early to start thinking about what you can enter this year. There are a lot of different sections that you can enter including cattle, sheep, goats, wool, farm crops, poultry, pigeons, alpaca and coloured fleeces, home produce, fruit and vegetables, apiculture, hand spinning, patchwork and quilting, metal craft, floriculture, home brew, hobby crafts, art, needlework, cookery, china painting, photography, woodcraft, special sections for children.

Did you enter our LOGO COMPETITION? Entries will be looked at by the committee over the next few months and a winner announced.

**Learn More About Grain Rail Review**

THE State Government has announced that, as a part of its response to the release of the Strategic Grain Network Committee's (SGNC) report, it will meet with communities across affected regions to discuss the report's findings in more detail.

Transport Minister, Simon O'Brien, said the SGNC canvassed many complex issues in their report and it was now important that those local governments and communities directly affected were given the opportunity to hear a firsthand explanation of the report by its authors.

"With this in mind, I have written to all affected local governments through the WA Local Government Association with the offer of a series of briefings and information sessions on the review and its findings," Mr O'Brien said. "Department of Transport officers and the chairman of the SGNC will be available to explain the content and detail of the report and also to answer questions."

"While the State Government had acted urgently to ensure the immediate future of the State's grain rail network was secure, the Government must consider how to tackle the

longer term issues identified in the report - an issue made even more compelling by the deregulation of the wheat market."

In January the Government announced an urgent \$30million investment in the State's grain freight network that will fund:

- urgently required rail maintenance work on the Avon to Albany line;
- a rail equalising cost access scheme designed to make transporting grain by rail cost competitive with transporting it by road in the Kwinana South Zone;
- project development and pre-construction activities on the proposed Chester Pass Road upgrade, a key north-south regional road route linking Albany and the Southern Wheatbelt.

The Minister stressed that these announcements were just an immediate response to the issues at hand and that overarching, long term funding decisions would be made after further analysis.

"The State Government is working with the Federal Government to develop a plan for long-term strategic investment in the grain logistics network," he said.

**Toodyay Spinners**

**Phil Harmer**  
Secretary

WE have a new member. Welcome to Leon Surawski.

On the share table this month: Scarf exchange of tops green-red-yellow for Lyn Boshoff; skeins - red-rust wool mix by Carol Worrell; skein - purple of merino by Carol Davidson; toilet roll holder crocheted by Kaye Rewell in commercial wool; needle felting of girl with cape and hood, elephant and dog (Pluto) by Joan McMahon; baby sleeveless top in merino (lilac and sliver) by Lois Leeder; skein - merino/suri, knee rug in variegated hard spun English Leicester plied with alpaca by Margaret Masterlerz; knitted jumper (reddish) in merino by Margaret Grassick; skeins - white natural pure wool, blue in corridale and pink in merino/silk by Helen Taylor; scarves (x2) machine knitted and hand spun by Margaret Masterlerz; felted scarves (x2) reversible dark blue, light blue and nuno light brown, place mat swirls, jumper merino tops brown/fawn by Lee Wolsoncroft.

Spinners meet every Wednesday from 9am to approx 12midday at Parkers Cottage in the Showgrounds.

We also meet on the second Saturday of the month at the same place and times.

For more information, phone the President on 0407 429 047 or Secretary on 9574 2015.

**Avon Wood Turners**

**Max J Heath**  
Convenor

HI from the Wool Pavilion: ie The Wood Turners.

Well, I don't know where the months are going but here we are again despite it being a fairly quiet month with only one turning morning since last writing this column.

It being reasonably hot, it is quiet in the shed although we are starting at 8am on the Sunday mornings until the weather cools down a little. Several of us tackled different projects. I tried to turn a goblet and that was going OK until I let it get a little too thin on the wall. Then I cut through the wall and that, as they say, was the end of that. Others used an item made by Bill Beswick to finish items and were a complete success.

We did plan to have a demonstrator at our February meeting, followed by a lunch. However, going by the forecast, we wouldn't need the barbecue to cook with so this was cancelled. Also, I ran out of time to organise a demonstrator!

If any of you are interested in becoming a wood turner, please be in touch with us. If you require a lathe, etc, they do come up at times in our Wood Turning magazine and, if we can be of help, we will certainly do our best for you.

Well, that is about all for now so it's bye from the Avon Wood Turners and the Wool Pavilion.



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## Fly on the Wall

Peter Robinson

WHAT a landmark Council meeting we had on Thursday February 18. But let us deal with the events in sequence.

Question time took just over an hour, which is becoming normal these days. Many questions are designed to embarrass or trip up one person or another, with less and less simply seeking genuine information. This is one of the down sides to having a deeply divided Council. Each side has its 'team' in the public gallery. Sometimes however it takes many questions to get a simple answer.

Even in these bitter and troubled times I try to report something amusing. This time it was the closing on February 18 of the meeting held on January 21. The previous meeting had been adjourned (due to the hour of the night). This would have to be the longest meeting of Council I have attended.

I must point out here that there was a special guest at this meeting. Mr Mike Fitzgerald is the Industrial Relations consultant to the Shire of Toodyay. The gallery was cleared to hear an item of a confidential nature early in the proceedings to allow Mr Fitzgerald to give his advice and then leave. We were shut out for more than an hour and a half. While chatting amongst ourselves we could hear shouting and yelling coming from inside the chambers. Councillors adjourned for about 15 minutes before a vote was taken and the gallery invited back into the meeting.

Some kind person (thank you Daran) went off and purchased some pizzas! As could be guessed, though, they arrived just before the doors were opened, so in we all trooped clutching a wedge of pizza each. The President, Cr Firms then read out a very short one sentence statement, which had strange wording (bureaucratic speak), but what I took it to mean was that the President had the authority to sign a termination agreement with the CEO Mr Merrick. The meeting then went on with the agenda items. These were dealt with very quickly, being so few in number.

Next item discussed was Cr Wroth's notice of motion from last month's meeting. This was to provide every ratepayer with a questionnaire on recreation and other needs. The questionnaire is to include the following four options (1) Nursing home (2) Swimming Pool (3) Recreation centre for indoor sports and (4) other suggestions. Some debate ensued as to the need to go back to the community again, when all those objectives are the top priorities in the plan for the future document. Cr Prater moved an amendment to reduce the options. I couldn't see the point of this, as the idea needed to be passed or defeated in its entirety. The amendment was lost but the motion carried.

Cr Lloyd once again tried to introduce her motion to establish a Recreation Advisory Committee via a motion of an urgent nature. This was because she had once again failed to get the motion on the main agenda. In an earlier attempt Cr Lloyd's email got lost and so missed the January meeting agenda. Then in February Mr Merrick was on holidays and again the item missed the agenda. During the debate as to whether to hear the motion or not, Cr Larkin declared that she was hot, bothered and tired and wanted to go home. I think most of us were of that opinion. Although Cr Lloyd was allowed to put her motion, it lapsed for the want of a seconder as the CEO refused to give a verbal report, as he claimed the motion had substantially changed from the last time he had seen it and given advice on it. Local Government rules state that all recommendations must have an officer's written or verbal report.

Then Cr Wroth moved to have another item of an urgent nature introduced. This time Cr Larkin seconded the motion; clearly having recovered from being hot, bothered and tired. Cr Wroth's motion was that all Councillors donate their quarterly attendance and expense allowance to the Bushfire Appeal. In answer to a question he confirmed that the motion was for a compulsory donation! I thought that donating was a voluntary thing in a democracy. There is no doubt that there is no more worthy local cause at the moment and the appeal needs all the funds it can get. It is clear that there is almost no chance of getting any compensation from Western Power or the State Government. Nevertheless different people donate in different ways. Cr Wroth himself has donated a great deal of time and effort backed by considerable experience to the Bushfire Recovery. If he chooses to donate more that is very noble and commendable, but compulsory I don't get. We look forward to Cr Wroth's

contribution. The success of this motion may have had several repercussions – one is the Councillors leading by example, but it may also have had the potential to financially embarrass other Councillors.

Now to the issue of the imminent departure of the CEO Graham Merrick. Firstly it is going to cost us significantly in excess of \$200,000. A lot of our money! Secondly we should recognise the good work he has done, particularly in the first few years since August 2004, when he was appointed. In more recent times the community has become more and more restless and resentful of the attitude, culture and actions of the administration. The job of a CEO is to assist, facilitate and advise Councillors on the things that they want on behalf of the ratepayers.

The wisdom of the Council's action in signing the agreement will only be gauged in time when his replacement has some runs on the board. If we can achieve a business friendly administration that is prepared to not only listen to the community but act as the community wishes, then the cost will soon be recovered. We have bushfire survivors currently going through healing and now the whole community can start healing. If our Councillors can start working together, then we should be able to move on and enjoy better times. If they can't then more community pain and suffering is inevitable. Some people need to remember the saying 'People in Glass Houses Shouldn't Throw Stones.' Come on Councillors, as one door closes another opens. Move together through this new door and work for the community you represent.

## Autumn Club

OUR first meeting for the year was held on Wednesday 24th February at the oval.

As Wes, our president, was away, Mike took the chair. Dates were fixed for visits from other clubs and we are waiting to hear from these clubs for return visits.

The birthdays for March are: Brian Bosnjak (7<sup>th</sup>), Joan Hubie (9<sup>th</sup>), Ida Edwards (10<sup>th</sup>), Wes Smith (15<sup>th</sup>), Christina Wright (28<sup>th</sup>) and Pam Hoblyn (29<sup>th</sup>). We wish them all a very happy birthday.

We hope the Community Bus will soon be fixed so we can commence our day outings.

Laurie Biggs  
Authorised

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## Toodyay Resident Wins Thrifty Prize

THRIFTY WA congratulates Toodyay resident, Stephen Street, on his win of \$250 as a weekly prize recipient in Thrifty's Get Moving competition that is currently running statewide.

Thrifty State Marketing Manager, Thai Pham, said he was pleased that a Toodyay resident was amongst the winners list. "Out of numerous statewide winners it was great that we were able to give one Toodyay resident a little good news," Mr Pham said.

Stephen is now in the grand prize draw to win a complete home theatre from Pioneer and West Coast HiFi or a \$5,000 Archipelago furniture voucher

Thanks to Thrifty's strong sense of WA community spirit, all Toodyay residents can benefit from a special offer.

After the severity of the recent ravaging fires, Thrifty is currently offering Toodyay residents a 20% discount on all vehicles. This is valid to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 for pick-ups from Thrifty Perth branches in Welshpool, Bassendean, Osborne Park and Fremantle. Toodyay residents need to call 136 139 for all bookings and must quote code WS164. All standard terms and conditions apply.