

The Toodyay Herald

VOLUME 279

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April 2010

BACK TO THE FUTURE



The refurbished Connors Mill
Photograph: Wayne Weaver

Grant Scobie Assistant Editor

THREE Toodyay historic landmarks were reopened on 24th March in front of a small but interested crowd of local residents, Shire Councillors, Shire Staff and volunteers. Graham Merrick, Shire CEO, acted as Master of Ceremonies throughout the afternoon.

Toodyay Library

The proceedings began at the Toodyay Library with Mr Merrick saying that he was very proud of the library extension and renovation describing the process as 'his baby'. He had given a brief to the architect, Brian Klopper, to double the capacity of the building and was very pleased with the way it had been done in a sympathetic and energy efficient way.

The Toodyay Library began its life as a Mechanics' Institute in 1874. It was just one room at first with the two side rooms added at a later date. After the Mechanics' Institute closed down, it became a meeting room for the Toodyay Roads Board, a town hall, theatre and then the Shire Offices. It reopened as a library in 1959.

Mr Merrick paid tribute to many for the work done: the library staff for continuing to work throughout the building process; the cabinet maker, Matthew Hamill did his apprenticeship in Toodyay and mentioned that his parents were still residents of Toodyay; Sean Byron, the electrician and electrical designer who put in time and effort over and above what was expected and paid for; Peter Johnson, the Shire builder

and his son and grandson and many others who worked on the building; and the Shire Councillors for supporting the project.

Brian Klopper, the architect, gave a short history of Mechanics' Institutes which were educational establishments formed to provide adult education, particularly in technical subjects, to working men so, in fact, they were libraries. The Toodyay Library has, therefore, come full circle.

He described the original building as being uninteresting architecturally but very important historically. While wanting to utilise the same materials and building techniques in extending the building, he found that it was more cost-effective to use modern practice. He suggested that, were he to put to the original builders that he could build in materials much better than the ones they were using in 1874 in a shorter time but wanted to do it the way they had, they'd think he was stupid.

Penny O'Connor from the Heritage Council of WA explained that all three buildings to be opened that day were on the Heritage Register. She explained that heritage places were important because they were a link to the past and congratulated Toodyay for its ongoing commitment to looking after the history of the town.

Finally, it was over to the Hon. Grant Woodhams, Speaker of the House, to say a few words and open the building. He acknowledged the CEO and Shire Councillors for their commitment to the project and praised the community involvement in the outcome which would aid community education for now and into the future.

Newcastle Gaol

The Newcastle Gaol was built by convict labour between 1862 and 1865 due to the legendary Moondyne Jo being able to escape from the lockup of the time.

In 1907 Newcastle Gaol was discontinued as a public gaol. A new lockup across the road was designated the new gaol.

Following its closure as a gaol, the building was rented as a dwelling. In 1924 it was transferred to the Trustees of the Public Education Endowment. It was occupied during the 1930s by the Dorrizzi family, with three of the cells being used as bedrooms for the Dorrizzi boys. When the Dorrizis left around 1940, the building fell into disrepair through non-use.

The Gaol was reopened as a museum in 1962 and, in 2004, the decision was made to revamp the building and, especially, tend to the rising damp problem.

The seed money for the refurbishment came from Lotterywest. Ray Bennett explained that Lotterywest was proud to support the museum and thanked all the volunteers and acknowledged the challenging times Toodyay had experienced recently.

Graham Merrick explained that Toodyay's commitment to heritage was huge, saying that the Shire was the only one in WA to have a full-time museums' curator. He said that he'd been to the Richmond Gaol in Tasmania which received over 70,000 visitors per annum and that the Newcastle Gaol left it for dead in all respects.

All the work done on the Gaol was done locally. Mr Merrick thanked again the Shire staff, led by Peter Johnson...(cont'd page 3)



New CEO has a positive focus

NEWLY appointed interim CEO Simon Fraser has resolved to focus on positive results for the Toodyay community during his appointment. Mr Fraser was unanimously elected by Council last week from a pool of five highly regarded candidates.

Shire President, Chris Firms, said that Council has full confidence in Mr Fraser.

"Council was particularly impressed with Mr Fraser's demonstrated ability to foster strong relationships between council, the community and other agencies," he said. "Mr Fraser has a proven track record as an exceptionally competent Chief Executive Officer."

Mr Fraser, who was formerly the Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Gingin and the Shire of Jerramungup, believes that the key to a strong community is focusing on positive outcomes and strategic direction.

"In local government, we sometimes get hamstrung by minor details and tend to 'major in minor issues'," he said.

"By creating positive partnerships between Council, community and the administration, it is easier to put into perspective what is really important."

Mr Fraser has been appointed on a casual basis for an interim period of up to twelve months whilst Council reviews the position description in preparation for the recruitment and appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer.



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

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DISTRIBUTION

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DEADLINE

ISSUE

Tuesday April 27

NEXT EDITION

DUE OUT ON

Thursday May 6

TOODYAY HERALD ACCOUNTS HOTLINE

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Shire President's Report

Chris FIRNS
 Shire President

ANOTHER eventful month, March, saw the report from Energy Safety challenged by a private investigator that has been given a lot of media coverage. The result of this challenge is yet to be known. I have made repeated calls for a review of the methodology and findings of the Energy Safety report itself. There is little comfort or security for the people of Toodyay (or anyone else that lives in an area at risk of bush fires) when there is no apparent cause to be found to such a devastating event. How can the risk of future disasters be minimised when the responsible agencies are unwilling to commit the resources needed to pinpoint the cause? Without a precise cause, is there a case for proper compensation?

It is expected that the 'Hardly Normal' relief operations at the showgrounds will be wound up at the end of the month. The Op Shop staff, committee and volunteers have undertaken a Herculean task since the fires. Initially receiving donations at the shop, then with the CWA at the CWA hall, then the showgrounds - they have organised, coordinated and laboured way beyond the call of duty to provide and manage the massive amount of clothing, furniture, whitegoods, electrical goods, tools, machinery and personal items donated for the survivors.

Much help has also been given by what is now the Toodyay Men's Shed. The conditions in the sheds during January and February would have had construction workers walking off if this was a worksite anywhere else: 45°C outside; working under a steel roof, with no fans; no proper refrigeration facilities; no refrigerated drinking water; little or no rest breaks; uncatered and working 12 - 14 hours and more per day. Truly we have so much and so many people to be thankful for and to in Toodyay. Thank you!

Although we have some relief to the worst of the summer heat, we still hope for some (gentle) water from the sky to settle the ashes and bring some green back to the burnt and scorched earth of our friends and neighbours who are still toiling in the bleak surroundings of the aftermath.

The prohibited burning season was extended by two weeks due to the prolonged extreme weather but it is expected that restricted burning will be permitted (by permit only) within the next week, for broad acre farms and crop preparation only.

We continue to oppose amalgamation and the erosion of local from local government. It seems that the future of the Royalties for Regions scheme has become much less certain. The state government have scaled back the amount promised to country local governments, apparently due to lower than expected resource income resulting from the Global Financial Crisis. Toodyay is in a better position than some other shires that have committed expenditure based on the government's promise of funds and found that the funds are no longer available.

Good news is the imminent opening of the new section of the library, due next week, and the official launch of the Toodyay Men's Shed. There is no doubt that the Men's Shed concept is a tremendous asset to any community. It is accepted that these locally operated (not for profit organisations) provide ongoing social and health (mental health and well being included) benefits for the entire community, not just the men. As Shire President it will be my pleasure to support and promote the Men's Shed at every opportunity.

Over the coming months I look forward to presenting some positive changes to the Council's operations that will reflect the values and principles that I have promoted throughout my election campaign and my time on Council so far. The next 18 months are the opportunity that I have asked for to implement those changes and I trust that is what my presidency will be judged on.

Shire President's Update

Chris FIRNS
 Shire President

A lot has happened since I presented my March report to Council, Mr Merrick has departed from our midst and at his final Council meeting the following decisions were taken.

Council has undertaken its annual budget review and, despite a recommendation from the audit committee, unfortunately we are left with a deficit of approximately \$300,000. The reallocation of \$250,000 from reticulation at Duidgee Park and \$350,000 from the footbridge renovation were necessary to acquit the Royalties for Regions funding within the required timeframe. Council was advised that the other projects cannot be commenced because of insufficient preparation. The reallocation does not mean that those projects will not be undertaken, as we have the capacity to borrow matching amounts by the corresponding reduction in future borrowings that were allocated for the depot relocation. To fund the library cost blowout we are borrowing \$270,000, the advice is that this will not affect our ability to borrow the money for the other projects. The good news is that we will have Christmas lights this year, at last!

Council approved a Modified Development Plan (MDP) for Lot 61 Goomalling Toodyay Rd. The MDP follows the approval of a Local Structure Plan (LSP) and subdivision for a portion of the lot that will yield 270 1000m² lots. Previously the applicants had estimated that the total lot yield for the proposal would be 998 lots ranging from R30 (300m²) to R10 (1000m²). The MDP allows for the same range of densities but the estimate for the lot yield is significantly less, however the actual number of lots will not be known until a subdivision plan is approved. The densities approved will see the town of Toodyay quadruple when the developments are complete.

It is no secret that I have been firmly opposed to this type of development for Toodyay since before I was elected to Council, in my opinion this development (together with 'Foggathorpe Estate') is inconsistent with the Local Planning Strategy, the Plan for the Future and Local Planning Scheme 4. All of those documents repeatedly state that the prime objectives of planning in Toodyay are to preserve the rural character and amenity of Toodyay and to provide for physical and community infrastructure. Larger lot sizes next to the river with parkland style development could have achieved this. Nevertheless, as Shire President I accept the decision of Council and am committed to ensuring that the development will be of the highest standard achievable under the approved plans.

Since the March Council meeting, Council have appointed Mr Simon Fraser as Acting CEO. Council interviewed five highly qualified candidates for the position and unanimously considered that Mr Fraser was the outstanding choice for Toodyay at this time. Elsewhere in this edition you will read that Mr Fraser has extensive experience within local government and more than 10 years as a CEO. Mr Fraser has a big job in front of him, to oversee the 2010/11 budget preparations; manage ongoing projects, such as the depot relocation and skate park construction; assist and advise Council reviewing rates, the Local Planning Scheme and the Plan for the Future; and assist with the process of developing and implementing the process of appointing a permanent CEO. Council has the utmost confidence in Mr Fraser's approach to the Acting CEO position.

ANZAC DAY SUNDAY 25 April 2010

Dawn Service 6am sharp ANZAC Park War Memorial
 ANZAC Day March 10.30am
 Stirling Tce (Memorial Hall) to War Memorial
 Main Service 11am
 ANZAC Park War Memorial





Fire Relief aboard the Crystal Swan

PERTH businessmen showed their support for Toodyay's volunteer services last month, raising over \$10,000 for the Toodyay Volunteer Fire Brigades.

Organiser Andrew 'Coxy' Cox, from Perth Business Networking, said that he was inspired by young fellow motorcyclists who responded to the plight of Toodyay residents by arranging charity rides and donating funds to the fire relief appeal.

"I was inspired by the unselfish and spontaneous desire of riders from Perth Street Bikes to help out and chip in with moral and financial support for the Toodyay support for the Toodyay residents," said Coxy.

"It was incredibly inspiring because they did something instead of just sitting back and waiting for someone else to do something."

Coxy spoke to Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Murray McBride, who said that the volunteer brigades could have been helped in the recent fire by purchasing small equipment items and a personnel carrier to take fire fighters to the fire front.

The event, which was held on the 10th of May, was well attended by supporters, who were treated to a three hour cruise on board the Crystal Swan. Attendees were given the opportunity to bid for auction lots, which included a canvas photo print by Con Marcalino of Shutterworks Photography.

Perth businesses generously gave their time, services and support – JoJo Tanks donated three new water tanks to the Toodyay community and the event was also supported by the Crystal Swan, Good Mood Food and Arimia Wines, amongst many other generous sponsors.

Motivational speaker Amanda Gore donated fifty CD's to firefighters and bushfire survivors to help with the recovery process and Gerald Ashcroft's moving documentary about the bushfire was screened prior to the auction. The film, 'Out of the Ashes', features bushfire survivors who

Pauline of Kanvas Interior Art, Coxy and Con Marcalino of Shutterworks in Perth with the Exclusive Print for Perth Business Networking for Toodyay Volunteer Firefighters Event

were interviewed three weeks after the fire. The documentary can be viewed at www.storiestobetold/toodyay-bush-fire.html

Coxy says that he is thrilled with the result of the .

"We hope our collective contributions will have a lasting and worthwhile effect on the safety of the fires and the communities they protect," he said.



One of the tanks donated by JoJos Tanks

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Former CEO Graham Merrick and MLA Grant Woodhams outside the Toodyay Library

(cont'd from page 1) ...and Sean Byron for the lighting and electrical work. He also acknowledged, again, the efforts of the volunteers.

Grant Woodhams was again asked to open the building. He agreed with Graham Merrick about the comparison with Richmond Gaol and said that we need to invest in our history, know it, be aware of it and tell people how good it is. He said the Newcastle Gaol was not just a tribute to those who had done the recent work but also to those who had decided not to knock it down many years earlier.

Connor's Mill

Connor's Mill was built in 1870 for entrepreneurial convict expirer Daniel Connor. It was built by George Hasell,

who also built many other buildings in the area. The mill was originally a stone mill, with wheat being milled between the movement of a top stone on a base. It was the third steam mill in the district at the time, although it quickly became the only viable mill. Connor's Mill produced flour of a high quality, even winning an award at the Melbourne Exhibition in 1878.

Upon his death, Connor's estate sold the mill to his former miller Charles Marris in 1902. Marris converted the mill to a roller mill, a new technology at the time. In 1917 Charles Lukin bought the mill, and began to operate it as a power station as well as a mill. Its name changed to Toodyay Roller Flour Mills. By 1921 it was owned by the Western Australian Insurance Company Limited and the Toodyay Electric Lighting Company

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FRANK VENN MEMORIAL AWARD For local writers - 2010

Entry is open only to residents of the Shire of Toodyay.

There are five categories:

1. Lower Primary - Years 1, 2 & 3
2. Middle Primary - Years 4 & 5
3. Upper Primary - Years 6 & 7
4. Lower Secondary - Years 8, 9 & 10
5. Adults.

All writing to be in short story format and the original work of the entrant.

A COMPLETED COVER SHEET MUST ACCOMPANY EACH ENTRY.

* Guidelines for writers and cover sheets are available from the Toodyay Herald, Toodyay District High School and the Toodyay Library
* There is a limit of one entry per person.
* The winners will be announced and published in the December issue of the Toodyay Herald

The closing date for entries is Friday 15th October 2010

letters

Caring People

DEAR FELLOW TOODYAYERS

I would like to express my admiration and thankfulness that we have such caring and helpful people living in our town. It was admirable to see the devotion and helpfulness displayed by the good folk who gave so freely of their time and energy to those in crisis. Faced with a mammoth task in co-ordinating the flood of generosity from around Australia someone had to 'step into the breach' and deal with all that stuff!

Many thanks to John and Melanie Mitchinson who so ably volunteered to take on a difficult and demanding task and to stick at it for so long.

It is in times of crisis such as our community faced after the devastating fire that we see the best in people. I am proud and happy to live in such a resourceful, helpful and caring community. Well done to the many volunteers who turned up and made a difference. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Adrienne Currie

Liquor Store at IGA

I JUST FOUND out today (Friday 19th March) that we are having a new IGA built at the back of the Freemasons. Excellent, some more diverse shopping; well done to those doing it.

However, I was rather shocked when I went to get some meat at the deli and was asked to fill in a form to give my support to the new IGA having a liquor sales / store in it. I nearly signed the form thinking, well, no problems, but thankfully, my little grey cells kicked in in time.

We have three public houses in town, The top pub (Tavern), The Victoria and The Freemasons and also the liquor store behind the present IGA store.

I'm not a prude nor have I anything about people drinking but I am not convinced of the need for yet another outlet to purchase alcohol in a small country town that already is well endowed with outlets.

It has so many times been said that Toodyay is a boring town with nothing to do for the kids. Do we, therefore, really need yet another outlet for the purchase of alcohol and all it brings to society?

This isn't a 'Pick on IGA'; it is an observation on Society here. When are we going to say enough and assist in stopping the violence, alcoholism, abuse, drink-driving and start taking responsibility for our own lives and those of our kids?

I drive on the roads as do many people I know. I would rather not assist in the loss of any one person I know whether they be friend or foe via something that I can have a say in. With the demands of our youth, with all our society throws at them now, it is so different to when most of us oldies grew up, then add to it the net.

Jobs are being created today, for tomorrow that our people haven't even been trained for yet. Those stresses alone on top of a society with already so many issues that are yet to be solved in the here and now are enormous.

Do we need to add more opportunities for more drink drivers on the road, domestic violence, alcoholism due to depression, poverty, and so on? The buck stops here now, in our society.

Think locally, then start to transpose it globally.

Tony Lush

New Works Depot

WE HAVE LIVED in Toodyay for the past 11 years. We own a 6.5 acre property on Railway Road which backs onto the Avon River. The Shire of Toodyay (in its wisdom) has decided to relocate the Shire Works Depot to in front of several properties along Railway Rd. This depot is going to be a huge complex.

Railway Road is approximately 3.5kms in length. The road starts off being 50km/h for the first 500 metres and then becomes 80km/h. The road is a no through road.

I am a truck driver of 40 years and hold a multi combination license. I have had experience driving in many different conditions and on many different roads all over Australia.

My concerns are with Toodyay's diverse weather conditions. At various times of the year, Railway Road becomes a very dangerous road. In the winter the residents of

Railway Rd experience pea-soup fog, which does not lift until mid-morning. In autumn/winter the sun, as it is setting, is blinding to road users heading west. We, as long standing residents, are extremely aware of these conditions.

Within this complex there is going to be provisional parking for thirty vehicles and more as it expands to include other services.

Workers who are travelling along Railway road are under pressure to arrive at work on time and to move heavy machinery out to various jobs. The Shire did not carry out any impact study on road usage. When we, as concerned residents, brought this forward to council, they were unperturbed by our concerns. They did, however, set up a traffic counter for approximately 3 weeks; I don't know what they were trying to achieve!

In conclusion, there is a danger and on my part a duty of care to bring this issue to the public's attention.

Jack Cheetham.

Is There A Register?

THIS INCIDENT THAT I am referring to is probably nothing new to those who use Toodyay Road on a regular basis.

A few Mondays ago, we were heading to Midland, when we came across a loaded truck (some 60 tonnes or so), which had just entered from Fernie Road. We waited patiently for the safe moment to overtake this vehicle, which we duly did.

From that moment on, travelling along the 'mad mile', until we reached Noble Falls, we were hounded along from an extremely close distance (3 or 4 metres) at a speed of 110km/h in both the 110 and 100km/h zones. This was a very frightening experience.

Having since reported the incident (and received a response) and discussed the event with a number of people, I am convinced that this is not an isolated case.

I am also led to believe that a 'register' of such incidents exists. Should that be so, I would be only too happy to put my name to it.

It also emphasises to me again, the need for overtaking lanes to be placed in the Toodyay Shire section of Toodyay Road. In case it is not obvious, there are at present, NONE!!

Francis Moran

A heartfelt thank you

IT IS HARD to know where to start when it comes to recalling the incredible efforts of hundreds of people over the last three months, keeping a dusty, jumbled, bulging at the seams pavilion open to help to rebuild part of the lives of the incredible survivors of our bushfire. To say it was a pleasure to be able to help is a gross understatement.

From the initial support of the Shire personnel we approached, to the hundreds of volunteers who sorted, lugged, organised, displayed, washed and folded every item imaginable to re-stock a home, we were overwhelmed by the amount of trouble people were prepared to go to to help others - all of us with the unspoken words in the back of our minds - "it could have been us".

The first three weeks of operation were a rollercoaster of emotions as we heard stories of bravery, desperation, fear and despair alongside uplifting tales of rescues, narrow escapes and lucky coincidences. In hindsight we should have written down the stories for posterity but we feel they will be etched in our memories forever.

During the extreme heat our volunteers worked through their tea breaks, drank copious amounts of water, sweated buckets of it out again and went home filthy and exhausted. There wasn't one complaint and they turned up day after day -apologising emphatically if they had to miss a day for any reason. We got to know each other, laugh with each other and roll our eyes at each other when another truck arrived stuffed with clothes and toys!

The Survivor Centre, as we re-named it after a month of operation, became a safe haven for the people affected by the fire. We quickly found out what they needed and we all looked out for items that particular people had lost. A teaspoon collection was recreated, a collection of wooden items was gathered from far and wide, clothing specific to people's needs was stored and labelled for their perusal, special jewellery pieces were put aside for survivors to start a new heirloom collection with, baby clothes and toys were gathered - nothing was too

much trouble. The heartfelt thank you's and hugs made it all worthwhile for everyone involved.

People drove from all over the state to not only drop off their donations but to stay with us in the heat and help to sort and organise the items in the centre. When we slowed down enough to manage it, we kept a register of donors and volunteers but the list is far short of the number of people who helped us. They know who they are and will probably never forget the experience. They should all be reassured that we couldn't have done any of this without them. Local people arrived with armloads of whatever we needed and took away lists of what we needed next - things changed on a daily basis. A group of bikers from Perth arrived with truckloads of wonderful furniture, fistfuls of dollars and promises of help well into the future. The quiet reverence that fell over them when they stood together as a group in the deserted Survivor Centre early on a Sunday morning reduced me to tears - thankfully I managed to be more controlled in the radio interviews where we had the chance to appeal for the specific items that we needed.

The support we have received from the Recovery Team has been incredible, from the army of strong men who arrived to help us unload trucks on boiling days and the provision of a sea container for our overflowing collection of beds to the provision of vital information and contacts to make our lives easier. No matter how busy they were the people at the pavilion were not forgotten.

We are very proud to have been involved in the Survivor Centre and hope to continue to support the wonderful people of this town who lost so much and taught us so much in the process. The word 'victim' was dropped from our vocabulary very quickly when we saw firsthand how brave and resilient the survivors were.

Thank you to everyone who helped and to the survivors for doing just that.

Melanie Pree and John Mitchinson

Overwhelming support

EARLY IN JANUARY I was asked if I would run the town hall kitchen, preparing food for volunteers and those affected by the fire. Having gone there just to 'butter bread' I found this overwhelming to say the least.

Now, three months later there are so many people I would like to thank who have helped in so many different ways.

Firstly a very big thank you to the local businesses and the many, many folk from far and wide who were so generous with donations of food, and DCP and our local Lions Club for your financial support.

To the wonderful Red Cross girls who not only worked out in the field but found time to support us when the going got tough, be it making sandwiches, cups of tea or a much needed hug. Thank you.

Chris, our Shire President, a very big thanks to you, your cheery greeting each day and never ending support was truly appreciated.

To Peter, Kathy, Julia, Rosemary, Bobbie, Deb, Gale and Vera, thank you for all your help and friendship.

Cleaners extraordinaire - Tom, Pat, Julie and Janine, thanks most of all for the laughs.

And to all the very special people who helped prepare the food, it was an absolute pleasure working with you and being part of the love, laughter and friendship shared so generously with everyone. So a very, very big thank you to - Arlene, Julia, Tina, Jim, Stacy, Kay, Nyanda, Maxine, Sandra, Robyn, Helen, Maureen, Prim, Dianne A, Dianne E, Gabby, Lyn, Barbara, Frances, Margaret S, Debbie, Irene, Joan, Fiona, Cindy, Jess, Shani, Jeanette, Dixie, Margaret S, Barbara T, Vickie, Sally, Alison, Meredith, Ashlei, Michael, Digby and those whose names I may have forgotten.

And Royston, our tea man, who served every cup with the very essence of a true Aussie mate - friendship, compassion and a good story.

To those folk affected by the fire, you have enriched my life so much with the warmth of your friendship, and have been an absolute inspiration with the courage and strength you have shown throughout the past few months.

I still feel overwhelmed, not from the job ahead but with gratitude for the experience. Thank you all.

And lastly, to my good and very special man at home, thank you for just being you, you make life so easy for me - (see you soon).

Marlene (Andrijich)

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letters



Photo: Judy cutting the cake from her exercise group 'Stay on your Feet'

Goodbye, Toodyay

TO THE PEOPLE of Toodyay,
Having sold my Physiotherapy practice in Toodyay to Mr Dean Butler, a physiotherapist who lives in Toodyay, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the people of Toodyay, for the support you have given me over the past ten and a half years. It has been a joy and a privilege to work with you and I am sad to be leaving.

I would like to thank two groups of people in particular.

Firstly, the exercise group I have worked with over the 10 years. The laughter, friendship and support you have given me has been amazing and I will always be grateful to you.

The other group is, of course, Dr Walkey, his Associates, Sean and the Staff [past and present] of the Medical Centre. I very much appreciate the assistance and support I have been given by you over the time I have been here.

I wish you all a happy and successful future and hope to see some of you from time to time as I come back as a visitor to this unique town

Judy Dennis

Toodyay December Bushfire 2009 - many thanks!

THE LADIES OF the Toodyay Op.Shop would like to express their thanks to all the volunteers who manned the Toodyay Op Shop Survivor centre.

Our thanks go to Melanie Pree and John Mitchinson who organised the co-ordination and distribution of goods at the Showgrounds.

This was a huge task to undertake and they did it without a second thought and carried it out in a cheerful and caring manner.

Thank you.
The ladies of the Toodyay Op Shop

Can you help?

DEVASTATION OF THE December fires has left our very own fresh produce store without an orchard, market garden and vineyard which would have produced the first season of Mt Vernon Estate wine this year.

The fire not only took the home, and beautiful botanical garden of rare and unusual orchids (successfully rescued, transported and transplanted by Carlos) but the boys' livelihood as well...

Carlos and Tom are active community members who provide Toodyay with a huge range of fresh produce at extremely competitive prices available 7 days a week and although they have been left with nothing, continue to do so.

We are calling upon our amazing and generous community for help! A mature tree that can produce almost immediately can cost anywhere from \$200-\$1000 dollars and bare root fruit trees (which need to be ordered from nurseries now) from \$18-\$50 these will take 3-5 years to produce.

Carlos and Tom's insurance isn't nearly enough to cover the cost of rebuilding, irrigating and fencing never mind the trees.

If you have any orchard trees at home that you would like to donate (Carlos will remove and relocate) ideally under 7 years old.

If you are able to purchase just one of the plums, peaches, prunes, apricots or nectarines for the orchard, your kindness would be so greatly appreciated.

A list of suitable trees is available at Toodyay Home Produce and Carlos can be contacted on

0407 773 744 for any relocations.

We will also be looking for volunteers for a planting day/party so keep an eye out for posters and details in the next Herald.

Toodyay is known for its community spirit so please consider lending a hand or dollar to keep our fantastic little fruit and vegetable shop alive and thriving, ultimately we will be helping ourselves...

Many thanks for your generous nature Toodyay.

Sharon Gardiner.

Balance of power

WE HAVE ALL been asked to accept the change within our local Council from the 'old' council to the 'new' Council brought about by the elections last October.

I accept that there has been a change and that the 'balance of power' has shifted from the old to the new; such is democracy. But I have a question in regard to an aspect of that change.

When the 'old' Council set the budget for this current financial year, it was designed to bring about a surplus of \$30,000. That is, at the end of the financial year, out-goings were to be \$30,000 less than the Shire's income, hence a surplus budget.

In the March Council meeting a review of the current budget had been under-taken, just six months after the election of the 'new' council and now the present budget has been adjusted so that we are to have a \$300,000 budget deficit. That is, at the end of the financial year, out-goings are going to be \$300,000 more than the income, a \$330,000 difference between the two budgets, one to have been in the black, the latest one in the red.

As one Councillor pointed out, that figure can be made up for by either increasing rates by an average of \$30 - \$40 per household on top of any other rate increase the new financial year might/will bring or decrease the amount of services the Council supplies, such as cut-backs to road re-sealing and grading. I don't want either to happen.

So my question to all those that rejoiced the change from the 'old' to the 'new' Council is, how much more 'rejoicing' are we expected to pay for?

On a positive note, seven out of the nine Councillors did stand up to 'take it on the chin' by not trying to disguise the deficit by slashing back services, with some 'crossing the floor' to bring about a more unified Council. It's a pity that the Shire President and one other Councillor did not.

Mark d'Alton

Thank you to you all

HOW TO BEGIN a letter that is so important because there are so many wonderful people to thank is difficult, so we will just plough ahead.

To all the volunteer Fire Fighters, Volunteer Ambulance workers, FESA, the Recovery Team, Graeme Merrick, Red Cross, Salvation Army, DCP, APEX, Lions, CWA, Toodyay Police Service, Op Shop volunteers, State and Federal Government Assistance, Rosemary, Bobbie, Debra, Gail, Vera, Pete and all the Food Shop volunteers, Marlene, Roma, Maureen, Daphne, Julieann, Ina and all the Pavillion Hall volunteers, the anonymous donor of \$3,000, John and Lois Dival, Murray and Tracey McBride, Kathy and Brett Hart, Jay and Kate, Ina and Bruce Prior, Karen, Helen, Lauren and Beckie, Terri, Jan Broadbent, Richard Walkey, Dean and Amanda Carter, Nancy, Lea, Kerren, Heather, Lyn, Barry, Sherri, Kylie, Kristy, Taryn, Rosie, Jan, all the Council workers, Helene, Carol, Toodyay Bowlers, Caroline, Tony Maddox, Charlie and Alison Wroth, Roz and hubby. To all the people of Toodyay, Western Australia and Australia, to all our families, to all the ladies who have helped start my new Teddy Bear collection.

These people are in no order of gratitude. Each and every one of you have been wonderful. For your kindness, your generosity, your caring, your listening, we thank you.

I am sure we have missed naming many people individually that we should give our thanks to. Please do not be offended. There are so many of you and we thank you all. We are humbled, we are grateful and we are overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. We thank you all.

Let this letter be ended with a few words to all the survivors of this fire. Whether your loss was big or small, whether you lost everything, a shed, a water tank, a garden, it is time to move forward, do not dwell on what is lost, dream of a bright future.

Janine and Jeff Plummer.

Toodyay Community Radio

Steve Bannister

IN light of the recent bush fire in Toodyay, I wondered whether a local community radio station would have helped the residents of Toodyay better? And would it help in the future?

With the poor reception from TV stations, Perth based radio stations and limited mobile phone coverage, I thought a local community radio station for Toodyay and the Avon Valley, would be the perfect solution.

I have recently moved to Toodyay after visiting here many times previously. I find the area beautiful, friendly and rich in history. It saddened me to hear of the bush fire, but it didn't once put me off my decision to move here.

What I have also noticed is that living here; I have poor TV reception, no radio and no mobile phone service. Great for the nice quiet lifestyle that I sought and I can do without all of them - or can I? Unfortunately, we all need mobile phones these days and, for me, radio is a must.

I can't help but think that, if Toodyay had its own community radio station, local residents would have been better informed on the bush fire movements and path of destruction. Fire fighters could have used the community radio station to send information to residents and residents could have used the radio station to communicate better with others.

A local community radio station has many more benefits as well. Advertising for local businesses can be expensive. A community radio station charges far less for adverts (or sponsorship announcements) so can be of great benefit to small businesses in Toodyay, who can advertise their goods and services at a fraction of the price.

Local clubs and groups can easily get their messages and information across to local residents in the form of locally targeted community service announcements. Residents get to find out what's on in Toodyay on a day-to-day basis and we are all kept up to date.

Community radio stations are in an ideal position to help the community in every age group. Students at Toodyay DHS could have the chance to compile and produce programmes to be broadcast as part of school coursework; they could visit the station to get an idea of what working in the media would be like. Other age groups would also have the opportunity to present programmes, volunteer to help run the station and to provide a service for the community. It's a matter of Toodyay looking after Toodyay.

Taking a look at what happened in Toodyay last year, events like the Moondyne Festival, the Picnic Races, the Music Festival, the Christmas Street Party and a whole host of other events, could all have been broadcast on a community radio station. Many people, who were not able to attend in person, could have enjoyed what was going on from the comfort of their homes.

A community radio station also acts as a noticeboard for the town. Linked in with a website for the station, you have a one-stop place for all local information and news, including links to local businesses, community services, community groups and sports and recreation clubs.

Community radio stations are 'not-for-profit' organisations, so money raised by the station

would be reinvested back into Toodyay. Everyone wins.

A local community radio station offers a mix of entertainment, information, news and training opportunities that you just won't find on commercial stations and also offers independence from government and commercial interests. Toodyay would get to choose what Toodyay wanted. We would get the music we wanted to listen to and the information we need.

As licences can be hard to get, if anyone is interested in a local community radio station for Toodyay, we will need as much support as possible. Please send me an email, with your comments of support and any ideas, to toodyayradio@live.com.au or give me a call on 9574 5749 and please leave a message.



'Wearable' Art Exhibition Moondyne 2010

Margot Watkins

ARTS Toodyay is presenting another fabulous exhibition to coincide with the Moondyne Festival on 2nd May. The theme this year is 'Wearable' Art, and is open to anyone to enter. The theme may be very broadly interpreted so get your creative fingers busy and make something (quirky perhaps?), in any media, on a loosely 'Wearable' theme.

For those who yearn for something a little different, colourful, original, wild, exciting or beautifully handcrafted, you will be sure to find something amazing at the exhibition to take home and 'wear' (somewhere). So make sure you look in on the show on the day. And also put in your vote for your favourite in the Popular Choice Award.

For those wanting to participate, there is no commission charged on sales, and entry is \$5 per item (max two) for members, and \$10 per item for non-members. Forms need to be in by 23 April, (no late entries accepted) and are available from Marie-Louise on 0427 755 246 or email her at: marielouise25@bigpond.com Forms are also available from LJ Hookers or the Library. Post or deliver entry forms and fees to Wendy Lewer, 19 Arthur St, Toodyay 6566 by 5pm on April 23. Exhibition pieces must be delivered to the CWA Hall between 1 and 2pm on Saturday 1st May. If you are exhibiting a garment please supply some suitable display support for your entry. We have not much time to set up so please be on time so we can display everything to best advantage. The show is open throughout the festival and will be 'officially' opened at 2pm on Sunday. All are welcome. Enquiries to Wendy on 9574 4172

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MOONDYNE FESTIVAL 2010

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 LOCALS ENCOURAGED TO DRESS IN COSTUME!

STREET THEATRE * KIDS FAMILY FUN EVENTS * CLYDESDALE HORSE AND CART * LOG CHOP DEMONSTRATIONS
 * STALLS STALLS AND MORE STALLS* JOE AND THE GANG RUNNING AMOK * FLOOSIES * CLEAVAGE COMPETITION
 * MOUSTACHE COMPETITION * HUGE CAR CLUB SHOWINGS AND PARTICIPATION * CAPTURE AND TRIAL OF
 MOONDYNE JOE * FESTIVAL OPENING BY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR, GEORGE MURRAY * WEARABLE ART EXHIBITION
 * ROVING MUSICIANS * FUN FUN FUN * NB: NO DOGS

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS - MAY 2, 2010

7.30	Road closure	
9.00	Start of Festival	
9.30	Start of Photos with characters	Outside Fruit Shop
9.45	Bush Yarns	Outside Memorial Hall
10.00	Demonstrations in marquee, Blade shearing and Family Fun Day	Stirling Park
10.00	Irish Dancing	Victoria Hotel
10.30	1860's Regiment	Stage
	Woodchop Demonstration Starts (throughout the day)	Stirling Park
10.55	Capture of Moondyne Joe	
11.00	Official Opening	Stage
11.20	Moondyne Joe – first trial	Stage
11.50	Bank Robbery by Moondyne Joe and Gang	Bendigo Bank
12.00	1860's Regiment	Victoria Hotel
12.30	Moondyne Joe – second trial	Stage
1.00	Cleavage Competition	Victoria Hotel
1.30	Moustache Competition	Freemasons Hotel
1.30	Bootscooters	Stage
2.00	1860's Regiment	Stage
2.30	Moondyne Joe – third trial	Stage
3.30	Grand Parade	
4.30	Road Opening	

ACTIVITIES HAPPENING THROUGHOUT THE DAY

* Antique and Collectors Fair in Memorial Hall Log Chop (Demonstrations at Stirling Park) * Demonstrations in marquee at Stirling Park * Family Fun Day – free children's activities * Wearable Art Exhibition – CWA Hall * Market Stalls * Blacksmith * Blade Shearing * Car Clubs * Face Painting * 1860's Regiment * Horse & Cart Rides * Wiggly Worm Rides * Sherlock Holmes Society * Bush Yarns in front of Memorial Hall * Juggler * Floosies * Side Show Rides * Show Bags * Swaggies – billy tea, kangaroo stew and damper (next to Vic Hotel)





Quilting for Toodyay

THE Yabberup Craft Group decided to make a quilt to be given to a couple who had lost their home in the Toodyay Bushfires, so 11 girls participated in this project and below is a picture of some of the girls involved. From left to right they are Elaine Hurley, Noreen Lee, Lesley Curnow, Chris Wessling, Bev Giudici, Nell Blencowe, and Wendy Tinsley. Not pictured are Joelle Mincherton, Robyn Hughes, Maxine Robertson and Laurel Hay. Except for Noreen Lee (who lives in Donnybrook), all of these ladies live in the Yabberup area and the Craft group uses the Yabberup Hall.

Laurel Hay also made a quilt to be taken up to Toodyay, a beautiful red, white and black quilt, and attached is a photo of the couple who received this quilt, Janine and Jeff Plummer; (above) the photo was taken at the Cola Café.

The couple who received the project quilt were Beryl and Tim Officer, and this photo was taken outside the Anglican Hall. The third person in this photo (on the far left) is Maxine Robertson who, with her husband Peter, took these quilts to Toodyay on the weekend of 27-28th March.



Police Officer Charged

POLICE have charged a serving police officer after an incident in the Wheatbelt town of Toodyay on the evening of Wednesday 3rd March 2010.

It will be alleged that the officer was off duty when she was contacted as to her availability to return to work to attend a domestic incident. She attended the Toodyay Police Station where she drove a marked police car to collect another officer in order to attend the job.

The second officer, who was also off duty and was waiting to be collected, had concerns that she had consumed alcohol and that she should return to the station. Back at the police station, she was requested by the Officer in Charge to undergo a preliminary breath test, which she refused.

The officer has been charged with Refusing a Preliminary Test and Refusing a Breath Test and was due to appear in the Northam Magistrates Court. The Senior Constable has been stood down from all operational duties.

The case has been remanded in court until May, 2010.

Aerial Images of Toodyay Fire Scar

HIGH resolution aerial images of the devastating Toodyay bushfires are now available on the Landgate website.

The images of the affected areas and the Toodyay townsite were taken as part of the 2009/2010 State Land Information Capture Programme. Landgate's Manager Sales and Marketing Robin Piesse, said it had been four years since the Programme last captured Toodyay.

"This latest mosaic was taken on the 12th January, a few days after the Toodyay bushfires and used the latest in digital camera technology," she said. "The advantage of Landgate's dataset is that it is very high resolution, with each pixel being 10 centimetres. This means you can pick up very detailed information, such as seeing a ladder in the back of a truck.

"It also has the advantage over news photographs because it is spatially accurate, meaning that you can map from the data.

"Not only can the data be used by government agencies for things such as rehabilitation, homeowners can use it as a base for site works and submissions of works to their local government."

The imagery can be found at the following web address: www.landgate.wa.gov.au/bmvf/app/property-finder/, click on Buy Aerial Photography and select Toodyay Townsite.



Gifts Still Arriving for Survivors

Kathy Robinson

THE fires may have been put out long ago, but people in Western Australia haven't forgotten the people who lost so much.

On April 1, Eira Loftus from the Bunbury Patchwork and Quilting Group visited Toodyay to donate gifts and quilts made by their members. These wonderful people have been quietly collecting items that craft people would have lost in the fires. In some instances, start to replace a livelihood that

was lost. For others, it will be a way of keeping the hands and mind busy.

Two beautiful quilts were made by sisters Jean Coxall (80) and Dot Bodrogai (78). They have obviously been made with love and great care.

The generosity of strangers is incredible, and I thank the Bunbury Patchwork and Quilting Group on behalf of the Toodyay survivors.

Photo: gifts, Kathy Robinson (l) and Eira Loftus with the beautiful quilts.



GREAT GARDENS / HEAVENLY HECTARES MEGA WORKSHOP

Fire Recovery Special

presented by Chris Ferraira and Gary Heady

Come and have some fun and learn how to rebuild your property in an eco friendly way while integrating techniques to reduce risk.

Presentation by Zara Kivell Land for Wildlife officer for Toodyay Area.

Morning Topics:

- ❖ Planning your properties recovery as a fire safe haven;
- ❖ Bringing back your garden and create a beautiful drought proof fire safe garden;
- ❖ Designing for energy efficiency and tips on renewable energy.

Afternoon topics

- ❖ Set up and manage productive orchards and vegies;
- ❖ Managing your bushland to reduce the risk of fire and protect and enhance its value;
- ❖ Dealing safely and effectively with weeds;
- ❖ Setting up and managing sustainable pastures.

RSVP to Bethan Lloyd on 9574 5882

9am-3.30pm
Sunday 11th April
(Lunch at 12pm to 12:30pm)

Sports Pavilion Toodyay Oval

Cost FREE

Spot prizes
and give aways
throughout the day

Come morning,
afternoon
or both!



This event is supported by Toodyay Naturalists Club, Toodyay LCDC and Toodyay Friends of the River



fire chat

central

Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

CENTRAL saw three new members at the General Meeting held 23rd 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 27th 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 of two segments:

Friday April 16th from 6pm till 8pm;

To be completed the following morning, Saturday April 17th.

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

coondle

Coondle-Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Peter Ruthven

WE have officially started the Restricted Burning period, so does this mean that you can now burn that heap of rubbish? NO!!

Fires may only be lit with a permit and permits will only be issued to genuine broad acre farmers for crop preparation. Another of the eight conditions is that there is to be a minimum of three (500lt) fire appliances on each burn.

This is very restrictive, but necessary considering that we have had only one short wet spell; the weather has dried up again and the grass is still very dry, so please be very careful. It's still not the time to be angle grinding or welding in the paddock. Slashing with a metal blade is still risky.

Officially, the Restricted Burning Period ends on 30th April but, if the weather doesn't break, if we don't get reasonable rain, this could be extended, so check then before you start burning or you could cop a fine. Check the notice boards or ring the Shire.

Last month about 18 new members were trained, mainly from Central Brigade. Although not all will be fire fighters, this is a great increase in trained members who can help out if necessary, at least in the mop-phase of a fire. Our training officer, Brian Salmond, is now aiming to gain accreditation for the next training course so that our new fire fighters are trained up to the next level.

Next month, the Coondle Brigade is participating in the Lions' Shopping Trolley Race to Northam. We have acquired our trolley and lots of spare wheels so now it is time for the design and building committee to go to work. As this is a fundraising event, we are looking for sponsors to raise as much money as possible, so if a member approaches you, please give generously. I'm sure there will be a lot more about the event in next month's Herald.

Our next meeting, on Saturday 10th April, is our Annual General Meeting with election of office bearers for the 2010-11 fire season. This season, for the first time, the Captain and

two Lieutenants will not be up for election. This was a decision of the Brigade to ensure some continuity in the fire fighting hierarchy that the Captain and Lieutenants be elected for two years. The other two Lieutenants and all other positions will be up for election or re-election as the case may be.

Immediately following the AGM will be our normal monthly meeting, followed in turn by our "end of season" get together. I know that the season won't actually be finished, but after the AGM seems an appropriate time to have the function with the change of office bearers.

Even with an AGM, the meetings shouldn't take more than an hour and a half and then the social side begins. For this function, it is necessary to RSVP so please contact Kerry Gregory on 9574 4470 if you wish to attend. 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

Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Grant Scobie

THE prohibited burning season has ended and now we have moved into the restricted burning period.

Our main concern is that people are not fully aware of what this means. In short, a permit is required from a Fire Control Officer (FCO) to light a fire outside.

As the only people who will be issued permits will be farmers for stubble burns, it's no use asking your local FCO for one. It won't be much longer now and all residents will be allowed to burn any time except on Sundays (obviously with due care and attention!) Patience is all we ask.

There were a couple of call-outs during the month with the small bit of rain we received setting off a pole-top fire and a lightning strike starting a paddock fire. Luckily, the rain had slowed everything down so neither amounted to anything drastic.

The dryness since then, although it has been cooler, is still a matter of concern for us so rosters and vehicle checks and maintenance continue for the foreseeable future. Rain is predicted around Easter but we can't rely on it to be making it all the way to Toodyay.

March training ended up being cancelled so we had, for the first time, 100% of fire fighters who we hoped would attend, come along - zero! April's training will, along with our Ordinary and Annual General Meetings have already occurred by the time this issue goes to press so there will be more on that next month. The April Meeting is the last monthly meeting of the current season.

The next meeting will be on 3rd July, beginning at 5pm and followed, as usual, by our monthly, BYO barbecue. Monthly barbecues will still take place on 8th May, a week late due to the Moondyne Festival and 5th June.

The Brigade is going to make its annual appearance at Moondyne again with tea, coffee, cool drink and scones, a raffle and information for people about the Brigade and fire fighting, preparation of properties, etc. all available as give-aways. There are still places available on the roster for this day, 2nd May.

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.

'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!)

Thanking One's Lucky Stars

Karen Jacomelli

IN appreciation of those who have helped and to allow the survivors of the Toodyay fire to come together to catch their breath on the road to recovery, Robert and Sue Millar are having a Guy Fawkes Night.

The Millars were evacuated the night of the fire. After it had passed through their property (burning 180 acres of farmland and bush) they returned to find they had no power so went out again to charge their phones and let a neighbour know their place also survived. Whilst out, they received a call from Charlie Wroth checking on their wellbeing.

Mr. Millar believes that 'Wroth saved the Grapes' because a burnt tree had fallen close to the carport and was likely to have set fire to the house had Charlie Wroth, the fire crew and Steven Ferguson not gone back to see that all was under control. As Robert stated, "To see the house and shed still standing was a sight beyond belief when all around is burnt to cinders."

The next day Robert Millar went out with the Red Cross to check that residents were okay and to let them know what support was available. The following day he was off to Midland to pick up food for the survivors.

Now three months on, things are moving forward. A finance group was formed for the distribution of donated monies, a building group has been formed for those rebuilding, concessions have been made for Shire applications, a counsellor has been appointed through the GP Network, a Project Officer through DCP, and the Salvation Army is still providing support.

So Robert and Sue wanted to acknowledge and show their thanks to the many volunteers who have spent months distributing donated goods and services, cooking food and all those who provided support to the survivors. Also to give all those in the fire zone the opportunity to sit back and relax for an evening.

The fireworks are kindly being provided by Cardile and the pyrotechnician (who lost his home and shed) is donating his time to conduct the Fireworks Show. The Bendigo Bank trailer has been offered to assist in the provision of a sausage sizzle. People will need to bring a chair or picnic rug but food and drinks are provided on May 15th at AllCrest, 6001 Toodyay Road.

Buy - A - Bucket

FOLLOWING the devastating Toodyay fire, many people from diverse communities around WA and Australia (and even, sometimes, the rest of the world) have come together to make donations of some sort to those affected by the disaster. Susan Parker from Mandurah is one such person.

Susan has set up 'Buy-A-Bucket' which is aimed at supplying those things that used to be what young brides/future homeowners had in their 'bottom drawer' or 'treasure chest'.

"Imagine how it would be to wake up in the morning and look around and see you have nothing; a lifetime of memories all gone in a matter of hours," she says. "This is why I have started 'Buy - A - Bucket'."

"Whilst there are endless amounts of money and goodwill being given to those who have lost their homes which really

does show how much people care, 'Buy - A - Bucket' is aimed at giving those people of Toodyay who lost their homes a 'bottom drawer'."

Susan says that, when those affected eventually rebuild, they would not only need bricks and mortar and furnishings and all those things that go into building a new house, but ordinary household items that we all take for granted.

As a ball point figure of 38 being the number of homes lost, the same number of buckets needs to be filled with a variety of household items to be given to each home owner when they move into their new home.

Susan has set up a plan to provide the correct amount of goods for each category of bucket and a guide to set out those items so that "we don't end up with a hundred bars of soap and no toothpaste."

These days buckets come in all shapes and sizes and, once donors have the bucket, away they can go. Some may even be lucky enough to get some buckets donated.

Every week there are 'two for the price of one' specials somewhere and watching those weekly specials is how the system works.

Most clubs meet once a month. If 38 people accept the challenge to provide four different items for that month, the bucket would be filled in no time flat (if a club doesn't have 38 members then the number could be halved and then start again.)

"As I said, it is best not to let people choose what they would give so each club or group would be asked to take on one of the categories. It would also mean that there has to be someone in the group prepared to keep an eye on the buckets to ensure they are being filled correctly." Susan said. "Each person filling the bucket would be responsible for keeping it until required. This may be months down the track, but it is all part of the overall plan which is to let the people of Toodyay know we haven't forgotten them."

"And they will be receiving a caring gift at the time they move into their new home rather like presenting people with a housewarming gift."

There are three categories: kitchen, bathroom and laundry.

Items required for the kitchen include dishwashing liquid, sponges, dish cloths, dish drainer, steelo pads, crème cleanser, tea towels, can opener, pot holders, paper towels, serviettes, cling wrap, baking foil, baking paper, freezer bags, measuring spoons, baking dishes, cheese grater, measuring jug, mixing bowls, fry pan, saucepan and utensils.

In the bathroom, there are items such as soap, hand wash, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, tooth brushes, hand towels, shaving cream, etc and things like washing powder, laundry soap, disinfectant, mop, broom, toilet brush, dustpan and brush, toilet rolls and even pegs.

Susan and her friends come up to Toodyay once a month to keep in touch with the survivors so that they will be able to give out the buckets at the appropriate time. They are determined that they will not let the people of Toodyay be forgotten and this is the other reason for the 'gift'.

There are many people now filling the buckets and if they are all filled in plenty of time then Susan would like to start a pantry bucket.

If you wish to contact Susan she would love to hear from you. Susan has already spoken to and has contact with some Toodyay locals.

If you wish to contact Susan about 'Buy-A-Bucket' she can be reached on 9535 3812, 0438 091 728 or email her at wjs3mrs2@bigpond.com.

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'Hope From Ashes' Appeal Raises Nearly \$50,000

FOLLOWING the devastating bushfire of 29th December, 2009, we gathered together as a community to try and help the many victims of the terrible event. So many people lost everything, and we just wanted to give some light at the end of the tunnel.

We wanted to send a message of hope and a celebration of life to our community.

Although 38 homes were lost, and 3000 hectares of land was burnt, not one life was lost. This is something we wanted to acknowledge and celebrate.

So, on Saturday 30th January 2010, we hosted the 'Hope from Ashes' Benefit Concert, aiming to not only bring finances in, but also a message of Hope to the people affected.

This ended up to be a huge event, with many well-known personalities appearing.

The Hope from Ashes auction ran online prior to the benefit concert continued until just recently. The auction raised awareness and the opportunity for people who live far away from Toodyay as well as close by, to bid on donated items. This also encouraged businesses and individuals that have contributed and Toodyay people who are rebuilding after the fire.

We tried to gather together a range of diverse and high quality items and services that in some way reflect the diversity and creativity of the Toodyay community.

As well as people from Perth, many local Toodyay businesses and individuals contributed to the auction, even some who were themselves deeply affected by the fires through loss of home or workplace. Artworks, craft items, trips away fantastic

meals and even life coaching sessions, massages, motoring items, clothing and collectors plates were just a few of the amazing items we offered.

On Tuesday, 30th March, we were able to present a cheque to the value of \$48,958.40 to the Bendigo Bank Toodyay Bushfire Appeal.

We would like to thank all our sponsors from the performers at the 'Hope From Ashes' concert to the donors to the Auction. For a full list of sponsors, go to our website at www.hopefromashes.com.au.

And, finally, we wish to thank all of the generous people who made both the concert and auction such successful events. Thank you for donating.

Caption: The Hope From Ashes Team with Bendigo Bank manager Grant Macleod.



Project Officer on Deck

Karen Jacomelli

RYAN Hamblion has been appointed for a six-month period to work with the Toodyay Community to help affected persons access a range of services and support. The purpose of the position is to establish relationships with families and individuals needing case management and assist in relieving their stress through providing a single point of coordination and access to information, advocacy, support, material goods and services.

In conjunction with the Local Recovery Committee, everyone directly affected by the emergency is offered a case management service. Appropriate agencies are accessed as needed to provide services, reducing the amount of paperwork and the number of forms needed to be completed. The Project Officer works on behalf of the individual or family to solve problems and advocate for services for them.

Contact has already commenced with some and, if survivors need to contact Ryan, he is in Toodyay Monday to Thursday visiting people and can arrange to meet if required. Phone Ryan on 0447 982 814 or via email: ryan.hamblion@dcp.wa.gov.au.

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and a panoramic view of Toodyay.

school news



TDHS students (above) with a joey brought in by the Wilderness Group - (below) picking up rubbish

Clean Up Australia

“WELCOME to Clean Up Australia Day. We really appreciate you coming. We have chocolate crackles and water melon for you to eat later...”

“This is how much rubbish we have found in one day!” (Spoken by Zari and Tanya.)

Kids from Toodyay District High School got together on Sunday 7th March for *Clean Up Australia Day*.

They picked up many bags of rubbish in Duidgee Park, down the side road and under the bridge.

They were treated (as mentioned by Zari and Tanya above) to chocolate crackles and water melon. All in all, it was a fun morning.

Hopefully, next year, there will be a lot more helpers to Keep Toodyay Clean.



Toodyay District High School P&C

EVER wondered what happens to the money that the P&C gets when you support our fundraising? Check out the bright new playground that the middle primary students now have to play on.

In 2009 the P&C organised to have the already purchased playground resprayed in bright colours and erected safely, including the spreading of the white sand. We are now concentrating our efforts on accumulating enough funds to erect a permanent shade cover over the playground. This will not only provide an alternate play area when it's raining, but will also stop the metal from getting hot in the sun.

The P&C has a new look, making it easy for you to contribute your ideas/concerns without having to attend regular meetings. We have set up two sub-committees and two working groups, focusing specifically on: canteen, uniforms, grounds and fundraising. If you have any ideas, interest or concerns regarding any of these areas, your input would be greatly appreciated.

P&C stands for parents and citizens, so you don't have to have children attending the school to be an active member of the P&C, nor do you have to attend the

meetings (although you would always be welcome). If you would like to volunteer some time towards any of the working groups or sub-committees, please contact our President, Owen Catto on 9574 4682.

Fancy a free lunch? Just be helping out in the school canteen from 9am – 1.30pm; you'll get a free lunch. Volunteers are especially needed for every second Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please contact our friendly Canteen Manager, Charissa, on 9574 4047, for more details.

Would you know what to do if someone close to you collapsed? What would you do if your child or grandchild had an accident while playing?

A couple of days learning first aid is worth the peace of mind! If you are interested in doing your Senior First Aid certificate during school hours, or a first aid certificate focusing on children, please contact Kerry Skinner on 9574 5126.

Running out of ideas for lunchboxes? The Western Australian School Canteen Association is offering free half hour 'Snackshop' sessions during school hours. Please contact Nyaree on 9574 4772 if you would like to attend. You will be able to taste the healthy and appealing ideas that are presented.

TWO DOWN, ONLY EIGHT MORE LEFT, SO DON'T MISS OUT!

The next P&C meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st April at 7pm in the School Staff Room.

Toodyay Scouts

APRIL already! We hope all our Scouts, Cubs and Rovers are enjoying their school holidays.

Big news for the Scout section! In February, our Scout Troop met for their annual planning day at Adventure World and held Troop Council. We asked the Scouts to come up with something ambitious as a Troop, and they didn't disappoint us.

The Scouts came back with a proposal to go to the snow. Our Leaders thought that this was an ambitious but pretty achievable project, and Toodyay is lucky to have our very own ex-Mexican Scout Leader with contacts in Victoria. We soon had a fantastic price of \$750 per Scout to attend a three day skiing trip at Lake Mountain, Victoria. Thanks to Rob 'Rocky' for all his hard work sourcing competitive prices for the trip.

We'd also contacted the York Scouts, who immediately phoned back to say they had a large number of kids who had immediately confirmed! As of this week, we have 30 people who are attending the Snow Trip in August, 2010. We're pleased to announce that every one of our Scouts is going to the snow! Well done to all our Scouts for their planning – last week's was a very busy one when we planned accommodation, food, rules and pranks (please remember to torment the York Scouts with the Snow Snake, Scouts!)

We will be staying at a location in Alexandria and travelling up Lake Mountain for cross country skiing and snow games each day. Scouts are menu planning and a set menu will be put together for both York and Toodyay (a friendly person at the Victorian end is purchasing and bringing food in). Gear has been discussed but please remember you can borrow snow gear or hire it on the mountain. If there are any Toodyay young people who have snow gear which they want to sell or loan to our Scouts (most are size 12 – 14) please contact Dropbear on 9574 2106. We will also be meeting with Scouts from a bushfire affected area in Victoria.

The Troop is also planning a weekend ice skating camp six weeks prior to the Snow Trip so that we can practice falling over! This will

be held in a Scout Hall in Perth near the new Perth Ice Arena. Scouts will be attending the ice disco (7.30pm – 10pm).

Scouts have a range of projects going on which include growing trees for the fire devastated areas and a survival camp in May.

They have recently returned from a camp at Mandejal, where they did activities like crate stacking, climbing, orienteering and rafting on Lake Jones. Well done to the Patrols, who did exceptionally well in building their rafts – they were a little bit surprised when they spotted their dinner (in a haybox, which they'd prepared earlier) floating past them on another raft!

Rovers have been busy with lots of secret Rover business. Thank you to our Rover Advisor, Pim. Two Rovers attended Sand Moot in Busselton recently, which is a Rover event at Vasse Scout camp with wine cruise, sun, sand, friends, chocolate, fudge cheese and lots of beach activities.

Cubs have been doing lots of badgework, working on environmental projects and learning about indigenous art. They also recently attended a camp at Lake Leschenaultia, where the Cubs canoed, camped and swam. Well done to all our Cubs.

The biggest event on the Cubbing calendar, Enduro, is coming up in September. On September 24-27, Cubs will camp at Mandejal for a weekend of fun and adventure. You sleep in a tent and get to do lots of fun activities with your mates in a Den made up of 36 Cub Scouts and 6 Leaders. Cubs will be canoeing, doing aerial runway and climbing wall, with lots of other activities which Scouts enjoy.

We have a wonderful bunch of Scouts, Cubs, Rover and parents and we'll be asking parents to support the parent committee next term. At the AGM, we will be electing a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Fundraising coordinator, Quartermaster and general committee members. Thank you very much to all our parents for their support, especially Bron, Melissa and Gina.

Have a great holiday. For enquiries about joining Scouts, call Samantha (Dropbear) on 0895742363, Cubs, call Danielle (Raksha) on 9574 4005 and Rovers call Julia on 9574 4427.

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World's Greatest Shave

JOSEPH Stevenson, 13, lost the lot on Friday 12th March at Lime Fusion Hair Studio.

Joseph decided to shave for a cure and raise money for Leukaemia research because, he thought, if he needed a haircut, then why not raise money for a good cause.

Thanks to Sarah Williamson from Lime Fusion and everybody who donated money; we hope that you like the photo.

Joseph raised just over \$400.

Joseph Stevenson gets the chop!



Autumn Club

Autumn Leaf

AUTUMN is just around the corner and the weather is cooling down and it is time to visit other senior clubs.

We are starting with a visit from Goomalling Senior Club on Wednesday 7th April and then, on Wednesday 14th April, we have a visit from the York Club. These visits consist of morning tea, games of carpet bowls, lunch, a raffle and lots of chatting and a good time to meet up with other seniors from nearby towns.

New members are always welcome; just come along on a Wednesday afternoon or contact our secretary.

Thursday 22nd April we have been invited to the Wanneroo club and then, on 11th May, we will be taking a bus ride to Fremantle for a day trip.

We have no birthdays this month but I hope you all had a very happy Easter.

One of our members is recovering from an accident; we wish you well Christina.



Little Rascals - Community Health Nurse Tricia visiting the children and talking about first aid on Thursday 25th February. Pictured L-R: Community Health Nurse, Tricia, Jasmin, Sarah, Jarreau and Dakota M with Te Omeka in the background.



A photomontage of the Plummer's home - soon to be rebuilt

Paving the Road to Recovery

Karen Jacomelli

FOR some on the road to recovery the experience has confirmed that sometimes it is harder to receive than to give. That was certainly the case for Janine and Jeff Plummer.

They were taken aback by the generosity of people in this community who have given up the last three months of their lives to assist the survivors. They found it humbling; it has given them confidence in humanity.

Three months after the fire, Janine and Jeff's attitude is positive.

"We have signed contracts to rebuild our home, and the building company has gone out of their way to get the best possible prices," said Janine, whose home was underinsured.

It has not been an easy road for the couple, who had to return to work to pay a mortgage on a house that no longer existed. It was a seven week wait before the insurance came through and they could return to the bank to refinance.

The experience has been an emotional one for the couple.

"There are moments when I get a lump in my throat for no apparent reason," said Janine.

Their property was not only their home but home to many birds: magpies, twenty eights, bunnies and bobtails. Amazingly, the bird feeder and bird bath are still standing. Janine and Jeff continue to go and put food and water out for the wildlife, just in case. They are hoping that the wildlife will eventually return as the property gets reestablished.

Rebuilding of the home by Westeel has been confirmed to start by the end of April.



Signed Pool Table to Go Under the Hammer

Grant Scobie
Assistant Editor

"WHAT would I feel like if I had lost everything to fire: all my memories, photos, documents and treasured possessions?"

Annette from All WA Pool Tables knows all about fire. In April 2009, the entire family business went up in flames. "But that was only a business, not our home," she said.

Because of this, All WA Pool Tables wanted to make some meaningful donation to the Toodyay Bush Fire Appeal so they built a table to be auctioned off. But not only did they build a table, Annette contacted the WACA and spoke with a lady named Heather who, in turn, contacted Mike Hussey from the Australian Cricket Team and organised for players to sign the cloth.

"We had to stretch the cloth onto a piece of MDF and take it to the dressing room at the WACA for them to sign," Annette said. "Mike Hussey and the team were wonderful."

The 7' Pool Table has Tasmanian oak rails, sheoak skirting and a green cloth. The wood is all stained Tasmanian oak. Valued at \$3000, it includes all accessories and a ten-year structural warranty and is available to be

viewed at their showroom at 512 Guildford Road, Bayswater. All WA Pool Tables is 100% Australian owned.

The table is to be auctioned on radio 6PR over the next couple of weeks. They hope to raise a substantial amount to give to the people of Toodyay.

"We also have a donations jar at the showroom and we ask all our customers to donate something," said Annette. "It may not be much more but every little bit helps."



FRANK VENN MEMORIAL AWARD

For local writers - 2010

Entry is open only to residents of the Shire of Toodyay.

There are five categories:

1. Lower Primary - Years 1, 2 & 3
2. Middle Primary - Years 4 & 5
3. Upper Primary - Years 6 & 7
4. Lower Secondary - Years 8, 9 & 10
5. Adults.

All writing to be in short story format and the original work of the entrant.

A COMPLETED COVER SHEET MUST ACCOMPANY EACH ENTRY.

* Guidelines for writers and cover sheets are available from the Toodyay Herald, Toodyay District High School and the Toodyay Library

* There is a limit of one entry per person.

* The winners will be announced and published in the December issue of the Toodyay Herald

The closing date for entries is Friday 15th October 2010

Sale Sale Sale Sale Sale Sale Sale Sale



The Toodyay OP SHOP Survivor Centre

is closing
down!

A final clearance sale of all remaining goods donated to the December Bushfire Appeal will be held at the Toodyay Showgrounds

Saturday April 17th 2010, 8am - 4pm

All items priced at 50 cents unless marked otherwise.

Be early to get a bargain!

- The Ladies of the Op Shop

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE BUSHFIRE FUND

My View

Anne Skinner

I AM not generally a 'half empty' kind of person; however since 29th December, 2009, it has been an on-going battle to see the best in things.

Someone told me to count my blessings. I do this regularly. One might think to be blessed there has to be a mind blowing experience of the loud obvious kind, however, I am learning to hear the whispers and to be grateful.

We have all felt the intense heat of late, which has left us with lack-lustre energy especially if you have to start clearing and replanning your garden so badly damaged by the fire. Now today, with the weather cooling I can begin to enjoy the small changes around our home.

Native plants have started to reappear, some, within a few weeks of the fire. The trees that show promise have what appear to be 'fluffy' growth around the major limbs and strong shoots at their root base. (Although some are being nibbled as fast as they come through by some as yet unknown critter) Our old banksias seem to be doing much better, which will encourage our black parrots back - I hope.

We have mostly sandy soil and are fortunate to have the palms coming through, which make a huge difference as ground cover over the burnt soil. A few of our grevilleas are also showing promise, which will please our Honey Eaters when they return. Our road was named after a prominent bush in our locality; sadly the adenanthus (woolly bush) have all gone, with no sign of regrowth yet.

With my whispering signs in mind - yesterday a half a dozen finches showed up for a bath in our small water dishes, such a joy to see them again. Even one small yellow and black honey eater joined them. Hope they spread the word.

By the time you read this, I'm hoping the wreckage of our sheds will all be gone, and maybe a new shed or two could be on the scene. We can live in hope. Time seems to be moving so slowly and with so much work to be done we grow impatient to see everything back to the way it was. I am learning that nothing will be quite the same, and our 'New Normal' is being developed as I type this and wake up to every new day.

We have made new friends and our neighbourhood has grown closer, as a result of 29th December, 2009. We on 'the hill' have come through a black time, but whispers of hope are for me, already here. I am reminded of a scripture verse in the old testament when Elijah thought all was lost, and he waited to hear from God, he said "a great wind rent the mountains... but the lord was not in the wind,... then an earthquake and then a fire, but the lord was not in the earthquake or the fire, but after the fire a still small voice". The lord was in the still small voice (the whisper). It was then God who was able to show Elijah what he had to do. Look and listen for his small whispers all around you, and he will show you what he wants you to do, and then you will be blessed.

I am not ashamed to admit my faith has been tested, but I know who holds my future, and I know who holds my hand. With God

Recipe Corner

Desrae Clarke

Pumpkin, Garlic And Risoni Soup

THE weather is fast changing to 'soup time' although I like soup throughout the twelve months. Soups are inexpensive, nutritious meals and can be made to freeze. I like to make a variety and put the excess into containers in the freezer. Over the next few months I will put several soup recipes in the Herald and would suggest that you make different ones to freeze; you will see what a bonus it is to have them ready when you are starving and need something hot and substantial. The frozen soup can be taken from the freezer and left in the 'frig overnight then reheated in the microwave or on the stove.

Ingredients:

100gm Pancetta (or finely sliced bacon), chopped
 1 kg pumpkin peeled, seeded and coarsely chopped
 2 brown onions, coarsely chopped
 1 tspn chopped garlic
 2 tspn olive oil
 1.8 litres chicken stock made with 3 cubes
 ½ cup risoni
 1 cm thick slices bread, toasted and buttered
 Extra garlic to rub on the bread
 Romano cheese

Method:

Heat the olive oil in a deep pot and cook the Pancetta (or the thinly sliced bacon) till lightly crisp; remove from the heat and drain.

Add the chopped onion, garlic and pumpkin to the pot and cook until the vegetables are softened. Add the chicken stock and simmer until the vegetables are cooked through; using a blender, process the cooked vegetables. Add the Risoni and simmer till the pasta is al dente (firm but cooked), stir in the chopped Pancetta (or finely sliced bacon).

Sprinkle the soup with Romano cheese and serve with the tasted and buttered bread and extra garlic.

NB - Pancetta is available at specialty smallgoods outlets and is very expensive per kilo. However, 100gms will not cost a lot and the extra flavour is worth using this meat.

If the soup is to be stored or frozen I prefer to cook the Risoni separately and add it to the soup just before serving. A quarter of a cup of dried pasta is sufficient for two servings.

things don't just happen, everything by him is planned. I know God didn't start the fire, but I do know he allows things to happen to prove our faith in him. I don't know where I would be today if I had not had him in my life. I have learnt valuable lessons that will hold me in good stead for the rest of my life. I am so grateful for the town of Toodyay and its residents, and look forward to hearing his small voice in the many varied ways whether in his word or in his way from day to day.

Jazz Club Raises Funds for Toodyay

Ron Knight
 President - Jazz Club of WA

WHEN the fires ravaged the Toodyay area, the Jazz Club of WA offered to provide a band for the concert in Toodyay, the organiser when contacted said they had enough bands. So what to do. The Jazz Club of WA decided to put on a Toodyay Fire Appeal night at the Yokine Bowling Club. Why? Well for six years we had a good working relationship with the Toodyay Township, organising a Jazz Festival every year. Unfortunately this came to an abrupt halt when volunteers to run the festival declined to volunteer and the council revoked our community status. But our fond memories of Toodyay still exist today and the friends we made over the years are not forgotten.

Anyway, the club organised this appeal night and we raised \$3000 which was presented to the Bendigo Bank in Toodyay with the stipulation that it be used for the victims of the fires.

To the people of Toodyay, although we no longer hold a festival in your beautiful town we hold you in great affection.



The Roos Say Thank You

MR Peter Burgess from Kalyx Agricultural of Guilford, read the article in last month's Toodyay Herald about the roos that needed feeding due to the devastating fire. He arranged with Mr Kim Bernard to take to Thompson & Redwood some surplus grain and exchange for Kangaroo Mix. Mr Steve Lamond of Thompson & Redwood agreed and yesterday Mr Benard transported 20 bags of Kangaroo Mix to Toodyay Hardware and Farm (Makit Hardware) where Mr Greg Downie will store the bags till they are all dispersed.

On behalf of the Roos and the Western Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Inc I would like to say how much we



appreciate this very kind donation of feed.

A very big thank you to Messrs Bernard, Burgess and Lamond of Kalyx Agricultural and Thompson & Redwood for this very generous offer.

So, if you still have roos to feed there is a new supply of Kangaroo Mix at Makit Hardware and thank you for caring about our native wildlife.

Photo: Kangaroo mix (above) and a Joey from the Wildlife Council

FAMILY DAYCARE

241 Family Daycare is now taking enrollments.

We offer long term daycare, occasional care and vacation care.

We cater for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers.

We provide nutritious meals, safe and modern facilities and quality programs for all ages.

All enquiries please phone Tracey Hunter 9574 5642



News from Bolgart and Surrounding Areas

Doris M Martin

A Pool party was held at the home of Dale and Julian McGill north of Bolgart on 12th March when Jack McGill celebrated his 6th birthday with about 20 of his school mates. His actual birth date is 13th March.

The drainage work done recently at the intersection of Smith Street, MacPherson Street and Bolgart East Street (commonly referred to as Goomalling Road), seems to be working okay and weren't we lucky to have scored some rain just after the job was done? It must be the first time that there hasn't been a near swimming pool off our front verge. Let's hope that this also helps the residents who live on the other side of MacPherson Street not to have so much water running down their driveways. Fortunately we didn't get the shocking storms that hit the

metropolitan area and badly damaged homes and cars. I have a couple of friends in the Perth area who have decorated cars now with dents from the hail storm.

At least the rain we have had has brought the Easter Lily bulbs to life and so they are beginning to flower just in time for Easter for a change. Does anybody else think that Easter seems to be getting closer to Christmas, or is this an age thing? There hardly seemed to be much of a break at all between these two religious occasions.

Wonderful to note that the cracks have been repaired on the external walls of St Philip's Church at Culham. It is good to see that such an historical old site is being preserved.

On a recent trip to Perth to attend the 70th birthday party of a friend, I was intrigued to note a beautifully framed photograph of an elderly couple hanging on a wall of her home. On asking who the photograph was of, my friend responded that she didn't know but had bought it from a second-hand store because she had at one stage thought that she might use the frame for something else. We took the photo down to see if there might be

some writing on the back that might reveal who the couple were. From what I could decipher it was of a George Gentle Endersby and the rest of the line was covered by a stain and then the words 'his Mother, 1913'. These things always arouse my curiosity and so, on arriving home, I decided to check the name out on my computer in various burial sites. It appeared that a person of this name was born at Quelquelling and much later was buried in the cemetery there. At the time the photograph was taken he would have been about 40 years of age. Why the photo ended up in a second-hand store is anybody's guess, but probably nobody thought to ask family members if they wanted it. Can any readers of this paper shed any light on this person? The photo is beautifully preserved.

School holidays are here again and it seems no time since the term began. I hope that everyone took great care over the Easter period for little folk who might have been on the road playing.

It was good that we almost got right through summer without too many electricity blackouts. We had a couple early in March which wasn't quite as bad as in previous

years, despite the fact that we have had such a hot dry spell for so long.

I guess that the beginning of election campaigning is about to begin and trust that the politicians will not strain anything as they try to outrun each other for a position. What I do know is that it is a time when I for one, get absolutely sick of the constant back-biting that ensues at that time and just wishes it would all go away. With this happy thought in mind I wish all the children on their holidays an enjoyable school break.



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Lions Club of Toodyay Annual Jumbo Auction

1. Auction date is Saturday 10th April 2010
2. Maximum 500 Lots
3. Lots will only be accepted on Friday 9th April 2010 from 8.30am
4. Auction Registration Forms must be completed prior to off loading lots. Forms are available from our website <http://www.toodyaylions.org.au> by emailing request to toodyaylions@bigpond.com or from LJ Hooker Reception.
5. Entry is via gates at Hockey Oval not main gate
6. Sellers with over 20 lots by prior arrangement only. Delivery after 10.30am
7. NO Lots will be accepted for sale on the day of the Auction
8. Lots not sold must be removed by 5.00pm on the Auction Day
9. Auctioning of goods will commence at 9.00 am sharp on Saturday morning
10. Sellers donation is \$2.00 per lot plus 10% commission on sale amount
11. Buyers donation is \$2.00 per number
12. Food and Drinks will be available for purchase at the Auction
13. No Dogs are permitted at the oval during the event
14. Contact is Ina Prior on 9574 5928 or Mobile 0499 745 928

Saturday 10th April

Toodyay Lions Club Inc.

Auction Registration Form 10th April 2010

Registration Form **MUST** be completed by seller prior to off loading of lots.

Name:		Seller Number
Address:		Office use only
Phone No:		

Lot No.	Description of Lot	Reserve	Lot Fee
Office			Office
use			use
only			only
Office			Office
use			use
only			only





Amiya Hands of Hope

YES! Hand Drumming for Fun, Fitness and Health.

The Amiya Drumming Group has been operating for the past five years right here in Toodyay. We have been involved in everything from weekly workshops, occasional performances (local, metro and country areas), school groups, kids' drumming workshops and everything in between.

Amiya Hands of Hope (new name) was proud to be one of the major sponsors of the Hope from Ashes Concert held here on 30th January.

It has been a busy five years for us but it has also been lots of fun, very enlightening, life-enhancing and a steep learning curve.

We changed our name to Amiya Hands of Hope in 2009. This came about after much thought and discussion revolving around our aims and objectives as a group and as workshop facilitators. It became obvious that one of our main objectives was to help grow community by reaching out to people and including them in our workshops. We wanted to share the wonderful experience of playing hand drums and percussion in a group – with no experience required.

We have found that the workshops and classes foster feelings of well-being and relaxation. This is supported by research that shows there are many healing benefits associated with music and percussion in particular. In *The Healing Power of the Drum*, Robert Lawrence Friedman writes, "Some of the psychological applications in which hand drums are being used include assisting veterans to release the emotional pain of post-traumatic stress disorder, releasing the pent-up anger and negative emotions of 'at-risk' adolescents, and promoting health in corporate executives through releasing their day-to-day stress, in addition to many other applications." Many times we have been pleasantly surprised to find that a successful workshop has included people of a wide age variance and very often people with disabilities are easily included too. We have found that the same principles apply when working with a corporate group for team-building as when working with a group of school children. The feedback we receive always highlights the fact that people are having a lot of fun, whilst feeling relaxed and at the same time learning a lot about rhythm and music.

How does the drum help to relieve stress? "There are numerous ways this occurs. When people drum, they are generally having fun. It is difficult to be in a playful mode and be stressed at the same time. Also, as described previously, the drum has the capacity to release negative feelings, of which stress is clearly one. When one hits the drum, he or she is placed squarely in the here and now. Some of our stress is created from past or future thoughts of fear, worry, or regret, but it is very difficult to be stressed and be in the present moment", wrote Robert Friedman.

At the moment, we have one regular class in Toodyay. This class is held every Thursday evening at 6pm at the Factory Church on Stirling Terrace. We welcome new participants to this group; no experience is required and all equipment is supplied (we have drums for sale too).

We also run a very popular Kids' Saturday Morning Music Workshop on a fairly regular basis. To register your interest in this group please call Heather on 9574 5463 or Felicity on 0437 593 171 so we can keep you informed of upcoming workshops.

Fly on the Wall

Peter Robinson

WHAT a relief to see and hear the Councillors being civil to one another, (well almost). We all hope that this change is permanent. I will come back to this later. Question time took an hour and twenty minutes. With a new CEO I would like to think that the rancour and attempts to score points will subside and questions will only be about genuine queries for information.

The administration had a proposal to close some road reserves on the corner of Connor St and the junction of Toodyay St and West Toodyay Rd. However in their enthusiasm to acquire land for their Option 7 dream they didn't realise that one block would be left with no legal access and another with only a wee bit in one corner. Maybe the intent was to purchase those blocks at some stage. As well as that problem the Water Corp. has a water main going along that section of road reserve, and they require their pipes to be under public land (road reserves). The cost of shifting the pipes would have had to be borne by our Shire. Not surprisingly the administration recommended that the road closure NOT proceed. Council passed this motion 9:0.

The subdivision between Goomalling Rd and the river, known as Guest's block, now has Toodyay Council support. I don't think many Councillors are happy with the deal, but it is simply a matter that no better deal can be obtained. The Shire has done its best through the WAPC and the State Administrative Tribunal. There are to be 762 lots, with blocks ranging in size from 1000m2 down to 300m2. At least the very small ones are down near the river; out of sight from the main Rd. Shire President Cr Chris Firns spoke well in his objection to the design of the subdivision but there has to be a point where the inevitable has to be recognised and we move on to the next important issue. Cr Prater, on the other hand, believes smaller blocks mean that less farmland will be lost to residential development. Global warming may impact on farming but urban sprawl will take land right out of production. I read a comment elsewhere in the agenda that spoke about keeping the south side of the river as the old, historic part of Toodyay that attracts the tourists, and keep the modern developments over the river.

Budget review was the big issue for the night. Because Royalties for Regions funding has to be spent within the financial year, it was determined that the School Footbridge and the remainder of Duidgee Park would have to wait so that the Works Depot could be finished. To keep all road works intact yet finish the Library and Works Depot, a deficit budget was proposed and passed. In short the motion read

'Royalties for Regions funds for Duidgee Park, \$250,000 go to Works Depot
Royalties for Regions funds for Footbridge, \$350,000 go to Works Depot
Reduce Works Depot loan from \$1,000,000 to \$400,000

Remove Christmas Lights \$22,500
Add CEO recruitment, \$10,000
Procure loan of \$270,000 for Library
Leaving a deficit of \$340,000 (round figures)
It is noted that there are four major items which have messed up the budget.
Non sale of land and CEO settlement
Admin salaries for annual leave to a number of departing staff and Library cost over runs
Of all the budget variations that the Audit Committee no doubt discussed, this was the best outcome.

The annual Compliance Audit Return (Jan 1 09 to Dec 31 09) was presented and passed.

The Shire had approx \$180,000 in a trust account from donations and sale of scrap for Bushfire Brigades and fire survivors. Council decided to hand over its survivor monies to the Salvation Army for them to distribute in accordance with the agreed matrix. The other \$7,725 is to be shared equally between each of the 5 Volunteer Bushfire Brigades and Toodyay Fire and Rescue.

We are all now into a new era in Toodyay. The weight of dislike and distrust has been lifted. Those Councillors who have been hurt by nasty and personal attacks need to be strong and rise above the temptation to retaliate. Others need to back off and remember why they are there. If any Councillor can't put his or her energies into the needs of the community, work towards the future and put the past behind them, then they should resign and let someone else with the right motivation have a go. Council is no place for egos. If Councillors can lead by example then the community will follow. Let the healing begin!



Toodyay Ballet School

Lani McGeady

A (dip) CBA CICB cert iv

I WOULD like to start by welcoming all the new students and families to the Toodyay Ballet School. These include Ruby Flowers, Shami Harmalin, Kirsty Hatton, Aponi and Willow Hitches, Charlotte Hunter, Eloise Mehl, Niamh Millar, Charlee O'Neil, Emily Outen, Jasmaree Pike and Elizajane Thompson. It's lovely to have these beautiful students join our existing happy family of young dancers.

The students have all made a great start to the year with preparations for the exam session and the Penrhos comps well under way. All are eagerly awaiting their opportunity to get down to Perth and see all their friends and the other children who also love to dance. We have some very young competitors entered for these comps including Tallon Hogan who is in the 5 turning 6 age group (but is an experienced competitor taking part in three comps last year), Hyrhanie Beckingham who is in the 4 turning 5 age group and Mekenzie Hogan who is in the 2 turning 3 age group. We also have Lauren Smart who is 16 turning 17 as our most senior student and, of course, all the ones in between. The comps run

for eight days from Easter Monday with three sessions a day from 9am to 11pm. It's a beautiful venue with very comfortable surroundings for the parents and students and, with a record 36 schools participating from all around Perth, there should be some outstanding entertainment for everyone. If you get the chance, head down and see what talented students and teachers there are in Perth.

Kate Arber (TDHS) and Madelyne Sheahan (TDHS) are both looking forward to their time in Melbourne for their intensive training session as part of the Interstate Junior Programme that they were both accepted into last year. Kate will be going over Easter and may also travel to Sydney to take part in a week-long workshop with Tania Pearson. Both girls as well as Bonnie McGeady and Rhyce Toovey took part in the WA Scholars class held for Cecchetti students of the highest level in WA. They were lucky enough to have Kyla Moore from the WA Ballet Co as their guest teacher and held in awe her amazing extension and technique.

All four of these students are hoping to become professional dancers and are well on their way to achieving their goals.

Good luck to all the students heading down to comps, all ready to do their best and have some fun. Pictured here are the comps kids from last year with their trophies for the year.

Keep stretching.



Bahá'í Faith

One God, one Religion
and one Humanity



Humanity as a whole can be likened to a human being. It grows and develops and it also gets sick. Its sickness can only be identified by Divine Physicians who have been sent by God throughout history. The Baha'is believe that the Divine Physician for our age, the Saviour promised in all the Holy Books, is Baha'u'llah. He says:

"The All-Knowing Physician hath His finger on the pulse of mankind. He perceiveth the disease, and prescribeth, in His unerring wisdom, the remedy. Every age hath its own problem... We can well perceive how the whole human race is encompassed with great, with incalculable afflictions. We see it languishing on its bed of sickness, sore-tried and disillusioned. They that are intoxicated by self-conceit...can neither discover the cause of the disease, nor have they any knowledge of the remedy. They have conceived the straight to be crooked, and have imagined their friend an enemy. The remedy the world needeth in its present-day afflictions can never be the same as that which a subsequent age may require. Be anxiously concerned with the needs of the age ye live in, and center your deliberations on its exigencies and requirements...That which the Lord hath ordained as the sovereign remedy and mightiest instrument for the healing of all the world is the union of all its peoples in one universal Cause, one common Faith. This can in no wise be achieved except through the power of a skilled, an all-powerful and inspired Physician. This, verily, is the truth, and all else naught but error." And He gives a warning:

"Incline your ears to the sweet melody of this Prisoner. Arise, and lift up your voices, that haply they that are fast asleep may be awakened. Say: The Hand of Divine bounty proffereth unto you the Water of Life. Hasten and drink your fill. Whoso hath been re-born in this Day, shall never die; whoso remaineth dead, shall never live."

For information, email: info-toodyay@wa.bahai.org.au or call 08 9330 6999

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when and where they meet

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 St. 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 Peeweese, 4-5pm juniors, 5-6pm intermediate, 6-7pm seniors at the Youth Hall

TOODYAY DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL P & C

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

TOODYAY DISTRICTS HORSE & PONY CLUB

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

TOODYAY FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

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

TOODYAY KINDERGym

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

TOODYAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

TOODYAY / JULIMAR JEWELS

Tuesday 16th February, Wendouree Tearooms. Ph 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 2560 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

Toodyay Hair Studio

Monday to Friday

9am to 5pm

Saturday

9am to noon



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public notices

The Toodyay Historical Society (Inc)

Beth Frayne
Secretary

MEMBERSHIP subs are due, from 1st March 2010. If you joined on or after 1st November 2009, your subs carry over into the 2010/2011 financial year. Please pay at a meeting or excursion or send a cheque to the Treasurer, PO Box 32, Toodyay WA 6566. Thank you to those of you that have already re-subscribed!

Country Halls History Tour

On Sunday, 7th March 2010, Desrae Clarke led an enthralled group of 21 members and friends on a magical mystery hall tour across the Toodyay and Northam countryside. Ray Paynter met us at the site on Nunyle Agricultural Hall, then we went on to visit Wongamine (ruin), Mumberkine (not used), Jennacubbine Tavern (for lunch), Southern Brook (in use) and Irishtown (in use). Northam identity, Doug Morgan told us some good stories about Irishtown, and presented the Society with a short history of the Hall. The building materials and styles seen at each site were of great interest. Nostalgically, the position of former welcome signs could be seen in two of the old halls. Beth trotted out again the Nunyle Hall Autumn Tea Dance poem (published in 1939 by the unidentified Nunyler), which mentions that the Hall was used by the local CWA.

Excursion to New Norcia

On Sunday, 28th March 2010, a select group of members ventured forth on a very pleasant day to New Norcia, where we refreshed our memories of this fascinating place. The restoration work in the chapels was admired, particularly the beautiful angels. The tour was led by the very knowledgeable and entertaining volunteer guide Sharon. We enjoyed a late afternoon aperitif on the lower verandah of the grand New Norcia Hotel, then admired the grand staircase on our way upstairs to sample the view from the enormous upper verandah. A few of us ducked up the Great Northern Highway to photograph a ruin or two before returning home via Calingiri and Bolgart.

At our last meeting, we discussed the Moondyne Festival, the Municipal Inventory process, the repair and future of Donegan's Cottage, our role in Toodyay's Plan for the Future, Shire budget submissions, future grants, a proposed visit by the Beverley Historical Society and countless other things that are still being written up in the minutes!

The Society was very pleased to have representatives at the grand re-openings on 24th March of the Toodyay Library, Newcastle Gaol and Connor's Mill. The many and varied contributions by Toodyay locals was just admirable. The new work on the Library is particularly beautiful and fitting for this heritage building, the former Mechanics' Institute and Road Board Chambers and Offices. Members also attended a special CWA afternoon tea the next day for Dr Walkey, Shaun Byron and other generous Toodyay people, in relation to the Hall's new air conditioning. Vice President Robyn Taylor took the opportunity to present Dr Walkey with some research notes compiled by Beth Frayne on Toodyay's medical and allied services (1851-2010), with some emphasis on the doctors, of course. Dr Walkey is the third longest serving Toodyay doctor (19+ years), following the lead of Dr. Patrick J. O'Reilly (serving for 25 years, 1952-1977) and Dr. William Mayhew (serving for 22 years, 1872-1876, 1877-1895)

Next Events

Notice of our Annual General Meeting, Saturday, 10th April 2010, 2pm, at the CWA Hall, Stirling Terrace, Toodyay. Followed by afternoon tea, at 2.30pm. Could members please bring a plate to share? The afternoon tea will be followed by our guest speaker, Lesley Brooker. Please invite family and friends to this public event (See below)

Lecture, CWA Hall, 3.00pm: Explorers Routes Revisited. Lesley will talk about the first three explorations of the Toodyay Valley: 1831: Dale and Moore; 1836: Drummond, Whitfield and Anderson; 1836: Moore, Leake and Broun. A retired renowned WA ornithologist, Lesley is writing a series of nine books, locating the campsites and

landmarks recorded by the early explorers of WA (1836-1864). Parts 1, 3 and 7 of the series are completed, on the Moore (1836), Drummond (1841-42) and Dempster (1861) expeditions. More information on these publications: <http://lesmikebrooker.com/explorer.htm>.

Our next general meeting will be Wednesday, 21st April 2010, 7pm at Donegan's Cottage. For information about any matter to do with the Toodyay Historical Society, or how we may assist you or your group, please contact our Secretary Beth Frayne - 9574 5971, President Len Leeder - 9574 4343, or Vice President Robyn Taylor - 9574 2578.

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

Walk 15,000 Steps a Day

The launch of the Global Children's Challenge™

OLYMPIC legends, Cathy Freeman and Herb Elliott, came together to rally for the health of Australian children. Cathy and Herb are encouraging Toodyay Shire youngsters to take 15,000 steps a day in an effort to change their long-term health, wellbeing and physical fitness.

Launched on 17th March and running for 50 days from September, the inaugural Global Children's Challenge™ will play a critical role in changing the behaviour and attitudes of Toodyay Shire youth as well as children across the country, by presenting physical activity as fun, stimulating and worthwhile. Children will wear a pedometer every day and log their steps into an interactive website which takes them on a virtual journey around the world.

An alarming 25% of Australian children are overweight or obese. If weight gain continues on its current path, 80% of all Australian adults and a third of Australian children will be overweight or obese by 2020.

"The health of our future generations is at serious risk and it is our responsibility as individuals, as parents, teachers, businesses and organisations to do our bit in educating today's youth," said Australian Olympic champion Cathy Freeman OAM.

"A number of studies indicate that Australian children today are ranked as one of the most inactive of all developed countries," she said. "As these habits track into adulthood, it increases the future chance of bad heart health, increased metabolic risk and even cancer. The Global Children's Challenge aims to overturn these unhealthy patterns and reverse the long-term implications and risks associated with inactivity in childhood."

Herb Elliott, Global Corporate Challenge® Chairman and Australian Olympic champion says Australian companies/businesses can now help improve the health of future generations.

"In 2010 for every company/business which enrolls a participant in the Global Corporate Challenge®, a child in the community will be sponsored in the Global Children's Challenge™ at no cost to the school, or to parents. This year, Global Corporate Challenge® is aiming to sign up 50,000 Australian participants (120,000 worldwide) so that means 50,000 Australian children will have the opportunity to take part in this exciting programme," said Herb.

Businesses in Toodyay Shire can now make a difference not only to the health, mental wellbeing, fitness and productivity of their workforce, but also make a significant impact on the fitness habits of Toodyay Shire youth.

"I am proud to be involved in the launch of the Global Children's Challenge™ and encourage all Toodyay Shire workers to persuade their companies or colleagues to sign up and get the world moving," said Cathy.

For more information on the Global Children's Challenge™, or to register for the Global Corporate Challenge®, go to www.gettheworldmoving.com.au.

Toodyay Historical Society Inc. Notice of Annual General Meeting. The AGM of the Toodyay Historical Society will be held at 2pm on Saturday 10 April 2010, at the CWA Hall, Stirling Terrace, Toodyay. Followed by afternoon tea (2.30pm) and a public lecture (3pm). All welcome.

Public lecture: Explorers routes revisited - Toodyay area. Author Lesley Brooker will present an illustrated lecture on the first three explorations of the Toodyay Valley (1831, 1836). Saturday, 10 April 2010, in the CWA Hall, Stirling Tce, Toodyay: 2.30pm, afternoon tea; 3pm, lecture. Hosted by the Toodyay Historical Society. Gold coin donation. All welcome.

Thank you

To all of the people who helped Brigid G during the difficult times of the fire and the aftermath - thank you.

AVON VALLEY ARTS NEWS

School Holiday Program SHAPE returns to the Old Girl's School Northam. With sessions twice daily from 10am-12noon & 1pm-3pm. We offer a great variety of activities and sessions only cost \$5 ea. Starting Monday April 12th and finishes on Friday April 16th. Ph AVAS 9622 2245.

The Magic of Gongs & Quartz Crystal Singing Bowls will be held in the Old Post Office Gallery, Northam Arts Centre. On Sunday April 11th at 6pm. Phone Rhodda on 9621 1373.

SENIOR FIRST AID COURSE for anyone who has a current First Aid certificate due to expire we are holding a Flexible Learning

Day on Saturday 8 May. Registrations available from Allison Ralph on 0417993004 or from Secretary St John Sub Centre Tues, Wed, Thurs on 9574 2390. Early payment required to obtain your workbook for study before the day. The next Flexible learning day will be 11 July followed by 7 November.

Birthdays

Rob Welburn	Damien Orr
Daryl Orr	Steve Hide
Raelene Fleay	Michael McKone
Damien Higgins	Steve Cullen
Murray Hasson	Charlotte Hunter
Julia Robinson	Angela Johnson
Eryn Evans	Renee Watson
Tim Downie	Carolyn Downie
Mark Taylor	Gary Nelmes
Ben Sloper	Nicholas Nelmes
Elysha Watts	Janine Evans
Kiah Connor	Evelyn Eddy
Carole Plackett	

Birthdays



CONNOR, Kiah. Happy 21st birthday to our uberRovernerd son Kiah. Love, Mummy, Daddy, Shaye, Kieran, Jordan, Tiana and Jake Bob xxx

Anniversaries

Peter & Simone Swift
Michelle & Les Sloper
Jim & Serina Watson
Teresa & Tim Watson

Calling all Tintookies. Phone 9574 2363.



Thank you to our printers, **RURALPRESS**, for sponsoring the February edition of the Toodyay Herald (with liftout).

We appreciate your support. Samantha, Grant and the Herald crew.

MEET ALLAN MOFFAT

Australian Touring Car and Bathurst Champion

Convoy Run Sunday, Midland to Dowerin via Toodyay & Goolamaling

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Sat. 17th & Sun 18th April

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Event Sponsors



Toodyay Theatre Group

Karen Goodman

THE TTG is well into rehearsals for their first performance of the year, 'Opportunity Knocks!'

Everything is proceeding well and rapidly under the expert direction of Mr Graham Boston and excitement is building in the group as we approach our first rehearsals in the Town Hall after Easter.

'Opportunity Knocks!' will be showing after Moondyne Festival. Again, we're all very excited about it.

Hope to see you there!

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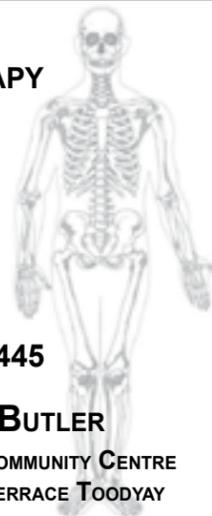
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COUNTRY BUILDERS

A MEMBER OF THE JWHGROUP



Children at the kindergym Easter windup

Toodyay Kindergym

THE kids had a great time at Dudgee Park for our end of term Easter wind up.

We started with a song and played with a parachute (which is always a favourite with the children). They made rabbit ears to hop around with and even got to pat a lovely soft pet rabbit named Flopsy. Sticking Roger Rabbit's bow tie on was made a little harder after blindfolding and spinning them around, giving us some comical results. Then we all sat down to a lovely picnic that everyone shared. I think that Daphne's chocolate muffins with Easter eggs on top were a favourite with young and mature. Then it was time for the exciting Easter egg hunt. It was so good to watch the older children helping the younger ones find their quota of shiny eggs.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to make the playgroup transition a smooth one. We have a fantastic group of volunteers who set up and run the circuit. I am not sure who has the most fun.

So please feel free to join us having fun in a casual and relaxed atmosphere, every Friday (during school term) down at the Sports pavilion from 9.30am. Don't forget that your first session's free.

Questions? Call Karen (President) on 0421 357 333.

Toodyay Playgroup

Brenda Hutchinson

WELCOME to Toodyay Playgroup; we have a fantastic new year planned for 2010.

There have been a lot of changes this year in our Toodyay Playgroup Committee with a lot of members leaving due to their children going to kindy/pre-school.

We would like to extend a big Thank You to the 2009 Committee for all their hard work during the year and welcome the 2010 Toodyay Playgroup Committee Members:

President	Brenda Hutchinson
Vice President	Jessica Eyres
Secretary	Jean Galloway
Vice Secretary	Rebecca Whittaker
Treasurer	Jenny Kelly
Vice Treasurer	Martina Bretschneider
Fundraiser	Sue Foster

Toodyay Playgroup is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30 - 11.30am. Please come in and have a chat; it's a great way to meet other mums, make new friends and allows the little ones to socialise with other children. Playgroup fees are \$25 per term for one child or \$30 for two or more

children or you can pay on a casual basis. There is also a yearly fee of \$28 per family for insurance which goes to Playgroup WA. Our playgroup is informal, set in a casual environment for you and your little ones to enjoy. A special 'Welcome' to all the new members who have joined us recently. We hope you find Playgroup to be a positive and fun experience for you and your little ones.

On the Tuesday and Thursday before Easter, we had an Easter Egg Hunt (nut free + dairy free Easter eggs to cater for our little ones with food allergies). On the 15th April, we are having an outing to Dudgee Park. Feel free to come along and join in the fun.

Birthday wishes to Charlotte who will be 3 on the 8th of April and Cody who will be 4 on the 24th of April.

Any enquiries about Toodyay Playgroup please call Brenda Hutchinson on 9574 4489.

DIAL 000 FOR EMERGENCY

Puggles Playgroup

WOW, it is the end of first term already and we will now take a two week break for the school holidays. Term 2 will start on Monday 19th April.

Our young people have been enjoying the activities and fun of Puggles Playgroup. With the morning songs, stretches, 'jobs', otherwise known as activities, and puzzles, craft, morning tea, games, stories and music, all on one day. It is hard to believe there could be more?

Come down and find out by enjoying the warm, nurturing and friendly atmosphere that is Toodyay Montessori.

We are now enrolling babies 0-18 months, with the young children in our Monday group. If you would like to arrange a 'trial morning/enrolment' or you would like to find out more information, please contact Felicity on 0437 593 171.

We are located at the Community Centre, Stirling Terrace on Mondays from 9.30 to 11am.

THE FACTORY

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