

The Toodyay Herald

VOLUME 298

PO Box 100, Toodyay, WA 6566
Telephone/Fax: (08) 9574 2106
email - toodyayherald@westnet.com.au
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Wild oats going up. Photo: Alan Knapp.

You Better Watch Out!

CHRISTMAS is upon us and the words of the carol ring true.

With hot and windy conditions already upon us, all Western Australians should be aware that the bushfire season is here and they need to be prepared in case a bushfire occurs in their area.

FESA Acting Chief Operations Officer Lloyd Bailey said the recent hot weather and major bushfires across the state, in particular in the South West region, was a serious reminder that bushfires are inevitable this summer, and he urged people to be prepared. "If you live near or are travelling through bushland, you are at risk," Mr Bailey said.

"The next bushfire may occur near you. With the onset of hot weather, it's essential for the whole community to play their part in helping to prevent an emergency situation. "That means removing vegetation and potential fire traps from your property, and developing a bushfire survival plan that everyone in the family understands.

"There is no substitute for preparation," he said.

Mr Bailey said it was vital that residents take responsibility for their own preparations, because in an emergency firefighters couldn't guarantee to be available at every property. "Despite all our best efforts we can't

guarantee that we will have road access to properties under threat, or that aerial



CESM Alan Knapp demonstrating the growth of wild oats on Racecourse Road this season. Photo: Wayne Weaver.

water bombers will be available," he said. "Firefighters will do all they can, but we ask that people also take steps to look after their own safety.

"If you have a bushfire survival plan and you've done the necessary work around your property, you give your family and your home the best chance of surviving a bushfire.

"Now is the time to plan and prepare. Learn about the different fire danger ratings, and be clear on what you and your family will do if threatened by a bushfire.

"When the fires are upon us, it is too late to devise considered plans and contingencies," Mr Bailey said.

Shire of Toodyay's Community Emergency Services Manager, Alan Knapp, stresses the importance of being prepared.

"Don't just have a bushfire survival plan, practise it!" he said. "You may know where everything is and what you are intending to do but you need to be able to do it under pressure. If you practise, you can be ready to go at an instant's notice."

Toodyay, like 80% of the southwest has an exceptionally high fuel growth. "This is not because we've had a wetter year (we've had average rainfall); it's because, for the last 30 or so years, we've had below average rainfall and this year, the fuel has had an opportunity to grow," Alan said.

Alan is also incensed at the thefts from two of Toodyay's fire sheds (see story Page 3.) "These people volunteer to put their lives at risk for their community," Alan said. "To steal from them is one of the lowest acts."

For information on how you can prepare for the bushfire season visit www.fesa.wa.gov.au to view FESA's *Prepare. Act. Survive* document, call or drop in to your local bush fire brigade or phone Alan Knapp on 0427 388 535.

this month



Christmas Street Party
page 6



Red-tailed cockatoos
visit Toodyay page 35



Frank Venn results
pages 14 - 16

Christmas Lights

Phil Perkins

IN early November, it was discovered that no one had any idea about where Toodyay's Christmas lights were or had even started to organise their placement.

So, over the last six weeks, the team has worked flat-out to get them up and functioning.

The very tired men who spent morning after morning, erecting garlands and wreaths in time for the Christmas Street Party are:

Mishka Madacsi
Ben Camenzuli
Clive Hesse
Young Paul from Uncle Vince's
Peter Wakefield
Peter Ruthven

All ably led by Phil Perkins and Chris Ballam. Well done, fellas, and thank you!

A special thank you to George Groessler for his electrical expertise.

Naturally, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a tree. Many thanks to Jenny Perkins and Linda Ballam for doing such a wonderful job.



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

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

The Toodyay Herald

is a community paper and as such welcomes contributions of letters, articles and photographs from all members of the community. Contributions via email or on flash drive are appreciated. There is no charge for articles which appear in the paper.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are available at \$2.50 per issue (postage and packaging) or \$25 per year (11 issues) by writing to P.O. Box 100, Toodyay 6566, enclosing a cheque for the number of issues required.

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

Members receive \$15 free advertising per annum.

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ACCOUNT ENQUIRIES

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The Editor
 PO Box 100, Toodyay
 Phone/Fax: (08) 9574 2106
 email: toodyayherald@westnet.com.au

DISTRIBUTION

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THANK YOU

Thank you to the volunteers who helped with the *Toodyay Herald*: Speedy Cox, Paul Sutton, Wayne Clarke, Maree Lewis, Richard Grant, Janice Manning, Peter Ruthven, Beth Ruthven, Shirley Banks, Guido Verschoor, Sue Manning, Peter Robinson, Bettina Scobie, Meredith Neilsen, Les Hyde, our photographers in Toodyay.

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Quarter Page: Mono - \$140; Col. - \$191.50.

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DEADLINE

ISSUE

Tuesday 24 Jan 2012

NEXT EDITION

DUE OUT ON

Thursday 2 Feb 2012

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0429 896 860

(OFFICE HOURS)

Fly on the Wall

Peter Robinson

The October Ordinary Meeting of Council was the first for our three new councillors, although Cr Madasi was absent due to ill health. The meeting was held in good spirit and good humour.

Morangup Fire shed

An extension to the fire shed facilities at Morangup was the first item on the agenda. This created quite a lengthy debate. Some councillors wanted to delay the progression of these extensions in order to have an environmental impact study done. This amendment was lost 5 votes to 3. The motion to grant Planning approval was subsequently passed. During the debate it was mentioned that the local NATS club (Toodyay Naturalists' Club) members could be asked to conduct the research and produce a report. In the days when there was trust and respect between the Shire and the community groups, the NATS were often asked to do a report on matters relating to environmental issues. This was then included with the officers report when the item was first presented to Council. I think we are now in a position to re-establish that trust and respect.

Subdivision

The big subdivision around the school, known as the Foggarthorpe subdivision came back to Council because the three year life of the previous approval has expired. An extension of the time allowed for comment was applied for at the October meeting from the West Australian Planning Commission. This was granted. To assist councillors and staff, the officer from the Dept of Planning responsible for the assessment of the subdivision, attended the council forum on 3 November. The developers requested some changes to the previous conditions that the WAPC had applied on the Council's behalf. Council resolved to ask the WAPC to not concede to any of those requests. The motion advising the WAPC that we support the proposed subdivision, with the same conditions as before, was passed.

Council Committees

Council has now filled all the councillor positions on the Shire committees and advisories. They are also going to seek expressions of interest from the public. This will be a very good way of involving the

community in the planning processes for the development of Toodyay. It does not take anything away from the councillors, as these committees are advisory only.

Health and Wellbeing Centre

The Council has agreed to send an expression of interest form to the Australian Government's Regional Development Australia Fund - Round Two. This application is for a Health and Wellbeing Centre in Toodyay (which includes an aquatic centre). We will be notified on 11 January 2012 if we have passed the first stage. The proposal then goes to a full application for funding of around \$5m.

Out of Town Meetings

The last item was a notice of motion from the previous month's meeting. Cr Lloyd gave notice of motion that all future ordinary meetings of Council be held at the council chambers in Toodyay. This item produced a very good debate conducted in good spirit. The various Fire sheds can get very cold, even in the spring and autumn. The acoustics are very ordinary also. However the main reason for suggesting the change is that very few 'locals' go to the fire shed meetings. The gallery is nearly always made up of the same people. We have now been called 'groupies'! When it came to the vote, the few left in the gallery put up their hands in favour of having all the meetings in Toodyay. The official vote was 6 to 2 in favour, but we claim it was 11 to 2!

Farewell

This being the last 'Fly on the Wall' for the year and indeed my last 'Fly' I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas followed by a prosperous New Year. Having reached the 'gold watch' birthday and been present at more than 160 Council Meetings, it is time for me to 'retire from active duty'. It has always been interesting and mostly pleasant. I have tried to keep you informed about what is going on at Council, with some personal thoughts added. I sincerely thank the three editors I have had the pleasure to work for over these last 14 years. Congratulations to all the councillors over those years. You have all put yourselves out there and done what you think is the best for the community. We now have some new councillors and a new council dynamic. I feel confident that we are in good hands.

A Time for Remembering

Grant Scobie
 Editor

AT this time of year, one tends to look back on the past twelve months and remember both the good and the not so good.

2011 has been a mixed bag for the *Toodyay Herald* as I'm sure it is with most. Although I know this is not necessarily the case for directly affected individuals, for Toodyay in general, I think the good outweighed the bad.

On the not so good side, we saw a huge dust storm, a freak thunder storm, the storm over the medical centre and the departure of our long-serving doctor, a house fire and the passing of some of Toodyay's most respected citizens.

On the good side, we had few fires, a new supermarket, the Toodyay Liquor Accord, CCTV installation, the Postie Bike Run which raised \$100,000 for charity, the Business and Community Expo, Toodyay's 175th Birthday Celebrations, another fantastic Moondyne, an Avon Descent with plenty of water, the Toodyay Races, the Toodyay Show, the setting up of some Bushfire Ready Groups and rain, more rain and even more rain.

For the *Herald* itself, we have a new Assistant Editor in Meredith Neilsen and a new group of enthusiastic volunteers but we have also lost some staff and committee members.

After many years as both volunteer and committee member, Jim Bavin has decided to call it quits. Like clockwork, Jim would turn up after deadline to proofread all the articles to be put in the paper. Thanks, Jim for all your assistance over the years.

Frank Panizza has also resigned from the committee. Frank joined us a couple of years ago and has been instrumental in helping us getting many policies and procedures up and running as well as many other tasks for which he is well suited.

Finally, the resignation that affects me as editor the most, is the departure of Karen Jacomelli. After some time as a volunteer,

helping Sam Connor and I put the paper together into the wee hours, Karen joined the committee and took over the president's chair. Karen presided over and instigated, in a lot of cases, the redrafting of the constitution, new policies and procedures, new office furniture and equipment and many other improvements to the operation of the paper and the management too numerous to mention. On Sam Connor's resignation and my assuming the position of editor, Karen bravely stepped into the chair of Acting Assistant Editor. I say bravely because Karen, as she'll tell you, had no experience with the programmes we use here and was pushing the envelope of her general computer knowledge. Yet, despite having a shocking teacher, she managed, month after month, to improve until she became proficient enough for me to leave her to do her half of the paper with very little aggravation from yours truly.

It was at Karen's instigation that the committee agreed to her proposal that we advertise for a Trainee Editor and were able to find Meredith who has now assumed the chair that Karen was filling on a temporary (18months) basis.

This month also sees the final of one of our articles, *Fly on the Wall*. After 14 years, Peter Robinson has decided to take a well-earned rest. *Fly* is either well-loved or not-so-well-loved but it has been a part of the *Herald* for such a long time (an institution, one might say) that its loss will be noticed. Thank you, Peter, for all those late nights, sitting, listening to councillors, taking notes and writing up what has become a feature of *The Toodyay Herald*.

So to all our new volliies, welcome, and to those stepping down, farewell and thank you.

I would also like to thank all our contributors. Without you all, the paper would be a much poorer read.

To all our readers, to all of Toodyay, we at *The Toodyay Herald* wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe.



Margaret River Bush Fire Appeal

Show your support today by donating at any Bendigo Bank branch or online with your credit card at www.bendigobank.com.au/foundation/margaretriverbushfire

Bush Fire Brigades Robbery Targets

BREAK-INS occurred at both the Coondle-Nunile and Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades between 9.30pm Thursday 1 December and 10am Friday 2 December.

The door to the Coondle shed was forced and numerous items of equipment were stolen.

These included an Engel refrigerator from the heavy fire unit, which is used to supply cool water to firefighters on the fire ground, the pump used to draught water from dams, the toolbox containing tools used to maintain the fire vehicles, two GPS units, all of the UHF radios used by firefighters to communicate on the fire ground, and pagers used to notify volunteers to respond to 000 calls.

The theft from Julimar comprised another Engel refrigerator, brand-new and still in its box which would have been used for the same purpose as the Coondle one. All the brigade's frozen food stores for supplying food to crews when out on the fire ground were also removed, along with a large Christmas ham for the Christmas get-together.

The Coondle Brigade Captain, Peter Ruthven, said, "While some items were supplied by the Shire, most had been purchased from members' funds. These were items that members of the Brigade had fundraised to buy.

"This is a contemptible act. Members of Bush Fire Brigades are all volunteers and to leave them with greatly reduced communications could put their lives at risk."

Lou Kidd, Julimar's Captain, was almost speechless. "We feel absolutely violated," he said. "We work hard to raise the money to obtain these things to make it better for the firefighters out on the fire ground and someone comes and does something like this. I'm appalled."

Police have been advised. They attended the sheds and a forensic examination of the scene was conducted.

Samantha Connor Named Finalist

SAMANTHA Connor was announced as a finalist in the prestigious Rinehart Family Volunteering Award at the 2011 Regional Achievement and Community Awards on Friday night 11 November at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Samantha was selected from a strong field of nominees and was presented by Ailan



Hancock Prospecting Ailan Tran with Samantha Connor

Tran, Executive Adviser External Affairs and Approvals, Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd in front of 420 guests from across the State.

Matt Tinney from WIN Television hosted the Awards and the official guest was the Hon Brendon Grylls MLA, Minister for Regional Development and Patron of the Awards.

The 2011 nine category winners announced on the night were:

- Australian Eco Constructions of Broome - RSM Bird Cameron Business Enterprise Award
- Magabala Books of Broome - Department of Indigenous Affairs Indigenous Service Award
- Community Assisted Transport Service - Rinehart Family Volunteering Award
- Gavin Treasure of Morawa - Horizon Power Leadership and Innovation Award
- Shire of Ashburton - Onslow Garden Project - Department of Local Government - Local Government Best Practice Award
- Avon Valley Environment Society - CSBP Environment Award
- Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group - LandCorp Sustainability Award
- Athena Hain-Saunders of Bunbury - Curtin University Teaching Excellence Award
- Goldfields Aged Pensioners Welfare Association Inc - Prime Super Community Group of the Year Award

Australian Eco Constructions of Broome was also named the overall State winner: The Department of Regional Development and Lands Regional Achievement and Community Award winner.

Winners received a \$2,000 Bank Account from the Commonwealth Bank.

Samantha Connor of Toodyay has limb girdle muscular dystrophy. She was a volunteer at the Toodyay Herald for 12 years before becoming editor. She is also Scout Leader of the 1st Toodyay Scout Group, and Branch Commissioner Marketing for Scouts WA. She attends and presents at numerous conferences and events. In 2008 she wrote a resource manual for Scout leaders who work with young people with autism or ADHD. Samantha is a visual artist and also works and volunteers for Limbs 4 Life.

Veterans' Visit

ON Saturday, 5 November, a procession of more than 15 Model T Fords travelled to Toodyay for a Veteran Car Club of WA Club rally and lunch in Duidgee Park. A sizeable crowd gathered to inspect the vehicles and chat with President, John Wood, about the history behind these iconic wheels.

Wood explained that the term 'veteran' applies only to a brief, specific period from 1912 to 1915, after which the cars are termed 'vintage' - up until 1930. A range of models, now registered to York, Greenough and the Perth Hills were on show, including an original Boan's delivery truck. Some early models even featured wooden tyre rims and spokes.

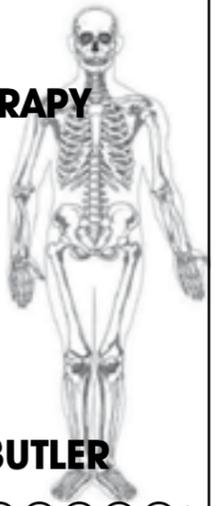
"Ford used to say you can have any colour, as long as it's black," says Wood, "but after a while they started bringing in colours. The first attempts were burgundy, a green and a dark blue. The factory did not so much paint the cars as hastily pour it over them. It was more like a varnish than a paint as we know it, and the run off was caught in huge trays beneath each car."



Did You Know?

In Dec. 1864, the completed St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, on New Road, Newcastle, had been blessed by Christmas. (From *The Long Toodyay Chronology*, Part 1, 1829-1900, 2nd ed., Toodyay Historical Society Inc.)

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THANK YOU TO everyone who supported the Heart Foundation Doorknock Appeal this year, especially our wonderful volunteer collectors who so generously gave their time.

As an independent charity that funds life saving research, supports health professionals and promotes health in the community, we're deeply appreciative of the help given to us by so many West Australians this September.

Every donation to the Heart Foundation Doorknock Appeal will help us continue the fight against heart disease, the number one killer of both men and women in Australia.

The generous response we have received has helped us achieve \$689,009 by the end of October. This is 95% of our 2011 target, a great result for WA.

These donations will help fund critical research, education and community programmes to help save the lives and improve the heart health of all Australians.

If one of our kind-hearted volunteer collectors missed you in September, you can still help us reach our fundraising target by making a credit card donation directly to the Heart Foundation on 1800 55 22 55 or at www.heartfoundation.org.au/doorknock.

Thank you for being part of the largest community-led fundraising programme for the Heart Foundation and helping to ensure we continue our important work.

Sincerely,

Maurice Swanson
Chief Executive
Heart Foundation WA

ON OCTOBER 31 WHILE returning from Perth to Toodyay, my car suffered, without warning, catastrophic electrical failure at Gidgegannup. The vehicle was undriveable, and I suddenly found myself in a potentially scary situation.

Yet, almost from the moment I came to a smoky, traffic-blocking halt, I was the fortunate recipient of the kindness of friends – and strangers.

Thank you 'Sam', from Gidge – who without hesitation not only lent me her mobile phone, but decided to give me a lift – all the way to Toodyay - a round trip for her of 100kms.

I also extend heartfelt thanks to several Toodyay-ites for their practical help and compassion over several stressful weeks when I was unable to get to various appointments or my music teaching job at Dowerin.

Thank you school bus driver Wayne, Judy and Peter from Toodyay Taxis, and Lee

Jenkins for the generous offer of car parts.

Thank you Coral Grundy, Heather Frank, Kim Spencer, Kerry House, and my neighbours Roma Heath and Tracey for your advice and support, plus offers of transport.

Also Russell Chrimes of Toodyay Auto Services, for assisting me with many issues and allowing me to store the terminal vehicle at his premises.

I'm also grateful to Avon Valley Ford, for enabling me to hire a car even though I do not own a credit card.

It may be a cliché, but you certainly do discover who your true friends are in a crisis.

The help I received is an overwhelming illustration of the healthy community spirit that exists out here – human beings looking out for one another and literally going out of their way to help. May excellent and abundant karma come soon to each and every one of these fine rural citizens.

Naomi Millett

LET ME BEGIN this letter by saying I understand and appreciate the terrible legacy left for the current Council from the previous administration and Council. But please let's not slip back into the old ways of no community information and no community participation. I say this because there was a Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 22 November which is open to the public but for which there appears to have been no notification given anywhere, not even on the Shire's own noticeboard outside the Shire office.

First item on the agenda for the meeting was the lighting of the basketball courts at the school. I believe this was discussed with the school administration and School Council, the Education Department and the netball and basketball representatives. They must have found favourably for the proposition. Council voted 9 - 0 to apply for the funding for the lighting. Obviously our funding grants officer made a good submission because the funding was granted. Well done Kim. But on Tuesday evening, Cr Prater put forward a motion to negate the lighting and, despite a submission from the netball ladies, the committee voted 6 to 2 to recommend to Council that the lighting does not go ahead. When asked what would become of the grant funds, the meeting was told that they would be returned. It seems to me that the integrity of the Shire of Toodyay goes down the drain. Apart from granting funds to Toodyay, which might have gone to some other Shire's project, they would be asking themselves, why does Toodyay request funding if they are

not going to use it. And that is the question we were asking too. The flimsy excuses for not lighting the basketball courts had to be heard to be believed.

The second incident, which blew me away, was a discussion on the recreation/aquatic centre, or well-being centre as it has become known. One Councillor asked where this was going to be situated. This again is in the Council Minutes for all to see, that the preferred site is Lot 1 Drummond Street, right opposite the school. But the Shire President then tells the meeting that there are several options to be considered! Please spare me! Are we back to Option 7 or 6 1/2?

Of all the Council Committees, the Recreational Advisory Committee is the one which should have Community representation and input. Whatever became of all the Councillor promises to represent and include the Community, it seems to me that Cr. Chris Firms is the only one we can truly depend on.

Mona Coffey

THANK YOU TO the Sheahan family for the donation of Christmas lights for the Alma Beard Community Health Centre. Thank you to Brendan and the volunteers who helped put up the display.

We wish Maddie and the Sheahan family all the best with their move east.

We would also like to thank Terri and the Watson family for the Christmas tree and decorations.

The community solidarity and the spirit of giving comes through at Christmas time.

Team at the Centre

FORGIVE ME, FELLOW readers, if I am being misled but I did understand that letters written to the Editor are not the opinion of the newspaper, but of the writer. It seems, however, that a letter has caused such angst to the Committee of our community paper that the entire publication has been mulched in order to avoid the possibility of legal action. Fear not, however, for some enterprising person has leaked the contents of the offending letter to *The West Australian* ('InsideCover', Nov 7) and we can get the gist of it there. It seems that certain facts cannot be mentioned and certain opinions not aired for fear that our paper will be taken to the cleaners. So much for freedom of the press!

Maree Lewis

LITTLE IS KNOWN of our Editor of the Toodyay Herald, Grant Scobie. A man of many hats, he drives the volunteers of the Toodyay Herald to produce a community based newspaper for the people of Toodyay and outlying districts to bring them up to date with what is happening in our town. Toodyay brings together the communities of the Avon Basin.

Grant strives to produce general knowledge throughout and stories of people who have been and shared within this community for many years. He takes pride in his editorials and wants to share many and varied stories of who and what live in this district. But above all, Grant is the wisdom of this community because he is a fair and a gentle man who believes as we do that Toodyay is the "Paradise" in which we live and will continue to live for the future.

So dear Grant we salute you for your kindness to the others in the community and the will to believe that our town will continue to prosper with great gusto, because you deliver a positive newspaper for all the folk who live in our district.

kindest regards
Di and Jeff Roberts

Thank you, Jeff and Di.

I have been having trouble getting my big head through the door since this letter arrived.

I am humbled and touched that you feel this way.

Once again, thank you.

Ed

Did You Know?

In Dec. 1984, the first issue of the *Toodyay Herald* (monthly community newspaper) was published. Peter Chiffings, Graham Boston, Dianne Downie, Peter Webb, Donna Hunter and Judy Dinnison were the early instigators. The first issue (700 copies) was photocopied at the Shire of Toodyay office. (From *The Long Toodyay Chronology*, Part 4, 1981-2012 (in process), Toodyay Historical Society Inc.)

PERTH HILLS

Christmas Holiday Opening Hours

Friday 23 December 11am – late

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Toodyay Teen Flies Against the Wind

Maree Lewis

VENTURE into the office of Coondle Fabrications and you are likely to be met by a person clad in the standard work attire of a tradie – dark blue trousers made from durable fabric, matching blue shirt, the long sleeves rolled up against the heat of the day, and black safety boots that hide mandatory thick socks. But that's where usual expectations end, for long dark hair is piled up casually on top of the head and you find yourself discussing your engineering enquiry with an attractive young girl whose confident manner immediately suggests that she knows what she's talking about.

Eli Thompson is a surprise. Not only is she a qualified boilermaker but, at the tender age of 18, she is also a businesswoman, having just purchased a third share in the company which took her on as an apprentice four years ago. She shuffles some paperwork on the desk and briefly addresses some questions from the mechanic who's working out the back on a fabrication order. Rob Broderick who has just entered the office grins in approval and is obviously proud of his former apprentice. He and his wife, Leah, are more than happy

to have Eli working alongside them in the business.

So how did this all come about? It seems that an innocent quest at fourteen to earn some pocket money sweeping the workshop floors and being the general dogsbody, engendered in Eli a keen interest in the boiler making trade. Despite the opposition of her teachers and mother, Eli embarked on her career, leaving school mid year 10 and securing an apprenticeship with then, Coondle Engineering, and a place in the trade course at Northam TAFE.

Rob said that he could see Eli's potential from the outset. In fact, Rob said that he is giving Eli the same opportunities that Bob Sommers, and his late wife Beth, gave to him, when he first started their business, Avon Skip Bins. Eli met his main criteria for all apprentices and, for that matter, employees, which is to "step up or get out". Stepping up, according to Rob, is to get on with the job and in the way required. It is to "care about the little things" and "not go too fast so that (skills) can be learnt."

Eli freely admits that some aspects of the apprenticeship were challenging and is appreciative of the people who taught her many of the finer details concerning welding. But, she explains, the turning point came for her, when Rob, who impresses as being very pragmatic, took her on a work trip to a station in the Pilbara. He explained that to understand the needs in fabricating a product, "you need to understand how that product is used". The hands-on experience she got up there, doing the work of a Jack of all trades, helped her to realize the "scope and potential" of the industry, she said.

Eli freely admits that there are societal challenges to be met when you work in a male dominated industry. But, she explains, she was very focussed on her goals to qualify in the trade and to make something



of herself. She stood her ground when workmen became patronising and made clear her expectations to be treated as an equal. Ultimately her sincere interest in the work, her energy, and her amazing maturity for such a young girl, won through, and the fabrication shop is recognised, albeit unofficially, as an equal opportunities work place.

It is testimony to Eli's initiative and amazing confidence that she has bought into a share of the business. Why make such a commitment? "To make something of myself and to be able, when I'm a 30-year-old, to say that I've achieved more than just buy a fancy car." Yes, she has plans for the business but at the moment she is being practical and her attention is on honing the skills of her trade and learning under the instruction of her partners, how to run a business. "We did offer some discouragement," Rob adds, "and it's early days for the business which means there's been a pay cut." Eli laughs in agreement.

Eli is an inspiring and remarkable young woman, who is keen for other girls to feel encouraged to step away from cultural role models and expectations and to explore their skills and potential. One of Eli's favourite sayings is "A kite flies highest against the wind, not with it."

Luckily for Toodyay, we have in Eli Thompson, one confident and plucky enough to do so.



Eli with Rob Broderick

Information Evening

WHAT a great turnout we had for our very successful general information evening, held in the CWA hall on 8 November.

Speakers for the night covered various subjects including wills, power of attorney, funeral planning, St John Ambulance and financial planning for different life stages.

Question time was a lively event with everyone taking advantage of the expert advice that was readily given.

We wound the evening up with supper and informal chat and had many, many enquiries of when the next night would be?

A very big thank you to the wonderful CWA ladies for their help with getting the word out and also on the night, making very quick work of setting up and moving through the dishes.

Step into the bank with any subjects of interest which you may like us to follow up on and keep on the lookout for our next event which we will be holding in the new year.

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Thank a Volunteer Day 2011

Kim Angus

EVERY year the Shire of Toodyay holds the Freedom of Entry Parade and sausage sizzle to thank the emergency services volunteers. This honours the many hours and hard work they put in, sometimes at risk to themselves and often in trying conditions, to make our community a safer place to live.

On Monday 5 December, the Shire of Toodyay hosted a *Thank a Volunteer Day Garden Party* sponsored by the WA Department of Communities. This event was to thank all those other volunteers who also put in the hours through this Shire's other organizations and clubs. While their contribution may not be as dramatic this town relies on these people's efforts to make it the place it is.

Can you imagine Toodyay without a footie club or theatre group? Would the river be in better or worse condition without the Toodyay Friends of the River? Where would you go to find out about the history of that old building without the Historical Society? Where would our seniors go for a cuppa or friendly faces without Moerlina and Ida's Hideaway, etc? The list goes on.

Much of what makes Toodyay such a great place to live is the many community groups and these community groups need people. They need people to do the obvious work such as busy bees and fund raising, and they need people to do the less obvious work as office bearers, a truly thankless task. You might say they do it because they enjoy it but that is only partly right; they do it because it makes something which they enjoy, or is important to them, happen because, believe me, nobody enjoys being treasurer and there have to be times when sitting in the Old Gaol Museum waiting for a punter to show up is pretty boring.

The Garden Party coincides with the 10th International Volunteers Day and, thanks to the generous assistance of the Dept. of Communities, the Shire has organised not only a cuppa and other light refreshments but also a professional mime artist 'darian le page' for the guests' amusement and entertainment. So far over 80 guests have

said they will attend from 20 odd groups.

The Shire did its best to get the invitations out but there are sure to be groups that were missed. The groups most likely did their best to let their volunteers know. It would have been good to have had a notice in last month's Herald but nothing could be confirmed until it was too late, so let's blame CHOGM for that. By the time this paper is out it will all be too late so just take heart in the fact that it wasn't deliberate.

You see, while 80 people and 20 groups sound a lot, it really isn't. So much of this town runs on the work of volunteers; we know there are more. Even with some listed as people giving their time to five different groups all you have to do is look at the community group information in the Toodyay Directory to realise that an awful lot of people who deserve our thanks will not be attending.

So what can be done? If you are one of the many volunteers out there, accept our thanks. If you know somebody who is generously donating their time, thank them. And if you are not already a volunteer think of becoming one. There can never be enough of them.

Oh! What a Night It Was

Corrie Healy

FIRSTLY I would like to thank the Toodyay Herald for our tickets to a wonderful Cabaret Dance Night which was held on 19 November.

The cabaret was held at the Memorial Hall with the music supplied by the Outback Country Band. The band provided country style dance and music and really had the place rocking. Young and old danced together; it didn't matter if you did a waltz, line danced or jived, and the dance floor was full all night. Everyone was just happy swinging to the wonderful music.

They also held a raffle which had six winners as well as a \$200 donation that went to the St. John Ambulance.

For those of you that were unable to attend you truly missed out on a fantastic night and I hope that we will have more fun nights like this in the future.

The Music of 1750 for Northam's 175th



Naomi Millett

A HEALTHY crowd of more than one hundred music lovers turned out for a special concert in Northam in October. Organised by the Recorder and Early Music Society and sponsored by Country Arts WA, the event marked the 175th anniversary of the gazetting of Northam.

Comprising some of the finest early music exponents one could hope to hear, the ensemble, a combination of two groups, Perth Baroque and Capella Corelli, worked its way seemingly effortlessly through a repertoire of three and four part suites by Baroque composers who lived 175 years ago.

By far the most familiar of these is Johann Sebastian Bach, (1685 to 1750) yet, rather than feature him, the group elected to showcase works by other, perhaps lesser known but nonetheless well-established musicians. These included Johann Gottlieb Janitsch, Johann Friedrich Fasch and Georg Phillip Telemann.

Around 1750, the era of Rococo art, music was characterised by a style known as *galante*. This highly ornamented or 'decorated' contrapuntal music featured many quick, surprising changes of speed,

mood, tonality and emotional effect.

Six works were presented, written for various combinations of recorder, baroque oboe, violin, violone, cello and harpsichord.

Notable in almost every work was a section in which one soloist took the limelight, displaying his or her honed technical skills in breathtaking virtuoso passages.

Refreshingly, between pieces, oboe and recorder master, Georg Corall (from Berlin), spoke briefly yet entertainingly, explaining some fascinating facts about the music and the original early instruments played by the group.

Particularly memorable was the unusual finale, a joyous excerpt from a Christmas cantata by JS Bach, played by the entire ensemble.

Acoustically, the revamped Northam Town Hall is a wonderful space for live performance; its careful design ensured that every exquisite musical nuance could be heard, right to the back of the venue; no electronic amplification required.

This hall should be utilised more than it is and hopefully it will be: the ensemble has plans to return with more musical delights at the beginning of the Queen's Birthday weekend next year.

Street Party 2011

Barbara Mottershaw

President, Toodyay Chamber of Commerce

ONCE again the Toodyay Chamber of Commerce has organised a successful Street Party. A good crowd enjoyed a great night out, with plenty to see and do. Children of all ages were particularly catered for. Being such a warm balmy evening the dunking machine became very popular after Santa volunteered to be the first 'victim'.

The turning on of the Christmas street lights was just one of the highlights with the arrival of Santa being another, especially for the kids.

As with any event, it didn't just happen on its own. It was very heartening to see that so many individuals and businesses contributed to the evening; before, during and after. Our first lot of thanks must go to the volunteer group of men and women who hung up the Christmas Street Lights and Christmas tree. It takes many hours to get this job done. This was an initiative of Toodyay Men's Shed and Toodyay Ratepayers and Residents Association. Thanks to you all, the street

looks great.

Now for the actual Street Party. A very sincere vote of appreciation goes to the following:

Toodyay Op Shop; Toodyay Shire; Bendigo Bank; Visitor Centre; IGA; Wendouree Tea Rooms; Toodyay Butchers; Avalon Homestead; Jan's Craft Creations; Avon Valley Gifts and Jewellery; Central Fire Brigade; Vince's Restaurant & Pizza Bar; Toodyay Lions Club; Toodyay Ratepayers & Residents Assn; Toodyay Men's Shed; Bar Bar a Black Sheep; Toodyay Holiday Park & Chalets; Toodyay Telecentre; Toodyay Herald; Junction Roadhouse; Full Circle Gym & Fitness; and Manna View Tiling.

Special thanks also go to the performers on the night: Lesley Hug for being the MC for the night; as well as Trish Young and the Toodyay Community Singers. The Shenanigan Sisters also provided some wonderful music.

Toodyay Men's Shed blokes did a great job with the sausage sizzle.

Because the Chamber of Commerce only reformed a few weeks ago, organising the whole event was a little hectic. Next year the planning will start much sooner.



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Arts Toodyay

THE ARTS Toodyay members are still abuzz with the success of the annual Vino Exhibition held at the Coorinja winery. As you will have read in the feature article in the November Herald, the success of the event was a credit to all those who put so much time and effort into its organisation and to our hosts, Hector and Michael Woods. We are also grateful to the St John's Ambulance for the loan of their marquee, and to Wendouree Tearooms for the excellent catering.

Arts Toodyay sponsored a prize at the Toodyay Show for the first time this year and the deserving winner was Robyn Taylor. Congratulations Robyn!

We are delighted to have been awarded a funding grant from the Shire of Toodyay which is to be used to purchase display plinths for our exhibitions (made by the guys at the Toodyay Men's Shed) and for the support of workshops and exhibitions.

Kay Devlin, a local painter noted for her watercolours, has been conducting informal art sessions on Friday mornings at the clubrooms in the old Police Station on Duke Street North. Kay provides guidance, tuition and critique as well as morning tea. Participants with all levels of experience are welcome and, while the emphasis is on watercolour painting, some participants have been enjoying other activities such as sketching and drawing.

Participants provide their own equipment and materials. All are welcome to come and join in on Fridays between 10 and 12. Contact Kay on 9574 4446 to find out more.

With the end of the year upon us, we have a visit to the Canning Stockroute exhibition in Perth and a Christmas social event planned and then we will turn our attention to activities for the New Year. Our core events continue to be the exhibition during the Moodyne festival and, of course, the Vino Exhibition, but a diverse program of workshops and excursions is already planned and it promises to be a busy and exciting year. A group exhibition in Midland in May will keep us busy and productive over the next few months and will hopefully be a good showcase for Toodyay in 'the big smoke'.

Arts Toodyay Inc. is a group of arts enthusiasts from the Toodyay area who meet to share their expertise and promote their work in the Toodyay area. Members have diverse interests ranging from painting, creative textiles, jewellery and contemporary embroidery to photography, creative writing, pottery, printmaking and sculpture. New members are very welcome - Contact Bev on 9574 2898 / 0428 531 008 or come along to the monthly meeting held at the Old Police Station in Duke Street at 7pm on the first Tuesday of each month.

Cabaret Winners

Grant Scobie
Editor

CONGRATULATIONS to the lucky winners of two double passes to the *Cabaret Dance Night* on 19 November.

WA Country Music Promotions (WACMP) is offering the same to readers for its New Year's Eve cabaret: 2 free double passes.

Due to *The Herald* being on a break, entries with your name and phone number

on the back can be sent to WA Country Music Promotions, PO Box 1210, Toodyay, 6566 by 22 December. Winners will be notified by phone on 23 December.

Ros, from WACMP, would like to let everybody know that proceeds from the raffle on 19 November went to Toodyay St John Ambulance. They will also be holding a raffle on New Year's Eve with all proceeds to Toodyay Volunteer Firefighters.

Spaced – Art Out of Place

On show in Northam

Naomi Millett

ONE of the highlights of the 2012 Perth International Arts Festival promises to be 'Spaced – art out of place', an ambitious biennial project featuring a collective of international and Australian practitioners who not only break new ground but have covered a vast amount of it.

Backed by IASKA (International Art Space Kellerberrin Australia), an initiative established in 1998 that saw a collaboration in Kellerberrin between farmers and creative professionals, Spaced will feature 16 stimulating – and sometimes provocative – commissioned works depicting a range of local and social situations.

"The artists, (individually or in collectives) spent time living in their chosen regional WA community," says director (and IASKA founder), Marco Marcon, "as we wanted to experiment with ways of bringing together contemporary artists and non-specialist audiences in rural and remote areas."

"The idea is to make art more relevant to everyday life. The artists are out of their studios and engaging for several weeks with ordinary people, as well as each location's history and issues. In this way the community itself becomes a kind of 'social studio' where the works can develop."

According to Marcon, the response to a call for applications was overwhelming.

"We received over one hundred applications for eight positions offered in the second year," he says - a tough selection process even for his experienced committee.

Geographically, one of the nearest installations to Perth – and Toodyay – is stage one of acclaimed sculptor, Bennett Miller's 'Northam Greyhounds', currently on display at Northam Arts Centre. The award winning artist spent a month's residency in the town learning about the dog breeding and racing fraternity and its culture.

An intriguing multimedia

piece, 'Greyhounds' comprises brightly painted, reclaimed electrical boxes, each containing looped video footage. In some of these, nothing happens for a long time, and then – blink and you'll miss it – a blur of racing dogs flashes past. On another, a busy stream of owners, trainers and hounds (clad in bright red, numbered jackets) parades back and forth.

Beautifully framed, the film clips possess a sharp, almost surreal quality. It may be intentional – or not – but, as you watch gallery patrons milling around looking up at the works, another situation springs to mind: gambling punters in pubs gazing intently at suspended screens hoping for a win. A glance through the visitors' book reveals a wealth of enthusiastic comments, even though a few admit they do not know what, exactly, Miller is on about.

"People seem to be responding well to the show," he says, "though for a while there at the track I was treated with some suspicion and contempt. I'm interested in what emerges from the experience of driving through landscapes - the shifts in light and colour that happen over time. I try to reference this in my work, when, for example, there are bright flashy points of interest in otherwise dull, muted environments."

The brief for *Spaced* participants was to make a transportable work in two parts, one to be presented locally and one for PIAF. Fortunately for the organisers, much of the content is photographic or audio visual, which will make readapting it to another room quite straightforward.

In Miller's case, the second part of 'Northam Greyhounds' explores further aspects of the greyhound racing industry, some controversial, and will have an additional sculptural element.

The two years of creativity comprising 'Spaced - art out of place' will culminate in a group exhibition showcasing all 16 pieces at the Fremantle Arts Centre in February 2012.

Did You Know?

In Dec. 1927, it was reported in *The Toodyay Herald*: 'Toodyay has at the moment 136 cars licensed; motor bicycles total 26 and horse-drawn vehicles 173. The figures for prams and scooters are not yet available.' (From *The Long Toodyay Chronology*, Part 2, 1901-1950, Toodyay Historical Society Inc.)

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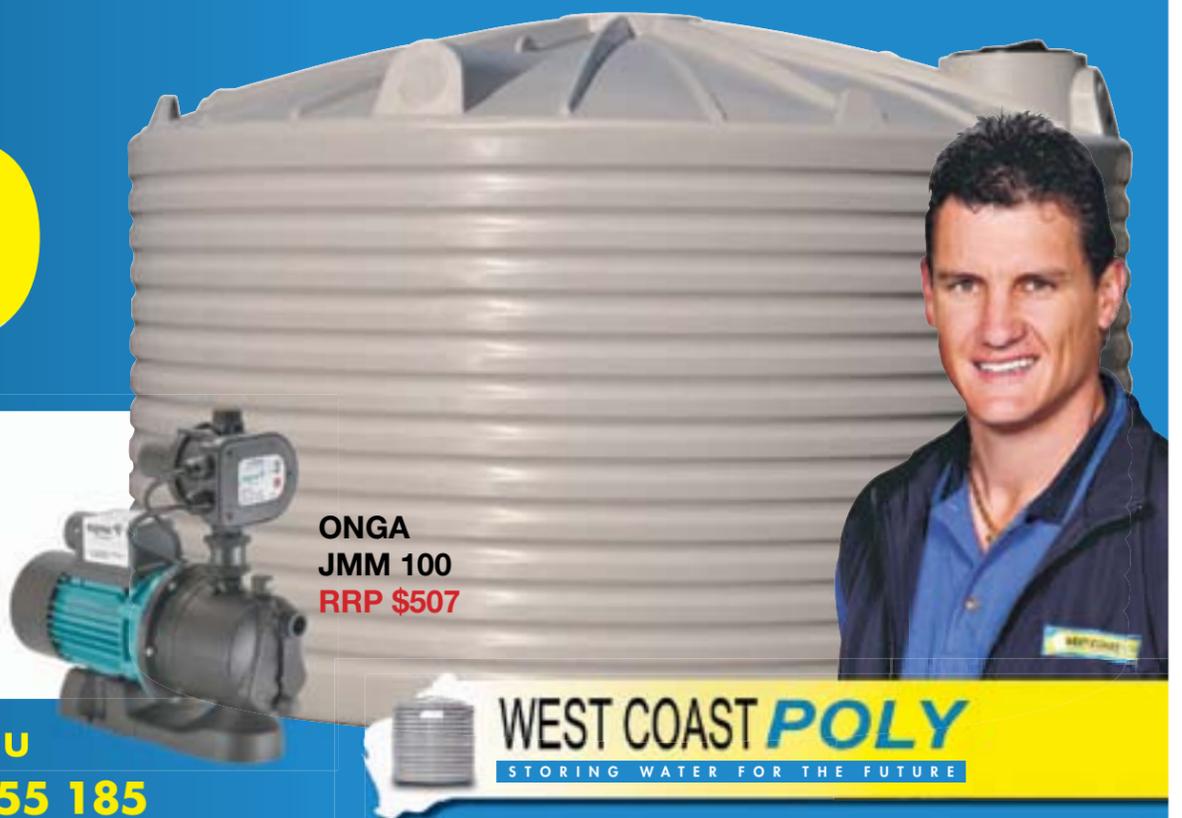
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Recipe Corner

Boiled Pineapple and Mixed Fruit Cake



Desraé Clarke

WITH the coming of the Festive Season, this delicious cake can be made as a Christmas cake or given as a gift. It can be dressed up with an edging of almonds or iced with a decoration of Christmas motifs. However, because of the delicious mixture of fruit, and a dash of sweet sherry, it doesn't necessarily need any embellishment.

The recipe is also one that you can add and subtract various ingredients, as you wish, but the weight of whatever is added or left out must be equalled with other ingredients. For instance, the recipe asks for 500gm of 'mixed fruit'. As I don't like lemon rind in a cake, I make my fruit up to 500gm with sultanas, currants and raisins.

Allow at least ¾ of an hour in the midst of its making for the boiled mixture to cool. Have the eggs at 'room temperature' and prepare all the ingredients to have at hand.

ALWAYS check you have used ALL the ingredients from the list. I have had some near disasters but for that golden rule!!!

Preparing the container

Line both the sides and base of a 23cm cake tin with baking paper.

Ingredients:

- 500gm mixed dried fruit
- ¼ cup chopped nuts (optional)
- 125gm dried apricots, chopped
- 125gm butter
- 1 cup brown sugar

- 1 level teaspoon mixed spice
- ¼ cup sweet sherry
- 1 small tin crushed pineapple
- 1 level teaspoon sodium bicarbonate
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup self raising flour
- 1 cup plain flour
- Almonds for decoration (optional)

Method:

- 1) Combine the dried fruit, chopped nuts (optional), chopped apricots, butter, sugar, mixed spice, sweet sherry and crushed pineapple in a saucepan and very slowly bring to the boil.
- 2) Simmer the mixture (very gentle bubbling) for 5 minutes then remove the saucepan from the heat.
- 3) Allow the mixture to cool for ¾ of an hour.
- 4) Add the level teaspoon of sodium bicarbonate and beaten eggs and stir well.
- 5) Sift the two flours into the mixture and stir thoroughly until there are no lumps visible.
- 6) Pour the mixture into the prepared tin and gently tap the cake tin on a flat surface to allow the mixture to spread evenly and also to rid it of air bubbles.
- 7) Decorate it with almonds if desired.
- 8) Cook at 150°C for approximately 1½ hours - test with a skewer to check if the cake is thoroughly cooked. If the skewer comes out of the cake without any mixture sticking to it, it is cooked.
- 9) Allow the cake to cool in the tin.
- 10) Store in an airtight container.

AVES Needs Help to Spend Prize Winnings



Archie Whitmore (front) holds the \$2,000 that the Avon Valley Environmental Society wants to spend on introducing guided tours to Northam. The group of Society members stand on a bridge on the Dorntj Koorliny Track which will be part of the planned tours. From left to right: Mike Whittington, Christine Whitmore, Sarai Weatherly, Darby Whitmore and Peter Weatherly.

LOCAL environmentalist, Peter Weatherly has a problem: the Avon Valley Environmental Society Inc has \$2,000 to invest – and is looking for volunteers to help him spend it.

The group last week won the prestigious CSBP Environmental Award in the annual WA Regional Achievement and Community Awards. The prize of \$2,000 recognised the group's continuing delivery of 'a diverse range of projects for the benefit of the local community' around Northam.

"Our latest project is to introduce guided tours of Northam's cultural, environmental, Aboriginal, historical and industrial attractions for locals and visitors," Peter said. "We need volunteers to be trained as guides – and they are proving difficult to find."

Although the prize money can be used for other purposes, the Society has decided the launch of guided tours has the highest priority at this point in time.

"We need to take advantage of Northam's move to SuperTown status," Peter said. "Northam's image and economy will benefit greatly from having a group of knowledgeable, friendly people escort groups on short walks while explaining the many attractions – built and natural – in our fascinating backyard."

He said the key to the project was recruiting volunteer guides. "We are looking for keen and energetic people to train as guides. The Avon Valley Environmental Society Inc will provide the logistical support and on-going management – planning tour locations and scheduling walks and talks.

"Volunteers will be trained by experts in

a wide range of disciplines to complement their own special interests. At the end of a short course, they will be equipped with good local knowledge on many subjects, have polished presentation skills, and the support of local community organisations to conduct regular short tours around Northam."

People of all ages and all walks of life are encouraged to 'Be a Northam Guide'. To register your interest, please call Mike on 0404 754 161 or Peter on 0428 221 453.

The Avon Valley Environmental Society Inc first came into existence when the Northam By-pass was an issue of community concern. Since then, the group has been involved in projects which included commissioning a biological baseline study into water quality in the Northam pool, upgrading the Dorntj Koorliny ('Walking Together') track, the development of interpretive signage at Burlong Pool, the complete refurbishment of walking tracks on Mt Ommanney, a solar power co-operative, and a proposed cultural centre and, most recently, guided tours of Northam.

The CSBP award recognised that, in every instance, the completion of group projects "has met with wide public support and appreciation. This widening circle of approval maintains impetus for those projects which are on-going – or even in the formative stages".

"The Society works to a well-defined set of aims, supported by strong policies which are advocated widely – both through the media and in direct contact by mail, email and verbally – with relevant government, non-government and private agencies and organisations."

Did You Know?

On 18 Dec. 1978, the Shire of Toodyay adopted the Raspberry Jam Tree (*Acacia acuminata*) as the floral emblem of the Shire, on the recommendation of the Toodyay Naturalists' Club. (From *The Long Toodyay Chronology, Part 3, 1951-1980* (in process), Toodyay Historical Society Inc.)

Ye Olde Lolly Shoppe

Located within the Toodyay Visitors Centre, the Ye Olde Lolly Shoppe is a walk down memory lane for older folks and a mouthwatering experience for everyone. Stocked with over 300 varieties of sweets which include old fashioned, hand made humbugs, chocolates, fudges and candy. You can choose your favorite from a jar, try one of the sweets we are bagging at the time or choose from our shelves.

With Christmas approaching we can make that special gift basket to order or purchase one of our ready made baskets/boxes

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Parklanders Bushfire Ready Group



F Moran
Coordinator

ON Saturday afternoon, 12 November, the group finally got the chance to have its planned 'practice burn'. We used a vacant block which forms part of the group area (up until this time, the unseasonal weather had not allowed us to proceed.)

The exercise had many aims:

- to allow the group to experience some of the many aspects of a bushfire: the smoke, the way different plants burn, the roar/wind in a fire, etc.
- to give the participants an opportunity to try out their own fire units (we had six present on the day.)
- to observe how a fire might be lit in a controlled way. The afternoon was a little gusty and it was very interesting to see how the flames were able to be controlled when close to the boundary. We had very few spot fires, but it was obvious to all, how easily they could occur and just what a real hazard they could be.

As a consequence of burning this block, we have also created a possible evacuation point for the group, depending, of course on the circumstances at the time. Being in a cul de sac, we could find ourselves in a deadend, with

nowhere to go.

Another lesson observed, was the value of having a flashing yellow light on a vehicle in a very smokey situation.

We thank Alan Knapp for his presence and planning, before and during the event.



Bushfire Ready

Tracey Salmond

THE Bush Fire Ready Groups have had good turnouts to the three meetings held in this past month.

After the first gathering, information passed on by the facilitators was put into action as property owners were asked to go home and prepare two 'Fire Plans'.

These plans are a dot point check list of things to do at your property in the event of a bush fire:

1. Planning on 'leaving early'.
2. Planning on 'staying and defending'.

Remember, circumstances may affect the choice you have and therefore it is necessary to plan for both situations.

Participants brought their plans back to the following meeting and presented them to the group. A lot of great ideas and thought provoking questions were addressed. Good work done by all.

Several people have had their properties inspected by one of our facilitators and have been advised on how to prepare them.

Up to forty people now have 'Bush Fire Plans' and are more comfortable with the knowledge they have gained from the Bush Fire Ready Group meetings.

We wish everyone a happy and fire safe Christmas and we will be back in the New Year. Don't hesitate to call if you have any queries.

Contact Mick Rogers on 0428 583 954 or Tracey Salmond on 9574 5360.

St John Ambulance

Karen Jacomelli

ST JOHN would like to thank the family of Hector Wood for their decision to ask for donations to the local St John service instead of flowers. Hector was and will always be remembered as a true gentleman with admirable qualities. Thank you to all who donated.

As there is no paper in January, we hope that you all have a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

It is not too late to purchase tickets at the Toodyay Hair Studio in the mammoth Hamper Raffle to be drawn on 17 December. Your contributions assist this volunteer service to your community. Thanks to all past, present and future contributors.

The statistics for October totalled 34 callouts covering a total of 3,957kms. This consisted of 29 for Toodyay who travelled 3091kms and 5 for Morangup who travelled

895kms. These callouts involved 9 Trauma, 21 Medical, 3 Cardiac and 1 Other (standby).

Assisting externally last month, First Aid Instructors, Valerie Cale and Jenny Willgoss, took the opportunity of conducting a First Aid course at New Norcia for 15 staff and volunteers.

The 2012 First Aid courses calendar of events has not yet been confirmed. However this is a reminder to check your First Aid certificate to see when it expires and make arrangements to attend a class early rather than later. The Office Manager Pam Tenant or Instructors Jenny Willgoss and Valerie Cale will take your name and contact details and advise you of the dates once arranged in late January.

Coondle-Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Mark Middleton

AS we are all aware fire season is upon us and hopefully everyone has taken responsibility to ensure that their properties are fire safe and meet Shire regulations. If you have any queries at all please phone the Shire or one of the local FCOs for clarification.

We would like to welcome our new fire fighters and auxiliary members and hope they find their involvement a rewarding experience.

The Shire brigades recently attended a crop fire on Chatcup Road. This was eventually brought under control and thanks to all support services that were involved. Also many thanks to the Coondle-Nunile Auxiliary who managed to put some food together on short notice.

We are getting good attendance at our training sessions, our last being fend-off position which was well received by all who attended. Thank you to Brian Salmond for his input during this exercise.

We extend a warm welcome to anyone seeking more information on becoming a volunteer fire fighter, an auxiliary member or any aspects of fire prevention and safety. This can be done by attending our next meeting on Saturday 10 December at 5pm at the Coondle Fire Shed or any Friday night for a social get together.

For more information you can contact our Captain, Peter, on 9574 2951 or the local FCOs. Contact details for FCOs are in the Local Directory.

From all the members of the Coondle-Nunile fire shed we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas.



Margaret River Bush Fire Appeal

Show your support today by donating at any Bendigo Bank branch or online with your credit card at www.bendigobank.com.au/foundation/margaretriverbushfire

THE FACTORY
Toodyay Baptist Church

Jesus Works

Sunday Service

10.30am

18 STIRLING TCE, 9574 4546

Music

Contemporary acoustic rock with some lovely ballads and old hymns thrown in.

Sunday School

Three classes, 6-9 yr olds, 9-12 yr olds, 12-15 yr olds. Creche for under school-aged kids.

Youth

Every Friday night at our place "The Factory". Ages 13-21.

Ladies

Bible studies and fellowship.

Mens

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Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Alison Wroth

AT the last meeting of the Julimar Fire Brigade held on 19 November, our Captain Lou, who took the Chair in the absence of Brian, thanked all the members for the ever increasing support over the last month. Friday nights at 'The Fireplace' are proving increasingly popular and the hope is that this will continue over Christmas and the New Year.

Area beautification is still taking place around 'The Fireplace' with Wes coming over on his ride-on mower to cut the wild oats before they got out of control. Tuesday is generally maintenance day and Anne, Rod, Lou, Wade, Rocket and Charlie pitched in to get as many jobs done as possible. Rod has strung up some festive lights to get us all into the Christmas spirit. Our thanks must go to everyone who helps with improvements; you all know who you are.

Our Auxiliary Ladies have restocked the Ready Response Packs – without Smackos!

Attendance was low for November's training so, rather than the prepared training session, we had a general discussion about preparing for and what to look for prior to and when fighting a bushfire.

December training is listed for 18 December but this may be bought forward or cancelled due to the fact that the Brigade's Christmas Bash will be taking place the night before and we all realise it could be doubtful whether a 'quorum' would be able to be reached. Please check with Grant, on our website under 'Training' or at the shed for more up-to-date information.

As you know the money raised from the Chook Wheel on Friday night is now spent on dips and nibbles to make the night more of a social affair. Everyone is taking their turn as it rotates through the brigade and this ensures that every Friday night we are provided with different nibbles and treats. One of our Brigade members on Friday night, in her hurry to both keep talking, get money for drinks and reach for nibbles all at the same time, successfully managed to bite down hard on her \$2 coin (without cheese) believing it was a biscuit. What a surprise for her when she nearly lost her front tooth and, on closer inspection, discovered it was a coin from CHOGM! She must have kept it as a souvenir when she was a volunteer during the event!

Many thanks to all those Brigade members who contributed to our fantastic 2012 Calendar. We have presold over 90 calendars and that is just through brigade members!

What a wonderful Christmas present it will make.

The Christmas Raffle / Stall outside IGA will have occurred by the time this goes to print. We shall find out what went on in February's column.

Brigade members manned the vehicles for a fire in Bejoording during the month. It was amazing how quickly this fire became established so early in the season. Our two vehicles spent over 25 hours on the fire ground in three shifts. The Auxiliaries made lunch for all Brigades on the Saturday with other Brigades helping out at different times for meals. It was also time to put our Crew Change-over Vehicle through its paces and, whilst not the speediest car on the road, it was comfortable and served its purpose well. As usual, thanks to all who gave up their time.

Firefighters were also involved in two controlled burns during the month. Combining with other brigades under the direction of Toodyay FRS, they burnt along Julimar and Railway Roads at the entrance to town. The other burn was a Julimar only affair on Deepdale Road. Thanks to all who attended.

Anyone wishing to find out more about or to join our Brigade can do so by calling down to the "Fireplace" on Julimar Road on any Friday evening from 5pm onwards for our weekly sundowners. More information can be obtained from our website www.julimarbfb.org.au.

Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Desraé Clarke

THE General Meeting, held Tuesday 22 November, was the last formal meeting for our Brigade for the year. The four major callouts over the past month have been grass fires with two caused by vehicle incidents. Education from these occurrences has been essential for the new members. With the long period of rain the roadside weed growth is significant which exacerbated the above problems.

FESA held community fire education presentations in the Toodyay Memorial Hall on Saturday 12 November and the Morangup Community Hall on 19 November. If you were unable to attend either of these sessions, information booklets are available from the Shire Office or from FESA.

A well-attended 'Introduction to Fire Fighting' course was held on 12 November in the Toodyay Fire and Emergency Services Centre; thanks are given to trainers, Heather and Brent Wearmouth.

The Central Brigade holds regular training

sessions on the third Thursday (7pm) and Sunday (9.30am) of each month, with the next sessions to be on 15 and 18 December. Training is to be on driving assessment of fire vehicles, drafting and remedial radio education with training a must for new members; it is an important refresher for those who feel they may need updating on these procedures. Members meet at the Fire and Emergency Services Centre so please contact Captain, Kevin Hug 9574 2612 (mobile 0418 932 515) for all enquiries.

An end-of-year Christmas get-together is to be held on Saturday 10 December so please contact secretary, Wayne Clarke, for finer details.

The next General Meeting of the Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade is to be held Tuesday 24 January 2012 commencing 7.30pm at the Fire and Emergencies Centre, Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

Volunteers, both active and ancillary, are always needed to join Central Brigade. Enquiries may be made to Captain, Kevin Hug 9574 2612, and Secretary, Wayne Clarke 6364 3609 or email: 2jcentralvbf@westnet.com.au.

Volunteer Fire Fighting Championships

MEMBER for the Agricultural Region Mia Davies said the future of Wheatbelt volunteer fire fighting was bright after attending the State Junior Championships in Fremantle over the weekend.

Teams from Northam, Merredin and Kellerberrin competed against 15 other brigades from across the State in a set of rigorous challenges including hydrant races, sprints, hose disabling and hose draining.

The three Wheatbelt teams took their place in the Championships after winning through at the recent Regional Zone Championships.

Ms Davies said the volunteers, aged 11-17 years, impressed with their levels of endurance, speed, teamwork and leadership.

"The teams, made up of young men and women, showcased an array of professional fire fighting skills which were backed up by an impressive level of fitness and general common sense and maturity," Ms Davies said.

"The recent events in Margaret River have highlighted the importance of volunteer fire brigades in regional areas, and from what I saw on the weekend, the Wheatbelt will be in safe hands if these young people choose to continue on into the senior ranks."

Ms Davies said the communities of Northam, Merredin and Kellerberrin had fundraised to enable their junior teams to take part in the Championships.

"The volunteers, their families, local business and the wider community all pitched in to provide these talented young people the chance to put their learned skills into action."

Of all the competing teams Kellerberrin had the largest contingent with 44 competitors.

"Quite impressive considering the population of the Shire of Kellerberrin is only 1182," Ms Davies said.

Total Fire Ban Changes for Farmers

LEGISLATIVE changes are now in effect that will allow farmers more flexibility during Total Fire Bans to continue vital activities that contribute to their livelihood.

Agricultural activity can now continue until your Local Government places a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban.

FESA Acting Chief Operations Officer Lloyd Bailey said the changes were a good outcome to cater for the needs of farmers without increasing the bushfire risk.

"The changes will allow farmers to continue day to day farming activities in their local area under a Total Fire Ban until their shire deems it unsafe to continue based on local conditions," Mr Bailey said.

The changes have been made after a consultation process with local governments and primary producers. Certain activities likely to create a bushfire danger such as grinding or metal cutting using a cut-off saw are still not permitted during a Total Fire Ban.

Farmers must still comply with local government by-laws that require a firefighting vehicle to be in the vicinity during harvesting.

Mr Bailey said the declaring of Total Fire Bans was an important prevention measure and urged everyone to be aware of what they can and can't do when one is declared.

"While these changes apply to the agricultural community, Total Fire Bans are something every Western Australian needs to be aware of in order to reduce the risk of fires this summer," he said.

Detailed information on Total Fire Bans is available on the FESA website at www.fesa.wa.gov.au.

Information on Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans is available from local government offices.

During a total fire ban you can:

- Use an electric BBQ
- Use a gas BBQ with an enclosed flame
- Use a gas or electric BBQ in a local park, if strict conditions are followed
- Use a chainsaw, grass trimmer or lawn mower in built up areas
- Use a generator in built up areas
- Use equipment and machinery in built up areas

Provided a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban is NOT in place, farmers can continue to:

- Harvest crops
 - Auger/grist grain
 - Move or load livestock
 - Feed or farm livestock
 - Service water machinery
 - Drive vehicles on internal farm tracks and across paddocks
 - Move hay or field bins
- During a total fire ban you may not:
- Perform grinding, welding or other forms of 'hot works' in the open air
 - Light, maintain or use a fire in the open air
 - Carry out an activity in the open air that causes or is likely to cause a fire
 - Use a solid fuel BBQ, requiring wood or charcoal
 - Burn leaves, garden waste and grass cuttings, or use an incinerator

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Better Beginnings Kindergarten and Pre-Primary



Angi McCluskey
Senior Library Officer

BETTER Beginnings is a state wide family literacy program which supports and involves parents by encouraging and developing the benefits of reading to and with our children.

Reading develops the mind and opens the door for the imagination and is a wonderful experience for each and every parent to share with their child.

The initial Better Beginnings Programme for babies and toddlers was introduced approximately five years ago by State Library of Western Australia.

Together with local authorities the program was launched and in Toodyay the Shire came on board three years ago and is continuing the partnership with wholehearted enthusiasm.

Recently Better Beginnings for Kindergarten and Pre-Primary children was developed by State Library and in conjunction with State Government and

private industry funding it is now available via public libraries through participating schools. Toodyay District High School took the initiative in accepting our invitation to join this exciting family literacy program.

On Monday 14 November, eighty-five Literacy gift packs containing an interactive story book, story board, plus recommended activities were presented to the parents and children of the Kindergarten and Pre-Primary classes. Other Better Beginnings resources are available to schools and students through the Toodyay Library and they include:

- Discovery backpacks which include picture books, audio books, literacy skill development games, puppets and information linked to English, Maths and Science learning areas;
- Read aloud book sets for use in classrooms and for reading at home; and
- E-books and online literacy databases available free for parents and children.

Toodyay Youthcare Chaplaincy

Moya Bruce

Christmas raffle:

THANK you very much to all our wonderful sponsors; we raised \$673.10 which was a great effort by all concerned. Special thanks to all who donated prizes. First prize, an antique doll donated by Roz of Courtyard Antiques, was won by D. Murphy ticket No B48. Second prize, a Nativity set was won by Beryl Officer with ticket No B35. Third prize, a rocking reindeer made and donated by Jim Bruce, was won by Kath Fairhead with ticket No C33. Fourth prize, crystal candles, was won by ticket No B60.

Second Raffle:

First prize, a money tree, was donated by Gary and Diane, instant lottery tickets donated by Lotterywest and the winner was Val, ticket No C40. Second prize, a garden set donated by Caroline and Greg Downey, was won by ticket No E40 Ev and Tracey. Third prize, a Nutrimetics basket which was donated by Jenny Norman, was won by Colleen Cook with ticket No E70. Fourth prize of recipe books donated by Marilyn Piper was won by JB with ticket No E84. Fifth prize, a gift voucher donated by Barbara of Bar-Bar-A Black Sheep, was won by Berenese with ticket No C67. Sixth prize was a breakfast voucher donated by Sally of Wendouree tearooms and was won by Adele with ticket No C36. Seventh prize of two bottles of wine was won by Reg Smith with ticket No B85. Eighth prize, a coffee mug set, was won by Margo with ticket No C31.

Once again thank you all very much for all your support during the year.

We wish all our family, friends, benefactors and all the staff and students at the Toodyay District High School a very safe, happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

God bless you all.

Youthcare Wanted Campaign

IN ANTICIPATION of various 2012 celebratory events to commemorate 40

years of Christian Religious Education (CRE) and 30 years of school chaplaincy, YouthCARE launched its 'Wanted' campaign on 22 November 2011.

In the campaign, which includes a clip on YouTube, friends and supporters are invited to share their stories about YouthCARE chaplains, Christian Religious Education (CRE) teachers, YouthCARE Councils and events spanning the last 40 years.

YouthCARE CEO, Stanley Jeyaraj, said that the organisation's growth and numerous initiatives, on both the CRE and chaplaincy front, bear testimony to the commitment of churches, schools, various community groups, businesses and individuals.

"Our history keeps us grounded and connected. We know of wonderful stories out there and we would like to share them at the various organised celebratory events next year. So, if you have a story, tell us about it," Mr Jeyaraj said.

Stakeholders are encouraged to travel down memory lane and share testimonies, photographs and stories about CRE teachers, YouthCARE Council members, YouthCARE school chaplains and events. Go to www.youthcare.org.au and click on the 'Wanted' icon or send your stories to: rubbyanniversary@youthcare.org.au.

Dog Washing



Now available on
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from 9am to 11am
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Toodyay

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necessary,
just turn up!



Toodyay Kindergym

TOODYAY Kindergym is coming to the end of yet another fun filled and busy year. We would like to say a huge thank you to all the families who will be leaving us at the end of the year. Your contribution over the years has been greatly appreciated. We wish you many happy years in your schooling adventure. It has been wonderful watching these children grow in confidence. Kindy Gym can really have a positive influence on our children.



We will be having our end of term outing at Doogee Park on Friday 11 December so bring your Christmas cheer and we'll have lots of fun.

Kindergym runs on Fridays from 9.30 to 10.30. The children enjoy a range of activities such as singing, shapes, colours, counting and lots of activities using gross motor skills. Each week we set up a circuit that they can negotiate at their own pace. So

for an hour of movement and fun. We look forward to seeing you. And as you can see our babies have just as much fun!

A very big thank you to the fantastic group of parents who set up, run and pack up the circuit each week. We would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to Daphne who comes in each week and helps pack all the equipment away. We really appreciate it.

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

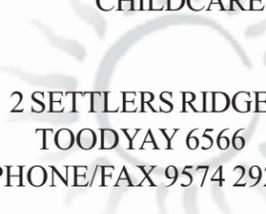
For any further enquiries, call Clair (President) on 9574 4529 or 0432 674 502.



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To find out more about the exciting opportunities for your child visit cacbindoon.wa.edu.au or call the College on (08) 9576 5500.



Buses
daily from
Northam

engaging our students

education

Mid West Chaplains' Cup a Huge Success

THE saying, "From little things, big things grow," couldn't hold truer for a group of high school chaplains in the Mid West. Their annual chaplains' cup basketball competition - introduced six years ago to promote YouthCARE school chaplaincy whilst having fun - outgrew existing country facilities and was recently moved to Perth.

Students from seven Mid West country high schools went wild on 16 November when Wildcats assistant coach, Andy Steward, and a number of top Perth Wildcats' players made a surprise visit to the Warwick Leisure



Centre, coached the kids and participated in a shootout competition.

Doug McGhee, YouthCARE school chaplain in 2005, started the chaplains' cup along with Bindoon physical education teacher, Tam Nguyen.

"It was such a great event that other schools soon heard about it and wanted to join in. It just kept on getting bigger and better each year," says Doug, now YouthCARE local area chaplain in the Mid West.

The tournament also aims to provide country students with the opportunity to get together for a fun day of positive basketball competition.

This year's chaplains' cup, sponsored by *Smarter than Smoking*, included a free fruit salad, health promotional talk, an All Star game of selected students from each school playing against the teachers and chaplains, a get-to-know-you activity for schools to mix.

New Bus Runs For Agricultural College

CATHOLIC AGRICULTURAL College Bindoon will now be offering extended bus runs for students living in Northam and the Country Club Estate Bindoon. These new bus runs will be commencing in 2012 and Principal Mr Damian Wallis has said "These new bus runs will now allow day students from these areas more flexibility in starting times and extend the zones in which our catchment area is, this is a great opportunity for the college to be able to offer this service to our surrounding community."

The school gives students a distinctive educational opportunity. It presents mainstream academic courses along with practical and skills oriented courses. The curriculum is undertaken not only in the classroom, but also in workshops and on our 2,000 hectare working farm on which the school is situated.

The most unique aspect of this school is that it extends to young adults a lifestyle that develops a strong work ethic, the ability to accept and respect fellow peers and other members of the community as well as a genuine care for the land and the environment. Students that graduate from Catholic Agricultural College Bindoon are capable, independent and resilient.

The aim of Catholic Agricultural College Bindoon is to prepare the students for successful work lives and to positively impact their communities.

First Steps Playgroup Inc. Toodyay Montessori

A fantastic Family Fun Day was held in September with the Toodyay Playgroup and the Kindergym Group - awesome organisation by the committee involved in getting the day to run so smoothly and including lots of fun. A big thank you.

Our playgroup enjoyed a lovely time on Monday 28 November at Duidgee Park. Every year Catherine and Micaile Petulergro sponsor us for a morning of train rides on the Miniature Railway. We would like to thank them both for their generosity.

If you are interested in coming along with your child to our Playgroup where we have a Play Co-ordinator, we are taking enrolments for 2012. Our sessions are Monday 9.30-11.30am at the Toodyay Playgroup Room in the Community Centre. You are most

welcome to come for a visit and check out what we do. Our first Monday back for 2012 is on 6 February or contact Naomi on 9574 5667.

No Security for Northam Community

"THE FEDERAL MINISTER for Immigration's representatives at every community meeting held with the people of Northam had assured the community that there would be adequate security and there was nothing to fear; the stark reality is that there was no provision put in place to ensure that safety of the community," says the Hon Max Trenorden MLC Member for the Agricultural Region.

Obviously the Federal Government has put politics and twisted rationalism theories first and security second," he said.

"A previous urgent plea to Federal Government which raised serious concerns about the fact the accommodation was for "Men Only" has been treated with disinterest and the Northam community has been conned," says Mr Trenorden.

"My information is that our police force is stretched to the limit, to the point where their response time as been questioned. The Wheatbelt is a vast area to control and I am also told that this situation could become absolutely untenable with the influx of people working at the detention centre and their families living in the Avon Region," according to Mr Trenorden.

"The Department of Immigration and Citizenship tries to justify this decision by saying "its detention centre provider Serco and the Australian Federal Police will retain primacy over the response to disturbances or civil disorder within the Northam Detention centre". Well I say the community of Northam should have some very serious concerns," Trenorden said.

"It makes me wonder how these people come up with these priorities and still sleep at night knowing that this situation is totally unacceptable," says Mr Trenorden.

Funding Boost For Regional Child Care Centres

THE FUTURE of occasional child care centres in regional Western Australia is more secure following a \$9.3 million Royalties for Regions funding boost, announced today.

Member for the Agricultural Region, Mia Davies has welcomed the announcement saying it will be a lifeline for regional day care centres after the Federal Government withdrew funding for neighbourhood model occasional care centres.

"The Regional Child Care Development Fund (RCCDF) will help to ensure regional working families have access to quality childcare," Ms Davies said.

"Regional child cares face a variety of challenges including isolation, a shortage of qualified care facilitators and a seasonal work flow, which mean the five-days-a-week metropolitan model of child care centres is often not suited to the needs of regional communities."

Ms Davies said the RCCDF would provide additional training opportunities for child care staff and ease the pressure on their volunteer management committees.

President of Milly, Molly, Mandy Brookton Multifunctional Day Care, Louise Allington said access to Royalties for Regions funding, through the RCCDF, would take the pressure off their facility.

"Up until now we have been relying on volunteers to carry out the financial management and compliance requirements of the centre," she said.

"We have been hoping for funding to employ a business manager to some of the workload off our committee, so today's announcement is a welcome relief."

Ms Davies has worked closely with child care providers across the Agricultural Region to ensure they can continue to provide services in their town.

"Families need access to quality occasional childcare facilities in order to work, study, and take part in other opportunities in their community."

The RCCDF funding follows on from Royalties for Regions funding of \$687,329 delivered in February this year to help 21 occasional care centres across Western Australia stay open.

For more information about the RCCDF visit www.communities.wa.gov.au or please contact Hon Mia Davies MLC on mobile 0412 656 005 or via email at mia.davies@mp.wa.gov.au.

Everyone Can Be a Life Saver

THE Keep Watch around water campaign is now topical as the temperature is warming up, the baths are coming out and the pools are opening. All community members are advised to Keep Watch of children around water, particularly those under five years of age this summer.

Local Health Promotion Officer, Rachael Biddulph, stated, "Water safety is relevant for all families no matter whether people go to a public pool, the beach, live on a farm, have a paddle pool or large pool in the backyard."

"The Keep Watch campaign messages are supervise, restrict access to water (securer fences), be water aware and learn resuscitation skills," she said.

Active supervision for children under five means that a child is being constantly watched by a responsible adult within arms' reach. "Many drowning deaths happen in those few seconds while parent's answers the phone or attends a knock at the door," Rachael said. "Even with paddle pools, adult supervision needs to be within arms' reach. Also drain or deflate the pool after use and store out of reach of children and somewhere it cannot collect rainwater."

"Many people mistakenly believe that once they enter a swimming pool facility, the responsibility for their child's safety is transferred to the lifeguards. This is not the case; every parent/guardian is responsible for the safety of their own child."

Restricting access to water is easier in some locations rather than others. In the town house and public pools the secure fence with age appropriate latches is essential. "On the farm, however, many hazards cannot be fenced such as dams and creeks so it is important to have a securely fenced house yard or 'safe play area'," said Rachael. "Research shows only one half of farms have secured play areas, thus close supervision is required. Also remove or cover hazards like troughs, tanks or drums close to the house."

Being water aware is about educating children about water risks and hazards as well as setting rules around water. "The bath is a great place to start educating your child and setting rules around water," stated Rachael.

Parents with CPR skills have saved the lives of children in the past. "Learning resuscitation should be a priority for all parents," she said. "It is even more important for families on farms with long waiting times for emergency services to reach farms. Even visitors to farms should be able to direct emergency services to the farm."

For more information about the Keep Watch message visit www.royallifesaving.com.au. *The Kids Alive Do The Five* website (www.kidsalive.com.au) also has a downloadable DVD about living with water and five free water safety lessons designed for parents with children under five.

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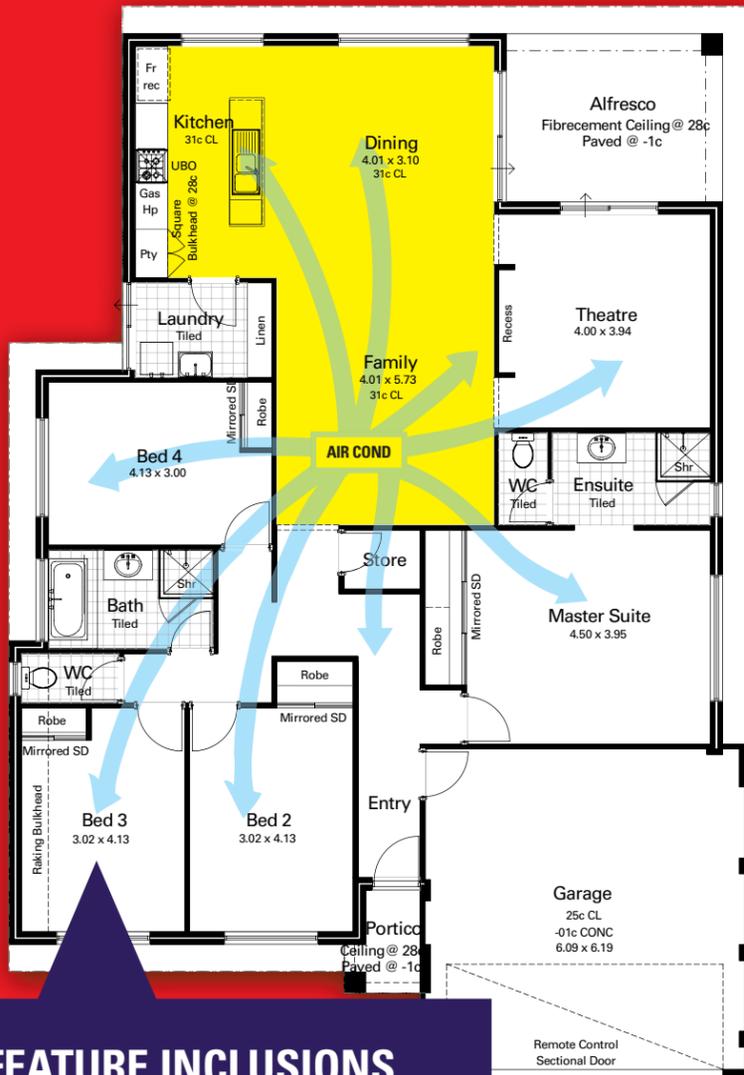
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frank venn memorial award

Co-ordinator's Report

Desraé Clarke
Co-ordinator

IT was pleasing to see the large number of entries in the Upper Primary section of the Frank Venn Memorial Awards this year. It was also gratifying to receive several entries in the Middle Primary section and from 'home schoolers'. Well done to all entrants and thank you to the teachers and parents. It is a shame there were no entries in the 2011 Awards in the Lower Primary Section, Yrs 3 & 4 and the Lower Secondary Section, Yrs 8, 9 & 10 and only one Adult entry.

The winner of the Middle Primary Section, Yrs 4 & 5, was Wesley Street with his entry entitled, 'My bird, Rolly'; the Judge's comment was: 'Excellent believable, likeable story, well-written. Well done!'

Sam Street's entry, entitled 'Fishing Trip', was Highly Commended.

The winner of the Upper Primary Section, Yrs 6 & 7, was Reuben Street with his entry entitled, 'The Hunt'. The Judge's comment was: 'Excellent story, good language, well written. Well done!'

Madelyn Sheahan was awarded Highly Commended with her entry entitled 'Stage Struck' and Emylee Morrison was awarded Highly Commended with her entry entitled 'Anaconda Ambush'.

Linda Vandeppear was the winner of the Adult Section with her entry entitled 'The Trainee Angel'. The Judge's comment was: 'A children's story? Well developed and imaginative.'

Gratitude is extended to the two Judges of the entries, Mrs Mona Coffey and Mrs Carole Plackett, - THANK YOU!

Short Stories

A short story is a piece of fiction concerning an important topic and made up of a title, followed by a beginning, middle and an ending. Begin by deciding what your story is to be about and write out your plot.

The Title should say something about the story to encourage it to be read.

The Beginning is an introduction of the

idea of what the story is to be about.

The Middle section is the body of the story. It will give information on what the story is about, whether there are problems to be solved, whether things get better or worse, whether a solution may be found, which may lead to a climax. In this section, the story may hint at a solution.

The End is the finding of a solution, a way out which may bring the story to a dramatic or beautiful, happy or sad ending; this is the ending or 'conclusion'.

On finishing the story check that the following are included:

- There is a name, or title, to the story.
- There is an interesting opening to encourage the reader to read more of the story.
- That the story has a plot that follows through to a good ending which may be happy, sad, exciting or dramatic, etc.

Hopefully, 2012 will see many more entrants in the Frank Venn Memorial Award for Local Writers in all categories!

My Bird Rolly

Wesley Street
Winner: Middle Primary

THIS is a story about a pink and gray galah and me Eddie, and my family the West's, big brother Peter, little sister Sally, my Dad Ronald and Mum Paula. It happened like this.

Dad had just picked me up from school in his big Western Star truck, and I climbed into the truck and gave him my school report. He read it and was so pleased because I had gotten 100% and a good report. He said we would go and get a treat from the shops. On the way Dad was telling me about his day when we heard a big whack against the windscreen. Dad screeched to a halt and there was a beautiful pink and gray galah on the road.

We jumped out of the truck and I said to Dad "is it dead? Can I touch it?"

"No", Dad replied, "but we can't just leave it here, so I'll put it on the side of the road and we'll see if it's still here on the way back from the shop".

On the way back I was chomping down on my chocolate bar and I reminded Dad to stop and see if the bird was still there. I was hoping that it was, but alive. "That's funny it's not there" I said. We hopped out of the truck and had a little look around. While we were looking, very silently the galah had crept into the truck and hid in the back of the cab.

So we drove home thinking it was ok. Dad let me steer from the mailbox to the house which is 100 metres. When we got there Mum was in the garden, weeding and Peter was trying out his new remote control plane he'd bought.

I thanked Dad as I hopped out of the truck, said hi to Mum and hurried over to Peter. "This is my 2nd flight so you haven't missed much", he said. He started it up. "It's pretty noisy" I said. "Here we go" said Peter. Zoom! Went the plane, "ya maniac! You almost hit me!" I said. "Sorry" said Peter, concentrating on the plane. "I'll try and do a free fall!"

"What's that noise? It sounds like the propeller is stalling" I said, as the plane then crashed into a tree. "Oh no, that's not good! I'm so sorry Peter", "its ok", said Peter, I can fix it.

I went over to Mum and told her about the pink and gray galah "oh no, poor thing", she said. "Now please go and put some gardening gloves on and help me with these weeds. So I went and got some gardening gloves from the gardening shed and started pulling weeds, when I heard this weird squawk come from Dad's truck. I looked up at the tree near Dad's truck, but there was nothing there. It happened again and I thought it sounded like it was coming from in the truck. I looked inside and couldn't believe what I saw, the galah. It was still a bit worse off but it seemed happy enough. I called to Mum, "come and have a look! It's the pink and gray galah we hit!"

Dad tried to pick it up, but it wouldn't let him. Mum tried, same thing happened. But then I tried and to my surprise it climbed straight on to my finger. Then on to my arm and then my shoulder without any fuss!

"Well then, this bird will be your responsibility" said Dad. "Hey Dad, could we build it a cage tomorrow after school?" I asked, "Of course we can" he replied, and while you're at it think of a name".

"Well I'd better start dinner. Oh yeah I forgot to tell you Eddie that you got some mail today from the school", said Mum. "It's about a 'show and tell' they are putting on for the community to raise funds for the school sports equipment. You can bring in anything to show and tell to the community. You could bring your new pet? It's in Armadale in a couple of weeks and its donation entry".

"Hey Dad, do you think I should enter my bird?"

"That would be a splendid idea; we'll discuss it at the dinner table. Let's go and eat".

"So Dad, where should I put my bird" I

asked.

"Ooo Ooo, I know" said Sally "I could build him a Duplo house".

"Well, he'll probably chew it to pieces, so only for one day" said Dad. "Have you thought up a name for your bird yet Peter [Eddie]?"

"No, but I will by tomorrow."

The next day I was at school early. The teacher told us we were doing art and to draw our pets ready for the upcoming show and tell day to advertise around town. I drew Rolly (which is his new name as he rolls around everywhere as he can't fly since we hit him with the truck!) and painted it.

After school I came home to build the cage and teach Rolly some tricks. I taught him to say hello and in just a few days he had learnt 2 whole jokes! He was the cleverest bird!

"Come on Rolly, today is the big day" I said as I got him out of his cage. "We will rehearse our jokes one more time, ok? Then Mum will get you cleaned up and put your little suit on that she made you and we'll go".

When we got to Armadale there were more people than I imagined. I started to get nervous, and I think Rolly did too. I thought me and Rolly were on third or fourth but not first, I was so nervous. We climbed up on stage and the big curtains opened and I told the crowd that we were the pink and gray jokers. "Come on Rolly, you go first" I said. He started with a squawk and the crowd laughed.

"Just like we rehearsed" I said, and then he went for it. "...What's big white and lives in out back Australia?" he squawked, I asked him what? And he said "a very lost polar bear", the crowd burst out laughing. They couldn't believe it. I told them he had one more. "...What do you get when you cross a chicken and a caterpillar?" "What", I asked again. "Drumsticks for everyone!" Everyone laughed again and clapped really loud. Rolly started copying their laughing as we walked off stage, everyone was calling out to come back and do it again.

Afterwards lots of kids wanted to hold him but he wouldn't go to anyone but me. I love my bird Rolly.

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frank venn memorial award

The Hunt

Reuben Street
Winner: Upper Primary

HI, I'm Jacob and I'm 14 years old. I live with my parents Josh and Isabel and my little sister Lee. We live in a small cottage on the south island of New Zealand.

The first snow of winter has just fallen this morning and since the early light I have been speeding down the snowy hill that is near our hut on my new sled. Its Christmas and I got the sled along with a recurve bow, quiver, ten arrows and a large bowie knife for hunting. I was so excited.

The sled is a body sled for carrying your kill, it has polished metal runners so it can slide easily with a heavy load, and has a big wooden board on top to put the load on. The bow is beautiful. Its thick black string is like a wire and the wood is as strong as an ox. It's going to take me awhile to build up my strength to be able to hold it back. The arrows in the soft leather quiver are not so pretty, with razor sharp tips that you can only imagine how much damage they do with the long wooden shaft that drives into the animals flesh. The bowie knife has a twelve inch long blade with the strength of ten men, leather handle and a short hilt that would save my hand from a slash of a tusk. Dad told me that the long bow is still too big for me and that I need to have the recurve bow first, which is still hard, but easier to pull back than the long bow.

Mum is in the kitchen preparing a feast for Christmas, while I'm collecting eggs and milking two cows we have, Daisy and Flower. My uncle Jack and Auntie Samantha are coming for the week with their new born baby Jemima. She is so cute with her big blue eyes and soft blond hair. Dad had shot a duck and a turkey for dinner earlier this afternoon. I usually go with him but I wanted to practice my shooting with my new bow. Dad said I wasn't allowed to go big game hunting until I hit the bull's eye on the hale [hay] bale target that Lee and I set up. Lee was a big help bringing my arrows back to me when I had run out. The bull's eye on our target was a small hessian bag stuffed with hay and sewn at the top, and tied to the hay bale with rope. Shooting bull's eyes isn't something you learn overnight, so I aimed thinking I'd probably miss. I fired, and as suspected, missed! I loaded up and fired again and again and made the arrows hiss through the air. I jumped with joy when an arrow disappeared into the hay. It didn't hit the bull's eye but at least it hit the target. Hiss, hiss, hiss, arrow after arrow disappeared into the hay until the dinner bell rang, and my mothers voice calling to say dinner was ready. I was proud of how quickly I had picked up the feel of the bow; it felt comfortable in my hands already.

That night after dinner Mum got really ill all of a sudden. I thought it might have been from something she ate. Dad was really worried for her and went to fetch the doctor the next day. It was a few days ride to get the doctor and since our meat supply was low Dad reluctantly said I could go with Uncle Jack to hopefully kill a boar! I was so surprised and eager to show him that I could do it.

Early the next morning Uncle Jack and I with Sniffer my dog set out. Sniffer had a ride on the sled for awhile. It is a day's walk to the forested hunting ground, but the snow will make it two. There's wild boar at the hunting ground most of the year. After walking for a few hours we stopped for a break and Uncle Jack had a look at the map he had packed along with Dads long bow, some bread, meat and a few jars of baked beans. I got a fire going to cook some meat and warm up. Uncle Jack and I pulled some logs over so we had a spot for us to sit. I asked Uncle Jack if he had ever shot a boar? He said no, but he had shot some deer and wild goat. After we had eaten and the fire had died down, we covered it with snow and set off walking again.

We hit Lake Ohau just before dark. Lake Ohau is the half way mark in our journey. We set camp by the water's edge and Uncle Jack set up the tent. I put some baked beans in a pot over the fire. As we ate dark fell and we noticed plenty of rabbits appearing for their evening meal. So I thought I'd have a good chance of getting one. With patience, I shot one with my bow and arrow. It felt good to finally hit something. It wasn't a very good shot but it still did the job, rabbits die easily from shock. "So your becoming a good

shot" said Uncle Jack, "I'm getting there" I said. I let Sniffer off his chain which we had attached to the sled. He was allowed to go get a rabbit for his dinner. He ran back and forth and up and down. I roasted my rabbit after skinning it, and it tasted beautiful. I gave some to Uncle Jack. That night I slept like a log. We walked around the lake that morning and headed off towards the snowy forest where the boars and many other animals live. The snowy forest is made up of thousands of pine trees and it would be easy to get lost, but we have Sniffer.

We arrived at the hunting ground just after noon. We had trouble getting a flat spot to set up camp. Once we had finished setting up I grabbed my bow and arrows and my knife while Uncle Jack picked up Dad's bow, and we set off. Eager to shoot a big boar for the first time we walked around for about an hour until Uncle Jack said 'this is taking too long, lets split up within cooe of each other and if you see anything give us a yell, and we'll meet back at camp then track it together. You take Sniffer. I went one way and he went the other. 'Come on Sniffer" I said, "let's find a spore first".

After walking a while, occasionally calling out to Uncle Jack, Sniffer picked up a scent and shortly was tracking something down. We found the trail left by the animal and I knew it was a boar. Dad had taught me the boar is wider than the trail, and this trail was about two foot wide so this was a big boar. I ran back to camp, cooeing Uncle Jack. He came running and we all went back to where the boars trail started.

We cocked our arrows on our bows strings and slowly followed Sniffer down the trail until we came across the biggest, ugliest boar I have ever seen, munching on pine cones. Uncle Jack said in a whisper "you shoot first and I'll try and finish him off, and if he does charge jump up that tree and shoot again and again until you are out of arrows or it is dead. I'll be shooting from over there", he pointed to a tree on the other side of the path. Sniffer had been trained to lay low until we told him to charge.

I aimed at its chest where Dad had told me to and fired, a split second later Uncle Jack fired almost hitting the same spot. The beast screamed in pain as the two arrows drove into its chest. The screaming stopped and the animal fell to the ground dead, to our enormous relief. We slit its throat to bleed it and then skinned and butchered the boar for the remainder of the afternoon.

It was after a good night's sleep that we awoke to the sound of someone eating our meat that was piled on the sled, and Sniffer growling deep in his chest. It was another boar, but this one was bigger! I was petrified!

Uncle Jack told me not to move fast and to slowly climb into the tree near our tent. I had my quiver and bow and strapped my knife to my belt. In the tree it was easy to aim as the boar was so busy eating the meat. I shot first and Uncle Jack followed up my shot. This time the boar screamed but didn't die, instead it thrashed around its tusks going back and forth with the arrows stuck in its side. I loaded another arrow and shot it again, it screamed again. Uncle Jack shot it in the upper leg and it fell to the ground, but wasn't dead. I went to finish it off, but just before I could I fell from the tree and landed just a few meters away from the screaming boar. My bow was stuck in the tree so I grabbed my giant knife and struck it in its chest and finally killed it. I was shaking so badly, but so glad we were not dead or injured.

Uncle Jack gave me a huge hug, shaking like me and laughing like a hyena.

That day we butchered the boar and covered the meat with snow. We celebrated our great hunt with roasted boar, baked beans and a slurp of wine Uncle Jack had secretly brought. We headed back early in the morning to go home and show Dad how successful we were. Uncle Jack said he was going to be so impressed and immensely proud of me.

Did You Know?

In Dec. 1916, an Aboriginal (Nyoongar) Cemetery was gazetted on Toodyay Street, near the Toodyay Showgrounds, now marked with a commemorative plaque. (From *The Long Toodyay Chronology, Part 2, 1901-1950*, Toodyay Historical Society Inc.)

The Trainee Angel

Linda Vandeppear
Winner: Adult

"OUCH!" cried Rebecca as a pine cone landed on her head from the big pine tree in the church graveyard. "Who threw that?" she squealed as yet another one landed by her left foot.

"It was me!" called a voice from about halfway up the pine tree. Rebecca stood on tiptoe to try to get a clearer view of who or what was talking to her. She could just see a flash of orange through the green leaves but it suddenly disappeared.

There was a tremendous crash from the other side of the tree and Rebecca went to investigate. Lying on the grass was a very small person. Rebecca had never seen anyone so small; he was, she thought, about 60cm tall. He was dressed in an orange and green suit with tiny white wings poking through the back of his jacket. He had brown hair that was ruffled and a dirty mark on his nose. "Who are you?" she whispered as this little person began to cry.

"My name's Alexander and I'm a trainee Angel" he sniffed. "I was playing in the trees and saw you standing there and wanted to talk to you but didn't know what to say, so I thought I would try to catch your attention".

"Well you certainly did that!" Rebecca answered, rubbing her head. "You should just have called 'hello' or something, instead of throwing things at me".

"I'm sorry but seeing as I'm here now, can we play?" answered Alexander.

"I suppose so - I don't have anything to do anyway. What would you like to play at?" asked Rebecca.

Alexander thought for a while before answering. "I don't mind - I'll play at anything. I don't have many friends to play with and I always seem to get in the way of the big Angels who keep telling me to keep out of their way so it would be really good to play anything".

They had a wonderful afternoon playing in the early summer sunshine. Rebecca taught Alexander how to play tag and hide and seek

which he was very good at because he was so small. It was amazing how small he was when he curled up and could hide in the very smallest places that Rebecca would never have thought of looking in.

"Rebecca! it's time for your tea - come in and wash your hands please".

Alexander looked at Rebecca. "Who was that?"

"Oh, that was my mummy telling me that I have to go in now. Will you be here tomorrow so that we can play again?" she asked.

Alexander smiled at her. "I would like that very much" he replied.

Fluffy and the Thorn

Rebecca woke up very early the next morning and looked out of her bedroom window. It was a sunny morning with no clouds.

"Good" she said to her teddy bear. "Mummy and Daddy will let me play outside again and I can see if Alexander is there".

She dressed herself in white shorts and a flowery tee-shirt and found some sandals under her bed. Rebecca was six years old, very tall for her age, with long wavy brown hair which her Mummy and Daddy were always threatening to cut. She liked her hair long and said that it did not get in her way, as long as she had it in a ponytail, which she would ask her Mummy to do when she went downstairs. Daddy was in the kitchen making breakfast when she came down. "Daddy, could I have some toast with jam on it please?" she asked him. "I think I can manage that" Daddy replied.

"What are you going to do today?" he asked. Rebecca wondered whether she should tell him about Alexander, but thought it would be best not to say anything in case he did not come back today. "Oh, I'm just going to play outside, maybe go to the Church - nothing much", she replied.

"Well as long as you are careful and don't go too far and don't talk to any strangers, that's okay," he said.

Rebecca giggled to herself as she wondered whether her daddy would think that Alexander was strange or not.

After a quick breakfast, Rebecca cleaned her teeth and said goodbye to her parents.

"I wonder if he will be there", she thought

Continued on Page 16



The Great Expectation – Prophecies Fulfilled

After the miraculous event in the execution of the Bab by the Armenian garrison, the commander, Sám Khan, ordered his troops out of the square and refused to have anything further to do with the mission assigned to him. No sooner had Sám Khan departed than Aqa Jan Khan-i-Khamsih Nasiri, colonel of the body-guard, volunteered to carry out the order for execution. On the same wall and in the same manner, the Báb and His companion were again suspended, while the regiment formed in line to open fire upon them. Contrariwise to the previous occasion, when only the cord with which they were suspended had been shot into pieces, this time their bodies were shattered and were blended into one mass of mingled flesh and bone. "Had you believed in Me, O wayward generation," were the last words of the Báb to the gazing multitude as the regiment was preparing to fire the final volley, "every one of you would have followed the example of this youth, who stood in rank above most of you, and willingly would have sacrificed himself in My path. The day will come when you will have recognized Me; that day I shall have ceased to be with you." The very moment the shots were fired, a gale of exceptional severity arose and swept over the whole city. A whirlwind of dust of incredible density obscured the light of the sun and blinded the eyes of the people. The entire city remained enveloped in that darkness from noon till night. Even so strange a phenomenon, following immediately in the wake of that still more astounding failure of Sám Khan's regiment to injure the Báb, was unable to move the hearts of the people of Tabriz, and to induce them to pause and reflect upon the significance of such momentous events. They witnessed the effect which so marvellous an occurrence had produced upon Sám Khan... and yet none of them troubled himself to enquire as to the significance of these unwonted signs and wonders. The martyrdom of the Báb took place at noon on Sunday, July 9, 1850 A.D. thirty-one lunar years, seven months, and twenty-seven days from the day of His birth in Shiraz. His martyrdom, however, was not the end of His mission. As we shall see His Cause continued and merged with the mission of Baha'u'llah into the Baha'i World Faith.

For info Email: info-toodyay@wa.bahai.org.au or call 9330 6999 or 9574 5610
Baha'i Library: (<http://reference.bahai.org/en/>)

frank venn memorial awards

Continued from Page 15

as she quickly walked to the bottom of her garden, saying hello to her rabbits and guinea pigs as she went. The church was at the bottom of the garden, so she did not have far to go.

She carefully climbed over the wall into the churchyard and looked around. She thought the best place to start would be under the tree where she had first met him yesterday. It seemed very quiet with only the song of a blackbird to be heard. Suddenly, there was a small squeal and a crash and Alexander landed rather clumsily by the side of her.

"Hello," he said. "I was wondering if you would be back, so I thought I would wait up my favourite tree so that I could see you coming," he added. Today Alexander was wearing yellow shorts and a green tee-shirt with white sandals. He certainly liked to wear bright colours!

Rebecca sat down on the grass next to him. "Are you really an Angel?" she asked. Alexander looked up at her. "I'm not a real Angel yet, only a Trainee Angel!" he replied. "I have to go to Angel School and then when I've passed all my exams I will be a real Angel. I still have two years to go to school and then I'll be able to help people properly".

"What sort of things do you help people with?" Rebecca asked. She did not think she had ever seen any Angels before so was not sure what they did. "Oh, we help in lots of ways, such as if you're feeling sad, we try to make you happy doing things like making the sun shine (which is very difficult so we have to get more than one Angel to help on that) or if you've lost something, we will try to help you find it," he replied.

"Where do you live?" asked Rebecca. "Oh, I live in Heaven - it's right up there in the sky above the clouds," Alexander answered.

"What's it like in Heaven; I've heard about it and I think that's where my guinea pig Cracker went when he died," she said.

"Well," Alexander thought for a little while. "It's like here really but you don't get any bad things happening in Heaven. I live in a cottage with about ten other trainee Angels and the Angels take it in turns to look after us, help make our food and keep us clean, because it's very messy being a trainee! We watch the same programmes as you do, apart from you watch 'Tweenies' and we watch 'Angel Tweenies'. I really like watching the television but the Angels won't let us watch too much because they said we should be learning important things like how to write our names, but I think we learn more from 'Angel Tweenies' than what the Teacher Angels teach us, but don't let them know that I've said that, or I'll be in trouble!"

Suddenly they heard a rustling noise coming from a rose bush, which was growing by the side of the church. Rebecca decided to investigate. As she was walking slowly towards the bush, with Alexander floating (upside down) just behind her, a cat jumped out. She was a very fluffy cat with ginger and white markings, and was holding her front left paw in the air. "I wonder if the cat has hurt it's paw," said Rebecca.

The cat meowed when she saw them and limped towards them. "Hello pussy cat, have you got a poorly leg?" asked Rebecca. The cat sat down and held her paw in the air, looking pitifully at them. "I wonder what we should do, whether I should get Daddy to have a look at it?" Rebecca said.

"Shall we have a look at the cat's paw first and if we can't help it, we could get your Daddy to have a look at it," said Alexander.

They both moved slowly and quietly towards the cat. She had a pink collar round

her neck with the name 'Fluffy' inscribed on the round disk.

"Hello Fluffy, can we have a look at your paw?" asked Rebecca. Fluffy lifted her paw up and Rebecca tried to have a look at it, but could not really see anything wrong with it. "Let me have a look at it," and Alexander gently lifted the paw and as he was smaller than Rebecca, he could get much closer to it, and saw that there was a small thorn from the rose bush stuck in one of Fluffy's pads. "We need to get the thorn out before Fluffy stands on it again and pushes it in deeper," explained Alexander. He tried to pull it out with his tiny little fingers, but was not strong enough. "I think we need to ask Daddy to do it," decided Rebecca. "I think that I will be able to pick Fluffy up and carry her to my house," which she proceeded to do. Fluffy was quite a big cat but Rebecca managed to carry her the short distance to her house, this time going through the gate at the bottom of her garden rather than over the wall, as she did not want to drop Fluffy. Alexander, as usual, floated around behind her, this time the right way up.

When they arrived at the house, Rebecca opened the kitchen door and called to her father. "Daddy, could you come and have a look at Fluffy please, she seems to have a thorn stuck in her paw and we can't get it out." Rebecca's father came out of the living room where he had been reading the paper. "What's wrong Rebecca?" he asked, and then saw Fluffy who was now sitting on the kitchen floor. "Did you say she's got a thorn stuck in her paw? Let's have a look." He bent down to examine Fluffy's paw and saw that there was indeed a thorn stuck. "I'll just get the tweezers from out of the bathroom cabinet - I won't be long." With that he went upstairs.

Rebecca turned to Alexander. "Daddy didn't say 'hello' to you." "That's because he might not be able to see me. Big people can't always see me because they do not have the same imaginations as children have," he replied. "Oh, I so much wanted Daddy to meet you," cried Rebecca. "He might, in time, he just needs to forget about being a big person," answered Alexander.

Just then, Rebecca's father came downstairs. "Here's the tweezers. I'll have that thorn out before you can say 'Jack Robinson'." Rebecca cuddled Fluffy to help take her mind off the thorn and Alexander cuddled Fluffy's tail, because he was not big enough to cuddle anything else.

A couple of minutes later, the thorn had been taken out of Fluffy's paw and she was lapping at a saucer of milk, purring happily.

"I'll just take Fluffy back to the church so she doesn't get lost," Rebecca told her father. "Then it's time for lunch," added her father. "Okay, I'll only be a few minutes," and Rebecca walked down to the church, carrying Fluffy with Alexander sitting on Fluffy's back. "It's heavy enough carrying Fluffy without your extra weight as well," she complained. "I'm not that heavy," chuckled Alexander, who was being tickled by Fluffy's furry tail.

"I have to go in now for lunch," Rebecca told Alexander. "Will you be around after lunch?" she added. "No, I have to go back to Angel School this afternoon. We're learning how to fly the right way up because we're having problems with this and I think that we will be having a cookery lesson, because when we become Angels we will have to do all our own cooking."

"Okay, well, will I see you tomorrow?" asked Rebecca. "Yes, I'll meet you here same time, same place," replied Alexander.

In the distance could be heard a bell tinkling

very quietly. "Oh!" exclaimed Alexander. "That's the school bell. I have to go now, but I'll see you tomorrow," and just as suddenly as he appeared, he disappeared.

Rebecca looked around the churchyard wondering where he could have gone so quickly, but there was no sign of Alexander. "I'll have to ask him how he did that," she thought as she wandered back home for her lunch.

New Laws Protect Shoppers

CHRISTMAS shoppers in WA will have the protection of the new Australian Consumer Law (ACL) for the first time this year with agencies planning a pre-Christmas campaign.

The new laws, which came into effect on 1 January 2011, include consumer guarantees which ensure that goods sold in the Australian marketplace are safe, durable, free from defects and fit for their intended purpose.

Commissioner for Consumer Protection, Anne Driscoll, said there is also a guarantee for services.

"When consumers buy a service, which could be anything from a haircut to lawn mowing, the person or business that sells the service automatically guarantees to use an acceptable level of skill or technical knowledge and the service will be carried out in a reasonable time in cases where there is no fixed time for supply," Ms Driscoll said.

classifieds

FOR SALE

GARDEN supplies. Top soil (\$44), mulch (\$35), yellow sand (\$44) and sawdust (\$20). Prices for 6 x 4 trailer. Ph 9574 2987, 0438 412 324 or 0439 842 987

COMPOST now available 6x4 trailer \$44 Ph 9574 2987 or 0483 412 324 or 0439 842 987

COMPUTER desk with side table attached for printer \$45 Student computer desk \$25 Single bed & mattress \$40. All in good condition 9574 5579 Mob 0408 174 602.

COMPUTER desk and 2 seater couch. Best offer 9574 2524

SHIPPING container, 20 foot, good condition, structurally sound, water tight, vermin proof, lockable and located in Toodyay, only \$2800. Ph 0427012500 evenings.

HENS f/range \$6 each. 10 for \$50. 30 for \$120, 10wks \$13 each. Del Mon 19 December Northam Toodyay. Please Ph 9846 6055.

BEE hive (with honey), motor driven 2 frame extracting drum, misc bee keeping equipment vgc, all that is required. \$500 Lic no NA8. Lounge, 1 double, 2 singles, antique, Irish velvet, wooden frame, wingback, studded, leaf green, vgc. \$450. Ph 9574 2020

HOUSE bricks, still in packs, 8000 mainly red, some cream, will sell in lots of 1000 or 500, you pick up, easy access. \$4000. 1950s STC table radiogram, working, good condition. \$250. Bucket to suit bobcat or tractor, never used. \$300. Ph 9574 4245 or 0438 328 413

BUSINESS FOR SALE

WOODWORKING business for sale - specialising in flyscreen doors and windows. Limited competition, good market. Relocating - would like to sell. \$18,000 - training available on change-over. Enquiries welcome, Laurie or Liz 9574 2020

POSITIONS VACANT

RESTAURANT in Julimar is looking for a waiter and a kitchen hand. Weekends only. Ph 0427 879 343

"If goods or services fail to meet any of the guarantees provided under the Australian Consumer Law, consumers have a number of options available to them. If the problem is minor and can be fixed easily and within a reasonable time, the retailer or manufacturer can choose to provide a repair, or offer a replacement or a refund.

"If the product has a major fault the consumer can and should insist on determining what remedy they want, replacement goods or a full refund."

Consumer Protection in WA will join the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and state and territory agencies in a co-ordinated national campaign to ensure that retailers are honouring these guarantees.

"The campaign will be targeting stores which sell white goods, electronics and mobile phones to check that their refund policies are legal. The ACL has been law for almost a year now so we expect all retailers to have made any changes necessary to comply with the new laws," the Commissioner said.

Government of Western Australia Product safety officers at Consumer Protection will also be conducting a pre-Christmas blitz to ensure that toys being sold meet Australian safety standards.

"Toys will be checked to make sure they don't pose a choking or strangulation hazard to a small child. Any toys found to be dangerous will be removed from the shelves," the Commissioner said.

"When shopping this Christmas for children's toys, safety-conscious buyers should follow age recommendations and instructions, look out for small toys or toys with small removable parts and choose sturdy, well-made toys that will withstand a child throwing it around."

Christmas shoppers who want to know their rights, or have concerns about the safety of a product, can contact Consumer Protection on 1300 30 40 54 or consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au.

MOTOR VEHICLES & MACHINERY

TOYOTA Landcruiser ute 1992 390,000kms. White bullbar, towbar, new tray, air con, 2-way. \$8,800 Gst inc. Ph 9574 2524

HONDA 110 Postie Bike 2000, excellent condition, 26700kms, new battery, On sale \$1500ono. 9574 2020

REAL ESTATE

HOUSE Historic colonial cottage built 1852 on 1200m2, (2 x titles) with loads of character. 2 x bedrooms, 1 x bathroom, a study, a front lounge room with a separate dining room. Features lime rendered walls, pressed tin ceilings, jarrah features, an ornate fire place and wooden floors. New 300lt energy efficient HWS, Perth Digital TV channels, part air-conditioned with underground power, ADSL Internet available and deep sewerage to both blocks. Outside there is a covered al-fresco area, a large workshop with 3 phase power and concrete floor, a garage at the rear and plenty of parking. Short stroll to town. Owners keen to sell, private sale at \$445,000. Offers considered. Mobile: 0408 156 826 or Home: 9574 5692.

HOUSE/HOLIDAY RENTALS

LEEMAN: Reverse cycle air conditioning, two bathrooms, accommodates nine people, BBQ, microwave, TV/DVD, 100m from beach. Ph Brian or Jeannette for information on 9574 5087 or 0427 446 439

FAMILY holiday home, reasonable rental at Mandurah / Falcon, sleeps 6 or more. Available school holidays. For more info Ph 9446 4462

WANTED TO HIRE OVER XMAS

4-6 berth caravan in good condition for Xmas Eve and Xmas night to accommodate family. Ph 95742216.

WANTED

CASH paid for aluminium cans, steel, brass, copper, old car bodies, etc. Lot 10 Tannin Place, Industrial Extracts, Northam Road. Ph 9574 2987 or 0438 412 324

WORK WANTED

Tatania's Window Cleaning, Police Clearance, Tracks, frames and flyscreens for Homes, shopfronts & offices. Free Quotes. Call 0467 282 127



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

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

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 Sth. For all interested in arts/crafts, workshops. Enquiries to Wendy on 9574 4172

AUSTRALIAN BREASTFEEDING ASSOCIATION

For breastfeeding information and the company of other mums. 2nd Tuesday of month, 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 9622 1192.

AVON WOODTURNERS GROUP

Meet every 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

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

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 3rd Saturday of month, 5.30pm at Julimar Fire Shed followed by BYO BBQ. Training Sunday following meeting, 10am, Julimar Fire Shed.

MOERLINA

Every Tuesday and Thursday Toodyay Sports Pavilion

MORANGUP PLAYGROUP

Morangup Community Hall, Lot 3 Wallaby Way, Morangup. Every Wednesday 9.30 to 11.30am (excluding public and school holidays). Emma Whately 9572 9376, Julie Slater 9572 9914 or Chere Rothwell 9572 9298

MORANGUP VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm, Saturday mornings at 8am at 3 Wallaby Way, Morangup. New members welcome. Contact Cheryl Mustchin 9572 9556

MURDER MYSTERY CLUB

Meets Third Wednesday of the month beginning 17 August, Toodyay Library, 10am - 12noon. Ph Liz 9574 5967, Linda 9621 1620 or Dot 0407 656 853

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 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY INC

Meets 1st Monday of the month at CWA Hall, Stirling Tce, starting at 6pm. Contact Jan 9574 4675 or 0438 373 861

TOODYAY/CLACKLINE KARATE CLUB

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

TOODYAY COMMUNITY RADIO 105.3fm

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month at 7-ish (or as soon as the coffee is ready.)Phone 9574 4554 for this month's venue. New members and volunteers to help run the station welcome.

THE TOODYAY COMMUNITY SINGERS INC

Thursdays 7-9pm, St. Stephen's Church Hall.
Contact: Peter 0421704429 or Trish 9574 4330

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 Newcastle Bridge) at 8am October to April and 9am May to September. Enquiries 9574 2578

TOODYAY GARDEN CLUB (Inc)

1st Thursday of each month 10am. Contact Gale 9574 4740 or Margaret 9574 5885 for next club venue.

TOODYAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

TOODYAY IRISH DANCING (Inc)

Fridays (except school holidays), 3.30 - 7pm. Anglican Church Hall.
Contact Alison on 0409 295 369

TOODYAY KINDERGYM

Kindergym Fridays (except school holidays), Toodyay Sports Pavilion. Contact: Jodee 9574 4656

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 MEN'S SHED

Meets at 6176 Toodyay Road on Thursday mornings. Phone Geoff Ebdon on 9574 4568

TOODYAY MOOONDYNE FESTIVAL (Inc)

Meets 1st Monday of each month, 5.30pm at the Toodyay Library. New members are always welcome. Contact Angie on 9574 2323 or Erica on 0409 108 007.

TOODYAY MONTESSORI

Monday 9.30 - 10.30am
Enquiries phone Felicity on 9574 4254.

TOODYAY MUSIC CLUB INC

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

TOODYAY NATURALISTS' CLUB

Meets 3rd Saturday each month. Venue can be found in the article under 'Environmental Matters. Enquiries to President on 6364 3609, Vice President on 9574 2578 or email toodyaynats@westnet.com.au. New members and visitors are 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 PLAYGROUP

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9.30am - 11.30am, Playgroup Hall, Community Centre, Claire Moore 9574 4529

TOODYAY RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (INC.)

General Meetings: venues and times, please contact Chris Ballam (Chairperson) 9594 3167 or email ttrainc@gmail.com.

TOODYAY RED CROSS

2nd Monday of February, May, August and November, 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 February, April, May, July, September (AGM) and November at 2pm at the Bowling Club. Contact John 9574 5681

TOODYAY SWIMMING POOL ACTION COMM.

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

TOODYAY TOWN WALKS

Walk around our beautiful town. Monday and Friday (varies).
Contact Prim on 9574 2490 for details.

TOODYAY VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

1st Monday of each month Fire Station, 8pm

UNITING CHURCH

10am, St Stephen's Church, Toodyay

YOGA

Friday 9am, Monday 6pm Toodyay Community Centre. 9574 4184

Kids Sought For Video Games Study In School Holidays

UWA

MOVEMENT-BASED video games may be perceived as an alternative to physical activity – and a study at The University of Western Australia aims to rate them for their contribution to energy expenditure, movement skills and social interaction.

The project started earlier this year and is testing children in the University's state-of-the-art exer-gaming lab. Researchers are hoping to recruit another 500 children aged from 10 to 15 to play Xbox Kinect, Sony PS3 Move and Nintendo Wii games for five hours over a five-week period during the school holidays.

Results will be used to develop an online resource for parents to access health-related information on a wide range of movement-based video games prior to purchasing them for their children.

Western Australian data shows that more than 80 per cent of children play computer games and exceed Government-produced guidelines for the number of hours spent participating in screen-based activities.

"Parents make decisions about what content to expose their children to, and rating scales exist concerning the level of violence in computer games, but there is not a health-related rating system available," project organiser Amanda Derbyshire said.

"Movement-based game technology provides a more immersive experience to playing computer games than the traditional joystick-operated games. We observed that while games may be designed for lots of body movement, children soon learn how to operate the game with minimal movement, reducing the benefits from a health perspective."

Anyone interested in having children participate in the study should contact Ms Amanda Derbyshire. Amanda Derbyshire (Research Associate, UWA School of Sport 0410 325 844 Science, Exercise and Health)



Our males Hot Chilli and Houdini are currently available for stud service.

Ask us about our female cria guarantee and multiple mating discounts.

Herd Guards

Rent Try Buy
Book now for next lambing.
Experienced herd guards available for sale or rent.

Pets

Pets with Personality
Alpacas make excellent pets and lawnmowers, if you are looking for a pet with a difference, call us to find out more or arrange a farm visit.
Prices from \$350

Contact us

Angela & Dieter Bartels
Ph: 9574 4144
info@treechangealpacas.com.au
www.treechangealpacas.com.au

public notices

Obituary

TRIVERS Virgilius Ronald (Ron)
1919 – 2011

Bolgart Stalwart Enjoyed His Community Involvement

A MAN who enjoyed a prominent position in sporting activities and the community at Bolgart for many years died recently at the grand age of 92 years.

Virgilius Ronald (Ron) Travers of 'The Carroll' in the Toodyay Shire was born on 10 March 1919, the son of farmers, Luke and Cecily Travers at Orroroo, South Australia. They lived at Yatna until his parents moved to Bulgert Farm near Bolgart in July 1924 when he was five years old.

So began a lifelong farming career which is today carried on by his son, Mark. Ron went to school at the hall at the old Bolgart townsite and later he boarded at the Toodyay Convent where he was unhappy and ran away. His parents decided that he had better come home on weekends so they bought him a motorbike to ride to and from school. Ron later went to school at CBC, now Aquinas College, in Perth, finishing in 1936. He returned to share farm 'The Carroll' and, as well, undertook clover gathering, mainly at Yerecoin, using a machine built by his father.

Duty called in WW II and Ron enlisted in the army in April 1942 when, as a corporal, he served most of his time until 1945 in the Northern Territory. His association with the annual Anzac Memorial Services held at Calingiri continued right up until this year when he read the ode for the service as usual.

In 1947 Ron met and began courting his future wife, Kathleen Lambert of Toodyay. Maybe the fact that he would sometimes telephone her and play the violin over the line sealed the romance for, on 6 November 1948, they were married.

At about that time, Ron acquired 'The Carroll', a soldier settlement property. They celebrated 62 years of marriage last year and raised their two children, Mark born in 1963 and Susan in 1964.

Ron was a very keen golfer from a young age. He would often walk from his parents' farm into Bolgart hitting the ball all of the way. He was regarded as one of the best golfers in the district for many years. At his peak he got down to a handicap of three! He won the Ludeman Cup five times and the Bolgart Club Championship 12 times and served as president of both the golf and tennis clubs. Local golfers were the beneficiaries of his coaching, willingly offered to improve the games of his fellow players.

Another love was boating and, after buying a boat in 1972, he spent many years doing trips to Rottneest, Garden Island and cruising the Swan River with family and friends.

Ron's knowledge of the history of the Bolgart district was well known and he was invited to speak at the 50th anniversary of the premiership win by the Bolgart Football Club where he recounted anecdotes about the coming of the railway service to the district in December 1909, 100 years before.

A large crowd attended his funeral held on 30 September in St Joseph's Catholic Church, Bolgart, conducted by Father Richard, and the burial service held at the Bolgart Cemetery.

Ron is survived by his wife, Kathleen, son, Mark, and daughter, Susan.



In Memoriam

WOOD Hector

25.10.1926-2.11.2011

Joy Wood and family sincerely thank all who attended Hector's funeral service and for the many cards and phone calls, all greatly appreciated.

WOOD Hector

25.10.1926-2.11.2011

A true gentleman, friend and loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather has passed. Thank you for all the life lessons you have taught us and all the assistance and guidance you have provided. You lived a great life and always contributed so much to your family and community. You were an inspiration to all of us who will never be forgotten.

We would also like to thank everyone for all their well wishes and offers of support over this time. And thanks to the people who have shared their stories and experiences about Hector with us, it is comforting that he is so well remembered and respected.

Michael, Gemma, Kirsten, Joe and Jack

WOOD Hector

25.10.1926-2.11.2011

A wonderful story teller and one of the world's 'perfect gentlemen'. It was an honour to have made his acquaintance. Rest in peace. Our sincere condolences to all the family.

Mark and Paula Greenway.

WOOD Hector

25.10.1926-2.11.2011

It was with much sadness that we learnt of Hector's passing. He had been a great supporter and a highly valued Patron of our Society. Our sincere condolences to the Wood family.

Toodyay Historical Society (Inc)

COOK Raymond John

Elizabeth, Martin, David and families wish to THANK our very generous neighbours and friends for their love and support and for all the cards and condolences on the passing of Ray on 31/10/2011.

Thanks are also extended to Dr Richard Walkey, Dr Mark Ireland and staff at C.C.U. for their care during Ray's illness.

COOK Raymond John

I remember when Ray and Elizabeth got married and have known Ray and Rodney since they were babies. Cooks have been our boundary neighbours for many years at Dewars Pool.

My brother Ken, sister Betty and I used to go to their home at Hill View and play with the boys when their mother, Rose, was alive. The boy's father, Aub, was often away shearing in the Wheat belt.

When Rita and I got married we lived on Cook's other property called Brooklyn for a while before we moved back to Dad's property. Even though we haven't called in much lately, my wife always gave them a toot when we drove past.

I am so glad now I gave Elizabeth and Ray a photo of Ray and Rodney's great grandmother, Susan Price Waters, one of my grandfather's sisters. I also gave them a photo of Ray and Rodney's grandfather, George Cook, and grandmother, Maude, (Susan Price Waters daughter) taken at their wedding.

I had a copy of an old newspaper article of Rodney when he went East to play football in a Junior team for W.A, which I gave to Ray and Elizabeth, and another photo of Ray about 4 years old nursing his little kitten.

Rita and I will miss seeing Ray sitting at the front of his house as we drive past and we send our fondest wishes to Elizabeth and the boys.

Ray was a very quiet and lovely man and will be missed by all that knew him.

Also fondest wishes to Linda, Rodney and family on their loss.

Ray had told me they had shifted house a few times and most of their photos had been lost and was so happy to get the ones I had given him.

Ron E Waters

Birthdays

TAYLOR Victor John

Born 11.11.1918

Have you met 'Victor John' (that's what we call him)? We are sure you have, either in his red Gopher with his beloved Aneka (dog), beside him, just slowly gophing towards the townsite and enjoying the niceties of meeting with others, with a smile, a kiss to those he knows a little better, or a kiss and hug to those he knows very well. Perhaps you have watched as we have seen him toil and loved every minute of working in his garden, and the finished result is one to admire.

Where does Victor John reside? Well in a palatial home in Toodyay with beautiful sculptured lawn (artificial he says with glee), but our Victor John is one to be admired at the age of 93. His wit, with a twinkle in his eye and one for the ladies is to be admired. He shows such tenacity in providing a perfect (and we mean perfect) home that many admire from days on end.

His cooking skills would outdo any chef of today, and he cooks with such gusto and precision that one has to wonder how he can produce such fine fare.

His family look at Victor John as their great mentor; he gives so much wisdom and relates wonderful stories of the past that one can only imagine how he achieved so much in his life. But he did and he relishes those times and would never, never forget his beginnings.

His achievements have been many and, even in his retirement, he dare not falter, nor feel he has to sit and dwindle away the hours or days on end; he has a project and the project has to be finished.

His love of life has shown through and so be it. He has reached the grand old age of 93, he still loves his tiddle and enjoys cooking for his 'girls' and their 'boys' and grandies and great grandies. But, above all, Victor John has shown us all that hard work, a smile, a kiss (love that!) and the will to continue on each and every day no matter what ailments come forth is so very special.

Our love to you Victor John

From all your Fans in Toodyay xx



TAYLOR Victor John

Born 11.11.1918

A VERY special Remembrance Day was had by Victor John Taylor on Friday 11 November, 2011. A surprised John was met by his son and two ageing gangsters, Al Capone and Buggy Malone (we must add that he did not feel threatened one bit - can't think why!)

His daughter's home was decorated with flags, photos and World War I and World War II memorabilia and an attempt was made by his two daughters to look like Vera Lynn and Ann Sheldon. Mmmm. (Well you can't win em' all!) Around 60 friends and family were waiting to greet him, some dressed in 20s and 40s attire. A special medallion, together with a bunch of birthday balloons was also presented to him by Margaret of the Bendigo

Continued on Page 19



EMPORIUM

ANTIQUES-COLLECTABLES-OLD WARES-NEW & USED FURNITURE



Seasons Greetings

We would sincerely like to express our gratitude for the loyal support and fun times our customers from Toodyay and surrounding districts have once again given us.

We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Christmas week we will open Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st in addition to our normal days.

Closed Christmas Day through to Thursday 5th January.

Lyn and Andrew

16 Stirling Tce TOODYAY
Phone 9574 2062

Opening Hours - Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 9 - 5pm
Sunday and Public Holidays 10 - 5pm
CLOSED TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

XMAS VOUCHERS!!!

\$90, \$160, \$250

Enjoy a moment in time with visiting Health Practitioner 'The Massage Doctor' specialising in pain relief from top to toe. This is a very 'relaxing' session for those who have special needs or would very much like to relax after a long year's graft.

The Massage Doctor is offering home visits to those genuinely in need of pain relief as she has 35 years experience to offer.

Enquiries please call Mrs. Spencer on
0410 733 234 - 7 days.

Health Rebates applicable.

public notices

Continued from Page 18

Bank (service extraordinaire!)

John's family would very much like to thank all their friends and their Dad's friends who joined them in celebrating his 93rd birthday. Their thanks also to Jacquie, Graham and Bel for the loan of war time articles and to Allan for taking such great photos.

The Toodyay Community Singers gave a great rendition of some war time songs and our own 'Lily' (Glenys) sang 'Lily Marlene' complete with lamp-post, trench-coat and beret – somehow it will never sound quite the same again! Di Roberts wrote and read a lovely story for him which was much appreciated.

Not only was he born on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month 1918 which, of course marked the end of World War I, but this year also had all the ones: 11.11.11. As a friend pointed out, he is a winner all round.

During World War II, he served with the Royal Engineers 8th Army in Egypt, Italy, Berlin and France, and was also evacuated from Dunkirk. All of his life he has been known as a true 'gentleman'. He has many achievements behind him – far too many to mention – however he has always enjoyed hard work and new challenges and still does. His advice is constantly being sought even to this day. He is very much loved and respected by all his family, grandchildren, great grandchildren and friends and we all look forward to celebrating again in 2018! That'll be a good-un!

DECEMBER

Kieran Connor	Melanie Pree
Hannah Welburn	Jill Orgles
Emily Panizza	Sean McDermott
Susan Calyum	Corey Higgins
Megan Smart	Ray Edwards
Jake Connor	Samantha Connor
Peter Robinson	Brenton Chimes
Frank Taylor	Les Hyde
Jessica Wade	Anthea Ferguson
Gary Rowlands	Jack Vesperman
Rachel Sloper	Ivy Adams
Billie Dodemaide	Helen McKenzie
Freda Richardson	Sandy Mijota

JANUARY

Chris Robinson	Brook Chimes
Elaine Danger	Justin Huggett
Nicole Hide	Bonnie Glossop
Tristan Yarran	Taylah Vesperman
Mena Chapman	Shirl Banks

Anniversaries

DECEMBER

Paul & Jo Sutton

JANUARY 2012

Denley & Jeanette Jones
Caroline & Greg Downie
Dawn & Garry Fitzgerald
Charles & Elaine Danger
Greg & Jill Orgles
Fred & Shirley Hacking

Annual General Meetings

Toodyay Community Bus Committee will be holding its AGM at Butterfly House, Harper Road on 12 January, 2012 at 10.30am.

All are welcome to attend.

Weddings

On 29 October 2011, a beautiful spring day, the marriage of Donna Atkinson to Dean Lee took place in the spectacular gardens of Andrilee Farm on Picnic Hill Road, the home of Marlene and Mili Andrijich.



Donna looked stunning as she entered the garden escorted proudly by her son Jake. Her father John then walked her down the garden to the groom, waiting on the verandah steps. The service was conducted by the very professional local celebrant John Michinson.

Dean's best man was Shane Murray, with groomsmen being Tyrone Murray and Chadd Lee and Jacob Lee as ring bearer.

Donna was attended by bridesmaids Cass Lord, Sue Constantine and Brodie Lee.

They all did a great job and looked amazing. After the ceremony the newlyweds walked through to a very colourful rose arbour to sign their marriage certificate.

A reception for over 100 guests was held at the Memorial Hall which had been transformed into a fairy wonderland - a lovely sight. A great time was had by all the guests, some travelling from Exmouth, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Kalbarri and Mandurah.

Dean and Donna enjoyed a great honeymoon on Langkawi in Malaysia.

Congratulations Dean and Donna - have a wonderful future together. Your Wedding day was special in many ways.

A huge thank you to all the many people who helped on the day.

Sincere thanks Carol and John Atkinson.

Daphne and Murray Lee.

Breast Cancer Survivors

Last chance to help. IF you have wanted to help beat breast cancer for all women, now is the last chance to consider joining the LATER prevention study. The Australia and New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group is trying to find out if breast cancer can be prevented from coming back.

We are seeking postmenopausal women who have previously had breast cancer and have completed their therapy to take part in the LATER study. Women who had breast cancer more than five years ago and were given tablet medication such as tamoxifen for at least four years may benefit from this trial.

Sir Charles Gairdner and Royal Perth Hospitals are providing women the opportunity to participate in this study, but LATER is closing for volunteers soon so call now to find out more.

For more information Freecall 1800 039 634 or visit www.anzbcctg.org

In Days Gone By

Ron E Waters

BACK in the old days the closest Veterinary Surgeon was in Northam and most farmers here in Toodyay did not have the transport to take their animals that needed treatment, so they helped the animals the best way they could. Today we are lucky to have a Veterinary Clinic in our town. Most farmers can do minor treatment but can't fix major problems with stock. They can, however, help ewes have a lamb or cows have a calf; even my little girls on their way home from school would help a ewe have a lamb.

I remember at my cousin Bob's farm one of his cows had gone missing in the bush for a few days between Coondle West Road and the Julimar Road, and when she came back to the herd she had been trying to have a dead calf. We got all the cattle in the yard and put the cow in the crush and removed the dead calf, but the cow was quite ill. When we let the cattle out of the yard she started chasing me, up past Bob's house and round and round his outdoor toilet. Cousin Kathleen had just hung her long leg pants on the close line, which went from an almond tree by the house to a York gum tree 40 yards away near the toilet.

The tin toilet had two wheat bags sewn together for a door and half a 44-gallon drum with a toilet pan in it. Kathleen had gone into the toilet after hanging her long legged pants on the line and stood on the wooden seat when she saw the cow chasing me. Round and round the toilet I ran with the cow chasing me and eventually the cow put one of its horns through cousin Kathleen's pants and took them with it. Cousin Bob shouted run out through the top gate so the cow will die away from the house. I left the toilet for fear the cow would knock the toilet down with cousin Kathleen inside and ran and jumped the creek into the pig sty. The poor cow dropped dead at the creek still with cousin Kathleen's long legged pants on its horn.

Kathleen was still shaking when she came down to get her pants off the cows horn and said she will never wear them again, but will keep them so she will look at them from time to time and will always remember how fast I could run with a cow a few yards from my backside.

We had to burn the cow and we asked the old Vet in Northam why this happened and he said the calf had been dead to long and her blood had gone septic.

It's nice to know these days the toilets are inside the house and there is not many long horn cattle in the Toodyay area these days; we have a Vet to take care of these problems and women's pants are much smaller.

Snake Warning for Pet Owners

A SERIOUS warning to all pet owners has been given by a leading veterinarian as temperatures heat up around Australia and thousands of family animals face the threat of a deadly snake bite.

Head vet at VetShopAustralia.com.au Dr Mark Perissinotto reported that over 6,000 animals are bitten by snakes in Australia each year and around 80 per cent of pets survive if treated quickly giving reason for all pet owners to take full precautions and keep pets snake-safe this summer.

"Unfortunately during the summertime snakes are a constant and deadly threat to our beloved pets, with brown snakes being the most common cause of snake bite deaths, closely followed by tiger snakes and black snakes," he said.

"Keeping an eye on the outdoors areas around your house is the first way to prevent snakes from harming your pet. Keep backyards tidy and remove rubbish heaps to eliminate any possible snake hiding spots," Dr Perissinotto said.

"If you spot any snakes lurking in your backyard, call a professional to come and remove it from the area right away. It is also recommended not to walk your pet through long grassy areas where snakes would most likely be living," he said.

"If you suspect your pet has been bitten by a snake it is crucial to act fast and take them to a vet immediately. The quicker the animal is attended to the higher chance they have of surviving as dogs that are bitten several times can become paralysed within 2-4 hours and can then die 2-5 hours after being bitten."

"If you are located in a remote area apply a firm bandage around the bite to help stop the venom spreading to the heart and remember to never wash, cut or apply a tourniquet on the wound site," he said.

Dr Perissinotto said that dogs and cats are generally bitten around the head and limbs so checking for bite marks in these areas is a good idea and that other signs to watch for also included shaking or shivering, lethargy, drooling, dilated pupils, vomiting and diarrhoea.

"If all pet owners are prepared and ready for the snake season it will greatly reduce the risks of a disaster occurring and will allow the whole family to enjoy a snake free summer of fun," he said.

Further information Media Contact: Jemma Lenton Phone: 07 5453 4840.

Such is (a short) Life

PROWSE Milly (Lewis)

6.7.11 – 22.11.11

WELL, for the last five months, my life was put on hold with the four-hourly feeds, but I was committed.

It was a great pleasure to give you a chance in life with your mum not wanting you and the crows pecking at your feet. It was hard at times because you had your good and bad days.

Reggie, our dog, became your mate and protector and along with us watched you get stronger and stronger.

And in our time together, I managed to have a week's holiday and so did you. Off to the neighbour's property we went, with you sucking on my arm all the way.

We would go on our daily walks, sometimes runs, with me dragging along behind you. And I'd swear that, on Melbourne Cup day, you'd been watching the races on TV through the window,



because that time, when I took you for a walk, you ran around like a race horse.

You became famous in the September's edition of *The Toodyay Herald!*

It was so funny recently when you called out for me. There were 11 cows looking at you and you didn't know what they were. (I had plans to find you a little friend.)

In the morning you would call me for your milk. When you had finished you would rest your chin on the fence and just stare at me. You looked so contented.

You brought so much joy to my family with all the funny things you used to do, like the day I broke your bucket and you were quite puzzled because you had to get used to another one.

I would like to thank Maree and Kerry for giving me the opportunity to have enjoyed this great experience.

The tears have not stopped since the morning you left me.

R.I.P Milly

From your Mum

Milly and her mum featured in the September issue's 'Such is Life' column.
Ed

Toodyay Christian Fellowship

GETTING BACK TO BASICS

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

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

For further information call 9574 5002

We are a child friendly church