

FROM THE DESK OF THE SHIRE PRESIDENT

It is with a feeling of regret that I inform you of the resignation of Councillor Nouwland effective as of Wednesday 22 February 2012. On behalf of all Councillors, the community and staff, I thank Councillor Nouwland for the contribution he has made since elected on 17 October 2009. He is a fine example of someone overcoming a disability to serve the community; he has been an inspiration to many.



It is also with regret that I inform you that the funding application to Regional Development Australia for the Health and Wellbeing Centre was unsuccessful however, feedback available will help focus and frame future applications.

Seventy-five applications were received for projects in Western Australia, 27 of which were selected to go forward to the next round.

Toodyay hosted a special meeting of the Avon Midland Zone Council of WALGA to consider WALGA's submission to the Academic Committee considering Metropolitan Local Government Reform.

Of particular concern to several delegates present was the failure to identify the need for export product transport corridors through the metropolitan area in order to preserve those transport routes essential for the livelihood of the hinterland.

The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia is holding a "Dialogue on Local Government Reform - Experiences and Aspirations." I was encouraged to note that the following was stated in the brochure:

"What about the costs? Past experience only shows that big is not better and it will cost more and give less in return."

Our community in each discussion of Local Government reform seems to have identified that and the undesirability of loss of identity with amalgamations as key reasons to oppose amalgamation.

At that special meeting I made a presentation on the cost to Local Government of undertaking emergency management functions.

January 26 saw another successful Australia Day celebration at Duidgee Park. 5 new citizens were welcomed to become Australians and the Shire's Active Citizen Awards were presented to Elizabeth Ferguson, the Toodyay Historical Society Inc and Melinda Lucas. Congratulations to those recipients and welcome to our new citizens.

Thank you to the Councillors who assisted with the set-up which included cooking and serving and cleaning up. Thank you to the staff that assisted in any way on the day and in particular Maria Rebane, Elizabeth Andrijich and Sam Mastrolemba who all did a great deal of work to make the day a success.

Representatives from the Department of Main Roads attended Toodyay on 6 February to discuss possible improvements in Stirling Terrace for a safer pedestrian crossing. We await their report.

Quit Targa West Tarmac Rally has launched the 2012 event with a function at the Zig Zag Cultural Centre in Kalamunda. This year there is to be upgraded tracking and timing technology, which has been tried in other events and said to significantly improve safety.

On 14 February, the 46th anniversary of the introduction of decimal currency in to Australia and St Valentine's Day, which may have passed unnoticed for some, representatives of the Toodyay District High School met with Shire representatives to raise the need for a school hall in which to hold assemblies. One solution suggested was for the Health and Wellbeing Centre to be located adjacent to the school thus providing an undercover assembly area and sports area in sufficiently close proximity to be effectively part of the school.

The Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr Delahaunty and I met on 20 February with members of the compliance section of the Department of Local Government. The Shire's Interim responses to the Probity and Compliance Audit report of last year has been forwarded to the Minister. The Acting Chief Executive Officer and I gave an update on the progress of those items not yet finalised. The Department of Local Government representatives raised a further four issues of concern to them, three of which the Shire of Toodyay had already identified as needing attention and either work or plans had been implemented.

TOODYAY 'PEDAL FOR PROSTATE CANCER' COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE

To help raise awareness of Prostate Cancer the Shire of Toodyay, in conjunction with the Department of Transport's Bike Week program, are hosting a community bike ride for all ages on Sunday 25th March 2012.

Come along to Duidgee Park at 9am with your bikes & helmets dressed in blue. The ride will commence at 9.30am and proceed along Stirling Tce.

A free community BBQ and games, with give-aways, will follow from 10.30am

If you would like more information, please contact Jo Buegge, Avon Be Active Coordinator on 0428291302 or 95742258



LIBRARY NEWS

The Library is delighted to announce the inaugural Creative Writing Workshop was held on Tuesday 21st February in the Reading Room. Local author Belinda Cowell hosted this gathering.

The workshop was so successful Belinda has agreed to run it as a regular Tuesday morning event. So if you have missed the first few meetings come along and have Belinda unlock your hidden artistic talents. Whether it's putting words to paper or relaying a story through drawings this workshop is sure to hold something for everyone.

To promote 2012 as the National Year of Reading Public Libraries Australia has asked for ideas and submissions from small community Libraries in remote or rural areas. Toodyay Library has submitted an application outlining the Creative Writing Workshop as a tool for encouraging our local and diverse community to writing a short story – whether fact or fiction, words or pictures. We plan for all the completed articles to be collated and presented for publication under the title "Spirit of Toodyay". Should our application be successful we will then utilize the monies from the sponsorship to publish the collection as part of our community heritage.

Earlier in February libraries throughout Western Australia were encouraged to present submissions to State Library on behalf of the "Read Anytime, Anywhere, Anyhow" program by outlining new and novel ways for the promotion of reading. Toodyay Library submitted a grant application to incorporate the town's renowned Moondyne Festival as a platform to distribute books and encourage people to read.

We are delighted to announce our submission was successful and as a result we shall be receiving 200 new novels. These books shall be given away free during Moondyne Festival on Sunday 6th May 2012.

Library events this month are:

<u>Activity Theme/Information</u>	<u>Date</u>
Numerology Workshop	16 March 10am
"Better than a Book Club" Numbers & Vegetarianism	8 & 22 March 10am
"Creative Writing Workshop"	Tuesday's 10am
'Baby Rhymetime & Storytime'	Friday's 10.30am

For our Morangup members the Library will be held on Tuesday 13 and 27 March 2012 from 3 – 5pm

Toodyay Public Library - 9574 2323

PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

Toodyay's International Food Festival, now in its eighth year, will be held on Saturday 4th August. The Shire of Toodyay would like to partner with your business to deliver the event, offering promotional opportunities in the lead up and on the day.

Toodyay's International Food Festival is held in conjunction with the Avon Descent which will mark it's 40th anniversary this year. Enticing over 5000 festival goers each year, the festival features over 25 food stallholders and is complemented by a variety of entertainment and children's activities, making it a fun filled family day.

For the entertainment component to progress we rely on funding. There are a number of promotional packages available. For more information on these packages please contact Stephanie Slater at the Toodyay Visitor Centre on 9574 2435.

2012 COUNCIL DATES

ORDINARY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 7PM.

17 January	21 February	20 March
17 April	15 May	19 June
17 July	21 August	18 September
16 October	20 November	11 December



MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE WARNING FOR WHEATBELT

The Wheatbelt Public Health Unit of the Department of Health is urging all residents and visitors in the Wheatbelt, including the Toodyay area, to take extra care to avoid mosquito bites following a substantial increase in the number of Ross River virus (RRV) infections in the region.

Wheatbelt Public Health Physician Dr Naru Pal said 11 cases of RRV notifications were received in January alone compared with only 4 cases in the same period last year.

The Population Health Unit is also advising holiday makers from the Wheatbelt region to take extra precautions against mosquito bites when they visit other parts of Western Australia



Increased activity has been detected of the rare, but potentially fatal, Murray Valley Encephalitis (MVE) and Kunjin viruses in some locations in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne and Wheatbelt regions in the past few weeks.

"The illnesses caused by Ross River viruses include painful joints, aching muscles, lethargy, fever, headache and skin rashes, and symptoms may last from weeks to months," Dr Pal said. People experiencing such symptoms should seek medical attention from their GP or their local hospital.

There are no specific cures or vaccines for any of these mosquito-borne diseases so it is very important that people take care to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes are at their most active at dawn and dusk. To reduce the chances of being bitten, people in mosquito-prone areas should cover up by wearing long, loose-fitting clothing and use insect repellents containing DEET or Picaridin as an active ingredient on exposed skin areas.

Householders should ensure that insect screens fitted to doors and windows are in good condition.

Mosquito numbers can be reduced by getting rid of stagnant water around the home or campsites. Mosquitoes will breed in anything that can hold water including old tyres, unused fish ponds and pot plant holders.

As mosquitoes take about 10 days to breed, water containers should be emptied at least once a week.

WA Country Health Service, Wheatbelt Public Health Unit

FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

AMENDED LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES

The Shire of Toodyay has the capacity to make policies to guide land use and development. To ensure that the views and opinions of the community are considered, these draft policies are advertised for public comment as part of the preparation process.

The Shire of Toodyay is proposing to amend LPP.10 - **Temporary Accommodation during the Construction of a Dwelling**. It is proposed to amend this policy to remove the provisions permitting the use of a shed as temporary accommodation. This is proposed because the occupation of a shed for habitable purposes does not meet current Legislative requirements. The policy will still provide for temporary accommodation approvals to be issued while building a house but this will be limited to a caravan only.

A copy of the amended policies can be viewed at the Shire of Toodyay's Administration Centre and is also available for viewing on Council's website www.toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Your views on the draft policy are encouraged and welcomed. All submissions must be presented in writing to the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre, PO Box 96 Toodyay 6566, by 4.00pm on Monday. Further information on the above policy is available by contacting the Shire's Development Services on 9574 2258.

Lindsay Delahaunty
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SHIRE OF TOODYAY HERITAGE LIST REVIEW

The Shire of Toodyay is currently reviewing its Heritage List as required under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*. The purpose of this review is to form a new Heritage List from Category 1, 2 and 3 buildings on the Shire's current Municipal Inventory, which was updated in 2010.

Your views on the Heritage List review are encouraged and welcomed. Information regarding the Shire's updated Municipal Inventory and current Heritage List is available at the Shire Administration Offices and the Toodyay Public Library during office hours.

Submissions on the Heritage List may be addressed in writing and lodged with the Heritage Officer, Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96 Toodyay 6566, by 4.00pm on 12 April 2011.

Further information on the above proposal is available by contacting the Shire's Heritage Officer on 9574 2008.

Lindsay Delahaunty
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



The roses at the cemetery are blooming thanks to the hard work of the Toodyay Garden Club and Shire Staff. Now that a start has been made it would be nice to see it built on with Toodyay entering the Tidy Towns competition, if not in 2012 then in 2013. Interested parties are urged to email grants@toodyay.wa.gov.au so that the degree of public support for this project can be gauged.

The TOODYAY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE (INC)

is holding its **Annual General Meeting**

At **7pm Monday 12 March 2012** at the Toodyay Community Centre (next door to the Medical Centre).

This state government sponsored body is looking for innovative thinkers, with energy, business experience and techno savvy to serve on the management committee and guide the future of this Association. Membership is open to all for \$5. A copy of the constitution and further information is available by contacting Kim Angus on grants@toodyay.wa.gov.au

EXTRAORDINARY ELECTION

Due to the resignation of Councillor Nouwland on the 22 February 2012 an extraordinary election to fill this vacancy for one councillor to represent the **Central Ward of the Shire of Toodyay** will be held.

In accordance with Section 4.9(1)(a) the actual date for **the election is 12 May 2012** and in line with Division 9 of the Local Government Act 1995 all statutory notices relating to the election will be advertised in the West Australian newspaper.

Enrolment to be eligible to vote in this election will close on Friday 23 March 2012 at 5pm.

An information session for prospective candidates will be held on Monday 26 March at 6.00pm in the Council Chambers.

Persons wishing to nominate for the 1 (one) vacancy for the office of councillor for the Central Ward of the Shire of Toodyay are advised that nominations open Thursday 29 March 2012 and close 5 April 2012 at 4pm sharp.

Lindsay Delahaunty
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

STATE GOVERNMENT CHANGES TO BUILDING APPROVAL PROCESSES

The new Building Act 2011 and accompanying Regulations are proposed to be in force on Monday the 2nd of April 2012. All residents/landowners and builders seeking to obtain approval to carry out building / demolition works within the Shire after this date are advised that there will be changes that will affect how applications for approval are lodged and obtained.

The Shire of Toodyay will remain the Permit Authority in that the actual approval to build will still be obtained from the Shire, applicants will however, be able to choose who assesses an application against the Building Codes. This can be carried out by the Shire, as is the case currently, or by a privately registered Building Surveyor. The permit to build is issued on the basis of this assessment or "Certificate of Design Compliance" being submitted with the Building Permit Application.

Because the new legislation sets tight time limits for all Local Governments to assess and determine permits, any person intending upon making an application must submit the full documentation and have all other approvals required. This will mean that the Shire may have to reject an application for a Building Permit until an approval has been issued for planning, crossovers, effluent disposal and so on. Additionally any intending applicant should be aware an application for a Building Permit cannot be received until fees are paid and any Home Indemnity Insurance certificate is provided (this relates to housing construction only).

There are a number of other relevant changes which may be found on either Council's website www.toodyay.wa.gov.au or at the Building Commission's at <http://www.buildingcommission.wa.gov.au>.

Lindsay Delahaunty
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

THE TOODYAY COMMUNITY BUS INC.

will be holding a **2nd AGM at**

7pm on 6 March 2012

at the CWA hall.

This meeting will either

ELECT A NEW COMMITTEE

for the Toodyay Community Bus Inc.

OR

COMMENCE WINDING UP OF

the Toodyay Community Bus Inc.

The AGM of the Toodyay Community Bus (Inc.) on 12 January 2012 failed to elect officebearers due to lack of willing candidates to fill all vacant positions. If officebearers are not found at the meeting of 6 March 2012 steps will commence to wind up the group.

Toodyay Visitor Information Centre
7 Piesse St, Toodyay
7 Days Per Week: 9:00am to 4:00pm

T: 9574 2435
F: 9574 2431
E: visitorscentre@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Toodyay Library
96 Stirling Tce, Toodyay
Mon to Fri 9am - 5pm, Sat 9am - 1pm

T: 9574 2323
F: 9574 2323
E: library@toodyay.wa.gov.au

health matters



Rachael Biddulph, Health Promotion Officer (right) and Gemma Tuxworth, Primary Health Manager (left) at the Avon and Central Primary Health Unit's quit smoking training at Northam Hospital

Health Staff to Help Smokers Butt Out

PEOPLE who visit allied health professionals, community nurses and child health nurses in the Wheatbelt from March will be asked if they smoke and, if so, have they considered quitting?

Those who wish to seek support to quit will be provided with a recommendation for an appropriate quit smoking service. Research shows that most smokers wish they had never started and would like to give up smoking.

To ensure those people who want to quit smoking can access a support service in

their own community your local Health Promotion Officer, Rachael Biddulph, will be running a Wheatbelt Quit Smoking programme across the Avon and Central Health district including Toodyay. This programme will include individual advice on nicotine replacement therapy, *Fresh Start Quit Smoking* groups and a motivational text or email messaging service.

If you're interested in taking part in the programme, contact Rachael Biddulph for details on 9690 1320.

- Limit take-away meals to once a week
- Choose water as a drink
- Exercise on most days of the week.

If you would like individualised advice from an expert in nutrition, seek the advice of an Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD). An Accredited Practising Dietitian can tailor an eating plan to your individual lifestyle and support and motivate you to make changes for life.

The Wheatbelt GP Network has just set up a private dietetics clinic in Northam. Email Tyson Tripcony at dietitian2@wheatbelt.com.au for more information or to set up an appointment.

Psychological Health

Richard Taylor
Specialist Clinical Psychologist

Procrastination

EVERY month I seem to leave writing this column to the last minute. This could be viewed as procrastination, something I talk to others about when they seek my help. My 'chief editor' suggested I take my own medicine, so this month I managed to get the column written well before the deadline!

For a short and very practical course on this subject go to www.cci.health.wa.gov.au and click on Resources and then on Put off procrastinating!!! The introduction states, 'These practical strategies will help you get going, and will also address any weakness you may have in skills like organisation, time management, managing your environment and the way you approach tasks, which may be contributing to your procrastination'. It can be the case that reasons given for procrastination are regarded as causes, rather than mere descriptions of procrastination itself. You can simply acknowledge these reasons such as 'I am feeling tired' and get on with the job.

Warfare over major mental health issues
Two issues that have been boiling away for some time have spilled over in the media of late. Both issues can have major ramifications for consumers of psychological and psychiatric (mental) health services. In both issues the role of the pharmaceutical industry is brought into question.

The first issue concerns the debate over the effectiveness and use of antidepressant medication. The following is a link to a US 60 Minutes programme in which senior researchers in high profile academic institutions discuss anti-depressants and how effective they are in the treatment of depression. The link follows - just click on the section on antidepressants (Treating depression: Is there a placebo effect?):

www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7399362n&tag=contentBody;storyMediaBox
Alternatively, just Google '60 minutes US'.

The second issue concerns the current revision of The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), a manual used for diagnosis. When first published in 1952 the manual had a 130 page collection of disorders and today it runs to nearly 900 pages. Concerns are about the use of psychiatric labels for every form of human distress. Another concern is the role of drug companies in chasing disorders with medications, particularly where children are concerned. Another critique is that the DSM as a classification system has too

narrow a focus on symptoms and pathology, neglecting the healthy aspects of the person and their experience of living.

'No access makes me mental'

Go to YouTube - see this clip made by Jess, Cale, Liv and Cody at the Queensland Youth Forum 2011. Social media initiatives like this are a great way to confront the endless political spin and policy failings of the federal Mental Health Minister Mark Butler. Having access to the right services when they are needed is critical.

www.somazone.com.au

This is a website aimed at 14-18 year old Australians. The site is an initiative of the Australian Drug Foundation. A brochure I have states that Somazone is 'created and run by young people, for young people. A safe space to share stories, ask questions and find help for drug use, mental health, relationships, sexual health, harassment and body image. A source of free, anonymous, relevant and non-judgemental support and health information'.

In 2010, Somazone received over 427,000 visits. Somazone successfully engages the traditionally hard-to-reach audiences of rural and remote young people.

Toodyay Mens Shed Inside the Shed

Deputy Scribe

HELLO fellow shedders.

That time of the month again and pen to paper, as it were. We have added two more to our number in February. Welcome to Don and Paul; we look forward to your company for a long time to come.

You will note this is 'Deputy' writing, as our normal Scribe is down south, greeting a grandchild into the world (congrats, Grandad) and catching up with his mother which is an occurrence too far apart.

Welcome home Hector. Nice to see you safe and sound after such a long trip.

Wally, David and Barry have all endured surgery this last little while and, in some instances, that has prevented those guys from participating in activities; we can only wish them a speedy recovery so they can continue to enjoy the comradeship at the Shed.

On 7 February we were taken by surprise and overwhelmed when the whole of the Northam Men's Shed Management Committee met with our Committee and put forward a very kind offer and commitment of help whilst we struggle to establish our own home.

Some of us are scattered far and wide, one of ours in New Zealand, one in Tasmania, one down south at Albany, another in Esperance and yet another somewhere over on the eastern seaboard. We hope for all of their safety and wellness on return.

Last Saturday morning, a bunch of us enjoyed our usual monthly breakfast. We had great food and great company and then we proceeded, en masse to the Memorial Hall for a scheduled quarterly 'Information Session' headed by the Shire President, quite an experience and, in the words of a guru of tea, "You should try it." These sessions are held periodically but you have to have your wits about you to know when.

That is about the lot for me but, in closing, a message, as was told to me by a Professor of Philosophy: 'The best predictor of the future, is history.' May God help us all in Toodyay. Until next time.

Wheatbelt Clinical Psychology

- Psychological health problems and disorders
- Work, career problems, business issues and change of direction
 - Workers' compensation
 - Legal reports

Toodyay & Bindoon

Richard Taylor

Member of the *Institute of Clinical Psychologists WA*
Foundation Member *Australian College of Specialist Psychologists*

Specialist Clinical Psychologist
Medicare provider

0427 447 190
(business hours)

Make a Change in 2012 for Health

Tyson Tripcony (APD)
Wheatbelt GP Network

MANY of us struggle to maintain a healthy weight and even more struggle to lose weight and keep it off.

Instead of trying fad diets like the Lemon Detox diet, Blood type diet and Alkaline diet (which have been voted by Accredited Practising Dietitians as diets to avoid in 2012), try incorporating sustainable diet and lifestyle changes to have the greatest impact long term. Here are five simple tips to get you started:

- Eat breakfast every day
- Eat smaller serves

Wheatbelt Community Legal Centre

- Office open five days a week
- Solicitor by appt. Mon, Tues & Wed
- Tenancy Advocate Mon, Tues & Wed

123 Fitzgerald Street Northam
PO Box 601 Northam 6401

T: 9622 5200
F: 9622 5700
E: admin@wheatbeltclc.com.au

Crimestoppers
1800 333 000

TOODYAY EMU FARM



Walk amongst "Free Range Emus" in natural bushland

- Guided Tours
- Emu Products Shop
- Dining Area
- Tea and Coffee
- Ice Cream and Cool Drinks
- Toilets
- Ample Parking

Coach and School Groups by Appointment

Open Daily 10AM - 4PM
Phone 9574 1415



Velvet Crystal

OPEN

Duke Sreet, Toodyay

See Elvi for beautiful crystals, fossils, shells, gemstone jewellery, books and goats milk soap made in Toodyay

Recently moved from the Subiaco Markets

0418 952 209

velvetcrystal@hotmail.com

Stressed and Depressed!!

Not sure about asking for help? We know that can be the hardest thing.

Talk to those that have been through it and see how they have rebuilt their lives.

Toodyay Men's Shed

Thursday 9.00am - 12.00 noon
6176 Toodyay Rd

Phone 9574 2498 or 9574 4568

Emergencies: LIFELINE 13 11 14

health matters

Breastfeeding Images are Nature's Reflection

Media Statement
Australian Breastfeeding Association

THE Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA), Australia's leading breastfeeding support and advocacy service, today called for images of mothers' breastfeeding their babies to be viewed as a reflection of nature and normal in our society.

ABA promotes breastfeeding as the normal way to feed and nurture infants, with the vision of babies breastfeeding exclusively for 6 months and, once family foods have been introduced, continuing to breastfeed for 2 years and beyond.

"The publication of images of mothers breastfeeding their babies is critical to the process of normalising breastfeeding in our culture. As the leading breastfeeding authority in Australia, we consider it is important to work with publishers, media organisations across all formats — online, print and television — to promote the image of breastfeeding as normal and natural for human babies", said ABA's spokesperson, Karen Ingram.

"It is our hope that people will become increasingly accustomed to seeing mothers breastfeeding their babies and that it will be simply unremarkable.

"There is an imbalance of images reflecting infant feeding in Australia, from even subtle images such as directional signs with a bottle showing the way to a parent care room in shopping centres, to sexualisation of breasts in advertising, film and television. The Association considers the publication of images of mothers breastfeeding assists in the normalisation of breastfeeding and will have a positive flow-on effect on breastfeeding rates in Australia.

"Breastfeeding in public is allowed and legal. A mother's right to breastfeed her child in public places is protected by law both federally and in every state and territory. The recent change to the Federal Sex Discrimination Act is yet another way to support the normalising of the image of breastfeeding in our country," concluded Ms Ingram.

The Association continues to work as a partner with media organisations across Australia to promote positive images of breastfeeding.

A View from the Shed Time to Talk

Julian
Wheatbelt Mens Health

ONE OF the downsides of modern technology and our busy lifestyle is that we don't find time to talk. Our most fundamental forms of communication, talking, listening and engaging with one another, cannot be replaced with online communication. If we want to transmit information, online communication works well but it misses so much of the non-verbal connections we make with each other. I guess, for me, my holiday has been an opportunity to get back to the basic need to just sit, listen and sometimes talk.

During the year my family members keep in touch pretty regularly. However, we don't have time for those philosophical discussions we enjoy during a holiday. I say philosophical but they are not really deep, more about life, future directions, personal beliefs and parenting challenges

and experiences.

When we make an effort to spend time one on one in a non-threatening group, like our family, it is amazing how much information we absorb that helps in our understanding of the others involved. When we don't hear other people's views on life we can often misjudge their actions, which is usually based on our own preconceived ideas about life. This is especially true if you are judging a person from another generation (either older or younger).

I am not big on new year resolutions but, having spent a lot of time just listening to my family over the holidays, I am going to try to carry the idea of listening more this year. Technology can leave us time poor for the important things that glue society together. I am going to commit to less technology and more personal interaction and see what changes.

Part of this strategy will be to ring and visit friends rather than sending text or email messages. I also intend to listen more and talk less. Finally, I am going to take time out to communicate in a relaxed laid back environment. Consider how busy your life has become; are you missing out?

Modern technology is controlling us instead of us controlling it. Remember, before it all gets too much ... talk to a mate. Why not turn this into a regular habit.

Vet's Corner

Restrict the Owners, don't Punish the Dogs

Dr Mark Perissinotto

STATE governments are reviewing the management of what they consider dangerous dogs. Amendments may give authorities the right to euthanise all dogs, not just regulated breeds, if a dog attacks.

VetShopAustralia's in-house Vet, Dr Mark Perissinotto believes a more proactive approach is the solution as opposed to, in the event of unacceptable behaviour, prosecuting pet owners and inevitably punishing dogs post incident. "A dog's behaviour is largely a result of the animal's treatment. Pet owners, who act responsibly and train their dog, will have an obedient pet. If an owner mistreats their dog, there is a greater risk that dog will become aggressive.

"Dogs who are raised in a safe environment, will be agreeable and safe members of the community," he said.

The community is invited to provide submissions as the Government reviews the legislation. Dr Mark Perissinotto urges pet owners to take part in this discussion, and suggests that the review should encompass the entire process of pet ownership, not just the end result of negligence.

"Ownership restrictions could substantially improve other issues resulting from irresponsible pet ownership, including the number of pets who are abandoned each year, or the amount of pets who are not de-sexed, which consequently continues the cycle of unwanted and therefore untrained pets.

"Euthanising dogs, labelled regulated or not, is not the answer. We should be examining the cause of dog attacks, not just amending the government's powers so they have the right to put down dogs at will," Dr Perissinotto said.

Dr Perissinotto advises that being a pet

lover does not necessarily mean you qualify as a pet owner. Factors to consider include income available for vet bills; whether the animal is suited to your lifestyle, for example will they be walked daily; and property suitability.

"It is imperative for the safety and wellbeing of the pet, owner and community that prospective owners research before committing to a pet to ensure they are compatible with the animal's temperament and can address their needs," Dr Perissinotto said. "As a pet owner you are responsible for your pet and its engagement with the community. Both you and your dog will be held accountable for unacceptable behaviour."

WIFSA to Manage Wheatbelt Respite House

A WHEATBELT family support organisation has been successful in the tender to manage a new respite house, due to be completed towards the end of 2012.

The house, which will provide respite for people with disability and their families, is to be built in a central location in York through funding from the Disability Services Commission.

Wheatbelt Individual Family Support Association (WIFSA) CEO, Karen Miller, said that she was delighted by the decision. "We are really excited about the plans for the house," she said. "It provides the opportunity for families to access a respite break in their own region, rather than having to travel many kilometres to the metropolitan area to access suitable respite services."

The respite house, which will cater for people with disabilities aged 0 – 65, will be fitted out with rooms for high and low needs, sensory rooms and will include a big backyard with barbeque facilities and play equipment.

WIFSA will begin provision of services within the next few weeks, using a 'brokerage model' to provide additional respite funding to families and individuals. Priority of service will be given to the Central Wheatbelt, with out-reach to Upper Great Southern Region, Goldfields and metro when required.

Ms Miller is currently in discussion with local groups and organisations, including the new York Youth Centre, identifying services which will add to visitors positive experiences when staying at the house.

"As a York based organisation, we are delighted that the house will be located in this part of the Wheatbelt," she said. "WIFSA was heavily involved in consultations with our service users in 2010, encouraging them to 'have their say' about the location of the facility. Visitors to the house will now be able to access the Avon Valley with all our great tourist attractions."

The house will have the capacity to provide respite services for people with all types of disability, including people with high or low support needs, and will have the capacity to cater for up to seven people. The organisation plans to hold a community competition to

'Name the House'.

For more information about the respite house or WIFSA's services, contact WIFSA on 08 9641 2557.

Let's Find Cancer Early

Media Release
Cancer Council of WA

WE know that people are more likely to survive cancer if it's found early, so finding cancer early can really make a difference.

At www.findcancerearly.com.au you can find important information to help you find the early signs and symptoms of bowel, lung, prostate and breast cancer, and what you should do. This website has been developed as part of the Find Cancer Early campaign.

If you have any of the following signs or symptoms for more than four weeks, it's important to get them checked out. It doesn't mean you've got cancer – often they turn out to be something less serious, but it's important to tell your doctor.

Common signs and symptoms of cancer are:

- Coughing up blood
- A cough or croaky voice
- Becoming more short of breath
- Blood in your pee or your poo
- Problems peeing
- Looser poo (diarrhoea)
- An unusual pain, lump or swelling anywhere on your body
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environmental matters



Friends of the Dale inaugural meeting

Toodyay Friends of the River

THE TFOR programmed year commenced early on a Sunday morning with a good roll up of willing workers including new members to tackle the mass of castor oil bushes that grow beneath Newcastle Bridge and behind St Stephen's Church. With the aid of a chainsaw, hand pulling and chemical painting, a significant impact has been made on the infestations, but the work of course will be ongoing. Huge amounts of litter accumulate in this area due mainly to people throwing rubbish from the bridge and several bagsfull were collected. Thanks to Bob for taking the process one step further and sorting the rubbish for recycling and transporting it to the transfer station. On the same morning a working party of three members surveyed 2 kms of Millard's Pool by marking out 100m sections. Thanks to Maurie for the use of his measuring wheel and pegs. Later in the week, with the help of Fletch and his canoe, depth measurements

were taken and GPS points recorded for TFOR's programme to monitor sediment levels in the Pool.

Great things are happening further upstream along the Dale River with the formation of a "Friends of the Dale" group. The inaugural meeting at Reserve Pool attracted nearly 30 people from not only Beverley, but Northam and Toodyay as well. Toodyay Friends of the River were well represented with Wayne Clarke able to offer advice to the fledgling group on incorporation and constitutions, etc. The first project this new group will take on (with support from WBNRM and Greening Australia) will be the protection and rehabilitation of Reserve 833 and its magnificent pool. Some 20 hectares of the reserve has been cleared and cropped for many years and it is hoped to fence and revegetate this area. A further meeting took place at the Dale Hall on 22 February. We continue to strengthen our ties with all the environmental groups along the Avon, mindful of the connectivity of the whole river system.



Nardie Cemetery

Nardie Cemetery, which will be the destination for TFOR's planned River Walk Track, is in a very sorry state and desperately requires a major cleanup. It is hoped that community groups, with assistance from the Shire, can schedule in some work there soon to restore this precious historic site to an acceptable standard. Once again TFOR hosted Clean Up Australia Day with the support of the Shire this year. It was satisfying to remove a lot of garbage from some of the walk track areas.

Our next working bee will continue with the track work by clearing some sections in Lloyd Reserve. Further survey work for Millard's Pool could be also on the programme. Meet at Duidgee Park at 8 am on Sunday 18 March. Enquiries to Greg on 9574 5445 or Robyn 9574 2578 or info@toodyayfor.org.au and don't forget our website www.toodyayfor.org.au

Bird of the Month Australian Owlet-nightjar

Desraé Clarke
Member, Toodyay Naturalists' Club

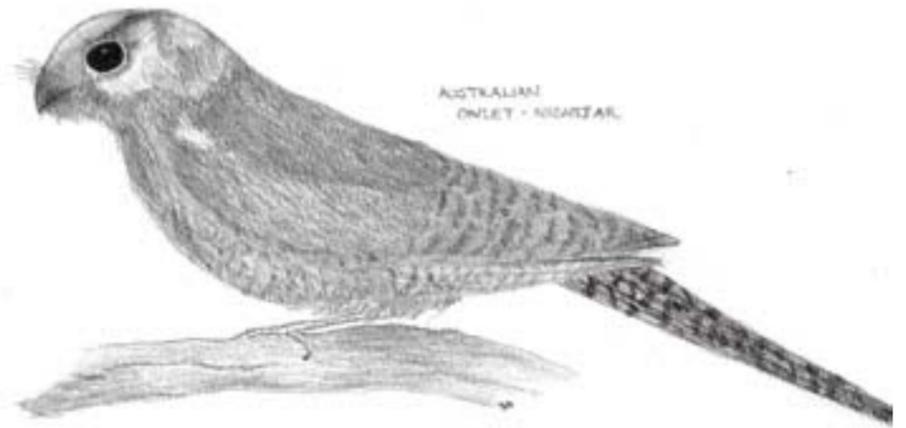
ALTHOUGH a widespread and relatively common nocturnal bird and one of the most common bird sounds heard at night, especially in the drier desert regions, the Australian Owlet-nightjar (which I will call the nightjar) is seldom observed. It is a small bird of between 20 to 25cms in length with the female slightly larger than the male.

white, with grey bars extending through the breast and into the throat area. Flight feathers are grey, spotted with rufous with the wings shorter than the tail; the tail feathers are barred grey and rufous. It has pinkish-grey feet and dusky coloured claws.

The nightjar is an insect eater hunting during the first few hours after sundown, and the last few hours before sunrise. Its prey includes moths, beetles, spiders, ants, grasshoppers and other small invertebrates. This small night bird breeds between August and December, with its nest of green eucalypt leaves placed in a tree hollow, stump or a fencepost and built by both sexes. Three to five white eggs are laid over a couple of nights, and then incubated over a period of nearly four weeks by both parents. The young fledge (have feathers enough to fly) in twenty to thirty days, and stay with their parents for a number of months.

Nightjars have a high-pitched chirring voice, heard all year round and often during the day. It has a good knowledge of all the hollows within its home range, and will dart directly into one or another, when disturbed. It stays in the same locality throughout the year (sedentary) and mates for life.

I have only ever seen one of these small birds in the wild and, unfortunately, it was a road kill. Like other night birds, such as the Boobook Owl, Tawny Frogmouth, etc, they fly towards the beam of light from vehicles to catch moths, with dire results. The little bird I found was in the centre of a track in York Gum woodland leading to a farm. If you are fortunate enough to see, or photograph, one of these delightful little creatures the Toodyay Naturalists' Club would be



Its colouring is variable with the upper parts darkish grey and finely speckled and softly barred white. It has cat-like whiskers (called vibrissae) projecting up from its lores which are the small areas of skin between the base of the tiny, but broad, dusky-coloured bill and its huge eyes. When peering from an opening in a tree this small bird resembles a hawk-owl. Its head has a central black stripe and a black stripe over each eye meeting at the back of the neck where they fuse into a pale grey to white collar. Underparts are

pleased to record your observation. Contact us by email at toodyaynats@westnet.com.au or phoning 6364 3609. A photograph is invaluable for correct identification.

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environmental matters

Weed of the Month Pampas Grass

Compiled by Wayne Clarke

GRASSY weeds are becoming a significant component of our current fire risk, and need to be highlighted so those with the greatest fire risk are identified, and managed.

The weed for March is pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*), a tall and coarse grass. It is grown specifically for its attractive flower head, and is often used in flower arrangements. They may form large clumps or tussocks that can be over two metres high and over a metre in diameter. The plumed seed heads can reach over four metres in height.

The plumes can be female or bisexual. The female plants have large fluffy plumes – these are the ones that are sought after by gardeners. The bisexual plants are smaller and more compact. The plumes may vary in colour from white to pink; occasionally violet coloured plumes may be encountered.

During the summer months the tufts die off, making the whole plant an extreme fire hazard; it can also be a haven for rabbits. It sets seed in autumn, March and April being the peak months, producing a huge volume of pollen (that can affect asthma or hay-fever sufferers). The strong leaf edges are finely serrated and can easily cut the skin.

Pampas grass is a long-lived perennial (plants with a life span of more than two growing seasons). The female plant usually

needs fertilisation to reproduce, but can be pollinated by the bisexual plant. Seeds produced by the flower head, once pollinated, can reach 100,000 or more, and can be dispersed by the wind over distances of 25km or more.

Currently restricted to some of our road verges, pampas grass has the potential to infiltrate our wetlands and reserves, and other disturbed areas. It competes with native vegetation and crops, thus reducing the ecological integrity of our Shire.

Although requiring continual vigilance, it can be easily controlled by removing the plumes prior to the formation of pollen. If they are cut off at this early stage, the plumes can be used for decoration, or can be disposed of without fear of the plant reproducing.

If the plants have already set seed (late in the flowering season) the plumes need to be removed with care, so as not to spread the seed. They can be placed in a plastic garbage bag, and left in the sun to rot. This will need to be done each season. Once the plant ceases to produce plumes, the tussock can either be grubbed out or poisoned and left to rot.

Source: *Environmental Weeds Action Network*

Photograph courtesy Rod Randall (*Western Weeds, Plant Protection Society of WA 1997*)



Feral Pig Control Community Workshop

Desraé Clarke

FERAL pigs have been residing in the Avon Valley Gorge and surrounding farmland for many years with the numbers difficult to control. A sow can have from 6 to 10 young, depending on seasonal conditions and the availability of food and, especially, water.

What damage is done to the environment? As the animals are generally found around water holes, creeks, streams and rivers, damage to the environment is by digging for roots, which ultimately results in severe erosion, fouling of the water, loss of native vegetation and the spread of weeds. Feral pigs will also prey on small native animals and can have a significant impact degrading their habitat in search of food.

What damage is done to farming?

Feral pigs feed on, and extensively damage, grain crops, orchard fruit, young livestock (especially lambs) and they will feed on dead farm animals and carrion resulting in the potential to spread disease.

Control of feral pigs has been extensively pursued through 'environmentally focussed' research and development.

A workshop is to be held on Saturday 10 March 2012 to build public awareness of the problem with feral pigs in our district. It will give an environmental understanding of feral pig activity, an insight to some of the more recent research and an awareness of control techniques. The photograph has been provided by DEC.

Workshop:

Saturday 10 March at the Anglican Church Hall commencing 9.30am – 12noon
Speakers on the day will be:

Dr Peter Adams – Murdoch University Research Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) – cage trapping
Paul Manera – Department of Agriculture and Food (WA)
Avon Gorge Invasive Species Group (AGISG)

Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided.

RSVP to Desraé Clarke on 6364 3609 for catering purposes.



Python Watch

Desraé Clarke

THERE have been many interesting sightings of herpetofauna over the past month. Toodyay is so lucky to have a great variety of fauna which includes the reptile family. Most of the reported sightings that I have received have been accompanied by superb photographs which greatly aid identification.

Viv Street has emailed a Guenther's Toadlet photograph plus one of a Spotted Burrowing Frog, others have sent photos of unusual spiders and also the beautiful little Broad-banded Sandswimmer. An adult Black-headed Monitor (racehorse goanna) was climbing our wooden window frame this afternoon and I saw a baby one on the road verge recently. The Bobtails have been feasting on the odd tomato or apple core left for them and a Gould's Monitor has made its home in the garden next to our carport – very friendly! A very large snake was observed crossing the Bindoon Road and Brian Salmond sent in the excellent photo (above) of an adult Gwardar with banded markings.

NB - Photographs are invaluable for correct identification.

The Gwardar, a common snake found in our Shire, belongs to the same family as the Dugite. It is poisonous but, like any creature, will bite if it feels threatened or cornered, if an attempt is made to kill it or a dog is worrying it.

The Stimson's Python, or the larger animal, the Carpet Python, are non-poisonous. The difference between the Python and the Gwardar is that the Python will 'freeze' and eventually glide away whereas the Gwardar should quickly wriggle away.

Colouration of the Gwardar has great variation. It may be from nigh on black to gold, pale yellow, orange and orange/red. Some may have a 'v' or a 'w' on the back of the neck; they may have a blackish brown head or head and neck and some may have a colour variation on the body resembling a herringbone patterning or may be banded with thick, even bandings of blackish/

brown, or greyish/brown with yellow or gold colouring.

The Gwardar is a slender snake growing to approximately 1½ metres in length with the head and body of the same width; it does not have a 'neck' like the Carpet and Stimson's Pythons. It is an egg-layer with up to 26 in a clutch. Its main foods are mice, rats, and small lizards and it likes to live around areas of undisturbed rubbish and sheets of discarded galvanised iron that house its favourite foods. It may also be found in hay sheds or around bird aviaries or the feeding area of the poultry yard, areas that may also house the mouse.

When taking your dog for a walk in bush or long grassed areas keep it on a leash. Dogs are inquisitive creatures and, with reptiles out and about, there could be an altercation between the two.

The Toodyay Naturalists' Club is grateful for records of sightings around the Shire to add to its data base. Sightings may be emailed to toodyaynats@westnet.com.au or I would be grateful for a phone call on 6364 3609 or email desraec@westnet.com.au.



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environmental matters

Half a Million Dollars to Protect Wheatbelt Bushland

Media Release
Wheatbelt Nature Resource Management (NRM)

MORE than half a million dollars will now be spent on protecting native bush in the Wheatbelt.

Natural resource management group, Wheatbelt NRM, has been given the money from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country programme.

The project focuses on expanding the area of remnant vegetation under protection through the National Reserve System.

The National Reserve System is a network of parks and reserves across Australia that protects important native animals and plant life. Less than five per cent of the Wheatbelt is already protected under the scheme, including Yorkkrakine Rock north of Tammin, Lake Magenta near Lake Grace and Mt Matilda at Wongan Hills.

Wheatbelt NRM's project manager of biodiversity, Rebecca Palumbo, said most of that five per cent was on public property. "Our focus will now be on encouraging private landholders to embrace conservation covenants," Rebecca Palumbo said. "There's huge patches of remnant vegetation located on farms that we want conserved."

"Protecting your bush land through a conservation covenant also creates a legacy for the next generation. In the last year we've had eight landholders sign up for conservation covenants totalling more than 4500 hectares." She said that, with this extra funding, another 1000 hectares would be protected.

A conservation covenant is a voluntary agreement, which is permanently registered on the land title but does not affect ownership of the land.

Rebecca Palumbo said land owners who committed to a conservation covenant could

also be eligible for funding to help protect the area.

For more information, contact Rebecca Palumbo - Wheatbelt NRM on 9690 2250.

Wage War Against Weeds

Media Release
Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative - UWA

A WEAPON invented by a Darkan farmer to smash and destroy weed seeds is nearing commercial production after further development by the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative (AHRI) at The University of Western Australia.

AHRI Research Associate Professor Michael Walsh said the Harrington Seed Destructor had been trialled and demonstrated during last year's harvest in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales after extensive WA testing. Eastern States trial sites will be revisited in March-April when season-opening rains stimulate weed germination.

Inventor and farmer Ray Harrington, who has collaborated with the former WA Herbicide Resistance Initiative since 2005, said - like most farmers - weeds were his single-biggest problem. Ryegrass and wild radish, which had evolved resistance to several herbicides, were particularly hard to control.

The destructor, based on mining technology, is towed behind a header at harvest. The header separates the chaff fraction containing weed seeds from the straw and fed into a cage mill. This pulverises any weed seeds in the chaff and returns it to the paddock. In studies using dyed seed, up to 95 per cent of ryegrass seed was destroyed.

Some farmers spend up to \$450,000 annually on herbicides that must be applied twice a year. The destructor also alleviates the need for burning chaff dumps, narrow windrows or whole paddocks.

Dr Walsh said the destructor was not a silver bullet to manage weeds but was another string in the weed management bow and enthusiastically received by growers at trials and demonstrations.

Trials of the destructor are funded by the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

Australia's Young Agricultural Leaders

Media Release
Grain Growers Limited

THE popular annual Innovation Generation conference will be held in Adelaide on 9-10 July, Grain Growers Limited ("GrainGrowers") announced today.

The event, set to attract more than 150 delegates aged 18-40 years, provides an opportunity for young people working across all agricultural commodities to connect, share experiences, gain knowledge and enhance their careers and businesses.

GrainGrowers chairman John Eastburn said this year's Innovation Generation theme would be "Food security: obstacles and opportunities".

"We are very excited that this year will see Innovation Generation head to Adelaide for the first time," Mr Eastburn said.

"It is important that young people are encouraged to pursue the many diverse careers that agriculture has to offer and Innovation Generation helps drive that enthusiasm in the next generation of industry leaders," he said.

"The event, in its fifth year, provides access to the latest products, research and technology to allow delegates to learn about efficiency and productivity developments.

"The conference includes breakout sessions for delegates to explore particular topics of interest and liaise with industry experts and leaders in a friendly learning environment."

Innovation Generation will include a "Food security: obstacles and opportunities" hypothetical that brings young people together on a panel with industry leaders to explore a range of topical issues including sustainability, consumer perceptions and new technologies.

To learn more about partner and exhibitor opportunities, please contact Olivia Avis on (02) 9888 9600 or email olivia.avis@graingrowers.com.au.

GrainGrowers is Australia's national, independent, member-based, financially sustainable technically resourced grain producer organisation.

Membership is open to all Australian grain producers and is free until 30 June 2012.

Digital TV Toodyay Residents Urged to Wait for Updated Transmitters

Meredith Neilsen

ANALOG, free to air TV signals are soon to be switched off. Analog and digital signals are currently being broadcast throughout Australia; however, analog signals will be phased out. This is happening progressively throughout Australia.

Due to the pending upgrade of the Mawson (Mr Barker) transmitter which should be on line by the end of May, residents are urged to wait and assess the digital signal to ascertain improvements before spending money on your TV or entertainment system.

WA Regional and remote areas' analog TV will be switched off in the second half of 2013.

What happens if I do nothing? Choosing not to do anything means you'll lose access to free-to-air TV when the switchover is complete in your area. That's why it's important that you plan ahead and, if necessary, budget for the change to digital.

Digital signals provide: Better picture quality, improved sound, and more channels to choose from. To find out more about getting ready, consult the Digital Ready website on WWW.digitalready.gov.au or phone the Digital Ready Information Line, freecall within Australia, on 1800 201 013.

Information packs are available from the Toodyay Library.

Research Targets Accurate Phosphorus Analysis

Media Release
Grains Research and Development Corporation

NEW research findings could lead to more accurate interpretation of phosphorus soil tests from Western Australian cropping paddocks, and may save growers money through the recommendation of lower phosphorus fertiliser rates.

The research has been conducted by Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) and Murdoch University researchers under the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) project 'Better fertiliser decisions for cropping systems in Western Australia'.

The findings were presented at the 2012 Agribusiness Corp Updates in Perth in February, supported by the WA Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA), and the GRDC, and coordinated by the Grains Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA).

DAFWA researcher Geoff Anderson said results generated by the Colwell-P test - commonly used to analyse soil samples - were analysed using the 'Mitscherlich' equation which tended to over-estimate the critical phosphorus levels needed to achieve maximum crop yields.

Critical soil test levels are the minimum level of a particular nutrient necessary to achieve potential crop yields.

"Our research has identified an alternative equation - the 'Beta sigmoid' equation - which we believe will overcome this problem and result in a more profitable and environmentally sustainable production system for wheat, lupin and canola production in WA," he said.

The Beta sigmoid equation was originally developed in 2003 by international researchers to help predict plant growth, and has not previously been applied to soil data.

"The use of the new equation in soil data analysis is yet to be peer reviewed by experienced soil scientists."

Dr Anderson said the research into the accuracy of the Colwell-P test and Mitscherlich equation was conducted by analysing fertiliser data from DAFWA experiments dating to 1990 he aim of the project 'Better fertiliser decisions for cropping systems in Western Australia' is to help growers and advisers maximise returns from their investment in fertiliser, and better define critical soil concentrations for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulphur, as well as minimise the loss of nutrients to the environment.

toodyay
community safety and
crime prevention
committee

TOODYAY LOCAL DRUG ACTION GROUP

The Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association is seeking members of the community who are interested in forming a Toodyay Local Drug Action Group (commonly known as an LDAG).

An LDAG will provide an opportunity for you to take action to prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug related harm in our community. It offers you the opportunity to assist those members of our community who struggle to control these issues.

For more information telephone our local Police on 9574 9555,
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This is an initiative of the Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee

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environmental matters

Call for vigilance on fleabane as weed spreads in WA

Media Release

Department of Agriculture and Food
Western Australia

WESTERN Australian growers are urged to monitor paddocks for fleabane, which has become more prevalent throughout the grainbelt following significant spring and summer rainfall.

While hard to kill when mature, control can be achieved with a 'double knock' and the weed will otherwise use vital soil moisture and nitrogen.

Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) supported surveys have found that, while originally restricted to WA's southern cropping areas, fleabane has gradually spread throughout the grainbelt. Its numbers are higher than average this summer.

Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) researcher Sally Peltzer said the most common of three fleabane species present in WA was flaxleaf fleabane (*Conyza bonariensis*) and fleabane germination was favoured by conditions associated with minimum tillage cropping systems and good spring rainfall.

"Fleabane normally germinates in late August or early September, and this summer it has kept growing strongly due to continuing rainfall," she said.

"The late harvest also allowed fleabane to grow massively within crops."

Dr Peltzer said DAFWA research supported by the GRDC had shown that mature fleabane, with its large tap roots and hairy leaves, was difficult and expensive to kill, especially in mid to late summer.

"However, trials in 2009 indicated that the best control of large fleabane in stubble is achieved using a 'double knock' approach with a range of primary herbicides, followed by paraquat seven to 10 days later," she said.

"It is important to control fleabane as large infestations of the weed significantly reduce soil moisture and nitrogen for the following crop, resulting in yield losses, and the weed may also get caught up in machinery at seeding time."

Dr Peltzer said growers would need to monitor for fleabane in August and September this year, when it was possible high numbers of the weed would germinate.

"Fleabane can most effectively be controlled when plants are emerging, mainly in early spring while they are still small," she said.

"Fleabane can be more difficult to control in late spring but this can be achieved if its rosettes are less than 5cm."

Dr Peltzer said fleabane could spread rapidly due to its abundant production of wind-dispersed seeds, with mature flaxleaf fleabane plants producing, on average, 100,000 seeds each.

"Because the seeds are fine, they can also spread easily in grain and equipment," she said.

More information about fleabane identification, characteristics and management is available in the DAFWA Farmnote Fleabane in Western Australia, available by searching 'fleabane' on the DAFWA website.

REVS Vehicle Checks go National

Media Release

Department of Commerce Consumer Protection

Doing a REVS check has been standard practice for WA consumers when buying second-hand vehicles privately for many years. Now the vehicle checking system is undergoing major changes as it becomes part of a new national register.

Since November 1988, millions of car buyers have used the Register of Encumbered Vehicles (REVS) service to check whether money is owing on the vehicle they intend to purchase. The new owner is liable for any debt when the vehicle registration is transferred through a private sale and the vehicle could be repossessed if the debt is not paid.

From 30 January 2012, the REVS system will become part of the new Personal Property Securities Register (PPSR), operated by the Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia on behalf of the Federal Attorney-General's Department.

Commissioner for Consumer Protection Anne Driscoll said the PPSR will incorporate more than 20 existing registers, currently operated by various Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies, and roll them into one national system.

"It certainly is an end of an era. For 23 years REVS has played an important role in ensuring consumers have peace of mind when buying second-hand vehicles privately," Ms Driscoll said.

"The new system will be much better for buyers and investors as it transcends State borders. Further checks can be carried out on security interests which may be held on an extensive range of personal property, including cars, aircraft, intellectual property, crops and livestock."

The PPSR will also report on written-off or stolen vehicles via a link to the Written Off Vehicle Register (WOVR), operated by the WA Department of Transport.

The REVS service ends at 5pm on Friday, 27 January 2012 so buyers of private cars are requested to make their checks before then, or wait until the new register opens on the following Monday morning. Licensed car dealers must guarantee clear title to any car that they sell.

More information on the new PPSR system is available at www.ppsr.gov.au or by calling 1300 007 777.

Senate Acknowledges Australian Farmers

Media Release

Senator Rachel Siewert, WA Senator

THE Senate has today acknowledged the integral contribution farmers make to Australian life by passing a motion noting the Australian Year of the Farmer.

The motion by Australian Greens agriculture spokesperson Senator Rachel Siewert and Senators Richard Colbeck and Glenn Sterle, called on the Government to provide support and funding for Australian Year of the Farmer initiatives.

"Australia's farmers are an integral part of our economy and communities," Senator Siewert said today.

"Agriculture injects more than \$405 billion into our economy each year and is the basis for over 1.6 million jobs.

"Farmers are responsible for providing food, clothing and shelter, both here and overseas.

"Australian agriculture greatly contributes to global food security and supply, which will be an increasingly important issue in coming years.

"I encourage the Government to act on this motion by providing support and funding for the initiatives of the Australian Year of the Farmer," Senator Siewert concluded.

Grain gains from soil biology research

Media Release

Horizon: Grains Research & Development Corporation

THE science of soil biology is following on the heels of minimum till farming -- hailed as the next productivity revolution and a potential source of widespread gains in the cropping sector.

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) continues to throw its support behind soil biology research with a

major investment in the second GRDC Soil Biology Initiative (SBI-II).

The Initiative and its suite of projects is coordinated by Associate Professor Pauline Mele, Department of Primary Industries Victoria (DPI) and Latrobe University principal research scientist, under the leadership of GRDC manager agronomy, soils and environment, Dr Martin Blumenthal.

A/Prof Mele says the SBI-II will enhance productivity growth in the cropping sector, particularly the high rainfall zone (HRZ), by improving knowledge on a region-by-region basis as to how the quality of soil biology relates to grain productivity and productivity.

"We hope to improve understanding of the role of soil biological communities in crop nutrient availability, suppressive soils, and general soil health," A/Prof Mele said.

"For example, we have a range of projects that will give us greater insight into the role of free-living nitrogen-fixing bacteria in crop nutrition.

"We already know that the amount produced will vary from between 10 and 30 kilograms per hectare per year but we don't have in-crop measures and have yet to link how stubble from previous years influences this rate."

A/Prof Mele says the SBI will provide also agronomic management solutions that encourage desirable biological processes and/or suppress undesirable processes.

"We understand that some soils are more able to resist diseases such as bare patch in wheat," she says.

"We also know that the phenomenon is related to soil biology as previous work has shown that if you sterilise the soil and remove the biology, disease strikes with a vengeance.

"The nature of this 'suppressiveness' is largely a mystery so this initiative is looking more deeply into the soil biology to see who is providing the defence and by what means."

Ultimately the hope is to relate these beneficial defence traits to crop management that encourages the development of a disease suppressive soil community.

"It is also building a research capacity in soil biology research, development and extension through national and international integration of science disciplines including genetics, bioinformatics, modelling, geochemistry, agronomy and pathology," A/Prof Mele says.

The SBI-II is underpinned by three key themes:

1. Monitoring soil quality for better decision making;
2. Management systems for enhanced nutrient availability (incorporating rhizosphere); and
3. Suppressive soils: traits and transferability.

In a season when waterlogging has been common across the HRZ, soil health is a hot topic for southern growers.

Under the SBI, GRDC is supporting the national roll-out of a soil quality project initiated in WA (visit www.soilhealth.org.au), which brings together tools and information for growers and advisers, including fact sheets on waterlogging, raised beds and non-wetting soils.

For more information on GRDC's investment in HRZ research, visit www.grdc.com.au/hrz.

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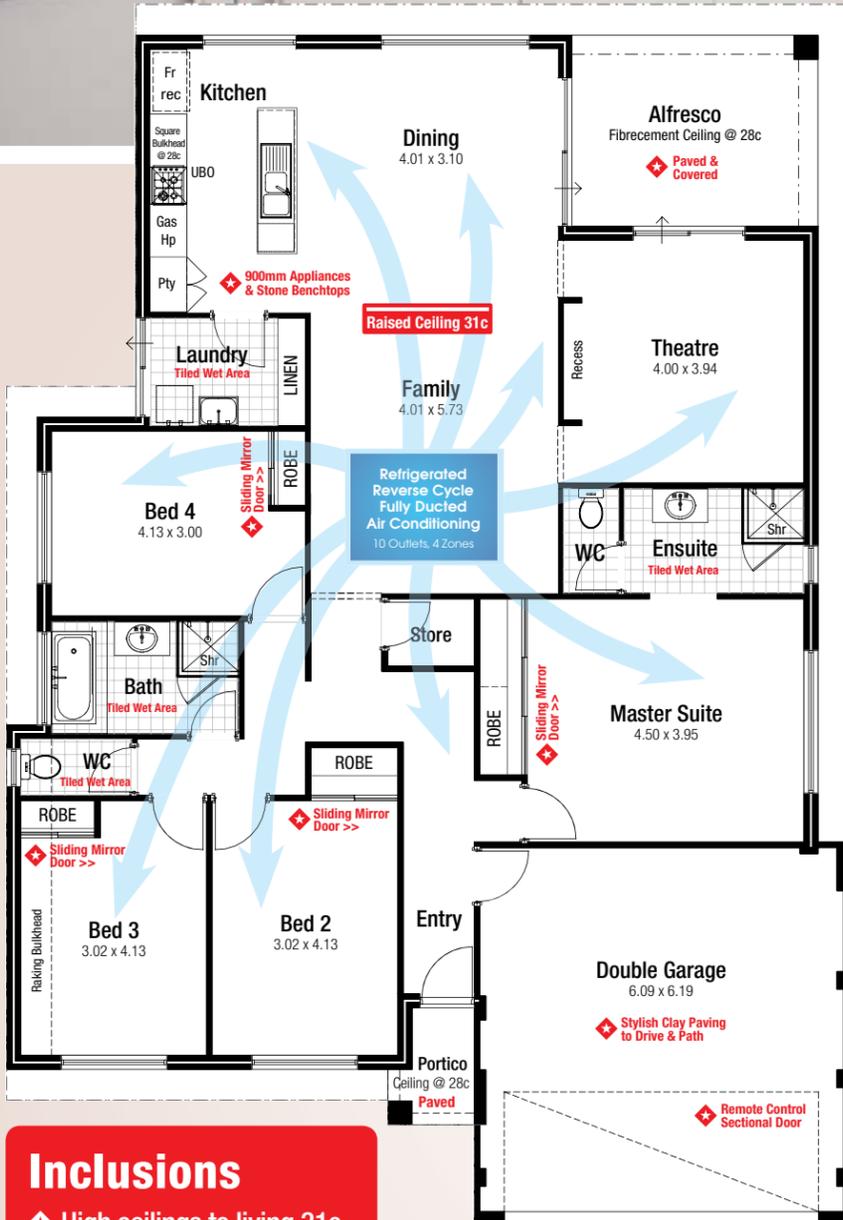
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An Easter Treat Hot Cross Buns (Author Unknown)

This is an Easter treat that your kids, including the bigger variety, will love. Bite size hot cross buns are easy to make and are not too filling.

Bite Size Hot Cross Buns Makes 24

Ingredients

15grams compressed yeast
½ tsp caster sugar
1 tsp plain flour
¼ cup warm milk
Extra 4 cups plain flour
½ tsp salt
Extra 1½ Tbsp caster sugar
½ tsp mixed spice
½ tsp ground cinnamon
30 grams chopped butter
1 egg lightly beaten
1/3 cup sultanas or choc chips

Crosses

½ cup plain flour
3 tps caster sugar
1/3 cup water

Glaze

1 Tbsp caster sugar
1 tsp gelatine
1 Tbsp hot water

In a small bowl, combine yeast with sugar, flour and warm milk. Mix well. Cover and put in a warm place for 10-15 minutes or until the mixture begins to froth.

In a mixing bowl, combine extra flour, salt, extra sugar, mixed spice and cinnamon.

Using fingertips, rub butter into dry ingredients until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add egg, the yeast mixture and sultanas or choc chips. Mix well. Turn dough out onto a floured surface, then knead

lightly until smooth. Place dough into an oiled bowl, cover with a damp tea towel and leave to stand in a warm place for 40 minutes or until the dough doubles in bulk.

Punch dough down, turn onto a floured surface and knead for about 5 minutes or until dough is smooth and elastic.

Cut dough into 24 small pieces. Knead each piece into a round shape. Place buns onto baking trays lined with baking paper. Cover with a damp tea towel and stand in a warm place for 15 minutes.

Spoon crosses mixture into greaseproof paper piping bag or small sandwich bag with a tiny corner cut off. Pipe crosses onto buns.

Bake at 200 degrees C for 12-15 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven and brush with glaze while the buns are still hot. Serve with butter.

Crosses - combine flour and sugar together, and gradually add enough water to form a smooth paste.

Glaze - Combine sugar, gelatine and water in a small saucepan. Stir over a low heat until sugar and gelatine dissolve. Use while hot.



*Hot cross buns, hot cross buns
one a penny, two a penny,
hot cross buns.
If you have no daughters,
give them to your sons.
One a penny, two a penny,
hot cross buns.*



*Have a safe and happy Easter
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The Toodyay Agricultural Society Inc is looking for a volunteer to join their committee and fill the position of Secretary.

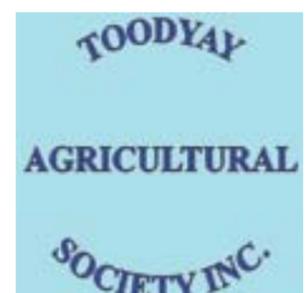
The Secretary is responsible for:

- Taking of Minutes for monthly committee meetings and the AGM and circulating these to the necessary people;
- Producing the Agenda for each of these meetings;
- Recording all inwards and outwards correspondence and writing of Agricultural Society letters;
- Keeping the members' Register up-to-date and issuing membership invoices;
- Answering all calls on the Society's telephone, which will be installed at your home;
- Being in attendance at the Show office on the Friday before the Show and on Show Day each year.

All applications can be sent to:

The President
Toodyay Agricultural Society Inc.
PO Box 362
Toodyay 6566

Please contact the President, Alison Wroth, on 9574 2681 for further information.



Supercomputer to Help Scientists Reach for the Stars

Media Release
UWA

A POWERFUL new supercomputer 10,000 times faster than an average office computer and big enough to store 2000 years of iTunes music has been successfully installed at The University of Western Australia.

Called "Fornax" – Latin for "hot furnace" and named after a southern hemisphere constellation known as a birthplace of stars – the UWA installation consists of 96 nodes, each containing two Intel 6-core Xeon X5650 processors, a high-end GPU and 48GB of RAM.

It forms part of the Pawsey project, an \$80 million Federal Government program to help bolster Australia's bid to build the world's biggest radio telescope – the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) – in Western Australia, and make Perth one of the world's top 20 supercomputing centres by 2013.

UWA, the CSIRO and three other WA public universities are partners in a joint venture called iVEC to provide advanced computing services to scientists, industry and government.

The director of UWA's iVEC Centre, Associate Professor Paul Bourke, said Fornax would give researchers unprecedented access to high-powered, data-intensive computing, particularly for astronomy signal processing (including the SKA) and geoscience research.

He said Fornax had a theoretical performance of more than 50 TFlops – equivalent to 10,000 office desktop computers – and 500TB global file storage plus 7TB of local disk space in each of the 96 nodes, big enough to store 2000 years of

iTunes music.

Fornax is installed at the iVEC@UWA Centre in UWA's Physics Building.

Professor Bourke said it would help Perth gain a unique capability in Australian computing history in 2013 with the installation of a new iVEC petascale supercomputer – significantly faster than Fornax – to be housed in the Pawsey Centre next to the CSIRO Australian Resources Research Centre in Kensington.

The Vice-Chancellor of The University of Western Australia, Professor Paul Johnson, said the new Fornax installation at UWA would help move Australia a step closer to the top ranks of global supercomputing.

"I am very pleased UWA has an important new tool of scientific discovery to help radio astronomers reach deeper into Space than ever before and boost international geoscience research in vital areas such as the environment and climate change," Professor Johnson said.

Dr Joseph Pawsey was an Australian radio astronomer pioneer who discovered the Sun's temperature to be one million degrees, much higher than previously thought possible.

Advice for Air Australia customers

Media Release
Consumer Protection

CONSUMERS affected by Air Australia (formerly Strategic Airlines) being placed into voluntary administration are urged to contact their travel agent or the airline's administrator, KordaMentha, immediately.

Commissioner for Consumer Protection Anne Driscoll said there are a number of options available for consumers who have

booked flights on the airline, depending on their circumstances.

"Consumers who have booked and paid for flights by credit card should contact their bank or credit provider and request a charge back," Ms Driscoll said.

"The airline's customers, who have taken out travel insurance, should check with their insurance company, obtain advice and begin the process of making a claim, if possible.

"If consumers have paid by cash, they would be entitled to a refund under consumer law, but those in this situation would become unsecured creditors and become part of the administration process.

"Air Australia customers are not likely to be able to make a claim on the Travel Compensation Fund as this fund only covers the financial failure of a travel agent, not a point to point airline."

Air Australia was based in Brisbane and only operated charter flights between Perth, Port Hedland and Curtin.

Affected consumers in WA can call the KordaMentha Perth office on 9220 9333, contact Consumer Protection on 1300 30 40 54 or for further advice and assistance email consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au.

Does your Puppy Need to Lay off the Pudding?

Media Release
VetShopAustralia

WHILE it is sometimes acceptable for us to loosen up the belt buckles over the holiday seasons, a leading Australian vet is encouraging dog owners to remember the importance of protecting your pet from an unhealthy diet.

"Dog owners need to combine a balanced, nutritional diet with regular exercise to ensure their pets live healthy and long lives," Dr Mark Perissinotto, head vet at VetShopAustralia.com.au, said.

Dr Mark Perissinotto said pet owners should take a personal approach to their animal's weight loss.

"Overweight animals should be dealt with in the same way as when humans diet, by combining portion control, exercise and healthy nutritional foods."

"The obesity epidemic is not only on the rise for humans but also pets and while you may think you are doing Fido a favour by giving him your leftover dinner, being overweight has been shown to take up to five years off an animal's life expectancy."

"One of the most important tips for pet owners to take into account is the size and energy levels of the animal."

"It is the owner's responsibility to measure out the daily portion of food, correct for the animal's age, exercise level, breed and weight."

According to Dr Mark Perissinotto, it is not only the quantity but also the quality of food that is important in your pet's diet.

"Dog owners are faced with an enormous number of pet foods though the rule of

thumb is to chose premium manufactured pet food that is well balanced, nutritious and scientifically proven to support the claims the manufacturers make," he said.

According to VetShopAustralia.com.au, dogs and cats are considered overweight when their body weight is 15 percent above what is optimal for their breed and obese when they exceed 30 percent.

If you are concerned your animal is overweight, Dr Mark Perissinotto suggests working with your vet to devise a diet that is suitable for your pet.

"The ribs of your animal should be able to be felt underneath the skin in healthy weight categories," he said.

"At home you can try downsizing the portion size of meals and extending the length of walks."

Volunteers Sought for Dementia Sleep Study

Media Release
UWA

A NEW study by researchers at The University of Western Australia aims to improve the quality of life for people with dementia or Alzheimer's disease as well as for their carers.

Lead researcher Michelle Hodge, a PhD student from UWA's School of Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences, said researchers knew very little about sleep problems associated with dementia, and any relationship between these sleep problems and dementia symptoms.

"Our study is the start of a project that will look at different types of sleep disturbances and how they impact on other symptoms of dementia," Ms Hodge said.

"The results of this study may provide information on how to better manage not only sleep problems in those with Alzheimer's and dementia, but may also offer treatment for other related symptoms."

Ms Hodge said constant sleep problems could have a huge impact on a person's day-to-day life and had been related to depression, cognitive problems, functional impairments in daily living and treatment response.

"Sleep problems and other symptoms of dementia such as depression and agitation are commonly cited reasons for admission to hospital or nursing homes as carers struggle to cope," she said.

"The results of this study may not only improve the quality of life for people with dementia but also the people who care for them. Keeping people out of hospital and nursing homes as long as possible also has an economic benefit, especially with the predicted increased rates of dementia as our ageing population grows."

Ms Hodge said people diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia, and their carers, were invited to participate in the study by completing a questionnaire on sleep. Contact Michelle Hodge on 9347 6402.

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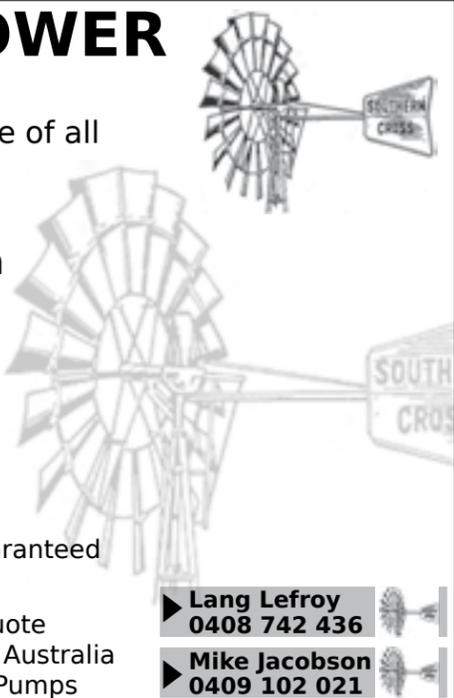
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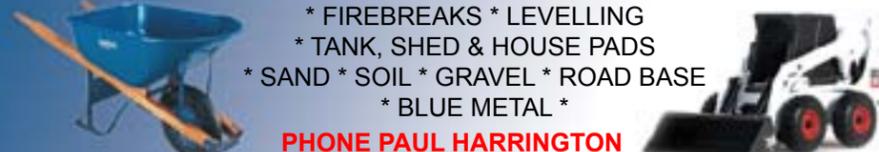
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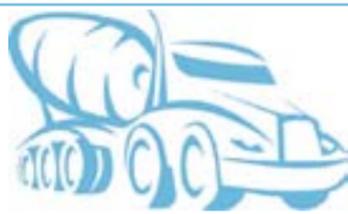
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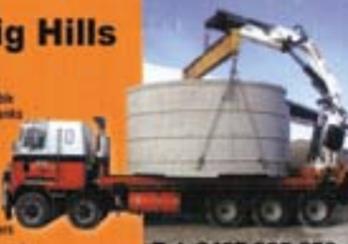


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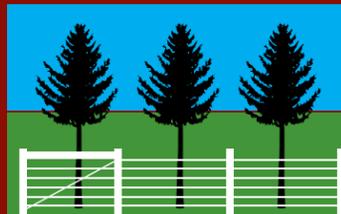
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trades and services

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REGISTERED BUSINESS

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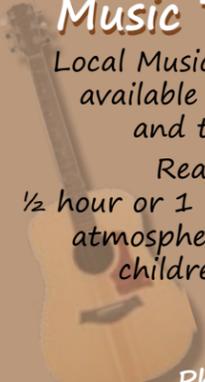
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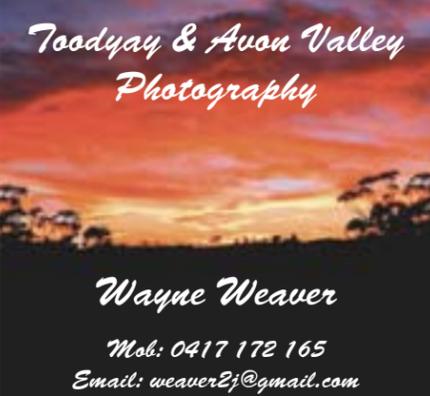


PHOTOGRAPHER

Toodyay & Avon Valley Photography

Wayne Weaver

Mob: 0417 172 165
Email: weaver2j@gmail.com



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MOBILE: 0417-905-313

General Installation & Maintenance
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Plumber Lic # 5915
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PLUMBER

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Sean Fitzgerald
Ph 0414 015 603

Gas Lic. No: 011458

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trades and services

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 Plumbing Approvals & Reports for Home Buyers
 "43 Years of Experience"
 Quality of Workmanship & Service Guaranteed.

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 Stay put. Keep getting your yearly capital gain.
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 Steve Lawler 0427 964 264
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trades and services

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TOODYAY & SURROUNDING SUBURBS



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23 years experience
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PO ox 907
Toodyay WA 6566

ABN 97049595469

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- RURAL
- PERMANENT
- TEMPORARY

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& Wheatbelt

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Avon Water Solutions
Maximising your minimal resource

32 Years Experience

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Affordable, professionally designed web sites without breaking the bank.



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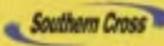
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Ph/Fax +61 8 9572 9066
Mobile: +61 417 991 302

TOODYAY RAINFALL

Recordings are taken from Bureau of Meteorology (in mm).

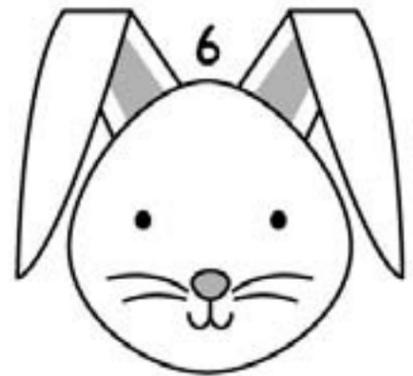
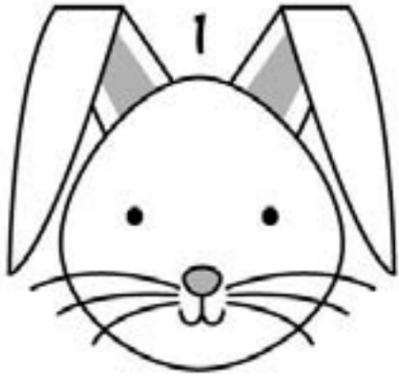
YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2002	9.0	5.4	2.2	52.4	37.2	72.4	90.4	50.6	50.0	27.0	11.4	2.6	410.6
2003	0.0	26.6	46.2	49.0	71.8	120.0	68.6	92.0	75.2	7.0	26.8	6.8	590.0
2004	2.2	2.4	3.4	4.2	73.6	93.2	63.8	82.8	28.6	21.2	35.0	0.8	411.2
2005	0.0	2.2	25.2	10.6	86.0	135.6	43.6	71.6	51.0	22.6	9.6	4.6	462.6
2006	119.5	16.6	3.0	21.2	19.0	29.8	54.8	88.8	73.2	15.6	13.8	9.4	464.7
2007	16.4	26.6	10.2	34.0	58.2	43.2	121.0	74.0	70.4	39.2	0.0	57.6	550.8
2008	0.0	10.8	9.8	76.8	38.2	62.8	146.2	8.4	50.6	43.0	31.0	3.4	481.0
2009	8.0	8.0	9.0	32.6	39.2	83.6	115.0	76.2	56.2	17.2	30.2	2.6	478.2
2010	(No recordings taken)						69.4	36.2	12.0	3.4	7.2	21.4	149.6
2011	24.2	15.4	14.2	10.4	36.6	52.6	92.0	70.2	65.0	57.4	18.8	29.2	486.0
2012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AVERAGE ALL YEARS: (RECORDING COMMENCED IN TOODYAY 1/1/1877)													
	10.8	12.4	19.4	25.8	66.9	99.5	102.3	80.2	47.9	31.4	14.8	9.3	520.6

Crimestoppers
1800 333 000

for the kids... Happy Easter!

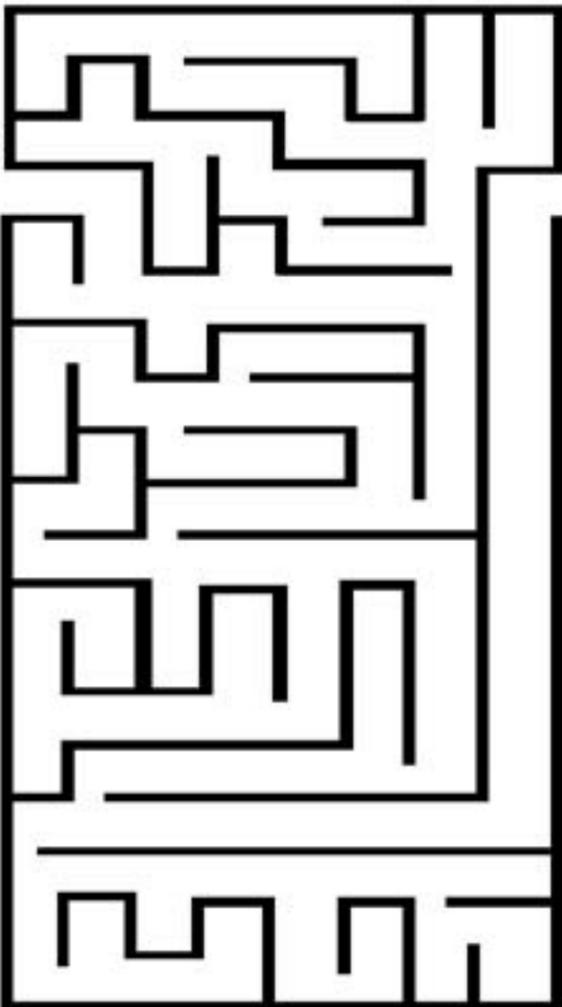
FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?



ANSWER: THREE AND FOUR

It's almost Easter and the Easter Bunny has misplaced the eggs!
Help the Easter Bunny find the basket of eggs.



sport

Toodyay Cricket

John Lucas

'A' Grade

Saturday 28 January

Toodyay 144 defeated Grass Valley White 100

Toodyay Batting	
Jeff Parnham	44
Shaun Bazley	17
Jason Jones	15
Peter Dasborough	14
Toodyay Bowling	
Shaun Bazley	3 for 26
Jeff Parnham	2 for 19
Jason Jones	2 for 23
Jack Dasborough	2 for 23

Saturday 4 February

Game Washed Out

Saturday 11 February

Toodyay 149 defeated Grass Valley Green 105

Toodyay Batting	
Damon Geary	50
Peter Dasborough	45
Jason Jones	16
Toodyay Bowling	
Shaun Bazley	4 for 30
Rob Glover	3 for 26
Jason Jones	2 for 35

Saturday 18 February

Toodyay 6 for 226 defeated Roos 103

Toodyay Batting	
Shaun Bazley	90
Peter Dasborough	61
Damon Geary	21
Mick Geary	18
Toodyay Bowling	
Shaun Bazley	3 for 15
Rob Glover	2 for 19
Jason Jones	2 for 37

Saturday 25 February

Won on a forfeit from Emus

The 'A' grade finished the season in second place and now look forward to defending the premiership they won last season.

'B' Grade

Sunday 29 January

Toodyay 136 defeated Federals 123



Toodyay Batting	
Jeff Parnham	38 no
Paul Morgan	26
John Lucas	21
Jack Morgan	12 no
Jarrold Adamson	12
Toodyay Bowling	
Steve Risley	5 for 17
Joel Verbury	2 for 19
Paul Morgan	2 for 22

Sunday 5 February

Grass Valley Green 111 defeated Toodyay 76

Toodyay Batting	
Ben Jenkins	18
Damon Geary	15
Ryan Reid	12
Toodyay Bowling	
Ryan Reid	3 for 17
Mick Carter	3 for 29
Damon Geary	2 for 23

Sunday 12 February

Toodyay 2 for 270 defeated Grass Valley White 128

Toodyay Batting	
Ryan Reid	112no
Ben Jenkins	106no
Mick Carter	24
Well done boys on your first centuries.	
Toodyay Bowling	
Shane Nagle	2 for 7

Sunday 19 February

Federals 9 for 218 defeated Toodyay 9 for 158

Toodyay Batting	
Paul Morgan	72
Mick Carter	24
Ryan Reid	18
Toodyay Bowling	
Mick Carter	3 for 34
Ben Jenkins	2 for 9

Sunday 26 February

Toodyay 9 for 179 defeated Grass Valley Green 135

Toodyay Batting	
Andrew Vallance	39
Shaun Bazley	37
Shannon Van Beek	27 no
Derek Ringrose	26
Ben Jenkins	16

Toodyay Bowling	
Shaun Bazley	2 for 17

'B' team finished on top of the table and look forward to the finals

Under 16

Saturday 11 February

Bye

Saturday 18 February

Toodyay 132 defeated Northam High School 51

Toodyay Batting	
Connor McBride	33
Brandon Kelly	32
Joel Welburn	22
Toodyay Bowling	
Brandon Kelly	3 for 17
Kevin Wakefield	2 for 6

Saturday 25 February

St Josephs 136 defeated Toodyay 109

Toodyay Batting	
Kyle Martin	21
Jayden Mawer	15
Tommy Towers	14
Connor McBride	10
Toodyay Bowling	
Jeremy Ferguson	3 for 16
Kyle Martin	2 for 25

Under 13

Saturday 4 February

Toodyay 6 for 139 defeated Northam Primary School 5 for 68.

Toodyay Batting:	
Jayden Mawer	23 no
Ryan Mawer	15
Kyle Martin	10 no
Toodyay Bowling:	
Dylan Loomans	1 for 2
Ryan Mawer	1 for 3
Jake Burke	1 for 4

Saturday 11 February

Toodyay 7 for 206 defeated Avon West Blue 49.

Toodyay Batting:	
Jake Burke	28 no
Luke McGavock	24 no
Jayden Mawer	20
Liam Tainish	18
Toodyay Bowling:	
Kyle Martin	1 for 1
Liam Tainish	1 for 1
Jake Burke	1 for 0
Lachie Gibbs	1 for 2

Saturday 18 of February

Bye

Sunday 26 of February

Toodyay 5 for 93 defeated St Josephs 5 for 67.

Toodyay Batting:	
Kyle Martin	16
Brayden Loomans	12
Jayden Mawer	10
Toodyay Bowling:	
Jack Morgan	2 for 1
Kyle Martin	1 for 4
Kobe Wakka	1 for 7

Fixtures

Saturday 10 March

Under '16' Grand Final 1v2 8.30am Bert Hawke

Under '13' Grand Final 1v2 8.30am Bert Hawke

20/20 Game 3v4 8.30am Avon Vale
Presentations to follow games

Seniors

'A' Grade	
1 st Semi	Roos v Grass Valley Green Bert Hawke
2 nd Semi	Federals v Toodyay Bert Hawke

'B' Grade	
1 st Semi	Grass Valley Green v Grass Valley White NSHS
2 nd Semi	Toodyay v Federals Toodyay Oval

Saturday 17 March
A & B Grade Grand Finals Bert Hawke

Sunday 18 March
A & B Grade Grand Finals Bert Hawke
Presentations to follow games on Sunday 18 March.

2012 Netball Development

NORTHAM Netball Association invites you to join the 2012 Development Team for 12year olds (birth year 2000).

The purpose of this development team is to endeavour to extend your existing skills in the game of netball with specialist coaching and competitive netball games.

A ONE only trial will be held on Saturday 17 March at 2pm SHARP in the new Northam Recreation Centre. Players will be notified by email or telephone on selection.

If you are interested in this great opportunity, please message your name, phone number and date of birth to 0409 089 095 or, alternatively, email lpember@westnet.com.au by 12 March.

If you have any questions regarding the Development Team, please contact the above mentioned number to discuss in more detail.

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

Groups, short term studies.

TRADITIONAL THAI MASSAGE & FOOT MASSAGE

Thai massage involves muscles compression, acupressure and joint mobilization. It may help to:

- Relieve muscular tension
- Relieve joint tension
- Increase flexibility
- Increase range of motion
- Relax & Energize the body
- Assist alignment & body posture
- Enhance the body's ability to heal itself

For more information or appointment
CALL 9574 5939 \$40 p/h
For more info Google "What is Thai Massage"

sport

Clackline/Toodyay Karate Club

OUR AGM was held in February and Wayne Smart was returned as president. Thank you to the outgoing committee members, especially Vicki Blankendaal who has been fundraising coordinator for quite a few years, and Zeta Armstrong who continued in her role as Treasurer long after having any family member attending classes.

A big thank you to Reagan Flaherty, Helena O'Dwyer and Roz Bowman for taking on the role of instructor/coordinator for the karate classes while Helen and Ken were away. Reagan in particular needs a special mention as he took on the role of instructing the Peewees with great enthusiasm, displaying a high level of commitment and maturity.

Look out for information over the coming weeks in regards to upcoming tournaments, club challenges, special visitors and other exciting events. 2012 is shaping up to be another action packed year!

Toodyay classes are held in the Youth Hall:

Wednesdays

3.45 – 4.15pm 5 – 8yr olds
4.30 – 5.30pm 8 – 12yr olds
6 – 7.30pm High school and adults

Fridays

3.45 – 4.15pm 5 – 8yr olds
4.30 – 5.30pm 8 – 12yr olds
6 – 7.30pm High school and adults

Classes are also held in Bakers Hill at the Bakers Hill Rec Centre on:

Mondays

3.30 – 4pm 5 – 8yr olds
4 – 5pm 8 – 15yr olds

All classes are held during school terms only.

If you would like to keep up-to-date with all that is going on at the club, email Helen at helenbain@optusnet.com.au and ask her to link you into the Avon Valley Shotokan facebook site.

Tai-Bo classes are held in Toodyay on Wednesdays 1.45pm – 2.45pm for \$7 per session, so grab a friend and have some fun!

Toodyay Junior Tennis

JUNIOR club tennis started back on 5 February. Events coming up for this term are the Groves and O'Reilly singles championships which are open to all club members under the age of 14 as of 31 March 2012. The singles will start on Sunday 11 March. The Jones perpetual trophy will be played on 1 April. This will also be our closing day and windup.

The mini tournament for February (sponsored by the Toodyay Op Shop) was won by Jacob Blankendaal and runner-up was Mitchell Cording.

Before Christmas, the Toodyay Junior Open day was held, sponsored by the Toodyay Op shop, IGA and Sunsmart.

Results were:

15yo girls winners Kristen Twine & Andrea Chitty (Toodyay)
15yo boys winners Matt Cod Aurich & Trent D'Silva (Midland)
13yo boys winners Leyton Howard & Corey Taylor (Yerecion, Wannamal)
13yo boys runners-up Wade Southcott & Ollie Sanderson (Wubin)
13yo girls winners Amiee Tyson & Chloe Donegan (Goomalling, Toodyay)
11yo boys winners Charlie Quartermaine & Mitchell Lord (Goomalling)
11yo boys runners-up Luke Catto & Clayton Dickson (Toodyay)
11yo girls winners Hayley Taylor & Aminah Indich (Toodyay)

Remember, Junior Club every Sunday 3pm start. See you there.

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Saturday

9am to noon



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More Activities for Wheatbelt Youth

Media Release

Hon Christian Porter MLA,

PROCEEDS of crime grants gives \$220,000 to help divert youth away from crime.

Attorney General Christian Porter has announced two grant offers totalling \$220,000 to help divert young people in the Wheatbelt region away from crime.

The Community Development Foundation has received \$198,868 to get Wheatbelt youths involved in positive community activities and the Shire of Moora has been granted \$22,030 to develop constructive activities for youth in its four-stage Catch and Release program.

Mr Porter said the foundation applied for the grant to fund its Southern Wheatbelt Project, a two-year initiative targeting young people at risk of committing crime or have already offended, who are from low-income backgrounds, who are Aboriginal or who may be unskilled or unemployed.

"The project will offer new recreational opportunities to local young people, as well as educational workshops on topics like nutrition and health, and drug and alcohol abuse," he said.

"The foundation hopes that with this combination of education and fun activities, local young people will be more positively engaged with their local community and less inclined towards anti-social behaviour or crime."

About 300 local families living in Narrogin, Wagin, Pingelly and Brookton are set to benefit from the project. Some local groups would also be given mental health 'first aid training'.

The Shire of Moora's Catch and Release project has been developed with the local community, including young people, and local youth service agencies.

"The first stage aims to 'catch' young people committing crime and to stop them before they get into more serious offending by buying a mobile CCTV camera to set up at crime hot spots," the Attorney General said.

"This will allow the council to show that offenders will be caught, but also to identify these youths so that they can be shown positive alternatives to offending."

The council will also redevelop the skate park precinct so that more young people will use it, keeping them physically active, helping to fight boredom and keeping them off the streets where they might be tempted to offend. The council also plans to buy and install new lighting at the skate park so the youth can use it for longer periods.

In the latest round of the State Government's criminal property confiscation grants program, 14 grants totalling \$1.76million have been offered to local government and non-profit community groups.

The criminal property confiscation grants program allows local governments and non-profit community groups to apply for up to \$200,000 seized under the State's tough proceeds of crime laws to fight criminal activity, tackle drug-related issues and help victims of crime.

The grants are released to the applicants once they have met certain pre-conditions, including contributing in-kind support to the project they are going to run.

Further information about the criminal property confiscation grants program is available at <http://www.department.dotag.wa.gov.au>

First Aid in Schools

Media Release

Australian Red Cross

LEADING the way with First Aid in Schools Australian Red Cross has welcomed a call by Education Minister, Peter Garrett to include First Aid in the school curriculum and urges schools around Australia to sign their pupils up to training.

Red Cross has been teaching First Aid to Australians since 1914 and recently has seen a rise in interest from schools across the country.

"We have been advocating for First Aid to be taught in school for years. We have significant experience from working with a number of primary and secondary schools in rolling out First Aid courses across the country" says Chris Casey, Training Manager for Red Cross College.

One such school is South Australia's Westminster School, which has been working with Red Cross to voluntarily expand its curriculum to include First Aid training. "We believe First Aid is an essential skill and one which should be taught to Australians from a young age.

Our senior students spend one week at the end of Years 8 and 9 undertaking accredited First Aid training as part of their health and wellbeing studies. The course delivers vital life saving skills and upon completion, students receive a nationally accredited qualification in First Aid," says Mr Gordon Begg, Head of Outdoor Education and Co-ordinator of VET Westminster School.

The national curriculum currently stipulates four key areas of education including english, maths, science and history. Recently there has been increased focus on health and wellbeing studies but as there are no national standards, most schools do not educate students in First Aid or provide any information on how to respond in an accident or emergency situation.

Red Cross College supports Minister Garrett's push to include CPR training into the national curriculum and would like to see programmes provided for all secondary school students.

"We would welcome the opportunity to sit down with Minister Garrett and other interested parties to share our experiences and ensure First Aid training in schools is added to the Governments agenda in a practical and purposeful way" says Chris Casey. "Whilst we do have basic First Aid programmes specifically designed for younger children, we would recommend that a national standard is introduced for students aged 11 years or more"

"At this age a child is physically capable of administering First Aid and has reached a level of mental maturity where they can deal with all the outcomes of their actions whether it be positive or negative."

Red Cross also would like to remind the Minister and the community that First Aid qualifications should be renewed every 3 years with a CPR refresher recommended every year.

"Adding First Aid training into the national curriculum will ensure more Australians have basic First Aid training from a young age but it is also important we encourage people to maintain these qualifications as they move into adulthood," says Mr Casey.

For more information about the courses available or to enquire about initiating First Aid training in your school visit www.redcross.edu.au or call 1300 367 428.

Catholic Agricultural College Bindoon

Media Release

Catholic Agricultural College, Bindoon

MEET the new staff commencing at Catholic Agricultural College Bindoon for 2012.

Geoff Hendriks has commenced as the College's Co-Principal with Martin Tobin. Originally from Western Australia, Geoff has been working in Melbourne for Edmund Rice Education Australia. He has over 30 years' experience working in Catholic Education as a Teacher, Principal and Senior Administrator.



Lee Maxfield has come across from the Christian Brothers Province office in Salter Point where she was the accountant for WA and SA. Lee is a Certified Practising Accountant with 15 years' experience in accounting and finance and has been appointed to the new position of College Accountant.

Emily O'Rourke will be starting in the new Library and Learning Centre as coordinator. Over the Christmas school holidays Emily married Tiernan our Ag Science teacher. Emily has come from the Public Library in Maylands and has a Graduate Diploma in Information Studies.

Peter Gaspar has joined the college after teaching years 4 to 7 at Yerecion Primary School for 2 years since graduating from University. Peter will be teaching our year 8 students their core subjects as well as some Physical Education classes. Peter has also joined the local Bindoon Cricket Club.



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\$399,000 - 439,000



HERE'S THE COUNTRY DREAM

Lovely stone cottage with green lawns surrounded by shady trees & flowing creek. The home has a beautiful kitchen & bathroom, big living area & shady verandahs. 10 acres, fully fenced for pets & animals into paddocks with a sweeping driveway over the creek. Shade, water, functional small farm layout & infrastructure offers a complete lifestyle property ready to move in & relax.

\$420,000



BRAND NEW IN THE AVON VALLEY PRECINCT

Near Julimar Bridge. 5 acres plus beautiful new brick home - display presentation - set high on a pretty block. Fully enclosed self-sufficiency orchard taking full advantage of rich, river soils. The home is perfectly designed for country living with space for friends to stay over: - 4 bedrooms, 2 bedrooms, theatre and GIANT central living.

\$549,000



COUNTRY DREAM HOME!

10 beautiful acres on a tree-lined lane with horse stables and paddocks. NEW BRICK home with soaring ceilings, GIANT ROOMS and all the latest fitout. MOVE IN & RELAX: 2 vogue bathrooms; 4 double bedrooms; Home office; Play room; Theatre room; Huge central living area opening to wide-decked verandahs. Owners transferred inter-state - must be sold.

\$549,000

TOO NEW TO PHOTOGRAPH



WINTER CREEK, TALL TREES & OPEN PASTURE

Surround this Country Dream Home on 5 acres. Wrapped in verandahs, this modern home has true formal lounge & dining rooms, plus a BIG OPEN kitchen, meals & family room, PLUS A HOME THEATRE ROOM. SPA & POOL compliment the lifestyle, and landscaped gardens complete the picture, with a large shed/workshop.

\$599,000



NEW AS A DISPLAY HOME UPPER CHITTERING

BIG, bright double bedrooms. Polished timber floors. Wide French doors inviting natural light from the shaded verandahs. Loads of storage space. Deluxe kitchen & fabulous bathrooms.

\$599,000



MORANGUP ENCHANTED AVON VALLEY HIDAWAY - 28 AC

Beautiful 28ac Natural Wildflower Park sloping gently down through ancient grass trees and tall eucalypts to the meandering Winter Creek. A near new 3 x 2 Ross Squire country homestead features polished timber floors and stunning kitchen. Just across the clear house yard is a huge 10x20m powered workshop & 3 x 60,000 lt rainwater tanks.

\$625,000



MORANGUP - I AM THE ONE YOU ALL NOTICE

We can see you - you can't see us! 53 ac, YES - the one with a forest of macadamias, wide open paddocks, full complement of sheds & workshops, good bore watering 1,000 trees, beautiful brick home in display condition. Great design with zoned living areas, 9' 6" ceilings, lovely kitchen, 2 bathrooms complement 3 large bedrooms and a study.

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395,000



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