

The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned
community newspaper
Est 1902

3600 copies circulating in Toodyay, West Toodyay,
Goomalling, Bolgart, Calingari, Morangup, Coondle, Cullam,
Bejoording, Nunile, Julimar, Bakers Hill, Clackline, Wundowie
and local districts

February 2015
Volume 332

New landfill bid spurs action



Beth Frayne named with 2015's Premier's A Citizenship Award.

Top citizen heads for Tassie

LEADING community volunteer Beth Frayne has won Toodyay's 2015 Premier's Active Citizenship Award announced at a special Australia Day breakfast at Duidgee Park last month.

Beth, a key figure in Toodyay's recent 2014 State Tidy Towns title win, is also a leading volunteer in the Toodyay Historical Society and Toodyay Naturalists' Club, and a founding member of the popular Toodyay Singers.

Herald readers will be familiar with her monthly historical society and tidy towns news contributions to this newspaper.

Beth now joins Toodyay Shire President David Dow and fellow volunteers to represent Toodyay at the announcement of the national Tidy Towns Awards in Tasmania on February 26-27.

Other nominees for this year's Active Citizenship Awards were Jenny Ferguson, Roma Heath, Robert Koch, Kim Maddrell and Peter Robinson.

The winner was chosen by Toodyay Shire Councillors in a secret ballot.

Cr Dow said Australia Day was an opportunity to reflect on the nation's history and consider how people could make Australia an even better place in the future.

He congratulated all nominees for Toodyay's 2015 Premier's Active Citizenship Awards and thanked them for their valued contributions to the community.

The Shire's Australia Day breakfast attracted

hundreds of local residents and community volunteers who ate 400 rolls, 400 sausages, 400 rashers of bacon and 360 eggs, all cooked and served by Toodyay Shire Councillors.

A total of 200 servings of yoghurt, and watermelon, rockmelon, oranges, apples bananas and grapes were also provided.

The large crowd was entertained by the Pioneer Bush Band and free rides provided by Toodyay Miniature Railway.

Local volunteer fire brigade members stood by to help to ensure public safety during the Shire's total fire ban.

More Australia Day pictures, Page 6

Michael Sinclair-Jones

A FRESH bid to build a major Perth rubbish tip in the Shire of Toodyay has sparked an urgent call for a renewed community campaign to resist the move.

Bayswater firm Opal Vale Pty Ltd has lodged a new application to build a 50ha landfill site for asbestos and rotting garbage less than a month before the expiry of a two-year deadline, after which the plan would have lapsed.

An original 2009 bid was rejected by the Shire of Toodyay but reinstated on appeal by the State Administrative Tribunal.

Opal Vale has until February 27 this year to gain works approval from the Department of Environmental Regulation and has applied to the Shire for an extension of time.

The Shire will consider the request at its next Council meeting on February 24.

Although the Shire opposes landfill, it is understood it plans to frame a response carefully to lessen the chance of a further appeal.

Opal Vale withdrew its first landfill bid last November after objections based on community-funded experts' reports and WA Water Department concerns.

The main change in the new bid is to raise the landfill base a further two metres from the underlying water table.

Opponents still fear a breach of a planned 2mm synthetic liner under hundreds of thousands of tonnes of rotting garbage could pollute local ground waters and the Avon Valley catchment area.

"More money is needed for a new hydrologists' report to address issues raised in the second landfill bid," leading opponent Rosemary Madacsi said.

"There is only \$250 left from our last successful campaign and we need another \$3000 for further expert reports to address fresh issues raised in the new bid.

"This is our last opportunity before public submissions close on February 25 (see advertisement Page 3) to stop the latest plan.

Mrs Madacsi urged more people to sign a 700-name petition at the Wendouree Tearooms in Stirling Terrace and issued a further appeal for more cash donations.

"We beat them before and we can do it again - our argument is just as strong," she said.

"But we need more community support to win."

Editorial Page 4

Volunteers sought for Moondyne Fest

PREPARATIONS are well under way for this year's annual Moondyne Festival on Sunday May 3.

A special AvonLink train will carry extra visitors to Toodyay for the re-enactment of fabled bushranger Moondyne Joe's escapades, arrest and mock trial as the town steps back in time in a spectacular day-long pageant of costume and colour.

The Moondyne Festival displays life in pioneer times, from the 1860 Rifle Regiment to enchanting Clydesdale horses.

Everyone in Toodyay is invited to dress in period costume for the day and get into the spirit of Moondyne.

The organising committee is looking for local residents to exercise their artistic expression and become part of this year's Moondyne street theatre.

Whether your forte is judge, jury member, town crier, temperance lady or floozie, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Angi at the Toodyay Public Library for more details or email toodyayfestivals@gmail.com.

this month



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The Toodyay Herald

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

Deadlines for the next edition are listed below with the paper on the streets in the first week of each month except in January when there is no edition.

All advertising should be emailed to advertising@toodyayherald.com.au. Editorial contributions and photographs should be emailed to news@toodyayherald.com.au.

Photographs for publication should be at least 500kb in file size to ensure quality reproduction in the newspaper.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are \$2.50 per issue (postage and packaging) or \$25 per year (11 issues). Please send a cheque for the number issues required to PO Box 100, Toodyay 6566.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of *The Toodyay Herald* is available to Shire of Toodyay residents at \$10 per financial year, with members entitled to free advertising worth \$15 annually. Please send your name, phone number, residential address and postal address with your membership fee to PO Box 100, Toodyay 6566 or leave it at 92 Stirling Terrace.

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

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9574 2106
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DISTRIBUTION

The Toodyay Herald has a distribution of 3600 copies, with 1800 copies delivered monthly to PO boxes and letter boxes in Toodyay, Morangup and Bolgart. Copies are also available at roadhouses and businesses in Toodyay, Northam and York, Clackline General Store, Bakers Hill Newsagency, Gidgegannup Newsagency and Wundowie. Web address: www.toodyayherald.com.au.

Printed by Rural Press

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped produce this edition of *The Toodyay Herald*: Richard Grant, Peter Ruthven, Beth Ruthven, Sue Manning, Grant Scobie, Guido Verschoor, Jan Manning, Peter Robinson, Sandra Harms, Roger Simms, Ieva Tomsons and Desraé Clarke.

ADVERTISING

ADVERTISING RATES

The cost of a casual display advertisement is \$4 (inc. GST) per column cm (NB Column width is 61.5mm.)

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Page Nomination Loading: Front page - 100%, Back page - 50%, Centre pages / Page 3 - 25%, other pages - 10% (based on mono price and inc. GST)

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION
ADVERTISING DEADLINE **STORY DEADLINE**
Noon Wednesday **Noon Monday**
February 18 **February 23**

Please note our new email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

O! Blind Joe

Respect yourself

Stirling Hamilton

BRITISH novelist George Orwell wrote that "Journalism is printing what someone else does not want printed: everything else is public relations."

In the December issue of *The Herald*, I was admonished by a reader for displaying a lack of respect by referring to the WA Premier as "Lord Colin Barnett" and "His Gap Toothed Eminence".

In the interest of playing the ball and not the man, I should like to address the subject of respect in and of politics.

I shall, however, take the liberty of putting a cannonball over his decks at the end of the engagement, though – upon reflection – I have to agree it was a cheap shot to mock a man for his physical appearance.

It's Australia Day as I begin to write this, and many fine men and women who have spent their lives doing good deeds are receiving the accolades they so richly deserve.

Respect is a gift that we bestow on people who have excelled in physical, intellectual, artistic or social endeavours.

It's a reward mechanism that says 'Hey, thanks mate, good onya', and it also encourages the adoption of similar behaviour in the broader community.

To presume respect for someone simply because they hold high office or have some fancy title such as Sir Prance-a-Lot is a ludicrous notion.

Shortly after writing the above line I heard that King Tony had awarded Prince Philip a knighthood.

I hope the Prince, now 93, was wearing his incontinence pads as I'm certain he would have wet himself laughing upon hearing news of it.

Long before the contemporary written word first hesitantly stumbled across Europe in medieval times, peasants enjoyed an ancient oral tradition of nursery rhymes and ribald, beer hall drinking songs that mocked and ridiculed their rulers, landlords and priests.

Lamponing the high and mighty predates the Greek and Roman Empires, and reverberates from when the first tribe sat in a circle and elected a chieftain.

We are all men, created equal and indivisible under God, and there is no man, high born or low who is better or worse than me.

I'll be damned if I'll bend my knee before any man who hasn't earned my high regard and respect by his works.

Many great men and women have ridden the streets of history and entire nations have sung their praises, but the clatter on the cobbles rings hollow these days and the stables are shuttered.

The last vestige of our Parliament's institutional dignity withered on the vine a long time ago.

His Royal Highness Tony Abbott, (the budgie smuggling bugle boy of company B) vowed the night before last year's Federal Election that there would be "no cuts to education, no cuts to health, no change to pensions, no change to the GST and no cuts to the ABC or SBS".

He's broken every damn one of those promises except the GST, which he's working on.

His Lordship Colin Barnett's broken promises include those on electricity prices, hospital completion, public sector job cuts, forced amalgamations and many others.

He's also going to close down about 150 WA remote Aboriginal communities, yet

again dispossessing indigenous Australians of their traditional lands and leaving them homeless.

Space forbids my ability to list (recently deposed Queensland Premier) Lord Campbell Newman's litany of lies, and fortunately the electors of Queensland have tossed him in the bin for it.

US President Abraham Lincoln said: "If once you forfeit the confidence of your fellow citizens, you can never regain their respect and esteem".

In my younger days, if you got caught telling bare-faced lies to your parents or teachers, they would tan your hide and you wouldn't be able to sit down for a week.

I wonder if applying a healthy dose of the cane across the backsides of certain politicians found guilty of the most egregious betrayal of public trust might encourage a more considered list of promises in the lead-up to an election

While we're at it, what in blazes is going on with all this party solidarity nonsense?

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill lamented that some men change their party for the sake of their principles; others their principles for the sake of their party.

Every now and then some pressing moral issue surfaces and the grey, decaying souls in power announce they will graciously allow party members to vote according to their conscience.

Well whoopee diddle, how magnanimous.

So where are these treasured human characteristics of compassion and discernment incarcerated for the rest of the parliamentary year.

As to the contention that the disrespect of politicians results in increased violence and aggression in society; may I suggest taking a squiz at the Australian Institute of Criminology's most recent report in 2013.

It begins: "While the volume and rate of individual crime types has fluctuated over the past few years, overall, crime in Australia has been decreasing".

Case dismissed, now to light the fuse of the cannon.

I do take exception to the comment that I have been disrespectful to the captains of these floundering vessels merely to boost my ego.

I can assure you that my ego has been perched high in the crow's nest since I was a wee boy, and sailing against strong headwinds merely flutters my feathers and gives strength to the wing.

Little boldness is needed to assail the opinions and practices of notoriously wicked men; but to rebuke great and good men for their conduct, and to impeach their discernment, is the highest effort of moral courage – William Lloyd Garrison, 19th Century Abolitionist of Slavery.

feedback

The Toodyay Herald is a locally owned not-for-profit newspaper that aims to serve the community as a source of quality news and information.

Suggestions and comments are welcome to feedback@toodyayherald.com.au

Office Hours						
Highlighted days only						
February 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 9am - 1pm	10	11 9am - 1pm	12	13 9am - 1pm	14
15	16 9am - 1pm	17	18 Advert deadline 9am - 3pm	19	20	21
22	23 Ed deadline 9am - 3pm	24	25 9am - 1pm	26 closed	27 closed	28

Clock ticks down on Shire writs

TOODYAY Shire Council may be running out of time to sue former Toodyay Shire CEO Graham Merrick and former Shire President Charlie Wroth for various alleged breaches understood to involve sums totalling several thousands of dollars.

It is understood the Shire has yet to finalise a statement of claim – less than two months before its WA Supreme Court writ expires.

The writ was filed in Perth on March 24 last year and cannot be served on the defendants after 12 calendar months unless it is renewed by court order.

Mr Merrick was Toodyay Shire CEO from August 2004 to March 2010 and Mr Wroth Shire President from October 2005 to October 2009.

The Shire has spent several thousand dollars on legal fees and declined requests to release more details.

The ongoing litigation was listed briefly in an Audit Committee risk management report to the Council's December meeting.

Mr Merrick and Mr Wroth have both previously declined to comment.



Extensive damage to the rear of O'Reilly's cottage in Stirling Terrace

Storm damage

WILD storms ripped through Toodyay at the start of this month, causing damage costing tens of thousands of dollars and dumping several millimetres of much-needed rain on the parched Shire.

A large section of the rear roof of O'Reilly's Cottage was torn off (above) and hurled more than 70 metres across Stirling Terrace towards Charcoal Lane.

The flying metal and timber tore a large hole in the roof of Toodyay Auto Centre across the road.

Other reports of roof losses and damage caused by violent winds and heavy rain were reported across the Shire.

A total of 28.8mm of rain was recorded at the Toodyay Club on the first two days of the month, although several outlying districts reported heavier falls.

Bauxite mine opponents call for public referendum

THE AVON Valley Environmental Society has joined a call by local anti-mining activists for a Shire of Toodyay survey to gauge public opinion about plans for open-cut bauxite mining at Morangup.

Chinese-backed Bauxite Alumina Joint Ventures proposes to mine 220 million tonnes of bauxite in stages across 55sq/km of mostly farmland at Morangup with a proposed 2017 start date.

The mine is planned to operate for at least 25 years and create 120 jobs.

Coondle ratepayer Richard Wilkinson told last month's Shire Council meeting that the Northam-based society did not oppose the idea of bauxite mining but was "extremely concerned" about possible environmental damage.

He asked if the Shire had considered the impact on plants and animals, and whether mining might cause "irreversible damage" to the Avon River by silting and pollutants.

"How many property owners who have come to live in the area for peace and quiet will be affected by noise, dust and other pollution?" Mr Wilkinson said.

His question was followed by a three-page submission from Avon & Hills Mining Awareness Group Chair Brian Dale calling on the Shire to hold a public referendum "to gauge the true sentiment" about planned open-cut bauxite mining.

Shire President David Dow took the questions on notice and said they would be answered at the next Council meeting.

AHMAG and BAJV both have Facebook pages, with the anti-mining group showing 363 'likes' and the mining company 92.

Staff reports to the Council said bauxite mining was a controversial subject with "some Morangup residents strongly opposed to mining".

"There are however a number of people both in Morangup and the wider community that actively support the proposed mine because of the potential economic benefits," the reports said.

Councillors were again unable to decide whether to accept a BAJV invitation to join its new 'Community Advisory Group' – a move opposed by anti-mining activists.

After legal advice, a recommendation that two senior staff represent the Shire on the BAJV committee, another long debate and several amendments, a motion by Shire Deputy President Bethan Lloyd lapsed without a seconder and no decision made.

However, the Shire will seek submissions (see advertisement Page 11) on a proposed new 'Engagement with Mining Proposals' policy and put it to the next public forum in Council Chambers at 4pm on Tuesday March 10.

No power to reject mining

The draft policy says the Council does not have the power to approve or reject mining projects and that its role will "generally be one of advocacy".

"Council supports citizens' rights to participate in the political debate, including strong advocacy for their own position so long as they respect the rights of others to hold contrary views," the draft policy says.

"Council will do all in its power to ensure for any proposed mining project that:

- All reports, investigations and assessments are thorough and complete;
- Benefits of any project to the local community are maximised, and negative impacts are eliminated or minimised; and
- Environmental impacts are minimised and rehabilitation is thorough and complete, and offsets are appropriate.

"Council will participate in engagement activities with project proponents, subject to the proviso that it reserves the right to oppose or advocate for changes or conditions in any development.

"Council delivers many services, projects, events and facilities.

"There may be occasions where these services, projects, events and facilities

are sponsored or co-funded by a mining proponent.

"Such funding or sponsorship will not dilute Council's commitments as set out in this policy."

Public submissions close at 4pm on Friday February 27.

AQUARIUS

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Your views are welcome on any licensing matters.
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4/2/15

The Toodyay Herald

Last throw of the dice

NEWS that a major metropolitan waste management company has fresh plans to build a Perth rubbish dump in the Shire of Toodyay is a serious concern for everyone in this community.

The Toodyay Herald has avoided taking sides in some important local issues – such as plans for a new bauxite mine in Morangup – so that readers can feel free to contribute to an open public debate about the future of their community.

But *The Herald* is yet to hear a single local voice in support of turning Toodyay into the new rubbish capital of Western Australia.

This newspaper has campaigned strongly to support those who oppose the landfill plan.

Common sense indicates that putting hundreds more heavy rubbish trucks on Toodyay Road serves nobody's interests except those who see our Shire only as a cheap garbage dump.

And we believe independent scientific studies – paid for by community fundraising – that say it could contaminate the Avon Valley with hundreds of thousands of tonnes of rotting city garbage.

Community action succeeded last year in stopping the initial plan.

The latest bid is a last throw of the dice.

The waste management company has until February 27 to obtain State Government works approval before a Shire ban on future landfill sites takes effect.

The next few weeks are critical.

The revised bid is 127 pages long with hundreds more pages of appendices filled with technical specifications and scientific data, much of it beyond the comprehension of most ordinary people.

New expert advice is needed to examine the complex document in detail and respond professionally to the well-funded application – and that takes money.

Community activists are urging everyone in the Shire to help them defeat this threat to our future once and for all.

It doesn't take much.

If every ratepayer donated a single dollar to the cause, it would be more than enough to raise the estimated \$3000 needed – and time is running out fast.

And if you've never signed a petition before, it's not hard – just go to Wendouree Tearooms in Stirling Terrace and join the 700 who have already done so.

Think about it next time you drive to Perth and perhaps wonder what it will be like trying to overtake hundreds more heavily-laden garbage trucks on Toodyay Road – that alone might be enough to get you on board.

Photo contributions welcome

WE THANK *Herald* readers for sending their news photographs of recent fires, lightning strikes and storm damage.

There was no space to print everything – but please keep them coming.

Minimum file sizes of 500KB essential, and we'll give you a photo byline if used.

Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor



The way we were – Caption on back of photo reads: "Shifting furniture at Toodyay. Being on the safe side. Waters came up and covered spot where I stood to take this photo. Truck got stuck in slippery road and had to be pushed out." Photograph (date unknown) from Newcastle Gaol Museum collection

letters

Amazing fire effort

WE WOULD like to express our gratitude to the amazing efforts of fire and support crews on the ground and in the air during the recent Hoddy Well bushfire, and thank our friends and family for their calls of notification and support.

Mother Nature was on our side with the conditions but the efforts of all involved from both near and far were outstanding.

We would like to make a special mention of Shire Rates Officer Corri Murcott who not only battled the blaze on the ground as a volunteer fire fighter but also called Avon Waste while on annual leave to organise a rubbish bin collection when local roads reopened.

It is great to see many residents' efforts with fire prevention preparation, fuel reduction and installation of fire breaks.

However, the complacency of others who ignore the law shows a lack of concern for their own property and for the safety of their neighbours and fire crews.

Compliance with "the order" is essential when you live in bushfire prone areas – if you don't wish to comply, you should sell.

The community has once again shown how well we can do things when we look after one another and work together to make Toodyay a vibrant and safe place to live.

Thanks to everyone – you know who you are.
R Byrne & C Ryan
Salt Valley Road
Hoddy Well

You can't eat bauxite

THIS is my response to a Letter in the last edition of *The Toodyay Herald* headed 'Quietly Excited by Mining'.

I believe when most people move to a historical town like our beautiful Toodyay they do so for the peace and quiet and laid-back lifestyle that most city people can only dream of.

Mining company Bauxite Alumina Joint Ventures promises 120 full-time jobs but what percentage will actually be local?

How many will be 457 visa workers and how many will be drive-in, drive-out with no economic benefit to Toodyay at all?

Locals will have to compete with the many qualified and experienced mine workers from elsewhere who have lost jobs in the current mining sector slow-down.

In the real world – whether you live in the country or the city – thousands of people work away from home, be it FIFO, road workers, construction workers, mobile reps or what have you.

They don't come home to live near a mine site, so why should we?

The writer says the shire, environmental groups and the public must engage with the miner to help them conduct themselves in an ecologically and responsible manner.

The truth is if they wanted to behave in an ecological and responsible manner, they would not be trying to force mining on our communities in the first place – they would mine elsewhere.

Australia has a massive 5.66 billion tonnes of ore yet because BAJV has located a cheap resource close to a rail network, we have to accept it for the promise of a handful of jobs

and the hope of a swimming pool contribution.

Aren't we smarter than that?

The largest resource on the planet will be food production, and quality food production has even rated a mention in the Shire of Toodyay's recently adopted Economic Development Plan – why would we risk local good quality farmland in reliable rainfall areas? Just remember you can't eat bauxite, alumina or aluminium.

Diana Dale
Morangup

Unsung heroes

LAST year marked the beginning of four years' intense media interest and analysis of World War One (1914-18).

Every battle and action involving ANZACs will be analysed, small forgotten battles unearthed and new heroes discovered.

Without in any way diminishing the ANZAC involvement in WWI, it is a shame that the same intense scrutiny isn't applied to our involvement in Vietnam.

The year 2018 will mark the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI and also 50th anniversary of the largely unknown Battle of Coral, fought 40km north-east of Saigon.

This was the biggest, bloodiest and longest single battle the ANZACs fought in Vietnam.

It began on Mother's Day 1968, a seemingly 'normal' start to a 'routine' day.

Little did our troops know it would be the first of 26 gruelling days for 1st Australian Task Force.

Australian forces repulsed both regimental and battalion attacks, endured massive bombardments by missiles and bombs and the fighting was so close that 'Fix Bayonets' was ordered for the last time in an Australian military action.

The ANZACs suffered their largest loss of life (25 killed in action) in a single Vietnamese conflict and the North Vietnamese suffered vastly greater losses.

After 26 days, North Vietnamese forces retreated and abandoned their advance on our bases and Saigon.

Why do I write this letter?

Surely this time of national celebration of the ANZAC tradition should also be the right time to truly recognise the heroism of our ANZACs in so many unacknowledged actions in Vietnam.

Neil Fancourt
Vietnam Veteran
Bejoording

Writers wanted

ON AN oppressive day last month, *The Toodyay Herald* held its belated Christmas Party, inviting many people from many walks of life who are part of sharing with *The Herald* from month to month.

Thanks must go to Michael Sinclair-Jones, Meredith, Geoff, Heather and the many *Herald* supporters who gave up their time to make the occasion successful.

It may have been very warm but the group that assembled at the racecourse enjoyed the friendship and food supplied by Sally of Wendouree Tearooms, (many thanks Sally) and

her helpers

It also provided all of us the chance to meet the winners of *The Toodyay Herald* Writers' Awards. There are many young people in our district who have the capabilities of writing their thoughts, as do the adults.

If we can encourage more people to write, then our district will achieve and who knows – they may become the next writers of the century, even for scripts and perhaps a movie.

Keep sharing with us all *The Herald* – we need you as much as you need us, but above all you show the way our town is surviving. We will achieve and be positive in all the endeavours.

Keep the love within our town and allow all who live here a voice to express their desires.

Di Roberts

Truckies beware

I FEEL compelled to write to *The Toodyay Herald* about speeding truck drivers who venture forth along Bindi Bindi Road towards the township, and on the return away from the town.

There have been recent incidents where cars have been forced off the road (I was in one of them) by trucks that exceed the speed limit without regard for oncoming traffic.

This is not on.

We go about our daily business hoping to travel safely to and from the town but we have these men in their mighty trucks being unaware or just downright ruthless in hurrying to their destinations.

We pride ourselves in Toodyay in respecting speed limits but it should be noted that even the "hand gestures" by some truckies do not bear good relationships.

So if you are a truckie, please have a thought for us folks who wish to go about our daily business in safety.

Thank you.

Di Roberts

Salvos Xmas appeal thanks

THANK you everyone who donated to the Christmas box at the Toodyay IGA store for the recent festive season.

The donations helped fill 25 hampers for couples, singles and families with children.

Thanks also to those who donated toys.

It resulted in 65 children finding toys delivered by Santa under their tree, making their Christmas a little happier.

Many thanks to IGA owners Dean and Amanda for allowing the collection box in their store and to Bendigo Bank staff for their ongoing support – it is very much appreciated.

Pat Yandell

(on behalf of Northam Salvation Army)

The Toodyay Herald invites you to have your say in our letters page. Please email your correspondence to news@toodyayherald.com.au with your full name, address and phone number. Letters that are short, sharp and to the point about topical local issues are preferred. The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length.

Graham Boston
Northam Jewellery and Repairs
102 Fitzgerald Street Northam
(Opp Red Rooster)
Phone: 9622 8037
Mob: 0438 919 932

Toodyay Hair Studio
Monday to Friday
9am to 5pm
Saturday
9am to noon
Phone 9574 2505
120A Stirling Terrace Toodyay

Parents blamed for kids' rampage

Police Beat With Sgt Warren Conder

POOR PARENTING skills are one of the factors being blamed for a 24-hour rampage by five juvenile offenders who caused damage totalling about \$15,000 at seven different locations overnight in Toodyay on December 28.

"I'm disappointed and annoyed with this irresponsible behaviour," Toodyay police chief Sgt Warren Conder said.

"Parents must take more responsibility to know where their children are and what they are doing 24 hours a day.

"These kids are repeat offenders under the age of 16 who are known to police yet their parents continue to allow them to roam loose at all hours of the night without supervision.

- Sgt Conder said the rampage included:
- extensive damage to shade cloths at the Toodyay Bowling Club and property stolen;
 - shade sail and cubby house broken at a local child care centre;
 - Silver Chain vehicle urinated and defecated on;

- Toodyay's Community Christmas Tree damaged;
- damage to an outdoor table at the Victoria Hotel;
- plates stolen and smashed at the Courtyard Antiques; and,
- shade sails damaged and picnic table stolen (later recovered) from Toodyay District High School.

The children, who were spotted by witnesses, were also recorded on closed circuit TV cameras and later identified and charged with a total 54 offences.

\$12,000 cigarettes theft

TOODYAY IGA was broken into again last month when thieves smashed a front window (pictured below) to gain entry and used a shopping trolley to steal cigarettes worth \$12,000.

The theft occurred at 4am on January 17, an hour after the same offenders broke into the Coles store at Northam.

CCTV footage from Toodyay IGA and Shire video cameras in Stirling Terrace recorded two offenders in a stolen dark grey Holden Commodore.

A Toodyay witness noticed a dent in a side



Freak accident on Toodyay Northam Road pipeline

panel which later helped identify the vehicle when it was stopped in Perth after a police pursuit at 4pm later the same day.

Another Toodyay witness reported seeing thieves loading the car with stolen goods, which were recovered from the vehicle after the pursuit.

The offenders were arrested and charged by Perth detectives.

Drugs in random car checks

RANDOM police checks on vehicles on local roads have resulted in three drug charges since Christmas.

"Offenders usually hide drugs on themselves or somewhere in the vehicle," Sgt Conder said. "Sometimes they try to hide drugs in places such as engine air filters but we know where to look." The drugs seized were cannabis and methamphetamine.

"If you are stupid enough to have drugs on you or in a car you are driving around in the Toodyay sub district, then be prepared to be stopped, searched and charged," Sgt Conder said. "By the way, we monitor the back roads as well..."

Pipeline prang

A DRIVER lost control of a vehicle on the Northam-Toodyay Road last month and ended up on top of Toodyay's public water supply pipeline (pictured above).

The freak accident occurred about 8.30pm on January 5 as the vehicle was heading towards Toodyay.

The water pipeline was not damaged. Police investigations are continuing.

Julimar arson inquiry

POLICE suspect a grass fire in Julimar Road mid-afternoon on Tuesday January 27 may have been deliberately lit.

A witness reported seeing a white utility with a pin stripe leaving a private property in the area moments before the fire started.

The fire was quickly extinguished. Police are investigating.

Suspicious sightings

LOCAL residents are again urged to be vigilant following witness reports of a dark blue Holden Commodore seen driven suspiciously in the Drummond Drive area south-west of town.

Police are also investigating similar sightings of a dark grey Mitsubishi Triton with two males in the Julimar Road area.

"I urge local people to be vigilant and report any such sightings immediately to police," Sgt Conder said.

"We see reports of suspicious activities posted on local facebook sites but by then it's often too late for us to do anything.

"People who see anything suspicious should ring us first so we can act quickly to catch any offenders."

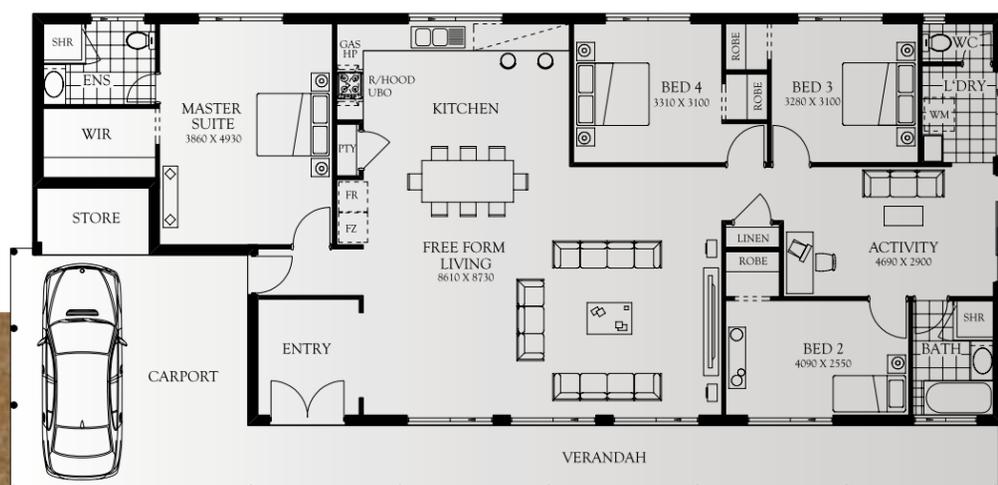
The Toodyay Police Station number is 9574 5555 or call 131444. If you have information that may assist police in solving crimes, then call CRIMESTOPPERS on 1800 333 000.



IGA front window smashed



The Argyle



The Barn

Farmhouse charm meets contemporary comfort.

The Farmhouse Range
from \$237,709*

The range captures the classic features of the true Australian homestead – soaring ceilings, free form living areas and traditional verandahs, framed by Australian bush poles. There are two words that speak volumes about The Rural Building Company: We understand. We understand that lifestyle is about personal choice and values, about individuality, design, image, sustainability, romance and flair. We understand that a home and its environment should be as one, whether that environment be in the country or urban. Like you, we chose to be individual. In choosing not to be like other mainstream builders we are not constrained by conventional wisdom. Rather than follow the rules, we threw them away and wrote our own.

For more information call 1800 643 800 or visit ruralbuilding.com.au or.

*Northam region only. Images for illustration purposes only. Terms & conditions apply.

WE UNDERSTAND





Proud to be an Aussie



True blue Australian - made in the shade



Crs Brian Rayner and Andrew McCann help cook 400 breakfast snags



Crs Bethan Lloyd & Sally Craddock fry eggs



Pioneer Bush Band sing Waltzing Matilda

Australia Day 2015



Some of the hundreds of people at Toodyay's Australia Day breakfast at Duijdee Park



Family breakfast in the park.



Crs Therese Chitty and Paula Greenway serve breakfast for 400



Playpit picnic under the trees

To all Toodyay Show & horse lovers alike:

Position Vacant: Equestrian Ring Coordinator

Last year, our much beloved Committee Life member Leah Broderick resigned from the Toodyay Agricultural Society Committee after many years of service as our Equestrian Ring Coordinator.

Try as we might, so far we have been unable to secure a replacement for Leah.

We are searching for someone who believes that they are capable of:

- Organising and running the equestrian events and entrants on the oval during the Toodyay Show;
- Becoming a member of the Toodyay Agricultural Society and a member of the Committee;
- Attending nightly monthly meetings of the above Society to report on progress in the lead up to Show day; and
- Organising Judges for the equestrian events and any helpers that are required.
- **Please understand that if no one takes on the Ring Coordinator role WE WILL NO LONGER HAVE RING EVENTS AT THE TOODYAY SHOW.**

If you are keen and interested in the above position, please contact 9574 2465 or toodyayagsociety@gmail.com with your details. Please feel free to come along to the Toodyay Ag Society Inc. AGM to be held at the Youth Hall, Toodyay Showgrounds, on Monday February 9 at 7.30pm.



Citizenship Award nominees (from left) Kim Maddrell, Beth Frayne (winner), Roma Heath, Samantha Connor (for Robert Koch), Peter Robinson and Jenny Ferguson



All aboard for free Toodyay Miniature Railway rides

Are you prepared to put your hand up?

Toodyay is one of the highest fire risk areas in the state.

Toodyay has had more than 40 fire calls since October.

Our volunteers have put in hundreds of hours to keep our community safe.

What help is available to you in case of a bush fire?

- There are 3000 properties in the Shire and 12 fire trucks.
- That's 1 fire truck per 250 properties.

What does this mean for you?

- You can't always expect firefighters to be at your door when your home is under threat.

What can you do?

- Come down to your local fire station and get involved.
- Don't rely on everybody else to protect your community.

Join your local volunteer fire brigade

It's time to put your hand up.

What do you get?

- All firefighters are provided with the highest standard of Department of Fire and Emergency Services training available:
 - Training brings safety, confidence and competence;
 - Training reduces fear.
- The chance to help your community, your family, your home.



Bejoording VBFB	Coondle Nunile VBFB	Julimar VBFB	Morangup VBFB	Toodyay Central VBFB
Capt: Lawrence Hayward	Capt: Mark Middleton	Capt: Grant Scobie	Capt: Jeff Venn	Capt: Mick McKeown
Ph: 9574 5106	Ph: 0417 908 177	Ph: 0488 021 365	Ph: 0417 714 798	Ph: 0439 998 808

or call the Shire's Community Emergency Services Manager on 0458 042 104



Intergenerational hit: *Footloose!* cast members close the curtain on a successful season. Photo: RedShutterPhotography

Kids step easily into *Footloose!*

Toodyay Theatre Group Lights, Camera, Action

THE TOODYAY Theatre Group wanted to end the year with a bang – and did we ever.

After three very long months of rehearsals every Tuesday and Thursday evening, we finally reached opening night on Friday November 28.

As the cast and crew tried to calm the nerves at the Community Hall, an audience of 84 went quiet and the curtains opened to the first song none other than *Footloose!*

After that, nerves completely disappeared and the faces of all the actors and singers lit up with joy (and relief).

The second show next night attracted an even bigger audience of 104 people and – before we knew it – final rehearsals had ended the following Tuesday with only two more shows to go.

The final performances on the Saturday were a midday matinee and the final curtain in the evening.

While the matinee didn't attract as big an audience as the earlier shows, we were very pleased with the results.

Many people who had never been to a show because they don't like to travel at night or have young families enjoyed the matinee and passing tourists had the opportunity to see the show at a time that suited them best.

It was great to be able to reach a new kind of audience.

As we anticipated, the final curtain was the biggest show of the production with a whopping 123 people.

We cannot thank the people of Toodyay and surrounding areas enough for their support of this production – your smiling faces, singing and laughing made the long nights at rehearsals 100 per cent worth it.

Congratulations and thanks must go to our director Tanya Stuart for all her patience and hard work.

Without Tanya's enthusiasm, the show would not have been possible.

A huge thank you also to Trish Young who enabled many of the cast to come out of their shells and sing their little hearts out on stage – her dedication and knowledge was invaluable.

Congratulations to the all of the cast and crew who volunteered many hours of their time to create an incredible show.

Thank you to the Toodyay Community Singers for joining us in this production – their energy truly made the show.

We would also like to mention the junior cast members who joined us for their first show on stage – in case you haven't heard already, these kids were magic.

Thank you to RedShutterPhotography, Clayton Orgles, Toodyay Makit Hardware, Northam Jewellery & Repairs and Radiowest Northam for their support throughout the show.

On a final *Footloose!* note, we are in the final stages producing a video recording of the show and will be in touch in the near future with those who purchased a DVD.

Quiz Night with a twist

IT'S TIME to kick off 2015 with our Annual Quiz Night at the Community Hall.

It won't be your same old, average quiz night but a quiz night with a twist.

Doors open at 6pm on Saturday February 7 and we invite you and your friends to join us for an evening of entertainment provided by the Toodyay Theatre Group.

The quiz starts at 6.30pm with some interactive rounds that you don't usually get at quiz nights.

Bring along your own nibbles but please leave your alcohol at home because our own fully licensed bar will be open.

Ten tables are available with up to 10 people per table.

Tickets are \$10 per person and are on sale at Toodyay Makit Hardware.

Prams help beat the baby blues

A PRAM walk was held in Toodyay last November to raise local awareness of postnatal depression in our community.

It was a great turnout with parents, grandparents and children taking part in support of this important cause.

A morning tea after the walk was generously funded by Bendigo Bank and included an opportunity for babies and children to have their handprints painted on canvas for each of the parents to take home.

Prizes, which were kindly donated by the Toodyay Chemist, Richard's Christmas 360, Stallion Building Company and Wendouree Tearooms, were provided to parents.

Postnatal Depression Awareness Week aims to raise awareness of mental illness in the post-birth period and encourages parents and the wider community to talk openly about the issues that affect them.

One-in-ten women experience antenatal

depression; one-in-seven women experience postnatal depression and one-in-ten fathers also experience depression during this time.

There is still an enormous amount of stigma associated with postnatal depression and anxiety, which prevents parents from accessing the help that they deserve.

Breaking through this barrier means talking openly as a community about postnatal depression which in turn will encourage parents to do the same.

It is hoped the pram walk will be an annual event in Toodyay to raise awareness and encourage people to be part of the day.

If you or someone you know needs help, you can contact your local child health nurse on 9690 1320 or speak to your local doctor.

For more information, go to the Beyond Blue website at www.beyondblue.org.au



THIS MONTHS SPECIAL
RATO 2" Single Impeller
Fire Fighting Pump
\$341 inc GST

Solar Pump Sales Service Supply and Installation
Bore testing and blow outs

Windmill Sales Service Supply and Installation
Parts Supplied for Southern Cross, Yellowtail and Raindrop Windpump Mills

Your authorised local dealer for the full range of RATO power products

Including single and twin impeller fire fighting pumps,
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Coming soon an exciting range of **H POWER** diesel inverter generators,
electric start diesel fire fighting pumps and more

All **RATO** and **H Power** products have a full twelve month warranty with service and parts back up.

Contact: Lang Lefroy on 0408 742 436 for further details

www.sunpowerwa.com.au

Mud and guts fun at Bejoording

Bejoording Community Group News
From the desk of the Badger

THE 'quiet' period is over and the Bejoording Community Group greets 2015 with its annual Hamburger Night at 'The Shed' on February 4.

We've all enjoyed the 'off-season' with a few neighbourly barbecues, sundowners and breakfasts but I'm not sure the word 'quiet' describes some of our events.

No doubt on February 4, people will be recounting their Christmas, New Year and annual holiday stories to each other – the good, the bad, the disasters and the surprises.

Everyone will enjoy catching up and no doubt the burgers will be big and 'country style' if last year's were anything to go by.

In December we had our annual joint Christmas Party with the Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.

Santa arrived in great style (except for wearing thongs) aboard 'Big Kev' the fire engine with lights and sirens working overtime.

He wowed the kids, handed out some lolly bags and was ably helped by Monique and Regan.

After that we all enjoyed an impressive Christmas style feast with turkey, ham, prawns, baked veggies, pavlova, trifle etc.

Thanks to all of you who prepared the food and organised this terrific family night.

The major event of the year was the annual Boxing Day Mud Footy game and, apart from some cuts and abrasions, some lost dignity, and a small degree of cheating, it was a rip-roaring success.

I think the 'Oldies' team won in extra time but how it was scored I'll never know.

The 'Youngsters' put up a good fight and their fairer sex members taught the guys on both sides a thing or two about rough and assertive play.

The rules are pretty flexible; fouls don't exist and there's no doubt the game was played with zeal.

Your monthly reminder: We meet every Wednesday evening (except in January) at



Spills, thrills and a bit of cheating: Bejoording's Boxing Day Mud Footy was a rip-roaring success.

the Bejoording Community Centre which shares premises with the local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade in Bejoording Road.

Come along from 6pm, and leave when it suits you.

It's strictly 'come as you are' casual.

Kids are welcome and there are fun events every month.

If you aren't yet a member, come along – we'd love to get to know you.

If you want to know more, you can contact President Barry Grey on 9574 2149 or call The Badger on 0414 250 484.

Hope to see you soon.

Felicitas Bauxite Mining Proposal



Nominate now - Community Advisory Group (CAG)
Nominations due 6 Feb 2015

BAJV are seeking nominations for interest in participating in a community advisory group (CAG). We are looking to attract a cross section of the community to be an informative and representative group that provides input into the design of the project, ways of maximising local opportunities and later into operational monitoring and compliance.

You can download the Terms of Reference and nomination form from our website: <http://www.bajv.com.au/News/News.aspx?NewsID=42>

Felicitas Bauxite Mining Project- Feedback & Updates

Local residents have posed some great questions during recent conversations. We have tried to capture some of these questions below and welcome your continued feedback so that we can keep you informed. If you want to get any of the latest updates visit our website or Like us to follow us on Facebook.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

• Will you employ locals?

Yes. Regardless of whether we are an owner operator or appoint a contractor for operations we will still be employing locals. We have had many experienced locals already contact us with interest for employment - Keep the resumes coming! Email: admin@bajv.com.au

• Are you operating a bauxite mine over 65km² ?

No. At any one point in time we expect less than 10% of the land area may be open under mining or being rehabilitated. Operations are staged gradually over at least 25 years.

• Will you impact local water supplies, create dust issues?

Consultants have just been engaged for preliminary water investigations. Desktop surveys have commenced and will be followed by field work (monitoring bores and test wells) into winter. This study work will help us to get a better estimate of our water requirements and where we will source water from. Water is mainly used for dust suppression on haul roads and stockpiles. There is no processing other than crushing carried out on site. One of the early selections we are looking at for operations and mine planning is to use a conveyor system for transporting the ore within the mine footprint and down to the rail. Reducing noise from haul trucks, reducing the need for internal haul road and therefore the need for dust suppression and water use.

Mine design is being done with 4 key sensitivities in mind:

- Traffic – minimise any increase in traffic on Toodyay Road and other local roads. Bauxite haulage via a conveyor through the farms to rail (Not Toodyay Rd).
- Noise – minimise impact of noise on neighbours. Ensure compliance with EPA regulations.
- Dust – no visible fugitive dust beyond property boundary or impact on neighbours.
- Water – minimise water consumption and ensure we do not impact local bores.

Several different permutations of rock breaking, transport & materials handling technologies have been examined. Our preferred option at this point is:

- Rock breaking in pit by surface miners.
- Rock & friable material loaded into trucks by loaders or excavators.
- Trucks haul to regional feeders which load onto fixed conveyor.
- Conveyor transports ore to crusher located in a non-noise sensitive location at the north of the mine, where it is crushed and stockpiled.
- Ore is conveyed to rail siding and loaded onto trains.

• **Will you have significant impacts on flora & fauna?** No - we expect any impacts will be minimal. About 70% of the land is already cleared farmland - we will not be mining any National Parks or Conservation Reserves. Phase 1 of Flora and Fauna studies are currently in progress to assess any potential impacts from mining on remnant vegetation and existing fauna populations in the resource area and determine the presence of species of conservation significance.

• **How is bauxite mined and the land rehabilitated?** The Felicitas bauxite is typically covered by a thin layer of topsoil and approximately 1m of gravelly overburden. Beneath this, the bauxite layer averages about 3.5m thick. Mining starts with the removal of any native vegetation in areas not already cleared for farming. The topsoil is then removed and returned to areas under rehabilitation if possible, or stockpiled. Then the overburden is removed and separately stockpiled. Then the bauxite layer is mined. Rehabilitation is done progressively after mining. Mined pits are ripped to improve drainage and the surface is reformed to blend in with the surrounding landform. Overburden and topsoil are returned and the area is seeded with species appropriate to the original land use.

• **Will you operate train lengths of 3-4km?** No. Train length will be about 1300m with 90 wagons, and a loco at either end and 4 train movements/day.



(From left) Anthony McPherson, George Johnson and Henk Braun

New cash-back scheme launched

TOODYAY master butcher George Johnson has launched a new initiative to put cash back in customers' hands every time they buy locally-produced meat from his well-stocked display cabinet.

In a state-wide first, George is offering customers who buy fuel from any WA service station a cash refund of 10c per litre for every dollar spent in his shop on displayed products.

For instance, if a customer buys 100 litres of petrol or diesel, all they need do is take the fuel docket to the Toodyay Butcher to get \$10 back for every \$100 of meat purchased on displayed products.

In a special introductory offer, George has increased the new cash rebate to 15c per litre for the month of February.

The scheme, which was launched in Toodyay on January 5, has been trialled successfully in the eastern states, where one shopping centre reportedly increased its turnover by a million dollars a year.

"I've lived in Toodyay for nearly 30 years, been a master butcher for more than 50 years and I'm passionate about offering locally produced quality meats with polite customer service," George says.

"When I first saw this scheme advertised before Christmas in a meat trade magazine, I saw it as perfect for Toodyay.

"My prices are the same as last year, nothing has been jacked up and the only difference is that customers can now get a 10 per cent cash refund for every litre of fuel bought at any service station."

George is no stranger to innovation. His launch last year of popular weekend hot-cooked sausage tastings outside Toodyay's Makit Hardware store during cooler months has introduced many new customers to George's specialty lines, including gluten-free products.

He has also introduced a popular knife-sharpening service to help residents keep their kitchen blades in top condition.

"We buy meat locally, direct from the paddock or from cattle sales at Muchea," George said.

"Lamb and beef are processed at Gingin and Tammin (both halal abattoirs) and our pigs are butchered at Wooroloo.

"Free-range chickens are provided from a number of local sources"

George is a former Tip Top meats supervisor overseeing more than 20 shops in the early 1970s before taking on 60 employees at the former Goomalling Abattoir and Kalamunda Meat Wholesalers.

"We processed 900 sheep a day and spent 14 years boning them for the local market. I've seen a few sheep," he said.

'Them and us' mentality tiring

Fly on the Wall

Peter Robinson

TO BE OR not to be ... at the National Tidy Towns Awards ceremony in Tasmania later this month.

Shire President Cr David Dow had to leave the room while other Councillors debated the merits or otherwise of sending him over for the awards (he would have had time to go home and water the garden).

The debate was quite interesting with some Councillors suggesting that having a Shire President attend would draw attention away from the Tidy Towns committee people.

Others believed it would show our local government support for the project.

It was also mentioned that Tidy Towns was not a Council committee.

I must say that I am tired of the 'them and us' mentality.

To me it was clear that our Shire President should attend on the grounds that if Toodyay wins the national award, then the 2015 event would be held here next year.

Surely having the Shire President see first-hand and understand what it is all about would be very advantageous.

Fortunately, Councillors voted in favour of sending Cr Dow.

An Entry Statement for Toodyay is to be constructed on the town side of the corner of Stirling Terrace and Hamersley Street.

The design may leave a bit to be desired, but hey, it has taken more than a decade to move this far so let's now just build it.

The design has changed from the one displayed at the Bendigo Bank.

Adoption of the draft Environmental Management Strategy was deferred with several detailed submissions to consider, particularly one from the new Toodyay Agricultural Alliance.

Planning approval and an extractive industry licence is to be granted to Vernice Pty Ltd to take sand and gravel from a 6ha plot on the corner of Forrest and Toodyay-Goomalling Roads.

The Shire is proposing a new policy, 'Engagement with Mining Proposals'.

This policy is open for public comment for just 21 days and the notice can be seen in this edition.

The Council is still unsure what to do about joining the new Bauxite Alumina



Artist's impression of new Entry Statement

Joint Ventures Community Advisory Group (CAG).

The officer's recommendation was to appoint the Manager of Planning and Development to the mining company's committee.

The purpose of participation was to keep the Shire informed and represent the community's interests.

After some time of questions and clarification the motion lapsed for want of a seconder.

Back to the drawing board guys.

A notice of motion from Cr Madacsi recommending the Council establish a Community Mining Advisory Committee was withdrawn.

Once again after some questions and clarification it looked like the motion would be defeated.

If this happened the item could not be raised again for three months.

Now it can be modified and improved, then brought back to Council at any time.

Hard-working local community volunteer Greg Warburton was successful in applying for the newly created job of Shire Reserves Management Officer.

His duties will include helping to ensure all Shire reserves meet the same standards – including for firebreaks – as required for privately owned land.

Well done Greg – I hope you find the position as rewarding as it will be challenging.

The Shire has also appointed a new Environmental Officer in Sabin Acharya, who previously worked as Natural Resources Management Officer at the Shire of Merredin.

His new job includes raising public awareness of environmental issues, monitoring compliance by extractive industries and working more closely in partnership with environmental groups.

AvonLink online bookings now attract discount fares

Cheryl Wiltshire

Chair Toodyay AvonLink Supporters Group

CHANGES to Toodyay's AvonLink passenger rail service keep rolling through.

In December, we saw new services added with extra return trips every weekday except Wednesday and a new return trip on Saturday.

From January, for the first time ever, regular commuters can book online and receive a discount.

It costs \$60 for the privilege each year (you need to apply for a SmartCommuter card) but if you travel a lot and are not already eligible for a concession, the extra 35 per cent discount is definitely worth it.

The discount is also available to SmartCommuters for cash tickets purchased on the AvonLink.

You can use them on the Australind as well if you head to Bunbury once in a while (but not on the Prospector service to Kalgoorlie).

If you have to pay full fare and decide you will not get enough value from the SmartCommuter card, you can still save.

Call 1300 662 205 and book a day return trip and you get a 25 per cent discount.

Transwa take bookings up to 5pm the day before for the early morning service so you miss out if you leave it too late.

If you pay full fare, buying tickets on board the service offers the ultimate flexibility – if you get to Perth and find you need to use a different return service, there is no messing around changing tickets.

Would you like an update about our campaign to save the AvonLink?



The Toodyay AvonLink Supporters Group reviewed the December patronage figures and were pleased to see a high of 138 rides on December 9.

The lowest day with the three return trips attracted 74 passengers (about the same number as use the single return service).

Services that have the lowest patronage are the 8.15am from Midland to Northam and the 4pm from Northam to Midland which are services most suited to day trippers from the city.

We encourage you to think about ways to boost use of the AvonLink both ways.

We know Toodyay is less popular as a destination for day trips in hot summer months but milder autumn weather will be here before we know it, so now is the time to plan events that include the train.

The Supporters Group is working on ways to promote Toodyay and its attractions combined with the AvonLink during 2015.

If you can contribute, please let me know at c.l.wiltshire@gmail.com.



Phone **9574 2233**

**THE TOODYAY BUTCHER'S
2015 CASH BONUS REFUND SCHEME**

**PRODUCE ANY FUEL RECEIPT
FROM ANY SERVICE STATION
WITHIN WESTERN AUSTRALIA
AND RECEIVE A CASH REFUND
OF 10c PER LITRE FOR EVERY DOLLAR
SPENT ON DISPLAYED PRODUCTS**

**ALL PRODUCTS ARE AT
COMPETITIVE PRICES**

**KNIFE SHARPENING - \$5 PER ITEM
INQUIRE ABOUT OUR CHRISTMAS CLUB**

OPENING OFFER
Produce this voucher and get
15 cents cash back per litre

emergency services

Fire season exposes risk for tree-change 'city slickers'

Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Tim Walker

THE LAST two months have been full of activity with two serious fires and several other fire incidences.

Our main concerns were the Salt Valley Rd and the Rugged Hills fires. Both had the potential to develop into major fires with much collateral damage.

However, due to wind direction and the heli-tankers, both were contained before they got out of hand. It was an amazing effort by air and ground crews.

Other fires, of course, include the Bindoon Army Camp fire, which wasn't without its challenges, and the Bullsbrook fire which our crews also attended.

We thank our own crews who spent many hours at these fires plus our catering team led by Peggy, who were preparing meals as late as midnight and then up again early the next day to cook and supply breakfast for nearly forty firefighters.

While on matters of fire control and training, our Brigade had the privilege of listening to Charlie Wroth, a well-known and prominent farmer, giving his history on 40 years of fire fighting – he attended his first fire at the tender age of 14 years old.

Charlie's talk gave us a brief history of his experiences through the years which included the beginning of the first subdivisions in the Shire and the challenge which this brought to bear in regard to so many "city slickers" venturing out to sample life in the bush with no knowledge of fires or fire awareness.

Back in December the Brigade conducted its annual Christmas stall and raffle, again with a very satisfactory financial result.

Thanks to Jan, Peggy, Mary and all their helpers who provided cakes, preserves, novelty decorated cakes, potted plants, etc.

Points of interest and discussion arising from our December meeting were proposals to purchase a pizza oven and new café blinds for the winter months.

At this time further research is ongoing with regard to cost and capacity.

At our most recent meeting, suggestions included a first aid training session to be held on February 28 and a proposal to do something about the very poor mobile reception at the shed.

Further to this, we shall be purchasing a mobile phone to enhance in-brigade communication and leave our landline free for urgent fire enquiries.

Our next meeting will be on February 21 at 6.30pm.



DFES helicopter landing on Toodyay Road during Salt Valley Road fire. Photo: Ben den Boer

Paramedic on the way

St John Ambulance
Toodyay & Districts Sub Centre

HAPPY NEW YEAR – 2015 is beginning well for our sub centre and sees a few positive changes happening.

One very exciting change is the prospect of gaining a community paramedic.

Interviews are currently being conducted for the position to service the Toodyay and Districts area, as well as other neighbouring towns in our catchment area.

For our sub centre, this means a professional paramedic will be available to assist and provide guidance in training, for some call-outs and general public relations.

All other WA regional areas already have a community paramedic and we are the last to finally receive this sort of professional assistance.

Toodyay & Districts has four operational ambulances – two in Toodyay, one in Bolgart and one in Morangup.

Each van differs slightly in layout and equipment.

We are in the process of upgrading vans with ex-metro Mark 6 Mercedes Sprinters.

All our vehicles will now be identical, making our lives a little less complicated if we need to swap vans among sub branches or send multiple vans to an incident.

Thank you to those volunteers who have given a considerable amount of their own time to van change-overs to ensure there has been no impact on local ambulance call responses.

With 2015 comes the introduction of a new training system for our Volunteer Ambulance Officers.

The new system ensures each volunteer practises more regularly and is assessed on knowledge and core skills.

There is now more onus on the volunteers to ensure they attend training sessions and to be assessed on a compulsory number of core skills each year, rather than every three years.

Thank you to the tireless crews who continue to put in many hours of their own time towards training and making themselves available for the roster.

Without them we wouldn't have this valuable ambulance service in our area.

Do you have a current First Aid Certificate?

A 'Provide First Aid' flexible learning course is scheduled to be held at the sub centre on Saturday February 28.

The 'Provide First Aid' course is a new package to the former Senior First Aid, Advanced First Aid or more recently Apply Advanced First Aid.

However, it is still a nationally accredited course and thoroughly covers all aspects of pre-ambulance or pre-hospital care, and is suitable for workplace and private work requirements.

Please phone Carolynne at the sub centre office for further details about the course or to register your attendance.

The St John Ambulance Toodyay & Districts Sub Centre is at the rear of 120 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay (PO Box 364, Toodyay WA 6566).

You can contact us on 9574 2390 or at sjatoodyay@bigpond.com.

Office hours are 9:30am to 2pm, Monday to Thursday.

New subdivisions throw curve ball to fire fighting teams

Coondle-Nunile VBFB
Colin Blanchett

WAHOO, here we go into another fire brigade season and so far so many call-outs and not all in our back yard.

Many thanks to all our members for stepping up and giving their valuable time over the festive season to fight these fires.

A great job was done by all the fire fighters at Salt Valley Road, Bindoon Army Camp and, more recently, Julimar Road along with some other call-outs.

These were attacked in a very professional manner and with the quick response were brought under control in a reasonably short time frame.

Well done to all the fire fighters who put their lives on the line to help keep our community safe.

During the busy season we had our Christmas party which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

A big thank you to all those who organised this event.

Our latest training which turned out to be a curve ball involved driving around some new subdivisions to familiarise

ourselves with the areas, followed by a very entertaining team-building exercise at the Toodyay Club with some participating in playing bowls.

We were given a very enjoyable BBQ and entertaining lunch cooked and prepared by Mick and Jan Rogers.

Well done and thank you as this was very much appreciated by all who attended.

Can't wait to see how you can beat that next month; remember you set the bar.

A mention needs to be made of our newer members who have participated in driver training and making themselves more available to our cause.

One of those was Aaron McVerry who, having been to a few fire grounds recently, decided to have a rest for the remaining season by breaking his ankle getting out of his bobcat – good onya Aaron.

Our next meeting will be held on February 14 at the fire shed at 5pm followed by training on February 15 at 9am.

We look forward to what Mick has planned this time.

If you feel you would benefit from some information protecting your property from fire please feel free to join us on any Friday evening from 5 pm at the fire shed.

Re-ignitions test firies' mettle

Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Mick McKeown

BRIGADES in the Shire have been busy at many fires since the last edition of *The Toodyay Herald*.

Many readers will be aware of the particularly dangerous fires at Salt Valley Road and Davies Road.

Both of these fires attracted intense aerial support from Perth and assistance from many brigades from outside the Shire.

There was also a large fire at the Bindoon Army Camp.

These fires, and subsequent numerous re-ignitions, tested the mettle and endurance of Toodyay Central and our sister bush fire brigades from Bejoording, Coondle, Julimar and Morangup, as well as Toodyay Fire and Rescue.

At the time of writing, it was quiet.

As bush storyteller and poet Henry Lawson wrote:

*It is daylight again, and the fire is past,
And the black scrub silent and grim,
Except for the blaze of an old dead tree,
Or the crash of a falling limb.*

Apart from fires in the Shire, crews from

Central have attended fires in Northam, Mundaring and Bullsbrook.

In December, Central took delivery of a new fire fighting truck – Toodyay Central 4.4.

This unit carries 4000 litres of water and has been hard at work since delivery.

The 4.4 replaced our 3.4 which was repatriated to Perth.

However, after a major pump refurbishment, the 3.4 has made a return performance and is now being used by the Bejoording brigade.

It's good to see the old girl still going around.

Thanks to all members of all brigades from Toodyay and elsewhere who have turned out over the last couple of months often under trying conditions.

We're always looking for new members and if you are interested in joining our brigade, please come along to our next meeting which will be held on Tuesday February 24 commencing at 7.30pm at the Fire and Emergency Centre, Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

If you would like to join our brigade please get in touch with our Captain, Mick McKeown, on 9574 2132, Secretary, Wayne Clarke on 6364 3609 or email: 2jcentralvbf@westnet.com.au.

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Chris Farrall, Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, begins the long task last month of extinguishing a 'chimney', a hollowed out tree which draws air through its centre and throws out dangerous embers long after the main fire is extinguished. Photo: James Knapp

Wiggly Worm a big hit at Christmas party

Toodyay Lions Club

TOODYAY Lions remained busy during the Christmas break.

The Wiggly Worm was a big hit at the Christmas Street Party stopping only for the choir's performance.

The public supported our Christmas cake sales by buying 130 large cakes and 60 small cakes.

All the money raised will go towards community projects.

We wish to thank the Bendigo Bank, Home Hardware and Makit Hardware for their support in selling cakes for the club.

Toodyay Lions also donated 36 cakes to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

Since 1965, Lions Clubs throughout Australia have raised \$50 million through cake sales.

The Lions Club's annual auction will be held on March 27 and 28.

We will be advertising details of this in the next edition of *The Herald*.

A 'Triple C' month as Big Kev bites the dust in fire effort

Bejoording Volunteer Bushfire Brigade

From the desk of The Badger

DELVING back into the fading memory of my management career I recall being on a training course where it was drummed into us that the word 'team' was but an acronym for 'together each achieves more' and never has this been more obvious than in the Bejoording Brigade.

January put all the local brigades to the test and out here beyond the white line all the training and team building undertaken by our brigade in the past six months really paid off.

It's been a 'Triple C' month with everyone demonstrating 'Commitment, Communication and Contribution'.

Captain Lawrence Hayward thank everyone, members new and old, who rose to the occasion, put in long hours, and gave up valuable holiday period time.

Special thanks must go to Fiona and Mark Glossop whose leadership during a very busy period was exemplary.

Fiona Glossop as our Operations Officer not only worked on the front line of the fires but coordinated a complex roster over the Christmas/January period, ably supported by her husband Mark, our Logistics Officer.

They were even able to give our Captain a well deserved week off to enjoy his son's visit from Queensland.

The rest of our members who were called in also deserve a mention – they know who they are – and suffice to say we never failed to field a crew when needed.

One more thing while I'm in congratulatory mode, our intra-brigade communication has been outstanding – everyone has responded promptly to emails and phone messages.

Communication has been clear and to the

point, and there hasn't been one moment of confusion.

Well done and a big thank you to all of you.

We are pleased to say that no crew members suffered any injury in January's fires, but sadly 'Big Kev', our trusty 1.4, suffered serious injury which has taken him off the road for the time being.

The WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services and Shire of Toodyay have not left us without resources however, and we now have a partially refurbished 3.4 that is well known and well used, but had to be dragged back into service prematurely.

As the fires in our district have had extensive media coverage there's no need to reiterate the events here.

Suffice to say it's an ominous start to the summer season, much busier than the past couple of early summer periods, and possibly a sign of future seasons to come.

Don't forget total fire bans are now in effect for the rest of summer.

When fire bans are eventually lifted in a few months, the Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to remember to always plan and prepare before lighting any fire for any reason and have a clear contingency strategy in place should things get out of control.

Even at the safest times of the year, fires can pose a risk to people and property, whether it's burning off on your acreage or a back yard bonfire, so take care.

Advice is free, but getting it wrong can be expensive.

For inquiries, remember you can contact Captain Lawrence Hayward on 9574 5106, or the Badger on 9574 4834.

Please leave a message if we're not there.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday February 17.

Slow down on the roads as kids go back to school

Toodyay Roadwise

AS STUDENTS in Toodyay go back to school this month, motorists, children and parents are reminded to be extra cautious when travelling in school zones.

Toodyay RoadWise Committee Chairman Max Heath would like to remind parents of children of any age that they need to reinforce safe road behaviour.

It's been six weeks since kids have had to think and cross the roads.

Also, remember hot weather and fatigue can impair judgement.

"Children often get distracted and don't pay as much attention around roads as they perhaps should.

Unfortunately, the same sometimes applies to drivers," Mr Heath said.

Toodyay police chief Sgt Warren Conder has issued a reminder that 40km/h school speed limits resume on Wednesday February 4.

"Police would like to remind parents,

teachers and the general community to slow down and think of the safety of our children," he said.

"Every year some 20 children under the age of 16 years are killed on WA roads.

"In addition, a further 280 are severely injured requiring hospitalisation.

"Motorists should also be mindful of the road rules around school buses, using indicators, slowing down and giving way.

"Waiting a few seconds for a bus to pull out is not going to make much difference to your travel time but may prevent a serious crash."

"If we all make sure we drive cautiously and reduce our speed in school zones to 40km/h from 7.30am until 9am and 2.30pm until 4pm, we will help keep our children safe."

Community members interested in road safety are very welcome to contact the Toodyay RoadWise Committee.

Please call Regional Road Safety Advisor Cliff Simpson on 0409 686 138.

Lock doors and windows even when watching TV at home

Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association

Desraé Clarke

CRIME prevention is everyone's responsibility.

For personal protection and safety, the following are a few hints that are worth considering.

Installation of well-constructed security doors and window protection is money well spent.

Lock security doors, including back doors and window protections, even when you are at home.

Installing a 'peep hole' in your main door is added security to allow you to check who is knocking.

Close curtains at windows and doors before dark.

If a television screen is visible from the outside of your home, change its position.

When you are deeply engrossed in a show, a criminal has the ideal situation to commit a crime.

Never leave notes indicating you are not at home.

Never allow a stranger to enter your home to use your telephone but, if need be, offer to make the call yourself.

Prickly plants growing beneath windows create a troublesome area for a would-be criminal's activities.

If ever you have a security worry, police are only a phone call away.

The numbers to call are:

- Toodyay Police 9574 9555;
- CRIMESTOPPERS 1800 333 000; and
- Dial 000 for emergencies only.

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Winning stories marry technique and narrative

The Toodyay Herald Writers' Awards
Jasmine Bear, Coordinator

JUDGES have commended the winners of the 2014 Toodyay Herald Writers' Awards, the results of which appear below.

The adult section proved strong, and stories submitted by younger Toodyay writers showed definite talent.

Adult Section entries were judged by Northam Senior High School English teacher Guy Salvidge, who is himself a published author with previous judging experience.

He said the stories displayed a range of themes and concerns.

"The winning and highly commended stories married literary technique and narrative drive more successfully."

The 2014 winners and highly commended entrants all received certificates at a special ceremony last month.

They are:

8-11 years

WINNER: *Lily's big dream, Part 2* by Amaris May.

12-14 years

WINNER: *Revenge is sweet* by Maddison Dickson.

Highly commended: *Who is it?* by Olivia Ferguson

Adults

WINNER: *In theory* by Maree Lewis.

Highly commended: *Never leaving again* by Meg Wayne and *And so it begins* by Angi McCluskey

Winning stories

Lily's big dream – Part 2

Amaris May (8-11 years)

SO YOU have come back for more stories about Lily. I remember one day she found out who her dad was.

Lily was a girl who needed adventure, so she was bored nearly every day. She already knew who her sister and her mother was so she wanted to find out who her dad was and where he was.

One day Lily, her sister and mum went to France for the spring break. When they went to the beach for a sundae a humungous ship with few people in it showed up. They began speaking, but they couldn't understand him because he was speaking French. But then he showed them a picture of what looked like a plan.

Mum could easily work out what it meant. It meant they have captured what they think is a criminal but the picture looked like Lily's dad. They asked where he was but they didn't tell us. They showed us another picture and mum knew where it was so they thought it was where they are hiding Lily's dad.

We then packed our bags and started heading north to Amsterdam prison. They started to enter a place that looked like a war zone. They got scared they were going the wrong way.

The next day they knew that they were in Amsterdam so they started heading to the prison.

When they got there they found spare uniforms. They entered the kitchen and saw prisoners dancing. They went backstage to see if they can find their dad, they found him!

An evil criminal overheard that they were going to escape. He had an evil plan to stop them. He was going to pretend that he was the police and change how long he was going to be there for, but Lily overheard him with that. She tried to stop him but it didn't work.

Her dad was there forever, unless they could escape.

They found out that a piece of timber was broken. So they covered it with crops and, when the show was on the four of them slid through the floor and escaped. On the way out they changed Lily's dad history, so when the policemen check they don't bother chasing after him. They went back home to enjoy the rest of the holidays altogether as a family.

When they wrote about what they did on the holidays the whole class clapped when she shared it.

They made their own website about all their adventures. Within a few months Lily and her family were famous."

Revenge is sweet

Maddison Dickson (12-14 years)

I AM RUNNING.

The slums around me are a blur, a mixture of browns and rustic greys, as I pass through countless alleyways with a tenacious grip

on my mother's pendant. Shadowed figures slouch against the tin walls and watch me pass by with scrutiny, a cloud of smoke hanging in the air. My lungs reject the smoke with my fast intakes of breath, my eyes watering uncontrollably – but I move on. The men with the trench coats are on my heels, and I have no time before they will try to get me. None at all.

Gun shots ring out as I bank left between two brick buildings, and the bullets hit the spot above my crown. My hands are over my head and my legs are pumping faster, despite the searing pain burning deep within.

"Stop right there, Melanie!" voices bellow from behind, only to hang loosely in the air with no reply. Sweat snakes down my face and plasters my hair to my forehead as the sun beat down on me, a sour taste on my sand-paper tongue.

My limbs scream in protest and the corners of my eyes are starting to go black as I look up and notice the fence, freedom just on the other side. A smile creeps across my face, and I think I hear myself laugh; but the glorious noise is muffled against the sound of the gun firing once more.

I stop, my breath catching half way up my throat. I feel it, an explosion of searing hot pain blossoming between my shoulder blades, and I collapse to my knees, stunned. My bones are lead, my blood is liquid cement as I hear the crunch of boots approach. Someone kicks me in the back and I am falling, falling, until I hit the dirt with a thump.

I am cold, my body numb and empty. A thick liquid is spreading in a puddle beneath me, and I think I am getting lifted off the ground, but I don't know for sure because an invisible thread is tugging me towards sleep. I stare absentmindedly at the fence as I'm carried away, the thought of freedom slipping through the cracks.

All I can do is grip the bloodied pendant in my palm and let my mind drift away with the echo of what could've been...

I gasp and rip my eyelids open, forcing air into my lungs in one huge breath. A bright light is glaring into my eyes as my mind adapts to its surroundings, trying to grasp at reality. I am lying on a metal bench wearing nothing but a hospital dress, my arms and legs are held down by my sides with leather straps. The room smells like disinfectant, and with every movement I make, pain shoots up my back. I wince, biting my lip, when everything suddenly sinks in.

It was real – and I'm alive. I feel bare lying on the table, vulnerable and scared. I want to crawl back into my shell where I can be safe from the guns aimed at my head, where nothing can touch me; but the memory of that chase flashes in my mind, and I fail to see a future for me after this.

The sound of metal against metal scrapes through the silence, and I am alert. A man in a white lab coat appears beside me, his grey hair slicked back with gel. His expression is cold, like the slab of metal beneath me.

My voice is a ragged whisper as I say, "Where am I?"

The man looks up from his clipboard, stares, and picks up a lock of my brown hair. I flinch, and he snickers at my reaction, the wrinkles defined on his face. "The less you know, the better, my dear."

"Please..." I sob with tears down my temple, my whole body aching everywhere. "Let me go."

He places the clipboard down at the bench behind him, and leans in toward me. I cringe at the smell of his reeking breath, his dark eyes studying me, not missing a thing. "Oh, but you see, you are a very unlucky girl, Melanie. Your parents just happen to be spies, working against my team – which means," he pauses, pulling his hand out of his pocket, "you are our ticket to their undoing."

My mother's pendant dangles above my face in his hand, and I feel like breaking down into a million pieces. "No," I whimper, my vision blurring.

"Oh yes," he seethes, his voice dripping with poison. I grit my teeth and shake violently on the table, trying to get loose. My wrists rub against the leather as I cry out in anguish; but it was no use. He was going to use me as a weapon against my parents, and there was nothing I could do about it.

When I open my eyes again, he has a needle in his hand, flicking the circular vile to watch the blue liquid stir inside. I freeze, just as he poises the tip at my neck.

"This will only hurt a bit," he whispers, his smile stolen from the devil. My finger nails are pressed to palm and my heart stops as he plunges the needle into my vein.

That's when the screaming begins.

In theory

Maree Lewis (Adults)

DUST hung in a red pall above the paddock. Beneath it Dan could make out the herd, hugging the protection of the trees. One craned its neck around as if to check that the aggressor was gone.

Tied securely to a fence post was the dog. Innocent enough, he wagged his tail and when that didn't work, barked his protest about his loss of liberty. Moments before he had been gloriously entertained, driving the panicked herd before him. He'd scooted around fallen limbs of trees that the cows had crashed through and cut them off, sending them careering in yet another direction. Round and round...until one wild-eyed animal seeking escape had ploughed into the cocky gate, instead ending up on its back, entangled in wire.

That was when Dan had seen his chance. The dog paused, uncertain whether to continue his gleeful pursuit of the herd, or to torment the stranded cow. Dan hurled himself upon the dog, gripped him by the scruff of his neck and made for the house.

For the first time he focused on Kylie, red-faced and in a state of panic. "I could happily have shot the animal," she said. "Even if he is our own dog." She twisted her hair nervously fearing but knowing what was to happen next.

"Well I've got to free that cow." The two of them were new to farming. A herd of cows had been something they'd admired from a distance so Kylie respected Dan for his confidence, in fact she thought, cockiness. No situation got the better of him and this struggling bovine was no exception.

The animal thrashed about, its legs flailing uselessly. Dan approached with caution until he was just out of reach of a swipe from the frantic cow yet close enough to snatch up a loose end of the barbed wire. He deftly flicked it several times and the cow found herself mostly freed from the wire's grip. She struggled to her feet, blood trickling down her flanks, broke away from the remaining strands and kicking her legs in that gangly cow-like movement, tore down the laneway halting finally at the shut gates.

Dan returned to Kylie, grinning boyishly as she wiped clammy hands on her jeans before inspecting him for any injuries. "It was alright,

easy in fact. But I want to get that cow back in the paddock. Look, we've done our research. Watched the video on handling a herd. Ky, this'll be a piece of cake."

"What are you getting at?" But she knew. They each followed a fence line parallel to the laneway. Armed with the requisite length of polypipe, her efforts at even breathing failed to quiet the thumping of her heart. So too did her attempts at rationalizing. Wasn't she the one who had wanted to own a farm?

Quietly she slipped through the gate, hoping all along that the cow had not noticed. She moved to the left of the laneway, trying to interpret the exaggerated directions of Dan's gestures. In theory, Dan had reminded her they should approach the cow in a V pattern and it would move away from them in the direction of the apex. But this did not seem to be happening. Instead the animal was eyeing them angrily, lowering her head, swaying it angrily from side to side, clearly indicating that she was not about to move and that they should. She started to trot purposefully towards them.

"Move towards her Ky. Don't let her bluff you." Kylie reluctantly took a few steps. The cow directed its attention to her. She wondered at her foolhardiness in thinking she could manage a 700 kilo animal, especially one that was hurt and aggravated.

"Hold your ground! Whack it on the nose with the polypipe!" Dan's instructions, she knew, were useless. She waved the pipe lacking the required conviction and authority, but with the effect of making the cow even more determined to rid herself of her tormenters.

"Run Ky! Run!" Dan yelled frantically as he leapt into the path of the maddened cow deflecting its attention. "Climb the gate. Get out!"

Later with the cow still in the laneway and the two of them panting to regain their breath and Kylie her composure, Dan ventured a reason as to what had gone wrong with their cow handling skills.

"You know we made a fundamental mistake in all this," he remarked.

"And what might that be? Apart from the stupidity of the whole affair?"

"No," Dan reasoned. "We neglected to show the video to the cows."

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Butterfly Ball for a Princess

Wendy Sofoulis

ON 27 DECEMBER 2011 we lost our daughter Alecia to Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome (SADS) – she had just turned 27 on December 19.

Alecia was a chiropractor, fit and healthy and had no health issues that we knew of.

Then she lay down on her bed and was gone.

I decided to put on a ball to honour what would have been Alecia's 30th birthday and to raise vital funds for SADS.

I called the event 'The Butterfly Ball' and it was held in the Toodyay Memorial Hall on Saturday December 20.

It was an amazing night and I sold 147 tickets.

I approached Sean Byron, owner of Richards 360 Christmas Shop to decorate the hall and he did not hesitate to say yes for no charge.

He asked me what I wanted and I had one word for him – 'Princess'.

Sean, Lynley and Matt did an amazing job to make it so special.

Zoe and Aaron entertained us with their guitar and singing for the first couple of hours – thanks, it was so special.

We had a silent auction, table raffle

and some wonderful prizes, thanks to the following people and organisations:

South Perth Travel, Michael Hill Jewellers – Midland Gate, Ballantyne Jewellers – Northam, Covs – Northam, Everlastings – Northam, Toodyay Emporium – Toodyay, The Stable Liquor Store – Toodyay, Avon Brooks Winery – Bakers Hills, Black Wattle Retreat – Toodyay, Lynley Chitty for Quilt, Jude for Cake, Gina Crawford – WA Equine Massage and other silent auction donations from some wonderful people.

Thankyou to Affair with Flare from Midland for lending me vases and their florist for supplying 50 gerberas.

The band 'The Baker Boys' played a wide range of music, catering for all age groups – thank you.

Wayne from Toodyay Photography took some amazing photos, thank you Wayne.

Nathan Martin, as MC for the night, did a great job – thank you.

I had eight volunteers to cover the bar and floor, and could not have done it without you guys – thank you.

Thank you also to the Shire of Toodyay for its support, Lynda from Black Wattle Catering for the beautiful food and John from the Freemasons Hotel for the bar.



(From left) Matt, Wendy, Darryl and Zack Sofoulis with a photo of Alecia

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Turning and moving to a new home

Wood turners
Max J Heath

WE WELCOME everybody back to *The Herald* for another year from the Woodturners.

We have been busy at the Showgrounds Wool Pavilion over the Christmas period.

Apart from trying to make some Christmas presents for family and friends, we helped make about 22 bowls for Silver Chain to give out for Christmas.

Also, we were asked to make 10 potpourri bowls for one person for Christmas presents – the pressure was really on.

As the Lotterywest funding has now come through for the site down near the former Shire Works depot to go ahead, we are after all the funds we can get so that, before we move in, things like dust extractors etc. can be fitted.

We would like to acknowledge both Bendigo Bank and Roadwise for their generous grants towards our project.

We would like to congratulate our convener David Doye for coming second overall on points for the WAWA Competitions held throughout the year – well done, David.

We also have had another inquiry about joining the club – the more the merrier.

We held an end-of-year Christmas barbecue which went off well considering it was on the same day as the launch of the new Avon link timetable.

Some of us were tied up with that so our barbie had a late start.

We recently acquired a heap of mulberry and olive timber and our next major job is to slab this and set up some drying racks to place it on.

We just hope the mulberry hasn't got borers in it like the last lot we acquired.

Anyway folks, that's about all from the pavilion for now so remember, if you would like to see what we do come on down to the Wool Pavilion at the Show grounds and have a look.

We start at 8am and finish at 11am.
And as Roadwise says, don't drive tired.

Stolen marbles trump President's inaugural address

Toodyay Historical Society
Beth Frayne, Events Co-ordinator

CONGRATULATIONS to two members for being nominated for the Toodyay Citizen of the Year Award: President Peter Robinson, and yours truly (Beth Frayne).

I was truly honoured to be presented the annual Award, and extend my thanks to our Secretary Desrae Clarke, who submitted the nomination and letters of support.

Congratulations to all the nominees; it was a very prestigious field this year.

Back to normal Toodyay Historical Society doings.

President Peter was to give the inaugural Presidential Address at our Foundation Day dinner at the Victoria Hotel on November 29 but was somewhat upstaged by a story told by Patron Len Leeder and Vice President Milton Baxter about stolen marbles in Fremantle, back when they were boys in the early 1950s.

This significant historical event and its resolution (the return of the marbles) have been captured in the latest issue of *Duidegeana*.

December's Christmas Street Party was a great delight and fabulous success. Some of our members sang carols and dressed in quite an old-fashioned style.

Our stall and Christmas raffle raised a goodly amount, and Max Heath drew the three winning tickets.

President Peter continued the old-fashioned dress theme later that month in his role as Toodyay Tidy Towns Committee member when he "Dressed for Dinner" with visiting National Tidy Towns judge Jill Grant.

The Bendigo Bank's 2015 Toodyay Heritage Calendar arrived on January 6 and is looking good.

World War 1 Project

AT OUR January general meeting on the hottest night of the year on Donegan's Cottage verandah, I brought the members up to speed on a joint Shire Museum/Toodyay Historical Society ANZAC Centenary *Remembering Them* project.



President Peter Robinson dressed for dinner with National Tidy Towns Judge Jill Grant, last December. Photo: Gail Dodd, 2014

This involves developing a descriptive list of names on the Shire's website of those enlisted personnel from the broader Toodyay and Bolgart districts who served at home or abroad in World War 1.

Our list was developed from lists provided by several donors, names from our Toodyay war memorials, and names found on the internet. It contains over 250 names so far, with the webpage being updated weekly.

Although most are male soldiers, I have found several ambulance officers, a seaman, a submariner, an airman, an air mechanic and one female nurse.

Google has indexed the content of the online list, so we hope descendants of Toodyay's World War people will find the data useful.

Coming up

THE NEXT Toodyay Historical Society planning meeting will be held at 4pm on Sunday February 8 at the Clarke residence (Ph: 6364 3609), with a sundowner to follow, after which a 2015 program will be issued.

Our next general meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday February 18 at the CWA Hall.

For more information or assistance about the Toodyay Historical Society, please contact Secretary Desrae Clarke, email: desraec@westnet.com.au; President Peter Robinson, 0407 928 500 or Committee member Beth Frayne, 9574 5971.

Visit us at Donegan's Cottage (in the Showgrounds); we are open every Thursday, 1pm-3pm. Postal address: PO Box 32, Toodyay WA 6566.



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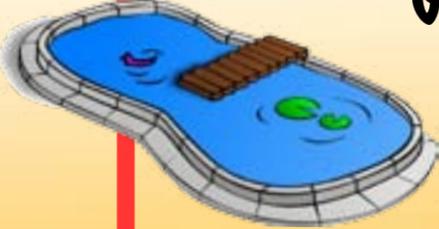
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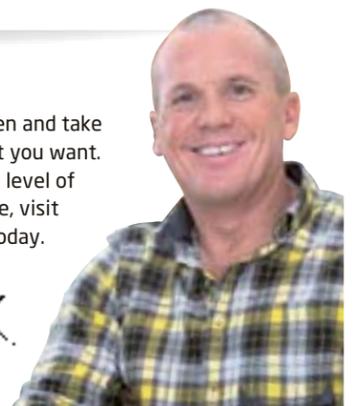
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Cheeky Bus on call for bushfire support

Toodyay Community Bus
Di Roberts

GREETINGS to one and all, and welcome to another year.

The Bus has been a little idle for the past couple of weeks but we have several items on the agenda for consideration.

Firstly the fires that have begun again, and threatened homes near our town – our Bus was raring to go to help those in need.

The Bus is there if fires get to a situation that there is a need for help and shelter – the Bus will always be available.

Whenever there are times of considerable stress, the Bus will shine through and help those who need to be accommodated or moved to a situation they are more comfortable with.

Even though the Bus may be a small “cog in the wheel” it will always be a backstop to the wonderful fires on the ground to transport food, drink or just a cuddle to let them know they have achieved in suppressing what could have been a disaster.

One of the greatest events that our town shares with all our residents is “Australia Day” when all our friends and the community get together and share their thoughts of what this event means to them.

If you were present at the Australia Day barbecue at Duidgee Park, we hope you saw the Cheeky Bus with all its adornments (especially the eyelashes) and enjoyed what our committee produced.

It was also grand to see one of our drivers, Peter Robinson, nominated for the Citizen of the Year Award.

This year will be a joyous time for those who wish to be part of sharing the Bus.

If you wish to hire the Bus for an event, please contact the Toodyay Visitors Centre, where the girls are always willing to help out.

Until next time, take care, good luck to all the children returning to school and especially the little ones starting – big steps for you all.

Remember to smile at your neighbours and enjoy your days.

Turkey and tiramisu ‘deliciousness’

CWA

WELCOME to 2015. Warmest wishes for health and happiness in the coming year to you all.

Our last meeting for 2014 was on November 27 and the first for 2015 will be on February 26.

However, the two month break with its accumulated business requiring discussion and decisions plus election of office bearers for the year usually results in a very long meeting. In an effort to reduce this we have decided to hold a planning meeting at the end of January.

This will not be a formal meeting discussing business and finance but one to plan outings and fundraisers during the coming year.

And, of course, catch up with each other after the break.

Our Christmas lunch was held on Monday December 1 and the combined efforts of all resulted in a very festive hall and a table groaning with deliciousness. We had Trish to thank for the turkey and Jenny for tiramisu - yum.

Judith was quite sure the weekend would be plenty of time to decorate the Christmas cake and that a special trip to deliver it earlier by the maker, Elizabeth, wasn't necessary.

However, another driver not paying attention meant Judith had to stay in Perth and Meg was left holding the cake.

If, as you said, it was your first attempt at decorating a Christmas cake, Meg, we were very impressed. Thank you.

Sundowner with song Probus Club of Toodyay

SEVERAL new and prospective members attended our December sundowner with the Toodyay Community Singers.

Our accreditation meeting will be in the Community Resource Centre on Tuesday February 10 at 7pm.

Visitors will include Ed Reed from Swan View Probus Club and representatives from sponsors Northam Rotary Club and Northam Probus Club. All existing and prospective members are welcome.

For more information, please call John Smart 9574 2339 or Jan Ackroyd 9574 5315.



(From left) Glynis Claybaugh, Meg Mills, Jenny Clark, Joy Cruickshank

On Friday December 5, we joined in the Street Party and, while having a very enjoyable evening, added \$554 to our kitchen fund. Thank you to all who patronised our stall. Anything not sold we donated to the Police hamper.

Just before Christmas Beryl Lawler, a member of Jennacubbine CWA, had her leg badly torn by a dog while walking near her home.

Beryl has had skin grafts and remains in Northam Regional Hospital while they heal.

We send Beryl our love and wish her a full and speedy recovery.

During the last meeting for 2014 the topic of hall fees was raised and it was agreed that these should be raised from \$10 per hour to \$15 per hour.

Rates, utilities and insurance have risen markedly in recent years and a building as old as our hall requires on-going maintenance to keep it up to the standard required for public use.

Our meetings are held at 1.30pm on the 4th Thursday of the month.

The CWA Hall is next to the Garden Centre in Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

There is plenty of parking in Charcoal Lane with new disabled access from Charcoal Lane down the side of the hall.

Previous access to the back of the hall has been closed and the steps are to be removed.

Bookings for the hall in 2015 will be taken by Glynis Clabaugh, 9574 5110 or 0427 478 325.

Spinners to visit from around WA

Toodyay Spinners
Ange Sturman

MEMBERS are busy with several projects and looking forward to our May 23 ‘Spin-in’ with spinners visiting from around WA.

Our spinning group meets 9am to noon every Wednesday and every 3rd Saturday of the month at Parkers’ Cottage in the Showgrounds.

The Felting Group now meets noon to 3pm on the 2nd Monday of each month at the same venue.

Felting group contact is Jenny Cornwall 9574 5978.

For more information, contact Secretary Ange Sturman 9574 2507 or President Greta Sauta 9574 2868. New members welcome – no experience necessary.

Our Bank is turning Fifteen

It's our Birthday and we want to invite you to celebrate with us, our 15 year milestone.

Come and enjoy a free family movie night in Duidgee Park on Saturday 14th March.
Movie to start at 7pm.

Bring a picnic, a blanket to sit on, or a chair, just remember the date and come along.

Drinks, ice-cream and popcorn will be provided. This is an alcohol and animal-free event

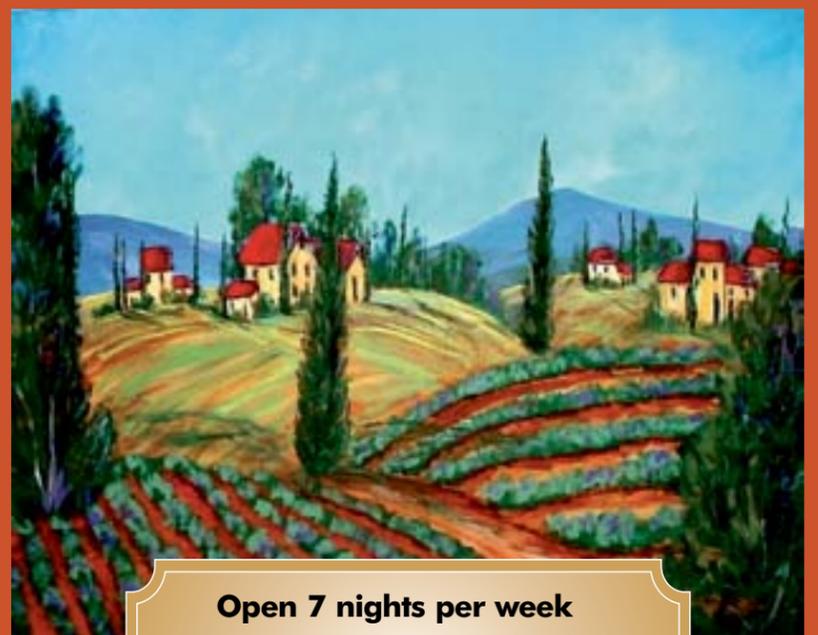
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From horse and cart to uni degree at 83

NOVEMBER 21 last year was a sad day for members of the Chitty families. Their oldest member Helen, who was married to the late Phillip Chitty of Glenmore Farm, Coondle, passed away peacefully at the age of 100 years and 9 months.

Helen's parents were both English immigrants and she grew up in Subiaco.

Her father, Frederick Haywood, arrived from England in the 1880s on his own and her mother, Jessie Alcock, arrived around 1900 with her father and six or seven of her siblings while the elder ones stayed in England.

Helen was the only girl and had a wonderful childhood. She had a brother Morley and seven cousins, all boys.

Her grandfather and uncles moved to Victoria around the time of World War I (1914-18).

Helen loved history and was bitterly disappointed when denied entry to Perth Modern School after winning a scholarship from Subiaco Primary School.

She suffered badly from ear infections in her first year of primary school in Leederville and when her family moved to Subiaco, her mother re-entered her in Year One so she would not be disadvantaged.

Unfortunately, it backfired when her entry to Perth Modern School was denied and, because times were tough, she had to leave school and go to work.

Helen had always had her heart set on university study but this was now a pipe dream and did not look possible.

She saved to put herself through secretarial college, took piano and singing lessons (she was a natural soprano) and undertook a commercial art course in the hope of a career in fashion design.

She also took up watercolour painting, at which she was very gifted. Her mother painted with oils.

Helen worked in many different roles, including as a sales assistant at Boans and Foy and Gibsons department stores, accounts clerk for a petrol station and finally her dream job at Radio 6PM AM where she co-ordinated the playlist for shows and organised dances and entertainment during World War II (1939-45).

Helen first visited Toodyay to visit her Subiaco neighbour Gladys who had married Albert Waters, of Black Wattle Farm in Coondle.

Helen met Phil Chitty on that visit as the result of the great friendship between local farming families.

Sunday tennis matches and visits often led to staying for a meal and a sing-a-long, which were common in those days.

When Helen and Phil met several years later, they got engaged and married in 1943.

They lived in Perth where Phil worked at the Wool Stores in North Fremantle, Winterbottoms and finally at Cresco Fertiliser in the machinery maintenance department.

Their first daughter Noreen was born in 1944.

Around 1946, Phil decided to leave city life and they headed for work on a farm at Walebing, near Moora.

It was a very big change for Helen because she was city-bred and used to modern conveniences.

However, she took it in her stride and overcame the hardships of living miles from anywhere, using a wood stove instead of gas, kerosene lights instead of electricity and a horse and cart instead of a motor vehicle.

Around 1948, Helen and Phil moved back to Toodyay and set up home at Sandspring Farm on Julimar Road.

Again it was a long way from town (16 km) and very isolated, with only a horse and cart for transport and their nearest neighbours Jack Waters and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Strahan a couple of miles away through the bush.

Helen, Phil and Noreen used a horse and cart to travel to Toodyay once a week on a journey that took one and a half hours each way.

They took eggs that were railed to Perth, vegetables to the green grocer and children's clothes made by Helen to sell in Mrs Anstey's Drapery Store.

In summer, they stayed at Phil's Aunt Grace and Syd Parker's until it was cool enough for the long trip back to the farm.

Helen and Phil's second daughter Pamela was born in 1949.

In 1953, Helen and Phil moved to Brookdale Farm, which meant Noreen no longer had to board at the Convent for her education, and



Helen Chitty in the 1930s

she and Pamela could now catch a bus to and from school.

Throughout those years, Helen never lost her enthusiasm to learn local history, draw sketches of the landscape and wildflowers, and take notes in shorthand.

After her mother Jessie passed away in 1954, Helen was able to buy a piano and renew her keyboard talents.

She was later asked many times to sing at events such as the Spring Ball, cabarets and other functions in Toodyay's Town Hall.

Phil passed away suddenly in 1964, and Helen and Pamela moved to Safety Bay with Noreen and her husband Michail.

Helen returned to work as secretary to the manager of BP Kwinana and later had many wonderful jobs as a private secretary.

Some of her positions were with tax consultants, private companies and overseas in London working for Agent Generals and many other secretarial positions.

She travelled to Britain three times and toured England, Ireland, Scotland, Italy, France, Switzerland, Portugal and the former Yugoslavia (now Croatia and Serbia) to visit her two daughters-in-law.

Her last overseas trip was to New Zealand in 2001-2 with daughter Pamela to visit Helen's grandson Anthony and his wife Tania and their children.

At age 73, Helen decided she still wanted a university degree and went to TAFE to qualify to study for a Bachelor of History at The University of Western Australia.

Helen lived in Fremantle and transport was not a problem but with a move to Armadale, two hours' travel each way to UWA became difficult so Helen transferred to Murdoch University, which still took nearly two hours each way.

Ever the optimist and not afraid of a challenge, Helen persevered and at the age of 83 completed her degree and received a standing ovation when the Dean led her across the stage to receive her degree.

Helen was the oldest Murdoch University graduate for several years, a feat surpassed only four or five years ago.

It was a truly wonderful achievement that had taken her so long to achieve.

Helen spent her life being proud of her girls, their families and all their achievements.

She derived her greatest pleasure from family gatherings and entertained her grandchildren with wonderful stories about a fictional child called 'Alice' and drew pictures to match the stories.

At age 93, Helen moved to Gracehaven Baptist Care in Rockingham and celebrated her 100th birthday there on February 21 last year with immediate family and close friends.

She had a wonderful day and knew and understood its significance.

She was particularly excited to receive a letter from the Queen, and others from the Governor-General, Prime Minister, WA Premier and local MP.

Helen passed away peacefully on Friday November 21 last year with her daughters Noreen Petrovic and Pamela Baskovich, and niece Marlene Andrijich at her side.

She leaves behind wonderful memories and is survived by her two daughters, son-in-laws Michail and Nikola, grandchildren Rosemary, Phillip, Natasha and Maria, Anthony, Susan and Peter and their husbands and great grandchildren Zachary, Benjamin and Emma, Jordan and Timothy, Sarah-Jane and Courtney, Georgia, Rebekah and Julian and Nikolas.

Helen always remained a perfect lady throughout her life and will be remembered as someone who loved life.

As she would have said herself, "I have been fortunate enough to have a wonderful life".



Helen Chitty on her 100th birthday with her letter from The Queen

Annual Community Survey

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This will help us assess the effectiveness of natural resource management in the Wheatbelt and find out more about your environmental priorities.

Complete the survey with your local CRC to go into the draw to win one of three prizes – a sensor camera kit, an iPad mini, or a package of quality books. All participants will receive a packet of everlasting daisy seeds.

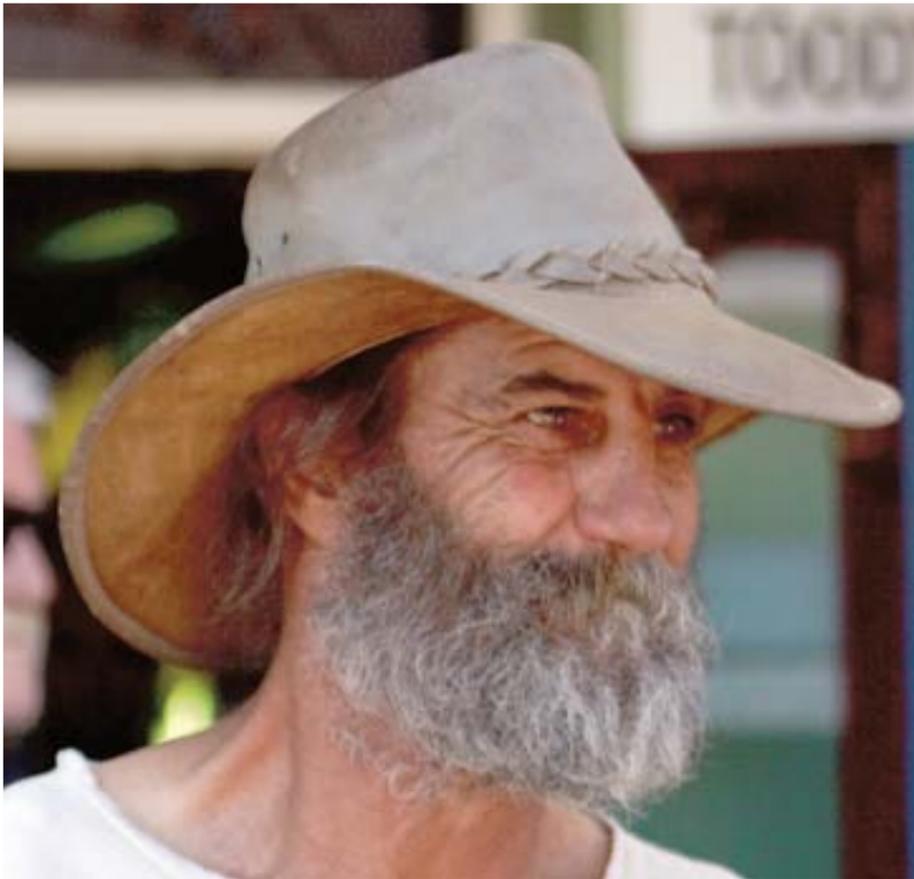
*Survey will take place mid-February to mid-March 2015. Survey to be conducted in accordance with Australian Privacy Principles. Summary of results will be also available from Wheatbelt NRM.

www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au

This project is supported by Wheatbelt NRM, through funding from the Australian Government.

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info@wheatbeltnrm.org.au





Pete Barwell in a familiar role at Toodyay's annual Moondyne Festival

Farewell to a much-loved Moondyne bushranger

WELL-KNOWN Toodyay resident Pete Barwell was killed tragically in a car accident on Julimar Road in December.

Pete was a familiar figure around town, doing handyman jobs with expert skills and helping out at the Toodyay Club, where he usually enjoyed a beer afterwards at his special seat at the bar.

Many residents and visitors knew Pete Barwell by sight as one of Moondyne Joe's two bushranger accomplices, 'robbing' local shops in convict garb with a replica pistol in the town's annual street festival held each May.

His sudden passing three weeks before Christmas prompted a well-attended wake at the Club, and this poem from friend and fellow Moondyne actor Terri Watson.

*A mighty wee fellow was Pete,
Though his boots were too big for his feet,
He had a heart of gold,
Bigger than Phar-Lap so bold,
A bigger larrikin you'd never meet.*

*Around women he was very polite,
Often shy and a little contrite,
Chocolates he'd buy,*

*For the kids who'd cry,
And for him a turkish delight.*

*He'd help anyone any time anywhere,
Just ask and he'd be there,
But he'd ask no pay,
He'd just smile and say,
Buy me a beer and we'll call it square.*

*We'd just about fall off our seat
Laughing at stories he'd often repeat,
He told them again and again,
But we laughed just the same,
Could spin a good windie, our Pete.*

*His cackle we'll never forget,
As he spoke of people he'd meet,
Places he'd been,
And things that he'd seen,
Now he's entertaining the angels, I'll bet.*

*Gone to the Club in the sky,
Pete left without saying goodbye,
In such a big hurry,
He left in a flurry,
Farewell Little Mate, goodbye.*

Many good wishes to Mena Chapman in celebrating her 100th birthday

Bolgart and surrounding areas
Doris M. Martin

NUMEROUS good wishes have been sent to Mena Chapman (nee Hodgkinson) who recently celebrated her 100th birthday at Toodyay.

Mena, the daughter of the late William Hodgkinson and Winifred Hodgkinson (nee Scally) who farmed in the Toodyay Shire, was used to hard work and kept right on doing it up until the last few years.

Mena was married to the late Don Chapman.

Many good wishes for her were posted on The Toodyay Facebook photo site.

Sadly another remarkable lady who made it to 100 years and nine months passed away recently last November.

She was Helen Annie Jessie Chitty (nee Haywood) late of Toodyay who had been

living at the Grace Haven Nursing Home at Rockingham (full story Page 18).

Helen was the widow of the late Phillip Henry Chitty who had been a Toodyay farmer. He pre-deceased her by some 49 years.

Known for her beautiful singing voice, piano playing and paintings, she had sung at many Toodyay weddings and held art exhibitions of her paintings over the years at Myers in Fremantle.

Another of this lady's amazing feats was that she had attended university in her 80s, catching two buses to do so and earned herself a degree in history.

Condolences were received by her daughters Pam Baskovich and family, and Noreen Petrovic and family on the sad loss of their mother.

Sadly taken way before his time at the age of 57 years was Murray Joseph Syred of Port

Kennedy and formerly of the Bejoording and Bolgart area.

Murray was the son of Peter and Natalie Syred.

Sympathy is extended to them and also to his wife Cheryl (nee King) and sons Damien, Jarrad and Braydon and grand-daughter Ruby.

Condolences also go to his siblings Phil Syred and family, Tony Syred and family and Joan Carr (nee Syred) and family.

A funeral service for Murray was held at Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park Chapel last month.

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Masonic centurian revisits Toodyay

Dorothy Goddard

SEEN in Toodyay recently was former Toodyay identity George Goddard.

George managed Industrial Extracts Factory Toodyay from 1951 to 1975 when he and his late wife, Jean, returned to Perth.

Both George and Jean were community minded and always active through various organisations.

While in Toodyay, George was Treasurer for St Stephens Church for 17 years, on the board of St John Ambulance for 10 years and his Masonic Service has been exemplary.

Two years ago George was presented with

his 70-Year Jewel.

Celebrating 100 years of age on December 19, George took great delight in revisiting the town of Toodyay where he and his family spent 24 enjoyable years.

Visiting dear friends in Joy Wood and family at Coorinja Winery was one highlight of his visit just before Christmas.

While having lunch at the Cola Café, another pleasure was seeing a very large, healthy tree that he had planted in the grounds of St Stephen's Church.

His family looks forward to revisiting Toodyay with George for his 101st birthday.



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