

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

March 2015
Volume 333

We're the best in Australia



Toodyay's victorious tidy towns team celebrates in Tasmania.

Surprise decision gives tip plan another six months

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY Councillors have given a leading Perth waste disposal company an extra six months in which to get State Government approval to build a major metropolitan rubbish tip in the Shire.

The surprise move contradicts three ratepayer submissions and a packed public gallery which last month applauded calls for all councillors to refuse any extra time.

Instead, councillors went behind closed doors for an hour before voting 7-1 to extend the tip deadline after Shire President David Dow left the meeting to fly to Tasmania for the national tidy towns awards.

Perth waste disposal company Opal Vale had faced a February 27 deadline after which its plans to turn Toodyay into WA's 'rubbish dump capital' would have lapsed.

However, the firm asked the Shire in January for a 12-month extension for WA Department of Environment Regulation works approval to build the tip on a 50ha former claypit in Chitty Road.

Shire President David Dow said the Council had received town planning advice that any refusal would most likely be overturned on appeal to the State Administrative Tribunal.

The Shire chose instead to give Opal Vale six months more to gain DER works approval with strict conditions.

"It made my guts churn to support the motion but it was the right decision based on the information we had before us," Cr Chris Firms said later.

"Nobody on Council wants to see that rubbish tip built."

Earlier, ratepayers heard debate on the Shire's detailed response to Opal Vale's current application, which was revised late last year after community opposition

revealed serious environmental flaws in the initial plans.

CEO Stan Scott said later that Councillors opted to give Opal Vale until August 27 to obtain DER works approval, after which its landfill bid would lapse.

No new application would be considered because it was well beyond the initial expiry date and the Shire had a new policy that banned future waste landfill.

Local Nationals WA MP Shane Love said it was perfectly obvious that Toodyay people did not want a Perth rubbish tip in their shire.

"They are also concerned about the extra traffic from large numbers of rubbish trucks on Toodyay Road and I understand completely why," he said.

"The proposed site seems to be a lake for part of the year and I struggle to see how it could be used as a rubbish tip.

"I personally have a concern that there is no state Government strategic plan for waste disposal.

"We don't want to see waste disposal outfits popping up willy nilly all over the countryside.

"Local communities are never going to be enthralled to see a new rubbish tip impacting on their amenity.

"I don't think this has been taken into account sufficiently in the past.

"I am sure there are other areas in my electorate of Moore more suitable for waste landfill.

"For instance, there are relatively isolated areas off the Brand Highway with good separation of water and land, a relatively good transport network and where residents won't be affected.

"Some local shires see merit in this.

"However, that is clearly not the case with Opal Vale in Toodyay."

TOODYAY has been crowned the national tidy town capital of Australia.

It cleaned up four of the eight national Australian Tidy Towns awards – including overall winner – announced last month by the Keep Australia Beautiful organisation.

The win places Toodyay in the national spotlight as an attractive local community, tourist destination and host for next year's National Tidy Town Awards.

In addition to the overall prize, Toodyay also won the national Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention Award, the Resource Recovery Award and the Environmental Protection and Innovation Award.

WA's last winner was Collie in 2006.

Toodyay's national success follows two State tidy towns wins last November, including the overall WA title.

A total of 14 Toodyay people attended the national awards ceremony in Tasmania on February 27, hosted by last year's overall winner, Sheffield.

The travel party included representatives from Toodyay Friends of the River, Toodyay Historical Society, Toodyay Bowling Club, Toodyay & Districts Community Bank, Toodyay Garden Club, Toodyay Naturalists' Club, Toodyay District High School and the Shire of Toodyay.

Toodyay Tidy Towns Committee Chair Greg Warburton said the win was an incredible opportunity for Toodyay to showcase itself when it hosts next year's national event.

"It's an achievement the whole community can be proud of," he said.

National Tidy Towns judge Jill Grant said Toodyay had a strong emphasis on healthy lifestyles with bike-friendly and other sustainable transport options such as daily train services to Perth, solar-powered street lights, energy savings devices and retrofits in buildings.

Toodyay had showcased local activities such as Adopt-a-Spot litter collections in which 457 participants had undertaken 51 litter pickups to collect 535 bags of rubbish – including 5256 cigarette butts – weighing total of more than two tonnes.

Other initiatives included free recycling for furniture, building materials, glass, steel, aluminium, engine oil, e-waste and hazardous goods at Toodyay's waste transfer station.

Award-winning groups

Also recognised were award-winning local groups such as the Toodyay Naturalists' Club environmental group for education, observation, nature reserves and feral species management; and the Toodyay Friends of the River for surveying, weed control, revegetation and feral species management.

The awards event included highlights from Ms Grant's national judging tour, finalist case studies and opportunities for representatives to share information and network with other like-minded communities.

This year marks the 47th anniversary of tidy towns' awards which started in WA and became national 25 years ago.

This year's awards saw 1335 category submissions from 347 applicants, including councils, shires, community groups, schools and individuals.

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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DISTRIBUTION

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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, Desraé Clarke and Maree Lewis.

ADVERTISING

ADVERTISING RATES

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Half Page: Mono - \$280; Colour - \$331.50.

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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 March 18	Noon Monday March 23

Please note our new email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

Ol' Blind Joe

Massacre at Amalgamation Hill

Stirling Hamilton

ALL ALONG the parapets of the castle, the defenders huddled and wept quietly, knowing all too well that their days were numbered.

Having been fleeced of 40 million gold pieces, a fierce mob of ratepayers armed with pitchforks and axes massed outside the castle in the fields opposite, the scene lit by blazing fires.

There weren't any roses or chocolates in Lord Colin Barnett's chambers that evening, Valentine's Day last, when Lady Democracy lobbed at the castle, informing him, that after spurning her attentions for six long years, his arse was grass.

In the morning his lordship abandoned the castle and fled the field of battle at 'Amalgamation Hill', and cried out during his retreat, "I've failed," and, "If ratepayers want to stay the way they are, so be it."

He galloped away from his doomed campaign to reform local government, saying the process was a 'shambles'.

His plan to cut the number of metropolitan councils from 30 to 16 was unceremoniously dumped after some communities, given the chance to vote, did so, and rejected his forced mergers with 80 percent of voters saying, "No, nick off Colin".

Forlorn and dejected, he wandered the corridors of his summer palace, muttering incoherently and finally, in a fit of pique, sent out his trusty court jester, Tony Simpson, the minister for local government, to face the music with a choice morsel of pathos dipped in irony sauce.

"I put a lot of skin in the game to get to where we are and it's unfortunate," he said.

Days later, after having his conscience surgically removed and pickled, Lord Colin waltzed dazedly out onto the balcony and proclaimed that the whole debacle was a treasonous plot by the minor nobles in the councils of the Flatlands, who, as custodians of the very lands he had been ravishing and plundering all this time, were not at all amused.

The hubris that his lordship has displayed during this whole affair is astonishing.

Lord Colin conceived this baby out of wedlock, with the community excluded even from the delivery room.

After promising before his inauguration that he would never introduce forced amalgamations, he did, and gave the councils a big bag of nappies and ordered them to feed, clothe and educate his half-baked toddler and then to clean up the mess it made.

Quoting the great man himself, "I said we would not have forced amalgamations, and we have not got forced amalgamations.

We expect we will get agreement and it will all come together by 2015, but the State Government has made the decision - it will stay and this will be put in place."

Last March, when the mayors told him that ratepayers were not the happy little campers he thought they were, and that they themselves were worried, Lord Colin said, "Well, I hope local government doesn't do that, but if they were to walk away from the process, the process will go on without them - the State Government will then run the process."

And in a classic case of life imitating art, he said "There is no doubt the way the Local Government Act is structured, it is almost impossible to get a sensible structure, it's like dealing with the feudal system."

This whole process has been a dog's breakfast since his lordship first embarked on it.

Shouldn't the doctor establish the necessity for an amputation and reattachment of the severed limbs before sharpening his scalpel.

Most councils are now considering submitting a combined multimillion-dollar compensation claim to the State Government.

The WA Local Government Association, which was 'missing in action' during the entire campaign, has now belatedly offered to facilitate the joint bid to recoup 'reasonable' costs.

The response from his lordship was, "We're not going to pay for that. That's their decision. They wear it."

Lady Democracy wept - as at no point in this whole sordid affair had he ever even mentioned her name.

I wonder which part of 80 percent of voters rejecting his forced mergers it is that he can't wrap his head around.

Admittedly, only slightly more than 50 percent of voters were able to, or bothered to vote and this malaise in our communities is something I will address at a later date.

We must remember that the average turnout for council elections is only 30 percent, so there was a strong groundswell to reject these proposals.

Last time I checked, we live in a democracy, and at the very heart of this system of governance is the will of the people, not the whims of business elites.

But Lord Colin has always had a soft spot for the big end of town, such as selling prime riverfront land to James Packer's Burswood casino complex.

He's also building glorious gladiatorial stadiums for millionaire footballers and digging up the Perth Esplanade, which was the envy of the western world and the pride and joy of locals, to erect yet another citadel of glass and concrete for the pleasure of his courtiers.

From what I can see with a cursory glance at the figures, Lord Colin inherited a State debt in 2008 of \$4 billion, and under his stewardship that debt has ballooned to somewhere north of \$30 billion during the largest and most wide-ranging mining boom this State, indeed this nation, has ever seen.

The Gods of Good Taste, Common Sense and their daughter Prudence were last seen packing their bags and heading for the hills.

Politicians and nappies should be changed frequently and all for the same reason. - José Maria de Eça de Queiroz, translated from Portuguese.

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

March 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 Story deadline 9am - 3pm	24	25 9am - 1pm	26 closed	27 closed	28
29	30 closed	31				

School puts case to Minister for more funds

Toodyay District High School School Council
Owen Catto, Chairperson

STATE Education Minister Peter Collier and local Nationals WA MP Shane Love visited Toodyay District High School last month to hear concerns about issues facing the school.

Toodyay is one of few rural towns with a growing population.

Student numbers have been as low as 72 in recent years but are now at about 130, including 31 students in Year Seven.

Compared with other similar schools outside the Northam regional centre, Toodyay has more students and higher growth prospects.

The School Council believes more State Government support is needed for the future.

The school's 'Kiss and Drop' area was identified as high risk in 2011 but funding has been continually deferred.

Budget constraints have a wide impact across the school on:

- Class sizes;
- Student facilities and activities;
- Behaviour management;
- Students at educational risk;
- Infrastructure; and
- Maintenance and replacement programs.

The Shire of Toodyay's planned new Recreation Precinct next to the school could also have a significant impact.

It will provide outdoor and indoor sport and recreational facilities that the school alone would never be able to provide.

The Department of Education could have a role in funding, planning and ongoing use of the facility, with tremendous benefit for the school.

School Council members want to make the Toodyay District High School a better school and believe that passion is shared by Principal Tim Martin and his staff.

While understanding this is a time of fiscal limits, we believe there is a case for continued support.

We thank Mr Collier and Mr Love for giving us their time.

'Pressure' outlined

IN A LATER statement, Mr Love said the Minister had outlined that annual WA Government spending on primary and high school education had increased by 61 per cent since 2008.

Student numbers had grown by 12 per cent over the same period.

Toodyay was the first of several schools in Mr Love's Moore electorate that the Minister had agreed to visit.

"I am pleased Mr Collier has made that commitment and appreciate that he has visited Toodyay," Mr Moore said.

I feel that small country high schools face particular pressures and am keen to be able to outline these to the Minister.

See photo page 5

Chamber survey to tap ideas

Toodyay Chamber of Commerce & Industry

THE TOODYAY Chamber of Commerce & Industry is an important part of the community and will prove successful – with your support – to achieve a thriving local community.

The chamber's mission is to promote a thriving and dynamic environment for local businesses and community groups.

Put it in your diaries folks – our first sun-downer this year is Thursday April 16 from 6.30-8.30pm (venue yet to be confirmed).

It will have the usual great nibbles and some speakers on marketing your business, great service and new ideas for business.

This will be kindly provided by Meerkats Advertising and Solutions4Business and sponsored by TargaWest.

Even if you don't run a business but are interested in some new ideas and networking come along.

Talking about new initiatives – some of the ideas we have heard include branding and servicing Toodyay as a 'Foodie' destination to visit, a really funky coffee shop, better signage, tourism event initiatives for weekend stays, diversified foods grown on our farms and more.

Come along and share your aspirations for business and where we may make a difference in Toodyay.

Let's discuss what projects and initiatives you believe we can achieve to grow and attract jobs and young families to service the needs of our community.

Look out for our 'Growing Toodyay' survey coming out soon.

Toodyayites are asked to participate in a survey in next month's *Herald* and on the Toodyay Chamber of Commerce & Industry website.

What is this survey all about?

It's about trying to answer the many questions around what we need to do:

- Is Toodyay meeting its exciting and vibrant potential?
- What needs to be done to make this happen?
- Who among us is prepared to help make it happen?

To meet what many people see as abundantly untapped potential, survey information needs to be gathered from all sections of the population – general community, business folk, tourists and visitors.

It includes information such as:

- who we are;
- why we have chosen Toodyay to live and work in or to visit;
- what we wish for the future; and
- what we are all prepared to do to make it happen.

To become a town of distinction we need to provide sunny smiles, welcoming people, excellent products, variety, and a love for all that is Toodyay.

We need to achieve a colourful vibrancy and an appreciation of our history, landscape, architecture, volunteers and ancestors in such a way that people will want to visit and take away a good story.

As a result, people of all ages, skills and ambitions will look to Toodyay as a home away from home or a place to settle.

The chamber has undertaken to develop



TCCI Committee and members: Jan and Gary Smith (Pecan Hill B & B), Clive Eger (Arts Toodyay), Margaret Sommerville (Sommerville Gallery) and Clare Love (Clare Love Beauty Therapy).

a survey to elicit a range of information in order to assist the council and business owners (both old and new) plan the future of our town.

Do you want others planning and taking control of your future?

This survey will give you the opportunity to say what you feel, to contribute your ideas, and be a significant part in developing a happy and forward thinking community.

It may also assist in working towards improving the value of your home, your business, and community life – which may have indeed attracted you here in the first place.

The chamber meets on the second Monday of each month at 7pm at Freemasons Hotel in Stirling Terrace.

Our new website can be viewed at www.toodyaychamber.org.au.

Members are entitled to promote their businesses on the website at no charge.

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Numbers up on expanded AvonLink rail service

AVONLINK passenger numbers have jumped nearly 75 per cent in 14 months since the start of nine new weekly rail services from Perth to Toodyay.

New figures released by WA's Public Transport Authority show numbers rose from 404 Toodyay passenger boardings in December 2013 – when there were only five weekday services – to 714 in January this year.

The nine extra weekly trains are an 18-month trial agreed by the State Government after it reversed a shock decision by former Transport Minister Troy Buswell to scrap the AvonLink because it was under-used and costing too much taxpayers' money.

Public Transport Authority spokesman David Hynes said the new AvonLink services had been advertised in seven newspapers – including *The Toodyay Herald* – a tourism

feature published State-wide in *The West Australian*, multiple newsletters, two yearly planners and two community directories.

In addition, Transwa had invested in three months of radio advertising in two local radio stations.

AvonLink flyers had been delivered to more than 3000 local residents, plus hundreds more sent to local tourism authorities and council buildings.

The 18-month trial – which started last December – is funded by \$6.6 million in Royalties for Regions funding.

It followed a strong local community campaign and political support from local WA Nationals MPs, including Shane Love and Paul Brown.

Sunday May 3 will see the AvonLink bring visitors to Toodyay's Moodyne Festival for the first time in several years.

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The Toodyay Herald

Toodyay on the move

TOODYAY is on the move.

You can almost smell a change in the air, stirring the senses to awaken our town from its sleepy hollow to embrace a new and exciting future.

The great news that Toodyay is Australia's new tidy town champion puts us centre-stage on the national map.

More Avonlink passenger trains are running most days, classy new food outlets are opening all over the place and a revitalised Chamber of Commerce and Industry is spurring local businesses to be more forward-thinking and creative.

The local calendar is starting to fill with a range of new attractions such as last year's inaugural Fibre Festival and the second annual Toodyay Car and Motorcycle Show – two markedly different drawcards that broaden our town's appeal to a wider cross-section of the paying public.

These things don't happen by accident.

Lots of local people – mostly community volunteers – have put in thousands of hours of unpaid work to create the backdrop for this change to occur.

Now it is up to others to capitalise on these gains and lift our town to the next level on the scale of excellence.

It includes things such as:

- Top quality accommodation, food and service that well-travelled locals and visitors have come to expect.
- Award-winning coffees, teas and other beverages that make paying customers sit up and take notice – and come back for more.
- Quick service when ordering meals, spotlessly clean tableware, and top value for money with quality local produce.

A growing number of people in town can see the future and have put their money on the line to make it happen.

We have the historic Station House Tearooms, iconic Cola Cafe, darling Sweethearts, Sophia's upmarket Mediterranean restaurant, the tongue-in-cheek but excellent Cursed Cafe and two federation-style hotels that serve great pub tucker – each of these a marketer's dream.

These and other new ventures springing up across the Avon Valley deserve the backing of a shire council that can make planning decisions quickly and sensibly so that investors can move quickly to capitalise on new ideas.

Rules for advertising signs may need review to enable local shopkeepers to better capture passing trade.

Toodyay's historic identity is the core of its appeal to residents and visitors alike.

Bridgetown and Denmark are prime examples of how that identity can be preserved in a way that helps local communities grow and prosper.

All it takes is vision.

Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor



The way we were – A horse-drawn wagon (c. 1920-30) moves power poles in Piesse (formerly Clinton) Street behind the Freemasons Hotel (left) with stables where Toodyay Post Office now stands. After each hole was dug, a horse was hitched to a pole and driven forward to haul it into position. Photo Newcastle Gaol Museum.

Letters

Not happy Stan

IT IS LESS than a year since we bought our property which we rented for the previous four years.

We love our lifestyle block in the bush and are shocked to hear that bauxite mining is proposed on our doorstep.

It is grossly unjust that we were not informed that we were buying into a proposed mining area.

If we had been provided with that information at the time of sale, we most certainly would not have bought our house in Morangup.

Now we are stuck paying rates to a shire that seems to be set on accommodating miners and sanctioning the destruction of our landscape and environment.

Not happy Jan – or should that be Stan?
Ann-Marie Grabowski and Greg Ward,
Morangup

Wake up Liza

I WROTE to Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan (no answer) and then to Police Minister Liza Harvey that Toodyay Road – the fourth most dangerous in WA – is not policed enough between Gidgegannup and Toodyay.

I repeatedly see speeding trucks on weekdays, and weekend motor cyclists overtaking on curves and hills, crossing double white lines and breaking speed limits.

The WA Police website offers an online "Traffic Complaint Report" that requests:

- Description of behaviour, eg: speeding, drag racing, burnouts, etc.;
- Description of driver;
- Location, date and time; and
- Vehicle make, model, colour and registration.

But who can drive with their hands on a piece of paper while writing down all this information to send to police?

I can't – and neither can anyone else. I was able once as a passenger to write

down and report a truck speeding at 80km/h through Gidgegannup.

However, police seemed disinterested, most likely because I didn't get a look at the driver and lacked other minor information.

Ms Harvey told me trucks are monitored at Red Hill and Gidgegannup.

I said this is insufficient because no monitors exist between Gidgegannup and Toodyay, yet that is where bikers and trucks become a danger to road users.

More people need to write to the Minister to wake her up to her responsibilities.

Monika Zechetmayr

Foolish smear

WE WRITE THIS letter with a great deal of sadness – our bus shed has been vandalised by people who care less for the good of the community.

We speak of those who had pleasure in smearing the shed with nonsensical signage which is beyond any thought of what you wished to achieve.

Are you so bored with your life, are you without any compassion or enjoyment as to what means so much to the people of Toodyay?

Or are you just downright rogues who do not care for anyone who is trying to bring a sense of worth to our town?

You continually disfigure the railway station (which is again in a state of unglorified configuration), so you have no consideration for those who wish to travel on the trains to their destinations.

If you wish to use your 'expertise' as one would say in expressing your point of view, why not buy a canvas and paint to your heart's content?

Then perhaps you may be able to sell your paintings to a willing buyer who will enjoy your 'five minutes of fame'.

You may not have included painting the bus, but you have shown a great lack of community kindness towards seniors and others of the community.

We are sure there are other avenues for you to express yourselves.

Why not join an art class and show your talents so they can be recognised, not by making our town look foolish.

Finally a message to parents: Do you know where your children are?

It is your responsibility to take charge as parents to make sure your children are safe, cared for and not roaming the streets at night or early morning.

Also it amazes us where the children/teenagers get the money to buy the aerosol cans of paint, and who supplies them.

Perhaps it is time for everyone to look at the family situation.

Di Roberts, Secretary,
Community Bus Management Committee

Runs on the board

MANY THANKS TO Desrae Clarke for nominating me for the Australia Day Award this year, which I was very honoured to receive.

I also thank the community organisations and shire staff that supported this nomination.

Having researched the folk that feature on several Toodyay honour boards in recent years, I am very pleased that my name will now feature on one such board.

So, in 50 or 100 years' time, some researcher may say: "Now who is this Beth Frayne and what did she do to earn a place on this board?"

Our Toodyay Herald will give them the answer.

Beth Frayne

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.

LOST DOG



ASH

Ash is our much loved short haired 10 year old border collie. Missing from Clarke Street, West Toodyay on Wed 25/02/15.

Ash has full tags and a pink collar. Please Call Robyn with ANY information

9574 2309 or 0400 765 162
or try on Peta 0409 842 309

Love and Scandal – the tale of a broken heart

Newcastle Gaol Museum
Christopher Parks

LOVE and Scandal on the Avon is back at Toodyay's Newcastle Gaol Museum.

The display tells fascinating local stories from the 19th century, including that of Gerald de Courcy Lefroy who knew of heartache.

His obituary reads:
'Death of Mr (Gerald) De Courcy Lefroy (1819 - c. 1878).

'We regret to hear that this gentleman succumbed on Sunday last to the accident he met with a short time ago.

'The unfortunate gentleman never recovered from the great shock to his nervous system and gradually sank.

'Mr Lefroy had many friends, and his loss

will be much felt in the southern districts.'

Having been in love myself, I suspect his passing may have been of a broken heart.

Gerald had fallen in love with the beautiful Sophia, daughter of the Colony's Surveyor-General.

Many heads turned for this exotic and untouchable specimen of a woman.

But from the start it was always Gerald who had his gaze locked on hers, and it was clearly visible in his character.

He played a large role in pioneering WA and had many landmarks named after him.

It appears Gerald was motivated so much by his love and muse that it inspired him to help found the Silver Lake Operations port and mine.

Not much else is known, not even his final resting place.

Yet true love seldom runs smoothly, and Lefroy's love remained unrequited – he eventually married Elizabeth Drake-Brockman.

Scandals abound too, including the tale of John Martin, who bribed another man to claim in court that he witnessed John's wife of 11 years having an affair with his best friend.

But further inspection of the husband's motives towards his hapless wife reveal his efforts came to nought when the witness broke down in court and confessed his lies.

These stories and more can be uncovered at the Love and Scandal on the Avon exhibition which runs until mid-April.

There is no additional cost once you have paid the museum's \$3 entry fee – see you there.

Today Tonight airs Morangup bauxite protest

A CHANNEL Seven TV news crew visited Morangup last month to film anti-bauxite mining protesters concerned about plans for open-cut mining in their area.

Journalist Sian Dougherty interviewed Avon and Hills Mining Awareness Group members for a *Today Tonight* program that was due to air on Tuesday March 3.

AHMAG convenor Brian Dale said he hoped it would raise public awareness of plans to mine 220 million tonnes of bauxite between Wundowie and the Avon River.

The Shire of Toodyay will float its proposed new 'engagement with mining proposals' policy at a public forum in the council chambers starting 4pm Tuesday March 4 before voting on it at a Toodyay Shire Council meeting on March 24.

The draft policy also prompted a shire call for public submissions which closed on February 27 after being advertised last month in *The Toodyay Herald*.

Meanwhile, the council has yet to decide whether to join a local "Community Advisory Group" being formed by Chinese-backed miner Bauxite Alumina Joint Ventures, which has opened an office in Stirling Terrace.

The miner's invitation – strongly opposed by some ratepayers – has been repeatedly deferred by the council.

At last month's meeting, Shire President David Dow said he understood the proposed mine – which the company says could start in 2017 and operate for 25 years – would not include a refinery in the Shire of Toodyay.

"There will be only crushing, screening and blending, and the material for all intents and purposes is gravel," he said.

Cr Dow said the Shire had "no specific plans at this stage" to agree to ratepayer calls to survey the opinion of Toodyay residents "but that may be a strategy to consider in the future".

"We do know there is not one community view," Cr Dow said.

"People have expressed opinions that mining could be the best thing that could happen to Toodyay and there are others who would not support mining under any circumstances.

"There remain a lot of unanswered questions about what a project might look like and what the impacts might be.

"There are many people who want to know more before they form a view.

"Given that the Shire cannot approve or reject mining proposals, we may need to find the community's views on what harms we need to prevent and what benefits we need to leverage rather than a yes or no survey.

"I cannot pre-empt what Council may decide if it considers the options of a community survey."



TV journalist Sian Dougherty interviews anti-bauxite mine protesters for Channel 7's Today Tonight program

Faster Internet stalled by red tape

HOPES for dramatically faster Internet speeds in Toodyay by the middle of this year have been dashed by failed land negotiations and State Government delays.

Australia's National Broadband Network builder told *The Herald* it had been unable to reach an agreement with a local land owner to build a central wireless tower on private property and was now negotiating with WA Water for an alternative site.

Shire of Toodyay documents showed last year that private landowners would be offered a nominal annual rent of about \$5000 for 40m single pole towers to be built on their land.

Plans have also been stalled by WA Government delays in vesting a small area of State-owned land in Drummond Drive to the Shire of Toodyay to enable the second of five local NBN wireless towers to be built.

The Shire approved the site in May last year.

An NBN Co spokesman said its wireless Internet transmission plans had to be redesigned to make one of the other planned new Toodyay towers a central "hub" for the new broadband service.

As a result, the start date had been put back to early next year.

A WA Lands Department spokesman said

the Drummond Drive site might be approved by June, July or August this year.

His written response to *Herald* questions failed to answer how long the application had been with the department.

NBN Co claimed at the time that Toodyay would be one of WA's first country towns to be connected to the new high-speed National Broadband Network.

It said faster Internet would enable movies to be downloaded in minutes, music CDs in seconds and instant streaming of TV shows into people's homes.

Although town residents and some rural subdivisions will gain line-of-sight access to

the new high-speed Internet towers, outlying areas such as Bejoording may have to wait longer for a planned new NBN satellite service.

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CATERING



Lifting the Curse at The Cursed Café!

Education Minister hears high school concerns



From page 3 story (left - right) Wayne Fletcher, School Council rep; Deb Nichols, P&C rep; Margaret O'Sullivan, Community rep; Wendy Camenzuli, Deputy Principal; Luke Catto, School Captain; Peter Collier, Education Minister; Shane Love, Member for Moore; Bonnie Glossop, School Captain; Owen Catto, School Council Chairperson; Kerry Knowles, Deputy Principal.

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'Sharing and caring' as Probus gets going



Manager of the Toodyay Community Resource Centre, Alison Godfrey, with Ed Reed

Probus Club of Toodyay

AT OUR first meeting to celebrate our induction as the Probus Club of Toodyay, President Peter Healy introduced many special guests.

These included Ed Reed, past District Governor of Rotary WA and Chairman of Probus WA, Loraine Reed, from Ladies Inner Wheel Club of Swan Districts, Jan Horsley President of Northam Rotary (our sponsor club), and Darrell Williams, secretary of Probus Association of Western Australia.

Also in attendance were former association president Fairly Watson, Northam Probus President Yvonne Lawrence, guest speaker Dorothy Walker from the Victoria Park Probus Club, Rex McKell, also the Victoria Park club, Kath Thomson from Leeming combined Probus Clubs and Geoff Rooke from Booragoon Men's Probus Club.

Many others also made the trip to Toodyay to help us celebrate this special occasion.

Dorothy Walker from the Victoria Park Probus Club spoke about her life as a Probus member.

Dorothy has been a member of Probus for more than 30 years and was a member for 13 years before she started the new ladies club in Singleton NSW.

After 20 or so years, this club is still going strong with more than 200 members.

After moving to WA, she joined Victoria Park Probus which helped her to develop friendships in a new location.

She encouraged members to be involved as this brings the greatest satisfaction.

Jan Horsley presented Peter with the Charter for the new Toodyay club.

She spoke about sharing and caring, working together and being involved to get the best out of being a member.

To recognise the founding members' efforts in starting the club, Peter presented each founding member with a certificate.

A special thank you and a certificate of appreciation was presented to Alison Godfrey, the manager of the Toodyay Community Resource Centre because it was she who instigated the idea, gauged the interest among residents in the Toodyay community and chaired the first meeting.



President Peter Healy received the accreditation certificate from Jan Horsley, President of the Northam Rotary Club



A crowd of approximately 40 people attended the official accreditation meeting of the Probus Club of Toodyay.

The resource centre has also been very supportive in the set-up stage of the club and we hope that this support will continue during our first official year of operations.

Our next outing is to the Perth Mint, travelling to Perth on the Avon Link on Thursday 26 February 2015.

At our next meeting on Tuesday 10 March Dr Greg White who is the coordinator of building projects in Botswana (through the

Seventh Day Adventist Church) is addressing the group.

A number of our residents in Toodyay have been involved in these projects.

All members and prospective members are very welcome.

For further information about Probus and details about how to join please telephone John Smart on 9574 2339 or Jan Ackroyd on 9574 5315.

Up there belting out songs with Patsy, Elvis and Roy

In memoriam

LEA JENKINS, who passed away last month after a battle with cancer, was well-known to many customers at Toodyay IGA, where she worked for nine years until mid-2014.

Long-time deli counter colleague Terri Watson penned this ode to her old friend 'Mungi' (Mungbean), with Part 2 in Lea's own typically forthright style.

For Lea Parts 1 & 2

Part 1

Go painlessly sweet lady,
To where the angels dwell,
Your work on earth is done now,
A job you did so well.

Though your body had died and left us,
Your soul lives on and on,
With the memories you've left behind,
You never truly will be gone.

Your smile was like a welcome smile,
On a chilly winter's day,
It made the sun shine brightly,
And chased the clouds away.

Your hearty laugh still echoes,
A laugh we won't forget,
It came from deep within your soul,
Evoked a smile from all you met.

When right you never gloated
Or said 'I told you so',
When wrong you would always say,
And never did you crow.

It was your strength and courage,
That helped us all get through,
With those famous words of yours,
We'll Soldier on as we do.

So the angels now have beckoned,
They've rung the final bell,
So go painlessly sweet lady,
To where the angels dwell.

Part 2

So now the soppy crap's over,
I'd better say something funny,
Or she'll carry out her threat,
And come flush me down the dunny.

She'll be watching us all closely,
And having a bloody fit,
She'll be saying 'Just get over it,
And stop this morbid s*#t'.

We're here for a flamin' party,
To celebrate my life,
So flamin' well get on with it,
Or there'll be big flamin' strife.

Hey Mungi you, old bag of boondies,
Hope the grog up there is cold,
'Cos if it's warm when I get there,
You'll bloody well be told.

Hope you've got the big BBQ cranked,
With snags and your special fried rice,
And bugger shrimps on the barbie.
We'll have king prawns with a little spice.

So when it's my turn to get there,
A party I hope to enjoy,
Eat'n', drinkin' and belting out songs,
With Patsy, Elvis and Roy.

Now Mungi, I don't like beer,
But I'll have one with you today,
So let's all raise our drinks high,
And to Lea these words we'll say:
Cheers Mungi - Luvs Ya.

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Double dip for St Patrick's Day with Northam jaunt

Toodyay Community Bus
Di Roberts

WELCOME to the Cheeky Bus March column.

Writing this column is always a special time for me because our Bus – no matter when needed – has a personality when boarded that helps create great friendships that mean so much to our community.

There are many people on their own who need to share with others, and I believe that if our Bus keeps going the way it is, we will have shown a little bit of comfort to those who may need us.

This brings me to reflect on our committee – a great band of people – and in particular one member who is poorly at present and in hospital.

We send our best wishes to Craig for a speedy recovery so we can all soon enjoy more of his banter at our meetings.

Several Toodyay folk accepted an invitation from the Northam Over 60s to join them for an event there last November.

They thought our Community Bus was just the “bees knees”, and we heard recently from them again.

They have invited the folk of Toodyay to join them for a St Patrick's Day lunch on Thursday March 19 and an afternoon of Irish entertainment at the Northam RSL in Fitzgerald Street.

Now we all know the great Irish saint's feast day is actually on March 17, but the Northam Over 60s like to be a little different so here's a golden opportunity for Toodyay folk to celebrate St Pat's Day twice.

The cost is \$15 per person, including lunch, afternoon tea and a return trip from Toodyay to Northam.

It sounds like a great idea and fun to boot, so if you are interested, have Irish ancestors or are Irish yourself, please call me on 9574 2498 to book a place.

Knowing the Northam lot, they have a ball every week so let us Toodyayites give them a run for their money.

I know also there are many people who would enjoy a day trip to Perth's Hillarys Marina for a seaside fish and chip lunch, then go for a wander, enjoy an icecream and just look at the “pretties” that the marina

has to offer.

If we can get together a Bus load, then we will endeavour to make this a great event.

We have the best of the world in our patch but if you would like to be part of taking off on a sightseeing adventure to find out how the other half live, then please contact me on the same number (9574 2498) to arrange a date and time, especially after the heat.

The Bus is for all to be part of for any reason, and if our people are in need, our Bus is always be there for you.

Now to our special people, the Seniors.

If you have anything of importance, an event, get-together or a chance to meet up with others of the same ilk – and I mean other Shires with community buses – and you know of anyone who would like to share a day, lunch, afternoon tea or just drop by for a chat, then we would love to share with them.

On behalf of the Bus committee, we thank Shire of Toodyay for inviting us to last month's “Thank a Volunteer Day”.

What a splendid turnout, and to hear Toodyay Shire President David Dow commend all volunteers was a joy to behold.

The bus committee felt privileged to be a part of it and will continue to endeavour to bring pleasure through the Bus to all in our community.



Toodyay's Cheeky Bus decked out for a wedding

Ten aliases used to con people buying units

Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association
Desraé Clarke

THE CONSUMER Protection division of the WA Department of Commerce has developed a valuable new website – WASCAMNet – to alert people to a range of scams currently operating in the community.

It includes information about accommodation scams.

It gives the example of a 34 year old Perth man who used up to 10 aliases and internet-based advertising web sites to lure unsuspecting victims into parting with money for unit accommodation.

The man fraudulently took bond money for four weeks' rent plus two weeks upfront – a total of six weeks' rent, for units he was not authorised or able to rent.

His target was mainly overseas visitors. Police have so far identified eight victims of his activities.

About 30 accommodation victims contacted WASCAMNet last year after losing more than \$43,000 – an average loss per incident of nearly \$1500.

If this scam has affected you, please contact WA Consumer Protection immediately on 1300 304 054 and ask for WASCAMNet to discuss your case.

Other numbers to keep handy are

CRIMESTOPPERS on 1800 333 000 and Toodyay Police, 9574 9555.

?

Do you or someone you know have a problem with drugs or alcohol?

Help IS available.

TREATMENT CAN HELP.

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AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DRUGS

Felicitas Bauxite Mining Proposal

Bauxite Alumina
JOINT VENTURES

Community Advisory Group (CAG) - A big THANK YOU to all nominees

BAJV are now reviewing 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. We will be contacting all nominees to advise if they have been selected for the CAG soon and a call out for first meeting dates and availability.

Felicitas Bauxite Mining Project- Feedback & Updates

Local residents have posed some great questions during recent conversations. If you would like us to come and provide some project information to your local community group or group of friends / colleagues then please contact us so we can make arrangements, or you can receive our latest updates by clicking Follow on facebook: www.facebook.com/BauxiteAlumina

When will the Felicitas Bauxite Mining Project be developed?

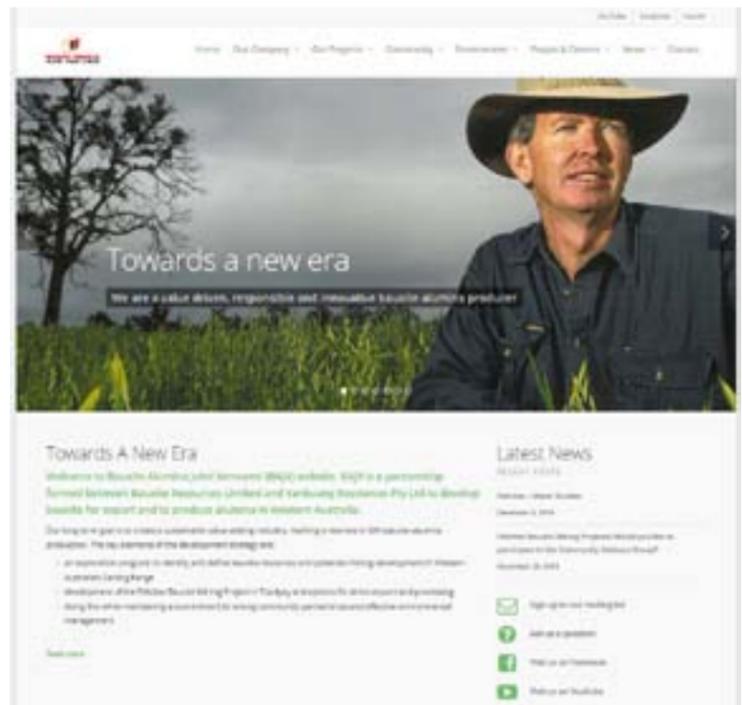
We anticipate that application for approvals, licenses, construction and commencement of operations may take up to 3 years before we are operating.

We are undertaking a range of studies presently that cover environmental and social impacts, economic viability, engineering, mine planning, logistics and infrastructure options. Based on the results of the studies, we will undertake a formal approval process with the State Government. This will include a comprehensive environmental review with an assessment by the WA Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

Shopfront & Information Centre - Now OPEN Mondays & Fridays 10am-4pm or by appointment. Located next to the Bendigo Bank at 108 Stirling Terrace Toodyay.

We have a new website: www.bajv.com.au

On the website you can ask questions and see other commonly asked questions under the Community drop down tab + much more!



Get the latest updates by Clicking Follow on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/BauxiteAlumina



Black Dog riders set off on last month's inaugural Avon Hills One-Dayer

Classes to fire up pottery skills

Arts Toodyay
Clive Eger

THE YEAR has started with great plans and a great program of activities and events for the members of Arts Toodyay Inc.

In addition to our traditional exhibition at the annual Moondyne Festival and, of course, the seventh annual VINO exhibition at Coorinja Winery, we are planning a number of workshops.

The first workshop for the year, conducted by Ruth Silvester and Barbara Goodlet, will be held on Saturday March 14.

Ruth and Barbara will be guiding participants through the creation of colourful fabric boxes with embroidery, appliqué and other creative touches.

It will be held at Ruth's studio beginning at 9am.

The cost of \$60 includes a kit of materials. Ruth can be contacted on 9584 4695 for more details.

Ruth will also be having an Open Day at her home on Whitfield Road on May 2.

In April we will be having an illustrated talk conducted by renowned Perth potter and Toodyay resident Janet Kovesi-Watt.

Janet's specialty is the decorative pottery technique of slipware which has a long traditional history in Europe, particularly in Britain.

Her talk is entitled 'Along the Slip Trail'. Later in the year we will be having our next raku pottery workshop which will run over three sessions.

The final session will be the firing of the pots with the usual exciting and unexpected results.

This workshop is always very popular so stay tuned for more details soon.

Arts Toodyay is a group of arts enthusiasts from the Toodyay area who meet to share their expertise and promote their work in the Toodyay area.

Members have diverse interests ranging from painting, creative textiles, jewellery and contemporary embroidery to writing, pottery and sculpture.

New members are always very welcome. Contact Clive on 0401 966 153 or come along to the monthly meeting.

The meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month at 8pm at the Old Police Station in Duke Street North near the corner of Fiennes Street.

Black Dog riders soon to be heading for Toodyay

LAST month's inaugural Avon Valley Black Dog Ride One-Dayer attracted 321 riders. Black Dog Rides began in 2009 to raise awareness of depression.

It developed into a national suicide prevention charity involving thousands of Australian motorcycle riders who have raised more than \$1.7 million for mental health services and helped foster mental health awareness around the country.

Last year, more than 6500 Black Dog riders took part in a national Black Dog Charity Ride at 31 locations around the nation.

Toodyay will take part in this year's national Black Dog Ride on Sunday March 22, starting at the Northam Sound Shell in Bernard Park at 8am with a check-in and breakfast before riding to Toodyay via Beverley and ending with lunch at 1pm in Stirling Park.

Organisers request early registration to help with Black Dog Ride safety, catering and merchandise.

Riders who register before Sunday March 15 go into a national raffle for a unique hand-crafted 9ct gold Black Dog Ride One-Dayer signet ring valued at \$1500.

The raffle will be drawn on Sunday March 22.

For more information, please contact Graeme Raine on 0427 876 383 or at Graeme@blackdogride.com.au.



Black Dog and rider

Year 8 girls Shine for self-esteem

Chaplain's Corner

Robyn Sinclair, School Chaplain

WELCOME back to the start of a new school year.

Toodyay District High School was fortunate to receive government funding, thanks to the time and effort school principal Tim Martin invested in preparing and submitting the application for funding.

Here is a re-cap of some of the activities that occurred in the last term.

The Shine program for Year Eight girls ran for the full term.

This program was aimed at nurturing a healthy self-esteem in each participant.

It also encouraged the girls to see that they are truly unique individuals; that their lives have a purpose in which they can develop their full potential.

The girls had exposure to a variety of values, skills and insights.

Thank you to Ms Jeanette Young who gave of her time to support the girls and the program.

The boys in the garden group planted watermelon and corn seeds early in the term and now some of the corn ears are visible.

The lunchtime group enjoyed doing various Christmas activities including colouring-in, card-making and sewing items for gifts for the Christmas tree.

On March 6 there will be a Dads and Kids Breakfast sponsored by the Chaplaincy and Youthcare District Council.

I would like to extend my thanks to each and every one on the district council committee for the wonderful work, time and effort fundraising during 2014 to ensure that the Youthcare Chaplaincy remains in the school.

And thank you, Toodyay, for your support. I look forward to your supporting their efforts in 2015.

Mums' morning tea with Wendy after dads' school brekkie

Toodyay YouthCARE Council (Chaplaincy)

Vivienne Freeman, Secretary

THE YOUTHCARE Council held its first meeting for 2015 last month.

Matters discussed included a dads' breakfast on Friday March 6, followed by a mums' morning tea on Wednesday March

11 with our own Wendy Camenzuli the guest speaker.

Our annual quiz night will be on Saturday on June 27.

The students' breakfast club has resumed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings before school starts.

We would like to acknowledge the following for their support in the past year: Shire of Toodyay, Bendigo Bank, Bee Happy, Brewbakers, the Anglican, Baptist, Catholic and Uniting Churches, Cola Café, CWA, Foodbank Perth, Freemasons Hotel, Lions Club, Lotterywest, Makit Hardware, Home Hardware, Op Shop Toodyay, Roadwise, Stable Liquor Store, Sweethearts Café, Toodyay IGA, Toodyay Emporium, Toodyay Butcher, The Victoria Hotel, Wendouree Tea Rooms and 'Friends of Chaplaincy'.

We appreciate their support and ask that in turn you might support them.

Last month's CRE raffle raised \$935.50 with Rob Riley winning 1st prize, Robyn Sinclair 2nd and Sandra Cousins 3rd.

Thank you again Toodyayites for your generous support.

Lavendar Devonshire Teas

Oliomio Olive & Lavendar Farm will open 4th April Easter Weekend

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Landfill, gunfire and anyone for tennis?

Fly on the Wall
Peter Robinson

OPAL VALE'S contentious waste landfill application for a former Chitty Road claypit is before the WA Department of Environment Regulation again.

It prompted a full public gallery that was saved the ordeal of a lengthy Toodyay Shire Council meeting last month when Shire President David Dow decided to move the item to the top of the agenda.

Our council has once again been given an opportunity to submit comment on a new Opal Vale submission that replaces one it withdrew late last year after being told it would fail.

The officer's recommendation was added to with a great number of well thought out and researched amendments from Cr Sally Craddock.

She was fully supported by all councillors, with lengthy discussion only to ensure it was word perfect for staff to replicate their exact views in the submission.

Crs Rosemary Madacs and Sally Craddock are to be commended for their time and effort allocated to this task.

Toodyay RSL successfully applied to move its Anzac Day Gunfire Breakfast after the annual Dawn Service to the Museum / Youth Park in Clinton Street.

The Shire agreed to donate \$10,000 to enable the local RSL to produce a significant memorial event to mark this year's centenary of the Gallipoli landing.

Residents can show their support and respect by attending either the Anzac Day Dawn

Service or Parade later in the morning.

Our long-awaited town entry statement is slowly moving closer.

A company known as Wayfound has been appointed to complete a concept plan at a cost of \$7700.

A final decision is due to be made at the May council meeting.

A new design of playing surface is to be installed at the tennis courts in Fiennes Street, with netball and basketball hoops to be part of the upgrade.

The new surface has a 10-year guarantee, which should last until the courts are moved to the Shire's proposed new recreation centre next to the high school.

The local Vet practice has approval to move to Demasson House, also known as Mrs O'Rielly's cottage, in Stirling Terrace.

There was much discussion with the final vote being 6-3.

NB: a violent storm last month caused damage costing \$70,000 to the rear of the Shire-owned building next to the public library. The building is insured.

Council has now passed its draft environment management strategy.

A discussion on Opal Vale's landfill works approval application was held behind closed doors.

All I can tell you is that the Bayswater waste management company has been given a further six months to prove its case.

This matter is covered elsewhere in the paper.

A very long but productive meeting ended at 11pm after a 4pm start and a dinner break at 6pm.



ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast will no longer be held at old Parks and Gardens Depot (above)

Lauren's off to Borneo to retrace Diggers' footsteps

Toodyay RSL

WE ARE pleased to advise that Lauren Rutley, a student at Toodyay District High School, has been awarded this year's Sandakan Memorial Travel Scholarship.

This extensive tour of Borneo traces the steps of the Dorizzi brothers and Reg Ferguson (all from Toodyay) who lost their lives on the horrific Sandakan Death March during World War II.

It also includes meeting and interacting with local school students and learning about the local culture.

We wish to sincerely thank the following sponsors who have again supported the youth of Toodyay by providing generous donations towards this project:

- Shire of Toodyay;
- Toodyay & Districts Community Bank;
- Toodyay Lions Club;

- The Toodyay Op Shop;
- Dr Michael McGuinness; and
- Rogue Riders Motorcycle Club

We would also like to thank Toodyay District High School for their assistance and encouragement.

Anzac Day 2015

PLANNING for this year's ANZAC Day on Saturday April 25 is well under way with the support of the shire, community groups and individuals.

This is part of a Government and RSL initiative to commemorate 100 years of the Anzac spirit and tradition.

The basic format of Anzac Day will be the same with a number of improvements and additions.

Full details will be published in the next month's *Herald*.

Not just your same old average quiz night

Toodyay Theatre Group – Lights, Camera, Action

IT IS time to kick off 2015 with our Annual Quiz Night.

But it is not just your same old, average quiz night. It is a quiz night with a twist.

The doors will open at 6pm at the Toodyay Memorial Hall on Saturday March 7 and we invite you and your friends to come along for an evening of entertainment provided by the

Toodyay Theatre Group.

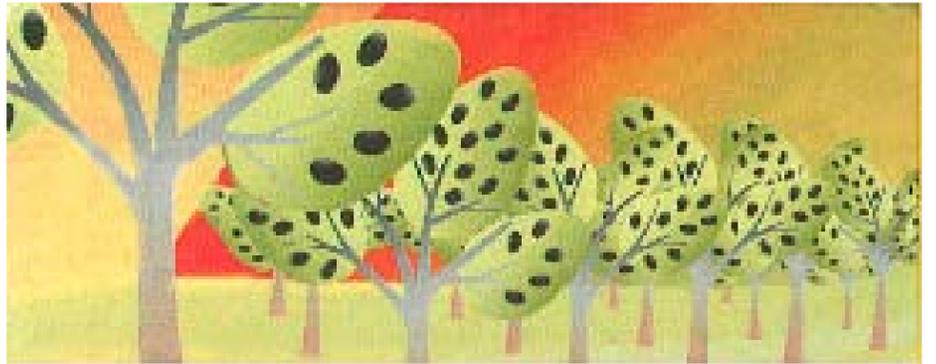
The quiz will commence at 6.30pm with some interactive rounds that you don't usually get at your average quiz.

Bring nibbles but please, no alcohol as we have a fully licensed bar for the evening.

There are 10 tables available with a maximum of 10 people per table.

Tickets are on sale now from Toodyay Makit Hardware for \$10 per person.

Get in quickly to avoid disappointment.



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emergency services

Trusty Big Kev back in action

Bejoording Volunteer Bushfire Brigade

From the desk of The Badger

YUP, WE are whole again.

Big Kev, our trusty old 1.4 fire truck damaged in the January fires, is shiny and renewed with new lockers and a new tank.

He looks 10 years younger (but is still past retirement age – hint hint) and ready for action.

Let's hope Big Kev won't be needed much this month.

Last month saw a number of call outs for which we didn't fail to field a crew but were stood down from most events.

All in all, it's been a pretty good month in our district.

Renewal is the challenge of the day for all brigades and ours is no exception with a number of long-serving key players planning to step down at the AGM.

The shire's full page advert on behalf of all brigades in last month's *Herald* was appreciated and welcomed, and has stimulated conversation about who can step up to key roles, who might consider joining the brigade and what our training agenda should be before next season.

For us it's a case of 'watch this space'.

A number of our volunteers throughout the shire are employed, as opposed to self-employed or retired, and acknowledgement must be given to those good corporate citizens who released employees without penalty for fire duties.

We believe all brigades should publicly give credit and thanks to them.

In our case we thank Bryan Lee, General Manager of the Toyota/Holden dealership in Northam, for allowing an apprentice to take time off to help out at a major fire in Boddington.

We've got through a few stormy days late last month with plenty of electricity and little rain – and fortunately no serious fires.

Let's hope March brings a welcome change of seasonal rains.

Don't forget total fire bans are still in effect. When fire bans are eventually lifted in a few weeks, the Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to remember to always plan and prepare before lighting any fire for any reason.

And remember to always 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 backyard bonfire, so take care.

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

If you have any questions, 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 is Tuesday March 17.

Toodyay fires welcomed with open arms

Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Mick McKeown

AFTER THE hectic period we experienced from Christmas and throughout January, the last month has been relatively quiet on the fire fighting front in Toodyay.

This has not been the case elsewhere in the south-west of the state, especially at Boddington and Northcliffe where two big fires burnt out tens of thousands of hectares of bush.

Fire fighters from all parts of Western Australia and from interstate were called on to assist at these fires.

Members from Toodyay brigades travelled to Boddington as part of a strike force made up from many brigades in the Goldfields-Midland area.

Bush Fire Brigade and Fire and Rescue volunteers took part, staying overnight at Boddington.

To give you an idea of the size of the Boddington fire, the perimeter of the fire was about 150km long.

The size of the fire meant that as the wind direction shifted, the fire fighting effort had to be moved around to be in the best place to contain the fire.

Once again, Toodyay crews, who are very experienced, acquitted themselves well.

One crew was welcomed to the Boddington Control Centre with the comment, "Oh, you're from Toodyay – you'll know how to fight fires."

We're always looking for new members. The training that is provided will not only help you to help others but it will also give you the skills and confidence to help yourself if the need arises.

If you are interested in finding out more about our brigade, please come along to our next meeting which will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24 March 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 or secretary, Wayne Clarke on 6364 3609 or email: 2jcentralvbf@westnet.com.au

Boddington fires drain local resources

Coondle-Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Max Heath

WE START by welcoming Denis Lloyd as a new fire brigade member – we look forward to seeing him on the fire ground as soon as he has completed initial training.

It's also good to see Nick Griggs step up as treasurer as we thank Pat Conway for taking on the position for a while.

A few members attended last month's big Boddington fire, although it wasn't good to have two major fires burning at the same time.

It shows the need for prescribed burning to remove fuel and help stop some fires getting too big and awkward to control.

I recently travelled to Albany and returned via Manjimup where I read an article by Roger Underwood, now retired, in the local paper.

Roger was the regional operations officer for fire and regeneration in Manjimup and is now chairman of the Bushfire Front.

He said the karri forests were once burnt

every eight years or so but now it is nowhere near that often.

It led me to think that some of our local reserves have never been burnt since I arrived in Toodyay in 1954.

We don't have karri forest but the build up in local reserves is considerable and dangerous.

We got off lightly last month with only a couple of local fires and one at Clackline.

Toodyay residents should be concerned that two recent fires – one on Julimar Road and one on private property on Bindoon Road – were deliberately lit.

There were also six ignition points at a recent fire in Baldyville.

This is a cowardly act and puts many lives in danger – the people who do these terrible things need to be caught.

If you see something that looks doubtful, write down the vehicle registration number, description, time and place, and report it immediately to local police (9574 9555) or the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services (9395 9300).

It could one day save your own property or even your life.

We were asked in January to attend the Baptist (Factory) Church in Stirling Terrace to demonstrate our 2.4 fire fighting truck to children on a school holiday activity, let them squirt some water around and show them what the powerful main water jet could do.

The visit included a short talk on what we do and what volunteering to be a fire fighter means to us.

Farmer sidesteps rules to fight fire at home

Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Tim Walker

HOW FAR is too far – a couple of true farmer stories.

Some time ago a farmer who lived in Perth and owned farming land in the Woorloo area, drove to his property following a report of fire.

The road was closed to traffic by the police and the farmer was subsequently stopped from proceeding any further even though the entrance to his property was only a short distance further on.

The farmer weighed up the odds, opted to cut a fence to enter his property, start up his own fire fighting unit and put out the fire as it closed in on the house and sheds.

In another instance, a Narrogin farmer aged 60-65 was fighting a fire on an adjoining property.

He was told to go home by one of the uniformed fire fighters on the basis that he was far too old to be out on the fire ground.

This particular farmer was as tough as

they get, very fit and used to working in hot conditions.

Say that nowadays and it wouldn't be just the farmers but quite a few of the uniformed fire fighters who would have to leave the fire ground.

Back to our monthly notes, but sadly I cannot match the above with anything as interesting depending on your fire fighting background.

Our last meeting decided to proceed with buying and installing new equipment to improve mobile communications in and around the fire shed.

This follows years of frustration due to very poor local reception, including none in the radio room where it was most needed.

Capt. Grant gave a detailed report of the preceding month and thanked volunteer members who attended the Boddington fire and other local fire incidents.

It was generally agreed that this summer was one of the worst for the high number of incidents.

Some who attended the Boddington fire said there were too many units with simply not enough to do – a fact confirmed by senior fire fighters.

Calling up too many units left our own areas somewhat depleted in strength.

Also of considerable concern is the report from our chief fire control officer that confirms the Rugged Hills fire in January was the result of arson – indeed 'too close to home for comfort'.

Our next meeting is on Saturday March 21 at the 'Fire Place' on Julimar Road, opposite Blue Gum Way in Julimar – new members welcome.

The Toodyay Herald

Local Writers' Awards 2015



Categories

- Group A - 5 to 7 years
- Group B - 8 to 11 years
- Group C - 12 to 14 years
- Group D - 15 to 17 years
- Group E - 18 years plus

Conditions of Entry

Entries are open only to residents of the Shire of Toodyay.
Limit of one entry per person.
Closing date for entries to be established, check the Toodyay Herald for more details

The Toodyay Herald and joint sponsors the Toodyay and Districts Community bank invite inspired scribblers to take part in the annual Toodyay Local Writers' Awards.

Forms will be available from the Toodyay Herald Office, Toodyay District High School Toodyay Public Library and Toodyay Community Resource Centre



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?

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Toodyay

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Street Theatre
Plenty of great food
Dress in pioneer costume!



Government of Western Australia
Department of Regional Development



Crystal meth scourge 'knows no boundary'

Police Beat With Sgt Warren Conder

AN INCREASE in drug arrests in Toodyay has prompted local police to again warn that they will use random traffic stops and constant patrols to track down users, dealers and suppliers.

It follows several Toodyay arrests last month, including the seizure of 2.7g of methamphetamine, which police regard as "a considerable amount for personal use".

It coincides with a report by WA Chief Justice Wayne Martin that the number of crimes committed by methamphetamine addicts is "truly frightening".

Justice Martin said it was profoundly disturbing that the problem was far more widespread than seen in court cases.

"It is likely that what we are seeing in the court is only the tip of the iceberg in terms of what is happening in the community," he said.

Methamphetamine – also called ice or crystal meth – is a chemical drug usually made from ephedrine, which is a stimulant used as an ingredient in cough medicine.

It's also used as an appetite suppressant and decongestant.

Justice Martin said the relative ease with which methamphetamine could be made was contributing to its spread.

Heroin and cocaine were both made from natural products not grown in Australia that had to be imported, which provided a point of border control.

But methamphetamine was entirely chemical.

"You can use things you can buy in a hardware store and a recipe off the Internet to make it in about two hours out of the boot of your car," Justice Martin said.

He said the fundamental problem with amphetamine – compared with other drugs such as heroin – was that meth led people to behave irrationally and do things they could not explain.

"With heroin, people tend to slow down, go to sleep," Justice Martin said.

"Methamphetamine makes people think they are superhuman and encourages

48-hour binges during which five serious crimes might be committed.

"The levels of utterly irrational violence we are seeing are quite extraordinary.

"People do bizarre things they wouldn't do if they weren't using meth – people say they can't explain why they did what they did."

Justice Martin said he was "enormously worried" about methamphetamine moving into regional communities.

Toodyay police chief Sgt Warren Conder said Toodyay was no different to any other community.

"Meth knows no boundaries," he said.

"It doesn't discriminate between sex, age, job or status.

"It's a community killer – a truly evil drug."

Sgt Conder, said last month's 2.7g seizure was enough for four or five "hits", depending on quality.

"It's an expensive drug," Sgt Conder said.

An "eightball" – about the size of a small marble and weighing about five grams – can cost up to \$1000 or more, depending on purity and how desperate a person is to buy it.

"Most people turn to illegal activities to feed their drug habit, and Toodyay is not exempt from that.

"It's an easy drug to get into, but not everyone can get off it."

CCTV security urged

RURAL property owners are again urged to be vigilant after the theft of two motorcycles from a locked shed in Keating Road, Moondyne.

Thieves broke into the shed between February 14 and 19 while the owners were away.

Sgt Conder said it highlighted the need to install closed circuit (CCTV) cameras to maintain security, identify offenders and help police trace stolen property.

"You can buy and install a portable camouflaged camera for about \$160," Sgt Conder said.

"They use an invisible black dot instead of a red light and can sense movement for up to six months.

"All you need to do is hide one up a tree and nobody will see it."

Hooligan damage

A SPIKE in graffiti and vandalism has resulted in damage to Toodyay Community Bus shed (see Letters Page 4 and picture right), rocks thrown at houses around town and damage to a fence behind the Heartlands Veterinary Hospital in Stirling Terrace.

The same kids are believed to be involved in several incidents.

Kids have also been seen hanging around the covered seating area of the Coca Cola Cafe after hours.

"That's private property and being there is trespassing," Sgt Conder said.

Yellow stickers

LOCAL police are targeting unregistered vehicles and placing yellow stickers



Bald tyres worn down to the metal can kill

(pictured bottom left) on unroadworthy vehicles for defects such as bald tyres.

"We've seen a massive increase in unregistered vehicles since the licensing authority stopped issuing windscreen stickers a few years ago," Sgt Conder said.

"Mostly it's people who forget but we're noticing a trend.

"It's not an infringement that can be paid with a fine – cases have to go to court, which is an added cost for motorists.

"If we find that registration has only recently expired, we'll allow time for it to be paid.

"However, all owners need to be careful they are not breaking the law."

Police are also targeting bald tyres, frayed or broken seat belts, broken mufflers and sharp edges on damaged vehicle panels.

"Some people drive with tyres worn down

to the metal (see above) which can be fatal in wet weather," Sgt Conder said.

"Others have broken or frayed seat belts which could kill in a rollover or collision.

"We will issue yellow stickers for work orders that allow up to eight weeks to fix defects.

"If it's something like a broken tail light globe that hasn't been noticed, we'll give owners time to get it fixed.

"But we'll issue yellow stickers for badly non-compliant vehicles and repeat offenders.

"The local vehicle licensing centre is Toodyay Autos, in Stirling Terrace, where yellow stickers can be removed when repairs are completed and vehicles pass inspection.

"People who remove yellow stickers illegally face a \$600 fine."



Illegal removal will cost a \$600 fine



Mindless vandalism at the Toodyay Community Bus shed in Piesse Street

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

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

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TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST
HEAPS OF GAMES, PRIZES & FUN
FULLY LICENSED BAR
BYO NIBBLES
SEE YOU SATURDAY FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT

Busy schedule ahead for history addicts

Toodyay Historical Society
Beth Frayne, Events Co-ordinator

OUR 2015 program of events has been issued, so put it up on your fridge and don't forget to come and top up your Toodyay history addiction.

Fourteen members attended last month's successful planning meeting with the Toodyay Historical Society website being voted the major project for the year.

After looking at attendance figures, we have decided to return to Donegan's Cottage for monthly business meetings (apart from the hot months of January and February) and plan to make the cottage more environmentally comfortable.

This year the society will be visiting Waylen Farm, the Old Toodyay Hospital, Goomalling, Slater Homestead and Mundaring Weir.

We will participate, as usual, in Toodyay's special events, but especially two at the Newcastle Gaol: the opening of the Remembering Them ANZAC Exhibition on April 25, and the 150th Anniversary of the gaol on September 12.

In between, we will squeeze in the new Rev Mason Walk, a garage sale and a weekend away to Geraldton for the State History Conference.

We started the year with a summer dinner social at the heritage Duke's Inn (1906) in Northam last month, followed by helping the Toodyay Naturalists' Club with its Clean Up Australia Day Event on Toodyay Road, Morangup.

Our first meeting of the year last month featured a surprise visitor in local resident Colin Yandell, who brought his 1/8th scale model of a 'tip-cart'.

This cart is a 1910-11 style 'Hermaphrodite Wagon' based on an original model held in the Museum of Rural Life, in Reading, UK.

Colin took two years to build the model of a two-wheeled, horse-pulled wagon, which at harvest time, could be converted into a large grain-carrying platform with the addition of another set of wheels.

Peter Fish, grandson of Rev John Mason, visited Toodyay recently to view family places.

The Rev. Mason was the Rector of St



Admiring the model tip cart: L-R: Robyn Taylor, Milton Baxter, Colin Yandell (model maker), Desraé Clarke, Colin Kendall. (Photo: Beth Frayne, 2015)

Stephen's Anglican Church 1919-1928, during which time he started the Toodyay Scout Troop (1920).

Our next meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday March 18 in Donegan's Cottage (note change of venue) at the Showgrounds, with feature speaker Dr Robyn Taylor, on Toodyaypedia, Stage 2.

We will visit Waylen Farm, a working olive farm and Thomas Britts heritage 1860s property, Bindoon Dewars Pool Road on

Sunday March 29; meet at the Visitors Centre 8.30am for carpool or at the farm at 9am. BYO morning tea.

Notice of AGM

OUR ANNUAL General Meeting will be held at 2pm, Sunday April 12 at the CWA Hall, Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

Guest speaker will be renowned jewellery-maker Dr Dorothy Erickson, daughter of our late patron Dr Rica Erickson, who will

present a lecture titled 'Angels in the studio: some professional women artists in Western Australia, c.1890-c.1920'.

For information or assistance related to the society, please contact Secretary Desraé Clarke, desraec@westnet.com.au; President Peter Robinson, 0407 928 500 or committee member Beth Frayne 9574 5971.

Visit us at Donegan's Cottage; open every Thursday, 1pm-3pm. Postal address: PO Box 32, Toodyay WA 6566.



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Large Qty 6m lengths PVC 40mm and 50mm
Large Qty Poly pipe fittings - large and small

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Mulches, blue metal, gravel and sands

OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK

MON 8 am - 5pm

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Creating beautiful things from raw materials

Toodyay Spinners Ange Sturman

WE ALL have a lot of fun every week at spinners and some really interesting pieces are produced.

Heather crocheted an interesting rug of variable blue-white diagonal bands.

Margaret knitted a short-sleeved jumper in a very intricate lace pattern from wool she had spun.

Robyn crocheted a shawl in bright colours and felted a bag.

Our Spinning Group meets every Wednesday from 9am to noon, and same time every 3rd Saturday of the month at Parkers' Cottage in the Toodyay Showgrounds.

The felting group meets on the 2nd Monday of each month from noon to 3pm also at Parkers' Cottage. The felting group contact is Jenny Cornwall on 9574 5978.

For further information please contact Secretary Ange Sturman on 9574 2507 or President Gretta Sauta on 9574 2868.

New members are most welcome and no experience is necessary.



Heather's crocheted rug



Margaret's short-sleeved cardigan, knitted in an intricate pattern from her own home-spun wool

Hi-roller time

2J'ers

IT IS NEARLY gambling time again. A casino trip has been organised for Monday March 23.

It would be great to see you all there.

For more information, please ring Ida on 9574 2858.

Help protect your home:
Join your local bush fire brigade

LIONS Club of Toodyay Inc.



JUMBO AUCTION

We Serve

Expressions of Interest

LIONS Club of Toodyay Inc. are seeking expressions of interest from Community Groups to supply food at the JUMBO AUCTION for approx. 400 people on Saturday 28th March.

The requirements are:
Sausage Sizzle, Burgers, Cool Drinks, Water, Tea and Coffee

Please respond to Jim Silvester by Monday 16th March, email: jim.silvester@bigpond.com or phone **0400 993 637**

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Don't throw it away— give it to the Lions Jumbo Auction

Lions Jumbo Auction
Saturday March 28

ON SATURDAY March 28 Toodyay Lions are hoping to beat last year's Jumbo Auction fundraising total of \$2000.

Registration forms are now available from Toodyay IGA, Tony Maddox Real Estate and Freemasons Hotel.

Lions Club members and friends have spent six weeks preparing for this popular annual event at the Toodyay Showgrounds Oval.

About 15 volunteers will be on roster from Friday March 27 until Saturday, with some staying overnight to watch over the lots.

If you don't want to throw that old piece of furniture (or whatever) out but need to clear a space in your home, bring it along and put it up for auction – someone will love it.

If you're sick of searching through the papers or online for that elusive item, come along – chances are, it'll be there to bid on.

See below for details.

Sellers

A MAXIMUM of 500 lots will be offered for auction.

Lots will be accepted only on Friday March 27 from 8am.

Entry is at the Hockey Oval Gates (not the main gate).

Lots will not be accepted for sale on the day of the auction.

Seller's donation is \$2 per lot plus 10 percent commission on any sales.

Gates open to buyers at 8am on Saturday March 28 and the auction starts at 9am.

Unsold lots must be removed by 5pm on Saturday March 28.

Buyers

GATES open at 8am Saturday March 28 for buyers to inspect lots.

Bidders' tickets cost \$2.

Auctioneering starts at 9am.

General information

FOOD and drinks will be available for sale at the auction.



Setting up the 2014 Lions Club Jumbo Auction

Dogs are not allowed on the oval during the two-day event.

Donations welcome

NOW is the time to have that clean out you are always talking about and help support your local Toodyay Lions at the same time.

Donations of unwanted treasures will be warmly accepted.

Lions members are available, if needed, to collect your donated items.

Contact

For further information or assistance, please contact Toodyay Lions President Jim Silvester on 9574 4695 or 0400 993 637.



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We Serve

LIONS Club of Toodyay Inc.

JUMBO AUCTION

Important information for SELLERS

There will be a maximum of 500 Lots for the entire event.

Lots will be accepted on Friday 27th March 2015 from 8:30am.

PLEASE NOTE: Sellers with Lots of 15-20 (20 Maximum) are accepted by prior arrangement only.

Please advise by Close of Business Friday 20th March to Jim Silvester on 9574 4695, or email: toodyaylions@bigpond.com

Large and expensive items call Jim Silvester 9574 4695 or Steele Williams 9574 2903, please leave message.

Delivery of these items will be on 27th March 2015 after 10.30am.

Entry is at the Hockey Oval Gate (not the main gate).

No Lots will be accepted for sale on the day of the Auction.

Lots NOT sold must be removed by 5pm on the day of the Auction.

Auctioning of the goods will commence at 9am sharp on Saturday morning.

Seller's donation is \$2 per lot plus 10% commission on sale amount.

Important information for BIDDERS

Gates open at 8am for viewing lots and purchasing of your \$2 buyer's tickets. Food and Drinks will be available for purchase at the Auction

NO DOGS ARE PERMITTED ON THE OVAL DURING THE 2 DAY EVENT

Not just hatched, matched and dispatched

Bejoording Community Group News
From the desk of the Badger

WRITING a monthly column for a community group can be quite a challenge. We all know what we've done, who's had a birthday, got married, won a prize and so on, so we don't need a column to be reminded. As for the rest of shire, do they really want to know the minutiae of our lives up here beyond the white line or read our 'in jokes' - I suspect not. That got me to thinking it might be an idea to share with everyone the Badger's thoughts on the value of a community group,

especially in an area such as Bejoording which isn't a town so doesn't have a shop or a post office. The only focal point we have is a shed we share with the volunteer bush fire brigade. But oh how important that shed is. It's the one place where everyone knows they can turn up on a Wednesday evening and be made welcome by their neighbours and near neighbours. If you have visitors, you can bring them to meet your local friends. There are no silos and everyone is equally welcome, whether you come only a few times a year or every week.

If you are standing alone, without fail someone will engage you in conversation. You can bring your children - you can even bring your dogs. It's a gossip fest of the kindest kind - it's how we keep up with what's going on. On any night there can be serious or light-hearted discussions going on about a wide range of subjects from music to movies, books to bars, politics to pumps, fashions to food, harvests to *The Herald*, or sports to supercars. Often a number of such conversations are happening around the shed on different topics at the same time, and others are simply catching up with each other. While there is always a small group of dedicated people who ensure the group keeps going, there are many who contribute to its success. Every week someone volunteers to bring some snacks to pass around, and every month there's at least one significant event. It might be a feast night on a Wednesday, a group car outing to a country pub on a weekend, Melbourne Cup day or Mud Footy day. All these things are the lifeblood of a community and what binds it together. So if your community seems to be lacking focus or togetherness, consider getting a few friends together and starting a community group.

Crafty ladies win window display

Friday Craft Group
The Crooked Needle

THE LADIES of the craft group have started 2015 with a bang following on from the success of 2014. We were lucky enough to end the year winning the Wendouree Cafe window display for Christmas. A big thank you to the girls who set it all up and to the ladies who shared their crafts for the display. Since then we have also had a display for Australia Day and also Valentine's Day. Our next effort will be brightening up Wendouree's window with an Easter theme. During the year we hope to have special windows for different themes. We will also have competition windows so that the public can vote for favourite items made by our ladies.

After much discussion we have decided to move our weekly get-together to the community centre on Friday mornings from 9.30am to noon. Please remember to bring your own cup for morning tea. Annette - who not only sews beautifully but also cooks superbly - has volunteered to bake a cake for each month's birthday girls. We even had a male visitor and welcomed him warmly - I must say he remained quite quiet for the whole three hours.

Led by our motivator, Gail, we had a great discussion on what we aim to do for the year. Many ideas were forthcoming - mosaics, doll-making, doll house decorating, and making knitted toys for disadvantaged children here and overseas.

Some things looked too intricate so I have forgotten those because I immediately thought 'I can't do that'. One of our own has found herself back in hospital again.

We wish Margaret a speedy recovery and hope she is not in for a long haul like last year.

If you are looking for a fun group to be part of, just roll on up and you will be made welcome.

You may even have a skill that other may want to try.

Do the right thing - make sure it's the right bin

News from Bolgart and Surrounds

WHEN visiting the local recycling shed during the summer holidays, I noticed quite a few aluminium cans in the bales marked for plastic material. I notified the school of this so that something could be done before the goods were carted to Goomalling for recycling. Recycling is a good source of income for the local Parents' and Citizens' Association and goes towards helping the school in a small way.

It is best this source of income is not jeopardised. There have been four new little kindergarten people who have started at Bolgart School this term - congratulations on this new venture. The district is sorry to farewell the Quadrio family who have been at the school for quite some time and we wish them well at their new school. All seems to be running smoothly according to the school newsletter, which is always good to know. It is absolutely wonderful to note the work being undertaken at the junction of Toodyay/Goomalling Road and the Bejoording and Irish Town Roads. I'm sure that most folk would agree that the intersection has needed to be improved for quite a long period of time due to the number of fatalities that have occurred there over the years. It has been a season for out-of-control bush fires with one recently within the Victoria Plains Shire area. It seemed to have begun in the army grounds, worrying people on nearby properties for some time. I'm sure we all appreciate the work done by the fire control officers for our benefit in keeping our properties safe.

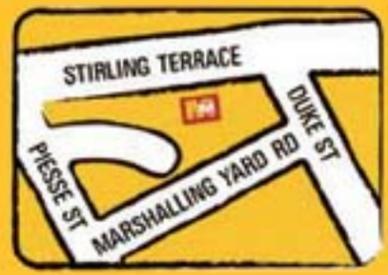


It will grow

YOU MAY get only a few people to begin with but if it works it will grow. Your monthly reminder - we meet every Wednesday evening (except in January) at 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 and you never know who you'll meet. 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.



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Dust won't be a problem in our new premises

Avon Woodturners
Max J Heath

IT LOOKS like it won't be long until I have to start with something else as there seems to be movement afoot down Railway Road.

We recently acquired a dust extractor and shelving from a local business that is sadly closing down. So we are set for when we shift into new premises.

This will be a good start for us as the dust extractor should handle about six lathes and make a cleaner and safer work environment.

At the moment our timber is just stacked in a pile under a bench so, with shelving, we can better sort, display and select timber.

When we acquire green timber, also, we can place it on racks to dry correctly.

We continue to be busy at wood turning and have had a couple of visitors interested in joining our happy band.

Convener David Doye has been doing some competition work on Sunday mornings and it's a pleasure to see.

Another craft fair was held at El Caballo and a few of us ventured there to demonstrate our craft.

There were many more participants this time although the crowd seemed to be about the same as last November.

Well that is about all from the Woodturners for this month and as Roadwise says – don't drink and drive.

Gynaecology talk not to be missed

Country Women's Association

BY THE TIME you read this, our first meeting for 2015 will have elected office bearers for the coming year.

CWA policy is that no one may hold office for more than three years running.

This doesn't affect anyone at present and we expect to be able to report next month that present office bearers were re-elected.

We held a planning meeting in January, an informal get-together to ensure functions and outings were spread evenly across the year.

We like to have a fun day each month in addition to the formal meeting.

Events, such as birthdays (Toodyay will be 88 in June), our State Conference in Dunsborough this year and the Cancer morning tea, appear every year.

Others, such as the Kath Mazella Gynaecological Awareness Information Network (GAIN) evening on Thursday April 30 need to be entered on the calendar to ensure we do not inadvertently put something else in that space.

The CWA Australia Day church service this year was held in St George's Cathedral.

Venerable Peter Bourne took the service.

Peter is the Vicar of St Stephen's in Toodyay and also Country Region Archdeacon in the Diocese of Perth.

CWA State President Sara Kenny read the welcome and our Secretary, Vivien Street, who attended with Dixie Mackenzie, read one of the lessons.

All are welcome at these annual services which take place in a different location each year.

Mt Helena-Parkerville CWA will host the annual Gathering of the Birds this year on Wednesday March 11.

'Birds' from surrounding branches will gather to discuss and plan the coming year and enjoy fun, food and friendship.

The evening of Thursday April 30 is one to keep free.

Kath Mazella from GAIN will give a talk on the organisation and its vision for every woman to have the opportunity, knowledge, confidence and support to obtain optimal gynaecological and sexual health.

GAIN is a non-profit organisation established in 2001 and is run by volunteers.

Kath will speak from experience, having survived gynaecological cancer.

We strongly recommend you have a look at the website, www.gain.com.au.

Our ever-popular White Elephant Stall will be held in June and all donations will be gratefully received.

Most importantly, come along – there's sure to be a bargain with your name on it.

Fashion parade

Last year, the ladies from the Toodyay Op Shop thrilled all those present with their flair and creativity in putting together a fashion parade from their stock.

Exclamations of "I would never have thought of that" could be heard as each new combination was paraded for our enjoyment.

We immediately invited the Op Shop ladies to return and they will in August.

Remember, the Op Shop is staffed by volunteers and all profits are returned to Toodyay.

If you are attending the Anzac Day services this year look for the members of Toodyay CWA who will be distributing Anzac biscuits.

Catering Officer Trish Chitty helped provide food and drink for fire crews during the December fire in Toodyay.

In January, four CWA members worked from 6pm to midnight at the Bindoon fire to help the Salvos feed fire crews.

The huge debt owed by the community to volunteers was acknowledged at last month's

Thank a Volunteer function organised by the Shire with the help of the Community Resource Centre and Bendigo Community Bank.

Treasurer Jenny Clarke and Joy Cruickshank represented Toodyay CWA at the event.

Research by Dr Lisel O'Dwyer of Flinders University measures the contribution of volunteers to the Australian economy at close to \$300 billion, more than from other major revenue sources such as mining and agriculture.

This figure is arrived at by valuing not just wages saved by volunteer workers but property saved and also the lives saved by fire fighters and life savers.

So thank you indeed to all volunteers.

Thanks also to Sean Byron and his worker Matthew who have given our hall fans and lights a new lease of life.

Not only does everything work properly but all the lights now come on with just one switch – very happy, Sean and Matthew.

We are also all very pleased to see President Maxine Walker, who was slowed recently by ill-health, is now well along the road to recovery.

We wish you good health and renewed vigour in the coming year Maxine.

As reported in February, the topic of hall fees was raised at our last meeting in 2014 and it was agreed that these should be raised from \$10 to \$15 per hour.

Rates, utilities and insurance costs 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.

We feel sure you will agree the new rate is not excessive, particularly when compared with other venues.

For hall bookings, please call Glenys Clabaugh on 9574 5110 or 0427 478 3255.

We meet at 1.30pm every 4th Thursday of the month at the CWA Hall, next to the Garden Centre in Stirling Terrace.

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

Autumn Club bowls into 2015

Autumn Club
Mike Cox

AFTER the break for Christmas the club returned at the beginning of February to start the new year activities.

One or two members are still on holiday (lucky ones) but we hope to see them back soon.

Our first outing in February was a game of carpet bowls at the Northam Seniors Club.

Birthdays are: Jeff Porter on February 1; Brian Bosnjak March 7; Ida Edwards March 10; Wes Smith March 15; and Christina Wright March 28.

We wish them a very happy birthday from all of us at the Autumn Club.



Notice Of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Toodyay Race Club will be held on Friday 13th March 2015 at the Race Course, commencing at 7pm.

All members and prospective members are encouraged to attend. This year we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Club and we hope to make the 2015 Picnic Race Day the highlight of the Toodyay Calendar.

We do need more people to become involved and join the Committee, or to take on roles to ensure that we stage an event worthy of the 150th milestone.

Constitutional amendments have been proposed and circulated to Members; if you require details, please contact the Secretary.

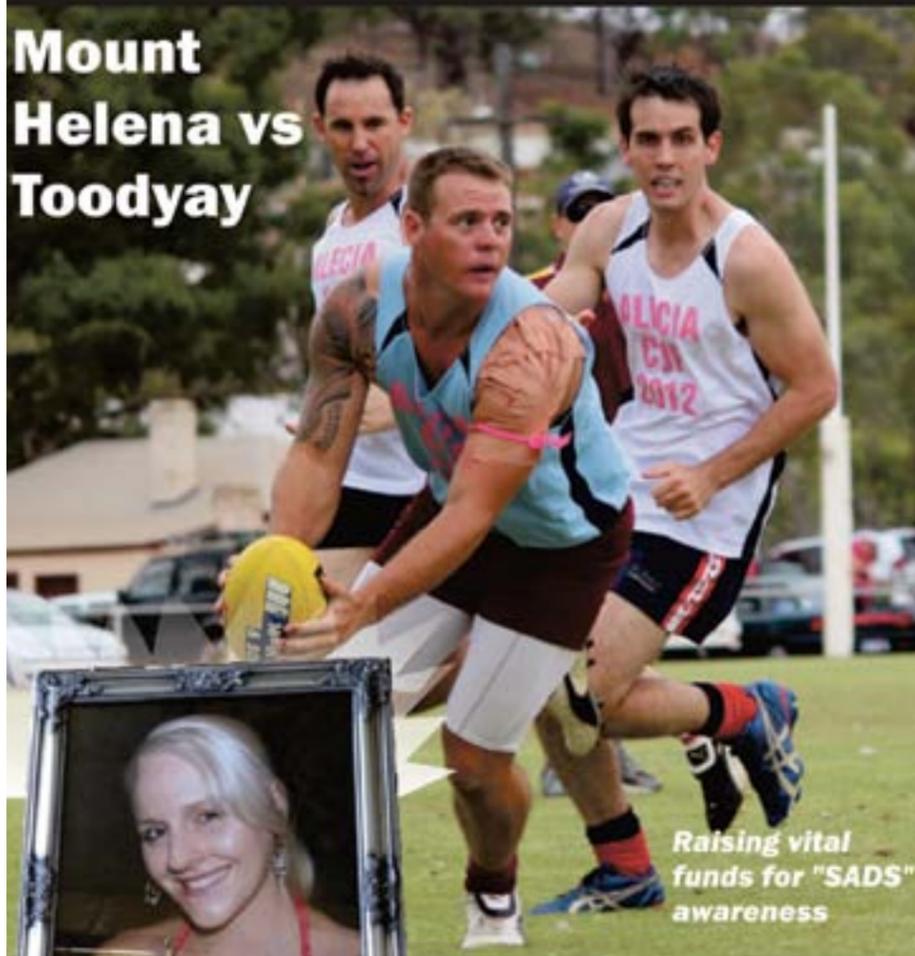
To assist with catering, please notify us of your intention to attend and should you wish to nominate for a Committee position, please also notify the Secretary on 9574 4897

150th ANNIVERSARY YEAR



Alecia's ANNUAL FOOTY MATCH

Mount Helena vs Toodyay



Raising vital funds for "SADS" awareness

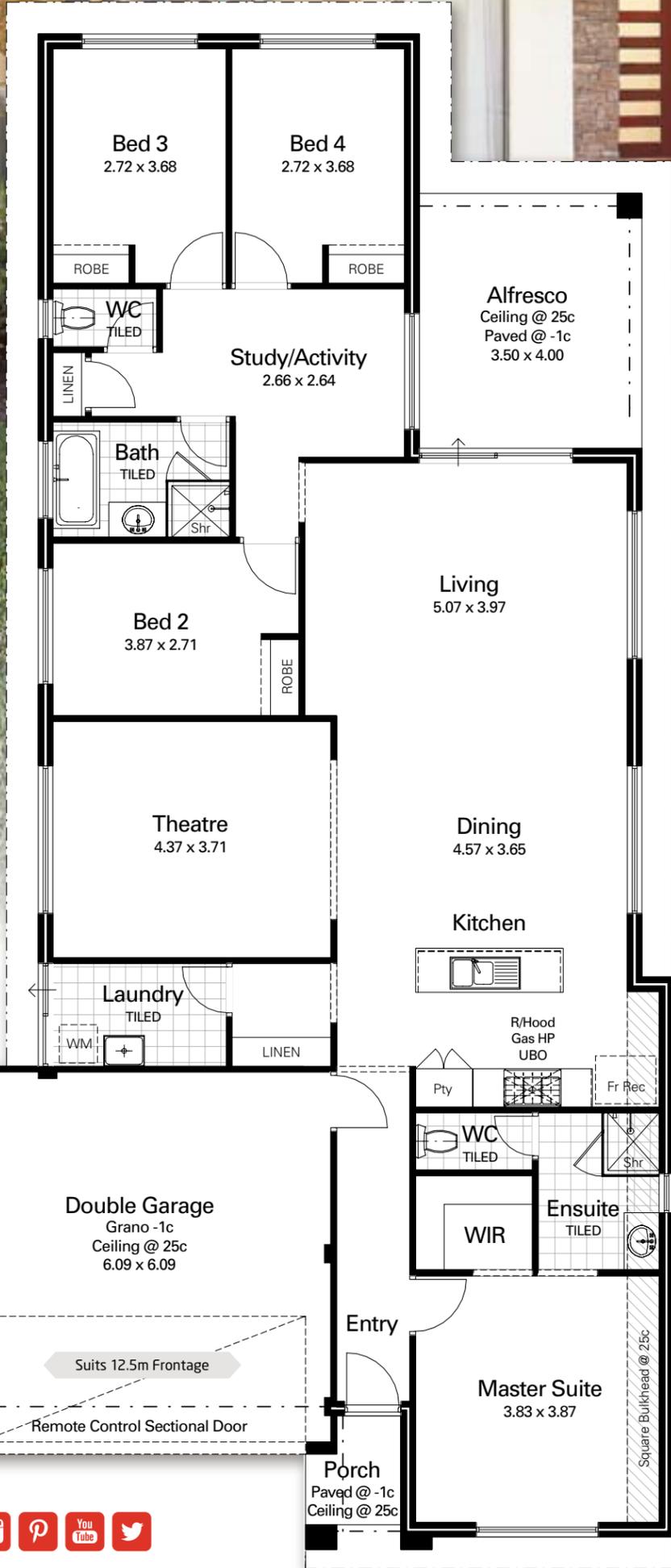


Date: Sunday 29th March, 2015
Time: 1 pm Kick-Off
Location: Mount Helena Oval
Kiosk and Bar facilities available

Raffle on the day, with funds raised going to "SADS"

This year's design.

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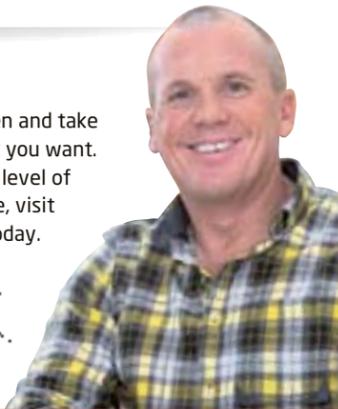
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LEFT: Zoe aims for a wicket. ABOVE: Being zombies. RIGHT: Addison's pearl beads



Doing the Theatre Games caterpillar walk

Jaye lines up for a backhand return

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Nicholas bowls a beauty

Inclusive School Holiday Program

Kristee Jolly

THE FIRST Toodyay Inclusive Holiday Program was a big success with 162 people taking part in seven sessions of sport and recreation in the final week of the January school holidays.

Community organisation Inclusion WA and the Shire of Toodyay joined local clubs and groups to offer the free community-based activities.

The program aimed to offer a range of school holiday activities, which can be a socially isolating time for many people.

It connects people of all abilities and backgrounds with local groups to help bring them closer together and feel welcome in the community.

"The program is really good at encouraging people to try new sports and recreational activities," Inclusion WA's Ciara King said. "We had a fantastic response from the whole community - many participants took the next step by joining local clubs."

Toodyay Shire Executive Support Officer Kristee Jolly said it was great to see

enthusiastic participants joining local clubs. "This program has been great at bringing our entire community together," she said.

More than 18 percent of participants were indigenous and more than 12 percent had a disability.

About half didn't belong to clubs or groups, showing the program helped connect people not linked to local community activities.

"This program is unique because it promotes participation not just for kids but also parents, carers and others," Ms Jolly said.

"We all want to live in a well-connected, vibrant community, and this initiative promotes Toodyay as a well-connected, inclusive town."

The Toodyay Inclusive Holiday Program returns for the April school holidays and is open to everyone. For more information, please call Ms Jolly on 9574 2133.

Funeral

If you are in need of a funeral director you need to know:

- That all funeral directors **do not charge the same**, as there is no recommended scale of fees in the industry.
- That Thompson's Funeral Services offers a dignified burial service which includes a quality rosewood coffin, funeral notice in the West Australian newspaper, floral casket spray, ministers offering, cemetery fees, registered death certificate, hearse travel to Toodyay and professional service fee for **\$6821** (gst inclusive).
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Shire of Toodyay

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Invitation for Submissions 2015/2016 Budget

The Shire of Toodyay invites written submissions from individuals, community groups and businesses on any aspect of the Budget in relation to:

- Special Projects (including Events);
- Maintenance; and
- Improvements in Infrastructure and services.

An Application for Funding can be obtained by contacting Merridith Lamb on (08) 9574 9304 or by visiting Council's website www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/forms.aspx

Submissions should be received by **4.00PM on Friday 27 March 2015** and should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566. Submissions may be emailed to records@toodyay.wa.gov.au

If you require further information or have any queries in relation to the above please contact Manager Corporate Services, Cherie Delmage on (08) 9574 9308.

Stan Scott
Chief Executive Officer