

# The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned  
community newspaper  
Est. 1902

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

May 2015  
335



Bushranger Joe struggles to evade capture during this year's spectacularly successful Moondyne Festival. More pictures Page 19

## Moondyne magic draws bumper crowd

THE FAMOUS SHARRON – ‘who’s not really famous for anything, dah-lings’ – almost stole the show as master of ceremonies from Joe and his Gang at this year’s spectacular new-look Moondyne Festival in Toodyay.

An estimated 6000 people – including 60 visitors from Perth on a special AvonLink train – jammed the length of Stirling Terrace for a full day of fun, entertainment and activity, joined by dozens of locals dressed in 19th Century colonial garb.

Famous Sharron was the glue that held it together from a stage in front of the Victoria

Hotel, surrounded by floozies, colonial soldiers, coppers, lawyers and a judge, assembled for two mock trials of pistol-toting Moondyne Joe and his two armed accomplices.

Led by their gaudily glammed-up host, hundreds of people yelled “Let go Joe” in unison and screamed in delight at every hilarious twist in the plot.

This year’s trial script was better and many players – particularly the floozies – engaged more directly in audience participation.

The festival itself was also much better organised with a much-improved public

address system and bigger variety of attractions – including a fun fair, camel rides, trapeze artist and giant bubble blower – and more displays and food stalls.

A new colonial village with a bush band created a glimpse of history.

The gods smiled on Toodyay with a beautifully mild autumn day.

By nightfall, rain was falling steadily but the town’s eerily empty main street after the clamour of the day had already been swept spotlessly clean as if nothing had happened – a truly amazing feat to cap another marvellous community day for Toodyay.



A big contingent marches in the Stirling Terrace Anzac Day Parade. Picture: Lou Kidd

## Hundreds turn out for Anzac Centenary commemoration

ABOUT 750 people – possibly a record – joined this year’s Anzac Day Service in Toodyay to mark the centenary of the Gallipoli landings in Turkey in 1915.

It marked the culmination of three local Anzac Day commemorations, including a moving war memorial tribute performed by the Toodyay Theatre Group.

The commemorations also included the traditional Gunfire Breakfast at a new site in the Youth Park in Clinton Street near Newcastle Gaol Museum.

More stories page 10, pictures page 6.

Toodyay – National Tidy  
Towns Champion 2015  
this month



Brigades honoured  
Pages 3, 7 and 8



Anzac Day ceremony  
Pages 6 and 10



Teddy Bears’ Picnic  
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Toodyay Farmers Market  
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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](mailto:advertising@toodyayherald.com.au). Editorial contributions and photographs should be emailed to [news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto: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

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

Printed by Rural Press

## THANK YOU

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

## ADVERTISING

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<b>May 20</b>	<b>May 25</b>

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# Ol' Blind Joe

## Life and death

### Stirling Hamilton

THIS SUBJECT has sat at my table and broken bread with me recently while I've been building some stone memorial gardens at the old Culham Church cemetery on Bindi Bindi Road, where many of Toodyay's pioneers rest their weary souls.

It's one of the most peaceful worksites I've ever been on and I'm certain there's lots of folks looking over my shoulder, but no one ever complains.

The other day we were packing up and my mate said to me "leave the tools here, who'd steal them from a cemetery", and after a moment's hesitation I had to agree with him as churchyards are the sacred sites of our culture and it's hard to imagine someone nicking stuff from them.

Later, he was spinning a yarn about how 30 years back he had found these medals at the tip, belonging to half a dozen veterans from two World Wars.

One of them was even a major and he reckoned he never really knew what to do with them.

So we took the medals down to the Toodyay Anzac Day Centenary Dawn Service, and after the last post we passed them on to the blokes that knew them best.

When we die, it often seems that we live on in the memories of loved ones for a couple of generations and then quietly fade away into the past.

French novelist Marcel Proust (1871-1922) wrote that people do not die for us immediately but remain bathed in a sort of aura of life which bears no relation to true immortality but through which they continue to occupy our thoughts in the same way as when they were alive - it is as though they were travelling abroad.

German-born theoretical physicist Albert Einstein (1879-1955) said: "Our death is not an end if we can live on in our children and the younger generation. For they are us, our bodies are only wilted leaves on the tree of life."

Of course, being the inveterate cheeky bugger he always was, Einstein later said: "Now he has departed from this strange world a little ahead of me. That signifies nothing. For us believing physicists, the distinction between past, present, and future is only a stubbornly persistent illusion."

Try wrapping your thinking gear around that one - every time I do and roll it into a ball and bounce it off a wall, it shatters.

But we're not the only ones carking it.

### Extinction culture

A RECENT CSIRO study concluded that Australia's roughly 15 million feral cats kill an estimated 75 million native animals each night.

Australia has the world's worst mammal extinction rate, losing on average one or two species every decade since the 1840s.

The Outback needs people like indigenous rangers to manage things such as fire and feral animals, but, sadly, there are fewer people living in much of remote Australia than at any time in the past 50,000 years.

Lord Colin Barnett (the Compassionate One) has decreed that he will close 150 remote Aboriginal communities, evict those people from their land and banish them to live on the outskirts of big towns such as Broome and Fitzroy Crossing.

In a court of law we require these people to demonstrate an unbroken relationship with any lands subject to native title negotiations.

How easy it is just to kick them off the little bits of land they've got left and then there's no need for all that tiresome negotiating business which frustrates the big miners.

In our culture we would be appalled should some numbskull vandalise a place of worship or the graves of our ancestors.

But for the Aboriginal person, his church is in the rocks and trees and the billabong at the foot of that hill over yonder.

The Welsh call it Hiraeth, meaning a longing or homesickness tinged with grief or sadness over a bond with one's home country.

They tried to explain it to the Norman/English invaders in the 12th century but realised that the newcomers didn't feel the same connection because they had conquered many lands and just didn't understand.

The Aboriginals weren't angels and they conducted their own ecocide when they lobbed here 50,000 years ago and proceeded to eat every damn thing that couldn't run away fast enough.

Dirty great wombat the size of a VW?

Beauty - that'll feed the mob for a month.

Coupled with the use of fire to manage their environment, they ended the reign of megafauna that had roamed these fair lands for millennia.

Wiser heads eventually took a look around and thought, 'bugger, that's no good' and they developed a complex system of totemic creatures for each tribe to revere and protect to ensure the survival of the breeding stock of that species.

Aboriginal oral folklore tells how the Great Barrier Reef once formed part of the north-east Queensland coastline, while Port Phillip Bay in Victoria was once a rich place for hunting kangaroo and opossum.

Researchers now believe these stories, found to be geologically correct, constitute some of the world's oldest accurate oral histories, passing through some 300 generations.

Not bad for a mob of blackfellas sitting around a campfire while us whitefellas are still arguing whether the planet's only 6000 years old and built in six days.

There is a spiritual tragedy occurring in the bush while these people are being kicked off their lands, and with us being among the richest nations on earth there is no excuse for us to cast them into the darkness.

*Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid.*  
 ~American writer and theologian Frederick Buechner (1926-).

## 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 PO Box 100 Toodyay WA 6566 [feedback@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:feedback@toodyayherald.com.au)

### Office Hours

Highlighted days only

May / June 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6 CLOSED	7	8 CLOSED	9
10	11 CLOSED	12	13 9am - 1pm	14	15 9am - 1pm	16
17	18 9am - 1pm	19	20 Advert deadline 9am - 1pm	21	22 9am - 1pm	23
24	25 Story deadline 9am - 1pm	26	27 9am - 1pm	28	29 May 9am - 1pm	30
31	1 9am - 1pm	2 CLOSED	3 CLOSED	4 CLOSED	5 CLOSED	6 CLOSED

# Town salutes emergency services heroes



About 70 emergency services volunteers and 20 vehicles from the Toodyay Shire's fire, ambulance and new State Emergency Services units took part in a biennial Freedom of Entry Parade down Stirling Terrace earlier this month. It was followed at the Toodyay Showgrounds by a presentation of service medals, fire hose demonstrations and tug-o-war contest won by the Shire's new High Season Brigade, who donated their \$300 prize to the Toodyay Scouts Group. Coondle brigade members were called away to a fire just before this picture was taken and are missing from the shot. More pictures Pages 7 and 8.

## Local residents fear death trap on Harders Chitty Road

FARMERS and other land-holders in Harders Chitty Road have appealed to the Toodyay Shire Council to seal a gravel section of their road as soon as possible for fear someone may be seriously hurt or killed using it.

They say poor design of the unsealed road and severe windscreen glare from its east-west orientation at sunrise and sunset make it an accident waiting to happen.

The road is also prone to flooding in winter. A submission by 24 local residents has called on the shire to set aside money in its forthcoming budget to seal the 4.5km stretch of gravel road in the new financial year.

Local spokesman Bruce Guthrie said there were 27 homes along the gravel road.

It runs from where Toodyay West Road meets Julimar Road, and ends near Malkup Brook, about nine kilometres east of the Toodyay townsite.

Residents estimate up to 10 service vehicles use the unsealed road weekly or more often, and at least 12 local businesses use it at least twice a day.

"There are many driveways and farm gates along the full length of the road," Mr Guthrie said.

"We are most concerned for the safety of all road users as a result of the poor and slippery surface, especially during rainy periods.

"Sunrise and sunset is blinding, especially when dense dust from the unsealed gravel surface reduces visibility.

"The possibility of a serious accident is real."



Crest danger on Harders Chitty Road

"We also believe that a substandard vertical alignment in the road's construction causes poor stopping distances."

Local residents have measured stopping distances along the gravel stretch and say impacts are unavoidable if sudden braking is required at 60 or 70km/h.

Toodyay Shire President David Dow said submissions had been received from local residents to seal Harders Chitty Road.

The unsealed gravel road had been included in a bus tour by councillors last month to inspect projects for which funding had been sought.

"It was one of several road works requests we looked at in April," Cr Dow said.

"Works and Services Manager Les Vidovich will do all the sums and put funding recommendations to council as part of the works budget.

"There won't be a decision until the council's July budget meeting."



Bruce Guthrie (third from left) with fellow residents who want their gravel road sealed

## New emergency services chief named

SENIOR local volunteer fire fighter Robert Koch has been appointed new Chief Emergency Services Manager for the Shires of Toodyay and Goomalling.

He takes over from Corry Munson, who stepped down at the end of the recent fire season after filling it temporarily for 12 months.

Rob is a lieutenant in Toodyay's Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, a local Scouts leader and a former WA Department of Lands cartographer.

Toodyay Shire CEO Stan Scott said Rob would bring a strong mix of professional and community skills to the key role, including first-hand experience fighting Toodyay's disastrous 2009 bush fire.



New Chief Emergency Services Manager for Toodyay and Goomalling, Robert Koch

# AQUARIUS

## FREIGHT



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# The Toodyay Herald

## Community service

IT'S BEEN an extraordinary month of community action in Toodyay, as you'll see from reading this latest edition of *The Toodyay Herald*.

It began last month with the Teddy Bears' Picnic and first Toodyay Farmers' Market, then a memorable Anzac Day and exciting emergency services' Freedom of Entry Parade and ended with a spectacular new-look Moondyne Festival.

It's probably fair to say there is no other town in WA – or possibly Australia – that can turn it on the way Toodyay does.

It was also cathartic experience for many after a long, hot and scarily dry summer in which the threat of another calamitous bushfire seemed always only a gust of wind away.

That sense of relief is evident in this month's volunteer bush fire brigade reports in our emergency services pages.

Missing this month is our regular Police Beat round-up – local police chief Warren Conder is on long service leave but will be back next month with all the latest law enforcement news for you to read.

We take quiet pride in thinking there is no other newspaper in Australia quite like *The Toodyay Herald*.

Like most of the other key groups in the shire, *The Herald* is a not-for-profit organisation managed by local people who volunteer their time to make it all happen.

We don't measure success by how much money – if any – we make but by the contribution we can make to the community we serve.

I can safely say that this is true as I write this editorial at 1am while the printer rings from Mandurah every hour to ask when can we send him this month's edition to put on the overnight presses.

There seems to be an attitude in some quarters that this newspaper is controlled by a small group of people from out of town with an axe to grind about what may or may not be happening in their backyard.

It needs to be said loud and clear – including to some on the Toodyay Shire Council – that nobody tells this editor what to put in the paper.

I have worked as a professional journalist for 43 years and wear an Australian Journalists' Association badge with pride on my jacket.

It binds me to a code of ethics that requires editorial independence, whether it be from political interference by meddling proprietors or to protect confidential sources from unwanted disclosure.

That's the kind of newspaper this community deserves and we at *The Herald* intend to ensure that's what you get.

Michael Sinclair-Jones  
Editor



*The way we were – an unidentified Afghan trader sits with his horse-drawn cart c 1930s. As new railroads reached the Eastern Goldfields and camel teams moved inland, some Afghans became traders or worked to help clear land for new farms. Two Afghans – Sunda Singh and Budnah Singh – became an accepted part of Toodyay life for more than 30 years. They sold shirts, boots, dresses, hats, ribbons, laces, shawls, needles and thread, which were welcomed by farmers' wives who rarely travelled to Perth. Some hawkers later started profitable general stores in country towns. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum. Additional information from 'Old Toodyay and Newcastle', by Rica Erickson.*

## Letters

### Trapped pet shot

MY AWESOME cat Tigger was recently trapped by a neighbour and shot.

I discovered this only after my cat had been missing for a few days.

I checked with my neighbours to see if they had seen him – there was my cat lying dead in their vegetable garden.

I was heartbroken to see him there.

There was nothing feral about Tigger – he was the most affectionate of cats and always slept indoors at night.

Imagine how terrified he would have been caught in a trap all night and not being able to come home.

I only wish I had heard him crying so I could have rescued him in time.

He was a beloved member of my family – I can't have children so my animals are like children to me.

Pets are like family to most people, and some people's actions can cause a lot of unnecessary grief.

There is a process that should be followed if you trap an animal.

Firstly, it would be considerate to check with your neighbours to ensure it is not a loved member of their household.

Secondly, call a shire ranger to collect the animal, check if it is micro-chipped and contact the owner.

Please be more aware of your neighbours and their pets.

Name and address supplied

### Poised at crossroads

AFTER FIVE decades' experience of the impact of mining on a community, I find it frustrating that open-cut mining and landfill are being touted for the region.

There are many other positive and sustainable ways this community can grow.

Many people in Toodyay and the wider region are progressive and implementing unique and environmentally sound businesses to ensure opportunities for future generations.

Mining has no sustainable or generational community benefit, no matter where it is.

Having lived in a mining area with significant exploitation, it was – and still is – devastating on the community.

Local people and those in the wider region (broad-acre agriculture, small-scale farming, tourism operators, small unique businesses, bed and breakfast accommodation and families) will not reap many rewards.

Some work will go to a very small number of contractors and trades people during the infrastructure building phase, and a few skilled operators will get work.

Beyond this there will be no real benefit.

Local rents will rise when most workers from 'out of town' move here for the single purpose of operating a mine, then leave when it's done.

A few people will capitalise on this small window of opportunity – but at what cost?

Locals will not be first in line for jobs because experience has shown that most mine workers are from outside the local

community (WA and Queensland have many reports documenting this).

In addition, lifestyle in Toodyay and the wider region will suffer if the mine works 12-hour shifts that are not family-friendly.

As a result, fewer people will volunteer for sports and other activities that sustain a community because people's lifestyles change with mining – we stop having time for families, friends and the community.

The environment will be left with an ugly surface scar, precious top soil removed, and water and habitat degraded.

Companies – no matter how much glossy paper is used to promote them – do not rehabilitate the environment back to its natural state, and the ecosystem will be significantly disturbed beyond repair during the period of operation.

Nothing stands still and I embrace progress, but there are many other ways for Toodyay and the beautiful Avon Valley to grow and keep its uniqueness, such as through food production, eco tourism, bed and breakfast accommodation and farm stays, arts and crafts, historic sites and exciting festivals and events.

We have a massive opportunity to work together to increase trade, employment and excitement.

I believe Toodyay is right now at an important crossroads and poised to be the next "best thing" – think Margaret River and Fremantle 30 years ago.

So let's be progressive and take advantage of being a unique 'country experience' just an hour's travel from a major city with all the benefits this can bring.

Helen Shanks  
Toodyay

### Love the local 'rag'

THANK YOU. I adore *The Herald*.

As a new 'Toodyayan' I was quite chuffed to see a real newspaper being professionally rolled out each month.

I admit that I stopped reading newspapers years ago, as I found they were filled more with dross and adverts, with mistakes sprinkled liberally throughout in grammar, spelling and facts, that I no longer could abide reading them.

It's terrific to read real news – current and factual, beautifully edited and nicely presented.

That there is a fair scattering of opinions is also heartening. It reminds me of the old Perth Daily News.

Thanks to all that sweat over this wonderful 'rag' every month. Love what you do.

Debi Haggitt  
West Toodyay

### Blokes in perspective

IN RESPONSE to two letters to the editor about the March Warriors Wellbeing article 'Let blokes be blokes – we're not like girls', firstly I would like to thank you for the feedback.

We definitely need robust debate about men's wellbeing and health issues and to

ask why blokes' health statistics lag behind the ladies and why men live on average five years less than women.

I feel there was some misunderstanding in the interpretation of the article by the first letter in that our article proposed that "stereotypical beliefs, attitudes and values from the past need to be reinstated".

The article in fact proposed that we need to understand the origins of warrior attitudes so that we can move forward.

Men and women have more similarities than differences – it's just the differences that cause the confusion at times.

The opposite to unawareness and confusion is understanding.

The second letter implied blokes have a feminine side.

We do have an emotional side that some blokes need to discover and utilise more, but this doesn't make it a feminine side.

Our article addressed the recognised broad assumptions of masculine behaviour and the 80/20 rule which goes with it – 80 per cent of Aussie men are still challenged by anything that confronts their warrior attitude.

I hope this adds some clarity to our article.

Owen and the Team  
Regional Men's Health Initiative

### Mixed messages

AS A PRIMARY school student in the '60s, I remember being taught for safety reasons to walk on the right-hand side of the road towards oncoming traffic and to wear lightly coloured clothing.

We were also taught that 'O' was a letter of the alphabet, never was it a zero or naught.

Also, that a period of time was just that, it couldn't be short or long.

Now, I regularly see people in dark clothing walking with dogs and children on the wrong side of the road – a \$10 reflective/fluro vest might be the best investment anyone could make.

Telstra tells me constantly that phone numbers have Os instead of zeros and that I must leave a 'short' 10-second message – uh?

To add to the confusion, Main Roads WA tells drivers that if there are no marked lines on a road, you can "overtake only if safe".

Does that mean if there are marked lines you can overtake when it is unsafe?

It seems in this age of communication that messages – rather than getting through – just get more mixed.

One message which seems clear and unambiguous is "do not litter" but obviously many people still struggle with understanding it.

Greg Warburton  
Coondle West

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

### Graham Boston

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# If only – The Fly imagines the ideal shire meeting

**Fly on the Wall**  
Peter Robinson

THE FLY has buzzed off overseas and missed last month's Toodyay Shire Council meeting so here is an imaginary account of what we wish might have happened.

Shire President David Dow reported significant Federal Government funding had been granted for work to start immediately on Toodyay's new \$27 million sport and recreation centre, including a heated indoor swimming pool in time for the 2016-17 summer.

This was greeted by sustained applause from ratepayers in a packed public gallery.

Shire officers recommended allowing a Hamersley Street house side boundary fence to remain as built.

Although not conforming strictly to shire policy, the fence is aesthetically pleasing and looks better than some others in the same street that do conform.

The recommendation was accepted and passed unanimously.

As often happens, a resident asked to be allowed to keep a third dog on their property.

Why these come to council meetings and are not simply dealt with by administration officers as they arise is beyond me.

A councillor moved successfully that all future dog ownership requests be handled by the shire ranger.

Another councillor also successfully moved that all history-related items be referred to the Toodyay Historical Society for recommendation, and that all environmental issues be referred similarly to the Toodyay Naturalists' Club.

This was passed on a 6-3 vote and marks a welcome return to what occurred about 15 years ago.

The benefit is that council decisions are seen to involve the community and a wider spread of expert opinion.

The usual monthly financial statements were presented, with councillors asking question about several payments.

Funny thing – nobody queried any of the big-spending items.

A new Charcoal Lane public car park

opposite IGA supermarket was due to open on Saturday May 2, just in time for the town's annual Moondyne Festival (*it did, temporarily – Ed.*).

Recommendations were made to draft separate strategies for agriculture and tourism as a part of the shire's economic development strategy.

Thankfully, officers have recognised the need to expand this to a separate document.

It will need to involve the whole community and call on imagination and courage to make Toodyay unique and more attractive.

This is the exact opposite of a previous council decision last year to reject a cockatoo sculpture proposed by Toodyay's 2009 fire survivors' as a thank you to the community.

To show good faith, councillors agreed to reverse that decision and allow the cockatoo statue to be built near the town's proposed new entry statement.

Two councillors proposed their own motions this month.

The first was to change the wording on the town's new events boards from 'Upcoming' to 'Community'.

How anybody allowed the non-word 'upcoming' to be used previously is surprising to say the least.

I cringe every time I drive past, thwarting my attempt to read what's being promoted.

Councillors spent 26 minutes debating this item (oh, the cost to fix the wording) before eventually agreeing 5-4 to change it.

The second motion was an attempt to limit the amount of ratepayers' money being spent on legal fees.

This one also produced a lively debate.

Limiting legal costs is difficult because new issues can arise at any time.

However, I think shire officers heard the message – that councillors are concerned about escalating legal costs and the need to avoid them if possible.

Councillors in turn recognised the need to be more flexible when discussing ways to help reduce legal costs.

All things considered, it was a good imaginary meeting.

Fly will return to report on actual events in the July issue of *The Toodyay Herald*.



## AvonLink on track as Toodyay Fibre Festival moves to town

**Toodyay Fibre Festival**  
Peter Wakefield

THE SECOND annual Toodyay Fibre Festival – sponsored this year by community-based mental health and wellbeing group Act Belong Commit – will be held on Sunday May 31 at two Toodyay venues.

The event runs from 9.30am to 4pm at the Toodyay Memorial Hall and in Stirling Park, near Newcastle Bridge.

A special AvonLink Sunday train has been organised to bring patrons to the event.

The festival was moved to town after last year's launch at the Toodyay Racecourse to enable local traders to benefit more from it.

The Toodyay Spinners will present an expanded range of displays.

Full details are available on the Toodyay Fibre Festival's Facebook page.

One reason for moving this year's festival

into town was to attract more people so that local businesses could also benefit.

Holding this year's festival in the main street and park venues avoids the need for additional caterers, so what's spent in town stays in town.

Weather permitting, there will be active displays and stalls as well as fashion parades and other entertainment in and around The Memorial Hall.

Shearer/entertainer Syd and his wife Kim will be back with a range of animals and other hands-on activities.

A marquee will be erected in Stirling Park but there will be no road closures.

A Mad Hatter Competition will be held for the best created hat worn on the day and judged at 2pm in The Memorial Hall.

The organising committee would like to thank the shire and all our sponsors who have made this event possible.

## Australian Alpaca Week

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# Age shall not weary them 100 years on



*This special Anzac Day tribute was photographed by Toodyay RSL member Lou Kidd and features (clockwise from left) the dawn service congregation, Toodyay Scouts' overnight vigil, dawn service preparations, RAAF flypast, Anzac Day Parade, Gunfire Breakfast and Maddison Dickson receiving the Cadet Achievement Award at Toodyay District High School.*



★ ★ **Let's have some fun!** ★ ★

# QUIZ NIGHT

16th May 2015 ★  
6.30pm - Until Late  
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# Balmy days signal a delightful autumn – with pizzas to come

**Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**  
Tim Walker

AS I write these notes, it would be remiss of me to not comment on one of the most delightful autumn periods in many years.

Beautiful balmy days, not too hot or too cold and good opening rains which have seen a strong germination of feed or weeds, depending on your point of view.

Now we are crying out for follow-up rains. Those who have been to the shed lately will have noticed that new café blinds have been installed and look very smart indeed.

Not so visible is the new mobile repeater which gives good reception in the radio room but requires fine tuning to get a good signal in the fire shed and catering area.

We thank Barry Grey from the Bejoording Brigade for his help and guidance in setting up this equipment.

Discussion continues on buying a pizza oven, and most members will by now have copies of two available options.

We all look forward to this coming to fruition and I expect a final decision will be made at our next meeting.

Peter Sapwell conducted training last month for basic/general firefighting skills on the fire ground.

There was a good roll-up of members to take on board what is required.

While on the subject of training, this is a

good opportunity to publicly thank Peter who has conducted training sessions throughout this season.

Our most recent meeting decided to proceed with a Xmas in July event.

A small committee (Mary Anne and Lorraine) has been appointed to organise this annual celebration to thank and recognise the work our fires and other volunteers did throughout the fire season.

It was also decided to proceed with installing a heart defibrillator outside the shed.

It is believed the cost can be partly offset by a grant from our local Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank – more on that next month.

The purpose of getting a heart defibrillator for Julimar is not only for brigade members but also for local residents and anyone else who may need to use this incredible lifesaving device.

As the fire season has pretty well drawn to a close, it is worth noting that Peggy Sapwell and her team received special thanks for her catering efforts throughout the fire season.

Group photos have been discussed for some considerable time, and it was decided to have them taken during Toodyay's recent Freedom of Entry Parade.

Our annual general meeting will be on June 20 at the fire shed – nominations for brigade positions must be in by Saturday June 13.

# Erring Badger sets it straight

**Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**

From the desk of The Badger

I MADE a big mistake last month when I thanked the St Vincent de Paul Op Shop for a generous donation to our brigade when in fact I should have thanked the wonderful people at the Toodyay Op Shop – my apologies all round.

Like many volunteer organisations, the Bejoording Brigade has been agonising over succession planning.

Our amazing captain, Lawrence Hayward, has announced he will retire at our annual general meeting in July for a well deserved break from duty rosters and call outs.

He's not the only one seeking some relief from responsibility, but more of that in our AGM report.

The message here is that all brigades need to have a succession plan, and there is an imperative to bring new recruits in each and every year, especially very small brigades like ours.

Critical to success is an active training program and, in our case, realisation that

the Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System really works, even if one person fills more than one role in the AIIMS structure.

Last month's well-attended monthly meeting ensured the brigade will not be short of nominations for leadership roles – including for captain – so a big thank you to all who attended and all have expressed interest in stepping up to the plate.

All will be revealed at our AGM.

A period of training and planning will commence now that the fire season is as good as over, kinder weather patterns are with us and active fire fighters and auxiliaries are taking a well-earned breather.

We might even plan a few more social events.

The main thing is we finished the fire season intact and safe, we met every demand on our services and we have a great team taking us into next year.

Fire bans should be lifted by the time you read this but the Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to remember to always plan and prepare before lighting any fire for any reason, and have a clear contingency strategy in place should things get out of



Toodyay's new State Emergency Services vehicle after taking part in the recent Freedom of Entry Parade in Stirling Terrace to honour local emergency services volunteers.

## Toodyay's new 4WD emergency services truck makes local debut

**Toodyay State Emergency Service**  
Jeff Venn – Morangup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

TOODYAY'S NEW State Emergency Service Unit has arrived at its base in the Morangup fire station.

We have been given a brand new 4WD Isuzu dual cab truck from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

The SES plays a vital role in helping to ensure that our community is a safe place to work, live and play.

It serves the community on a voluntary basis in operational and non-operational roles, such as administration.

It is an exciting new era for the community to have another emergency service housed

in Morangup to join existing bush fire and ambulance units to service Toodyay and surrounding areas.

I have taken on the role as Local Manager for the Toodyay District State Emergency Service Unit.

We are now looking for volunteers to join this exciting new SES unit, with all training and uniforms provided.

For more information, contact Jeff Venn on 0417 714 798 or captainmvbfb@gmail.com.

## Stalwart driver will be sadly missed

**Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**  
Desraé Clarke

IT IS with great sadness that central brigade has lost the stalwart driver of its 12.2 fire truck, a vehicle Gary Holland loved.

Gary will be greatly missed for his dry sense of humour and incredible commitment and generosity.

Brigade members extend their sympathy to Ronda and her family – vale Gary Holland.

The brigade's annual general meeting will be held at 6pm on Tuesday May 26 at the Fire and Emergency Services Centre, Stirling Terrace, Toodyay. New members are needed and always welcome.

For more information, please contact brigade captain Mick McKeown on 9574 2132 or at 2jcentralvbf@westnet.com.au.



Bejoording's beloved 'Big Kev' fire truck after this month's Freedom of Entry Parade

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## emergency services



Volunteer fire fighter Alan Knapp lets loose after Toodyay's recent Freedom of Entry Parade

# Arson: Big rewards on offer to catch the culprits

## Coondle Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

James Knapp

MUCH-NEEDED rain and the arrival of unrestricted burning has brought relief to volunteer fire crews.

The fire season was steady with a lot of work outside the shire as local crews attended big fires at Bullsbrook, Northam and Boddington.

Mother Nature played a frustrating role when lightning sparked several local fires.

Unfortunately, we also had some call outs to arson and other suspicious fires.

Rewards of up to \$50,000 are offered for information that leads to the identification and conviction of arsonists.

If you have any information about suspicious fires, please contact Toodyay

police on 9574 9555 or crime stoppers on 1800 333 000.

This month's Coondle brigade annual general meeting brought minor changes to the brigade structure.

Our Captain and brigade Firefighter of the Year Mark Middleton agreed to lead the brigade for another year.

Minor changes occurred in the lieutenants' positions, with last year's first lieutenant Colin Blanchett standing down so that he and Jen can join his fellow grey nomads around the country.

All of us from the shed wish you both a safe and happy well-deserved holiday and look forward to hearing from you both.

Our new officers in order from first to fourth lieutenant are now Rob Frank, James Knapp, Collin Stevens and Debbie Bowen.

The soon-to-be-famous Georgina Steytler has kindly accepted the role of chairperson, with Sally Hudson continuing as brigade secretary.

Mick Rodgers continues as brigade training officer, while Nick Griggs takes over as brigade treasurer.

Nick also won the Stan Sutton Award for Driving Excellence for his (and Jenny's) efforts in redesigning stickers on the light tanker for a more melted look.

Easing of the fire season brings the start of the brigade's role in hazard reduction.

Hazard reduction burns play a vital role because they control excessive fuel levels and provide members with hands-on training in controlled circumstances.

If you live in the Coondle area and would like the brigade to conduct a hazard reduction burn on your property, please visit the station on Coondle West Road around 5pm on a Friday night to chat with Mark our captain or one of our lieutenants.

You might even decide to join up too.

## West Coondle group plans for next fire season

### Bush Fire Ready

THE COONDLE West Bushfire Ready Group met at a member's property on a pleasant Sunday morning last month.

There was a good gathering of friends and neighbours interested to hear updates and learn what Bush Fire Ready can provide.

With Toodyay now at the tail end of what has been the busiest bush fire season on record, with an average of 2.7 fire calls per week, it was an appropriate time not only to reflect but to think about preparation for next season.

A wide range of subjects were discussed

including the management and fire risk associated with Coondle West's bushland reserves, strategic fire breaks and fire egresses (access points).

The group was also keen to learn about the availability of private fire units, either trailer or vehicle mounted, within the subdivision.

It was reported that a local Toodyay manufacturer has very affordable trailer-mounted fire units but is not advertising due to an already existing demand.

One group member reported on the fire evacuation presentation at Morangup last month during which many serious fire issues in that subdivision were highlighted.

Unlike Coondle West, Morangup must contend with issues such as poor to non-existent mobile phone coverage, kilometres of vulnerable 'temporary' telephone cable, hazardous roadside vegetation and confusing and apparently blocked fire egresses.

Be aware that fire trucks may not always be available so Bush Fire Ready seeks to encourage neighbours to raise awareness, implement simple, effective ideas and strategies that minimise risks associated with bushfire events.

Visit the DFES website for more on the Bush Fire Ready initiative.

For further information on the Coondle West group or setting up a group in your area call Dave Isbill, on 9574 4035 or Greg Warburton, 9574 5445.

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Coondle battles Central in the Freedom of Entry Tug-O-War at Toodyay Showground

## Defibrillators can save lives

### St John Ambulance

Toodyay & Districts Sub Centre

EARLY FIRST aid treatment is invaluable and can be performed by most people. It:

- Reduces risk of further injury to patients
- Reduces patients' stress levels
- Reduces unnecessary movement by patients trying to help themselves
- Gathers vital information regarding a patient's injury and how it happened
- Helps initial patient assessments made by attending volunteer ambulance officers and
- Gathers necessary personal information to help speed up patient ambulance transport preparation.

First aid courses include use of automated external defibrillators, simple machines that can help save the lives of people suffering sudden cardiac arrest.

This requires immediate first aid and defibrillation to give patients the best chance of survival.

Although included in a first aid course, the defibrillators do not require any training

because they 'talk' an operator through the steps - anyone who understands English can use one.

Defibrillators are located at:

- Toodyay & Districts St John Ambulance sub centre
- Toodyay IGA
- Toodyay Chemist
- Toodyay Club
- Toodyay District High School
- Toodyay Cola Cafe
- Toodyay Men's Shed
- Morangup Community Hall
- Bolgart Shop

The cost of St John Ambulance first aid courses has been reduced, with discounts for Seniors card holders, students and group bookings.

For more information please contact our sub centre on 9574 2390, sjatodyay@bigpond.com or at the St John Ambulance Toodyay & Districts Sub Centre at the rear of 120 Stirling Terrace, behind Toodyay Hair Studio.

Office hours are Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 2pm.

First Aid - saving lives.

# Bookings open for YouthCARE chaplaincy quiz competition

**Toodyay YouthCARE Council (Chaplaincy)**  
Vivienne Freeman, Secretary

I TRUST EVERYONE had a safe and happy Easter and an enjoyable holiday break.

Our annual general meeting was held last month and all office bearers were re-elected unopposed.

They are Max Heath (Chairperson), David Street (Deputy Chair), Vivienne Freeman (Secretary), Ray Jackson (Treasurer), and council members Millie Heath, Trish Page, Trish Bodle and Joy Cruickshank.

Two members have moved away, so if anyone else is interested in joining the council we would be happy to have a chat.

Max's report for 2014 thanked many local businesses, our shire and community members for their amazing support of our chaplain throughout the year again.

This has meant we are in a sound financial position.

Thanks must go to our Breakfast Club volunteers and our school Christian Religious Education teachers.

We farewelled the Rev. Peter Bourne who has served on our council for many years, and thanked him for his contributions.

Peter was also a CRE teacher and No. 1 quiz master – we will miss his clever jokes.

The support of School Principal Tim Martin and staff has been greatly appreciated.

Attention all quiz buffs – we will hold our annual chaplaincy quiz night starting 7.30pm on Saturday June 27 at the Baptist Church at 18 Stirling Terrace.

Tables of eight cost \$10 per head with lots of prizes.

It will be a fun night, so get a table together with your friends.

Last month's raffle for a child's quilt cover was won by Nola, while Peter Robinson won a money tree as second prize.

Quiz night bookings can be made through YouthCARE Secretary Vivienne Freeman on 9574 4915 or [freeos@inet.net.au](mailto:freeos@inet.net.au).



## Stitches picnics with teddy bear friends

### Teddy Bears' Picnic

ABOUT 30 local children took their teddies to Duidgee Park last month for a Teddy Bears' Picnic (above) hosted by the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation for medical research and child patient support services.

They were greeted by Stitches Bear – the

PMH Foundation's mascot – who hugged children for photographs and presented prizes for the best teddies brought to the picnic morning tea.

Tea, coffee and cakes provided by Toodyay CWA volunteers for a gold coin donation were followed by free train rides on Toodyay's popular miniature railway.

The PMH Foundation raises funds to help families outside the metropolitan area who often face big out-of-pocket expenses – which adds to distress – when their children are patients at Princess Margaret Hospital in Perth.

The foundation is PMH's official fundraising body and helps provide the hospital with medical equipment, specialist staff, research and complementary services.

PMH Foundation Community Fundraising Manager Fiona Dickson said Toodyay had provided a warm welcome for the event.

"We knew we had a great day ahead," she said.

"We hope to take Stitches on more adventures and thank regional communities for their support."

## Duidgee Park gets new play equipment

NEW PLAYGROUND equipment (left), landscaping and five new picnic settings have been installed at Duidgee Park at a total cost of nearly \$63,000.

The new facility was opened last month by Toodyay Shire President David Dow.

The shire has also acquired more play equipment worth several thousand dollars from an anonymous donor.

Cr Dow said the donated equipment was being stored at the shire works depot and would be installed in other local parks.



Kids test new play equipment at last month's opening in Duidgee Park

# Felicitas Bauxite Mining Project



## Felicitas Bauxite Mining Project

The Felicitas resource consists of approximately 230 million tonnes of bauxite and is estimated to have a mine life of at least 25 years. It is located mostly in the Shire of Toodyay with some extensions in Northam and Mundaring Shires. The development of the Felicitas Bauxite Mining Project could add up to 15% of Western Australia's bauxite production. Over its life the mine will inject approximately \$3 billion in operating expenditure into the WA economy.

### Providing jobs for locals – looking towards 2018:

We have been getting a lot of questions about the types of jobs which will be created in the mine. While we are still about 2 years away from recruiting an operating workforce, many locals have contacted us to ask about work opportunities. The project is still subject to approvals followed by construction likely in 2017 and mining in 2018. It is early in the project development and are not actively recruiting for positions yet but we are happy to receive cv's and any expressions of interest.

We will be looking for a range of employment areas similar to many other bauxite mines including:

#### Mine Management

Mine Services Superintendent, Maintenance Superintendent, Maintenance Supervisor, Operations Superintendent, Mining Engineers.

#### Mine Operations

Grade Control Technicians, Mine Geologist, Mine Surveyors, Operators for water trucks, scrapers, graders, dozers, loaders, and surface miners.

#### Maintenance

Heavy Diesel Mechanics, Tyre Fitters, Mechanical Fitters and Electricians.

#### Support Services

Environmental Officers, Safety Advisor, Administration personnel, Site Nurse, Warehouse Supervisor, Store personnel.

#### Services and Supplies

During the development of the project, we will work with local suppliers to help them build their capability to provide materials and services on competitive terms to the mine.



## Environmental Questions

### When is it anticipated the project will be referred to the EPA?

BAJV have engaged specialist consultants to undertake various studies required for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Some of the information attained from these EIA studies will accompany the project referral. BAJV intend to refer the project to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) in 2015 and this approval process generally takes 18 to 24 months.

### How much water will be required?

The majority of water required for the project will be for dust suppression on haul roads, stockpiles and crushing/loading areas. The amount of water required for these is largely determined by weather and wind conditions, and vehicle movement. There will be no additional processing on site, which significantly reduces water demand and requirements.

The water use and supply study undertaken as part of the EIA will provide information on water use (volume required) and inform decisions regarding water availability options.

### How big will the mine be and how will it impact the vegetation?

The Felicitas Project area is approximately 6,300 hectare (ha) and includes the total area as defined by property boundaries. This will not be the size of the mine. Within the property boundaries is the bauxite resource area, which is approximately 3,100 ha. Within this resource area, approximately 1,900 ha is completely cleared farmland, around 225 ha is referred to as parkland cleared farmland with isolated paddock trees, and about 960 ha is bush. This equates to bush being approximately 31% of the resource area.

The mining process is proposed to be undertaken over at least 25 years with approximately 120 ha mined per year. Clearing and rehabilitation are done progressively during the mining process.

### Trial mine and rehabilitation site North Bindoon



# 150 veterans, volunteers and young people march for Anzac centenary

**RSL Toodyay sub branch**  
Bruce Guthrie

ANZAC day 2015 was formally celebrated in Toodyay on three occasions.

On Wednesday April 22 at the Toodyay District High School all students, staff, many parents and RSL members gathered in the school courtyard for an Anzac Day service.

The students conducted the entire service with care, compassion and skill.

The highlight was the presentation of the Cadet Encouragement Award for 2015 to Maddison Dickson.

On Saturday April 25 at the War Memorial, about 750 Toodyay citizens and many out-of-town visitors attended the 6am Dawn Service.

We remembered our fallen from all conflicts and the 100th year anniversary of Australian troops landing on the beaches at Gallipoli.

During the laying of floral tributes, two students from Toodyay District High School's cadet unit read out the names of 65 of Toodyay's fallen from two world wars.

We then enjoyed a gunfire breakfast at the new Youth Park/ Museum site where the Toodyay Lions Club cooked and served 400 breakfasts – a mighty effort.

We also recognise the terrific support from the Toodyay Shire Council with the provision of a marquee, tables, chairs and much other infrastructure.

This recognises the steady growth of community interest in this event each year.

The traditional Anzac Day march was held at 10.45am with about 150 veterans, fire fighters, ambulance volunteers, cadets, scouts and many others.

We stepped off from Stirling Terrace led by Ron Thom from the Kalamunda Pipe Band and marched to the war memorial for the 11am main service.

Many people waved and cheered as the parade passed.

The service commenced with a fly over by four aircraft from RAAF base Pearce.

The Toodyay Theatre Group performed

a moving work written by local girl Jess Shilcott and narrated by David, Tanya, Kristee and Graham, who played the parts of family and friends left at home to reflect the thoughts and emotions of having loved ones away fighting in the war.

As the main service continued other wonderful contributions were made by Toodyay Community singers, including stirring renditions of 'Lest We Forget' and 'I Am Australian'.

Bugler Monique Smith travelled from Perth to play the Last Post and Reveille.

Twenty floral tributes were laid at the War Memorial by the RSL, Toodyay Shire Council and the families and friends of those fallen men and women.

The memorial site was backed by a screen of poppies made by local people – a wonderful addition to the site.

The main service ended with the New Zealand and Australian national anthems.

We offer special thanks to the Toodyay Scout Group for maintaining an all-night vigil at the War Memorial site.

The RSL Toodyay sub branch thanks all Toodyay citizens and visitors for their

participation in a memorable Anzac Day 2015.

## Vale Gary Holland

IT IS WITH great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of long time member and Past President of RSL Toodyay sub branch Mr Gary Holland.

Gary lost his fight against a very serious illness on 27 April 2015.

We extend our condolences to Rhonda and family. Rest in peace, Gary.

More of Gary's story next month.

## Did you know?

This was the title of a story published in an ex-service newsletter.

It is a story about the construction and establishment of an alternate signals centre in Toodyay during 1942.

The centre was built underground to be used in the event that the main signals HQ in Perth was invaded or damaged by enemy attack.

We will follow this up and keep you posted with a future article in *The Herald*.

RSL wishes all members who are unwell at present – a very speedy recovery.

## 'Remembering Them' examines WWI impact on Toodyay families

Newcastle Gaol Museum  
Margie Eberle

ANZAC Day saw the launch of a major new exhibition "Remembering Them" at the Newcastle Gaol Museum in Clinton Street.

The year-long exhibition examines the impact of World War One (1914-18) on Toodyay and focuses on the Strahan family, Herbert Edward Matthews and efforts home front efforts to support local people serving abroad.

"Remembering Them – Toodyay" is part of a larger project involving several regional museums across WA.

Newcastle Gaol Museum is working with the WA Museum, the WA branch of Museums Australia and the Royal WA Historical Society to showcase local stories of families affected by the war.

Displays include life-size reproductions of Toodyay soldiers and include the service records of more than 280 people associated with Toodyay during the war and in the years immediately after.

The exhibition launch was attended by about 50 descendants of William Henry Strahan, local residents and members of the RSL and Toodyay Historical Society.

## Toodyay's 'good old days' feature in new book

Jenny Edgecombe

THE LATE Wally Chitty was a well-known figure around Toodyay.

His 2002 book of historical Toodyay memories and photographs, *Toodyay – The Good Old Days*, is still very popular.

A second book planned by Wally Chitty has been published, based on material he was gathering at the time of his death in 2008.

At that time, local archivist and researcher Jenny Edgecombe, agreed to take on the project in her spare time, with help from Wally's widow, Kath.

*The Life and Times of Wally Chitty* was launched last month at the Toodyay Historical Society annual general meeting.

Peter Robinson, the Society's retiring President, performed the honours.

The book is loosely based on the story of Wally's life, starting with the 1842-43 journey of George and Mary Chitty and their family from England to the Toodyay district.

It follows Wally's family lines and his life from childhood on a Toodyay farm to later experiences as a stockman, farmer, family man, sportsman, tourist and local activist.

Like Wally's own famous conversations, the narrative explores many side-roads of Toodyay's history along the way.

With her background in archival records, Jenny has added fascinating snippets of archival research to Wally's many anecdotes.

Some of these many side-stories include

Toodyay's connections to the Boer Wars, the mysterious Deepdale Tramway project, the rise and the fall of Toodyay's timber industry.

It also documents Toodyay's outstanding successes in rural education and the untold stories behind a tragic 1931 school bus crash.

There are new tales about the Jumperding area, including some background to the Seventh-Day Adventist Church and the hilarious tale of Jumperding School's short but eventful life.

The book is currently available from Kath Chitty (PO Box 71, Toodyay 6566).

It can also be obtained from Toodyay Historical Society (PO Box 32, Toodyay or Donegan's Cottage, Toodyay Showground, Thursdays 1-3pm).

## TOODYAY ROAD SAFETY NEWS

Brought to you by the Toodyay RoadWise Committee

### SOWING THE SEEDS FOR ROAD SAFETY

With seeding season on the way, motorists in the Wheatbelt should be aware of increased heavy freight traffic and towed farm equipment on local roads.

Drivers should be alert on local roads. Expect more heavy traffic on roads that may normally have little traffic.

Trucks, utes and farm machinery are likely to be on the roads, crossing roads and exiting in unusual places. Many of these will be oversized vehicles, and they will need some or even all of the other side of the road. It is important to give them room to pass safely.

Toodyay RoadWise Committee advises all motorists to use their headlights during the day time as we head into autumn and winter, so that other road users can see them in poor light.

Chairman Max Heath said, "Current dry conditions mean there is dust on country roads, and this will affect vision of tail lights and judgment of distances. With burn-offs and when the rain starts, smoke and spray will also affect vision. Don't overtake if you can't see through dust, smoke or spray."

"For farmers who are often working into dusk and night time, it is important to have all flashing lights on machinery and vehicles in working order to ensure maximum visibility to other road users," he said.

Farmers are encouraged to check the updated Guide to the Movement of Towed Agricultural Implements in Western Australia, which is available from [www.transport.wa.gov.au](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au), or ring 13 11 56 for guidance on their responsibilities.

It is also important to consider the risk of fatigue and take extra care when driving home after working long hours in the paddock.

We have a shared responsibility for safety on our roads, so all drivers need to be careful and vigilant in this busy season.



### RURAL MYTHS # 3

"I can drink 8 tinnies of Carlton Mid-Strength beer during a round of golf and still drive home"

**Did you know** the average rate of metabolism of alcohol in an adult is about one standard drink per hour? This information, combined with other key factors, dispels the common "she'll be right" rural myths surrounding drink driving.

In this example, by the time you have finished the back nine and dropped into the clubhouse for the last drink, you have consumed eight standard drinks over approximately 5 hours.

- In an adult, the average rate of metabolism of alcohol is about one standard drink per hour. (However, there is significant variation in this rate between individuals.)
- Your Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) will continue to rise after you have consumed your last drink.
- You generally won't reach your maximum BAC until 45-90 minutes after consuming the last drink.

Consuming alcohol prior to driving impairs driving ability, and increases the risk of crashing, causing serious injury or death.

Recent trends indicate that drink driving contributes to more than 30% of fatal road crashes. In 2012 almost one in five fatal crashes attended by Western Australian Police involved a driver with a BAC equal to or greater than 0.05 BAC. In fact, statistics from the Office of Road Safety reveal that people are seven times more likely to have a crash if they are driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 BAC.



Drink drivers can be automatically disqualified from driving for two months under legislation which came into effect on 1st August 2012. WA Police are able to issue disqualification notices to drivers who are caught behind the wheel with a BAC at or above .08

In addition, in February 2015 Western Australia's state parliament passed tough new laws that will require repeat drink drivers and first time drink drivers who record a positive test of 0.15 BAC or more pay for and install breath-testing immobilisers in their vehicles before they can drive again.

To find out more about the facts about drink driving, visit the Office of Road safety's website at <http://www.ors.wa.gov.au/Road-Safety-Topics/Road-Issues/Drink-Driving>

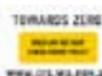
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TOODYAY  
ROADWISE  
COMMITTEE



This project is supported by the Government of Western Australia's Road Safety Community Grants Program.



# Mix of old and new leaders adds stability

## Probos Club of Toodyay

OUR FIRST AGM was held on Tuesday April 14 – amazing to think that nearly one year has flown by since Alison organised a focus group to look into establishing a Probos Club in Toodyay.

Initially we had 12 members and since then have more than doubled our numbers.

Well done to all.

In the interest of stability the election of office bearers included a mixture of old and new – you can read that however you like.

- President: Peter Healy
- Vice President: Jenny Perkins
- Secretary: Jenny Hildred
- Treasurer: John Clarke
- Events co-ordinator: Jan Ackroyd
- Membership and guest speakers: John Smart
- Committee members: Frank Taylor and Colin Kendall

We would like to thank Ardina our inaugural Secretary for all the work she has done to ensure we did become a reality.

A big thank you also to Anne our inaugural Treasurer – a very conscientious Scot so our limited funds were looked after well.

Due to the AGM a guest speaker was not organised so Peter gave a quick talk about his last trip to Japan, Vietnam and China.

For our next meeting a guest speaker will be organised by John.

Jan asked for expressions of interest to go on a 'Tour and Tapas' at New Norcia and due to the level of interest this has now been organised for end of May.

Please ring Jan on 9574 5315 if interested.

On the business side the Management Committee investigated the need to become incorporated at the April meeting.

A recommendation will be put to the next general meeting to be held at 7pm on May 12 at the Community Resource Centre.

For further information about Probos and how to join please contact John Smart 9574 2339 or Jan Ackroyd 9574 5315.

## Toodyay Historical Society Beth Frayne, Events Co-ordinator

DR ROBYN TAYLOR was returned as President at last month's annual general meeting, having last held the post in 2009 and serving as vice-president and on the committee in the interim.

Milton A. Baxter and Desrae and Wayne Clarke continue as our Executive.

Our committee is Jenny Edgecombe, Beth Frayne, Colin Kendall, Peter Robinson (immediate past president) and Linda Rooney.

Len Leeder continues as our eminent Patron.

Peter Robinson was thanked with acclamation and gifts for his leadership over the last three years.

Although a difficult period for him, he served with great dignity and enthusiasm, and led many fascinating excursions.

He worked on his WA Biographical Dictionary Toodyay listing, was part of the Toodyay Bushfire Project Group and responsible for bringing the idea of Toodyaypedia to town and supporting its development – thank you, Peter.

### Members honoured

THREE Honorary Life Memberships were presented with some hilarity as two of them knew others were being honoured but not themselves, which took some clever manoeuvring by executive.

Dr Taylor, Jenny Edgecombe and Beth Frayne were presented with certificates and their citations read.

### Walter Chitty book launch

DURING the AGM, Jenny Edgecombe launched *The Life and Times of Wally Chitty*, by Wally Chitty and Jenny Edgecombe, featuring more of the late Wally's stories about life in and out of Toodyay and set in context by Jenny's excellent research.

The book was published by the Chitty family, and Kath and family members were present at the launch.

Congratulations to Jenny and Kath for reaching this point; it was a long road.

The book is on sale at Donegan's Cottage in the Toodyay Showgrounds on Thursdays from 1pm-3pm.



Past president Peter Robinson with new honorary life members (from left) Jenny Edgecombe, Beth Frayne and Dr Robyn Taylor.. Photo: Joe Edgecombe.

### Angels in the Studio

After the AGM, Dr Taylor introduced as guest speaker her friend and colleague Dr Dorothy Erickson, a former Bolgart girl and now a renowned jeweller and author.

Dorothy gave a scintillating presentation entitled: 'Angels in the studio: some professional women artists in Western Australia, c1890-c1920', a time when middle-class women started to attend art classes, and the setting up of an art studio became a respectable occupation.

The careers and art works of a number of women professional artists were showcased.

Some, such as May Gibbs, remain well-known but many others have fallen into obscurity.

### 'Remembering Them'

ON THE afternoon of Anzac Day, nine members and more than 50 museum volunteers and guests were delighted to attend the official opening of Newcastle Gaol Museum's 'Remembering Them' exhibition.

Shire President Cr David Dow gave a well-researched speech and cut the poppy-red

ribbon across the door of the former prison Day Room.

He kindly delivered his speech a second time for the many descendants of Sgt William Strahan who were running a little late in their reunion program.

Congratulations to museum curator Margie Eberle, museum volunteers and shire staff who produced evocative stories on the impact of World War One on Toodyay.

The society helped produce exhibition materials – in particular the online list of service people – and printed material.

We encourage everyone to see this exhibition which runs for the rest of the year

### Coming up

THE SOCIETY'S next meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday May 20 at Donegan's Cottage.

For more information, contact Secretary Desrae Clarke at [desraec@westnet.com.au](mailto:desraec@westnet.com.au), President Robyn Taylor on 9574 2578 or [rdtaylor@inet.net.au](mailto:rdtaylor@inet.net.au), or member Beth Frayne on 9574 5971.

Donegan's Cottage (in Toodyay Showgrounds) is open every Thursday, 1pm-3pm. PO Box 32, Toodyay WA 6566.

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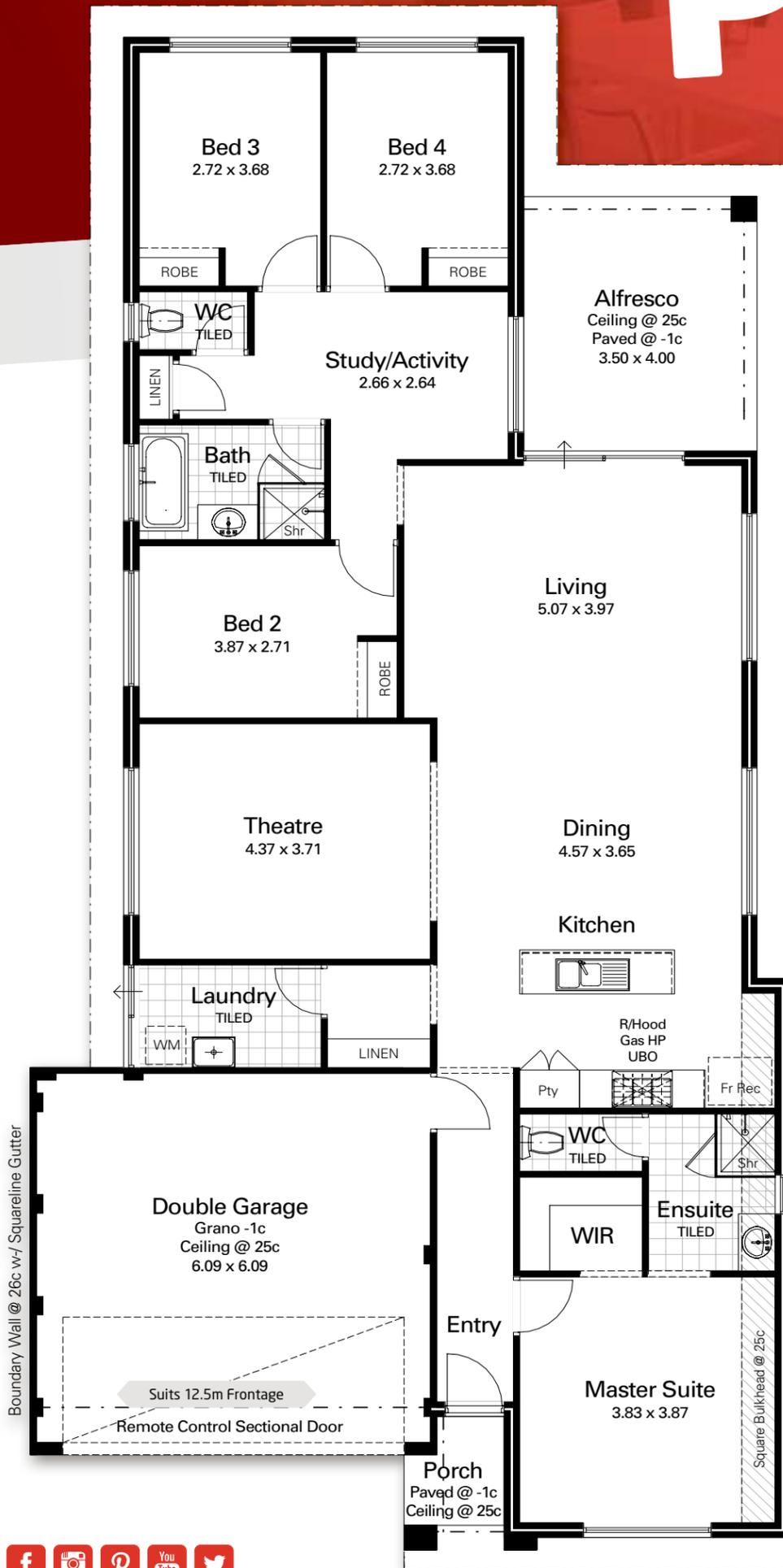
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# Ravenous Ravi tempted by sheer rustic charm

**Restaurant Reconteur**  
Ravi Broadbean.

IN THIS AGE of fast food, flash and glitter it is rare to discover a typical old-fashioned country café.

It was therefore by fortune that I happened across the 'Wendouree Tea Rooms'.

I was passing through the little hamlet of Toodyay on my way to Perth, and noticed several 'Art Deco' tables and chairs on the pavement.

Although it is not my habit to dine at any restaurant without 'Chateau Puy de Guirande' or similar on the wine list, it was lunchtime and I was tempted by the sheer rustic charm of the establishment.

I was not disappointed. On entering the café, which I later discovered is the oldest tea rooms in the Avon Valley, having been established in 1930, I was thrilled that the 'Olde World' theme continued inside.

The furnishings and décor transported me back to an age when the steam train puffed up and down the main line from Northam to Perth.

Local art was displayed on the walls and the delightful bay windows contained a treasure trove of local artefacts, memorabilia and posters.

I would have preferred to have a waiter attend us at table, but it appeared the practice was to order and pay at the counter.

I found this a little disconcerting, but as Homer once said, "et hoc genus omne", although I think he was trying to say "when in Rome, do as the Romans do".

I cast aside my suburban prejudices and pored over the extensive menu while standing at the counter.

The signature dish was heralded as BALT at only \$9.50.

Having never come across this offering, my mind rambled in all directions; Beef and Legume Terrine? Boiled Australian Lamb Tart?

Had I read further, I would not have had to stretch my imagination because the dish was adequately described as 'Succulent slices of Australian smoked pork, lightly fried and complemented by slivers of Italian roma tomatoes and garden fresh cos with a hint of avocado, dressed with chef's home-made

*In this new monthly Herald column, local Restaurant Reconteur Ravi Broadbean explores Toodyay's dining establishments in his unique gastronomic style - we hope you'll enjoy reading Ravi's regular reports about what's good to eat in and around town.*

mayonnaise, encased in a slightly charred sheaf of grained 'pain de jour' with a vague hint of barbeque sauce.

The dish was accompanied by tranches de pomme de terre, as an extra at \$3.50.

My partner pondered this very tempting dish, remarking on the very poor French grammar, before directing my attention to the "Pescado maltratadas juncto con papas fritas".

I explained that this was in fact battered fish and chips with very poor Spanish grammar but very reasonable at \$18.50 for the jumbo serving.

The remainder of the menu was more traditional fare with local delicacies such as the Bacon and Egg Burger at \$12 which was very similar to the BALT but with the addition of a fried egg, and a very wide range of cold and toasted sandwiches from \$7.00.

Also on offer was a variety of salads but I found these, although wholesome, a little unimaginative.

The children's menu was excellent and we regretted not bringing Tarquin and Daisy because they would have really enjoyed the chicken balls and chips at \$9.50 or the spaghetti on toast for the same price.

Two very attentive waitresses were on hand to take our order, and we decided that, as a main course, we would share a 'Works Hamburger' followed by a choice from the delicious range of homemade cakes and desserts displayed at the counter.

We were offered a wide choice of non-alcoholic beverages ranging from some very colourful and exotic combinations of fruit and milk (which we were assured were purely organic and definitely not fattening) to the standard pot of tea for two, which we chose.

We decided to have the tea served whilst we waited for our lunch and we were escorted to a table by the window.

The pot of tea arrived within a couple of minutes and the crockery was utilitarian and serviceable but lacking frills.

We were a little disappointed that tea bags were used instead of leaf tea but the tea was hot, there was adequate boiling water for a 'top-up' and the service was excellent.

After a long morning on the road the tea was extremely refreshing and the tea bags were of good quality.

The main course arrived promptly, and it was prepared and cooked to perfection.

The combination of steak, bacon, egg, cheese, onion, lettuce, tomato, beetroot, mayonnaise and barbeque sauce was exhilarating to our taste buds and the size of the serving was more than adequate.

Rarely do I give a dish a five star rating, and I didn't on this occasion but it was a four and a half star dish which, from me, is rare praise indeed.

If there was one tiny criticism, the beetroot was slightly overdone, but that was a small price to pay to savour such a splendid and innovative composition.

To follow, I chose a delicate Fragomammella which is ricotta, dyed pink with Campari and

formed into two cup sized mounds with 'nipples' of candied strawberries and a smoothing of fresh country cream.

My partner selected a Raspberry Shortcake. The shortcake was, pleasingly, more in the American variety rather than the Scottish and was really like a sponge cake that soaked up the juices from the berries.

It was good, gooey and a delight. Both desserts were awe-inspiring.

We chatted briefly with our hostess, Sally, before continuing our journey.

She explained that her demographic was rural and her success in maintaining the popularity of the tea rooms was to keep things as they were.

She told us that she relied on local trade rather than tourists and the locals hated change.

We begged to differ and told her that with good old fashioned fare and service, the Wendouree has a certain charm that would satisfy any demographic and we assured her that we would certainly return.

Maybe next time we shall sample the famous BALT and bring the children for their chicken balls.

## Turners fire up quietly for new access to bigger contests

**Avon Woodturners**  
Max J Heath

GREETINGS from the pavilion

Things have been going on fairly quietly at woodturning at the present.

Our turners have been busy turning out objects at home and at the pavilion for The Woodturners Association of Western Australia competitions.

Under a new format our little club can now be competitive with larger clubs in the association with overall points to an annual prize for the number of entries in the competitions.

We are looking forward to the next Community Depot meeting as we believe that tenders are ready to be called.

It would be good to know when and what

we are doing towards moving to our new premises.

By the time this goes to print we will have been involved with activities such as a Craft Fair in Northam and of course the Moondyne Festival locally.

Together with some fund raising projects we are kept fairly busy.

Planning for the Woodturning Workshop to be held in Toodyay in October is well under way with most of the demonstrators for the day already booked.

This will be open to the public and so you will be welcome to come and view some of the work done by some of the state's better turners.

Well that is about all from the Pavilion this month and so as Roadwise says 'don't drive tired'.

## Telephone crooks pose as cops

**Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association**  
Desraé Clarke

TELEPHONE crooks posing as police is a scam that has plagued the community of late.

Scammers purporting to be police officers have been ringing people to claim that stolen property or money has been recovered but

cannot be returned to the rightful owner until fees and taxes are paid.

The WAScamNet website has up-to-date information about new scams.

It helps people report offenders to police and consumer protection officers.

Consumer Protection Commissioner Anne O'Driscoll said people should beware callers seeking money.

WA police never sought payment by telephone, she said.

Callers should be asked for their name, rank and work location, and reported immediately to Toodyay police on 9574 9555, CRIMESTOPPERS on 1800 333 000 or consumer protection on 1300 304 054.



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# Wheatbelt child's death prompts quad bike questions

## Toodyay RoadWise Committee

ANOTHER Wheatbelt child killed on a quad bike last month has prompted the need for farmers and recreational users of these popular vehicles to think whether they should allow their children to ride them unsupervised.

A six-year-old boy was killed in Southern Cross on April 20 when a quad bike rolled over in a small quarry.

The boy was not wearing a helmet and though family members were nearby, they did not see the accident.

It is not illegal for six-year-olds to ride quad bikes on private property but that doesn't make it safe.

Manufacturers have a responsibility to make these vehicles safe, roll bars should be fitted and maybe new laws will eventually restrict their use to perhaps 16 years of age and older.

However, let's not forget there is also a choice involved here – adults should step up and control their use by children.

Farmers love using quad bikes and recreational users play with them but there's little doubt quad bikes can be dangerous.

Who doesn't know a farmer, a friend or someone who has had a near miss or come to

grief and broken a foot or worse using one?

Quad bikes usually weigh 300kg or more and are not as stable as they appear.

A rider can make a simple mistake, underestimate a slope, hit a pothole or not see an uneven surface hidden in long grass.

Most quad bike deaths in Australia involve rollovers in which the rider is crushed underneath and dies from asphyxiation.

Perhaps quad bikes should not be so widely used when farmers have other vehicles that can do the same job.

Perhaps there would be fewer quad bikes if they weren't able to be used as a tax deduction.

The boundaries between work and play may be blurred for farm quad bikes but they're not used for work on Lancelin's sand dunes.

The same vehicle used on a farm can become even more lethal when used recreationally.

Quads bikes are reportedly the main cause of farm deaths – Farmsafe has voiced concern – but there is no move to introduce new safety laws.

Even if there were new laws, would people comply?

*Sydney based journalist Ann Arnold helped contribute to this article.*



Quad bikes can be killers in inexperienced hands

# Kitchen renovations a community effort

## Country Women's Association

Last month's meeting of Toodyay CWA was held on Thursday April 23 and ably chaired by Judith Walton in the absence of both President Maxine Walker and Vice-President Elizabeth Mansom.

Bethan Lloyd and Jenny Clarke offered their services when our Secretary Vivien Street was also unable to attend.

Installation of the new kitchen continued and members were able to get a little experience of the dirt and dust of renovating.

Everyone looks forward to a bright, clean and convenient working environment.

Sincere thanks must go to Glenys for her time and organisation, Sean Byron for his boundless generosity, Sean's hard-working and ever-cheerful crew, Mathew and Peter, and Peter Robinson for his help with the painting.

Makit Hardware patiently mixed sample pots of paint and very kindly gave us a discount.

The Toodyay Op Shop must also be mentioned.

They have informed us that they will

contribute \$3000 towards the cost of the kitchen renovation.

We can only say a heartfelt thank you and urge Toodyay residents to patronise them.

This is an excellent demonstration of the fact that all their profits are returned to Toodyay.

It is people and organisations such as these that make Toodyay the delightful place that it is.

Thank you, each and every one.

Were you able to attend Kath Mazella's talk on gynaecological cancer last month?

If you missed it and would like more information, there is a website: <http://gain.com.au>.

Our thanks to *The Herald* which publicised Kath's talk for no cost.

The State Conference, being held in Dunsborough in July, is much anticipated and those attending have booked accommodation.

Following the talk by Kath Mazella, Toodyay Branch will put a motion to the conference that state and federal governments be approached to provide funding annually to both the Cancer Council of WA and the National Cancer Council of Australia

specifically for educating all women to recognise the signs and symptoms and for the required testing for early diagnoses of all gynaecological cancers.

On Saturday April 18 CWA members catered for the Teddy Bears' Picnic held in Duidgee Park in aid of Princess Margaret Hospital for Children.

Perhaps you were one of the lucky ones to get one of Viv's little Milky Way cars with Smartie wheels, driven by a Tiny Teddy.

On Anzac Day, CWA members circulated with baskets of Anzac biscuits, each packet of two commemorating a soldier from Toodyay who gave his life and earned our eternal gratitude.

Between the April and May meetings there were six functions members could attend in addition to the Moondyne Festival.

Have you made a note of the White Elephant Stall on June 13.

We welcome your contributions and hope to see you on the day.

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

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

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

Hall bookings are being taken by Glenys Clabaugh on 9574 5110 or 0427 478 325.



## Bingo and bowls before clean-up keeps club members busy

### Autumn Club Autumn Leaf

WE WERE busy last month with visits from Goomalling and York seniors clubs.

Goomalling visited us for a game of bingo and, of course, morning tea followed by lunch.

The York Seniors Club returned the favour and we entertained them with a few games

of carpet bowls.

Last month was our clean up day, doing our bit keeping Toodyay clean.

With such a busy schedule, we hope this month is quieter.

On June 26 we will visit York Seniors Club.

Our last clean up was after after the Moondyne Festival.

There are no birthdays this month to celebrate.

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Market organisers Karla Hooper (left) and Helen Shanks



# Toodyay Farmers Market an outstanding success

**The Toodyay Farmers Market**  
Karla Hooper

THE TOODYAY Farmers Market committee would like to thank everyone who attended last month's inaugural market day and made it such a great success.

We could not be happier with how our first event went and believe it creates a very good foundation for the future.

With a unique range of artisan sellers, the market has strived to create a space that provides new opportunities to support local growers, suppliers and businesses.

Please join us for our next Toodyay Farmers Market from 9am-1pm on Sunday May 17 at Stirling Park in Stirling Terrace near Newcastle Bridge.

New stalls will add to last month's 33 sellers and there will be an education session on how to grow edible plants for our Toodyay-specific climate, a sound healing demonstration and much more.

We look forward to seeing you there and on every third Sunday of the month from now on.

For more information, please visit [www.toodyayfarmersmarket.org.au](http://www.toodyayfarmersmarket.org.au).



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# Meerkats visit a defining moment for sleepy Avon Valley village

## Toodyay Chamber of Commerce

THE TOODYAY Chamber of Commerce hosted an inspiring sundowner at the Resource Centre on April 16 and it's hoped the impact will have a far-reaching effect.

The event and opportunity to have Mike Edmonds from Meerkats present was kindly sponsored by Targa West.

A big thank you also to other event sponsors Solutions4Business, Freemasons Hotel, Red Robin Hospitality, Coorinja Wines and Michael Brothers Traditionally Pressed Juice.

A clear, insightful presentation by Mike Edmonds, co-founding partner and Director of Meerkats left an audible hum of excitement and anticipation with the 45 attendees from business and local organisations.

The general consensus expressed at the presentation's conclusion was that with the help of this highly successful group of marketers, it is possible Toodyay's untapped potential can finally find a recognisable place on the global tourist map?

In terms of Toodyay's future and growth, the question first needs to be asked: do we wish Toodyay to be more than what it is today or do we want it to remain just simply

an attractive sleepy village nestled peacefully in the Avon Valley?

There are of course, many varying opinions on this question.

Mike Edmonds spoke of companies and organisations that in the past have made the fateful decision to improve the profile of their product or service and that their success from that point on has become obvious.

He said that by working with Meerkats these companies and organisations have been led through a process to discover the 'true purpose' of their product or service, and what uniquely can be recognised and sold to a wider audience.

And, more pointedly, Mike made it clearly obvious that in terms of 'growing Toodyay' it's critical to first find our town's true purpose.

Binding business, community and leaders to a single motivating idea that will attract residents, customers and visitors and keep them coming back for more is essential.

'What's next?' was the buzz around the room, as drinks and canapés circulated after the presentation.

The Toodyay Chamber of Commerce will now undertake to bring together all interested parties; the Shire, business and general



(From left) Clare Love, from Clare Love Beauty; Rob Gough, from Arts Toodyay; local WA Nationals MP Paul Brown and Toodyay Shire Council CEO Stan Scott.

community to discuss that very question.

Maybe there's a moment in every town's history when bright lights get switched on. Was last month's sundowner Toodyay's moment?

In The Herald's March edition, the Chamber of Commerce made mention of a wide-sweeping survey being presented to the town to elicit an accurate and current profile of our town – its residents, business and visitor population.

Although we anticipated submitting this in May's edition, the scope of the survey and the importance of its information have proved more extensive and important than originally considered.

As a result of the Meerkat presentation and opportunities, we will now submit this at a later date and look forward to your participation.

Thanks again to all who joined us at the sundowner and we look forward to catching up soon with many of you who couldn't make it last time.

Remember you are always welcome to join us for a TCCI monthly meeting: second Monday of the month, 7.15pm, Freemasons Hotel, Stirling Terrace Toodyay or visit us at: [www.toodyaychamber.org.au](http://www.toodyaychamber.org.au).

At our 6.30pm June 8 meeting we will have a special presentation from Avon Valley Tourism.

# Anti-mining group learns from Yarloop experience

## Avon and Hills Mining Awareness Group Inc.

Brian Dale

WE RECENTLY met with a group from Yarloop who have been fighting ALCOA about the effects of the Wagerup refinery on their town and they have offered to help AHMAG.

For more than 20 years, the Community Alliance for Positive Solutions (CAPS) has challenged ALCOA about the negative impacts on Yarloop residents' health and lifestyle.

Their considerable experience of opposing bauxite refining and their knowledge of bauxite mining is most welcome and will be extremely invaluable in our campaign to stop bauxite mining here in the Avon Valley and Perth Hills.

The Willowdale mine that feeds the refinery extracts around 10 million tonnes of bauxite ore annually, which is similar to the

tonnage expected to be extracted here in the proposed Felicitas and Fortuna resources, so the comparisons are extremely close.

While we were out and about collecting signatures and telling people about the proposal to open-cut bauxite in the shires of Toodyay, Mundaring and Northam, someone suggested we spread the word at the Perth Garden Festival. It will be a great opportunity to inform a wider audience of the threat of bauxite mining to so many communities so close to Perth and we will let you know how the event went in the next edition.

After many months of serious campaigning, it's time to have some fun.

The AHMAG quiz night at the Morangup Community Hall on Saturday, May 16 is shaping up well. Great prizes have already been donated and we look forward to a great quiz night with games, raffles and other prizes.

Bookings for tables of six are \$10 per person and it's BYO refreshments and

nibbles. So if you would like a fun night out with like-minded people call Diana on 0439 398 788 to secure your seat. To donate a prize, ring Dave and Hope 9572 9072. Hurry, as we expect tables to sell fast. (Ages 15+.)

If you are not on Facebook but would like to keep up to date with AHMAG's latest posts and information, simply type [www.facebook.com/avonandhills](http://www.facebook.com/avonandhills) into your browser.

You will still be able to read our information but you can't post or comment on our page. And, don't worry, you are still not on Facebook.

Fortnightly updates are undertaken on our website [www.ahmag.com.au](http://www.ahmag.com.au), but Facebook is sometimes updated daily depending on issues and information at hand, so take a look.

Contact Brian Dale on 0418 898 788.

# Share acoustic music you play at home in friendly atmosphere

## Toodyay Music Club

Jenny Edgecombe

DO YOU STOP and sing along nostalgically when you hear a favourite old song?

Do you sit at home quietly playing the ukulele, guitar or some other acoustic instrument just a bit?

Toodyay Music Club is a great place to share your music in a friendly atmosphere.

The new Saturday afternoon meeting time last month was popular with members, and performers were as enthusiastic and entertaining as ever.

There were songs plucked from many eras, especially the '60s and '70s, accompanied by a mix of guitars, ukuleles and double bass as well as some violin pieces.

Music styles included folk, blues, country and 'popular'.

Club members have opportunities periodically to perform in other arenas and a small group last month entertained residents at The Residency in Northam – always an enjoyable experience.

This month, regular performers will choose items based on the theme of 'Mothers'.

Newcomers are not expected to prepare for this – just come along with pieces you enjoy presenting, and visitors simply wanting to listen are also most welcome.

It's fantastic entertainment for the price of a small donation towards catering and hall hire.

The next meeting is on Saturday May 9 from 1-4pm in the CWA Hall.

Any style of singing or instrumental performance is welcome so long as it is acoustic.

For more information, please call Joe on 0400 862 694 or Jenny 0417 910 050.

## Charcoal Lane carpark ready to open in June

A NEW 120-bay public car park in Charcoal Lane opposite Toodyay's IGA supermarket is expected to open by June 30.

Toodyay Shire President Day Dow said the \$373,000 cost to ratepayers was being partly offset by a \$100,000 grant from WA Government Royalties for Regions funds.

The new bitumen car park includes landscaping and a retaining wall, and replaces a rough gravel surface with no marked bays or adequate winter drainage.

Some extra long parking bays will be included for vehicles towing trailers and caravans.

However, Cr Dow warned that overnight parking or camping would not be allowed.



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Robyn models Elaine's cardigan



Robyn models Glynne's beanie

## From humble beginnings with dirty raw wool straight from the sheep

### Toodyay Spinners Ange Sturman

THIS month I asked life member Elaine Hutchings, who is probably our longest serving member, to write a short history of the group.

She said the spinning group began in the late '70 and early '80s and the first meetings were held in a private home.

Then the Toodyay shire offered the ladies Parkers' Cottage in the Toodyay Showgrounds for their spinning activities.

The cottage at that time was a three-room building consisting of two front rooms and a kitchen at the back – a little dark and dingy but ideal for the spinners to call home.

The spinners consisted of about six ladies. Meetings were enjoyable social events and since only one or two ladies had ever spun before, most were beginners.

The wool was raw and dirty and straight from sheep, so our hands were very dirty after spinning though also very soft from the natural lanolin in the wool.

At that time you could not buy any of the beautiful coloured slivers (already carded and dyed wool) that we now use.

Alpacas were not available in WA at the time but later we spun cashmere fleeces from imported South African goats which provided a beautiful sheen.

Club membership increased over the years and the wall between the two front rooms was removed to make one large room for more spinners.

We now enjoy a beautiful, bright, renovated air-conditioned room to spin in with a lovely garden and out building.

A big thank you goes to all former club presidents, committee members and spinners over the years for their very hard work in achieving such a successful club and a beautiful cottage.

Thanks also to the Toodyay Shire Council for making it achievable.



Elaine spinning on an Ashford Joy wheel

Members have created several interesting items this month.

Don't forget our Spin-In on Saturday May 23.

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

The Felting Group meets noon to 3pm on the 2nd Monday each month, also at Parkers' Cottage.

Felting group contacts are Jenny Cornwall on 9574 5978 and Jan Manning 9574 5619.

For further information on our Group please contact Ange Sturman, Secretary on 9574 2507 or Gretta Sauta, President on 9574 2868. New members are most welcome – no experience necessary.



Margaret models Audrey's jumper

## Pickle-spreader makes one jar go a long way

### Community Singers Margret O'Sullivan

BY THE time you read this, Toodyay's Anzac Day service will have passed and local singers will have joined their voices to help commemorate the centenary year of the Gallipoli landing.

We embrace the opportunity to be involved in our community and in every opportunity offered to us.

This year, we plan to present three sing-a-

long shows and are looking for people who would love to join us.

Not everyone needs to be in the singing side of our evenings or even in our group – there are lots of other areas you can be involved within.

Most people like to tap along to a tune at some time, so why not come along to share the fun – we would love to see you.

While singing is our primary achievement, our recent fundraiser saw the singers in a very different light.

We had the quality controller, the pickle spreader – who I guarantee would make one jar of pickles go a very long way – the butter spreader (quite an expert), the filling planners, cutters and wrappers – what a talented bunch they are.

What will we see them turn their hands to next?

We meet 7pm Thursday nights at the CWA Hall.

Why not give it a go – you'll be guaranteed to soon be part of the furniture.



The Fabulous Sharron 'I'm not really famous for anything, dah-lings' steals the show



Some of the estimated 6000 people who took part in this year's new-look Moondyne Festival



Moondyne Gang in jail with a Floozy



The Judge pronounces Joe guilty



An amazing bubble blower thrills the crowd



This year's 'Floozy Competition'—previously the Cleaveage Comp—judged by Old Blind Joe

# Moondyne magic



The notorious Moondyne Gang. Photo Nikki Spencer



Ballardong Welcome To Country by local Noongar resident Charmaine Myles



The Toodyay Singers



Moustache Contest winner Ashley McCole



Crown Prosecutor tries to bribe a juror

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