

# The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned  
community newspaper  
Est. 1902

5000 copies circulating in Toodyay, West Toodyay, Goomalling,  
Bolgart, Calingiri, Morangup, Coondle, Waddington, Culham,  
Bejoording, Nunile, Julimar, Bakers Hill, Clackline, Wooroloo,  
Wundowie, Gidgegannup and local districts

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## Shire to axe Anzac trees

Michael Sinclair-Jones

THE SHIRE of Toodyay has decided to cut down two trees that may be at least 60 years old at Anzac Park to make the corner safer for trucks on the town's heavy-haulage bypass.

The towering lemon scented gums are thought to be linked to 26 planted in 1922 to commemorate Toodyay's 26 war dead.

The item was not listed in last month's shire council meeting agenda, and the public was not given a copy of a works report that called for the trees to be removed.

Cr Sally Craddock was the only councillor to vote against it and has joined former national serviceman and Vietnam War veteran Bruce Guthrie (pictured below right) in calling for a stay of execution until after the next council meeting on August 23.

Mr Guthrie said the shire had not appeared to have considered other options such as re-aligning the road closer to the railway line to widen the bend for heavy trucks and trailers.

"These magnificent trees are part of our heritage," he said.

"They were planted to create a place of sanctuary to honour Toodyay's war dead.

"Removing them will break the amenity of the area and upset the integrity of the original plantings.

"Why can't an engineering solution be found to make the bend safer without removing the trees?"

Mr Guthrie, who drove Australian army trucks in combat zones during the Vietnam War, said the doomed trees were similar to those planted to honour fallen soldiers in Perth's Kings Park and had a special significance for returned services people.

In this month's 'our shire news' (Page 16), Shire President David Dow said the decision to remove the trees was "not taken lightly" but there seemed no other way to make the corner safer for heavy trucks.

He said the town's heavy-haulage bypass was unsuitable for long-term use and the council had authorised him and Shire CEO Stan Scott to lobby for an alternative route further east of town.

The council report – not shown to ratepayers – said removing the trees "will still not bring the road in line with the required standards for heavy-haulage vehicles on curves".

"It was a 'band-aid' approach to a long-term problem that will not be resolved by the removal of the trees".

The report included an email from Cr Dow about "ongoing complaints from transport operators who have to cross to the wrong side of the road to negotiate the corner".



Former national serviceman and Vietnam War veteran Bruce Guthrie flanked by two tall lemon-scented gum trees earmarked for destruction by the Toodyay Shire Council to widen the corner of Anzac Avenue and Clinton Street to make more room for heavy trucks.

His email said that during a councillors' road inspection bus tour, "there was a bit of light-hearted banter about removing two trees at the corner of Anzac and Clinton".

Shire plans for a \$110,000 Anzac Park upgrade "suggested that a similar tree would have to be removed" and that the other two could go "while the equipment was on site".

"We will cop some flak but it has to be done," Cr Dow told last month's meeting.

The Toodyay RSL executive met three days later and agreed to back the shire's decision.

However, Cr Craddock, who was not on the road inspection tour bus, said the trees were "iconic" and worth saving.

"I've asked the shire president to delay any action until after the next council meeting so other options can be considered," Cr Craddock said.

Editorial Page 4.

## Council hits Wroth for \$14,300 over gravel for 2009 bush fire recovery

THE SHIRE of Toodyay is pursuing former shire president Charlie Wroth for payment of a further \$14,300 after a recent \$40,000 WA Supreme Court settlement with him over alleged overpayments of salary entitlements to former shire CEO Graham Merrick.

The fresh claim – this time in the Perth Magistrate's Court – involves a dispute over the supply of gravel after Toodyay's catastrophic 2009 bush fire.

The gravel was ordered for remedial work in Toodyay's Majestic Heights subdivision,

where 37 homes were destroyed in late December 2009.

The shire claims it paid for but didn't receive the gravel from Mr Wroth's private earthmoving business, Warragenny Holdings.

It is understood Mr Wroth – who was a shire councillor at the time and has declined to comment – claims to have sworn evidence to refute the shire's allegation.

The case has been listed for a pre-trial conference in Perth on Monday August 8.

Continued Page 3, Letters Page 4.

### Herald wins 2016 Wheatbelt Business Excellence Award



Herald President Bill Manning and awards presenter Caroline Redford. Story Page 14.

The Toodyay Herald –  
winner 2016 Wheatbelt  
Business Excellence  
Award

this month



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# The Toodyay Herald

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

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

All advertising should be emailed to [advertising@toodyayherald.com.au](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 \$33 (postage and packaging) per year (11 issues). Please send a cheque to PO Box 100, Toodyay 6566.

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

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## THANK YOU

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped produce this edition of *The Toodyay Herald*: Richard Grant, Peter and Beth Ruthven, Jan Manning, Ieva Tomsons, Allan Gregory, Heather Appleby, Gary Walton, Joseph Fernandez and Jean Witcombe.

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

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Noon Wednesday  
 August 24

Noon Monday  
 August 29

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 Articles and stories: [news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:news@toodyayherald.com.au)

# O! Blind Joe

## Left holding the baby

GOODNESS ME, where to start?

There's so much balderdash laying around that needs a good kicking.

Lord Colin Barnett is still waddling around quacking, ducking and weaving but the electoral undertaker is already measuring up a resting place for WA's inept Premier.

In two years the WA economy has tanked from being the nation's top performer to now being second last.

The mining boom came and went and with it hundreds of billions of dollars slipped quietly into enormous safes hidden in US boardrooms – and we're left with diddly squat to show for it.

Adding insult to injury, these big corporations have no intention of rehabilitating their Swiss cheese masterpiece.

In NSW alone there are 45 coal voids and another 6050ha of pits planned or approved, which will add an area of voids larger than Sydney harbour.

When the pits get long in the tooth, the big guys do a runner.

Rio Tinto has proposed a deal to sell its Blair Athol mine for \$1 to a debt-laden junior player, while Japan's Sumitomo Corp last year sold its stake in the Isaac Plains mine for \$1 to another minnow.

It's we poor taxpayers who will have to clean up the mess as will probably be the case with Opal Vale's putrid poison pit at Hoddys Well, 12km south of Toodyay.

We're also giving away vast reserves of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for free with no taxes collected because these big companies know all the tricks – they just grab the subsidies, sniff the gas and drink cheap diesel.

Huge WA offshore LNG projects such as Gorgon and Pluto don't pay for petroleum resources via a royalty, and it seems unlikely that a petroleum resource rent tax will be paid in the near future.

Mineral resource royalties are a straightforward 10-12 per cent of the gas value at the well-head but we exempted the big guys from this financial inconvenience.

Despite last year's WA Supreme Court setback when unruly serfs had a rare win, His Lordship still plans to bulldoze Perth's Beelihar wetlands to extend Roe Highway to Fremantle and is hocking WA's family jewels as fast he can before the next State Election sees him thrown out of the castle on his ear.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission chairman Rod Sims said the sale of ports and electricity infrastructure to private companies had caused him and the public to lose faith in privatisation and deregulation.

Lord Colin's legacy will be a reputation for monumental incompetence and an arrogant disregard for democratic processes.

*When prosperity comes, do not use all of it – Chinese philosopher Confucius (551-479BC).*

## Dregs of doom

Meanwhile, King Malcolm Turncoat Turnbull dithered and dallied; threw the dice and drank from the chalice of power only to find that dregs remained.

"Damn, I'm doomed," he cried, and now can't go anywhere without shaved gorillas covering his back.

Culture vultures George (birdbrain)

Brandis, Tony (budgie-smuggler) Abbott and Cory (buzzard) Bernardi are always lurking in the background, casually sharpening their talons.

Did you notice that today is the tomorrow we worried about yesterday?

In the US and London last year, four banks pleaded guilty to conspiracy to rig the \$5.3 trillion per day foreign exchange market and fines totalling \$5.6 billion were handed down to six banks.

Barclays, Royal Bank of Scotland, Citigroup and JP Morgan Chase described themselves as "The Cartel" and used secret 'chat rooms' and coded language to manipulate exchange rates to make huge profits.

One Barclays trader wrote: "If you ain't cheating, you ain't trying."

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation said the scheme was criminal "on a massive scale", and anybody who thinks our own banks aren't just as dodgy needs to get out more.

The Commonwealth Bank's financial planning division was found guilty of serious misconduct that put the retirement savings of thousands of customers at risk.

Staff were also allegedly complicit in a \$76 million Ponzi scheme and received secret commissions for their role in the alleged fraud, which was ignored by the bank's management for five years.

The ABC's 4 Corners TV program recently revealed a scandal in the same bank's life insurance arm CommInsure in which doctors were pressured to change their assessments of customers to avoid payouts; payouts to terminally ill customers were delayed and claims to medically retired former staff were not honoured.

These things become more important when we consider that Australian households have more debt compared with the size of the country's economy than any other in the world.

The real measure of your wealth is how much you'd be worth if you paid all your bills.

In other great news, Aussie households discard \$8 billion worth of edible food as waste every year – a figure double what we spent this financial year on foreign aid.

US food magnate Wayde Kirschenman, whose family has been farming since the 1930s, estimates about a quarter of the potato crop – and sometimes as much as half – is lost or wasted on farms.

If we include commercial waste from restaurants and supermarkets, I reckon we're talking north of \$20 billion.

A tiny bit goes to compost or chook food and the rest ends up wrapped in plastic and dumped in landfill, where rotting food is a major driver of climate change.

Landfill sites are the third-largest source of methane – a greenhouse gas 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide.

Man has been endowed with reason and the power to create so that he can add to what he's been given.

However, up until now he hasn't been much of a creator – only a destroyer.

*Forests keep disappearing, rivers dry up, wild life's become extinct, the climate's ruined and the land grows poorer and uglier every day – 'Uncle Vanya' by Russian playwright Anton Chekhov (1860-1904).*

Office hours are from 9am - noon on highlighted days August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Advert deadline	25	26	27
28	29 Story deadline	30	31	September 1	2	3

# Charabancs, Mosquito Mums in orange bus legends

Ieva Tomsons

ON A FOGGY morning in 1931, 34 schoolchildren were being driven to the Toodyay State School in Duke Street in a privately owned old-fashioned motor coach called a charabanc.

Five of the smallest children sat on the bench seat to left of the driver Oliver Page and three sat to his right.

As the charabanc entered the (then) Clinton Street level crossing an unscheduled goods train collided with the bus killing five children and injuring 12.

The tragedy, widely reported in national newspapers, devastated the Toodyay district and soon after the top-notch Orange Bus School Service that now transports local schoolchildren started.

For 85 years local contractors and their drivers have been responsible for the safe journeys of more than 128,000 regional students on 855 buses and records of school bus fatalities, started in the mid-50s, show no recorded deaths on this service.

"The service is particular to WA," according to Bus WA Manager Wally Gargano who recognises the drivers' unique insight into the well-being of a community.

"It's pastoral care really," said Mr Gargano who says that drivers carry more than their passengers "they carry vital information" that in many cases spans two generations.

Marilyn Bowden and John Lucas are two of the network of Avon Valley orange bus

drivers who have experienced the changes in children, parents and occupational health and safety regulations.

Between them they have been driving/contracting for more than 70 years and while welcoming the implementation of safety measures such as seatbelts, fire extinguishers, air conditioning and bus aides they admit that "they'd like to pick the best from both eras".

The days of dropping off "medicines at the newsagency, delivering a drum of oil to Lyn and Alan Chitty or newspapers to old Mrs Cook", are not an option now, they said.

"There is no way you'd get a lamb on a bus for show-and-tell these days," said former Gidgegannup contractor Max O'Dea. "Someone would worry that someone might get bitten," he laughed.

As chair of the bus contractors' association in 2005 Mr O'Dea was in the thick of the debate about the introduction of seatbelts on school buses.

"The (activist group) Mosquito Mums lobbied the State Government for seatbelts after a private school bus rollover," he said and were successful in achieving this important safety measure prior to the outcome of a Queensland trial.

A bus fire on a petrol non-orange bus signalled the changeover to diesel buses in the 1980s and the subsequent introduction of child-check alarms, to ensure no child is left unattended in a bus, was also due to a couple of potentially fatal incidents.

The introduction of bus aides such as Leanne McGregor and Rosemary Lucas a decade ago has been great help for disabled students and for the drivers who have battled to drive on many occasions with 'behaviourally challenged' children.

"It's a bit difficult," said John 'Dook' Lucas, "driving the bus with one hand and fending off a school bag with the other".

Given the kilometres these drivers cover on often hazardous gravel roads there are remarkably few accidents or incidents.

"It's the best system with the highest safety record in Australia," said Toodyay's Ian Harrower who succeeded Mr O'Dea as chair



Precious cargo – school bus driver Marilyn Bowden with primary school student Annie Bills.

of the contractors' association.

Mr Harrower attributes this remarkable record to the "diligence of the operators/drivers and their attention to safety and maintenance".

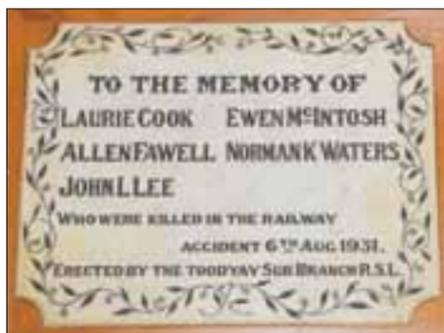
The drivers' vested interest in their community which is a "symbiotic relationship", plays a major part according to Mr O'Dea. "It's the pride in their jobs and responsibility to their communities."

Laurie Cook (13), Ewen McIntosh (13), Ivor Allen Fawell (6), Norman Waters (8)

and John Lee (14) who died in a bus where eight children sat alongside the driver would marvel at the degree of comfort and safety enjoyed by today's schoolchildren.

The 1931 inquest into their deaths reported that the children were singing a song prior to the collision.

"These days they've got their own earphones and music and there is no more arguing about what cassette to play but at least it keeps them quiet," quipped Marilyn Bowden.



Memorial plaque in school library.

## River roars to life for Avon Descent

THE BIGGEST field of power boats for more than 10 years will roar into life on August 6 for the 44th Avon Descent.

Paddlers have also responded to the almost ideal river conditions and total entries for the event are around 500 – well up on last year.

The 2015 event was marred by very low water levels until heavy rain only a couple of days before last year's start.

Northam's Avon Descent Association (NADA) worked this year to bring back the enthusiasm for the iconic event with the new "Hell or High Water" theme.

Regular rainfall over the past three months has the big field of competitors fired up and ready to go.

One of the personal highlights will be York builder Gary McNamara's 40th Avon Descent. Gary has not missed a race since 1977 and is the first person to reach this amazing milestone.

Paddle legend Darryl Long is teaming up with his old mate Paul Genovesi to reprise their record-breaking double kayak effort back in 1996. The time set by Darryl and Paul that year has not been bettered in the 20 years since.

This year also sees the return of interstate rivalry with the Spirit Paddle Sports Challenge between WA, Queensland, NSW and SA.

Each State will be represented by a single paddler and a duo.



Competitors tackle Extracts Weir at last month's Northam to Toodyay pre-race trial.

NADA is also keen to boost the attraction of traditional spectator points.

A few weeks ago a project team got to work on the Extracts Weir rock wall and created a new 'chute' to improve water flow.

This should eliminate the need for boats to be dragged down or carried around the weir and the power boats in particular should provide some great action.

Much work has also gone into improving the Cobbler Pool overnight campsite.

A feature of this is the new central RaceHUB, which will be the home for all Avon Descent information for 2016.

The 124km event is due to start at Northam at 8am on Saturday August 6 and finish in Perth the next day after passing through Toodyay over the weekend.

## Shire goes after Wroth again

Continued from Page 1

IN AN ITEM not listed in last month's shire council meeting agenda, the shire went behind closed doors to authorise Shire President David Dow and Acting CEO Cherie Delmage to attend the pre-trial conference and decide whether to accept or reject any proposed settlement.

The recommendation was moved by Cr Judy Dow, seconded by Cr Paula Greenway and carried 9-0 before the meeting was reopened to the public.

Cr Dow declined later to publicly reveal the amount of money in dispute but a court official said it was \$14,300.

Mr Wroth's \$40,000 WA Supreme Court settlement and legal costs were paid by local government insurance because he was shire president 2005-2009 when Mr Merrick was

allegedly overpaid about \$151,000, which the shire is now trying to recover.

However, the latest shire claim against Mr Wroth involves his role as a private contractor and seems unlikely to attract the same insurance cover.

Mr Merrick was shire CEO when the gravel was ordered and said he was aware of the latest legal action against Mr Wroth.

Mr Merrick said he had not heard further from the shire or the WA Supreme Court about the separate action against himself, which has now run for more than two years under a veil of council secrecy.

The shire's 2016/17 budget passed last month shows it spent almost \$300,000 last year on legal costs – nearly 400 per cent more than budgeted for – and has set aside a further \$250,00 for legal fees this year.

# AQUARIUS

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# The Toodyay Herald

## Anzac shame

NOBODY seems to know how old the trees are that flank the north corner of Anzac Park at the Toodyay war memorial.

History appears to have gone AWOL since 1922 when 26 'scented gums' were planted near Clinton Street and Anzac Avenue to honour Toodyay's 26 war dead.

What's known is that 14 of the stately trees that now fringe the park were planted at least 49 years ago when thousands of Australians were fighting, dying and being injured in the deadly jungles of Vietnam.

Returned Vietnam War veterans form the main cohort that now assembles each year on Anzac Day to observe a minute's silence for their fallen comrades.

It's hard to imagine a more iconic symbol of that respectful moment than the tall gum trees that shade the war memorial park during Toodyay's hot summers and stand in silent vigil throughout the year.

It beggars belief that anyone would want to cut them down, yet that is exactly what the Toodyay Shire Council intends to do.

Two of the trees have been earmarked for destruction to make way for – of all things – heavy trucks and trailers that occasionally have to struggle round the town's ill-suited heavy-haulage bypass.

Last month's decision to axe the trees was made in near-secrecy with no public notice or shire documents for ratepayers to read while councillors rushed through an urgent late motion that the trees had to go.

This was despite a works report to council that the corner will still be unsafe for heavy trucks and that removing the trees is only a 'band-aid approach' that won't resolve a long-term problem.

So why cut them down at all? The answer appears to be to save a few bucks.

A council pledge to spend \$110,000 on upgrading Anzac Park includes removing another tree, and – according to Shire President David Dow – why not cut down the other two while equipment is on site?

The RSL says it approves and – perhaps like some other local volunteer organisations reliant on shire support and funding – may not want to rock the boat.

The real problem is the heavy-haulage bypass itself, which includes four sharp right-angle bends, including two at either end of Stirling Terrace.

Cr Dow said State Government funding in 2001 was scuppered by ratepayers who opposed an alternative route east of town, and nothing more has been done since he was elected to council 4½ years ago.

The shire council appears to have been asleep at the wheel.

Ultimately, the fate of the doomed Anzac Park trees comes down to respect, dignity and common sense – qualities that appear to be needed at the moment.

*Michael Sinclair-Jones  
Editor*

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.

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*The way we were – This photograph of a steam train crossing the Avon River over the now-demolished Toodyay railway bridge near today's miniature railway circuit in Duidgee Park was taken during the July 1917 flood, which was reported to have been the highest since 1872. From Newcastle Gaol Museum collection.*

## letters

### A sorry, sordid mess

IF THE revealing facts outlined in last month's excellent *Herald* Editorial 'Dragged through the mud' are only part of this sorry story, then the council instigators of this sordid mess should hang their heads in shame.

The attempt to drag a good man's name through the legal mud smacks of a vendetta against a prominent citizen who over many years of dedicated community service and effort has done a great deal of good for the people of Toodyay.

He deserves better than the treatment he has received.

Former shire president Charlie Wroth has a right to feel scarred, bitter and betrayed.

That he isn't is testimony to the integrity and character of the man and thanks to the rock-solid support of his wife Alison and family.

Goodness knows what that family must have gone through over the past few years.

This ill-advised exercise appears to have cost ratepayers hundreds of thousands of dollars so far in legal fees.

And for what?

The answer is we don't know.

Ratepayers are as mushrooms kept in the dark – we are there only to fund these council follies.

Obviously, there is far more to this drama to be revealed.

The Wroths are legally gagged and cannot tell their side of the story.

I hope former shire CEO Graham Merrick, whom I have never met, does have his day in court when perhaps more details of the inept handling by council officials can come to light.

In this lose-lose situation, the only winners are – as usual – the lawyers.

*Graham Barber  
Julimar*

### Poll crush solution

I REFER to Marion Pathey-Jones's letter in last month's *Herald*.

She raised concerns about the invasive nature of federal election campaign material being displayed and handed out last month along the long narrow passageway to the entrance of the Memorial Hall polling place in Stirling Terrace.

As one of those people who has handed out election material for more than 20 years, I have to agree with her.

Polling places are chosen by the Electoral Commission, and I have raised concerns with our party about the venues used at various times.

The CWA Hall was used a number of times but created a great deal of congestion at the front entrance because there is no wheelchair access except at the side.

To prevent electoral fraud during voting, there can only be one entrance and one exit to a polling place.

The Toodyay Showgrounds were used a number of times but created parking hassles and difficulties for elderly voters.

The Community Centre was also used a number of times but has less available

parking compared with Charcoal Lane.

The Memorial Hall is really the only suitable venue.

The front entry can't be used because it lacks wheelchair access but the long narrow passage at the side is sloped to accommodate wheelchairs and older voters with strollers, and there are disabled bays in nearby Charcoal Lane.

Australian polling regulations require a six-metre 'campaign-material-free zone' set at the discretion of the Electoral Commission officer in charge at the site.

If this zone was set closer to Stirling Terrace it would alleviate some of the congestion on polling day.

It would make the job of party volunteers handing out election material easier because we would all have to comply and not need to race around to cover such a large area.

I have copied this letter to local Federal Member Christian Porter for his attention – perhaps a change to the six-metre limit may be possible.

*Frank Panizza  
Nunile*

### Roadworks for rubbish?

HOW MANY OF you have noticed all the widening and repair work taking place on Toodyay Road?

Is this an undertaking to make our main route to Perth road safer after all the many tragedies that have taken place over the years on this death trap of a road?

One would hope so.

However, I fear it more likely that our State Government is preparing the way to accommodate the 60 extra rubbish trucks a day that will be hauling excess garbage from the Perth metropolitan area to the massive new Toodyay rubbish tip.

These 60 or more extra trucks a day will surely cancel out any safety measures being installed in this already hazardous road.

I am sure Toodyay businesses that depend on the tourist trade will already be feeling uneasy at the thought of their main tourism artery being congested by garbage trucks.

I for one do not relish the idea of a precarious drive from Perth to Toodyay while trying to sightsee behind a fleet of heavily laden garbage trucks.

*Ken Macintyre  
Dumbarton*

### Blame parents, not teachers

WHAT IS HAPPENING at our school?

I'll tell you what I see.

Despite the bitching on *Facebook* (I call it 'Facebitch' – and no, I'm not on it), the school appears to be finally calling a stop to the unacceptable behaviour of a small minority of students and, by extension, their parents.

I single out the parents in this because students rarely learn this bad behaviour – particularly swearing – from school.

I could quote the "remember the good old days when ... happened" or suggest "not in my day" but I'm not yet too old to forget that

things weren't perfect in those days either.

What I do remember is a different parent attitude and engagement.

If your child was in trouble at school, they were generally in worse trouble when they got home.

Parents rarely visited the school claiming their child was being 'victimised' and with good reason – their child wasn't.

Up to 10-15 parents regularly attended P&C meetings in a school with 200 kids, whereas now six or seven parents is cause for celebration in a school with more than 400 children.

Any calls for help with fundraising or class parental help fall on deaf ears – the excuse I hear is 'oh but I work'.

Well so did I twenty years ago but some things are just as important as work, such as being actively engaged in your child's education in a positive sense, not just whingeing when something is wrong.

Can't get to a meeting or help in a class? Then offer some other help.

I've seen parents pull their children out of the school citing 'behaviour problems' yet when I ask what they had done to help the school to address the issue, they just say it's all "too hard" and "that's what the teachers are paid for".

Teachers are paid to teach, not to act as parents for disruptive children whose own parents often struggle with their behaviour.

Some people would rather pay to send their children to schools in Midland or Northam, convincing themselves that they are getting a 'better' education for it.

Nothing worthwhile happens without effort.

I look around and see so many things that a small country town used to have (ie: netball, basketball and badminton) and now see us as an outer suburb of Midland that's lost lots of its community feeling due to lack of 'people' commitment, not a lack of money.

I am a Toodyay District High School Council member and it must be noted that this letter is purely my personal opinion and not that of the school or school council.

*Sally Martin  
Culham  
(See Police Beat, Page 6).*

### School breakfast plea

HI PEOPLE of Toodyay – we need your help. I am the coordinator of the Toodyay District High School Breakfast Club.

We serve a 40-minute breakfast on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8am when up to 40 students can enjoy some of what we offer.

There is hot Milo to warm them up, spaghetti, Weetbix and tinned fruit.

We roster two people on each day and have a reserve person who, unfortunately, isn't always available to help.

We need back-up volunteers and also a kind person to help on Fridays.

If you can make yourself available for this important service to help our young students get a really good start to their school day, please contact me on 9574 2069.

*Max J. Heath  
Dewars Pool*

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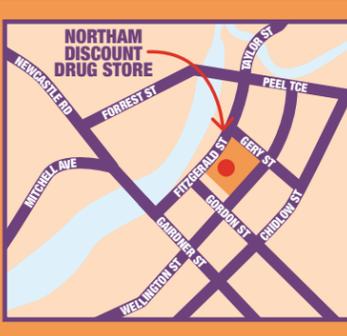
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# Injured driver trapped in car for 45 minutes



Car wreck in which a driver with serious chest injuries spent 45 minutes trapped before being rescued by local volunteers.

## Police Beat

With Sgt Warren Conder  
Toodyay Police Station



country roads continue to get themselves into serious difficulties," Toodyay police chief Sgt Warren Conder said.

"Some drivers allow themselves to be distracted and don't pay enough attention on the road, while others drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

"All these factors can contribute to traffic crashes – and many drivers don't survive.

"It appears in this particular crash, the driver found himself in a very difficult position to come back from.

"In a split second, he had nowhere to go except off the road, out of control and into a tree.

"The result is it nearly cost the life of yet another local motorist and could easily have killed or seriously injured others.

"The driver is very lucky to be alive considering the damage to his vehicle.

"Excessive speed and inattention cause 58 per cent of road crashes in Australia.

"In this case, the driver suffered serious

injuries that may affect the rest of his life.

"It takes a heavy toll not only on the victims, their families and friends, but also on local emergency service volunteers who face the grim reality of regular call-outs to traumatic scenes that most people would want never to see in their entire lives.

"None of these crashes need occur if people took more care how they drive on public roads."

Police inquiries are continuing.

### School bridge vandals caught

THREE BOYS were charged with causing weekend damage that forced the temporary closure of a timber and steel footbridge over the Avon River between Newcastle Park (next to *The Herald* office in Stirling Terrace) and Toodyay District High School in Drummond Street.

The juvenile offenders destroyed several timber planks in the decking of the shire-owned structure (see photo *our shire news* page 17) and forced its temporary closure to students and others while repairs estimated to cost more than \$2250 were made.

The boys – who live elsewhere and don't attend the local school – were dealt with by the juvenile justice system.

### Servo safe cut open

POLICE are seeking a Caucasian male in black clothing who used a portable angle



Forced entry gained through ceiling.

grinder to steal a considerable amount of money from the Caltex service station at the corner of Stirling Terrace and Goomalling Road last month.

Police believe the offender arrived at the scene in a black four-door type vehicle such as a Falcon sedan or Holden Commodore sedan at 11.30pm on Sunday July 24 and began cutting his way into the roof with the angle grinder.

He then disabled a burglar alarm and used the angle grinder to cut open the service station safe.

The offender was inside the service station for about an hour and a half – and possibly making a lot of noise – before leaving at 1am with the stolen money.

Police are checking video surveillance cameras and testing DNA samples left at the crime scene.

Anyone who saw or heard anything suspicious should please call Toodyay police on 9574 9555 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.



Safe cut open with angle grinder.

### Computer match nails thief

COMPUTER-MATCHED fingerprinting has led to a breakthrough in solving a burglary at the Toodyay Tennis Club.

"We've now got a name for a person whose prints matched those from another crime elsewhere," Sgt Conder said.

"Computer matching of DNA samples and fingerprints enables us to instantly match tiny samples of forensic evidence collected at crime scenes.

"We're now trying to locate a person who may be able to assist with our inquiries."

### Top cop backs TDHS Principal

SGT CONDER say he is 100 per cent behind a campaign by new Toodyay District High School Principal Colin Ferguson to stop abusive behaviour by a small section of students in the school (see *Letters*, Page 4).

"I've met Colin and offered him my full support and assistance if needed," Sgt Conder said.

"It's sad to see because many children across the state come from dysfunctional families or suffer as a result of other negative influences at home.

"This can create many challenges for the Education Department and WA Police in managing and engaging with these children.

"Many families have difficulties at home but the responsibility and care of all children lies ultimately with their parents."

## Late night lights may signal trouble

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

REPORTING suspicious behaviour of any type, as soon as possible, to our police or Crimestoppers is a community service.

Suspicious behaviour may be a cruising vehicle that is not known in the district.

It may be spotlighting on public or private land, reserves, etc., late at night.

The legality of this activity will be checked by police.

If a farmer is using a spotlight legitimately, perhaps the police and neighbours could be informed in advance to save unnecessary

worry among concerned neighbours.

Over the past years there has been some cattle and sheep rustling within our shire.

Contact the police or Crimestoppers as soon as possible if there is vehicular activity on a property at night that appears to be out of character.

Community eyes and ears are invaluable in assisting the police to monitor property, so contact police or Crimestoppers regarding any suspicious behaviour.

Your phone call may be a vital piece in solving a jigsaw of crime.

Call 000 for emergencies only. For everything else, call Toodyay Police on 9574 9555 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

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# Gun club plan angers local residents

PUBLIC OPPOSITION to a new shotgun club in Bejoording has prompted the Toodyay Shire Council to extend the period for public submissions to Friday August 12.

Local ratepayers claim the shire failed to inform them properly when it published the wrong address in June notices posted to neighbouring property owners.

They also claim the shire failed to properly inform ratepayers by advertising the proposal in the Northam-based *Avon Valley Gazette* newspaper instead of the more locally widely read *Toodyay Herald*.

Shire documents show the address as Wattening and Bolgart, although Landgate and Department of Fire and Emergency Services maps show it as Bejoording.

Wannamal Sporting Clays – Australia's second-biggest clay shooting club – has applied to the shire to relocate from Wannamal to Lots 55-56 in Telegraph Road, Bejoording.

The club wants to build a new clubhouse,



Wannamal gun club Facebook post.

amenities, shooting range and car park for 100 vehicles, and plans to hold regular weekend shoots for gun club members from around Australia and internationally.

The application lodged by club secretary Carrie Paulsen describes clay shooting as “an entertaining sport for all the family”.

Its 69 members include 2014 Commonwealth Games gold medallist Laura Coles.

Ms Paulsen said the club planned to host about 20 club events throughout the year and aimed to host national events with overnight weekend camping for more than 220 competitors.

“The flow-on effect would boost tourism within the Shire of Toodyay significantly,” Ms Paulsen said.

“The community would benefit from the support our members would bring to local retailers such as petrol stations, cafes, restaurants and local tourist attractions.

“The construction of a new clubhouse could also potentially provide a function hall for hire to the local public community in the shire of Toodyay.”

Ms Paulsen said the club had a strong affiliation with the Scouts Association and had partnered the Gingin Scouts to provide a camping and shooting event for more than 200 children aged six to 16 years old.

A shire report to a July 12 Council Forum said the plan was “likely to have positive social implications”.

“Should the shire resolve to refuse or conditionally approve the proposal, the applicant has a right of review through the State Administrative Tribunal which will incur legal costs,” the report said.

“The emissions and impacts of noise are considered one of the main issues associated

with this development proposal.

Neighbouring land-owner Geoffrey Parker said the proposed new shooting range was only 700m from a property he recently bought in Old Plains Road.

Mr Parker opposes the development mainly because of the noise irritation of having 7000 daily shotgun blasts from 8am to 9pm every weekend for six months of the year.

“I have always enjoyed the peaceful atmosphere of this area – it would drive me mad to have to listen to that repetitive percussive impact because I work full-time, and weekends are the only time I can enjoy the peace and quiet.”

Mr Parker said he was also concerned that lead pellets scattered from tens of thousands of spent shotgun cartridges could poison a creek that flows through his property.

Two other neighbours said that if they had known the gun club was planned in Bejoording instead of Wattening or Bolgart, they would have lodged opposing submissions much earlier.

“Wattening is 12km away but the proposed gun clubhouse is only 1.7km from our home and sound can carry up to five kilometres.

“Everybody loves it here for the peace and quiet – not to hear hundreds of visiting shooters blasting shotguns at clay targets all day long.

“The shire put an ad in the *Avon Valley Gazette* which nobody here reads because there's never any Toodyay news in it.

“Three other neighbours also didn't know anything about it – why wasn't it advertised in *The Herald*?”

“If they have 100 shooters each firing 100 shotgun shells a day in weekend competitions – as they advertise on *Facebook* – that means 10,000 blasts a day from big



Wannamal Sporting Clays Secretary Carrie Paulsen.

shotguns shattering our peace and spraying large amounts of lead everywhere.

Toodyay Shire President David Dow said the “contentious” gun club application was not advertised in *The Herald* because “it is not always desirable to hold back on consultation to fit *The Herald's* (monthly publishing) schedule”.

Cr Dow said it was “a bit of a stretch” to claim there was inadequate public consultation when that process was not yet completed.

## Less ‘crazy’, slight hiccups and a 48% pay rise



### Bat in the Belfry Geoff Appleby

LAST month's shire council meeting was a marked improvement on some recent efforts.

I don't know whether it was a result of Cr Kate Wood's observation in June that it was “crazy that meetings went on for so long” but – apart from some secret squirrel business right at the end – the main part was all over in just less than two hours.

Standard fare such as an extractive-industry licence, asset rationalisation and commercial leasing of the shire-owned Connor's Cottage in Piesse Street sailed through with little angst, and there were fewer administrative blunders than usual.

Several agenda items were passed ‘en bloc’, which is quick and efficient.

However it is wise to ensure that those matters in which councillors have declared an interest be excluded because it defeats the purpose if they have to be revisited.

Another slight hiccup led to the deferral of plans for a new National Broadband Network high-speed wireless internet tower in Morangup.

It will definitely be in McKnoe Drive but the correct land title and lot number has to be sorted with NBN Co, which seems to have made a stuff-up in the paperwork – well-spotted Cr Paula Greenway, but it begs the question why nobody in the planning department noticed the error before sending the item to council for approval.

The next item was a planning application for a proposed house in Clinton Street, which is in the same street as the historic Newcastle Gaol Museum in the town's ‘heritage’ area.

The matter was discussed ad nauseam at a July Shire Forum but the debate still had legs when it got to full council.

Two alternative recommendations were offered, one to refuse the application on advice from the Shire Heritage Advisor and the other to require certain modifications.

After a torturous debate about whether to add a heritage-conforming window to a blank laundry wall, the rake of the roof and admissions that Clinton Street was already a “hotch-potch” of architectural designs, approval was granted 8-1 after Cr Sally Craddock requested her dissenting vote be

recorded against an earlier amendment.

Yet another sneaky item without notice was slipped onto the agenda near the end of the meeting as “new business of an urgent nature”.

The public gallery and your faithful Bat were – as is all too often the case with this council – left to twiddle their thumbs in the dark and squint at resolutions appearing line by line on an overhead screen behind the president's head while councillors scrutinised a five-page report and recommendations to which only they had access.

It was a plan to chop down two large lemon scented gum trees at Anzac Park (see page 1) to make it safer for trucks using the town's next-to-useless heavy-haulage bypass route around a sharp bend where Anzac Avenue meets Clinton Street.

The item was raised as urgent business because the \$12,500 needed to remove the trees and realign the road and footpath had to be included in the 2016-17 Budget, which was passed earlier in the evening.

Shire President David Dow's ardent lobbying sealed the doomed trees' fate with an 8-1 vote (Cr Craddock against) after less debate than whether to stick an unwanted heritage window in a stylish new architect-designed house further up the street.

Councillors also agreed that the shire president and CEO should start chasing funds for a proper heavy-haulage bypass elsewhere – in effect, shutting the stable door long after the horse has bolted.

The evening's real biggie – the shire's 2016/17 budget – sailed through without demur in a flurry of 9-0 votes.

Rates – as flagged in the *June Herald* – will rise 3.5 per cent overall and produce a small surplus of \$160,000, minus the cost of chopping down the Anzac Park trees.

A June threat to “restrict the amount allocated to community requests” failed to materialise, with ‘community sponsorship’ increasing 11 per cent to \$51,000 – 21 per cent more than actually spent last year.

Cr Dow said later that the budget had been balanced with a lower-than-planned rates increase (originally to be 6.5 per cent under the shire's 10-year strategic community plan) by pruning small items across the board without the need for major cuts to core business such as works and services.

“Considerable effort has also been put into containing administration costs,” Cr Dow said, although his own president's annual allowance will increase by 48 per cent to \$29,000 (see our shire news Page 16), plus nearly \$16,750 for meeting fees, travelling expenses and a telecommunications allowance.

Deputy President Therese Chitty's annual allowance for her role also rose 48 per cent to \$7318, plus another \$16,750 that other councillors also get.

Finally, it's worth noting that the shire's planning and development department will move from Fiennes Street to the more

modern shire-owned community centre recently vacated by the Toodyay Community Resource Centre in Stirling Terrace.

The new digs will include a front counter for planning inquiries and relieve pressure on overcrowded office dongas at the shire's cramped Fiennes Street headquarters.

## emergency services

# Pioneer firefighter paid the ultimate price

### Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Mick McKeown

BUSH FIRE Brigade volunteers turn out at all hours of the day or night to fight fires, often losing income, often losing sleep and always losing personal time.

In 1873 one volunteer fire fighter paid an even higher price.

After fighting a bushfire early in February 1873 while suffering from influenza, James Drummond Jr of Hawthornden contracted pneumonia and died at his home on February 12.

At the time of his untimely death he was a squatter, a miller, a mine owner, a member

of the Toodyay Roads Board and a member of the WA Legislative Council.

He is buried at Hawthornden five kilometres north of Toodyay on the Toodyay-Bindi Bindi Rd.

The death of James Drummond Jr puts recent media reports into the management of bushfires into perspective.

Since 2011, there have been three reports critical of the way bushfires are managed in WA; the Keelty report into the 2011 Hills fire, a Department of Fire and Emergency Services report into the 2015 Northcliffe-Boddington fires and the recent Ferguson report into the 2015 Waroona-Yarloop fire.

In June this year the Ferguson report recommended that Bush Fire Brigades

should be placed into a new independent state-wide bushfire service similar to the Country Fire Authority in Victoria.

Meanwhile, the State Government is currently reviewing the Bush Fires Act of 1954 with the aim of making changes.

Already there have been changes as a result of these reports and more changes are certain as a result of the Ferguson report and the current review of State Government bushfire laws.

In addition, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services has introduced a new, complex and confusing internet-based system for managing training in Bush Fire Brigades.

But whatever changes are made, whoever

is in charge in Perth and however confusing the bureaucracy becomes, the Bush Fire Brigades of Toodyay will continue to turn out and put out fires in the spirit of volunteers past and present, as exemplified by the efforts and sacrifice of James Drummond Jr.

If you are interested in finding out more about bushfire fighting in the Shire of Toodyay or about our brigade, or if you would like to join our brigade, please get in touch with our captain, Mick McKeown 0439 998 808 or our secretary, Wayne Clarke 6364 3609 or email: 2jcentralvbf@westnet.com.au

Our next monthly meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday August 23 at the fire station in Stirling Terrace.

## 700 callouts, 79,000kms test local ambulances

### St John Ambulance

Charles Wroth, Chairperson

THE St John Ambulance Toodyay sub centre held its 2016 AGM on July 26.

The new committee comprises Charlie Wroth (chairperson), Kim Maddrell (vice-chairperson) with members Neville Clarke Jenny Maher, Janine Bastick, Heather Appleby, Steve Jones and Lou Buckle.

If we thought we had a busy year last year the past 12 months have been beyond belief.

We attended a total of 704 callouts and travelled 78,942km. (The callouts included: trauma 180; medical 403; cardiac 81 and other 40.)

Achieving this number of jobs is due to the volunteers' dedication and commitment and the community should be very proud of the volunteers' professionalism and unselfishness.

During this busy period we were able to recruit 15 volunteers and special thanks should also go to the phone coordinators who do such a wonderful job, organising and dispatching crews at all times of the day and night.

We also need to thank our very dedicated volunteer development officers and our community paramedic Patrick who organises

and conducts training to maintain a high standard of skills.

This year we made a concerted effort to get first-aid training into the community as well as schools. This resulted in 630 students receiving basic first-aid knowledge, 80 participants in Provide First Aid and AED demonstration and training to about 200 people.

We also twice participated in the school holiday program. I would sincerely like to thank the volunteers who assisted in these programs making the community youth more first-aid aware.

At last, work has started on the Morangup sub branch building. (see page 13.)

After many years of frustrating delays thousands of tonnes of fill have been kindly donated and carted by Midland Brick and Austral.

Thanks go to site supervisor Kim Maddrell and bobcat operator extraordinaire Valdis Taukulis and the many other volunteers who assisted in the foundation of this development.

We have also made improvements to the Bolgart sub branch spending \$7500 on paving, retaining, concrete apron and some landscaping, with new signage on its way. This was long overdue and I would like to thank Neville for coordinating this work.

I would just like people to remember the great facilities that we enjoy here today haven't always been here.

It wasn't long ago we only had two old ambulances operating out of an old shed. It is only through hard work and persistence by dedicated volunteers that we have this fabulous building, five-late model vans and a secure financial position.

In this financial period we have spent \$20,000 on training equipment, \$8,000 on maintaining training facilities and \$15,000 on ambulance fleet maintenance.

Recently we have been successful in becoming finalists for the *sub centre of the year*, the winner of which will be announced at the upcoming St John State Conference.

### FAMILY LAW

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AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DRUGS



Billy Higginson and the Pale Moon Riders got the town up and dancing.

## 'Born in Boots' MC kicks off rip-roaring fundraiser

### St John Ambulance

Carolynne Haigh

LAST MONTH the town of Toodyay was brought to life with a community dance hosted by St John Ambulance Toodyay & Districts.

Music was provided by Billy Higginson and the Pale Moon Riders and the MC for the evening was Brendan T Moylan 'Born in Boots'.

More than 100 people attended and danced the night away to the great music.

Not many went home empty handed with spot and door prizes and lots of raffle prizes up for grabs.

Many items were donated for a successful auction and a scrumptious supper was provided and prepared by dedicated St John volunteers.

The idea came about as a way to thank our community who have been extremely generous over many years in supporting and assisting with fundraising to keep this vital emergency service in our area.

Sponsors for the evening included Toodyay IGA, Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, Sweethearts Cafe, Uniquely Toodyay and many others.

Our thanks go to all those who assisted. It was such a success that plans are afoot to hold another dance next year.

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## emergency services



Demonstration on the use of the 'Jaws of Life'

## Julimar to chew on Jaws of Life

**Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**  
Grant Scobie

OUR REGULAR correspondent is unable to be with us this month and has asked me to try to fill her shoes.

Cold weather and wonderful rain usually mean this time of the year is our time for a little bit of a rest, but it is not to be.

Currently we are working to enable our newer members to learn the use of the pumps, hoses, radios and everything else to give them confidence when they eventually head out onto a fireground, so it has been training nearly every Thursday and Sunday throughout July and probably August too.

Concentrating on the newbies means they will be more capable and we, the officers and more experienced firefighters, can relax in the knowledge that they can cope without constant supervision (although we do keep our eye on them, nevertheless).

We are also going to get together with our colleagues from the Toodyay Fire and Rescue Service (the ones in the red trucks) to show us the best way to use our limited

water supplies when called to a car fire.

I was hoping to see my old ute used so that I would be in the good books at home after it was towed away but it does not seem as if that will be the case now.

Anyhow Fire and Rescue will show us the best way to deal with a vehicle fire, the best way to stay safe and I believe they will even be showing us how to use the 'Jaws of Life' so it will be a most interesting day.

Although car fires are not really our responsibility, we are often the closest fire brigade to this type of incident and this new knowledge will definitely not go astray.

Last month we had a visit from the DFES Chaplain to give us an insight into the support we can request from them when any of our members are suffering stress.

At Julimar we have our own 'padre' but it is good to know there is support out there for us in times of need.

There are many tasks that need doing apart from firefighting so come along to one of the sheds and have a chat.

Julimar shed is definitely attended on a Friday evening from 5.30pm 'til late.

## Winter scrapes for summer breaks

**Coondle-Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**

Deb Bowen

FIRSTLY we would like to say a massive thank you to the people of Toodyay who supported our wood raffle and also the guys who sat in the freezing cold selling the tickets – much appreciated.

The lucky winner was Rebecca Schagon

who will have found the wood very handy in the recent cold nights.

We have all been very lucky that the rain has come early this winter bringing plenty of water to fill the tanks ready for the coming summer.

Now is the ideal time to scrape your fire breaks and start getting them ready for the summer months.

You may think a fire break is there to stop fires spreading but they are also for use as access for fire vehicles which may save your home or your lives so it is so vital to have your fire breaks at least 3m wide and clear at all times.

This past year has sadly seen some of our senior fire fighters move on from Toodyay leaving our membership a bit light on and therefore if you have ever thought about joining or would just like some information, this is the perfect time.

We give you all the support and training you will need to use on the fire ground and can even work rosters around FIFO workers.

Please feel free to join us at the Coondle Nunile fire shed Coondle West Road any Friday from 5pm or contact our captain Colin Stevens 0439 255 665.

### Van's visit signals network rollout

TOODYAY is now connected to the NBN.

Residents can visit a Telstra 'NBN Experience Van' to find out how to connect to the new NBN network and preview in-home NBN network installation equipment.

They will also be able to check whether their home or business is able to connect.

The van will be at 111 Stirling Street on Thursday August 4 from 10am – 4pm. (See NBN advertisement on Page 12.)

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## All but one sign up for more

**Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**

From the desk of The Badger

OUR ANNUAL General Meeting was held last month and all positions were declared vacant.

Such is the team spirit at Bejoording that with only one exception all office holders accepted renomination unopposed and were duly re-elected on a show of hands.

Shire Community Emergency Services Manager Rob Koch administered the election process.

Shire Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer Rowan Hunter also attended the meeting and we thank them both for coming.

Gloria Robinson stood down as treasurer due to other commitments and we thank her for her efforts last year.

There are no new faces on the leadership team. Barry Grey continues as captain; Mark Glossop as first lieutenant; Lawrence Hayward as Regional Fire Control Officer; Alan Jelly as secretary; and Richard

Hazlewood as treasurer and chair.

Auxiliary and other supporting roles will be allocated in the coming weeks.

Following the AGM formalities Rob gave a live demonstration on the new DFES On-Line Pathways system.

The quiet time continues in Bejoording, and our simulated fire training day for new recruits on July 30 will be reported in next month's column.

The Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to be vigilant and careful lighting any fire, even in your back yard.

Remember to always plan and prepare for fire, and have a clear contingency strategy in place should things get out of control.

Fires can be a catastrophic risk to people, animals and property, so please take care as getting it wrong can be expensive.

If you have any questions remember you can contact captain Barry Grey on 9574 2149, or The Badger on 9574 4834. Please leave a message if no one is there.

Our next regular meeting is at the shed at 6pm on Tuesday August 16.

## Two-day blast marks Marc's 60th



Partygoers camp up for the night to celebrate Marc's 60th birthday in Bejoording.

**Bejoording Community Group News**

From the desk of The Badger

THANKS TO Marc Bodium's organisation our community group had a successful mystery 4WD weekend last month.

Eight vehicles convoyed to numerous locations, ending up at Wave Rock.

Cold nights, campfires and plenty of bush-style tucker, with a little amber 'lubrication' to cheer the soul, ensured a fun time.

The annual event is proving so popular that those of us planning to upgrade our vehicles in the near future are all in the market for a 4WD so we can join the fun.

The final State of Origin clash attracted a smaller crowd than usual and I've no doubt the very cold night contributed to that. Only so many people get to stand around the fire at a time and that was a night to strike fear into a brass monkey.

Thanks to all who contributed to the annual pasta night. The Badger couldn't be there to comment in detail, but I've been told it was a big success with a wide range of inventive as well as traditional dishes – all very tasty.

The main event which trumped the Trump Convention was Marc Bodium's 60th

birthday party and what a night it was.

Caravans and tents started to gather at Marc and Linda's place up to 24 hours before. Most of Bejoording was there and many other visitors from Perth and beyond, perhaps 100 or more.

The party rocked from midday to breakfast the next and we all remain in awe of Linda's hosting. Never was so much food consumed by so many.

It's so good to see how responsible people are becoming nowadays with the swag a better option than a tipsy drive home. Well done everyone for making this a most memorable night.

Your monthly reminder. We meet every Wednesday evening (except in January) at the Bejoording Community Centre which shares premises with the local volunteer bush fire brigade in Bejoording Road.

Come along from 6pm and leave when it suits you. It's strictly 'come as you are' casual, kids are welcome and there are fun events every month. If you aren't yet a member, we'd love to get to know you.

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



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# Pioneer Wroth cited as Great War hero



Earle Joseph Sinclair Wroth.

Lou Kidd

THE TOODYAY RSL Sub Branch received its charter on 7 October 1919 and the first president of our sub branch was Earle Joseph Sinclair Wroth.

Earle was president of our sub branch from 1919 to 1922 and from 1929 to 1931 and also served as secretary from 1932 to 1938.

He signed up on 7 January 1915 and joined C Sqn 10th Light Horse Regiment and left for the Middle East aboard Transport A52 'Surada' which sailed on 17 February 1915.

Earle initially saw service in Egypt before going to Gallipoli. After Gallipoli, he transferred to the 8th Field Ambulance and was sent to the Western Front where he won a Military Medal.

He was one of six stretcher bearers who received this award and the citation reads:

At the South West of Bellicourt during 29th and 30th September 1918 these stretcher bearers (E. E. Calf, 4462 F. C. Skiller, 3209 A. A. McGoldrick, 6674 A. A. Wall, 518 E.J.S. Wroth, 4757 A. J. C. Parker) displayed conspicuous bravery in carrying wounded across ground exposed to enemy observation and under heavy shell and machine gun fire.

Each carry was across the Hindenburg System and owing to the rain making the ground slippery each trip took three hours to carry 1000 yards across wire, trenches etc..

Despite many casualties among the bearers, these men by their endurance, determination and example encouraged the other bearers and, in an extraordinarily difficult situation, made the evacuation of wounded possible.

Devotion to duty of these men is deserving of special reward. Source: *Commonwealth Gazette No. 109* Date: 15 September 1919.

Wroth is one of the pioneering families of the district. Earle's son Joseph Charles Wroth was a past president of our sub branch and a Toodyay Shire President.

His grandson Charles Wroth is also a past Toodyay Shire President and is currently a much-esteemed member of Toodyay's St John Ambulance Service, an active member of the Julimar Volunteer Bushfire Brigade and a Toodyay fire-control officer.

# A warm hand in winter to ageing members

RSL Toodyay Sub Branch

Bruce Guthrie

OUR ACTIVITIES last month were mostly administrative and, social.

On Thursday August 18 at 11am we will commemorate Vietnam Veterans Day at the War Memorial on Anzac Terrace and invite all members, family, visitors and the community to attend.

We have heard on the grapevine that the Shire of Toodyay has allocated considerable funds to start redeveloping Anzac Park.

This project was initiated by RSL Toodyay and we thank the shire for its generosity and support for the War Memorial site.

Work will include recontouring the surface, retaining walls and a new grass surface.

Following a wonderful tour this year by two great ambassadors for Toodyay, planning is now well underway for the 2017 Sandakan Scholarship tour

We will be inviting local Year 8 and 9 students to nominate for this tour of a

lifetime to travel to Borneo next April.

In the meantime we will be liaising with our wonderful Sandakan Scholarship business sponsors and our local fundraising efforts will continue.

RSL Toodyay received a generous cheque to support its volunteer services presented by Federal Government member Christian Porter. Thank you.

We have recently facilitated delivery of home-cooked meals to veterans. This wonderful food was generously donated by our friends at Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.

RSL Toodyay Sub Branch will hold its AGM at 2pm on September 3 at the Memorial Hall. Please come along and meet friends and enjoy afternoon tea with us all.

Many of our aging members are finding it very difficult coping with the recent cold weather.

We wish all our members who are unwell and/or undergoing treatment a very speedy and full recovery.

If you would like some help please call our secretary Max on 9574 2102.

# Track-crossing ban fails to rein in Picnic Race Day fun



Toodyay Race Club

Heather Appleby, Treasurer

THIS YEAR'S Toodyay Picnic Race Day will be held on Saturday, September 24.

It's a departure from our traditional Sunday races on the WA Queens Birthday long weekend because the Kalgoorlie Cup is also being run on that day.

WA stewards wouldn't let people cross the track in front of the finishing post at last year's 150th anniversary Toodyay races, and this year will be the same again.

This is because a jockey was killed in Darwin in 2013 when her horse was spooked by race-goers' footmarks before the finishing post.

Darwin has a dirt track and Toodyay's is grass but a coroner investigating the Darwin tragedy recommended an Australia-wide ban on all track crossings before finishing posts, which has been enforced at all WA race tracks.

As a result, all events previously staged inside the track – including the VIP tent and children's entertainment – will move to the grandstand side, and no vehicles or pedestrians will be able to cross over.

The change won't affect the main public attractions, including Fashions in the Field, Dash for Cash and the Toodyay Cup and – after the last race – Tod Johnson's ever-popular Peace, Love Band will perform all your favourite songs.

Fashions in the Field place-getters will receive fabulous jewellery prizes, with a wild-card entry into the State competition for the lucky Toodyay winner.

There will be a big marquee for group bookings and there are still some bays available for \$550, which includes tables and chairs for up to 20 people in each bay.

The \$25 general entry fee is the same as last year.

Toodyay Race Club membership – which costs \$45 a year – entitles members to free entry, a race book and access to the upstairs members' area and bar overlooking the finish line.

Contact Secretary Geoff Appleby on 0427 299 330 for a membership form to avoid queuing to pay on the day.

Dust off your glad-rags, book the date, check your form guide and mark your card for a fabulous day out in Toodyay at WA's best and most scenic picnic race day.

# Probarians rug up for mining talk

Probus Club of Toodyay

Joan Bath, Vice-President

DID YOU know that 837,000 children in Australia are being looked after by their grandparents every week?

University of NSW research has indicated that grandparents love providing childcare for their grandchildren, but at the same time it can adversely affect their work participation, income and sometimes even their health.

So, you need to find a balance and maybe sometimes say 'no'.

It has been a quieter time for Toodyay Probus this month with no outings and many members away on holidays.

For those who braved the icy weather for the monthly meeting our guest speaker, Kent Bannister, took us through the complexities of a mining project.

Kent is a very experienced mining engineer, and has been involved with more than 500

mining projects worldwide.

There are many stages and they often need to run in parallel so that projects are not delayed.

We all learnt that getting a mining project off the ground and even when operations are underway, that many things can go wrong. Kent described the reasons for several well-known 'failures' and gave us plenty to think about.

On August 11 our own Dr Monika Zechetmayr will tell us about Soroptimist International and on September 7 we are off to the Cunderdin Museum on the MerredinLink.

Anyone interested in joining Probus please contact president Peter Healy on 9574 4778 or, for membership, John Smart 9574 2339.

We next meet at 7pm on August 11 at the Freemasons Hotel. Our guest speaker will be Dr Monika Zechetmayr, from Soroptimist International.

See you there.

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## Business tunes into Facebook

**Toodyay Chamber of Commerce & Industry**  
Barb Dadd, Management Committee

SIXTY PEOPLE involved in local business, the shire and various not-for-profit organisations attended the Toodyay Chamber of Commerce & Industry (TCCI) sundowner early last month.

An interested group of folk came together for drinks and canapes sponsored by Coorinja Wines, Margaret Somerville and Red Robin Hospitality.

Jason and Cassie Marion, our award winning bakers, made the spacious area above the bakery available for this event, and we wish to thank all for their ongoing generosity.

We are all now part of the ever-changing digital world and Kyle Dalton from Perth-based Absolute Edge Media clearly illustrated the amazing and highly cost-effective marketing opportunities of Facebook and other social media platforms.

Kyle made it clear that not only would a well-designed and well-maintained business Facebook page assist individual businesses in ways now clear to those who have embraced the medium, it would also have an incredible knock-on, value-adding benefit to all Toodyay businesses and the town's wider market profile.

The question is: Can any business or business community afford not to be part of this marketing revolution?

As a follow-on to the sundowner, the chamber organised two workshops with Kyle on July 22.

Feedback from attendees was positive as well as enthusiasm for more.

As a result, the TCCI will now work with Absolute Edge to bring similar workshops to Toodyay and put interested parties in touch with Kyle.

Once again we invite people in business, or thinking of business to join and take advantage of the various future projects we have planned.

Our aim is to market Toodyay and encourage best-practice business opportunities for our great way of life.

# 'Landlords' opens page on antiquity



Syred's Cottage as it was in the 1960s. The photo belonged to our former patron Rica Erickson and is now part of the Society's collection.

**Toodyay Historical Society**  
Robyn Taylor, President

LAST MONTH I went on an excursion to the north west to see the rock art on the Burrup Peninsula north of Dampier on the Pilbara coast.

I thoroughly recommend this extraordinary place which contains the world's oldest known art works and the world's largest collection of petroglyphs.

The 25,000 year old archaic faces date back, give or take 5000 years, to the last ice age and beyond as do the images, some possibly of mega-fauna that once roamed the tropical grasslands of this region.

When the ice melted and the sea rose to create islands out of former mountains, images of sea life began to mingle with the older rock depictions of birds and animals.

In this way art assists in developing an historical record of how people saw and recorded the world about them.

Along these lines, I came across a fascinating book during the trip that has a link to Toodyay.

*Landlords of the Iron Shore* (2013, Hesperian Press) was written by John Slade Durlacher, a Pilbara pastoralist who was the son of Toodyay's former Resident Magistrate Alfred Durlacher who served here between 1861-1865.

Durlacher, the father, had been transferred to Geraldton and subsequently committed suicide after being discovered with his hand in the till and the social shame of his action was too great to bear.

John Slade Durlacher was fascinated by Aboriginal language and customs and in 1900 he wrote up his reminiscences which

he illustrated with annotated sketches of their dress, implements, and daily lives.

This journal was lost for about a century before it was found and published in 2013.

As I flipped through the pages I saw an illustration of a woman winnowing grain in her yandee and wondered if this is where the name of one of our historic homesteads comes from.

Durlacher senior's second marriage was to the daughter of Michael Clarkson, whose grandson Donald built Yandee in 1911.

Speaking of homesteads, the society has undertaken a winter spring-clean of the historic Syred's Cottage at Bejoording which was recently gifted to the shire after they had managed it for the past three decades with the assistance of a community group.

Syred's Cottage, otherwise known as Bejoording Homestead Complex and Central Square, was listed in the State's Register of Heritage Places in September 2004.

While the plan was not fulfilled, it is the only known remnant example in WA of a 19th century agricultural workers' village designed around a central square.

Please note the changed program for our August excursion gathering at Pelham Lookout at 10am on Sunday August 28. Member Jenny Edgecombe will guide us on a walk through Pelham Reserve's fascinating history taking in the rifle range, army locations and the reservoir and of course we will admire the beautiful wildflowers that abound in this area.

Remember to wear sturdy shoes and please bring a plate to share for late morning tea/lunch at Donegan's Cottage. Members of the Northam & Districts Historical Society have been invited to join us.

Our next general meeting will be at 7pm Wednesday August 17 at Donegan's Cottage, Toodyay Showgrounds. Visitors welcome.

For more information please contact Secretary Linda Rooney, secretary.2j.ths@gmail.com, President Robyn Taylor, rdtaylor@iinet.net.au, phone 9574 2578, or Beth Frayne, toobide4@iinet.net.au, phone 9574 5971.

Donegan's Cottage in the showgrounds is open 1pm-3pm every Thursday.

Postal address: PO Box 32, Toodyay WA 6566. Membership: fantastic value at \$10 pa. Contact: Robyn Taylor: 9574 2578



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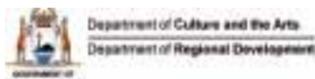
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## SPONSORS



# CWA wraps up a year of donating

Country Women's Association  
Elizabeth Mansom

AT OUR regular craft day on July 14 the knitted squares started to come together and we will have at least five blankets to give to Wheelchairs for Kids to which we donate annually.

The get-together also enabled those going to State Conference in Fremantle on July 19-20 to finalise arrangements.

Judith Walton, our president, and secretary Vivien Street were our delegates and we stay-at-homes are very grateful for their concentrated two-day effort.

Motor Neurone Disease is the organisation for which all CWA branches fundraised over the past year and we are thrilled to report \$80,000 was the total amount announced at the conference.

To help put this into perspective, there are 137 branches and 1878 members across the state.

During the conference there is a continuous raffle with prizes being drawn at intervals during the two days. The Sir James Mitchell Education and Welfare Fund will receive \$2355.49, being the proceeds from this year's raffle.

After learning so much about Croatia this year, branches voted Malta as the next country of study.

A quick check with Mr Google reveals a 2010 study found Malta was the most-generous country in the world with 83 per cent of Maltese people contributing to charity. So it is a very fitting country for CWA to learn about.

A call to fill up a wheelie bin with feelie hearts was put out for this year's State Conference. As you can see from the photo that call was well and truly heard.

Feelie hearts go to hospitals which give them to those in need of comfort, especially young children.

A small soft heart kept in a pocket can help immensely when sadness or loss suddenly overwhelms.

I'm sure you will agree, it has been a very successful year for CWA in its quest to improve the welfare and wellbeing of people everywhere.

An invitation from Beverley branch to



A bonanza of feelie hearts which provide comfort for young children in hospital.

attend the Friendship Day they are holding on August 10 was eagerly accepted.

Friendship Days are always great fun and the activities organised by the branch holding them are enjoyable and informative – and, there's always a luscious lunch.

On August 20 at 2.30pm in the CWA Hall anthropologists Ken McIntyre and Barbara Dobson will give a talk on the origins and practices of traditional Aboriginal healing.

Topics will include migraine and other

pain-relief measures we can all use.

Look for the flyers around town or ring Jennifer Clarke on 9574 5715 for more information.

If you would like to know more about Ken and Barbara have a look at their website [anthropologyfromtheshed.com](http://anthropologyfromtheshed.com)

Everyone is welcome and there will be a cup of tea afterwards (and a scone or two, I'm sure).

CWA meets at 1pm on the fourth Thursday of the month in the CWA Hall next to the Garden Centre in Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

There is plenty of parking in Charcoal Lane, with 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.

## Chirpy songs brighten a wet winter's day

Toodyay Music Club  
Jenny Edgecombe

LAST MONTH'S gathering was rather special.

Because many of our regulars had other commitments or bouts of winter ills, we had a smaller turnout than usual.

At most meetings we have to keep moving so that all the performers have the time to present several numbers but in July both performers and the audience had a chance to ask questions and discuss the songs and what they meant to us.

Our afternoon tea break is always a time for lively discussion and catching up, so we enjoyed the excuse to extend that as well.

Karen has been teaching herself the cello, and she had created a stunning arrangement of *The Lake Isle of Innisfree* where at different times she sang and played flute and cello, with Joe's guitar accompaniment to bind it all together.

I hope this item and many of the others from June will be repeated in future sessions.

New songs are generally appreciated even more the second time around as we become familiar with them.

I would love everyone else to hear items like Colette's *Kitty of Coleraine*, Spencer's *Whispering Hope* and Brian's *Don't Write me off Just Yet*.

Joe and I finished off a cheery afternoon with the ever-popular *Tak A Dram* to send everyone home with a bright and chirpy song on a very wet day.

Please join us in August as a performer or part of the audience.

Our music this month will be based around a theme of 'Fantasy & Dreams'.

The August club afternoon will be held at 1-4pm Saturday August 13, in the CWA Hall.

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

Further Information: Joe on 0400 862 694 or Jenny 0417 910 050.

# THE NBN™ HAS ARRIVED

## Come down and get up to speed on the NBN.

The National Broadband Network has arrived. To help you make the most of it, we're holding an information session. Nothing too complex just the basics to get you up to speed on the benefits of the new super fast network. We look forward to seeing you.

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Where: Next to Toodyay CRC, 111 Stirling Tce, Toodyay

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## Raffles rustle up support for Ida's

Ida's Hideaway  
Neil Stewart

WE RAN our Christmas in July raffle last month and once again the people of Toodyay were extremely generous and I thank all for supporting our group.

Thanks also to Charlie, Marion and Rob Ferguson for their donation of firewood for the wood raffle which was won by M Lee, with second prize going to black F10, Craig.

Winners in our household raffle were: 1st, hamper, orange F95 C.Ferguson; 2nd, tray, green A26 Oliver; 3rd, chopping boards, red D40 Frank; 4th, bracelet, green A10. Val

Fordham and 5th, coffee mugs, green A29 Toodyay Tyres.

Congratulations to all our winners and thanks go to IGA, Ida's Hideaway, Rae Vigar and Marilyn Smith for their prize donations.

Sadly, Aileen Smith, one of our longest attending Hideaway members, passed away. We send all our sympathy to her son Des.

On a happier note two of our members Val and Trish celebrate birthdays and we wish them a happy day.

Our AGM will be held on Saturday August 27. All committee positions are open.

Did you know that a comet's tail always points away from the sun?

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## Kissy Bus salutes cheeky *Herald*

**Toodyay Community Bus**  
Di Roberts, Secretary

CONGRATULATIONS to the Cheeky Bus for being the most colourful and enjoyable bus to be examined by the inspectors in Northam.

They remarked, and I quote: "This girl has a heart, just look at the kisses she has over her body."

The inspector also said that many of the buses they see do not have the happiness and heart our community bus has and she left the depot with flying colours.

Congratulations to our beloved local newspaper *The Toodyay Herald* for winning the 2016 Wheatbelt Business Excellence Award.

*The Herald* has always been a great advocate for all the community organisations in Toodyay and the volunteers who work on the newspaper must be absolutely chuffed with this award.

Keep the editions coming, we love it.

Time is getting closer for the bus to shuttle people to and from the Toodyay Picnic Races in September and the Toodyay Agricultural Show in October.

Look out for our posters giving times of

departure and return on these dates.

The September edition of *The Herald* will also list departure and return times for the bus to the Toodyay Picnic Races on Saturday September 24.

A young lad named Zachery has written a very heart-warming letter to the committee asking if the bus would be available to take him and other Scouts to a starting point at Nardie Cemetery for an overnight hiking camp, followed by a hike to the Toodyay Caravan Park via the Bilya walk track.

This will help Zachery achieve one of his Scout badges and the committee wish him and his fellow Scouts congratulations on the project and good luck with the hiking.

Please remember that our bus is available for all the community, no matter what age or circumstance, seven days a week, from early morning to evening.

If you are interested in hiring the bus, please call our friendly girls at the Visitor Centre on 9574 2435 and they will be able to help you.

The cold weather has left many of our friends not feeling the best lately and we hope they will all improve soon.

Happy days folks, look after each and every one you can and bring on spring, so we can all enjoy a spring in our step.



*Jimperding Brook in full flow.*

## Local water under threat

**Avon Hills Mining Awareness Group**  
Brian Dale

WATER, water, water. If and when mining ever eventuates near Morangup, Wundowie and Wooroloo, the single biggest threat to our communities will be to our water supplies.

Contamination of our rain water tanks from dust pollution and the depletion and degradation of our groundwater will occur.

A small group of Hoddys Well residents is about to have the fight of their lives in the Supreme Court.

The group alleges that the Department of Environment Regulation did not release significant documents until after a public submission period had ended prior to granting a works approval for Opal Vale tip and therefore believes the approval should be overturned.

There are many concerns in regard to Opal Vale, but the biggest and probably the most

important issue of all, is the effect that the tip site will have on surface and ground water.

A Chuffed fund-raising site has been set up where you can donate online and the website can be accessed via AHMAG at facebook.com/avonandhills or you can donate by direct deposit to the Opal Vale account at the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank BSB 633000, account number 151 527 504.

Every donation large or small will help in the fight, so please assist these courageous locals who have taken up the fight on behalf of the district.

On another note, David and Hope Jones are back in Mundaring collecting signatures on our new petition where we are calling for the State Government to stop new bulk-commodity mines from being approved within 100km from the Perth CBD.

You will find them in the Woolworths arcade so pop in and say hello.

## It's full steam ahead for 20th mini-rail celebration

**Toodyay Miniature Railway**  
June Eastwood

OUR 20th Anniversary celebration will be held on Saturday September 17.

We would like to see all who were involved in the planning, the actual work of laying track, building the station and sponsors join us on this day and of course interested members of the public are also very welcome.

Please ring June on 9574 4462 or email junestan@bigpond.net.au for further information.

Our AGM is behind us but has confirmed what we already know – we have become the victims of our own success.

This year we carried 5600 passengers, with a rise in children's tickets of 1000.

We have, on two different occasions, carried trains packed full of ladies decked from head to toe in purple and red.

This caused one male onlooker to ask in bewildered tones, "Why are all those ladies dressed in purple?" to which I replied that they were "Red Hatters".

I know this only confused him further but,

too busy for further explanations, I had to leave him pondering if we had a new political party.

Or maybe they were making a statement about something.

Many years ago June and Stan spent a day at the great Diamond Valley Miniature Railway in Melbourne.

Some people they spoke to must still have the Toodyay flyers left for them as we are going to get a visit from their members bringing at least four engines, some time in September.

This year sees the 30th anniversary of Castledare in October and three trucks carrying a total of 14 engines plus carriages will also be heading west to join in the city club's big celebration.

One truck will detour through Toodyay for a fun run on our track.

Three city members arrived one recent Sunday to inspect our facilities and on being given a diesel and steamer to do a circuit, were full of praise for both the track and the situation.

The gentleman who drove Shandy, first drove Shandy 40 years ago.

## Kim shoulders the building of Morangup's community base

**Morangup Matters**  
Danielle Wrench

MORANGUP'S Community Hall and Recreation Centre and the Emergency Services Station would not have been built without the vision and commitment of a number of tenacious community-minded individuals.

Kim Maddrell is one of many volunteers whose time, effort and expertise have provided us with these essential community facilities.

As a member of the building committees for the hall, fire station and 2014 extensions to house the SES vehicles, Kim's ability to negotiate and motivate has resulted in the buildings being completed for a fraction of the quoted cost, due to donated materials and labour from local businesses and residents.

Not only has Kim been a driving force behind the facilities' development and completion, he and his wife Sue have clocked up more than 30 years of emergency-service volunteering.

In two years' time they will both be eligible for the 2nd Clasp National Medal for Service to recognise 35 years of active service with the bush fire brigade.

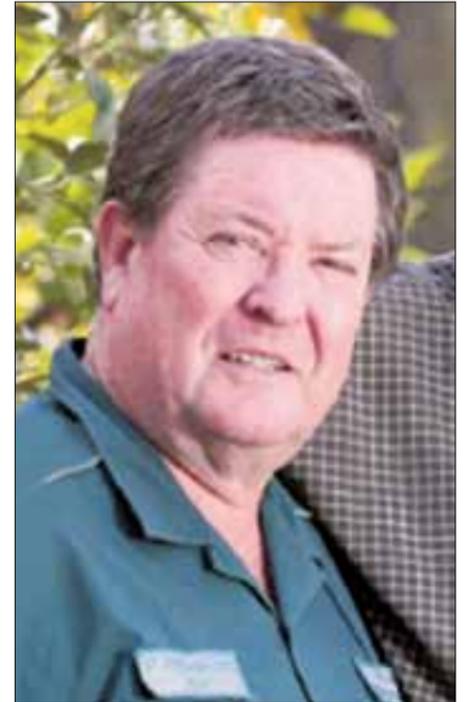
The Maddrells purchased a slice of Morangup back in 1979 and Kim attended his first fire the following year.

In 1983 when they permanently settled in Morangup Kim joined the local brigade, starting a lifetime of community service.

He currently volunteers for the fire brigade, St John's Ambulance and SES, serves as secretary for the brigade is a fire control officer, is the vice-chair, volunteer development officer and a Level 2 ambulance officer and is also SES vice-chair and deputy unit manager.

While Kim remains active in both the bush fire brigade and SES, his passion for the ambulance service has him attending multiple callouts each week.

As a volunteer development officer and mentor he is committed to the development of volunteer ambulance officers in Toodyay and Morangup.



*Volunteer stalwart Kim Maddrell*

Kim's current project is a purpose-built depot for the Morangup ambulance next door to the fire station, and given his passion, commitment and tenacity it is odds-on that this facility will be completed on another impossible budget.

There is no question that Morangup has benefited immeasurably from Kim's ongoing commitment and dedication.

Whether it be performing one of his volunteering roles or working to build stronger community infrastructure, we have all reaped the benefits.

From all in Morangup, we say thank you Kim.

If you are interested in getting involved in the new build or volunteering for any of the emergency services, please call 9574 2390 (ambulance) or 9574 7038 (Bush Fire Brigade). Everyone is welcome.

### August News

#### Three G's Walking Group



#### Learn to speak french!



#### Monthly SWAP MEET?

The Toodyay Community Resource Centre is considering a Swap Meet once a month.

If you would like to be involved, please register your interest at the centre.



**9574 5357**

#### Good exercise, Good fun and Generations

keeping active with family, friends and dogs starting Friday 12th August

A great opportunity to socialise while looking after your health join us at 10am here at the centre for a walk around town and enjoy a morning tea afterwards in the courtyard garden - \$3.00/person

#### Have you always wanted to learn French?

Then this is your opportunity. Now taking expressions of interest to learn conversational French with El-Jay in a fun friendly class

**Next Courtyard Gardens will be held on the Saturday 20th August 2016**

## Landfill firm fears court case may cost it \$3 million

A PERTH company that has spent nearly \$3 million this year building a landfill tip in Toodyay for millions of tonnes of Perth rubbish says if local residents win a WA Supreme Court case this month, the company will have wasted its money and could be prosecuted for acting illegally.

The court is due to hear an appeal by five local objectors that the WA Department of Environment Regulation (DER) failed to follow its own rules for inviting public comment by not releasing company information before granting works approval for the Hoddys Well landfill tip.

In court documents filed last month, Opal Vale Pty Ltd said DER works approval was granted on August 27 last year – the last day of a planning deadline – after which the application would have lapsed.

However, if the Supreme Court now quashes the DER works approval, the company will have to reapply for planning permission to the Toodyay Shire Council, which has since banned that class of landfill.

Opal Vale said it had incurred “very substantial costs” and would “suffer financial prejudice”.

It would also mean that Opal Vale had acted unlawfully in building the landfill tip and would “potentially be open to prosecution”.

The objector’s claims – which are also opposed by the State Government – are due to be heard in Perth by WA Supreme Court Justice Andrew Beech on Monday August 8.

## Herald wins 2016 Wheatbelt Business Excellence Award

THE TOODYAY HERALD has won the 2016 Wheatbelt Business Excellence Award in the coastal, Avon and northern region for businesses with less than four full-time staff.

In a gala awards dinner ceremony in Moora last month, *The Herald* was announced the winner from six other finalists in that category.

*The Herald* was also the only newspaper among 38 small business finalists in all categories for that region.

The annual awards, hosted by the Narembeen-based Wheatbelt Business Network, were announced at two events attended by a total of more than 170 guests at ceremonies in Moora and Kellerberrin.

WBN Chair Amanda Walker said small businesses such as *The Herald* were the real heart of towns and communities across the Wheatbelt.

She said *The Herald* had defied a circulation decline among print newspapers to increase its readership to 4500 (now 5000 for this edition).

Heather Appleby, Secretary of The Toodyay Herald Inc. association, said *The Herald's* successful not-for-profit business model aimed to promote local trade, enterprise and community development in struggling regional economies.

“We hope *The Herald's* success can inspire others to achieve similar results elsewhere, and at the same time provide our readers and advertisers with a quality media service,” she said.



# 2015 TABTOUCH TOODYAY PICNIC RACE DAY

24
09
16

11AM - 7.30PM

**Marquee, membership and VIP packages are available.**

**Licensed venue – strictly no BYO**

- Free Kids Entertainment
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- Vernice Fashions on the Field with over \$6,000 worth of diamond and gold jewellery up for grabs
- Live music by Tod Johnston’s Peace Love & All That Stuff
- Return bus transfers available through Moshtix
- Return train transfers from Midland on the AvonLink. Book through TransWA

*For more information go to [www.toodyayraceclub.com.au](http://www.toodyayraceclub.com.au)*

Adults

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Adults over 18 must present an acceptable form of ID upon entry. Under 18s must be accompanied by a legal guardian.











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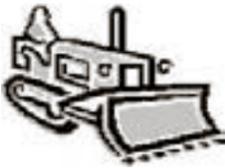


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# Carol teases out possum hair puzzle

## Toodyay Spinners

Ange Sturman and Carol Davidson

IN OUR GROUP we have a number of members who have moved away from Toodyay but retain membership because they enjoy the ongoing friendship with us.

They often come back to visit and take part in special events from time to time.

Carol Davidson is one such long-distance member who moved south about a year ago and this is her story.

"A few months after I moved to Toodyay in 1990 I decided to take up spinning, bought a traditional wheel and learnt to spin Corriedale wool.

"Over time I learnt about washing, carding, dying, felting and weaving.

"The greatest challenge was to spin different fibres such as mohair, alpaca, cottonwool balls, hairdressers' cotton wool and even possum hair.



Carol celebrates a milestone.

"Another challenge was to master a drop spindle rather than a wheel.

"Going to Spin-ins at different clubs and seeing what they had made from the fibres they had spun and the different spinning wheels they used, was another very enjoyable part of being a member of the spinning group.



Lois' intricate baby shawl is destined for the Toodyay Show.

"Sitting outside on my verandah spinning and watching life go by is a relaxing way to enjoy the afternoon."

Many of our members are already making things for the Toodyay Show – Lois knitted a very delicate baby shawl, Rita spun and knitted a vest for herself, and Tess made a cowl to keep her head and shoulders very warm.

Our spinning group meets every Wednesday from 9am to noon, and every 3rd Saturday of the month (also from 9am to noon) at Parkers' Cottage in the Showgrounds.

The felting group meeting time is now on the 2nd Monday of each month from noon to 3pm also at Parkers' Cottage.

Felting group contact is Jenny Cornwall 9574 5978.

For further information on our group please contact Heather Jones, secretary on 0407 287 002 or Judy Mackie, president on 9574 4421. New members are most welcome – no experience necessary.

Our AGM will be held on August 17 in Parker's Cottage at 10am.

# Shoulders to the wheel as turners roll out pins

## Avon Woodturners

Max Heath

BOY HAS it been cold. Wednesday nights have been icy in the Pavilion and so only a few have been attending.

Sunday mornings, although not a lot better, have still been productive and our raffle prize is getting a little closer to completion.

Guess what? The Duyfken pens are done and dusted. What a job but it's been - but worth the effort as when we get into our new premises we will be able to spend a bit more setting the place up.

We have been earning a little more by making rolling pins for a local business so it has been shoulder to the wheel for most of our members.

A couple of our new members have been turning some really good items and it is good to see their progress. Good on you Ulf and Alan.

It has been noticed that the gear for our shed is on site and we're looking forward to seeing it go up and moving in. Then, the work will really start as we fit it out for our purposes.

We hope to purchase another lathe and possibly set up a second one in case we get someone who is wheelchair bound.

The wood and craft show is coming up at Claremont on August 5-7 and it should be well worth a visit.

At former shows, the woodturning, quilts and craft on display have been amazing.

There is not a lot to report this month and so in closing I would like to remind you as RoadWise says *don't drive tired*.

# Sneaky smokers sprung in crafty heater heist

## The Crooked Needle

Heather Wright

AFTER NEAR record numbers in 'warm June' our numbers have been halved in the freezing weather.

In July our little heaters have been in constant use, with a sneaky couple of ladies taking one outside for 'smoko'. However, we were on to them and quickly turned off the electricity so they thought they'd broken the heater.

Annette, with help from Glynne and Allen, had a lovely morning at the markets showing the beautiful wares we create and sell. Luckily they weren't rained out.

I think many of our troops have headed to warmer pastures. Val to Japan, Sue to Broome, Megan and Pat wandering around in their vans, Lynda is off to sunny England (again) and Enid and Lee were off to Spotlight.

Some people have been poorly with some sort of winter ailment and mine can leave me as soon as it wants.

Most ladies seem to be knitting or crocheting as it is so much easier in the cold weather.

Debra manages a row a week on her creation and Glenda continues to produce amazing babies' fine crocheted articles.

Karen is completing a Christmas tree skirt that one has to see to believe. I am glad she is keeping it for her own use as the hours of work that goes into these creations is unbelievable.

Annette continues to produce quality items that she sells on the stall.

So our news is quite scarce this month. As the days lengthen and the sun warms us I am sure production and productivity will increase.

In nine weeks the show is upon us so come on ladies, have a go. It is your show.

Then before we know it, it will be Christmas and hopefully many people will be giving beautiful handmade gifts for loved ones to enjoy.

So until next time, keep those fingers supple and warm.

# Catch a dream run with a Show hat

## Toodyay Agricultural Society

Alison Wroth

THE YEAR just seems to be flying by now and the Toodyay Show is getting closer and closer.

Our Toodyay Show Schedule will be out in the shops soon – earlier than usual. Have a quick look to see what classes are available this year.

Two new classes have been added in the section of hobbycraft and hopefully these might attract the younger set especially if they are interested in making either fascinators or dream catchers.

Fascinators can be made now in time for the Toodyay Picnic Races to make you the most fashionable lady on race day and then, why not enter it in the Toodyay Show? It's a chance to support two local events.

Dream catchers are all the rage now. I have been told by some devotees that they really work if you hang them in the right position above your bed.

Make one and give it a go – see what dreams you can catch.

Becoming a member of the Toodyay Agricultural Society is a win for everyone concerned.

By supporting the local show and community, you get the added benefit of receiving your show schedule and entry wristbands for free if you become a member.

Contact our secretary Carrie for further information if you are interested in membership or if you want a question answered.

Go to our webpage [toodyayagsociety.com.au](http://toodyayagsociety.com.au) for links to groundspace, history or entertainment.

Please start thinking about contributing to the Toodyay Show. You will see us promoting the show in late August outside IGA.

Come and keep warm under our heaters and have a chat while you purchase a raffle ticket to support your local show or sign up for membership.

It's well worth it.

# TUESDAY NIGHT PIZZA



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# OUR SHIRE NEWS



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Congratulations to the Toodyay Mens Shed for receiving a Lotteries West Grant of close to \$200,000.00 toward construction of their new

"SHED" to be located adjacent to the former Shire works depot in Harper road. Council has budgeted to remediate the site and assist with minor earthworks. This project is an initiative of the MENS SHED and Council's role will only be one of behind the scenes support.

July's Council forum received a submission for a proposal to relocate a sporting clay shooting club to a property in Telegraph road Wattening. We also received several submissions opposing the concept. Forums are primarily designed to allow Councillors to be fully informed on matters prior to formal debate at Council meetings. In view of the contentious nature of this proposal, Council have requested further information be brought to the August Forum. The public submission period has been extended to 12 August and details of the proposal can be found on the Shire website in Public Comments.

Council has resolved to allocate funds for the removal of two large trees located within the townsite on the corner of Anzac Avenue and Clinton Street. This corner, adjacent to Anzac park is part of the designated heavy haulage route bypassing the town centre. Large truck combinations such as B Doubles and Roadtrains heading west have to cross to the wrong side of the road to negotiate this corner. Removal of these kerbside trees and repositioning the existing kerb and footpath 1.5 to 2 metres will assist heavy vehicles negotiating the corner.

The matter was considered at a works advisory committee meeting on 21 July and then considered

at the July Council meeting as an urgent item, simply so that the monetary allocation required would coincide with adoption of the 2016/17 budget. The decision to remove these trees was not taken lightly and elected Members are well aware of the possibility of community backlash, however there appears to be no other means of improving the safety of this section of the haulage route. Council recognises that the current haulage route is not suitable or sustainable for long term use and has authorised the CEO and I (Shire President) to commence lobbying and advocacy to try and gain financial support and commitment to have the bypass constructed east of the town.

Council has resolved to dispose of the old weatherboard building located at Lot 6 Duke St. and then offer the land for sale. This building is currently used on an occasional basis by Arts Toodyay and was used as a Police station prior to police services moving to their current Stirling Terrace building. Apparently this structure has already been relocated three times, and has limited heritage value. It is not heritage listed and is not on the municipal inventory.

The Shire has for some time been discussing options with Water Corporation for increasing access to standpipe water to reduce waiting times for commercial water trucks and firefighting tankers. Lengthy wait times result in increased charges to end users. Serious consideration was given to installing an additional standpipe within the townsite, however this has proved impractical. It is now proposed to install a storage tank adjacent to the current standpipe on Northam road for use during peak periods. The aim is to have the tank and discharge equipment installed prior to next summer.

The 2016/17 budget was adopted at the July ordinary council meeting. The budget process commenced on an administrative level in February and Council considered the draft budget during budget workshops held in May/June and July.

The adopted budget is framed within the previously advertised overall rate increase of 3.50% and differential rates in the dollar and minimum rates for the 2016/17 financial year.

The budget can best be described as business as usual with capital works expenditure at a similar level to last year. Cash expenditure of \$46000.00 for community sponsorship remains the same as last year's budget, however as a recognition of the contribution made by community volunteer's council has resolved to waive application hire and stall fees totalling \$5100.00, which actually equates to an increase in community sponsorship.

The WA Salaries and Allowances tribunal has increased elected members attendance fees and allowances by 1.5%. The tribunal has also removed a 0.2% of operating revenue limit on Mayor/Presidents allowances that previously effected a small number of councils in regional areas, including Toodyay. This will result in a one off substantial increase in the Shire Presidents allowance and a proportional increase to the Deputy Presidents allowance. The Shire of Toodyay has a policy restricting members to receiving 80% of the maximum set by the tribunal.

## CONTACT US AT THE SHIRE

Office: Open Mon - Fri  
8.30am-4.30pm  
Address: 15 Fiennes Street  
Toodyay WA 6566  
Postal: PO Box 96  
Toodyay WA 6566  
Phone: (08) 9574 2258  
Fax: (08) 9574 2158  
Email: records@toodyay.wa.gov.au

## EVENTS - AUGUST

6 August - Toodyay International Food Festival & Family Fun Day  
6-7 August - Avon Descent  
13 August - Quit Targa West Rally  
21 August - Toodyay Farmers Market  
28 August - WA Trail Championships

### Toodyay International Food Festival & Family Fun Day

Thank you to the sponsors of the Toodyay International Food Festival & Family Fun Day. This event would not be possible without the generous support from these local businesses. This year's festival will be bigger and better than ever, and with the Avon River full and flowing fast it is sure to be an exciting day!



### ActiveSmart

Department of Sport & Recreation through the ActiveSmart program has now sent out all the resource packs, coaching calls began on the 11th July.

An overview of the demographics show that Toodyay has 25% of households registered, and is the third largest pool of participants when compared to the other local governments. There is a good mix of age groups getting involved:

5% - 18 / 31 years  
17% - 23 / 45 years  
27% - 46 / 59 years  
34% - 60 / 73 years  
16% - 74 / 87 years  
1% - 88 / 100 years

It is now too late to register for this ActiveSmart program, but if you would like further details on how to be more active please go to the following website: <http://www.activesmart.com.au/>



## CHANGING PLACES



### OPENING OF THE NEW ACCESSIBLE FAMILY ROOM AND CHANGING PLACES FACILITY

The second and final stage of the Charcoal Lane amenity block consisting of a new family room and state of the art Changing Places facility room is happening now.

The family room contains wheel chair accessible facilities, and a baby change table. The Changing Places Room, gives carers of those with a disability a place, to which access will be restricted, specialised equipment to assist its users.

The Shire is proud of this facility which is only the second accredited Local Government Changing Place in the State to be opened, the other being in Geraldton.

The construction of this facility has been made possible through joint funding from the Shire, Wheatbelt Development Association and the Western Australian Local Government Association.

More information on access to the Changing Places Room can be obtained by calling the Shire or visiting their website.

## LIBRARY

### Regular Events for August 2016

Baby Rhyme / Story Time  
Every Monday  
9.15am to 10am

Morangup Library  
9 & 23 August  
2.00pm to 4.30pm

Many Minds Discussion Group  
11 & 25 August  
10am to 12noon

Creative Writing Group  
4 & 18 August  
10am to 12noon

New Items - In July approximately 250 new items from the State Library of WA were added to the "New Items Shelves".

We now have the latest book by Liz Byrski "The Woman Next Door" in our local stock. We have also added a carousel display of items/books all by Western Australian authors.

It may be cold outside but it is lovely and warm in the Library, we have a fantastic selection of books - fiction and non-fiction, audio books, DVDs, etc. So pop in and see us, if we don't have what you are looking for on our shelves, we will endeavour to source it for you from another library.

The Creative Writing Group is a small group who explore and nurture new and creative methods of writing. Come along and join this cosy group, for a lovely cuppa in the meeting room, meet new friends and explore new ideas.

The Many Minds Discussion Group meets on August 11 for Origami (Read "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes" by Eleanor Coerr) and August 25 for "When was the last time you tried something new?"

New members are always welcome, so come along and join this lively group for some very interesting discussions, enjoy a coffee or tea and bring/share some nibbles in the meeting room. A copy of the yearly scheduled discussions is available at the library front counter.

## EMPLOYMENT

### BUILDING MAINTENANCE OFFICER (\$71,448 - \$76,538 Package)

The Shire of Toodyay is currently looking for a full time Building Maintenance Officer to join our Planning & Development Team.

Preferred applicants will have held a similar position and be able to demonstrate their experience. Your main objectives will be to undertake repairs and maintenance to Council building facilities, fixtures and assets. You will also be responsible for liaising and overseeing contractors on major building repairs and assist with the Shire's building maintenance planning and budgeting.

This position offers a cash component between \$54,000 and \$58,500 depending on qualifications and experience, with a total remuneration package between \$71,448 and \$76,538 (including professional development, mobile phone, uniform allowance, additional superannuation and income protection). All tools will be supplied commuted use of a vehicle.

Further information about this position can be obtained from Graeme Bissett, Manager Planning and Development on (08) 9574 2258 or by email to [mpd@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:mpd@toodyay.wa.gov.au)

Application packages are available from the Shire of Toodyay Administration Office.

Applications, which must address the selection criteria, should be forwarded to the: Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, and marked:

"CONFIDENTIAL  
Building Maintenance Officer":

- By mail: PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566;
- In person: Shire of Toodyay Admin Centre;
- Via Email: [records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au)

Applications close **4.00pm on Wednesday, 17 August 2016.**

STAN SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## MUSEUM NEWS

### Textile Condition Assessment

A new project has commenced behind the scenes at the Newcastle Gaol Museum.

Rebecca, who has been greeting our weekend visitors to the Gaol, has also volunteered to undertake a condition assessment of our textile collection. This involves unpacking all of our garments and lace, documenting and recording their condition, as well as confirming their location on the museum database.

Rebecca has attended a Museums Australia workshop about caring for museum textiles in preparation for this project. She is noting wear and tear on the fabrics and is taking high resolution photographs of both the entire garment and of particular areas of concern. This will provide an ongoing record for the management of these artefacts, and will also indicate if there are issues that need to be addressed in the short term.

This thorough and detailed work is very time consuming and we thank Rebecca very much for her commitment.

## SMS SERVICE

### Improvements to Harvest, Vehicle Movement and Hot Works Ban SMS Service

The Shire recently made improvements to its Harvest, Vehicle Movement and Hot Works Ban SMS notification service. Residents are now able to instantly subscribe or opt-out directly from their device without needing to contact the Shire.

The new system will also provide an automatic confirmation message upon subscribing.

Existing subscribers have been notified of the changes via SMS and have automatically been transferred to the new platform. Existing users should be aware the service number has now changed (0408 017 439), and users who had phone based settings such as custom tones or alerts based on their old service should update these settings.

To Subscribe: Message BANS to 0408 017 439.  
To Opt-Out: Reply STOP to messages received from the service.

For a full explanation of the service please visit: <http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/harvest-and-total-fire-bans.aspx>

## PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

### PROPOSED GROUPED DWELLINGS INDEPENDENT LIVING UNITS LOT 4 AND PS3 ANZAC TERRACE, TOODYAY

The Shire of Toodyay has received an application from Butterly Cottages for a grouped dwelling at Lot 4 and PS3 Anzac Terrace in Toodyay.

The applicant is seeking approval to build 18 Independent Living Units on the site. As the proposal is currently over two sites, these will be subject to a future amalgamation of the properties.

Your views on the proposed grouped dwellings are encouraged and welcomed. The proposal is available for inspection at the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre during office hours and on the Shire website.

Submissions on the proposed development may be addressed in writing and lodged with the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96 Toodyay 6566, by **4.00pm on Wednesday 17 August 2016.**

Further information on the above proposal is available by contacting the Shire's Development Services on 9574 2258.

Stan Scott  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## COLLECTING FIREWOOD

### Is Your Firewood Collection Legal?

With this chilly weather we are experiencing, you may be considering collecting firewood for personal use at home. But wait! Do you know you may be hit with heavy fines or prosecution if you chop trees down without a permit?

The Shire of Toodyay has recently observed the illegal clearing of native vegetation from Shire land and reserves for the purpose of commercial supply of firewood. The Shire would like to get the message out to its residents that firewood can be collected only from designated areas of State forest and timber reserves managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW). The firewood collected from these areas is only for private use and selling is not permitted. Please contact the DPAW for your nearest firewood collection areas and the rules associated with it.

If you are collecting firewood for domestic purposes from your private property it is important that you are aware of the regulations surrounding firewood collection and how this can be done without damaging the environment.

Clearing of Native Vegetation in WA is regulated by the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* and a clearing permit must be obtained from the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) if you wish to clear on your private property. However, an exemption does exist under the EP Act for clearing for the purposes of firewood collection. This exemption allows the owner or occupier of the land to clear native vegetation for firewood for domestic heating and cooking, provided that the clearing does not kill any live vegetation or prevent vegetation regrowth. The clearing, combined with all other clearing on the property in the financial year in which the clearing takes place, must not exceed five hectares.

For more information or clarification on firewood collection please contact the Shire of Toodyay on 9574 2258 or [records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au).

## GRAFFITI

### SUCCESS OF SHIRE GRAFFITI TRAILER

The Shire successfully obtained funding for the purchase of an anti-graffiti trailer two years ago and this has been used to combat what was then a growing graffiti vandalism problem in the Shire.

The purchase of this trailer was made possible with grant funding through WA Police Strategic Crime Prevention State Graffiti Fund.

Since its implementation, the use of this equipment has enabled a far more effective and efficient response to graffiti.

The use of this trailer has enabled the Shire to achieve the following three important goals:

- A dramatic reduction in the number of graffiti offences reported;
- Keeping neighbourhoods free from graffiti vandalism; and
- Creation of a police register of graffiti vandalism.

The Shire of Toodyay aims to remove graffiti within 24 hours of notification to keep the district graffiti and vandalism free.

In order to assist the Shire in doing this, residents are encouraged to report all sightings of graffiti vandalism as soon as possible so staff can promptly remove it.



## NEWCASTLE FOOTBRIDGE



Malicious and mindless damage was caused to the Shire footbridge decking linking Newcastle Park to the Toodyay District High School on the last day of school term early this month.

The damage, estimated to be over \$2,500, necessitated the temporary closure of the bridge due to serious public risk concerns.

The damage caused is unfortunately part of a number of recent vandalism attacks on Shire properties.

The police have identified and are pursuing two youths in connection with this damage, thanks to the assistance of the public.

The bridge decking has now been repaired and the bridge was reopened in time for the start of Term three.

Residents are requested to report any suspicious behaviour around Council facilities to the police to help in controlling such unwanted & undesirable activity.

Any assistance in relation to the recent multiple instances of the blocking of Duidgee Park toilets with toilet rolls and leaving taps on over the last school holidays would be welcomed.