

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.

February 2017
354

Postage
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Australia

\$2.5m Vic Hotel plan

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY IGA store owner Dean Carter says he plans to spend up to \$2.5 million renovating the historic Victoria Hotel after making a formal offer to buy the landmark property for an undisclosed sum.

Speaking from overseas, Mr Carter said settlement is due by the end of this month, pending local government planning and State liquor licence approvals.

He said he also planned to build 20-25 new motel units at the rear of the Stirling Terrace site, more than doubling the amount of tourist accommodation available in Toodyay's central shopping precinct.

However, the hotel's bars and restaurant – which closed a week before Christmas – are unlikely to reopen for at least another six months due to an estimated build time of up to a year before renovations are completed.

The hotel was advertised for sale last year for \$720,000 and had been on the market for several months.

Mr Carter said he hoped to keep the pub's TAB betting licence – if it remained available during the renovation period – but his main focus was to operate a new bottle shop and 'family-based' hotel.

The next nearest TAB betting agency is 28km away in Northam.

Former licensee Margaret Gladman closed the hotel eight days before Christmas and moved to Mandurah to better care for disabled husband Geoff.

Two pubs shut

IT MEANT closure of the second of Toodyay's three pubs after the Toodyay Tavern shut four years ago, leaving only the Freemasons Hotel still trading.

The town's two other liquor outlets are the Toodyay Liquor Store and the Toodyay Club Inc. the latter requiring club membership to buy or consume alcohol on the premises unless signed in by a member.

Mr Carter tried unsuccessfully two years ago to obtain a bottle shop licence for his IGA store in Charcoal Lane and now has the opportunity to do so at the Vic.

"I'm hoping for good support," he said.

"It's a bit of a punt but you only live once." The Victoria Hotel began trading under that name in 1886, the current two-story building was completed in 1904 and a new roof added last year.

The building was classified by the National Trust of Australia in 1977, added to the Register of National Estates in 1980 and is listed on the Shire of Toodyay's municipal inventory of sites with conservation or heritage value.

Mr Carter said he planned to totally refurbish the hotel inside and out, and open a 200sq/m bottle shop (understood to be planned for the former billiard saloon which now houses a music stage) before later adding a drive-through bottle shop.

"We have development plans ready for the shire so fingers crossed they are a more motivated and progressive group and happy to encourage development in Toodyay," Mr Carter said.

"Settlement is at the end of February and we are keen to start as soon as we can."

Editorial, Page 4.



Toodyay Shire Crs (from left) Rob Welburn, Paula Greenway and Brian Rayner cook bacon and eggs for the shire's free Australia Day public breakfast in Duidgee Park.

Australia Day sizzles in heatwave

HEATWAVE conditions failed to deter a big crowd from celebrating Toodyay's annual free Australia Day breakfast and awards ceremony at Duidgee Park last month.

A free inflatable water slide was a big hit with kids as morning temperatures rose rapidly towards a 40C day.

Tireless local volunteer Greg Warburton won Toodyay's Community Citizen of the Year Award for a range of activities including membership of several community organisations, projects such as the Bilya Walk Track, environmental work, interest in local history and campaigning on roadside clearing, landfill and fire management in conservation areas.

Mr Warburton was described as an "innovative thinker", a great "doer" and a person willing to give his time to speak on environmental, historical and artistic

subjects at public events around the state.

The other nominees in that category were Roz Davidson, Adele Luke, Kim Angus, Stephen Ferguson and Robyn Taylor.

Sue Eldrige – described as a "truly brilliant person who deserves recognition for her work for the local community and wildlife" – won Toodyay's Community Citizen of the Year Award for people older than 65.

The Toodyay District High School Parents and Citizens Association won Toodyay's Active Citizenship Award for "significantly raising school morale", raising \$21,000 at last year's school fete and "an increase in collegiality in the wider community".

The event included two people awarded Australian citizenship, flag-raising by Toodyay Scouts and singing of *Advance Australia Fair*.

Vet to stay after council rejects CEO sales pitch

TOODYAY'S busy veterinary clinic will stay in town after the Toodyay Shire Council voted 8-0 (Cr Rob Welburn absent) to reject an 'unsolicited' offer to buy Mrs O'Reilly's Cottage for \$530,000 to use as an art gallery.

Councillors unanimously overruled Shire

CEO Stan Scott's recommendation to sell the shire-owned property and opted instead to honour a 2014 council commitment to lease the Stirling Terrace building to Heartlands Veterinary Clinic and Animal Hospital.

See *Bat in the Belfry*, Page 8.

The Toodyay Herald –
winner 2016 Wheatbelt
Business Excellence
Awards

this month



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The Toodyay Herald

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

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are \$33 (postage and packaging) per year (11 issues). Please send a cheque to PO Box 100, Toodyay 6566.

MEMBERSHIP

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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DISTRIBUTION

The Toodyay Herald has a distribution of 5000 copies, with 2800 copies delivered monthly to PO boxes and letter boxes in Toodyay, Morangup and Bolgart. Copies are also available at roadhouses and businesses in Toodyay, Northam and York and Clackline General Store, Bakers Hill Newsagency, Gidgegannup Newsagency, Wooroloo and Wundowie.

Printed by Rural Press

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped produce this edition of *The Toodyay Herald*: Joseph Fernandez (Legal), Richard Grant, Jean Witcombe, Allan Gregory and Beth and Peter Ruthven.

ADVERTISING

ADVERTISING RATES

The cost of a casual display advertisement is \$4.30 (inc. GST) per column cm (NB Column width is 61.5mm.)

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE	STORY DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTED
Noon Thursday February 16	Noon Tuesday February 21	Monday March 6

Please note our email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au
 Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

Ol' Blind Joe

Triumph of truth

MY EDITOR rang me yesterday and said that he required my piece to be in by today – damn.

There was nothing happening in Toodyay apart from a pretend gun heist and some action at the Victoria Hotel.

So I grabbed a couple bottles of local Andrilee Shiraz and a flagon of Coorinja port, threw my leg over my old Triumph Thunderbird 'time-twisting' triple and rode back to 340BC to visit a couple of old mates.

Aristotle's villa was magnificent with exquisite mosaics on the floors and marble and alabaster sculptures adorning the courtyards.

The positioning of passages, fountains and bathhouse meant that every breeze and shadow was harvested for comfort, and the atmosphere was most agreeable.

Aristotle was considered a master in disciplines as diverse as biology, politics, metaphysics, agriculture, literature, botany, medicine, mathematics, physics, ethics, logic and the theatre.

I always enjoyed speaking with him as his words flowed like a mighty river and yet could be captured in one hand and written in a single sentence.

My favourite utterance of his was that "No great mind has ever existed without a touch of madness," and I fully understood that sentiment.

We sat down and were soon joined by Plato and Alexander, who had been mucking around with clay figurines and had just finished firing up the kiln in the back courtyard.

Plato was a philosopher and the founder of the Academy in Athens, the first institution of higher learning in the Western world.

As I poured him a glass of Toodyay Shiraz, he remarked: "There is truth in wine and children".

I replied with a quote from Mahatma Gandhi: "There is no god higher than truth".

A couple of years back, Aristotle had been summoned by King Philip II of Macedonia to tutor his son Alexander (who would become Alexander the Great) until he ascended to the throne and began his famous conquests.

I always had a soft spot for that lad when he said: "True love never has a happy ending, because there is no ending to true love".

Moving on, I spoke for a while about the recent collapse of the empire of finance and the squandering of trillions of dollars and millions of lives in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria.

I outlined the intricacies of the Brexit vote in Britain and its effect on Europe, the growing prevalence of right-wing ideologues throughout Western governments and the ascension of Donald Trump as the US President.

In regard to Trump, Alexander said: "I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep; I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion."

I found that observation quite profound for a 16-year-old – little wonder he would later conquer Europe and Asia.

Plato and Aristotle agreed that a tyrant is "one who rules without law, and uses extreme and cruel tactics – against his own people as well as others".

When I mentioned that Trump effectively spoke at a fourth-grade level, Plato said: "Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools, because they have to say something".

He further mused about the need for philosopher kings being "those who love the sight of truth" and used the analogy of a captain and his ship, or a doctor and his medicine.

He said that sailing and health are not things that everyone is qualified to practice by nature, and went on to explain how the educational system should be set up to produce these philosopher kings.

I agreed with him in principle, but still had reservations about some aspects of meritocracy as it tended to reinforce the establishment of elites.

Aristotle said: "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it".

When I spoke about the current war against science, Plato said: "We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light".

The first 'universal' library was the Great Library in Alexandria, Egypt.

Hungry for conquest and knowledge, Alexander the Great spent the last 11 years of his life exploring the world, and dispatched scholars to unexplored regions to gather knowledge and map their journeys.

Sadly, we have Roman Emperor Julius Caesar to thank for the fire that destroyed antiquity's greatest treasure.

"Every heart sings a song, incomplete, until another heart whispers back. Those who wish to sing always find a song. At the touch of a lover, everyone becomes a poet" – Greek philosopher Plato (428-348BC).

Ten more units for older Toodyay residents

TEN MORE 'independent living units' for older residents will be built in Toodyay under new State Government spending announced by local WA Nationals MP Shane Love.

The new units form stage two of plans for 18 Butterfly Cottages units in Anzac Avenue, where site works for the first eight units were approved last month.

The latest Royalties for Regions-funded

units form part of a \$6 million package to build 22 more independent living units for older people in the shires of Toodyay, Victoria Plains, Dowerin and Goomalling.

Mr Love said the new 'cluster-style' accommodation would enable more of the growing number of older people in those shires to remain living close to family and support networks in their local community.

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feedback

The Toodyay Herald is a locally owned not-for-profit newspaper that aims to serve the community as a source of quality news and information. Suggestions and comments are welcome to PO Box 100 Toodyay WA 6566 feedback@toodyayherald.com.au

Office Hours are from 9am-1pm on highlighted days

February - March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	March 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Toodyay salutes salt-of-the-earth Sinclairs

Ieva Tomsons

ON A 40-DEGREE day in mid January more than 70 family and friends gathered, at short notice, to farewell popular Toodyay couple Robyn and Royston Sinclair.

The self-effacing Sinclairs have contributed a lot to the local community and are moving to Nannup to be closer to daughters Fiona, Nicole, Lorelle and their eight grandkids.

According to Bolgart genealogist Doris Martin, the Sinclair name is enmeshed in Toodyay's pioneering history with links to the Donegan, Betts, Waters, Callendar, Ferguson and Morley families.

In the past, newcomers to Toodyay were warned about the closely related community and told "not to kick under a bush because if it's not a Donegan or Ferguson – it'll be a Sinclair".

"We're related to almost everyone," said Royston who is a fifth-generation local.

Together, Robyn and Royston have clocked up 136 years in Toodyay, always lending a hand and reaching out to community members in need of a friendly face.

After the 2009 bush fire that destroyed 38 houses and left many locals homeless, Royston was front of house serving teas and coffees at the drop-in centre while Robyn whipped up food behind the scenes for "Royston's Kitchen".

The couple met at a local dance and married in 1970 in Toodyay's St John the Baptist Catholic Church.

"The girls reckon I was a bit of a cradle-



Front left to right: Nicole with Avarni, Robyn with Zabena, Royston and Lorelle. Photo: Nathan Taylor.

snatcher," laughs Royston who is "a few years older" than Robyn who arrived in town from Chittering when she was five.

Robyn's 60-year association with the

Catholic Church, where she has been a parish council member and special minister, underpins her belief in service to others.

This service ethic has been extended to the wider community where Robyn worked at the local pre-primary school for 23 years as an education assistant. A Diploma in Counselling led Robyn to the position of Toodyay District High School Chaplain from 2013-16, supporting students and parents and encouraging men to participate in the Fathering Project.

It was lucky for Royston that Robyn found the time to study remedial massage and Bowen therapy which certainly helped extend his long career as a sheep shearer.

Around the Avon shearing sheds, Royston was a well-liked and respected shearer who gained the moniker of 'Doc' for administering first aid to sheep and shearers alike.

"You couldn't find better farmers to

work for," said Royston who hung up his handpiece just before his 70th birthday – a mighty tally in any shearer's book.

An enduring memory for Royston is riding horses with Gaven and Derek Donegan along the banks of the Avon River before it was dredged in the late 1950s.

"There were about 25 permanent swimming holes back then and we'd catch fish after riding our horses," Royston reminisced. "Now there's only Cobbler Pool."

In pulling up such deep roots there are a lot of memories for the Sinclairs; their sense of community, generosity and caring is the legacy of this couple who are often referred to simply as "bloody decent people".

Typically, they ask *The Herald* to thank Toodyay for its friendship and extend a warm welcome to Eric and Leonie, the new owners of Dadirri – their former home which carries the Aboriginal meaning for "inner deep listening and quiet, still, awareness".

Shire settles with Merrick – but won't reveal costs

Michael Sinclair-Jones

THE SHIRE OF TOODYAY has settled its long-running legal dispute with former shire CEO Graham Merrick for an undisclosed sum – but refuses to say how much it has cost ratepayers.

The settlement was announced by Shire President David Dow in a brief public statement on January 30, ending three years of costly litigation against Mr Merrick.

The shire first sued Mr Merrick for \$151,000 in the WA Supreme Court in March 2014 and – after a partly unfavourable interim ruling 12 months ago – switched in December to the Perth Magistrate's Court, where the claim limit is \$75,000.

It is understood from court records that the amount actually claimed was less but the final settlement figure has not been disclosed.

It is also understood, as reported in *The Herald* last year, that all Mr Merrick's costs are covered by local government insurance, as was last June's \$40,000 settlement with former shire president Charlie Wroth – neither defendant has to pay a cent.

The shire has repeatedly refused to tell ratepayers whether any of its own legal costs – estimated to total at least \$350,000 – are also covered by local government insurance.

President Dow said the settlement contained no admission of liability and was reached "on a purely commercial basis".

The case had been "finally and completely resolved by way of a payment to the shire".

"There will be no further action or comment from the shire," President Dow said.

It is understood the shire leadership was divided last year on whether to continue the case to trial over fears a loss could result in a costly counter-claim by Mr Merrick.

In February last year, WA Supreme Court Acting Master Michael Gething said Mr Merrick had "a good defence" against a shire claim of wrongdoing over alleged overpayment of superannuation and other employment entitlements.

Mr Gething also said the shire's initial claim of \$150,980 against Mr Merrick was "well below the amount usually considered to be cost-effective to pursue a Supreme Court action".

The shire's pursuit of Mr Merrick and Mr Wroth in the civil courts followed the refusal of the State Corruption and Crime Commission and the WA Local Government Department to investigate the matter.

The shire resorted instead to civil action in the WA Supreme Court, which it thought would cost up to \$80,000 with a "strong" chance of winning if the claim went to trial.

The shire also sued Mr Wroth – who was shire president during the former CEO's alleged overpayments – in case Mr Merrick had no money to pay anything back, and to set a public example of "governance" accountability.

Mr Merrick, who was appointed CEO of the Shire of Trayning last November, declined to comment.

'No Anzac Memorial Park trees will be removed' – MP

LOCAL WA Nationals MP Shane Love says no Anzac Memorial Park trees will be axed as a result of \$50,000 in new State Government Royalties for Regions funding to help upgrade Toodyay's historic war memorial.

His statement is at odds with Toodyay Shire President David Dow, who last year led a council push to axe two trees on the corner of Anzac Terrace and Clinton Street to make more room for trucks using the town's temporary heavy-haulage bypass.

Mr Love's announcement on *Facebook* prompted: "the trees David Dow wants to cut down – can you please clarify", to which Mr Love replied: "NO trees are to be removed".

Last year's shire decision to axe two Anzac Memorial Park trees prompted a stand-off between protesters and police, and a new shire plan – opposed by traders – to re-route heavy-haulage trucks through Toodyay's busy Stirling Terrace shopping precinct.

The council meets again at 4pm on Tuesday February 28 to decide whether to spare the trees or cut them down.

FAMILY LAW

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The Toodyay Herald

Bit of a punt

IGA STORE owner Dean Carter's \$2.5 million bid to upgrade Toodyay's historic Victoria Hotel may signal a turning point in the town's struggling economic fortunes.

The 'middle' pub's closure five days before Christmas – four years after the tavern shut its doors – sent shockwaves through the community and generated despondency over whether the town was facing terminal decline.

The Vic was more than just a pub – it had an award-winning kitchen, live music, decent pool tables, a TAB betting shop and gracious Federation-style architecture that stands out as an iconic heritage landmark.

Mr Carter describes his plans as "a bit of a punt" which is exactly what this town needs – and the signs are encouraging.

Mr Carter did it previously with his well-stocked IGA store, Sean Byron did it with his marvellously unique Christmas shop and Jason Marion's multi award-winning Toodyay Bakery has taken off like a rocket.

All had a vision to take a big financial risk to create something new and different.

The key to the success of this latest venture is a local council that can see where Toodyay's economic destiny lies.

Too often we see conflicting signals from shire leaders – allowing a garish red neon service station sign to spoil the view down Stirling Terrace and obscure historic Butterfly Cottage while rejecting harmless security shutters on the town's liquor store.

Too many people report endless petty and costly problems trying to get shire approval for innovative new developments, causing some to give up in frustration.

The job of shire planners is to work with developers to find ways to make things happen – not throw obstacles in their path.

Mr Carter alludes to this when he said of the shire: "fingers crossed they are a more motivated and progressive group and happy to encourage development in Toodyay".

In a council election year, ratepayers will be watching closely to see if this happens.

Where's the money?

IT ISN'T GOOD enough for the Shire of Toodyay to say it can't tell ratepayers what happened to their money in its failed bid to sue former shire CEO Graham Merrick and former shire president Charlie Wroth for alleged wrongdoing.

Either it cost Toodyay ratepayers hundreds of thousands of dollars or it cost them nothing – why won't the shire say?

Mr Merrick and Mr Wroth appear to have walked away without paying a cent, leaving our shire with a lot of explaining to do.

The fact that Mr Merrick now works as CEO for the Shire of Trayning rubs further salt in a wound that won't heal until our shire comes clean on this whole sorry saga.

Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor



The way we were – this large two-story boarding house once stood in Duidgee Park near Harper Road, where last month's Australia Day ceremony was held. It is pictured surrounded by floodwaters from the nearby Avon River in 1955. The structure was originally built to house Monger's Store in the early 1860s and demolished in September 1968. Photo Newcastle Gaol Museum.

LETTERS

Fiery start to New Year

WE WOULD like to thank Toodyay's volunteer firefighters for coming out in the early hours of New Year's Day to fight the grassfire on the lower slopes of Mt Anderson.

Around 2am a strong easterly wind was driving the fire in the direction of our properties in Mt Anderson Street and Settlers Ridge.

It's a very frightening experience to be woken up at night to learn a fire is coming your way and seeing the orange-red glow in the sky.

Many thanks to our neighbour 'up the street' who alerted everyone to be prepared to evacuate.

R and R Taylor
Toodyay

Precision bombing

AS RESIDENTS OF TOODYAY and very much aware of the fire situation in our town, a huge bouquet must be given to the Department of Parks and Wildlife, our wonderful firefighters and the guys in the helicopters who helped douse the flames in the recent fire in Julimar Forest.

We watched in wonder, admiring the precision of the helicopters coming and going and refuelling with water at the showgrounds.

This could have been a huge disaster to all who live within the precinct of the fire and its surrounds.

At this time of the year it is always expected that fires will occur and with the undergrowth in homes and forests thick with litter, we can only hope that all of our residents consider the dangers that will happen if proper procedures are not taken in ensuring that our 'patch' is secure.

We are indebted to all the people who assisted with the fire on Australia Day, who gave up their time and celebrations to make sure that others were safe.

Thank you for your diligence and for allowing us residents to feel great comfort again.

Di and Jeff Roberts
Toodyay

Place of plenty – really?

AT LONG LAST the shire's new information shelter is being used to promote Toodyay's history and tourist attractions.

The only problem is that the historical information on the meaning of Duidgee, from which Toodyay gets its name, is totally wrong.

It says: "The name Toodyay is an anglicised version of the Ballardong word Duidgee, meaning 'place of plenty'."

Duidgee is the Nyungar word supposedly uttered by Drummond's Whadjuk (not Ballardong) guide Babbing who came from the Canning River area.

The idea that Duidgee means 'place of plenty' is nothing more than a white person's myth.

If Toodyay wants to be known as a 'place

of plenty', then we would suggest a name change, either to boolaring or boolarup (bool or boola meaning plenty and ing or up, meaning 'place of') or maybe even borrow the name Boolgart which derives from bool, plenty and gartda ducks or waterfowl.

The Nyungar term boola was generally used in association with seasonally abundant natural resources.

Place names were often mental reference points to seasonal resources.

A local example is Goomalling which means 'the place of possum' (goomal).

If Toodyay wants to be known as the 'place of plenty', that's fine but let's be honest about it.

The name does not derive from an Aboriginal word meaning plenty.

Duidgee is more likely to be the onomatopoeic name of a small bird of the wren or flycatcher family found near our rivers and creeks.

It is not uncommon for Aboriginal bird names to be onomatopoeic, that is, an imitation of the bird's call.

As one Nyungar elder expressed it to us "the bird calls its own name".

The information above appeared in *The Toodyay Herald* some years ago.

Sadly no one in the council took any notice. For more information, go to *Wikipedia* or *anthropologyfromtheshed.com*.

Ken Macintyre
Dumbarton

(Professor Len Collard from the University of Western Australia's School of Indigenous Studies says 'Toodyay' means 'place where the mist is')

—Ed.)

Way off the mark

IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER I spent a pleasant month mostly in rural towns and a very green part of London, Wimbledon.

I was constantly walking down lanes and byways with those cute, very-English names like Rose Retreat, Merryweather Court, Bishop's Close, Parson's Glade and Chelsea Mews (these are all real names). All so pastoral and Midsummerish.

Imagine my surprise when I returned, feeling a bit sad leaving the scenes of my youth, to find the shire had exercised its creative juices and I now live in a 'court', surrounded by a 'retreat', a 'close', a 'place', a 'glade', even a 'mews'.

The only difference being these are all dusty bumpy dirt easements.

No cherry blossoms, quaint cottages – no *Midsummer Murders*.

Well done Toodyay Shire, a good effort but way off the mark.

The identifying names are all related to local history and identities which is good, but what's wrong with a good old fashioned 'road' or 'track', even a 'lane'.

Now I've got that off my chest, what I wanted to write about was the wonderful *Toodyay Herald*.

I now send copies to a number of people interstate and overseas and everyone says it's the best local paper they've ever seen.

A frequent comment is, "you have real news, and you're not afraid to confront real issues head on".

My friends actually read it.

So keep up the good work at *The Herald* through 2017 and beyond, and congratulations to the whole team.

The monthly issue has become one of the important events in my life.

Richard Hazlewood
Bejoording.

Anzac trees are 70 years old

I AM NOT wanting to enter into an argument about the trees near the Anzac Memorial Park in Toodyay, nor do I plan on standing in front of a dozer or chaining myself to trees to stop their destruction but I do want to tell it as I remember it as I believe the article concerning the age of the trees in the November *Toodyay Herald* is out by quite a few years.

As a child of six when I started school in 1947, I clearly remember that there were trees lining the roadside along Clinton Street and level with the old school boundary on the side of the road nearest the war memorial gardens.

I consulted Alf T. Thomas' *Toodyay History* which I believe was commissioned at the time by the Toodyay Road Board Office and was published in 1949.

On page 34 there is a photo of the war memorial gardens which clearly shows (in the background) the old Kingston homestead with its two large palm trees at the front.

On closer inspection, there are some gum trees lining the road on the side nearest the war memorial gardens.

On page 39 of the book there is a photo of the school buses that were in use at the time. The late Harry Granville's bus (which is the one I travelled on), is the closest to the side of the road near the gardens. Once again if one looks closely they will see some trees on that side of the road – I actually remember that photo being taken.

I started school 69 years ago and the trees were already growing then. It is also 67 years since the history book was written.

How old the trees were at the time I began school I don't know, but it would (I feel sure), have been more than 70 years since they were planted at least.

Erica (nee Twine), one of my school friends, told me that her mother who taught at the school in the 1930s often commented on the trees during her life time.

With the State election in March the shire should put its efforts into trying to get a grant for a bypass route for Toodyay.

Even if two trees are cut out of the current route it will still be a dangerous route especially where the trucks come back onto Toodyay Road up near the old convent building.

Doris M. Martin
Bolgart

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

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Long delays as Toodyay waits for rail repairs

Michael Sinclair-Jones

LONG DELAYS to passenger rail services between Toodyay and Perth are being caused by major Avon Valley repairs being carried out by WA rail operator Brookfield Rail.

The work has also caused long delays at railway crossings where local motorists have to wait as heavily laden freight trains crawl past at greatly reduced speeds.

A Brookfield Rail spokesperson said the "significant" works program included re-railing, re-sleepering and re-aligning tracks along stretches up to five kilometres long.

The busy east-west rail link through Toodyay carries up to 40 million tonnes a year and averages 40-50 trains daily.

They include the Indian Pacific, Prospector, MerredinLink and AvonLink passenger rail services which have all suffered long delays.

It has forced cancellation of some AvonLink passenger rail services between Northam, Toodyay and Perth, and their replacement with temporary bus services.

Some regular Toodyay commuters who use weekday trains to Perth have switched to driving because they can't rely on getting to work on time due to unpredictable delays.

It has caused concern among Toodyay's AvonLink supporters' group that the delays won't be considered when the WA Government assesses passenger usage when a three-year trial ends at the end of this year.

It followed a shock announcement by former WA Transport Minister Troy Buswell in 2013 to save \$900,000 a year by axing the AvonLink and replacing it with buses because he said the rail link was "unaffordable".

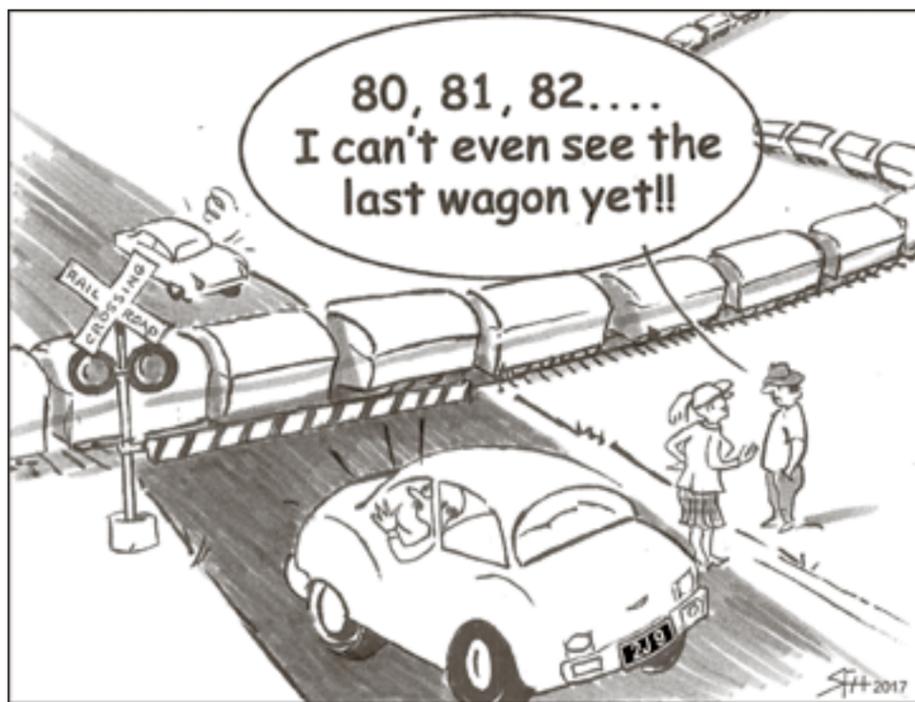
The Perth Transport Authority reported last December that AvonLink patronage had decreased from an average 26 passengers per service in 2013-14 to 16 in 2015-16.

The daily AvonLink and MerredinLink (Wednesdays) service through Toodyay cost \$3 million a year to run but recouped only \$365,000 in revenue last year.

It cost \$97 per passenger to operate, with a WA Government subsidy of \$1 for every passenger-kilometre travelled.

Brookfield Rail said current work is being done on a 50km stretch between Toodyay West and Moondyne in the Avon Valley National Park near Lower Chittering.

Trains have to slow to 40km/h for the safety of railway work crews, and undergo further temporary speed restrictions after the work



is completed while more tonnage is run over the track to enable it to settle.

The spokesperson said the heavy-haulage rail line through Toodyay and the Avon Valley was a critical link in WA's freight rail network and national supply chain.

It was used to transport nearly 85 per cent

of WA's incoming traffic from the eastern states as well as other bulk commodities – such as grain – into metropolitan ports.

Local passenger rail services shared the same track, making it one of the busiest, most-critical sections of WA's freight network.

LETTERS

Trees aren't soldiers

AT RISK OF STIRRING a sensitive issue, I would like to say a few words about the trees at the corner of Anzac Avenue and Clinton Street.

Two of 20 or more have been earmarked by Toodyay Shire for removal to facilitate traffic flow on the heavy-vehicle bypass.

There are also safety concerns as the trees in question are substantial yet sited immediately adjacent to the road pavement on a fairly sharp bend.

However there seems ample justification to proceed and as we have been frequently reminded, these trees form part of a memorial Anzac Park setting.

Although they are not marked as such, in the words of those campaigning to retain them, "each one honours the soldiers from Toodyay who died during WW1".

The clash of opinion on this issue has every sign of escalating into an 'us-versus-them' battle from which no outcome will satisfy anybody.

I suggest all take a deep breath and pause for reflection.

These are trees, which will grow old and die sooner or later (hopefully without dangerously dropping limbs).

They are not actual soldiers.

The conservators of Kings Park, for instance, have no trouble replacing diseased or fragile commemorative trees with saplings similar to those planted many years ago – even though each is dedicated to a named combatant.

With the same approach the shire could restate the community's appreciation for the deep sacrifices made by the community as a whole during past international conflicts.

Though I have no direct connection to those local fallen soldiers, I think it very doubtful that the renowned practical and down-to-earth outlook of the Anzacs they represent would countenance unbending attachment to memorials of the past, even for such emotion-laden symbols as these.

Perhaps it is time for a little flexibility, to re-dedicate our thoughts with some new trees or other commemoration in a less vulnerable location.

Peter Edwards
Toodyay

School chaplaincy SOS

WELL, CHRISTMAS has gone again and we are looking at a new year.

Unfortunately at chaplaincy we have a problem. We need to replace our treasurer and so we need your help.

There must be someone out there who has the time to be able to help us.

If you don't think that you could be a treasurer, we could sure use some younger people on our chaplaincy committee.

It looks promising that we will have a chaplain for five days a week at start of this year.

If you think you could help, please call me on 9574 2069 or Vivienne Freeman on 9574 4915.

Max J. Heath
Toodyay

Thanks for the fabulous years

TO ALL THE people who have made our years in Toodyay such happy ones, we would like to say thank you, sincerely.

We came here as city slickers and leave here with a whole new perspective on country life.

We have learned so much and enjoyed being a part of this community.

For a myriad of reasons it is time for us to wind our way back to the coast to family and friends and exciting new adventures and prospects.

Thanks to everyone who got behind us when we wanted to launch collections of treasure for fire victims and to those people who accepted help so graciously.

Contrary to popular belief we are not leaving the country – just going to Jindalee on the coast and looking forward to sea breezes and long walks on the beach.

Toodyay friends are always welcome – a little bit of sea air can put some pep in your step again.

Thanks for a fabulous 12 years.

Melanie and John Mitchinson
Toodyay

Native clearing reported

THE TOODYAY Naturalists' Club motto is that the environment matters. However, we again see an example where this principle is not being adhered to.

Toodyay Shire has just over 50 per cent of native bush remaining whereas our surrounding shires have 10 per cent or less.

We are heading this way – unless the community is educated about retaining our native vegetation.

Last year there were a number of incidences where native bush was cleared, without proper approvals, and we have started off 2017 with another example.

A farmer wanted to upgrade his fence so, instead of clearing and preparing land on his property, a bulldozer has cleared land within the boundary of Dudley Chitty Reserve on Bindoon-Dewars Pool Road.

This reserve was replanted and looked after by local residents; a lot of their hard work has now been undone and an important natural waterway changed by this clearing.

We believe this destruction has been reported to the shire, Department of Environment and Regulation and the Department of Water, so we await the outcome of the investigation.

Those responsible should be compelled to revegetate the area that has been destroyed.

The environment is changing rapidly and there have to be very good reasons for the removal of every tree, bush and shrub – even in our own gardens.

We should be planting more, not removing.
Brian Foley
President, Toodyay Naturalists' Club
Dewars Pool.

True festive spirit

TO ALL THOSE wonderful people who helped us to have a great Christmas, from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

After all the lies, false accusations and

deceptions at the hands of those we are supposed to trust the most, the last few years and, more recently, with all the negatives that have occurred in our lives we had almost given up.

But a group of guardian angels in the form of family and friends emerged and restored our faith in human nature, with caring and kindness.

We hope your kindness is returned three-fold because you all showed us the true meaning of Christmas.

Love and many thanks to you all.

Terri and Phil Watson
Toodyay

Long-table feast

A NEW 'long table' festive lunch in Toodyay's CWA Hall on Christmas Day attracted more than 40 local diners and volunteers who enjoyed roast turkey with stuffing, prawns and desserts – including pavlova and trifle – washed down with home-made ginger beer punch.

The lunch also featured Christmas crackers, party hats and jokes, and soft drinks, tea and coffee.

We'd like to thank the Toodyay community for the many donations of food and money to help make it a memorable day for local people who might otherwise have spent Christmas Day alone or away from family.

Our special thanks go to all the volunteers who gave up part of their Christmas Day celebrations to help to set up the hall with a long dining table and chairs, and assist in food preparation and presentation, and cleaning up.

We plan to make this an annual event so please keep an eye out next Christmas.

Rosie McClellan and Roz Davidson
Toodyay

Top nosh Christmas

CLIVE AND I would like to say thank you to Rosie and Roz and the team who generously gave up their time on Christmas Day to provide the special lunch at the CWA Hall.

It was a wonderful meal shared in great company. It was such a luxury for us to sit down to a meal of such tasty treats: we really appreciated the effort that went into organising the event. How lucky we are to live in such a kind community.

Naomi Millett
Toodyay

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Firebugs ruin firies' holiday celebrations

Police Beat

With Sgt Warren Conder
Toodyay Police Station



DELIBERATELY-LIT fires in heatwave conditions on the first two public holidays of the new year resulted in two people charged with separate offences.

The first fire was lit at about 1.30am on New Year's Day and burnt an area of grassland behind Toodyay District High School in Drummond Street.

As a result of information passed onto police, a 20-year-old male was apprehended

and later charged. The fire took eight hours to clean up and left a blackened area at the foot of Mt Anderson.

"Although the fire was brought under control, it could have been much more serious if it had spread to nearby town properties in the early hours of the morning," Sgt Conder said.

Another person was arrested on Australia Day (January 26) after volunteer bush fire fighters from Toodyay and surrounding areas were called out in 41C heat to a much bigger fire on the western edge of Julimar State Forest which burnt out 615ha.

Aerial water bombers (photo Page 8) were called in to assist.

Local bush fire brigade volunteers had to abandon plans to celebrate the Australia Day public holiday with a community breakfast

barbecue in Duidgee Park and rush to the fire, which burnt until it was contained and brought under control about 9pm.

The fire was spotted early morning near the corner of Cooks Road and Northern Boundary Road, about 35km north-west of the Toodyay townsite.

A 41-year-old man from Bedford (Perth) was seen near the fire about 9am by Department of Fire and Emergency Services staff and members of the public.

The man was arrested by Toodyay police and driven back to the police station for questioning.

With assistance from Wheatbelt detectives and Arson Squad officers, the man was later charged with breach of duty under State bushfire law, no authority to drive, use of an unlicensed vehicle and driving a vehicle with false licence plates.

Police said it would be alleged the man had driven into the forest the evening before Australia Day and his vehicle had become undriveable.

The man got lost after leaving his vehicle to get help.

It would be alleged he lit a fire but left the area without extinguishing it, causing the fire to later burn out of control in a large area of bush land in the western part of the forest.

School vandals caught

TWO LOCAL teenage boys were charged with vandalism (left) at Toodyay District High School after a routine police patrol spotted the pair acting suspiciously nearby.

The incident occurred about 7pm on Thursday and included damage to classrooms and teaching equipment, a cricket bat handle smashed through a wall and "I hate high school" scrawled on a blackboard.

Stolen memories recovered

ANOTHER ROUTINE police patrol at 4am in Stirling Terrace stopped a car and trailer containing stolen goods.

A check of the contents led to the discovery

of a bigger haul of goods stolen from vacant farms in the Koorda area, about 150km north-east of Toodyay.

It included a photograph (below) believed to be of the grandfather of elderly Perth resident Doreen Drysdale, daughter of the late owner of one of the burgled farms.

The investigation was led by local police Snr Const. Jarrad Francis who helped trace the stolen goods to Koorda after finding a Masonic Lodge certificate in the trailer full of stolen goods.

Sgt Conder said the arrest of the offender demonstrated the effectiveness of random night patrols of which many local people might not be aware.

933 vehicles stopped

LOCAL POLICE conducted random checks on 933 vehicles in Toodyay and surrounding districts as part of a state-wide double demerit points Christmas/New Year road-safety blitz.

A total of 26 infringement notices – mostly for speeding – were issued, and 11 charges for drug offences and unlicensed driving.

"What's positive is that there were no fatalities in the Wheatbelt over the Christmas/New Year break," Sgt Conder said.

"Police stopped thousands of Wheatbelt motorists during that period and people are to be congratulated for driving safely.

"However, we have seen a noticeable increase in methamphetamine drug-driving offences.

"People either smoke it in glass pipes or inject it with syringes, which we sometimes find in handbags, gloveboxes and other parts of vehicles that have to be searched with heavy gloves to avoid the life-threatening danger of needle stick infections such as HIV or Hepatitis C.

"If people know of anyone who drives while affected by drugs, they should tell us before anyone – including other road users such as children in school buses – gets killed on our local roads," Sgt Conder said.



Vandals strike Toodyay District High School.

Phone fraud targets seniors

Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association
Desraé Clarke

TOODYAY POLICE are proposing to have a second seniors' morning in February with groups notified of the finer details very soon.

An 'out-of-the-blue' phone call from someone claiming to be from Department of Human Services (DCS) or Centrelink is suspicious.

The caller states that you are eligible for an increase in your pension or benefit and the letter that has already been sent to you has not been acknowledged by you.

The scammer will then state that your file has been sent to Canberra and you can either go to Canberra to complete the required forms or pay a fee and have the forms sent to you.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Deputy Chair, Delia Rickard, says the main object of the scammer is to

obtain your financial particulars.

DCS will never ask you to deposit money in order to receive a payment.

There has been a substantial increase of 560 reports and a reported loss of \$3500 in 2015 and 2200 reports and a reported loss of \$27,000 in 2016.

You may be threatened by the scammer that if you do not pay the requested money you will not receive any benefits until the money has been paid.

Do not use any of the contact numbers or information given by the scammer and do not give any information but hang up as soon as possible.

If bank details have been given, contact your bank immediately to cancel the transaction and report the scam on 1300 795 995 as soon as possible.

Call 000 for emergencies only.

WAScamNet	1300 30 40 54
Toodyay Police	9574 9555
Crimestoppers	1800 333 000



Snr Const. Francis Jarrad returns stolen Koorda items to a delighted Doreen Drysdale.

Dog attacks on alpacas, sheep add to lone ranger workload

Ieva Tomsons

RANGER Ian Whyborn's recent departure to the city has, for the time being, literally left Debbie Papps as the shire's lone ranger.

In the lead-up to Christmas there were several dog attacks.

Two separate attacks were on alpacas in Jingaling Brook and sheep in Morangup, and one on a small domestic dog in town.

Mrs Papps said stock and dog owners can greatly assist rangers by reading the shire information sheet Protecting Your Livestock which is available from the shire website and rangers' and shire offices.

The document outlines the responsibilities of both rangers and livestock/dog owners and provides information for witnesses of dog attacks.

"There were no witnesses to the dog attacks on the alpacas and sheep, so we couldn't do anything further," Mrs Papps said.

However, unwitnessed dog attacks should be reported to the rangers who keep records of attack frequencies and locations.

Carcasses of attacked livestock should

not be buried before the ranger attends as a photographic record can assist in identifying the breed of dog involved in the attack.

Fox attacks on poultry and lambs are not the responsibility of rangers.

Information on fox control is available from the Department of Agriculture's Pest and Disease Information Service.

The attack on the alpacas highlights the danger of allowing pet dogs to 'play' with livestock.

"Two alpacas died and one is still recovering from the stress of being chased and bitten," Mrs Papps said.

Suburban dog owners should avoid walking dogs past properties where large dogs live.

"Walking a little dog past a big dog in town is like putting the (large) dog in a pet food factory and telling it not to eat.

"In suburbia, blocking out gates and fences with shade cloth can assist dog owners in ensuring their dog remains in the yard when another dog passes by," Mrs Papps said.

The shire expects to appoint a second ranger in the next few weeks.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

New unit has all the fire-fighting fruit

Coondle-Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Max J Heath

G'DAY FROM the Coondle fire shed. We do hope that you all had a great Christmas.

For us it has been remarkably quiet and really we have only had one or two call-outs since the last *Herald* and for this time of year that is just about a record.

There is good news for our brigade though, as our new 1.4 fire unit has been

sighted although not in Toodyay as yet.

This will be the first of the new models in Toodyay with all the fruit on it and there are burn-over protective sprays in all the right places, including tyres etc.

It is also equipped with burn-over breathing equipment in the cab, the smoke filtration masks that are now in most vehicles in the shire, and has seating for three people, although it will be crewed in comfort by two persons.

All this protection equipment is great

for safety and these days we need all the protection we can get but I still think that if it's that dangerous, we shouldn't be in the situation. After all we are volunteers.

Our members have now been issued with the latest in helmets fitted with special torches and in conjunction with our protective clothing, the cost of putting a volunteer on the ground in safety comes at the considerable cost of around \$800.

We are worth it though.

Stay safe and fire free.

Morangup, Bolgart volunteers needed

St John Ambulance

Carolynne Haigh

OUR 2017 TRAINING program is about to start and we ask: "Have you considered joining our wonderful team?"

More volunteers are needed, particularly in our Bolgart and Morangup sub-branches.

We aim to be heavily involved in the community and are inviting people to attend an automatic external defibrillator demonstration at the Beejording Community Hall at 6pm on Friday February 17.

Our first Provide First Aid course for the year will be held on Saturday February 18 at the Toodyay sub-centre in Stirling Terrace, behind the hairdresser.

If you want to refresh your first-aid knowledge or learn from scratch, please call Carolynne on 9574 2390 or 0428 957 600, or email sjatooday@bigpond.com for first-aid training or demonstrations.

We are constantly fundraising and donations for prizes can be dropped off at the sub-centre during opening hours.

St John's is totally self-funded and all money raised from raffles, benefit-fund memberships and first-aid courses goes directly into ensuring local ambulances are equipped and maintained to the highest standards.

For all emergency calls, please dial 000.

Advertising Feature

New Way Home Sales works for all

WHAT AN EXCITING MONTH it's been – even without all the Christmas chaos plonked in the middle.

The support and encouragement I've received has been truly humbling and I thank everyone who has emailed, phoned, sent a text or made *Facebook* comments. What a wonderful town and community we are.

Listings are building and people are making enquiries. I'm on track and exactly where I hoped to be. So thank you so much for your trust and support and, I promise, I won't let you down.

I must say though, I'm loving this slow time. It's giving me the time needed to get the backbone of my Toodyay marketing in place with *realestate.com.au*; *domain.com.au* and *reiwa.com.au*. In today's market the ever-increasing social media reach is the most effective means of connecting with many thousands of people.

For those of you who have dug a bit deeper into New Way Home Sales and

have visited the website *newwayhome.com.au*, you'll know that I have a strong belief that in order to sell property in Toodyay, we must first sell Toodyay.

People don't buy a property just because it's got the right bedroom configuration and is something they can afford. They first come to town, like what they see, and feel, and then decide to look at suitable property for sale.

And this is exactly New Way Home Sales' prime aim; to actively promote Toodyay and find buyers for those who have entrusted the sale of their property to us. I will continue to work with the Toodyay Chamber of Commerce to encourage new business, promote tourism and will work creatively to do all that and more.

An article in *The Financial Review* on 7 January 2017 placed Toodyay seventh in a list of 10 best retirement towns in Australia. The survey looked for places that would:

- suit people in higher income brackets;
- have good medical and hospital facilities nearby;
- have good transport connections and,
- be one to three hours from a capital city.

That's us and I think it bodes very well for the future aging demographic of Toodyay. I'm convinced that ongoing promotion of our town (by everyone) will assist all businesses, all current property sellers and all of those who may decide to sell at some time in the future.

With my rapidly growing 'interested buyers' list' (people not yet ready to buy but who are planning to move to Toodyay in the near future), New Way Home Sales is definitely getting the word out about how good our town is.

Thanks again everyone, and here's to an exciting, safe and prosperous new year for all.

Barb Dadd

Torches help

Morangup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Sue Maddrell

BRIGADE members have been busy tidying up the station and storing equipment in new racks shared with Toodyay SES.

We had several fire calls, including two at night when we used new torches which were a great help and definitely long overdue.

Members continue to maintain their skills and trucks in readiness for fires.

New water tanks at the base of the station have been a great help, saving time in filling up, thanks to Greg Warburton and the shire.

New members are always welcome.

The brigade meets on the third Saturday of each month at 5:30pm with a BBQ after for those who wish to stay on.

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- Stephanie Snyder, Global Yoga Ambassador

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EMERGENCY SERVICES



Onlookers inspect a \$20 million US-built Kestrel air crane that helped fight an Australia Day bushfire in Julimar State Forest. The helitac can carry up to 7560 litres of water and landed at Toodyay showgrounds to reload from a tanker. Photo: Naomi Millett, story Page 6.

Baptism of fire for new volunteers

Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Alison Wroth

THE GREAT NEWS at Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade is the number of new volunteers who have recently earned their colours by attending their first fire call-out.

Though you may not think this is a huge issue, when you consider all the effort and time new volunteers and trainers put in to get the skills and qualifications to be safe on a fireground and eventually get some black stuff on their yellow protective gear, it is a big thing for everyone involved.

Congratulations to all our new firefighters, including Melinda, Hayley, Kiarra, Peggy, Tanya and Hans, the Julimar shed family is proud of you.

Continuing with the newbies-on-the-block theme, we held a special Sunday truckies' training recently which was all practical experience with demonstrations of foam use, refilling tanks, changing tyres, using the fire pump and radio and intercom use.

Friday night sessions are going well, mainly covering turn-out procedures, radios, map reading (which I'm sure all the female vollies excelled at) and fireground safety.

Grant and Wade are busy working on a

comprehensive package of notes on all our brigade training procedures so standardised packages can be created as a complete reference for future trainers.

We have been advised that Julimar has now been brought into the computer age with the connection of the fire Shed to the innovative 'interweb' – more on that next issue.

Also, if you want to contact any of our brigade members for any reason to do with the shed, or if you just want to ask them on a date, shopping trip or a game of bowls, an updated member contact list will soon be available.

I have been asked to let you all know that a new state-of-the-art, all-singing, all-dancing, security system has been installed at the brigade shed.

Two snakes sighted when a crew turned out to a call are not, repeat not, the upgraded system; neither is Rocket's dog.

Friday nights after training are very enjoyable for a drink, chat or even a board game, so if you would like to make some new friends, meet the men and women who have the skills and experience to protect your home against bushfire or even feel like becoming a member, please come to the Julimar fire shed from 6pm.

Community Chest fills our stocking

Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
From the desk of The Badger

'T'WAS CHRISTMAS in the bush and Santa was expected at the Bejoording shed.

Being so busy, he had to delegate to other mythical friends such as the rotund Michelin Man – but at least he came dressed as Santa.

Teasing aside, Santa did a terrific job handing out Christmas packs to adults and kids, so a big thank you to Santa, his helpers Tianna and Hunter, and to Big Kev our faithful fire engine which delivered him, sirens blaring and lights flashing.

Christmas in Bejoording passed without any major fire events and members were able to enjoy their family festivities, even if those on roster had to resist the liquid pleasures.

And last month continued in a fairly benign way to the great relief of everyone.

We were prepared for more with the hot, dry weather and plenty of fuel on the ground after a late, wet winter but at the time of writing, it has been very quiet on the fire front.

Fingers and toes crossed for February. Thanks to the Wheatbelt Development Commission's generous and highly appreciated Community Chest grant we now have fans in the shed to greatly increase comfort on hot nights; we also have a defibrillator installed and brilliant new carpark lighting which makes us feel safe, particularly at large gatherings or when our kids play outside during social events.

We would like to acknowledge the support and guidance of the commission's Northam

office during the application process.

The Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to be vigilant and careful when using any tools or vehicles with the potential to cause a fire.

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 catastrophic for people, animals and property, so please take care – advice is free, but getting it wrong can be expensive.

Our next regular meeting will be at the Shed on Tuesday February 21 at 6pm.

If you have any questions please call Captain Barry Grey on 9574 2149, or the Badger on 9574 4834, and leave a message if we're not there.



Santa and his helpers.

'Boring as bat poo'

'BORING AS BAT POO' aptly describes last month's Toodyay Shire Council meeting.

It began with Shire President David Dow declining to answer public questions about who was involved in a December move to at least halve the sum former shire CEO Graham Merrick is being sued for.

This follows a decision – not recorded at any council meeting – to transfer the claim from the WA Supreme Court to the Perth Magistrate's Court, where the most that can be claimed is \$75,000 – not the \$150,000 claimed for the past three years.

The council has spent at least \$350,000 suing Mr Merrick but President Dow said he can't say anything on legal advice.

However, he did say he was "satisfied councillors have been kept fully and regularly informed of the claim's progress and that all council decisions have been in accordance with local government law and council standing orders".

This brief excitement was followed by a laborious process to correct the December meeting minutes before they could be confirmed, and the standard of debate for the rest of the evening was similarly uninspiring.

NBN tower: Councillors agreed 8-0 (Cr Paula Greenway absent) to approve a new NBN tower atop Pelham Reserve to deliver new high-speed wireless internet to the town.

New child care centre: They also endorsed plans to convert the old Stirling Terrace fire station – formerly an art gallery – into a new child care centre, and spend \$31,000 on solar energy for the shire library and works depot.

'Unlawful' rates fixed: The recent rural rates debacle was fixed when councillors struck a new 2016/17 budget – only six months' late – which appears to charge much the same rural rates as last July's 'unlawful' ones but without the same legal errors for which nobody at the shire has publicly accepted blame or responsibility.

Axed trees shifted: Councillors also agreed to transfer 5.4km of road reserve in Bejoording Road to the Shire of Goomalling after last year's stink when the Shire of Toodyay allowed rare native trees to be axed for roadworks.

Last year's protest by the Toodyay Naturalists' Club fell on deaf ears, prompting President Dow to falsely claim *The Herald* had drafted an October *Letter to the Editor* written by club president Brian Foley.

President Dow still hasn't apologised to Mr Foley but that's OK because the area now officially belongs to Goomalling, which is one way of doing business, I suppose.

Undisclosed bid: Proceedings ended with yet another item of 'urgent' business not detailed in the agenda.

Councillors went behind closed doors to choose Toodyay firm Ringa Civil's

undisclosed bid to carry out site works for nine new Butterfly Cottage units to be built in Anzac Avenue.

The previous council meeting in December was only slightly more interesting.

Lotto sign: Boral got its extraction licence extended at Hoddys Well, and the local newsagency in Stirling Terrace was allowed to display an illuminated Lotto sign in its heritage precinct front window.

Pool priority: Councillors set funding priorities by ranking the new sports and recreational precinct – including a public swimming pool – ahead of the AvonLink passenger rail service and a new heavy-haulage vehicle bypass around the town.

Cr Judy Dow got in a late entry – upgrading the dilapidated Duke Street footbridge over the railway line.

Vet deal honoured: The night's main item was a previous surprise bid to sell shire-owned Mrs O'Reilly's Cottage in Stirling Terrace for \$530,000 after granting planning permission in 2014 to lease the cottage to the local vet just days before the building was badly damaged by a severe storm.

CEO Stan Scott tried to salvage the 'unsolicited' cash sale with a seemingly last-ditch plan to use \$200,000 from the sale to upgrade a disused shire parks and gardens depot on a dangerous corner of the town's controversial heavy-haulage vehicle bypass on Clinton Street to lease to the vet.

The vet thought this was a dumb idea and the whole plan collapsed when councillors opted instead to do the right thing and honour a long-standing verbal agreement to lease Mrs O'Reilly's Cottage to the vet.

Looks like the council will have to find some other way to pay its legal bills.

Autocratic charade: As for the shire's annual general meeting of electors at 7pm on December 19, you could have blinked and missed it.

Only seven ratepayers (including two *Herald* reporters) attended, only one question was asked and the whole ridiculous charade in the autocratic surroundings of the former courtroom was over in just seven minutes.

Next time, how about advertising it with posters around town, hold it in the Memorial Hall where all councillors and staff can sit facing ratepayers on the same level (not looking down at them from the stage) and perhaps put on some tea and bikkies after, so local residents can meet and chat informally with their elected representatives?

PUBLIC MEETING

The Steering Committee of the

Toodyay Progress Association

invites all

interested residents and rate-payers

to attend a public meeting at

7pm on Wednesday 15th February 2017

at the Community Centre, Stirling Terrace

(Next to Medical Centre)

Items for Discussion include

- The need for such an organisation
- Proposed constitution and rules
- Membership
- Election of Office bearers
- Date for a general meeting

Larry Graham

Chair – Steering Committee

Toodyay Progress Association.

HOME OF THE MONTH

This immaculately presented 4x2 home is now simply the best priced in Toodyay! Situated in a quiet location near the edge of town and overlooking the historic pioneer Toodyay cemetery. It's in walking distance to the shops and school, and the home is a perfect design for a bustling family with an open plan kitchen/dining area adjacent to a family living area. There's a formal lounge separate to the rest, and four good sized bedrooms, all with BIRs. The master suite is a terrific size with a wall of built in robes and ensuite.

Fabulous limestone landscaping is in place and anxiously waiting a keen gardener. There's even a very posh suburban chook run for some very very lucky hens - and a fully lined shed for all those hobbies and storage, or perhaps even as separate sleeping quarters for that independent teenager!

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Worsening climate change is real, say local farmers

John Martin
Coondle farmer

I BELIEVE our climate is changing, which it has done since the beginning of time.

My opinion is about how it affects my business, not whether it is man-made or not.

These changes are having a very real impact on our decision-making and finances.

One example is that in March 2010 we received 150mm of rain in just one hour in the worst thunderstorm I have ever seen in more than 40 years of farming.

On a mixed farm, March is a month when you definitely don't need a storm because paddocks are at their most vulnerable to erosion.

We had fences washed away and were forced to sell 90 per cent of our stock because of feed and fence damage.

Seasons have changed from what was a normal mid-May break to the season now coming usually much later or – worse still – lots of false breaks which create less favourable pasture growth and more hand-feeding of stock.

I have seen this change more evident, particularly in the last 20 years, with weather now far more erratic and no such thing as a 'normal' pattern.

We previously received most of our rain in the May-August period but now tend to get smaller amounts at a time over a longer period, with September/October often receiving larger amounts than before.

For mixed sheep, cattle, hay and grain production, this seasonal rainfall change affects us the same way as lack of rain, with soil moisture and reliance on dams critical.

Our seeding method has also changed, with timing critical due to the variance in rainfall and the risk of frost now ever-present in most WA farming areas when previously it was mainly an 'inland' problem.

We have pushed stock mating dates back to try to catch the best feed for breeding stock and offspring to minimise the need for expensive hand-feeding.

The weather has always been changing but now the rate of change has accelerated and brought more unknown challenges with it.

The problem is not the change but not being able to control it, which has always been a farmer's greatest frustration.

Our Ask the Experts page offers an opportunity each month for Herald readers to ask questions about what really matters to them in our community. It's an opportunity to exchange views and express opinions, discuss ideas and openly discuss all areas of public policy. Two leading US Government scientific agencies last month pronounced 2016 to be the warmest year since modern records began in 1880, and the third year in a row to set such a record for global average surface temperatures. This month we ask: "Is climate change real, if so, how will it affect us and – if caused by human activity – what can we do about it, if anything?"

Shane Love MP*
WA National Party (Moore)

TOODYAY LAST YEAR recorded its wettest winter in 17 years with 633 mm of rain, compared with 383mm in 2015 and average rainfall of 466mm since 1975.

The Avon River experienced a much better stream flow, with 112 gegalitres last year compared with 21GL the year before.

However, those stream flows were still less than the annual average of 150GL in the 40 years to 2015.

Local rainfall is now about 16 per cent below the long-term average.

While some winters are wetter than others, WA's South-West has been getting progressively less rain in the past four decades.

WA Water Department figures indicate up to 50 per cent less average run-off into rivers and streams since the 1970s, and a reduction of up to 30 per cent in the recharge of underground aquifers.

Climate does appear to be changing – at least locally – and our winters are drier on average than in the past.

History shows plenty of evidence that the Earth goes through periods of wetter and – conversely – drier conditions.

The difference this time is the claim that this particular episode of climate change is directly caused by increased greenhouse gases – principally methane and carbon dioxide (CO₂) – caused by human activities such as burning fossil fuels as well as denuding and burning forests and raising livestock.

I do not know to what extent this proposition is true but it would appear to be prudent to

acknowledge a possibility that it is at least partially correct.

An appropriate response is to plan for drier conditions in the South-West and adopt changes that may reduce greenhouse gas production.

WA farming systems have drastically improved water use, growing good crops in rainfall conditions that a few years ago would have been considered drought.

The WA National Party is a strong supporter of providing better tools for farmers to continue to adapt to this change.

Better weather recording and prediction, and research into improved farming systems have all been supported by State Government Royalties for Regions funding, as has a 'Water for Food' program to find new sources of ground water throughout WA, including in wetter areas such as the Kimberley.

Greater agricultural productivity and reduced carbon emissions can all lead to an economically better future regardless of whether you think human activity is causing our climate to change.

Switching to 'cleaner' fuels – gas instead of coal – and the use of renewable energy should be encouraged because it will often make short-term economic sense as well as potentially reduce emissions.

**Mr Love is also a Badgingarra farmer.*

Paul Michael*
Climate change spokesperson, WA Pastoralists and Graziers Association

THE NOTION regularly promoted by governments, media and vested interests that humans are causing climate change – from increased greenhouse emissions, mostly carbon dioxide (CO₂) – is very wrong and continually proved as such.

CO₂ levels were up to 20 times higher in the past, (at 6000 parts per million when there were no cars and factories belching out greenhouse gases) and temperatures four to five degrees warmer than now, yet

life flourished. However, cold periods such as the 'Maunder Minimum' in the 16th and 17th centuries and the Earth's last Ice Age were immensely destructive to mankind and life on earth.

The next one is overdue.

There has been no global warming in the past 19 years, a fact admitted by the International Panel on Climate Change.

Hence the insidious change in political 'spin' from 'global warming' to 'climate change'.

Climate modelling and alarmist predictions continue to be proven wrong.

Remember former US vice-president Al Gore's embarrassingly incorrect 'hockey stick' graph?

The ability to make accurate predictions is the hallmark of good science.

Conversely, false predictions are clearly not based on science or are at best, bad science.

Climate is always changing, regardless of man's influence – no wonder most geologists and historians don't buy climate change propaganda, they've seen it all before.

The so-called 'consensus' that 97 per cent of scientists believe humans and carbon emissions are the cause of climate change is false and came from a deliberately distorted poll debunked by University of Sussex Professor Richard Tol and others, but still continues to be promoted by media and the climate change 'industry'.

And, of course, consensus is not science – it belongs to politics.

Danish Adjunct Professor Bjorn Lomborg – a highly acclaimed academic in business, political science and computer modelling – was smeared by the University of WA recently and labelled a 'denialist' when he said that climate change is grossly exaggerated and the cost/benefit of wasting billions of dollars to try to mitigate it does not stack up.

He said that with all governments implementing renewable energy promises by 2040, solar and wind would make up only 2.2 per cent of global energy.

And, more locally, green lunacy dictating South Australia's energy policies has manifested in power blackouts and compromised base power production – for no measurable benefit to the environment.

Worldwide, governments are spending over a billion dollars a day on this massive wasteful industry – for no benefit, when we could be solving real problems facing humanity, such as poverty, drug abuse and forecasting natural disasters.

**Mr Michael is also a Bejoording farmer and qualified accountant.*

A century of memories cherished

Obituary – Mena Chapman
10/1/1915 – 1/1/2017
Lorraine Bech

IT IS TIME to acknowledge a very special lady, friend, aunt, great aunt and great-great aunt who worked from sun-up to sundown whistling and always smiling.

Mena Louvain Hodgkinson was born on 10 January 1915 to William and Winifred Hodgkinson at Toodyay's Mayvale Farm.

Her siblings were May, Tim, Rene and Ronnie.

Mena enjoyed farm life with her family throughout her childhood and often spoke fondly of that time and the many changes she saw in Toodyay and the world.

Mena met Don Chapman and married him at age 25 in 1940.

They moved house many times, before finally settling in Telegraph Road where they lived for many years in a beautiful home that overlooks the Toodyay Showgrounds.

Mena and Don enjoyed each other's company immensely and had many adventures together.

They ran a picture theatre in the town hall where they sold tickets and helped in the projection room.

The were always at each other's side until Don passed away in 1996.

Mena was very active in the Toodyay community and spent many years volunteering her services to various associations, including the St John Ambulance service and sometimes rode in the cab.

She did many things that probably went unnoticed, such as her cemetery walks to clean up the grounds or to paint the fences.

Mena also loved to cook and worked at Northam's high school and army camp, and at the hotel in Toodyay.



The late Mena Chapman, who passed away nine days before her 102nd birthday, was believed to be Toodyay's oldest resident.

She was well known for her generosity and cooked and provided accommodation for the men who built the standard-gauge railway which now runs through Toodyay.

Mena loved her sport and excelled at golf, hockey and bowls, and won many trophies.

Mena and Don had no children but Mena was an aunt or special friend to many people.

She was as much at ease with her own generation as with younger people.

Mena remained young at heart and many a game was played around the house and through Mt Anderson's paddocks.

She had a beautiful garden full of vegetables and flowers of all colours and varieties which she maintained herself right into her 90s.

Vale Mena.



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She walked two worlds and embraced both

**Obituary – Pamela Rae Walsh
1951 – 2017
Karl Walsh**

WITH THE PASSING of Pamela Walsh on January 16, Toodyay lost a very special person.

The life of this Aboriginal elder was so full of giving, sharing and caring, joy and sadness that perhaps her spirit and heart felt it was now time to rest.

Pamela was born in Morawa on 3 April 1951 to parents Yvonne and Albert Phillips and came from a large family with seven children.

She was Yamatji on her mother's side, and Ballardong Noongar on her father's side, with connections to Culham in Toodyay.

Pamela had strong Christian beliefs, but she also kept a deep sense of her Aboriginal culture.

She grew up in Perenjori and as a young woman worked as a nurse's aide at the hospital in Morawa and later at Onslow where she met Karl Walsh, whom she married in 1971.

Karl was a policeman which meant there was a lot of moving around the state.

They provided love and support to an extended family of children over the many years of their married life.

Pamela worked as a volunteer foster carer with the WA Department of Child Protection.

Her life of social commitment broadly covers three regions.

The couple lived in Port Hedland from 1982 before moving to Perth in 1996, and then Toodyay.

During her time in Port Hedland and Perth, her active participation in community affairs led to her being invited to serve on several ministerial advisory councils, including those dealing with disability, housing, and juvenile justice.

She was also inaugural chair of the Police Minister's Council on Police, Aboriginal and Community Relations, and in 1991 was appointed a Justice of the Peace.

Most of us knew Pamela best for her involvement with Toodyay after she and Karl came to live here in 2000.

Their young son Ethan attended local kindergarten and primary school, with Pamela becoming an active participant in



Mourners pack St Stephen's Church inside and out for Pamela Walsh's funeral last month.

local district school affairs.

Ethan had the makings of a fine sportsman, and his parents were passionate enthusiasts as members of the Avon Valley Avengers Baseball Committee, which Pamela served as under-15s team manager.

Tragedy struck the family in 2010 with Ethan's premature death at the age of 15.

Aware of the high number of suicides among young people, Pamela initiated a youth forum on mental health and suicide prevention.

Among her many other activities Pamela joined other Aboriginal elders in 2014 to help plan and facilitate a three-day Aboriginal women's retreat in Toodyay with the theme

'A Vision of Hope for the Future'.

Women from around the Wheatbelt met to discuss common issues and concerns within their community.

Although Pamela had her cares and worries, her approachable and cheerful nature meant she was often invited to help with matters relating to Aboriginal protocols.

She was a good speaker and well known for her warm and generous 'welcome to country' speeches.

Pamela was passionate about the cause for reconciliation and had many plans to advance this within the Toodyay community.

She leaves a powerful legacy for others to follow.

Vale and noonook boorda djinang, Pam

Toodyay Tidy Towns
Greg Warburton

THIS IS INDEED a sad time for Toodyay.

The late Pam Walsh was such a dedicated and loving member of our community.

For so many years she was the Aboriginal representative for us and the go-to person for indigenous engagement in Toodyay.

We received much support from Pam for projects like the Bilya Walk Track and the John Masters Bird Hide.

I enjoyed many cups of tea with her and Karl discussing all sorts of exciting ideas and projects they wanted to do.

Pam had a great dream to connect the Pioneer Cemetery at Nardie and the Aboriginal burial ground in town with a walking track along the river.

It was to be a reconciliation project featuring an interpretive installation.

She nearly did it and maybe one day it will come to fruition and be named in her honour.

But perhaps I will remember Pam mostly for her traditional 'welcomes to country'.

At the National Tidy Towns event last year she had the audience in the palm of her hand with words that combined heartfelt thoughts and a wonderful sense of humour.

She will be greatly missed by so many. Noonook boorda djinang, Pam.

Cottages cock-a-hoop about units' progress

Butterly Cottages
Di Roberts, Secretary

WELCOME TO the Chinese Year of the Rooster which supposedly brings gladness and opportunities for all.

Well thanks Rooster, we at the Butterly Cottages Association are on a new journey of our own.

Two vacant blocks for new units in Anzac Terrace have now been surveyed – wonderful news for those on the waiting list who have been keen to hear some news.

They can rest assured it is all happening. Though it may take time for final

arrangements, things are moving.

For this we thank Shire President David Dow and the works depot team who diligently levelled the site and will eventually remove all the rubble left behind.

Are we proud? You have to believe it – we are on the go and Toodyay folk can be assured that the building of new independent-living units will start within the year.

A wonderful crew from Wooroloo Prison came to Toodyay to resolve some of our problems over the past two months.

Crew supervisor Pete has maintained a great friendship with Butterly over the years and told us all that his "patch in Toodyay"

is one of the great pleasures he has to deal with.

Projects completed by the crew include trees cut down, new fences erected and gutter cleaning sourced.

Maintenance is always needed and we have been told the Wooroloo crew will help – they are a great bunch of guys and many thanks go to them.

Local firm Ringa Civil has won the Shire of Toodyay site works contract, and further information will be advised soon.

Please phone 9574 2498 or email roberts138@bigpond.com for more information.



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Departing friars end 110-year tradition

Franciscan Friars
Fr Giles Atherton

THE CONVENT of the Sisters of Mercy – otherwise known as Mercy House – at the corner of Stirling Terrace and Goomalling Road, was dedicated under the title of the Immaculate Conception in 1903.

The sisters had already settled in Toodyay some years earlier and lived originally in premises on Stirling Terrace which now houses the local dentist and psychologist.

Around the early 1970s, after the Sisters of Mercy decided to move into more manageable accommodation in Toodyay, the property was transformed into a camp facility for children in the Catholic education system.

Unfortunately, running the property as a student's camp was never very successful, and the project was eventually abandoned.

It wasn't until 1997, that these venerable buildings once again had someone to live within them.

The Catholic Archbishop of Perth had invited a relatively small community of Franciscan friars to come to Perth, and set up their foundation in Toodyay's former old convent.

Despite the necessary work on the new home of these Franciscans, the friars began their real work of striving to live a life of prayer and community, and bringing God's



Toodyay's Franciscan friars are being sent to other missions all over the world.

love and the knowledge of Him and His Holy Mother to the Toodyay community and the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth.

The friars supported not only local Catholics but also assisted other Avon Valley parishes.

However, after much prayer and discussion, it was decided about the middle of last year that the Toodyay Friary should close to enable the local friars to travel to other parts of the world to help missions that have

greater need of their assistance.

We hope the 110-year-old tradition of having a religious presence in Toodyay may continue, perhaps through the arrival of another community of nuns, monks or friars.

They will then also be able to experience the beauty of the people and places of Toodyay, and continue the work – begun by the Sisters of Mercy in the late 1800s – of bringing God's love to all His children throughout the Avon Valley.

New Toodyay Progress Association to hold first public meeting

Toodyay Progress Association Inc.
Larry Graham

THE TOODYAY Progress Association has been formed to support competent local government that is responsive to local community needs and aspirations.

The association aims to work with community members to help produce an effective local government that operates with a high level of public accountability and transparency.

A good example of the need for this is how Toodyay Shire Council dealt with an offer to purchase Mrs O'Reilly's Cottage; this process threatened the survival of the Heartlands Veterinary Clinic.

After receiving an 'unsolicited' offer to buy this shire-owned property; councillors voted 8-0 in November to "proceed with and advertise" its sale.

This is despite previously granting planning approval for the vet to lease the property as an animal hospital.

It was only after public protests when the news was published in the December edition of *The Toodyay Herald* that councillors voted 8-0 to scrap the proposed sale and honour the previous council's 6-3 decision in 2015 to lease the site to the vet.

Had current councillors applied themselves more diligently, examined the matter more closely and turned up some new facts, none of this might have occurred.

But that was not what happened. Apart from *The Herald's* front-page story, the underlying facts were the same at the end of the process as they were at the beginning, and it is valid to ask why so much staff time and ratepayers' money was spent on such an unproductive process.

State law requires a local government CEO to "ensure that advice and information is available to the council so that informed decisions can be made".

If that did not happen it is a very serious matter.

One the other hand, if councillors had all the information they needed in November and still voted 8-0 to sell the property, ratepayers are entitled to ask; why?

And the biggest unanswered question is why councillors acted on an unsolicited offer to buy a property that was not for sale instead of honouring an earlier decision to lease the property to the vet.

Had council held some meaningful public discussion on the best use of Mrs O'Reilly's Cottage, ratepayers would have been spared much unnecessary worry and cost.

If you think these and other local government issues are worth more public discussion, please come along to the Toodyay Progress Association's first public meeting at 7pm on Wednesday February 15 at the Toodyay Community Centre in Stirling Terrace (next to the town's medical centre).

NB: The Toodyay Progress Association is a non-political organisation and does not intend to run candidates in local shire council elections due later this year.

For more information about the association and its aims, please contact steering committee chair Larry Graham at toodyaypa@gmail.com.

Advertising Feature

Six Seasons springs into online action

HI EVERYONE, my name is Robert Miles, proud owner and manager of Six Seasons Connect – Online Services.

Even before starting this business I have always been drawn to connecting people to resources, services and programs. I guess, it started from my early days in the training sector where I connected and supported indigenous people in adult-learning programs and TAFE certificate training courses.

As a program officer in the health

sector I developed frameworks to help Aboriginal people to better connect with services and resources, including a statewide Aboriginal men's health program.

In the community services sector I worked as a coordinator connecting young indigenous people and their families to locally funded programs and services, including holiday and after-school programs as well as a range of life skills and cultural programs.

While in the aged-care sector I worked with regional communities to facilitate better awareness, service provision and access to aged care and disability services programs for Indigenous people and their families.

So what the heck? Why can't all this connecting, facilitating, brokering and linking become a business? I think it's in my blood and fate and other forces have brought me to this point – so why not give it a go?

In 2015 I took the first step towards building a business plan that I knew I could realise. I knew that I was good at connecting people and linking people to services and resources. I knew that I had to develop a brand and business model that reflected a lot of my own values as a person as well as connecting to other like-minded people who share a need to be listened to and, to be heard.

With that, I give you Six Seasons Connect – Online Services connecting individual choice and representations with indigenous enterprise and possibilities.

What is Six Seasons Connect – Online Services?

Six Seasons Connect – Online Services is an online business resource that connects people from the individual market place to the indigenous services and enterprise market anywhere in Australia.

Via a one-stop-shop facility, we connect people who are looking for a particular service, product or experience with people who are able to supply and deliver such opportunities.

Meaning of Six Seasons

Six Seasons reflects the South West Noongar seasonal calendar handed down over 50,000 years of co-existing with nature on their land.

The six-seasons are extremely important to local indigenous people as they are a guide to what nature is doing at every stage of the year, as well as understanding respect for the land in relation to plant and animal fertility cycles and land and animal preservation.

Each of the six seasons represents and explains the seasonal changes we see annually.

Robert Miles

online services

Six Seasons Connect is an online brokerage service and business product that seeks to broker individual choice and representations with the Indigenous products and services network.

Our customers are the individual market place and representatives who are seeking to engage an Indigenous service or experience.

Our product is the brokering service and associated business products.

Our marketing is greatly represented by the Six Seasons Connect – Online Services website, complemented by a series of advertising opportunities and promotional resources.

Our uniqueness is being the only online booking and brokerage service of its type in Australia.

Our vision is to become a national business entity for individuality, choice and sustainable enterprise.

Our suppliers are the Indigenous services and enterprise industry seeking to engage with the greater individual market place.

Our service areas and industry types that we support are;

- Indigenous tours and experiences
- Indigenous foods and catering services
- Indigenous arts and performance
- Indigenous consultations and advisory services
- Indigenous miscellaneous enterprises and services

Contact Info
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- Taps
- Grape crusher
- Starter kits and bottles.

182 Wellington Street, Northam
Phone **9622 3855**

Sundowner to discuss shire review of strategic plan

Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Bob Schrader

THE FIRST TOODYAY Chamber of Commerce and Industry sundowner for 2017 will be held in the Cola Cafe on Friday February 24 at 5.30pm.

Shire of Toodyay CEO Stan Scott will be the keynote speaker with the discussion centred around the Shire of Toodyay's strategic plan review.

The shire wishes to engage the whole community as a whole and Toodyay businesses in particular to form a consultation process to achieve greater outcomes through this review.

This is a great opportunity for all Toodyay businesses and organisations to listen to what is being proposed and have their say in an open forum environment which provides the perfect setting for a cooperative dialogue between the shire and local businesses.

This is one of a series of sundowners the Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry will conduct over the year, covering a range of interesting topics and guest speakers.

Some of these sundowners will be followed up with relevant workshops and/or training sessions. So keep an eye open for the notices.

To attend the sundowner, please RSVP by Friday February 17 to Andrea Carling on 0408 699 916 or 2jchamber@gmail.com.

Easy passwords open the door to computer hackers

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

PASSWORDS ARE a bit like the keys to your house or car – you need to keep them safe.

You probably use passwords to get to all your personal stuff on the internet.

They are the key to accessing emails, on-line banking and social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

To prevent unauthorised access to bank accounts and information, passwords need to be hard to guess.

Easy-to-guess passwords such as password, admin, abc123 and, seven7 are asking for trouble.

Any password you use needs to be easy to remember.

Long passwords are better than short ones and 12 characters are much better than eight.

The easiest way for you to make up – and remember – your own (longer) password is to join up things from your experience.

This could be the name of your first pet with the rego of your first car or the number of the house where your best mate lives.

Adding a 'special' character also helps.

Examples include Sandy_dvj_365, Tangy+ger+17 and Ginger^psn^42.

(Please don't use any of these examples as they are already out in public.)

If you think you might have trouble remembering what password you just made up, write it down on a piece of paper and hide it, away from your computer.

Hiding places might be inside a drawer in your bedroom or taped to the inside of cupboard in your kitchen.

Having a strong password is better than having a weak (or short) password.

A separate password for each place you go to is even better.

The trick is to use part or all of the name of the place that you visit face_dvj_365, twitter_dvj_365, bank_dvj_365 and mygov^dvj^365.

Having a separate list just for the first part of each password really helps.

Losing passwords can be a nuisance but there is always a way of recovering them.

All good web sites have a link with words such as "Lost password?" or "Forgotten your password?"

Follow the instructions and you will get back in. Happy surfing.



No holds barred in Bejoording's Boxing Day Mud Footy Match.

Rule book trashed in mad annual mud footy match

Bejoording Community Group News
From the desk of The Badger

YES, IT was that time of year again when the fine citizens of Bejoording, and quite a few from other places, gathered for the annual Boxing Day Mud Footy contest.

What a splashing good time it was too. No injuries but quite a few sore bodies by the next morning.

Young and old, boys, girls, women, men and even Old Blind Joe got into the spirit with gusto, even bravery, risking life and limb to wallow, slide, bump, collide and even eat mud.

Marc Bodium, principal team selector, referee and chief groundsman ensured the mud was deep, the teams were balanced, well sort of, and the rule book was trashed before the game begun.

"Remember the rules," he said, "there are none".

With the opening whistle the mayhem was under way with kids getting their own back on the mean and grumpy things their dads did by tipping them face down into wet grey oblivion. Even one wife got some revenge by doing similar to her husband – all while

others actually tried playing footy.

At the end, all agreed it had been fun.

It's been a terrific year for the community group with nine significant social events away from our normal weekly night at the Shed including a 4WD weekend, a Sunday pub lunch cruise, Halloween and family games night, Melbourne Cup day, Bathurst race day, mud footy and our annual Clean Up Bejoording Day.

On Wednesday nights at the Shed we also held 10 different feast nights.

Who would want to live anywhere else?

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.

Hope to see you soon.

Association seeking help for Morangup projects

Morangup Matters
Danielle Wrench

THE MORANGUP Progress Association (MPA) will hold its AGM at 10am on Sunday February 12 in the community hall in Wallaby Way.

The association's committee is made up of local residents who work on the development of recreational and social needs of Morangup including the management of the hall.

Projects completed include a dirt-bike track, skatepark, shelter over children's playground, outdoor picnic table and heating in the hall.

Fundraising is part of the activities undertaken with all funds raised going towards projects such as these as well as hall maintenance.

The committee is asking you to get involved. You can become a member for an

annual fee of \$10 per family or become a committee member.

Joining the MPA is a great way to meet other local residents and have input into local happenings. The commitment is not huge.

The committee meets once a month, usually on a Monday evening for one to two hours, and we would love to have your company and input.

Come along and join on the day or contact secretary@morangupmpa.com.au if you would like more information.

We look forward to seeing you there.

RSL open house offers mateship

RSL Toodyay Sub-Branch
Bruce Guthrie

HELLO FOR 2017 to all RSL members, family and the community of Toodyay.

We hope your Christmas and New Year celebrations were enjoyable and we wish all a healthy and prosperous 2017.

RSL Toodyay sub-branch will commence this year with an open house on Saturday February 11 from 9am to 2pm in the Memorial (Lesser) Hall followed by our OGM at 2pm.

We welcome members, families, veterans and the community to our open house for an informal chat and a cuppa.

If you would like to talk to the RSL to seek support, guidance and mateship please call our welfare officer Max on 9574 2102.

For the first time in Toodyay

An exhilarating and free family event

Bands in Duidgee Park, instrumentals and vocals in Stirling Park, Classical music in St Stephen's and Buskers...BE THERE!



Toodyay MUSIC FEST

2017

25 March

11am-9pm




Toodyay Music Fest Working Group

enquiries@toodyayfestivals.com.au

Introducing

Creative CONNECTIONS

a meeting place for musicians, instrument makers and allied fields, composing, sound and lighting, teaching and much more!

YOGA

Wednesday 5pm

Friday 9am

Sally 9574 4184

Toodyay Community Centre



Probus finally gets the lowdown on local crime statistics

Probus Club of Toodyay
Joan Bath, Vice-President

IN DECEMBER, the Toodyay Probus Club combined our monthly meeting with our Christmas celebrations.

A bumper attendance of 34 members and guests greatly enjoyed the delicious traditional Christmas dinner provided by the Freemasons Hotel. Thank you to all involved.

After several false starts during the year when he was called back to work, our guest speaker Sgt Warren Conder of Toodyay Police finally made it to our Christmas meeting.

Sgt Conder and his wife Snr Cst. Nicky Turner, who is also a police officer, arrived in Toodyay three years ago from Geraldton.

He was given a 'heads up' before arriving that crime was through the roof and morale very low.

Sgt Conder spent the first six weeks on patrol giving no leeway. Forty minutes into his first shift he had already made two arrests.

Toodyay is now a relatively safe town, but crime is still with us.

The crime statistics that he gave us pertaining to the Wheatbelt were somewhat alarming and most crime is fuelled by alcohol and drugs.

With only six officers stationed in Toodyay, they cannot see everything that happens, but we can certainly help.



Colin Kendall presents the guest speaker, Toodyay police chief Sgt Warren Conder, with a gift of local cordial at the Toodyay Probus Christmas meeting and dinner.

Make sure your property is secure and lock your car.

Ladies – keep your handbag with you – not open in the supermarket trolley.

Gents – the place for your wallet is your front pocket.

Report anyone you suspect of using or dealing drugs and anything that does not look right.

Your information may be the part of the jigsaw needed to solve a case.

So that the romantics among us can celebrate Valentine's Day our next meeting, the AGM, will be held on Monday February 20 at the Freemasons Hotel at 7pm.

Our guest speaker will be Kerry Knowles, talking about her recent Australian travels.

Anyone interested in joining Probus can ring president Peter Healy on 9574 4778. Membership enquiries, John Smart 9574 2339.

Keys to the shed put turners on high revs

Avon Woodturners
Max J Heath

HI THERE from the Avon Woodturners. We have had some good news, having received the keys to our new premises down near the works depot.

We have been down there, washed out and sealed the floor of the building and have drawn up plans for the interior fitting out.

There are the usual problems of getting permits etc. from the shire and having the appropriate people check the drawings.

At last though we have made progress and the next step is to organise the power and fittings to suit our needs.

As we plan to do as much as possible ourselves, we will be busy for the next few months.

We finished up the week before Christmas and had a break until January 8, when we resumed turning.

On January 15 a breakfast for the group at Amy's was enjoyed by all who attended.

It was a little different to last year when power blackouts in town and surrounds mucked us up.

Avon Woodturners has been allocated the third week in June as our weekend workshop for 2017 and so our plans are already under way for this weekend.

With our shed on the go, our yearly raffle has gone onto the back burner for a while but we will have to get our butts into gear as fundraising is something we will have to do to complete our shed.

Anyway that is about all from the woodturners for this month and so as per usual you, the public are most welcome to visit us at the pavilion on Sunday mornings and so as RoadWise says: "Stay safe and don't drive tired."

Most growers opt for a co-operative

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza

THE GROWING SEASON for 2016/17 is now done and dusted.

Many local farmers, farm workers and contractors are now taking a well-earned break.

The past season could only really be described as a year of mixed fortunes for those who have had frost in their crops and those lucky enough to have very little or none.

Heavy losses in Central and Southern areas of the Wheatbelt from frosts in late winter and early spring, have been widely reported.

The state's largest grain handler and grain exporter, CBH Group, has revised upward their estimate for WA's grain harvest to almost 16 million tonnes.

This has followed an earlier series of downward revisions due to widespread frost events.

Consensus in the industry appears to be that the early estimates of frost damage had been accurate, but that yields of crops not affected by frost had been better than expected.

Reports from farmers in Toodyay have been that frost damage has been patchy, with some reporting no damage at all.

Mr Lester Snooke from Bolgart Rural, commented that frost damage was sporadic

throughout our area, although he believed that frost tended to be more widespread in eastern areas of the Toodyay, Northam and Victoria Plains Shires.

"Most farmers are pretty happy with the season and many relieved that frost damage was nowhere as near as bad as areas in the central Wheatbelt and Great Southern."

He added "grain quality has been good although low protein in wheat and barley had been an issue for many farmers".

Canola yields were the shining light in 2016.

Most farmers reported well above average yields in canola with very good oil levels. Many farmers have reported that this year canola will be their best return per hectare of any crop.

Livestock producers have reported a good finish to the growing season with pastures holding on well setting stock up in good condition for the summer months ahead.

CBH restructure

LATE LAST year the CBH group released the findings of its recent structure and governance review.

The review process involved numerous statewide grower meetings and a later survey of all 4500 grower members of Australia's second-largest co-operative.

Farmers kick up their off-season heels

Bolgart Community News
Serena Syred and Nolene Kaszanski

BOLGART Rural Merchandise and Walkers Diesel Services hosted their annual Bolgart Christmas Party and Christmas Tree at the sports club on December 17.

A great crowd enjoyed a BBQ dinner and gambling night and a visit from Santa delighted the kids.

New Year celebrations at the Bolgart Hotel also drew a good crowd. In town, there was a long-table dinner at the local hall that was enjoyed by all. After midnight, the crowd

danced into the early hours.

Local farmer, Leon Bradley passed away in late December after a long illness.

Sympathies go to his wife Pat and sons Phil, Ben and families.

A good turnout for the first social bowls in January was enjoyed by all.

We finished the night with the jack placed into the corner and we bowled diagonally. Winners were Serena Syred and Brett Jones.

In January, many of our local farmers and business owners are away on their annual holidays enjoying a well-earned break.

Here is to a prosperous and wonderful year.

Ag Society wants new blood – and old

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Alison Wroth

A NEW YEAR brings with it fresh beginnings, hopefully new young minds and wise, experienced but physically fit bodies to form the perfect committee to organise our annual Toodyay Agricultural Show.

From all reports, the rush will be on for valued seats at this year's committee table

so if you think you have what it takes, you have the time to put in a bit of hard work and would like to be a part of one of the best working committees in Toodyay, become a member of the Ag Society.

Rock on down to the AGM at the Youth Hall, Toodyay Showgrounds at 7.30pm on Monday February 13.

Drinks and a light supper will be provided. All members are welcome.

St John Ambulance
AED Demonstration

Learn how to save a life
Bejoording Community Hall
Friday 17th February 2017
6pm

Contact Carolynne for further details
0428-957-600 9574-2390 sjatooday@bigpond.com

FOR SALE



7 ACRES NATURAL BUSHLAND

Located at the top end of a **cul-de-sac** with stunning views. This is on the **Perthside** of Toodyay, close to the racecourse and caravan park.

For nature lovers with the close convenience of Toodyay town.

\$140,000 - \$155,000

FOR SALE



10 ACRES OF LAND WITH A SERVICED SHED

There is power, **rain water tank**, even footings with your first home. Relax under the awning while watching the ever changing vista.

\$199,000

FOR SALE



DREAM COUNTRY HOME ON 10 ACRES

Steel framed house with a wood fire and split system **air conditioner**. 6m x 6m powered highline shed, & 1 x 2 acre & 3 x 2.5 acre paddocks. Good cropping country where the owner has produced 130 bales of hay from just 1 acre!! Plenty of room for horses or other livestock.

\$319,000

FOR SALE



GREAT DESIGN ON HARPER ROAD

Wrapped in an orchid of fruit is this hi-set 3 bedroom 2 bathroom modern family home. Easy care sealed yard, full of vegie gardens and all in walking distance to town and train station. All this set on a **746 square metre block**.

\$359,000

20 ACRES



BEAUTIFUL BIG BRICK HOME

Walking around the farm you will find a peaceful prayer/meditation room, a straw bale **art studio**, a large farm **dam**, orchards of fruit trees vegetable gardens and a native wood lot planting. Plus old growth trees offering majestic shade over open paddocks of pasture that has been cropped for hay in years gone by.

\$449,000

23 ACRES



FARMLET

5 bedroom 2 bathroom country home, separate workshop & office, plus games room.

Fully fenced with horse paddocks, water, tanks & bore. Set on 9.23 hectares or 23 acres

\$485,000

112A Stirling Terrace
Phone 9574 2455
toodyay@ljh.com.au

LJ Hooker
Toodyay
08 9574 2455

ljhooker.com
reiwa.com
realestate.com



OUR SHIRE NEWS



SHIRE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Legal action between the Shire and a former employee has now ended. There will be no further action or comment from the Shire on this matter.

"The Shire of Toodyay (the Shire)" commenced proceedings against former Chief Executive Officer, Mr Graham Leslie Merrick, in the Supreme Court of Western Australia in action number CIV 1396 of 2014. A summary of these proceedings, and the parties' positions on the matter, can be found in the judgment of Acting Master Gething in Shire of Toodyay v Merrick [2016] WASC 29.

Without any admission of liability and on a solely commercial basis, the Shire and Mr Merrick have agreed to finally and completely resolve the proceedings by way of a payment to the Shire. The terms of that resolution are confidential."

Council has resolved to continue negotiations with Heartlands Veterinary Clinic for them to lease Lot 1 Stirling Terrace, commonly known as Mrs O'Reillys cottage. Subsequent to receiving an unsolicited offer of \$530,000 to purchase this building, the Shire offered Heartlands the use of the former Clinton St. Parks and Gardens depot, however this offer was declined because of concerns around the time it would take for the Shire to renovate the building to a suitable standard for use as a veterinary clinic. The Shire will not be accepting the offer to purchase and will honour its previous verbal commitment to lease the building to the veterinary clinic.

On 15 December 2016 the Minister for Regional Development, the Hon Terry Redman MLA, announced a Royalty for Regions funding package of \$6,004,044 for the AROC Avon aged housing project that will result in the construction of 22 additional independent living units in Dowerin, Goomalling, Toodyay and Victoria Plains.

As part of the grant package, Toodyay will receive funding to build ten additional two bedroom dwellings as Stage 2 of the joint venture between the Shire and Butterfly Cottages. This additional funding should be sufficient to complete the whole project in Anzac Avenue with a total of 18 new two bedroom units to be constructed. Even though the funding has been jointly sourced through the Avon Region of Councils, each Shire will operate its units independently. Toodyay's units will become part of the existing Butterfly Cottages operation.

Council has awarded the Tender for Stage 1 site works (including retaining walls and sand pads) to local contractors Ringa Civil, with an indicative starting date of mid-February 2017. Stage 1 is for the construction of the first eight units. A preliminary clean-up of the Stage 1 site has already been completed as part of Butterfly Cottages contribution to the project.

Discussions with Toodyay RSL on the proposed upgrade to Anzac Park are well advanced. Council budgeted \$100,000 for this work conditional upon receipt of supplementary grant funding. Mr Shane Love MLA has recently advised that we have been granted \$50,000 toward the Park upgrade from the Wheatbelt Community Chest Program. It is anticipated that work will start shortly after Anzac Day 2017.

Construction work on preliminary site works are well under way at the proposed sport and recreation precinct. The extension of Drummond St. East has been constructed ready for final gravel sheeting, bitumen and kerbing. Below ground drainage is in place. The areas encompassing rectangular playing field, multi-use ball courts and the aquatic centre have been constructed to sub-grade level. This work is being funded out of our reserves which will be sufficient to complete the current works. Unfortunately any further significant works will be difficult to achieve without government funding.

On 20 December 2016 the Deputy Leader of the WA National party, the Hon. Mia Davies MLA, accompanied by Member for Moore, Mr Shane Love MLA, visited Toodyay to announce a \$10,000,000 election promise toward our recreation precinct, including an aquatic centre. While Council is very grateful for this commitment, we are also aware that it is conditional upon the WA Nationals being in an alliance in Government after the March 2017 State Elections. Shire CEO, Stan Scott has since written to candidates from other major parties offering them a chance to state their positions on funding for Toodyay.

In the interim period leading up to the elections in March 2017, the Shire will continue to pursue any available grant applications and is working toward applying for the next Federal round, closing 28 February 2017.

In response to advice previously received from the Department of Local Government advising that the method used to determine Morangup area UV rates was non-compliant, Council has now resolved to correct this error.

New assessments will be issued to those previously rated as UV Morangup, along with a small number of properties wrongly categorised as UV Rural or UV General.

The net result will be that no additional rates will be charged and two properties wrongly classified as UV General will receive refunds. As a result of these refunds, the total budgeted amount of rates received this year from across the whole Shire will be reduced by \$4,201 to give a bottom line of \$6,119,525.

Congratulations to all nominees and recipients of this year's Australia Day awards and I thank all staff and councillors for their input into the morning's events. I also congratulate Mark Dickinson and Mitchell Kooiman for taking the pledge in becoming Australian Citizens.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TOODYAY IN MARCH 2017

Sunday 12 March
Community Clean-up Day

Saturday 18 March - Toodyay Family Cycle

Sunday 19 March - Avon Valley Black Dog Ride

Sunday 19 March - Toodyay Farmers Market

Saturday 25 March - Toodyay Music Festival



LIBRARY CHATTER

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY 2017

Happy New Year from all of us here at the library. We hope you had a relaxing festive season, and that you are feeling refreshed and ready to read with us in 2017.

2017 Stocktake

To start off the year, we had the sizeable task of stocktaking our entire collection of books, DVDs and other resources - here at Toodyay, and at our Morangup branch. Over two days in mid-January, we took an inventory of over 13,000 items - no mean feat, but our mission was eventually accomplished. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this closure, but rest assured that we are now back in business and more organised than ever.

Baby Rhyme Time/Toddler Story Time

Our Rhyme Time and Story Time kids - and their parents - had a wonderful time at their end-of-year Christmas party on the 12 December 2016. Our kids' room was full of festivity in the lead-up to Christmas, thanks to their beautiful tree-decorating job.

Sessions for both babies and toddlers will resume with our volunteer Megan from Monday, 6 February 2017. Whether you're a regular or are yet to attend, you are welcome to bring your little ones along to enjoy the fun and social atmosphere. For information on age groups and session times, please give us a call on 9574 2323.

Creative Writing Group

If you want to put pen to paper - or fingertips to keyboard - but don't know where to start, then the library's creative writing group is here to help. Get inspired and share your ideas and stories with some friendly fellow writers every first and third Thursday of the month, from 10.00am.

Many Minds Discussion Group

It was all about high tea and hats when the Many Minds group celebrated Christmas in fancy fashion on December 2016. They certainly gave 2016 a stylish send-off! Meetings have now recommenced for this year, so here's a look at what's up for discussion this month:

- Thursday, 9 February 2017 - What is the most important thing a parent/guardian/mentor has taught you?
- Thursday, 23 February 2017 - Do animals have rights?

Our weekly thinkers-then-talkers are always happy to have newcomers join them for some coffee, cake and conversation. Why not drop by and give it a try? Many Minds begins at 10.00am every second and fourth Thursday of the month.

Morangup Library

Our Morangup branch is running on Tuesday, 14 and Tuesday, 28 February 2017. Head over to the Community Centre on Wallaby Way between 2.00pm - 4.30pm to have a browse and borrow, and meet some of the lovely locals.

Toodyay Family Cycle

Saturday 18th March
7.30am start at Duidgee Park

Explore Toodyay on a leisurely cycle around town

Free snacks served at finish line

Open to all ages
It is essential to bring along your own bike and helmet!



Ride distance: approximately 4.5kms

For more information please contact
Middle Ross
9574 0305
cbs@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Be sure to SLIP, SLOP, SLAPI



INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

PROPOSED NBN FIXED WIRELESS TOWER
LOT 48 MCKNOE DRIVE, MORANGUP

The Shire of Toodyay has received an application to use and/or develop land for the following purpose and public comments are invited.

Lot No: 120
Street: Morangup Road
Suburb: Morangup
Proposal: NBN Fixed Wireless (Telecommunications) Facility.

Details of the proposal are available for inspection at the Shire Administration Offices and on the Shire of Toodyay website. Comments on the proposal may be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96 Toodyay 6566, on or before 17 February 2017.

Stan Scott
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



SHIRE OF TOODYAY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2017

At an Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 20 December 2016, Council resolved to conduct its Ordinary Meetings of Council, Council Forums and Committee Meetings, which are open to the public in 2017 as follows:

Ordinary Meetings of Council will be held in Toodyay Council Chambers at 4.00pm on the following dates in 2017:

- 28 FEBRUARY 2017
- 28 MARCH 2017, 18 APRIL 2017
- 23 MAY 2017, 27 JUNE 2017
- 25 JULY 2017, 22 AUGUST 2017
- 26 SEPTEMBER 2017, 24 OCTOBER 2017
- 28 NOVEMBER 2017, 19 DECEMBER 2017

Council Forums will be held in Toodyay Council Chambers at 4.00pm on the following dates in 2017:

- 14 FEBRUARY 2017, 14 MARCH 2017
- 4 APRIL 2017, 9 MAY 2017
- 13 JUNE 2017, 11 JULY 2017
- 8 AUGUST 2017, 12 SEPTEMBER 2017
- 10 OCTOBER 2017, 14 NOVEMBER 2017
- 5 DECEMBER 2017

Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting will be held in Toodyay Council Chambers at 5.00pm on the following dates in 2017:

- 8 FEBRUARY 2017, 10 MAY 2017
- 9 AUGUST 2017, 8 NOVEMBER 2017

Museum Advisory Committee Meeting will be held in Toodyay Council Chambers at 4.00pm on the following dates in 2017:

- 16 FEBRUARY 2017, 18 MAY 2017
- 17 AUGUST 2017, 16 NOVEMBER 2017

Works Advisory Committee Meeting will be held in Toodyay Council Chambers at 4.00pm on the following dates in 2017:

- 20 APRIL 2017
- 20 JULY 2017, 19 OCTOBER 2017

Community Depot Management Advisory Committee Meeting will be held in Toodyay Council Chambers at 5.30pm on the following dates in 2017:

- 2 FEBRUARY 2017, 27 APRIL 2017
- 27 JULY 2017, 26 OCTOBER 2017

Further information, agendas and minutes of any of the above Meetings can be downloaded from the Shire of Toodyay website at <http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/agendas-minutes.aspx>.

Stan Scott
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BEJOORDING ROAD NAMING

In 2014 the Shire of Toodyay undertook a project to improve the locating of properties on private access easements in the event of an emergency.

The private easements were given private road names using historical references relevant to the Bejoording area.

The process was in conjunction with land holders and approved by Landgate and in a few months time the process will be complete.

To view the map of the newly named private easements, please visit the Shire of Toodyay website home page and follow the link.

TOODYAY COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP AWARDS 2017

The Toodyay Australia Day celebrations were distinguished by the Citizenship Ceremony of two new Australians and the awarding of this year's Toodyay Community Citizen of the Year. Nominees and winners of these Awards were:

Active Citizenship (Group or Event)

Winner: **Toodyay DHS P&C Association**

Community Citizen of the Year (Senior)

Winner: **Sue Eldridge**

Community Citizen of the Year

Nominees: *Adele Luke, Robyn Taylor, Kim Angus, Greg Warburton, Stephen Ferguson and Roz Davidson*

Winner: **Greg Warburton**

Congratulations to all those who were nominated and congratulations to the very worthy winners in each category.



Community Citizen of the Year Winner - Greg Warburton



Community Citizen of the Year (Senior) Winner - Sue Eldridge



Active Citizenship (Group or Event) Winner - Toodyay DHS P&C



Community Citizen of the Year Nominees - Adele Luke, Robyn Taylor, Kim Angus, Greg Warburton, Stephen Ferguson and Roz Davidson (pictured with Shire President Cr David Dow)

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FLOOR RESURFACING TO MEMORIAL HALL



Early in January 2017 the Toodyay Memorial Hall was temporarily closed to allow for routine maintenance on the timber flooring in the main hall and stage area.

Contractors have applied a new surface finish. This will both protect the timber flooring and keep the appearance of the hall at a high standard.

As can be seen from the photo the results speak for themselves.

Future maintenance will include painting to tidy up damage caused by posters on the rear wall as well as plans to replace the curtains.

Artists need a hand to find a permanent new home

Arts Toodyay

Margaret Sommerville, President

IT'S ALREADY February and Arts Toodyay is still looking for a permanent new place to hold meetings, workshops and display works in a gallery situation.

In other words, we are still homeless.

Crooked crafters push on in heat

The Crooked Needle

Heather Wright

SUMMER REIGNS supreme but it is not too hot to knit.

Our industrious ladies continue to turn up with smiles on their faces and produce wonderful work even though their hands are sweating from the quite warm days.

Generally, Fridays have been reasonable but higher temperatures do keep some ladies at home.

I forget the craft on those days and chat. My stitch count, for those that are following this account, has not progressed one stitch.

We ended up 2016 on a very happy note with 25 ladies coming together for Christmas lunch held at The Vic.

It was a lovely day with all the girls meeting at the hall for our annual Kris Kringle exchange.

Such beautiful gifts were made with love and recipients were happy.

Thank you were said to those who take on extra responsibility and all went home happy and with full tummies.

Steady numbers came to craft during the holiday period.

So, if you are a crafter or, like me not, you are welcome to join our happy, crazy group at the showgrounds on a Friday morning.

Can't wait to see what new skills I will be learning this year. I am sure someone will have something in store and will say: "Even you can do it Heather."

It is now five months since the Shire of Toodyay informed us that we had to leave our Duke Street premises.

We remain in limbo but are continuing to work with the shire to find a solution.

Spirits were initially high that a new space would be found.

However, there is a lack of available community space and the shire says finances are very limited.

Perhaps you can help us find a new, permanent home.

A vacant shop or house, preferably in the main business area or in Toodyay's heritage precinct would be ideal.

Our immediate needs are to find a place for meetings with space to store our valuable belongings, assets and records.

Numerous reports from agencies and government bodies over the past 25 years have acknowledged and encouraged the expansion of a wide range of community arts and arts programs in country WA.

The enormous value derived for small communities, businesses and tourism is now legendary, and we at Arts Toodyay continue to play a vital role in promoting creative arts programs to help Toodyay and our regional communities thrive.

A creative town is a healthy, thriving town.

A town without art is a town without heart.

We invite you and the shire to help us continue to deliver our services to our community, to actively promote and use art and culture, and to enrich the fabric of our lives by helping the development of creative people, creative communities and creative environments.

Creativity permeates the whole community, and creative engagement with all community groups, stakeholders and residents of all ages creates symbiotic relationships and helps Toodyay thrive.

Research shows it is imperative that arts and culture are a part of every community for it to grow.

Email msommerville@westnet.com.au, or phone 0419 941 823 to find out more about Arts Toodyay.

New members are welcome at any time, as are comments, help and participation.



Children at the camp on Chios wearing beanies made by Roz Davidson. The older boy wears the Avatar T-shirt that had belonged to Zinnia's grandson. Photo: Linda Rooney.

Full house turns out to hear refugee account

Toodyay Historical Society

Robyn Taylor, President

IT WAS FULL house at Donegan's cottage for our January meeting.

The main attraction was an illustrated talk by our adventurous secretary Linda Rooney who recently returned from the Greek island of Chios where she worked as a volunteer in a refugee camp.

Another member, Zinnia Browne, went with Linda to help for a while.

While we are aware of the plight of the refugees through the media, only a personal account can give any idea of the reality of their desperate situation and the work of official and volunteer organisations – how the camps are run, how food and clothing are sourced and distributed and the classes are organised for adults and children.

Linda's story reveals how compassionate individuals can make such a difference, even if it is just a drop in the ocean.

It was heart-warming to see the happy faces of the children wearing the beanies made by Toodyay local Roz Davidson. One little chap was puzzled, but delighted, by the fuss made of his West Coast Eagles beanie.

We were very saddened to hear about the passing of Aboriginal elder Pamela Walsh who was a highly valued and active member of the Toodyay community and the Wheatbelt. Pamela was also Yamatji with family links to Culham.

Over the years Pamela was called upon to give the Welcome to Country at major events including the Tidy Towns Award night held in Toodyay last year where husband

Karl assisted by giving the welcome in the Noongar language.

A minute's silence was held at our meeting in Pamela's honour.

All members are welcome to attend our planning meeting on Sunday February 5 at 2pm at secretary Linda Rooney's home and full details will be sent out to members shortly.

Please bring a plate to share and suggestions for places to visit, possible guest speakers and other ideas you may have to make 2017 an exciting year.

Instead of kicking off the year with our usual February pub dinner, we will hold a BYO sundowner at our new street-front premises next to the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank on Sunday February 26 starting at 6pm.

We have not had confirmation at the time of writing, but we can use the facilities until such time as it becomes official.

An email will be sent to members with further details about what to bring.

Our next general meeting is at 7pm Wednesday February 15 at Donegan's Cottage, Toodyay Showgrounds. Visitors are always welcome.

For more information contact: Linda Rooney, 2j.ths@gmail.com; Robyn Taylor, rdtaylor@inet.net.au, 9574 2578 or, Beth Frayne, toobide4@inet.net.au, 9574 5971.

Donegan's Cottage (in the showgrounds) is open every Thursday from 1-3pm. Postal address: PO Box 32, Toodyay WA 6566.

You can also find us on our website – toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au.

Membership is fantastic value at \$10.

Hospital set for artistic touch

ARTS TOODYAY founding member Kaye Devlin is one of several Avon Valley artists selected to submit art work for the Northam Hospital redevelopment.

Part of the State Government's Percent for Art Scheme, this program, which encourages art in the built environment, employs WA artists to deliver exciting artwork for major public buildings throughout the state.

Kaye, who has won 54 awards for her works, continually endeavours to support local exhibitions and shows.

As curator for Northam's Avon Valley Arts Society, Kaye is now working with the committee on arrangements for the Killick Award, the annual members' show which will open at the Northam Lesser Hall on Friday March 31.

Inspired by Byzantine art, cave paintings and rock art, Kaye says of her work: "While the world around me provides the subject, I



Kaye Devlin, founding member Arts Toodyay.

respond by using colour and texture to create an image that depicts the real, yet shows that it can be an illusion of reality."

During February and March Kaye will give a number of workshops in various media at the Avon Valley Arts' new pop-up shop Roedigers on Fitzgerald Street Northam, along with other members including well-known Wooroloo artist Brian Aylward.

For further details contact Kaye 9574 4446.

Stressed and Depressed!!

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

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

Toodyay Men's Shed

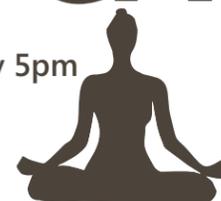
Thursday 9.00am – 12.00 noon
6176 Toodyay Rd

Phone 9574 2498 or 9574 5346

Emergencies: LIFELINE 13 11 14

YOGA

Wednesday 5pm
Friday 9am



Sally 9574 4184

Toodyay Community Centre

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