

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.

April 2017
Edition 356

Postage
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Australia

20 new homes for town



Music Fest roller coaster is a 'gas, gas, gas'

MICK 'N' KEEF, alias Tom Jennis (above left) as Rolling Stones singer Mick Jagger and Rocky Evangelisti as guitarist Keith Richards of tribute band Jumping Jack Flash rock Duidgee Park for the finale of last month's inaugural Toodyay Music Fest.
The same musicians also performed as "The Australian Beatles" earlier in the

evening, headlining a program of 21 bands, artists and performers throughout the day.
Local organisers described it as "an amazing roller coaster" on two stages equipped with hi-tech sound systems in Duidgee Park and Stirling Park, and choirs, soloists and a barbershop quartet performing in nearby St Stephens Church.
More Page 10.

\$550,000 spent on legal fees to recover just \$60,000?

TOODYAY Shire councillors appear to have spent more than half a million dollars of ratepayers' money suing two former civic leaders but got back only \$60,000 in repayments, according to shire records.
Shire President David Dow has repeatedly refused to say how much the council spent suing former CEO Graham Merrick and former president Charlie Wroth in the WA Supreme Court in an attempt to claim a total of \$151,000 from them for alleged overpayment of Mr Merrick's salary entitlements.
Councillors last year authorised President Dow and CEO Stan Scott to manage the

case, which lasted three years and ended in January when the shire reached a confidential settlement with Mr Merrick.
The shire's original claim of \$150,980 against Mr Merrick in March 2014 was transferred last December to the Perth Magistrate's Court where the maximum amount that can be claimed is \$75,000.
However, shire accounts suggest the final amount recovered from Mr Merrick may have been as little as \$20,000.
It is understood both defendants' legal and settlement costs were covered by local government insurance.
Continued on Page 3, Editorial Page 4.

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY is on the brink of a new building boom with the announcement of 20 new private strata title home units to be built in Stirling Terrace, near Hamersley Street.

The Toodyay Shire Council granted planning approval last month, taking the total number of new dwellings and motel units planned in town to at least 50.

The latest development aims to attract Toodyay's ageing population living on rural lifestyle blocks where older people can no longer manage but don't want to leave the shire to move into smaller homes.

Approval for the new Stirling Terrace units follows the start of work on nine subsidised Butterfly Cottages for older residents in Anzac Terrace – the first of 18 – and the announcement of up to 25 new motel units in a \$2.5 million upgrade at the Victoria Hotel.

The work creates significant new job opportunities for local contractors in a town where paid employment has been scarce.

The latest project is a partnership between former Toodyay resident Richard Dymond, now in Darlington, and Russell Chrimes from Toodyay Auto Centre.

Mr Dymond – who helped set up the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank in 2000 and was its inaugural chair – said project updates could be found on Facebook under "Stirling Terrace Villas".

He agreed that there was a growing sense of optimism in town because of the number of new projects started or in the pipeline.

The application has yet to be approved by the WA Planning Commission but Mr Dymond said he was confident the development would succeed.

Continued on Page 3.

Cr Wood resignation prompts fresh East Ward election

AN EXTRAORDINARY election for a seat on the Toodyay Shire Council will be held in either July or October after the resignation last month of East Ward Cr Kate Wood.

Cr Wood, who was elected for four years in October 2015, said she was moving to the Mid-West where her husband has a new job.

Councillors voted 8-0 (Cr Brian Rayner absent) last month to ask the WA Electoral Commission to delay filling the vacancy, as allowed by law, until elections for four other shire seats are held in October.

If not, a postal ballot to fill the East Ward vacancy would be held on Thursday July 6.

Toodyay elections are usually 'in-person' where voters have to attend a polling booth.

However, many other councils use postal ballots that are mailed to every elector in pre-paid return envelopes.

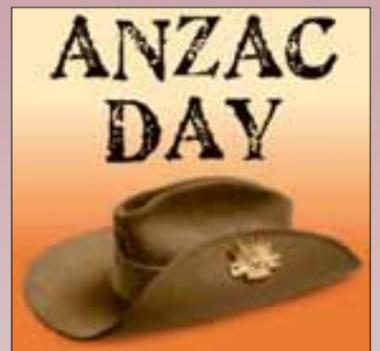
The State Government says postal ballots are more independent and impartial, and result in more electors voting than in council-run 'in-person' ballots.

Shire CEO Stan Scott said if an East Ward extraordinary election couldn't wait until October, a July postal ballot might be a chance to see if it produced a better return.

"Voter turn-out in the past has been quite poor," he said.

The Toodyay Herald –
winner 2016 Wheatbelt
Business Excellence
Awards

this month



RSL preparations
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Swim champ Molly
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New Guinea Lou
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Toodyay 9574 4200 • Northam 9622 5011

The Toodyay Herald

The Toodyay Herald is a free monthly newspaper published and owned by a not-for-profit incorporated association - The Toodyay Herald Inc. 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 Clackline General Store, Bakers Hill, Gidgegannup, 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, Allan Gregory, Beth and Peter Ruthven, Roger Simms and Jean Witcombe.

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 April 20	Noon Tuesday April 25	Wednesday May 3

Please note our email addresses

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

Ol' Blind Joe

Easter rabbit laid eggs

IN 1976 I lobbied at a place called Closeburn, which is in beautifully forested rural country about 35km north west of Brisbane, nestled in the foothills of Mount Glorious.

I intended to follow Cedar Creek to its waterfall about four kilometres upstream.

Not far into the journey I spotted my first-ever platypus which are damned cute elusive creatures seldom seen.

After climbing the bank and entering a lovely grove of trees, I espied two colourfully dressed peasant women setting nests of straw under various trees and placing painted eggs, jellybeans and chocolate eggs in them.

I was taken aback momentarily as vivid memories of my childhood surfaced – I hadn't come across this Easter tradition being practised in Australia in such a way.

Many ancient northern hemisphere cultures, including the Egyptians, Persians, and Romans, viewed eggs as symbols of new life and fertility and used them during their spring festivals.

Easter derives its name from Eostre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, or perhaps Ishtar, the Babylonian and Assyrian goddess of love and fertility but there is no solid evidence as to which proposition is correct.

In Germany, tales were told of an Easter hare that laid eggs for children to find.

According to folklore, Eostre found a bird dying from cold and turned it into a rabbit so that its fur would keep it warm – but that rabbit still laid eggs like a bird.

The tradition of chocolate eggs began in 19th Century France and Germany, and children made nests from hats or baskets so the Easter Bunny could leave them there.

Christians are also eager to eat chocolate at Easter because it's a common modern-day sacrifice during Lent.

The word Easter was not biblically associated with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ until the Roman emperor Constantine in 325 A.D. ordained that Easter should become a Christian celebration to be held on the first Sunday after the first new moon of Spring.

I called out a greeting to the peasant women as I emerged from the trees, introductions were made and they invited me to stay for lunch, which ended up lasting a decade or two.

As we strolled over to the 'Teashop', I fell in love with the place at first sight – indeed many years later I would be married on the stage in the courtyard.

The 'Teashop' is an old dairy made of hand-hewn timbers with a magnificent old Moreton Bay fig tree embracing the establishment.

The covered areas contained an art gallery, workshops and kitchen, while the cooking of scones, soups and suchlike was done on an old Crown No 7 wood stove in the courtyard.

The surrounds were exuberant in a

subtropical kinda way with the fruits of the *Monstera deliciosa* plant dangling over the wooden tables while staghorns, bromeliads and orchids lurked in the nooks and crannies.

It was organised under the aegis of a cultural association upon whose board I soon sat as vice-president for many years.

It was open on weekends and regular events such as chamber concerts were presented.

Each Sunday evening, a community dinner would be shared with a dozen or two folks there.

All manner of artists and scholars, from painters to potters, and poets to professors, sat and broke bread together.

It wasn't a commune in the usual sense of the word as most folks had their own homes, except for me who slept on a bed of straw in an old dray in a lovely timbered shed.

Over the road and down a wee bit was a classic Federation-style community hall of two stories with a veranda encircling upstairs.

Downstairs was fashioned as an Olde English beer drinking hall boasting two 20-foot-long wooden tables wrapped around the stumps with bench seating.

We held Moondances and Colonial Balls there each month with bush bands that played traditional Australian folk music, often with a fancy dress theme.

We also held regular festivals and the Easter festivities one year were especially memorable.

We had just finished building a domed sauna of stone and clay next to a lovely swimming hole in Cedar Creek down the back of the property and were initiating it after the Moondance on the Saturday night.

Late in the evening as we were indulging in a Bacchanalian feast of wine, women and song, I spotted two coppers coming down the track.

I told old Dik and we set off to head them off, but they were intent on further investigation.

I don't know how he did it but somehow old Dik managed to persuade the older copper to have a sauna and accept a massage.

Remembering of course that this was during former Queensland Premier Joh Bjelke Petersen's reign, I was apprehensive at being left alone with the other bloke.

However, I don't think he heard a word I said as he stood there with his mouth agape, staring at the swimming hole.

There were three violinists and a flautist standing in the creek playing tunes with several guitarists accompanying them on the banks.

A number of fires illumined the scene, and oh, did I mention that the musicians were naked.

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."
 – Spanish artist Pablo Picasso.

FEEDBACK

Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

Suggestions and comments are welcome please forward to: feedback@toodyayherald.com.au or post to: PO Box 100, Toodyay WA 6566

The Toodyay Herald

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

April-May 2017

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

Jungle soldier Lou dodged dart-throwing monkeys

Ieva Tomsons

JULIMAR couple Anne and Lou Kidd both enlisted in the Green Machine because of their fathers – Anne to follow in her dad's footsteps and Lou to escape paternal domination.

Their stories typify the experiences of many ordinary service families who endure long periods of separation and constant relocation while serving their country.

Seventeen-year-old Lou was not even naturalised when he signed up to the Australian Army in 1958.

He was nine when he sailed with his family to Victoria as post-war Ten Pound Poms.

Lou laughs as he remembers passing a ship returning to England with a bunch of disgruntled Poms.

"They were all lined up on the side of the ship yelling out 'you'll be sorry'."

Anne was working for Perth's Postmaster-General's Department as a switchboard operator when she enlisted as a 19-year-old in the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps in 1959.

As a skilled operator she was transferred to Victoria where she met Lou who was also working at the Survey Signal Apprentice School.

The Kidds married in 1963 and Anne had to retire due to the marriage ban.

Even though Lou had clocked up five years' service, the couple did not qualify for married accommodation and they were left to fend for themselves.

"The ADF (Australian Defence Force) were good at looking after their personnel but not their families," said Anne.

The newly married Kidds shared a run-down rural house in Macquarie Fields, NSW, with strangers – a Yugoslav couple and another young Australian couple.

"The Aussie man was mad," recalls Anne. "He'd throw handfuls of blank cartridges into the fire."

Lou wasn't at home when Anne went into premature labour with their firstborn son Bret and it was left to Yugoslav Olga to get Anne to hospital.

It was touch-and-go – the last rites were read as Anne delivered her six-weeks-premature son.

Bret was only four months old when Lou, a staff sergeant in the Royal Australian



Anne and Lou Kidd with locals and sons Bret (left) and Lou with a sing-sing performer in Wewak in 1970.

Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Corps, was posted to build a road through the jungle in Sabah (Malaysian Borneo) towards the Indonesian border.

The six-month postings from 1964 to 1966 were difficult years for the couple and even though Anne returned to her parents in Perth, the separation exacted its toll on her.

Lou's posting to Borneo in the mid-60s came at the tail-end of a rarely mentioned war known as the Indonesian Confrontation.

From 1962 to 1966 British Commonwealth troops backed their former Malay colonies, dispatching troops to safeguard Malaysian territories from Indonesian incursions in Sarawak and Sabah in Borneo.

Covert operations by SAS and regular troops into Indonesian Borneo were wiped from military history for 30 years and were recognised only in 1996 when the Official Secrets Act was lifted.

Lou was in charge of supplies and logistics in Sabah and was one of 190 men who worked six days a week in punishing conditions to construct 90 miles (145km) of dry-weather road through mountainous jungles and swamps averaging one mile (1.6km) a week.

The soldiers lived in World War 2 canvas tents which barely held up during the monsoons and everyone looked forward to a few beers on their one day off.

Curiously it was then that the squadron came under attack – by dart-throwing Rhesus monkeys.

Ringo and Ringless had been taught to throw darts by the outgoing 21st Construction Squadron which had also introduced Coco the Gibbon to drinking beer.

Unfortunately for Lou's squadron, the monkeys had learnt that it was far better sport to collect up the stray darts and toss them at

incoming soldiers. Coco had a bevvvy with the boys and suffered hangovers like the rest but beer was definitely off limits for the nasty Rhesus monkeys.

As Lou had been separated from his family for nearly two years, he was not assigned to the decade-long Vietnam War (1962-1972) but was sent to the Territory of Papua and New Guinea (PNG).

The family moved 15 times during Lou's 21 years in the army which Anne concedes was hard for their two boys but they all enjoyed their posting to PNG where they lived for two years in the late '60s.

Even the rats eating the kapok from their pillows when they visited a bush mission didn't faze Anne or kids.

"They were fun days," she said.

Lou recalls that at many times being in the army was just a regular job. "It was nine-to-five but in strange locations."

Lawyers warned shire on legal costs

Continued from Page 1.

PRESIDENT Dow has repeatedly refused to say if the shire's own costs were also covered by insurance.

When questioned again publicly about it at last month's shire council meeting, President Dow said he thought Mr Merrick's confidential settlement deed might bar him legally from answering.

However, he agreed upon further questioning to check and respond at the next council meeting on Tuesday April 18.

There is no apparent record in shire accounts of any insurance payments for legal costs connected with the court action.

The shire settled with Mr Wroth in June last year for \$40,000, an amount that appeared in monthly shire accounts from August until January as "legal expenses recovered".

However, that figure suddenly dropped to \$0 in February, with the \$40,000 apparently moved to "Administration – Miscellaneous income – GST free".

No explanation was provided.

That account grew by a further \$20,000 the same month – again without explanation – soon after the shire's undisclosed settlement with Mr Merrick.

No further information was provided, and there is no financial record anywhere else that shows an amount other than \$0 for "legal expenses recovered".

The shire's annual budget review – published in last month's council meeting agenda but withdrawn by Mr Scott without notice or explanation – said the \$60,000 increase listed under "Administration – Miscellaneous Income – GST free" was "due to unbudgeted revenue".

Former Toodyay shire clerk Robert Millar – who did not attend last month's council meeting – sent four written questions to the council asking what happened to the missing \$40,000 in recovered legal expenses.

The questions were not read out or answered publicly but President Dow said he would send a written response to Mr Millar.

Monthly shire accounts show that payments to Perth law firm Civic Legal from last month to April 2014 – soon after the WA

Supreme Court writ was issued – totalled \$552,081.61.

It is likely the shire also paid additional legal costs prior to the writ being filed when it obtained legal advice in November 2013 which warned that the case might not be worth pursuing due to the potential cost.

However, that had to be balanced against the shire's views on the value of "governance" in its claims of wrongdoing.

The shire paid an average of \$25,000 a month for nearly three years, including \$47,725 in March 2016 soon after a partly unfavourable ruling by WA Supreme Court Acting Master Michael Gething.

Mr Gething said the shire's claim against Mr Merrick for \$150,000 was "well below the amount usually considered to be cost-effective to pursue in the Supreme Court".

By then, the shire had already spent a total of \$325,289.80 on legal costs and – on the delegated authority of President Dow and Mr Scott – spent another \$226,791.81 on the case until it ended in January this year.

Local government insurer LGIS declined to comment.

New units pass planning hurdle

Continued from Page 1.

SHIRE Planning and Development Manager Graeme Bissett earlier said the plan should be rejected because a driveway linking the 20 new units to Stirling Terrace was only eight metres wide – which the developers said allowed two vehicles to pass each other – instead of the 12m required by State policy.

He also said the medium density development might "sterilise" adjoining blocks by making them harder to subdivide.

"It is likely that the Western Australian Planning Commission would be unable to support the proposal on these grounds," Mr Bissett said.

However, Mr Dymond invited councillors to inspect the site and later successfully argued his case in the council chamber.

"I can't get a handle on why there's a need for such a wide driveway," Shire President David Dow said.

The plan was approved 7-0 with Cr Brian Rayner absent and Cr Rob Welburn out of the chamber after declaring a conflict of interest.

ANZAC DAY

Tuesday 25th April 2017

Toodyay sub branch of RSL will conduct commemorations as follows

Dawn Service at Anzac Park War Memorial to assemble at 0550 for a 0600 start.

Gunfire breakfast at about 0620 at Museum precinct Clinton Street.

Parade assembles at 1030 in Stirling Terrace and marches off at 1045 to arrive at Anzac Park at 1100 for the Main Service.

visit us on



The Toodyay Herald

The joke may be on you

APRIL 1 has passed but local ratepayers could be forgiven for thinking this month's Page 1 story about Toodyay Shire Council's costly legal bill fiasco is an April Fool joke. Sadly it isn't.

If *The Herald* is wrong about the shire appearing to spend more than \$550,000 of your money to get back \$60,000, it will be the first to eat humble pie and apologise.

It's easy sometimes to join the dots and arrive at an entirely wrong conclusion.

However the evidence appears compelling, and there is nothing on public record to suggest otherwise.

How else to explain \$40,000 of recouped legal costs suddenly disappearing from public view to vanish into another shire account?

Or last year's sudden rush to sell shire-owned Mrs O'Reilly's Cottage in Stirling Terrace for \$530,000 instead of honouring a long-standing arrangement to lease it to the local vet.

Couple that with blanket shire refusals to discuss any aspect of its extraordinarily high spending on legal costs and you might have grounds to think something is amiss.

Lawyers warned councillors in November 2013 that it might cost too much to sue former CEO Graham Merrick and former shire president Charlie Wroth for alleged overpayments to Mr Merrick.

However, the former council – after failing to get support from the WA Corruption and Crime Commission or State Local Government Department – decided to go it alone in the civil courts.

They did it because they believed wrongdoing had occurred and wanted to hold Mr Merrick and Mr Wroth to account.

It resulted in seemingly endless monthly payments of tens of thousands of dollars on a legal case for which the wheels had started to fall off more than a year ago.

The joke – if there is one – is that neither defendant ended up having to pay a cent because all their legal and settlement costs were covered by local government insurance.

It looks like the only ones who ended up paying anything is you.

If that is the case – and we sincerely hope it isn't – then every councillor sitting today has to bear collective responsibility.

This is particularly so after they continued to spend another quarter million dollars of your money on a case that the WA Supreme Court said in February 2016 was always going to cost too much to be worth pursuing.

Most councillors knew nothing about that decision until *The Herald* brought it to their attention two weeks later.

If the shire was a private company with shareholders, heads would most likely roll.

Your chance will come at the next shire elections in October.

Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor



The way we were – Light Horse Regiment soldiers on parade in the 1930s in Clinton Street (now Piesse Street) in front of former stables belonging to the Freemasons Hotel (rear). From Newcastle Gaol Museum collection. Toodyay Anzac Day preview: Page 15.

LETTERS

Bundle of trouble

IN MID-DECEMBER, I was conned into joining the NBN program.

I was sold a Telstra NBN bundle deal and assumed that in a few days I would have the best internet service in the world.

Today is March 21 and I am still without NBN and have lots of telephone problems.

In the interim they also cut off my phone and my old ADSL internet system which has worked perfectly for many years.

The phone is now working – sometimes – but no internet.

Since December I have dialled the 1300 number so many times and listened to more music than Mozart wrote.

I have spoken to different people in South Africa, the Philippines, New Zealand, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Townsville.

They all have told me that the real problem was the person I spoke to before.

“But I am now fixing it for you for sure.” Yet, I am still waiting.

Surely three months should be long enough in Australia in 2017 but I am still waiting for internet service.

The new 40m-high NBN tower is only 400m from my house.

Apart from my trauma, I wish to ask our Prime Minister if he is dinky-di about jobs, jobs, jobs and why all those people (and there are hundreds of them) working for Telstra and the NBN are overseas; are they not holding jobs that genuinely belong to Australians, in Australia?

And also, why decisions concerning me are being made in the Philippines and those men and women over there are the ones who decide if and when I can have this Australian service.

Do they pay tax in Australia?

Ben Camenzuli
Toodyay

Cowtown shows the way

I HAVE just read last month's *Herald*, where Jason Marion comments in *Ask the Experts* under the headline “Just a tweak and we'll take off like a rocket” – excellent.

During a recent trip to the South-West I had the pleasure of passing through Cowaramup.

Cowaramup, you say, where's that? Well it's a tiny town on the way to

Margaret River, known from my boyhood as ‘Cowtown’.

Interestingly, they have worked with what they have and as a tourist measure have introduced many life-sized plastic cows in many poses to many places in the town – along the street, near the entrance, beside the post office and the bank.

In the 20 minutes that we sat and had coffee at least five cars pulled up, folk got out and had their photos taken next to one of these cows.

This place will be talked about whenever cows come up in the conversation.

That's tourism. What does Toodyay have? Nothing of any interest.

A grey-white stone wall which blends in with a gravel area which no one is looking at because they are driving past a petrol station and the intersections of Goomalling Road and the heavy-vehicle bypass.

We need a prominent entrance statement near the Northam turn off and another near the entrance of our town at Racecourse Road.

Naturally we should tidy up the sides of the road into our town.

What comes to mind? Moondyne Joe in all his glory riding a horse leading the way to Toodyay?

Statues or life-sized metal cut-outs, possibly made in Wundowie, of Moondyne Joe around town, ‘Moondyne pies’ at the bakery, Moondyne at the bank, Moondyne at the Old Gaol and outside the courthouse.

As one of the only two men to escape from Fremantle Gaol his trail can be linked from Freo to Toodyay.

What a tourism attraction. We live in a town linked to Moondyne Joe country – why have we not made more use of it?

Fred Fellowes
Toodyay

Wildlife needs safe passage

THE RIVER and land from Toodyay to Northam via Dumbarton and Katrine are areas inhabited by many feral species – rabbits, feral cats, foxes and even goats.

These are frequently killed by vehicles and this may be beneficial in keeping populations down.

However, the fields and bush are also home to reptiles, turtles and snakes, native birds, and echidnas.

I urge drivers to please take care to avoid

killing animals if it's safe to do so.

If you do hit something and kill it, at least remove it to the side of the road (again, if safe to do so) to avoid more deaths as other creatures go onto the road to eat the dead animals.

With all the money spent on upgrading roads for human safety it is high time some thought and funding was put into constructing some habitat corridors around our busiest roads to give our precious dwindling wildlife a chance.

How about a few more wildlife crossing signs, if nothing else?

Naomi Millett
Toodyay

A sign of times gone by

PEOPLE at Toodyay's IGA car park might sometimes wonder about the meaning of the number 92-860 displayed in black on yellow on the nearby concrete headwall of the railway culvert.

The number denotes the distance along the railway and it identifies the culvert under the railway as being the one which is 92 kilometres and 860 metres along the railway from the designated starting point of the railway.

I painted the original chainage on that culvert 50 years ago, long before WA adopted metrics.

The original chainage was painted on as black on a white background and would have been 57m 56c, denoting 57 miles and 56 chains from the start of the railway.

Alf Campbell
Kenwick

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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Where to send what to *The Herald*

Heather Appleby

WE'VE had some near misses in the past couple of months because advertisers have been sending their inquiries to our editor.

Now, we all know he's superman when it comes to news but he's not that crash hot at advertising.

Actually, he doesn't usually open and read every email he receives (with 500 plus each month, we can't really blame him).

So, if you are sending adverts or articles, please make sure you direct these to the right email address – for advertisements it's advertising@toodyayherald.com.au, and for articles it's news@toodyayherald.com.au.

Because the editor's inbox is confidential, the rest of the team doesn't see anything

that goes directly to him, so unless you have something that you really don't want others to see, send it to either of the above addresses.

By all means send it to the editor too, but if it's for general consumption, please copy articles to news or for an advert, copy to advertising.

Adverts for the classifieds or public notices sections should go to advertising@toodyayherald.com.au.

If in doubt and, as an advertiser you haven't heard from us within a couple of days of sending your email, please don't hesitate to call us on 9574 2601.

You can leave a message if we're not open or phone me (Heather) on 0419 906 083.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Firebreaks can be a road to fitness

Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Bejoording

From the desk of The Badger

HAVE you ever wondered what it's like to write something interesting or entertaining every month when you are a small brigade in a small community in a season where fortunately very little has happened in a place where most of the social fun your members have is what they do as members of the community group?

Well I was nodding over my laptop unable to write the first word that didn't sound like the first word of a number of previous columns when my little Badgerette came up with this idea.

She's a semi-fanatical bush-walker and in that little room in the house where there's always something to read, there's usually some sort of bush-walking or wilderness magazine.

She noticed a recent article about building your fitness using your firebreak.

All of us on small acreages have one of those, and on a typical 10 acre (4.5ha) block the typical firebreak is 750m around.

Now for the average person that's about 1000 steps on the pedometer, so 10 times around your break is the 10,000 steps we are all told is the daily minimum for reasonable fitness, if we walk or jog it at least five times a week.

Now to that word 'rucking'. No, it's not a clever way of saying something nasty; it's a form of training for serious bush-walkers.

Rucking is about raising the bar and doing something tougher, like walking with a 10kg back-pack for example.

Another in the article I read was to use an old car tyre. Most of us have one of those laying around somewhere.

Just get a piece of rope, say 4m long. Tie one end around the tyre and one end around

your waist, and then go for that walk.

That'll get your pulse rate and aerobic fitness up quickly.

Anyway, in lieu of having anything to say about the brigade or fires, I hope this inspires a few of you and I look forward to seeing a few dust trails as you drag those tyres around.

Our next regular meeting will be at the shed on Tuesday April 18 at 6pm.

The Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade reminds you that having a permit doesn't lessen the need to be vigilant and careful.

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

Fires can be a catastrophic risk to people, animals and property, so take care.

If you have any questions remember you can contact captain Barry Grey on 9574 2149, or the Badger on 9574 4834.

Please leave a message if we're not there.

Bluetooth first with disco ball to follow?

Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Julimar

Alison Wroth

EVERYTHING has been very quiet on the western front as they say with the very unseasonal weather bringing enough rain to make all the paddocks and hills green.

Livestock in the area are still pondering what season they are in as usually they are kicking up dust at this time of year and fires are still a threat and constant worry for everybody.

We at Julimar continued training and preparing both firefighters and vehicles in case callouts occur.

There have been no issues with training and Friday evening instruction has been continuing as normal.

There are a couple of minor problems with the truck but the Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) has been advised and the malfunctions will be monitored.

The fire season winds up on April 30 but

we will be prepared to turnout whatever the situation.

The Toodyay Community Resources Centre has called for volunteers to participate the Recycled Regatta, which will be held on September 16.

Participating in the regatta was raised at our last meeting and not surprisingly, young Wade has appointed himself 'captain' of the mighty Julimar recycled vessel.

He promises to go down with the ship so it's bound to be like the Titanic. Anyone interested can contact Wade or speak to him on Friday evenings.

The AGM has been moved to Saturday June 10 – not June 17 to accommodate more members.

The CESM has been informed and the shire will be advised of the change in date.

So, remember, our AGM is at 7pm on Saturday June 10 with the general meeting beforehand at 6.30pm.

A Bluetooth system is our next purchase

for the social scene, to enable members and their friends to enjoy music on Fridays.

This will make accessibility to cool and rocking tunes much easier and allow for much more variety.

From Bruce Springsteen, and Adele to classic – the next thing will be the disco ball.

Please make yourselves available for the supper roster. Supper does not just appear people, so put your name down and remember, the simpler the better.

If Peter can cook sausages for supper, anyone of you men can. So, help Jan out and put your name down to do Friday supper.

The next meeting is on Saturday April 22 at 6.30pm.

So, if you would like to meet some really nice Julimar residents and think about becoming a member of the Julimar brigade call in any Friday evening around 5.30pm and the captain will introduce you around.

Any queries, contact Peter Sapwell on 9574 4534 otherwise, we will see you there.

Avoid getting caught in the phishing net

Computer Safety

Phil Hart

MALICIOUS emails can cause you a lot of grief. The people who send you such emails often want to empty your bank account and use your credit card.

It is a form of identity theft which takes a lot of time, effort and heartache to recover from.

Your credit rating can also be damaged resulting in loan-application refusals.

While no system of protection is perfect, you can do a lot to protect yourself.

If you receive an unexpected email, treat it with suspicion.

If an email says your credit card has a problem, call your credit card company.

They will probably tell you to delete the email without opening it.

Any link in any email that asks for your credit card number or your bank details is fraudulent.

Never put such details in. However, if you go to the web site of a reputable retailer it is usually safe to put in your details.

All emails that claim to come from the Australian Taxation Office about a refund are fake.

Any claim that you are to receive a large amount of money from somebody you have never heard of is an attempt to steal your identity.

Spelling mistakes in an email from a company almost guarantee that the email is a fraud.

All modern email readers check your email for spam.

If you see an email marked as spam, do not open it unless you are totally convinced that the email is genuine.

Always check that the sender's email address matches the text of the email.

An email claiming to come from Australia Post when the sender's address is sheepment@msk-hotel.com is bogus.

You can find more information at bit.ly/2mYy1Z, bit.ly/2mrroqJ and bit.ly/2mrhvZd.

If you think you have become a victim, talk to your bank or credit card company straight away. They will advise you what to do next.



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Toodyay drunk driver three times over legal limit

Police Beat

With Sgt Warren Conder
Toodyay Police Station



A FEW too many Saturday night drinks may cost a Toodyay motorist at least a \$900 court fine and 10 months' licence suspension after he was allegedly caught driving with a blood alcohol content more than three times the legal limit.

The motorist was stopped for a random breath test in town at about 9.30pm on a Saturday last month when he blew a breathalyser reading of 0.161 per cent.

The maximum penalty for driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 per cent or more is a \$5000 fine, lifetime licence suspension and 18 months' jail.

Two other local motorists stopped earlier the same afternoon blew between 0.05 and 0.08 per cent and face fines of at least \$400 each and the loss of up to five demerit points.

"I'm disappointed three members of our local community think they can get into their cars and drive while affected by alcohol," Sgt Conder said.

"There's no excuse for anyone who gets caught drunk driving, especially with a reading of more than 0.15 per cent, which is about six standard drinks.

"A driver's insurance is voided if they are involved in a traffic accident while drunk – you personally have to cop the whole bill, including the cost of damages and other people's medical expenses.

"There's a huge monetary reason not to drink and drive."

According to US insurers, motorists driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 per cent are "very obviously drunk".

Drugs, firearms raided

LOCAL police executed three search warrants last month – two for drugs and one for firearms.

A raid on two Coondle properties resulted in three people charged with a total of seven offences – including one for cultivation of cannabis – and police seizures of cannabis and methamphetamine.

The third raid involved a firearms search in Bolgart.

"I want to remind farmers and others throughout the district that in coming months, local police will be conducting spot checks for unlicensed and unsecured firearms," Sgt Conder said.

Don't touch the phone

POLICE are again warning motorists not to use mobile phones for text messages while driving.

"A high proportion of crashes involving mobile phones are caused by drivers looking at or sending text messages," Sgt Conder said.

"Texting while driving is basically very stupid and dangerous.

"It's also illegal to use a mobile phone earpiece or earphones while driving."

Sgt Conder said research showed that listening to a phone placed directly against the ear was more distracting than listening via a hands-free speaker.

However, it was not illegal – although still distracting – to receive hands-free phone calls while riding a motorcycle with a Bluetooth speaker inside the helmet.

According to the WA Road Safety Commission, motorists can touch their mobile phone while driving only to accept or end a call if the phone is secured in a mounting attached to the vehicle.

If a phone is not secured, it can be used to accept or end a call only by voice activation or with a Bluetooth hands-free car kit – it is illegal to touch it.

It is also illegal while driving to look at, create or send a text or video message, email or similar communication even if a phone is secured or can be used without touching it.

Satellite navigation devices can be used while driving only if no touch of the keypad or screen is required.

The penalty for each offence is a \$400 fine and three demerit points.

Get out of the way

MOTORISTS are being urged to pull over safely when approached from the rear by police, ambulance, fire and other emergency services vehicles.

"You need to slow down safely and pull over if you can, but try to leave at least one wheel on the driver's side on the bitumen," Sgt Conder said.

"It's no good suddenly hitting the skids at 100km/h and spinning out of control on a gravel verge.

"We don't want to see in the rear vision mirror as we go past that you've slammed into a tree."

Sgt Conder urged motorists to "take note, be cautious and react".

Failure to give way to an emergency services vehicle could result in a \$400 fine and the loss of four demerit points.

Handbags to Tasers

LOCAL Snr Const. Nicky Turner represented Toodyay at a special event in Northam last month to commemorate this year's centenary of women gaining the right to serve as WA police officers.

The event was hosted by Insp. Erica Silwood from Northam and attended by about 40 female Wheatbelt police officers.

The first police women in 1917 had to carry handbags," Snr Const. Turner said.



Snr Const. Nicky Turner with bags of seized cannabis.

"Now we have guns, cuffs and Tasers."

Snr Const. Turner said the event celebrated the empowerment of women as equals in a traditionally male law enforcement role.

Men still outnumbered women by more than three to one in the WA Police Service.

Mongolia charity scramble

SGT CONDER will swap his powerful Yamaha Classic 1100 motorcycle for a puny 150cc trail basher in a kids' cancer charity ride in Mongolia in June.

"I decided this year not to get a sore arse riding from Perth to Canberra to raise money," Sgt Conder said.

"Instead I'll be getting a sore arse bouncing around the back blocks of Mongolia on a dirt bike with 13 other police riders, including WA Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan.

"We fly to the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator on June 17 and will ride thousands of kilometres with a group of doctors delivering aid to kids with cancer.

"It's all about raising awareness for kids' cancer research.

Sgt Conder said the 14-day trip had personally cost him \$8500 and he was seeking another \$1000 in sponsorship donations.

"We'll sleep mostly in tents," Sgt Conder said.

"Fourteen dirt bikes have been bought and stored in Mongolia for use each year."

Sgt Conder said this year's event was the seventh Mongolia ride, which was part of the Police Commissioner's Bright Blue fund for sick kids.

On-line cheap goods too good to be true

Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association Desraé Clarke

THE SECOND seniors' morning, generously supported by Michael and Rebecca Kays of Cola Café, was well-attended and will be repeated later this year.

People were able to ask questions on a one-on-one basis which is easier especially when there is quite a large group.

Although it is called a 'seniors' morning' it is open to all community members so, when advertised again, please come along and have your say.

A website of online sales is under investigation by WAscamNet Alert.

Do not place orders on this website – onsalemarketdeals.com.

The results of the investigation are particularly worrying.

The ABN used belongs to a Queensland company which appears to be totally unconnected.

The mobile phone contact number belongs to a NSW resident who claims to have no knowledge or connection to the site.

People who have paid for goods and have not received them are unable to contact the site.

Goods, offered at unrealistically low prices, include prams and strollers, BBQs, jet skis, outboard motors, appliances, exercise equipment and tools.

WAscamNet Alert is working with counterparts in the eastern states in following up the scam as well as trying to close the bogus website.

For further information or to report a problem contact WAscamNet 1300 30 40 54 or, consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au.

The number for Toodyay Police is 9574 9555 and Crimestoppers is 1800 333 000.

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Email: Ruth Silvester at: ruthgl18@bigpond.com
*DELIVERY OF WORK: CWA HALL Saturday 2-3pm 6th MAY

Where oh where has all the money gone?



Geoff Appleby

I WON'T dwell on questions on notice from the Toodyay Progress Association at last month's shire council meeting except to say that it appears that President David Dow has developed not answering questions about legal costs into a repetitive art form.

There was, however, another very interesting question on notice which unfortunately wasn't answered at the meeting because the questioner was absent.

Missing money: It was posed by former shire CEO Robert Millar about a missing \$40,000 in the shire's annual budget review.

Mr Millar noted that \$40,000 from the year-to-date figure for revenue from "legal costs recovered" had disappeared without explanation from the March accounts.

He asked if the money had been moved to another income source and, if so, why?

The \$40,000 exactly matches last year's WA Supreme Court settlement in the shire's protracted legal battle with former shire president Charlie Wroth.

Presumably any income from last January's undisclosed settlement with former shire CEO Graham Merrick will also have to appear somewhere in shire accounts – but where?

Each month councillors are presented with financial statements that they are required by law to examine and approve.

The council voted 8-0 (Cr Brian Rayner absent) to accept the March monthly financial statements, without a single question being asked.

Nobody seemed to notice the missing \$40,000 and – unless they were briefed privately with information that is being withheld from ratepayers – perhaps nobody bothered to take more than a cursory glance.

Budget review withdrawn: The next agenda item was the annual budget review itself, which included an anticipated 58 per cent increase in the 2016-17 financial year surplus of \$245,991.

However, before President Dow could call for a mover, shire CEO Stan Scott interrupted and said, without explanation, that he wanted to withdraw the item.

As before, not one councillor questioned this, once again leaving ratepayers in the dark about large sums of money, this time totalling hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Cr Wood resignation: President Dow offered no explanation and passed swiftly onto the next agenda item which was to set a date for an extraordinary East Ward council election because Cr Kate Wood has resigned after less than two years in the job because she is leaving Toodyay to live in the Mid-West.

But, back to money matters.

The law requires local governments to review their annual budgets in the first quarter of each new calendar year and submit the review to council for consideration within

30 days of completion.

The review published in the agenda and withdrawn was dated March 17 and required by law to be presented to council by April 14.

Perhaps CEO Scott will, after responding to Mr Millar's question, review his review, reinstate the missing \$40,000 and add any other amounts which should have been included in "revenue recovered from legal costs" and resubmit it to council for approval.

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday April 18 which means a special council meeting will have to be called unless the WA Local Government Department grants an extension for passing the budget review.

Whatever the date, I sincerely hope councillors lift their game and pay a bit more attention to financial matters that affect all ratepayers.

The rest of the meeting was mundane.

Half a dozen shires along the Great Eastern Highway have got together to promote the historical nature of the highway and its

towns and invited Toodyay to be included in a brochure to help defray costs.

Councillors agreed to pay for three years and then review their decision.

Approvals: They also approved a setback variation in Dumbarton, granted retrospective approval for a retaining wall in Nunile, approved a new 20-unit housing development in Stirling Terrace – despite Planning and Development Manager Graeme Bissett's recommendation to reject it – and agreed to let a Dewar's Pool farmer add a second 450-bird mobile chook 'caravan' to his paddocks, bringing the total to 900 hens.

Another setback variation in West Toodyay was approved before councillors agreed to call for public expressions of interest to use the shire's former parks and gardens depot at the corner of Fiennes and Clinton Streets – buildings that CEO Scott tried to fob off on the vet five months' ago.

Council vacancy: Cr Wood's resignation leaves a vacancy in the nine-member council to be filled either by a postal ballot for all

West Ward electors on Thursday July 6 or when an 'in person' election for four other council vacancies is held on October 21 – the latter being the council's preferred option.

CEO Scott said he had already sought State Electoral Commission approval to delay the East Ward extraordinary election until October and was awaiting a response.

Duke Street bridge repair: The State Government says it will repair and restore the dilapidated Duke Street pedestrian bridge over the railway line if the shire takes over responsibility for the structure's future upkeep and maintenance.

This follows Cr Judy Dow's successful move last year for the footbridge near two Hamersley Street properties owned by her and husband President Dow to be included as a fourth item on a list of the shire's top funding priorities.

Councillors also agreed to establish a community and public transport committee, an offshoot of the AvonLink supporters group and AvonLink working party.

Duke Street debacle shows wrongheaded priorities

Toodyay Progress Association
Larry Graham, Chair

THE TOODYAY Shire Council doesn't speak out when it should – and the reverse also holds true.

The council doesn't consider it necessary to clearly disclose spending more than \$500,000 of ratepayers' money but has no compunction about releasing personal information.

Curiously the Shire President's report in last month's *Toodyay Herald* chose to highlight ongoing issues in Duke Street.

A recent ministerial decision means – for a nominal cost – landowners can buy back land that the council resumed from the front of their properties a few years ago, and the President's report implied the council had done good work.

The reality is very different.

Most Duke Street landholders are heavily out of pocket with some residents accruing tens of thousands of dollars in additional costs while others have abandoned building plans and moved out.

This debacle is directly attributable to council decisions and had it not been for the timely intervention of Local MP Shane Love, the issue would still be ongoing.

By naming only one affected landowner – me – the council demonstrated a poor understanding of the concept of personal confidentiality, which contrasts with its secretive attitudes to other matters.

The official silence on legal costs is deafening and we have received no meaningful response to our many attempts to have the council tell us the cost of their attempts to sue former shire CEO Graham Merrick and former shire president Charlie Wroth.

Our detailed research has uncovered legal fees in excess of \$500,000, an amount equivalent to the annual rates of approximately 300 Toodyay ratepayers.

By not clearly disclosing these costs to ratepayers the council demonstrates a wrongheaded attitude to the ethics, accountability and transparency required of public office holders.

Until they 'fess up', ratepayers are entitled to hold the view that our councillors have spent more than \$500,000 of ratepayers' money in seeking to get back \$150,000.

And we are not the only ones who noticed this.

The WA Supreme Court said last year: "The total amount claimed by the shire is just of \$150,000 ... for an action that will involve an extensive historical factual inquiry, this is well below the amount usually considered to be cost effective to pursue a Supreme Court action."

Local Government Act provisions exist to reduce the chances of councils spending a disproportionate amount of public funds on legal costs.

However, our council opted out of them and chose another course.

It doesn't have to be like this and they need to tell us the cost.

There is no legal or ethical barrier preventing the council from making a formal statement detailing its costs and – because it is the right thing to do – we strongly urge the council to do it.

As always, we point out that we are a not-for-profit, apolitical public advocacy group who will not be running or endorsing candidates in council elections.

We would love to hear from you and can be contacted at the following email address: toodyaypa@gmail.com.

Step into the chamber

Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Bob Schrader

TOODYAY Chamber of Commerce and Industry has a very full agenda for 2017 with workshops, seminars, sundowners and training courses in the pipeline.

We also work closely with the shire on behalf of all Toodyay businesses to help resolve issues, plan for the future and act as a voice for the business community.

With your help we can become an even stronger voice and all you need to do is become a member.

In return you will receive a number of benefits including, but not limited to, subsidised fees for the workshops, functions, etc and take advantage of the collective voice the chamber provides.

To join now, contact Andrea Carling on 0408 699 916 or 2jchamber@gmail.com.

Miniature railway trains to start before Easter

Toodyay Miniature Railways
June Eastwood

THE TOODYAY Miniature Railway will commence running trains on Wednesday April 11.

Normally we do not begin our season until Easter Saturday.

However, because school holidays start before Easter, we will start running trains on the Wednesday before Good Friday as part of our annual school-holiday-run program.

Let's BRAND...and then MARKET Toodyay!



TCCI is working towards creating a 'Toodyay Brand' to capture why Toodyay and its surrounds with its unique businesses and amazing rural and artisan opportunities is well placed to become a 'must experience' destination for visitors and day/weekend trippers - and to further drive long term economic sustainability for Toodyay.

The Vision, Brand & Marketing TCCI Sub Committee extend an *Invitation*

We are currently undertaking preliminary activities with businesses and community: i.e. a) Brand visioning workshops; b) Identifying existing and future business opportunities; and, c) Toodyay Stock-take (of businesses, artisans, events and local expertise). This is an inclusive planning process over coming months to develop a sense of identity to lead into understanding what is 'our' Brand. In addition we are gathering accurate demographic data to assist businesses with planning and potential growth.

We invite all businesses and groups, and in fact all people who call Toodyay home to contribute at one of our visioning activities through participating in a SWOT where we will seek your input to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats affecting Toodyay and our surrounding area.

We have set aside each Monday for this and we can come to you. If Monday is not good, let us know your preferred day. Perhaps just before one of your own group meetings may work best for you? Local facilitator Di Granger has offered her services to assist the TCCI.

Please don't miss this opportunity to help shape Toodyay's future and its social and economic sustainability.

RSVP Monday 1st May 2017. Contact Helen Shanks 0419 580 016 or email: hjshanks@bigpond.com OR any other VBM Sub Committee members to discuss:
Anthea Brown: 0411 157 725, Barb Dadd: 0439 963 849, Mark Dimmitt: 0439 865 303 or via the TCCI email: 2jchamber@gmail.com

Landfill operator tries to ease groundwater restrictions

Michael Sinclair-Jones

LOCAL residents have gained a fresh chance to oppose a metropolitan landfill operator's plans to dump two million tonnes of rotting Perth rubbish in Toodyay.

Opal Vale Pty Ltd last month lodged a fresh application with the WA Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) to lower the conditions it is required to meet before

it can start dumping rubbish.

The company – which says it has already spent at least \$3 million on earthworks and lining the pit – was unable last year to get a licence to operate the Hoddys Well site after it failed a DER requirement to install bores at the site to monitor groundwater levels.

Recent photographs of the disused Austral Bricks claypit in Chitty Road showed it to be filled with water after unseasonal heavy

rains and run-off in February.

Environmentalists fear the 20-year project could pollute local groundwater and contaminate nearby creeks that feed into the Avon River.

The base of the landfill pit – which is lined with a plastic sheet – is required to be at least two metres above the underlying groundwater.

In its latest application, Opal Vale said

there was typically a one-metre seasonal fluctuation in local groundwater levels.

The bottom of the pit was 1.9 metres above the highest groundwater level but “only for a short duration of the year”.

Opal Vale also said the fact that the bottom of the pit consisted of clay, which was less porous than coarse sand, made it “highly unlikely” that the groundwater would ever rise to be in contact with the bottom of the pit.

The DER advised local opponents late last month that Opal Vale had lodged a fresh application to vary the operating conditions.

The department said submissions about the requested change could be lodged by Friday April 21.

Even if the DER approves Opal Vale's request to lower the landfill operating conditions, opponents will have a further opportunity to appeal that decision.

Meanwhile, DER head Jason Banks has been axed after a WA Public Sector Commission inquiry last year found that departmental staff were subjected to “public humiliation, inappropriate workplace behaviour and unrealistic workload expectations”.

Mr Banks was supported by former Barnett government environment minister Albert Jacobs who lost his metropolitan seat of Ocean Reef in last month's State elections.

The new DER head is WA Deputy Public Service Commissioner Dan Volaric.

WA's new Environment Minister is Mining and Pastoral Region MLC Stephen Dawson, who is also Deputy Chair of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Environment and Public Affairs.

Departing councillor upbeat about Toodyay's future



Cr Kate Wood.

Bob Neville

THE SURPRISE resignation of Cr Kate Wood from the Toodyay Shire Council on April 7 has created a vacancy in her East Ward seat.

Cr Wood gave personal and family reasons for moving from Toodyay but was upbeat about her 18-month stint in local government.

“I would have liked to have remained with the council to see the swimming pool finished,” she said.

“However, it has been no minor effort to get the project to where it is now.”

Cr Wood said it was hard work at the start, following her election in October 2015 but she had been “delighted and excited” with her win and looked forward to the challenge.

“I was humbled at the swearing-in ceremony after seeing all those names on the shire's honour boards,” she said.

“The (local government) training in Beverly along with a lot of online work was juggled with looking after my children.”

Cr Wood said she believed the politics of the election would be against her, and though she found the council chambers “intimidating” at first, she found support from her former aunt by marriage, Shire Deputy President Therese Chitty, and Cr Paula Greenway, and discovered that staff were very committed in their work.

“The current council works exceptionally well together, and you can express a point of view and be respected,” Cr Wood said.

“That's not to say there is not room for improvement.

“While communications may have been a little poor, there has been a concerted effort to address that issue of late and we're absolutely killing it right now.”

Cr Wood alluded to last year's community uproar over a decision to cut down two tall trees in Anzac Memorial Park on the town's heavy-haulage bypass.

“Council misread the community but once we all realised this, we overturned the original decision,” she said.

“Councillors are here to represent the community.”

Cr Wood described her experience and achievements on council as “just to have a voice heard that had not been heard before, coming from a different generation and network of people”.

She said the council was getting on and making decisions such as the town's new tourist information bay, a new child-care centre in the old fire station and work starting on new Butterfly Cottages units for older residents.

“While previously it was difficult, we are now working together and council has now been willing to embrace decisions – and not everyone may agree with that,” she said.

Cr Wood said Toodyay needed to attract and retain young families.

“These are challenging times,” she said.

“Though there has been a lot of involvement with our local MP Shane Love and discussions with the shire CEO and shire president, unfortunately there are no concrete outcomes as yet – but it is ongoing.

“Toodyay is an amazing place and a traditional farming community, and the shire has been very good at beating the drum on local issues such as the swimming pool, recreation facilities and the AvonLink train service, to mention just a few.”

The council decided last month to ask the WA Electoral Commissioner to delay an extraordinary election for Cr Wood's vacated East Ward seat until four other seats on the nine-member council go election in October.

If the request is unsuccessful, a postal ballot to fill Cr Wood's vacated seat is planned for Thursday July 6.

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One day only exhibition of the Shire of Toodyay's art collection

Reuniting the artists with their works to share some insights on their inspiration

Free art catalogue

Live Interviews

The Australian Heritage Festival is supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Trust's Partnership Program

Sheep back in vogue

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza

SHORTER days and cooler mornings herald the onset of autumn.

With summer weed spraying now complete, farmers are turning their attention to the cropping season.

Liming programs are now underway with some farmers deep-ripping their lighter soil paddocks.

Lime is needed to increase soil pH in agricultural soils as they tend to acidify from the growing of crops or pasture, particularly in WA.

Barley and canola are sensitive to low soil pH and the application of lime at two tonnes per hectare will usually remedy the situation for five to seven years.

Increasing soil pH also allows plants to access stored soil micro nutrients more efficiently, reducing the need for inputs of fertiliser.

The hot topic of conversation around the rural areas is the strength of the sheep market and wool values are currently the best for more than a decade.

Sheep in general are bringing good prices at saleyards.

Lamb and mutton have been bringing good values with keen competition from graziers and meat processors.

Speculation has been that farmers are restocking as sheep meat and wool prices have been good and now compare favourably with income from cropping.

The widespread frosts that caused heavy



losses in grain yields last year appear to have re-ignited interest in sheep.

As one local farmer was heard to quip "frost doesn't kill sheep".

Grain prices have remained subdued, with oat values hard hit.

Oats are currently selling at about \$150 per

tonne, half the price it was 12 months ago and this has been good news for livestock producers as feed rations are now cheaper.

This has particularly favoured cattle producers who lot feed cattle for the domestic market.

Strong prices and cheaper rations have kept

confidence in the cattle market high.

The Toodyay Agricultural Alliance held one of its regular sundowners at the Freemasons Hotel in late March.

It was fantastic to catch up with friends and neighbours and talk of the season past and the season ahead.

Local MP aims to hold new government to account

Bob Neville

RECENTLY re-elected local WA Nationals MP Shane Love says he will urge the State's new Labor Government not to ignore local concerns as regional communities such as Toodyay come to grips with last month's

landslide State election victory.

Mr Love said his party would hold new State Premier Mark McGowan's government to account to ensure programs already announced would be completed and to live up to promises not to cut funds.

Key local issues included a major upgrade

for Toodyay Road, new heavy-haulage bypass, the future of the AvonLink passenger rail service and a public swimming pool and recreation centre.

Mr Love won a second term as MP for Moore at last month's State Election, though his party lost its shared grip on power with the defeat of local ratepayer Colin Barnett's Liberal Government.

Former WA Nationals leader Brendan Grylls lost his Pilbara seat, elevating his former deputy, re-elected Central Wheatbelt MP Mia Davies, into that role.

Mr Love said he was set to take the fight up to the new WA Labor Government on a number of issues put to him by *The Toodyay Herald* and local community members.

They included the fate of the AvonLink passenger rail service, which is nearing the end of a three year-trial funded by \$6.6 million from Royalties for Regions after former Liberal Transport Minister Troy Buswell's shock decision in 2014 to axe the weekday service and replace it with buses.

"If that decision is negative it will be pointed out to the government that they have a different set of priorities apparently for country people," Mr Love said.

Mr Love said he would fight for the right to retain the State Government Royalties for Regions funding program, which the WA Nationals pledged before the election would provide \$10 million to help build a public swimming pool in Toodyay.

Several local residents, including Toodyay Shire Cr Paula Greenway and regular AvonLink commuters Bonnie Axon and Di Granger, asked about the AvonLink's future.

They wanted to know how Mr Love's party planned to maintain a focus on the commuter rail service between Northam, Toodyay and Midland when Labor would be pushing its promised new \$2.5 billion city-based Metronet passenger rail network.

What priority would go to maintaining the AvonLink and improving other regional transport services, they asked?

"If government is focused on rail in the city, they may find it politically embarrassing to not support rail in the country," Mr Love said.

"Though the new Labor Government has the numbers in State Parliament, it is very important for the community to remain actively concerned and keep the pressure on."

Mr Love said Toodyay was a very important community and it was imperative that all efforts were made to further the town, not just politically through local MPs but also within the shire, Wheatbelt Development Commission and the local community.

Toodyay RoadWise Committee Chair Max Heath asked Mr Love about the Toodyay Road upgrade, particularly as the Wheatbelt Highway Safety road review had found it to have the highest crash density in the Wheatbelt.

When would the new Labor Government honour previous commitments and start work to complete the Toodyay Road upgrade?

Mr Love said the safety of Toodyay Road was one of the local community's greatest concerns – it needed a lot of work.

Disastrous statistics supported a significant investment, and he would argue that current road safety was inadequate.

More money was needed for environmental reports, preparatory work and to acquire land for road widening.

Mr Love said that he would join the community and local RoadWise members in seeking further investment from the State Government's Road Trauma Trust account, or – as has been heard from the government – Royalties for Regions funds.

"There is a very strong case for Toodyay Road to be put forward for funding priority for Royalties for Regions," Mr Love said.

Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Bob Schrader and local entrepreneur Di Granger asked how the WA Nationals viewed the Royalties for Regions program under a Labor Government.

Ms Granger asked where it left the party's pre-election promise of \$10 million for a new Toodyay recreation precinct and swimming pool.

Mr Love said his party would hold the Labor Government to account in State Parliament to ensure programs already announced were honoured and to live up to its promise not to cut funds.

He said the success of Royalties for Regions depended on the diligence and political power of WA Nationals MPs, without which there was no guarantee the program would continue.

In relation to the Toodyay recreation precinct and swimming pool, Mr Love said his party's pre-election promise of \$10 million now needed to be directed to new WA Sports Minister Mick Murray and new State Regional Development Minister Allannah McTiernan.

Mr Heath asked if Ms MacTiernan – who is also new Minister for Agriculture – might revisit former plans for a Toodyay heavy-haulage bypass "to keep heavy trucks out of our main street".

Mr Love said the State Government had a \$48 million fund for agricultural commodities freight, which was carried

Continued Page 10.



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Toodyay Music Fest hits all the right notes



SES volunteers enjoying the show.

Toodyay Music Fest
Tanya Stuart, Coordinator

WHAT an amazing roller coaster the Toodyay Music Fest was. Five months to organise by four main people and, with no money.

We had two stages, one each in Duidgee and Stirling Parks for solos, duos and bands. St Stephen's Anglican Church was the home to more classical choirs and instrumentals. Programs attached to cut outs of quirky sheep showed who was playing where. Toodyay was so lucky to have the privilege



True Blue centre stage at St Stephen's Anglican Church.

of listening to a vast array of talented musicians, many from our home town.

This free community event was held to encompass many genres of music to suit all tastes in music.

Buskers played in the streets of Toodyay, and it was great to have two very talented young people, Christine and Nathan, join them. They are the future of music in the country.

There was a huge choice of food to be had in the fair-like setting in Stirling Park.

The food stalls were in a sweeping semi-circle around the stage that created a wonderful intimate atmosphere.

With so little money many compromises had to be made.

We knew we couldn't afford a shade marquee in Stirling Park, free programs, a beer stand or more advertising.

In the end, we paid for the staging, lighting and sound, infrastructure and the performers so Toodyay could enjoy a free day of music.

On a more personal note it was the most rewarding, frustrating, exhilarating, exhausting, experience I have ever had in my life.

First and foremost, I have to thank my fellow organisers Rosemary Madacsi, Maria Carr and Phil Perkins. Other people that deserve a mention are Andrew McCann, Peter Dickson and Hans Bohlen.

As for the volunteers on the day, our lime green T-shirters, they were amazing; nothing was too much trouble and they just got on and did the jobs assigned to them. It was a very long day for us all but there was not one grumble.

The Toodyay SES run by Kim Maddrell was so helpful organising overnight security and assisted with many jobs.

This free community event would not have happened if it wasn't for the very generous support of the Shire of Toodyay, local people and businesses and some corporate sponsors, in particular Brookfield Rail and Boral.

There were also many other people who helped me with advice along the way.

I appreciated all the support and there are just too many people to mention. You know who you are so a big thank you.

Toodyay rocks.



Bonnie Love.



Makes me feel like dancing.



Another Fine Mess gets down to business in Duidgee Park.

Heavy-haulage route tops MP's list

Continued From Page 9

mainly on local government roads.

Existing arrangements would qualify for funding and he was prepared to push very hard for a new Toodyay heavy-haulage bypass to be included.

Mr Schrader and Ipswich View Homestead proprietor Alan Axon asked where Toodyay stood in Mr Love's priorities and what were the region's overall priorities.

Mr Love said Toodyay had done well to establish its overall look.

He said towns worked best together with a common sense of purpose and an understanding of what others had to offer.

"It comes down to having a sense of

community and sense of pride," Mr Love said.

"Toodyay is a special place that needs to be better marketed as a destination and as a place in which to spend money, buy real estate, settle and invest in, and visit for a holiday – that needs to be a continued effort.

"As far as my priorities are for Toodyay, the town is unique in that it has a different profile and industry base to other towns in the Moore electorate.

"My biggest priority is to work with the local community on a heavy-haulage route, Toodyay Road upgrade, AvonLink and public transport, public swimming pool and recreation facilities, plus health and aged care, education and other social needs".

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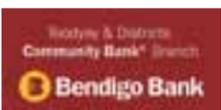
Commencing with the Freedom of Entry Parade through town at 10.45am ending at Duidgee Park

- BBQ lunch & refreshments at the park
- Free entertainment!
- Thank the volunteers and discuss how to become involved

If you are a community group and would like to have a display please contact Maddie Ross on 9574 9395 or cdao@toodyay.wa.gov.au






Show gets into gear for its 164th year

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Alison Wroth, Chief Steward

ONE HUNDRED and 64 years ago, organising an agricultural show was very different to what it is today.

Back then, the committee members were all farmers but now we have people that come from a variety of backgrounds with different skill sets.

When you think about it, 164 years is a very long time to be organising anything.

It has taken dedication and loyalty from members of the Toodyay Agricultural Society and the community to keep it going to produce a show on the most scenic showgrounds in the state.

At our last meeting the committee elected sub committees for advertising, sponsorship, publicity, entertainment, agriculture and the list goes on.

If you start seeing ads or stalls around the town promoting the show and membership, buy a ticket or take out some advertising as it all goes toward making our local show bigger and better.

Speaking of raffles, our first big membership drive takes place on Friday and Saturday May 12 and 13 outside IGA with a wood raffle donated by Charlie and Alison Wroth.

This year the show will be on Saturday, October 7; the first weekend in October instead of the normal second.

A change is as good as a holiday, right? The show will remain in the last weekend of the holidays, but no need to understand

why we had to make the change, just remember the date – October 7.

Workshops for those interested in realising their full potential at entering exhibits are being organised for the middle of the year, possibly June or July. Dates will be confirmed with further details in the next *Herald*.

Everyone is welcome to attend our inaugural workshop where four sections of the Show Schedule will be taught throughout the day. Judges will advise on what they want to see and will give tips on how to exhibit like a professional.

The sections will include Floriculture, Home Produce, Cookery and Hobbycraft.

We will be promoting the workshop on *Facebook*, our website and via good old word-of-mouth, so keep an eye out and come along.

The knitting patterns that you next see in the *Herald* mid-year will be the ones that will be in the Show Schedule.

Please practise as much as possible to knit your square which will make up the squares for the woollen rug that the Ag Society will donate to one of our community groups for the elderly.

The knitting patterns for the Show Schedule will not be those published in last month's *Herald*.

Expressions of interest for various jobs are advertised in this paper so if your community group would like a day's work at the show for easy fundraising, please consider this as an option.



Scholarship recipients (L-R) Chad Averill, Lydia Inglis and Amy Bowden.

Morangup student wins research scholarship

MORANGUP'S Lydia Inglis is one of three Murdoch University animal science students who have won scholarships for honours research into sheep management practices.

Amy Bowden, Chad Averill and Lydia were each awarded \$7000 by the Australian Wool Education Trust to investigate issues which affect animal welfare and cost the sheep industry millions of dollars a year.

Lydia will investigate the effectiveness of pain relief treatment for the preventative surgical procedure known as mulesing which reduces the incidence of flystrike.

Each year flystrike costs the sheep industry more than \$173 million due to production losses and increased management expenses.

"This project has already engaged me in the welfare sector in sheep production and continual research needs to be done.

"I am passionate about animal welfare in a production context and working towards benefitting our producers and industry," Lydia said.

Amy will research deaths of newborn twin Merino lambs in relation to ewe numbers and available feed while Chad will investigate the most efficient feeding strategies for different breeds of sheep.

The awards indicate the value that sheep industry experts place on research and will provide the scholarship recipients with the chance to boost their careers in the industry.



Champion Fleece 2016.

Fundraising Opportunities

The Toodyay Agricultural Society Inc is seeking Expressions of Interest from local Community Groups, Organisations, Businesses or Individuals to undertake the following Show tasks;

- Assisting with set up of facilities & equipment from 9.30am on Friday 6 October
- Assisting with the dismantling of facilities & equipment from 7am on Sunday 8 October
- Bar (organisation/operation) from midday to 9pm on Saturday 7 October
- Cleaning of the Exhibition Hall & Lee Steere Pavilion, prior to Monday 25 September
- External Parking (Toodyay/Connor/Jubilee Streets) from 7am on Saturday 7 October
- Gate Traffic Management from 4.30pm to 8pm on Saturday 7 October
- Gates (organisation/manning) from 6am to 4.30pm on Saturday 7 October
- Grounds Caretakers, (2 nights) from 8pm on Friday 6 October to 6am on Saturday 7 October and 9pm Saturday 7 October to 6am Sunday 8 October
- Pavilion Tearooms (operation) from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 7 October
- Youth Hall Kitchen (operation, light snacks only) from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 7 October

Monetary remuneration will be donated to the group/s or person/s undertaking the activities, all interested parties are requested to submit their **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN WRITING** clearly stating which task they would like to undertake along with the proposed donation required. For more information duty statements are available upon request, please note, the lowest donation may not necessarily be the offer accepted.

The CLOSING DATE for Expressions of Interest is 31 MAY 2017

All correspondence to: The Secretary, Toodyay Agricultural Society Inc.

(M) PO Box 362, Toodyay WA 6566 ~ (E) toodyayagsociety@gmail.com ~ (P) 0476 918 601

164th Toodyay Agricultural Show Saturday
7 October 2017 ~ Toodyay Showgrounds

2017



act-belong-commit

MOONDYNE FESTIVAL

Sunday 7th May

On Sunday 7th of May, the township of Toodyay celebrates the life and times of Moondyne Joe by holding The Act-Belong-Commit Toodyay Moondyne Festival 2017. This festival takes place in the main street, Stirling Terrace which is closed off at 9.00am until 4.00pm. The opening ceremony is at 10.00am following a colourful, energetic and noisy parade with the street actors, pipe band, rifle regiment and many more.

The Festival is the premier colonial festival in WA, first held in 1984, to celebrate the life and times of Joseph Bolitho Johns, known as 'Moondyne Joe'. Joe was a sometime horse-thief and poacher roaming the Avon Valley and Hills, although local legend paints him as a bushranger. Joe was famous as a repeat escapee from Newcastle (Toodyay) gaol and Fremantle gaol. The festival transforms the picturesque and historical town of Toodyay in the Avon Valley into a lively daylong festival. A highlight of the Festival is the Street Theatre re-enactment of Moondyne Joe's various escapades throughout the town, his arrests and mock trials while being a general menace.

Cheer on 'Joe's gang' and the floozies, coppers, swaggies and town crier. The addition in 2015 of the Colonial Village with its interactive swaggies inn, general store, courtroom, blacksmith, blade shearer, poets and bush band has proved to be very popular. The day has the atmosphere of a wild town fair with: an 1860's rifle regiment, Kalamunda pipe band, blacksmith, wood chopping, local spinners, wood turners and potters. With free entry, and entertainment all day the town comes alive with colour, sound, song, dance and laughter. Come experience the wonderful community spirit in the centre of Toodyay, complete with continuous street entertainment; stilt walkers; artisan & heritage crafts; art, vintage cars & bikes, antiques & art exhibitions; healthy food stalls. There is loads of non-stop, amazing fun and physical activities for all the family including camel and Clydesdale rides and Children's activities.

Everyone is encouraged to come dressed in period costume and join in the fun. The Act-Belong-Commit Toodyay Moondyne Festival 2017 is a smoke free event, and is proudly sponsored by Healthway - being active, having a sense of belonging, and having a purpose in life all contribute to happiness and good mental health and wellbeing. Thanks to our other sponsors of LotteryWest, TourismWA, Roadwise, Department of Regional Development and the Shire of Toodyay for making this amazing festival possible. Check out our Website or Facebook page for more information...or come a say hi at our information booth on the day.



E: moodynecommittee@gmail.com.au

M: Jas 0412 710 253



ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS



Government of Western Australia
Department of Regional Development





Members admiring a young alpaca at Toffee Woods Alpacas. Photo by Jenny Edgcombe

Local historians get feel of the fabled fibre

Toodyay Historical Society
Robyn Taylor, President

ONE OF the many delights of touring around Toodyay is coming across a flock of incredibly cute alpacas.

If ever an animal was designed to put a smile on your face it would have to be this one and its relation, the llama, another of Toodyay's attractions.

To show folk our society isn't just interested in the past, we have decided to look at a local industry and Beth Frayne is now well advanced in compiling information about the history of the alpaca in Toodyay.

To this end, off we went for our end of March excursion to enjoy A Day with Alpacas, starting with Toffee Woods Alpacas run by Melinda in Julimar, and ending with a visit to Michael and Hazel McKone's The Fibre of the Gods alpaca spinning mill on the Bindi Bindi-Toodyay Road.

The fleece is aptly named; this fibre of the gods is so soft it floats like a cloud after milling.

Considerable interest and technical know-how was shown by members Peter and Colin, former sheep farmers, who were fascinated by microns while some of us were more taken with those large melting eyes fringed with enviable lashes.

Our society and two other community groups, Toodyay Friends of the River and Toodyay Naturalists' Club, have started moving into our shared premises at 108B Stirling Terrace next to the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank.

The place will be called Drummond House – Toodyay Environment and History Centre and will be featured in next month's *Herald*.

Could members please note our AGM is to be held at 2pm on Sunday April 9 in St

Stephen's Anglican Hall.

Our guest speaker will be historian Dr Sue Graham-Taylor AM presenting a talk entitled The Swan-Avon River System – learning from the past.

Sue's research interests in environmental and political history mean she is well qualified to enlighten us on this topic and her website *Swan River Stories* can be found via the State Library's website.

Non-members are welcome to attend this talk which will be followed by afternoon tea.

Our next general meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday April 19 at Donegan's Cottage, Toodyay Showgrounds. Visitors are always welcome.

Our end-of-month excursion will be on Saturday April 29 (not Sunday). We are booked to have lunch at the Bolgart Hotel, with a BYO morning tea stop at Syred's Cottage on the way to Bolgart.

Meet at our new premises Drummond House, next to the bank, at 10am for car pool.

On Sunday April 30, the shire is holding an exhibition of its art collection in the Old Wicklow Shearing Shed, Clinton Street, which we encourage members to attend.

The exhibition, Artists' Voices, is part of the State Heritage Festival.

For more information about us contact: secretary Linda Rooney, email secretary.2j.ths@gmail.com; president Robyn Taylor rdtaylor@iinet.net.au, 9574 2578 or, email Beth Frayne, toobide4@iinet.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.

Annual membership is fantastic value at \$10.

Bejoording surrenders to seasonal mystery fever

Bejoording Community Group News
From the desk of The Badger

AS MORE and more members of our community went down with a mystery fever the Badger was determined to get to the bottom of it.

After the wet late summer and the mozzies that followed was it Dengue or Ross River?

All was revealed recently at the shed when sufferers gathered to collect the one thing that gave some relief – the footy tipping sheets.

Yes, we were beset with Footy Fever, that debilitating virus that occurs around this time each year when withdrawal symptoms usually reach a peak.

The only difference this year, the one saving grace that prevented total crisis, was the surprising enjoyment of women's AFL during the pre-season period.

As Alston said in his brilliant cartoon in *The West*: "It's a neurological short-circuit, there is no cure."

The faithful gathered on March 23 to watch the Tigers thrash the Blues, setting many of us on the slippery path to wooden spoon territory. In the Badger's case the rest of the first weekend continued the same way.

Another symptom of this contagious fever is the weekly agonising over who will do what to whom the next weekend.

Into the wash go the colourful bobble hats and scarves the super faithful wear even to watch games on the TV.

Club colours will be raised in various 'man cave' sheds around the district and, no doubt, at least one supporter will make cup cakes with team-coloured icing.

Nothing brings our community together more than footy tipping as everyone has something to say about it and everyone has

to come to the shed to put their tips in the ledger set up by Linda the tipping queen.

Something else the members did last month which was great fun, was a picnic trip to Lake Ninan near Wongan Hills.

This very pretty spot is full of water and bird life at present and everyone had a rollicking good time, except those 'intrepids' who thought it would be fun to go canoeing.

Lack of outback explorer experience meant that the easy paddle out with the wind behind them, with a few 'woo hoos' and heroic 'look at me' waves from the paddlers, would be followed by an almost impossible return paddle directly into the wind.

Exhaustion and high pulse rates, even a rescue or two, ensured a few slept well in their cars on the return journey.

One thing about the Bejoording mob, they sure do get together a lot and a terrific time is had by all.

Following on from last month's column about our alternative canine community I'm pleased to announce that Mutley has now been 'fixed'.

Your monthly reminder – we meet every Wednesday evening (except in January) at the Bejoording Community Centre which shares premises with the local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade in Bejoording Road.

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

It's strictly 'come as you are' casual, kids are welcome, and there are fun events every month.

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

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

Hope to see you soon.

Mortlock Molly makes big shield game splash

Bolgart News

Serena Syred and Nolene Kaszanski

INCLEMENT weather didn't stop the Mortlock Swimming Carnival which was held at the Goomalling pool on March 2.

Primary Schools Goomalling, Sacred Heart and Bolgart were all competing for the Mortlock Shield.

Congratulations to our own Molly Snooke for winning Champion Girl for Year 2.

Congratulations also to Lizzie Milner and Cody Knowles on the arrival of their son, Jaxyn Crowley Knowles on March 15 weighing 3.7kg (8lb 1oz).

The Country Week bowling ladies recently enjoyed a week in the city.

Dale McGill and Jenni Knowles finished in the final eight for the pairs competition. Well done, to all who represented the club.

Our wind-up dinner and mixed pairs competition was held on March 25 with Neville Clarke and Barbara Mottershaw winning the day.

The night was completed by a lovely three-course meal. Thank you to caterer Merle Manuel and the bowling ladies.

The 2016-17 season's presentations,



Champion Girl for Year 2 Molly Snooke.

announced after the competition are: Ladies Singles Champion – Dale McGill; Mens Singles Champion – Phil Syred; Ladies Pairs Champions – Pam McGill and Pam Meston; Mens Pairs Champions – Neville Clarke and Phil Syred and, Ladies Triples Champions – Pam Meston, Merle Manuel and Nolene Kaszanski.

Our environment matters at the Toodyay Herald.

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HOME OF THE MONTH

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"We Should have Come to You Years Ago!"

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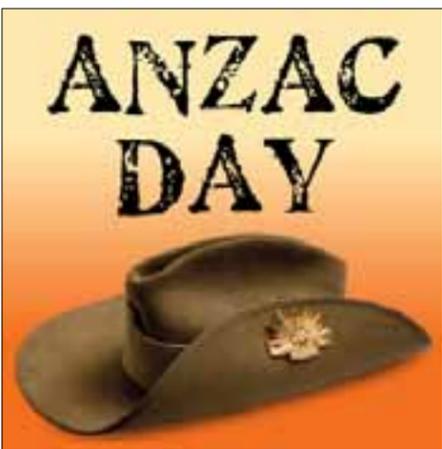


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RSL busy in lead-up to ceremony

RSL Toodyay Sub-branch
Bruce Guthrie

AS TOODYAY enters April 2017 your RSL sub-branch is preparing for Anzac Day on Tuesday 25.

An announcement of services and times is shown on Page 3 of this *Herald*.

All veterans, families and residents are invited to join in with RSL on the day.

A very special Anzac commemoration ceremony will be conducted by the students at Toodyay District High School on Thursday morning April 27 at the school. The RSL will be represented.

On April 8 the RSL will hold an open door and walk-in event at the Memorial Hall from 0900 followed by our April general meeting at 1400.

Please come and say hello and have a cuppa at your leisure.

In between these significant events RSL Toodyay will hold its autumn street stall on Friday and Saturday, April 21 and 22 in the usual place outside the IGA.

The Toodyay community has supported us wonderfully at our fundraising stalls in the past and we look forward to saying hello and to thanking you this time around.

A reminder that our welfare officer Max can be contacted on 9574 2102 if you would like some help with your winter preparations or would like to have a conversation with the RSL.

Kid soldier's last post

Terri Watson

AN IMAGINARY letter from the trenches of Gallipoli.

Dear Mum and Dad. Sorry I shot threw like I dun, but yous wood have stopd me if I had told yous I was joinin up.

Shorty Loftis sed we were pikers and cowerds if we didn't join and I wanted to be in it with the other blokes.

The trip on the ship was ok but sum blokes got seesick.

It was reel bad wen we landed

on the beech.

Ded blokes all over and Shorty never even made it out the boat and he was shot ded.

We had to dig deep trenches on the beech and blokes have to go over the top to get the Turks.

Nun cum back.

I don't haff to, cos I can run fast and I run mesiges sumtimes.

I been shot in the arm and leg, but Im ok.

Blokes are ded all over and stinken and we only get tim beef

and stale biskits to eat.

I hate it and wisht I never dun it. I want to cum home.

I sorry, I dun it, reel sorry. Tell them I haff to cum home please.

Your luvin son, Fred.

Fred's mother looked at the priest as she finished reading his letter.

Shakily, she opened the telegram he handed her.

Her body shook with sobs after she read it. "No," she cried, "he can't be dead".

"He shouldn't have even been there. He'd only just turned 16."

CWA turns back the clock for its 90th

CWA

Elizabeth Mansom

OFFICE bearers for 2017 were elected at our AGM in February.

Judith Walton, who has been president for a year, accepted the position for a further year.

CWA policy is that office bearers may only stay in one position for three consecutive years, so all other positions became vacant.

Kathy Haynes accepted the position of vice-president, Desrae Clarke that of secretary and Meg Mills will be treasurer.

Being very aware of the time and energy required for these honorary positions, members are very grateful to outgoing office bearers and wish the incoming ladies a productive and enjoyable year.

In an effort to authenticate life before supermarkets and \$2 shops, half a dozen of us gathered recently to cut and staple crepe paper strips into strings to decorate the hall for our 90th birthday in June.

Glenys has obtained a copy of the front page of *The West Australian* for the day of

the first-ever meeting of the Toodyay branch in 1927. It will be displayed alongside the front page of *The West* for the day of this year's meeting.

What an eye-opener – no screaming headlines and huge pictures back then, just advertisements for Mallabones and other businesses in print so tiny we will be supplying a magnifying sheet with a built-in light.

On March 22 a group of us car-pooled to Mundaring to attend the annual Gathering of the Birds.

Surrounding CWA branches take turns to host this get-together where we plan regular inter-branch functions.

One function which sounds interesting will be a talk on women's wills being hosted by York branch in August.

We are delighted that State President Heather Allen has confirmed that she will join us for our 90th birthday celebration.

Val Byron and Patricia de Soto-Phillips were welcomed at our March meeting – we look forward to seeing you again, ladies.

State Conference will be held again in Fremantle this July and already paper and emails are flying.

Members discussed a motion regarding feral cats to be put forward by Toodyay requesting the State government to encourage all local councils to develop a cat policy in line with new legislation.

And, of course, arrangements for our 90th took up a large amount of time.

As hats and gloves would have been de rigueur at a meeting in June 1927, hats and gloves have been settled on as a costume for June 2017.

On Anzac Day we will again be distributing Anzac biscuits so please look for the CWA lady with the basket.

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

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

Hall bookings are being taken by Glenys Clabaugh on 9574 5100 or 0427 478 325.

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Great time to be mulching the garden

Barley Straw Bales

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Soda Stream

Plastic & Metal Drums

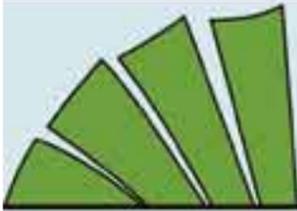
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OUR SHIRE NEWS



PRESIDENTS REPORT APRIL 2017

A new Manager of Works and Services, Mr Scott Patterson has been appointed to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Mr Les Vidovich in December.

Scott is an experienced practitioner within the local government sector with strong skills in civil engineering and construction applications, project management, capital works and programming. He holds an advanced Diploma in Civil/Structural Engineering and is currently finalising a degree in construction engineering. Scott is planning to reside within the Shire of Toodyay.

On behalf of Council, I thank works supervisor Lindsay Slater for filling in as acting manager for the last 3 months. A task made difficult by the extreme rainfall events and high water levels experienced in February.

The unusually wet summer has resulted in the Shire construction and bitumen program running about three weeks behind schedule and unless we are fortunate enough to get a run of warm and dry days throughout autumn, some scheduled road sealing may require additional bonding treatment or be postponed until next summer.

Preliminary works, including asphalt and kerbing at the proposed recreation precinct site have now been completed, apart from tidying up. There will be little further works until funding is available.

Now that the final results of the recent State election are known, the Shire will attempt to initiate discussions with members of the new State Government to clarify the position with previous funding commitments and the future direction of Royalties for Regions. We will also continue to lobby for funding for the recreation precinct including an aquatic centre.

Despite speculative comment regarding the status of grant funding for the Anzac Park upgrade, Stage 2 of Butterfly cottages, and the possible upgrades to the haulage route through town, the Shire has not received any notification of changes to these programs.

One area of concern for many residents is the continuation of funding for the Avonlink service in light of the Government's need for restraint in their first Budget.

Council has now resolved to form a Community and Public Transport Committee to develop plans and advocate in the areas of community and public transport. This will not be limited to the Avonlink but will also investigate other areas of public transport within the Shire.

Members of the community will be invited to fill three positions on the Committee.

Cr Kate Wood has tendered her resignation as an elected member effective 7 April 2017. Mrs Wood and her husband Daniel are leaving Toodyay to pursue a business opportunity in the Mid-West region of WA. Cr Wood was elected as an East Ward Councillor in October 2015. On behalf of Council, I thank Kate for her contribution to Local Government in Toodyay.

Rather than hold an extraordinary election in July to fill this vacancy, Council has resolved to seek approval from the WA Electoral Commission to align the election date with the scheduled Bi Annual Ordinary Council Elections on Saturday, 21 October 2017.

Council has agreed to take ongoing responsibility for the maintenance of the Duke St. Pedestrian overpass subject to the Public Transport Authority (PTA) repairing and restoring the bridge prior to handover.

Council resolved in August 2015 to advise the PTA that the Shire did not want to take responsibility for pedestrian rail crossings in town. This footbridge built during the construction of the standard gauge railway in the 1960's has deteriorated considerably and requires extensive repairs. However, in discussions with the PTA it became obvious that if the Shire did not agree to take responsibility for ongoing maintenance, we faced the very real prospect that the bridge would be demolished.

Council's view is that the footbridge is the only practical disability access across the railway and also links the town centre to the convict heritage precinct and old goal museum and must be retained.

The Shire has for some years been putting aside reserve funds for the upkeep of the school footbridge and last year began contributing an additional amount into reserve for future maintenance of the Duke Street railway pedestrian bridge.

A community information session will be held at the Morangup hall on Saturday, 29 April 2017. This will give Morangup residents an opportunity to meet with Councillors and the CEO to discuss any issues and suggestions they may have that will assist the Shire in fulfilling its responsibilities to the Morangup community.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Expressions of interest are called for the formation of a Community and Public Transport Committee.

At an Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 March 2017 Council resolved to form a Community and Public Transport Advisory Committee.

The Committee will consist of up to four Councillors, the CEO or his delegate and up to three community members nominated by the Committee.

The purpose of the Committee is 'to develop plans and advocacy positions for consideration by Council in the areas of community and public transport.'

The Shire of Toodyay is seeking expressions of interest from persons in the community willing to be community representatives on the Committee.

Information in relation to Council Committees is available on Council's website at www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/council-committees

Expression of Interest forms can also be downloaded from www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/forms.

An expression of interest form can be acquired by contacting the Shire Administration Office. Alternatively this information is available from the Shire of Toodyay website at https://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/news_public_notices/publicnotices.

Expressions of Interest submissions will be received up to 4.00pm Thursday, 10 April 2017 at the Administration Centre, or via email at records@toodyay.wa.gov.au.

EVENTS - APRIL 2017

8 April - Lions Jumbo Auction

The annual Lions Jumbo Auction is back again for another year. Head down to the Town Oval to see what is up for grabs!



16 April - Toodyay Farmers Market

Held on the third Sunday of the month, the Toodyay Farmers Markets offer plenty of artisan stalls, education sessions and entertainment.

18 - 21 Toodyay Inclusive Community Program

A variety of "Have A Go" sessions open to all ages and abilities. See poster for more details!



25 April - ANZAC Day

Join the Toodyay RSL in remembering those who have served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations.

30 April - Voices of Toodyay Artists

The Shire of Toodyay's art collection will be exhibited for one day only, at the Wicklow Shearing Shed.

7 May - Moondyne Festival

Visit Toodyay's colonial festival celebrating the life of the infamous bushranger, Moondyne Joe.

Stirling Terrace will be closed 7.00am - 5.30pm



Did you know?

- 52.7% of the Shire of Toodyay's working residents travel outside of the area to work.
- The Shire of Toodyay had a lower proportion of pre-schoolers and a higher proportion of persons at post-retirement age than Western Australia in 2011.
- In 2011, 22% of households in the Shire of Toodyay contained only one person, compared with 24% in Western Australia, with the most dominant household size being 2 persons per household.

You can find all this and more at the Shire of Toodyay community profile website. <http://profile.id.com.au/toodyay>

This is a great resource for community organisations seeking grants and funding, for students doing research of just people who are curious. With the release of the 2016 census numbers not far away it is one to keep an eye on.

TOODYAY INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Tuesday 18 - Friday 21 April 2017

<p>Tuesday 18 April</p> <p>SOCCER 10am - 12pm Town Oval</p>	<p>Wednesday 19 April</p> <p>MAD HATTERS WORKSHOP 10am - 12pm Community Centre (next to Medical Centre)</p>	<p>Wednesday 19 April</p> <p>KARATE 7pm - 8pm Town Oval</p>
<p>Thursday 20 April</p> <p>NETBALL 10am - 12pm Multi Purpose Centre</p>	<p>Friday 21 April</p> <p>MOVIE: PETE'S DRAGON 2pm - 4pm Community Resource Centre (next to Christmas Mall)</p>	

Your local community groups are hosting FREE have-a-go sessions with a variety of activities, games and challenges!
EVERYONE IS WELCOME - ALL AGES, ALL ABILITIES!
 Numbers to: Rip, Dip, Dip!

REGISTRATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL AS SOME ACTIVITIES HAVE LIMITED SPACES!
 Registration forms are available from the following locations:
 • Toodyay Visitors Centre • Toodyay Public Library • Toodyay Community Resource Centre

For further information contact Mollie Price at the Shire of Toodyay on 8274 8386 or email info@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Community alert: Tomato potato psyllid

Help us protect WA's horticulture industry by checking for the quarantine pest Tomato potato psyllid.

A quarantine pest of:

- cassia
- chili
- eggplant
- goji berry
- potato
- sweet potato
- tamarillo
- tomato

has been detected for the first time in Australia - here in WA. Do not spray or move plants out of the quarantine area (see map online)

Check your plants and report anything unusual immediately by:

- downloading the MyPestGuide reporter app on your mobile phone
- going to mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au on your browser
- emailing photos to info@agric.wa.gov.au or
- call us on 1800 064 881

For map and more information visit agric.wa.gov.au/top

PROPOSED TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES 2017 QUIT TARGA WEST

An application has been received from Targa West Pty Ltd proposing a number of temporary road closures on 12 August 2017 for the Quit Targa West Rally.

Further information and maps of proposed temporary road closures are available at the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre, Library, Visitor Centre and on the website www.toodyay.wa.gov.au

Comments and submissions from the public are welcomed and should be presented in writing and will be received until **4.00pm 2 May 2017** at the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre.

Voices of Toodyay Artists

Wicklow Showring Shed opposite the Newcastle Quay Museum Toodyay

Sunday 30th April 10am - 3.30pm

Free event

One day only exhibition of the Shire of Toodyay's art collection

Reuniting the artists with their works to share some insights on their inspiration

Free art catalogue

Live interviews

NBN UPDATE

The National Broadband Network (nbn™) rollout is well underway in the Wheatbelt. The network has progressively been made available across WA since 2015 and more than 440,000 premises can now have access to the network. More than 70 percent of the rollout has been within regional areas.

Earlier this year, work commenced within Toodyay and Dumbarton covering around 800 premises. Homes and businesses are expected to be able to connect in mid-2017. Locals can expect to see nbn™ contractors boring and digging trenches, as well as installing new pits, constructing cabinets, hauling, splicing and testing fibre cables.

There are also a number of fixed wireless towers around Toodyay and Morangup. Some are already switched on and other scheduled to commence construction this year.

Premises outside the fixed line and fixed wireless footprint will be serviced by the Sky Muster satellite which is available now.

Access to fast broadband is designed to provide a range of benefits such as improved opportunities to work from home, better access to online education and health tools and more options for on-demand entertainment.

You can connect to the nbn™ network through a range of providers which offer a variety of plans and speed options to meet your needs. Choosing the right speed tier to suit your needs is vital to transforming your online experience.

To check if your premise is nbn™ ready:

1. Check your address: Find out if the nbn™ network is available at your address, visit nbn.com.au and use the address checker on the homepage.
2. Register for updates: If the nbn™ network is not yet available, register for email updates.
3. nbn™ will let you know: Once you've registered for updates with nbn™, they'll email you when your home or business is ready to connect.
4. Choose the right plan: You can connect to the nbn™ network through a range of providers offering a choice of nbn™ plans.
5. Contact your service provider: Switching is not automatic, so contact a phone or internet service provider.

For further information on when connection is scheduled for your address, visit the nbn™ website www.nbnco.com.au and use the address checker on the homepage or call 1800 687 626.

On the nbn™ website there is also an interactive rollout map, which provides information on building commencement, if your home address or area is serviced and building preparation.

LIBRARY CHATTER - APRIL 2017

This month the library has over 200 new items on its shelves

CHANGE OF DAY - Toddler Story Time / Baby Rhyme Time has been changed to WEDNESDAYS - 9.15am for Toddlers aged 2-5 years and 10.00am for the Baby Rhyme Time for 0 - 2 years.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED - Sadly our current volunteer is leaving us so we are looking for a new volunteer that loves to sing and enjoys interacting with children, to run Story Time/Baby Rhyme Time every Wednesday (except for school holidays). If you are interested please contact the library on 9574 2323, a Working with Children check and Police Clearance will be required.

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 10am.

Many Minds Discussion Group - Interested in some interesting discussions? Then come along and join our lovely group. Many Minds begins at 10am every second and fourth Thursday of the month.

Morangup Library - Our Morangup branch is running on Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 26 April (Anzac Day being a Public Holiday on the normal Tuesday). Head over to the Community Centre on Wallaby Way in Morangup from 2pm-4.30pm to have a browse and borrow, and meet some of the lovely locals. This is a regular fortnightly service provided by one of our Library Officers from Toodyay Library.

Hope to see you soon at either Toodyay or Morangup.

Sponsorship opportunities

The Shire of Toodyay is calling for applications from local organisations as part of its Community Sponsorship program. Requests may be made for a specific event or project, or for a contribution towards continued operations.

If your organisation or club would like to apply for sponsorship, further information and application forms are available by contacting the Shire's Administration Office on 9574 9300 or via the Shire's website at: www.toodyay.wa.gov.au

Applications close 4.30pm Thursday 27 April 2017.

Community Information Session

Saturday 29 April 2017

10.00am - 12 noon

We would like to hear from you

If you have questions and / or any suggestions for topics you, or your group want to discuss at the

Community Information Session please contact us on (08) 9574 9305

Closing date for topics **Mon 24 April 2017**

Location

Morangup Community Centre
48 Wallaby Way
MORANGUP WA 6083

Register

Phone (08) 9574 9305 to register your interest as a morning tea will be provided.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Expressions of Interest are invited for the future use of former Shire Parks and Gardens Depot - 5/7 Clinton St Toodyay.

Applications are invited from interested parties in relation to proposals for the future use of this currently vacant facility.

Applications can be for all or part use of this facility.

Proposals can be submitted from individuals, groups or as a joint submission. All proposals will be considered on their merits.

Further information, and the criteria to be addressed in a submission can be found on the Shire's Website or by contacting the Manager of Planning and Development at the Shire on 9574 9340.

Inspections can be arranged by appointment.

Submissions should be presented in writing and will be received until 4.00pm 2 May 2017 at the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre.

TOODYAY FLOODS 2017

The unusual rain event which occurred in February 2017 caused significant damage to roads and infrastructure throughout the state.

The Shire of Toodyay received an average of 200mm of rain during this period. All gravel roads within the Shire were closed to heavy vehicles to prevent further damage and other roads were closed to all vehicles due to roads being flooded.

Shire works crews spent the next few days assessing and repairing roads so that they could be safely opened to the public.

The Shire came off very lightly throughout this event with only three roads and the walk way to the school requiring substantial repairs.