

# The Toodyay Herald

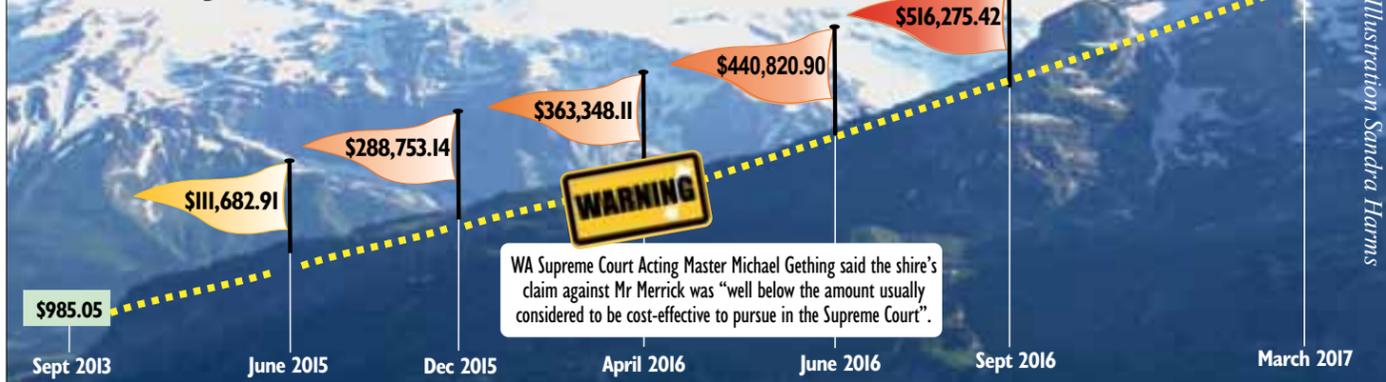
Your locally owned  
community newspaper  
Est. 1902

5000 copies circulating in Toodyay, West Toodyay, Goomalling,  
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Bejoording, Nunile, Julimar, Bakers Hill, Clackline, Wooroloo,  
Wundowie, Gidgegannup and local districts.

May 2017  
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Australia

## Onwards and upwards Costly climb for elusive returns



FROM \$985 to \$571,037... Our flags on the mountain trace the steady climb in legal costs incurred when the Toodyay Shire Council set its sights on recovering \$151,000 which it alleged had been overpaid to former CEO

Graham Merrick. The case lasted three years, and ended in January when the shire reached a confidential settlement with Mr Merrick. Shire accounts suggest the amount recovered may have been \$20,000.

Former president Charlie Wroth was also sued over the case and the shire settled with him for \$40,000. There was no admission of wrongdoing.  
*How it happened, see Page 5.*

The Toodyay Herald –  
winner 2016 Wheatbelt  
Business Excellence  
Awards

this month



Big IGA win  
Page 3



Cropping under way  
Page 11



On the hunt for black gold  
Page 11



Robbers' haul in tree stump  
Page 14

## All in favour...?

PAYMENTS to Toodyay Shire councillors have skyrocketed in the past four years, our Bat in the Belfry correspondent Geoff Appleby reports.

In July 2013 Toodyay's shire president received a monthly meeting allowance of \$1816 and councillors \$550.

In July last year the president was receiving a total of \$4112 a month (up 126 per cent) and councillors \$1080 (96 per cent).

In the same period Consumer Price Index increases averaged two to three per cent a year.

*Bat in the Belfry, Page 5.*



A picture of Cell 1 at the Opal Vale landfill operation taken in March this year. The cell has filled with water and breached the side wall..

Opal Vale opponents say:

## Don't let them get away with it

Roger Simms

A PERTH landfill operator should not be allowed an escape route over a breach of conditions in setting up its rubbish dump operation in Toodyay.

This argument is at the heart of submissions lodged last week after Opal Vale Pty Ltd applied to the WA Department of Environmental Regulation to lower conditions it is required to meet before it can start dumping rubbish.

The conditions cover groundwater monitoring and required a landfill pit at the Hoddys Well site to be at least two metres above underlying water.

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 level but "only for a short duration of the year".

Hoddys Well resident Bill Manning said in his submission that Opal Vale did not seek to have conditions amended because they were no longer necessary, but because it deliberately ignored them when constructing Cell 1 (landfill pit) and was unable to proceed with its landfill operations without the amendments.

Mr Manning said he understood that in recent months there had been a significant

*Continued Page 3.*

## 70 march as Toodyay remembers



Full Anzac coverage Page 9.

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# 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](mailto:advertising@toodyayherald.com.au). Editorial contributions and photographs should be emailed to [news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:news@toodyayherald.com.au).

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

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

## 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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## PRODUCTION

Acting-Editor: Roger Simms  
 Admin/Advertising: Heather Appleby  
 Design/Layout: Sandra Harms  
 Admin/Layout: Meredith Neilsen  
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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 Fernadez (Legal), Richard Grant, Allan Gregory and Beth and Peter Ruthven.

## ADVERTISING

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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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Noon Thursday May 25	Noon Tuesday May 30	Wednesday June 7

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

# Ol' Blind Joe

## Monkey magic

WELL, MY editor is overseas freezing his balls off in Wales somewhere, so this monkey's gonna play.

My boss is a real stickler for the facts and attribution – all the real boring stuff.

No such nonsense will be entertained in this missive as I intend to tear to shreds every fibre of journalistic ethics ever conceived and throw them into the fire.

In 1929, John Dewey wrote in his book *The Quest for Certainty* that every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of imagination.

Goodness gracious me, how I do so love that word 'audacity', charming to the ear and full of promise.

We are the embodiment of the spirit of wonder, and if not us then who will inquire into the nature of the universe.

It certainly isn't news that scientific knowledge is politically potent and tends to get under people's skin.

Many of history's most important scientists such as Galileo and Darwin clashed with authorities or the dominant cultures of their time.

Donald Trump has recently sent his goons and hounds out to dismantle the Environmental Protection Agency and is eliminating scientists in any other department of government that keeps the Earth's heart pumping.

The White House's recent budget will remove around \$7billion in science funding, with medical research bearing much of the pain.

Earth sciences, ranging from weather satellites to marine research to coastal preservation, are also lined up for severe cuts.

To my deep and abiding regret, he even intends to open national parks to wanton rape and pillage by the highest bidder in the corporate carnage club.

Australia can stand proudly beside him as we open the largest coal mine in the world and pay a billion dollars of taxpayers' money for the train line to deliver its toxic load to the doorstep of the Great Barrier Reef.

The ABC and the CSIRO have been gutted and are now but mere shadows of their former selves, cowering in the corridors of insignificance.

The dilemma – captured in the very name of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is that while governments claim to love science, what they often mean is the kind of science that leads to new production techniques and capacities.

A new study by Oxford University says that almost half of all jobs in industrialised nations like Australia are at risk from automation.

Whenever science makes a discovery, the devil grabs it while the angels are debating the best way to use it.

Most of the scientists on earth work for the military-industrial complex in one way

or another, if you follow the money.

"When politicians cater to fossil fuel interests by denying the basic realities of climate science and pursuing anti-science climate policy, they endanger the jobs, justice, and livelihoods of ordinary people everywhere," said Dr Geoffrey Supran, an expert in renewable energy at Harvard University.

"Attacks on science don't just hurt scientists, they hurt scientists' ability to protect the people, and climate change epitomises that."

Turning again to pure science, at the turn of the nineteenth century, physicists recognised that we are really beings of energy and vibration, radiating our own unique energy signature, which quantum physics has shown us.

Niels Bohr, a Danish physicist who made significant contributions to understanding atomic structure and quantum theory, said: "If quantum mechanics hasn't profoundly shocked you, you haven't understood it yet. Everything we call real is made of things that cannot be regarded as real."

Atoms are made out of invisible energy, not tangible matter.

The quantum is that embarrassing little piece of thread that always hangs from the sweater of space-time. Pull it and the whole thing unravels.

Nikola Tesla said: "The day science begins to study non-physical phenomena, it will make more progress in one decade than in all the previous centuries of its existence."

He went on to say: "If you want to know the secrets of the universe, think in terms of energy, frequency and vibration."

"In a crystal we have clear evidence of the existence of a formative life principle and though we cannot understand the life of a crystal, it is nonetheless a living being."

The physicist Sir James Jeans wrote that: "The stream of knowledge is heading toward a non-mechanical reality; the universe begins to look more like a great thought than like a great machine."

Matter is nothing but an illusion and everything in the universe is made of energy and this crystal that sits on my table is as alive as I am, simply growing much more slowly and will probably outlast me unless it pisses me off.

We're back to that *Monkey Magic* dude and his assertion that: "With our mind we create the world."

The revelation that the universe is not an assembly of physical parts, suggested by Newtonian physics, and instead comes from a holistic entanglement of immaterial energy waves, stems from the work of Albert Einstein, Max Planck and Werner Heisenberg, among others.

*The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom. – Isaac Asimov, 1988.*

## FEEDBACK

### Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

Suggestions and comments are welcome please forward to: [feedback@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto: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

May-June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	21	22	23	24	25	26
	28	29	30	31	June 1	2
						3

# Are you being served? – you bet ya

Ieva Tomsons

A RECENT win in the state IGA Awards of Excellence recognises the high level of customer service that local shoppers enjoy.

It's the second time that the Toodyay store will compete at a national level for the Service Award of the Year contested by 1400 IGA outlets throughout Australia.

In 2014 the local franchise blitzed the National Service Award competition and the team is hoping for a second win at the July competition in Queensland.

Co-owners Amanda and Dean Carter are 'hands on' bosses and are quick to recognise the value of their 45 staff members.

"You're only as good as your staff," said Dean who built the new Toodyay IGA in 2010.

The Carters bought the old IGA in the middle of town in 2004 and according to Dean "rolled the dice" to build the multi-million-dollar new store.

"We went from 300 square metres to 1000 square metres and post GFC we were nervous," said Dean.

The new venture was undertaken not only during a recession but just after the 2009 bushfire when 37 homes were destroyed just after Christmas.

"Toodyay had flatlined," said Dean whose faith in the community and solid customer base has paid off.

Apart from the 2014 National Service Award the Toodyay IGA was voted WA Store of the Year in 2013 and National Grocery and General Merchandise Department of the Year in 2015.

"It's nice to be recognised and it's good for all the staff," said Dean who readily concedes the grocery business is "a tough game".

He believes that there is a constant need to reinvest in any business for it to stay at the top of the game. "You can't just sit on your hands and say 'that's it'."

Customers and staff have to be satisfied and with supermarket giants Audi and a new Coles coming to nearby Northam, the market will get tougher.

"It'll keep us honest," laughs Dean. Toodyay IGA is a major employer in the Shire of Toodyay and also provides local youth with work experience.



We did it – Some of the 45 IGA staff members celebrate their win. (L-R) Jacob Lee, Kerren Lucas, Cheryl Hatton, Tracey Ryan, Joshua Thompson, Amanda Carter, Jady Huckerby, Greg 'Cat' Bailey, Lynn Stevens and Dean Carter.

The store's continuous-lane cashier system functions as an 'interchange bench' according to co-owner Amanda.

Staff can be efficiently deployed to any area in the store without compromising customer service at the tills.

Grocery manager Taryn Wolf thinks staff rotation is "a good way to get to know your way around the store".

When possible employees, such as Summer Roberts, are able to work in an area they prefer.

"I like the customers and usually work on the checkout. It sounds corny, but it's great to turn a frown upside down," said Summer.

Section managers Heather Peddie and Terri Watson also worked in the old IGA and clearly enjoy working for the Carter family. "You couldn't find better bosses," said Heather who likes the physical side of her job in the dairy department.

Heather likes serving country people and

enjoys helping the older customers.

Deli manager Terri says the staff at the IGA are more like a family. "After all we spend more of our waking hours together than we do with our real family."

At a past meeting of IGA owners and managers, co-owner Amanda heard everyone refer to their staff as a 'team'. "We're not a team – we're a family," she responded.

This sentiment was repeated to the *Toodyay Herald* by many of the staff including Brooke Walker and Vanessa Watson who both said it was a family environment where

everybody helps each other.

"It's a family and the owners are the glue," according to Vanessa and Brooke.

To compete in the IGA Awards of Excellence all stores submit to three-monthly assessments where they are rated on numerous performance targets from hygiene to car parking facilities.

The Toodyay IGA beat 80 WA franchises to secure its place at the national competition.

Summing up the store's run-up to the National Service Award Dean says "all the staff deserve a big pat on the back".

## Off to the polls in October

THERE will be no extraordinary election to fill the Toodyay Shire Council vacancy caused by the resignation of Cr Kate Wood.

Instead the WA Electoral Commissioner has agreed that her East Ward seat can be included in elections in October this year when four councillors are up for election for a four-year term. The seat vacated by Mrs Wood will be for a two-year term.

Nominations usually open two months before the poll and for the first time, the elections may involve postal voting.

Councillors eligible to stand for re-election are David Dow (Central Ward), Brian Rayner (North Ward), Paula Greenway (West Ward) and Therese Chitty (East Ward).

Because there are two vacancies in the East Ward, the candidate who polls the most votes will be elected for a four-year term, and the candidate next in line will take the two-year term and have to stand for re-election in 2019.

Voting is not compulsory, and the voter turnout at the 2015 council poll was under 30 per cent.

In 2015, some shire councils ran postal elections and the voter numbers improved dramatically.

Toodyay CEO Stan Scott recommended at the April council meeting that the WA

Electoral Commission conduct a postal election for Toodyay at a quoted cost of \$23,000.

Excluding the CEO's time in the lead-up to the 2015 Toodyay ballot, the cost of the shire election was slightly under \$10,500.

The additional cost for contracting the commission to conduct a postal ballot this year would therefore be about \$13,000.

Councillors decided that the matter should be discussed at the June council forum with a decision being made at the ordinary council meeting.

### New local health law

THE SHIRE of Toodyay is to have a new local health law.

The council says the WA Health Act and the Public Health Act are no longer enough to allow it to enforce some regulations, covering breaches of public health and the building code.

Penalties for breaches of local laws are to be standardised so that one size fits all. Failure to do anything required under the new law or doing something not permitted will be an offence and punishable by a fine up to \$2500.

See Page 5.

## Opal Vale submissions

From Page 1.

volume of water in the cell which Opal Vale had been pumping into adjacent watercourses. It was possible this was underground water which had seeped into the cell.

"If this is the case, it highlights the unsuitability of the site for a landfill operation and why it is important that conditions imposed to avoid contamination of groundwater are enforced, not weakened," Mr Manning said.

In his submission, Robert Pearce, of Salt Valley Road, said the community needed protection from companies motivated by profit and with little regard for the environment.

He said the company's argument about water levels under the pit was fallacious.

"By their admission, Opal Vale acknowledges groundwater had not been monitored prior to the construction of Cell 1," he said.

"I also object to the argument that the

distance to the nearest groundwater receptor is 912 metres and it would take 96 years for contaminants to reach this area.

"This is misleading and has no scientific grounds. I am a neighbour and my stock depend on creek and underground water. My family's livelihood has the potential to be affected if contaminants leach into the groundwater.

"Opal Vale failed to monitor groundwater prior to the construction of Cell 1. One has little faith in Opal Vale to follow future safe environmental practices given this breach."

Environmental scientist Rosemary Madacsi, in a submission on behalf of the Toodyay community, said that the costs to a proponent who knowingly repeatedly ignored conditions placed by the statutory and regulatory bodies should not be considered.

Granting any licence to operate the site to this proponent was questionable given the history, lack of solid conclusive data and the major risk the operation presented to the community and the environment.

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# The Toodyay Herald

## A nip in the air

THERE was a time – quite a few years ago now – when you could set your calendar, if not your watch, by Easter rainfall in WA's South West. More often than not holidaymakers would be sent scurrying for cover as season-breaking showers swept across the Wheatbelt.

These days our rainfall is a less reliable story. In Toodyay we are only too familiar with rain-gauge dips going back decades.

But then in February – out of the blue – monsoon-like downpours, a flooding Avon River and the wettest start to the year for more than 30 years. Avon Descenders could have set race records – in mid-summer.

We can only hope that a solid old-fashioned winter follows.

As it is, with many farms in the shire receiving summer falls of more than 250mm, the cropping season is already underway.

Autumn in the meantime has turned on an Indian summer, with warm days and stunning sunsets the backdrop to seasonal change.

To the Noongar people it's the time of year known as Djeran, with a nip in the air morning and night and the wind coming from the south-west. In the bush you might spot the first show of native orchids, see Carnaby's cockatoos returning from the coast and hear frogs seeking a mate with calls from freshly made burrows.

Many Toodyay residents will be relieved that the 2016-17 summer was not as fierce as it might have been and that, for the most part, the bushfire threat was kept at bay.

That, of course, has been due in no small measure to the vigilance and speedy responses of our volunteer fire brigades.

Their work is at the forefront of contributions by small armies of volunteers throughout our district, one that has always had plenty of stout-hearted citizens ready to roll up their sleeves to help others.

Thanks firefighters, for another summer's protection, and while we're at it, thanks to all the others in Toodyay who give up time to volunteer for a cause, people prepared to have a go at anything that supports the district and brightens the lives of others.

It's their spirit that helps keep the community safe, springs to our aid in times of emergency, eases loneliness among the elderly, guides our youth, keeps roadside verges and river banks clean and, oh yes, even sees this newspaper published.

A helping hand is a change for the better. In any season.



The way we were – Toodyay Tennis Club members in 1912. A tennis club had been operating in the Toodyay district since at least 1908. In that year it combined with the Newcastle Croquet Club to become the Newcastle Croquet and Tennis club and was possibly located adjacent to the Avon River. In 1921 two new ant-hill-surfaced tennis courts were built on Fiennes Street at the same time as construction of the war memorial. In later decades extra courts were added with different playing surfaces. Photo from the Newcastle Gaol collection.

## LETTERS

### No money for gravel

AS A *Herald* reader please tell me how our shire councillors can spend ratepayers' money on whatever they feel like.

Yet every time over the past 14 years I have written to our shire and last year when I went to the works depot to see if they could put a shovel-full of gravel on Blackbutt Place in Morangup I was told the budget of \$550,000 was spent.

Out in Morangup we do not even have street lighting or signage so if you are to give a friend from the city directions to your property it is very possible they will get lost and given that the mobile phone does not have coverage – stiff, they just keep driving around.

Personally I think the shire should be putting more money into the outer communities to take pressure off the town.

But on a lighter note – our volunteers in Morangup are some of the best that you could come across and that is from my own recent experience.

Owen Snook  
Morangup

### Land clearing isn't clear

OVER THE past few months I have been involved with the clearing of native vegetation on private land and have written letters explaining my views.

On April 6 I attended a native vegetation clearing laws workshop run by the Moora Catchment Council.

The presenters were the Environmental Defenders Office, well-known conservationist Dr Eddy Wajon, Birdlife Australia and local farmer Fiona Falconer.

It was an interesting workshop attended by 60 people who all had stories of illegal clearing and the weak attempts by the Department of Environment and Regulation (DER) to control the clearing.

Some 90-95 per cent of applications are approved but it is the quality of the information that is submitted with the application that is in question.

The DER just does not have the resources to fully investigate each application or investigate breaches as in the result of the alleged illegal clearing in my street.

There was a lot of discussion on the legal aspects of applying for a clearing permit.

Major clearing applications can cross both Federal and State laws and can be complicated, generally involving lawyers on both sides.

It was explained that even though you own the land you are required to adhere to laws that protect native vegetation.

There are exemptions where you are allowed to clear five hectares of vegetation per year, for specific purposes, such as fence clearing, house pads and dams.

If your purpose fits these exemptions

then you do not need to apply for a clearing permit.

Otherwise, a permit has to be granted by DER for any clearing – this could be a single tree or hectares of vegetation.

An example was given that if a farmer was carrying out a stubble burn and a tree was burnt and died then this would be classed as illegal clearing as the farmer would have been able to put in place methods to stop this happening.

We all know that DER would not prosecute a case like this but it shows the seriousness of illegal clearing.

If there is a breach of the regulations on a broad scale then DER will be involved but, the only way I see minor illegal clearing reducing is by educating the community and appealing to one's morality that we need vegetation for future generations.

My hope is that my letters have some effect, in eliminating illegal clearing of native vegetation.

Brian Foley  
Dewars Pool

### Inconvenienced

AFTER a long trip from the country, when we finally arrived in Toodyay township, I had to find a public convenience quite urgently. It was still daylight so we followed the signs to Piesse Street.

The newly renovated building was completely locked on all sides.

I assumed that the other alternative on Stirling Terrace in the Memorial Hall would be open. Alas, no luck there either.

In desperation I rushed into the Freemasons Hotel, where I was shown to their facility by a very kind lady who recognised my plight.

If there is a sign directing to a public toilet, then the facility should be open for public use, especially in country towns where there are great distances to travel between towns.

Sandra Harms  
Morangup

### Stone gives town colour

I'VE JUST reread Fred Fellowes' whinge in last month's *Herald* that the only sight greeting visitors to town is a grey-white stone wall and then suggests we get some dude in Wundowie to make some life size steel cut-outs of Moondyne Joe and plonk them on the approaches to town.

How droll. Perhaps, if his Lordship dismounted from his high horse and had a closer inspection he might discover that Toodyay Stone is one of the most colourful stones in the country and the only grey is in the mortar.

Stirling Hamilton  
Toodyay

### Prices leave a bad taste

WE HAVE recently had family from overseas staying with us and have been doing the rounds of food outlets in the hills. This is what we found:

The hills offer wonderful locations for dining but, for families, it is an expensive outing. There is so much wonderful local produce on offer but we seem to pay a high price to experience that.

The prices overall are somewhat higher than dining in the city and we would like to ask local restaurateurs to take this in to consideration.

The eateries in the hills are located in the most beautiful settings but there is a tendency to out-price the wallet, especially the family one.

We think the hills could challenge the Swan Valley as a great place to visit and eat by keeping everything on offer good value for money.

Diver Family  
Morangup

## Support local business

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

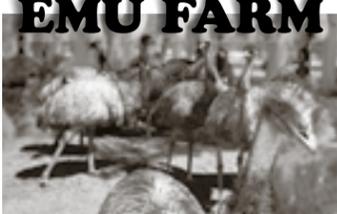
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# Payments to councillors up 96% in three years



Geoff Appleby

SHIRE CEOs and councillors set their own salaries, fees and allowances under guidelines set by the WA Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.

Between April 2013 and April 2016, the tribunal's settings have generally reflected rises in the Consumer Price Index. In that period the CPI rose by between 2 and 3 per cent a year.

In July 2013, the shire president Kevin Hogg received a meeting attendance allowance of \$1816 a month, deputy president John Prater \$750, and the other seven councillors each received \$550.

By July 2016, just three years later, the present councillors had awarded pay rises of 126 per cent for President Dow, bringing his meeting attendance fee and allowances up to \$4112 each month, 125 per cent for Deputy President Therese Chitty (up to \$1690) and 96 per cent for councillors (to \$1080).

They all get an extra \$1000 a year for telephone and IT expenses, whether or not they have spent that amount and more money if they need child-minding services or travel or other allowances, plus an iPad.

President David Dow and his wife, Councillor Judy Dow, the only two councillors representing the Central ward, receive a minimum, annual joint income from the shire of just under \$65,000.

There was a time, not that long ago, when councillors were volunteers, and were reimbursed only for expenses when they lodged their receipts.

There is nothing against the rules in either the CEO or councillors voting themselves increases, even of that magnitude, nor is it against the rules for a husband and wife team to be the sole representatives for a particular ward. However, with shire rates scheduled to rise by 5 per cent every year until 2023, the question must be asked: Are the massive pay hikes justifiable or deserved, or are we paying them all far more than they are worth? **Clean-canvas law:** Now that we are to have our own Toodyay Health Local Law 2017, the thought arises: Shouldn't we grab the chance to clean out the antiquated items in the bureaucratic cupboard?

When drafting a law, it saves time if you modify an existing one. But, with a clean canvas, provisions echoing down from a bygone age can be finally expunged – provisions such as the requirement for a person in control of a public vehicle to keep it "free from vectors of disease" and for sufficient hot and cold water to be supplied to the copper in the laundry of a lodging house.

The new move means that penalties for breaches of local health laws will be

standardised so that one size fits all. A person who fails to do anything required under the new law, or does anything not permitted, commits an offence and can be fined up to \$2500.

The good news is that if you wish to apply to the shire for a licence to operate a morgue, or establish an offensive trade, you will find the necessary application forms available from the shire council offices.

**Budget review:** Last month it was reported that the CEO Stan Scott withdrew the mandatory budget review from the council meeting before the shire president could request a mover for the acceptance motion. The review, published in the agenda, was dated March 17.

The budget review is a requirement of the Local Government Act and must be completed between January 1 and March 31 each year.

A revised version of the budget review, dated April 11 was presented to council at the April meeting. It contained an additional 25 ledger items, with explanatory notes added to the original review, which had been submitted by the CEO only a couple of weeks earlier.

The additional items totalled an extra \$1,920,390 of updated revenue, expenditure and adjustments, over and above the March review.

The role of councillors is to scrutinise, review, question and if satisfied, approve shire business, not to just blindly accept

whatever the administration serves up. Not one councillor asked why the budget review had been withdrawn in March. This month the best that our illustrious councillors could do was to point out several typographical errors. Not one councillor asked a single question regarding the actual budget review although there were any number of questions that should have been asked.

In response to the typos, which are pretty common in Toodyay Council agendas, Mr Scott accepted the amendments and volunteered the information that some of the budget notes needed correction because expenditure items had been designated as revenue and vice versa.

He added that this was not a problem because the notes are not sent to the Local Government Department.

Mr Scott has still not adequately explained why he 'redesignated' \$40,000 of year-to-date revenue in last month's shire accounts.

By a careful examination of the accounts, we deduce that the \$40,000 which went missing from the shire's February YTD ledger entry under Legal Cost Recovered reappeared in Miscellaneous Income.

This was the \$40,000 'legal costs recovered' when former shire president Charlie Wroth agreed in August last year, without any admission of wrong-doing, to allow the shire's insurance company to pay the settlement and all of his defence costs.

However, the CEO thinks that revenue from 'legal costs recovered', which has its own general ledger designation, is more suited to 'miscellaneous income'. He has now added Mr Merrick's settlement of \$20,000, which was agreed to in December under similar terms to Mr Wroth.

The Supreme Court action resulted in the shire receiving \$60,000 from its own insurer, with its insurer paying the defence costs of Messrs Merrick and Wroth at a net cost to ratepayers of \$511,037.82. In the budget review, insurance premiums are expected to rise by \$11,565.

Had Mr Scott and President Dow, who jointly assumed carriage of the Supreme Court action, complied with Section 8.41 of the Local Government Act which requires the approval of the CEO of the Local Government Department, before the instigation of legal action against former employees or councillors, it is extremely unlikely that this court action would have been allowed to proceed.

**Gravy train:** Later in the meeting, councillors decided who would have the best seats on the gravy train to the annual local government jamboree at the Perth Convention Centre. President Dow got in first and self-nominated; Cr Rayner also got the nod for a seat in the first-class section. Crs Judy Dow and Rob Welburn got guernseys as reserves at the August talkfest. Our councillors work very hard for their meagre fees, and little perks like this are small reward for their selfless work on our behalf.

## How our shire ran up a mountain of debt

Geoff Appleby

HERE is the background to the Merrick case: Graham Merrick was employed as the chief executive officer of the Shire of Toodyay between August 2004 and March 2010.

Charlie Wroth was shire president for most of Mr Merrick's tenure.

When the shire and Mr Merrick parted company by mutual agreement, they entered into a deed of settlement and release, agreeing to settle all matters relating to Mr Merrick's employment.

After Mr Merrick left, shire investigations gave rise to an allegation that he had received payments of leave, superannuation and other benefits he was not entitled to.

Documents approving some of these allegedly improper payments were signed by Mr Wroth shire councillor at the time.



Charlie Wroth (file photo).

A writ was filed on 24 March, 2015, and a statement of claim listed the amount of overpayments as \$150,980.29. The shire alleged that of this amount \$63,431.74 was paid to Mr Merrick with the knowledge or approval of Mr Wroth in breach of his duties to the shire.

Before taking legal action to recover the alleged overpayment, the shire was required under the Local Government Act to obtain approval from the CEO of the Local Government Department.

The shire failed to do this and in the Supreme Court Acting Master Gething heard argument on this point and other procedural matters, including time limitations on taking action.

The legal argument was extensive and the judgment is available online (Shire of Toodyay v Merrick [2016] WASC 29).

In connection with the procedural matters, Acting Master Gething said there was no fraudulent or other improper conduct by Mr Merrick and that there was no evidence that Mr Wroth did anything which could be described as concealing the payments. At worst he may have been negligent in not making sufficient inquiries to ascertain that the payments were not authorised.

Acting Master Gething also said that failure to comply with the Act (regarding consultation with the department CEO) did not prevent the case going ahead and that both parties had an arguable case.

However he warned that for an action which would involve extensive historical factual inquiry, the amount claimed by the shire was well below the amount usually considered to be cost effective to pursue a Supreme Court action.

The shire decided to continue the matter in the Magistrates Court, where the maximum claim is limited to \$75,000. Mr Wroth settled for \$40,000 in August without any admission of guilt, but Mr Merrick refused approaches



Graham Merrick.

to transfer the matter to the lower court. He finally settled in December and the amount the shire received is thought to have been \$20,000.



### Toodyay Road Upgrade Project: Dryandra Road to Toodyay Community Reference Group Nominations Open

Main Roads is developing a project to improve safety on a 27.6 km section of Toodyay Road between Dryandra Road and Toodyay. We are currently in the design phase and wish to seek input from the community about various aspects of the project.

Nominations are invited from proactive local people and businesses who live in the area to join a Community Reference Group (CRG). Preference will be given to people who can represent groups of residents or stakeholders.

The CRG will include representatives from Main Roads WA and the Shire of Toodyay. One representative from each of the following organisations will be invited to join the group:

- Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
- Toodyay Friends of the River
- Morangup Progress Association
- Toodyay Chamber of Commerce
- Toodyay St John Ambulance
- Toodyay Naturalist Club
- Toodyay Roadwise Committee
- Toodyay Progress Association
- Toodyay Police
- WA Wildflower Society

Meetings will be held in the evening every 4-8 weeks starting in June 2017.

#### How to nominate

- Please contact Elizabeth Davies via phone (08) 9622 4777 or 138 138 or email [Wheatbelt@mainroads.wa.gov.au](mailto:Wheatbelt@mainroads.wa.gov.au) to receive a nomination form and the Terms of Reference
- Nominations close on 31 May 2017
- More information is on our website at [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/BuildingRoads/Projects](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/BuildingRoads/Projects)

We are currently collecting more detailed information for the project which includes surveying work, environmental studies, geotechnical investigations, material searches and utility investigations. Occasionally we may have traffic management on the road to allow our technical people to carry out their investigations. Please exercise caution and obey all signage.

#### How to provide feedback

We welcome feedback about your experiences in using Toodyay Road. If you are unable to nominate for the CRG, but would like to send us feedback, please provide it via the contact details above.

## Pennies from heaven . . .

HOW MUCH water can you collect from a public building? And is it worth harvesting?

The Shire of Toodyay has been tackling these questions with the help of a consultant.

Initial estimates suggested a total saving of more than 500,000 litres of scheme water a year from run-off at the shire offices, community centre, library, visitor centre and the new works depot.

The library and visitor centre were not favoured because of the high cost of installing collection systems and the low use of water at each place.

At the April council meeting the recommendation was to consider buildings with the biggest consumption and potentially greater saving – the shire offices, community centre and works depot.

This was challenged by the Shire President who suggested that the "figures just don't stack up" for the shire offices and the community centre.

These buildings were deleted from the proposal, leaving the council to approve consideration of rainwater harvesting at the works depot.

# Police clock riders at 157km/h – impound bikes

## Police Beat

With Acting  
Sgt Geoff Butler

Toodyay Police Station



station for an evidentiary test and returned a negative result.

“The ‘I’ll be all right to drive’ afternoon at the pub attitude is becoming less prevalent,” Acting Sgt Butler said.

“Motorists can take a bow for that but there is no room for complacency.”

Information provided by the public has enabled police to maintain pressure on local drug offenders.

“With quality information coming in we have been able to increase our focus and take measures to detect and reduce crime within Toodyay,” Acting Sgt Butler said.

“Firearms continue to be a concern. We will be conducting cabinet inspections on all licensed firearms to ensure compliance.”

There are rules and regulations covering the safe storage of firearms which can found on the WA Police website.

Police advise owners to think carefully about where they place their firearms safes.

Do not put them in an obvious location where they can be easily identified.

A security alarm for the storage area is recommended.

Another point to remember is that you may not always receive a renewal notice for your firearms licence, but it remains your responsibility to ensure your licence is current and valid.

If you believe you have not received a renewal or there is an issue with your licence, contact Police Licensing or Toodyay Police

who will point you in the right direction.

Homeowners are reminded to secure their properties.

An individual recently said: “I don’t need keys, my doors are always unlocked, I live in Toodyay.”

Police warn that is a high-risk attitude.

“One determined thief could make quite a living in this town if everyone thought like that,” Acting Sgt Butler said.

“Without securing your premises it makes your property an easy target for an

opportunistic thief.

“Locking doors and windows is basic stuff. Security cameras are recommended for around the home, covering points of entry. “Dash cameras are quick and easy to install and can provide clear evidence against lawbreakers.”

Toodyay Police also had the privilege of marching in the local Anzac Day parade and are pleased to report that everyone was orderly and respectful on this day of remembrance.

A BUSY Easter period for local police saw two motorcycles impounded for 28 days after their riders were clocked at 157km/h on Toodyay Road.

Both riders have been charged with reckless driving and could face fines of \$1500 each with similar storage fees.

“Speeding motorcycles are at the top of the list of locals’ complaints about dangerous road users,” Acting Sgt Butler said. “Drivers overtaking on double-white lines are another regular concern.”

Two people were charged with drug possession during the Easter long weekend. Ten people were caught speeding, four charged with driving without a licence and there were three unlicensed vehicles stopped. Twenty-one cautions were issued for minor traffic offences.

But drivers won general police approval in the random breath test results.

In operations on Stirling Terrace and Toodyay Road, 180 drivers were breath tested and no drink-driving charges were laid. One person was taken back to the

## Cyber tricksters back

Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association  
Desraé Clarke

FAKE emails and SMS messages, claiming to be from the Australian Government Department of Human Services’ myGov website are again targeting the community.

If you do receive an email or SMS claiming to be from the department do not open it and do not click on any links.

Stay Smart Online recommends you do not open emails from senders you do not know and be wary of unexpected emails.

If unsure as to whether an email is legitimate, contact the organisation, department or individual claiming to have sent the email by telephoning a number you

have independently found from an invoice, website or phone book – do not use the contact given you through the doubtful email.

Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network (ACORN) is a national policing initiative of the Australian, State and Territory governments.

It can be contacted to report cybercrime online helping to make Australia a harder target for cyber criminals.

For inquiries or to report a problem contact Consumer Protection, Department of Commerce and Government WA on email: consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au or ring 1300 30 40 54.

The number for Toodyay Police is 9574 9995 and Crimestoppers can be contacted on 1800 333 000.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

# New unit has full fire protection

Volunteer Bushfire Brigade  
Coondle-Nunile  
Max Heath

WELL IT might have been a quiet month on the fire ground but everything else has been happening.

We now have our bright shiny new 1.4 truck in the shed.

It was delivered on April 21 and Community Emergency Services Manager Rob Koch came and gave us a run down on it and officially handed it over to the brigade.

It is going to take quite a bit of getting used to after the light tankers we have had for years.

It really does have all the ‘bells and whistles’.

We also held our AGM. The general meeting was held first and lasted a record of about 15 minutes.

Then the chair was handed over to Chief Bush Fire Control Office (CBFCO) Craig Stewart for the AGM.



Coondle-Nunile firefighters inspect the new truck. Photo Peter Harms.

Captain Colin Stevens then read his report for the year in which he thanked members and everyone who supported the brigade through the year.

All positions were then declared vacant

and the CBFCO conducted the election of officers. Captain Colin was elected unopposed as was first lieutenant Mark Middleton.

Deb Bowen was elected as second lieutenant followed by Jamie Norgate as third lieutenant and Beau Smith, fourth lieutenant.

Sally Hudson was elected secretary, Nick Griggs treasurer, Kevin Bowen property officer and Mark Middleton, training officer.

Then it was time to present the annual awards and I am pleased to say the Max Heath Fire Fighter of the Year award went to Aaron McVeery.

The Stan Sutton Driving Award was presented to Jamie Norgate.

Rob Koch then addressed the meeting and thanked all who attended fires for the year.

The meeting closed with some eats and some cheers, or was that beers?

## Shields, sprays and blankets

THE KEENLY awaited 1.4 fire unit is the very latest in units of this size and type in WA and is based on an Isuzu Model NPS300 light truck. It has a four-cylinder 114 kilowatt 5.2 litre diesel motor.

This state-of-the-art unit is fitted with all the latest safety and survival gear.

The water capacity is 1500 litres and it is fitted with the latest LED beacons and improved signage. The comprehensive crew-protection system consists of a number of features some of which have also been retro-fitted to a lot of WA units.

In event of a burn-over, when a vehicle has been caught in a fire front, the 1.4 has a range of features.

Heat shield curtains, which surround the inside of the cab giving the crew protection, can be lowered very quickly. Burn-over blankets are provided for each crew member.

The cabin also contains individual air units which provide crew members with oxygen for at least 30 minutes.

A deluge system fitted to the unit provides a complete spray system over the entire vehicle. Individual sprays offer further protection.

A major safety system of the unit is an automatic vehicle locator, a real-time GPS tracking system. There is also a distress button which alerts the Department of Fire and Emergency Services communications base which is staffed 24/7.

This unit provides volunteer fire fighters the most protection they can get when doing a very dangerous job.

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## EMERGENCY SERVICES



Julimar brigade captain Peter Sapwell presents Julimar 'Reserved Parking Sign' to Lou and Anne Kidd.

## Julimar stalwart hangs up his fire-fighting hat

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Julimar**  
Alison Wroth

THE STUBBLE burns and clouds of smoke on the horizon are still causing major concern for newcomers to the community and Facebook users but apart from that, everything is rolling along smoothly without too many callouts – that's how we like it.

Training has become a fact of life for many of our fire fighters who can ask for revision or further training on Friday evenings or organise a more suitable time.

The main issue that our captain and the brigade dealt with this month was Lou Kidd's retirement from active fire-fighting duties.

He has decided that at 76 it was time he stood down from being on the fire truck believing he might become more of a liability than a useful fire-fighter.

Lou started with Julimar brigade in 1995 with Anne by his side.

He was always very handy whether it be catering or firefighting but Ann eventually took the decision away from him and took on the job of catering herself – and what a professional she is.

Lou was a lieutenant from 2001 to 2005 when he was promoted to captain for a year.

When the brigade needed a steadying hand in 2011 Lou returned to lead the team for a further year.

Anne and Lou are not leaving the brigade thank heaven, as we would not know what to

do with their parking space if they did leave; so, after a considerable amount of thought, the committee decided to issue them with a 'reserved' parking bay sign for Lou and Ann Kidd.

It's very apt for this stoic pair who are the backbone of our beloved brigade. They have been there through all the rough rides, the hiccups and when brigade's morale was low.

Many of us vullies have ridden out the rough patches with them and we have come out in the end as a better brigade.

We all wish Lou a happy retirement from active firefighting and hopefully Anne and Lou get to travel a bit more in summer now that they are no longer on call.

The Toodyay Community Freedom of Entry Parade through town on Sunday May 21 begins at 10.45am and ends with a BBQ lunch, free entertainment and refreshments at Duidgee Park.

This is a prime opportunity to attract new members to the brigade so everyone is encouraged to attend if they can.

Please consider attending the fire shed on Friday nights around 5.30pm to join us and possibly meet new people in the area.

We're a friendly bunch so come on down, buy a ticket in the chook raffle and now that the fire season is nearly over, we can light the fire at night to keep warm.

You might go home with a cooked chook and a loaf of bread for your trouble. See you there.

## Winter warning as fire risk comes indoors

**Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Bejoording**

From the desk of The Badger

APRIL showers have certainly eluded us this year and the outlook for May isn't much better.

Quite a contrast to last year. The greening up that started in March has really slowed down – in some places it's right back to brown.

Nevertheless, the fire risk is subsiding rapidly, but only outdoors.

Indoors it's increasing and I'm reminded of what I said this time last year.

House and shed fires can happen at any time of the year, but especially in the colder and wetter seasons when electric heaters and log fires become a part of daily life.

So please focus on protecting your property indoors as vigilantly as you protect it outdoors in the dry season.

Clothes drying racks too close to a heat source, open fires without a screen guard and poorly maintained chimneys are all common causes of fires.

When you are burning outdoors you still need to be vigilant, and remember that windy

days and fires are not a good mix.

Hopefully May will continue the relatively calm season we've had for all our active fire fighters as well as our auxiliaries, and we might even plan a few more social events.

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

Our real enemies for the coming months, when there are no restrictions, will be complacency and lack of care.

The Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to be vigilant and careful lighting any fire, even in your back yard. Remember to always plan and prepare for fire and have a clear contingency strategy in place should things get out of control. Fires can be a catastrophic risk to people, animals and property, so take care.

Our next meeting at the shed will be on Tuesday May 16 at 6pm.

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

If you have any questions remember you can contact Captain Barry Grey on 9574 2149 or The Badger, 9574 4834. Please leave a message if we're not there.

## End to the permit season keeps brigade busy

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Morangup**  
Sue Maddrell

THE last couple of months have been reasonably quiet – until the end of permit season.

Since we now don't require permits the brigade seems to be busier than ever.

Thank you to those brigade members who have turned out to fire calls. Without you all the community would be greatly disadvantaged.

We had our AGM on April 23 and there was an extremely good response from members and their families.

The meeting was chaired by the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Craig Stewart and the shire was represented by the Community Emergency Services Manager Rob Koch.

As with all brigades in the shire all positions became vacant but with the majority of office holders deciding to remain many positions

were uncontested. Jennifer Hawes has been our treasurer for a number of years and she stepped down with Keiko Allen taking her place.

We thank Jenny for her good work and dedication over the years and she still remains a firefighter in the brigade.

One excellent inclusion is our second lieutenant, Jayden Daniels. He's young and enthusiastic and has worked hard over the year to gain all the qualifications to become a lieutenant.

The results of the election were: Jeff Venn, captain; Steve Gamble, first lieutenant; Jayden Daniels, second lieutenant; Kim Maddrell, secretary; Keiko Allen, treasurer; Vern Smith, station manager; Peter Harms, equipment officer and Sharon Gamble, welfare officer.

The brigade meets the third Saturday of each month at 5.30pm and always welcomes Morangup locals who have an interest in becoming active firefighters.



Second lieutenant Jayden Daniels (left) and Morangup brigade captain Jeff Venn.

**Countryman** Gidgegannup

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# Lobby polities to get our pool

**Toodyay Progress Association**  
Larry Graham, Chair

DONE thoughtfully, a constructive and thorough examination of why Toodyay does not have a swimming pool could give the lovely town we have all chosen to live in some hope.

There are many pet theories about why the town doesn't have a swimming pool; these include farmers, cost, location, incompetence, proximity to the river, hills, politics and vested interests.

Then there are the myriad of bizarre tales and conspiracy theories that stop just short of aliens taking over the town, but when all is said and done; much more has been said than done.

While Toodyay still does not have a pool, many other towns right around the nation have managed to find ways to get funding for one.

The Shire of Halls Creek's CEO, Peter McConnell, put in a superhuman effort over a number of years and got a pool into a town that had no real rate base and a population of about one third the size of Toodyay.

Marble Bar (population app 350) was innovative in lobbying the Minister for Sport on the basis that the hottest town in the nation should have a pool – it took them a while, but it worked and they got a pool (and they have a river too).

If Halls Creek, Marble Bar and most other Wheatbelt towns can do it – the interesting question is why Toodyay cannot manage it.

The town has had control of its affairs for well over a century and it is strange that over that time nearly every comparable town in Australia has managed to get a pool but we haven't been able to do it.

What are we doing wrong?

There is an old saying that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it and we have had as many chances as any other town and whenever a promising time for getting a pool has arisen, Toodyay has muffed it.

In the 50s and 60s governments of all persuasions were giving pools away – Toodyay missed out.

There was once a swimming pool levy imposed on Toodyay ratepayers and a site

in Stirling Terrace was chosen – but no pool eventuated.

Much later, large amounts of public money were spent purchasing property for a sports precinct near the footy oval. For a variety of reasons that all collapsed and no pool appeared.

Later, a community group started raising funds and the then newly formed Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Bank chipped in with financial support – result, no pool.

And still the question of why Toodyay doesn't have a pool remains unanswered.

There is no point in playing the historical blame game, because then the retribution starts and community division becomes further entrenched.

But those representing Toodyay over the past eight years need to have a hard look at their performance because while country WA had \$7 billion thrown at it through the Royalties for Regions program – we still missed out.

In the lead up to the last state election the National Party promised \$10 million from that program and who knows what the change of government means for that.

History tells us that Toodyay knows how not to get a pool; we need to unlearn that and then refocus our town and learn what we need to do to get a pool.

So, what to do and where to start?

Lobbying is the answer, but we have to stop writing official nuisance letters and learn to lobby better and smarter than we have in the past.

Because we have a senior Cabinet Minister as our Federal MP and our Upper House representative is also a Minister at State level, it shouldn't be too difficult to work out which are the first two doors our council needs to quickly knock on.

If having a couple of high-flying, decision-making ministers working on our case doesn't get the job done – we are in real trouble.

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.



## Go-karts all the go at Moondyne

THIS year's Moondyne Festival will feature a go-kart run in the carpark of the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank.

Keith Eberle built three carts in the traditional spirit of Aussie go-kart building – from recycled bits and pieces.

The go-kart run, a first for the festival will be free for kids and is sure to be a popular attraction at Moondyne on Sunday May 5.

Pictured Keith Eberle (right) hands over one of three go-karts to Toodyay Festivals Inc President Miska Madacsi.

## Chaplaincy secures future funding

**Toodyay YouthCARE Council (Chaplaincy)**

Vivienne Freeman, Secretary

GREAT news – YouthCARE has been advised that the State and Federal Governments will continue to fund chaplaincy in our schools to 2018 and beyond.

A quiz night in support of the school chaplaincy program will be held at 7pm on Saturday June 17 at the Baptist Church on Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

Entry for tables of eight is \$10 per person payable on the night. Bookings are essential at [freeos@iinet.net.au](mailto:freeos@iinet.net.au) or ring Vivienne on 9574 4915.

There will be lots of prizes, including a \$200 prize from RoadWise, and the winning table will receive \$160.

A wood raffle will be held on Friday June 2 and Saturday June 3 outside IGA.

At the AGM, the following office bearers were elected: Chairperson, Reverend Peggy Ludlow; deputy chairperson, David Street;

treasurer, Maggie Parsons and, secretary, Vivienne Freeman.

A special thank you to outgoing council members Max Heath, Ray Jackson and Joy Cruickshank. Their support and dedication over the years have been outstanding.

Look forward to seeing you at the quiz.



# St John Ambulance “Provide First Aid”

## One day course

To be held on Saturday May 20th 2017

St John Ambulance, Stirling Terrace Toodyay

**This is a general one day course that would benefit all those at work, home or for leisure. The course provides an excellent general grounding in first aid and will enable you to perform appropriate first aid procedures and basic life support skills. This unit satisfies training requirements across a range of community and workplace settings.**

Contact Carolynne for further details:

Phone: 0428 957 600 or 9574 2390

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# And in the morning, we will remember them

## Toodyay RSL Sub-Branch Bruce Guthrie

THE quiet of the dawn was both serene and beautiful as some 300 people gathered on the lawns surrounding the Toodyay War Memorial for this year's Anzac Day dawn service.

As day was breaking and light appeared through the magnificent memorial lemon-scented gum trees, the gathering was hushed and reflective, taking in the moment and the reason they were there on this day, at that hour and in this place.

The service was conducted by the RSL. Two scouts read out the roll of honour so we could all remember those men and women from Toodyay who did not come home from war.

It is now 102 years since Australian and New Zealand troops landed on the shores at Gallipoli.

A magnificent Gunfire Breakfast followed the dawn service. It was held at the Museum Precinct – in particular at the relocated and restored Wicklow Shearing shed. Toodyay Lions served eggs, bacon, coffee and rum to a very appreciative gathering.

At 10:45 the street parade of about 70 marchers, headed by a bagpipe and drum, stepped off from Stirling Terrace. They included ex-service personnel, St John Ambulance, Toodyay District High School emergency cadets, representatives from fire and rescue and volunteer fire brigades,



Part of the crowd at the solemn ceremony at the war memorial.

Toodyay Police and children.

The parade marched to Anzac Memorial park for the 11 o'clock service where they were greeted by ex-service personnel, and a large group of locals and visitors. The service was conducted by the RSL with Sue Eldridge as MC.

Toodyay RSL President Peter Brennan, Toodyay Shire President David Dow and RAAF Representative Flying Officer Michael Mihalic gave addresses.

Peter ended his address with words spoken in 1945 by then Toodyay RSL sub branch President E. Hayes: "We cannot, we must not, we shall not forget."

The Toodyay singers gave renditions of *Lest We Forget* and *I Am Australian*, and we all sang the New Zealand and Australian National anthems.

Singers member David sang *And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda*, which clearly made people swallow firmly, a powerful conclusion to the significant service.

The day concluded with a luncheon and much fellowship at the Toodyay Club.

Anzac Day 2017 in Toodyay was a most moving, memorable and enjoyable day. For being involved and supporting the RSL, thanks go to the Shire of Toodyay, Toodyay Scouts, Toodyay Police, Toodyay St John Ambulance, Lions Club of Toodyay Toodyay Singers and all Toodyay residents. See student ceremony on Page 10.



Local veteran, Warren Hall, overlooks the ceremonies.



Luncheon and fellowship at the Club. Photos Tom Melia, and Lou Kidd.

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# Old power man salutes the passing parade

Roger Simms

AMONG THE many visitors to Toodyay for this year's Anzac Day parade was one of the town's oldest sons, 96-year-old Max Messenger from Perth.

Born in Toodyay in 1922, Max was plucked from school at the age of 15 to run the town's power station in the Connor's Mill building. His name is on the board of former employees there.

"Charlie Alday, the council boss, said I had electrical aptitude," Max recalled as he sat enjoying the sun in Stirling Terrace after the parade.

"I knew a bit about electrical motors from watching my brother rewind armatures.

"We were all self-taught in those days."

Max kept the power coming for the next four years until World War 2 saw him join the RAAF as an electrical fitter.

He saw service in New Guinea and was in Darwin when the Japanese attacked.

On his return to Toodyay in 1946, Max

tried for his old job but it was not available.

"They said there was work on the roads but I told them to stick it," he said.

Max went to Perth and joined the Department of Housing and Works and ended his career as electrical supervisor at the Pearce RAAF base. He and his wife Audene have been married for more than 60 years and have lived in the same house in Floreat for most of that time.

Max was one of nine children born to Henry and Alice Messenger of Toodyay who farmed at Nunile.

With medals arrayed on his chest, Max looked every inch the proud ex-serviceman, as he watched the parade pass by.

"I don't march anymore," he said. "It's a bit too much. I've had a quadruple bypass, a pig's heart valve and a pacemaker fitted. I'm a bit of a bionic man. But I'm ok."

Max is the great uncle of Russell Avery and his wife Sarah who brought the former Toodyay power man back to his home town for the big day.



Toodyay RSL President Peter Brennan presents the Cadet Encouragement Award to Cadet Rayne McGowan. Photo: Lou Kidd.

## Poppy motivates students

Toodyay District High School  
Bruce Guthrie

THE whole Toodyay school community and invited guests gathered on the lawns outside the administration block on a bright sunny morning of Thursday April 27 for the 2017 Anzac Day service to reflect and remember those service men and women who paid the supreme sacrifice in theatres of war over the last 102 years.

This service was conducted by the students in a confident, purposeful and sensitive way.

The Little Red Poppy provided the theme and opened the service with around 50 students singing in a small choir and others

dancing to the words and music.

Student year representatives then spoke to this theme with powerful and sincere messages, followed by the Ode, Last Post, a minute's silence and Reveille.

The Cadet Encouragement Award was then presented to Cadet Rayne McGowan by Peter Brennan President Toodyay RSL.

Rayne is an outstanding contributor and at all times offered very high level of service to the Emergency Cadets Unit based at Toodyay DHS. Congratulations Rayne.

The National Anthem was then sung to conclude the service.

Well done to all contributors. Thank you from Toodyay RSL.



Mr Messenger with his great nephew Russell Avery, Russell's wife Sarah, and children Alexandra and Matthew.

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# How to win at the Show

**Toodyay Agricultural Society**  
Alison Wroth, Chief Steward

ONCE again, here is our bit of motivation for all those green fingers out there who want to plant vegetables in time for the Toodyay Agricultural Show but are unsure of the right planting times.

Below are some planting times that I acquired two years ago from our champion veggie grower, retired steward and now judge, Len Leeder.

Thanks, so much Len, hopefully this will get some new entrants along to the show.

Here we go: For the week starting May 21 plant potatoes; June 4 plant broad beans; June 11 rhubarb and silverbeet; July 2 cabbages and cauliflowers, beetroot, peas, broccoli; July 9 turnips, swedes and snow peas and, the week commencing July 23 plant lettuce varieties.

Hopefully this information on planting will encourage those young and not-so-young show entrants to plant something new and try something different; even those who have never entered vegetables before – give it a go.

We are giving everyone some encouragement to enter by providing a workshop with qualified show judges who will provide tips and advice for what the judge really looks for.

The following sections will have judges at the workshops to help you along: Floriculture; Fruit and Vegetables; Hobby Craft; Cooking and, possibly if we have time, Home Produce.

The day to remember is Saturday July 8 beginning at 9.30am at the Youth Hall, Toodyay Showgrounds.

If you are a member of the Toodyay Garden Club, CWA, craft group or anybody just wanting to come along and learn a few ideas from the show judges, please come to the show workshop. Morning Tea and nibbles will be provided.

Keep a lookout for posters around town and on social media. For catering purposes RSVP by June 30. A gold coin is all you need to attend the workshop.

Our first members' drive and fundraising stall will be outside IGA in the foyer on Friday May 12 and Saturday 13.

Come and buy a ticket to win a fantastic chopped load of jarrah wood.

If you would like to become a member of the Toodyay Agricultural Society and be a part of the running of the show, pay the membership now and you will receive one member's pass, two guest passes plus one Show Schedule.

If interested, contact the secretary, Emily on our email [toodyayagsociety@gmail.com](mailto:toodyayagsociety@gmail.com) or phone 0476 918 601.

Our entrant for this year's Royal Agricultural Society Rural Ambassador award is local teacher Jess Shilcock.

Jess wants to represent both Toodyay Agricultural Society and the Toodyay community to the best of her ability and she is brimming with enthusiasm and interest to take part in the regional competition.

Toodyay is hosting the Central Award this year and the committee has every confidence in Jess.

You will hear more about Jess and her overall job as Rural Ambassador for Toodyay in future issues of *The Toodyay Herald*.

I also am looking for a few new stewards to assist on the Friday of judging and on Show day.

The sections I possibly require stewards for are Handweaving, Hobby crafts and Art.

If you are interested or have a query please contact me on 0437 099 960.

# Chef strikes 'black gold'

**Tracking the Toodyay Truffle**  
Ieva Tomsons

IN THE late afternoon of April 17 chef turned truffle grower Alain Fabregues struck 'black gold'.

"At first I thought it was a dead puff ball," said Alain who is clearly buoyed by his latest discovery.

For the past 12 years he has been trying to grow the prized Périgord truffle which sells for about \$2000 a kilo.

After a false start in 2011 when he found a single unripe truffle and nothing in the intervening years, this year was going to be his last in the quest to grow the Périgord in an untried region.

Having battled mice, river snails, water shortages and the scepticism of Manjimup truffle growers, Alain hopes that this season will be his vindication.

"It's been hard yakka," he said "and I want to prove that it can be done (in Toodyay)."

Alain has been concentrating on 400 of his 1300 English and French oaks that host the truffle spores that are inoculated at seedling stage.

So far, he has dug up two unripe truffles, each weighing 70 grams from the same tree, and has located four more at the base of English oaks.

In addition to producing the gourmet mushroom Alain hopes that a good crop this season will give him the right to sell inoculated trees grown from the acorns of proven truffle-growing trees.



He believes that locally grown trees will be more resilient and better suited to Wheatbelt conditions.

With inoculated truffle host saplings selling for \$40 to \$50 it will provide a second income stream if all goes to plan at the Toodyay trufflerie.

According to Alain truffle dogs which are trained to sniff out the black treasure will be in high demand this season.

A lot of them are kelpies and Alain will use

dogs for the first time in June.

Depending on what they find, he expects further visits until the season ends in August.

"All this is new," said Alain "but one thing is for sure, next year I will have my own truffle dog".

*The Herald* will stay on the scent of this story for the next couple of months and, fingers crossed, will announce the success of a new local agricultural venture.



# Summer rains kick off cropping

**Toodyay Agricultural Alliance**  
Frank Panizza

THE 2017 cropping season is now under way.

Canola sown in mid-April has emerged and is beginning to show some green tinges in cropping paddocks.

Barry Clarke of Westview Farm at Bolgart started his canola seeding program on April 12.

Barry, who farms with his wife Stephanie and his son Jarrod, commented:

"We felt that there was more moisture in the subsoil than you might think, so we decided to start and we have been very happy with the results."

He added that "early establishment of canola is imperative for setting up a good

yield so we decided to go when we did".

The Clarkes received nearly 300mm of rain over the summer period which has contributed to very good subsoil moisture reserves with many farms in the shire receiving more than 250mm of summer rainfall.

The transport and shipping of the state's record grain crop from 2016 has presented some logistical headaches for the state's grain handler the Cooperative Bulk Handling (CBH) group.

The farmer-owned cooperative has responded to the challenge setting an all-time transport record by transporting 964,832 tonnes of grain by rail in March.

Many other transport and shipping records have been broken since completion of the 2016 harvest in an attempt to export the record grain crop in a timely manner.

CBH also undertook a road safety initiative

over the Easter long weekend.

Road accidents over the Easter holidays have been a concern for police and road safety experts for many years.

CBH initiated a program over the long weekend suspending all road-based grain transport during Easter.

The program was designed to raise awareness of fatigue and long travel distances often associated with the Easter holidays.

May is usually the busiest month of the winter seeding program, so a marked increase in the amount of oversized farming equipment using our road network is likely.

Care should be exercised by all road users at this busy time.

It is also a timely reminder for managing fatigue in employees and farmers alike during the hectic seeding season.

Stay safe as we all hope for good opening rains.

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## Scholarship win to study agribusiness

BOLGART'S Tristan Clarke, one of nine state winners of the Rural Bank Scholarship, will use the \$5000 grant to help fund his degree in agribusiness at Curtin University.

The son of local grain growers Barry and Stephanie Clarke, Tristan also grew up with sheep and cattle and is passionate about Australian agriculture as a whole.

By combining agriculture and business, Tristan believes his degree will enable him to explore the agronomical aspects of broad-acre cropping and livestock management and provide him with the business skills to run a successful farm.

"I have a deep interest in researching new varieties of grains and their genetics, as well as improving precision agriculture to assist farmers in producing the best yields possible.

"After completing my studies, I hope to return to my local community to help educate and support farmers in either an agronomy or agribusiness capacity," Mr Clarke said.

Tristan was selected from 136 Australia-wide applications for the scholarship which will support students' first-year studies, contribute to accommodation costs, course materials, equipment and tutoring.

Subject to academic performance, scholarship funding will also be extended to support a second year of study.

To learn more about the Rural Bank scholarships, visit [ruralbank.com.au](http://ruralbank.com.au).



Tristan Clarke

## Prisoners keep cottages in good nick

### Wooroloo Prison Farm

FOR THE past three years minimum-security work parties from Wooroloo Prison Farm have been maintaining the 12 Butterly cottages in Toodyay.

Visiting approximately once a month, eight Section 95 prisoners have cleaned gutters, paved paths, replaced damaged fences and generally maintained the cottages which are rented by 'elderly in need'.

Butterly Cottages Association which administers the properties is so pleased with the work they recently invited the Wooroloo work party to an afternoon tea with committee members, tenants and Toodyay Shire representatives to thank the workers.

All prisoners selected for a Section 95 program are carefully screened and assessed as posing minimal risk to the community.

Not only are offenders helping people in need but they are also developing real-life work skills, such as fence construction and



Wooroloo Prison Farm's Officer Peter Smithers, and Butterly Cottages President Jeff Roberts.

gaining paving experience.

These employment skills will help them re-integrate into the community when they are released and may even assist them to find

permanent work in the construction industry.

Successful re-integration into the community is key to stopping prisoners from re-offending.

## Women in farming pool their ideas

### Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Bob Schrader

THE TOODYAY Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) is pleased to announce two sundowners in May.

The first will be held at 7pm on Friday May 5 in the Freemasons Hotel where our guest speaker is Nadine McMorran a Dowerin farmer and coordinator of the local branch of Women in Farming Enterprises (WIFE).

The organisation consists of a passionate group of women who have volunteered their time and effort to share their ideas and discuss issues ranging from mental health, CPR, raising children, farm-management skills to organising workshops and support.

We invite you to join us for an evening of networking and informed discussion. Women of any career path would find this evening very interesting, so make sure you tell all your friends.

This is a free event sponsored by the

chamber. RSVP to Alison Wroth on 9574 2681, 0437 099 960 or email [warragenny@bigpond.com](mailto:warragenny@bigpond.com). (See story this page.)

The second sundowner will be held at 5.30pm on Wednesday May 17 in the Toodyay Community Resource Centre where we will have a most engaging and entertaining guest speaker David Deane-Spread CEO of Metattude.

He will speak on the subject of attitudinal competence – the foundation for forward thinking, or any thinking of value, and the ability to adopt and adapt the best attitude for what has happened, what is happening and what might happen without being stuck with habitual attitudes.

This is a must-attend event for anyone who wishes to grow their business or organisation in Toodyay and the Avon Valley.

A one-day workshop run personally by David for those people interested in improving their business outcomes is scheduled for Wednesday June 21 and is down to earth respectful and practical. It will also be a lot

of fun. More information will be provided at the sundowner.

In the meantime check out Metattude's website [metattude.com/](http://metattude.com/). The cost for chamber members is only \$10 and \$20 for non-members.

Join on the night and pay the subsidised amount. Wine, beer and soft drinks proudly sponsored by Coorinja Wines and Country Realty. RSVP to Andrea Carling on 0408 699 916 or [2jchamber@gmail.com](mailto:2jchamber@gmail.com).

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## Wife, mother, fencer, banker, nurse, vet, chef and . . .

### Alison Wroth

THE WIDE and varied role of women on farms doesn't fit into a nice little package.

Some are born and bred on the land, others come from career backgrounds, the city, interstate or overseas.

With a farming husband, partner or family they are thrust into the roles of wife, mother, fencer, tractor driver, nurse, employment agency, accountant, sheep dog, header driver, snake wrangler, investment banker, sports professional, vet and chef – just to name a few.

Professional support and training for women on the land is often unavailable as courses can't usually offer what is required or they are unattainable due to the distance and time needed to attend.

This is where Women in Farming

Enterprises (WIFE) steps up.

WIFE taps into the wealth of knowledge that is your neighbor, your friend, your friend's friend, the lady up the road, the new girl in town or the wing attack on your local netball team and if the expert required isn't available locally they simply truck them in.

Please come to the Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry sundowner featuring Dowerin WIFE delegate Nadine McMorran who will explain what the organisation can do for women on the land.

Have a chat with like-minded women and mingle at the sundowner on Friday May 5 between 7 and 9pm in the Freemasons Hotel dining room.

Contact Alison Wroth 0437 099 960 for any queries or details on beginning a branch in Toodyay. The benefits are amazing.

## Country women pack bags for the big smoke

### CWA

Elizabeth Mansom

CWA CRAFT and monthly meetings continue to centre mainly on our 90th anniversary celebration on June 22.

We're working at keeping things simple so we enjoy ourselves rather than working and worrying.

The following month the annual state conference will be held in Fremantle.

President Judith Walton and secretary Desrae Clarke will attend as delegates and several other members are making plans to join them.

With 200-plus members from across the state converging on Fremantle, accommodation will be at a premium; however, ours is a friendly bunch who don't mind doubling up if they have to.

Did you get a biscuit on Anzac Day? We made extra this year because the baskets

emptied so quickly last year.

Make a note of Friday May 12 when we will be holding a Cancer Morning Tea in the CWA Hall.

There will be a talk by Karen Hansen, Regional Education Officer for the Wheatbelt with the Cancer Council of WA and, of course, there'll be something to tempt the tastebuds.

CWA will again be part of the Antiques and Collectibles show in the Toodyay Town Hall during the Moodyne Festival. We're sure you'll enjoy browsing the treasures of yesteryear as much as we do.

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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# Ron Waters stumps up on train robbery

**Ron E Waters**

IN EARLY May 1953 £3800 from a train robbery ended up in a stump in the Toodyay bush.

I am now 85 years old and was a young man when the big robbery happened on the Midland Railway line that went to Geraldton.

Two men drove to Mooliabeenee railway siding just south of Cullalla in the Shire of Chittering, hopped on two pushbikes they had brought with them and cycled to Cullalla where the train stopped for the guard and engine driver's morning tea.

They robbed the payroll destined for Geraldton railway workers and rode the bikes back to the car parked about halfway between Gingin and Bindoon.

The robbers then drove on a gravel road, stopped at an air strip in a field, took the money out of a holdall and put it in a pillow slip, leaving the holdall in the bush.

Staying on the gravel road for another nine and three tenths of a mile (15km) towards Toodyay, they stopped the car.

Eighty yards (70m) up the hill was a hollow white gum stump where they put the pillowslip containing the money and drove away.

The police called in Horry McCormack, a well-known tracker from Bindoon, who followed the car tracks to the hollow tree where they found the money.

More police arrived and two watched the tree stump while two more stayed at the hotel below the Toodyay Railway Station.

Toodyay police also assisted and took advice from my father, Albert Waters, who believed that the men would return on the first wet night to retrieve the money.

On the first wet night, at midnight, they came back. One man stayed in the car, one got half way to the stump and the third reached the stump where he was arrested.

The police warned him not to make a sound but he raised the alarm and the man in the car drove off and the second man ran into the bush.

The community was asked to keep a lookout for the second man along the Dewars Pool-Bindoon Road.

Later that day I was in a paddock near my grandfather Edwin James Waters' house and I saw a man walking towards our Red Hill, heading towards the Toodyay-Bolgart Road.

My two kangaroo dogs, Nipper and Tobey, chased him and tore his raincoat.

I ran back to our house and we notified the police.

Some of the police who had been watching the tree stump arrived back and searched nearby vacant houses.

Evan Brian Busard from Elder Smith's shop in Toodyay came out and assisted in the search.

Dad told the police that the robber would walk into Toodyay about midnight when the town was quiet.

He was right again.

A Toodyay policeman and Les, a strong young local chap from Picnic Hill Road, were waiting at St Stephen's Anglican Church and when the robber walked over the bridge they grabbed him.

I was later told that the policeman had said: "You must be Mr Steel - your clothes are very wet from walking through high wet scrub and your coat has been torn by a dog."

He was taken to the old Toodyay Club where he was charged.

The driver of the getaway car was a Mr Hessel who was arrested a day later in New Zealand.

If it had not been for old Horry McCormack's skill as a tracker, the money might never have been found.

What the robbers didn't know was that police had replaced the money in the pillowslip with newspaper.

In 1953 £3000 was a lot of money (more than \$100,000 today) and I often wonder if someone other than Horry had found it whether it would have been handed in.

Who would have thought that such a huge amount of money would end up in a stump close to where the army chaps camped during the war.

It makes you wonder, given that the stump was 70m from the road, whether one of the robbers had prior knowledge of the bush hiding place.



President Robyn presenting speaker Dr Sue Graham-Taylor with gifts from Uniquely Toodyay. Photo: Beth Frayne.

## Why oh why don't we learn from the past?

**Toodyay Historical Society**  
Robyn Taylor, President

WE HAD the privilege of listening to Dr Sue Graham-Taylor at our April AGM.

Sue is the person to go to for in-depth knowledge about the history of the Swan/Avon river system.

Being someone with strong research interests in environmental and political history, Sue is one of those speakers who can make direct and informed links between past practices and current issues.

In short, her talk illustrated the need for politicians to listen to historians, experts, and those with local knowledge, before making and acting on hairbrained schemes, such as stocking our waterways with exotic fish.

Where have all our deep pools gone? The River Training Scheme is a case in point about local knowledge when Northam farmer Jim Masters of Glenavon tried to advise against it being implemented based on his long years of studying and recording river flows.

The scheme took place between 1956 and 1972 with the aim of stopping the recurrent flooding of the Avon and its impact on the towns along its banks.

I have often wondered how kookaburras made it across the Nullabor. Why would they even bother?

It seems it was thought our bush lacked sufficient 'interest'.

It's hard to believe this is the reason why kookaburras were introduced to WA, adding their raucous merry laughter to the pre-dawn chorus and the sad depletion of the reptiles they like to dine on.

We enjoyed our end-of-April excursion to the Bolgart Hotel where we had lunch, via Syred's Cottage at Bejoording where we stopped for morning tea.

Both places have considerable historical interest.

Syred's Cottage is listed on the State Heritage Register and together with the

Commonage, is unique in WA for its connection to an early attempt to establish a workers' village to service the surrounding landlords.

A very English concept, but things didn't quite work out that way.

Originally called the 'State Hotel, Bolgart', this hotel was one of a number of hotels, built or bought, and run by the government.

Bolgart's hotel was opened in 1916, the last of seven State Hotels established between 1903 and 1916 with Gwalia being the first in 1903.

The aim of these hotels was to provide "good wholesome liquor and satisfactory accommodation".

There must have been a good reason behind this initiative.

Bolgart's State Hotel was sold into private ownership in 1960, and continues to this day to serve wholesome food and liquor.

As this column had to be submitted before the excursion, we are confident the above claim will prove to be true.

Please note there is no May excursion as members will be running a stall and display at the Moondyne Festival.

Our next general meeting is on Wednesday May 17 at 7pm.

Please note change of venue. We will be meeting in Drummond House - Toodyay Environment and History Centre, next door to Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank. Visitors are welcome.

For more information contact: secretary Linda Rooney, secretary.2j.ths@gmail.com; president Robyn Taylor, rdtaylor@iinet.net.au, 9574 2578 or, 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 costs only \$10. Contact: Robyn Taylor: 9574 2578



Excerpt from The West Australian newspaper 8 May 1953.

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Our voted in committee. Left to right: Peter Robinson, Milton Baxter, Len Leeder (patron), Beth Frayne, Linda Rooney, Rev Peggy Ludlow, Wayne Clarke, Colin Kendall. Seated: Jenny Edgecombe, Robyn Taylor, Desrae Clarke. Photo: Vicki Warburton.

## Drummond honoured in group's new home

**Drummond House – Toodyay Environment and History Centre**  
Robyn Taylor\*

THE Toodyay Historical Society, Toodyay Naturalists' Club and Toodyay Friends of the River have now moved into their new premises at 108B Stirling Terrace, next door to the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank.

While the environment groups needed a home base the historical society will continue to work out of Donegan's Cottage in the showgrounds.

A presence in Stirling Terrace will enable the society to showcase its work more widely.

It's early days yet and we are still setting up.

The decision to name our new shop-front premises Drummond House is based on our wish to acknowledge the importance of James Drummond (1787-1863) and his family to Toodyay's history and to have a name that has relevance to the three community groups.

James Drummond was a botanist and plant collector who came to the Swan River colony in 1829, initially serving as the government naturalist.

*River colony in 1829, initially serving as the government naturalist.*

In 1836 he exchanged a grant of land he held for one in the recently discovered Toodyay Valley in the Avon River region. He named his new grant Hawthornden.

The discovery of the Avon River with its permanent pools of water enabled the first inland settlements to be established in WA.

According to Drummond: "I learnt from Babbing (his Aboriginal guide) that this place was called Duidgee and that it was a favourite haunt of the natives, no doubt on account of its natural productions." (Rica Erickson, *Old Toodyay & Newcastle*.)

From Hawthornden, Drummond went on extensive expeditions collecting wild-flowers and seeds which he sold to overseas collectors.

Drummond and his sons also pioneered the Victoria Plains district where they collected plants. On these excursions, his youngest son Johnston collected birds and animals for the famous English ornithologist and artist John Gould.

Another son, John Nicol Drummond, was renowned for his knowledge of Aboriginal language and customs.

Drummond's second son, James Drummond Jnr, ran Hawthornden while his father devoted his life to botany.

James Jnr was a major contributor to the agricultural development of Toodyay and became one of the state's leading pastoralists.

\*Robyn Taylor, on behalf of the Toodyay Historical Society, Toodyay Naturalists' Club, and Toodyay Friends of the River.

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# Musos channel music hall spirit

**Toodyay Music Club**  
Jenny Edgcombe

IF YOU'RE going to this month's Farmers Market keep an eye out for Toodyay Music Club members who will be performing.

Please stop and listen, join in if you know the songs, or just have a chat.

Small groups of our members regularly provide entertainment for local community groups and at various residential facilities in Toodyay, Northam and York.

Recently Joe, Spencer and I entertained residents and staff at The Residency, an aged-care facility in Northam, one of our favourite regular engagements.

We can only take a small group there due to space constraints, but it's such a lot of fun.

Several members recently attended the music hall Night at the Palace of the Stars in York, this time just dressing up for the Victorian-Edwardian theme, then sitting back to enjoy the music instead of organising and performing.

Finally, here is a brief round-up of some performances from our last meeting to give you a taste of the wide range of members' interests.

K4 took us from the sublime, with their delicious harmonies in *Lyn's Eyes*, to the ridiculous *Snoopy versus the Red Baron*.

Pete used his uke for an early pop version of *Breaking Up is Hard to Do*, following up with an impressive bluesy version of the same song on guitar.

Our Country and Western man, Will, threw in *Looking Forward, Looking Back*, while Pete, Mark and Moya had a rollicking time with folk favourite, *The Wild Rover*.

Folk music was also on Collette's mind this month with the haunting *Mountains of Mourne* followed by Joe who added *Rose of Allendale* for good measure.

In quite a different genre, but no less

## Artists join Moondyne mayhem

**Arts Toodyay**  
Margot Watkins

HOPE you have entered this year's Moondyne Art Exhibition on Sunday May 7 as we had such a fabulous attendance last year with many interesting works on show.

The Moondyne show is a brief but great opportunity for all community members to enjoy art in the conveniently located CWA Hall venue.

The next event artists could be working towards is the Vino Exhibition at Coorinja Winery in late September.

An Arts Toodyay member's presentation, Ruth's Open Day, featured tempting beautiful Japanese silks, vintage handcrafted jewellery and a great variety of other local crafts.

Now is such a beautiful time to be creating in or outside your working space – wherever that might be – so hope all artists are making the most of it.

Toodyay is full of inspiration and Arts Toodyay encourages all expressions of the creative impulse.

New members have recently joined and we invite everyone to our meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Old Police Station in Duke Street.

If you are still learning, you are just as welcome to add your skills to the mix.

Why not try one of our various workshops? The next round is being finalised and we should be able to advise details in next month's *Herald*.

To start with, Ruth will be running an intriguing workshop on Colour Theory.

The mysteries of Van Gogh, Cezanne, Chagall etc will be revealed and you could well become a colourist yourself.

This fun workshop is on May 27, from 2-4pm at our premises in Duke Street. For more information ring Ruth on 9574 4695.

Organisers of the Fibre Festival in early June want to expand their displays with works that demonstrate innovative ways of using fibres.

In addition to the yarn-bombing works displayed now in Stirling Terrace, their website includes other fibre-based artworks.

For further information about Arts Toodyay ring Margot on 9574 2823.



Members get into music hall spirit. L-R: Jenny and Joe Edgcombe (the world's tallest chimney sweep), Collette Healy and Brian Chambers.

enjoyable, was Brian's lovely deep voice singing *True Love*.

Margaret included her thought-provoking poem, *Billy's War*, in reading a selection of her works.

Ukuleles are much more versatile than people realise, as illustrated by Eileen's lovely singing of *Leaving on a Jet Plane*, with Maurice providing harmonies and their

two ukuleles the accompaniment.

Please join us this month when we present music on our special theme, Highways and Byways, on Saturday May 13, 1-4pm at the CWA Hall.

Any style of music is welcome, so long as it is acoustic.

For more information, talk to Joe on 0400 862 694.



Father and son, Peter and Mark Watson.

## Friends in need are friends indeed

**Bejoording Community Group News**

From the desk of The Badger

SOMETHING that never ceases to amaze me, after decades of living in anonymous big city suburbs, is the power of community and neighbourly support in a rural environment.

Here am I a real inner-city bloke, useless with anything mechanical, zero knowledge of the land or agriculture, accustomed to having almost any support or trades services on tap (at a price of course), and never owning anything more technically complicated than an electric drill.

After three and a bit years in Bejoording I now know all my neighbours and most other people in my wider neighbourhood; I own and use a chain saw, a compressor, a brush cutter, a spray jig, and a portable pump; I'm chair of a volunteer bush fire brigade; secretary of a community group; and perhaps most of all I've learned that my own corporate city skills can be used to help people out here.

For example I can help people write difficult letters, prepare speeches for weddings, create resumes for job hunting, use my research skills to track down obscure information or books for people, even write this column for our community group.

In other words I can give back for all the wonderful things people do for me.

Let me give you some examples of how neighbours can help one another. My car broke down recently, and being a pensioner I was looking down the barrel of a very expensive repair bill.

Before I could even contact a service centre one highly capable neighbour had

looked at my car; given me a list of parts to buy in one of those price-competitive car parts shops; and taken my car to his shed-come-workshop and offered to fit everything as a favour.

At the same time another neighbour drove down in his 'old' car which was still roadworthy and registered, and told me to use it until my own was back on the road.

In another situation recently I was helping a family in Perth preserve some important family memories by digitising their old reel-to-reel tapes (remember those?) when the vintage tape deck broke down.

I happened to mention this, just in conversation at our shed one evening, when yet another neighbour told me he used to service tape decks in a previous life.

The next day he picked it up from my home and a few days later brought it back fully serviced and working.

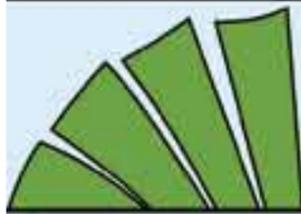
That kind of support can't be valued in monetary terms, only in terms of friendship and kindness and I only hope I can continue to do things for people around me using the skills that I have.

Your monthly reminder. We meet every Wednesday evening (except in January) at the Bejoording Community Centre 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.



# OUR SHIRE NEWS

## PRESIDENTS REPORT



During question time at the April Council meeting a series of questions were asked about the use of Shire credit cards. The questioner appeared to be concerned with procedures and security related to the use of credit cards by Staff and Councillors. He did not state a reason for this concern and did not intimate that anything was amiss with Credit card use.

Councillors are not issued with Shire Credit Cards and do not have any authority to use their personal credit cards to purchase goods or services on behalf of the Shire, however The Local Government Act does allow the Shire President to authorise expenditure during an emergency.

The CEO and four senior managers have credit cards with set limits and strictly controlled usage protocols under Council Policy F11, Corporate Credit Cards. This policy can be viewed on the Shire web page.

All credit card expenditure is scrutinised by Council on a monthly basis when reviewing the list of payments made by the Shire for the preceding month. This information is available in the OCM minutes.

The Electoral Commissioner has agreed to Council's request to defer the Extraordinary Election required to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Cr. Wood on April 7, 2017. This will now be included in the scheduled October 2017 elections. There will definitely be no election in July.

Council has not resolved to adopt postal voting instead of in person voting where voters attend a polling booth. The suggestion to change the voting system will be considered at the June Council meeting.

A small ceremony in April was held to mark the completion and official opening of the Railway Road Community Depot. In November 2010 Council first allocated land at the Western end of the former West Toodyay Railway Siding because of a re-evaluation of the use of Shire owned

properties and the needs of volunteer groups who could not be accommodated in town due to noise considerations, space requirements or the nature of their activities. Originally tenants were to supply their own premises with a heavy emphasis on dongas, sea containers and relocated sheds

The concept plan for this project was adopted by Council in April 2013 after a period of public consultation. With the assistance of grant funding from Lotteries West for the construction of purpose built sheds, the "Toodyay Junction" was opened.

Eight community groups have signed tenancy agreements for the depot and it is now incumbent on these groups to work together to prove that the concept of shared communal facilities can work. There are no immediate plans to build additional sheds and I am sure that consideration of any future expansion will be strongly influenced by a harmonious relationship between all user groups.

Congratulations to the Community Depot Advisory Committee and Shire staff for working together to bring this project to fruition.

A recent recommendation from the Environmental Committee to consider the installation of rainwater tanks on The Administration building, Library and Works Depot was only partially adopted by Council. Consideration will be given to installing an additional tank at the Works Depot to capture the overflow from the existing emergency storage tanks but Council was of the view that the other proposed installations were not feasible.

A further recommendation from the Environmental Committee to support a state wide plastic bag ban was amended to instead support a state wide campaign to reduce the use of plastic shopping bags. Council stopped short of supporting a total ban on plastic bags but also authorised the CEO to consider measures to minimise the use of plastic and implement better management practices and policies in respect to plastic in the Shire.

At the April OCM Council resolved to accept the annual budget review with proposed amendments showing a slight increase in the anticipated surplus of \$140,844 to an estimated surplus of \$169,000. The budget review is a statutory process that must be conducted to ensure that Council and administration are monitoring income and expenditure appropriately and to assist in future budgeting processes.

The review was presented to Council within the correct time frame and has been forwarded to the Department of Local Government as required.

You are invited to the  
**TOODYAY COMMUNITY THANK A VOLUNTEER DAY**  
SUNDAY 21 MAY 2017

Commencing with the Freedom of Entry Parade through Stirling Terrace at 10.45am to Duidgee Park

Free BBQ lunch, refreshments and entertainment at the park

Please RSVP for catering purposes  
Contact Maddie Ross on 9574 9395 or [cdao@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdao@toodyay.wa.gov.au)



### Come and Thank Our Dedicated Volunteers.

The Shire of Toodyay will be holding a Thank A Volunteer Day event on 21 May, to say thank you to all the volunteers which make Toodyay such a great place to live. The event activities will include the Emergency Services Freedom of Entry Parade along Stirling Terrace commencing at 10:45am.

Come and show your support for our volunteers by lining the main street and then joining us at Duidgee Park for celebrations and a BBQ. This will be a great opportunity to meet volunteers from many different disciplines and walks of life and an opportunity to become involved in volunteering.

Finally, the Shire would like to take this additional opportunity to thank all its bushfire brigade volunteers and their families for their commitment, support and sacrifice over the last 12 months – well done!

## EVENTS - MAY 2017

**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.



**June Toodyay Fibre Festival**  
The Toodyay Fibre Festival is held from 10am - 3.30pm over 4 venues. There will be fashion shows, fibre and textile displays and of the course the Mad Hatters competition. Pictured is one of the many trees "Yarn Bombed" in the lead up to this annual event which brings colour and vibrancy to the main street of Toodyay.



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



**21 May Thank a Volunteer Day**  
Watch the Freedom of Entry Parade down Stirling Terrace and then Thank a Volunteer at Duidgee Park. There will be a free bbq lunch and family entertainment.